

Moroccan Jewish Culture



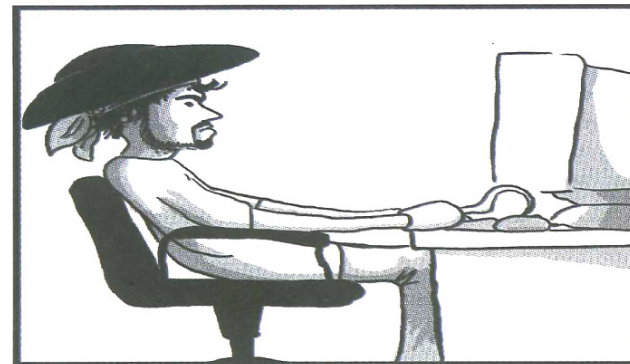
On Tuesday, November 11, 2008, the Moroccan Jewish culture was celebrated at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane. *(continued in Page 9)*

Palestinian Week at AUI



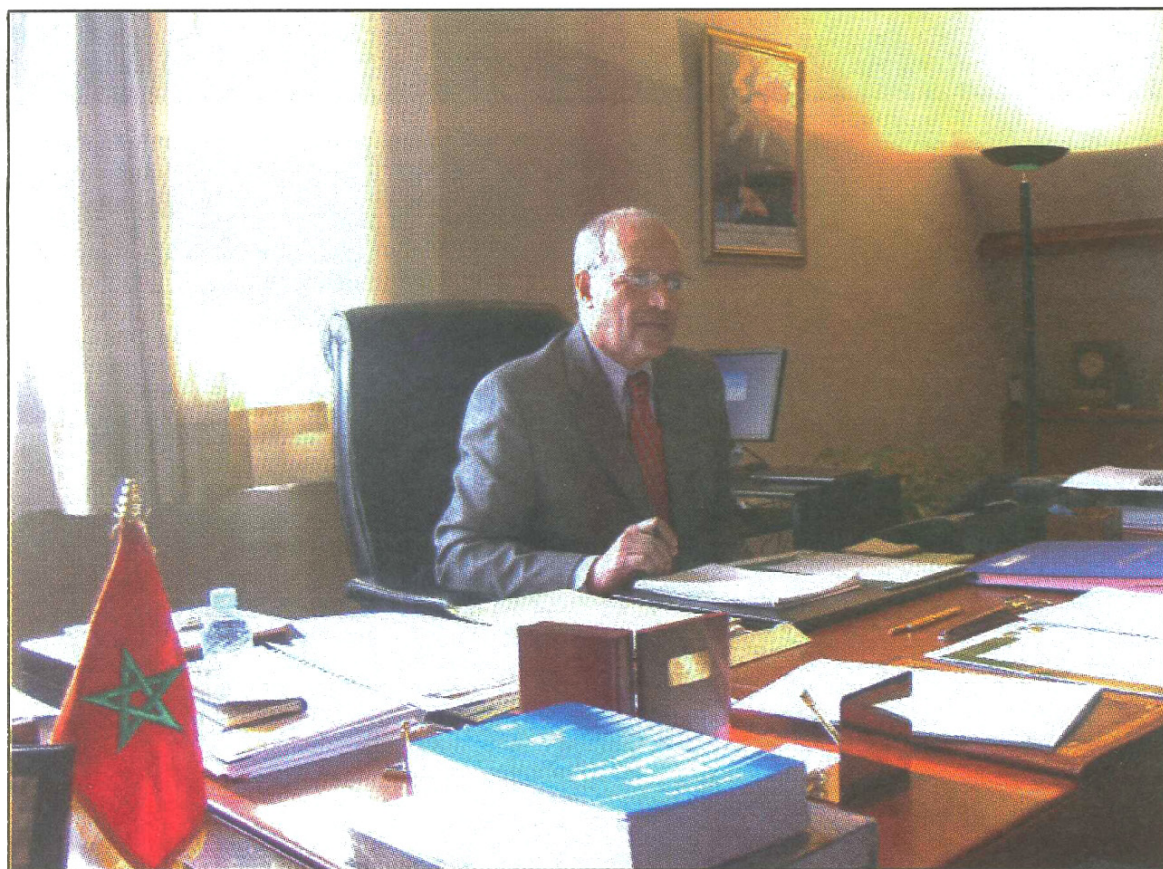
The week of February 9th hosted 3 days dedicated to Palestine. The week, which was very rich in events of all kinds, was organized by the Diplomacy Club ... *(continued in Page 6)*

Pirates of AUI



Do you remember the last time you went to buy your favorite band's latest album? Well, me neither. Actually paying for music tracks seems to be... *(continued in Page 12)*

The Man of Academia



Dr. Driss Ouaouicha: 35 years of academic professional experience. On December 26, 2008, Dr. Driss Ouaouicha was received by His Majesty the King Mohamed VI and appointed as new president for Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane. *(continued in Page 8)*

Farewell Ceremony



On Monday February 26th, a farewell ceremony to former president Rachid Benmokhtar took place in auditorium 4. *(continued in Page 7)*

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Editorial

With the start of a new semester, students could notice that Sodexo's restaurant is not as crowded as it used to be. However, it is obvious that the disappointment is still present because of its service. One would have thought there would be a solution for the complaints of students about food but this seems difficult to achieve. In September 2008, Sodexo's restaurant raised a lot of talks about it: the smell all around its premises, the long queuing lines and the unavailability of food most of the time. As spring 2009 starts, one could notice that a hood has been added to the kitchen where an extra space for stocking food has been also provided. Heaters were also provided around the building. A lavabo is expected as well. It seems that there has been an improvement over the fall break- but this is just one side of the story.

Students could notice that food prices in Sodexo's restaurant significantly increased. Fries prices are now about 6.98dhs while they were 5.13dhs. A cheeseburger was sold for a little more than 14dhs compared to its new price of 17dhs. My point is that these price increases can be accepted if only AUI's student body was consulted and involved. Unfortunately, the concerned body of the Student Government Association has not been notified at all about such price increases. In other words, the SGA were neither called to meet with the manager or AUI's Dining Services nor even sent an email about these price changes.

It is true that these improvements in Sodexo's premises have been done thanks to SGA's complaints and continuous work to satisfy AUI's student community, but their role seemed to stop at that stage; a suggesting force that can only voice the students' concern without being taken into consideration when changes happen, even when these changes touch the restaurant on which students' obviously held high expectations.

One can only encourage the university concerned parties and Sodexo's managers to communicate more with students and try to get them to talk about any changes they need to implement. After all, a university is a major learning space for youth to develop skills, gain knowledge, and definitely collaborate with the administration to improve their services.



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For more information, stop by the newsroom or contact the editor-in-chief.

Please include your name, class standing and school affiliation, in addition to your letter.

NEXT ISSUE'S TOPIC

Socializing at AUI

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Socially AUI

Hope vs. Fear, a reflection on Obama's inaugural speech

 HOUSSAM JEDDA

Obama's Inaugural address was a vibrant political moment in my exchange experience, a speech that has a dual world view inherent to the American political culture. It was an opportunity to see how Americans worship democracy, America's founding fathers, and their elected leaders.

I felt blessed to be in the United States at such a historical moment, the inauguration of President Obama, not only for the importance that the ceremony has in the hearts of Americans, but also for the symbolism in the election of an Afro-American president that symbolizes change and hope. I didn't have the chance to go to Washington D.C, but I watched the inaugural ceremony in the Ohrstrom Bryant Theater, the university's theater. The atmosphere was overwhelmingly comparable to a communion for Democracy.

"The speech was clearly intended to give Americans a sense of unity, confidence, and hope in order to face the crisis or what Obama calls "the winter of our hardship"

I realized how the inaugural speech is symbolic not only through the lyric prose of President Obama, but also through the expectations of the people from this speech. Everyone was waiting for the president to address an issue of interest, personal, or global. It was a demonstration how de-

mocracy through change can bring hope in such a morose period for the economy.

The speech was extremely lyrical; it has a compelling emotional



message. It constantly opposed two notions or qualities; the most symbolic are hope and fear. The speech sets a demarcation line between two opposed worlds. This dual

world view was striking to me in such a political speech. He expresses the fear that America has from a deterministic decline of every great civilization through history. Hope is, after all, about maintaining America at the helm of the world. He says: "a nagging fear that America's decline is inev-

itable, and that the next generation must lower its sighs". This quote struck me very deeply because it reflects the threatening challenges that face the United States from many emerging powers across the world. America seems to live a sort of paranoia, mistrust, and obsession about losing its status as the world leader. Despite this fear, I think that America is wisely coping with its fear through openness rather than a state of siege.

The speech was constantly celebrating American heroism in a way that stimulates patriotism and confidence. I felt like an American because the speech's patriotic language seduced me. The speech was clearly intended to give Americans a sense of unity, confidence, and hope in order to face the crisis or what Obama calls "the winter of our hardship". He celebrated the sacred fathers of the nation in a sort of worship of democracy and American Ideals with a deep conviction that these ideals are on the right side of history.

As a Moroccan student, I was pleased but at the same time skeptical when Obama addressed the Muslim World. It is an implicit recognition that a conflict opposes the Muslim and Western worlds. I was pleased because he proposes a renewal in their relations based on respect and mutual interest. Although I extremely admired this position from President Obama, I cannot help being skeptical about his ability to conciliate ideals of democratization and

immediate interests of the US in the region. The US backs up many authoritarian regimes throughout logistic support in order to keep access to many natural resources, or prevent from the raise of hostile governments to its interests. It contributes sadly to enslave the population by maintaining these leaders. This is

they never ask which of the leader's virtues is most to be admired; for they insist that he possess all the virtues, without having to acquire them." This appeared to me very true when I saw the fervent belief that Obama is the savior of the nation; a sort of providence, though I share Hope that he will, at least, make efforts to

"Obama's speech was delightful because it engaged itself in a responsible action against global warming which has altered the image of the U.S. in the world"

why I am surprised about the simplistic dual world view of Obama's speech, for good and evil are interleaved or at least not absolute. American politics are deeply marked by the dual conflict with the Soviet Union.

The speech was marked by the insistent affirmation of the moral responsibility of the United States as the leader of the world and its moral obligation of guaranteeing justice throughout the world. However, I am sadly afraid that this is nothing but rhetoric and that material interest would have the upper hand. Idealism and Utopia have never survived to politics. Forgive me what you might call pessimism, but I might say that although I am a fervent admirer of President Obama and enthusiastic about his mandate, I would not be as much euphoric about his ability to solve all the problems. Now, I would say that what the French writer Alexis de Tocqueville observed in America during his voyage in 1830's America still applies when he says "It is true that in America courtiers never call their leaders Sire or Majesty...; but they speak constantly about the natural wisdom of their ruler; but

make this world a better place for everyone. Aren't we talking about a superhuman or a divinity? In such a way we are being unfair to our hopes.

Finally I want to say that Obama was right when he said that many leaders "blame their society's ill on the West" but not to forget that if people in the Muslim World and the world have grievance against the US it is not because they are hostile to the American lifestyle as Obama claimed, but because they feel abused by American foreign policy.

I was annoyed how the speech showed how you need to be evil if you are not an angel, though there are no angels in politics as far as I know. However, the speech's poetic power is full of emotional connotations. As a Moroccan student now on an exchange program in the U.S., I think this was a valuable democratic lesson for me about the ideals of the United States to which I adhere and because I think these are universal aspirations, but I wouldn't qualify their exercise as divine.

Exchange from AUI

A semester of Inter-Faith Dialogue and Understanding

WAFAA KAISSOUN

Ever since I was a freshman student at AUI, I wanted to go on an exchange program to the United States. Just like any one of us, I had my own vision of this country, a vision stamped by the TV shows I watched and the books I read. Now as a junior, I was eligible to participate in that program, and I chose Binghamton University in New York State.

During the few weeks preceding my trip, I could not fathom my excitement; all I could think about was the adventure lying ahead of me, and I felt like I was an explorer seeking to conquer new lands. My expectations were very high, and my enthusiasm had no borders; I was going to the States for five months, and I intended to make the most of it!

My very first impression of America was that it was big; everything

seemed so huge to me compared to our small Morocco. The buildings, the

roads, the cars, even the portions of food they serve you in restaurants! My second impression - it was more of a threat actually - was that I was going to gain weight in no time if I did not watch what I ate.

