



Editorial

Dear Readers, I am happy to present to you the first issue of the AUI Bridge. That having been said, what I would really like to share with you in this editorial is the notion of problematization. As students, we are in constant struggle; in trying to construct our identity, in trying to meet expectations set on us, in trying to establish ourselves as individuals in the society. However, at the risk of generalizing here, all of these struggles, superficial or existential, reveal in a way a crisis that we are experiencing. This crisis might be projected on so many levels and in so many ways, but the important thing to remember is that the failure to overcome the crisis, is a failure to problematize the crisis in the first place. Problematizing does not necessarily mean making things more complicated, it means reading through one's self, recognizing one's motivations, detecting one's flaws, and unfortunately, asking one's self unpleasant questions. Through genuine introspection, we can bring about the notion of change to our reality. Through problematizing, we can overcome the crisis because solving problems is easy and can change aspects of your life, problematizing on the other hand changes your very existence: It is a subjective transformational experience. Only through problematization are we able to disaffiliate from the reality set before us, and build our own. Problematizing allows us to detach ourselves from the common sense, and make our own sense. So AUI students, go ahead and PROBLEMATIZE. Happy reading everyone.

Soukaina Chakkour
Editor In Chief

The AUI Bridge Wants To Change To: AL AKHAWAYN CHRONICLE

In the framework of better promotion and better representation of the students' publications at Al Akhawayn University, the 2012 Spring team members of *the AUI Bridge* have suggested to change the name of the English speaking publication of AUI. The concern arose from the insignificance of the current name: *The AUI Bridge*, which is not very substantial and does not have any added value to the publication itself. The current name is also very vague in terms of its representation worth to Al Akhawayn University. It lacks the professionalism of a journalistic label and does not capture the essence of the work that our team is aspiring for.

After several meetings, the Spring 2012 team members have agreed to *Al Akhawayn Chronicle* as a choice. *Al Akhawayn Chronicle* is an excellent choice to name the newspaper. It is more representative and coherent with the institution it represents: Al Akhawayn University, as opposed to AUI, which can be very

misleading in terms of its connotation to the outside public. The second part of the proposed name, being *Chronicle* is more revealing as a journalistic label. It is simple and professional.

Al Akhawayn Chronicle would also allow for the newspaper to be more encompassing. In addition to that, the label shift goes hand in hand with the change of spirit that is now adopted by the team, in reference to the launch of the new website, the details of which are available on the last page of this issue. After several negotiations with the administration, it was agreed upon that the first issue for this semester will go published under the name of *AUI Bridge*, along with a proposition to change the name to *Al Akhawayn Chronicle*. In the meantime, *the AUI Bridge* team appreciates really your feedback on this suggestion, upon which, a final decision will be made. You can write to *the AUI Bridge* at bridge@au.ma



Hicham Lasri, Moroccan Movie Director, In AUI For His Movie Screening: *The End*

On Thursday the 24th of February, Al Akhawayn University had the pleasure of welcoming Moroccan movie director and screenwriter Hicham Lasri to present his celebrated movie: *The End*. Thanks to the efforts of the Cinema Club members' who organized this event, AUI students had the opportunity to mingle with the movie director, ask questions and discuss the movie in a friendly and laid back atmosphere.

The event started with the arrival of Hicham Lasri on campus. He was warmly welcomed by the students, who volunteered to give him a campus tour. Later in the afternoon, some members of the Cinema Club, professors and other interested students gathered in the Student Activities Office. Several questions were addressed and various topics were approached such as the development of his career and the evolution of Moroccan cinema and so on. (continued on page 4)

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AUI Bridge
Spring 2012
First Issue
Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco
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Website: <http://fjtech.us/auibridge/>

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In Brief

● Al Akhawayn students, Hind Benbihi and Sara El Alaoui took part of a research project that won Best Paper Award of the 20th ACM/SIGDA International Symposium on Field-Programmable Gate Arrays (California). The two students were able to contribute to the project by participating in the IC Summer @ EPFL program at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland. Sara El Alaoui worked on a project entitled: "Analytical

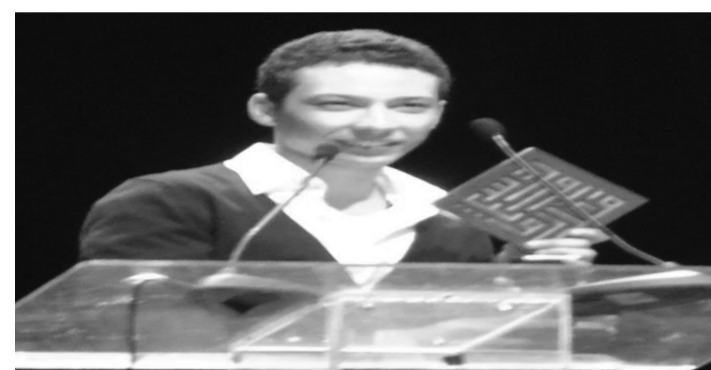
Fixed-Point Accuracy Evaluation in Linear Time-Invariant Systems" under the supervision of David Bruna Novo. Hind Benbihi worked on the project "FPGA Acceleration through AND-Inverter Dedicated Logic Cones" under the supervision of Hadi Parandeh Afshar. The project was later developed to the award winning paper, which was described as the finest venue for architectural innovation on FPGA fabrics. Congratulations to Hind Benbihi and Sara El Alaoui!



Students Sarah El Alaoui & Hind Benbihi

● Al Akhawayn student, Driss Slaoui, a Computer Science major undergraduate, received the "Twitter" of the Year Award, offered by the Maroc Web Awards. The contest aims at offering support for the most innovative and influential internet users in the country. The event is organized by *Synérgie Media* and under the aegis of the ministry

of Commerce, Industry and New Technologies. The Minister himself presided over the ceremony, which was held in Casablanca at Mohammed V theatre. Driss Slaoui is a web developer. He is the administrator of www.welovebuzz.com; a website dedicated for people who are interested in writing and posting unusual stories. Congratulations to Driss Slaoui!



Driss Slaoui Receiveing His Award

● The Department of Communication and Development organized, on Saturday, March the 3rd, a mock interview session for Al Akhawayn Students. This was a good opportunity for the students to develop their professional skills and to acquire more experience in terms of excelling at job interviews.

Numerous students participated in the mock interviews. PR professionals contributed to the event such as AUI alumna Yosr Sibari. Students were able to get feedback on their weaknesses and strengths in terms of their performance in the interview, as well as how to organize their CVs.



An AUI Student During The Mock Interview. Photo Credit: Soukaina Chakkour

● On Monday, March 5th, outstanding students who earned a semester grade-point average of 4.0 in Fall 2011 were honored in a dinner ceremony. British Council representative in Morocco, Martin Rose, attended the ceremony and delivered a speech about *The Other*

Spring. The dinner was also attended by university officials. The tradition of honoring outstanding students is an great occasion to encourage these students to continue on the path of excellence. Congratulations to all the students who made to the President's list!



Student Mohamed Mehdi Benseghir With British Council Representative Martin Rose. Source: www.aui.ma

● The Feminist Club of Al Akhawayn University organized on Thursday March 8th a movie projection to celebrate Women's International Day. The movie *Miss Representation* is a documentary about how women are underrepresented in

the media and unable to have access to positions of power. The movie was followed by a discussion, featuring Dr. Sandra Phelps, in which students shared their ideas about the situation of women in Morocco and in general and the possibilities to challenge this situation.



A Shot From The Documentary Screening. Photo Credit: Soukaina Chakkour

● On Wednesday March 7th, the Students Activities Office organized a Columbian Night by the musical group Indio Fusion. The event also featured Columbian singer Dany Sandro. Students were able to enjoy Latin Ame-

rican rythms, which was a great opportunity for them to get a little bit away from the stress of the midterms. This is the second visit of the group to Al Akhawayn University. They came to AUI the first time last summer during graduation.



Students Dancing On Latino Rythms In Building 17 During The Latino Night. Photo Credit: Soukaina Chakkour

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My Community Service Experience

AMINA MOKANNEF

Twenty days of pleasure, discovery and gratification would be unfairly expressed and summarized using words. My internship was in a gorgeous natural region in the Rif called Ben Taib Driwich, in Nador. I had the chance to work within a national, humanitarian organization called Nejm Rif. This association allowed me to feel the pride of achieving humble, but immense objectives. In addition to that, the fact that I was working with volunteers and people from different ages gave me the opportunity to receive the best reward one could ever receive: The smile on the faces of others.

The beautiful region of the Rif suffers, like many other regions in Morocco and all over the world, from the proliferation of wastes and garbage, instead of flowers and trees. One of the major missions of the organization was to increase people's awareness of the dangers of pollution on our present and future. So, the first step was to make people conscious that every single human being is responsible for pollution: whether directly or indirectly. Furthermore, thanks to the collective work of the members and the volunteers, we set up a panel of com-

munication with people of the region and invited them to many explanatory seminars.

I had the chance to present one of the seminars. I was very happy to feel motivation from my audience and suggested many solutions. The causes of pollution, as most of us know, are various and dangerous, but change would appear miraculously by collective work. Noting that one hand can never clap, step by step we can achieve our goal no matter how difficult it is. Many solutions that I suggested in my seminar were admired and accepted, from which I can list: To substitute black plastics with white ones, to use all the plastic used for fruit and vegetables, to collect garbage instead of dumping the garbage from windows or on the streets, to use environmentally safe products, to recycle used motor oil and filters, to report illegal dumping, to pick up after pets, proper disposal of trash, to use water based paints, and last but not least, to recycle everything that is recyclable.

The solution that interested me the most was the implementation of green spaces, which we have created. It is true that the

idea was my own, but I was impressed by the responsiveness of the local population, which allowed us to build green spaces of high quality, thanks to the efforts of the citizens of the region. Green spaces are very useful in regions like the Rif so that children can benefit from safe spaces to play, adolescents can build relationships, and adults can share experiences while savoring the beauty of nature. I got to learn many skills concerning the agricultural field including the characteristics of different flowers and trees. Also, I was happy to convince citizens from this region of the importance of having a clean, healthy environment, and even happier to get contaminated by the love of Earth.

Finally, I would recommend to students who will begin their social internship to really enjoy it to its fullest, and to try to help people in need or contribute to their wellbeing. Also, I would recommend them not to make this internship their unique and last experience in the domain of social work because it is always pleasant to help others; for them and for ourselves. Furthermore, I want to emphasize on the importance of taking care of our environment for our future and the future of our children.

AUI Students Discuss Benkirane's Government

YOSRA KHOULAMMI

On Tuesday February 21st 2012, students from Al Akhawayn University have joined a discussion about Morocco's newly formed government. The event was organized by the Diplomacy Club, the Social Sciences Club and the Res-Publica Club. Although only a few students attended, the discussion was debate-inciting and put on the table many challenges that the new government faces.

The discussion started by pointing out the major changes occurring in Morocco as a response to the upheavals happening in the rest of the Arab world, and the reforms that lead to the establishment a new constitution, in the aim of building a more democratic state. Almost all the participants have agreed that the Party of Justice and Development has gained its legitimacy from the fact that it was close to the people, and also from the fact that the Islamist alternative seemed more appealing for Moroccans, in the absence of a genuine alternative. Talking about political parties brought the discussion up to the highly fragmented political scene in Morocco, parties wise. Participants seemed quite skeptical about the motivation and credibility of those parties. One of the issues that were also tackled was the fact that there was only one woman in the government. Participants were divided between the legitimacy and the absurdness of this choice. While some defended vigorously that the choice was merit-based and not gender oriented, others argued that the fact that there is one woman is very revealing to the social policy of the PJD.

Overall, the discussion was very insightful and brought up issues that are crucial to Moroccans, this did not stop exchange students from attending the event, who have also shared their thoughts and ideas, while at the same time, showing interest in Moroccan politics.



From the Students' Discussion. Photo Credit: Soukaina Chakkour

Al Akhawayn Celebrates *Internationality*

SOUKAINA CHAKKOUR

On the 2nd of January, an international reception was held in Auditorium 4 in honor of international students, Al Akhawayn students returning from abroad and student ambassadors for international orientation. The president of Al Akhawayn University, Dr. Driss Ouaouicha, and Mrs. Amy Fishburn, head of the Office of International Programs, both delivered speeches,

in which they talked about the value of exchange experiences and emphasized on the importance of encouraging cross-culturalism in a university like Al Akhawayn.

