

Circumcision



On Sunday, April 26, 2009, Rotaract Club organized its Second Edition of the Circumcision which took place in building 4.

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The Good Bad Debate



Thursday, April 23, 2009, was a day like no other. At Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane (AUI), a relatively new club set a vision to get involved in the discussions concerning the upcoming Moroccan elections of 2009.

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Breaking the Habits



Odds are that you already picked up a couple of bad habits since your first night here at the university, everyone does.

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Fun Run 2009



Talent Show 2009



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Editorial

Usually, on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, I turn on the television to watch the regular broadcasting of parliamentary sessions. Both Chambers of the Representatives' and Counsellors hold their weekly sessions in which they, the population, get to follow the discussion sessions live on television.

It is unfortunate to see that many of the Members of Parliament (MP) and, without being an exception, government officials are frequently absent. In fact, one can certainly say that it has become a habit to see more than half of the room empty and, consequently, many of the questions remain unanswered and postponed to a later time.

Even more, the Moroccan media frequently discusses such issues and, more interestingly, talks about some creative ideas of solving the problem. However, it seems that the media in Morocco still lacks power of impacting the concerned officials and inspiring the more powerful parties to be more efficient.

Perhaps, this is one of the reasons that pushed the Moroccan PM, Mr. Abbas El Fassi, to call "the members of the government to permanently follow up the action of the two chambers of parliament to reinforce cooperation between the executive and the legislature." (MAP).

If the cooperation between the legislature power and the executive power are fulfilled, advances would certainly be made on the level of speeding up the joint actions and increasing the cooperation between these two bodies. Both MPs and government ministers are urged to attend question times and be present in standing committees meeting, in order to ensure a fruitful cooperation.

As an AUI student majoring in International Studies, I believe that the political landscape in Morocco still needs reforms and more application of the already-existing laws in order to provide a solid ground for youth participation in politics and, hopefully, increase people's awareness of politics' importance in developing their everyday life.

One can only hope, however, that the concerned parties double their efforts to make their work come true and, why not, getting involved in activities that would interest more the population in collaborative action and make concrete achievements in the real ground.



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Editor-in-Chief

Ghassan Essalehi

News Reporters

Abdelhadi Mekouar
Ghassan Essalehi
Kamilia Charkaoui

Features Reporters

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Anass Gttoa
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Entertainment Reporters

Deema Sonbol
Mehdi El Youmi
Mohammed Redouane Khrief
Souhail Marghabi
Wiam Mahmoudi
Yassine Habibi
Yassir Mahlou

Photos by

Rachid Daoudi

Printer: B to B Consulting
Rabat - Morocco

News Editor

Abdelhadi Mekouar

Features Editor

Walid Bouzoubaâ

Entertainment Editor

Mohamed Amine Maissour

Copy Editor & Cartoonist

Ven Locklear

Production Editor

Hatim Ksissou

Letters to the Editor

Dear editor,

I know that the finals' period can be critical for students for many reasons. For example, when this period comes, many students can be found to have a lack of sleep and to be in a bad mood. Also, the fact that many exams take place in one week makes it hard for students to keep with the rhythm and, sometimes, worry about their results. I hope to read about your article to find out more aspects related to this topic. Good luck!

El Mehdi Soufiane,
A sophomore Engineering Management student

NEXT ISSUE'S TOPIC

Cultural diversity at AUI

The AUI Bridge wants to hear from you!
Have something to say?
Get it off your chest!
Write us a letter!

Interested in becoming a reporter?

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New Talent Show formula successful

NEWS TEAM

The Student Activities Office (SAO) unveiled its redesigned Talent Show on April 21st to an audience crowding building 17. The night show lasted about three hours. The show attracted 32 participants, and more than 70 others who make up AUI's Choir. Moroccan popular music, French rap, and mettalica were some of the arts performed during the show.

"I received a very positive feedback from the students," said Salma Benbouia, SAO Student Events Coordinator, who organized the show. "Even though I consider it a success, I'm always open for critics and suggestions to make the next show even better," she added.

Several changes were made to the traditional Talent Show this year. "After watching recordings of the three previous Talent Shows, the first thing I wanted to change was the emptiness of the stage: I thought students deserved a more elaborate show," said Ms. Benbouia. This prompted the idea of the skyline paintings, which were drawn by painter Mr. Mrhailaf, father of student Amal Mrhailaf, and painted by AUI students a few days before the event. Among the student performances were a series of tap dances

by professional dancers Roxane Butterfly and Keith Terry from California.

"I also wanted to drop the competition aspect," said Ms. Benbouia, "as it is impossible to compare different forms of talent."

"To unify the varied performances, we choreographed the appearances of the MCs and associated them with a backstage animator for short breaks," said Ms. Benbouia.

"I enjoyed the show even though it started late and the mikes didn't work great," said Yassine A., a freshman student. Several interviewed students commented mostly on the improved quality of the performances. On this, Ms. Benbouia explained the numerous rehearsals helped ensure students performed at their best. After passing auditions, performers were asked to participate in two mock Talent Shows, which is a first.



Alumni publish Job Fair 2009 report

NEWS TEAM

The 6th edition of the Job Fair, which took place on Saturday April 25th, hosted 26 companies and partners. Feedback collected and published in a report by alumnus, Abdessamad Fatmi, sheds some light into their satisfaction with AUI students.

The report shows that, out of the 18 companies who provided feedback, 4 considered AUI students excellent and 8 very good. 2 companies gave students the poorest evaluation: 'fair'. However, comments gathered from the same companies include some less positive feedback. One comment cited in the report reads: "AUI students oral communication to be improved and ego to be controlled."

The Job Fair was rated 'very good' by half of the companies who gave feedback, and only one rated it 'fair' (the lowest choice on all the questions of the report).

Student Imane Amzil, senior Communication/BA undergraduate, who has collaborated in the organization of this year's and last year's Job Fair, considers the 2009 edition a satisfying success. "I am very pleased, especially considering the short time it took to organize," said Imane Amzil.

339 participants attended this year's Job Fair, which included 197 AUI students, 69 alumni, 29 people from AMPA and AIESEC and 44 students from other partner institutions, including the ISCAE.

According to the report, interviews lasted around 10 to 15 minutes each, and most companies interviewed between 30 and 100 students.

43 volunteers worked with the companies to help them with the logistics and getting around campus for guided tours. The feedback on their collaboration was very positive.



The Dell booth

Tamazight poetry night

NEWS TEAM

On Wednesday, March 25th, Tamesmount Nel Akhawayn club organized a day dedicated to the Amazigh culture in all its forms.

It is the first time that this event took place on the AUI campus. The program of the day began by a conference titled "Amazigh Culture and Poetry" that took place in the Student Lounge. The conference was moderated by Dr. Michael Peyron, SHSS faculty and advisor of the club, as well as five guests representing the Higher Institute of Tamazight Culture and the Tamazight Culture Teachers' Society in Azrou. The conference was in Arabic and Rajae Gherradi, president of Tamesmount Nel Akhawayn, provided the translation for the audience.

At the same time, an Exhibition of sculpture figures was taking place in front of the shop. The artist drew portraits for passer-bys.

At noon, Ms. Gherradi talked to the Radio of Fez in which she introduced the club, its mission statement, and its main activities.

Later, at 9pm, an Ahidous group performed in front of the restaurant. Soon after, Hadda Ouakki performed in building 17, who sung many Berber songs with chikhat dancers, followed by Rouicha Ameziane.

Hadda Ouakki received many gifts and a certificate of



Dr. Peyron salutes Amazigh singer Hadda Ouakki

honor from Dr. Peyron and Rajae Gherradi received a certificate of honor as regard to her effort in Tamesmount Nel Akhawayn.

The event ended by a short poetry reading done by Dr. Michael Peyron who presented a poetry in Tamazight as well as two other students: Amina Faouzi Zizi and Fatima Tchiche.

The Second Edition of the Circumcision

NEWS TEAM

(Continued from page 1)

The 116 beneficiaries of this event were children with limited means from the city of Ifrane and its region. These children mostly come from the neighborhoods of Pam, Biranzarane, Timdikin, Famille Francaise, Zawiyya, Adghagh, Tarmilate, as well as other regions of Ifrane.

16 doctors attended the event and performed the operation. These doctors came from Rabat on Saturday evening to get prepared for the event ahead of time. In addition to these doctors, another doctor, a member of the Rotary Club of Fez, joined the team to assist with the performance of the circumcision. The expenses of this event exceeded 10,000 Dhs and were, indeed, well worth it based on the smiling faces of the families and children who benefited from this operation

Casanegra cast present and defend their movie

NEWS TEAM

On April 15th, the Courant d'Art Club invited Nour-Eddine Lakhmari, director of Casanegra, and the two lead actors Anas El Baz (Karim) and Omar Lotfi (Adil) to discuss the movie in auditorium of building 17.

"It's a pleasure to meet members of the team behind Casanegra, which I really enjoyed," said Dr. Bouziane, SHSS faculty who was invited to participate in the discussion.

After discussing their early work and career as well as their personal lives, director Nour-eddine Lakhmari responded to questions about whether or not he faced problems with the release of the movie.

"Casanegra was absolutely not censored at any step," said Mr. Lakhmari. He explained the script was approved as is and the National Cinematographic Center funded the project without making any adjustment. "Our biggest problem isn't censorship, it is self-censorship," said Mr. Lakhmari.

Regarding problems the team faced during the shooting, Nour-eddine claimed working in Casablanca in the middle of the night was challenging.

"The scenes we witnessed during the shooting were 10 times harder than the ones in the movie," said Mr. Lakhmari. "Some violence is such that it would not seem credible to the audience if put on film," he added.

The director of Casanegra also regretted that claims by Mr. Benkirane of the PJD against Casanegra were admittedly made without having watched the

it changed them a lot personally. "I was Rbati before and I became Casawi," said Mr. El Baz. "When Nour-eddine told us, before shooting the movie, that

it would be worthy of prizes, we didn't believe him," said Mr. Lotfi. "After being awarded in both Dubai and Tangiers, we are forced to admit he was right".

Students were invited to ask their questions and debate the movie. Much praise was made for the film but it also faced criticism about its contents.

One student claimed the explicit sexual content did not advance the scenario in any way, and prohibited the movie to be seen by family audiences. "The movie is not tailored to all audiences like a television movie. Not everyone should come to the cinema to watch that movie," responded director Nour-eddine Lakhmari.

Another student argued that the language used in the movie was not representative of the general population. "A majority of the youth talk just like in the movie," responded Mr. Lakhmari.

Asked about a potential sequel, Nour-eddine Lakhmari answered that he has no plans for a Casanegra 2 as he is working on

a movie titled 'Ez-zero'.



Actors Anas El Baz and Omar Lotfi answering students' questions

movie. "It is dangerous that such people represent us as they dislike freedom," said the film director. Asked about the consequences of the movie on their lives, the main actors of Casanegra explained

Hajja Hamdaouia responds to the Bridge

NEWS TEAM

One of the stars performing at the Gala Party was Hajja Hamdaouia. This famous Moroccan popular singer kindly responded to the request of the newspaper's team and agreed to have an interview with our reporters. Hereafter is the interview conducted with Hajja Hamdaouia.



Hajja Hamdaouia greeting the audience

Is this your first visit to AUI?

Indeed. This is my first visit to AUI. Yet, it is not my first visit to Ifrane; I am used to visiting this beautiful town since a long time. I actually visit Ifrane ever since the late King Hassan II was alive.

How do you perceive the Fun Run's event?

It is a great event! I like this event. In fact, my children and grandchildren all wish to attend this event and visit AUI... I wish you good luck in studies and hope you get good grades while being here [...]. I would like to see you successful in life. And I am ready to come to sing for you whenever you need it; just invite me and I'll come. [Prayers for long life for HM King Mohamed VI and the Royal Family].

