

Socializing at AUI



AUI is a Moroccan institution that provides a higher education. AUI contributes to the international community and gives opportunities for studying abroad. *(continued in Page 9)*

Grounds & Maintenance



From watering the grass to preparing the graduation ceremony space, the Grounds and Maintenance office is responsible for various tasks that contribute to the success of AUI in many of its aspects *(continued in Page 12)*

A Bloody Love Story



What do you think about a man who is handsome, intelligent, cute, kind and... he is vampire? *(continued in Page 16)*

Students Elect New SGA Members



Farewell Dore Michelut



In This Issue:

Students elect new SGA members p3
 Farewell Dore Michelut.....p.3
 3 AUI students qualified for national student quiz-show..... p4
 The Student Center...always under construction..... p10

Facebook: Are we missing the point?..... p11
 Prison Break, really?.....p13
 Can Social Networks Change The World? p16
 Book Review: Economy through Muhammad Yunus..... p20

Editorial

The second issue of the newspaper is out now! One more issue to go and the semester will come to its end. The issue between your hands includes various articles- some of them will be more appealing to you than others. However, the aim is to always provide interesting, informative and in-depth analysis of topics that are relevant to AUI community.

One of the articles included in the Opinions' section is about a student's exchange experience to the United States. Oussama Laroussi explores some aspects of his exchange and describes some situations which he found different compared to the common ones he would find back in Moroccan culture. Seeing policemen around campus back at his host university remains a very attractive element.

It is interesting to see how a policy of speed limit is being reinforced even on the roads of a university campus. Also, I have- for a while, imagined AUI campus with policemen hiding behind a tree in the road linking the main gate and building 38. Our student drivers will communicate between each other with sign and SMS to let others know about the exact tree behind which the radar is located. Of course, the students living in "Beverly Hills" would have an absolute advantage of detecting the location by looking from their windows and using the room phone sets as a communication tool, or messenger instantaneously to avoid any fine.

Fines can be paid by cash wallet through the business office in a deadline that would not exceed two days after the fine is issued. Then, a receipt will have to be provided at Ifrane's police station along with the stamp fees; unlike the fine, these fees can be paid in "la trésorerie" or "la perception" that belongs to the ministry of Finance, Ifrane's delegation.

What would happen if such policy was really implemented on AUI's campus? I know this is not realistic- given the small number of students enrolled at AUI compared to those enrolled at Binghamton University, but it would definitely be great to just imagine AUI with police men hanging around its roads; one time they will be next to main gate, the next day they will be found in the round-about point next to buildings 18, 36, and 37.

I imagine that there is a student who has a big and fancy car which he drives very fast- I can only think of this student inviting the police men to have lunch with him at AUI's restaurant or, perhaps more interestingly, offering phone cards from the shop in order to get rid of the fine tickets he would be collecting as a result of his fast driving.

Seriously, one does not need to imagine all these scenarios. Instead, one can only hope that AUI's present regulations concerning the various violations a student can make or policies they break, can actually be executed. Then and only then, change can happen and improvement can take place.

Letters to the Editor Policy

Integration was a very odd process for me. In fact, I think that Al Akhawayn University provides the necessary tools needed for an integration to go well. The first three days in the University were all dedicated to the integration process with trips. Contrary to France or the United States, there was almost no hazing. Maybe Al Akhawayn University is receiving freshmen before former students in order to avoid this issue.



auiBridge
MASTHEAD

Editor-in-Chief

Ghassan Essalehi

News Editor

Abdelhadi Mekouar

News Reporters

Abdelhadi Mekouar
Jihane Moussaoui

Features Editor

Walid Bouzoubaâ

Features Reporters

Anass Gttoa
Ghassan Essalehi

Entertainment Editor

Mohamed Amine Maissour

Entertainment Reporters

Mohammed Redouane Khrifi
Jihane Moussaoui
Salma Lamqaddam
Sophia Berriane
Yassine Habibi
Yassir Mahlou
Wai Kalama
Wiam Mahmoudi

Production Editor

Hatim Ksissou

Printer: B to B Consulting
Rabat - Morocco

NEXT ISSUE'S TOPIC

Finals' Period

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

The AUI Bridge wants to hear from you!

Interested in becoming a reporter?

Contact:
bridge@au.ma

AUI develops its collaboration with TUM

NEWS TEAM

On March 12th, AUI signed an agreement with the Technical University of Munich to offer a dual master's degree in computer science. "It is an historical agreement for AUI," said Dr. Smith of the SSE, "as this degree offers more than an exchange program."

A panel of AUI executives led by President Ouauicha met TUM Vice President of International Affairs, Computer Science professor Dr. Michael Gerndt and former AUI professor Dr. Hicham Haddouti in the board room to sign the agreement and renew existing partnerships between the universities.

The dual degree program allows prospective students of combined BSCS/MS and prospective master students at the Department of Computer Science at TUM to study one year in Morocco, one in Germany, and do their thesis in their home country but with supervisors from both institutions.

The following titles are awarded upon successful completion of the present double degree program:

From AUI: BS and MS to AUI students and MS to TUM students.

From TUM: MS to both TUM and AUI students.



AUI and TUM executives and faculty

Farewell Dore Michelut

NEWS TEAM

Dore Michelut, former advisor of the AUI Bridge and SHSS and CAD professor, died on Wednesday, March 18th.

Ms. Michelut was working as a professor at the College of the North Atlantic – Qatar in Doha. She also lived for extensive periods in Italy and Canada. She did her undergraduate studies at the University of Florence, Italy; and received a Master's in Applied Communication from Royal Roads University in Victoria, Canada. For many years she taught Creative Writing and wrote poetry and prose. She has published four books and a number of articles in literary journals.

From 2001 to 2005, she taught at the University of Wenzhou, China, where she founded and fostered a student newspaper. She joined AUI as a CAD faculty in 2005 and moved to the SHSS in 2007. She also participated in developing the AUI Bridge.

Students elect new SGA members

JIHANE MOUSSAOUI

On Tuesday February 24th, the results of SGA elections were announced after all the votes had been counted. For the first time in the SGA history, 26% of AUI students participated in the elections. Mourad Mohamed Essofi, a Business Administration student who was competing against 7 other candidates from his school, got 46% of the votes. On Thursday February 26th, Essofi was elected SGA President by the SGA members. Through an interview conducted with him, the new president talks about the experience that he gained from his campaign. Mourad Essofi thinks that "the SGA has an important role at AUI since it is an opportunity for students to express their opinion through electing the members that they believe will represent them and defend their rights best." He considers that being president of the SGA gives him the possibility to make change and bring new ideas to solve problems with the team that he always wanted to work with, in the aim of creating more interaction with AUI students.

During his campaign, Mourad Essofi relied on many ways in order to communicate his message and attract more and more supporters. He confirms: "the posters that were put in strategic places all over the campus had the impact desired in so far as it is through this means that AUI students knew me as a candidate." However, other ways were used such as talking to people about the elections and creating a Facebook group because most students have an account on this social network. UCN free mic session

and the speech night also helped in the campaign.

According to Essofi, the problems that he suffered from during his campaign had a positive effect since it was "a push to make more effort" and the two major problems encountered are the negative messages communicated by some professors and the

to people who trust him, but he also states that the free advertisement that he got thanks to the negative factors played a major role in spreading his message: "Yes We Can."

The new SGA President's vision is to make students have more power and be able to express their opinion about different issues. In order to achieve this, he brought a new idea: "each month a meeting that will deal with only one specific department at a time will be held. During this meeting both students and the head of the committee concerned will be present. The student can either choose to ask the concerned person directly or to be anonymous by writing their questions before the start of the meeting on a piece of paper. After that, during the meeting, the guest will answer their questions. This will also be an occasion for the involved department's representative to list the department's achievements, defend their positions and expose the objectives and goals to reach in the future."

The SGA has recently announced its new board that was voted internally. The board is as follows:

President: Mourad Essofi
Vice President: Ghassan Essalehi
Secretary General: Ali Zaki
Treasurer: Ahd Rankou
Student Services Committee: Rajae Gharradi

Student Activities Committee: Mohammed Benabdellah
Academic Affairs Committee: Mohcine

Zouhair & Kawtar Chriyaa
Public Relations Committee: Hamza Fqih Berrada



Mourad Mohamed Essofi giving his speech before the elections

students who were against the campaign and the delay of the elections' date. In fact, he considers that the high rate of votes that he got (46%) is mainly due

Rotaract vaccines against Tetanus

NEWS TEAM

On February 27th and 28th, the Rotaract Club organized the annual Tetanus Campaign. Female students, staff and faculty were invited to receive a shot against the illness, which can affect fetuses inside their mother's womb. Documentation distributed during the operation state that 50% of people affected by tetanus are still killed by the toxin, which is produced by a bacterium that enters the body through wounds.

"More than 50 people registered for the shot," said Ms. Zineb El Ouazzani, President of the Rotaract Club who helped supervise the operation.

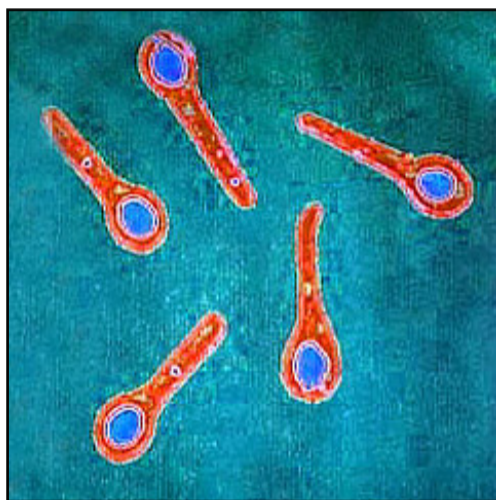
"It was pretty good, but we could have done better", said Ms. El Ouazzani. She went on to explain that people tend to fear shots and that the first day was held in the little exposed exhibition room of building 4. "The second day in the game room was a lot better," she said.

The Rotaract Club has been organizing this event for over 3 years. "It has become a tradition," said Ms. El Ouazzani, adding that it was important to offer new students prevention against tetanus.

Ms. Meryem Rachidi, Vice President, and Meryem Tazi, Head of the Professional Committee, helped organize the event, in collaboration with Health Center staff.

The Rotaract Club next plans include participating in the Rotaract Youth Leadership Award in Marrakech starting March 26th. The event is a reunion of all Rotaractors of Morocco, Mauritania, Algeria and Tunisia.

"In addition, we are going to participate in a social activity as we will be bringing mattresses to an orphanage in Marrakech," said Ms. El Ouazzani.



Clostridium tetani, the bacterium responsible for tetanus

3 AUI students qualified for national student quiz-show

NEWS TEAM

Over the weekend of Friday March 20th, 18 AUI students went to the Faculté des Sciences et Techniques in Fes to participate in the National Intellectual Tournament organized for high schools and universities. At the end of the two sessions of theselection, 3 students from AUI were qualified among a team of 12 that will represent the region. The finalists of the tournament will compete in a televised quiz-show titled Rawabit, to be held in Casablanca from April 23rd to 29th.



AUI students at the FST for the selections

The selection consisted of individual on stage interviews that tested the candidates on their knowledge and allure. Candidates successively appeared in front of the jury and were asked personal as well literary, social and political questions among others. The process was similar to a casting.

Over 250 candidates from Fes, Errachidia,

Sefrou and other cities of the region attended the selections. On the first round, 38 students were selected, including 10 from AUI.

The second round ended up with 6 finalists (2 of which were AUI students Amina- Fouzi

Zizi and Yassine Talaoui).

A third student from the university, Ghasan Essalehi, made the waiting list.

"I received very good feedback from jury members who were left astonished," said Salma Benbouia, Student Event Coordinator who supervises AUI's participation in the

competition.

The Rawabit tv-show, produced by Ali n'Productions, is an effort by the Ministry of Education and the SNRT of valorizing cultural, political, economic and social knowledge and showcase Morocco's educational system.

