



Iphone Apps.



Badminton in Brief

Trip to the south: Again a wonderful Experience



There is nothing worse than the midterms' stress with all the projects, meeting the deadlines, studying for exams in the same day and finding some time in between all of these dreadful projects to eat and get some sleep.

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Upset Moroccan Squad Loses at Annaba



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Facebook: Freedom of Speech ...



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(continued on Page 3)

Harvard Initiative



This article is adapted from the Harvard Students Africa Initiative (HSAI) plus an interview with Tachefine Baida, one of the students who benefited from the experience.

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AUI Takes the Lead at El Jadida



Al Akhawayn University took part in the Universiades ENCG El Jadida, a multisport competition among thirteen "grandes écoles" in Morocco.

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Editorial



Getting back from a vacation is surely one depressing state of mind. People always find the transaction of getting back to “reality” always a harsh task and I am not exclud-

ing myself from the lot here.

However, keeping a good spirit about our beloved university and what it has to offer is a good step into succeeding in studies and managing to always stay fresh and active for all the difficulties to be faced in the second midterms and the dreadful projects that are upon us.

Before and after spring break, the university, students and staff, have been working long days and nights organizing some very interesting events that are not “new” per say but still they are events that I think everyone should attend if possible: We were first kindly offered two interesting trips: the good old trip to the south that is always a good way to blow off some steam during spring break, however, this time, a trip to Ireland was organized by the SAO and according to some students’ feedback it was a marvelous success.

Now, for the after break events, the campus and Ifrane have known a disturbingly huge amount of visitors that I personally have never seen before and which has led me to flee the city. That is due to the three biggest events of the year pushed together in four days: the talent show, the Job Fair and the Fun Run. These were all very successful events that have known a wide range of participation from the students of the university even if they didn’t give us even the slightest amount of time to concentrate on just one of these events that are important to the university and the students both professionally and in terms of academic life as well.

Accordingly, to whomever it may concern, please don’t do this again it hasn’t been easy to keep an eye on what’s going on.

In addition to these last important events, we were able to get in touch with one of the students that have just come back from the Harvard experience. However, more on that can be found in the article.

I would like to include one last event, one that has been seen as a huge problem by the students before: the SGA elections, our team was able to get in touch with the president of this “important” entity within the university and know a little bit about his action plan. All I can say to our new SGA members is good luck and please, students have had enough disappointment by electing students year after another and not seeing the slightest change in the university and I am excluding myself from students here as I am still a non-voter as long as there is no “Blank Vote” because -and this is just my opinion- some of the candidates of this year had to think twice about their action plan before proceeding to the elections that represent all of the students of the university; The Questions that I think they should have asked themselves is: “Who am I kidding ??!”

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On Campus Lately

Thursday, April 6th: The Talent Show, where our students keep on surprising us with their amazing shows but this year it came with a new flavor: the alumni were here to perform as well: The Now and Then was just awesome and a special Thumbs Up to Selma Benbouia.

Friday, April 7th: The Job Fair, where students get the chance to sell their worth to a variety of companies that comes here and pays quite the money to recruit our skillful students.

Sunday, April 9th: The Fun Run; This huge event is nothing new but I always admire all the people who participate in it to help the less fortunate of the region. This year’s gala has known the attendance of important artists as always and all I can say again to the Hand in Hand team is Bravo for what you are doing !

There is also the Trip to Ireland and the Harvard exchange experience that took place during the break and I request you, my beloved readers, to investigate more about this last one because it is a great experience and you might be the next one

Do You Have an Opinion ?

Write us a letter !

Interested in becoming a reporter?

Contact:

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“Change your words, Change your world”

Harvard Initiative

Taha Slaoui

This article is adapted from the Harvard Students Africa Initiative (HSAI) plus an interview with Tachefine Baida, one of the students who benefited from the experience.

A. Mission of HSAI

The Harvard Students Africa Initiative (HSAI) is a program that fosters partnership, friendship, and working relationships between Harvard undergraduate students and their peers from African Universities. It seeks to establish as well as reinforce cross cultural collaborations through cultural, educational, and social events.

(<http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~hsai/>)

B. The Initiative of HSAI

Modeled off of a very successful program with the Asian universities, the HSAI has selected Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane (AUI) for the second consecutive years to represent the African continent thanks to its unique campus and liberal arts system of education. Needless to say AUI's constant strive for both presenting and preserving the Moroccan identity as its motto 'Excellence and Identity' shows. That is, based on grades, recommendation, an essay, and an oral interview, 10 AUI students were selected to be the Moroccan delegates to this event.

C. The African Affairs Seminar

Selected students to the HSAI in Al Akhawayn University are required to pass an intensive seminar on African Affairs. This seminar is offered by faculty members of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS) and targets their general knowledge about Africa. Students attend a series of lectures about African history, geography, culture, economics, politics, and development. They also have to watch a number of movies related to various themes in contemporary Africa. Students have to write three papers on assigned topics to pass

the seminar.

D. The Conference

The AUI students selected for the HSAI will have to participate in a conference held at Harvard and also plan for and organize a similar one at Al Akhawayn. The goal of this conference will be to get both the AUI and the Harvard students to discuss a number of is-



issues pertaining to contemporary Africa. These discussions along with field trips will hopefully help participating students reflect on effective ways to endorse development in the African continent. The success of this initiative would also be in granting all the participants a once in a lifetime experience that will give them a chance to discover a completely different culture from their own. The success of HSAI would mean that these participants will learn how to go beyond their differences and end up with unforgettable memories.

This year's conference in Al Akhawayn University will focus on Morocco's position in Africa.

Participants will get to explore possible strategies of cooperation between African states, particularly between Morocco and West African countries.

This is a short interview that I was able to conduct with Tachefine Baida:

What is the Harvard Students in Africa Initiative (HSAI)?

The Harvard Students in Africa Initiative is a cultural exchange program launched by Harvard students since 2010. The initiative seeks to develop ties between undergraduate students from Harvard and from African universities in the context of cultural exchange programs run by the stu-

dents themselves.

For the second time, the program involved the students Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane. A group of eleven Al Akhawayn students was selected to participate to the initiative. This involved receiving Harvard student and organizing their visit in Morocco for a week, and then travelling to Cambridge and staying in Harvard for another week.

How are students selected to participate to this program?

The AUI students who participated to the conference were chosen according to a selection process supervised by staff and faculty mem-

bers. It involved a selection based on grades, recommendations, writing an essay, and oral interview. The selected students also had to attend a seminar on African Affairs offered by faculty members of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS). Passing this seminar required attending additional classes, watching videos, and writing papers related to various topics on Africa.

How was the visit of Harvard students to AUI?

A group of seven Harvard students visited Al Akhawayn on March 13-19. They had the opportunity to live with AUI students through sharing their rooms, classes, and meals. Their program included visits to Volubilis, Meknes, Fez, and Rabat; discussions and meetings with students, faculty, executives, and staff members; panel discussions on African Affairs and politics; as well as other events such as a Moroccan wedding night. The aim was to let them discover some cultural aspects of Morocco as an African country as well as enable them to meet with various actors of the AUI community.

How was the visit of AUI students to Harvard?

A group of eleven AUI students was able to travel to Cambridge on March 22-29 (right after the visit of Harvard students). They stayed in Harvard for the whole week, with Harvard students in their dorms. They were able to attend some of their classes and participate to some of their activities (Choir, Opera, Student Council, etc.) Like Harvard students did in Morocco, AUI students were also able to discover some aspects of the American culture throughout their stay. They visited Cambridge, Boston, as well as the towns Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts.