We know you have been sick lately, how do you feel now? Your coming today has a significant dimension. How do you wish to contribute to the success of today's event?

Thanks to God, now I feel much better after I had an operation on my eye. For my happiness is great, I came to sing for you and all of AUI's audience.

How different do you think your presence will be at AUI, compared to the events in which you participate elsewhere?

I am very happy. I love children and I am happy whenever they are happy. In fact, I adopted six children because I like them and I hope to see all children happy. Two of my grandchildren in fact, heard a lot about AUI and hope to make it and be accepted as future students here.

What can you say to AUI community while they are hosting you?

I thank them for this opportunity and hope they enjoy my singing tonight. I invite you all to come and enjoy the Fun Run event.

Fun Run 2009 hits its fundraising target

NEWS TEAM

On April 11th, Hand In Hand organized its annual Fun Run. This year's edition of the promotion and fundraising event relied, like in previous years, on a run, lunch, a fair and a gala show to promote the association's activity.

"I'm extremely happy with the results of this year's Fun Run," said Intissar Rachidi, president of Hand In Hand (HIH).

According to her, the funds gathered are sufficient to finance all of the association's current projects.

The projects include the construction of a home for a school teacher and the installation of electricity and hygiene infrastructure in 6 schools of the region.

"We received funding from the Association of Moroccan Women of Canada (Association des Femmes Marocaines du Canada) to build a sales kiosk in Ifrane's central market for the Khbizat Al-Atlas association," said Intissar Rachidi. This kiosk should allow the women of the association to sell their bread to the whole city's population.

The funds offered by the Canadian association based in Montreal made up a significant percentage of the sum collected, which was close to 1 million DH. "The funds collected have been rising every year," said Hakima Taoufiq, treasurer of HIH.

On the morning of April 11th, runners were of a comparable number to previous year's Fun Runs, despite the relatively cold weather.

Lunch was served outside the gymnasium this year and the association offered two different meals. "We wanted this new lunch formula to be more convivial," said Alae Gamar, head of the Lunch Committee, who regretted the strong winds which bothered the people during lunch. The fair consisted of several small stands along the soccer field, and was primarily aimed at children.

In the evening, the event moved inside building 17, where an eclectic roster of artists entertained an audience of more than 400 participants. The show was animated by Miz and featured performances of national idol Hajja Hamdaouia, the Ganga Vibes reggae band, alumnus Youssef Ksiyer, the young Belgian Kimberley Gibbs and a stilt dancer and laser show by Chakib Laraki.

"I have attended more than 10 Fun Runs and this was the best yet," said former president Dr. Rachid Benmokhtar.



Launch of the kids' run

Islamic Art and Culture Day

NEWS TEAM

The first event of the newly founded Islamic Art and Culture club took place on Monday, April 13th.

The program of the day had three main activities: an exhibition, a conference, and a performance by Amdah Annabaouia band.

The exhibition in the student lounge included many valuable items from different periods and countries. The artifacts, collected by Dr. Shoup from the SHSS, consisted of very old Islamic clothes that goes back 50 to 200 years, weapons, jewelry, travel bags, paintings, hanging pillows, and prayers rugs among other things.

The conference was entitled "Islamic Culture in Morocco Today". The guest speaker, Dr. Ait Belaid, and two AUI Faculty members, Dr. Peyron and Dr. Ennahid, as well as the Imam of AUI mosque and Dr. Monnette, advisor of the club who animated the discussion.

Dr. Ait Belaid talked about the meaning of the Islamic Culture, its foundations, characteristics, manifestations, and how people can protect it. Dr. Belaid pointed out the fact that many Moroccan Muslims, especially young people have forgotten many of their Islamic culture aspects such as Aid Al Mawlid Annabaoui, which now seems to be celebrated less than Christmas. He also mentioned that Moroccans should maintain their Islamic Culture expressed in the good behavior within each other and with other people regardless of their religion, color, or social status. "It is representative of the Islamic culture to take care of one's parents, choose a good wife or husband, and transmit the Islamic culture to one's children," explained Dr. Belaid. "Moroccan Muslims should be proud of their identity and try to define it whenever they go," he added.

Dr. Said Ennahid spoke of Fes' Islamic architecture. He described the main features and characteristics of the old Medina and New Fez houses, as he indicated the main similarity between all houses of the time: the central court yard or the one spot that is the open space in the majority of the houses of Fez in the old medina.

Dr. Peyron talked about the Tazizaout and the role of Berbers against colonialism. "Berbers were fighting against colonialism for the Moroccan independence, not the Berber independence, as they were all Muslims looking for getting Al Karawyeen back," he explained. Also, Dr. Peyron pointed out the role of women at that time who he describes as "as brave as men".

The day ended by a Amdah Annabaouia performance in auditorium of building 17, performed by a group of teenagers from Fez.

The U.S. Secretary of State Message to Dr. Driss Ouaouicha



When she was appointed as the U.S. Secretary of State, AUI's President wrote to Her Excellency Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton to congratulate her and pass on his best wishes for good work in her new position. Mrs. Hillary Clinton, who has contributed to the development of AUI's Hillary Rodham Clinton Women's Empowerment Center, opened on April 5th, 1999, wrote back to Dr. Driss Ouaouicha thanking him for his letter. Hereafter, find the U.S. Secretary of State's message to AUI's President:

Dear Dr. Ouaouicha,

Thank you for your kind message of congratulations on my appointment as Secretary of State. I appreciate your words of encouragement and support.

I remember well reaffirming the commitment of friendship and partnership between our countries at your university's commencement address ten years ago, and am please that our bilateral relationship has continued to strengthen over the years. I am particularly pleased to hear of your university's successful literacy programs and extensive business skills training for women. Programs such as these will play a vital role in elevating the status and capabilities of women in your country. I look forward to following the university's continued efforts in this area.

Yours sincerely,

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Moroccan Programming Contest

NEWS TEAM

Over the days of April 3rd and 4th, AUI hosted the first edition of the Moroccan Programming Contest, which was organized by the university's ACM chapter.

The competition itself took place on Saturday the 4th. Competing teams came from institutions all-around Morocco: EMI, FST, INCA, INPT, ENSIAS, ENSAM. There were 3 AUI teams out of a total of 13 teams of 2 to 3 members.

The winners of the competition was "Team Ernesto" from the ENSAM, Meknès.

"We've spent wonderful moments with students from all teams," said Yassine Zehroune from Team Ernesto.

The prizes were handed to competitors on Saturday afternoon in the auditorium of building 7, in front of around 60 students, faculty and staff. Dr. Kevin Smith, SSE faculty, keyed the ceremony.

"Over a total of 109 submissions, 15 were correct," said Dr. Smith. 20 of these submissions were sent over the last 10 minutes.

The programming problems of the contest all gravitated around the theme of snow.

Teams "Too Fast Too Furious" and "Top Coders" were respectively 2nd and 3rd. The best-ranked AUI team, Y&Y Programmers, was ranked 6th.

Sara Moustauada, SSE student and ACM member who worked on the organization and hosted the ceremony, announced the second edition of the contest for next year. It should be held at AUI.

"It was very enriching to participate in the organization of a national event," said Saad Bahri, 2nd semester CS student who helped organize the event.

"I found it very interesting and I'm motivated to participate next year," said Adnane Aboulaich, 2nd semester GE student who attended the competition.



Contestants get a balloon attached to their PC for each problem they solve

Exchange from AUI

Oh Lord! Give me a bite from that Big Apple!

 SALWA AINAQI

Manhattan, the Statue of liberty, Times Square, Fifth Avenue, the Empire State Building, the yellow cabs...you know what I'm talking about: New York! Many are fascinated by this magnificent city through movies, and have at least a little hope inside that someday they will get to visit and experience all these things... I have dreamed of all that too. Very recently, I have been lucky enough to actually be there, in the middle of all the "New York madness" and see it all with my own eyes. It was not a big movie trick, neither special effects, nor even propaganda; it was all very true, very real, and very astonishing. It was New York.

"It was not a big movie trick, neither special effects, nor even propaganda; it was all very true, very real, and very astonishing".

Going on an exchange program to the United States has always been an interesting idea that I was determined to consider. I applied last semester (fall 2008) and went through all the procedures. Now, a few months later, I am in Portsmouth Ohio as an exchange student at Shawnee State University. In fact, we are six exchange students from AUI here in Shawnee State, and we all decided to go on a trip to New York since we thought that it was a destination worth the distance.

We arrived to New York at around midnight due to a flight delay. Afterwards, we put our luggage at the hotel. Without thinking about getting a rest from the long tiring day we had, we went out straight to Times Square, which was a few blocks away from the

hotel. Once there, we were shocked and amazed by all the lights, the giant screens, the endless publicity... it was completely dazzling. This square of big electric national-brand signs is so fascinating that it gave us mixed emotions. We were jumping around, yelling "Oh look at this... Oh No! Look at that!" People were staring at us because we were looking like some crazy people that were just out from a mental hospital. After a few hours of wondering around, our common sense came back and we decided to go back to the hotel to get some sleep since we were going to need it for the next big day.

Happy to wake up in the middle of Manhattan, we went straight to take the subway heading to the Statue of Liberty. We were too slow compared to the "sharp" stylish New Yorkers with their black coats looking like they were in a big hurry. Once there, we took the Ferry boat to sail past the Statue. We were getting more and more excited as we were getting closer to it. I could not



believe that I was actually looking at the "Pride of America" directly; it felt nothing like watching it in a movie. It was so beautiful and inspiring that I don't know whether it was the cold weather or the magnitude of that moment that gave me a shivering sensation.

We spent the rest of the day exploring Madison and Fifth Avenue, it felt like a runaway for rich looking people busy with their luxury shopping. So we joined that "big shopping party" and got lost in the middle of the big

was playing the song out loud in the middle of the street. I just had to cross the street to talk to him. If you do not know me, I am the most indifferent person about Arab/Arabic issues you could ever find, I was never a big fan of the "Arabs solidarity" and I always thought that it was a bunch of nonsense. This taught me something new about myself; maybe I do have a little sense of Arab patriotism... who knew!

"I have never seen that many people from different nationalities in one street; black, white, Hispanic, Asians, Europeans, and so on which gave me a relaxing feeling of 'fitting in'"

The best thing I did in New York City was visiting the Empire State Building, where we took the elevators to have a night view of the Midtown Manhattan skyline. When we got to the 86th floor I was literally speechless! Seeing all the marvelous skyscrapers and the lights of New York's buildings seemed like an endless horizon of millions of stars in space. It was so breathtaking, so pure that I wanted to freeze that moment in my mind forever... I really could not absorb all the beauty of it... It made me think a lot about my life, about all the possibilities... and it also made me feel very blessed and thankful.

After three days of shopping, visiting museums and trying the New York life, we had to catch our flight back to Ohio. Definitely, this was the best trip I have ever experienced. I was staring at the city from the plane window when we took off as I watched the dream end. I knew I did not see it all or do it all, but still; I had a big smile on my face. I was not sad that it ended, I was just happy that it happened!



Exchange from AUI

The Japanese Experience

 HAYTHAM NACIRI

Nothing seemed like I imagined it would be; everything was so different. Going to Japan for an exchange program is one of the greatest things that happened to me. I knew Japan had something special; in fact, it is definitely another planet where people have a very different way of living. I discovered another culture in which habits and the way of thinking might be sometimes incomprehensible for us. I loved Kansai Gaidai. Nevertheless, I wish I could spend my exchange program in a university where there are no foreigners so I can live nothing but Japan. Many aspects of this experience surprised me, but I had no regrets in this one-year trip. Sharing with you Japan through words is a great honor for me, so I will try to describe what I saw during this time as accurately as possible.