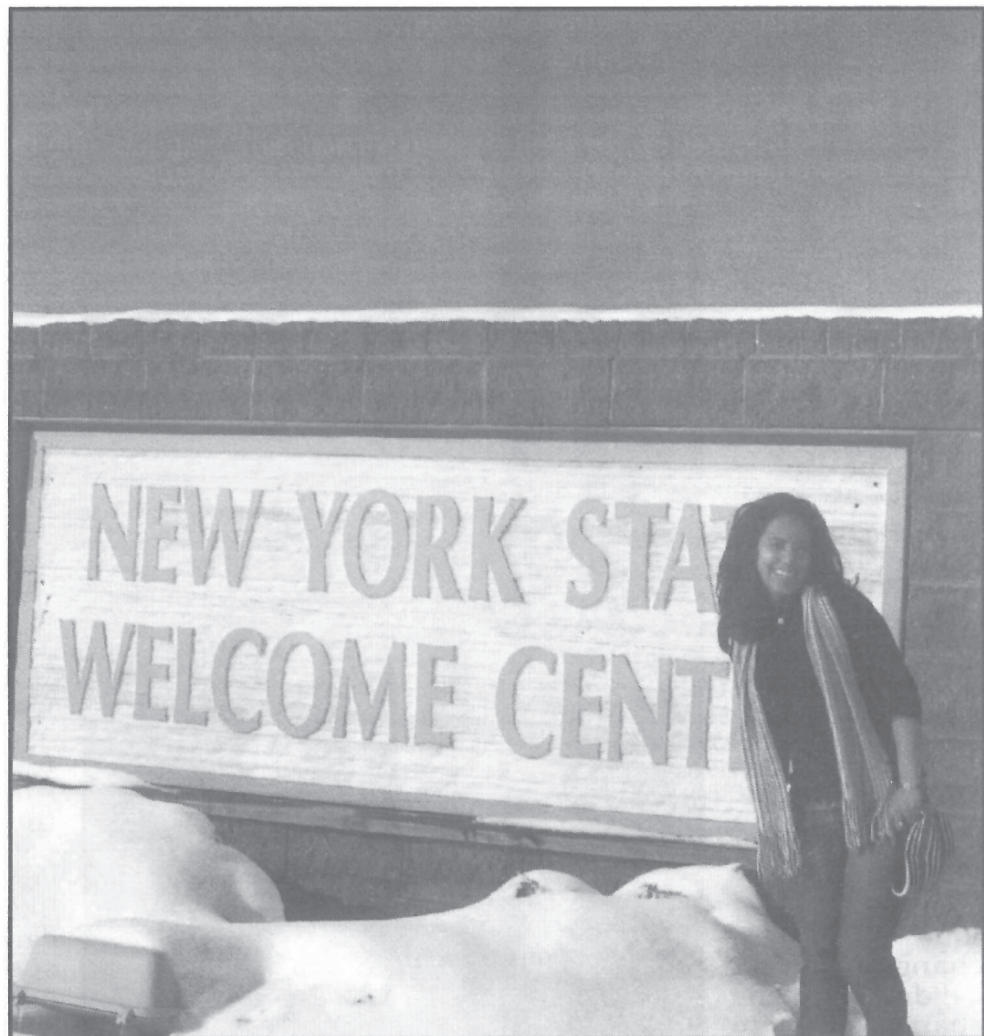
My first week at Binghamton was full of events and new experiences. The campus is immense, so

immense that you actually need to take a bus to get to your classes! My fellow friends from Morocco and I used to get lost every time, and it was always a torture to walk up the hill where our rooms were located. During the orientation days, I made friends with many international and exchange students; it was fascinating to talk to people from different countries and cultures, and to know about the different customs that abound all over the world. But what startled me the most after talking to all these different people was that every one of us, Moroccans, Indians, Americans, Koreans, Russians and Dutch, despite all our disparities, all those different backgrounds we came from, were very similar in a sense that we were all gathered for a common purpose: we were here seeking knowledge, education, and success.

The weather at Binghamton is very similar to Ifrane's. In fact, it snows a lot and it is very cold; however, that did not prevent my friends and me to go out and discover the city of Binghamton. It is a small, pleasant town with numerous shops, art galleries, bars and nightclubs. The houses seem to come from a Stephen King novel, and under the snow, the city is utterly charming. Binghamton is

also known for its First Fridays tradition: in the first Friday of every month, art galleries open their doors for a free tour, free food and beverages.

Now that the spring semester started and that I got into all my classes, I can say that the workload is fairly heavy. Because I mostly took business classes, I work a lot with groups, and that makes me meet with even more people. In our group meetings, a long with preparing for our presentations and reports, we obviously talk about our professors and try to figure out whether they are "easy" or not; which reminded me a lot of AUI students. The way the subjects are taught in Binghamton is very similar to those at Al Akhawayn. The only difference is the diversity of students and



Wafaa having a new experience in new York State

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professors, making each class very interesting.

My experience as an exchange student has lived up to my expectations so far, it is true that a lot of my previous opinions about America have changed, and in a sense, my vision of the world as well. It made me think thoroughly about my life, my goals and the future of my beloved country. I still have

many things to experience throughout the semester, many things to see and discover, and I cannot re-

strain my thrill at the thought of what is coming next. All I can say to my friends back in AUI is that the exchange program is an experience worth living, and that they should never hesitate to take this opportunity. It will definitely be an unforgettable experience.



Exchange at AUI

Allamuni: What Morocco has taught me thus far

NATALIE CAULKINS

Salaam aleikum. La-bas, humdullillah. Smiti Natalie Caulkins, men Washington State. Ana fee asana athelita makhassissa bee' uluum aheeya beejamiyat Reed College.

Forgive me, I know you can all speak English perfectly well, but I need to practice my Arabic! I am a junior biology major from Reed College in Portland, Oregon on exchange this semester, and I was asked to write some reflections on my experience in Morocco and at AUI so far.

One of the first things that struck me as amazing at AUI and Morocco in general is how tolerant and helpful people have been in my attempts to speak Darija. From the workers behind the counter at the café, to the maids cleaning the floor that I inadvertently dirty as I walk through; from Moroccan students whose names I often forget or whom I only meet for a short period of time,

to my closest friends who invite me to their room and won't let me leave without some kind of gift or present, everyone I have encountered thus far have been very kind and hospitable. So far, my experience here has really supported an idea that I believed previously, which is that there are a lot of good people in this world. When there are so many tragedies going on around the world, it is easy to drown in a state of cynicism and not see the everyday good that is around you. Moroccans have reminded me of the presence of that force of good on so many occasions, in helping me find my way around campus, navigate the complexities of Arabic, and in spotting me when I ran out of money on my cash wallet, just to name a few simple examples. This kind of forwardness in expressing kindness has really enriched my experience at Al Akhawayn, and I am very grateful for it.



Natalie visting some historic monuments

I have also learned a couple things about Islam, which I had no idea

about before coming to AUI. One of these things I learned from the talk Imam Alkhanjari gave to new and exchange students during Orientation. He told us that the Qur'an requires Muslims to learn about other religions, which I did not know before. That is very unique, I think, and very admirable. If we were all to ask more questions and listen more to the answers—not just on religious matters, but also in general—people could reach a truer understanding of each other and overcome a lot of the world's troubles. Another thing Imam Alkhanjari said that I thought was remarkable: 'For some reason that we don't know, that only God knows, He made many different people who believe many different religions' (paraphrased). That is so important to realize,

to recognize that even if you believe your religion is the right one, there are other people who feel the same way about their respective religion. I think it is so important to recognize that this divine mystery of the multiplicity of religions exists. We have to learn how to live with this mystery and live with not knowing the answer.

Lastly, and this is related to the previous topic of the multiplicity of religions, in talking with my Moroccan friends, I think I have come to a greater understanding of how much diversity there is in how people interact with and interpret their religion, as well as with other aspects of life. I have come to believe that there is always more diversity than you think there is. There is always another story just waiting to be told, and waiting to be heard, if you can only learn to listen for it...



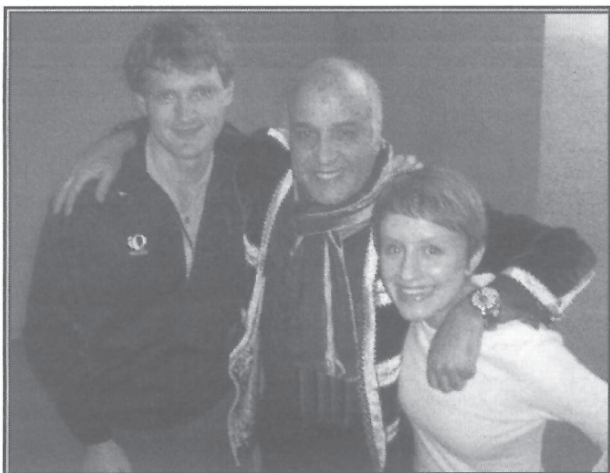
Souiri & Berrada on Campus In Short

NEWS TEAM

On Wednesday January 28th, building 17 hosted two Moroccan artists, Souiri and Berrada. It is not the first time that Souiri or "Ait Chleh Abderrahim" has come to perform in front of AUI students. The artist mentioned that there is no difference between the previous semesters and this one in so far as he "always gets the same reaction from the audience." He has sung in different universities, and each time he notices that the Moroccan music is the most desired from the spectators.

Souiri is worried about the loss of the Moroccan Andalusian

music since most of Moroccan young people have been listening to western music such as Hip Hop, Techno and House, and have forgotten about their musical rich heritage. Souiri also explained how he started singing Chaabi in addition to Andalussi ("Al Ala") to



"follow the law of the market." However, he confirms that after a certain amount of effort he succeeded in modernizing Andalussi music. This helped him reach more and more young Moroccans around the world, especially in Europe where he did several concerts, including some with Chaabi singers such as Daoudi and Daoudia.

In addition to Souiri, who commended the AUI audience, Berrada also said that it is a wonderful and energetic audience that loves Chaabi music. Both singers were happy for the fact that even exchange students enjoyed

the Moroccan music and danced to its rhythm regardless of the language barriers. Souiri and Berrada's last message to AUI students is wishing them good luck in their studies and advising them to protect Moroccan musical heritage.

NEWS TEAM

Alumni elect their new president

Mr. Youssef Ksiyer, holder of a Bachelor in Business Administration, was elected President of the Alumni Association on January 19th. The investiture meeting took place on February 12th. His team includes Mr. Fahd Bachir Bouhali, Mr. Ohtmane Benlamlih, and Ms. Naziha Bagui. Mr. Ksiyer works as a Marketing and Development executive at Yamaha and he is the winner of the 2nd edition of the "Le Meilleur Comique" (French for "best comedian") competition. The team has announced its three major goals to be fundraising, diversifying activities, and involving students.

Dr. Lotfi becomes interim VPAA

Dr. Abdellatif Lotfi has taken the place of Dr. Amine Bensaid, who served at AUI for 14 years.

Wild boar that was roaming appears to have left

The wild boar which footprint was spotted by the patrol team of Safety and Security on February 12th appears to have left campus, said a team of four specialists from the Water and Forests Department. The team was assisted by the Security staff to perform a scrupulous search in the campus forest, which indicated the animal was gone. Mr. Rachid Laghnimi, Director of Security, advises students to remain vigilant.

False ceiling problem in building 23 solved

The false ceiling of a double occupancy studio room in building 23, which fell on February 11th, was fixed promptly by the next day, said Mr. Hamid Nouamani, Males Dorm Supervisor.

Palestinian week at Al Akhawayn

NEWS TEAM

(continued from Page 1)

The week of February 9th hosted 3 days dedicated to Palestine. The week, which was very rich in events of all kinds, was organized by the Diplomacy Club in collaboration with several other organizations.

Hamza Essakhi, President of the Diplomacy Club, expressed his satisfaction with the funds raised and the blood donations made, both destined to support both Iraq and Palestine. A total of 46,570DH were raised, while 90 people donated blood.

The organizations that collaborated in organizing the events were the Human Rights Club, the Health Care Club, Courant d'Art, Rotaract, the Voices United Choir, the Design Club, the UCN, and Al Kamandjati association.

The week started off with the opening of an exhibition on Palestinian culture and two talks related to the events of the Gaza conflict. Dr. Bouzidi and Dr. Kalpakian, both professors at the SHSS, debated with students on the human rights

violations in Gaza. Later that day, the dangers of phosphorus were described in a talk referring to the phosphorus shells that were used against Palestinians.

The center of the Palestinian week took place on Wednesday

the 11th, as Dr. Ouauicha and the Vice-Ambassador of Palestine gave heartfelt talks in an opening ceremony. A blood donation campaign was done in building 4, while students were invited to express their feelings for

Palestine on a painting canvas. At the restaurant's entrance, volunteers simulated an Israeli security checkpoint.

In the afternoon, relatives of Palestinian students gave a testimony of how the January attacks on Gaza affected them. After a talk on the political aftermath of the offensive, an exclusive concert by Al Kamandjati association featuring the University Choir attracted hundreds to the auditorium. The artists of Al Kamandjati teach music to children in Ramallah, Palestine, and their performance is a first in Africa.

The Palestinian week closed on Thursday with a talk discussing the poor health care conditions in the Gaza strip after the bombardments.

Tens of students volunteered for the organization of the event. "The Palestine issue is very important for me and I was proud of supporting the cause by volunteering", said Taha Benazoun, 1st year CS student and member of the logistics committee, who also sang as part of the choir.



Farewell Ceremony for President Benmokhtar

NEWS TEAM

(continued from Page 1)

The ceremony started with a short presentation by Dr. Cherif Belfekih, Vice President for Student Affairs, to welcome faculty, staff, and students. Afterwards, Dr. Belfekih left the floor to Dr. Driss Ouauicha, the new president, who wished good luck to Dr. Benmokhtar.

Dr. Benmokhtar then proceeded to give a short talk and received several gifts from faculty, staff and students who wanted to thank him for all the effort he has done to make of AUI what it is today. Dr. Amine Bensaid, Vice President for Academic Affairs, talked about his old memories with the former president. He praised the achievements of the

former president both as a Minister of Education and as AUI president.