The quiz-show will be broadcast over 32

Earthquake hits near Essaouira during student trip

NEWS TEAM

An earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale hit the province of Essaouira on Sunday February 28th, while a group of about 30 students was spending the weekend in town.

The National Institute of Geophysics said that the epicenter of the tremor, which occurred at 8:04 pm, was in the area of Sidi Kauki about 20 kilometers from Essaouira. The earthquake did not cause any casualties or damage, according to local authorities.

Only some of the students reported they felt the tremor, with some saying they "felt frightened" for a moment but were reassured soon after.

Half of the participants in the trip, a collaboration between the Explorers and the Horse Riding Club spent the following day at the Sidi Kauki beach.

New Associate Vice President for Information Technology

NEWS TEAM

Dr. Tajeddine Rachidi has been appointed Associate Vice President for Information Technology, announced President Driss Ouaouicha on February 20th.

Dr. Rachidi will lead the university to better master IT, which is crucial today in a variety of key domains including research, learning and management.

In addition to teaching at The School of Science and Engineering for several years, Dr. Rachidi has directed the Information Technology and Systems department for over 2 years, in addition to teaching at the SSE for several years.

SGA meets the President

NEWS TEAM

On March 13th, SGA members had a meeting with President Dr. Ouaouicha and Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Belfekih to discuss achievements of the association and their ongoing projects.

"One of the good news is that the President said the administration was already working on upgrading the internet bandwidth," said Ali Zaki, General Secretary of the SGA. The connection speed should be improved soon.

The SGA is satisfied with the support displayed by the President, according to Zaki. "I will do everything I can for you to do your job," reportedly said Dr. Ouaouicha to the panel of SGA members. Expressing the willingness of the top executives to cooperate with the association, the President reportedly ensured the "full support" of his colleagues.

"The President congratulated us for all the achievement the SGA has done so far," said Zaki. "You continue to have the trust and the credibility from both sides", the President allegedly said, referring to the relationship of the SGA with students and the administration. Because of time constraints, the heads of each committee of the SGA could not present all the issues they are currently dealing with. "The president agreed to arrange for another meeting to further describe our current work," said Zaki.

Students participate in Harvard Model United Nations Conference

NEWS TEAM

From February 11th to 17th, a group of 11 students from the Model United Nations (MUN) club accompanied by Dr. Walwik were in Boston, Massachusetts, to participate in a model UN conference.

"The MUN is a worldwide collaboration of more than 40 countries," said Ali Zaki, senior IS student who helped organize the event. "The goal of the program is to simulate UN discussions in order for students worldwide to learn and practice international diplomacy," said Zaki.

Attendants of the conference organized by the Harvard MUN chapter had to represent a randomly assigned country in a series of simulated UN negotiations about global issues. The AUI team represented Tunisia and was split over 7 committees.

They worked as part of teams of countries defending a specific resolution. Their work consisted of forming alliances, developing solutions and drafting resolutions for the issue at hand.

"The process used is a replica of real UN conferences," said Zaki. Draft resolutions go through amendments and are then voted on. Only one of the several resolutions to a specific issue is finally approved.

The resolutions of 6 of the 7 AUI

committees were approved by the panel of 32 countries present at the conference. "We did a good job," said Zaki.

One of the problems AUI students worked on was the interactions between lone-state armed groups and drug trafficking.

"The club has been working hard on this project since September of 2008 and we have managed to gather 180,000DH in sponsorship," said Zaki. The major sponsors were the UN Development Program and Bank Al Maghrib. Sponsorship funds covered all the expenses.

Dr. Dahbi, Dean of the SHSS, expressed his congratulations in a letter to the club members and its advisors, Dr. Kalpakian and Dr. Walwik.

A MUN class is projected and its syllabus should be developed in collaboration with the students who participated in the Harvard conference.

"The Dean of the SHSS and the President of the university agreed to organize a MUN conference at AUI next year, which would be a first in Africa," said Zaki.

The MUN chapter's next projects are an appreciation conference for sponsors and students, as well as a conference with UN staff that should take place in late April in Rabat.



AUI Students working with international students on their resolution

AUI hosts first rugby competition

NEWS TEAM

AUI's rugby team hosted a qualification phase of the national inter-university championship of rugby sevens on March 18th.

"It's the first time an AUI team participated in a rugby tournament," said coach and captain of the team Hicham Kabbage, junior SBA student.

The teams competing for the single qualification slot available represented University Mohammed V of Rabat, University Ibnou Toufail of Kenitra and University Mohammed Ben Abdallah of Fes. The Rabat team did not attend and lost via forfeit.

A series of 3 games took place on the soccer field, which was attended by about 100 students and animated by AUI's cheerleaders, who also debuted that day.

AUI's team won its first game against Kenitra and lost its second against Fes. After 2 victories, Fes won the qualification.

"Our team demonstrated an almost perfect mastery of the game and dominated the opponent in our first game against Kenitra," said Abdenabi Ouaabi, player who coached the team on the day of the competition. "However, our major assets were our rage and drive to win."

Mr. Adil Kamane, Director of the Athletics Department, expressed his satisfaction with the results of the young team, which has been training for about one year.



AUI players (left) Hicham Kabbage and Omar El Filali against Kenitra players

Exchange from AUI

Far away from the "Bled"*

* Bled = Home

OUSSAMA LAROUSHI

We hear a lot of time around the campus that a group of students went on an exchange program. Despite of our advances in studies, as students, we are required to com-

plete 45 credits before considering any exchange program. Once the time comes, one can think of flying to Uncle Sam country- as it attracts most students taking part in an exchange program.

My name is Oussama Laroussi, an AUI student on exchange program at Binghamton University, New York, in the United States. You may also call it the sunny Binghamton- like local people do over here. Binghamton is a small town that is very similar to Ifrane. The town is only 3 hours to the West of New York City.

Binghamton University is considered one of the best public universities in North America. The campus where I am staying is located on a hill- a quite calm area where one can think well and reflect on studies. From the campus location, one can see a lot of mountains on the horizon, and hills and rivers all the around the area. Similar to AUI, Binghamton has its own forests in

which a natural reserve was made for many animals. My first days here were very exciting. In fact, I had the chance to meet a lot of people from all walks of life. Good is the time I spent in their com-

pany- and which I am spending with them. The first day of orientation was quite tough because I needed to make sure that I was registered for all my classes; this process took me a long time. Fortunately, after that my Binghamton student account was activated, I could register successfully from the university Online Registration System without having to go through the common long queues like the ones of AUI.

Classes are very different here; lectures last for a longer time compared to AUI's. For example, for a three credits class that meets three times a week, every class lasts for 1h30 minutes. Unfortunately for me, I took a class of Differential Equations, which is a four credit math class; this class lasts more than 2 hours every time and meets three times in a week. Because I was used to my AUI classes that lasted 1 hour maximum per lecture, I found it hard to cope with the timings and duration

of my classes here. Another aspect that surprised me was the midterms exams, when you enter the classes you cover a lot of material but the exams given by the instructors are easier than

pendent and count on themselves. People here, however, are quite friendly but very different from Moroccan people. In other words everyone lives their own life without caring about the others. I believe that Moroccan society provides indirect links between its members and predisposes people to live in a community. People in the U.S., or at least in the places I visited, do not seem to have the notion of friendship as we have in Morocco; having real friends here does not seem to exist. This may just be a difference with the friendship notion I acquired in my Moroccan culture.

The involvement of students in extra curricular activities is remarkable over here. Fraternities and sororities are very common in American universities and especially in here. If you belong to a fraternity your brothers may help you in many areas academically or non - academically. Their degree requirement are very interesting, besides all the classes they need to take to fulfil the requirement of their major, they must take some "cool" classes; such cool classes can make a student a certified rescuer, ornithologist, personal trainer, certified dancer, lifeguard and many other professions that are out of the ordinary.

For a university to provide a good education to its students, it needs significant amounts of money and a wise

management policy for the funds it has. Here at Binghamton, most of the employees are actually students. The bus and vans drivers are students too. Also, if you go the gymnasium, the personal trainers and the lifeguards over the swimming pool are students. Moreover, when one visits the big wing of dining services, one will find that the majority of the workers are students, as

well. The majority of people working there are students. In other words, I was very fascinated to find out that the students are highly motivated and very involved in university life in its various aspects. We had two inspections so far during this semester, one by the Resident Assistant and a second one by the Fire Marshall. What dazzles me is that before they do such inspections they let you know 48 hours in advance; such inspections are intended to know if the occupants of a certain apartment have flammable appliances that could cause a fire.

The transportation is not a problem at Binghamton University. The university runs campus shuttles every ten minutes and there is a convention with outside buses so that Binghamton university students can get their services for free. Something that was a little astonishing for me was seeing police patrols over the university or maybe seeing police officers giving tickets to bad drivers inside the university. Having such a policy around AUI campus would be fun. I cannot imagine seeing a policeman behind a tree next to the main gate waiting for a new comer to exceed the 25kms speed limit to give him (or her) a fine. Would paying fines be done by cash wallet? I think that's a lot to think about at this stage.

My experience at Bingham-

"It seems like the students are always taking control over the instructor and they are like shouting at him"

ton University has been fruitful and very enjoyable so far. I hope that I get to enjoy more of my time. Meanwhile, I recommend that every student take the opportunity while they are at AUI and apply for an exchange program whenever they can. One can really discover a new aspect of life when visiting a new country.

management policy for the funds it has. Here at Binghamton, most of the employees are actually students. The bus and vans drivers are students too. Also, if you go the gymnasium, the personal trainers and the lifeguards over the swimming pool are students. Moreover, when one visits the big wing of dining services, one will find that the majority of the workers are students, as



Exchange from AUI

What makes America America

 ZOUHAIR MAZOUZ

"Morocco, Huh ?", "Yes Sir". The Immigration Officer looked at my passport for about 30 seconds before taking a picture of me. He then assigned me to "Hall B", which I shortly concluded to be an inspection space for more suspicious subjects: I stood in line with bearded Saudi men, entirely veiled women and young students from Teheran... I do look Middle Eastern after all. In summary, this is what my first contact with the United States of America was like: a confusing mix of doubt and incomprehension. But I did not let myself be fooled by a 40 minute profile-based treatment:

something told me that what was waiting for me on the inside would be an exciting and unforgettable experience. Indeed...

By the time I got to Washington, DC, America was a

nation prouder than ever of itself: posters of "Change" and pictures of the then President-elect Obama were still all over the place. In each and every building of George Washington University, countless conventions and talks were held for the sole purpose of debating on the significance of such a historic shift in American leadership. It is amazing how a single event can boost the enthusiasm of a whole generation: a large proportion of stu-

"I stood in line with bearded Saudi men, entirely veiled women and young students from Teheran... I do look Middle Eastern after all."

dents had volunteered in the election by wearing campaign T-shirts, knocking on their classmates' doors and pushing them to vote. And as we all know, the rest was history. As I was monitoring this precipi-

tation of celebrations, I asked myself how I could be part of the whole picture despite not being American. So as a Moroccan, I took the initiative of measuring how much of a "Change" this would be for us, Arabs and Muslims: I enrolled in a Middle East Politics class. And boy was I shocked at the beginning! Do you know that many Americans still view the Middle East and North Africa as an arid region inhabited by camel-riding Bedouins who mistreat their women and want to bomb the West? (perhaps one has to blame FOX News for that one). After hearing my classmates' interventions in the first session, I automatically pledged to myself to become a devout ambassador of my culture. So each session I would get the backseat, watch the whole class from behind and passionately reply to each false or biased statement. This was to the professor's delight, who started to get a little anxious each time I didn't show up

to a point that ethnicity may become an outdated concept.

