

15th October Rome Protest: Violent Or Rational ?



Paypal Fully Operational Starting 2012



Will Palestine Ever Be Recognized?



Morocco's New Ranking at the doing Business 2012 World Bank



Moncef Belkhayat and The Moroccan Sport Development



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Editorial



Hello AUI Readers! We are here again for a second issue! We have been struggling to get it sooner but it isn't always a very easy job. I am writing before you my last editorial as an editor in chief for the AUI Bridge. This issue for the bridge is as always here to bring you company to reflect on what you are doing here as students and as individual Moroccans as well. The elections of the 25th of November are very close. To be honest I am not going to vote. It is not because of my lack of patriotism,

but it is because of my lack of belief in a system that was forged on convincing a highly uneducated population on the importance of change by voting yes on a slightly modified constitution that was supposed to lead us to a more democratic state, but does it really?

Let us not get very political here AUers, let us think more about our university. As a senior student, I am finding it very difficult to believe that a university with seventeen hundreds students only had a very hard time scheduling midterm exams for every class of the university. I have been here for four years, and I have never experienced midterm exams spread along not just one week, but three weeks and for some students even more. I mean what is the deal man!! For me, it is not about spending a lot of time lost in the books and how dreadful it can be, but it is more about all the stress we have to endure during this period. I have thought that a one week period was enough to crack us up. However, the upper levels of management of the university, or the faculty who seem to be given more power than needed have thought otherwise. Keep it optimistic people, because, we have something new here at AUI; it is trash and garbage. I remember my orientation in 2008 and the important speech given by the Vice President of Student Affairs on the importance of having a nice and clean campus as it has always been. However, I am having such a hard time believing that my orientation had any importance at all! I walk around campus these days and watch cleaning men walk around students gathering cups and tissues left everywhere and sometimes even cigarette butts by students' feet. Not only that, students now have felt that they don't need to go to the trash to get rid of whatever is left of their food or coffee, there is someone else to do that for them; it is these poor cleaning men who are –apparently to students - here to clean up their mess after they had enough to eat from the cafeteria. Did they forget to mention the importance of having a neat campus in this last orientation? Is it because students don't care anymore about the university? What has happened to all the fines we were threatened by as new comers back in the day?

Apparently, it was just one big hokum in a high standard university that is called the Harvard of the Arab World ... PLEASE!!

I was a part of a discussion held by students and the UNESCO of the Muslim world that took place several weeks ago, with a large group of people that have shown a great interest in the leaders of Morocco, the Harvard of the Arab World as we call this university. I was hoping that taking part in such a discussion will be a huge opportunity for me and other active students of the university. Unfortunately, it has turned out as a frustration talk between students that thought that AUI was too secular for their taste and other students that have shown their angry side with AUI students' reactions to their organized events that are, in their opinion, highly disappointing and racist. But are we really being racist against anyone? Not really. I think that AUI students were angry against an event held to remember and show our respect to the late King Mohammed V and his efforts to protect the Moroccan Jews from the Nazis which has end up with creating a wrong image of AUI and Morocco in general as recognizers of highly mediatized events as facts and true stories. Dear AUI community let me stop here as I don't want to be sucked into anti-Semitism dogma as some may refer to it. As I have mentioned before, after several semesters trying to break down AUI's best and worst to you, this is my last semester as the editor in chief of the AUI Bridge. I hope that you have enjoyed our issues during this period and that some of you will someday consider being active with this newspaper, trying to use it as a medium to express yourselves about what is really happening in this university and bring the truth up to the surface for the community to read it. After all, we criticize the things we love most to make them better.

Most importantly, I hope that you have learned what AUI was about and understand what should be done to merely deserve the nickname of the Harvard of the Arab world that we are wearing proudly in a very wrong way.

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English is AUI's Soul: An Op-Ed from Alumni.

Hamid Chbouki and Ali Boukili

AUI has shaped our characters' a great deal and has set the tone to our professional careers and to some extent our lifestyles. It was due to a variety of factors, ranging from the curriculum to the community, the campus life, the altitude and the scenery. The purpose of this article is to bring to current students the long term perspective of mastering the English language and the importance of enforcing AUI's identity as an English-speaking university.

If there are everlasting effects to our student years at AUI, acquiring the English language is ranked in the top three. The English language has opened doors to international schools, scholarships and careers.

So, one could easily make the assumption that English is only good for international endeavors and ambitions; leaving the transformational aspects that the language had on us as

students then, and professionals today.

On top of the world-class education that we have received at AUI, English is the biggest competitive advantage that we had on the job market. Back in the early 2000, AUI was the only university in Morocco whose students graduated being fluent in English.

Today, any respected primary school in Morocco offers English as a second language to its pupils. It has become the criterion of choice for parents to pick a school. Some would argue that it is a marketing stunt from the schools, but when we witness 8-9 years old kids conversing in English, there's an "Aha" effect to it. Back to the study years at AUI, English was not only the language of textbooks and classrooms; it brought a structural and cultural aspect with it.

As AUI students', we acquired a new structure

and methodology in collecting, processing and delivering information. It was one of the most sustainable skills that helped alumni's in their professional and personal lives up to today.

The English language also came with a culture; one that promotes pragmatism, openness, optimism, outreach, compassion, opportunity search and globalization.

We understand the realities of the Moroccan job market and the dominance of French as the business language. We believe that the university should take a pragmatic approach and introduce a "French Business Language" class to graduating students, guaranteeing their professionalism in the workforce. The class would cover both business writing techniques and communication skills in French.

By not enforcing the English identity of AUI, students find themselves not fully master-

ing the English language and losing ground in their French skills by feeding on a limited French vocabulary that has no fertile ground for growth in Ifrane.

We would also like to acknowledge a truth; we are not a French society. We speak French out of convenience, ease and sophistication; which is to our credit as an open society.

But the world today is global, and English is the world's business language. Competition is increasingly shifting from manufacturing to talent pools. In order to position Morocco on the world stage, we will need a workforce with global tools and mindsets.

English is an important key factor for the Moroccan workforce to compete in a global market place. AUI had and still has the opportunity to produce world-class managers for the Moroccan and the world economy.

Freshman Myths: The 2015 Edition

Wissal Lahjouji

Some may seem confident, others may not; some have the casual Casablanca or Rabat accent, while others stand out with their northern or southern one. However, despite the palpable differences in the way they dress, talk, and react to jokes, the 234 freshmen who joined Al Akhawayn University on September 1st, 2011 – as stated on the AUI website – are still very much recognizable.

You can distinguish a newcomer either by his lost glance that never seems to find a spot where to land, or the uncomfortable smile that would leave his lips while attempting to communicate with a certain group, that same gauche smile that would try to scatter the conspicuous awkwardness of not laughing at that one particular joke the others seemed to find hilarious. He would perhaps switch "cliques" for a less challenging one, for a circle with easier inner references to keep up with. They joke and make fun of his strong Tetouan or Marrakech accent, and he does his best to not take it personally, that is until his hand gets left wandering in the air, awaiting a high-five it will never get, for a joke none of them probably got.

In the cafeteria, while lining up, you can see the impatient and confused newcomer craving a hot coffee or a cold orange juice; you can also see the juniors in groups of four or five,

laughing at almost every word one of them says, whether it makes sense or not – especially when it doesn't. If you pay enough attention, you will be able to feel the lonely freshman lose patience by the sighs he lets out from time to time. He will then stop exhaling nervously and attempt to put a finger on what they could possibly be laughing about, only to give up the moment he realizes that one of them was on the committee of the Swimming Team tryouts, on which he failed to make an impression. The "cool gang" will later be told that there is no more coffee -- or orange juice, or whatever it is the freshman is craving -- and they will just leave with smiles on their faces with no care in the world. Our friend on the other hand, will let his anger and perplexity win him over by sighing some inaudible words as a sign of extreme dissatisfaction.

There he is, walking by the academic area with his favorite song playing in his earphones, fascinated by the effort a girl puts into maintaining her skirt on her thighs, while the wind seems to have other plans for the untamed pair of legs. He cracks a smile, sings along, and waves at some fellow freshmen classmates whose names never stick in his memory for too long. Some of them have already joined respective groups and don't mind lining up in the cafeteria anymore; he would secretly envy those who get

to spend time with some of the 81 exchange students who always walk around campus with their backpacks – and whose presence doesn't turn heads anymore – given his interest in the world's different cultures and ideologies. "I still have time" he thinks, postponing these acquaintances until he actually gets to spend a semester abroad, in Austria, France, Japan, Korea, or perhaps the USA – one of the main reasons that made AUI such a privileged choice for his undergraduate studies.