Facebook: Freedom of speech is not so free!

Soukaina Chakkour

If the internet is democratic and free, Facebook is certainly not. The social network has just closed the Third Intifada Page, allegedly because it promoted violence against Israelis and Jews. The removal of the page was executed after the Israeli Public Diplomacy Minister Yuli Edelstein sent a letter to Mark Zuckerberg, founder of Facebook, saying that the page contained wild incitement against Jews and the Israeli state. The shutdown of the page was faced with strong disapproval and was encountered with the immediate creation of other pages with the same title. Algerians, Egyptians and Tunisians were the first to create Facebook pages such as: "The third Palestinian Intifada: Egyptian Youth", "the Third Palestinian Intifada: Algerian Youth", etc. The shutdown of the page also came after 350 000 signed up to it. A second page, which was created after the initial shutdown, reached up to 63 000 people in two days only. It was also closed.

Apparently, Facebook not only shut down the Intifada Page, it also closed Facebook accounts that shared the link to the page. A friend of mine, whose Facebook account was closed, had more than 75 pages on Facebook, which he administrated. The last thing he did on these pages was to share the link of the Third

Intifada Page. The reason of his account deactivation is still unknown; as he has not received any response from Facebook administration when he sent a letter demanding his right to an explanation, at least. He said that sharing the link was probably the reason why his Facebook account had been closed, although that remains uncertain.

Facebook, which had played a big role in coordinating and igniting the popular uprising in several Arab countries, was boycotted on April 2nd for removing the page following Gaza youth calls. The decision made by Facebook administration seemed to follow the steps of Ex-president Husni Mubarak of shutting down the Internet during the first days of the Revolu-

tion in Egypt. The lesson to deduce from this is that restricting people's freedom only generates more determination and opposition. This is a lesson that Facebook administration decided to unwisely overlook and ignore.

When it comes to freedom of expression, Facebook is certainly a stand, from which a lot of people have used to express their opinions and share their views. But when it comes to Israel, this universally-established and recognized

human right is so bluntly dropped. Strangely enough, the shutdown of the page comes from the citizen of a country that strongly defends freedom of speech and claims to advocate this human right. Demitri Deliani, a Palestinian official said that: "It seems that Minister Yuli Edelstein needs lessons in human rights and freedom of expression as he is not aware of the

world's respect for individual opinions".

The shutdown of the page raises the question of freedom of speech because it is at the center of the matter. It also pushes to question social networks such as Facebook and whether they are platforms of interaction that really allow for and advocate freedom of speech or whether they are political tools in the hands of the mighty. As far as I am concerned, Facebook does not bother to close pages such "People who support Israel in this war against Palestine" or "Intifada against Palestina". The shutdown is nothing but another manifestation of the unrestricted, unconditioned and blind support of the United States to Israel.

If there is anything to deduce from all of this it would be that Palestine and the Palestinian question will not be exempt from the revolution fever that had unexpectedly taken over the region earlier this year. The letter of the Israeli Public Diplomacy Minister indicates that there are Israeli fears from the rise of a Third Intifada. Indeed, calls for marches towards Palestine on May 15 are being promoted on various Palestinian and Arab pages on Facebook. Maybe, the time for Palestine has finally come.



Upset Moroccan squad loses at Annaba

Ilyass Garara

Sunday March 26th, 2011... Seechurn Rajindraparsad. These are a date and name that most Moroccan football fans will not forget for the next years, or maybe decades. The Moroccan national football team lost the derby at Annaba against Algeria in a very controversial game that saw the Maurician referee earn the man of the match honor with flying colors. Putting that aside, let us first assess the individual performances of the Moroccan players:

- Lamyaghri (7.5): made great saves but was not put under too much pressure.
- Benatia (8.5): man of the match without a doubt. He had a great defensive presence and stopped all central attacks by Algeria.
- Kantari (6): overshadowed by Benatia but did not make any big mistake.
- Chrétien (5): struggled to defend the right side. Gérets has better options in our national league.
- Soulaimani (7.5): showed Great Spirit and stopped most attacks coming from his side.
- Kharja (6.5): did his job defensively but was too slow to create good occasions.
- Belhanda & El Arabi (5.5): simply not the same players who shine in the French league.
- Hermach (5): poor overall performance, both defensively and offensively.
- Boussoufa (5.5): could not cope with the physicality of the match. Wasted precious possessions.
- Taarabt (6.5): made up for his bad start in the 2nd half but was substituted just when he woke up.
- Chamakh (4.5): we all cheered for his protests but he was just out of shape and wasted all the precious occasions he got. Again here, Gérets has other options.

As we can see, the Moroccan national team did

not actually play at full potential that we know it can reach. A few players such as Benatia, Soulaimani and, to a lesser degree, Taarabt and Lamyaghri showed great presence in the field whereas others like Boussoufa, Belhanda or Chamakh were either completely inefficient or simply over-hyped and overrated by our media. The coach's decisions are not to be left out of the equation either. In fact, the Moroccan



team played with up to three defensive midfielders during the game, thus limiting the role of creating occasions for Chamakh to Taarabt and Boussoufa. Early in the second half, the coach could have sacrificed Hermach who was not in his best days and enter an offensive midfielder or another forward to help the team at getting back on track offensively.

In addition to that, the final composition had some questionable calls as Gérets preferred players from the national league to Carcela and Hamdaoui who could have replaced Boussoufa and Chamakh respectively. The other problem here is that these local play-

ers did not have a chance at a game that seemed to offer the perfect scenario where they can excel. Finally, there will be a strong need to find a replacement for right lateral Chrétien Basser who easily lost control of his side in favor of Algerian players who, fortunately, did not take advantage of the situation. A possibly good choice would be Ayoub El Khaliqi, who showed great potential during a successful run in the

blanca. The second option would be to shift Soulaimani, who has done a very nice job on the left side, to the right side and bring back the experienced El Kaddouri or El Mahdoufi to the left one.

Now, let us discuss the protests. Some say the referee was biased, whereas others claim the players were too shallow and did not play at the full potential they show with their respective teams in Europe. However, none can deny the effect of the early penalty on the team's morale as we could clearly see that many players lost their nerves and concentration in the process, leading to many wasted occasions

and, sometimes, unnecessary fouls. The Algerian squad capitalized on this to provoke the players and their strategy seems to have worked, especially as the referee decided not to sanction their violent slides from behind while blowing his whistle whenever there is contact between a Moroccan and an Algerian player, often in routine aerial duels. After the increase of controversial calls made by the referees in European matches, especially in the British and Spanish leagues, many started to compare them to African referees because of their reputation of being unfair -to say the least-. Nonetheless, after seeing the "incredible" performance by the Maurician referee, it is safe to say that African referees remain the kings of -voluntary? - Bloopers!

Besides all the controversy surrounding this once highly anticipated derby, all the teams in the group are tied as they gained 4 points each during the first half of this qualification round. Morocco has two matches left at home against Algeria and Tanzania and one away match in the Republic of Central Africa. In order for the team to ensure qualification, they need at least 7 points in the remaining games. Thus, Eric Gérets and the players have no excuse and are obliged to win both matches at home and avoid an upsetting defeat again Central Africa just like Algeria experienced. Fortunately, the home match between Morocco and Algeria will take place in Casablanca, which will certainly offer a unique atmosphere that our national team has to take advantage of in a positive way and prove that they were indeed robbed of a possible draw -or even a win- in Annaba.