Japanese Life

As you may know, Japan is miniature country. In fact, once I arrived, the first thing that attracted my attention was the miniaturization of everything. Tiny cubic cars seem like big toys moving in very narrow, but perfectly constructed roads. Houses have the exact shape and size of manga housing. In the city's

downtowns such as Osaka or Kyoto, roads and buildings are relatively larger. Still, there is not enough space for cars. Inside houses are incredibly small, fortunately, the dormitory where I stayed had standard room sizes. As I got used to this way of living, I did not get used to the fact that people are overly kind and helpful. I don't mean to say it was bad for me, but it does not match my Moroccan way of thinking. Why would people be like this? After all, it is the culture and it made me comfortable, so I just enjoyed. "Man 'achara 9awaman arba'ina yawman asba7a minhoum" (that who spends more than 40 days with a new tribe has become one of them), that is what happened to me. It is strange to explain but I noticed it in my behavior. I finally ended up with some Japanese habits!

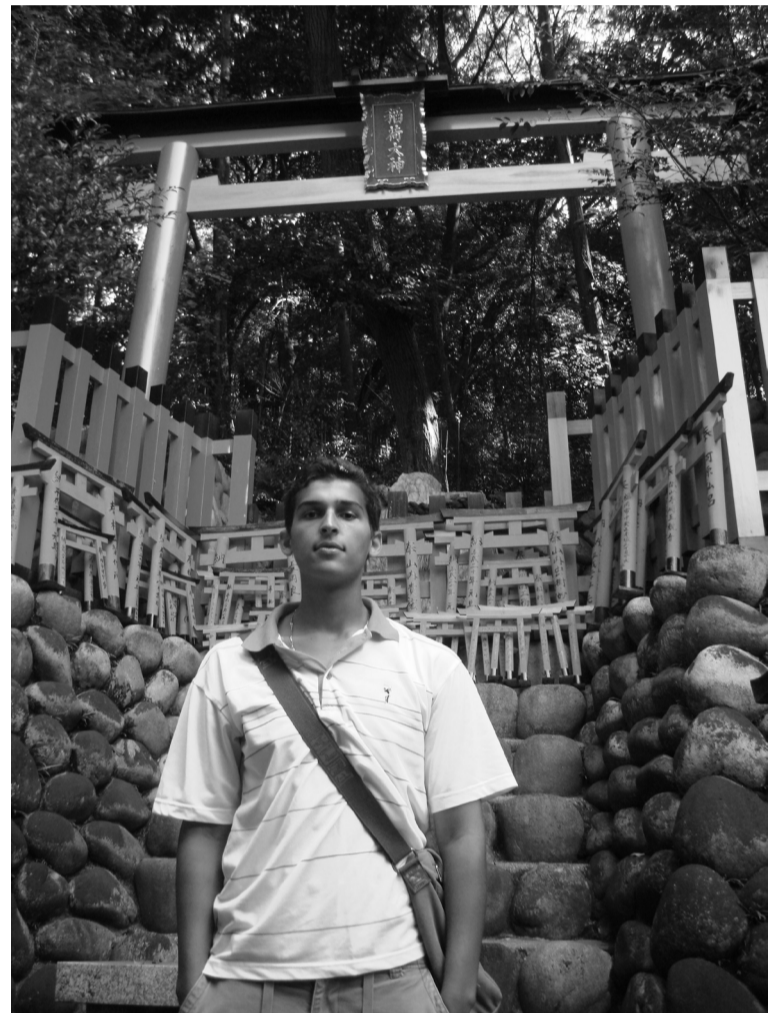
Culture shock

One of the things that shocked me in Japan is the way boys consider fashion. Sometimes, I could not even recognize a girl from a boy from far away because of their appearance. Many boys have long hair, but the problem is that they take care of it like girls. My Japanese roommate used to have a mirror and a dryer. This is indeed was diffi-

cult for me to understand. The way they walk is so feministic. To top it all off, they all have a kind of big handbag exactly as girls do. When it comes to girls, they are as feminine as possible without a strong personality. A Moroccan girl will seem like a boy in front of a Japanese girl. It made me ask myself questions. Is the second economic power going to survive? Decidedly, I will never understand Japanese people. Surprisingly, another aspect of Japanese habits is the bicycle. Every single Japanese person has a bicycle. It is not strange to see men with suits or women with high heels riding bicycles.

The university

Kansai Gaidai is a private university located in the area prefecture of Osaka, in Hirakata. It is a foreign language university for Japanese people and mainly an exchange program for foreigners. The university is not famous in Japan as AUI is in Morocco. Kansai Gaidai has three campuses spread in Hirakata. The main one is for the exchange program. The others are only for Japanese people. The campus system is nothing like the AUI campus. The four dormitories (called seminar house) that are only for Kansai Gaidai



students are separate building's in the city around a big park where people hang out. Everyday, I need to go to the campus by bicycle. The main campus is somewhat bigger than the study buildings area of AUI (not the whole campus). Actually, foreign students have classes in only one building where the Center of International Education (CIE) is. It is a big office where you can get help in whatever you need concerning your stay in Japan. It is well organized; obviously, it is Japan. Generally, students take no more than four classes because everyone wants to be free. It includes one class of spoken Japanese. The only thing that bothered me was the fact that I learned Japanese only in class. Very few Japanese were around me. I was surrounded with English speakers. Actually, I could have acquired almost the whole language in less than a semester if I had been studying with only Japanese people. I try to practice everyday with people I come across. Even though, I do not speak Japanese fluently, I improved my English

greatly. Furthermore, I met people from around the world in every country I could imagine. An exchange to the US would allow me to meet different people, but not at the same level.

My description is actually not enough compared to the actual experience. I just gave you a picture among others from my mind. Some AUI students would not want to go to Japan for one year, indeed, it is too long, but at the same time one semester is too short. Whether it is too long or too short, the Japanese experience is unique in its genre. Nothing could be so "cool" than discovering something we hear too much about. It is definitely the last thing I will regret in my life. If you have to do an exchange program, the best thing that could happen to your student life is going to Japan. Go for it.

PS: No bread, only rice.



Exchange at AUI

“Marrakech Express”

Alessandro Stelzer

Before coming to Ifrane, every person who asked me where I was going to spend my exchange semester was shocked by my answer, “Morocco.” You should know that European people actually don’t think about an African country as a usual place to study abroad, especially if your degree is not related to Arabic or Middle East studies. But, Al Akhawayn was my real final destination. Luckily, my home university, Bocconi in Milan has a huge network which can provide us with every kind of studying experience, Morocco included. I underline how lucky I am. Nothing like AUI exists in the rest of the world: an amazing campus, a marvelous country and the greatest people ever. Ifrane’s size and its crazy weather are the only black marks... But I come from Northern Italy and I am used to the snow of the Alps!

I had never been in Morocco before this semester and I was surprised by the green landscape and the continual variety of scenery. Travelling by train along the country makes me feel incredibly good... but not as much as Moroccan people. In-



side and outside the campus I have met the nicest and friendliest people ever.

Do you want an example? The first night I arrived, I was barely in the door of my room when my great roommate, Amine, was already offering me his cash wallet to buy me dinner... or Ghassan,

I should thank you all, folks: what I am learning and what Morocco means to me will never be stolen by anyone.

Abderrahim and Karim with their constant helpfulness and mutual understanding.

I am in the third of my undergraduate years, which is the last one in Italy. Our college allows us to have an exchange semester during this last period and I wanted to have a studying experience in North Africa. I have always been attracted and impressed by this magic world and I deeply wanted to get in touch with it. That’s the reason why AUI is now my college!

The courses I am taking are quite diversified. I study economics and I am taking a few technical subjects. Nonetheless, I had the possibility to choose a couple of elective classes which are beyond the specific scope of my major but are great in helping me to live and understand North Africa from a sociological and historical point of view. In this way my Moroccan experience has been enriched.

Alumna Experience

My journey at AUI: a New Perspective

Amina Lyazidi

As some of you may know me more or less and had seen me passing by the cafeteria or somewhere in the AUI campus, others are probably wondering who I might be. Well, last semester I was still an AUI student worrying about midterms and rushing every morning to my first class. It was also my last semester at AUI.

By that time, I felt and I certainly was a completely different person from the one I was when I first set foot at AUI. I was then very thrilled about the prospect of the new experiences awaiting me, I was yet afraid of the countless challenges that I had to face. One thing, qualities like responsibility, time management, and planning were not my top traits. Also, living with a roommate seemed to me impossible; me, who used to turn off television, radio, people, or any sound-emitting device or being in the entire house when I had to do my homework.

I soon discovered that I was not an exception and that all my friends, my classmates, and my floor neighbors



had to deal with their own package of problems and challenges.

I was lucky enough to find out

that it was pointless to complain all the time and make people’s lives miserable. In order to fully appreciate

and benefit from all the great things that the AUI experience can offer, we should first deal with these challenges and accept once and for all that problems are a necessary evil in every experience in life. In case this might sound too philosophical, I would say that I decided to learn how to live with a roommate, and to be more organized in order to open to new activities and life experiences that AUI offers. I managed to be a part of amazing clubs at AUI and I also benefited from the unique exchange experience.

I have no intention to bore you with my CV details but I wanted to show you how a simple change in your perspective can alter significantly your life. So please, next time you need to wait for a long queue at the restaurant, look at it as an opportunity to catch up with a friend!

AUI Athletic Club

Ali Benseddik

Ifrane is one of the most suitable places for Moroccan students to practice sports particularly athletics. Professional athletes from different specialized activities come periodically to Ifrane to practice.

During spring and summer periods, during which the weather is favorable and bearable, one cannot miss seeing runners preparing for their competitions around Ifrane. Team runners have, in fact, become an identifying aspect of the city of Ifrane. One of the main reasons behind jogging and running in this particular city is the healthy climate that characterizes Ifrane. This small Moroccan town is situated in the middle of Moroccan Atlas Mountains where the altitude is considerably high and which hence makes the air dry and very healthy. In addition, athletes appreciate to run in Ifrane because this city is well known to be clean and hygienic with a non polluting environment.

Regardless of the healthy environment, athletes may fully enjoy jogging in Ifrane when practicing their activities on beautiful surrounding natural sources, as Ain Vitel or Ras el Maa, where people could see the natural green beauty, benefit from the clarity of Ifrane Rivers and listen to natural voices of Atlas.

Most of this information may be known among the readers, but the question that rises here is why not to have a University athlete team in which at least all the environmental factors are suitable to grow and improve. This was in fact the initial idea of the members of the AUI Athletic Club.

The AUI Athletic Club is an emerging sport club that currently provides training for sprint distances. One year ago, there was just a grouping of a few members. The program was less consistent and attendance of students was irregular. Furthermore, most of the students

were one exchange. This semester however, the AUI athletic club includes the participation of nearly only Moroccan students with one third being women members. It also

coach has the insight of criticizing in a way that makes it not oppressive but just enough to encourage the club members.

In fact, according to Youssef

and facilities to grow and progress. It even sounds that the members may improve in an impressive way through their regular attendance to training sessions and mental perseverance during practices.

Mustapha, the club coach, confirmed that "although the members skills are still considerably under the professional level, I am truthfully pretty confident that the physical competences of many members, the infrastructure afforded and the hygienic climate will make the team reach a sufficient level to challenge the other universities."

However the coach also mentioned that the club works under some important constraints. In this regard, he explained that students have to train on an intensive and regular basis to improve greatly due to the nature of athletic activities. However, this may not be the permanent

case since students are not always free; they usually have academic activities such as homework, make ups, and other club activities. Most importantly, the athletic club is participating into the Moroccan Universities championship that will take place at Meknes on Wednesday 14th April and where AUI athletes will run 100m men and women, and 200m men. Also, other athletic students from AUI will participate on longer running distances and other activities as long jump.