(Yes, there was no attendance policy!). In other words, my exchange experience was for me the opportunity to discover that cultural stereotypes do exist and are deeply rooted in individuals' minds. And from what I have seen, the best way to eliminate them is through constructive dialogue.

Knowing new people makes you ask where they come from. What is interesting about the United States is that the answer to that question can easily go from "North Carolina" to "Buenos Aires" to "New Delhi". In fact, I was struck by how ethnically diverse American society is:

"I was struck by how ethnically diverse American society is: to a point that ethnicity may become an outdated concept"

your parents are handling it.

Now picture a 21 year old taking a 7% interest loan, working part-time at a fast-food restaurant and writing for a local newspaper in order to be able to afford up to \$50,000 of yearly college tuition. "That's how good we got it here: you make your own luck, buddy" ironically said one of my fellow classmates after I was surprised that he was the one serving me a Burrito at a Taco-Bell. And even in a time of financial meltdown, young Americans never stop running; because their country has been built on the ideal that individual freedom and initiative are the roots of development. Work here is the core value: status is not innate but rather acquired through sustained effort.

The routine and monotony of our homogenous AUI Campus makes us envision the world around us in a unique way; but spending a semester abroad can make you challenge each and every insight you could have had about life. Says the song "The more you see, the less you know."

Says the song "The more you see, the less you know."



Exchange at AUI

Abroad and Back

 NOURA ISMAEIL

A midterm acts like a checkpoint in time. It hits you and you wake up asking yourself: is it really halfway through March...already? Hey man, what's the date? It's the 21st Century baby and you're at a point in time where anything can happen.

As exchange students we edge toward a point of embarkment back home or onward bound to other endeavors. Our minds scramble (or at least mine does) as we maneuver our final months into a list of last minute desires. It is now or never! We must seize the opportunity to finally lie beneath a desert sky, cross paths with camel herds, nomad dwellings and scented allies, escape to the Mediterranean, fortify new friendships, fall in love with a country – prove ourselves in a new world.

At this point in my study abroad experience I am grappling with the many tides of wanting to stay and wanting to return home to my stomping grounds in the United States of America. She is a beautiful country full of bits and pieces of myself. And although my home is full of memories from my past, Morocco is becoming a home to me as well. The country has swallowed me in more ways than I can tell you and it is a country I hope to return to many times.

Traveling is one thing, but living abroad is another. The cosmopolitan nature of what we do as exchange students is crucial and unique. Living at AUI has been a great way for myself as well as other exchange students to interact in social and global situations. For example, during Palestinian Week,

the exchange body was positioned on the fore-front of a major issue. Being in Morocco I felt closer to the crisis and had the ability to understand how people from another country were reacting. I feel that as a group we did a good job aiding the push for awareness here on campus. Many attended conferences and the exchange students even volunteered their time and gave blood as well. It is an inspiring situation when young people come together and create such effective acts of piety. We see that although we come from different backgrounds and have differing ideologies we are still connected by the human spirit and the desire to do things differently for the sake of our futures and the sake of all people's; help does not turn a blind eye. I think studying abroad is a time to observe these philosophies and see them in action. We are a very productive generation and as people continue to globalize I think it is in-



teresting to be able experience this phenomenon as a spry and energetic youngster!

Ibn Battuta was a Muslim traveler from Tangier. He covered 120,000 Kilometers (75,000 miles) in 30 years and it has been calculated that this

is a rate of 11 kilometers (7mi) a day for 11,000 days! His original plan to go from Morocco to Mecca turned into a journalistic tour of the Muslim world during the 14th century. I like to think that it is possible to follow his path. Descriptions of his experience are very relatable as he describes common things and ordinary peoples. When I think of my time here and how it will quickly come to a close I immediately begin thinking of ways to stay. My Arabic may not be good, but just give me a year...and the world always needs English teachers! Worst case, I know how to do dishes and if need be I can learn to charm snakes...just let me stay in this oasis of Morocco and experience life the way previous travels have.

As you can tell, I am thrilled by my experiences here. I would like to end by saying that being in class at AUI has been one of the most noteworthy. The approach is slightly foreign but I have gained so much being part of the AUI student body of Moroccans, Americans, Africans, Canadians, Hawaiians, Japanese, all of you have donated—whether you know it or not. I am enriched by your ideas, your style, your faith, your music and your hospitality. Thanks for having me.



Friends at AUI, Seriously?!

☞ Sophia Berriane

(continued from Page 1)

AUI has more than 65,000 titles in the library; it actually provides a wide range of activities for its students to ensure their integrity in the community. AUI is ... AUI has... AUI gives... This could go on and on, and it would probably need more than a half page to describe all the benefits of studying at Al Akhawayn University. Despite all our excitement and pride of being a part of a greater thing (I am sure we all feel that way), we (the students) find it less interesting to know about what AUI could enable us to have as future carrier benefits than what it giving us now as a daily life.

"We are glad to let you know that you have been accepted to attend Al Akhawayn University in the Fall/Spring 200x" Shall be the first sentence of the letter of acceptance into the program which we all received from the Admissions' Office. Moreover, all your efforts have been rewarded; you are in peace now that your TOEFL score and GAT exam haven't let you down. Then you

get ready for the big adventure, but you are never too ready for it. A few months later, your parents drive you down here (AUI) to pay your tuition and maybe meet the person with whom you are going to share the same roof and have the same private space for the upcoming months. Once settled down; parents take the road back home. At that time, you are by yourself in the middle of a huge jungle where all the creatures are just staring at you, and you feel like a victim in its way to be eaten. Some are looking at you as if you were bizarre; others look at you as if you don't belong there; while the rest look at how you dress, speak, act, and laugh. And this is more of a mean look than an innocent one.

But then, another new comer, in the same situation as you are, gets close to you, and introduces him/herself. Gradually, this person becomes your friend, then your best friend. You share a lot of your everyday life aspects; you go to classes together, eat together,

go out together, watch TV together, interact with the same new people, and create your own group within AUI community...until the day s/he meets someone else who becomes his/her best friend and you are left behind, or until the day you go out with the person s/he likes and you get into a terrible fight, or, more interestingly, until the day you need his/her help

each other, and even gossip about everything and everyone. Whether this previously stated information is correct or not, it is still interesting to pass it from one person to another until the day you find out that you are the center of all the attentions, the rumors, the conversations. At Al Akhawayn, the first day you are a muse then the second day you are just

With time you get trained to ignore people's attention and you just feel free and happy to live at AUI.

However, it is clear that a true friend is desperately needed for each one of us to survive among this community and all its chitchats. Also, you can't judge your friendship by the amount of fun you are having in the clubs, or by the rumors each one of you can generate,

or by counting down the number of boyfriends/ girlfriends you have been dating. But, you judge a friendship with how a person responded to your request when you needed help, how a person can listen to you and tell you the truth without judging you or what so ever, and how a person can forgive you when you say bad things to him/her because you are in a bad mood, also, by how a person can letave the fight behind if you needed him/her even if you are not talking at the moment. All these things can lead you to the right person to be friends with, that one person who will never let you down, talk behind your back, or hurt you.

With time, you will learn to distinguish between true friends and fake ones. Nevertheless, if you already found that person then don't forget to do the same

thing for him/her because friendship is worth it, and as we say: college friends stay for ever in your life.

This article is dedicated to my bestie Leila who without her, my life at AUI campus would have been the worst experience ever. I love you girl for all the laughter we shared during these last three years at AUI, for all the times you yelled at me because I gave up on everything, for all the times you left your work behind to help me do mine, for all the times we split away after an argument and you came back to give me a second chance, for all the support you have been giving me until now even when I am saying some non sense things, for all the times you stayed awake at night to check out my work due the day after, for all the advices you have been giving me so far, for all the deep discussions we shared, and for all your trust. I couldn't have made it that far without you. Thank you.



and you get nothing but some harsh words that instead of making you feel better destroy you...The situations might vary, but the result is usually the same. You LOSE that friend or at least the special bonding and chemistry between the two of you is no longer there, and you just stay as casual friends who make (Es-Swab) from time to time by saying hi, calling on the phone, messaging each other with a big I LOVE YOU or I MISS YOU while it does not mean anything (At least I have done that). However, that is okay because you need time to know people, love them for what they really are, and make them love you for yourself. So maybe if this first AUI friendship does not work, it is for the best because that person is not the right one for you anyway.

Despite the increasing number of students, AUI is still considered as a small community in which no real sense of private life exists. To explain, people judge each other, fight with

old news. Everybody is your friend at first, but then everybody hates you for some ambiguous reasons; however, you need to learn how to cope with the fact that people are talking about you all the time and you have to manage to get over that, to survive that, and to not bother yourself each time someone makes a comment about your behavior or spreads a rumor about your private life. Perhaps Such behaviors take place because AUI people get jealous of each other, or because they get so bored that they just find it exciting to talk about each other and ruin everybody's reputation, or maybe it is, in fact, a way to get accepted by groups of people. You know how it works; you give up your best friend's big secret to become a part of a new social group... It is not acceptable, but don't take it personally because those people just have a low self-esteem and no personal lives. For such reasons, they seem to be very interested by YOUR life and its details.

The Student Center... still under Construction

GHASSAN ESSALEHI

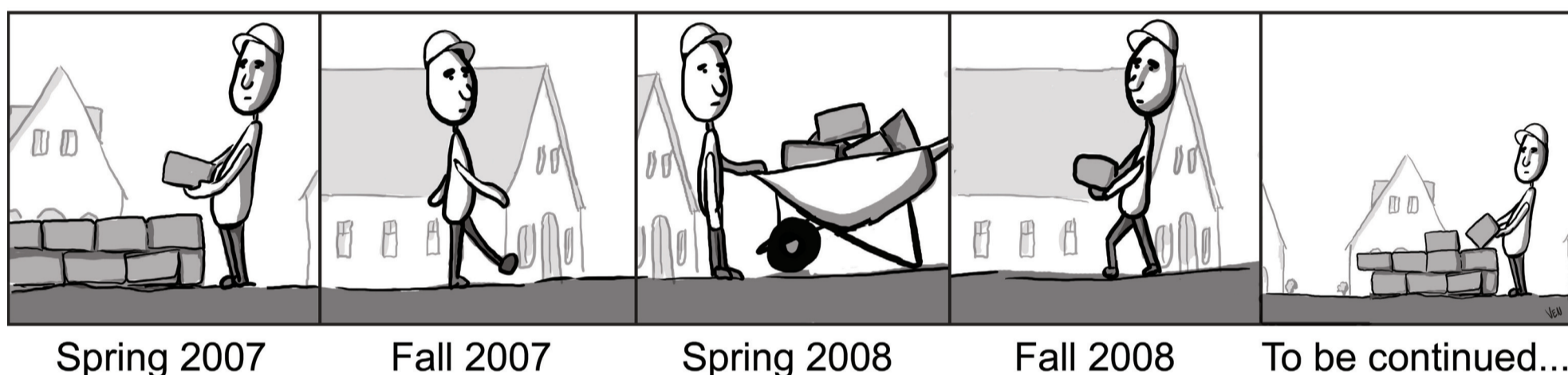
The long awaited Student Center has not yet been built. Construction seems to be delayed for many reasons, despite students' high expectations about its added value to the university student life.

Launched in spring 2007 and expected to be fully built and ready for opening in fall 2008, the Student Center seems to be a big site of construction that will still take time to be ended. A semester or so is the delay recorded, so far, in the construction works for the Student Center.

students.