In Progress: The Global Astronomy Month

Ilyass Garara

Finally, April has come back, and so is the second edition of the Global Astronomy Month for Astronomy fans around the world. For those who do not know about how the initiative started, 2009 was the International Year of Astronomy, shortened as IYA2009. Indeed, the idea came as a way to give more recognition and mediatization to a great scientific field that did not gain as much attention as other domains throughout history. As many related events were organized from the local to the international scales with the goal of gaining the interest of the people, especially the youth, the event labelled «100 Hours of Astronomy» was undoubtedly the most successful one with the participation of all kinds of entities from research observatories via webcast to amateur astronomers. Following the growing interest the year has drawn, Astronomers Without Borders, a group aiming to break all kinds of boundaries throughout sharing the beauty of the night sky, decided to launch a yearly event to celebrate astronomy, leading to the organization of the Global Astronomy Month for the first time in April, 2010.



Just like last year, this edition comprises a huge load of free online events that anybody can follow thanks to the internet. A personal advice would be to follow at least one of the free online events broadcasted by Dr. Gianluca Masi and the Virtual Telescope

live near Roma, Italia. Their events offer a unique experience to any fan of Astronomy seeking to know more about some of the vast set of topics in this scientific field in very friendly and enjoyable atmosphere. Of course, there will also be numerous local events around the world, and Morocco will be no exception, as the AUI Astronomy Club will hold an event of its own on Wednesday the 20th of April. The day will feature many interesting presentations about many topics that any student, staff or faculty can enjoy. In addition, a workshop on astrophotography will be organized so as to introduce this sub-field as well as give a hands-on experience to the participants. Finally, the event will conclude with an observation night using a telescope and a virtual tour of the sky.

A detailed schedule is posted at the Astronomers Without Borders website in the following link: <http://www.astronomerswithoutborders.org/programs/program-schedule.html>

Trip To The South: Again a Wonderful Experience

Taha Slaoui

There is nothing worse than the midterms' stress with all the projects, meeting the deadlines, studying for exams in the same day and finding some time in between all of these dreadful projects to eat and get some sleep. Well it's just something we have to do. The worst thing is not finding a way to blow off some steam after the hell week that is midterm's period. In my case no need to worry the trip to the south is always there with new experiences and lots of fun for 150 available places for our dear students. As one might think, going on the same trip over and over again can get pretty monotonous and very boring, it's not the case for me my dear readers, the trip to the south keeps on surprising me with new activities and new places to discover in our wonderful country, places that are unfortunately forgotten by us Moroccans, places where you find only some foreign people coming to explore and live a wonderful experience. This year the trip to the south was four days instead of three and the program for this year was different than the two previous ones: This time the trip started as usual by departure early in the morning on a Saturday and by a quick stop in Zaida to get some great grilled meat. The next stop is Arfoud a small city in the Moroccan Sahara, there isn't much to do there but it's a great place to discover. And for me it is a reminder of how lucky we -AUI students- are, and how we are not grateful enough for everything we have and it is the same reaction I got from students who went on this trip and step foot on the south for the first time.

After Arfoud, it is time for the real Sahara! All students get the chance for a marvelous rides on 4 by 4s to the tents where we get to spend a

splendid night as I like to call it in "the middle of nowhere" where there is no light pollution to stop you from enjoying the beautiful sight of a sky painted with the stars and a wonderful full moon. The fun won't stop there after a horrible early wake up in the morning, we get to enjoy a Saharian breakfast and head to "les gorges de Toudra" in Tinghir. This place



that is lost in the map and only few people know about, is one of nature's most wonderful creations; a mountain split in half by water. The process of having such a wonderful sight is nature's work for millions of years. After that we continue our ride -one of the most dangerous and exiting rides, especially by bus- to Ouarzazat passing by Kalaat Megouna an-

other lost place in the books where students get to see new local products that they have never encountered before. After the arrival to Ouarzazat, the Moroccan Hollywood, we get the chance to get a shower after two long and wonderful days. The good thing about this part that it is a free night and free Morning, where anyone can enjoy their time the best

way he or she sees possible; either by getting to know people in the trip, or other activities that are deemed as fun to the one. It's Monday now, time for the departure for Kasbat Ait Benhaddou, one of the greatest heritages that our beautiful south part of the country has to offer, where we get to explore this wonderful place, and for some students it was the first

time ever where they have seen a Kasba. Now it is time to head to the city loved by every Moroccan: Marrakech. Unfortunately, the arrival isn't till 8pm. However, no need to worry our beloved students found it as a great timing to do some clubbing and blow off some steam; it has been a while since I have seen students so happy and relaxed. This is the new thing in the south trip, we get two full days in this wonderful city: first day we head to "Terre D'Amnar" a new place that the explorers team found to be worth exploring and spending the whole day there. In this place, every student got the chance to explore the natural preserve in a Berber theme. Not only that, the students learned how to defy the mountain, its fears and control our bodies in the middle of what I call the VOID while enjoying Berber Tagines and treats. Now it's the relatively sad part we head back to Marrakech where we got the chance for another free night and head back in the Morning to our respective homes.

Finally, I would like to give a special recognition to the explorers club and the accompanying staff, who did a wonderful job in this flawless organization of this event, where no problems occurred and every single person got to enjoy a luxurious stay compared to the very low price of 1700 MAD, because I have tried this trip before with some friends, where I have spent a huge amount of money to explore all of these places. All I can add is to encourage our students to run to activities office to sign up next spring. It is an experience that should be experienced by everyone, and in my opinion the best way to do it is with the Xplorers club, who can literally say "Nothing Stops Us!".

SOS AUI Student Government Association

Youssef Ramdani

If we were to designate the sensation of this semester (Spring 2011) it would easily be the SGA elections campaign. How students reacted to the problems that happened in these elections is just fantastic. Of course, some of us (439 students) voted for their favorite representatives, while others just abstained from voting for some reasons. For example, I did not vote due to two main reasons. The first one would be the inability of the candidates to convince me that they are up to the SGA responsibility. The second and most important one, is the lack of transparency and the poor achievements previous SGA students have been done (e.g. E-eat chronicles that were promised last elections by one of the representatives and many others). Yes, I said it and I can't resist comparing the association with our beloved Moroccan parliament. But you know what, this is the past and I (and you if you wish to) should not lose complete faith.