We wish the best of luck for this young club, for its courageous members and its competent coach behind.



AUI Athletic Club members with their coaches

provides three training sessions per week with the coaching of Mustapha Loune.

Once they integrated the club, those athletes discovered facilities which may help them to perform better. Also, the involvement of the gymnasium team encourages students to learn through the best coaching and to practice in the most affordable environment. Since the athletic club allows students to practice sprint distances as 60m, 100m, 200m and 400m, the club coach Mustapha seems to be the adequate person for this specific role.

Mustapha has appropriate skills and enough experience to frame the young athletes. In fact, this coach is a former professional athlete that has specialized in the 400m sprint distance. He also coached in different clubs at Meknes before integrating the AUI gymnasium team.

According to the club members, the

Benali, an SHSS master student who is actually the oldest member of the club, "the coach knows how to lead us in order to reach the outer limit of ourselves."

On the other side, the AUI running area that is surrounding the gymnasium is not the most appropriate underground to practice athletic running. It is so since the professional underground that is needed for athletic sport is excessively expensive. Meanwhile, AUI has to encourage its students to practice athletics while Ifrane is the Moroccan capital of athletic sports.

Nonetheless, the gymnasium team and particularly the club could lately manage to do training sessions on the Olympic stadium of Ifrane. Another important point is that the club offers regular team jogging for long distances on natural sources and surrounding forests.

It could be claimed that henceforth the club has the sufficient equipments

A Reflection on five Months Experience in Azrou Center for Community Development

AZIZ OUCHLIKH

The first days at new institutions are all the same. As if you are suddenly in a new planet, breathing a new air. However, my first days at Al Akhawayn Azrou Centre were quite different.

After a written oral exam, I found myself in a heterogeneous group. It is made up of 16 students coming from different disciplines; Economics, Geography, History, French Linguistics, Law, English Literature, and Physics. Moreover, the age range is 24 to 34 years. In fact, I have never imagined having classmates 10 years older than me. The faces looked a little bit abnormal, especially that female faces are obviously lacking (our group is constituted of 16 students, 3 girls and 13 boys, so having most of the faces from the same sex makes it a little bit boring). It took us almost a month to get to know each other as our areas of interests were quite diverse. Still, the analogy which encloses us all is the great de-

sire to bring about some change which hopefully will happen by the end of this training. The students who belong to the business discipline are generally unemployed graduates who, for some reason or another, couldn't integrate the job market. Therefore, the aim of this internship is to teach these graduate students a speciality and a "know-how" which is fairly demanded in the job market.

My first class was longer, held in French. It was one of a series of lessons under the name of 'Techniques de Communication'. In this lesson, the professor and students were interacting in a role-play.

The dominant impression after finishing the first class was that people in charge of the Centre were doing a good and serious job.

The second class course called "Gestion Commerciale", was based on mathematics and calculations; all of

which I had divorced a long time ago.

In fact, the transition from a discipline to a completely different one was really tough. That was the case of most students in my group who felt kind of disoriented. In "Gestion Commerciale" and "Comptabilité" classes, our faces turned pale accompanied with unrest gazes scanning every corner of the classroom. At the beginning, we felt lost and sometimes unfit for such training. At times, I considered myself among 'at-risk students' and on the verge to quit at any time. However, with a breath of patience and thanks to the support of some classmates, I developed positive attitudes towards this training. Then, and only then, I started getting myself committed to all courses and activities.

At this point it's worth mentioning that the activities held in the Center have been key factors for more collaboration and more productivity. These

activities, which include cultural competitions, collective visits, sporting competitions and others, helped me establish good relationships with students from other disciplines as well as with the staff. Now, we have a schedule full of a variety of activities which will hopefully see life in due time. The coming event is the party of the international day of woman for which we have prepared a variety of activities which will hopefully please AUI's community.

Now, I realise how lucky I am to be at Al Akhawayn Centre and how precious it is to be among such great friends. And here, I firmly believe that success is subject to collective work and mutual help. And before the final stop. I have to tell you that the heterogeneous group I mentioned at the beginning has now become a homogeneous one par excellence.

Breaking the Habits

ANASS GTTOA

Bad habits are easy to develop, especially when the subject in question is experiencing unprecedented doses of freedom, which is the case for freshman students. Such freedom however comes with a price: excess; students are having too much fun, too much sleep, too much food or even too much studying.

Indeed, the transition from high school to University seems to take its toll on this type of student by alienating them from their environment and shifting their principles, thus making them subject to unhealthy living. Some students find that friends are responsible for most of these poor lifestyle habits.

"Once you get into college, friends replace your family and you can't count on them to keep from distractions" explained Amine Himer, Sophomore SSE student.

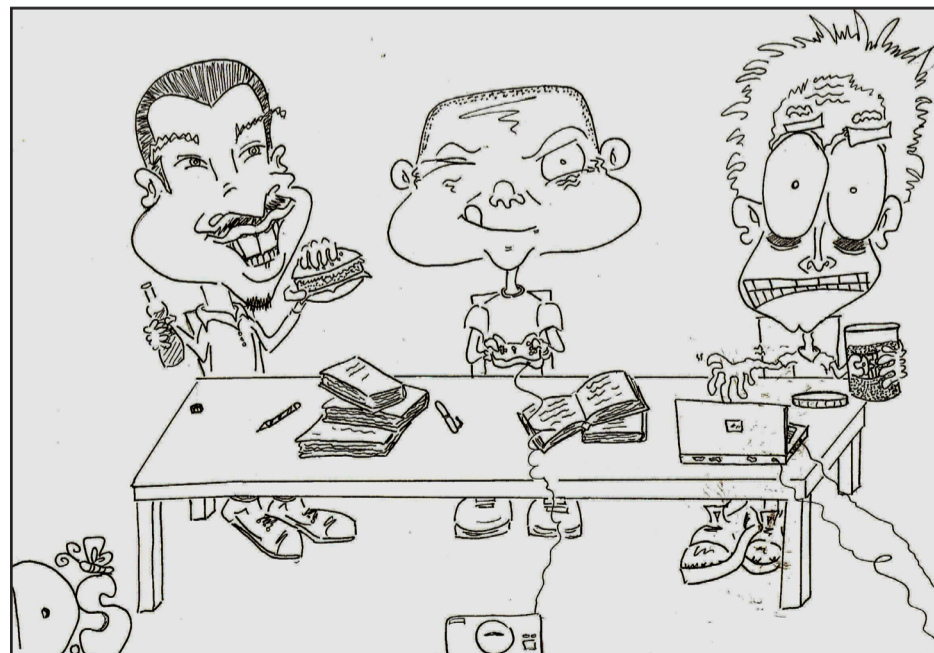
However, neither parents nor friends should be regarded as safety nets when it comes to assessing the consequences of students' actions, instead developing a sense of self evaluation and a need of self improvement is the recommended approach to understand these problems.

Sleep Deprivation: It might be midterm cramming or staying up with friends until 4a.m., but university students are definitely short of a couple of sleep hours.

"I used to stay up till early morning everyday playing video games or watching TV shows until I realized how often I skipped morning classes" admits Abd Elhaq Khalil, a senior SBA student.

Your parents probably didn't spare you the 8 hour sleep lecture, but students soon realize that RedBull will not help them stay focus and get them through a long day.

Social Life: How can having a social life be considered as a bad habit one would ask? According to students,



being antisocial or being too social cannot bring anything but harm.

"I spend way too much time hanging out with my friends which always disrupts my time management" claims Amine Himer.

Many students can relate to Amine's case and find it really hard to balance

social life and academics without little sacrifice. Sophomore SBA student A.L, who prefer to not disclose his name, admits that he has developed a weaker personality by succumbing to pressure; "I spent one year away from smoking and drinking but when I saw that my friends were okay with it, I joined the

time management and reading.

Sophomore SBA student Mehdi Bouamama claims that having a healthy meal is not one of his priorities: "With crowded lines at restaurants and lack of time, I got used to junk food and cookies and I don't think I can change this habit" said Mehdi.

Ignoring sports is another common behavior in the AUI community that students tend to blame on lack of time: crowded gym, snow or the current economic crisis when all you need is to put on appropriate clothes and exercise for half an hour. In the same scope, SSK courses do not seem to be helping based on all the CAD alumni who complain about time management or the popular "not-enough-time management."

Breaking the habit: What should students do to get rid of unwanted habits? Such habits like procrastination, shyness and antisocial behavior can affect students' academic performance if they do not get the appropriate help.

"I think professors and advisors should establish a communication channel so that professors can suggest a student to consult a counselor when in need" explained Abd El haq khalil. As a matter of fact, few students would consider counseling as way to get rid of unwanted behaviors and would rather carry on with them. However, one sure way to eliminate bad habits is to build a strong willpower and lead a healthy fulfilling lifestyle that will gradually replace all the unwanted flaws.

wagon".
Unhealthy Lifestyle: Achieving good grades only is not what the University is all about, but also building some productive healthy lifestyle habits to grab onto once students are on their own. Examples of these habits include practicing sports, healthy meals,

The Final Battle

ANASS GTTOA

NEWS FLASH: Finals period is coming up. Stop reading this article and get to work!

"Success is never final; failure is never fatal."

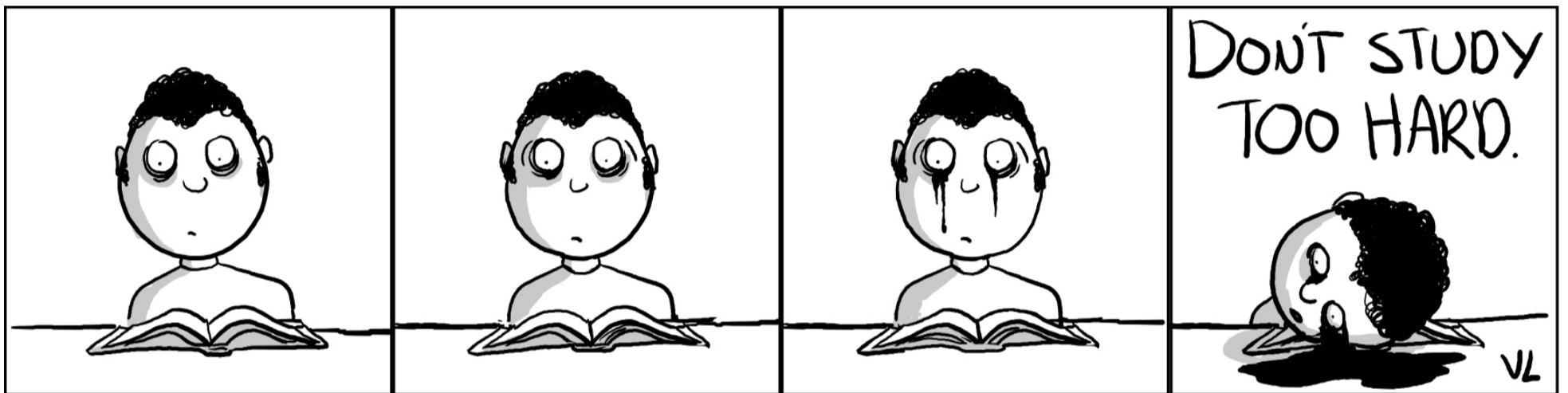
This is what Jack Handey, an American humorist once wrote. When talking about final examinations, it all depends on your perspective.

you, so can your parents! The pressure is there, don't get squashed by it, in the end you will find your reward and the summertime. So, sharpen your pencils; it's the only weapon necessary for overcoming teachers and the institutional ritual of herding us into a classroom for another

arrange them consecutively, with respect to time...in a manner that produces results. Productivity and consistence sound like good tools for achievement and last-minute cramming always has your back. No matter your style, set a standard that you can work with. Know your capabilities

and be less critical during finals. We don't want to hear that it's too late to learn missed material, it is discouraging. I am expecting, from teachers a fair exam, especially in the common courses, required by AUI. Teachers should keep in mind that I am not interested in a class that I am expected to

and there is no point in turning back only to sacrifice the future. Would you rather be pondering cave life as a hunter-gatherer or pursuing a contemporary dream? Is it survival of the fittest, do grades really bring you success? Personally, I don't believe solely in success through our society's



There's the bull-headed, gung-ho approach for the strong and able student and there's the lackadaisical, "I'll do my best" approach. Some escape the reality of finals week by ignoring it or partying while others already feel the anxiety of essays and multiple choice questions crawling up their spines. Bribing doesn't work, dropping out is an option. A grade can make you or break

brutally laborious session of grind-work. It should be made illegal on grounds of outright brutality and abuse. Is there anyone out there who looks forward to finals? That's the point.