By the time he gets to the library, the energetic drink that was supposed to fill in for his coffee, orange juice, or whatever it is he was craving at the cafeteria, gets accidentally spilled on his shirt, discouraging the freshman as the class of 2015 never seems to impress without caffeine in its system. He first waves at the woman at the Circulation desk – he has already checked out a couple of books – and then walks towards his new study spot on the second floor of the library. He will sometimes stare at the unlikely pairings that focus on each other's faces rather than on the intimidating number of books – over 80 000 according to the AUI website – on each shelf, those same uncanny couples who actually believe that the second floor is the ideal place for their growing love stories. Annoyed, he will put his earphones back on and attempt to focus on his work despite the beat

that flows all over his body, thus causing him to space out the time of a song.

Enjoying his alone-time so far, the freshman feels the need to be choosy once constrained to pair up with one of his classmates for a certain course. And after never-ending deliberations, he finally makes up his mind, only to regret it moments later. However, by the end of the week, he realizes that he has actually developed a bond with his teammate, and that despite their different tastes in music, people, and clothing, he still enjoys his company. It is only a matter of days now, before the newcomer finds himself always surrounded by peers, exchanging numbers, and making plans for the upcoming week-end.

Sitting on a bench next to the Campus store with a chocolate bar pressed between his lips, our friend is silently replying to unanswered texts whilst keeping track of his new friends on Facebook or on other virtual networks. And caught in the moment, he starts wondering if their bond will actually last and survive how University manages to tamper with relationships, if they will ever go past the casual friendship status, if they will be roommates in the 39th building when it opens in Fall 2013, if they will ever catch each others' caps during the 2015 graduation hat throw.

Ahmet Bozer, President of Coca Cola, EuroAsia and Africa

Bouchra Makhtoum

I'd like to buy the world a Coke: that was the slogan used by the brand in 1971. The Cola brand has been around longer than I have. I do not think that there is anyone that can recall a time when Coca Cola wasn't around. It is as if the brand is immortal and has passed the test of time with flying colors. It has become much more than a beverage but a cultural product. But with suc-

cess comes responsibility.

On the 11th of October, we had the pleasure of having the CEO of Coca Cola Africa and Eurasia, Ahmet C. Bozer. He made a very inspiring speech with parts worth quoting. With a room full of ambitious and inexperienced students, we all listened attentively to a man with many accomplishments. He offered valuable advice about succeeding in

the business world. He talked about the value of innovation and how it is a powerful force while still maintaining ones core strength.

The CEO appeared to be a down to earth and optimistic man: we should believe that the world will become a better place. He also addressed the environmental issues which have contributed to innovation in the Coca Cola brand.

When he finished with his speech, the floor was open to questions and when asked about labor rights or the lack of, he gave a well rehearsed answer, giving example in sub Saharan countries such as Uganda and how Cola contributed to changing people's lives by giving job opportunities to those who needed it the most. We also found out about a new product that Coke that gives

the consumer the opportunity to make their own drink.

The speech was a success: it was clear, concise and empowering. As students we should see the potential we have in shaping our own future and why not someday become CEOs ourselves.

15th October Rome protests: Violent or rational?

Soukaina Chakkour

Exactly two years ago, the debt crisis emerged in the European Union. Policies adopted ever since have failed to attract investors or achieve the growth needed to change the economic situation. From austerity programs to bailouts, policy makers in Europe seem to have no idea how to save the old continent. The economic reality has produced a social realm that is disturbing. Frustration, anger, hopelessness, resentment do not even begin to describe the situation. The assumption that European countries are better off are growing popular, as weak economies of the Union feel are developing independentist feelings, strong economies such as Germany and France have expressed increasing skepticism about the strength of the union, and its future for that matter. The future of countries such as Greece, Portugal, Spain or Italy seems to be uncertain. For the reality of the matter, is that Europe finds itself in an unenviable situation, economically and socially.

In a country like Italy, where I happen to be doing my exchange program, the situation is even more alarming. Italy has the second-highest ratio debt to gross domestic product in the euro zone after Greece. Economists have expressed concerns about the possibility that Italy could be a much bigger threat than Greece if its borrowing policy remains the same. The economic unrest coincides with a largely felt political discontent, as Italians feel profoundly detached from the government, described as a Mafia hub. F. M., a 30 years old masters student with two other degrees in biology, described the Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi as the “number 1 Mafioso in Italy and everyone knows that”. The attitude Italians towards the government was largely projected in the violence that erupted during the 15th of October manifestation in Rome.

When I heard about calls for global change manifestations in the world, I was curious to go there and protest, as I myself am not satisfied with the current situation, on so many levels. I found the opportunity to go there, travelling with a group of students from the Colletivo Autonomo of the University of Turin, a politically active student organization. They organized a trip to Rome, for the sole purpose of protesting against the system. On the way to there, many of them have told me that it may get violent, an assumption that I mistakenly underestimated.

On that sunny Saturday, thousands of people gathered in the Piazza della Repubblica, where the manifestation was supposed to start. Anarchists,

communists, autonomous movements, NoTav movement*, anti-capitalists, but also people who are not affiliated, came from all over Italy to say “enough is enough”. They are the “indignati”. A light police presence with revolutionary songs in the background was reassuring and relaxing in the first hours before the march began. While sightseeing tourist buses passed through the square, protesters were getting ready for the march. Davide, A 31 years old unemployed PhD holder, who have attended meetings concerning

smashed banks. At the moment, police did not intervene, and the march continued in a disorganized way until almost everyone reached San Giovanni square. By that time, the police had already surround the place and blocked all exits. An action perceived by some protesters as a war declaration. The battle had begun.

According to protesters, when the police tell you where to go and how to manifest, the very essence of what a manifestation like this one stands for is destroyed. As far as they are

tioning here is also the fact that almost all the mainstream media in Italy is owned by the Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi. Right after the riot, I asked an activist from the Torinese social center “Askatasuna” about his opinion of what happened. He told me “Normally it is good, but today it was great”. He was referring to the violence that happened. But before jumping to what was widely described as an alleged Italian anomaly prone to violence and irrationality, it is important to consider the social reality of a country where young

told me. When asked about the main gain of the 15th of October, Davide confidently replied that “I am pretty sure that next time, there will be more people on the streets, a wider mobilization is the main gain”. Askatasuna social center statements concerning violence was frowned upon in the media, but also in other organizing parties of the manifestation itself. Members of Askatasuna have also said that the violence was not planned whatsoever; it was a spontaneous reaction to police brutality.

What happened in Rome exposes a lot of inconsistencies in the occupy movements all over the world. The question of violence/resistance as means of manifestation imposes itself now more than ever, as police crackdowns on protesters are increasing, like what happened in Oakland just recently. While raging against the police might be perceived as an irrational act, it bears a lot of rationality in it. The people protesting on the street are not radical, they were radicalized by a system that had proven to be inefficient and sterile. Violence, however, remains a reaction not a solution. For the fact of the matter is saying that “protesting violently would work” is a relative statement, just like saying “protesting peacefully would work” is. Violence as a resort remains understandable given the social reality of the matter, in Italy and everywhere. Nevertheless, it does not mean that it is the only resort.

If there is anything that is certain, that would be the fact that there is change happening, in Tahrir Square in Egypt, in Liberty square in New York, in the White Tower square in Greece, in the Green square in Libya, in Taizz square in Yemen, or in San Giovanni square in Italy, the world is making a statement. While the 2008 crisis have left the world economically paralyzed, it has revealed in a shocking and disturbing way the vicious relationship between money and politics. But it has also problematized this socio-political reality to what is perceived a system failure, in a reference to capitalism, which is growing unpopular among many people. What's next? No one knows. The struggle continues in the hope of fulfilling the dream, which is in the words of Daniele, a 27 indignati: “The complete revolution of society”.