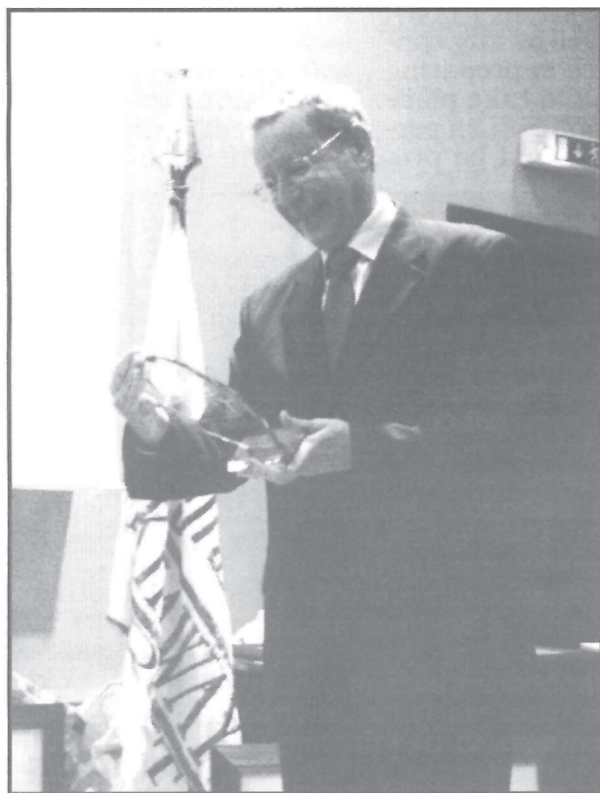
A heartfelt speech was given by the student Ha-

Benmokhtar's bond with AUI students, expressed in his quote "I prefer to sit with my children," which he reportedly said at a public event where he chose to sit among students rather than other guests.

Mrs. Maria Benmokhtar was asked by Dr. Belfekih - who evoked Mrs. Hillary Clinton's "Pay for one and get one for free" referring to Mrs. Benmokhtar - to join him on the stage where she received gifts from students and staff as regard to her accomplishments, especially in the social field.

The ceremony ended with a much appreciated performance of the

Voices United Choir, under the direction of Ms. Laila Lebbar.



Hakima Taoufiq who evoked some memories about Dr. Benmokhtar. Hakima Taoufiq commended Dr.

Weight room to get new equipment

NEWS TEAM

The Athletics Department has ordered several new weight training machines which are due to be delivered in the coming weeks, according to Mr. Adel Kamane, Director of the Athletics Department.

One of the major concerns of the users of the weight room was the state of the equipment. It is the main hurdle preventing several students from exercising daily. Most of the equipment in the weight room was installed back when the university opened in 1995.

The absence, also, of some high-priority machines is a concern. Hack-squat, decline-barbell and flexible benches are three examples of important exercise equipment that is currently absent. Moreover, the insufficiency of hand-weights contributes in leading several students not to

head for the gymnasium at all, or at least to avoid the weight room.

"I still get in trouble when I do not find the suitable machine or hand-weight to accomplish my routine, so I am obliged to change it, or to leave immediately", said Badrdine Sabhi, third semester Computer Science student.

But the university has finally decided to change the look of the weight room. Mr. Kamane and Moustafa Loune, who is in charge of technical training, have been seeking some new materials that will meet the students' expectations.

Several new pieces of equipment, including a smith-machine, a hack-squat, multi-purpose benches and different hand-weights have been purchased. According to Mr. Kamane, they are to be installed as soon as they are delivered.

SGA announces its Student Services projects

NEWS TEAM

The Student Government Association's Student Services Committee recently made public its plans for the Spring 2009 semester.

"We have solved a number of restaurant-related issues last semester and we are moving to more varied projects," said Ghassan Essalehi, SHSS undergraduate and head of the Student Services committee of the SGA.

One of these projects is a bike rental service, which should provide campus residents with a more eco-friendly way to move around Ifrane.

Concerning long distance transportation, the SGA is working on scheduling dates for van and CTM trips to the major cities. As of publication, a long discussed contract between AUI and the CTM that would dramatically ease student travel has not yet been signed.

Effort is also being made on communication between

students, as the committee is pushing forward for the release of phone and e-mail directories.

Restoration work is being done on the library, where several electricity outlets are not working.

The rooms most exposed to cold climate should have their windows or French doors reinforced with double glazing.

Previous food-related achievements, including improved variety at the cafeteria and longer opening hours of the international restaurant, are to be followed by several others. "We are working on installing drinks and biscuits vending machines around campus and extending the opening hours for breakfast", said Ghassan Essalehi. The committee also renewed its commitment to improve the offer of both the old and new restaurants as well as the store.

Implementation of online registration progresses

NEWS TEAM

Last semester, all students were informed that pre-registration would be done online through a new software system called EX Jenzabar. Unfortunately, they were surprised by the canceling of the spring online pre-registration.

According to Ms. Latifa Ouanaïm, Director of Enrollment Ser-

vices, the pre-registration for Spring 2009 was not done through the new system because of conflicts in the software. "A group of engineers from the Jenzabar company recently worked on improvements of the program to make it suit AUI's catalog better", said Ms. Ouanaïm.

Members from the staff of Enrollment Services also worked on the transfer of student records and academic files from the old software to the new one.

Jenzabar was tested by the enroll-

ment staff in the previous pre-registration, which made the process quick and satisfactory for the majority of AUI students.

"Jenzabar is a major improvement on the old Poise application", said Ms.

Ouanaïm. Among its advantages, it has a user interface that allows stu-

dents, administration, as well as faculty, to access academic records (including schedules, transcripts and grades). It also facilitates the online advising and registration processes, including the add and drop procedure.

Ms. Ouanaïm is enthusiastic concerning the launch of online pre-registration for Summer and Fall 2009. "I expect students to be very satisfied with this new online interface that will allow them a quick access to their academic life".



Dr. Driss Ouaouicha: the Man of Academia

GHASSAN ESSALEHI

(continued from Page 1)

Before this appointment, Dr. Ouaouicha served as an advisor to AMIDEAST for Arabic Studies in the MENA Region to implement the institution's Arabic Language and Culture Curriculum (2008). Besides, Dr. Ouaouicha also held the position of the Executive Officer of the Scholar Ship, a "university at sea" in which he mainly supervised the other members of the onboard executive team. Dr. Ouaouicha is also a former Vice President for Academic Affairs of AUI, a former acting dean of AUI's School of Business Administration (2005-2007) and that of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (1999-2002). Before holding these positions at AUI, Dr. Ouaouicha used to work at Moulay Ismail University in Meknès in which he was the Dean of Faculty of Letters and Humanities (1988-1999).

Throughout the 35 year experience, Dr. Ouaouicha has been a professor of French and English at high school (1973-1975), an assistant professor of Arabic at the Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures at the University of Texas at Austin, USA (1983-1986), and summer at Hiddlebury College (1984-1988). Dr. Ouaouicha has also been a member of organizing committee of various conferences with both national and international partners. Among his papers are "Intercultural Communication in Transnational Education" (2008), "Quality Assurance at Al Akhawayn University" (2005), and a number of other papers and publications in English and Arabic.

Left it as a Vice President and Returned as a President:

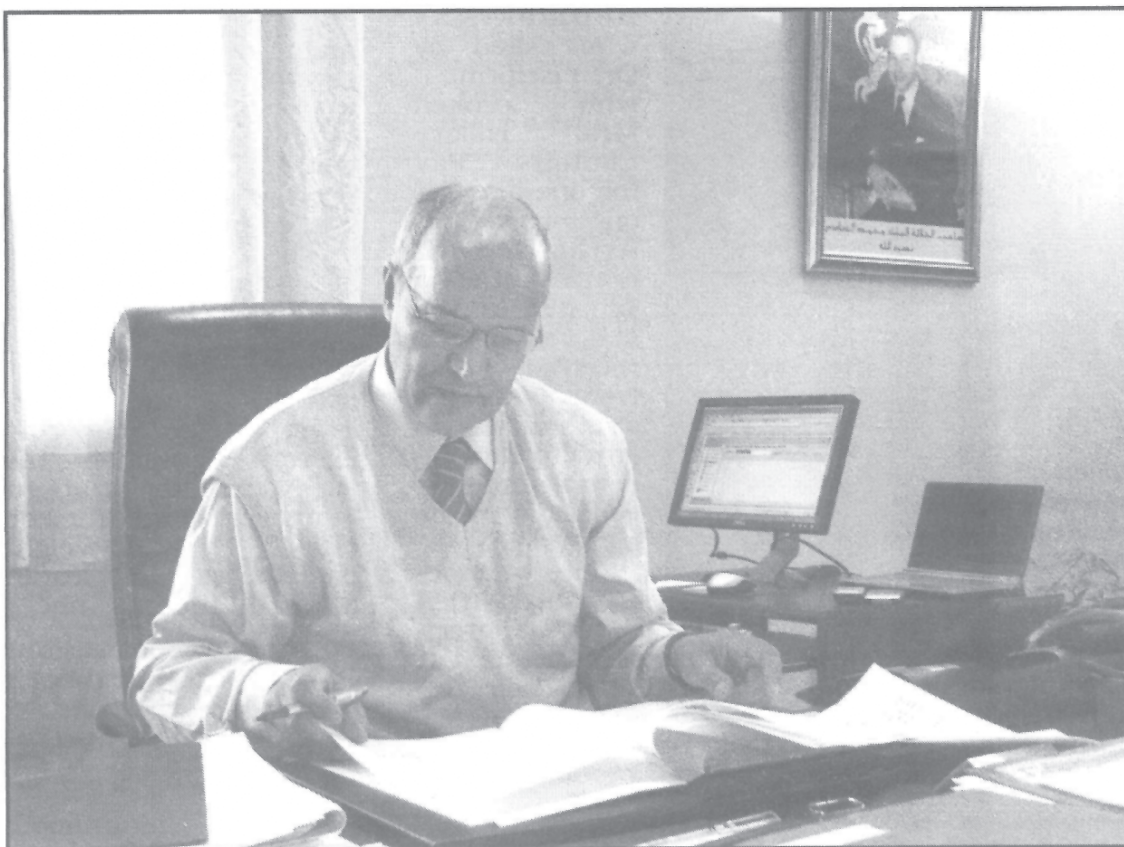
Dr. Driss Ouaouicha left AUI in February 2007 to work onboard the Scholar Ship. Little did he know that two years later, Dr. Ouaouicha would be called by the monarch in Ifrane and become the new president of the academic institution in which he served for ten years. For Dr Ouaouicha, this new position is a great honour in becoming a leader

"It's quite an honor to be chosen to lead a unique university that makes a significant contribution to the higher education landscape in Morocco"

of a unique university that should continue to contribute to Morocco's learning through "preserving all its good aspects and moving forward with the challenges it faces".

Concerning any agenda the new president may have, this latter responded openly to any possibilities that are valid and can

help in achieving AUI's mission. However, Dr. Ouaouicha made it clear that any changes and plans would definitely require a consultancy with all the concerned parties in due time. "We should work collectively [...] in order to face all the challenges [that face AUI]" pointed out Dr Ouaouicha. The student body, the staff, faculty members as well as any concerned party would have a voice in preparing the new strategic plan that would take place in a year. AUI's learning environment, as perceived by the new president, should be pre-



served and reinforced through backing up its Anglo Saxon system of education. Moreover, the continuing of work on the quality assurance aspect of Al Akhawayn University is of great importance for its recognition as a leading institution on the national, regional and international level as well.

When asked about possible changes that would be implemented at AUI, Dr. Ouaouicha said that his agenda includes a lot of points. On top of the agenda are the reinforcing of the Anglo Saxon system that should remain a major contributing factor in the diversity of higher education in Morocco, and to continue the work that is being done on quality assurance. Furthermore, Working towards AUI's accreditation is also important and can only be successful through the collaboration with the deans and directors of the different schools and centers. Last but not least, university wide recognition of quality education and quality administration remain two important aspects that will be considered as well.

Restructuring, for Dr. ouaouicha, needs to take into consideration the interest of all university's stakeholders, especially students, in order to be implemented and ensure its success. Yet, Dr. Ouaouicha openly affirms his interest in implementing changes at AUI. However, the new president stresses upon the need to ensure that changes have to serve AUI mission and AUI community.

What AUI's New President Says about: Advancing AUI's Accreditation on the International Level

"I think it's a very good and very important thing for (a) the continuous improvement of quality of our education. It is also very important for (b) the recognition of some of the good work that is being done here. (c) This process will pull us upwards in terms of quality improvement and comparing ourselves to some of the best institutions in the world."

Interdisciplinary Collaboration between Moroccan Universities:

"I think collaboration is very important. We are a Moroccan institution that has chosen the Anglo Saxon system but we are a Moroccan institution and we operate in Morocco. International education is very important for us. I think there are things we can learn from each other and [...] a number of areas we can be of service to one another. Each institution has its pole d'excellence; its areas where it excels. Those could be useful for other institutions that have different poles of excellence. I am glad that some [the collaboration] is already happening; for example, the Bio Technology program takes people from public universities and they come to finish here. The graduate programs take a number of people that do their undergraduate program in other Moroccan universi-

ties. There is [also] collaboration on a triangle here between Al Akhawayn University, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University in Fez, and Moulay Ismail University in Meknes in scientific research."

AUI's Learning Environment Quality Today:

"I think the learning environment at AUI is unique, very conducive to learning. It's an integrated campus, that's why it's unique; you walk by the library going to your room. On the one and the same campus, you have food for the body, food for the mind, and food for the soul. You go from the restaurant to the mosque, to the library, and to the classrooms and labs. This is a unique environment where you can grow and develop physically, intellectually, and spiritually."