At the beginning of the ceremony, students received a booklet in which information could be found on the exchange students from the Spring semester 2012, the returning students

from Fall semester 2011, and also international students who are currently pursuing their degrees at AUI.

The information in the booklet was insightful in the sense that it provided an idea about the international body of Al Akhawayn University, which is not to be underestimated.

Al Akhawayn has students from Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cameroon,

Germany, Niger, Saudi Arabia, The United States of America, Lebanon, Palestine and many other countries.

This international diversity, that Al Akhawayn University offers, is very enriching and should be encouraged.

The reception was followed by a buffet, during which international stu-

dents, AUI students and members of the staff and faculty exchanged different points of view about the advantages of the exchange experience, the importance of nurturing an environment that encourages diversity and exposing one's self to another culture.

The End At Al Akhawayn University Draws Students' Interest

NIMA MESBAHI & SOUKAINA CHAKKOUR

On Thursday the 24th of February, Al Akhawayn University had the pleasure of welcoming Moroccan movie director and screenwriter Hicham Lasri to present his celebrated movie: *The End*. Thanks to the efforts of the Cinema Club members' who organized this event, AUI students had the opportunity to mingle with the movie director, ask questions and discuss the movie in a friendly and laid back atmosphere.

The event started with the arrival of Hicham Lasri on campus. He was warmly welcomed by the students, who volunteered to give him a campus tour. Later in the afternoon, some members of the Cinema Club, professors and other interested students gathered in the Student Activities Office. Several questions were addressed and various topics were approached such as the development of his career and the evolution of Moroccan cinema and so on. This was a valuable opportunity for students to get to in touch with the Moroccan film industry with all its challenges and rewards. After having dinner with the students in the VIP room, the small group headed to Auditorium 17 where the screening began around 9:00pm. Before the beginning of the screening, the audience learned with great sorrow the death of Moroccan movie critique Mohamed Soukri. A minute of silence was held in tribute to the influential cinematographic figure.

If there is something that is certain, that would be that the audience was absolutely fascinated by the movie, in different ways. Some were angry, some were delighted, but all of them were certainly trying to figure out what the movie was about.

The uniqueness of this film is displayed in its filming style, the unusual construction of the plot, the absence of music, the limited dialogue and the many symbols that throughout the whole movie had the audience puzzled.

In terms of the cinematographic techniques used in this movie, they were certainly uncommon and peculiar. This kind of movie truly pushes the boundaries of regular mainstream traditio-

nal Moroccan cinema to something new, if not revolutionary, that draws both from the raw underground Moroccan living and its rich history with a twisted yet brilliant touch.

Although the director stated himself that the movie is not political, and is open to different interpretations, the movie addresses a number of political issues, mainly police brutality and social injustice. The movie is also a portrayal of a Morocco stranded between tradition and modernity. It is full of scenes that unravel the multiple realities of Morocco as incarnated by the peculiar characters in it.

Hicham Lasri described his movie as an "adolescent movie", sort of an experimental introductory breakthrough to the cinematographic world. Indeed, the way the characters are portrayed is kind of superficial if seen without scrutiny, yet it reveals a lot in terms of identity crisis in the Moroccan society.

The film also deconstructs in an intelligent way the personality of the Moroccan commissioner, Daoud, and the dichotomies of brutality and tenderness, which are displayed in the public and private sphere respectively. On the one hand, he is extremely brutal when dealing with "outlaws" while doing his job; on the other hand, he is the loving husband of a physically disabled woman, who is herself in crisis because of her physical disability. According to Lasri, this movie is a very personal project, in which he describes the repercussions of the death of King Hassan II on the Moroccan society. The death of the late king put



Movie director Hicham Lasri With AUI Bridge Reporter Nima Mesbahi.
Photo Credit: Soukaina Chakkour

Moroccans in a state of fear and anxiety, politically speaking. As far as he is concerned, his death was a moment of chaos and disorder, and his movie is a representation of the feelings he experienced, along with many Moroccans, during that time. *The End* spurred various reactions from the audience. Mostly confusion and perplexity; the movie however succeeded in provoking genuine laughter here and there. After 105 minutes of captivation, the Q&A session followed and offered the students the opportunity to talk about the work of Hicham Lasri, his influences, the message behind his movie and so on. The discussion between the director and students was nothing short of interesting.



Movie Director Hicham Lasri Having A Discussion With AUI Students After The Campus Tour. Photo Credit: Soukaina Chakkour

Connecting Cultures Expedition

AMAL MRHAILEF

From different parts of the world, sixteen girls came together to learn about each others' cultures. Five days in Sharqiya Sands' desert in the Sultanate of Oman were an amazing experience to exchange and share ideas and thoughts. The countries that were represented were: the UK, Switzerland, Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Slovenia, Oman, Jordan, Lebanon, Yemen, Egypt and Morocco.

Our days started by walking almost 2 to 3 Km, after breakfast; then having a Omani Coffee break and chat about our cultures and how things are done back home. Then, we walked another 3 Km and settled down for lunch. Workshops took place after lunch. Afterwards, we walked about 4Km and camped. During these five days, workshops were programmed, in order to elaborate and discuss some cultural aspects. These workshops were about values, stereotypes, and cultural misunderstandings. Through these workshops, we had the chance to compare our values as human beings. Values that were diverse from one culture to another; however, we agreed on almost all the values brought up by the ladies. Nevertheless this agreement raised the question about the cultural misunderstanding happening now among cultures; even though we share almost the same values. Then, we discussed how stereotypes play a role in these misunderstandings.

In addition to the structured workshops by two trainers from *Outward Bound* we had quite interesting debates, conversations,

and shared thoughts about different topics. We had a debate about media and the extent to which it is responsible for some of the cultural misunderstandings, some of us supported this statement, and some of us were against it. Almost all our conversations while walking were about education, politics and religion.

For myself, I would say that it was a great opportunity for the European girls to ask about Islam to determine the extent to which what they hear about Muslims and Islam is true. Same for us, Muslim girls had a chance to correct the false images in their minds. On the last day, we returned to Muscat for a reception at the British Embassy. We had a chance to talk about our experience in front of members of the royal family and diplomatic VIPs.

We were sixteen girls, strangers to each others, five days later; tears fell down when it was time to say goodbye. It was an incredible experience to each one of us. I confirm that I learned a lot during these few days, and now, I am responsible for the knowledge I have about all these cultures and how the world can be a better place if we open up to each other.

"Connecting Cultures Program is recognized by UNESCO and the United Nations Alliance of Civilization as one of the world's leading civil society initiatives. Run by Outward Bound Oman/ Tahaddi, in close partnership with the ministry of Education/ National Commission to UNESCO in Muscat."

From the British Embassy Muscat, UK Oman



Amal Mrhailef And The Other Participants During The Expedition. Photo Credit: Amal Mrhailef

Souk Larbaa On Campus For The Second Time

NIMA MESBAHI

I was coming back from class on a sunny Wednesday at noon, when my nostrils began tingling with the delicious smell of freshly cooked *msemen*, a treat that I love. I could hear a loud but cheerful chitchatting noise that indicated a crowd gathering somewhere behind the cafeteria. I began wondering, what could stir-up AUI students in a happy and jovial crowd? Then I remembered the date. It was Wednesday February 29th, the day Souk Larbaa was supposed to take place. It is a non-profit event organized by Al Akhawayn University Resident Assistants Association.

This year's Souk was ... like last semester's. Around the small patch of grass between the cafeteria and the restaurant small stalls were set. There were about 6 stalls, each of which offered various organic local products.

The first stall was all about Moroccan donuts, *msemen* and various hot Moroccan treats. The second one offered a variety of fresh vegetables and fruits. From potatoes, lime and tomatoes to apples, oranges and even pineapples, the *Marché* of Ifrane has set foot in our campus offering a wide range of healthy and fresh products. Next to the vegetables and fruits there was the *Bisara* stall. It is a traditional Moroccan dish that consists of a sort of either mashed peas or bean sprouts. It is served fuming hot with some olive oil and cumin on top of it.

I personally love *Bisara* and this event was the opportunity for me to taste a dish that I haven't eaten in a long time. The third stall displayed fresh eggs while the one next to it offered the traditional water mug that is customary made of *Terre Cuite* and was decorated with black ornaments. Last but not least, what would be a traditional Moroccan souk without the popcorn stall?



Students Picking Up Fresh Vegetables During Souk Larbaa. Photo Credit: Soukaina Chakkour

As I talked to Zineb El Ouazzani an RA, the preparation of the event was exhausting and challenging to say the least. She said that it was "a long procedure to get approval; and innovative ideas aren't always easy to achieve". The major challenges were the endless procedures of the event, such as convincing local farmers to participate in the event; and the unpredictable weather that can ruin an outdoor event.

In addition, one of the challenges was to deal with hygiene issues. For instance all products that required cooking were prepared overnight in the restaurant. This way, everything was properly mo-

nitored, from the equipment to the oil and the material used. As for the vegetables and other products, farmers brought their own products that they sold at the same price and kept their benefits.

As was mentioned before, Souk Larbaa event is a non-profit event, which means that the RAs were just volunteers who worked hard to organize this event. They also had to buy additional products such as the traditional water mugs or *polish remover* with their own money and sell them to students hoping to cover the costs.

When I asked Zineb what is the added value of such event that is no doubt time and energy consuming, she replied with a smile: "it is mostly the pleasure of organizing a successful event and seeing that people liked it and enjoyed themselves and asked for a third Souk". She went on saying that nothing

would have happened without some help. So, "Special thanks to Yamina Bahaji for having faith in the project and who truly empowered the RA organization, Hicham Hafid, the housing staff and security for making things go as smoothly as possible and Dr. Mrabet for being sort of an advisor and our n°1 fan".

The Souk Larbaa event was a success that no one can deny. People enjoyed themselves on both parts: students, organizers and participants. As I was leaving, the RAs gathered around in a group hug relishing and celebrating the success of their event. Don't miss up their upcoming event *Barbecue & Karaoke Night!*

The Spring 2012 Orientation

OMAR MOUTEI - STUDENT AMBASSADOR

As the 2012 Spring semester kicked in, the Student Activities Office's orientation brigade was ready to welcome all the newcomers and the exchange students with exciting activities to help everyone blend-in smoothly in college life.

As usual, the first step was registration, although necessary, this step is usually boring and time consuming. However, the SAO team tried to make it more enjoyable by welcoming parents of new students first and answering all their questions and taking care of all their concerns. This makes new students and their families more comfortable and reassured. It is normal that parents feel worried; the majority of them are letting their kids out of the family shell for the first time. Therefore, it is very helpful for them to talk to students who have been at AUI for a while and who know what it's all about. But this year and for the second time, AUI orientation team also prepared a small 3 minute flash mob to revive the atmosphere. It did take hours of practice and preparation but it all paid in the end, the people who were present praised it and they requested it be done again in building 17 during the President's speech.

The orientation is also about organizing various ice breaking games and activities to help the new students meet each other and adapt quickly. The games started soon after the Student Activities Office's presentation that included everything there is to know about students' activities desk and how they can easily join student life. The first activity was on the very evening of the registration, *The Treasure Hunt*. This is an orientation tradition and was done in almost every orientation. In this game, the new students are divided into groups and are gi-

ven hints that lead to various places all around campus. In every station they go to, they are welcomed by Student Ambassadors in different costumes and are given a challenge before they can receive the next hint that will lead them to the next station. These challenges require various skills and can often be achieved with teamwork and collaboration. The first team to go through all the stations wins *The Treasure Hunt* and receives a very special prize from the Student Ambassadors. This activity allows newcomers to go all around campus and get familiar with everything there is to know about its most important places. The participants had a lot of fun and made contact with each other and in the end, were very pleased with the game as they all joined together with the Ambassadors for a group picture.

A day after *The Treasure Hunt*, *The Ice Breaking Games*, another orientation favorite, was organized. These are challenging circuit games held on the soccer field and involves teams that had to use various skills to get through the circuit as fast as possible. The different games required speed, strength and most of all, teamwork. Again, this gave newcomers the opportunity to get to know each other better and work together with music in the background. As soon as the new students were done showering and getting ready, another activity was



New Comers Enjoying The Karaoke Night. Photo Credit: Imane Amaize

waiting for them. This time it was a student favorite, *The Karaoke Night*, where the new students as well as all the Ambassadors and RA's were invited to sing together and have fun, surrounded by decorated walls and ambient lights.