*NoTav movement: A large movement in Italy. It emerged in opposition to a high-speed train project in Northern Italy. It has achieved significant success in Italy and represents opposition to government policies.



the organization of the manifestation tells that tensions between different parties emerged before the manifestation started. While some of the organizers wanted the march to end at San Giovanni square, where politicians were supposed to give speeches, more radical groups wanted to head straight to the stronghold of the government, the parliament. The march ended up in San Giovanni square indeed, but the politicians did not have the chance to deliver any speeches, clashes between the police and the protesters had already erupted, in what was one of the most violent days in the ancient Italian capital.

But before there were clashes, violence was already put in place in the streets of Rome, when a group of people, labeled as “black blocs” by the Italian mainstream media attacked stores, burned cars and

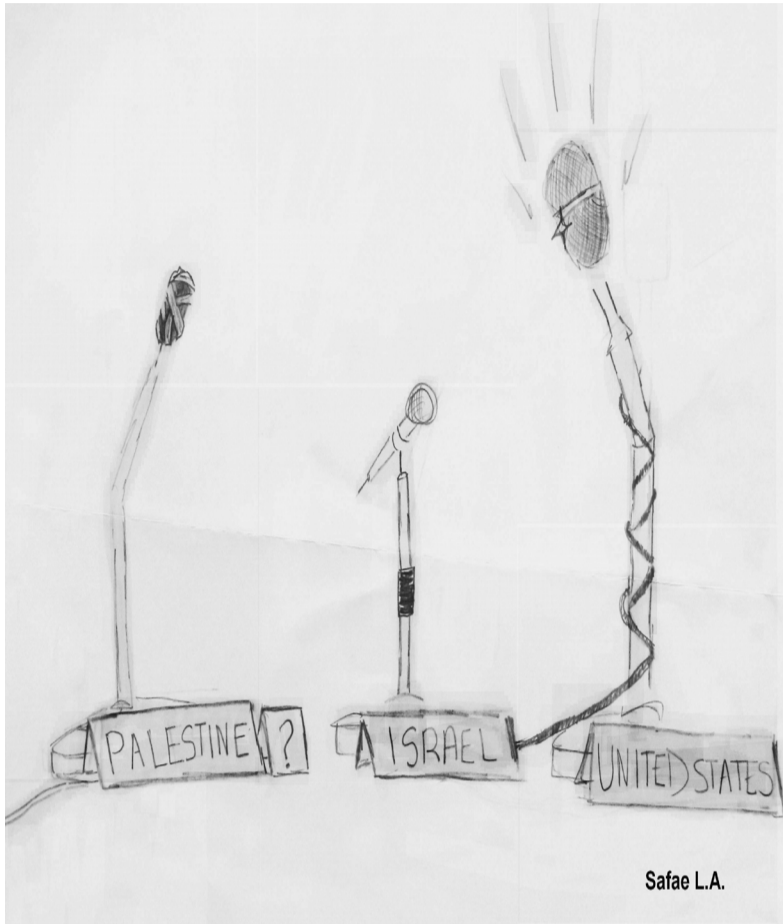
concerned, it was the police who initiated violence when they decided to block exits and besiege protesters, by not allowing them to go to the parliament. One of the participants explains that “when you want to go somewhere and the police stop you, fighting back is the least you can do”. The police responded with tear gas, water cannons while police cars drove insanely and unabatedly though protesters to separate them. On the other hand, protesters attacked the police with stakes, stones and whatever other objects that were in the way. Even peaceful protesters were occasionally tear-gazed, they shouted at the police calling them “assassins”. While it is clear that both the protesters and the police took part of the violence, the mainstream media vigorously put the blame on the protesters, or accused them of provoking violence. Worth of men-

people find themselves unemployed, without future and oppressed when they try to protest that.

In a country like Italy where social centers had historically taken part of political activism, those centers were largely accused of inciting violence in the aftermath of the October 15th. These social centers stamp from the idea of autonomy. They are self-managed spaces, which became youth centers, but which are also very politically active. The social center “Askatasuna” for example, have stated on their website that the clashes with the police in Rome were the right thing to do, as they (the police) had left them no choice. At the same time, they condemned the burning of cars and the smashing of public property. As far as they are concerned, they did not incite violence, they fought back. “It was resistance, not violence”, Davide

Will Palestine Ever Be Recognized?

Safae Lahgazi Alaoui



“Making peace requires a lot of courage. Is Israel prepared to exercise and show that courage, and take the final step and put an end to it all?” [1] an interviewer asks as she sums

up her meeting on Euronews with the speaker of the Israeli parliament. The speaker gives a vague response implying that Israel is willing and will take the necessary measures for

negotiations with the Palestinians, etc., never deviating from the inconclusive and broad manner of speech that politicians have mastered in the years under the media’s spotlight. Why then, I ask, not allow the Palestinians their right to a country? Unlike many of the recent headlines from the Arab world, the news from the Israeli-Palestinian situation does not yield anything exciting or new. That is until Palestinian president Mahmoud Abass made a request to the United Nations for his country to be officially recognized as a state. Meaning that Palestine will become an official country in the views of the UN and world matters and that borders established before 1967 between Israel and Palestine will be officially recognized. What does this mean for Israel? It means that they will have to retract illegal occupation of Palestinian lands as well as run the risk of possibly being taken to International Criminal Court by the Palestinians.

Earlier in the interview with Israeli Parliament speaker when asked about negotiations he says, “Unfortunately, we are not running negotiations with the people of Europe. We are negotiating with the Palestinians” and on his face, an expression that reveals how he thinks

about the Palestinians, as “inferior” group of people or “nation”. He goes on to say, “When they will be ready to bring an end to the conflict, when they will be ready to bring an end to the past, when they will say we are looking toward the future, then I am sure that negotiations will bring us to an understanding.” To which the interviewer immediately responds, “It is a two way thing, not ‘they’ but ‘we’ I would say.” [1]

To me it seems that the Israelis have been taking advantage of this situation for far too long. I believe that achieving peace with Palestine is not in their favor; being at war with them, however, is. How is it a fair negotiation when one country has immense political power and the other country has none? You can make as many promises as you want to a scattered people without official borders or hopes, but you have to actualize those promises once they become a defined people with real stance and impact on the global scale. It is my opinion that the Israeli government realizes this: they know their dominance in the matter is directly proportional to Palestine’s inferiority, and they take advantage of this. Being in constant conflict and under constant “danger” from Palestine allows them to justify their actions in

the situation as well as gain US support in the form of voiced opinion and finance. The less impact and capability the Palestinians have, the more power and dominance the Israelis have. This is probably something that will be lost if Palestine is recognized by the UN.

I believe that Palestine should be recognized as a state. Not because it will change things “on the ground” dramatically or because it will put an end to all Israeli-Palestinian problems but because it will might bring this never ending conflict out of a standstill. As Mohammed Shtayeh, Senior Palestinian Negotiator, said on BBC, “the peace process is not really going anywhere” [2] and the Palestinian leaders are trying to force some action out of the world by presenting a “bid for statehood”. Palestine, in its struggle for a voice and stand in the world community, has come to a last option after struggling with dead-end negotiations and exploitation of their non-state situation. This last option was to make an appeal to the UN and therefore the world, successfully bringing international attention to their situation.

Virtual Relationships

Othmane Taoudi Benkirane

We receive a friend request on facebook, or on twitter or on whatever social network from a person we do not know. We accept it, or we refuse it depending on the profile picture, depending on our relationship status, depending on our principles (if we have any related to this), or simply depending on our mood. We start talking, we find common interests and we build, for the time being, a virtual relationship. It may lead to a love story, to a friendship, to nowhere or to a report/block. No matter what do you think, one day you will find yourself talking in front of your screen to someone you do not really know, to someone you are not even sure about their existence, to someone you saw on campus, to someone you saw in the Grand Hotel, to someone who poked you, to someone you poked, to someone. True story. You will find yourself not only talking with this ‘incognito’, but also laughing with each other, telling stories, or doing whatever comes up to your mind in that particular moment. You may even fall in love and look for meeting that

incognito in real life. Anything can happen. Crazy stuff! Right? But are we able to do so that much easily in our real life? Are human beings unable to build naturally a relationship in their real life? Did they indoctrinate us with the fear of meeting the other? Do we feel more comfortable talking to someone from behind the screens? Is it just funnier to do it through internet? Do we feel that lonely that we are compelled to look for someone to talk to in the virtual world? Are human beings getting less social? One can not stop asking questions about this issue.