I believe the newly elected students will show us that it is just a matter of will. Thanks to their new president Taha Benazoun, I got a copy of their tentative action plan, and I wanted to say some words about it. Concerning the

public relations committee, they have set some interesting ideas that I wanted to promote. The revision of the constitution is necessary, and I am glad they brought it up. Everyone remembers the episode of a student getting elected more than twice, there should be a rule applied condemning the reelection of a candidate. Also, there are some previous SGA members who can still receive private SGA emails and this is something that I have witnessed, and for me this is surprisingly sneaky. Also, an online platform like Facebook or Jenzabar is a necessity, so that students can interact easily with the current SGA members. Now, let us discuss the sweetest part: The services committee. Needless to say that most students, including Jimmy (our beloved character that you can find out about in our previous issue), find the pricing of food and other services inappropriate. Please Taha, this is an important point to look at, and keep the community updated on. Concerning the cafeteria, the current SGA members thought about renovating it as a café lounge. I do not know if that would be possible, but if it's the case, an 8-pool table or two would be great. Older students always tell

about how awesome the cafeteria was when the tables were there. They have also suggested the increase of workers at the cafeteria, because the queues have become insanely long. Also, concerning the Athletics Department, there are three main issues the SGA members should be looking at. First, the gym is in cruel need of equipment maintenance, as there are some machines broken. The gym also suffers from aeration problems, and the wood floor of the gym room downstairs is just unusable, guys please save the gym! Another issue that can be solved easily by having part-timers working there; is the closing time of the gym, which is currently unsuitable for most students. The main issue, for me, is that our athletes have to pay accommodation fees when traveling outside AUI to represent the university. That is why, there should be some kind of sponsoring to help them, and I am glad SGA members are trying to change things in the Athletics Department too. In addition to that, the academics committee has brainstormed some easily implementable ideas that would help the community a lot. If you have ever been to the lab situated in building 8, you will no-

tice that there are no printers there, and this can be very inconvenient, especially when it's freezing outside. The installation of watches in classrooms is a necessity too, and this solution would greatly decrease student lateness rates. I mean a unified time frame is not expensive... Also, grades and attendance information are not posted on Jenzabar by all professors, while they remain crucial for the student's survival. The fourth and last committee, which is the activities one, should work on the holy guacamoly that happens each Friday, when students try to reach their respective homes. I never counted them, but I assume that there is more than one van that is not operating on these occasions, and a ride to Meknes would be very convenient. That is, with some of my personal additions, the tentative action plan the SGA members have in mind, and we shall all receive an official one shortly, I hope. Dear SGA members, we are in the 21st century, and emails are quick and free. A weekly report on what you guys are discussing, doing, or failed to achieve, would be greatly appreciated by the community. Let us help you help us. Thank you.

A sincere letter to the community

☞ Loubna Taleb

Dear students,

As you all may know, the AUI Bridge has been relaunched this semester after a long period of inactivity, with new editors and a revised content. The new team is doing its best to make our English speaking newspaper reflect the image of our community, and perhaps help in achieving changes and highlighting problems from a student perspective. After the first issue of this semester appeared, you all had different reactions and positions towards the articles published. Some of you noticed the change and appreciated the efforts,

but I have to admit that I had a negative feedback from the majority of you. As the editor of the Opinions section, obviously your opinions are my biggest interest, and I hope to offer you a space where you can express yourselves freely as much as I can, but also, I really need your help and your collaboration.

Some of you were criticizing the content of some articles and judging them as "Stupid" and as "Funny jokes", which is good, since it demonstrates that you read our newspaper and you are interested by what is happening on campus. But you

may also admit that this is not only the "fault" of the Bridge team, it is also your responsibility. Most of you have many interesting ideas to share with the community; I hear them every day, in the classroom, in the cafeteria, and everywhere in the campus. Many of you have good skills in writing in English too, and many of you have the necessary daring to express themselves publicly, but few of you take the initiative to publish them in the newspaper. So we end up publishing articles of few people and reflecting only their opinions, instead of having a rich variety of ideas and positions that reflects the whole community. Do we have other options? It depends only on your collaboration. This is a new era for the Bridge, so all the experiences that you had in the past with this newspaper and all the prejudices should change, and we will do our best to convince you by that.

We are always criticizing the Moroccan mass media for their uninteresting content, their bias, their lack of creativity and lack of professionalism, so maybe we should start getting involved in changing that by improving all of our universi-

ties newspapers as a first step, with a higher level of civism and education. It is true that it may be considered as an insignificant step, but I strongly believe that we are the future of this country, and if we habituate ourselves to a high quality media in our university, we will not accept less than that after the university, and if we take the habit of intervening in the issues of our community inside our university, we will keep this habit in our lives after AUI.

Thank you for all your feedback.

What Is The Point ?

☞ Youssef Ramdani

Halfway through March our webmail was flooded by two similar emails telling us to "kindly" submit our course evaluations through *Zenjabar. There are some issues concerning this green-evaluation that I wanted to discuss briefly. But before jumping into this colorful body I wanted to praise, in the name of the whole world trees, whoever taught about making these evaluations online. Also, even if some students enjoyed wasting precious learning time by performing them during class time, I say Hallelujah to knowledge and to the bright mind who implemented this online thing! First of all, in order for evaluations to be effective they should not be biased. Most

of us have witnessed or heard stories about professors retaliating against their respective students when, I can only presume, students have done their job evaluating them. Funny story: a professor has even threatened his students by letting them know that he would check handwriting similarities from midterm exams! My point is you never know what will happen to you by being honest and the best thing to do

me is that we were told that these evaluations are anonymous, really? I say that if you're not granted access

to your personal Zenjabar until you distribute five stars to these courses, your identity can easily be tracked down for some slaughtering reasons... Not convinced? Remember in the old days, I mean

when evaluations were done on paper, that our professors could have access to our forms and even check out our comments. Last but not least, yours academically, I would suggest that once you submit your course evaluation there should be a way to edit it before some given deadline, no one is perfect and mistakes happen. This said, let us finish this note on a happy tone: in a CAD course, the professor did not like the evaluation he got from his students and defied the "man" who evaluated him to show up and say it was me! Dear Students, Thank you for your forced cooperation.

*Zenjabar: you know you all said it someday to designate Jenzabar.

JENZABAR®

during these evaluations is to blindly give five stars to all your professors. Second thing that really bothered

Hillary Rodham Clinton Women's... what?

☞ Loubna Taleb

Since I enrolled at Al Akhawayn University, a big question have been tormenting my mind, is there really a department called the Hillary Rodham Clinton Women's Empowerment Center at my university? Likely, I am not the only student looking for the answer, but apparently, this topic is controversial and kind of a taboo in this university, since nobody knows what is exactly happening there, or just don't want to provide information, that is why I decided to investigate it, if it is not to find an answer, at least to raise up this problem, so change can be made.

If you ask students on campus the same question, some of them will say that the answer is obvious, NO; the so called center's door just leads you to Ms. Fishburn's office. Others will say that

they never heard about this center at all. Well, if we consider facts, it is true that the door in building 10 with the name of the center on top leads to Ms. Fishburn's personal office, as a continuity of the OIP department. Both departments are mixed in one single space; clearly not for a lack of space or offices in our university, but for the simple reason that Ms. Fishburn is responsible for both departments; with a dominance of the OIP department over the Women's Empowerment center, or better said, it is all OIP with some catalogs and brochures about sexual harassment and domestic violence put randomly in the shelves next to the door.

It is also true that the center did not do anything relevant in the last few years to manifest its existence, which explains why some students never

heard about it. But these facts do not deny the existence of the center, but just highlights the existence of a problem.

In the AUI website, a section is dedicated to this center. You can find a presentation of the center, with an action plan and the list of projects and works that has been done in the past. But with a shocking observation, according to the website, the last thing done by this center was 11 years ago! And none of the projects mentioned in the action plan were actually implemented. We never saw any celebrations of the month of March by the center, we never heard about any "Glow" camp, we never did any social work related to women literacy or health care with the center. We never

even saw that door open for anybody!

The mission of the center as stated in the website is to "research, implement, and support various types of action that lead to the empowerment of women in the Ifrane region", to "make students and faculty aware of gender issue", to "carry out economic and social programs to aid poverty" and many more.