The last and final activity took place on Sunday, the day before the beginning of classes. It was the second time that *The Students Gathering* was organized, this time in building 17. This activity although very simple, is great for getting to know each other. While music plays in the background, the Student Ambassadors and the newcomers gathered in circles and just talked about whatever comes to their mind. Members from the different groups were

constantly changed so that everyone meets as many people as possible. This is a great way to talk about college life and all the different events organized inside campus. It also allows everyone to just get to know people the way they want to, without the pressure of competition.

In the end, the hard work of the Student Activities Office's Ambassadors paid off and enabled a very successful orientation, which was praised by all. Again this semester, we can all say that the Spring 2012 orientation was a success and truly allowed newcomers as well as Ambassadors to get to know each other better, and to create a more enjoyable college experience.



Students Ambassadors Preparing For The Orientation. Photo Credit: Imane Amaize

LC Atlas: AUI's Rising Star

ILHAM CHERRADI*



AIESEC is the largest student-run organization in the world. Its purpose is to enable young students to explore and develop their leadership skills in order to have a positive impact on society. It mainly does this by offering internship opportunities abroad to both members and non-members. It is present in more than 110 countries and territories, includes over 60000 members, takes part of 2100 universities worldwide, organizes 470 conferences and sends students on 16000 international exchanges yearly. It is a 61 years old non-governmental organization that had already established itself throughout the years all over the world. Its international office is currently in Rotterdam, Netherlands. AIESEC Morocco was founded in 1986 and is currently comprised of 4 Local Committees (LCs) and one Interest Group (IG): IG Atlas, which is in Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane.

Al Akhawayn University is proud to officially found its own committee, established in the summer of 2010 by ambitious students and it has only been growing and growing ever since. The Outgoing Exchange (OGX) department was successful in sending 8 AUI students to different exciting destinations such as Brazil, Poland, Ukraine, Turkey, India and even New York City; where the participants were able to benefit from amazing professional experiences (including one with PricewaterhouseCoopers which is a global partner of AIESEC); and at the same time enriching their cultural knowledge with everything an international experience can offer.

On the other hand, the Incoming Exchange (ICX) Department has been making outstanding efforts to create internship opportunities for international students here at the university and in the region of Ifrane and all its exceptional efforts have been rewarded with the arrival of Miriam Alonso from Mexico. Miriam is a 22 years old Mexican girl who has obtained a bachelor in business administration and has a great experience in volunteering with different organizations, and has also attended different conferences in many countries. She is currently staying with a home family in the city of Azrou, and working as an intern in Al Akhawayn's Azrou Center for Community Development. She is working on a project on women empowerment, and also participating in the elabo-

ration of the strategic plan of the Center. She is extremely pleased with her Moroccan experience: "I had never imagined Morocco like that! Being here has been a mix of experiences and adventures that go from a completely different culture to the quality of people I've met; a challenge, without a doubt, that has helped me discover my abilities and especially contribute to the development of community projects in Azrou through my internship with AIESEC. A dream came true!" This great achievement would not have been realized without



Miriam Alonso In A Campus Visit. Photo Credit: Sarah Oumnad & Kaoutar Chennaf

encountering many difficulties. Indeed, what makes AIESEC and the ICX Department to be more specific so special is that it provides the organizations it works with, completely customized profiles to accomplish tasks called for in a job description.

We have access to a database of hundreds of potential exchange participants, and the most challenging part was to find the right person. In other words, finding the *perfect match*, which means someone who would not only have the necessary qualifications but who would also be interested in coming to Morocco in the date suggested and for the determined period. Tens of thousands of people from different countries (such as Japan, Venezuela, Canada, Russia, Tunisia or Hungary) have been interviewed by AIESECers and as much CVs were examined before finally finding the right person. This has resulted in finally changing our status.

As it has been mentioned, our entity here is called "Interest Group" which means, in simple words, *a baby committee*. For

it to become a Local Committee, at least 1 Incoming Exchange realization needs to be achieved. Now that we have succeeded in doing that, the ICX team is extremely proud to have finally changed Atlas' committee's status from Interest Group to Local Committee and to have participated in making it take a historical step forward. Even though it will only become official in the month of July, AIESECers at AUI already take pride in using the "LC" acronym whenever it is possible.

Now that this first achievement has finally been done, we are looking forward to achieving more and more. In fact, we are proud to announce that a second "matching" has been accomplished with a promising young Egyptian student who will also be directly coming from Cairo to work with the Azrou Center, teaching English to beginners. We have also been communicating with many departments here at AUI and are looking forward to signing agreements with them in order to allow more international students to come and enjoy a unique Moroccan experience on our beautiful campus, and at the same time, participate in deploying the strategic plan of the university by encouraging internationalization.

To conclude, there is no doubt that thanks to the support of AIESEC Morocco's board and Al Akhawayn University, LC Atlas will achieve all its goals and make a difference. Its skilled members have shown an outstanding passion and hard work, and this is what has allowed us to come this far. In parallel to their regular AIESEC tasks and school work, many of AIESEC members are currently working on the organization of the AIESEC National Congress (NATCO) which is a National conference for leadership that will, for the first time, take place at Al Akhawayn University from June 7th to June 10th. In the name of AIESEC LC Atlas, I would like to thank the Student Activities Office, AIESEC Morocco's board and everyone who has been supportive to us. We will continue to do everything that's necessary to make them proud and to attain the high goals we have set for ourselves.

*Ilham Cherradi is the Vice-President of Incoming Exchange 2011-2012, IG Atlas, AIESEC.

AUI Community Examines The Pitfalls Of The Arab Spring

NIMA MESBAHI

On Wednesday March 7th at 6:00 pm, the school of Humanities and Social Sciences organized a lecture entitled "The Pitfalls of the Arab Spring" by Dr. Paul Aarts, a senior lecturer in International Relations at the Department of Political Science of the University of Amsterdam. Dr. Aarts was co-founder of *ZemZem*, a Dutch magazine dealing with Middle Eastern, North African and Islamic issues. He also developed a very interesting exchange program called the *Zeytun Academic Exchange* with academic institutes in several Middle Eastern countries such as Iran, Iraq, Syria, etc.

The talk was divided in two parts as usual. A 40 to 50 minutes critical inquiry of the Arab Spring and 20 to 30 minutes dedicated to questions and answers about the topic in hand. Paul Aarts started his presentation by arguing that the *Arab Spring* wasn't a true revolution but a "mere awakening, uprising or even intifada". He then stressed on the surprising and unpredictable part of the wave of revolts that had the domino effect on the MENA region.

The body of the talk was articulated around three main points. The first one explored the idea of Robert Cohen who postulated the fact that scholars are not fortunetellers; their objective is not to predict the future of states but to analyze and understand the underlying dynamics that shape those states. The second point dealt with the idea that every regime is meant to converge towards one type of government, which is the liberal democratic one. As for the last one, it was mostly about about the family-centered features of the Arab world. In other words, most, if not all, Arab countries whose regimes are known to be authoritarian and non-



A Snapshot Of The Lecture Given By Dr. Aarts. Photo Credit: Soukaina Chakkour

democratic, it is common to favor family and collective values.

Fukuyama states that in order to get the machine of democracy started; it is necessary to draw a clear line between the professional and the personal aspect of life. In light of that, a question was asked, "Will we ever have democracy in the Arab world?" Dr. Aarts seemed reluctant to favorably answer that question. He justified his position with a list of 5 Indicators of *likelihood* that determine whether countries can achieve democracy or not: The level of economic development, the concentration of national wealth, the coherence and capability of the state, the presence of a cultural identity and the amount of historical experience with political pluralism. These indicators are of course subject to discussion but give a clear prospect of the democratic potential.

Aarts then stated that any political improvement should automatically be accompanied by an economic improvement, which is not the case in countries that have witnessed a *pseudo* revolution such as Egypt or Tunisia. Therefore, we cannot talk about a revolution per se but more of a *refolution*, with an *f*, which means a push for reforms through the same political institutions.

Aarts finally resumed his talk by stating that different labels of hybrid regimes such as *flawed democracies*, *transition democracies*, *would be democracies*, or even *stuck in transition democracies*. He then added that these post-cold war hybrid regimes followed different trajectories and it would be wrong to assume that all hybrid regimes are or should be moving towards democracy.

In the end, and as the Q&A session took place, most of the participants criticized Dr. Aarts presentation. However, Aarts argued that giving a negative view on the *Arab Spring* wasn't his prerogative. He emphasized on the importance of realistic assessment and meant to warn the audience against the *optimistic* hopes that some have and especially activists who often ignore crucial facts about democratization process. His final message was that the ongoing transition towards democratization is a long and bumpy one. The Arab World thus should be prepared to encounter hurdles, obstacles and disappointments along the way.

USA: The Federal Budget And What History Can Teach

WALID HASBI

America today is eight months away from the presidential elections. With president Obama being the Democratic candidate, and on the other side, a Republican list of members who are constantly backbiting each other; the real clash between the two parties on crucial issues hasn't yet started. Yet, it seems rather clear what one of those would be: the federal budget, and how it was managed during the past 4 years.

Obama has often been criticized for having been the cause for the deepening of the national debt, and it is safe to assume that this argument is bound to be brought up again and more than once, a few months from now.

Four years ago, one of the challenges that Obama clarified was that the US was in need to balance between its interests abroad and its good image, that are many times at odds with each other. One of his very first moves was that he unlocked a sum of money to save General Motors from bankruptcy while at the same time, saving a few thousand American jobs. Obama stated in his own words that:

“When I took office, American Car Companies were on the verge of collapse[...] with one million jobs at stake, I refused to let that happen[...]today, General Motors is back on top as the world's number one auto-maker[...]we bet on American ingenuity[...] the American auto-industry is back.”

Going back to these interests abroad, many of them happen to be driven by the military-industrial complex as well as converging economic interests, particularly counter insurgencies in the Middle East (Afghanistan, stretching on for a decade, is the perfect example of this). These were justified in the context of the war on terror during the Bush administration. This is not the first time American troops are mobilized in great numbers in a variety of countries concentrated in the same region of the globe.



American President Barack Obama. Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/>

In 1933, president Roosevelt put an end to armed conflicts that involved U.S. troops in Latin America. His move, known as the “good neighbor policy”, was a milestone in military history of the U.S. It was domestically felt that military interventions abroad should stop being justified by economic interests. Rather, the United States should be a “good neighbor” that would encourage partnership and promote development with its Latin American neighbors, rather than seek heavy intervention to ensure its interests are intact. These same interests were on their way to be preserved through other means like international cooperation, Pan-Americanism and trade. The result is that Latin America became the place where Pro-Americanism was most felt worldwide during the decade that followed. President Roosevelt saw his country was better off as an ally, rather than an imperialist actor, especially that profound Anti-American feelings were growing in Latin countries. In the words of the Secretary Of State of the time:

“No country has the right to intervene in the internal or external affairs of another”.

Of course, the Cold War put an end to this when military interventions in the form of proxy wars became common, and friendly dictatorships set abroad, including Latin America reversed the “good neighbor” image. Of course, on a more realistic scale, this policy came at the time of the Great Depression, and the American society was being severely damaged from the interior, with unemployment reaching rates that have never been attained previously. Being

involved in virtually every single Latin American state was simply too costly for the federal reserve. If it is widely established that on behalf of the people and on the premise of national interests, these military moves are decided, in certain conditions, there would seem to be other priorities where the money of tax payers would be better spent. In the scheme of things, the government had to work out its priorities, so it stopped its involvement abroad. This came as a natural move to cut expenses in an efficient way for the American people. Today, with 741 billion dollars spent in 2010, The U.S. is the country with the highest military expenditure, with a worldwide share of 34 percent (against some 43 percent, one year ago). This means that fairly 34 percent of all the money spent in the world on warfare during the past year was spent by the U.S. alone. This comes in a global context where other nations, such as China or Russia, seek more and more armament, thus reducing the US's share (in 2004 for instance, the US was responsible for 60 of what the whole planet spent that year).