For me, social networks are a way to explore the world as long as you do so in your real life. There is no harm when one gets to know other people through a social network as long as it is not their only way of getting along with people. There is no harm if one has a real and virtual life. There is no harm if you talk in person to someone at 9 am and you talk to someone else, you just knew or you just added on facebook or you just poked, virtually at 9 pm. We are naturally social. We like talk-

ing to each other. We like to experience new things. We like to discover what is happening elsewhere. Bonus 1: There is no chance of getting an STD in a virtual relationship; Bonus 2: you can easily stop talking to someone annoying you on facebook. You are in control of the whole situation. However, a virtual relationship can ruin your life. There is always a risk that the one who added you is someone spying on you. It can be your parents disguised in a fake profile, and oh they saw some pictures they are not supposed to see, oh lala! It can be even your boyfriend or girlfriend testing you, oh lala! It can be whatever your imagination tells you. Worse, it can get you addicted to talking to that ‘incognito’, it can make you spend the whole day thinking about that person, oh lala! There won’t be only the 9 pm usual virtual conversations. There will be a whole day virtually talking. It can even lead you to cheat on your partner. It can destroy your real life. It can make you live on the Internet. People are getting more comfortable expressing themselves in

front of the screen than in real life. Why? Because they can talk without fear of judgement, without thinking twice about a sentence before they pronounce it, without putting any make up, without fear to express their religious views, without fearing anything. Everyone is brave when it comes to Internet. Can’t we be as free in real life? Well, it depends. Society has imposed limits on us, and some rules that we fear to surpass in our real life. Thus, we decide to break the rules through Internet. For example, if one’s society rules is to forbid dating, then one is absolutely going to look for dating through social networks. That is, we use only the virtual world to reach what we want. This is so coward coming from our race. For sure, we are in the process of killing our social skills. How? First, When we get used to the all-free environment of Internet, it becomes difficult for us to be the same when projecting our selves to real life. Second, restricting our life to virtual can give us false and biased ideas about real life. Many extremists groups have been inspired from

the tricky closed cycle of the virtual world. They lived their life far from any regular human contact. They lived their life on a chair, in front of a screen. What can we expect? William Shakespeare 2, of course not. On Internet, you can put only pictures where you look good, you can put whatever you think may please ‘incognito’. In other words, you can be fake. It is true that I said that we are social by nature, but it does not apply to the situation. It does not mean giving up your real life for a virtual relationship, for something unreal. It does not mean losing the ability to talk with self-confidence to people. It does not mean losing the ability to share your ideology in your real life. It does not mean entering the closed cycle of the virtual world. Virtual relationships are like cigarettes, you like it the first time, you smoke it but you regret it when you can not live without it. So, enjoy it but watch out! I can be the ‘incognito’ and you may wanna be my secret love. Blame it on you.

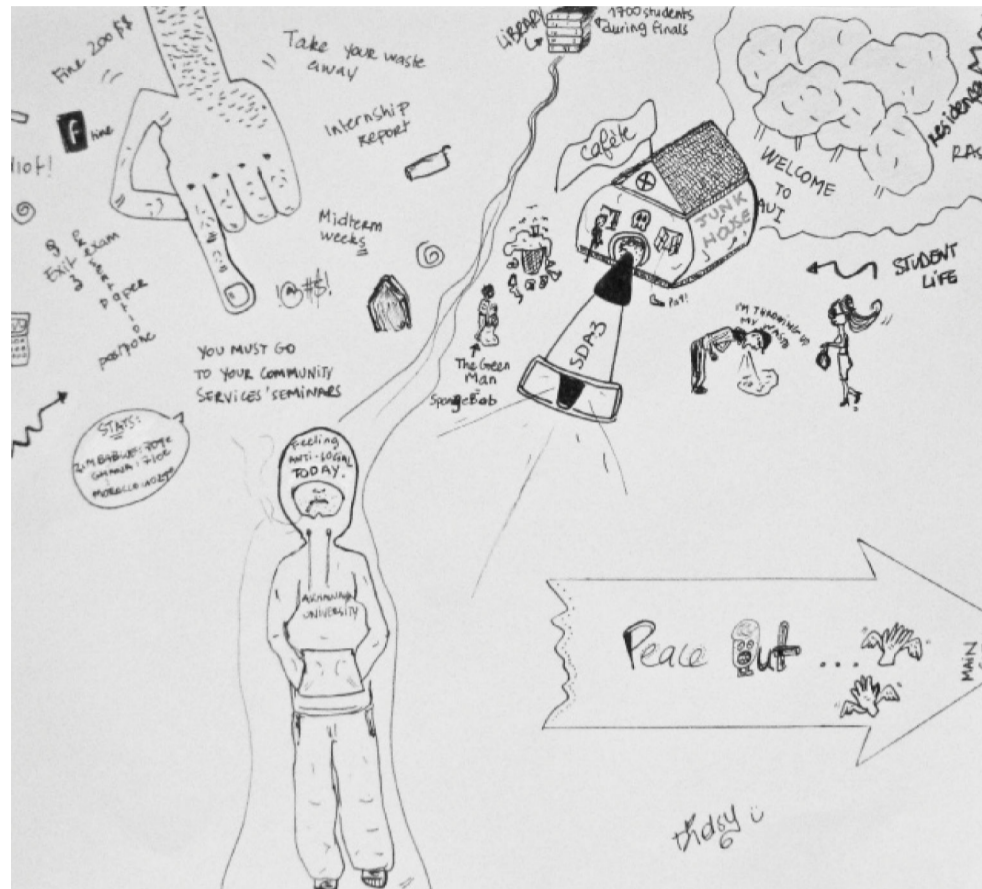
Walid Doukkali's Journeys

Youssef Ramdani

Wake up, wake up everybody and pull out your noses from your respective study books... Walid Doukkali has crucial issues to talk about for this issue and he needs your full attention. For this purpose, he would like you to grab a drink, sit down somewhere far away from bees, not read between the lines, and thank you.

Imagine a campus free from-coffee/juice cups, pancake plates and forks, empty juice and other product boxes-, WD is pretty sure that no trash will be seen around if no food is being served on that campus. Well, not long ago, our campus did not have this trash problem and fines (50dh) were smacked upon us whether we liked it or not. At that time, WD hated those fines and thought they were steep... but now he understands that they were essential for preventing this current visual pollution. If you don't believe Walid or you think he is overreacting, check out the cafeteria surroundings and the residential areas at any time and you will see that our friend is right. Despite the efforts of the maintenance workers -which by the way WD is a huge fan of-, the courageous students and greenmen that help from time to time, and the additional garbage cans, handling 1700 students' trash is a colossal task that requires the intervention of professionals such as the all-clean Sponge Bob, the magical Mr. Propre, and the mighty Al Gore...

Imagine a campus with plenty of study areas, a part of the Mohamed VI library that is kept open for students, study classrooms warm enough ensuring studying without having to face health tribulations due to their coldness, additional labs open 24/7, and more alternatives WD is too lazy to think about at the moment. Actually, the problem students are facing is not procrastination or some other associated lame concept relative to not studying. The problem is that, for example, when Walid wants or needs to study he needs to go through several steps that he will gladly depict for you right now. Step one: log on to your Facebook account and look for students who are already in one study area or another (it is common knowledge that Facebook is essential for studying). Step two: check with them if there is a place and if the study area is not too



overcrowded, if it's the case jump to step four and ignore step three. Step three: kindly ask the student currently on the scene to book a place, in this step you might want to remind the student of the last time you booked a place for him in case he is not cooperating (works all the time!). Step four: go study outside!!!

Imagine a midterm evaluation procedure where students are not "forced" to evaluate their courses. Oh yeah! This has changed this semester and Walid had tears of joy when discovering that winds of change had finally blown. Special Thanks To Whom It May Concern.

Imagine a campus where there are events relative to the students' gender. WD wants to point out here the 4 vs 4 soccer tournament organized by our beloved RAs which had been a huge success. The only problem here is that there are currently more female students than males and that our great observer has noticed

that some female students are complaining about the lack of events for them. What are the female RAs doing? Who knows...?