The student lounge, commonly known as the game room, will be moved to the new building. In fact, the current student lounge will no longer exist once the Student Center is opened. What office or service shall take over the current Student Lounge premise is still not decided. However, the Division of Student Affairs along with the Student Government Association have discussed the possibility of moving the shop there in order to provide more space for

mane says that the initial architectural plans of AUI were taken into consideration. In fact, the Center's architecture was made in a way to be similar to the buildings around campus. However, one does not have to be good in architecture to notice that the Student Center is unlikely to be a homogenous building in AUI's architectural landscape. To explain, one can notice that the roof archs and the degree of their steepness are two elements that are distinctly different from those of other AUI buildings. Such



Planned to embody the Office of Student Activities, the Athletics Office, the office of Hand in Hand association, the office of Student Government Association as well as the Community Service Office, the Student Center could bring a lot of advantages to AUI's student life. In fact, when the center is ready for opening, students will be able to find all the services that attract them most in the present in one area. The student publications will also have their own space where they can work and ensure more professional productivity as well as interaction with

articles and food items to be sold. Moreover, if this plan is implemented, the shop will offer more diversity of items in terms of quality, quantity, as well as price.

"The bad weather conditions and the unexpected extra work in building other areas next to the Student Center are some of the reasons that delayed the building process of the Student Center" said Mr. Adil Kamane, the former director in interim of the Office of Student Activities who launched the project.

Concerning the Center's architecture, Mr. Ka-

problems, if proven to be serious, will actually need to be considered.

Last but not least, the Division of Student Affairs is urged to ensure that the constructions finish by the fixed delays. After all, many students, especially senior students, doubt they may be around AUI when the Center is opened. Witnessing the opening ceremony of the Center has become like a dream for some students.

New Phone Codes: a needed change, a flourishing industry for some, and large extra expenses for many

GHASSAN ESSALEHI

The introduction of new phone codes in Morocco on March 6th, 2009, means that all phone number coding has to be modified, and many companies and government institutions will be spending a lot of money on the modifications. As a result, the publicity industry in Morocco will be flourishing for the next months thanks to this change. It seems that this field will be relieved and cleverly avoid some of the economic crisis impacts for a while.

Company cars and vans that carry their contact numbers on their windows and back doors, people's business cards, and road signs with phone numbers on them will all need to be modified to adjust to the new numbering of phone codes. Also, Morocco's guide books will

also need to change all numbers figuring throughout their pages for a simple reason: a tourist should have the correct numbers, and the firms and hotels mentioned in the guides need to make sure their numbers are updated. This is their best way of publicity. Without a correct number, such hotels may lose their clientele.

Ministries, schools and hospitals are other sectors that will also have to modify their numbers. The list seems to be very long to be mentioned here. However, what is sure is that many of the industries and administrations set up in Morocco, and even abroad, will have to get adapted to the new phone codes in the shortest terms. Contact information is definitely one of the best ways to attract and get in touch with clients- obviously, no one likes to

lose their source of revenue because of a missing number.



Facebook: Are we missing the point?

ANASS GTTOA

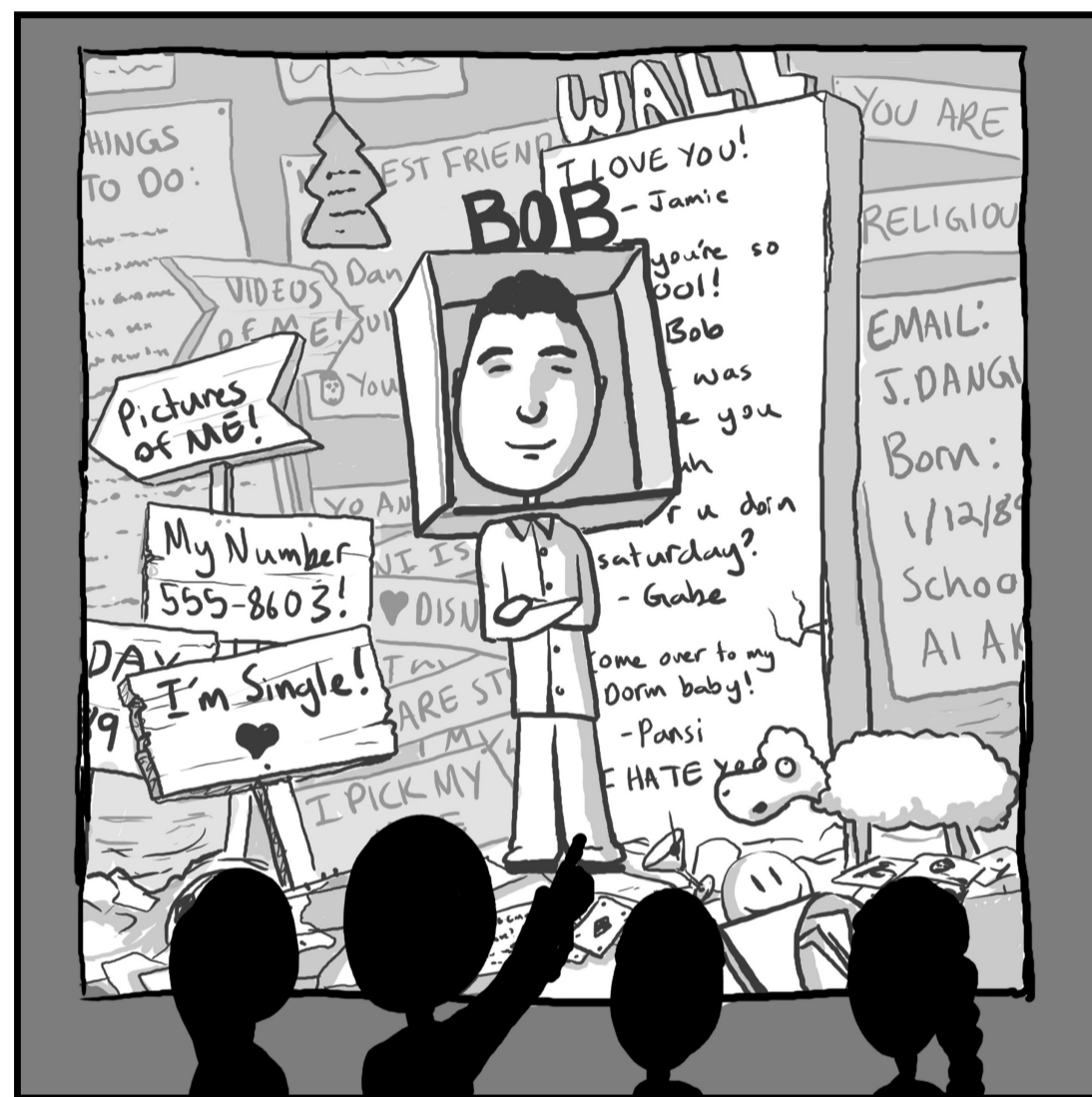
Remember when stalking used to be creepy? Well, those days are long gone. Enter Facebook stalker. Living on “news feeds”, this new breed of students goes on tireless hunts through people’s profiles to hang them gloriously on their friend’s wall and brag about that huge friends count. Sure, you are not a stalker, you just like to see what people are doing, who their friends are, who they’re dating, where they hang out, you know, normal stuff...

Maybe you know that tech savvy friend who left Facebook and complained about when the website used to be good. He is probably

“With all this amount of information comes issues of privacy and online social conduct”

right. When Facebook started, it was meant to help students, specifically, keep in touch with their friends and find old classmates. However, with more users getting hooked on the website, people seem to be missing the point by competing over higher “friends” counts and crowding their profiles with useless information and applications. “Facebook is getting more and more juvenile, now I can’t even check the news feeds without going through endless piles of useless applications and group invitations” said Wissam Khaouid, SSE student.

“I like to pick my nose,” “I am a Disney princess,” “I flip my pillow over to get to the cold side,” these are all groups on Facebook that thousands of students proudly join and invite their friends to. However, what seems to be like a cool idea at the moment may seem like a stupid one tomorrow, so one should update his list and get rid of the not-so-cool-anymore groups. In addition, you can tell a lot about someone’s personality from



If Facebook was real...

the groups they are joining; therefore, stacking up groups makes it extremely hard for friends to browse through them and makes the student look careless.

College students worldwide acknowledge that Facebook has had a great impact on the social dynamics of student’s lives. “People get addicted to Facebook because it is a very easy way to make new friends” explained Yassine Majdi, SSHS student.

Indeed, the website’s intuitive interface enables students to easily add friends, hence the name: Social networking website. And with all this information comes issues of privacy and online social conduct. One of the common “behaviors” is adding and accepting strange people. When asked whether he does add/accept strange people as friends, Abdelaziz Alaoui, SHSS student replied: “Sometimes

if those people are attractive”; while female student seems to be much more selective, which does not really come out as a surprise.

Additionally, Mehdi El Youmi explains “I have a strict policy of not adding anyone whose name doesn’t sound familiar to me, otherwise I ask the person to “identify” himself to check whether I do actually know him.” Facebook does indeed offer users many privacy settings to

their friends, but to everyone” added Mehdi El Youmi.

Many Facebook related incidents have been reported lately like blackmailing users over some “revealing” photos they have been posting or that boss who discovered that his employee posted pictures of him partying when he claimed to be too sick to work. Furthermore, a recent survey by Career Builder unfolds that 22% of hiring managers check Facebook to see if

“Some students have developed a habit of uploading photos while they perform any kind of activity”

control how much information should be revealed and to whom; “Some students tend to reveal too much information on their profiles and not just to

their prospective employees are engaging in “not-so-professional” activities.

So how much information should you

reveal on your profile? Some students have developed a habit of uploading photos while they perform any kind of activity from drinking a glass of water to having a good time at a nightclub. Sure you can upload anything you want, but nobody really cares about looking at two hundred albums, unless he/she is an attention-seeking stalker. Self censorship is the keyword in these situations explains Wissam: “If you feel that you may not want some people to see your pictures, don’t upload them, there are other and better ways to do so.”

Another issue that students usually complain about is crowded profiles. In fact, some students’ profiles are crowded with applications enough to give you an epileptic seizure. Moreover, just because your friends invited you to try an application does not mean you have to put it on your homepage, and if you like an application it does not mean your friends are going to like it either so make sure before you invite them.

Many of AUI students admit spending an average of 1 hour per day browsing Facebook and checking what is up with their friends. On the other hand, other students plead guilty when accused of Facebook addiction. As a matter of fact, “Facebooking” while multi tasking can drastically decrease productivity by disrupting your study sessions to check who updated his profile and can cause you to waste valuable hours. Facebook may be a great way to stay in touch with your friends and get to know them better. However, the website is not responsible for most of the flaws discussed above; it is the job of its target audience, we students, to avoid the unproductive behaviors in order to get the best out of this tool.

Grounds & Maintenance: Behind the Landscape

GHASSAN ESSALEHI

(continued from Page 1)

Made up of nearly 120 workers, the office of Grounds and Maintenance (G&M) embodies many services that are meant to serve the students' needs and meet their expectations in many ways. To start with, the office ensures the watering of the grass and keeps the lawn green across the 40 hectares of campus. Also, whenever there is snow, it is the G&M's duty to ensure it is removed and that all spaces are open for students to use and continue their everyday life normally without being interrupted by such weather conditions. Among the members of G&M, around 70 are cleaning ladies. The cleaning ladies have everyday work that require them to clean students' rooms, academic and administration areas as well as offices.

The office of Grounds and Maintenance is located in building 12- not far

from the main gate and the parking lots. There, offices are gathered along with the Purchasing Department. Also, there are some spaces reserved for G&M employees in which they can meet and work on projects; a recent project included making benches that are now distributed around academic and administration area. Another project in which G&M was involved concerns building 38 where extensive work was achieved when building the new residence. The Club house is another project that involved the cooperation of G&M.

Even when students go on a break or holidays, the G&M work on campus to ensure the continuity of their work and make any preparation needed that may cause noise while students are away. Mr. Abderrahim Atanane, a supervisor of Gardening & Miscellaneous section of the G&M says that the department is proud to have among its members "technicians that are specialized in their fields, such as heating,

with significant experience in their work". Some heating machines, explains Mr. Abderrahim, require people who have knowledge about their work and thus cannot be repaired without such people. Hence came the need to hire these technicians.