If Large budget costs have been going on for quite some time in the country, particularly in the domain of education (most public high schools and colleges today in America underwent some kind of change in one way or another due to this nation-wide budget cuts), military expenditure is always on the rise, with the exception of the first year of president Obama's mandate, where he inherited the fresh economic crisis from the previous administration. It was noticeably smaller that year, but nonetheless huge, in absolute terms. Within only eight years, the spending doubled, with an ever-expanding chunk for overseas contingency (the war on terror).

For president Obama today, the situation is quite different. On one hand he has been preaching a gradual withdrawal from Iraq. Afghanistan, on the other hand (because of its implications), is a region where intervention is to be reinforced. Because he is seeking a second mandate, the issue of the Federal budget for Obama will be a crucial one, and it is in times like these that the priorities need to be set. If cutting military expenditure is out of question, it is nonetheless a negotiable modifiable alternative to consider, for its benefit can surpass all the good that the actual situation has to offer, for the American people, and for other peoples as well.

Syria: Bloodbath Continues

TAHA SLAOU

Syria is one of the Arab nations that has been affected by the Domino effect that started from Tunisia, and spread across the region. The Arab Spring, as it is called, has given the Syrian people an incentive to go out on the streets and say enough to Bashar Al Assad, the second dictator of its kind in their modern history. More and more, the whole world is admitting the barbarism and cruelty of the regime, which has been, allegedly, implicated in the killing of almost 6000 people since the beginning of the revolution.

Russia and China seem to disagree on this point. The two superpowers have used their VETO power to oppose a resolution, backing up an Arab plan to urge Bashar Al Assad to give up power. This would leave the Arab League paralyzed in terms of coming up with a solution.

The VETO is also considered a benediction to Al Assad on-going massacre towards the Syrian people. Adding salt to injury, Bashar's regime is now expecting 15 000 members of the Iranian special-ops, led by the head of Iran's elitist Quds Force, to help them maintain order on the streets of Syria. This Iranian gesture might lead to further tensions with the US and Israel. Political analysts are already talking about a third world war.



Protests In Support Of Syria. Source: <http://marthawardrop.blogspot.com>

Given the situation in Syria, political stability is unlikely to take place for the moment. Activists from all over the world have expressed their concerns about mass-murder and crimes against humanity, which is considered a sensitive topic, given the history of Al Assad's father in Hama, one of the hearths of the Syrian uprising, 30 years ago.

Hama massacre anniversary coincides with the month of February, when Hafez's forces have murdered 20,000 Sunni Muslims, in less than a week. The massacre has taken place as a preventive measure against rising opposition in the region. It is considered to be the most horrifying act committed by an Arab government against its people.

With the Russian and Chinese double VETO, Bashar Al Assad is on the verge of outdoing his father, while at the same time, following the footsteps of Gaddafi.

While the current situation, where an intervention seems unlikely to occur because of Russia and China's double VETO, the number of killings in Syria seems to be leading to a civil war.

Morocco: 20 February Movement: One Year Later

AYOUB EL MAMOUN

“Dignity, Freedom and Social Justice” is the slogan that was raised by the 20 February Movement a year ago during the large protests that took place in the major cities of Morocco. The movement was inspired by the “Arab Spring”, which succeeded in bringing down some classic Arab dictators such as Mubarak, Ben Ali and Qaddafi. In Morocco, it was different.

The 20 February did not want the King to go away, but rather the Makhzenian institutions to give power to the people. Activists within the Movement vigorously oppose Makhzenian practices. Protestors, who gather on a weekly basis since the February 20th of 2011, raised different demands depending on developments taking place in the political and social spheres. Some of these demands remained constant such as the constitutional change. The movement asked for the democratic election of a committee that will be in charge of setting the foundations of a true parliamentary monarchy in which the three powers (legislature, judiciary and executive) are separated. Another fundamental demand was the release of all political detainees and prisoners of conscience. The Movement’s activists also protested against the ineffectiveness of the educational system, the bad health services and corruption.

The reactions of Moroccan politicians and citizens to the Movement varied. While some saw the demands legitimate and reasonable, others believed that the protestors were just dreamers and imitators of Tunisians and Egyptians. And while some Moroccans regarded members of the Movement as a body responsible youth willing to change, others accused them of betrayal and plotting against the country.

The reaction of the King was the historic speech of the 9th of March, in which he proposed a new constitution. The new document placed some of the King’s powers in the hands of the prime minister. The King also called for early elections. According to this constitution, the king will name the prime minister from the winning party. The new constitution was subject to a national referendum that took place on the 1st of July 2011 and was approved by 98% of the votes. The Movement rejected both the constitution and the results and demanded further changes. The peaceful protests continued and activists managed to attract more crowds. However, alleged police violence caused several injuries, some of which were extremely severe and led to death cases, such as the case of Kamal El Ammari who died in Safi.



The 25th of November was the date that was set for the early elections under the newly approved constitution. The movement invited the voters to boycott the elections as they saw the potential winners unable to make changes. The political parties however launched their campaigns and confirmed their participation in the elections. The Party of Justice and Development (PJD) won the elections and started negotiations to form a new government, which was led by Abdelilah Benkirane.

A hectic year has passed and the 20 February Movement is still protesting in the streets. Many factors affected the group including the withdrawal of Al Adl Wal Ihsane from the protests, the elections and the developments of the “Arab Spring”. However, the group has not given up on its demands and continued to ask for a democratic constitution, the release of detainees as well as holding previous governors implicated in corruption accountable for their crimes. In its first anniversary, the movement failed to attract big crowds, on the opposite of what was expected. In Casablanca, activists set up a sit-in in

From The Manifestation On The Anniversary Of The 20 February Movement. Photo Credit: Ayoub El Mamoun

the Square of Doves and organized concerts and theatre plays. In Rabat, crowds went from Bab El Hed to the Parliament and raised slogans such as “Happy Year 20th, Sad Year Makhzen”.

Reflecting on the course of the Movement and its gains, observers see that the Movement succeeded in putting pressure on the state and the monarchy, which led to a new constitution. Another gain is the fact that the 20th of February Movement was able to mobilize people and to break some old taboos such as individual liberties. However, the members of the Movement see that nothing has changed, they even consider that the elections and the new government are just a “play” by the Makhzen, intended to absorb the pressure of the crowds and make up a fake change. And while some politicians invite the group to stop protesting and take part in political parties, other see that the group should organize itself and continue to protest to put more pressure on the state.



From The Manifestation On The Anniversary Of The 20 February Movement. Photo Credit: Ayoub El Mamoun

Impossible Is Nothing

NABIL DOU

Since the very first moment we become conscious of our presence in this world, an eternal question arises: what will happen next? We are constantly living in doubt and this doubt pushes us to put our future in the hands of things like destiny or hazard. Those elements can relieve us a little from the stress of not knowing; however, neither of those things can get us to achieve what we want to achieve or to have what we want to have.

Our future might be hazardous, but we do have some control over it! I have lived a long time before understanding that things can't just happen if we wish them to happen, and I have never been the type of person who just accepts anything that happens by relating it to destiny. We live in a world of causality where everything happens for a certain reason so it was obvious that the answer to my dilemma was elsewhere. The only rational conclusion that I found was that human life is not defined by anything pre-written or preconceived but is defined by the choices we make as human beings and the efforts put on those choices, as well as being conscious of the nature of this process.

A human life is insignificant compared to the immensity of the universe; it is then limited by the environment and the actions of the individual and the community. Assuming that our small little lives are already pre-designed is only a sign of arrogance and laziness. Each time we do something, our actions create a reaction that might or might not lead to another event. If we decide to do things differently or to not do them at all, the outcome will be completely different. The possibilities that are ahead of us are like a giant tree full of junctions and each part of the junctions leads to a completely different path with its own junctions.

The first step to acquire some sort of mastery over our future is to be conscious of this infinity of possibilities that are ahead of us. Once we are conscious of the causal nature of our actions, we can be able to speculate about the outcomes and try to define our own path on the tree of possibilities. The notion of destiny is only an easy way to

deal with things and to transfer the responsibility of our actions to an invisible entity. Taking for granted that everything that will happen is already defined increases the laziness of individuals towards the actions they take as they think that whatever must happen will happen. Thinking that we, human beings, who are nearly nothing in comparison with the immensity of creation, are so important that all of our lives has already been designed and set for us is just a huge complex of superiority that our species cherish. The notion of destiny is and must be only a security option that we

makes us aware of the different possibilities ahead of us, and thus, we can make the right choices to achieve the desired outcomes.

Once we know that all that matters is our own actions and our own words, we are not influenced anymore by people's talk. Relieved from this weight, superstition and popular beliefs will be completely inefficient against us. Unexpected events completely independent from our own choices can appear on our path, but that doesn't mean that our progression is completely paralyzed. Even by taking everything

retically present reality as multiple. By using their outcomes rightly, we can have a positive perspective of how to deal with the future.

The Multiverse Theory states that in every moment, every possibility of reality is happening at the same time on different parallel universes. The best example to explain this concept would be the grandfather paradox. The grandfather paradox states that if somebody was able to travel back in time and went to his grandfather childhood and killed him; he would never exist; however, if he never existed he couldn't

kill his grandfather. Confusing, isn't it? The explanation is simple, in case of a time travel; the traveler would go to a different version of reality similar to his own but where some outcomes would be different as the different patterns of what people did are. Like reading a different version of a book where the author decides to change some details. What is to be understood from those theories



Source: <http://www.thecleanslate.org/>

might return to in case of great doubts and great insecurity; it has been made to make us feel better. Even religions with great emphasis on faith and destiny are still commending their communities to take action in their lives.

Once we know that we can greatly influence the way things are happening, there is no limitation on the possibilities; we can even break free from other limitations such as people's influence; however, unexpected events can still crumble our path. Knowing that everything is possible can only be positive for anybody with common sense. This approach

into account, random things can get on our way and make us get off from our original path to a different outcome. What we need to do is to rectify our trajectory and focus on our aim.

There isn't only one path to achieve something and with a little effort of imagination we can totally find an alternative way. The only way for us to completely fail in doing something would be to do nothing and blame destiny. Nothing is impossible as long as we are ready to do our best and to stick to our desires. Some serious scientific theories show us that the notion of destiny is absurd as they theo-

is that we influence the world we are living in by our choice. Making choices then would be equivalent to travelling between the different possible versions of reality. It completely denies any huge outside limitation on the faith of anybody. It gives us a simple conclusion: The world is what we want it to be.

The idea of destiny or predetermined path is here only to provide us with psychological support, what really matters is our choices and actions and their outcomes, and the outcomes of their outcomes are the only factors that define our path. We have put our future for too long in the hands of destiny.

The Habits We Forgot to Pick Up

SHARMIN HOSSEIN

I'm from New York, and I know we're not some of the cleanest people on Earth by looking at our train stations and streets. I attend a New York state school, and I can't say the same about our dining hall tables and campus environment.

Unfortunately, coming to Al-Akhawayn University left me with some impressions of AUI students I didn't want to have. I sit at the *café* every single day enjoying my coffee *au crème* served to me by the amazingly sweet employees. I couldn't help but notice every hour of the day, how AUI students leave their cups, plates, and dirty napkins on the tables.

The garbage that an AUI student makes is left to be cleaned by a hardworking employee of the *café*. As a firm believer of cleanliness, I couldn't fathom reasons as to why people continuously act like that without any remorse whatsoever. This article is not in any sense an attack on the student body of AUI, but more of a call for assessment of our values and ideals as the future of tomorrow.

When we leave our dirty things for people to clean, what does that say about ourselves? What impression are we giving about the way we live and think? Not cleaning up after yourself should

be a crime, because we don't live in a world that is created to conform to our needs. We shape the world around us, and when we continuously leave our dirty garbage for employees who are hardworking and who are nothing but nice to us, we're shaping a dirty world. I recall learning this in grade school, when we had to walk back to our tables to clean our plates. Or maybe in my home where my mother never let me play video games until I washed my dishes. I'm calling AUI students to reevaluate their values, and rethink the way they can make the world around them a better place: by regaining The Habits We Forgot to Pick Up.

Hip-Hop Stories

SHARMIN HOSSEIN

Being in Morocco, I'm surrounded by French speaking Moroccans listening to French music all the time, and *Désolé* by Sexion D'Assaut, was a track that intrigued me. It has a hard flow, with some daring production, and I wanted to know what it was about.