Imagine a campus where the midterms are actually held during the midterms week. As Walid and some students have noticed, some students had to take one or two midterms per week for a period lasting up to four weeks. Not that it's not easier to go through one midterm per week but, as some students pointed out, the pressure is just too big to deal with as you could have say a midterm, two assignments to hand in, and a quiz during the same day. Then you are free for three or four days until you crash again next week with some similar workload, that's if you are a very unlucky fellow.

Imagine a campus where, and this concerns senior students, Exit Tests and Internship presentations take place at a suitable time and where the student has the right to reschedule these. Let us further develop the scenario dis-

cussed in the previous paragraph. It is Tuesday and you have one midterm, two assignments, a quiz, and the Exit Test to take... Chaa! WD thinks this is abusive and he would not want this to happen to his worst enemy.

Imagine a campus where you are required to attend two "interesting" seminars in order to fulfill your "community service requirement". Walid had attended one this semester and his mindset went through several stages during the seminar. At first he was intrigued by the presence of a camera and the social statistics concerning Morocco that were tailored for the purpose of the seminar. Then he got bored as more statistics were coming up, statistics that most of us already know about. As WD was drifting in his thoughts, he snapped out when he heard something confusing. At this stage, you are required to fasten your seatbelts: the speaker was going on about the importance of community service and the impact it would have on our country in reducing corruption and some other demons it suffers from, then the seminar wandered to another topic. The Moroccan political environment establishes constraints on the individual or an organization that is performing some kind of social work, in other words if you want to do serious social work you will be blocked by politics. WD remembers very well this point as it had made him think about the importance of this entire community service thing. It's not that our hero is not willing to help people in need; he just does not believe that being monitored to do so in order to graduate is effective as you can perform social work on a daily basis, he would also like to go back to the point stated during the seminar again. If any potential social work could be blocked by politics, why not suggest getting students interested in political parties, events, news, and political figures? In Walid's opinion education does not consist of regurgitating concepts and formulas at tests only, it also consists of producing politically educated students able to make educated decisions that would impact our future for a better Morocco, a better life. Peace out!

Book Review: Nass El Ghiwane

Ilyass Garara

If a foreigner had the opportunity to ask the Moroccans about the most popular, inspiring and influencing musicians of all time, the answer he would expect would revolve around a list of famous Occidental icons who defined the musical genres we know nowadays. That is unless he has already heard of Nass El Ghiwane.

Throughout their unique mix of the rich and diverse genres of Moroccan folk, and the addition of their trademark philosophical and subliminal lyrics, they have inspired generations across the country and far beyond. Indeed, it should be no surprise that the preface of the book is written by none other than the famous American producer Martin Scorsese, the same person who gave them the

nickname "the African Rolling Stones". In it, he describes how he 'stumbled' on the band through their movie "Al Hal" (The Trance) and became fascinated not only with the music they offered, but also with the deeply rooted connection they -and their music- had with the Moroccan nation and the condition the country was in a few decades ago. Also, it is a secret to no one that many of the biggest icons worldwide were inspired by their songs and lyrics, the most famous being the likes of Bob Marley and the Rolling Stones themselves.

The book in itself is not a mere biography of the band or its members, it offers a flashback that depicts the general situation in which the country and its families were in, which will sure bring a lot of nostalgia to anybody

who grew up during the 70s or 80s. In fact, a deep focus is made on the similar background from which the band members came from, as a whole section is dedicated to El Hay El Mohammadi, a famous popular district in Casablanca. Perhaps the most interesting feature that makes the book such a unique one is the infinite amount of illustrations it contains. Be

it pictures of their private lives or homes, legendary concerts, or even some paintings, the whole design of the book enables the reader to (re)live what was a controversial, yet so crucial era of Morocco's political and cultural history, since it would be a huge mistake to try and separate these two from the band. The book, which is presented as a testimonial by the

icon Omar Syed, also contains a number of testimonies and tributes from people who were inspired by Nass El Ghiwane and, in a way or another, joined the Ghiwani philosophy and way of life.

I could easily go on and describe the content of each page of the book, but I would certainly regret it should I know you missed the opportunity to buy the book and read it time and time again.

Whether you are a die-hard Ghiwani, a young casual fan, or just a curious person who needs to know more about the band, I can offer you one advice : buy the book and catch the magic!

E-commerce wins: PayPal fully operational in Morocco starting 2012!!

Rachid Moulay El Rhazi

PayPal

Home

Personal

Business

Products

Get Started

Send Payment

Request Money

Sell on eBay

Developers



While surfing on the net searching for ways to make an online payment. I found out that the online service PayPal will become fully operational by beginning 2012. I strongly believe this is an important information that deserves to be quoted and development in this issue of the AUI Bridge. First because E-commerce is becoming more and more crucial for business expansion. Second, because I'm sure that many of us have had already faced the painful struggling experience of not being able to make an important online payment (a university admission's form fees in USA or Europe, fly tickets payment online for discounts, sending funds to a friend or a family member abroad, etc...) True!! PayPal has existed in Morocco since 2009. However, there were two problems: the first problem was related to the verification of PayPal accounts since having an international visa card international was not at the reach of the large ma-

jority of Moroccans. It is only since the beginning of the year 2011 that Moroccans became eligible for an international visa card limit of 10,000 dirhams per year (it was a privilege given only to companies). The second problem was related to the fact that even if someone wanted to check his PayPal account (in the case of international visa card's purchase from abroad) it wasn't possible receive money (her I'm talking about payment from one account to another, not from the PayPal account to the bank account). Now, things have improved for the benefit of Moroccan E-commerce. To make it easier to read, I'll present the PayPal in a question-answer form. First, what is PayPal service? PayPal is a fast and safer way to send and receive payments online without sharing your financial information. What can I do with PayPal? With PayPal, you can Shop online with millions of merchants, pay online with your PayPal balance, bank ac-

count, or credit card. You can also check out quickly – no need to enter your payment and shipping information. You can get paid for what you sell on eBay, on your own website, or in online classified and forums. You can donate to your favorite charity. And last but not least, you can use your credit card to earn rewards.

Can we now have a PayPal account in Morocco fully operational? It is quite possible to open a PayPal account in Morocco, but, for now, you will not have all the features. It will become fully operational starting beginning 2012 with unlimited purchases inside Morocco and a ceiling of 10,000 DH for abroad online payments of purchases.

And what if I need to make a purchase or a payment of more than 10,000 Dh, is there a way to raise this ceiling? The foreign exchange bureau proposes to remove the cap

each year based on the ecommerce market development in Morocco to control the leakage of foreign exchange. So yes the ceiling will be raised gradually.

What are the expected features of PayPal in 2012 to allow Moroccans to take full advantage of PayPal services? PayPal is currently considering a partnership with a local Moroccan bank (It is believed to be BMCE), this partnership will allow PayPal to offer a prepaid credit card PayPal to make purchases with their PayPal account. This card will be unlimited for local purchases, but will have the same limit set by the foreign exchange bureau for international purchases (10 000 DH). The advantage of this card is that it will offer all services to individuals and PayPal merchants.

Will it be possible to receive a check with the commissions collected on their PayPal account from 2012? When PayPal will finalize its partnership with the local Moroccan bank, it will be possible to receive checks for cash income.

To benefit from all services of PayPal, will we have to necessarily open an account with the bank partner? This bank will have the exclusive right to issue credit card PayPal, and it is likely to be required to open an account with them for this service.

Does it cost money to make online purchases via PayPal account? There is no charge to purchase items using your PayPal account. There are fees in other cases, such as Receiving payments for goods and services, Receiving payments from friends and family made using a debit or credit card, and Receiving payments from people in other countries.



Congratulation to all Moroccans for the new ranking at the doing business 2012 of the World Bank

Rachid Moulay ElRhazi



In the past, Morocco was often challenged by the rankings made by international institutions, whether in the fight against corruption, the business climate or the promotion of investments. But this past Thursday, October 20th, the discourse of the government officials welcomed with great joy the new 94th place at the Doing Business 2012 rankings of the World Bank. This has brought a lot of joy to the government, but especially to Nizar Baraka, the Minister for Economic Affairs. The 94th position may seem not as interesting for many of you. But I'm sure you will appreciate it more if you know that our previous ranking was 115th. Add to that the fact that this ranking is made based on comparing the legislation and the business climate of 183 countries. So the main question that should be raised is how our country was able to get such a huge progress in this list. Ow! It is also good to mention that Morocco has earned the title of 'top reformer of 2012'.