The Office of Student Activities and Students Clubs' and Organization's Actions:

"I am very pleased and I commend the students and the people responsible for the activities and students' affairs because that is a necessary component of growing in students' lives. The clubs are a learning environment for leadership outside the university in the real world. When student create a club, make a program for the club, and make a business plan for the club and run its budget, they get ready to become responsible outside university. That is a very useful complementary education to the teaching that takes place in the class room."

Moroccan Jewish Culture Celebrated at AUI

YASSINE MAJDI

(Continued from page 1)

On this date, a series of events took place as part of the first edition of the Moroccan Jewish Day organized by Mimouna Club. A club that is about two years old, their aims are centred on highlighting the Moroccan Jewish heritage and promoting the Moroccan Jewish culture and heritage. Set up by the initiative of a few students, the club now

lights on a culture would require the work of more than one person over a long period of time.

"I was quite fascinated by the activism of the clubs as well as the nice music played by Karoutchi" explained Samir El Khaoulani, a third year student affiliated with School of Business Administration.

The afternoon began by welcoming guests to the student lounge where they were welcomed by the club, AUI's president and

Judéo-Arabe?" was launched. It was moderated by Dr. Bouzidi, a faculty member from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at AUI. The guest speakers included Mr. André Azoulay, the Advisor to His Majesty the King, Mr. Simon Levy, the director of the Moroccan Jewish Museum of Casablanca, Mr. Armand Guigi, the head of the committee of Moroccan Jewish Communities of Fès, Sefrou and Oujda, and Mr. Hassan Majdi, researcher in anthropology. Each of the guest speakers provided their own opinion and perspective toward the conference theme. Essentially, they all agreed upon the fact that "Morocco is an excellent example of coexistence of Jews and Muslims in the Muslim and Arab world" (as said by Mr. Azoulay).

The conference was followed by a discussion concerning the guest speakers' speeches. Inevitably, the question of racism towards Jews in the Moroccan society was brought up by a student. Mr. Azoulay made it clear that such behaviours have always existed in the Moroccan culture. However, he added that they clearly decreased as a result of the increasing awareness among Moroccans that their culture is diverse.

At night, Moroccan Jewish music was celebrated by one of the most famous Moroccan Jewish singers left in Morocco; Maxime Karoutchi. Besides Pinhass, Karoutchi represents an important figure of music in Morocco. He actually comes from a family who has been in the scene since the 16th century. What made the night more special is the attendance of President Rachid Benmokhtar, Dr. Cherif Belfekih, the Vice President for Student Affairs, Mr. André Azoulay, His Majesty the King's Advisor, and many members of the Moroccan Jewish communities. Some of these members are actually directors of successful companies. For instance, Mr. Devico from the famous "AICHA" was present. In addition, building 17 attracted a significant number of students as well as other members of AUI community. Perhaps the fact that the week was busy with tests and quizzes made some of the students unable to attend the music night. Advertising, on the other hand, could have increased the rate of those who showed up.

"This was a first experience for us" said Laziza Dalil, a second year Business Administration student and one of the club members. "We explored the strengths of our club and will definitely learn from our weaknesses for future events" added Laaziza.



attracts a significant number of students and a few faculty members as well.

The Moroccan Jewish Day started by selling Moroccan Jewish food at the restaurant. Over 40 lunch meals were served by the Moroccan Jewish caterer who came from Fès to contribute to the success of the day. Simultaneously, Moroccan Jewish music was sung just outside the restaurant, creating an atmosphere in which one can enjoy the rhythms of Andaluci music or liveliness of popular music during lunch time meant to make students discover an important component of Moroccan music that is barely known.

"Many of the club members worked very hard since the beginning of the semester to make out of the Moroccan Jewish Day a success" pointed out Ghassan Essalehi, the club's co-founder. Definitely, organizing a whole day that is aimed at shedding

Mr. Simon Levy from the Moroccan Jewish Museum of Casablanca. Mr. Levy then provided a tour around the exhibition and presented each of the pieces that were exposed. The student lounge was quite crowded by interested students, faculty and staff members who could not miss the cultural rendezvous. As a matter of fact, it was the first time for AUI to host pieces from the Moroccan Jewish Museum of Casablanca.

Afterwards, a guided tour of AUI campus and a detailed description of its facilities was provided for the guests. After that, a conference under the theme of "Le Maroc est-il un exemple de coexistence



Slip and Slide at AUI

LAUREN VRIENS

Shining granite walkways, idyllic sloping rooftops, staircases weaving through the evergreens around the mosque -- this was no doubt the aesthetic behind AUI's architecture when it was built in 1995. But the heavy snowfall during the winter turns AUI's campus into a labyrinth of ankle-deep slush, rooftop avalanches, and black-ice covered stairs. Broken legs,

about the perilous walkways. "Penn State, where I go to school back in the United States, has heated sidewalks, and it doesn't even snow that much," quipped exchange student Maureen McCabe.

The snow is cleared almost daily by Grounds and Maintenance staff using shovels, squeegees, and one tractor outfitted with a snowplow. It often takes hours; however, to clear

Dr. Ouchani, no matter how quickly the snow is removed.

The stairs around the Post Office, the Mosque, and the Library are the most treacherous, said Dr. Ouchani, and students and staff should exercise caution when walking in those areas.

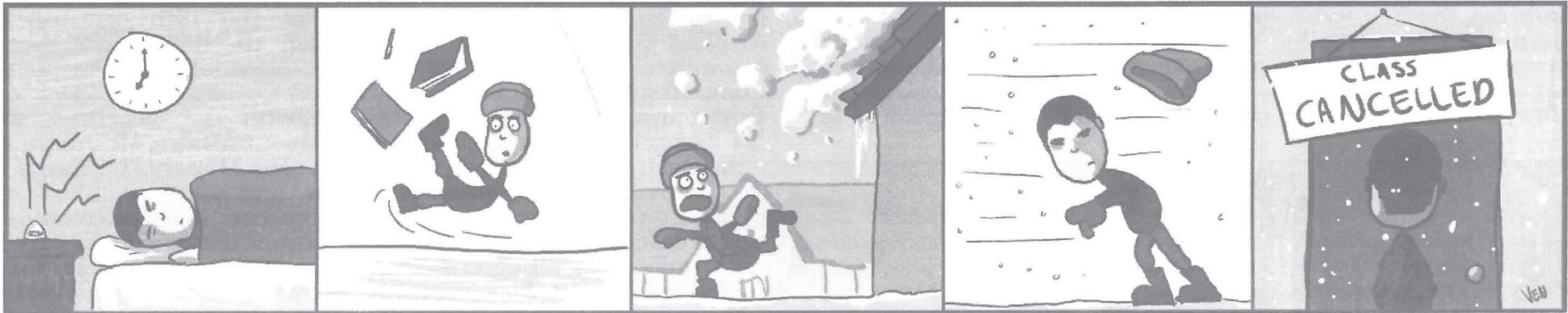
The daily fluctuations in temperature make clearing snow especially difficult. Over a 24-hour span,

removal techniques are available, though, including laying down snow-salts or sand, or investing in more snowplows.

Salting the pathways would help melt snow and ice through a process known as "freezing point depression." In use in many major cities on America's North East coast, this is known to be the most cost-effective method for snow removal. In addition, lay-

most noticeably the quad between the Cafe and the Restaurant and the stretch of granite leading to the Gym. The often ankle-deep ice water -- more an annoyance than a danger -- could be easily fixed by siphoning off surface water with drainage grates.

Ifrane is known for having reached the coldest recorded temperature in Africa at a blustering negative 11 degrees Celsius, ac-



sprained ankles, and students hobbling to class on crutches have become regular occurrences around campus. Some students claim the amount of snowfall is increasing and this winter has been the worse yet. AUI residents walking around campus often feel in danger of slipping. "Last semester, three of my friends broke their legs because of the snow," a junior studying Communications and Human Resources said.

Exchange students can also be heard complaining

the paths and roads of the 40-hectare campus. "The University invests money in lots of things, but they have to start with the walkways," said a degree-seeking MBA student. Dr. Mohamed Ouchani, manager of the Health Center, said that while injuries happen - approximately four people per week come in with snow-related injuries - students and staff could prevent most of these by investing in better footwear. Women wearing high-heeled shoes are going to get hurt, warned

Ifrane's temperature can go from a high of 18 degrees Celsius to a low of negative five. Snow on the ground often melts into puddles during the day only to freeze at night. During the week, students can be seen clutching on friends' arms as they traverse the slippery granite on the way to class. The slush-covered walkways in the academic zone of campus are particularly notorious. Most residents can agree that AUI's wintry pathways pose a danger to pedestrians. Better snow

ing down sand can help increase traction on roads.

These are far from silver bullets, however. Snow-salts and sand are criticized for adversely affecting the environment. Al Akhawayn may have to find other solutions, such as more snowplows, as the University is often noted for its natural beauty and proximity to the Cedre Gouraud Forest.

Grips about the wintry weather are also accompanied by complaints about those areas of walkway that tend to pool water,

according to the U.S. National Climatic Data Center. The snowy weather is not likely to abate anytime soon. A 2007 report from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change forecasts an increase in annual precipitation in places like Ifrane over the next century.

This could mean more snow, slush, and ice turning AUI's walkways into a perilous trial of students' balance. The best way to stay out of the Health Center for now? Buy snowshoes.

For those who go to the Gym

MOHAMED ALI NAIR

The cardiovascular facilities provided in AUI's gymnasium attract a significant number of students despite the problems encountered when using them.

It may be a mere impression that students get in the first days of classes during which the amount of work is not that high. However, one can easily notice a crowded gymnasium starting 4:00p.m. One of the reasons is quiet logical since it is when many of AUI's students get to finish classes. In any case, some issues have to be discussed and the first one is the change in timing allocated to patrons (mainly students) when using cardiovascular facilities. To explain, students can no longer use a cardiovascular machine for 30 minutes. Instead, the policy changed and the timing decreased. Twenty minutes is the maximum time per person at one time. This policy actually puts many students in a position to question the efficiency of the policy and raise other related questions as well.

If it is required to exercise at least twice or three times a week for 30 to 40 min, one has to find another way to get this objective done even if she or he does not like other alternatives. Another important point is that many people come to exercise on a daily basis and sometimes or often you do not get to use the machines either because you will have to

wait until your turn comes or sometimes it can be booked for the whole day which brings us to the following suggestion: why not extend the cardiovascular area or the whole underground of the gymnasium as matter of fact?...In fact, the weight lifting area usually gets quite crowded. When it is so, the student would have to wait until someone finishes; this could be in five or ten minutes, or more, depending on the day, the activity and the person's desire to practice a sport as well.

Given that the AUI community numbers a little bit more than 1000 students, it may be necessary for the gymnasium office to consider the idea of working out a plan for extending the size of the 'cardiovascular and weight lifting' areas. It is true that the two areas can be found free for anyone to use, but they do get crowded in many times. It would actually be beneficial if the university gets two or three more machines for the previously mentioned areas; increasing the number of the machines from 4 to 6 would definitely decrease the waiting time and enlarge the allowed practice time one can get. And why not use the balcony of the gymnasium by making it a covered area? Certainly, more athletic and sport activities can be practiced in the large space provided there.



RAs: The new face of housing services

GHASSAN ESSALEHI

The university Housing Services set a vision to build a stronger student community that encourages students' interaction and in-dorm communication. Students hired as Resident Assistants are going to be partners in this project.

AUI's Housing Services launched the semester of spring 2009 with a new approach to housing life; five students were recruited to become part-time Resident Assistants. These resident assistants are supposed to work in coordination with the Housing Services and students who live in residential dorms. As a start, buildings 23, 35 and 36 are included. The next semesters should know the extension of such service to other residential buildings.

It is known that the Housing Services aim at providing a place for students to sleep and a space to feel at ease when studying and enjoying a

shared space with roommates and neighbours. However, the integration of the Resident Assistants reflects the office's willingness to get closer to students' needs.

"We are calling on the help of students to make the RAs mission successful"

"An RA is a problem-solver, a facilitator, and someone who motivates people"

Mrs. Yasmine Bahaji, the Housing Services Director, points out to the fact that this step aims at contributing to students' learning and growth. "We want to implement a richer learning space in residential dormitories that prepare students to share space with others, mutual understanding, and the respect for the other". Accordingly, the Resident Assistants would help the students to live in residence halls rather

than dorms that provide activities of which they can take part with their neighbors.

The Resident Assistants come as successors to the former Stu-

dent Dormitory Association (SDA). For Mrs Bahaji, the SDA used to be regarded and act as a club that was a part of the Office of Student Activities though it was not. Today, the office decided to move forward with this idea by having a real job, a paid one that would require its holder to be committed to certain rules throughout its process.

In the long term, some of the residential buildings will become independent. The Housing Services director explains that students living in these buildings would have

continuous contact with their RAs even when they face problems with their roommates. "This would provide a space for communication and a problem-solving atmosphere between students and their RA colleagues" explains Mrs Bahaji. Housing Services, in fact, holds

sonal skills and have a good academic standing" The job is very demanding and needs special profiles. Also, having an exchange experience, for Mrs. Bahaji, would be a plus. Mrs. Bahaji adds that students with these criteria would definitely help in detecting the students/

"Commitment, Interest, and Collaboration are key elements that can ensure the success of the Resident Assistants' mission"

high expectations for RAs and hope this experience spreads around the residential area. "I want the Residential halls to be managed by RAs," says Mrs. Bahaji.