Given the fact that I studied French for six years, I was able to decipher just enough of the song to figure out what it was saying. Maître Gims repeats throughout the song "I prefer to leave and isolate myself. Mama - let's say - I'm sorry, that career advisor clearly neglected me. And like a fool, I said okay. And every day, I consider stopping it. People want to make an entity out of me I'm gonna give it all up. I'm just a man - I'll just die one day."

Wanting to learn more about the culture of hip hop of the French speaking people, I did some more research about the roots of this song. From learning about hip-hop from where it originated in the Bronx, to understanding hip-hop as a cross cultural phenomenon which gave voice to oppressed voices from Palestine for example, I was expecting a story behind their music. Badr Ouriaghli, a native Berber in AUI gave me insight on the socio-political sphere that touches upon the culture of this hip-hop, while being able to address the mechanisms addressed within *Désolé* in particular.

The members of Sexion D'Assaut consist of eight French-speaking rappers from Paris, who come from all parts of the world that have been colonized by the French. They have roots from Cote D'Ivoire, Senegal, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea and Mali.

After the 70s immigration wave in France, the French government created Priority Zones, which Badr characterized to be similar to *ghettos* in America. With a high percentage of public housing, income and poverty gaps, lack of education and resources, these Priority Zones that spread through



The French Group: Sexion D'Assaut. Source: <http://roantchowdameida.centerblog.net/>

ghout the cities of France are indeed shockingly similar to the *ghettos* of America. In particular, neighborhoods throughout New York came to my attention, where places in the Bronx and Brooklyn had a high poverty rate, as well as low education rates. The similarities within the socio-economic sphere connected, and it directly influences the hip-hop culture, which enables to share these stories of oppression.

In *Désolé* Lefa says, «But you know, it's not easy here either In France too, we're going through hell.» His lyrics reminded me of Nas, a revolutionary critic of the American government, saying, "From the slums I come up, a phoenix caked up. Tryna take what I'm eating, and came up a dismissive kid, in America." Nas characterizes where he is from as the home of thieves, as he questions why America goes overseas when home isn't fixed yet.

There's a connection made throughout the song of the isolated ghettos like Queens Bridge, which is one of the biggest housing project communities in New York, and the lack of the proper infrastructure to help people in those communities.

These sensitive urban zones throughout France have implications that are deep for immigrants who have been living there for 3 or 4 generations, and hip-hop artists like Sexion D'Assaut have made efforts to tell about the struggle. Hip-hop as a form of art derived from the oppressed groups of people in NYC, and continues to depict the struggles from Compton, to Detroit, to Palestine. The high crime rates, unemployment, impoverished zones in France are similar to many streets across the world. History is interconnected, and the struggle of oppression is a worldwide language. What brings us together as a culture is much more stronger than what separates us.

No More Money

NABIL DOU

From the earliest moments of our lives as human beings, we are surrounded by a thing, a thing that is used and reused and abused everyday by billions of people from all ages and all ethnicities. This thing is what we all share, but it is also the greatest tool of inequality in all human history. This thing is nothing else but money.

Since I was a child, I have always found it strange that all what motivate our current lives are those weird-looking papers of different shapes and colors. And as I grew up, I began to see how awfully unfair the situation is, and I began to realize that our lives were depending on those tools that are no more tools.

I will talk in this article about how money has harmed our human societies, then I will propose some alternative ways that we can use instead of it, and I will finally point out to how humanity can be greatly improved by its disappearance.

Money is the major source of human inequality as well as the cause of the depressing nature of our current societies. The very nature of money and the way it is distributed is the major cause of human inequalities. There are no restrictions on the amount of money that an individual can have and virtually anything material can be acquired with currency.

A set of ethic rules is somehow applicable on monetary transactions, but at the end, the majority of the rules are there to protect money owners. The close relationship between money and power makes people who own more money acquire more power; and thus they are the ones who make the rules and decide who will benefit from the currency and subsequently from the assets. All these reason have created an immense inequality.

According to the United Nations Research Institute: The richest 2% of the population own more than the half of the

world's assets. The drive towards more monetary profits have pushed our societies to become a gigantic consumption machine with no other aim than making the rich richer. The products presented to us only serve one aim: Making money. These products are becoming more simple and more generic, which makes the cost of production low and prices high.



Source: <http://reed4maryland.blogspot.com/>

Money is not the only way to distribute goods between people and can be replaced by introducing alternative motivational systems such as co-operational societies or work for the acknowledgment of people's skills, or just a common will to

progress. With a cooperative system in all major corporations, money can be speared. With no bosses anymore and all employees having equal ranks, everybody will be able to work and produce with less pressure and without the 'overtopping the others' attitude. Everybody would be able to satisfy their needs just by fulfilling their role as active members of the society. People can also work in the domains they are the best at and everybody will do rounds to achieve less important tasks. People will then be more motivated by the acknowledgement of their skills than by the absurd accumulation of money and in an ideal setting; everybody will have no reason to need money.

People can stop thinking in a selfish way and can all unify their power to improve the world they are living in. If such a thing is achieved, everybody will be able to have a good decent life. With no money around anymore, we will cease to be consuming societies and we will make real advances that will be beneficial for everybody; as well as releasing ourselves from a constant stress.

With no money around, people will stop to consume only for the sake of consuming, leaving space to real art, real culture and even real entertainment technology which will be really efficient and useful and will be motivated by the advances of humanity instead of material gains, which will ultimately raise humans' standards of living. People will be released of the constant need to have money to survive, and they will finally be able to relax and enjoy life.

Money is the root of all human inequalities as well as the engine behind our actual consumerist societies. It must be replaced with alternatives that will be more based on unity rather than pure individualism and that will finally enable the human race to improve and live peacefully. Money has caused enough troubles already and the world has witnessed enough of them. It is high time for it to finally vanish.

AUI Explores The Limits Of Einstein's General Relativity

ILYASS GARARA

On the 14th of February, while many were busy celebrating valentine's day, AUI students and faculty members attended yet another exciting presentation by Dr. Ahmad Hujairat, entitled "Is Einstein's General Relativity the Ultimate Theory in Astrophysics and Cosmology?"



Dr. Hujairat during the lecture. Source: <http://www.aui.ma/en>

The presentation, which was organized by the School of Science and Engineering, gave an overview of Albert Einstein's theory

of general relativity. After briefly explaining its origin and evolution, Dr. Hujairat stressed the theory's reliability and applicability vis-à-vis the development of science in our world today. Following the same approach, he illustrated his explanations about the researchers' limited knowledge with many real-life examples such as the mysteries surrounding black holes. Dr. Hujairat stated in the abstract of his paper on the same topic that: "black holes are inevitable mathematical outcomes of space-time energy coupling in general relativity. Currently, these objects are of vital importance for understanding numerous phenomena in astrophysics and cosmology. However, neither theory nor observations have been capable of unequivocally proving the existence of black holes or

granting us an insight of what their internal structures could look like, therefore leaving researchers to speculate about their nature."

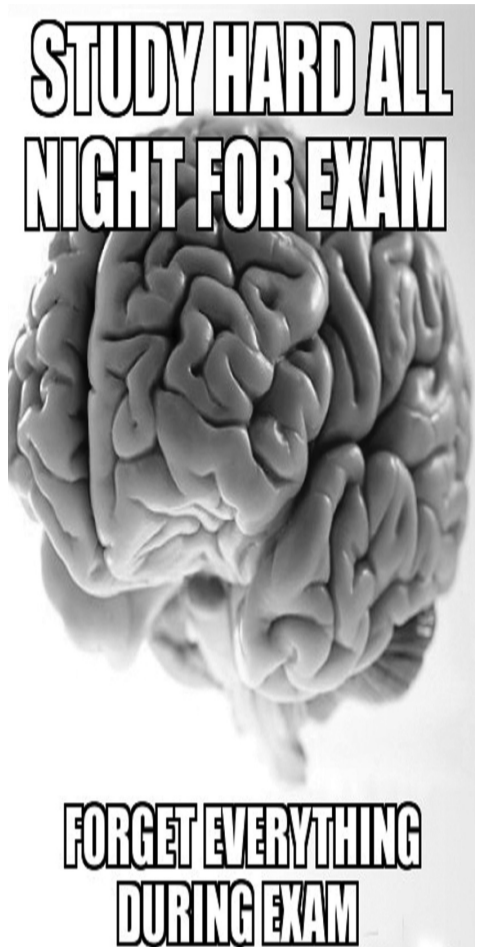
As a professor at the Interdisciplinary Center for Scientific Computing at the University of Heidelberg, and a professor at the Department of Physics at the University of Basel, Dr. Hujairat gave a whole new perspective on Einstein's theory. His first visit to AUI dates back to 2010 where he introduced a set of theories and phenomena related to stars, while focusing on how the scientists can use that in solving issues related to energy. And just like his first visit, Dr. Hujairat's lecture incited a lot of interest as it stimulated many questions from the audience.

An All-Nighter? Think Again!

KHADIJA IHSANE

As we cannot benefit from extra time regarding the length of the day, the only possible and ultimate solution to return a ton of assignments, papers and projects due in 24 hours is to spend sleepless nights. At Al Akhawayn University, it seems almost impossible not to be a victim to sleep deprivation, a tendency that makes not being exposed to hazardous risks impossible. Don't be surprised if you feel depressed or anxious after spending a sleepless night; actually, it is one of the many reactions that happen inside your brain.

Experts have claimed that sleep deprivation causes a significant increase in alcohol addiction. Besides, it is not a secret if you have noticed a huge difference in weight as soon as you became an AUI student; in fact, one of the reasons may be the lack of sleep your body is trying to deal with. It is very frequent to hear how hard someone worked on an exam and spent sleepless nights covering the materials required, and yet get a really bad grade. Experts, though, can expect such repercussion because they know that sleeplessness is the main cause to memory loss as sleeping is an opportunity for the brain to store information. However, the scariest fact is that sleep deprivation can induce seizures and hallucinations, which means that we are more likely to be exposed to convulsions when lacking rest because the brain gets overexcited. Therefore, next time you think of spending a sleepless night, remember that your life is in danger and so are your grades!



Source: <http://www.lamepuncoon.com/>

ScyTech IN BRIEF

Ilyass Garara

AUI's Ground and Maintenance department builds a hybrid car (Feb 23rd, 2012)



The hybrid car. Source: <http://aui.ma/>

The vehicle's motion is generated by both solar energy, which is provided by the car's solar panel, and kinetic energy, which results from the rotation of the wheels. This is the first vehicle of its kind to be built in Morocco. As the director of the department, Mr Naitlho said, the long-term

goal behind this achievement is «to produce energy-efficient, low-cost hybrid vehicles that will commute across campus premises, providing personnel transportation as well as running special errands».

Polemic still raging about the lab-made avian influenza virus, H5N1 (Mar 4th, 2012) – As different labs and experts still debate on whether it is deadly or less threatening

than previously thought, the US government is strongly opposed to publishing the results of the research out of fear that terrorist organizations should exploit the "recipe" and launch a new global epidemic following the first avian flu in 2005 and the swine flu in 2008.



UNawe

Source: <http://star.arm.ac.uk/>

Universe Awareness (UNawe) program launched in AUI for the first time in Morocco (Dec 28th, 2012) – Two events have already taken place on December 28th and on January 26th. Led by Dr. Hassane Darhmaoui, workshops have been organized to introduce astronomy to the life of 4-10 years old children, allowing them to make 3D scale

models of the space telescope Hubble and the constellation Orion. The next session will be held on March 16th where kids will participate in an Apollo-themed workshop.



Source: <http://www.seolinkbuilding.co.za/>

Twitter signs major deal with Russia's Yandex (Feb 21st, 2012) – Yandex, the Russian IT company that deploys the n°1 search engine in Russia, announced that it will carry Twitter data in all of its search results. The arrangement, which is similar to the previous deal between Twitter and Google, will result in the search engine Yandex displaying tweets, profiles and other related data both in normal searches and through a newly dedicated link, twitter.yandex.ru.

India and Africa seek to build a lasting cooperation to expand science and technology

(Mar 3rd, 2012) – A meeting in New Delhi assembled more than 100 scientists and 31 ministers from different countries to discuss a potential cooperation. The discussion focused on building capacities in research and development, social entrepreneurship and innovation technologies.