It all began in 2008 when the Department of Nizar Baraka stopped on certain observations.

The first is that "Ambitious reform projects are committed and they are initiated by several departments, it just lacked some coordination and mobilization to accelerate the implementation of this process," recalls a part of the economic and general ministry.

The second observation is that much of the business stakeholders (economic operators, law firms ...) were often not aware of the new regulatory systems being developed or implemented by the government.

It is from here that the National

Committee for the Business Environment (CNEA), chaired by the Head of Government, was established in 2009 under the leadership of the Ministry. Its mission was to ensure coordination between all stakeholders involved in the business for, among other things, simplifying administrative procedures, modernizing business law, and educating stakeholders on the importance of sites of reforms. A new methodological approach was adopted. This was to be based on the combination of public and private sectors to develop a plan of action likely to lead the reform projects. The secretariat of the 'CNEA', which includes a team of young people from the private sec-

tor and whose approach to work is imbued with a managerial practice, has embarked on a series of meetings and field surveys with stakeholders, lawyers, representatives of economic operators in different regions of the country, officials of ministries and agencies, etc..

"The contacts have increased to bring the national legal framework in business with the highest international standards, to improve and make it more attractive," said Brahim Qermane, member of the secretariat. At the same time, the bills (payment terms, consumer protection ...) have been the subject of review and monitoring in order to facilitate

the acceleration of the development process.

Experts from the World Bank spent seven days in Morocco in April

Making visible the effort undertaken to improve the image of Morocco was one of the priorities of the CNEA. "It is in this sense that we began conducting our work to strengthen our ranking in Doing Business," says Seloua Benbarek, member of the permanent secretariat of the CNEA, which emphasizes that this is not an end in itself but the consecration of this work reforms. From that time, the approach pro-

tester prevailed so far in Morocco's position vis-à-vis this exercise has given way to that involvement. As a delegation from the CNEA together public and private sector was commissioned by the head of government to prepare a report to destination of the World Bank. Once developed, it was given to this institution, which then agreed to conduct an audit of the Moroccan system in terms of business climate. Last April, it spent seven days in Morocco where she combed through the procedures, statistics, legislation and everything that has to do with the business stakeholder of the administration, CGEM, law firms, etc ...

the delegation was asked to review the legal evidence and all the simplification of procedures. Three months later, the good news knocked on our doors. The delegation was received at the World Bank. The committee that had made the visit to Morocco has delivered its verdict to the responsible of Doing Business ranking of the World Bank. However the final decision has been made public until October 19th. That is to say on the eve of the official announcement of results.

To end this article, I believe that, we should all be proud of all the significant work that is being done to improve the business environment of your country in order to make it one of the leading investors' attractions in the future INCHALLAH!!



Gears of war 3: Ashes to Ashes

Souhail Marghabi



Destroyed beauty, hope runs deep, brothers; to the end. Part poetry, mostly marketing slangs, the Gears 3 story continues with what amounts

to a blood-drenched tale of suffering, resistance and absolution, a post-apocalyptic vision movie producers often depict. Translation: Gears 3

delivers exactly what fans waited for these two last years. Of course, this game is not about peace and love, it's about war, combat, destruction and

survival.

Gears of war 3 tell a story of survival. Everything you do over the course of the five-act story revolves around endurance. You'll go from escaping ambushes to searching for supplies to scavenging fuel to using high tech guns. Everything feels desperate and dangerous, a theme the designers use to great effect throughout the campaign. The action takes place in a world where governments have fallen and only few survivors of nuclear war fight for living if not fighting against a horde of mutants. The action follows Marcus Fenix and Delta Squad's last stand against the Locust and every variety of creatures that have become infected by yellow glowing fuel.

For Gears of war 2 experiencers, drama abundantly follows, along with lots of surprises for all your favorite giant macho dudes. Dom sports a scruffy playoff beard and overalls, Cole faces a serious mid-life crisis, bad guys spurt out from the ground

like Locust geysers there are more Carmines and you get to understand the last message from the GOW 2 ending.

Gears 3 feels exactly the way you'd expect it to feel, but better, as everything's been enhanced and improved. Vehicles run faster, snapping into cover works better and combat options became more diversified. A new range of weapons has been added to promote a more stealthy approach to the gaming experience. For the soundtracks, you'll want to slow down at some point in the campaign to listen and view cinematic sequences featuring arguably the best use of music in a game since the finale of Red Dead Redemption.

In overall, I would rate the game a 9/10 score because of highly original storyline, great graphics and environment design, great multiplayer options including character choices, weaponry, armor variety and trilling background soundtrack.

Harry Potter: It Ends

Mohamed Mabchour

As my summer vacation was coming to an end and I had my usual sense of criticism calling me again, I had to do something about it. And yes, that means I went to the movies during the summer, it's a miracle especially that I was in the United States at that time! Naturally, having more or less enjoyed the previous films, even if I read only the four first books I had to go see the second part of the seventh film in the saga: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, and that was in the opening night itself, at 00:01 am!

Many people were annoyed by the first part, but not me. Before the second part, I do not think the problem is to be bored: although the speed is uneven, it happens a lot. By cons, some scenes would have actually deserved greater attention, while others on the contrary, could easily be shortened.

In terms of visual performance, I do not see much to blame: it's beautiful to

see and the music is faithful to the epic series. I do not know if it's cons related to the projection room where I was but I noticed, however, a visual problem fairly constant throughout the film



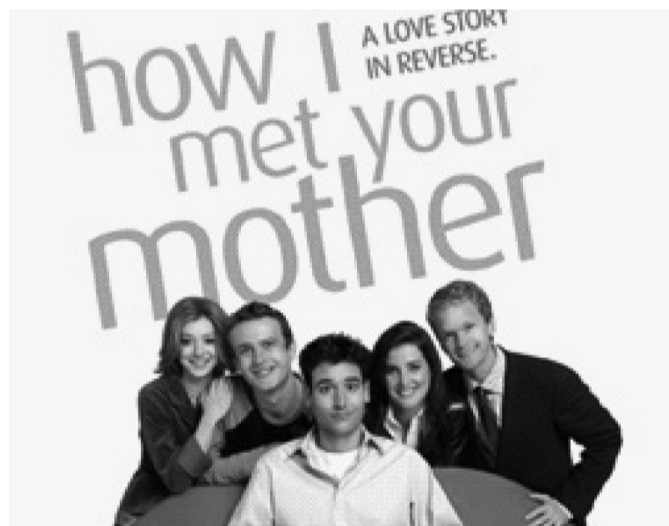
(we went to see the film in 3D), but there were flashes "green and red" in what I call "deep designs". I do not understand from where it could come from, but it was not very embarrassing but it still has ruined the beauty of some plans.

The main criticism is the

progress of the final battle against Voldemort: at the end of eight films, one could naturally expect something a little more epic and memorable ... Overall I am disappointed with the outcome of this saga, it's a shame! Voldemort who's been defeated by Harry so easily, not really a smart ending. Along the same lines, we can also talk about the character of "Draco Malfoy" which was ultimately very limited value: because of his role throughout the saga, I was expecting something quite interesting at this level, but no, it is constant and predictable to the end (but I guess it's the same in the books

...). Ah, just to conclude, I should also refer to the final scene which takes place a few years later and, personally, I think is not quiet original; don't you think so fellow readers?

How I Met Your Mother



How I Met Your Mother for me is the comedy series of the moment. Aired on CBS in the United States and which episodes are available online as they are aired, this one follows the adventures of Ted, a young and ambitious architect living in New York City, looking love accompanied by his small team of friends: Marshall, Lily, Barney and Robin.