Concerning the criteria of selecting students to become a Resident Assistant, Mrs Bahaji says the student "has to be joyful, sociable, credible, committed with strong communication and interper-

residents needs and consequently meet them in the most suitable ways.

El Mehdi El Alami, a graduate student majoring in International Studies, and the designated Resident Assistant of building 36 in its 1st and 2nd floor, finds his experience interesting. "I have never been a member of any club at AUI. This made me feel useless since I have never done anything for AUI community" explains El Mehdi. For this student, being an RA is a chance to trigger change at AUI and get to be an active member of the community.

To make the RAs aware of the Housing Services expectations from their work, a series of workshops have been conducted in the beginning of the current semester. Moreover, these workshops covered the Housing Services policy, the job description of RAs and how they can do their tasks, and psychological assessment.

The first activity organized by the RAs was the chilling out evening held in the reception hall of building 38. There, students were invited to enjoy some music, dancing, and get to know their RAs and their mission. El Mehdi El Alami adds that "AUI Resident Assistants are here to make a change". He also invites everyone to "go and see [their] Resident Assistant and be part of that change!"



Pirates of Al Akhawayn

ANASS GTTOA

(continued from Page 1)

AUI students are no strangers to "file sharing," and are well aware that downloading copyrighted material is considered as copyright infringement, which is penalized by Moroccan law.

Downloaded materials range from albums and blockbuster movies to software, games and electronic books. Although downloading a small Mp3 doesn't seem like a big deal for your average Simo / Joe, the music industry insists on prosecuting these people like if they were Jack Sparrow and Somali hijackers.

While buying the products in question seems to be ethically the right choice to go with, students often find themselves in situations where they are compelled to use the downloading system to fulfill their needs. For example, the city of Ifrane lacks a decent movie theatre

that would show the latest blockbuster movies, forcing students to pay a visit to the nearest DVD vendor or to download those movies. Moreover, most music labels overlook Morocco as a potential market, assuming that their music would not find any fans.

"Maybe people would buy their favorite albums

if record companies like Virgin open their stores in Morocco," said Yassir Mahlou, a Business Administration student.

Furthermore, one could argue that online shopping can provide customers with products when the stores are not available, but e-shopping is not a popular alternative among Moroccans in general, and AUI students in particular.

"I can't buy items online because anyone can hack into my computer and get my cred-

it card or PayPal account" explained Mehdi El Youmi, a student from the School of Science and Engineering.

Another issue for AUI students in particular and customers in general is prices. When asked whether to pay for softwares or not, Mehdi El Youmi replied "Sure, I do pay for softwares, 10 Dirhams in Derb Ghellaf; but 999 dollars for Adobe Photoshop is a bit too much!"

Mehdi's tongue in cheek answer may not ring serious for you, but it is very true. High prices are indeed one of the main reasons students lean on their pirate side; however, it is the startup companies and new musicians that suffer the consequences rather than multi-million companies and rock stars.

On the other hand, file sharing has proved to be a great source of knowledge for AUI students. Many language center students acknowledge that movies significantly improved their English and introduced them to the American popular culture. For some other students, e-books are great alternatives for those who couldn't find the books they are looking for in AUI's library.

"I think knowledge should be free, that's why I download electronic books, plus, you can start reading them almost instantly once you need the information without ordering" explained Wissam Khaidou, an SSE student.

According to a research funded by the MPAA (Motion Picture Association of America), the movie industry lost 1.3 billion dollars in the US, and 6.1 billion worldwide because of "Piracy" which can give a hint on why copyright infringement is a much more serious issue in the US. Therefore, most American universities are under too much pressure from the industries to collaborate with them and sue students over

copyright related issues.

"Fortunately," AUI students do not have to endure with these problems- not yet, since individual "piracy" seems to be a neglected issue. In fact, AUI does emphasize that "failing to respect copyright laws is a misdemeanor" according to the ITS regulation book. Also, it is repeated to newcomers every semester that downloading copyrighted material is bad, but still, students seem not to care about this issue except for another kind of case: Plagiarism.

What should be done now, one can ask? "You would have to take away students computers to prevent them from downloading" answered jokingly Mohamed Redouane Khrifi, another SSE pirate student.

So, how to stop piracy? Yassir Mahlou admitted that "It may seem too harsh, but only internet service providers can deal with the subject by tracking people and suing them," which is how things are done in the United States. However, from the losses the industries still get, this suggestion doesn't seem to be a good strategy.

Mehdi El Youmi, on the other hand, has a very different approach. "As a Computer Science major student, I would not feel offended if someday I come across my software being sold in Derb Ghellef" he explained.

Copyright associations do not feel like throwing in the towel, not for a while. However, many software companies and musicians started embracing the concept of file sharing and are using it in a good way. For example, new music bands share their music for free as a marketing strategy. Famous bands like REM and Radiohead also offer their new single for free and even let people vote for which tracks to be on their albums. Therefore, as students seem to bypass the tracking of copyright associations, the industries in question may have to stop considering "downloaders" as pirates. Instead, these can be dealt with as potential customers and provide them with what they need for reasonable prices. Waiting for that to happen, maybe you should show your appreciation from time to time and refrain from clicking that download button...I know it is hard.



Something has changed!

**KHADIJA IRAQI
YASSIR KHADEMALLAH**

Something has changed this semester! Everything has become crowded at the university. Have you noticed? Long lines at the cafeteria and the restaurants, three students living in double rooms, two treadmills and two cardiovascular bikes for more than a thousand people at the sports center, and finally, the last but not the least new situation is crowded classes.

More than 21% of AUI classes (excluding the language center and the labs) have over 30 students; 8% have more than 35, and there are 5% of classes with more than 40 students. Also, some labs in the engineering school contain more than 30 students, namely, the Differential and Integral Calculus Labs. As for the business school, the Advanced Quantitative Methods Lab contains 29 students.

Normally, the number of students in such labs is supposed to be around 14 since these classes need more supervising. The capacity of each class is assigned by the school depending on many criteria such as the nature of the course (lecture, practice, lab...), the number, and the availability of professors, and finally the needs of students. Because of the lack of time and availability of faculty members, we restrained our investigations on the business school knowing that this school contains the largest number of students in the university.

To understand the real causes of the crowded classes, an interview was conducted with Dr. Abrache, the Coordinator of the Business School. Dr. Abrache explained that the capacity of classes is determined mainly by

the demand of students which is precised during the pre-registration process and by the availability of the faculty members. He declared that the main cause of the crowded classes phenomenon in

classrooms are full; there are no chairs for late students, who are obliged to take them from other classrooms.

"Despite the increasing number of students every year, the usual space was

sonalized instruction and a low student/professor ratio enable the students to reap maximum benefit from the expertise of professors. I think my class size is under acceptable limits, but it should not

"the focus should not be solely on learning in class. Learning also takes place outside, via homework for example. Professors gauge how much homework they have to correct. Provided that the resources are constrained (i.e., if there are no efficient systems for TAs and RA's), the higher the number of students, the lower the number of assignments, and therefore the lower is students' learning."

The last variable in this equation is students. For Sidane Hind, a BA student: "smaller classes badly influence the quality of learning because they compel professors to devote less time to the lecture and more effort to help each student. However, there is less noise and tension in smaller classes."

For Ghasan Essalehi, a student in the school of Humanities and Social Sciences: "crowded classes make

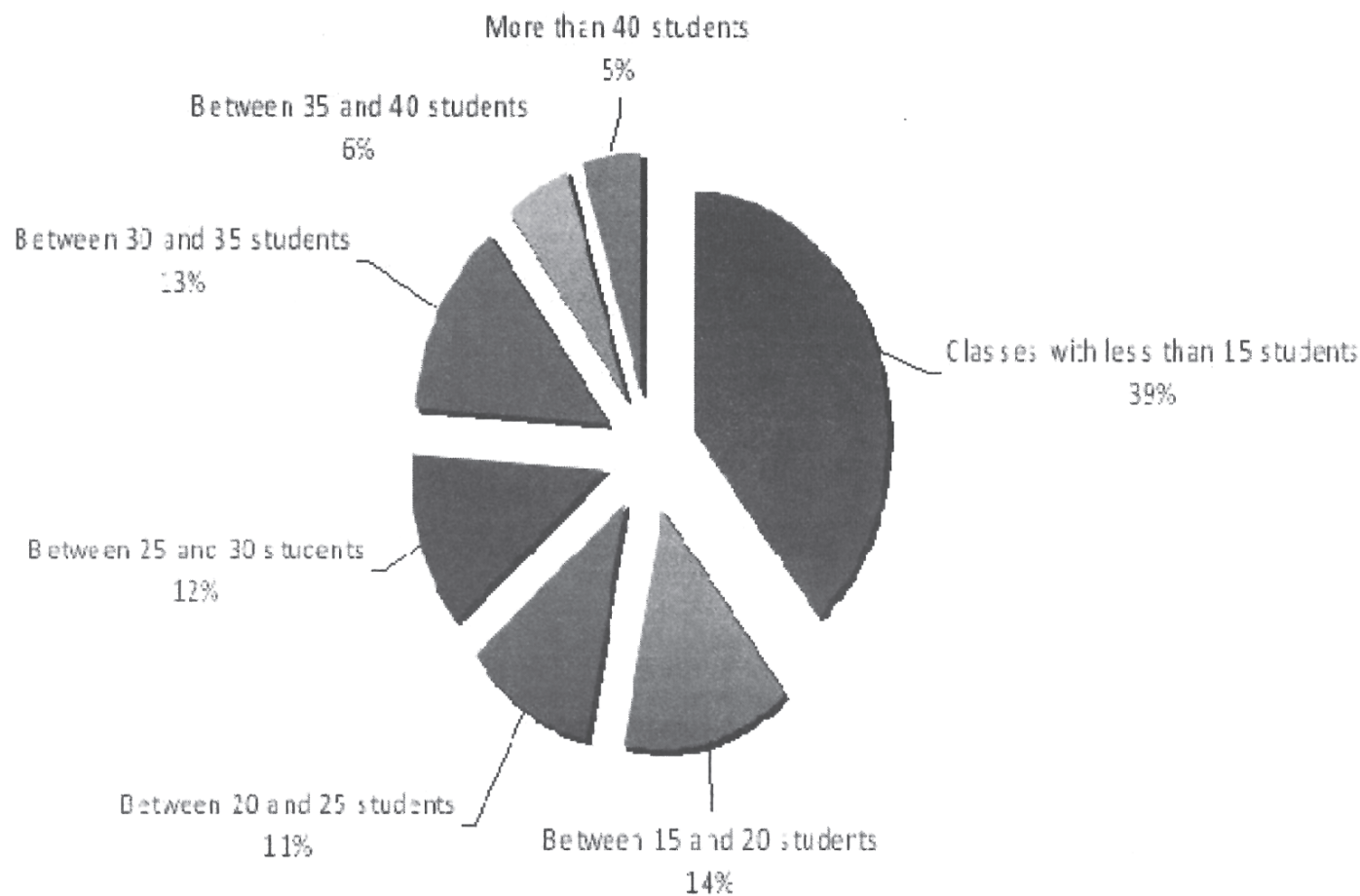
the learning process hard and the intended learning outcomes very difficult to be reached. There are a lot of courses that encourage students' interaction that cannot be done in large size classes (such as mathematics)."

Still, everyone is hoping that AUI can find

"crowded classes make the learning process hard and the intended learning outcomes very difficult to be reached."

solutions that are effective and not time-consuming since these kinds of issues are beneficial for both students and the university's reputation.

Weight of classes:



the business school, in addition to the big number of newcomers, is caused by the fact that many students have switched from engineering to business, making the school obliged to increase the capacity of the introductory classes. He affirmed also that some exceptions were made to enrol students who cannot delay a course and who absolutely need it.

Actually, the business school has the highest number of students and the lowest number of faculty members, which makes it quite difficult to satisfy students' needs. The school is in growing need of professors as Dr. Abrache asserted: "We [the faculty members] are aware of this problem but we are working to hire more resources."

The university is also running out of space. The

maintained for more than 6 years," confirmed Dr. Abrache; "even the schedules were not developed since long time ago."

The university is now reaching its capacity. In order to solve this problem, the university has decided to construct another building for classrooms, which is actually a better idea than the classrooms at the library.

The majority of professors who were asked about this problem considered the fact that classrooms contain; Many students are a real challenge. As Dr. Abrache said in the interview: "I like teaching classes with many students because the probability to get good questions is high, and from there, the course will be rich of information and more challenging."

For Dr. Harcar Talha, "small classrooms, per-

be more than 30. My Principles of Marketing class is 12 students, I feel this is the most productive class for me. I enjoy teaching it more than any other class."

The quality of learning is a debatable question among professors because each one of them has a different point of view. Almost everyone agreed on the idea that Dr. Ghouma, professor in business school, explained: "I think the number of students has a great effect on the quality of the learning process. Too many students will not help the professor to deliver a high teaching quality. But also, a small number of students may demotivate him."

For Dr. Fakhar Ahlam,

The new UCC: A gateway to a new vision

NAJOUA KABBAJ
RACHIDA EDDASSI

AUI has implemented a new academic catalog that brings changes in various areas of the old one. These changes are mainly focusing on the university's common core and also introducing changes at the level of the CAD courses. This initiative has had a fair share of debate, especially among students since they are the most affected by this change.