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A Fairy-like Night

LAÏLA OUAZZANI TOUHAMI

In 2010, the movie *Black Swan* gave tribute to one of the major masterpieces of the 19th century: *The Swan Lake* of Piotr Ilitch Tchaikovsky.

The story has become even more famous than it used to be thanks to the highly publicized of the movie. The fairytale tells us the story of the prince Siegfried, who gets for his birthday a crossbow and decides to go swan hunting.

When he gets nearby a lake, he sees a group of swans and gets ready to hunt them when suddenly, the queen of the swans turns into a beautiful and fragile young lady named Odette, the white swan. At her sight, the prince is unable to ignore what he sees and asks her what just happened, that's when she tells him that none of the birds he sees are swans, but all young ladies under the spell of a malefic sorcerer named Rothbart, and that only a sincere and true love can save them from the spell. Siegfried falls instantly in love with the young lady and promises to marry her, but if he doesn't keep his promise, she will remain forever a swan.

After he gets back to the castle to convince his mother, he finds out that she organized a banquet in order for him to choose his future wife. The surprise was tremendous when one of the princesses, Odile, the black swan, turned out to be the identical reflection of Odette, but in fact she is Rothbart's daughter. Confused, the prince dances with Odile and chooses her as his future wife, while Odette is desperately trying to get him back. Once he discovers the truth and confesses his love to the white swan, it is too late and she dies from sorrow.

For those who are children at heart or simply love classical music and ballet, each January, with the close collaboration of the Moroccan *Orchestre Symphonique Royal*, the troupe Moscow Classical Ballet presents a three-nights show of the major acts of *The Swan*



A Scene From *The Swan Lake*. <http://clarissadraper.blogspot.com/>

Lake at the Théâtre National Mohammed V in Rabat. This is a great opportunity to live a fairylike moment, it is not age limited, anyone can go, as long as you like music and fairytales, and it is very affordable compared to the quality of the show and the orchestra.

Prices go from 200 MAD for the 2nd balcony spots, 300 MAD for the 1st balcony spots and 400 MAD for the Orchestra. The major acts and scenes played are the Act I scene 1 and 2, representing the birthday of the prince and his meeting with Odette. These sce-

nes are highly charged by grace and soft feeling and we can easily feel the growing love between Siegfried and Odette; it is very heartwarming. After a short pause, the second act scene 3 takes place and we can see the banquet in which the prince has to choose, this scene is very colorful and we can easily guess the country represented by each dance, especially Spain and Russia that are absolutely breathtaking and jovial.

The final tableau we have is the Act 3 scene 4, it is night, Odette tells the story to her friends and how the prince involuntarily betrayed her.



The prince finally arrives, promises her to atone his mistakes and apologies, but the evil sorcerer doesn't want to see them together and starts a fight, he sends the black swan and her allies, they have a long and vigorous fight, finally the prince triumphs and the spell is lifted.

After the show, the public is behaving as if they were in a magical bubble, and euphoria and felicity were dominating. Most people spent their night dreaming of pirouettes, entres chat quatre and other spectacular jumps. As for many girls, it made them want to take back their leotards and ballerinas and get back to the dancing hall, or for those who never had dance classes, to start taking them. The most impressive part stays, for each and everyone, the "Dance of the cygnets". It consists of 4 dancers, entering the stage in a line, and move across with their arms crossed, imitating the manner in which swans move together to protect each other.

It is highly impressive because of the rapidity in which they move from a jump to another, from a step to another while being perfectly synchronized. For those who are not novices in the domain, they are making a sequence of what is called "batteries" that are small jumps and between each jump there is a step like for example crossing your feet with your ankle at the front then at the back and jump again.

To wrap up, I would like to encourage everyone to consult the website of the *Théâtre National Mohammed V- Rabat* (<http://www.tnmv.ma>) or to call them on: 05 37 68 61 94/95 because they are organizing very interesting events in terms of music, dance, plays and the development of arts in Morocco. There is also a children program in order to create in them this passion for art and promote young talents.

The Last Battle Of Captain Ni'mat

RIME EL JADIDI

It is a rainy day in Ifrane. I'm stuck in the library, procrastinating for over an hour. I decide to take a look at the New Acquisitions shelves, and that's when I found, in the place I least expected, *Le dernier Combat du Captain Ni'mat* by Mohamed Leftah. I've heard a lot about this book: It is censored in Morocco and no one can find it in bookstores. I've also heard that it is about homosexuality, but now that I have read it, I think it is more than that. Prohibition doubles the pleasure of reading a book, as it does for many other things. And while I'm usually a very slow reader, I finished this novel in less than a day. So what's the controversy behind the story? *Le dernier Combat du Captain Ni'mat* is the story of Captain Ni'mat, a former Egyptian military officer who participated in the Six Day War in 1967.

When he is much older and after having a life-changing dream, he discovers his homosexuality and begins to acknowledge his penchant for men. He then has an affair with his Nubian domestic, Islam. In the story, Captain Ni'mat is a man who accepts his defeats, in war as in his masculinity. After reading the book, the question remains: Why is this book banned in Morocco while other books about homosexuality written by Moroccans are circulating legally? No one has the answer yet. A good guess would be that some might find it controversial that the Captain is sleeping with a man named "Islam", and Islam is seen as if he was sodomising the Captain. Not only is the name of the character problematic here, but there are also other issues related to this relationship. There are of course the differences in age and in social classes, and the fact that Islam is Nubian while Ni'mat is Egyptian. Yet one of

the most problematic aspects is one that the Captain himself raises in the story is the passive homosexuality. In the novel, the main character expresses the difference in which Egyptian society perceives homosexuals: Active homosexuals do not suffer prejudice; it's the passive ones who do. Active homosexuals are regarded as manly, sometimes even more than straight men.



Author Of The Book: Mohamed Leftah. Source: <http://lesoir-echos.com>

The author describes active homosexuals as "sodomisers" and the passive homosexuals as the ones being sodomised. Another potential danger represented by this book is its critique of masculinity, which is very often – if not always – understood as strength and violence towards the opposite sex. *Le dernier Combat du Captain Ni'mat* also has a political aspect, related to the defeat following the Six Day War. Unlike many of his friends, Ni'mat didn't participate in the Yom Kippur war (1973), and didn't get the chance to experience victory – even

though he considers the 1973 victory as incomplete, but would never voice this, fearing the judgment of his surroundings. But beyond all this, it is the social aspect of the novel that makes it, to me at least, very interesting. The ending draws the Captain to a life-changing dilemma and his series of defeats to his last. The battle here is that of assuming one's individuality and leading one's own life, a battle that many in the Arab world are confronted with every day. And in this sense, the book is not only about homosexuals but about everyone who was ever considered a social outcast or slightly different; and people who want to assume their individuality in a communitarian society.

The story happens in Egypt, the characters are Egyptians, but we can transplant it anywhere in the Arab world. As the Captain asks himself: "When will we reach the status of individuals enjoying inalienable rights, among which, first, the freedom of conscience and the right to dispose of our bodies and of our sexual orientation?" Through the character of Captain Ni'mat, Leftah raises the challenging issue of being an individual in a society that is not always accepting difference. As the character of Captain Ni'mat represents a threat to the high-society of Cairo and to the male chauvinistic society of Egypt, Mohamed Leftah's book represents the same threat: A threat to masculinity and to communitarianism. Whether Captain Ni'mat won or lost his last battle, well that's for the reader to decide.

**Edit: After I returned the book to the library, it disappeared from the shelves. I asked library staff several times about it but they did not know what happened to the book.*



Movies You Might Have Missed: *Drive*

NIMA MESBAHI

Do you know this feeling you get when you are in a rollercoaster and you don't dread what is about to happen, but you still are thrilled to live it? This rushing sensation you get deep in your heart just before the ride begins. When your heart beats faster and you are surprised beyond expectation. *Drive* was akin to a roller coaster experience for me. It is certainly not a movie for those who have weak hearts, but more for those who can appreciate fine cinema in its best form.

The reputation of the great Nicolas Winding Refn is not one to dwell on. First discovered by a circle of movie aficionados with his trilogy *Pushers*; *Drive* is his 7th full-length movie and his first "Hollywood movie". The film received widespread critical acclaim and was applauded in the Cannes International Film Festival when Refn received the Best Director Award for the film. Starring Ryan Gosling, Carey Mulligan, Bryan Cranston and Albert Brooks, the movie tells the story of a lonely getaway driver and a stuntman (Ryan Gosling) who falls in love with Irene, a single mother (Carey Mulligan) whose husband Standard (Oscar Isaac) just got out of prison.

The plot is then unexpectedly and rapidly disturbed changing the whole ambiance of the movie, that goes from a gloomy and eerie setting to one that features extreme violence. What makes this movie interesting is not so much what it accomplished but more what it avoided. Based on a novel with the same title by James Sallis, *Drive* is an action movie but not in the traditional sense. Although the stunts, the blood and the

fighting are definitely "au rendez-vous", *Drive* has something that transcends the simple "action movie" type to something deeper, more meaningful. By avoiding the stereotypical, over-rated status of a hero loaded with pseudo psychological baggage in the midst of saving a damsel in distress, the movie subtly grabs the audience's attention and doesn't fail to surprise and amaze them. Refn approached this movie in a rather unusual yet interesting combination of "absolute undecision" of success constant with the separation and illusion, dream and nightmare, and love. In addition, the minimalist script that is almost exempt of dialogue but full of heavy silences and stolen glances, delivers a continuous game of hide and seek where the audience is left to guess the feelings and motives of this mysterious and anonymous Driver.

The panel of actors in the movie was of great quality and their performance was amazing, but what struck me most was Ryan Gosling's performance. He had a great input in shaping the



Source: <http://forum.xcitefun.net/>

character and has done a remarkable job molding himself into this impassible, silent shell, while solely enjoying the company of his car. Except for some stolen glances and the ghost of a smile, a quirk of an eyebrow, or the twitch of an eye, the movie was dominated by the stoic, marble face and sole expression of the actor who succeeded in channeling a depth and stillness that are necessary for both the complexity of the character and the general atmosphere of the movie. What could have been pegged, as a sort of carelessness or apathy of the character, was a sore misconception that was later proven wrong. In fact, the Gosling's character emanates a strong sense of underlying justice and danger that is revealed in the apex of the movie when he decides to bring justice no matter what. Some might argue that the typical Hollywood chivalry is still heavily present in the movie and, it is thus paradoxical to the modernist direction of it. However, the almost absence of dialogues and discussion, the performance of a homogenous cast and the soundtrack played a huge role in shaping the nature of the movie. Mostly electro and highly synthesized sounds, with very blunt descriptive lyrics, the soundtrack emulates a retro ambiance from the 80s that is often in symbiosis with the scene; but sometimes the music and the scenes are off-set. Still, they make sense in an unusual way.

For those who haven't watched *Drive* yet, I strongly urge everyone to watch the movie because it is truly something to behold. You won't be disappointed.

The Dictator: Perpetuating Stereotypes

SHARMIN HOSSAIN

The Dictator, is a movie which trailer I have just seen, riled up emotions in me that don't usually arise when I come across some bigotry fueled nonsense, especially in today's media whose only preoccupation is to make money and creates chaos and fear off of that. This film featuring Sacha Baron Cohen, is set in the Western world through the eyes of a North African dictator. The dialogue fuels the misconstrued perception of the Arabic language, with a lot of sounds pushed with the throat and Arabic sounding phrases.

The Dictator opens up with international politics dialogue, with Barack Obama and Hilary Clinton referring to this "tyrant who denies basic human rights." The film's trailer is fed with what seems to be a very misguided and disrespectful depiction of the North African/Arab influenced political culture, and I was outraged at that.

First of all, the music soundtrack featured Jay Z's collaboration with Punjabi MC in *Mundiyan tho Bachke* or *Beware of the Boys*. Not only is this so culturally inaccurate, because that music comes from India - Punjab to be exact - but what does that feed us about the ignorance culture we are cultivat-

ing? You have music being played that is so far off in terms of geographical location, cultural and religious norms; and that is, what the audience viewing it will connote it with. In essence, people listening to Punjabi will think it is the same thing as Arabic: why? Because it sounds alike. It's planting the seeds of ignorance, and throughout the trailer it just perpetuated.