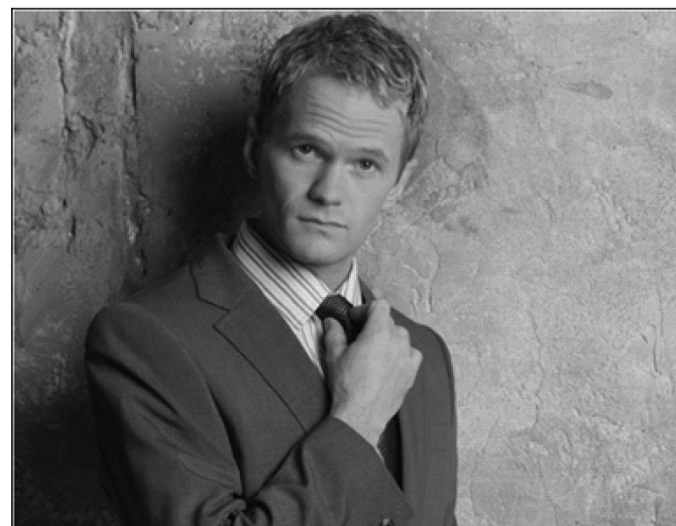
The story is about Ted who tells his two children how he met their mother, when he tells the story we are in 2030. This series tells the various love affairs of Ted that led him to meet the mother of his children!

Assisted in his search for love by his two best friends, and the extra flirty Barney (Neil Patrick Harris) and Marshall (Jason Segel) engaged to the beautiful

love of his life!

As I said at the beginning I think it's THE comedy series of the moment. Accompanied by an excellent cast, where there is the excellent Alyson Hannigan (Buffy the Vampire cons, American Pie...) but also a very good Josh Radnor in thirty years looking for love!

A word of advice: do not hesitate to watch this series, very well written, very well acted and very funny. It is a true success! If you didn't watch the previous seasons, you'd better watch them because it really worth it! In this short review I don't want to spoil what's going in depth in the series! I can't write anything further about it and all I can say is: GO WATCH IT!



Entertainment

Sudoku

Easy

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

Medium

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

Difficult

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

<http://www.e-sudoku.fr/>

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12
13				14							15		
16			17			18			19	20			
21					22				23				
			24					25					
26	27	28						29			30	31	32
33					34	35	36				37		
38				39		40					41		
42							43	44					
			45							46	47	48	49
50	51	52						53	54				
55						56	57				58		
59					60						61		
62					63						64		

<http://www.crosswordpuzzlegames.com/>

DOWN

1. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
2. A feeling of strong eagerness (usually in favor of a person or cause).
3. The compass point that is one point north of northeast.
4. (trademark) An antacid.
5. A Russian river.
6. An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.
7. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage

ACROSS

1. The habitation of wild animals.
4. Large high frilly cap with a full crown.
10. A light touch or stroke.
13. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
14. Wear away.
15. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
16. A coffee cake flavored with orange rind and raisins and almonds.
18. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
19. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
21. Reports of the work of a society or learned body etc.
23. Conforming to an ultimate standard of perfection or excellence.
24. A pustule in an eruptive disease.
26. Rich and superior in quality.
29. A member of an agricultural people of southern India.
33. Any of various strong liquors distilled from the fermented sap of toddy palms or from fermented molasses.
34. Tastelessness by virtue of being cheap and vulgar.
37. A flexible container with a single opening.
38. East Indian silk cotton tree yielding fibers inferior to kapok.
40. A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.
42. (informal) Informed about the latest trends.
43. A former copper coin of Pakistan.
46. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
50. English scholastic philosopher and assumed author of Occam's Razor (1285-1349).
53. Talks a great deal about uninteresting topics.
55. (Zoroastrianism) Title for benevolent deities.
58. A graphical recording of the cardiac cycle produced by an electrocardiograph.
59. Commonly the lowest molding at the base of a column.
61. A unit of length of thread or yarn.
62. Used in combination.
63. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
64. To make a mistake or be incorrect.
- is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
8. A public promotion of some product or service.
9. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
10. Small European freshwater fish with a slender bluish-green body.
11. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razor-bill.
12. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
17. Small New Zealand broadleaf evergreen tree often cultivated in warm regions as an ornamental.
20. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
22. The universal time coordinated time on board the spacecraft.
25. A unit of magnetomotive force equal to 0.7958 ampere-turns.
27. A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
28. An artificial source of visible illumination.
30. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
31. Light informal conversation for social occasions.
32. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
35. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
36. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
39. A subsidiary proposition that is assumed to be true in order to prove another proposition.
41. South African term for 'boss'.
44. Small genus of Asian evergreen trees having columnar crowns and distinguished by leaves lacking a midrib.
45. Worn or shabby from overuse or (of pages) from having corners turned down.
47. A poplar that is widely cultivated in the United States.
48. Someone who drives racing cars at high speeds.
49. Moth having nonfunctional mouthparts as adults.
51. The imperial dynasty of China from 1122 to 221 BC.
52. A medicine or therapy that cures disease or relieve pain.
54. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
56. Any of numerous hairy-bodied insects including social and solitary species.
57. The ball-shaped capsule containing the vertebrate eye.
60. A radioactive transuranic element.

Moncef Belkhayat, and the Moroccan Sport Development

Youssef Maghous



Morocco is poised to become the first African nation to host the World Cup FIFA Club after three competitors withdrew their bid to host the 2013 and 2014 editions. The World Cup meets in the season six champion teams from each continental federation plus the formation of the host country champion. It should be noted that the first Moroccan team, Arab and African world to participate in the club is none other than the great Raja Casablanca in 2000 in Brazil. The Moroccan team has been rewarded world recognition after an outstanding game against Real Madrid and also by making it into the top ten clubs in the world at the same year.

Moreover, Morocco has been appointed, Saturday, Jan. 29, in Lubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of Congo, by the executive committee of the Confederation of African Football, to host of the African Cup of Nations (CAN) in 2015.

Morocco, which has not hosted the continent's flagship competition since 1988, was the only candidate for the organization of this continental event. "This victory is the beginning of a comeback for Morocco to meet the African scene and shows great confidence that honors Morocco and its football authorities," said Moncef Belkhayat, Minister of Youth and Sports. "This is also the result of joint work of the ministry and the Royal Moroccan Football Federation (FRMF), and all players Moroccan athletes. Now, we expect a lot of work to honor that trust through the establishment of a body that will undertake the organization of these events. We will not hold there, and we further develop our infrastructure," he said. (source: www.elbotola.com). When Belkhayat Moncef took office, the Moroccan sport was not to the best of its way. It must be said that its best gladiators had, long ago, left the arena. Zaki,

Dolmy, Timoumi, Naybet, Bassir, Senior Hadji had hung up their boots; Aouita, Boutayeb, Hissou, El Guerrouj, Bidouane, and so many runners with soles of wind, had ended their flamboyant career; El Alami, Arazi and El Aynaoui had submitted their rackets in the attic of memories. Their successors, rather than obscure, are able to make

as brilliant achievements if they were to give it more of their souls. That is why, the new minister, a good chess player, it is said, had to face a puzzle. But when it was rubbed with the philosophy of go-getter multinationals and large private companies, one learns not to be discouraged by the difficulty. The sport suffered from the inadequacy of the poor state of infrastructure. Just appointed, the Minister made this annoying issue a priority. Stadiums, almost abandoned, have been revamped, if not refurbished. Other, more spacious and luxurious, are already operating, as in Marrakesh and Tangier, that of Agadir, is scheduled to open in late 2011. The most anticipated, the stage of Grand Casablanca, is still in draft form. The Minister has made proper professional training and sport studies a duty. He began by reopening the Royal Institute of management

training, closed for years, where one hundred graduates in 2009 and three hundred in 2010 were met, in order to attend a sports industry. Noting that many people who have devoted their lives to the sport, did not have an adequate background, the Ministry of Youth and Sports has created for them, a certificate of competency.

In addition to that, and in order to implement his policy of high performance sport, proper and supported by the king, Moncef Belkhayat established a curriculum of sports studies, involving ten different sports, in seven different cities. Three hundred and fifty young people, aged 10 to 16 years, that promise, are prepared and the Olympic Games in 2016 and 2020. Few focused on complacency, Moncef Belkhayat, yet proud of his training policy. "We opened those beautiful building sites", he said an

interview in national TV news. The word gives a cold sweat to the clubs, and there are many who are not able to meet the requirements of the specifications prescribed. Nine million dirhams budget requirement, it is not under the feet of a horse, they protest. But Moncef Belkhayat was inflexible. Morocco has its own professional league that started lately in the 2011/2012 season. It is not yet under total control of the world soccer standards but still, it is a big step toward the Moroccan sport development.

As can be seen, the Minister of Youth and Sports has been busy since his appointment, and after all, he can be proud of his amply convincing records and all the achievements that are yet to come.



