

## Japanese Ambassador at AUI

## AUI: Crossroad of Cultures

## Sexual Violence Awareness Day



Japanese Ambassador Mrs. Haruko Hirose spoke at AUI on April 22nd as part of the day-long activities celebrating the Japanese culture.  
*(continued in Page 3)*



According to many, Al Akhawayn University has established throughout the years a strong reputation of tolerance and openness to cultures.  
*(continued in Page 12)*



The Task Force for the Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Violence, in collaboration with the SGA and the Human Rights Club, organized the sixth edition of Sexual Violence Awareness Day on April 1st.  
*(continued in Page 2)*

# Fun Run: Here to Help!



AUI hosted on Saturday, April 12, 2008 one of the greatest event of the year: the Fun Run. Organized by Hand in Hand Association, the objective of the day was to collect funds to help the deprived population of Ifrane's region. *(continued in Page 11)*

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## Farooq... and Finance is Fun again!

Dr. Omar Farooq, only last semester a freshly recruited assistant professor of finance for the SBA, I now have yet to meet someone on campus who does not know him or know of him, as the man who established the 3F law: Fun Finance with Farooq!  
*(continued in Page 10)*



# Lively edition of Sexual Violence Awareness Day

ABDELHADI MEKOUAR

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"We are dedicated to organizing this event since the aggression of a colleague in 2000," Rev. Karen Smith said. Smith is a member of the Task Force along with Abderrahim Agnaou, Abdessamad Fatmi, Kevin Smith, and Yasmine Bahaji.

While videos depicting harassment situations were shown in the student lounge and an informative slideshow was projected in the restaurant, passers-by were invited to sign a pledge against aggression.

Numerous people signed, vowing to respect others and encouraging the enforcement of zero tolerance policies against harassment and violence.

"We don't need more laws, but a change in mentalities. This is what the pledge is for," first year IS student Lamia Bazir said. Bazir is in charge of communication for the Human Rights Club.

In the student lounge, pieces of cloth were available for everybody to write down their feelings about aggression and hang for everyone to see. Among the messages left were

"I'm not a sport and neither was she", symbol of mutual respect.



"if it happened once, don't let it happen again" and "HELP!". Contributors were all offered a green ribbon as a

In the afternoon, Dr. Abubakr Harakat, a leading voice on sexual harassment, gave a talk on the topic in

the lounge. Dr. Harakat is a sexologist, psychologist, psychotherapist, and host of a call-in radio show. Dr. Harakat started by reviewing the history of sexual harassment and then proceeded to clarify ambiguities on the subject.

Among them, he discussed the reality of both female and male victims of harassment and rape and the way psychologists judge, on a case basis, if alleged harassment cases are really aggression. He also talked about the roots of ever-present harassment in the streets.

"Men consider the street as their space, so they think spruced-up women offer themselves to them. Besides, they are convinced mere talking cannot be illegal," Dr. Harakat said.

"This day is a very good idea since we don't talk about harassment that often. It's important as it will help change things for the better," first year EMS major Salma Semlali said.

The organizers were likewise very satisfied.

"We've witnessed the genuine interest of many people today," Fatmi said.

# Faouzi Chaabi talks about Ynna, international trade

ABDELHADI MEKOUAR

Faouzi Chaabi, administrator at Ynna Holding, Miloud Chaabi's group, was invited to AUI on April 10 by Dr. Hammad Kassal and the Finance Club. He talked about his company's experience in international trade and gave insight on how Moroccan firms can succeed in a globalized world.

Chaabi is administrator and deputy for one of Rabat's.

"Ynna has a long history of investing abroad," Chaabi said. Ynna, Berber for mother, started in 1948 as real estate contractor. It now owns a dozen companies in various sectors, including real estate, chemicals, retail stores and hotels.

"Our first international experience was in Lybia, and it ended in 1971 under the Khadafi regime," Chaabi said. "We then turned to Tunisia, and we have been successful there since then." Ynna now operates 4 tubing factories in Tunisia.

The firm was also successful in Egypt, where they manufacture batteries that they now export to Morocco. "Moroccan batteries aren't even ex-

ported to Mauritania, a direct neighbor," Chaabi said.

Chaabi then proceeded to evaluate Morocco's numerous free trade agreements, and set to explain why they had all failed at increasing the country's trade balance.

"We signed free trade agreements without planning them, and without setting objectives," Chaabi said. "Our partners did plan their exports to Morocco, and they all increased their trade balance with us. Our only partner with which we have a positive trade balance is Burkina Faso," Chaabi said.

Chaabi cited several improvements needed for Moroccan exports to rise.

"The government needs to actively and aggressively help companies secure funding. There are plenty of cheap financing opportunities, such as the FOMAN, that are under promoted," Chaabi said. "In Tunisia, state representatives come to farmers to guide them towards this cheap ways of improving their production."

Another crucial action of the gov-

ernment is to assist potential exporters in promoting their produce abroad.

"Again, in Tunisia, I remember being invited by the Ministry to an industry fair abroad," Chaabi said.

Economic diplomacy is likewise important, and underused by the Moroccan government, according to Chaabi.

"Sarkozy came to the Parliament for a political visit and managed to sell us TGVs," Chaabi said.

"Student participation was extraordinary, and quite spontaneous," Dr. Kassal said, expressing his appreciation of the students' questions.

The talk sparked interest in students who attended.

"I consider myself lucky to have met such a successful yet humble executive. The talk was very educational in politics, economics, and business," Nouhad Boujlaleb, a 4th year International Business major, said.



# Amazigh Day

ISMAEL KHEJJOU

It was on Wednesday, April 9th 2008, that Al Akhawayn University organized the Amazigh day. With the participation of Michael PEYRON, Tamesmountal-Akhawayn Coordinator, the event was marked by a number of activities one of which was the conference held in the boardroom with the presence of a number of people from different regions in Morocco.

At the beginning, the President Rachid BENMOKHTAR, the president of Al Akhawayn University, gave a short talk during which he emphasized the importance of maintaining the development of Amazigh language and cultural identity. Interestingly enough, other participants addressed the issue of Amazigh culture which significantly en-

compasses all cultural heritages such as tales, oral poetry, songs, traditions and customs.

In relation to this, the role of Ahidus in Amazigh culture was another interesting point raised and broadly discussed by the members of the conference. "Ahidus is more than a dance. It is a key element in shaping Amazigh identity" Professor Jilali SAIB said. More than this, participants addressed the structure of Ahidus, and the presence of women in it as important members. Towards the end, members of the conference reinforced their respect and support to Amazigh culture which can only be done through the transmission of this tradition to the coming generation.



# Lecture by Her Excellency Haruko Hirose, Japanese Ambassador in Morocco

ISMAIL KHEJJOU

(continued from Page 1)

In her afternoon lecture, she discussed many important issues that pertain to Morocco-Japan relationship. First and foremost, she talked briefly about the historical development of Japan, especially as a country which was completely defeated in World War II. In addition to this, Ambassador Hirose talked about the diplomatic negotiations between Morocco and Japan which started in 1956. More seriously still, the ambassador gave much importance to the aspect of economic cooperation between the two countries. Related to this, Ambassador Hirose shared the view that strengthening economic ties is one of the keys and effective strategies for developing Morocco-Japan relations.

In the context of international cooperation and Japan's aid to Morocco, Ambassador Hirose's speech was significantly marked by the fact that Morocco has witnessed remarkable changes and improvements during the past few years. Another important point addressed was the cultural aspect between Japan and Morocco as a vital factor in determining and consolidating cooperation ties at the economic, political and cultural levels. Ambassador Hirose admitted

that foreign investments have helped Morocco advance at different levels which, to a great extent, improved its competitiveness at the international level, especially economically. In the domain of economic cooperation, she relayed Japan's great interest to cooperate with Morocco so that the two

countries further their relations. Beside this, the cultural aspect was frequently mentioned as Ambassador Hirose emphasized that there should be a cultural exchange between Morocco and Japan because each of the countries has rich cultural elements.



# SGA Board Elections

ABDELHADI MEKOUAR

The Student Government Association met on April 15 to elect their board and establish new committees. The association is now ready after the enrollment of new additions. These new members were selected by profile, not student vote, because of time constraints and the small number of applicants.

The board members are Adnane Loukane (president), Mouna El Mansouri (vice-president), Abdellah Abouessaid (general secretary) and Souad Touil (treasurer).

Committees are arranged so that they cover a wide variety of concerns of the student body. Academic affairs, student services, student activities, and public relations each have their own dedicated committee.

## Committees of the SGA

### Academic Affairs:

Kawtar Chriyaa SHSS  
Badr Bouarich SBA  
Ahmed Chaikhoun SBA

### Student Services:

Ghassan Essalehi SHSS  
Mohcine Zouhair SBA  
Soukaina Mahfoud SBA  
Mouna El Mansouri SBA

### Student Activities:

Sara Benabachir SSE  
Yassir Mahlou SBA  
Souad Touil SSE

### Public Relations:

Adnane Loukane SBA  
Hamza Fqih Berrada SHSS  
Abdellah Abouessaid SBA

# Talent Show

ISMAIL OUGNAOU

AUI's annual Talent Show was held with much fanfare on April 17th, and first year SHSS student Mariam Dahbi walked away with a free trip to the

Student participants helped make the night outstanding as they vetted their talents without restrictions.



South as the night's winner. Dahbi left the excited audience in awe with her singing performance. The event was held in Building 17, and performances ranged from belly dancing to singing.