You see Cohen with a long beard (suggesting he is Muslim) riding a camel through the streets of New York. Then you have someone greeting him, and suggesting he visits the Empire State Building before "he or one of his cousins takes it down." I'm sorry, is that supposed to be funny? So 9/11, something we are all reminded of as one of the worst events in history, is now a joke to film makers? What would have been the situation if an Arab made that joke in an airport? Not only does this fuel the anti-Islamic agenda, but it reaffirms the thoughts that many people probably watching this already have.

But of course, he's a Muslim man so he must be a misogynist too, no? He pays to sleep with Megan Fox, yet reaffirming the characteristics we have set in stone. A violent man he must be as well, shooting his opponents in a race so that he can win.

This movie comes out this summer, and has to be one of the most disrespectful films to be released in my lifetime. (I'm 19 years old, I probably haven't seen a lot.)

This trailer created a lot of anger in me, because of the blatant disrespect and misrepresentation of a culture through a person - *the Dictator*. It perpetuates this cycle of ignorance for people viewing it, where we see a man with a beard and all these characteristics being made fun of, and it's supposed to just be a joke. The thing is, we laugh at what we find to be true. It's so ironic, it's so funny, because it's so true. I mean think about the jokes we find funny that are racist, why are they funny? Because at some point or another, they were found to be true. We think these stereotypes are true, and we laugh at it because it's true; when we see the *Dictator* portrayed in this manner, it only increases our ignorance and tolerance towards such negative stereotypes.

"The media's the most powerful entity on earth. They have the power to make the innocent guilty and to make the guilty innocent, and that's power." - Malcolm X. We have to be careful who we give the power to control the minds and the ability for us to critically analyze.

62nd Annual Berlinale

NIMA MESBAHI

The 62nd of the International Film Festival of Berlin, also known as the Berlinale, was held from February 9th to 19th in one of the most cosmopolitan cities of the world, Berlin. The widely known festival featured numerous movie projections (almost 400 movies every year), with more than 200,000 tickets sold out; the large number of audience that graced this festival is no less remarkable.

Besides being one of the most anticipated events in cinema circles, the Berlinale Organized a wide panel of discussions, featuring guests from every corner of the world. Guests included writer Tahar Benjelloun (Morocco/France) the author/director Theo Angelopoulos (Greece), German movie icon Vadim Glowna, activist Hala Al Abdallah (Sy-

ria/France) and producer and actor Javier Bardem (Spain).

For two weeks the red carpet was rolled down for world-class actors, directors, producers and writers. For those who might not know, the Berlinale is divided into 8 major sections: the Competition that features big international films, Panorama presents independent productions, the Generation section is dedicated to the younger generations while Perspektive Deutsches Kino honors the most exciting productions in the German film industry.

The Berlinale Shorts investigate new and diverse cinema possibilities, while the Forum section dive in foreign films. Finally the Retrospective and Homage section pays tri-

bute to great cinematic figures. This year's 62nd Berlinale is honoring two major cinema giants. Theo Angelopoulos who is regarded as one of Europe's most important directors, and Vadim Glowna who was an icon of Modern German film.

The Berlinale Logo.
Source: <http://film.culture360.org/>



Finding An Interesting Series? Chuck !

Series

MOHAMED MABCHOUR

It's a Friday or Saturday night, some people go out downtown to have fun and some just chill out on campus. People who stay in usually spend their night watching a movie or watch what they missed of a TV series with their friends or on their own. Students always look for a series that is widely followed on campus and that others watch a lot. This spring, after many investigations, the series that was the most watched is Chuck, which, after five seasons and 90 episodes, ended up this January in the United States.

This NBC series came from an interesting idea: Mixing the themes of espionage and sitcom. Chuck (Zachary Levi), a young man who became lost after being expelled from Stanford University for cheating (while in fact he was innocent) and his girlfriend. One day, he receives a strange email from one of his former college roommates, Bryce, and then becomes a spy. By opening the document unwittingly, Chuck now hold in his brain "the Intersect"; the root of all knowledge and data from the CIA and NSA. The latter, soon found by Sarah Walker (Yvonne Strahovski), a seductive CIA agent and John Casey (Adam Baldwin), a former "hard on the outside and tender on the inside", who is a member of the NSA.

To ensure the safety of the Intersect, both agents are required to protect Chuck, while at the same time, operating for each agency to find a way to extract the database from his brain. Since the initial plot, the audience will see Chuck and Sarah getting closer and play the "I love you, me neither"

during the first two seasons. Their love is proven to be impossible after the resurrection of Bryce and Sarah's policy of not mixing work and personal life. This game is for many the main interest of the series in the early episodes. Like many series originally dedicated to geeks, Chuck soon found on the Internet an army of loyal fans. However, the series was threatened for a while by NBC which was willing to cancel it. To save the series, producers had the idea of incorporating some advertising in the weekly hours of entertainment. An agreement signed with the fast-food chain Subway forcing Big Mike to claim a 1-foot sandwich during each episode.

If we had the opportunity to criticize the aspect of "the geek hero series" like in *The Big Bang Theory*, we would notice a slight resemblance. Chuck worked as a repairer of computer equipment with the "Nerd Herd" crew at the Buy More; he is not comfortable with girls and his knowledge is limited to Star Wars and Tron. Likewise, His friend Morgan is the same, a Chuck with a smaller body and a beard. Worse, if the series is trying to attract this segment of the population, it ignores the constantly walking reminder: Chuck's older sister, Ellie, which always reminds him taking responsibility of his life and grow up to find a real job and become an adult. This series is a mixture of comedy, mystery and emotions. Even if some episodes are quite useless, it's still a good series to spice up a boring weekend evening on campus before a new busy week of classes.



Source: <http://boulevard.cinevip.fr/>

Did Whitney Houston's Death Overshadow The Grammys?

NIMA MESBAHI

From Rihanna's jaw dropping sultry attire, to Adele's shimmering black dress, this year's Grammy Awards were all about glitter, sparkles and a lot of skin baring. However, and without a dispute, this year's event was dominated by the British sensation Adele who was nominated for six Grammys (Album of the Year, Record of the Year, Song of the Year, Best Pop Vocal Album, Best Pop Solo Performance, and Best Short Form Music Video) and went home with all six awards. The mesmerizing singer then took the stage for the first time since her throat surgery and offered a magnificent vocal performance. For around 3 minutes, you could hear a pin drop; everybody just stared agape, at

this divine musical sensation as she lighted the place up giving one of the most incredible live performances ever.

However, the 54th edition of Grammy Awards would have been a true show case if it weren't for Whitney Houston's death, an icon in the music industry, that occurred 24 hours before the event took place. The Grammys may have been unfortunately overshadowed by this dreadful loss as the news broke via twitter. According to ABC World News, everything went into a tailspin because of the death of "America's Sweetheart". Although the heart-shattering news brought a heavy wave of mourning and sorrow that coated the Sta-

ple Center, the night was still Whitney Houston's. LL Cool J, the host of the event struck the right tone as he paid tribute to Whitney, in an attempt to balance between celebrating the Grammys and mourning her death; as he opened with a simple yet touching prayer for Houston "a woman who we loved... our fallen sister".



Whitney Houston. Source: <http://www.people.com/>

Battlestar Galactica: So Say We All !

MOHAMMED SERGHINI

I ask people about their favorite series and I hear quite common answers: *Gossip Girl* from girls and *Entourage* or *Californication* from boys. Sometimes I get different answers like *Game of Thrones*, *Dexter* or *Desperate Housewives*, but the one answer I never hear is *Battlestar Galactica*, which is a shame considering how amazing it is.

During the last vacation, I blasted through the 4 seasons of this amazing series. There are 20 episodes per season, each lasting an hour. I sped through them with no pause because I got hooked to it. If you love character-driven series like *Game of Thrones* where you absolutely have to know what will happen to the character or what will they do next, then this series is for you. I can't tell you much about the story without spoiling it so here is the start.

Battlestar Galactica takes place in a distant future in a world that doesn't seem to be ours. It all starts on one of the twelve planets – Caprica where we are introduced to the world and

part of the cast. As the events on Caprica are unfolding we get to see the rest of the current cast on a space battle ship that is about to be decommissioned - the *Battlestar Galactica*. Here we get a few history lessons such as the war that humans had with a robotic race they created called the Cylons. The war lasted for years and finished 40 years prior to current events. I really can't say much than this but if you like to watch something good then you can't go wrong with this.

Battlestar Galactica is considered by many publications and reviewers as the best piece of Sci-Fi of the 2000s. The cast is unforgettable, you will remember them, the script is a masterpiece and the plot will keep you wanting to watch more.

What I love the most about this series is something reviewers mentioned: This series is political, philosophical, religious and much more. This series those EVERYTHING!

Romance? Check.

Thrilling? action? Check.

Suspense and mystery? Check.

Intelligent philosophical, political and religious debates? Also check!

This will satisfy you if you are looking for something serious. Oh and by the way, the actors of the series were invited to the U.N to talk to one hundred lucky fans because they are awesome. HAH!

Battlestar Galactica is currently my favorite series and the 80 hours I have spent watching it were the best continuous 80 hours to the point I want to erase them from my memory to watch the series all over again.

Now go watch it. So say we all! (This a famous quote from the series)

The Playstation VITA



MOHAMMED SERGHINI

In this article I will tell you everything you need to know about Sony's upcoming handheld, the PSP's successor, so you can decide for yourself if you are going to get one. The PlayStation VITA has already been released in the U.S and Canada in first edition bundles. The VITA will officially be released on the 22nd of February for the U.S, Europe and Australia with two models- a Wi-Fi only model (249.99\$, 249€) and a Wi-Fi+3G model(299.99\$, 299€).

•Hardware:

The VITA packs some serious hardware for a handheld device. First of all the OLED screen (5 inches) is BEAUTIFUL and is as big as a Smartphone which shows how big the VITA is. This is both a good and a bad thing. When playing or watching you will enjoy the screen's size and resolution however the VITA will probably be too big to fit into your pocket which means you will have to carry it with you in a bag or a backpack. Other than the OLED screen, the VITA possesses two thumb sticks, unlike the PSP, which will make all kinds of games a lot more playable such as first person shooters or just about any game that needs good camera controls like on consoles.

The VITA also has a rear and front camera, a rear and front touch pad, stereo speakers, microphone, built in GPS in the 3G models, motion sensing and Bluetooth connectivity. As for the nitty-gritty hardware the VITA has 512MB of system RAM and 128MB of VRAM. The battery lasts 3-5 hours when playing depending on sound, network and brightness, 5 hours when watching and 9 hours when listening to music with the screen off. However unlike the PSP, the VITA's battery is not removable, so be careful with it. Finally the VITA is equipped with a storage media slot for memory cards, but not any memory card will work since the VITA has its own unique brand of memory cards ranging from 4GB to 32GB, which are quite costly.

As you can see the VITA's hardware is nothing to cough at and will make sure to satisfy anyone who likes games on the go.

• Software:

1. System Software:

The VITA's user interface is not the same as the PSP's and PS3's XrossMediaBar interface. Instead it uses a new UI dubbed Live Area which includes various social networking features accessible through Sony's online service- The PlayStation network. Unfortunately the VITA's internet browser does not support Adobe Flash at launch but it supports JavaScript, HTML5 and cookies.

2. Games:

The VITA has an impressive lineup of new games such as: Uncharted: Golden Abyss, Gravity Rush, Little Deviants, Reality Fighters, Hustle Kings, Everybody's Golf Next, Army Corps of Hell, Shinobido 2: Revenge of Zen. As well as new iterations and ports such as:

BlazBlue: Continuum Shift Extend, Ridge Racer, LittleBigPlanet, Resistance, Call of Duty, Persona 4: The Golden, Ultimate Marvel VS Capcom 3, Killzone, Wipeout 2048, and many more!

The VITA possesses backward compatibility for digital copies of games on your PSP (if you have one) so you won't feel cheated or not being able to play games you already have, BUT be aware that you can only have ONE account related to your VITA and also, that you will not be able to play physical UMD copies of PSP games you have. Selected games on the PSP will support the second thumb stick on the VITA and also a new trophy system. The VITA will be compatible with all digital copies of PS One classics, PSP games, PlayStation suite games, PlayS-

tation Mini games and also videos and comics from the PlayStation Store provided you have the right region.