Baseball: How it all Began

Youssef Maghous

While the exact origins of baseball are unknown, most historians agree that it is based on the English game of rounders. A game which began to become quite popular in this country in the early 19th century and many sources report the growing popularity of a game called "town ball", "base", or "baseball".

Throughout the early part of the 19th century, small towns formed teams, and baseball clubs were formed in larger cities. In 1845, Alexander Cartwright wanted to formalize a list of rules by which all teams could play. Much of that original code is still in place today. Although popular legend says that the game was invented by Abner Doubleday, baseball's true father was Cartwright.

The first recorded baseball contest took place a year later, in 1846. Cartwright and his Knickerbockers



Base Ball Club of New York City lost to the New York Baseball Club in a game at the Elysian Fields, in Hoboken, New Jersey. These amateur games became more frequent and more popular. In 1857, a conven-

tion of amateur teams was called to discuss rules and other issues. Twenty five teams from the northeast sent delegates. The following year, they formed the National Association of Base Ball Players, the first organized

baseball league. In its first year of operation, the league supported itself by occasionally charging fans for admission. The future looked very bright.

The early 1860s however were a time of great turmoil in the United States. In those years of the Civil War, the number of baseball clubs dropped dramatically. But interest in baseball was carried to other parts of the country by Union soldiers, and when the war ended there were more people playing baseball than ever before. The league's annual convention in 1868 drew delegates from over 100 clubs. As the league grew, so did the expenses of playing. Charging admission to games started to become more common, and teams often had to seek out donations or sponsors to make trips. In order for teams to get the financial support they needed, winning became very

important.

Although the league was supposed to be comprised of amateurs, many players were secretly paid. Some were given jobs by sponsors, and some were secretly paid a salary just for playing. In 1869, the Cincinnati Red Stockings decided to become a completely professional team. Brothers Harry and George Wright recruited the best players from around the country, and beat all comers. The Cincinnati team won sixty-five games and lost none. The idea of paid players quickly caught on. Some wanted baseball to remain an amateur endeavour, but there was no way they could compete with the professional teams. The amateur teams began to fade away as the best players became professionals. In 1871, the National Association became the first professional baseball league.

Rest In Peace Zakaria Zerouali

Youssef Echerif Kettani & Youssef Maghous

In the world of soccer, there are moments of joy as well as ones of sorrow. Despite the important advances in sports medicine, the ghost of death does not spare players. Their candle has been extinguished while at the top of their careers. Some have died on the field such as Marc Vivien-Foé (Cameroun, 2003), Antonio Puerta (FC. Sevilla, 2007), and Dani Jarque (Espanyol Barcelona, 2010). Others have died in completely different situations such as the Emirati player Theyab Awana, author of one of the most controversial penalty kicks, who died in a car accident in 2011. These are only a few of many others. Such players will always be remembered.

On the third of October 2011, at 1:00AM, the supporters, members, and families of Raja Club Athletic (RCA) were in deep sorrow. The reason was that one of the main players of the team, Zakaria Zerouali passed away at the Mers Sultan medical center in Casablanca due to a liver failure. Hundreds of Moroccan soccer fans were gathered at the door step seeking news about his health. According to Mohamed Arssi, the head of the medical commission at the Raja club, the liver failure was

caused by a Paracetamol overdose. "He was hospitalized in an emergency intensive care unit for four days and despite a very significant support in intensive care unit hard on all fronts, the late Zakaria Zerouali developed liver, heart, and brain complications with multi-organ failure," he said.

Zakaria Zerouali was born on the 24th of May 1978 in Berkane, Morocco (near Oujda). He started his soccer career in the local club "Renaissance de Berkane." He then moved to Mouloudia Oujda and then to the RCA. He also played for the Moroccan national team from 2004 to 2009. His last game with the national selection was against Cameroon on November 14th 2009. His last game with RCA was against Cotton sport from Cameroon on September 10th 2011. According to allafrica.com, CAF President Mr. Issa Hayatou, in a letter of condolence to the late Zerouali's family and Royal Moroccan Football Federation, said he was saddened by the news of Zerouali's death.

As the Raja Athletic Club fans wanted, and validated by the club's committee, the recipe of he

game that opposed Raja to El Hoceima has been transferred to the family of the deceased. The amount of the recipe was close to 605,173 dhs (source: www.dimadimaraj.com). We shall note that a further \$ 17,000 dhs, representing the profits from sales of T-shirts, and partners' contribution, increases the recipe to

the bank account of the deceased. This was not the only initiative taken toward Zerouali's death: The Raja fans have promised to perform a special demonstration at the third minute of each of their club's games this season (3 was Zerouali's outfit number).

Zakaria Zerouali's death shall always

be remembered as a great tragedy for Moroccan Soccer fans who had hardly overcome Youssef Belkhouja's death in 2001. They shall forever remain in our memories and hearts as two of the great players of Moroccan soccer history.



Morocco back on Top of the African Football Scene

Ilyass Garara

Going back only a little before the summer, Moroccan football fans were still unsatisfied with the overall level of the national team and the big teams that act as ambassadors of the domestic league. Now, however, not only are they celebrating the come back of that same national team to the African Cup of Nations, they have also witnessed the two big achievements of Moroccan sides Wydad Casablanca and MAS Fes who successfully reached the final stages of the African Champions League and the African Confederation Cup, respectively.

If we except die-hard Wydadis who spoke from the heart, few Moroccans were actually expecting the Reds and Whites to enjoy so much success during the tournament. Their assumption was not unfounded though, as the team went through a chaotic 2010/2011 campaign that witnessed three changes in coaching. Still, after successfully reaching the group stage, president Abdelilah El Akram and then newly appointed coach Michel Decastel signed many key players that improved the team's potential and transformed a casual



outsider to a top contender for Africa's most prestigious title. Their overall showing during the competition is the bulletproof of this change, as the Reds and Whites did not hesitate to put full pressure on their opponents regardless of the game being in Casablanca or away. The best examples of this great run were the 4-0 home trashing of Algerians MC Alger and the unexpected 3-3 away draw against the African team of the century, Ahly Cairo of Egypt, which set the team on the right track for the rest of the competition.

Wydad Al Oumma (Wydad of the Nation) was on the verge of conquering its second African Champions League and the third African Cup in its history. However, victory had to be at the expense of the ex-

perienced Tunisian team Esperance. The two teams had already met during the group stage in two exciting games that ended in draws (2-2 in Casablanca and 0-0 in Tunis), but Esperance had a slight advantage since the second leg was held in Tunis' stadium Rades with a capacity crowd to support them. Unfortunately, successive injuries of key players such as the international keeper Lamyaghri, right-back El Khaliqi and striker Yajour, which were due to the heavy schedule of the team, severely damaged the team's chances at claiming the title against a much fresher Esperance. As a result, coach Decastel's hesitant tactics forced the team to leave Casablanca with a goalless draw, only to lose in Tunis 1-0 and waste their chance of joining football leaders F.C. Barcelona and



Santos in the 2011 edition of the Club World Cup in Japan next December.

Wydad A.C. are not the only team to make the nation proud, though. In fact, MAS Fes have also done a tremendous job in the African Confederation Cup after staying undefeated and finishing on top of their group to earn a well-deserved spot in the semi-finals and then reach the final stage after beating Angolese side G.D. Interclube on aggregate score. Unfortunately, the Fassi team has suffered a 1-0 loss during the first leg of the final against Tunisia's Club Africain. Nevertheless, coach Rachid Taoussi is still confident about the team's ability to clinch the final victory in Fes where the team kept many clean sheets against strong

sides despite the absence of key center back player Zekroumi who was sent off during the first leg.

All in all, Moroccan football seems to be making its comeback to the continental scene this year to leave yet another footprint in African football history. Indeed, our country is the only one that was represented by two teams during the group phase of the African Champions League this year even if Raja Casablanca failed to make it past that stage due to internal problems at the level of its top managers. In addition to that, two out of its three representatives reached the final stage of the two African cups, with MAS Fes still having a final chance during the second leg. A special call is thus addressed to Fatal Tigers and all Moroccan fans to support the team and, hopefully, bring an additional African cup home to restore pride in the hearts of all Moroccans. Also, regardless of the team's result, huge thanks go to the players of the two Moroccan teams and their respective supporters who proudly defended the colors of the Moroccan flag.