However, all they did in the last years were recommending few books to the library, and some movie projections last semester. We can see clearly that the goals of the center are not met, and the mission is a total failure, which pushes me to go even further and ask questions about the reasons for this failure; is it a problem of financial

resources? Is it a problem of competence? Was the center really created to empower women, or just to hold a façade of modernity for the university?

I am not only appointing my critics towards the responsables of the center, but to all of us, members of the AUI community. Maybe we should start showing interest, asking questions, and following closely all what is happening in our university. This center can be a great help for many women in the region, it can change lives of entire families, and plays an important role in the progress of Morocco, as a country and as people, if it is taken seriously by everybody, and if the projects and promises are implemented and transformed into actions.

Get to know the major Moroccan companies: Banking

 Rachid Moulay El Rhazi



Introduction:

You may be a freshly graduate student from al Akhawayn University who is getting ready to access the job market; you may be an undergraduate student looking for a summer internship to undertake; or you may be a freshman student still in the process of choosing which career will fit you better and which one is highly demanded in the job market. In all those cases you are confronted to a common difficulty facing almost all Moroccan students while interacting with the job business market. This difficulty is the lack of knowledge about the major sectors of activity in Morocco and the major companies operating in each sector. Therefore, having a clear idea about what those companies are, what their sectors of activities are, what their mission statements are, and what their contact information are can make the difference between getting a job or not; getting an internship or not, or simply, well orienting your studies career or not.

In the following article, we will try to give you a general view of the major Moroccan companies listed by business sectors. We have chosen for you the following business sectors: the banking sector, real estate sector, energy and water sector, media and technology sector, investment companies sector, construction and building materials sector, distribution sector, and finally, the materials, software and computer services. Since we cannot cover all the major companies in Morocco, we will try to present to you in this news issue

two sectors and the other sectors will be published on the following news publication.

Banking sector:

The banking oriented companies tend to work as institution that got as major tasks receiving deposits from the customers, issue of current or checking accounts and savings accounts to businesses and individuals, providing financial consultation services to individuals and businesses, providing loans to businesses and individuals, encashment of checks, facilitation of monetary transactions (EX: cashier's checks and wire transfers), issue of ATM cards, credit cards, and debit cards, offering safe deposit vaults for keeping valuables, encashment and distribution of bank rolls, and finally, retirement & pension planning. The major companies we have chosen for you in this business sector are: Bank al Maghreb, Banque central populaire, BMCE, and BMCI.

Bank al Maghreb:



Bank al Maghreb is the central

bank in Morocco that coordinates between banks and regulates the banking sector. It was established in 1959, with fundamental missions such as exercising the privilege of issuing banknotes and coins that are legal tender in the Kingdom; implementing monetary policy instruments in order to ensure price stability. Also the bank keeps an eye on the stability of the currency and on its convertibility, and prepares and publishes statistics on money and credit.

Additional information:

Address: 277, avenue Mohammed V, 10000, Rabat
Phone Number: 05 37 70 26 26
FAX: 05 37 70 00 97
Postal Address: BP: 445, 10001 Rabat.
E-mail: gouverneur@bkam.gov.ma
site web: webmaster@bkam.ma

BMCE:



Since its inception in 1959, BMCE the Moroccan Bank of Foreign Trade has managed to represent a multi-bank trades, relying on a wide branch network. BMCE Bank specializes in foreign trade activities, bancassurance and electronic banking. It aims to expand its attributes to become a universal bank

network addressing a diverse clientele. BMCE is an important player in capital markets and advisory activities and investment also having a privileged position on the corporate market. Regarding foreign operations, BMCE Bank operates in project finance, banking, securities, loans to individuals, collection and those of the Hall of BMCE Capital Markets

Secrétariat Général Groupe
Fax: 05 22 26 46 55
E-mail: sgg@bmcebank.co.ma
Financial communication
Phone Number: 05 22 49 80 04 / 15
Fax : 05 22 26 49 65
E-mail: communicationfinanciere@bmcebank.co.ma
Website: www.bmcebank.ma

BMCI :



Subsidiary of a reference group BNP Paribas, the Moroccan Bank of Commerce and Industry is engaged in universal banking. It serves a diverse clientele that it is the Moroccans Resident Abroad, professionals, large businesses and institutions, SMBs, and youth. In late 2009, the Company had 257 branches in Morocco and 10 specialized subsidiaries and entities in order to best satisfy all its customers in various fields. Thus, these activities are Corporate Finance, Asset Management, stock transactions and leasing. Also, international

trade has an important position in

Additional Information:
Address: 26, place des Nations Unies, 20000, Casablanca
Phone Number: 0522 22 41 61
FAX: 05 22 22 46 04
Postal Address: BP:13573, 20001 Casablanca
Website : <http://www.bmcinet.ma> or <http://www.bmci.ma/>

Banque central populaire :

BCP plays a central role in the Banque Populaire Group, it has a strategic structure to serve large enterprises. Indeed, it aims to enhance the financial strength of the Group, deploying its ability to increase its market share by offering relevant and competitive services. BCP supports its customer, small business (SMBs), in order to make them access to the status of large companies, also to increase the Group's presence in the capital markets. The pole BCP Bank intervenes in the majority of operations and corporate positions in the new business advice and trade finance. It also acts as advisor to the upscale clientele of Banque Populaire regional (BPR).

Besides his activity as a credit institution, it acts as a central clearing group, coordinates the financial policies of BPR, manages their liquidity, refinances and ensures their responsible services of common interest for the bodies of the group. BCP is also responsible for the statements of any kind vis-à-vis the BAM, the tax authorities and professional bodies as well as perform any mission entrusted to him by the Board of Directors.

Additional Information:
Adresse: 101, bd Mohamed Zerktouni, 20100, Casablanca
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Website: <http://www.chaabinet.com/>



the bank's activities. Indeed, certi-

Get to know the major Moroccan companies: Real Estate Sector

 Rachid Moulay El Rhazi



ments, based on best allocation of



resources **DOUJA PROMOTION GROUPE ADDOHA**

CGI offers a wide range of products and services in the areas: residential, commercial and tourism.

Its successful IPO in 2007 was a real growth opportunity, but the firm faced new challenges that it overcame thanks to the excellence of its managers and its partners. Thorough knowledge of the sector and a lot of experience CGI is positioned as the leading

national real estate development. Given the changing rhythm of real estate sector in Morocco, the CGI reinvented its businesses to provide customers with quality products tailored to their needs in a genuine process of continuous improvement, the first milestone was the quality certification ISO 9001 version 2000 in 2006. Future-oriented, CGI confirms its current position and develop strategic projects and more integrated and strategic partnerships throughout the value chain.

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Additional Contact information: R a c h i d BENCHAABOUN e-mail: communication-financiere@cgi.ma Phone Number: 0537 239 411 Fax: 0537 563 097 Website: www.cgi.ma

Alliances Development:



Housing, Real Estate Residential & Tertiary, the golf resorts, the Service delivery and Construction.

With a recognized expertise, Alliance is a leader in project management in partnership with renowned international investors. The year 2008 was marked by the introduction of Alliances for the Casablanca Stock Exchange, a strategic choice and opportunity that will strengthen the performance and profitability.