Dr. Jawad Abrache agreed to conduct an interview in order to shed light on this issue and present all of the novelties involved in the new catalog. He explained first that the most significant changes took part in the university's common core. Indeed, the number of credit hours decreased from 57 to 44 SCH by altering some courses, removing others or adding new ones. In fact, the 4 components of the university's common core, the study skills, the languages, the humanities and the sciences, have had major changes in terms of content. As an example, the study skills courses were reduced from a number of 5 courses into only 3, and the languages ones are now offered as a function of the student's educational background.

"We differentiate the students depending on their background and whether they are coming from the Moroccan, French or international system" clarified Dr. Abrache.

The humanities bag witnessed a diversion in terms of courses by the addition of psychology and geography. Finally, concerning the sciences bag, courses such as Biology, Chemistry and Physics are now offered in function of the students' major.

Dr. Abrache pointed out the addition of two new courses in the common core: Communication through Speaking and Technical Writing instead of English Composition 2. This is due to the fact that English Composition 2 contained repetitive content and was not technically oriented to the students' needs as a their concentrations.

The preparation for the new catalog took place in last spring (08), and was, according to Dr. Abrache, very challenging. First, it started as discussion between the school deans and the VPAA, and gradually, it was diffused to other departments of the university. He stated that "it was a long exercise that took us at least one semester of thinking. This wasn't easy, mainly because it has been challenging to convince people who have different opinions about this new implementation."

All the units made a presentation last semester before the registration day, and explained what the requirements are, and eligibility matters. Students interested by this new program have to sign a form, and hand it to the assistant of the dean. This signature represents a commitment to the new UCC after fully understanding the terms of this catalog. Dr. Abrache also advised students to meet with their respective coordinators and advisors if they need more information about this subject.

The new UCC introduces vital changes to the controversial CAD courses. With the aim of having an in depth overview about the new courses, Dr. Awatif Boudihaj, the Coordinator of the Center of Academic Development, came

up with constructive and detailed information about the three new CAD courses that were implemented in the University Common Core (UCC) starting fall 2008. Indeed, the five CAD courses that were previously taught for about 9 years within AUI have been reduced to only three: SSK 1211, SSK 1212 and SSK 1213.

When asked about the reasons behind such a change, Dr. Boudihaj pointed out that the main motive was the university's initiative to revise the undergraduate core curriculum. Initially there were 5 CAD courses; however, after revising the intended learning outcomes and checking whether there was an overlap, the courses have been merged into only 3. The existing overlap consisted in the fact that some materials in CAD courses were also taught in courses such as in the English Composition one. Another reason for this reduction, according to Dr. Boudihaj, is that some skills, like SKK1203 computer skills, are no longer needed by students, as they are becoming more and more computer literate.

"We worked in collaboration and coordination with the School of Science and Engineering and we found that there were things taught in the first module that were also taught in CS 1400, so we decided that we won't offer this course anymore since it is

**"I am myself happy
with the change; I can
speak for myself!"**

covered by the SSE" affirmed Dr. Boudihaj.

As for the intended learning outcomes, they are not exactly the same; they were modified to better suit the needs of students. Dr. Boudihaj justified this change by stating that "there is a lot of competition between institutions, and we cannot handcuff students with many credits so there is no need for 5 courses. That is why we reduced the number of credits as well."

However, some would argue that only three courses are not enough to help students in their academic career. To resolve this, workshops and tutoring are offered as needed throughout the learning process. The coordinator explained that a condensation of materials of the courses did not take place; but instead the syllabus was redistributed. For the computer skills, the basic ones are included in SSK1211. Concerning the advanced skills, they are taught by SSE. SSK1205 on the other hand is not offered anymore because it is mainly about communication skills, which are taught by the communication department in the Communication through Speaking course.

As clarified by Dr. Boudihaj, the first course, SSK 1211 Strategic Learning for University Success, introduces students to basic study skills they need in order to succeed at university, such as time management, taking notes (as SSK 1201). However, students do not write as much as in former SSK 1201 course.

SSK 1211 was launched last fall 08 and this is the second semester it is offered.

The second course, information literacy skills (SSK 1212), teaches students how to locate, retrieve and analyze information related to the library. It is actually taking place in the library in collaboration with librarians who are offering workshops and orientation to students.

The third course that the CAD is in the process of integrating is critical thinking and analysis, SSK 1213. Dr. Boudihaj stated: "we are meeting weekly to develop 1213, which is going to teach students critical thinking and analysis and basically how to evaluate sources and critically think about them. We are also encouraging students to work collaboratively in groups. It is more like 1204 since it involves reading articles, analyzing them, and writing papers based on the articles they have read."

Dr. Boudihaj declared that most departments of the university welcomed the change, including the executives, the vice president and the students. As a result of running the old and the new program at the same time, faculty members were overwhelmed by the load of work this change has generated.

"We have teachers teaching both the old and new programs" explained Dr. Boudihaj, "we have been meeting weekly to develop the new courses. I am myself happy with the change; I can speak for myself!"

When asked about the students' general outcome and productivity regarding these new courses, Dr. Boudihaj believes that it is too early to tell whether students are doing better in the new system than the old one because comparative results are needed. However, according to Dr. Boudihaj's daily observations from teaching, "students are doing much better, especially since we have set prerequisites for these courses, meaning that 1211 students can only take it if they have 480 in their TOEFL score, or if they are left with one level in the language center. Previously, students were taking level 1 language center and taking 1201 CAD course that required them to write a 3-page essay, which doesn't make sense!"

Students are now making more benefits from the courses and are in a situation that would help them understanding better the material.

"We encourage students to take one CAD course each semester so that they can finish the 3 courses within 1 year if they do the summer session", advised Dr. Boudihaj.

The changes that were initiated by the university have proved to be an important improvement in the academic career of the students by focusing on their specific needs, and at the same time, maintaining the high quality of the programs offered. Because of its recent implementation, the new UCC is creating a fuss among all of the parties, especially the students in lack of knowledge about it. It is then highly advised that students meet their advisors and prepare their degree plan, taking into consideration all of the aspects previously discussed.

Roomies in Sickness and in Health

ABDELAZIZ ALAOUI
YASSINE MAJDI

Sharing a room can be a positive experience for some and a real nightmare for others. Have you ever learned sharing a piece of your daily life with another student? That is the particular thing in living on a university campus: you have to let somebody else enter your privacy. This can be either living in sync/harmony or a real burden. Indeed, having or being a roommate is not an easy task. For some, a roommate has to be a friend, someone you choose. For others it is not a choice, and that is the issue.

Let's have an insight into the life of those "lucky" ones who had the chance to find their "soul mate" or so it appears... According to statistics given by the Housing Office, in 2007, 70% of students chose their "partner," meaning that 70% of students are supposed to experience a "perfect romance." We can give the example of Mhamed Guesous, junior SBA student who said: "My roommate practically became my best friend."

We can also cite the example of Youssef Drissi, junior SBA student who declared: "At first we faced many difficulties. But with time we overcame the problems we were facing and became good friends." The two aforementioned examples belong to the 74% of male students who

chose their roommate and stuck with their choice.

However some students face many difficulties with their roommate and make the deci-

roommate because of disagreement said: "We were friends and we still are. But we simply could not manage to live together."

What about the other 30%;

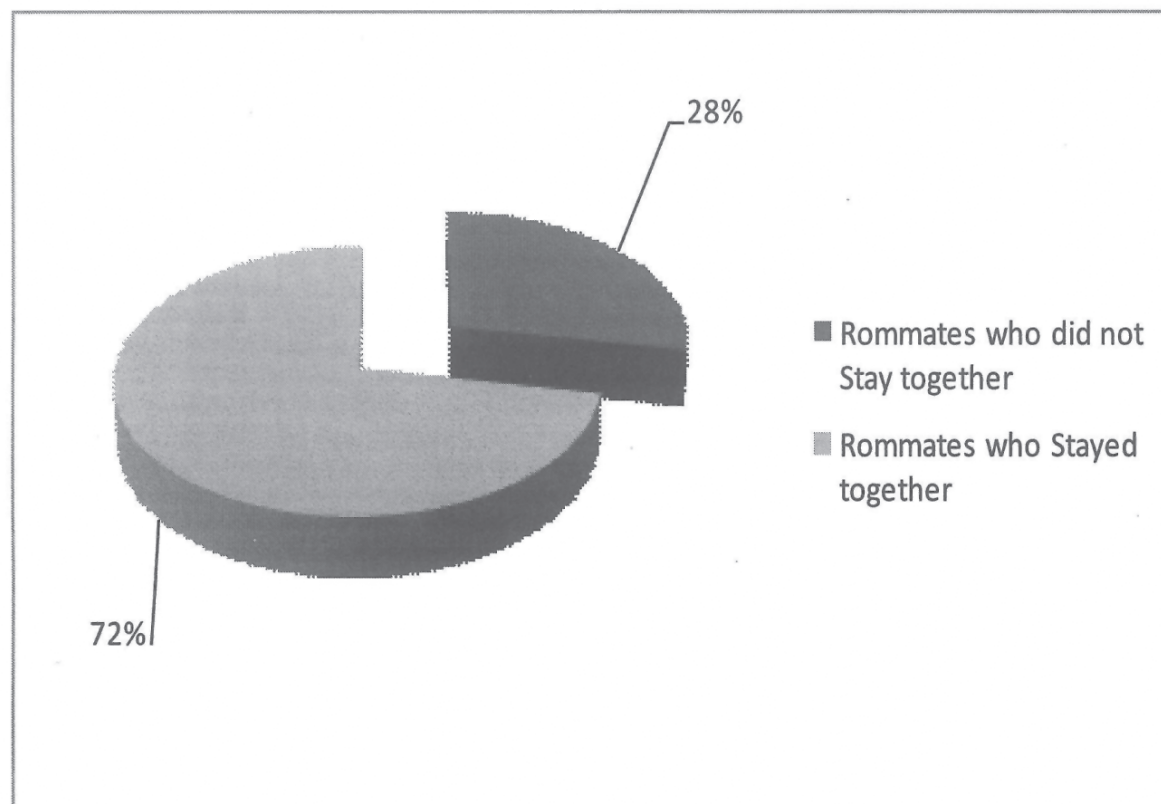
the case of Ilhame Majdi, SHSS senior student who claimed: "Actually, this is the first semester that I did not choose my roommate. For the time being everything is great."

We can also mention the case of Hamza Brioua: "I did not choose my roommate, but it wasn't a problem for me. In fact, each of us has his own personal space and we understand each other very well."

Of course, not to choose a roommate could lead to disastrous situations. Some students complained of thefts and degradation of their goods. One of them, who want to remain anonymous, declared: "My first roommate was the devil! I was even afraid to come to my room because I would find it in a complete mess. I would often come to my room and find ashes near my bed and somebody sleeping on it. I am not sure but I suspect him of stealing from me."

It is sure that being a roommate requires some efforts, even if the two are very close friends. Being a roommate requires sacrifices from each side. If you cannot stand living with someone, getting a single is an option for you, but few are chosen so you better find a soul mate quick.

Percentage of male roommates who stayed together



sion to take separate ways even though they decided to be together in the first place. Indeed, in the year 2007, 19% of all students changed their roommate. Among them, Sara Ananas, sophomore SBA student, who left her former

those "poor" people who did not choose the person they "share" their lives with? It seems that a good percentage of them remain together for a long period of time even though they were complete strangers to one another. This is

Rotaract Gala Party: A Child's Dream

SALMA LAMQADAM

At the end of last semester, on November 22nd, more than 500 students attended the Rotaract Club's biggest event: the third edition of its annual Gala Party. This year, the Rotaract Club chose the theme of "Children's Dream".

The Rotaract Club, AUI's chapter of the Rotary International NGO, is a team of more than 50 students. In the weeks prior to the gala, the club members were all over campus selling tickets to students and staff, and sensitizing them to the causes the club is defending. Others drove to big cities to find sponsors to cover the event.

Their hard work has paid off, as the club managed to sell over 1200 tombola tickets and 550 seats for the gala party. They also have found more than 10 sponsors including Coca-Cola, Radio Chaine Inter, Hit Radio, L'Economiste, and Asta.

"It was not an easy work to do", confesses Zineb El Ouazzani, head of the club, who also emphasizes on the significant amount of costs they had encountered, mainly that of logistics, and decoration. Regardless of these issues, an excellent show was offered to the spectators, assured by celebrities from all around Morocco, such as the singer Karima Sqalli, the

rap band H-Kayne, the chaabi celebrity Slaoui, the AUI alumni Youssef Ksiyer and others.

The show was presented by the two Moroccan comedians, Rachid and Hicham from the show "Camera Noujoum" who kindly accepted Rotaract's invitation and performed for free.

The audience enjoyed the show. Anas Belhaj, freshman SBA student reported that he enjoyed attending his first gala. "The Stunt Boys were surprisingly good, and Youssef Ksiyer was unexpectedly hilarious," he said. "The noble purpose of the party made me enjoy it even more," he added.

The primary aim of the gala was to raise funds for the poorest youth of Ifrane's region. Over 70,000 DH were raised thanks to the event and will provide the necessary help for the girls of the Aziyate Juvenile Institute, as well as improve the facilities of Assalam School.

"The event could not have been a success without all the AUI units that helped make it happen: the Housing Services, the Security department, the auditorium's technicians, Hand in Hand, the Design Club, the Spanish Club and the UCN", said Zineb El Ouazzani.