As winner, Dahbi received a free ticket for the school's trip to the South, scheduled



over the Labor Day break. Second place went to Mehdi El Kettani and Omar Badaoui for their performance on guitar and piano respectively while singing, and Safaa Rahbaoui won third place with her interpretation of a Christina Aguilera song.

The Talent Show, which has become a tradition now at AUI, attracted a big audience that was satisfied by the different performances.

# AUI track team awarded a cup

SALMA DOUIEB

On the 17th and 18th of April 2008, the track team participated in the 17th National Running Competition of Moroccan Universities in Agadir. Al Akhawayn students team who participated in this competition was a mixture of exchange and Moroccan students. The students were accompanied by their coach Mr. Mustapha Loune and two other staff members Mr. Khalifa El Hadri and Ms. Nadia Bouchanine. Many Moroccan universities from different cities participated in this exciting event.

The primary goal of this event was not only running and winning, but instead to teach people how to behave, communicate, meet new people, and exchange ideas.

One of the winners was an exchange student, from Al Akhawayn University, who came in third place and was rewarded a cup.

"I was glad to participate in this event because I felt that I could do it since running is my favorite sport and though I did not make it to the first place this time due to the short time of training, I am confident that I will make it next time" one of the participants, Laila Kaiouani said.

# Wall paintings around campus

ABDELHADI MEKOUAR

Abdellah El Hariri and the El Lemma artists group collaborated to adorn the campus with colorful murals. Done in the first week of April in time for the Fun Run, the three outdoor murals and one inside Building 4 were all painted kindheartedly without charge.

"The idea was born last semester when El Hariri was doing a display on campus," Sahar Zeroili, 2nd year SBA student said. Zeroili is a member of Courant d'Art, which organized the event.

"The creation of the pieces was backed by Ms. Benmokhtar," Zeroili said, and went on to explain that the only expenses paid for were housing fees and materials cost.

"The idea was to bring

some originality to students' cyclical and dull journey around campus," Zeroili said.

But the murals were not to everyone's taste. "I didn't like the paintings; they make

the campus look like kindergarten," Fatima Tchiche, 3rd year Computer Science major said, expressing the feelings of some students on campus.



# Debriefing sessions with the VPAA

ABDELHADI MEKOUAR

Graduating students were given the opportunity to discuss academic issues with Dr. Amine Bensaid, Vice-President of Academic Affairs. The first meeting, held in the boardroom on April 3, was followed by a second one on April 7 to attend to SBA students, taking the Major Field Test on Thursday.

"The atmosphere was casual, so I felt comfortable asking questions," Sanae Ougadoun, MAISD student, said. "The meeting was a very good idea."

About 15 students were present at the first meeting, and the atmosphere was indeed relaxed, which led to an abundance of questions and remarks.

Some students raised personal concerns they have had with their school. Others were more specific and related their horror stories about graduation or thesis defense gone wrong.

The bulk of the interventions concerned the rigidity of the curriculum, especially that of university core courses.

"A set of shared courses

covering humanities and social sciences stems from AUI's choice of offering a liberal arts education," Dr. Bensaid said.

sets, and we are almost in the finalizing stage of developing such a system."

A course bag system would

fill a requirement.

On the issue of special individual cases, granted to some students to help them gradu-

available to everybody.

"Individual classes pose concerns of academic quality and accreditation," Dr. Bensaid said.

Several students expressed the concern that some courses in the catalog were not offered. Dr. Bensaid expressed his regret that such mistakes were still made, especially as AUI is considered by some "an island of professionalism, where what is said is what is done in Morocco".

The topic of pre-selection was also discussed. Students raised the issue that some students do not find their place in classes they pre-selected. Dr. Bensaid expressed that he understands that the pre-registration process is a hassle as a whole.

On this matter, Dr. Bensaid shared an anecdote of a parent who once called the Dean of the SSE, and explained that his daughter could not do pre-registration. When asked why, he answered that the pre-registration process was too stressful for the girl who suffered heart problems.



"Some universities have bags of courses instead of fixed between many more courses to allow students to choose between many more courses to ate easier, Dr. Bensaid explained that they couldn't be

## A day in the Moroccan parliament

ISMAIL KHEJJOU

Recently, Al Akhawayn Diplomacy club visited the Moroccan Parliament. The event took place on April 4th, 2008 with Dr. Jack Kalpakian. Students were all impressed by this interesting initiative.

During the visit students were warmly welcomed by a member of the parliament, and it was a unique opportunity for them to learn new things that are, to some extent, related to their major. Interestingly enough, the person they met there spent a great deal

of time showing and talking to them about the different parts of the Moroccan Parliament, particularly the processes through which a bill becomes a law, etc. More seriously still, students had also the honor to meet the responsible of Diwan who, in turn, gladly talked to them about the history of the parliament and the important stages of its establishment; which dates back to 1963. "The visit to the parliament was a great idea and I am impressed by it" Dr. Kalpakian said.



## Authors at AUI: Professor Abdelkébir Khatibi

ISMAIL OUGNAOU

Professor Abdelkebir Khatibi is a literary critic and novelist representing an important figure within the Moroccan intellectual arena.

At a talk at Mohammad VI Library, Khatibi discussed his vision of the universe, and shared anecdotes and experiences that helped him construct it.

"The main objective for this meeting today, and the other meetings scheduled in other cities, is for me to be closer to the public," Khatibi said.

Khatibi, through this meeting, sought to vent out to the public his thoughts about various concepts, among them religion, psychology and sociology, and open the floor to questions from the audience about his works and his critical approaches.

Khatibi discussed how he uses the deconstructionist approach as a method of criticism to come to terms with any literary text and pin down its meaning.

He distinguishes himself as a 'pro-

essional stranger' which he defines as someone who is sensible to the port of call, to the point where cultures converge and diverge and where different ideals clash together. For Khatibi, a literary text from any genre has to meet certain requirements; rhythm and musicality, concision and precision and a good, vivid

syntax. Without those devices, the message of the literature would not succeed to catch the reader's attention. Khatibi's talk ended with a set of questions that led to further debates.



## Staff Editorial

Dear auiBridge readers,

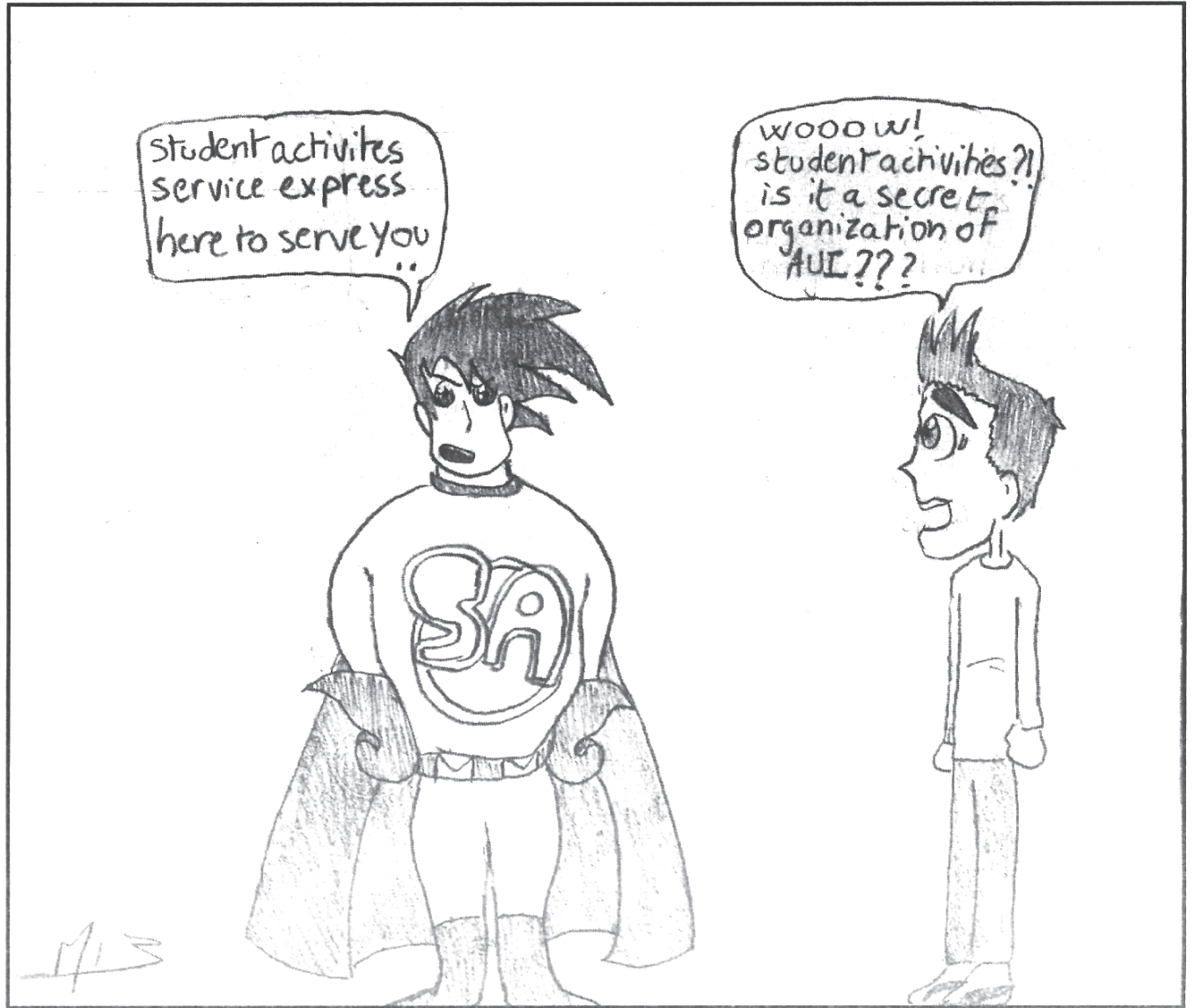
After two successful issues of auiBridge, we are still faithful to you and willing to provide more news that concern AUI community. auiBridge journalists make a tremendous effort to cover all events and once again meet your expectations.