Aware of its responsibility vis-à-vis society, the Alliance Group is distinguished by its social commitment by adopting an approach based on promoting investment, job creation and environmental protection. Additional Information : 16, rue Ali Abderazak, Casablan-

ca, Maroc
Phone Number: (+212) 5 22 99 34 80/63
Fax : (+212) 5 22 99 34 81
www.alliances.co.ma

CGI: Compagnie Générale Immobilière

Having the ambition to shape the urban landscape of major cities of the Kingdom, the CGI designs and builds high standing living environ-



Founded in 1994, the Alliance Group is now major player in the sector of Real Estate and Tourism in Morocco. Exercising various operations, such as developing, promoting, and service providing of real estate industry, Alliances operates in five business segments: Intermediate

Anass Yakine, "Designed to Walk"

Ayoub El Mamoun



This summer, someone will walk 5000 kilometers (3100 miles) from Lagouira to Tangier. No, the guy is neither crazy or high but wants to discover the country and promote its cultural and geographical diversity. Anass Yakine, the 22 years old student from Casablanca, claims that this will not be just a travel, but a "unique human experience full of emotions, discoveries and anecdotes". Throughout this adventure, which will last around 8 months, Anass hopes to submerge in the wild, meet different people with different cultures and discover the unknown places of Morocco. Anass Yakine claims that walking is one of his favorite activities. His first journey went from Casablanca to Ouarzazate and took him 23 days. This was followed by another walking trip from Casablanca to Rabat (100 Kilome-

ters) on the Earth Day, "This was my own way to celebrate this event and prompt people to respect the planet". These experiences and others motivated our hero to plan for a 5000 kilometers trip. Anass is fine by being alone with his thoughts during the trip and walking all this distance without a company or a group of friends. He believes that the solitary trip limits the conflicts and the need to compromise which makes decisions easier. For him, it is a great opportunity to discover one's weaknesses and qualities, and to "revive the self-esteem". Discovering Morocco and its cultural richness is not the only motive of this trip. Anass Yakine wants to unify both the South and North of Morocco and express the country's territorial integrity. Furthermore, Anass promotes the ecology of the country by avoiding any mean-

of transportation that could pollute the environment. He promises also to visit the SOS children's villages and endorse the voluntary work.

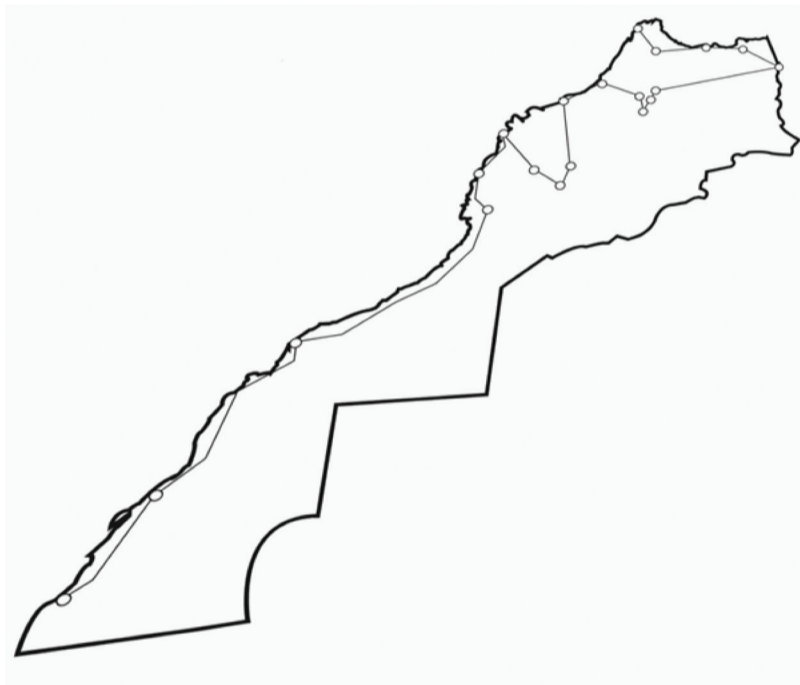
With the help of some friends such as Reda Allali, the musician and journalist, Anass's trip will be the subject of a documentary film which will not only cover this unique human experience, but the diversity of the Moroccan culture, gastronomy, art and population. Anass was also supported by the Moroccan minister of sports and youth Moncef Belkhatat and the French author and traveler Alexandre Poussin.

He was also a guest of Ajjal, a TV show of the Moroccan channel 2M this April. Technology plays its role as well; in the trip's Facebook group, the members are constantly supporting Anass Yakine and asking him to let them join!

The excursion is supposed to start on September, 2011 from Lagouira and go through Dakhla, Laayoune, Aga-

dir, Essaouira, Safi, Marrakech, Ouarzazate, Ouzoud, Casablanca, Rabat, Meknes, Azrou, Ifrane, Fes, Oujda, Nador, El Hoceima, Chefchaouen and Tangier. Good luck to Anass and to his documentary film.

Path Of The Trip:



Iphone Apps.

Taha Slaoui



My dear AUI Bridge readers, after the LiveScoreHunter.com article I am coming back to you with a new -at least to me- applications for the IPHONE and Blackberry. IPHONE has fast conquered the mobile phone market places and I have noticed that it is used by a large number of our community members. Maybe I am the one who is out-of-date when it comes to mobile phone technology but I have just gazed upon two new applications that might

be very interesting for our dear IPHONE and Blackberry users; VIBER and WHATSAPP. VIBER is an application that allows u to make FREE phone calls to other IPHONE and Blackberry users. However, this feature has a minor drawback as you cannot call someone who is not using this application. No need to worry, VIBER offers you the option of seeing who of your contacts uses this application and as easy as that you can call him for FREE for as much time as you want.



The Other application, WHATSAPP, has the same concept, it allows you text any IPHONE or Blackberry user -as long as he has the application installed of course- unlimitedly and yet again, for FREE. However, these applications both need you to be connected to the internet to benefit from these awesome features. Therefore, this puts us in front of a new problem which is the limitation of this application as they are absolutely useless if your phone is not connected to the internet. As long as you are within the university you are most likely not to face this problem thanks to the wide WIFI coverage in our beloved university. However, outside of AUI, I would suggest a 3G subscription with one of the phone companies here in Morocco. Ironically, the 3G has become widely used all over Morocco thanks to the cheap subscription prices that are offered by our overly-prices companies, I guess for once they are being fair with the Moroccan consumer. I would suggest that this 3G subscription will be a win-win situation for you guys; the

amount of money spent buying "les cartes de recharge" from the shop is a lot more than what you will be paying if you have a subscription as the prices of calls are relatively cheap than a normal user. More importantly, thanks to the lovely prices of the restaurant and the shop over campus gives you rarely the luxury of buying the refill cards on a regular basis and for our new students, that is something you will notice in a few weeks if the wave of poverty that disturbs our



MOVIE REVIEW: TRON LEGACY (3D)

Mohamed Mabchour



In 1982, TRON marked forever the sci-fi world offering combination between real and virtual worlds. Formally an “avant-garde”, this movie market failure has become a cult work, an “iconic” object -a little strange- to the unini-

delighted to find in Garrett Hedlund a hint of Jeff Bridges 80s. The relationship between parent and child rebel genius is in the heart of the film and both actors manage without difficulty passing the buck in a mixture of animal energy