A Cards' Wave on Campus

YASSINE HABIBI

Nothing to do on campus?

In their free time, some students tend to go to the gymnasium, others prefer to watch a movie in the game room while another group likes to meet friends in the cafeteria.

There is still a majority of students that stay warm in their rooms, isolated from the cold weather. Some of them watch TV, chat on facebook or just get some rest; and others simply play poker.

Whether it is a way of having fun with friends or a way of gambling money, playing poker is becoming more and more famous inside the university campus.

Unlike other games like Monopoly which deal with fake money, poker is real! It is a game of chance which requires a lot of intellectual capacities to make the right choice, as well as some skills in psychology to destabilize the adversary.

When the white carpet of snow covers the campus, some students feel there are no longer interesting activities for them. They discovered poker.

Easy to play, risky to win

There are different variants of poker; their basic rules are more or less the same but the most worldwide known poker game is the "Texas Hold'em".

All you need is a standard pack of 52 cards and some chips. You will probably have to know what the terms "check", "pot", "call", "raise", "bet" or "fold" mean, but "even if you

are not a professional player, it is a piece of cake" said Yassine, a regular player of this game.

He started showing me his equipment: a wallet like any other.

What is so special about that wallet? "This is my treasure," he told me while taking



it out of his cupboard," If I was alone on an island, the only thing I'd like to have is this" he added.

In this game, you have to be very careful. That's why it requires a lot of practice before getting started.

Yassine and his friends are ready, the

game begins. Each one gets two cards and they start with initial bets called the "blind". After the flop is dealt, the betting rounds start. Every one uses his own style and techniques- including "Bluffing"- which is among the basics of Poker, in order to disturb his opponents. The player who has the highest of the remaining hands wins the game.

A way to forget about studies

"When I play poker, it makes me forget about the exams and homework," he said. "It is like if I was in a living dream. I can "win" thousands of money in a second and I can lose a higher amount another second".

The game is maybe attracting, but the problem is that students "forget", like he pointed out, about their studies. They leave beside their homework and responsibilities and get into the sins of the game. I asked him if it was affecting his grades: "Well, maybe but even if you don't play poker you can have bad grades". What about sleeping? You've been playing all night long I said. "Don't worry, be happy, we are still young and money comes and goes, what you care about?!!"

The excess of anything can be harmful. After deep research, it seems that students tend to be rather addicted than just having fun with cards and that is where the entire problem is. Despite its tempting attracting features, one has to bear in mind that gambling is illegal.

You Got Style

Nokia N97 Released

MOHAMED REDOUANE KHRIFI

Nokia has unveiled the Nokia N97, claiming it to be the world's most advanced mobile computer. The Nokia N97 combines a large 3.5" touch display with a full QWERTY keyboard, providing an 'always open' window to social networking sites and Internet destinations.

"From the desktop to the laptop and now to your pocket, the Nokia N97 is the most powerful, multi-sensory mobile computer in existence," said Jonas Geust, Vice President, heading Nokia Nseries. "Together with the Ovi services announced today, the Nokia N97 mobile computer adjusts to the world around us, helping stay connected to the people and things that matter most. With the Nokia N97, Nseries leads the charge in helping to transform the Internet into your Internet".

The Nokia N97 introduces the concept of 'social location'. With integrated A-GPS sensors and an electronic compass, the Nokia N97 mobile computer understands where it is. The Nokia N97 makes it easy to update social networks automatically with real-time information, giving approved friends the ability to update their 'status' and share their 'social location' as well as related pictures or videos.



The home screen of the Nokia N97 mobile computer features friends, social networks and news, available by simply touching the home screen. The 16:9 widescreen displays can be fully personalized with frequently updated widgets of favorite web services and social networking sites.

The Nokia N97 supports up to 48 GB of storage, including 32 GB of on-board memory, expandable with a 16 GB microSD card for music, media and more. This is complemented by excellent music capabilities, full support for the Nokia Music Store and continuous playback time of up to 1.5 days. The Nokia N97 also has a 5-Megapixel camera with high-quality Carl Zeiss optics, 16:9 and DVD quality video capture, and support for services like Share on Ovi for immediate sharing over HSDPA and WLAN.

Key Features of the new Nokia N97

- Touch display (3.5 of it) which slides and tilts to reveal a full QWERTY keyboard plus d-pad for easy navigation.
- 5 Megapixel Camera Carl Zeiss integrated optics coupled with a dual LED flash
- A massive 32GB of internal memory with MicroSD support for further memory expansion
- Integrated Assisted GPS
- WiFi and HSDPA
- DVD quality video capture and 16:9 display

BOOK REVIEWS

Lessons in Capitalism: Economy through Ayn Rand (Part 1)

Wai Kalama

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

The Fountainhead by Ayn Rand, Bobbs Merrill, 1943.

Although published more than sixty years ago, Ayn Rand's *The Fountainhead* serves as a reminder of the ideal capitalistic society even as we begin to question its effectiveness during the global crisis. An immigrant from Soviet Russia, Rand wrote a series of allegoric works warning against the destructive results of a society/economy driven by collectivism and socialism; professing instead the ideal society/economy as driven by the individual and his innovations, or competitive free enterprise. She used the medium of fiction to illustrate her economic philosophy, Objectivism, which preaches the ability of man to achieve, to rationalize, and to produce. Howard Roark, main protagonist and author surrogate, is the "perfect man"; he is an architect who expects the best from everyone around him, who rejects the models and examples of his predecessors in favor of new, innovative directions. Unwilling to compromise his integrity, he is continually persecuted for his lack of preoccupation with

wealth and status; he is completely self-interested. According to Rand, Roark's ambition serves as an example of the self-interested independence necessary to a healthy economy. Any market regulation or charity from the government promotes incompetence and is a detriment to the economy and ultimately to the society.

It is important to remember that Rand utilizes a different vocabulary than that which appears in our colloquial use. For example, self-interest is the lack of considering others' opinions, resulting in no dependence on others' thoughts. Disregarding altruism seems controversial in our philanthropic day and age; but keeping her point in mind, she presents a strong argument for maintaining a healthy society and economy through the endeavor to excel. Conversely, selflessness is subservience to others, leading to interdependence and stagnation of growth. As Rand writes: "Independence is the only gauge of human virtue and value. What a man is and makes of himself; not what he has or hasn't done for others. There is no substitute for personal dignity." Ultimately, however, this philosophy is very excluding; it assumes that one's successes are only due to one's will and the quality of one's spirit, giving no allowance for differences in social or moral circumstances. Critics have argued that her novels are weak

precisely because they cannot survive on realistic, practical grounds.

The structure of the book follows the lives of four main male characters, each a symbol: Howard Roark (self-interest), Peter Keating (selflessness), Ellsworth Toohey (ambition through sacrifice of others) and Gail Wynand (ambition through sacrifice of self), as well as the life of the female lead, Dominique,

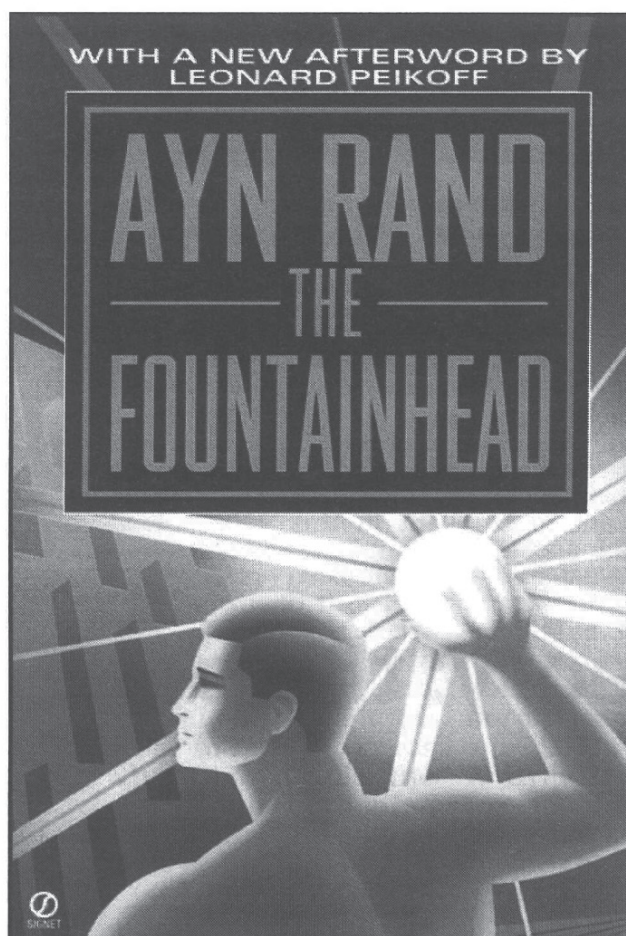
Roark and Toohey's worldview differences are evident in their one meeting: "Why don't you tell me what you think of me, Mr. Roark?" Roark: "But I don't think of you." Keating is the paradigm of a manipulated instrument; thriving on the conventions and opinions of others—his mother, his mentor Toohey, his predecessors, his audience. He achieves prominence in his social sphere but ultimately sacrifices his own integrity because he fails to achieve originality and to value himself. From a literary point of view, the book is pregnant with delicious phrases and commendable minute details, colored with metaphors, similes, and symbols. Her ability to pinpoint an emotion—unidentified with our limited vocabulary—and flesh it out is uncanny. Her view is all-encompassing and analytical as observed in the minds of her characters.

One flaw I saw in her literary background is that she uses her characters only to the point of their symbolhood; they are rarely fleshed-out past this symbolization. Keating dooms himself by constantly being a servant to others and thus sinks to the contempt of everyone, including himself. Roark, who maintains his self-interest, emerges from his trials with full integrity intact. Wynand, though he preaches selfishness, ultimately destroys himself through his own need to control the lives of others, becoming a servant to the whim of

the masses. It is difficult to empathize with these symbolic characters.

In addition, Rand's Objectivist philosophy tends to be drowned in the personal struggles of the characters—an effect that is avoided in her later book *Atlas Shrugged*. This is not a book that focuses on well-rounded characters or impartiality. Fundamental truths are felt to be universal and neutral—without giving any well-balanced respect to altruism. Her background is a self-absorbed, pasty society; her antagonists are all foolish, incompetent, weak and/or insignificant—there was no worthy antagonist I felt that could match the heroes' struggle. Her argument would be more substantial if she had included second voice; her philosophy would be strengthened with debate.

Overall, I recommend *The Fountainhead* because it presents fiction in an unprecedented fashion. Emotions such as ecstasy, unhappiness, catharsis, irrational horror, shame, and schadenfreude appear in unconventional settings. Matching the bluntness of her characters, her language is often stark and clumsy, but also unambiguous due wholly to its rawness, ungainliness and vitality. Subtle metaphors color her prose: for example, when the hopelessness and submission of Keating to Toohey is mirrored in his own reflection in Toohey's glasses. As far as the personal message, the right of an individual's happiness is his or her right to achieve. The book is an icon to Rand's concept of a universal truth, that the will of the individual is his own will, to remain untouched by the stains of other's wills. As Roark declares, "I do not recognize anyone's right to one minute of my life."



who also represents self-interest on the side of Roark, but who is "weaker" than him because she maintains a regard for the opinions of others. All of the characters, with the exception of Roark, live off the support, sympathy, and approval of others; Roark remains indifferent to all external opinions and beliefs. Toohey, the main antagonist, thinks constantly of others; he manipulates lesser-willed people by dragging them down with their own guilt and altruism for his own power-hungry purposes.

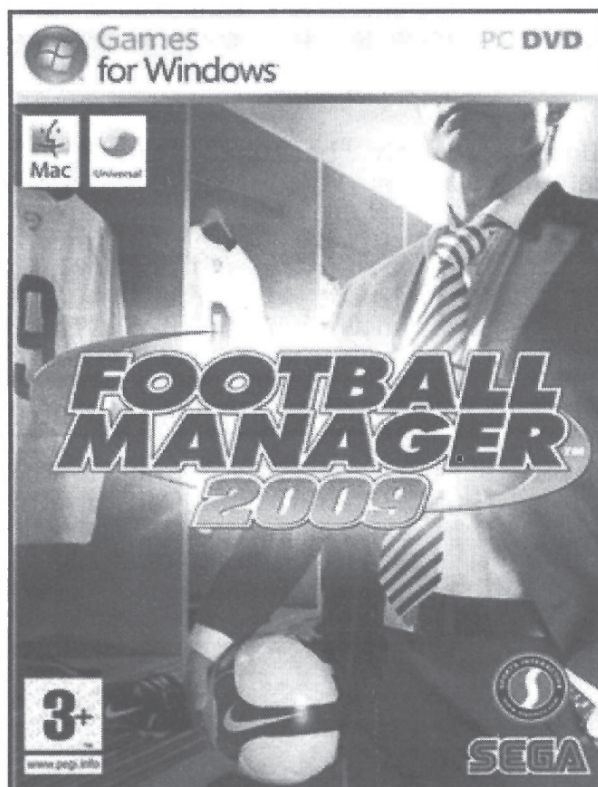
Football Manager 2009: a new football season is knocking!

YASSIR MAHLOU

You are one of the 60 million football managers that our beautiful planet accounts. Not too much stinky in gratuitous insults, you know all about football, you are always right, you know which tactic to choose, and the best players that can perform well on the pitch. You are stubborn and subjective, and you have the strong belief that there is only one single solution: yours. Hence, invest in Football Manager 2009 and test your footballistic knowledge.