It is interesting to think about how people gravitate toward success, or away from it. It is said that a real sign of intelligence is someone who can set goals and

and base your results on proper self-evaluation. Setting a goal that is too high will only lead to disappointment and can become an excuse for failure. One that is too easily overcome is worthless.

Nisrine Al Kadi, a second year humanities student is worried about finals and is on the verge of being stressed, "I would love for teachers to give an extra review session

be a part of, so the exam should be at a fair level for all students and their majors." She feels her hardest exam will be micro-economics. Another student didn't seem worried at all, felt that finals period was just like mid-terms and shrugged off thoughts of stress.

I wonder what the cavemen would have thought about all this. We have surely evolved into hard working creatures

education system, but college is pretty cosmic. You made the decision to go college. Go work and liberate yourself from the title of student and crown yourself in achievement. Your time here is an investment, take advantage of everything. There's always time to watch re-runs of Jack Handey's work on Saturday Night Live after finals. Good Luck.

The Good Bad Debate

GHASSAN ESSALEHI

(continued from page 1)

The Moroccan Economic and Political Leaders (MEPL) organized its First National Political Debate and invited figures and leaders of six Moroccan political parties. The guest list included Mr. Abdesselam El Mesbahi, Istiqlal Party (a minister), Mr. Mezouari, the head of youth section in the "Union Socialiste des Forces Populaires", Mr. Ismail Alaoui, Secretary General of "Parti du Progrès et Socialisme", Mr. Abdelilah Benkirane, Secretary General of "Parti de Justice et Development", Mr. Mohannad El Ansar, Secretary General of the "Parti du Mouvement Populaire", and Representative of the Ministry of Interior, who is the head of the Elections Department. The theme was "Elections 2009: Quelles Conditions pour Quelles Perspectives?" (2009 Elections: What Conditions for which Perspectives?). Though the theme was in French, the presentation was mostly in Arabic.

It is important to mention that the event attracted a significant number of AUI's community to the extent that the auditorium of bldg.4 (the event venue) was full. The opening speech was delivered by the club's President, Driss Filali, an SSE student, while the event presentation was ensured by SHSS student Lamiae Bazir and SBA student Jennat Marrakchi. Dr. Mohammed Bouzidi from SHSS moderated the event. In addition, students, staff and faculty members were present. AUI's President Ouaoouicha along with the VPSA Dr. Belfekih were also among the attendees.

The event did not go as expected. First, the person who was in charge of introducing the guests missed all three names of those who form the government. Secondly, there was a confusion between the club members who were present on stage and the moderator about whether a representative of the Ministry of Interior should be provided with the chance to

speak. Thirdly, some of the questions, if not most of them, provoked the guest speakers and, one would argue, made one of the speakers angry and furious at the audience. The worst part was in the last minute when a student came in late or, perhaps, just realized he had a question to ask when he was not allowed to do so given that the Q&A time was over.

The event provides AUI with an opportunity to reconsider our strengths and weaknesses and share them among the concerned parties to better avoid future issues and build on our experiences. Definitely, the blame would be worse and more serious if measures are not taken towards reinforcing the coordination between clubs, the Student Activities Office, club advisors, and all stakeholders involved in the preparation of events either on or off campus.

In summary, one can easily notice that there was an obvious lack of preparation by the club for the event.

In a way or another, this was due to an obvious lack of responsibility. The other point, which I think is worse, concerns the questions of the audience which would only reflect the low level of thinking of, some of AUI students. The anger that took over a guest speaker towards AUI community and one of the media articles depicted a negative and yet wrong image about the university. Also, it is important to bear in mind the poor quality of the majority of questions that were asked to the guests. This, indirectly, should make one question the intellectual level of those who asked such questions and whether they have succeeded in acquiring the intended learning outcomes of the university's communication courses. Superficial questions, aggressive, and even those that are rude to the guests of the university questions that lack deep thought and reflect a narrow view of student's concerns are important to consider.

Jenzabar

 KHADIJA IRAQI,
YASSIR KHADEMALLAH

It is time to put an end to the endless lines in front of the Enrollment Services during the pre-registration process. The new comers do not know how it was usually, so let's do a brief description of this wonderful enrollment process at AUI.

First, students have to take a form from the Enrollment Services, then fill it out with the courses required, and lastly bring it to their advisor. After his or her approval, students should take another form with the courses on it from the Enrollment Services and fill out the time, section, and professor desired. Then students are required to present the form to the Enrollment Services in an assigned time (normally one hour). However, even if you come half an hour before your time, keeping in mind the long line, it is impossible to reach the door of the building of Enrollment Services by your assigned time.

The funniest part is that, after all these steps, one could end up with three classes because of closed sections. This process, which was used for several years is an inefficient one.

To solve this process, Al Akhawayn had to spend some more money to buy a new program called "Jenzabar."

"This program is a window of communication between Enrollment Services and students" affirms Mrs. Latifa Ouanaim, the head of Enrollment Services.

The Pre-registration process will be done online now. After the approval of the advisor, students should take his/her form back from the assistant to the dean and enter his courses himself on the online system.

In each assigned time, the first come, first served practice is followed. Each student is assigned a time depending on his or her level of studies (undergraduate, graduate, freshman, junior or senior). The

system will check automatically if the pre-requisite courses are already taken by the student and also check if there is a time conflict.

This program is supposed to solve many other problems besides pre-registration. Students can now do the "add and drop" process online at any time as well.

A proposal is studied in order to determine the duration in which the "add and drop" process will be open

However, special permission can still be given for the extreme cases, such as entrance into closed sections for students who are enrolled in less than five courses. Jenzabar will also allow AUI students who are in exchange programs or taking a leave of absence for a semester to pre-register online for their following semesters without any problem. Furthermore, the students can also access midterm and final grade

the enrollment whenever a student showed up in my office in order to have a better understanding about some problems that should be dealt with."

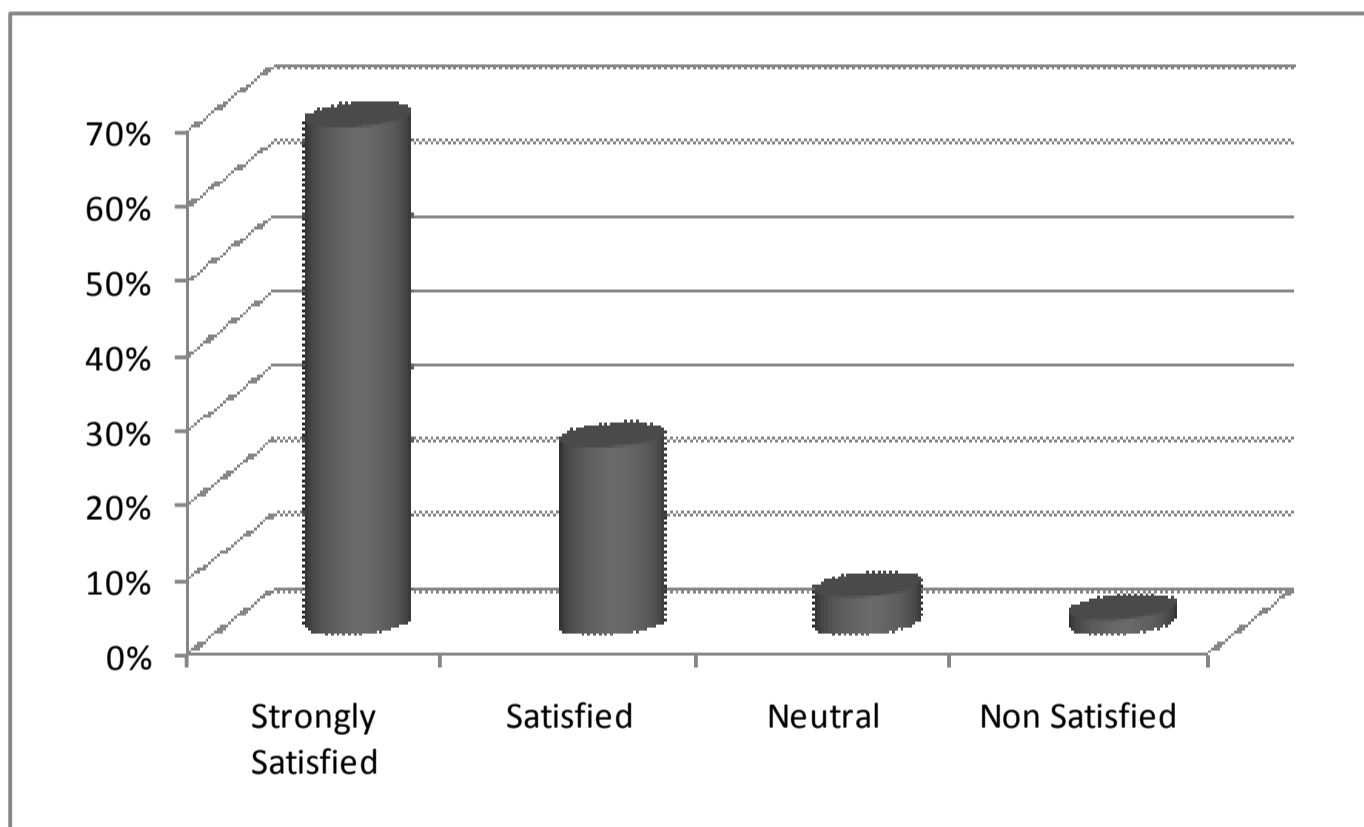
Another professor who shared his point of view about the topic in question is Dr. Lahrech. He said that Jenzabar is helpful and interesting, and that the university's investment was wise. He advised that large scale actions should be better prepared in the future, and he pointed out that there were several problems in the advising process.

As for students who are the targeted group in this issue, they are mostly satisfied with the utilities of the new software since it contains much information that was not available in the past.

Benider Yassine, a BA student, who was asked the same question as professors, said that "personally, I'm satisfied by the actual performance of the system, I think that it is a good software and a very helpful tool since I can check all my personal information easily."

Another interviewee is Hakimi Hafsa, a student majoring in International Business, said, "I think that the software is interesting in the way that it facilitates for students to check courses, revise their degree plan, and decide of the courses that should be taken without asking the assistant of the dean for additional information. We can easily print out unofficial transcripts and see our grades. I hope that the selection of the courses will evolve and that we would be able to enroll in a course directly from the website, without printing and writing down."

Students hope that when tested in the next registration period, Jenzabar's specifications could match up well with the intentions. All are looking forward to experiencing the new era of registration and add/drop periods that would be much different from the exhausting traditional ones for both students and Enrollment staff.



Level of satisfaction of AUI students concerning Jenzabar

on line but for sure it will be longer than the usual four days.

As explained by Mrs. Ouanaim, the school is discussing the possibility to have online add and drop during vacation time from June through August, which will allow

"this software is good and will solve many problems that were faced in the past,"

students to adjust their courses slowly and carefully. There will be no more priorities in the "add and drop" process.

reports from their assigned portals. A complete historical description of previous classes and also earned credits with corresponding grades are listed in this portal.