This month was full of activities and so many events were organized. The Fun Run was a day of fun, enjoyment, and at the same time an opportunity to feel the pleasure of serving the community. Also, the university organized the Open Doors which was a success based on the number of visitors that day. Parents, students, professors and others had the opportunity to visit different areas of the university and therefore discover the academic programs offered by AUI. During the Open Doors, there was a club's fair in the game room in order to show to AUI visitors the different activities that the university has. There is no doubt that one of the added values of our university is its belief in the importance of activities in students' life.

Activities play a significant role in building up the personality of student. It is through clubs and associations that we improve our communication skills. It is very important to note that the atmosphere of this university gives students the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and learn how to be professional and committed. The day active students graduate from AUI; they feel that they are ready to penetrate the job market. These students are distinguished from other graduated students by their ability to adapt to the professional life.

Once again, we inform you that we welcome all your suggestions, comments or feedback. Our success depends on your contribution and cooperation.

We wish you the best of luck in your final exams!



## Letters to the Editor Student Activities Office

Dear editor,

I think that the Students Activities division is doing a good job. They are helping clubs and students who wish to organize events, conferences, etc. by giving them directives and advice. Moreover, they are doing their best to offer activities that meet students' expectations. However, besides the most interesting activities that are infrequent, they

are offering more or less the same activities. In this context, they can present various activities and offer a larger range of choice.

Dalal Oubraim

Dear editor,

In fact, the Students Activities Office is providing a variety of

activities and services. These activities such as conferences and parties are interesting and entertaining at the same time. However, we notice that there are some weeks which are overloaded with activities and others which are not. Therefore, I would like to suggest some kind of balance in terms of scheduling the events.

Siham Lekchiri

## Letters to the Editor Policy

NEXT ISSUE'S TOPIC

Library

Have something to say?  
Get it off your chest!  
Write us a letter!

The AUI Bridge wants to hear from you!

Contact:  
bridge@au.ma

AUI BRIDGE welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 200 words and must include the writers name. Editors have the right to edit letters for length, grammar and spelling. Letters may be delivered to the newsroom in the Student Activities Office or emailed to bridge@au.ma. For more information, stop by the newsroom or contact the editor-in-chief.

## Corrections

Contrary to what was said in last issue's article "Tetanus campaign fails to draw a crowd" the attendance of the event was excellent and the Rotaract

Club, who organized the event in collaboration with the Health Center, qualified this campaign's results as "extremely satisfying".

### auiBridge MASTHEAD

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Socially AUI

# My Community Service at the CITI

 AFAF CHEKKAR

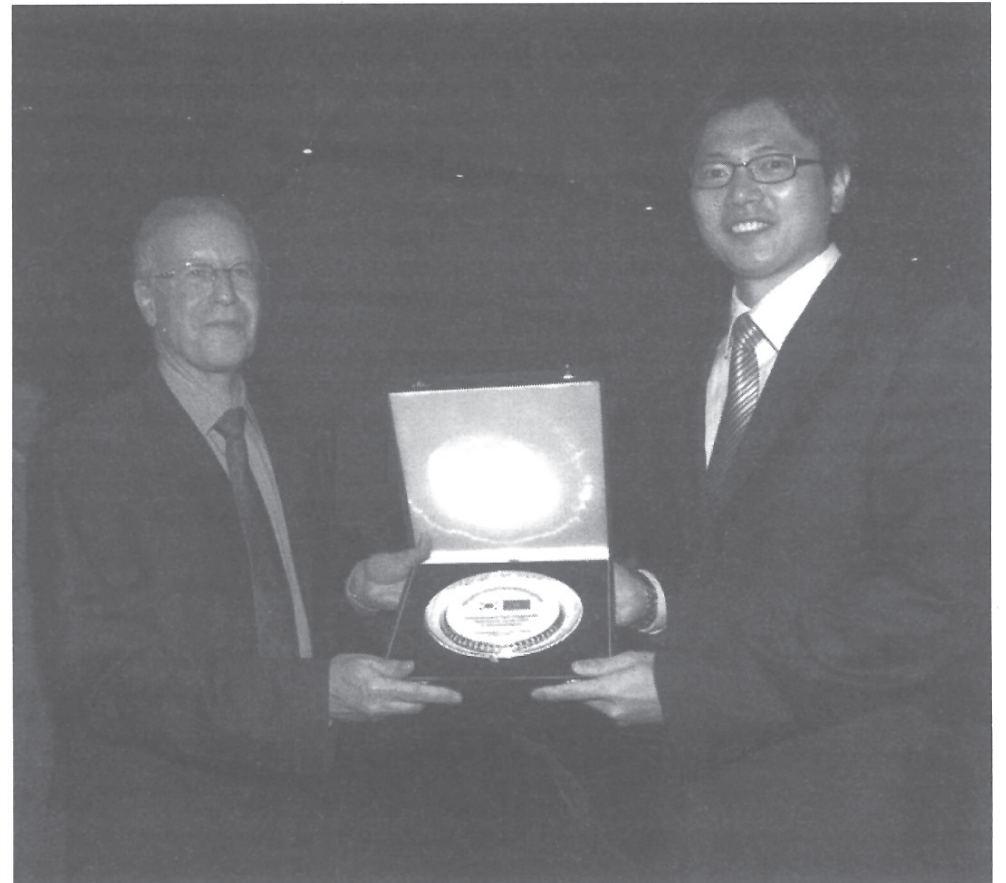
Last semester, I was involved in a social project with the Center of Information Technology and Innovation (CITI) at AUI. Two AUI students and I conducted training for a group of middle school teachers and inspectors about computer skills and their use for educational purposes.

CITI is the result of collaboration between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Korea in the domain of information technology systems. The principal mission of CITI is the development of applications and digital tools that serve Moroccan citizens. The actual research activities of CITI are about the

needed training in computer skills and their use for education. This is why the task of our team was to teach them the skills they need to be able to collaborate with CITI.

I was part of the team in charge of training the teachers of Kacem Amine middle school in Fes. My teammates and I went each Friday afternoon and Saturday morning to Fezsto deliver a two hour session in computer skills for the teachers of Kacem Amine School.

This experience with teaching was special in many ways. In fact, the first thing that I found unusual was teaching people much older than me. It



The Center of Information Technology Innovation was inaugurated earlier this semester material for the teachers and adapting it to their level and needs. It was the first time that I performed such work which I found instructive.

In addition, I had a feeling of fulfillment when I started seeing the outcomes of the training program. I was very happy to notice how the teachers started using many IT tools and incorporating them within the teaching process. They moved from

the state of being afraid of using computers to the state of enjoying the use of IT for educational purposes.

The end of the training was exceptional as the teachers received certificates of accomplishment during the inauguration of CITI. In the course of the day, our team members also received certificates of recognition for the contribution to the establishment of CITI.



One of the groups who benefited from the CITI training with some of the tutors

production of digital material and the evaluation of the impact of the use of Information Technology Systems in education, in order to permit a better implementation of educational technologies in Morocco.

Within this frame of work, CITI has equipped two middle schools (in Fes and in Ifrane) with a multimedia room. In addition, CITI has selected a group of teachers from each middle school to collaborate with them while developing the digital course material. These teachers

was sometimes difficult to handle this matter as some of them needed more time to grasp a new concept or change a misconception. Also, some teachers were not all the time ready to follow our instructions and recommendations, especially during the first part of the training. However, I have noticed that as the training was going on, the interaction with the teachers was getting smoother.

Another aspect that made this experience special was the fact of preparing the course



All involved parties visited the CITI for the inauguration ceremony

*AUI Beyond Frontiers*

# A Life Changing Experience

 SAMYA SABER



Thanks to the Hand in Hand Association and Mrs. Maria Benmokhtar, my colleague Hind Torres and I were able to represent a suitable and appropriate image of our university in

the Women as Global Leaders Conference organized by Zayed University in Dubai. It was a great opportunity to show to the world the leading and innovative spirit of the Moroccan youth in

general and specifically Al Akhawayn University students.