"The department is proud to have among its members "technicians that are specialized in their fields, such as heating, with a significant experience in their work"

In addition to the common work in which the G&M is involved, there are projects in which the different schools request G&M assistance. Mr. Abderrahim says that "some schools, for example, ask the G&M to help them open a lab or move dozens of computers to specific locations". Once the request is made, the G&M office considers the needed work and tries to meet the request. Otherwise, adds Mr. Abderrahim, the office considers the alternative to get external parties to help with the request and supervise their work to ensure it is done in the best and most suitable way.

Concerning students' view toward the work of G&M, Mr. Abderrahim makes it clear that his colleagues in the office sometimes get negative feedback from student in various situations. What is sure, however, is that whenever there is work that makes noise or disturbs the studies of students, misunderstandings happens. "If there is a leak of water in a residential building in the middle of the night, the G&M is required to intervene to fix the problem" states Mr. Abderrahim, "sometimes we cause noise that would make students uncomfortable in their own space, but we have no other alternative but making our work quick and effective" adds Mr. Abderrahim.

Sometimes, students do not follow the standard procedure when they need to execute a task and request the assistance of G&M. In fact, as Mr. Abderrahim outlines, the office comes across some students who lack knowledge about G&M work and just ask them to provide help without referring to administrative work like filling out request forms or notifying the office ahead of time.

Another problem encountered by the G&M with the student body is the lack of communication with the Stu-

dent Government Association (SGA). "We need the Office of Student Activities to communicate to use the names and work of the SGA to enable us to work with them and cooperate for the best of AUI community" clarifies Mr. Abderrahim. After all, says Mr. Abderrahim, some of SGA, members just drop by building 12 and request assistance without being already introduced to the office managers or being a familiar

"Communication seems to be the key element for the success of both the student body projects and the Grounds and Maintenance work"

face to the G&M members.

The same problem goes for the members of clubs and organizations at AUI; many of them lack contact with the G&M. This causes problems of communication in times when a club is organizing an activity and needs to keep continuous contact with the G&M over a specific and short period of time. Communication seems to be the key element for the success of both the student body projects and the Grounds and Maintenance work.

Some of the workers affiliated with the office of Grounds and Maintenance live in neighborhoods and areas that are located far from AUI's campus, their workplace. To illustrate, some of these workers live in Zawyat Sidi Abdesslem, a small village that is about half an hour away from AUI. Under bad weather conditions, especially when there is a lot of snow, some of these people find themselves obliged to actually walk home (and even come to work early in the morning). It is true that the office provides a regular van to transport the workers to and from AUI, but sometimes the van cannot work as a result of the risks resulted by driving on the slippery road or during the massive fog on a snowy day.

When asked about his perception of G&M work, Youssef Ztot, a senior Computer Science student, said that "I think they do a great job, especially when one knows that they wake up very early to join the workplace and take care of many aspects of AUI's landscape as well as its services".

Abdellah Abou Essaid, another senior student from the School of Business Administration, says that "I think that even if some of the students may think that the work executed by G&M employees is minor or unimportant, I strongly believe that this department is a base of the major things that happen at AUI".

Last but not least, a little reminder for those who may, one day, need to contact G&M: 777 is their number on campus, working 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, like a hospital emergency department- except that this is a university emergency department!



Cigarettes left overs collected in one day next to bldg.38

Prison Break, really?

 SALMA LAMQADDAM

For four years, millions of people with different cultural and social backgrounds, with different perceptions and expectations from life, have been regularly watching Prison Break. Well that's good news. Everybody enjoys a TV show from time to time. Besides, in the world we are living in, full of wars, crimes, and violence, a 40 minute escape once a week can do no harm. Watch Desperate Housewives, Friends, Seinfeld, or the Simpsons, but Heaven forbid not Prison Break.

Okay, I might have never EVER watched all of it, but it is just like I did. I tried, several times, and all of my tries ended up by me quitting before episode four season 1 (aka PB S01E04). At first, many people thought PB was a fashion thing that will go with time; Scofield guy would stop getting into prison on purpose, Sucre guy will marry that beautiful Latina of a girlfriend he has, and show would be over, there, curtains fall, and boyfriends of the world would free that time slot from 8 to 9 every Sunday. But no, four years later, boyfriends have contaminated their girlfriends: they watch it together now. Four years later, Scofield is still getting in and out of the prison, nothing really happened, it seems like a circle where every new episode has the same synopsis as the pilot.

The problem is not only the story, it is Wentworth Miller. I am sorry to break the news to you girls (... and boys), but Wentworth Miller, not hot. It is about time that you ladies stop fantasizing about the first blue eyed guys you see. The tattoo is hot, I might agree. Tattooed boys always have success among girls, but a prison plan tattoo, seriously, and all over his back, no way. You must not be very clever to get tattooed for life a prison exit plan; he could have made

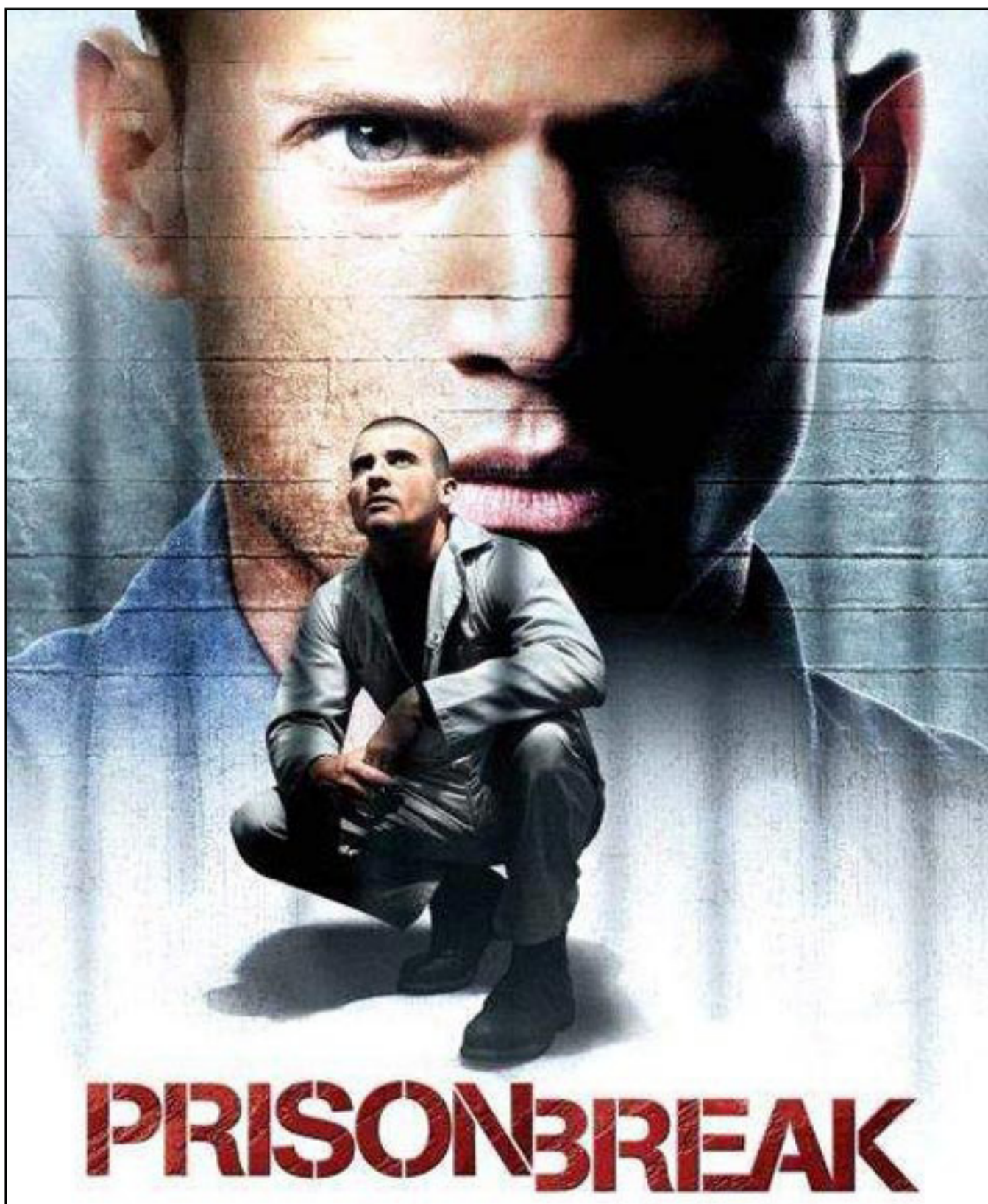
it not permanent. But about that, nobody can blame him, because I bet not even Scofield the Great knew a story with such a poor plot would go on and last for 4 long years. Within the four first episodes, there is one thing that stands out more than anything else:

corner of one of his eyebrows, almost closes his eyes (Yes, Scofield's eyes are never wide open, he is never surprised), then stands still. He never answers right away, instead he pauses and seems to be thinking for a moment; it is like he is mentally resolving an Ein-

of telling him how it becomes very weird when it is used too much. The pilot episode finishes with two words by our same happy Scofield to Sucre when they are talking about Sucre's girlfriend: "try passion," he says. People have been very scared by this sentence

some casual relationships... This, my friends, was the only reason for me to keep watching until the fourth episode before giving up. As it turns out, Scofield always put up this fake hot-mysterious-very-weirdo look he gives to everybody, Scofield wants to turn on everybody. Bad news is, it works. Wonder what would happen if people started giving each other these kinds of looks? Would they get scared or would they get attracted to each other? I was thinking on going to the "mool hanout"(grocery store) and say "could I have some bread", with the hot look and the hot solemn, deep and suave voice of Scofield (because Scofield has this crooner voice that matches the dark mysterious look which is very artificial as well. You probably know it, people do it a lot for fun, it is very deep, and low pitched and rounded, where the sound 'h' is overused). Try asking a colleague for a pen, "Hey you-h, do you-h have a sp-h are p-h-en, (pause, Einsteinian/ Cartesian thinking), pl-h-ease. Or "What's the t-h-ime (pause, Einsteinian/ Cartesian thinking), hmmm I h-am I-hate". Statistically, that would make you famous... That was Michael Scofield, and that was Prison Break, a living proof that sense of brotherhood is great but that it is not enough to make a good TV show plot. In fact, grand causes such as friendship and love do not always guarantee a good TV show, sometimes it is the opposite; some shows that advocate all these noble values can give you headaches and make you lose faith in every possible thing you believe in, just look

at Gossip Girl!



Scofield's look, his actual eye expression and glance. Have you ever watched his iced looks? When Scofield is asked something, he has a way of turning away while keeping a fix on the person, he rises the

steinian equation or doing some philosophical thinking on human beings' pathologies, then he can answer. This is the secret of Scofield's sexiness, his dark look. However, it's a shame nobody thought

and the darkness of the look it was presented with. I seriously started thinking: "am I to expect something to happen between Sucre and Scofield? They share the same cell and inmates usually experience

CS Flu

YASSINE HABIBI

When you hear the initials CS you probably think first of computer science or maybe communication studies. You could also think about carrier selection, cinema scope, community service and college skills...

Anyways, in our case we are talking about the most widespread online game in the world, "Counter-Strike".

Whether you are big or small, young or old, tall or short, whether you like guns or not, this is for you.

It is very simple to download from the internet and because it is an online-based game, you will be able to connect to different servers and play with your friends from the other side of the world. It is very interesting from the fact that you can play with your friends in a team and if you have some hate in you, be a terrorist without being judged by some organization.

Whether you place a bomb or you disable it, it is all about your way of managing the teamwork and your personal skills and abilities. It's a very realistic virtual world where you can "kill or die"!

Many students in and outside the campus are addicted to this kind of game. Their free time is locked to the screen of their computer. When you play, you don't want to stop but when you stop, the only thing that you care about is going back to play.