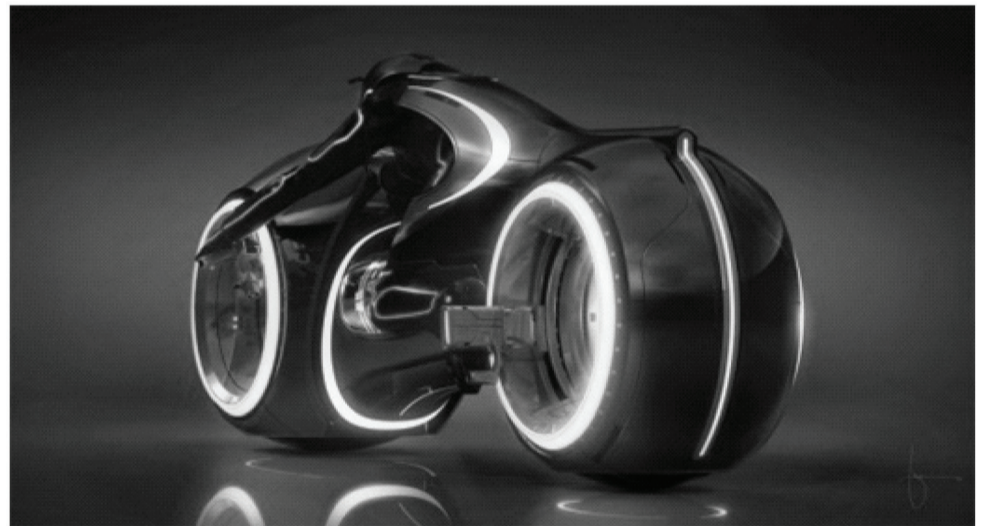
and Zen. The duo will soon be magnified a waltz where Olivia Wilde, perfectly credible in its fight scenes, brings a charm and a “bio-digital” humor. One of the best scenes of the film is indeed a strange mixture between these three characters out of phase.

Boring but with great refinement, Tron: The Legacy plays cleverly on the eternal adversity between man and machine, with great display of metaphysical dialogues. The speech is coherent and confrontation between Jeff Bridges and his younger twin keeps its promises to the end. Yet no one will make you believe that Clu was the face of the young actor. Despite the potential of the idea and technological prowess, it still lacks in the eyes, the lip or the details of the faces, something totally realistic.

Steve Kosinski has fully digested its classic SF: Kevin Flynn’s living room looks like a room time of 2001, A Space Odyssey, the lights of the city of TRON come straight out of Blade Runner and Jeff Bridges on the appearance of Obi-Wan Kenobi. Obviously absolute fan of

the first game and the genre in itself, it offers a roller coaster at 360 degrees where weightlessness is of little importance. The director is very effective when it comes to animate his “circus games” where survival is the key word. What a pleasure to see the fights and hard motorcycle racing motivated by adrenaline rush, especially in thirty years the traps are more numerous and endless variations. Too bad Steve Kosinski is less comfortable during melee battles where his camera always seems to have delayed behind the action. The choreography, ballet true light, is enough to satisfy the spectators. Just like the music of Daft Punk, composition model mainstream and ultra-sound pictures highlighted. It is effective as a good Harry Gregson-Williams who has not forced his talent.

One foot in the past, the other in the present, Tron: The Legacy is now licensed dream of the future, with a finely tuned marketing plan like Titanic. Watching this piece of art is a must, as I did and I don’t regret it.



Art For The Bridge

Mhamed Bengelloun-Zahr

Introduction

Art is a relatively short word with a definition that can stretch out over numerous topics and fields. In other words, this three letter word can be applied to anything that is done with passion, perfection, and unique strategy. For example, Groucho Marx referred to politics as being an art. He put it in a funny way, only because he was a great comedian; he said that “politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly and applying the wrong remedies”. Art played a very important role throughout history. It has gone through dramatic changes year after year, decade after decade. Arts, like music, painting drawing, and acting changed with events only because they are ways in which history and its people expressed themselves. These arts played important roles in politics, business, and in every day lives. One could go as far as saying that the different arts guide us in our way of living.

Art and History

As stated before art changes with historical events. Art is the voice of the media. Events are expressed through music, paintings, posters (propaganda), and films. National anthems and flags are political and national symbols also considered valued arts. Every great event in history is expressed by art; the French revolution, the American revolution, World War II, etc... These arts are treasured because they have value and a certain uniqueness that reaches into peoples hearts.

Art and Everyday Life

Today art creates our way of living. Music, cinema, architecture, etc...; are arts that convey the way we should live. Every unique person has his own collection of favorite arts; most preferred music and movies. The person then obtains his style of clothing, the way he thinks and acts, and the way he speaks from these arts. These aspects along with culture and appearance of the person display a cer-

tain uniqueness. When one looks closely at the uniqueness of every human being a certain sense of art and perfection come to mind. For example the way Napoleon Bonaparte appeared, dressed, and walked are continuously displayed in movies and cartoons. This is because Napoleon’s style stood out as unique.

Art and Business

Business depends heavily on art, the art of convincing customers through marketing. Marketing depends on commercials, posters, and imagination. Businesses only succeed if their ideas are artistic and unique. Businesses also depend on architecture and design which are the keys to standing out in perfection amongst other businesses. Building huge skyscrapers and designing cars and homes are all parts of modernization; however they are also arts of perfection.

Art and Nature

We come into this earth to find a masterpiece of perfection. There is art ev-

erywhere; the perfection of the human body, trees, plants, and rocks. Anything in nature, even though considered dangerous is a peace of art. The ocean depths hold various treasures of art. One of which is the coral reef. It is a beautiful structure full of amazing colors created by very tiny living animals. Another amazing structure is that of the stars; distant planets and suns that form astounding shapes referred to as constellations.

Conclusion

To conclude art is not only uniqueness and perfection. It is also made up of individual perception. Art is seen that way by humans, because there is something in it that creates a feeling of contempt and relaxation for the human brain. Then again the human brain is itself an art and is the source that turns something that is considered nothing into art.

Badminton In Brief

Adapted from <http://www.worldbadminton.com>

 Youssef Maghous



Historians believe that Badminton has its roots back to ancient times, as records indicate that a very early form of the game was often played

in ancient Greece. Hanetsuki, a game similar to Badminton (played without a net and with a wooden paddle called a Hagoita) has been

played in Japan since the 16th century. In the Western world, the game of Badminton has been known by many names throughout its existence, such as battledore and shuttlecock. The familiar modern form of Badminton can be traced back to India. During the late 1800's, British military soldiers were stationed in India and began to take interest in a locally played game, called 'Poona' or 'Pooppanthu Vilayattam', meaning "flower ball games". As the British soldiers returned home, the game remained close to their hearts. The sport was finally launched in Great Britain in 1973 at Badminton House in Gloucestershire, owned by the great Duke of Beaufort. For the first initial years of British play, the game was referred to as "The game of Badminton", and was eventually shortened simply to "Badminton". For fourteen years, the British continued to play Badminton under the rules which were established by the Indians. In 1887, the Bath Badminton Club discussed, voted, and established rules and guidelines to their liking. It was 1893 before these rules were actually published and then applied to the game by the

Badminton Association of England.

As of 1899, the All England Open Badminton Championship was established and officially became the very first badminton competition in the world. The International Badminton Federation (now titled the Badminton World Federation) was later established in 1934. Its founding members consisted of Canada, Denmark, Great Britain, Wales, France, The Netherlands, Ireland, New Zealand, and Scotland. India even joined in 1936.