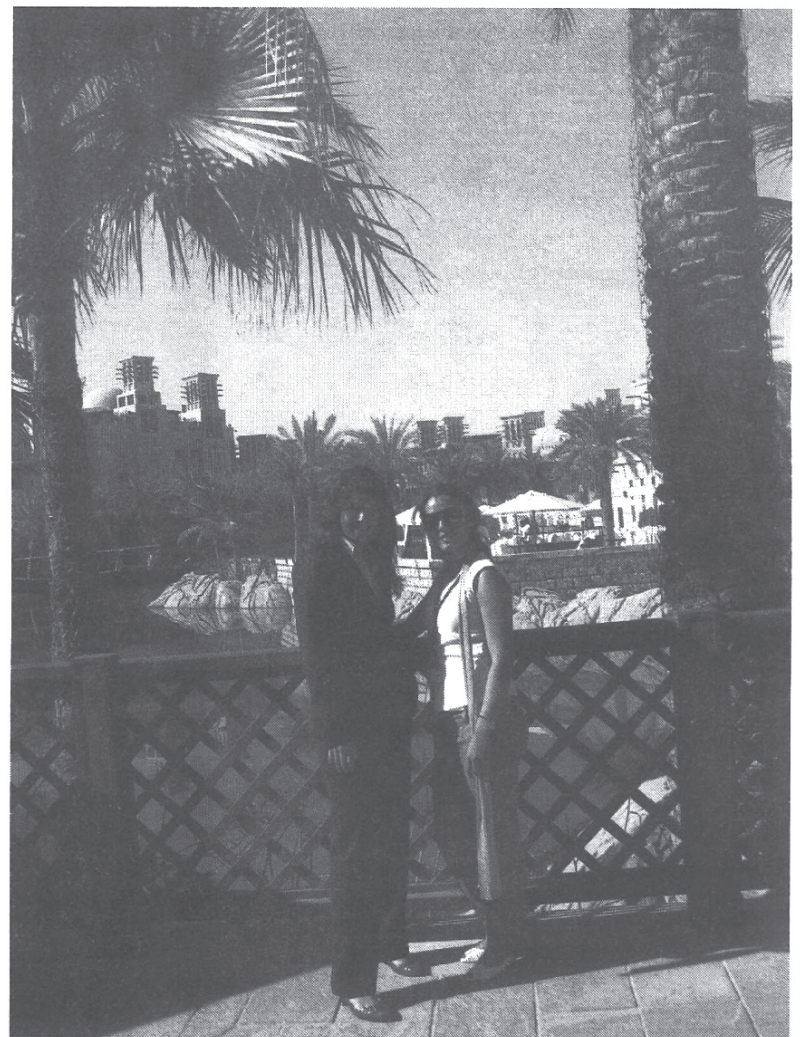
This year's Women as Global Leaders Conference gathered more than one thousand participant from

thirty six different nations. This year, the conference was held under the theme "Learning Leadership" and we found that the theme was appropriate to show to the participating nations that AUI students are learning to become leaders in a way that allows them to transmit their leading spirit to other people no matter what the circumstances are.

Our project, "Khbizat Al-Atlas" was the fruit of Hind's enormous efforts.

ation and the lunching of "Khbizat Al-Atlas" project led me to become a new person with huge expectations and dreams. I learnt that dreams could become reality if we fight for them and be patient while realizing them.

I believe that Al Akhawayn University students are full of potential and talent. During the four or the five years that we spend in AUI we learn a lot of things that make us able to produce, to create and to come



This project is about the creation of a business in order to improve the economic and financial situation of eleven needy women living in the "Timediquine" or "Hay Essaada" neighborhood of Ifrane. The project consists of the production of different types of bread using traditional manner and material.

I consider this project as a life changing experience. My participation in the cre-

up with new applicable ideas. If we combine theory and practice I believe that we will be able to move Morocco forward. We should stop being selfish and start thinking about others to whom life is severe and harsh. We should learn how to put our knowledge into practice and finally, we should all experience that it is great to create something and see its results flourish.





# His Majesty King Mohamed VI Resolved to Boost Regional Development of Ifrane

King launches several socio-educational, economic and development projects to improve living conditions and economic growth for local populations

GHASSAN ESSALEHI

Late April brought about a flutter of activities in Ifrane as the city prepared for an official visit by His Majesty King Mohamed VI. Ifrane was refurbished and dressed in its most beautiful uniform, and hordes of well-wishers occupied the main streets to celebrate the visit of the monarch on April 16th. The city's Swiss-like buildings, lamp posts and street signs were covered with the red and green national flag, and additional portraits of the King and his late father Hassan II were put up.

The next day, the King chaired the launch ceremony of several social projects in the neighbouring city of Azrou. One of these projects concerns the launching of a development project through 2010 that will help preserve the historic city. Azrou is important for its geographical setting and tourist attraction, and for its water reservoir. These projects will reinforce the infrastructures of the existing electricity grid, city sewage system, and also facilitate in the construction of the city weekly market. As part of these projects, \$9 million was dedicated to a socio-educational and sports complex that will provide the local population with facilities for leisure activities. Azrou will also benefit from an increase in accessibility through the development of the

local road networks from 56% in 2005 to 88% in 2012 with a total cost around \$9.8 million.

"The King's ruling reflects his strong will to make things change and make development a reality for his people," fourth year BA student Iman Kabbaj said.

The King also welcomed in Ifrane the French Prime Minister François Fillon, who was on an official visit to Morocco to co-chair with his Moroccan counterpart the 9th high-level Moroccan-French joint commission. The King's visit is one example of the continuous efforts to tackle regional crises of development and solve a lack of basic infrastructures. He indicated that the visit would further strengthen effectiveness of state institutions in the region, especially those that work in social development.

The King chaired the signing ceremony of convention to build a resort center in Ifrane. This convention aims to develop and upgrade a tourist resort in Ifrane. Worth \$46.36 million, this project will be carried out by the Moroccan-Kowait Consortium and is part of Project "Biladi", which promotes domestic tourism and helps in developing tourist infrastructure in the Ifrane region. This new project will increase the accommoda-

tion capacity to host tourists and visitors.

AUI students were interested in the King's visit to Ifrane.

"I was really amazed for having the opportunity for the first time ever to see His Majesty in front of my eyes, informally greeting people in the city centre of Ifrane," third year CS student Othman Touhami Kadiri said.

The King's efforts to implement projects in various regions of the kingdom will ultimately lead to a high level of growth.

"As a foreigner who is interested in the development of Morocco, I believe that King Mohammed VI is doing a lot to improve economy and make it stand out on the international scale," exchange student Tony Armiger said.

Definitely, the royal visit to Ifrane will contribute in realizing some of the main projects that are outlined in The National Human Development Initiative (INDH). The projects launched will assist the Government in implementing processes of sustainable development at the local level through building new and modern economic and social infrastructure. Certainly, the monarch's visit has given a real signal to local authorities to double their efforts in their fight of poverty and promoting the conditions for a better and



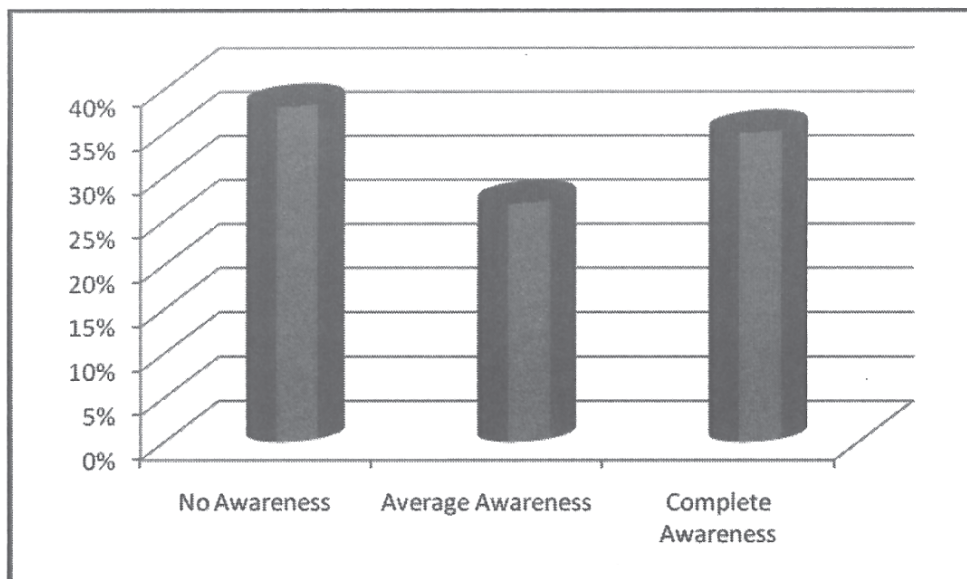
sustainable social development. INDH also intends to improve the life conditions of the population of the different regions of the North African kingdom. The

Royal visit was indeed a ray of sunshine over the Atlas Mountains cities of Ifrane and Azrou that gave a real boost to a sustainable local development.

# Focus on the Student Activities

YASSINE MAJDI

Fun Run, Talent Show, Miletus, Ramadan Tournament, film broad- cast... familiar to you as they take place on



The table above illustrates the level of awareness concerning student activities among AUI students

the AUI campus. All of them have a common element—their organizers; all of these events were organized thanks to the efforts of one office—Student Activities.

Only a few people know of student activities as they take benefit from it, while the majority does not know about this organization and what services it can provide.

"Student activities is a department which aims to promote leadership, [and] consolidate personality," Student clubs assistant Rachid Daoudi said. "We also want to help the students acquire skills apart from those acquired in a scholarly environment. We also have goals outside Al Akhawayn, as we help to develop the region of Ifrane through clubs such as Rotaract, Hand in Hand and Human Rights."

Let's take a look at the persons that strive to make the AUI university life more pleasant. At the top of the scale, Adil Kamane holds the role of

the Interim Director. The Director is in charge of administrative tasks and decision making. He does the administrative follow up and makes sure that the Student Activities meets the general guidelines of Al Akhawayn University. Then Brahim Ouzineb picks up as events coordinator.

"My role is to schedule events, supervise the SGA and the AUI Channel. I am also responsible for the Student Activities website and the audio video section," Ouzineb said.

The office's administrative Assistant, Rajae Chbihi, carries out administrative daily tasks, is in charge of the trip sign ups and also does the check out for movies and games. Rajae Saidi is the club coordinator and is in charge of everything related to clubs, including funding and workshops.

(continued on Page 10)

## Focus on the Student Activities

(continued from Page 9)

Daoudi's tasks consist of supervising the AUI newspapers and guiding the clubs in their daily tasks.

Finally, Salaheddine Zekri is in charge of community service. His role is to assist every student in completing her/his 60 hours of community service.