The amazing thing about this game is that it never gets old! Its adepts are more and more around the world while the networks are increasing, and what could be just a simple game for some is a passion for others. Besides, it helps developing intellectual and other reflex skills because whenever you are playing you must always be alert.

Even if it is marked under the age of sixteen, the concept of the game is the source of big problems when talking about violence and other social related issues. If you are a video-game addict, and as long as you balance between this and your study hours, it is the game you should have at any price.



You Got Style

Holographic laptop

MOHAMED REDOUANE KHRIFI

With laptops, smaller size is desirable for enhanced portability. However, eventually contraction is limited by the required size for easy human-to-computer interaction -- particularly keyboard and screen size. Holographic laptops will be freed from this limitation by projecting holographic keyboards and screens that are considerably larger than the laptop itself. Research in the area of holographic applied science has pioneered possibilities for ground-breaking photosensitive storage means that store a data permeating the thickness of storage media, not just across their top surface. Holographic data storage also is different from conventional data storage in that a whole page of information is recorded in an instant, rather than saving information as a linear sequence of specific bits. Before the introduction of holotechnology, microelectronics had been largely two-dimensional. Holographic applied science is expanding micro-photonics and microelectronics into three dimensions. This expansion will open doors for the formation of super-dense databases, parallel-search processing, and photonic computer circuits etched in three-dimensional photosensitive volumes.

Holotech science offers the ability to save data throughout the thickness of a medium, not merely on its surface. A holographic image containing an entire

megabit page of data is recorded within an optically sensitive storage medium when a reference laser beam and a signal laser beam (containing recorded data) cross inside the storage media. To recreate a

storage media and the picture of the original page comes back. This recreated page is then projected into a Charge Coupled Device (CCD) camera that converts the holographic information picture back into discrete

electromagnetic information. This data may then be analyzed by a computer. With the evolution of holographic data storage, it might be possible to store games, movies, and interactive maps on holocards that are as small as postage stamps.

Already, elementary uses of holographic applied science are beginning to be used in peoples' homes. For instance, holotech lighting that creates the feeling of three-dimensionality is, even now, being applied in home decoration. There will probably be many dynamic uses of holotechnology applied science in the amusement sector like holographic, 3D computer displays, televisions, movies, virtual reality, gaming, and simulations.

Example:

Sonny Vaio Zoom notebook

The Vaio Zoom notebook concept was created by designer Eno Setiawan. The idea is that the notebook is entirely holographic. When off, the screen is clear glass and the keyboard is an expansive of beautiful black shine. When you turn it on, the keyboard, screen, and mouse buttons

are displayed as holograms.



holotechnology page of data that has been saved in optically sensitive media, a reference laser ray is shown into the media at the same angle used to make the page in the first place. The ray is diffracted by the

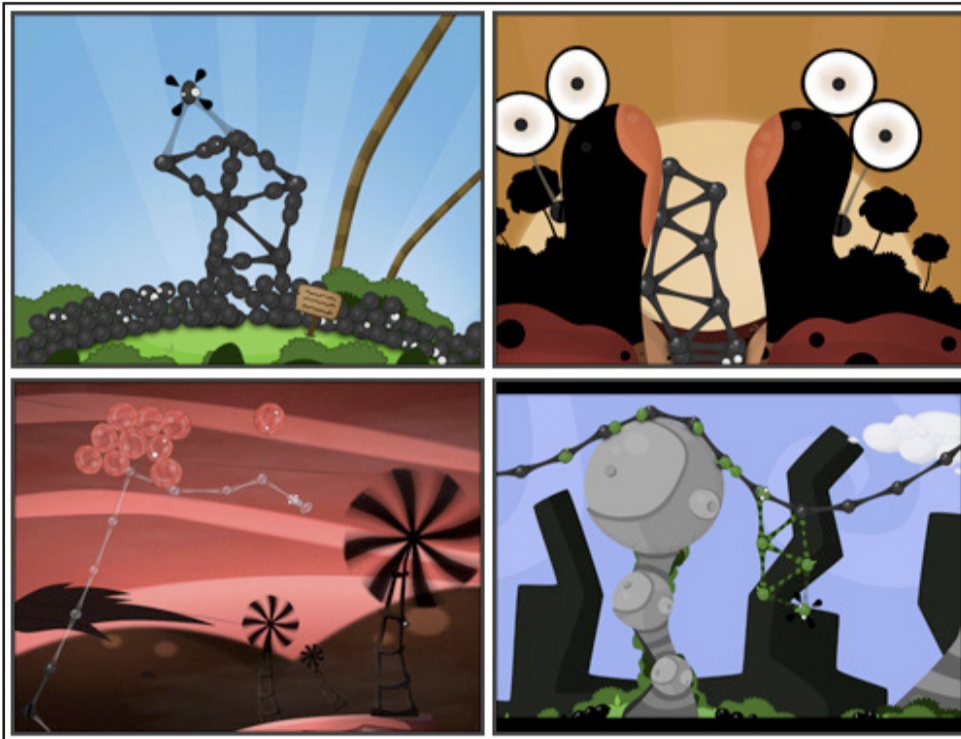
World of Goo

YASSIR MAHLOU

The PC gaming market is being divided into two sectors. On the one hand, the blockbusters, with more expensive manpower and resources, being imposed at the top of the charts by a steamroller marketing system. On the other, there are some independent games made by a handful of enthusiasts with less money but with love, just as grandma and her. Among these titles there are sometimes those little innovative pearls. Today, it's World of Goo which comes to insufflate some fresh air in gaming, and man what a game!

Yet, World of Goo was not intended to be a hit. Developed by 2D Boy, a young studio consisting of two engineers (only!), this puzzle game might well have joined the overwhelming masses of anonymous games, like all too many titles of the kind. What makes the difference is the talent of Ron Carmel and Kyle Gabler, who know that what makes a good game is primarily a concrete concept. The World of Goo is childish: you must bring a number of small black balls, the so-called Goos, to the exit of each level, a principle which is as old as Lemmings. However, the Goos have a surprising property: they are able to create links between them, much like atoms in a molecule. By assembling them, it becomes possible to create structures such as towers and bridges, which allow you to overcome obstacles. So much for the basics, very easy to assimilate, especially since everything is done in a few mouse clicks.

The great strength of World of Goo is its power to improve gameplay intelli-



gently and practically without interruption. From beginning to end, you cannot pass a level without seeing and feeling an addition, a small subtlety, a new type of Goo for example. So we never get bored, the routine does not have time to settle down, we always want to continue to see what will happen in the next challenge. "Come on, just one before sleep, after that I stop, I promise" ... The game progress is fluid, the Goos all chain up perfectly, and the difficulty is well determined to provide intense moments of reflection without becoming a

brain torture. At worst, if it hangs on one level, it is still possible to continue the adventure and come back later. Some levels will not be tamed easily, because the Goos are facetious species. The balance of constructions is precarious and the laws of physics are dominant. It will often be necessary to reinvent old architectural concepts, such as the foothills, to solidify the construction. It will be especially essential to properly use the different families of Goos, like green, you can move at will, reds, flammable, or balloons, useful to take the air. There are

many other varieties, which are always gently introduced, giving the gameplay a great depth as you move forward in the game.

The gameplay of World of Goo is perfectly oiled, but is it enough to make a great game? One may legitimately doubt. If this recipe is coated in a generic dress, it remains a puzzle-game, fun but dull, and soon forgotten. But 2D Boy studio has not sunk into the flatness. Instead, the studio has managed to combine the gameplay with the other indispensable element to any game that strives for excellence: a soul. This requires an artistic achievement of high quality, whether the sceneries, sound effects or music, everything is magnificent. You fall in love immediately. To not spoil, World of Goo is not just a series of unrelated levels, or connected by a wave frame screenplay. In his adventure, the player will discover a real world, terribly endearing. The game is split into different worlds, each with its own personality and characteristics. Whether in a giant beauty, in the bowels of an infernal machine or in the heart of the virtual, each world marks the player's mind with an indelible imprint with great poetry combined with a light and sparkling humour like a bubble of champagne.

In brief, World of Goo gives us a real lesson in game design, creativity, and the whole in a world of art. This game will remind the most jaded of us why we love video games. There is still hope in this formatted world, and it feels good. What's more, if not a thank you to 2D Boy?

ACM Local Programming Contest

JIHANE MOUSSAOUI

The ACM Club is the only chapter of ACM (Association for Computing Machinery) international in Morocco, and its activities are meant to promote the computing technologies and the computer science activities. ACM as a club has organized important events such as the ANARC (Arab and North African Regional Contest), which is a programming contest, the Imagine Cup, which is an international competition in different categories, the NON-SSE programming competition and the PES Competition. Every semester, the ACM Club organizes the local programming contest where SSE students competing in teams of 1 to 3 members. This competition has become a tradition for the ACM Club since it has been successful in all the previous editions.

"This local programming contest is an opportunity for the contestants to practice their programming skills and develop them. This kind of competition helps to enhance their programming level and motivate them

to participate in other national and international programming competitions. The local programming competition is meant also to help the students improve their time management skills, and the time spirit.", said Mounia Nyami El Idrissi, President of the ACM.

The preparation of the contest is not an easy task since it requires a lot of effort, patience and team work. The ACM President explains: "the first step was to install the infrastructure needed to run the contest following international norms. In fact, after installing the software needed in lab 5, the next step was to advertise for the contest and to make a sign-up sheet. Meanwhile, we had to reserve for the lab and all the tools that we needed as well as coordinating with the professors who would be judging during the competition. Then, we had to prepare the problem set to be solved during the competition and get the approval of some professors. During the competition that lasted 3

hours and 30 minutes, each team that solved a problem was given a balloon with the color of the problem. In that way, every other team got to know which problem was solved and go for it. Because the result of most teams was almost the same, we decided to organize a second round of the competition later this semester."

The results were good, especially for students who are still Sophomore or Junior, compared to previous semesters.

The members are all participating in the organization of the ACM activities, and we encourage more the new students to join the ACM family to help them integrate, to help them gain more experience and take the lead later on. Mounia Nyami El Idrissi says: "During the competition, most of the members were present even if they were not participating, they were willing to help, they spent their time and effort to make the event successful, and that's what we call the team spirit."

The main problem was to find a time when all participants were free and the lab is not reserved. Another problem was to gather qualified students to participate since this local contest is an eliminatory phase to select the teams who will participate in the national competition that will take place at our university later this semester.

For this semester, the ACM has planned to organize the ACM Day, where the AUI students will get to know the activities of the club. The ACM President confirms: "The ACM Day is scheduled for soon and we have prepared many surprises for the AUI community." The big event that is also to be organized this semester is the first edition of the Moroccan Programming Contest, it will be organized for the first time at Al Akhawayn University, it will need not only the commitment of the ACM family but also the AUI community even if it is just to encourage AUI teams who will be participating.

Can social networks change the world?