The Badminton World Federation is currently known as the governing body of the sport of badminton. Five separate regional confederations are now affiliated with the Badminton World Federation, including the Badminton Asia Confederation, Badminton Federation of Africa, Badminton Pan Am (consisting of North and South America), Badminton Europe, and Badminton Oceania.

From the Summer Olympics to the Sudirman Cup to the Uber Cup to casual summer barbecues, Badminton has become a popular backyard family sport and its popularity still continues to spread across the world.

AUI Table-tennis team renewal

 Youssef Maghous

Several sport activities are offered within Al Akhawayn University thanks to its great infrastructure. From Soccer to Badminton, every single student can find the sport which could best suit him.

At the beginning of Spring 2011, a non active team has been completely renewed; The AUI Table-tennis team is re-born. Ali Bougrine and myself Youssef Maghous, two passionate students decided to take the lead of the table-tennis team and gather interested ones to bring back a club that was lost in the books. Ali said: "it was hard to gather enough interested people to join the team and be serious about coming to training but we had to give it a try." We decided to promote the club and inform students about its existence by organising a try-out tournament during the second week of the semester. A group of ten students showed their interest to get involved within the team and attend practice. One of AUI staff, Nouredine El Abiad, agreed to coach the team since he had a special training and received a coaching certificate from the FRMTT (Federation Royale Marocaine de Tennis de Table). The team players have practice two times a week for two hours and a half each. Our short term goals are to have se-

rious players ready to help the club get better, to organize local tournaments within the university and friendly games against clubs from Fes or Meknes, and to have a female table ten-

nis team so that we can take part in national tournaments. Concerning our long term goal, we are hoping that we'll represent the university in International sport events in the same honouring way as other athletic teams.

our to represent the university during the first edition of the "Universiades 2011" organized by ENCG El Jadida. The team was represented by two players: Tahar Harkat who won the third place and I who won the second place in the tournament. "It was a great experience participating in a tournament for the first time after the team renewal, and winning the second and third place" Tahar said during the closing ceremony. I shall state that we are proud to have taken part in making AUI win the "Universiades 2011" trophy by collecting three gold medals and two silver ones. I also want to thank the Athletics Department director, Mr. Adel Kaman for giving us all what we need to help the team in making better improvements. I will end the article by announcing that we are planning to organize a national university table tennis tournament within the university during the last week of April. So, I hope that all the team players will give their best to make our university take the lead in this event.



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tournaments. Concerning our long term goal,

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our to represent the university during the first

England claim the 2011 RBS Six Nations Championship

Ilyass Garara

The RBS Six Nations tournament is done, and England were crowned champions of the famous rugby tournament for the first time since they won the Grand Slam* in 2003. Just like every single year, the 2011 edition, which took place between February 4th and March 19th, did not come without its load of surprises. In fact, England was denied the Grand Slam this year after a shocking and, according to some critics, humiliating 24-8 defeat to Ireland in Dublin. The media all praised the amazing overall performance of Ireland during the tournament, especially in that final match, as the squad that was assembled for this edition included many young players who surprisingly showed great chemistry, whereas several new systems were used by the coach. Ireland finished third this year, just behind England and France, but it will certainly be the European team to follow during the next world cup. Despite the media outburst that surrounded Ireland's victory over England, it was minnows Italy who pulled the biggest upset this year after beating previous title holders France for the first time ever with a final score of 22-21. Andrea Masi, who plays as a Fullback with the Italian side, scored a crucial try late in the match. His good performance during

the whole tournament earned him 30% of the votes to become the first Italian player to claim

On the other hand, England's triumph this year constitutes their 4th championship win



the Six Nations Player of the Championship. France's young sensation Morgan Parra ended as the tournament's top point scorer with 48 points, outscoring England's Toby Flood by one point.

of the historic tournament since the inclusion of the Italian squad in 2000 that transformed the 5 Nations Championship into the 6 Nations Championship. With this consecration, the team with the famous red rose crest is now

only one title away from joining France's record 5 championship wins. At the same time, they are widening the gap between them and Wales, their direct runner-up. Indeed, this consecration raises their total championship wins to 26 against 24 for Wales since the establishment of the Home Nations tournament in 1883 which, at the time, only included the teams of the United Kingdom. France remains third with 17 championships since their inclusion in 1910.

Finally, it should be noted that England's women rugby team also raffled the female edition of the 6 Nations for the unprecedented 6th consecutive year after dominating Ireland 31-0 and winning the Grand Slam in the process. Despite the big loss against Ireland, these two wins should give a huge mental boost to the British rugby teams and their fans ahead of the next Rugby World Cup, which will be held this year between September 9th and October 3rd at the home of the mighty All Blacks, New Zealand.

* The term Grand Slam is an honorary trophy attributed to a team who wins all their matches during the tournament.

AUI takes the lead at El Jadida

Youssef Mqghous



Al Akhawayn University took part in the Universiades ENCG El Jadida, a multisport competition among thirteen "grandes écoles" in Morocco. Between February 25& 27, four teams represented the University: men's soccer, women's basketball, chess (two players), 8 pool (1 player), and table tennis (two players).

Al Akhawayn University won three gold and two silver medals, and won the competition trophy with the best overall results. The runner ups were ENCG Fez (three gold medals and one silver), while ENCG Tangier came in third with two gold medals and one silver.

AUI squad left the campus early on Friday (25th), using a van and personal cars. We had a long trip before arriving to ENCG el Jadida. Since most of the participants came late, the organizational committee decided to postpone the individual games to Saturday and give all the athletes a free afternoon.

After an enjoyable moment spent in Sidi Bouzid's beach, we've reached our rooms/bun-

galows and had the chance to have some rest. Some of us profited from the occasion of being at El Jadida to go out and party in Mazagan hotel before coming back and going to sleep.

On Saturday morning, every team went to a different location to begin the

competition. While the soccer team and the women basket ball team were strangling to be qualified to the semi-finals, things were going pretty great for the individual games' athletes: The chess, the 8pool and the table tennis players were all qualified to the semi-finals. "The 8pool and table tennis equipments were crappy but still, we made it to the semi-finals: this is what I consider a great performance" said Tahar Harkat, one of AUI's table tennis players, who shared the same opinion with the 8pool player Bakr Sikal. At the end of the day, we already got gold and silver medals in chess, and a silver medal in table tennis.

On Sunday, which was the last day of competition, the basket ball team players were champions of their category while the soccer team won the gold medal after an amazing final game against ENCG Tangier. "Although the game was very tough, we succeeded in staying

concentrated and taking the lead over our opponent" said Ayman Salamat, the scorer of the only goal of the soccer final game.

During the closing ceremony, AUI players were the stars of the show. We have all enjoyed that moment before heading back to our beloved university. The final results were:

- AUI men's Soccer team: Gold Medal
- AUI women's Basket ball team: Gold Medal
- AUI Table tennis team: Silver Medal (Youssef Maghous); 3rd place (Tahar Harkat)
- AUI Chess team: Gold Medal

(Bassim Madi); Silver Medal (Hamada Badri) - AUI 8pool team: 4th place (Bakr Sikal)

To conclude, I want to thank all our coaches who supervised us during the competition: Mr. Adil Kaman, Mr. Khalifa, Mr. Nouredine and Mr.Ibrahima Keita. I also want to congratulate the organizing committee from ENCG Jadida for all their efforts, hoping that the next edition of the Universiades will happen in better conditions.