Many people do not have any idea about the Student Activities' role at all. According to a recent survey conducted by the AUI Bridge, 38 percent of AUI students belong in this category.

"The student activities are in charge of the cleaning tasks in Al Akhawayn. Aren't they?" second year SBA student Narjis Laouda said.

This clearly shows the need for

Student Activities to promote itself more among students. According to the survey, another category exists, of students know where the student activities office is located and have some knowledge of its activities.

"The Student Activities is located in the second story of building 2. Many meetings are held there. I heard that it supports lots of events around here" Omar Soufi, a third year SBA student, said.

Also according to our survey, 27 percent of students take benefit from student activity associations. Let's take the example of AUI Channel, (the "media branch") of the student activities. Thanks to AUI Channel, live interviews and daily Radio/TV shows are broadcast. This is also helped by the materials brought thanks to the financial

support of the Student Activities.

"Whenever we needed a camera or new material, we just had to contact the Student Activities. The only thing is that we have to take our precautions, as the material we ordered would come after two months" Ayoub Ettayek, ex AUI Channel Member and third year SBA student said.

Student Activities does not only take care of its own branches, it also helps the numerous clubs that exist in AUI by providing them with a virtual 4000 Dhs every semester.

"This allocation helps the different clubs to pay for some events. But, as we give this amount of money we expect the clubs to do fund raising activities," Daoudi said

"We recently participated in a volleyball tournament. Everything

was paid by Student Activities, including the travel and food," Youssef Drissi, third year SBA student and member of the volleyball team said.

Among people who take advantage of Student Activities, 62 percent of them see it as a department which helps them take full benefit of their student life.

38 percent of them see it as a way of extending their resumé, for their post-AUI life

Student Activities has a great impact on the events organized on campus. It is also a useful department, as it helps students to enjoy their university life. However, it should appear more often in the limelight to be present to a category of students that has limited or no knowledge about it.

# Farooq... and Finance is Fun again!

HIND SADDIKI

(continued from Page 1)

Although juggling NPVs and fiddling with stocks is all in a day's work for him, he wasn't always a finance wiz. In fact, with a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from his home country, Pakistan, Dr. Farooq was set out for a whole different career path. After working as an electrical engineer for close to two years, he went for an MS in e-commerce at Illinois Tech. He worked some more after that, using his baggage to set up an e-commerce unit with its underlying services for a bank in Pakistan. Whether it was his graduate studies or the work experience that followed which sparked his interest in business, he went on to pursue doctoral studies in financial economics in Sweden.

"Afterwards, I was almost done with my PhD thesis and looking for a job. I was applying randomly [...], came across an advertisement from AUI, and applied", said Dr. Farooq.

He obtained his very first teaching position right here at AUI, and the rest is history.

"I wasn't sure I could do teaching. So I said to myself 'OK. I'll try it out for a semester, and if I'm no good, I'll stop'," Dr. Farooq remembers telling himself before taking the position.

It has been almost a year now since he joined the SBA faculty and his earlier apprehension is gone. For an international faculty member, adapting to the system at AUI

is always a bit trying at first, but for Dr. Farooq, the transition happened smoothly:

"It was not hard to fit in. Moroccans are amazing. I think, having some commonality in values (for example religion), made things a lot easier for me. And, I am also used to roaming around, living at different places, so fitting in was not hard. Faculty members at SBA also made me feel very welcomed. And, the most important of all, the students made it so much easier to settle down. They made teaching look so enjoyable."

"I like teaching here, everyone is so nice to me, faculty are friendly; and students – oh my God – amazing!" said Dr. Farooq when asked how he likes his teaching experience so far.

An enthusiastic, heartfelt answer like that shows a

genuine appreciation for what he is doing, and the students can sense it. On top of being favoured among BA students, he

"Dr. Farooq is definitely an asset to the school of BA. He's fun to have as an instructor and makes humanities students have hope in succeeding in courses they are uncomfortable with. He's great", Laura Karima Amaroufi, a senior SHSS student minoring in Business Administration said.

In fact, Dr. Farooq himself takes pride in the good relationships he has with his students, and is glad he is friends with most of them. He remembers how, at first, it was difficult for him to think and act like a college instructor when he himself was still a student not so long ago. He explains his teaching philosophy:

"[...] for me, teaching is not done with a strict class atmosphere, I like to think of it as

meeting friends somewhere and offering them some help and guidance so that they know what they need to know for the course. That's it."

This approach to teaching, along with so many flattering testimonials gathered from students, explain his growing popularity among students and reinforce the idea that establishing a refreshing, comfortable class atmosphere is sure to stimulate students' responsiveness and win their appreciation and interest.

"Dr. Farooq is a teacher who made a change in many students' lives. He does not only care about the lecture and getting done with his duties as a teacher, but he makes sure his knowledge will contribute in making his students better people able to make a change. He is a friend and big brother always there for his students, providing them with the necessary advice and support. He is always willing to help even outside class hours and to give advice about career choices, motivate students and provide them with positive energy and he is simply always around. He is one of the teachers who marked me as a student and made of my Finance class a fun and enjoyable experience", Sara Benabachir, a senior student in the BSEMS program said.

So here is a nice tip if you want to show your appreciation: treat him to a big meal of kefta with sauce and msemen at the marché, his favourite moroccan dish combo!



is widely appreciated by students from the other schools as well.

# Fun Run: Here to help!

MARIAM DAHBI

*(continued from Page 1)*

It is not the first but the eleventh time this association has put its ideas into practice, and thus, fulfilled its principal objective: get enough money to help transform the gloomiest neighbourhoods and villages of the region of Ifrane into clean and lively habitations with enough resources to bring more than a glance of happiness to its underprivileged population. This year, the targeted village was Ain El Khil, located between Azrou and ElHajeb.

**"The Fun Run brought so much joy and solidarity to the campus!"**

It was a real challenge to organize such a complex and big event. The day was divided into three main phases: the Run in the morning, the Fair in the afternoon, and the big Gala party in the evening. Each one being a determinant in the fund gathering.

"Fun Run organizers did an excellent job, they were very professional!" dancer Nawal Benabdallah said.

The success of this event is the result of the cautious work of hundreds of volunteers managed by Fun Run's

backstage organisers: Mrs. Benmokhtar, the association advisor, Kawtar Chriyaa, president of the association, along

with Simohammed Bouia, and Miz, and Nawal Benabdallah's group of dancers.

Hand in Hand has also invited celebrities such as the group Fnayre, the young singer Nabila Maane, the humorist

teers", First year IS student El Moumouhi Sarrah said. However, some students complain about the organiza-

raising money.

"Hand in Hand should emphasize the fact that the Fun Run is a fund raising event, not a partying day as it seems to be" Second year student Ahmed said.

"The association did not take good care of people who attended the event; there was a lack of attractive activities and food services that could have been much better" Ali said.

"I did not like the way the Gala Party ended, Fnayre did a concert that ended the party,

**"Fun Run organizers did an excellent job, they were very professional!"**

without really announcing it. I was expecting a conclusion to the whole thing." Finally, first year student Ghita said.

The interpretations of the event may differ, but one thing is certain: the Fun Run allowed Hand in Hand Association to gather 550 000 dirham cash plus the value of the sponsors, which put the total gain to more than one million dirham. This sum is synonym of one more great challenge taken and one more community saved from helplessness.



with Simohammed Bouia, and Ms Majdouline Mouflih.

Miz, and Nawal Benabdallah's group of dancers.

tion of the event, also others do not agree with the method of



The Fun Run was an occasion for students to become more familiar with fund-raising funds events. Not all had the same point of view about the manner of raising money. For a lot of students, partying is the best way to attract people and to make them happy when donating.

"The Fun Run brought so much joy and solidarity to the campus! This event was the perfect weekend after a week full of exams. The way students, professors and parents came together was a blast to be part of. It was a unique experience that shall be repeated and cherished. I want to offer my sincere congratulations and thanks to all organizers, participants and volun-



# Al Akhawayn University: a Crossroad of Cultures

MOUNA EL MANSOURI

(continued from Page 1)

Exchange programs, international partnerships and clubs are all examples of AUI's continual insistence of and strive for acceptance and respect.

"The university prides itself on being a place for the promotion of inter-personal and moral skills," President Rachid Benmokhtar said in his welcome address to AUI students earlier this semester.

Student clubs play a key role in this endeavor through providing the opportunity for different people from different backgrounds to gather, discuss, share their experiences, and further build friendships.

In the last few years, many clubs incorporating cultural elements were created. Among these was the Mimouna Club. Created in Spring 2007, the Mimouna Club's mission is to help students discover and learn more about the Moroccan-Jewish culture, and to highlight the Moroccan-Jewish heritage as a strong example of coexistence between Jews and Muslims in the Arab World. The club is very active, with trips that it organizes to discover more about the culture, and beginner Hebrew classes held once a week by Rabbi Abraham Sabbagh from Fes.

While all of this seems promising, creating the club was not easy.

"We found many obstacles and hatred from many members of AUI community," Mimouna Club co-Founder Ghasan Essalehi said.

Despite these difficulties, the club now interests many Moroccan and international figures and organizations.

Tamesmount Club is also one of the clubs that highlights the Moroccan heritage of the region. "The activities of the club are meant to familiarize AUI community with the Amazigh culture," Lamiae Mejane, senior SHSS student and president of Tamesmount Club, said.