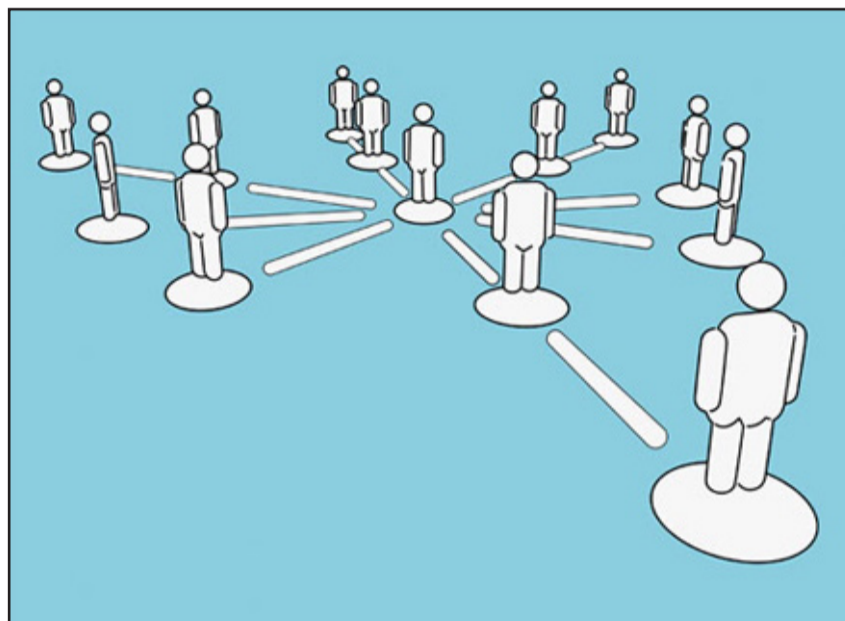
☞ Mohamed Redouane Khrifi

Can social networks change the world? Yes, they can, in the words of Barack Obama's election campaign. That campaign itself provided evidence that the tools of "Web 2.0" - the community-driven web - can really make a difference, said delegates at the Terra future conference in London.

Last September, tech guru Tim O'Reilly, founder of O'Reilly Media, challenged the Web 2.0 community to come up with something more productive than time-wasting Facebook applications - singling out "Superpoke", which invites users to interact with their friends by throwing imaginary sheep at each other (among other things).

Take for example the "Obama '08 iPhone application", an application launched during the last USA elections in order to enable campaigners to reach out easily and make an impact quickly. And the example of "Access city", a social networking site through which a community of Londoners is helping to identify the simplest routes across the city for those with mobility issues. A lot of new ideas and concepts were established, and from those that stand out we can cite:

Web20: it came in response partly to the G20, the group of 20 leading industrialised nations who are meeting in the UK in April to discuss the economic crisis. The general feeling seems to be that our



nominated leaders are struggling for ideas or solutions and a new form of more participatory

they'll come together looking to each other for help and solutions, rather than to the TV or mainstream

politicians. Perhaps in some small way this will contribute to what I hope becomes a better, more humane and collaborative way of managing our economies, and our planet, than what we've settled for these past years.

+Zimride: an easy, money saving, and dynamic ride-sharing solution for solving the problem of transportation and energy consuming. Since launching in 2007, Zimride's ride-share solutions have served over 300,000 global users. What began as an experiment has quickly evolved into the world's leading social online ride-sharing company. They currently work with companies, universities, bands, and municipalities around the globe. Their goal is to use social technology to maximize the efficiency of transportation systems and to reshape the way we think about transportation. The site is based on simple and intuitive software, which combines Google Maps, familiar social networking components, and our proprietary ride-matching algorithm.

Social media applications like these make people feel like they're part of something bigger, and this might be the better way for the future.

democracy is urgently needed. The central idea is that around the world, normal people like us gather in groups of around 20 to talk about the state of the economy and how they, as ordinary citizens, might respond and what they would like to see happen. They very likely won't agree, but at least

UCN Night: A night to Remember

☞ Salma Lamqadam

Tuesday February 24th, when all campus was living through the heartbeats of the SGA elections to come, one very pleasant surprise was awaiting students in the game room. The first flow of students arrived at nine, basically new comers who haven't yet understood that in AUI, most club events start no earlier than one hour after they are officially scheduled. If they are scheduled at 21:00, come at 22:00 and if they are scheduled at 22:00 or later, plan a nap time in the afternoon. On the 24th of February, the University Channel Network crew, supervised by Youness Ezzaki, launched the official broadcasting of the UCN and Soundplay Radio, which includes both TV and radio programs. There was a Free Mic Session, under the SGA elections theme, followed by a Live Interview with Dr. Ouauicha, and then later on by an acoustic gig. However, though some students complained about the freemic, and how it was SGA oriented,

the major problem was in the planned Live Interview with AUI's brand new president. It was promised to students and faculty, but was cancelled due to an urgent mission off campus. For the majority of students, this was to be their first contact with their new president. Some had prepared notes and questions to ask and some were just happy and curious to come and meet their new president. Driss Ouauicha's interview being cancelled on a last minute call is not a one of a kind incident. Dr. Slaoui, Morocco's famous plastic surgeon, had a lecture programmed by the Health Care Club which was cancelled, and so was the visit of Karim Ghallab organized by the Diplomacy Club. It is true that last minute, unexpected, and unplanned surprises can happen. Guests can have their reasons. But clubs should have a plan B, and they should apologize quickly when they know the event is to be cancelled, before students' disappointment. But let's not

lose track of our article. At around 22:00, the Acoustic Session, an extension of Fall 08 Unplugged Sessions with guest star Rita Benjelloun, finally started, with about 20 of AUI's most talented students singing their hearts away. The audience, a group of approximately 100 students, got to see a fresh as a summer breeze version of Colbie Caillat's "Bubbly" by Mariam Dahbi, who's performance included both singing and playing guitar for the first time. They also enjoyed a stunning composition of AUI student and guitarist Wassim Zaz, followed by his very special interpretation of the Pogue's "I love you till the end," which most of the girls recognized as the soundtrack of the movie PS: I love you. And more than twenty other songs were sung, some very popular, like Safae Rahbaoui's "Bring Me To Life," and others more delicate, like Morgan Denehy's song, which held the viewers' breath for over five minutes. At midnight, and although it

was a school night, seats were still full, and students were still singing along. They even sang in the breaks between each song, in which Youness Ezzaki, supervisor of UCN and SBA student, played some 30-second parts of classics by Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson, Eric Clapton and the like. UCN Live Session was a success acknowledged by all the students who attended. It was not only songs by random students, or just friends jamming; it was team efforts and spirit paying off. It was the living proof that students can gather up and have fun without having to pay a 120dh or a 280dh entry ticket. UCN proved that real fun does not lie in inviting Moroccan or international dancers or singers, it is being together, doing the things we like. Having El Kettani El Mehdi or Mabrouk Mehdi playing the guitar is more enjoyable than watching stoically some artist we do not know in building 17. Listening to Zineb Belkora's second

attempt to sing Zombie is sure more entertaining than any other official activity students have to pay for. The question remaining is, however, if students are having this much fun, why doesn't AUI allow this kind of event to occupy building 17? UCN live show deserved a bigger space, as many students stood up all night, literally, because of the lack of space. Some students could not attend because there was no space left. To finish, although there was no grand, deeply rooted in history music like the Beatles, no profound lyrics like those of Bob Dylan or Oasis, although only one person had the courage to tackle the Dave Matthews Band, UCN was a good, friendly event. It was a night students can look back to and say, "I had a wonderful time!"

Lipstick Jungle: The Females' Domination

 SOPHIA BERRIANE

The big question that arises: Why are there more and more females educated...? Is it because they want respect? Is it because they look for equality? Answers seem to be endless when dealing with this question. Isn't it already great that each gender has its own role?! Men working outside home and women working inside it; males bringing the food and females, well, doing the cooking, the dishes, and raising the kids; guys playing the hard workers and girls playing the housewives... so why? Why should the ladies ask for more? "Well...", they won't be able to cope with the two roles at the same time, so let them try it and fail at it" such might be males' answers.

Wait and See...

Not only are women seeking for education to achieve respect and gender equality, they also want to mistress their own happy ending, go in life with their own terms, be in charge of their destiny, and change the world in the way they perceive as the most appropriate. In fact, some researchers may confirm this theory and say that women have already achieved some of these goals.

Lipstick Jungle is about women, relationships, power, family, betrayal, love, success, drama... does it sound familiar? Yes, it does because it is another adaption from Candace Bushnell's 1997 book (*Sex & The City*) but with more authority, control, possession, domination and less sexuality. It is a story about three high-powered Manhattan women who have it all and want more.

Wendy Healy is not only a wife and a mother of two,

but she is also the head of a movie studio (Paradox Picture). Moreover, Wendy is constantly struggling to find a balance between her professional and personal life in which her husband feels diminished by her professional status.



Victory Ford is a fashion designer; she is the most free-spirited of the three women. A single woman, she just lives each day hoping to meet the charming prince. Always within the same context, Nico Reilly is the editor-in-chief of a Magazine that covers celebrities, fashion, culture and politics. Nico is married

to one of her former professors who, she expects, is having an affair with one of his actual students, but she ended up herself being the one who cheats in their relationship.

Although the three friends have very different points of view, they manage to stand up, fight, support, help, and protect each other. Moreover, they don't forget to tell the truth even when telling it is going to hurt. This, actually, is an interesting vision to discover when learning to communicate efficiently among friends.

Some complications and events are predictable; Victory's assistant stealing her designs to get a new job, or Nico's affair with a handsome, young, and hot guy. Or, more interestingly, Wendy's use of power in order to promote her husbands' music seems attractive to think about. But isn't it like in all the movies or TV shows?! The audience always predicts some events as the story goes, based on the way the producer presents the events, or how the actors react. However, this does not make Lipstick Jungle less interesting to watch and enjoy.

In short, Lipstick Jungle shows how women can handle both professional and personal lives at once. The series also demonstrates how women can reach the power as easily as men can, how they can cope with men's sexism in the workplace, and how they can achieve happiness with their own conditions.

One last question, however, seems to remain complex to answer: Do women have the ability to cope and deal with all the situations? Watch and See...

Twilight: A bloody love story

 Wiam Mahmoudi

(continued from Page 1)

Oh yes, unfortunately, perfect men do not exist and if you are still hesitating about the answer, it was not the case of Bella Swan. Bella Swan is a teenage girl who fell deeply in love with the handsome vampire Edward Cullen in the "Twilight" movie. The role of Bella was incarnated by Kristen Stewart, and Robert Pattinson played the role of Edward Cullen. Bella Swan is a girl who easily learnt how to live among stylish and plastic girls at her Phoenix, Arizona high school without being marginalized. When her parents divorced, and her mother left the town where they were living to get married with another man, Bella chose to live with her father in the small town of Forks, Washington while expecting that her life would remain the same. Surprisingly, things changed when she met the mysterious, beautiful Edward Cullen in her first year at school. He is different from any boy she has ever met.

Edward is a humorous and intelligent young person who can see deeply into Bella's soul. In fact, Edward

can understand her and feels the same as she is feeling. At the beginning, all this was intriguing since no one understands from where this difference came from. But then it was revealed that Edward Cullen was holding a dark secret that is only known by his family: he is a vampire!! In contrast to other mortal teenage girls, Bella was not afraid of Edward's "blood-thirsty needs," and the fact that she could be killed at any moment. Bella was only afraid of losing Edward, the love of her life. For Edward, Bella was that person he had been waiting for during all of his 90 years: a soul mate. The thrill begins when a new vampire finds it a challenge to hunt Bella down for her irresistible blood. He wants to kill her. Then, the game starts and Edward does his best to protect Bella from the killer vampire, James. Many critics emerged against this movie, especially because of the fact that the movie wasn't as good as the books. It could have been so much better and the actors weren't good enough. Twilight movie did not do the book any justice at all. The special effects and the vampires' acting were just helpless. With a budget of 34 million dollars, fans think that the

movie had to be as much or more amazing as the books were. The movie of "Twilight" was a real challenge in many aspects as "Harry Potter" was. Indeed, it is always hard to make a film from a book which had a large success and thousands of fans. In addition to that, the movie actors were not well known since it was their first time to appear in a film. Thus, it was hard for them to meet the expectations of cinema fans who already constructed an image of the expected heroes. In addition, during the movie it took much time at the beginning before the movie starts and before the actors' roles could be situated. The actors are still young and beginners- these two aspects can be explored by the spectators without a real need to have experience in the world of cinema. Finally the make up put on the vampires was very artificial, especially during the scenes that were filmed during the day. He looked like a dead man, not like a vampire. While waiting for the other movie of the second book, I urge the readers to watch this movie. Despite the critics it received, "Twilight" remains an amazing love

story, especially for people who are interested in love stories that feature immortal actors!