The other two variables that are concerned with this subject are professors and students. For professors, this software is helpful and represents a good idea that makes many tasks easier than before. However, professors are disturbed with its implementation because they had problems while adding courses for students.

As Dr. Ghouma said when asked about the actual performance of Jenzabar, "this software is good and will solve many problems that were faced in the past, but I believe that the Enrollment department should have worked more on its implementation and tried to anticipate the problems that users could face." He added that "personally, my last advising period was not smooth, because I had to call

Le Citoyen Marocain, or the Moroccan Citizen !

 GHASSAN ESSALEHI

Salmane Belayachi is a 27 year-old young Moroccan who has been living in the United States of America for the last eight years. Salmane has come up with a product that can be described as inspiring and challenging. On his visit to AUI on Thursday, April 9th, 2009, this interview was conducted with him to depict the details of "Le Citoyen Marocain" and its intended outcomes.

What is Le Citoyen Marocain ?

"Le Citoyen Marocain" is an initiative that has ambitions to introduce a new approach to this notion of development. The value of Morocco is measured by the value of Moroccans; therefore development is first a matter of citizenry, a new definition of patriotism and a real social contract. That is the self-mandated Mission we have embarked in and through unprecedented means, have decided to deliver to our generation. An urgent, powerful and galvanizing message based on the "Human Development Domino Effect" ,a theory I introduced through a speech at the World Bank and the United Nations Association.

When was the project launched?

During a reception hosted by His Excellency Mr. Aziz Mekouar, Ambassador of His Majesty to the United States, Le Citoyen Marocain initiative was officially launched on January 29th, 2009, with the presence of many active members of the Moroccan community who were eager to come and show their support to what is basically an unprecedented project in our country.

Why did you choose a name in French, instead of Tamazight or Arabic, for example?

Our denomination is not a French name, our symbol carries both the name of Le Citoyen Marocain and المواطن المغربي - our choice is not a preferential choice, but more an attempt to include all our target audience from all backgrounds and all walks of



The project founder and executive director

life under one umbrella. On another hand, we couldn't register the organization on an online domain using Arabic letters, therefore for the sake of practicality, Le Citoyen Marocain denomination is the one used the most. We look for what can bring us together, not set us apart. Had we chosen an Amazigh name, we would be therefore alienating, on an ethno-linguistic basis all members of our society who don't have the same background.

I heard that you are planning to initiate a walk from from Laâyoune to Tangiers. Why such a walk?

I've always considered walking as a form of expression, the kind that transcends rules, codes and phonetics, the kind that does not require a translation. In this choice, you will find an unscripted clip from nature. Walking and talking are our first two greatest accomplishments to signal to the waiting world "we have arrived and you will hear us." When we launch an initiative like this one, when we attempt to transmit a

message such as this one, its impact is just as good as its method in movies, every hero needs a villain, in life, a great miracle needs a great crisis and in this initiative a worthy message needs a worthy struggle. The idea that we are willing to walk the least travelled roads, seeking to stand tall in the face of danger, of criticism, reluctance and negativity but to also stand hopeful, humble and optimistic. A struggle leading me to walk my country through its cities and villages, contemplating every detail of the landscape, meeting the eyes of its children, is more than a journey; it is the kind of pilgrimage where we renew our vows with the country we embrace. It is the kind of mission, the kind of patriotism only a walk could capture; because even a bicycle goes too fast!

Do you have a slogan?

"We have the chance to be Moroccans, let's make the choice to be Citizens"

Do you have any sponsors or supporters? If yes, who

are they and what kind of support do you get/ will you get? How do you see the involved parties in the project?

Our supporters come from all walks of life, from Moroccan and non Moroccans. In fact they are not just supporters, they are stakeholders, Le Citoyen Marocain is not a talent

"We have the chance to be Moroccans, let's make the choice to be Citizens"

show, it is a call to a mission that involves us all. Therefore, in order to keep this non-commercial aspect of our initiative, Mr. Faouzi Chaabi decided to be our financial sponsor, not as a public figure but as a Moroccan Citizen. Our stakeholders range from individuals to associations and NGO's to government establishments. We have the support of the Ministere de C.M.R.A through its minister Mr. Mohammed Ameer, that of the Embassy

of Morocco in the USA, the Moroccan American Coalition which is the one that represents all Moroccan associations, La Federation Royale de Fitness, Friends of Morocco, Association FIFA, and many more. We were also lucky to have the enthusiastic support of people like Ms. Aicha Afifi, Advisor to United Nations Secretary General and Ms. Nouzha Chekrouni our ambassador in Canada. But the most significant support is that of regular Moroccans, men and women who have joined us in this mission by the thousands, who called and wrote telling us, this is the project they have been waiting for.

What is the problem this initiative is targeting?

Well, let me first say that with each problem there is always a linked opportunity. Having said that, we consider as alarming the fact that there is no sense of ownership of our country, we see it as imperative redefining what patriotism is. The problem is that we are individually intelligent and collectively "inefficient" for lack of a better word, the problem is that we want

glory before work, that we swim in negativity, pointing fingers and blaming our misfortunes on others, total disengagement, no sense of competition in things that matter such as Morocco ranking 126th in HDI and not whether or not my car is better than my neighbors'. The problem is us! We are the problem, but that is not necessarily bad news, if we are the problem we can also be the solution and therefore all in not lost!

Oops! Insufficient Funds

YASSINE HABIBI

"I am not going to make it until the end of the semester!!" That is a common concern among many students who worry that the amount of money on their cash wallet will not be enough.

8000Dhs not enough!! The thing is that many students waste their money unconsciously due to the very simple and convenient way of paying thanks to or because of the cash wallet. But most important of all, it is in the shop where students burn their money and balance.

Youssef Drissi, a junior SBA student declares: "The shop is the place in campus where I spend most of the money loaded in my cash wallet."

What are the products that make students spend so much money in the shop? One of the most frequent answers is: sweets. Indeed, almost 35% of students in the shop are there to buy sweets.

Sarah Mokadader, sophomore SBA student testifies: "When I come to the shop and see all these sweets, it just makes me go crazy. I go on a shopping spree and I just strip the whole sweet department."

Another "sweet" victim, Sara Anana, an SBA sophomore student, declares: "Sugar helps me a lot in order to work, I just can't help it, and I need to buy sweets." But sweets and candies are not the only products that empty students' cash wallet. Another element that costs a big amount of money are the communication cards, especially the Maroc Telecom and Meditel cards. In fact, an underground economy gradually developed thanks to the Jawal cards.

Hamza Brioua, a sophomore SBA student says: "Most of the Jawal cards that I bought during my time in Al Akhawayn University were not for my personal use. Many times, I had no cash and I needed to sell Jawal cards in the market place for 80 dirhams."

Surprisingly, another element that contributes to the students' impoverishment is...noodles. Yacine Tsouli, a sophomore SBA student, a common consumer of noodles mentions: "At the end of the



semester, when my cash wallet gets empty, I tend to buy a lot of noodles, because it is cheaper than having a meal at the restaurant. But the thing is that noodles are not very nourishing so you tend to buy

a lot more than you expect and that empties your cash wallet even more."

Now we know what makes students spend so much money in the shop. But besides, these products ,what are the other products that the students are adamant to see in the shop displays? The first answer is...cigarettes.

Youssef Drissi, a supporter of cigarette selling in the shop declares: "I heard that they were selling in the shop at a time. The coming back of the cigarettes in the displays of the shop would be a relief for students. In fact, most of the students sell Jawal Cards in order to buy cigarettes and that contributes to the emptying of the cash wallet. Selling cigarette in the shop would also help us in the way that we wouldn't be forced to go to the market in order to buy cigarettes, especially when it's cold."

Youbas Benkhalifa, a junior SSE student, declares: "A lot of Al Akhawayn University students are fond of Japanese food. I really would like to see sushi on the shop displays."

Sarah Mokadader declares: "I really would like to see Kinder. In order to buy them, we need to go all the way to the center of the city. I think that a lot of people would buy them."

It is not exaggerated to say that our shop is indispensable, and that most of the products sold there are quite useful. However, it is not a "Marjane" and students must keep in mind that they should not expect to find everything they need. Moreover, with many kinds of products

already at our disposal, we already have a difficult time managing our money. An arrival of more and more superficial products will only make things worse...

Sexual Harassment: No Means No

REBECCA LOCKLEAR

In the old Hollywood movies, the good guy gets the girl in the end. He reaches for her to kiss her, but she says "no!" He wraps his arms around her and she says, "no." He kisses her in a way that sends shock waves through her body. She says, "... yes."

In the Sexual Harassment Workshop on March 22, organized by the Human Resources Club and presented by Dr. Duncan Rinehart, one point Rinehart made was that in the movies, no might mean yes, but in real life, no always has to mean no!

The workshop began with a video skit that Rinehart wrote, titled "Gail and Bob," acted by AUI professor Brooke Mackenzie and staff member Ven Locklear.

The video, which depicted sexual harassment in a subtle way, was the basis for discussions throughout the workshop. Michelle Elghardgui, interim counselor, mentioned that the video was a "good example because the reactions to it revealed that many students could not identify sexual harassment." She continued by saying that "there is a need for this type of program in the AUI community."

The first topic discussed was AUI's definition of sexual harassment and a

person's intent versus the impact that a behavior has on someone. For example, an offender may claim that she did not intend to harass anyone; however, if her behavior made the other person feel uncomfortable or threatened, then it may constitute harassment.

Other examples of obvious and subtle sexual advances were given. Attendees already knew that a forced kiss, attempted rape or rape are all considered sexual harassment and assault, but what was interesting was that even "unwelcome behavior" can constitute harassment. This could include behaviors like staring, making comments or sexual gestures, touching yourself in a sexual way, or repeatedly asking someone out when the answer is "no."

The workshop continued with ideas of what to do when you feel that you are being sexually harassed. Attendees were shown how to confront a person who is harassing them and how to avoid sexual harassment. Rinehart reiterated that one way to avoid sexual harassment is to say no when you mean no and not to send mixed messages to the opposite sex.

With the focus on the victim, the surprise came when Dr. Rinehart spoke

about what to do when you discover that YOU are harassing someone else. The obvious answer is to stop, apologize, and don't do it again. Rinehart said to "be clear and respectful in expressing your interest in and affection for another person. If the person seems uncomfortable, then back off."

Sometimes, people will do things they would not normally do simply because they are in a group. Members of a group need to be responsible for their actions instead of joining in with inappropriate behavior towards members of the opposite sex. Not only this, but group members should be strong enough to stop others in their group from saying or doing inappropriate things.

Rinehart stated that "if you wouldn't want someone to say or do it to your mother, sister or daughter, then don't say or do it to anyone else." He stressed that you need to "monitor the impact of your behavior on other people."

Rinehart is an expert in handling controversial and sensitive topics in a public forum and that was demonstrated throughout the evening as he answered a variety of questions: What is the difference between normal interactive behavior and harassment? How long does it take to get over a

sexual harassment encounter? How many times does it take for a behavior to become "sexual harassment" and how much discomfort does a person have to express? How do cultural differences affect the way actions are interpreted? Dr. Rinehart has been nicknamed the "Voice of Reason" at AUI and indeed students felt secure with his answers to their queries.

On behalf of the Task Force on the Prevention of Harassment and Violence, Rev. Karen Thomas thanked Dr. Rinehart for "organizing the seminar and conducting it in such an interesting, engaging and professional way." The 75 students, faculty, staff and guests came away with information that they will be able to use throughout their lives.

Now back to the Hollywood movie: If you apply some critical thinking you can realize that women, who watched those kinds of movies, were being trained to accept harassment. So, let's change the scene.