The club organizes trips to different regions of the Middle Atlas. During the Amazigh Day

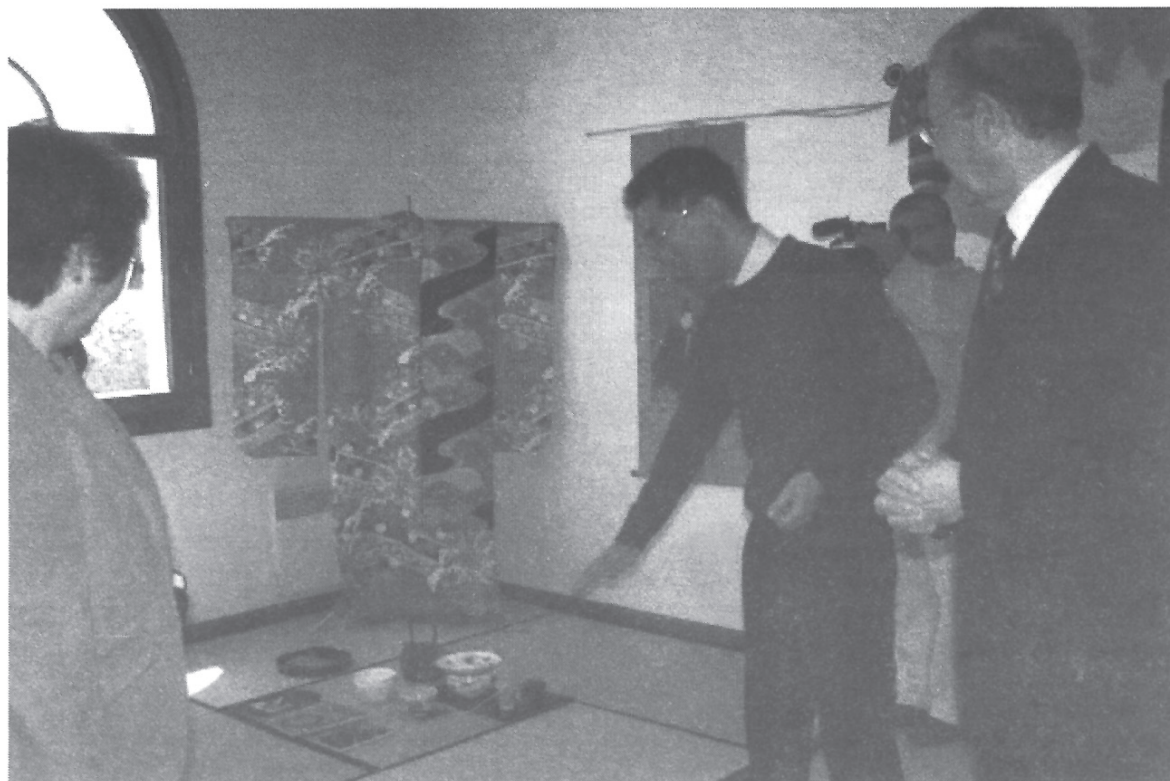
festivities, the club also offered Amazigh food in addition to a traditional dance and an Ahidous music program. New this semester, the club also took part in the organization of Poetry Night, celebrating International Poetry Day on April 22nd.

Just like the Hebrew classes that the Mimouna Club offers, language classes attract a lot of students. Lessons in Berber, German, Japanese and Spanish are all offered by on-campus clubs.

"I have always wanted to learn Spanish as a fourth language especially [since] the job market requires multilingual people, and the Spanish club gave me this opportunity," freshman SBA student Salma Gaouzi said. "What I liked the most was the informal setting of the class, allowing us to learn in a pleasant atmosphere."

Beyond the language, cultural issues are also a prominent feature of some clubs. The Japanese club devotes one meeting per week

— in addition to the language class — to discuss particular aspects of the Japanese culture and confront them in the Moroccan context. Earlier this semester, the club also organized a trip to Kyotori, a Japanese restaurant in Fes, for a further discovery of the culture in a fun and joyful way; culinary traditions were at the heart of the discussion during that special meal. More than that, the club organized a Japanese Day, and events includ-



ed free sushi from Kyotori, and a talk by the Japanese ambassador to Morocco.

Not only an opportunity to learn, the classes are also an opportunity to involve foreign faculty and exchange students who are present but at times limitedly in AUI's student activities. Instead of only advising the club, faculty might be teaching the classes, or even attending them as students. Exchange students also play an

important role in these clubs through guiding discussions and raising questions, and some even teach.

"Before coming to AUI, I'd never imagined of students who even know about Japan. So when I found Japanese club and people interested in Japan, I was amazed and thankful. Morocco is culturally open and shares a lot in common with Japanese culture, such as the sense of respect," Kenjiro Matsumoto, a Japanese exchange student and the Japanese class teacher, said. "Through the Japanese class, my hope is to find new perspectives for our two cultures."

Organizing events also helps in shedding light on different aspects of various cultures. Remember the Opera Night organized last semester by the German Club? Building 17 was crowded with students, but also with faculty and staff members who did not want to miss such an event!

"It was a special type of per-

formance, so different from the shows that students are used to attending at AUI. It was a premiere in the sense it is the first time that an opera concert was organized at AUI, and that the 'Ensemble Amadé' opera group performed in Morocco" Fatima Azzahra El Azzouzi, an SSE senior student and president of the German Club said. "The event also highlighted the success stories of Moroccan residents in Germany, like Malika Reyad. Most of those Moroccans are highly considered around the world, but they are rarely known to their fellows in Morocco."

Opera indeed is foreign to Moroccan culture; nevertheless it did not fail to attract attention and attendance to the show. "That was an opportunity to say that there are AUI community members who appreciate classical music. We were actually positively astonished to notice that the audience was far larger than what was expected" El Azzouzi added.

More recently, this semester, the Spanish Club took on the task of organizing Valentine's Day at AUI. The club offered some special services that day, such as selling flowers and greeting cards to AUI community. It also organized a dance in the evening celebrating the day and opening the floor to enjoyment within community members. This kind of event is real evidence that AUI can achieve a real tolerance and understanding of other cultures as a part of its strong and unique identity.

Not restricted to extra-curricular activities, some clubs are working hard in order to make their presence felt in other parts of AUI life. For example, the Mimouna Club is currently trying to introduce Hebrew classes as part of the curriculum for elective classes. While Spanish classes are already offered at AUI, the addition of other language classes would be a major indicator that AUI is a real crossroad of cultures, where understanding, tolerance, and mutual respect are the golden rules.



## Spotlight

# Into The Wild: Freedom Through Nature

 ZOUHAIR MAZOUZ

Have you ever wanted to take a break from being a college student? Have you ever wanted to give up your computer, books, iPod, papers, mobile phone and TV and take only essential luggage to discover nature, that same nature that was once sufficient to make mankind happy? If you recall having felt so at least once in your life, then you have no excuse to miss *Into The Wild*.

Inspired by a true story and directed by Sean Penn, *Into The Wild* (2007) features the story of Christopher McCandless (actor Emile Hirsch), an American college student who wonders what to do with his life after graduation. At the beginning of the movie, Chris seems to have it all: graduating with Summa Cum Laude distinction, a bright future ahead of him, parents willing to help him start up a new life, and a unique, exceptional personality that has him loved by his peers. Although the doors of the American Dream are wide open to Chris, he shows suspicion and skepticism whenever encountering a new opportunity. When his proud father offers him a new Cadillac, he turns his offer down, mocking: "What tells you I want a new car?" At this particular moment of the movie, the viewer quickly guesses a distinctive trait of Chris's personality: repulsion of the materialism that characterizes modern societies. Chris confirms this trait

even further when he takes the \$24,000 awarded to him for his Harvard postgraduate Law studies and donates them to charity. Then, without even warning his family, he takes some luggage and petty cash and hits the road. A breathtaking, unforgettable journey begins...

When his old car stops in the middle of the road, Chris does not care at all; he continues his discovery on foot. Surprisingly,

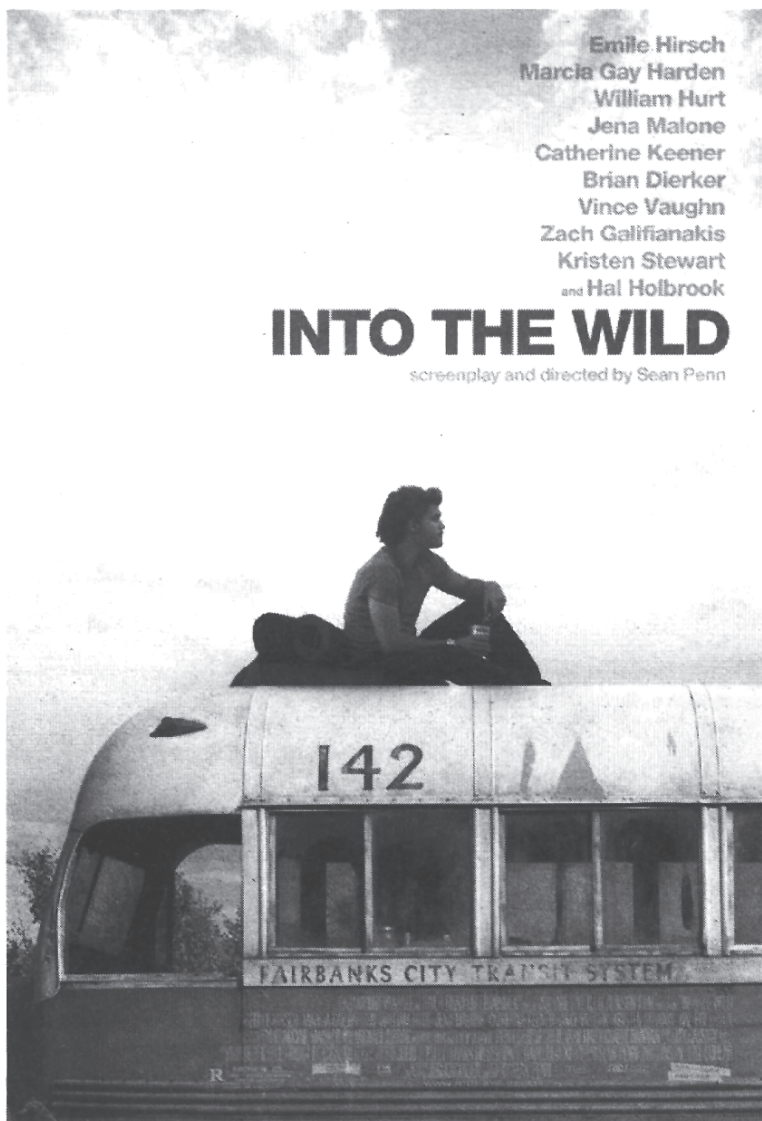
he also burns all of the cash he has, as if trying to push the conventional boundaries by proving that one does not need money to survive. Chris lands in the almost endless wheat fields of Carthage, South Dakota where he joins the harvest for minimum wage and enjoys fun, work and brotherhood with the farmers. He introduces himself as "Alexander Supertramp", a weird and funny name that he will keep all along his voyage; a sign that he is willing to give up his achievement oriented identity for a purely human experience. Influenced