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.

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

Level: Easy

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

Level: Medium

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

Level: Difficult

Random Jokes

MOHAMMED AMINE MAISSOUR

A teenage girl had been talking on the phone for about half an hour, and then she hung up. "Wow!," said her father, "That was short. You usually talk for two hours. What happened?" "Wrong number," replied the girl.

Son: Dad, what is an idiot?

Dad: An idiot is a person who tries to explain his ideas in such a strange and long way that another person who is listening to him can't understand him. Do you understand me?

Son: No.

+ Little Johnny is always being teased by the other neighborhood boys for being stupid. Their favorite joke is to offer Johnny his choice between a nickel and a dime -- Little Johnny always takes the nickel.

One day, after Johnny takes the nickel, a neighbor man takes him aside and says, "Johnny, those boys are making fun of you. Don't you know that a dime is worth more than a nickel, even though the nickel's bigger?"

Johnny grins and says, "Well, if I took the dime, they'd stop doing it, and so far I've made \$20!"

+ This customer comes into the computer store. "I'm looking for a mystery Adventure Game with lots of graphics. You know, something really challenging."

"Well," replied the clerk, "Have you tried Windows Vista?"

+ There was once a young man who, in his youth, professed his desire to become a great writer.

When asked to define "great" he said, "I want to write stuff that the whole world will read, stuff that people will react to on a truly emotional level, stuff that will make them scream, cry, howl in pain and anger!"

He now works for Microsoft, writing error messages.

Some Chuck Norris facts:

MOHAMMED AMINE MAISSOUR

N.B : Chuck Norris facts are satirical factoids about martial artist and actor Chuck Norris that have become an Internet phenomenon and as a result have become widespread in popular culture. The facts are normally absurd hyperbolic claims about Norris's toughness, attitude, virility, sophistication, and masculinity.

+ Chuck Norris destroyed the periodic table, because he only recognizes the element of surprise.

+ When the Boogeyman goes to sleep every night, he checks his closet for Chuck Norris.

+ Chuck Norris is currently suing NBC, claiming Law and Order are trademarked names for his left and right legs.

+ When Chuck Norris does a pushup, he isn't lifting himself up, he's pushing the Earth down.

+ A Chuck Norris-delivered Roundhouse Kick is the preferred method of execution in 16 states.

+ When Chuck Norris falls in water, Chuck Norris doesn't get wet. Water gets Chuck Norris

+ Chuck Norris can divide by zero.

+ Chuck Norris has the greatest Poker-Face of all time. He won the 1983 World Series of Poker, despite holding only a Joker, a Get out of Jail Free Monopoly card, a 2 of clubs, 7 of spades and a green #4 card from the game UNO

+ There are no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, Chuck Norris lives in Oklahoma

+ Chuck Norris played Russian Roulette with a fully loaded gun and won.

+ There are two types of people in the world... people that suck, and Chuck Norris.

+ Chuck Norris knows the last digit of pi.

BOOK REVIEW

Lessons in Capitalism: Economy through Muhammad Yunus (Part 2)

 WAI KALAMA

In light of the recent global economic crisis, I find myself attracted to the uncharted world of economic literature. As even capitalism is undergoing major reexamination and restructuring, this month I turn to two literary examples of free enterprise: the ideal economic philosophy as expressed by Ayn Rand in her didactic novel *The Fountainhead*; and the practical concerns facing the economics professor Muhammad Yunus in his nonfictional account of entrepreneurship and poverty, *Banker to the Poor* by Muhammad Yunus, Public Affairs, 1999.

Far removed from the philosophy and self-immolating society of Rand's fiction, Muhammad Yunus' nonfictional "Banker to the Poor" is a refreshing practical mesh of numbers and figures. In his book, Yunus presents his own solution to the difficulties of poverty that he observed in his homeland of Bangladesh. During the national crisis of famine during the seventies, he observed that many families were suffering due to the lack of as little twenty-five dollars a month. "Banker to the Poor" is a saga of his brainchild, Grameen Bank, its mission and functions, and how it has served as an example for many similar businesses across the globe.

Poverty is usually the result of not receiving the necessary capital to survive. Yunus gives an example of a Bengali woman who, borrowing a small sum from the moneylender, purchased necessary materials needed for making stools—which she would then sell at a set price at the market. The profits would almost all be returned to the moneylender, as the sum of the principal and interest,

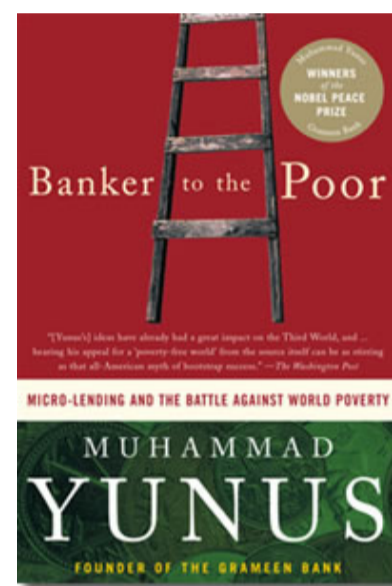
and she was allowed to keep only a few cents on which to live. Thus, borrowers are completely dependent on these moneylenders on a day-to-day basis; they are trapped in a cycle of poverty. In addition, banks are reluctant to hand out loans to the poor because they are assumed to be unskilled, illiterate, or without worthy collateral.

In indignant response, Yunus decided to establish his own bank, Grameen, in 1982. Through a series of trials and experiments, he fashioned the bank's operations to resulting social, cultural, and economical challenges. Grameen Bank provides a loan to a small group of villagers, without credit or collateral, charging 20% interest to be paid in full on a weekly basis. This ensures that the villagers receive the maximum amount of revenue possible, and provides them with the

freedom and flexibility to create and design their trade in whatever manner they wish, improving the overall human capital. Yunus stresses that this is not charity—loans must be paid back before another loan can be extracted. Each villager is part of a group of five or so members who provide emotional support and collective responsibility. This form of 'socialistic' capitalism, known as microfinance, works to provide the disadvantaged, ill-equipped due to socio-economic circumstances, with a boost to start and maintain their own businesses. The policies of traditional banks make it difficult for people of low or no income to take out loans. Grameen Bank has since its establishment issued USD 6.38 billion to 7.4 million borrowers; boasting a 98.3% repayment rate. This is a testament to the self-sustainability and entrepreneurship among

people of all backgrounds and circumstances. As Yunus writes: "We have to get out of this mindset that the rich will do the business and the poor will [make do with] charity."

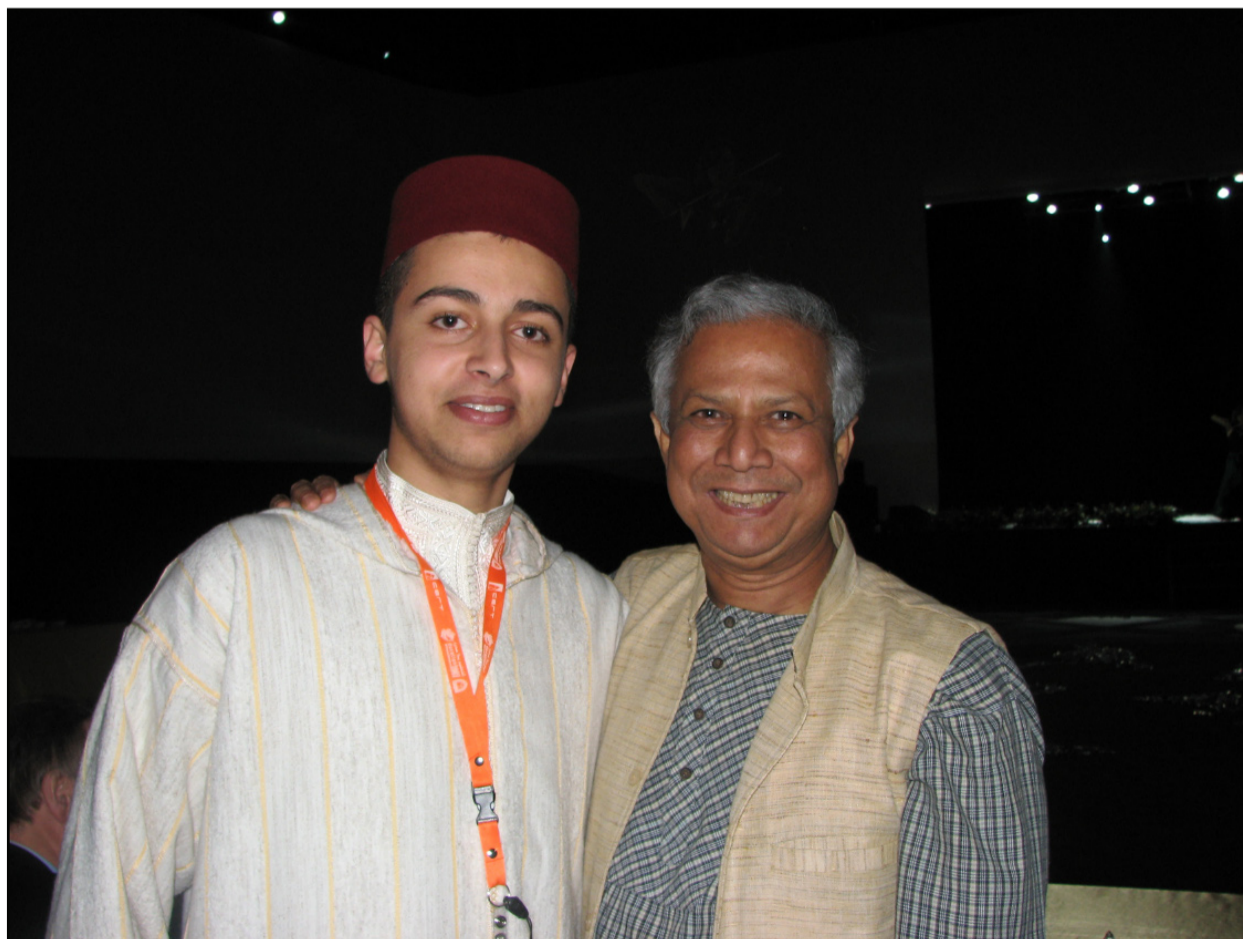
The book recounts how Muhammad Yunus along with his co-workers and his clients, encounter daily challenges. Such challenges include family issues, poor education, ill health, cultural practices, disasters, prejudice, illiteracy, and distrust. He has worked with farmers, the homeless, men and women, the urban and rural poor; focusing primarily on women because, as he claims, they tend to reinvest their earnings into the home and the family, thus maintaining a quality of life for multiple individuals. Women, he agrees, wish to sustain their relationship with Grameen and thus are



more willing to pay back their loans. Recently, Grameen has expanded its domain to the funding of housing projects, adult education, disaster relief, and basic medical care for its borrowers.

From a literary standpoint, this almost-autobiography is at times frustrating, inspiring, and even amusing. The first-person narrative allows for a recount in clipping detail his odyssey wading through discriminating banks, skeptical governmental officials, and endless paperwork. Though at times proud and condescending, his voice nevertheless professes a concern and nonsensical approach to the welfare of his fellow Bengalis and of all economically disadvantaged people around the globe.

Yunus' vision continues to inspire similar microfinance operations across the world, from Africa to Cambodia. His inability to accept the harsh conditions of famine and poverty observed around him, and his willingness to seek economic innovations to improve the situations for millions of families are major inspirations in the world's wavering economic environment. Overall, an informative read that encourages readers to look for original and progressive innovations in overcoming obstacles in life, large or small, global or domestic.



Ghassan Essalehi, an AUI student, with Prof. Muhammad Yunus during an International Student Conference in UAE, 2007



FUN RUN

Ensemble, maintenons l'espoir

11 Avril 2009