The leading man reaches for the girl to kiss her, but she says "no." He wraps his arms around her and replies in a most sensual way, "I love you ... so I will respect your wishes." (sigh)

AUI's Trading Room

WIAM MAHMOUDI

On the 27th of March 2000, the first trading center in Morocco was inaugurated at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane. This inauguration was a result of a fruitful cooperation agreement between Al Akhawayn University and the bank of BMCE Capital.

This virtual trading room that is interactive, visual, and dynamic is mainly for students affiliated with the School of Business Administration (SBA) who are studying Finance either as a major or as a minor. The Trading room is also intended to be used by SBA students who are pursuing a master in finance programs. In fact, the Trading Room is an opportunity for those students to acquire practical expertise, training, and knowledge about local and international financial markets. In addition, students can benefit from the Room lab sessions by increasing their knowledge about instruments which are used in training in Finance, learn how to deal with business and financial risks. Besides, the Trading Room is also a way of encouraging applied and practical research in the area of finance.

The SBA Trading Room is well equipped to be similar to the real trading rooms in the world and to be able to carry out all kind of transactions on the financial markets. Indeed, as stated in Akhawayn University's main website, BMCE Capital and its affiliated entities provided the trading room with eight trading Desks along with PC based work stations as well as telephony installations, especially designed for trading rooms. Reuters has graciously provided eight electronic connections with all related support for electronic transmission of market data. These provide real time quotations, historical information and modules for markets analysis. Telepac Technology has kindly carried out the installation of the trading room telephony.

As stated earlier, only SBA students can benefit from these trading room sessions. For SBA students for instance who are majoring in finance, They took these lab sessions twice in their bachelor degree: one lab session in the International Finance course and another one in the investment course. It is a lab session that takes place once in two weeks and which is supervised by Mr. Omar Kadiri Hassani, who pursues his studies in the Master's program²¹.

If we calculated how many lab sessions are taken by an SBA student

during his bachelor degree, it is evident that the findings would show that not enough time is spent to make students be able to understand deeply the trading system in the world of business.

argued that those lab sessions are a real opportunity for SBA students to develop their knowledge about trading in financial markets. She added also that it is really interesting for her

having one session in two weeks is not enough to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills of trading.

In an interview with Dr. Samir Aguentaou, an SBA assistant professor of Finance and the instructor of the Investment course, he argued that having one session in two weeks is in fact not enough for students to understand and assimilate all the concepts, but it will be hard for the instructor to teach all the sections of both courses once a week. However, he added that they are willing to improve this issue in the future. Concerning the concepts taught in the trading session, Dr. Aguentaou said that only the first two sessions are repeated which means that it is only a repetition of the basic concepts. However, the cases and homework that students are assigned are not the same.

In another interview conducted with Mr. Omar Kadiri Hassani, he said that it is the School of Business Administration which is responsible for setting the number of sessions of the trading room which is between 6 to 7 sessions a semester. Thus, the instructor tries to locate these sessions once in two weeks to be able to teach them during the whole semester. Regarding the materials taught in both the Investment and International finance courses, he affirmed as Dr. Aguentaou previously mentioned that only the first two sessions are similar, however, the cases are completely different.

Finally, it is important to mention that the trading room is really a good opportunity for AUI students to apply what they have learnt in their finance courses in the real financial markets. In addition, the Trading Room is highly equipped with diverse materials that are really similar to the ones in trading rooms that exist in the real workplace. Also, most SBA students are proud of having this trading room in their university. However, the only issue is that there is a need for more trading sessions to ensure that the intended learning outcomes can be best achieved.



In addition, some of the materials that are taught in the International Finance course are repeated in the investment course and vice versa. Thus, one can argue that students cannot benefit from a diversity of materials and concepts.

Salima Lahbabi, an SBA senior student majoring in Finance,

since she is left with only one semester before graduating and dealing with the job market. However, the only issue that she pointed out is that she hopes that there would be more trading sessions in most finance courses, not only in the Investment and International Finance courses. Moreover, she added that



Book Reviews

Monster by Naoki Urasawa

 Souhail Marghabi

In the dark cover of Naoki Urasawa's *Monster* book lies the subject matter of the mysterious aspect of this novel: a serial killer story centered around a gifted Japanese surgeon who may have saved the life of a nine-year-old child who will turn out to become a serial murderer.

Set in Düsseldorf, in Germany, a little while before the fall of the Berlin Wall, the hero -Dr. Kenzo Tenma- is presented as a young brain surgeon on his way up in the highly politicized world of a very prestigious hospital. At that time, he was engaged to the daughter of the hospital's director. It seemed that he had achieved his goals, until a young boy and his sister are brought into the hospital after their parents have been murdered. The boy, Johan, had been shot in the head.

Dr. Tenma felt remorse about the death of an Arab worker who had not received the treatment that he needed, so he decides to take the risk of saving the young boy, but at a significant cost to his career. He refuses to leave the operating theater when a politically important patient is brought into the hospital at the same time ("No life is worth more or less than another," he states more than once, but as the story progresses, this belief will be severely tested), and the other patient, who happened to be a mayor, dies. The director quickly responds to Kenzo's decision and downgrades him to a less prestigious position in the hospital. His dream to attain the status of director of surgery is destroyed and his fiancé dumps him for one of his rivals. In frustration, Kenzo goes to the room where the child is treated and vents his anger to the unconscious patient and wishes death to his enemies. This is where the quote "careful what you wish for," would be rather appropriate. Indeed, later during the night, both the director and Kenzo's rivals die after eating some candies they consumed, candies which happened to be gifts for the treated child Johan.

The story quickly moves to the period of the 90's where the hero is once more firmly established in the hospital. A series of murders are reported in the newspapers and TV news, and they look surprisingly similar to the series of killings that brought Johan and his sister to the doctor's attention. Investigating both sets of slayings is Inspector Lunge of the BKR (equivalent of the FBI), who could be compared to Javert (the famous detective of Victor Hugo's well-known novel "Les Misérables"). With unusual logical reasoning and a visual memory that he strangely uses by tapping an

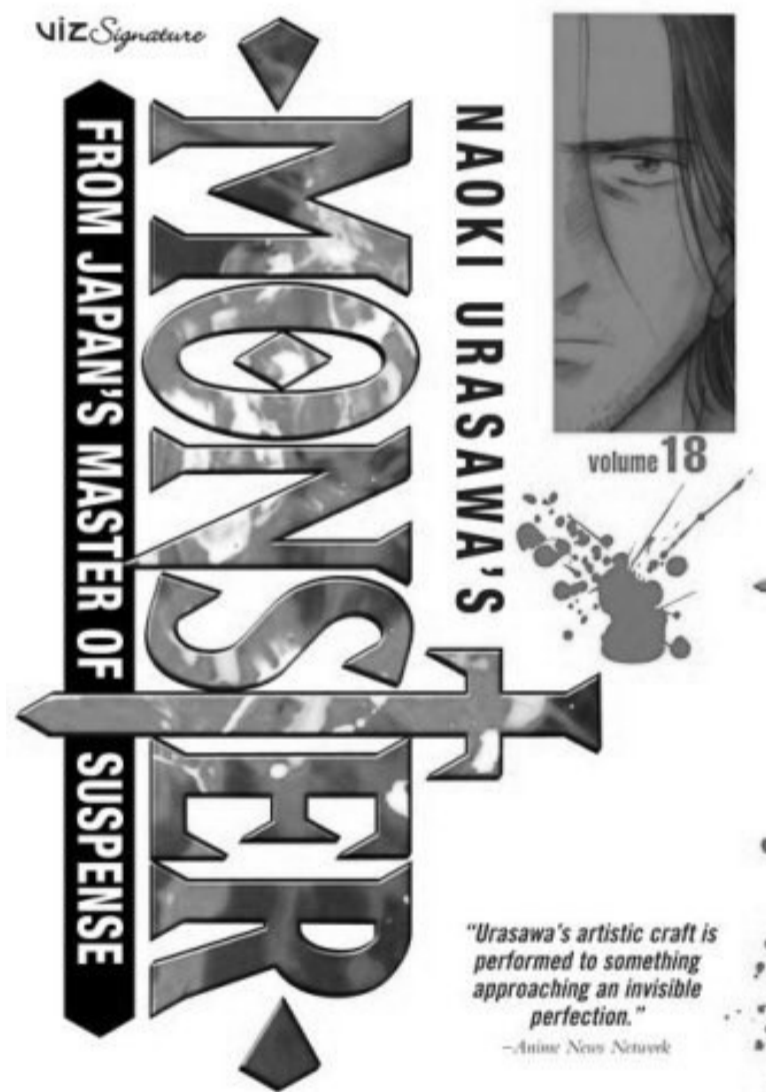
imaginary keyboard with his hands, this character brings more suspense to the story. In fact, the detective is sure that Kenzo has a connection to the mysterious hospital killing stack. This suspicion became almost certain as he noticed that Tenma was near the crime scenes wherever they occurred (since

story, the contradictions and issues regarding the matter of making positive actions. Throughout the book, we're regularly reminded of the ethical dimension of the equality of human lives. "I thought the world would be a better place with the fall of the Berlin Wall, but nothing good has come

story's mysteries and dilemmas: (the reasoning and the profile of Johan, the feelings of the hero) in addition to the conversation between Johan and Tenma which occasionally occur through the story, which can be compared to the meeting between the devil and his savior.

Monster has its bloody, murderous moments, but every " profiler " will mostly appreciate it. Although the story might seem like a " typical criminal novel ", the kind of topics addressed and how they are introduced makes it difficult to define this book as such. The flow of the story is specially designed to make the reader question some ethical principles which might seem certain. Indeed, many will be surprised to what extent the author keeps the readers in suspense and that even at the end of the book, when one thinks that some evidence explain some of the story's events, other unexpected factors intervene to make the secrets more interesting and the story worthier to follow.

As for me, I wonder how many people will get caught up in these moral ambiguities and even think of reading this " manga " at the start, since this kind of books is commonly said to be " childish ". Naoki has also produced an animated series of the manga for the ones who would prefer watching rather than reading. However, I hope that the realism of this book will make people's view over mangas and anime change



Amazon.com

the poor doctor resigned to track the serial killer by himself).

While reading the first volume, we can feel that the boy and his sister are connected to some larger events. The poisonous candies that were used to kill the hospital's director, for instance: were they meant for their victims or for the kids themselves? And who brought them at first? This will be discovered in further events. As the story goes, our serial killer is described by one of his followers as a " monster ", who seems to be skilled in manipulating individual's minds by intruding the " darkness " of their heart and exploiting it as a weakness.

The author discusses, through the

out of it," a policeman observes as he notices the city's escalating crime rate. As with Kenzo's moral decision to save the life of that boy, what seems to be a positive act has possibly led to negative consequences.

Naoki places the chaos straightforwardly. If at times his characters speak more openly and simpler than necessary, in other parts we are driven to a wider diagnosis of the world in which they live. Urasawa's style is clean and clear. While his pages' design frequently express strong suspense sequences, in some chapters it is immediately shifted to a strong sequence of events in which one feels the urge to know more about the

Movie Review

"Je vais vous éclater!"*

* French: I will entertain you

WIAM MAHMOUDI

"Coco." Does this word remind you of something? Maybe a fruit, a strange individual, a communist...? Actually, this word reminds me of the last movie of Gad Elmaleh, a very famous Moroccan Jewish stand up comic and actor. Indeed, the movie, produced by Alain Goldman and realized by Gad Elmaleh, is entitled "Coco". It is the first time that Gad Elmaleh has gone behind the cameras and realized his own movie. This movie is mainly about the organisation of an event called "Bar-Mitzvah," a major Jewish event that marks a child's entry to the world in which they become obliged by God's commandments. The movie's main character, Coco, is inspired by one of the famous characters in Gad's show "La Vie Normale". Coco, who is played by Gad Elmaleh, is a self made man, a kind and friendly person, who becomes a millionaire after he invented the concept of "Leau fréillante". Throughout the movie, Coco's objective is to entertain people, "les éclater" (to make them feel cool), and to organise the "Bar-Mitzvah" of his son in the biggest stadium in France "Stade de France".