parents get a search warrant to find him, he decides to go to Alaska, perhaps in an ultimate attempt to "find himself". There, taking an abandoned van as his home, he goes through experiences that only adventurers have known; in the middle of nowhere, he is forced to hunt deer and eat wild plants to survive. Despite his physical struggle, "Supertramp" is spiritually delighted. He has found in Alaska the peace, quiet and happiness that he has always dreamed of. Nonetheless, these great feelings do not last, as Chris becomes

unable to sustain such a physically demanding lifestyle. His weakness pushes him to eat any plant (including the poisonous *Hedysarum alpinum*) he finds on his way. Lonely, intoxicated and close to death, Chris tries to go back home, but the flooding Alaska rivers prevent him. In his last days, he realizes that the principles he has so strongly believed in are not ideal for human survival. Christopher's body is found in his van on September 6th, 1992, along with his diary and a picture of him. He died at age 24.

The true story of Christopher McCandless is quite symbolic:

it illustrates how far people can go in their quest for freedom and truth. This Oscar-nominated drama cost Sean Penn \$15,000,000. No wonder why; the footages, special effects, actors and natural settings used in the movie are simply awesome. *Into The Wild* also offers a wonderful overview of the American nature from deserts, to coasts, to mountains and forests. Definitely a movie to watch!

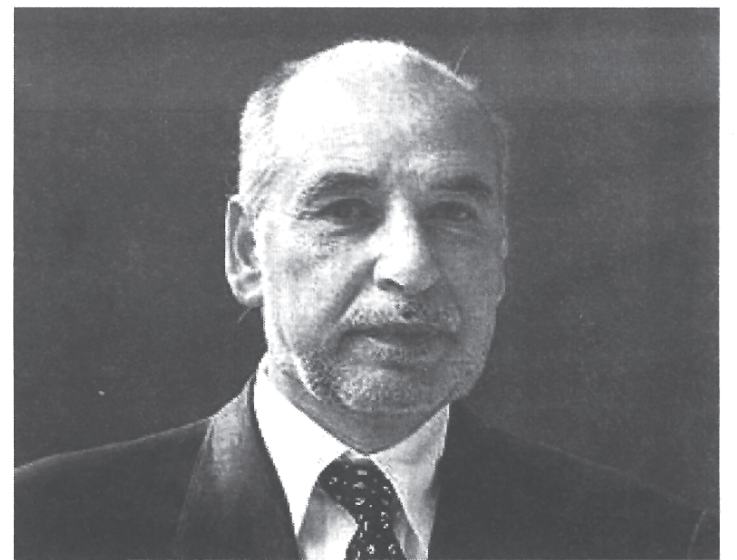


## Book Review: "Sur ma Mère"

 INASS MSAIDI

*Sur ma Mère* is a new book written in French by Taher Benjelloun. It is 270 pages long and was published by Gallimard in January 2008 in France.

Benjelloun is a Moroccan writer and poet. Born in Fes in 1944, he studied in Paris, where he got his doctorate at the Sorbonne with a thesis on social psychiatry. He has written many great novels, including *Harrouda* (1973), *Moha le Fou*, *Moha le Sage* (1978), and became well known for his *La Nuit*



*Sacrée* which earned him the Prix Goncourt. Moroccan traditions and rituals are at the center of his work which portray life in Morocco, especially in Fes, in the last decades.

In *Sur ma Mère*, Benjelloun sheds light on the last years of the life of his mother who suffered from memory loss. This condition rendered Benjelloun's mother an inhabitant of the past rather than the present time. The book centers around the conversations Benjelloun has with his mother, in which his family's history is forwarded to him. As his mother moves toward the final hours of her life, long forgotten narrations are transmitted to him; his mother talks of traditional marriages, and confidences of the hammam.

With this novel, Benjelloun honors his mother's legacy, taking the reader back to part of Morocco's rich history.



# ZzZzZzZzZ: Proper Sleep Habits Are Essential for Better Health and Academic Performance

WISSAM KHAOUID

As college students, many of us deal with a very common problem: getting enough sleep. Whether taking on too much work or just socialising, we are up much later than we should be, sometimes with the help of coffee or energy drinks, which can considerably affect the sleep cycle.

Losing sleep is something to be taken seriously. An occasional sleepless night is normal, but recurrent patterns of this behavior can cause real problems to your ability to function normally. Research shows that insufficient sleep can have disastrous effects on your weight loss efforts, disturb your concentration, swing your mood and even mimic the symptoms of impaired glucose tolerance which can lead eventually to diabetes and hypertension!

Here is a bunch of techniques that can help you enhance considerably the quality of your sleep:

- Use your bed only for sleeping. Most of us tend to put on our beds all sorts of things: clothes, textbooks, bags and even food in some cases.

- Make your room cooler at

night. Not only you will save energy, this also helps you sleep

- Clear your head before going to bed. This seems to be a

issues. Sleeping well requires reducing brain activity before-

up and do something productive.

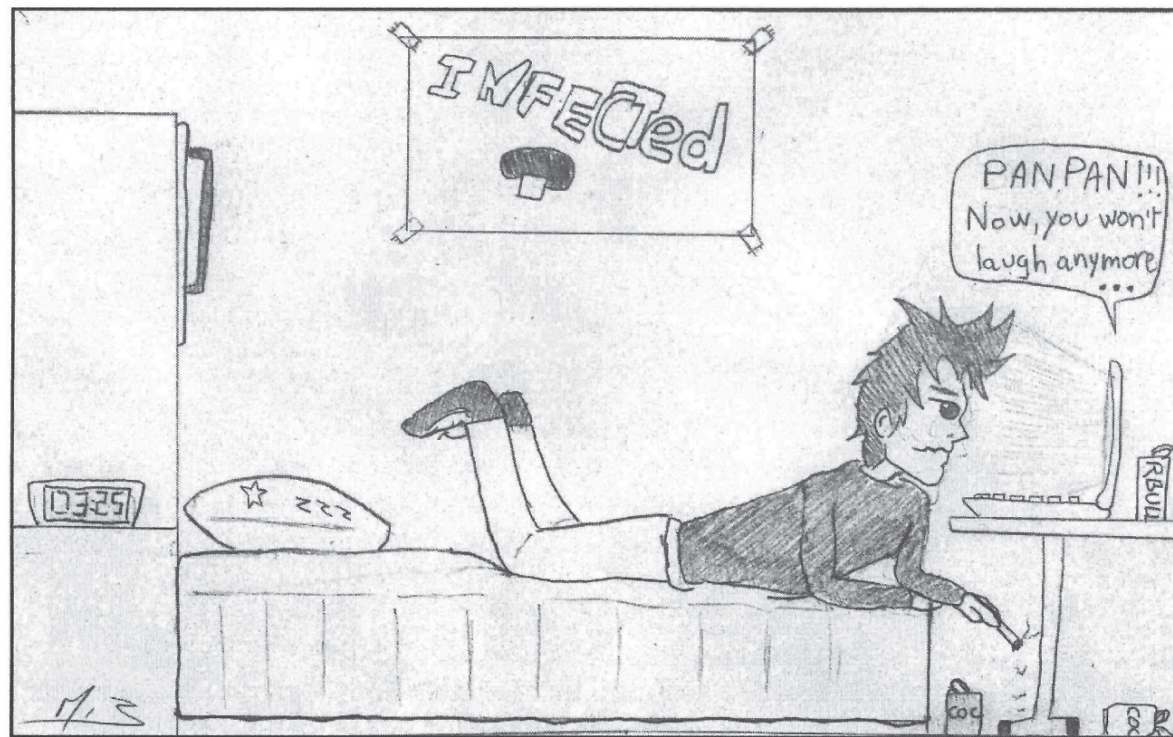
- Know when/how to nap. Between 3 and 5pm is great. Most doctors recommend strongly for napping to be no longer than 20 minutes. Exceeding the 20 minutes will make it harder for you to fall asleep early.

- Exercise late in the afternoon. Working out after lunch is good. Early in the evening around sunset it is even better.

- Avoid drinking a lot of fluids before bedtime. This adds to the classic one: no coffee or energy drinks late in the evening.