Football Manager targets a knowledgeable category of people, familiar with tables, statistics and high challenges. Being manager is not an easy job; still many of us would probably exercise it. Actually, when success is reached, the fans are pleased and the club's board covers you with gold. You hold fame, notoriety, villas, beautiful cars, sexy models, and red carpet of big clubs. However, when you fail in your mission, desperation haunts you and your reputation goes down. Football Manager, therefore, invites players to assume the role of a manager. To get started, two steps are needed. First one, discover the size of the huge database that the game contains, create your profile, and select the team that you want to manage. Second stage, analyze the information about your club and try to extract the best information that will put your team on the path of success.

It would take hours to discuss in detail all of the available ingredients that are present in the game. The tactical side is always appreciated; the player can create his own strategies, taking into account the capacities of his players. Long game or short game, pass techniques, risk taking, marking, closing down, playing on wings or playing counter-attacks, many instructions must be assigned to the team, collectively or individually. Managing players' training sessions, club finances, finding the rare pearl, and the elaborated transfer system are all major elements that are present in Football Manager 2009 to delight loyalists to the series. Before, during and after a match, the discussion with the players is a psychological aspect that should not be overlooked, especially in this 2009 edition. In addition, with more than 50 leagues



and 350 000 players and staff, be ready to have tons and tons of hours of play, with no loss of interest.

Fortunately for the "aficionados" of Football Manager, the new version is more complete than the previous versions, thanks to the new added features. First to advance, there is an attribution of specific grades to players, with tenths, after each game. Trivial to some, most picky gamers will see the opportunity to assess with greater precision the performance of their players and their evolution throughout the season. Second point to highlight in this 2009 edition, is the management of transfers and recruitments. The transfers system has been optimized and it will

be important, more than ever, to show patience and enthusiasm in recruiting the player you want. Furthermore, the financial management of the club has undergone some crucial changes, and this is proven by the wage budget dedicated to each club. Finances are far more realistic than previous editions and they require vigilance on many aspects before finalizing a specific transaction.

Press conferences are also supposed to represent a major addition in Football Manager 2009. Unfortunately, even if their impact on the course of the game is rather interesting and well developed, the conferences themselves become boring very quickly. They are nothing less than multiple-choice questionnaires that tirelessly repeat themselves over many months. Besides, the great innovation of this Football Manager 2009 finally lies on the integration of a 3D engine for live games. Indeed, watching the games in progress is no longer confined to traditional scrolling text or colourful 2D engine and its moving pellets. A 3D view with various cameras appeared to the delight of those who called loudly this innovation for several years. However, there is no question of competing with the best graphics engines of football games, such as Pro Evolution Soccer or Fifa series, even if we had a right to expect better animations. Maybe it will be one aspect to be developed for the next edition of Football Manager.

To conclude, always comprehensive, picky, but still accessible, Football Manager 2009 is packed with features that will delight fans of football management. Moreover, it appeals to some newcomers and worshippers of the ball. Football Manager 2009 goes even further and offers its followers a few welcomed improvements such as a 3D engine for games, a more realistic financial aspect and more complex transfers. On the other hand we would have appreciated, for example, more varied press conferences. Despite some deficiencies, Football Manager 2009 is undoubtedly the most successful title and the most immersive in its category.

The Big Bang Theory: the perfect geek stereotyping

MAISSOUR MOHAMMED AMINE

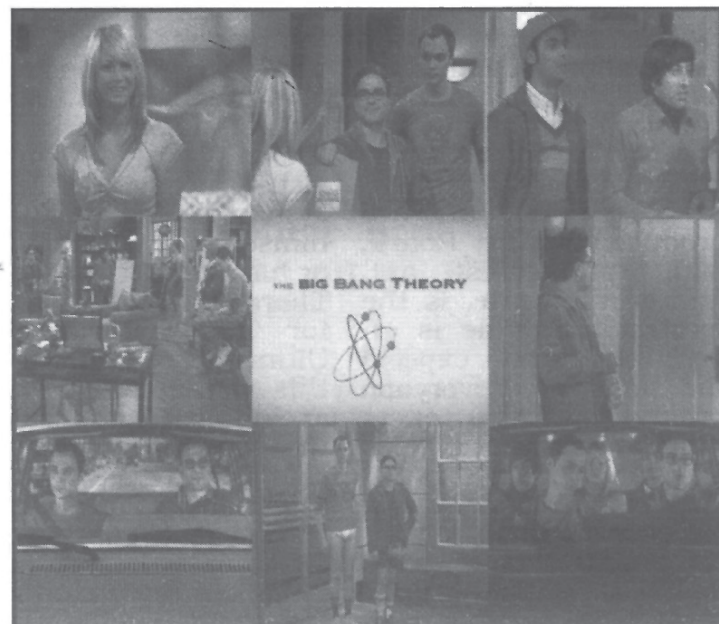
The curriculum of AlAkhawayn is known for its diversity, offering courses ranging from literature to science, passing by politics and history. Some students admit that there are some courses that they barely can stand ... among them, physics is frequently stated. Well, opinions differ about this, but for sure there is little fun with such a serious subject ... but guess what, physics related jokes are very funny if well presented. You will discover that by watching "the big bang theory", the hilarious new TV show that became famous lately.

This sitcom relates the daily life of a group of four nerds; Leonard an experimental physicist, Sheldon a physics theorist, Rajesh an Astrophysician, and Howard an engineer. Their high level of geekiness is very present in the way they behave and talk, and their social relations are very poor since they are barely friends with anybody else, in the exception of penny, a hot young girl that lives across the hall from Leonard and Sheldon.

Penny spends quite a bit of time hanging out with them in Sheldon and Leonard's apartment, trying to understand the four nerds and getting along with them. She discovers the fussiness of

Sheldon, who is such a maniac that every activity has its timing and if he misses the schedule, he kind of "bugs". She also notices that Raj cannot say a word in front of her, because he suffers from pathological shyness (which makes him unable to speak in front of pretty women). As far as Leonard is concerned, he is the coolest one among them for penny; he is the least geeky and tries to improve his skills to deal with people around him. Penny hates particularly Howard; he is a pervert and does not miss an occasion to manifest it, which makes him very annoying.

Outside of work, the four nerds share a lot of common interests; they like comic books, they watch "Star Trek", and they play online video games. They also have their self-made board games, like 3 dimensional chess and "Star Trek" Pictionary, besides debating crazy theories from time to time. This show is nothing as you have ever seen, and be sure that you will get your dose of humor by watching it every Wednesday on one of the many video streaming websites on the internet.



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

Poems

MOHAMED REDOUANE KHRIFI

Rise

Oh Palestine... Oh Holy Land...
As I walk on your bloody sand,
I see pictures of lonely men
With nothing else to defend.

Oh Palestine... Oh Holy Land...
As I walk on your sacred stones,
I see pictures of damaged homes
With nothing to make them stand.

Oh Palestine... Oh Holy Land...
As I walk on your royal grass,
I see pictures of burned plants
With nothing to make

Oh Palestine... Oh Holy Land...
Wherever I walk in this world,
I see pictures of your pride,
With everything to make it rise...

I just want to see you free again
And your people dancing in the rain

I don't want to see you in all this pain
I just want to know what they get as a gain

The freedom, is what I wish you to obtain
And not to be attacked by those war planes

I know your people bear and don't complain
But don't let all these deaths go in vain

You should be really wise and very sane
Don't let anyone get your life by their stain

While your people work hard and train
In our hearts and thoughts you will remain

Don't give up, give it all your effort
you're the one we'll always support

Hope

You're the sign of hope and love
You'll be always the one above

Everything else, and in my heart you'll remain
But I hate to see you restricted in that chain

Some Chuck Norris facts:

MOHAMMED AMINE MAISSOUR

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

- If you have five dollars and Chuck Norris has five dollars, Chuck Norris has more money than you.
- Apple pays Chuck Norris 99 cents every time he listens to a song.
- Chuck Norris can sneeze with his eyes open.
- Chuck Norris can kill two stones with one bird.
- Chuck Norris counted to infinity - twice.
- Chuck Norris' hand is the only hand that can beat a Royal Flush.
- Chuck Norris doesn't wear a watch, HE decides what time it is.
- Chuck Norris can slam a revolving door.
- Chuck Norris's tears cure cancer. Too bad he never cries. Ever.
- Some people wear Superman pajamas. Superman wears Chuck Norris pajamas.

FC Barcelona, The return of the "Dream Team"

HATIM KSISSOU

After the arrival of Josep 'Pep' Guardiola, Barcelona's supporters doubted the ability of the new coach to bring real changes to the club's results. Critics doubted that Barcelona would compete for any competition this year since the new coach has no past experience in coaching big clubs. After the start of the Spanish league, Barcelona had poor results with one loss and a draw. Pep Guardiola received a lot of criticism and asked for patience.

In September 21, Barcelona had their first win against Sporting Gijon with an astonishing score of 6 to 0 that made Barcelona shrug off their bad start in the League with a good disciplined performance. Soon after, Barcelona achieved amazing results by defeating Atletico Madrid and Valladolid with a score of 6 to 1 and 6 to 0 respectively. Guardiola's team dominated all their games, achieving in the Liga 19 wins, two draws and one loss. These amazing results gave Guardiola time to breathe and to

gain confidence.

As for the champions league, Barcelona started their campaign with a 3-1 victory against Sporting

formation where Alves played as a right winger ahead of three men defense but behind three men midfield. This made

the right. In the midfield, Keita joined the creative force of Xavi and Iniesta. The forward line up was back to the familiar Hen-

players such as Messi, Xavi or Eto'o. The latter has scored 21 goals in 22 games during the Liga, and the Argentinean young star is the man on the spotlight by executing unusual magic tricks and scoring more than 16 goals, making Barcelona the leader of the Spanish league. Barcelona's style of playing has been widely discussed among supporters, who have compared it with the style of the "Dream Team". This refers to the team of Johan Cruyff that goes back to 1988 when Cruyff came to Barcelona and accomplished a historical moment by winning the clubs' first champions league and 4 consecutive leagues. Johan Cruyff's team played a spectacular offensive game and was nicknamed the "Dream Team".

The statistics of FC Barcelona this season in all competitions con-founded: 36 games, 29 victories, 4 draws, 3 losses, 99 goals scored, and 30 goals received.



Lisbon. This game demonstrated Guardiola's new strategy for playing. Guardiola played with an unusual 3-4-3 formation. It was more like 3-1-3-3

sure that Barcelona wasn't caught that often on counter. The defense was made up of Abidal in the left, Puyol in the centre and Marquez in

ry, Eto' and Messi combination.

Barcelona's victories are also due in a great part to the magnificent performance of great

New sport clubs at AUI : Big up to the athletics department!

MEHDI EL YOUMI

What is good at AUI is that you get the possibility of performing all kinds of hobbies: you can practice sports -AUI's gymnasium is equipped enough to give the opportunity to students to practice different kind of sports- or you can join clubs in the student activities office to participate in the organization of many events that take place at AUI. Why not combine the two? An alternative would be to practice sports and participate in the active life of AUI at the same time, while another one would be to join sports clubs that appeared in AUI starting this semester.

This was an idea of the athletics department's staff. By creating these clubs, their aim was mainly to mix between the two meanings of being an "active" student. Not less than a dozen clubs were founded: some of them like volley-ball club, swimming club and body-building club were born or reborn to illustrate the success of these sports in AUI, while oth-

er ones like skiing club, ballet club, climbing club and boxing club were founded to promote the image of these respective sports within the AUI community. Finally, the cheerleading club appeared with the will of providing the moral support to the AUI sports teams in their official games at AUI.

The newborn clubs are almost the same as the old ones of the student activities office. Their executive boards are mainly constituted from a president, a vice-president, a treasurer, a general secretary, and an advisor. Each club is offered a budget of 4000 DHS and is asked to send an action plan at the beginning of each semester. The only difference is the weekly meetings' location: they are held in the gymnasium. Finally, each club is obliged to do elections once a year.

The success of these clubs was expected. A large number of students were interested in many of them and signed

up right after their creation. Some of the signup sheets were full of students willing to improve their sports skills. However, the attendance differs from one club to another: the body-building, boxing and swimming clubs, for example, attract a lot of students, while other clubs like skiing club or climbing club are still looking for new members. Maybe it is just a matter of time before students will discover these clubs and start attending their meetings.

There are some clubs that attract men while other ones are exclusively for women. An example would be the boxing and body-building clubs where most of the members are men. On the contrary, the cheerleading club, which is certainly the first of its kind in Morocco, is composed mainly of women. Thus, the athletics department's staff has proved that they were targeting not only a specific part of the students, but the whole AUI community.

What we are still waiting for are the action plans of these clubs. We cannot wait to discover the kind of events that will be organized, how they will be planned and the amount of money that will be needed for each event. Maybe more sports tournaments will be organized and training sessions will be offered to students.

Other clubs will appear in the next few months, like the karting club. It is a fact that these clubs increase the interest of students in sports, and this is maybe the reason why the athletics is thinking about adding new clubs.

We can conclude that the creation of sports clubs is a source of benefit to the AUI community. They play the role of catalysts that incite student to practice sports. Beside the fact that they target most of the people at AUI, these clubs will be behind the organization of a lot of sports-related events.