In his movie, Gad Elmaleh talks about many elements previously mentioned in some of his previous shows such as: Bar-Mitzvah, his family, origins, and the show off of the character. As a result, many critiques emerged against this movie. The first critique is that people may feel confused about the movie since, as already mentioned, many elements from Gad's previous shows were repeated in the movie. In addition, the movie scenes were not well related and organized. Also, as one may say, the movie was not as funny as the previous shows were. Even more, perhaps, one can criticize the end of the movie since

its end can be described as inappropriate. In other words, it was obvious that Gad is still an amateur in the world of movies.

In an interview with Gad, conducted by Europe1 radio, Gad showed pride towards his success and of the fact that more than 2 million spectators watched his movie. Gad added that he did not expect such success. At the same time, Gad talked about the critiques, arguing that it was a tradition for all famous comedies that achieve success to be criticized by the press. Moreover, Gad affirmed that he was affected by all the critiques that were against him, especially because it was against a work on which he spent three years. However, the actor added that despite these critiques, he was happy that many of his fans liked the movie, and he confirmed that this is all that is important to him. Also, for people who think that there will be "Coco 2", Gad stated that it was just a rumor and that there would be no second part of "Coco".

Numbers of the "box-office" in France shows the triumph of the movie in its first week. Indeed, more than 1,806,263 went to the movies as soon as they heard about it to be the first to watch this success. However, the question that is still important to ask is: was this movie really a success because it was good, or because it is Gad Elmaleh who realized and acted as its main character? This is a question that many spectators try to answer, but at the same time no one can criticize the funny and the famous Gad Elmaleh who is considered as one of the most successful humorists all over the world.



Alomnie.com

On/Off Campus life?

YASSINE HABIBI

Have you ever thought of a different lifestyle from the one on campus? Are you sick of dealing with random roommates? Sick of smoking in your bathroom? Sick of hiding your hotplates and toasters? You think eating, sleeping, breathing and working in the same place is not what you want? Do not worry. You are not the only one.

In the university, students must deal with the campus lifestyle and its policies. Some students are tolerant and know how to make their university "journey" a real enjoyment and an enriching experience. They discover a new world, a life in community and tolerance. They meet new friends, make new habits, and still educate themselves. They enjoy studying and living in the same place. And this makes things much easier.

Whether they are having fun or not, they keep challenging themselves and try to make things go on. Maybe they are finding trouble with their studies, but with all that the university has to offer, they just need to manage their time.

Well, other college students take their second chance outside the university campus and embark on a process of searching for a new apartment. It is vital for them to spend the time it takes to find the perfect place of residency. They do not like the food anymore; they are fed up with meeting the same people day

and night, overwhelmed with the strict policies that involve fines and restrictions. They simply don't want to be on campus anymore.

They are no longer interested in the university

students need to be in an optimal state of mind to be productive, while one is thinking of this issue, he or she needs to make the right choice because it is important to approach the ads with vigilance. Far



* V S *



youngmoney.com

lifestyle because they were not happy with their experience.

The solution that others have employed is renting an apartment only for the weekend. In this case, they just need some fresh air, a fresh entourage, change their environment for a couple of days and renew their ideas to start a new week full of stress, late nights and bad grades. This wouldn't be a bad idea Because

from the pressure of parents and their authority, students are free and their choices have more consequences than ever in those "lonely" times.

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

The job market

"COMPETITIVE SALARY"

We remain competitive by paying less than our competitors.

"JOIN OUR FAST-PACED COMPANY"

We have no time to train you.

"CASUAL WORK ATMOSPHERE"

We don't pay enough to expect that you'll dress up.

"MUST BE DEADLINE-ORIENTED"

You'll be six months behind schedule on your first day.

"SOME OVERTIME REQUIRED"

Some time each night and some time each weekend.

"DUTIES WILL VARY"

Anyone in the office can boss you around.

"MUST HAVE AN EYE FOR DETAIL"

We have no quality control.

"CAREER-MINDED"

Female Applicants must be childless (and remain that way).

"APPLY IN PERSON"

If you're old, fat or ugly you'll be told the position has been filled.

"NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE"

We've filled the job; our call for resumes is just a legal formality.

"SEEKING CANDIDATES WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF EXPERIENCE"

You'll need it to replace three people who just left.

"PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS A MUST"

Working Team

A man is flying in a hot air balloon and realizes he is lost. He reduces height and spots a man down below. He lowers the balloon further and shouts, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised my friend I would meet him half an hour ago, but I don't know where I am."

The man below says, "Yes. You are in a hot air balloon, hovering approximately 30 feet above this field. You are between 40 and 42 degrees North latitude, and between 58 and 60 degrees West longitude."

"You must be an engineer," says the balloonist.

"I am," replies the man. "How did you know?"

"Well," says the balloonist, "everything you have told me is technically correct, but I have no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is I am still lost."

The man below says, "You must be a manager."

"I am," replies the balloonist, "but how did you know?"

"Well," says the man, "you don't know where you are, or where you are going. You have made a promise which you have no idea how to keep, and you expect me to solve your problem. The fact is you are in the exact same position you were in before we met, but now it is somehow my fault."

You're walking into a company in perpetual chaos.

"REQUIRES TEAM LEADERSHIP SKILLS"

You'll have the responsibilities of a manager, without the pay or respect.

"GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS"

Management communicates, you listen,

MEN...

- Men are like computers: Hard to figure out and never have enough memory.

- Men are like coolers: Load them with beer, and you can take them anywhere.

- Men are like coffee: The best ones are rich, warm, and keep you up all night long.

- Men are like horoscopes: They always tell you what to do, and they are always wrong.

- Why is psychoanalysis quicker for men than for women?

When it's time to go back to childhood, he's already there.

- Why are men like commercials?

You can't believe a word they say.

- How is a man like the weather?

Nothing can be done to change either one of them.

Knowledge, Time, and Money

Dilbert's "Salary Theorem" states that "Engineers and scientists can never earn as much as business executives, sales people, accountants and especially liberal arts majors." This theorem can now be supported by a mathematical equation based on the following two well known postulates:

Postulate 1: Knowledge is Power.

Postulate 2: Time is Money.

As every engineer knows: $Power = Work / Time$.

Since: $Knowledge = Power$,
then $Knowledge = Work / Time$,
and $Time = Money$,

then $Knowledge = Work / Money$.

Solving for Money, we get: $Money = Work / Knowledge$.

Thus, as Knowledge approaches zero, money approaches infinity, regardless of the amount of work done.

Botola: "fine yamat l'ezz?"

MEHDI EI YOUMI

*Arabic: Where are the good ol' days?

"On campus this week" informs the AUI community about the biggest events that are happening in the upcoming week. It could be a "Châabi Night", a club's event, or simply the broadcasting of LIGA's football matches in the student lounge (Game Room).

It is a fact: the student lounge is crowded when LIGA's football games are broadcasted every weekend. The majority of football fans at AUI show interest for the Spanish championship, so other good football leagues are less followed. Some people show real and continuous interest in CALCIO or PREMIER LEAGUE, but few of them are interested in BOTOLA, the Moroccan football league.

Contrary to the rest of Morocco, where the national football championship attracts a great number of people, the AUI community does not give much attention to the Moroccan league. What is weird is not to show interest in other foreign football leagues, but to show a total disinterest toward the national one. It is true that the Moroccan championship was among the ones

where we could predict scores in most of the games (0-0), but it is certainly not the only detail that makes everyone at AUI not interested in watching Moroccan football games. I'm sure that only a few people will decide to watch a Moroccan football match commented by "Hassan Fatih" or "Zaman" in a bad quality stadium with high chances of a final score of 0-0 while there is the opportunity of watching another one with a lot of goals in a great stadium and commented by one of the best Arabic speakers.

However, the overall quality of the Moroccan championship has improved a lot in the last two years. Great efforts have been deployed by the FRMF (Fédération Royale Marocaine de Football) and the national league is going to be professional in the next few years. In parallel, new stadiums are being built and no less than ten training centers are being constructed. Finally, old stadiums are being renovated on a regular basis.

The results have been satisfying: it has become normal to see the stadiums

full of people every weekend in Morocco. In addition, the boring 0-0 has started to disappear, and a considerable number of goals are scored every



weekend. Moreover, foreign players have started appearing more and more in the national squads and even some Moroccan professional players decided to come back from Europe to practice in Morocco.

By applying these changes, the Moroccan federation aims to attract more people and improve the overall quality as it was in the case of in Tunisia and Egypt. By leading their respective leagues to professionalism, these two countries started dominating the African competitions and, therefore, participating in world wide tournaments. It is just a matter of time before the great comeback of the Moroccan teams in international competitions.

What made me interested in the Moroccan league in the past was not its incredible quality but the history of my favorite team. It is true that we can see, from time to time, exceptional football games here in Morocco, but national league still can't be compared to the North African ones and not in any way to the European ones. Hopefully, in the next few years, we may be able to have a national league that is as strong as the Tunisian or the Egyptian ones. However, there is still a lot of work to do...

Bridewars: Best Friends, Best Enemies

WIAM MAHMOUDI

"It all begins at the Plaza Hotel 20 years ago in the month of June. Two mothers brought their daughters Liv and Emma for tea; in that afternoon there was a wedding. There was something new, something borrowed, and something completely magical, and the two little girls from New Jersey held in their hands a new dream that one day they would find that one person that would stand by them no matter what, and then they, too, will have their wedding at the Plaza."

The story here talks about two best friends, Liv (Kate Hudson), a successful lawyer who loves to be the center of attention, and Emma (Anne Hathaway), a schoolteacher who is always putting others' needs before her own. They have been inseparable for 20 years. They always stick up for each other, and neither one of them ever imagines hurting the other one someday.

The two besties got "popped" the question from their boyfriends at the same time and now all that is left is to book the Plaza Hotel for their two wedding ceremonies. However, due to an error, they have been given the same day, and the same time (June 6th at 5pm). In addition, the next free slot isn't until June 15... 3 years from now. Since neither one of them was ready to give up her dream to be married at the Plaza, the two young women start a wedding "war".

The two best friends discover their inner "Bridezillas" and come out swinging when their life long wedding dreams have been imperilled. From being

wedding the worst ever seen. Then start the bronze tan and the blue hair problems plus too many additional crises. Both Liv and Emma will have to

disaster? Will the two best friends get back together or stay enemies? All I can say is that in life there really are some bonds that can never be broken.

The first hour was about the matter, from the day the two girls met to the engagements to the raise of the issue and its details, and the last half an hour was focused on the two girls' relationship more than anything else.

The movie *Bridewars* is a great comedy, by the Director Gary Winick (13 going on 30 with the amazing Jennifer Garner). Although it is an original idea, I will give it a rate of 7/10 due to some predictable scenes. I did like the chemistry between the two leading stars, and they surely made the movie interesting to watch. The only scene to enjoy for men is the bachelorette party where the actresses looked "smoking hot". For the women, this is a movie that truly defines them as it talks about brides, ceremonies, weddings, friendship, best friends, enemies...

Hence, if you are looking for a comedy with sabotage and a sprinkle of humor then stop searching because you found it. *Bridewars* is a sweet comedy that you will "hopefully" enjoy to the most.



ready to do anything for each other, to becoming the worst enemies ever, the two besties start playing a whole new game which is making the other one's

get through a lot of inconveniences in order to complete their two wedding dreams.

Will the two ceremonies be a