- Make it a routine. Force yourself to go to bed early and at the same time every night. It takes on average of 21 days to implement a new habit. So make this commitment and your days will be much more energetic and happy.

Sleep does more than get you into good dreams. It is not only a time for rest, but a dynamic activity where many vital health and mind processes take place. Schedule it cautiously because enjoying the rest of your agenda depends on it!



better. So instead of turning the heat to the maximum, get warm under some soft blankets.

major cause of sleep disorder amongst students because it is strongly related to stress

hand. A good idea would be to take a nice long hot bath just before going to bed. If you find yourself thinking in bed, get

## You Got Style BlackBerry

MOHAMMED AMINE MAISSOUR

The BlackBerry is a wireless handheld device introduced in 1997 which supports a wide variety of technologies and features like mobile telephone, text messaging, fax, web browsing and other wireless information services. It is a prime example of a convergent device (devices that can play the role of many other devices like a phone including a camera). Developed by Canadian company Research In Motion (RIM), it delivers information over the wireless data networks of mobile phone service companies. BlackBerry first made its place in the marketplace by concentrating on e-mail.

While including the usual PDA applications (address book, calendar, to-do lists, etc.) as well as telephone capabilities on newer models, the BlackBerry is primarily known for its ability to send and receive e-mail wherever it can access a wireless network of certain cellular phone carriers. It has a built-in keyboard, optimized for "thumbing" (the use of only the thumbs to type). System navigation is primarily accomplished by the thumbwheel, a scrolling wheel with a "CLICK" function, located on the right side of the device. Newer models are now utilizing a trackball in the middle of the

device as Research In Motion has moved from the thumbwheel to the trackball. Some models also incorporate a PTT (Push-To-Talk) feature, similar to a two-way radio, (walkie-talkie technology). Certain BlackBerry devices don't depend on mobile phone service coverage and are Wi-Fi compatible like similar handheld devices that are on the market, which are making phone calls much cheaper.

For the technical specifications, the latest GSM BlackBerry models (8100 and 8700 series) have an Intel PXA901 312 MHz processor, 64 MB flash memory and 16 MB SDRAM. The devices are very popular with some businesses, where they are primarily used to provide e-mail access to roaming employees. To fully integrate the BlackBerry into a company's systems, the installation of BlackBerry Enterprise Server (BES) is required.

On April 2, 2008, RIM announced the number of BlackBerry subscribers had outpassed 14 million, and recently, Maroc Telecom began to offer BlackBerry services to its clients, as part of its strategy to embrace new mobile technologies and services. In a continuously evolving workplace that requires "getting wired" frequently, acquiring a BlackBerry is slowly being seen as a must!



## Sudoku

Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

2	3			4	9			1	
1		5		8	2			9	
	6		5			8			
				9	7	1	2		
	9	7	3	2					
		1			4			5	
5			1	3		7		6	
6			9	7				1	4

Level: Easy

		5	1		9		7	3
				5	3			9
				2			4	
		7	2	4				5
		1	7		8	4		
	4			9	6	1		
	3			7				
1			3	8				
6	2		9		5	7		

Level: Medium

9					2	4		
		2	8		6			1
6				7				
1		5						8
	3			1				4
	4					7		1
				5				2
	2		9		1	5		
		4	6					3

Level: Difficult

### Last issue's Sudoku solutions

9	3	4	5	2	8	7	6	1	9	6	4	8	1	5	7	3	2	8	4	7	2	6	3	9	5	1
2	6	7	3	1	4	8	9	5	7	8	1	4	2	3	6	9	5	2	6	5	1	9	7	8	4	3
1	5	8	7	6	9	4	3	2	5	3	2	6	9	7	4	8	1	3	9	1	8	5	4	6	7	2
5	1	3	2	9	7	6	8	4	6	5	9	7	8	4	2	1	3	6	2	8	3	7	9	4	1	5
4	9	6	8	3	1	5	2	7	8	1	3	5	6	2	9	7	4	5	1	9	4	2	8	7	3	6
8	7	2	6	4	5	3	1	9	2	4	7	1	3	9	5	6	8	7	3	4	5	1	6	2	9	8
3	8	1	4	7	2	9	5	6	3	7	8	2	5	6	1	4	9	1	7	3	6	4	2	5	8	9
6	4	9	1	5	3	2	7	8	1	2	6	9	4	8	3	5	7	4	5	6	9	8	1	3	2	7
7	2	5	9	8	6	1	4	3	4	9	5	3	7	1	8	2	6	9	8	2	7	3	5	1	6	4

Level: Easy

Level: Medium

Level: Difficult

## Crosswords

ACROSS  
 1. Source of wisdom  
 5. Mediocre: hypn. wd.  
 9. African port  
 14. Actor Epps  
 15. Declare openly  
 16. Form of lyric verse  
 17. Caper  
 18. Runcible spoon feature  
 19. Boater material  
 20. Legislative task  
 22. Mr. Erwin  
 23. Nonspecific person  
 24. Asks  
 28. Early bird?  
 29. Colonial monarch: 2 wds.  
 30. City in West Yorkshire  
 33. Sovereigns for the Metro  
 34. Indian title of respect  
 35. Sight from Innsbruck  
 36. Cite  
 37. Deer head?  
 38. Rock & Roll Hall of Fame architect  
 39. Hotel apartment  
 40. Zellweger of film  
 41. Privately: 2 wds.  
 43. Border  
 44. Ilie of tennis  
 45. Flowery ornament  
 49. Scrap for Fido  
 50. Dairy worker  
 51. Turn aside  
 54. Imp's stocking gift

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13					
14					15					16									
17					18					19									
20					21					22									
23										24				25	26	27			
					28					29									
30	31	32						33							34				
35								36							37				
38								39							40				
41								42											
44																45	46	47	48
								49								50			
51	52	53								54									55
56										57									58
59										60									61

DOWN  
 1. Miner's boons  
 2. — acid  
 3. Address for a lady  
 4. Take  
 5. All-you-can-eat restaurant's objective?  
 6. Sheepish?  
 7. Crooner's tune  
 8. Be in the red

9. They're examined  
 10. Positive market move  
 11. Ni  
 12. Ms. Tarbell  
 13. Put in stitches  
 21. Duds  
 22. Soft leather  
 24. To a considerable degree  
 25. Norwegian playwright  
 26. Eldritch  
 27. Weighted net  
 29. Proportional share  
 30. Rabbit fur  
 31. Actress Verdugo  
 32. Long tales  
 33. Paper purchase

36. Pursuit  
 37. Be nostalgic  
 39. Hurt a lot  
 40. Dangerous chance  
 42. Without musical quality  
 43. Hair-salon spool  
 45. Cow catcher  
 46. Brownish gray  
 47. Worn-out  
 48. Moves sideways  
 50. Additional  
 51. Anatomical pouch  
 52. "What's that?"  
 53. Tell's canton  
 54. Hack

# Taklidi Rap at Al Akhawayn

MOUNA EL MANSOURI

Some of you cannot stop yourselves from singing their refrains, others waited the entire afternoon the day of the Fun Run day to take pictures with them and have copies of their album autographed, and others simply lost all control during the show, dancing to their music and singing along to the lyrics... Have you guessed who?

The AUI Bridge met with the music group just after their show for an exclusive interview!

MC Khalifa, MC Achraf, Tizaf Mouhssine, and DJ Van speak about the experience of Fnaïre since their first Fun Run at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane!

It has been three years since your first trip to AUI for the 2005 Fun Run. Any changes since then?

Since then a lot of things have happened! With the success of "Matkich Bladi" (Don't Touch my Country) we were very motivated and that is why we worked very hard on our new album that was released in 2007, "Yed El Henna" (Hand Of Henna). That album was the result of much more than hard work; it was also the result of our meeting with poet Damoussi whose poetry constituted a source of inspiration to us. A lot of efforts were made

in order to prepare "Yed El Henna", it was even sent to London for mixing and mastering. Now that the album is out, we really feel happy to see the positive reaction of the public and their deeper acceptance of our music!

It's true that you are creating a unique musical style. What do you see as the role of radio in promoting it?

Radio stations played an important role in promoting our music in fact. They offer larger exposure to the public. Also, it is right that we have our own kind of music however, "Teklidi Rap" (Traditional Rap) is based on Moroccan traditions and folklore. Even mixed with contemporary rap, it still contains lyrics promoting Moroccan values and talking about the Moroccan reality. That was the case of "Matkich Bladi" which proved that our music really can touch the heart of all Moroccans, not only youngsters but also older people.

With the success that you currently have today, aren't you afraid that piracy might hit your music?

We are very cool in this regard. Pirating actually

helped us to be more known by the public. It permitted our music style and messages to spread, and established us as a unique group.

We believe that pirating is not a real problem threatening our music. That is what we proved with the help of Platinum, our distributor.

We believe that as long as quality is there and as long as prices are affordable, people would feel more inclined to buy the real CDs instead of pirating them. That is why we decided, with the support of Platinum, that the CD of our album "Yed El Henna" was to be sold at no more than 15 Dirhams. This strategy proved to be effective and we are very happy about it!

Any future projects?

We are actually preparing for a tour abroad. Dates have already been set. This tour will lead us through New York, Montreal, Orlando, Brussels, Bordeaux, and Paris to cite a few. We will be coming back to Morocco in order to participate in Mawazine (Rabat, May 18th) and Festival National des Arts Populaires (Marrakech, July 23rd).

Last impressions about AUI before leaving?

We are always happy to come to Al Akhawayn. We are always received in a very good way and we always feel that the public is supporting us! It is a pleasure to be here with such an audience!