3. Applications:

Popular applications such as Facebook, Twitter, Skype, Netflix and Foursquare will be available for download in the PlayStation Store, free of charge.

• Overall Verdict:

If you are a dedicated gamer who likes to play complete experiences on par to what is offered on consoles, and on the go then the VITA is for you. If you don't play much on the go or you are satisfied with Smartphone games like Angry Birds then the VITA is not for you.

Either way the VITA is mighty expensive. Don't count on spending only on the device itself. You will need to buy games, then buy an expensive VITA only memory card if you plan on downloading media from the PlayStation Store AND if you picked up the 3G Model, you will need to sign up for 3G service with AT&T in the U.S or Vodafone in Europe. Both are expensive especially AT&T. In my opinion there is no rush to pick up the VITA now.

There are no mind blowing games because after all when it comes down to it; the games are your number one priority. If the VITA doesn't build up a strong library over time then you will feel that you have wasted your money on an under supported and over-glorified piece of hardware. Also it doesn't hurt to wait for an inevitable price cut. It's up to you, but Nintendo's 3DS has a better library at the moment while also it is a lot cheaper. Double-check your priorities and see which one suits you.



The Playstation VITA. Source: <http://blog.lefigaro.fr>

Crying Walls

In a year without spring
 Raindrops filled the place
 The sky is sad too
 At a moment of time, life stopped

The house is cold and dark
 After she left; nothing tastes the same
 Even the air bitter to breath
 ... And the sleepless night took place of my dreams

After school, I go home
 Everything as usual, in its place
 My father smiling to me
 Hugged me the way she did, kissed my front

He hides it but I see the pain
 In his eyes, she is always there
 She is gone, but he is here
 Loving me, protecting me, burying the fear

This time the light crawls back to the corners
 The spring greener
 He wished me goodnight, read to me
 And I felt the warmth of my bed... again

Cold Spring

I still remember the walls crying in my dreams
 The night before the shadow took place
 The place of the dovetail and the box spring
 It haunted the house when the home grieves

Home can be the saddest thing when it goes away
 The crack on the wall seemed deeper that day
 It was a grave for the smiles and happiness
 It was a grove for the cold and emptiness

I still remember the sun caressing my face in the morning
 I still remember that little table in the corner
 Where my papers and colors were joyful
 I still remember the mess in my room,
 My songs and my guitar lying on the floor

But still home is the saddest thing when it goes away
 My paintings, my singing, my hopes faded away
 I still remember the crying walls
 When the house was haunted and home falls

AMAL MRHAILEF

Poetry

Do you write? Are you interested in creative writing? Gallimaufry, AUI Student Creative Journal, is looking for submissions. Submit your writings to: k.yousfi@aui.ma



Trolls

OUSSAMA MOKSSIT

NEW DINING SERVICES OPERATOR



Hooliganism In Its Most Odious Image In Port Said Stadium

YOUSSEF MAGHOUS

The stadium in Port Said, Egypt was on Wednesday February 1st, 2012, the crime scene of murder, in which at least 74 people were killed, most of them were the victims of their circumstances. This may remind us the Heysel disaster in 1985 in Brussels. But unlike the painful episode of the Belgian tragedy, the violence of Port Said events re-

of heavily armed butchers, who were simply out of control. Even worse, and as reported in Egyptian television, supporters of Al Ahly have asked the police to protect them, except that they refused to do so, leaving the situation to fester. These facts make the "butchery" of Al Masry Stadium in Port Said, the fourth carnage in terms of the number of victims related to football after

the Armed Forces (SCAF), promised that the ones responsible for violence and vandalism will be hunted down and prosecuted: "Such events can occur anywhere in the world but we will not let the criminals get away". He promised on of the television channel owned by Al-Ahly club. "We'll get through this phase. Egypt will be stable. We have a plan to transfer power to



Crowds Taking Over The Field After The Game. Source: <http://al-ahly.com>

veals the unstable environment that has been prevailing in Egypt, one year after the end of the Mubarak regime. The violence erupted after a championship game between the local team Al Masry Port Said and Al-Ahly Cairo National.

Once the referee whistled the end of this game, announcing the victory of Al Masry by three goals to one, dozens of hooligans armed with sharp objects stormed the field, running as fast as they could to reach Al-Ahly supporters. On their way, they didn't miss a chance to harm Al-Ahly players, who hardly found their way to the locker room, before they could leave the city of Port Said on board of a military plane. As for the supporters, they found themselves trapped between the stadium's rigorously closed gates and a stampede

the tragedies of Peru in 1964 (320 dead and a thousand injured), England in 1989 (96 dead), and Ghana in 2001 (126 dead).

Some have tried to politicize this tragedy immediately, blaming the Egyptian revolution and the instability of the country since the fall of the old regime.

As a result of this tragedy, the Egyptian Football Federation suspended the local league. The People's Assembly (Egyptian parliament) had an emergency meeting the following day as the Attorney General of the Republic has ordered an investigation to determine the exact causes of the incident. Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi, who is the head of the Supreme Council of

civilian authority. Whoever want instability in Egypt will fail".

Following these heinous acts and the image of criminals carrying weapons, the tragedy was very harmful to the reputation of the Egyptian football. The head of FIFA, Joseph Sepp Blatter said in a statement he was "very shocked and sad to learn tonight (night of the carnage) that a large number of football fans died or were injured. It's a sad day for football. Such a disaster is unimaginable and should not happen". (www.fifa.com, 2012) Many Ultras (groups of supporters) all over the world showed support to the victims of Port Said's carnage either by removing their banners from official games, or by posting condolences messages on their respective stadium stands, which is, in the Ultras' culture, the ultimate sign of showing solidarity.

AUI Athletics: Update On Sports Games

YOUSSEF ECHCHERIF EL KETTANI

On Monday February 13th, AUI students were supposed to play two sport games. The first was a Basketball game against the National Agriculture School from Meknes (ENA) which was postponed to the following week due to some transportation problems with the guest team; while the second was a Volleyball game that our local boys' team played against the professional team from Fez (MAS).

Even though our team gave their best, they lost by 3 sets to none. The first set was lost 25 to 18, the second set was lost 25 to 16 and the last set was lost 25 to 19. Without watching the game, one could guess that the AUI team did give the professionals some hard time.

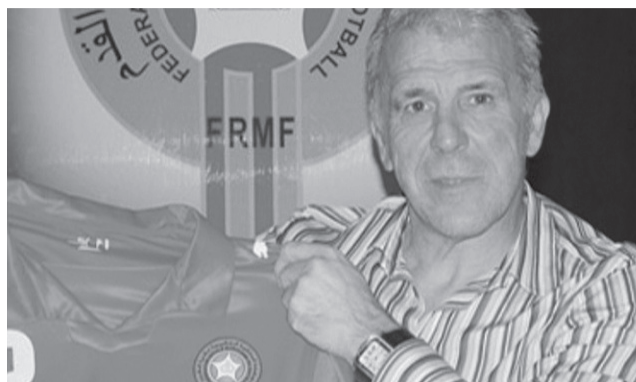
According to Adil Kaman, the director of the athletics department of AUI, the important part was not for our team to win but to have some practice and

gain some motivation to compete against other teams.

He also said that this was a good practice for future sport events of the same type. Such results against a professional opponent show that our "boys" have some potential and that they do have some skills. All that can be said is that our volleyball team may have a great future. Let us all wish them luck and success.

Eric Gerets And The CAN 2012 Failure

YOUSSEF MAGHOUS



Eric Gerets. Source: www.frmf.ma

After a heroic arrival to Morocco, when he was appointed as the coach of the National Moroccan soccer team, Eric Gerets has hardly survived the failure of the Atlas Lions in the CAN 2012 (African Cup of Nations) for the first two weeks. However, the Belgian technician wants to take his responsibilities seriously and is willing to face the future. Two defeats against Tunisia (1-2) and Gabon (3-2), in addition to a useless victory against Niger (1-0), Morocco was really disappointing.

Eric Gerets, the coach of the Atlas Lions, decided to stay anyway and stick to his choices. "We lacked confidence, especially during the second half against Gabon. We were scared to death. Some players were hiding and did not dare to ask for the ball. All this has played a major role in the final result. These are things that we will work on. We must also consider the fact that our game is purely technical. We will try to introduce a bit of technique. We need a better blend between the technical and the physical." He affirmed in an interview following the CAN 2012 with *LeMatin* newspaper..

The former coach of Olympique Marseille also criticized individual mistakes: "Why have we been eliminated? Because we had made too many mistakes in the individual occasions that we had. Even though we have made serious mistakes, we have never been in a lower shape compared to our opponents. It's annoying for a coach that the players who are very reliable were way below their real level. I'm not saying they let the team down,

because they gave the best of themselves. I think Benatia, who was a rock in my team was not at the height of his game. It was he, in the qualifying games, who fired up my defense. I need to see again the Real Benatia because it can be good for my team and restore the confidence of my defense. He is a defender who has great qualities. Everyone knows that my two sides are better offensively and defensively, that's why we played to find a defensive balance. The side players have not been really disappointing, but they did not show something extraordinary. Unfortunately, no other Moroccan players are stronger than them right now."

Another problem was the lack of understanding between European professionals and local players. According to an information from *Afrik-Foot*, Arabic speaking and French speaking players have big communication problems and this lack of communication is shown on the field.

However, Gerets prefers to concentrate on the match against Burkina Faso on February 29th. "For this game, I wanted to call three or four new players, but there's one that will not come. So, surely there will be two or three new faces. We will continue to look for better players than those we have now. And it's not easy. After several meetings held since the elimination of the CAN, we have realized that we needed to continue to give confidence to the players we already have and follow their performances carefully with their clubs. Amrabt Noureddin, for example, is a player who was selected at the LG Cup tournament in Marrakech, but his performance during the CAN was below our expectations. I will take advantage of my trip to follow him carefully. This is a player who has many qualities and who is generous. We will also continue to monitor the national championship hoping to find players who can convince us", he said, stating that he should look for a good play maker, since Younes Belhanda was not particularly good in that position."

All in all, millions of Moroccans are hoping that Eric Gerets will help the team overcome this bad experience and build up a good team who can defeat big nations of football like Ivory Coast who will be our biggest opponent during the preliminary phase of the World Cup in Brazil 2014.



Younes belhanda: Moroccan team player.
Source: <http://kooora.com>

The Legend Of David Beckham

ZINEB DRIBINA

Soccer Superstar and paparazzi's favorite target, David Beckham has reached a worldwide fame for his accomplishments and achievements both on and off the field.

Starting his career in Manchester United at the age of 17; he made his team the best by winning the Premier League title six times, the FA Cup two times and the UEFA Champions League and the World Club Championship in 1999. He was runner up in the FIFA "World Player Of The Year" awards in 1999 and 2003.

In 2003, he signed with Real Madrid where he became the first British soccer player to play 100 Champions League matches. By his final season in 2006-2007, Real Madrid won La Liga championship title. In 2007, David Beckham signed for LA Galaxy and reached a world record breaking five year deal.

Apart from being one of Britain's most iconic athletes and decorated football players of all time, he is known for his support to the UNICEF, his work as goodwill ambassador for the charity, and also for founding the David Beckham

Academy, which is a football school operating from two sites: London and Los Angeles. Beckham's fame extends far beyond the pitch; as his personal life was very publicized, he has been married for about 13 years to Victoria Beckham, the ex spice girl, and he is father to three boys and a girl.

Most men would struggle to look after three young boys and a newborn daughter while holding together their daily work, but Super David Beckham is not an ordinary man.

Beckham can balance house life, football, and fashion. Becks is a veritable fashion icon; Adidas, Gillette, and Evisu hired him as a model. Contrary to what most people believe,

David has never dreamed of stardom. He has always wanted to become a professional soccer player and the joy of fame has never really attracted him. People might love or hate him, but no one can deny that he has the ideal profile of a true remarkable man: a great soccer player, a caring father and a loyal husband. David Beckham is in one word: A legend.



David Beckham. Source: <http://kooora.com>

AUI Bridge Launches A New Website

HOME CAMPUS CALENDAR CONTACTS ABOUT US

Al Akhawayn Chronicle

AROUND CAMPUS > AROUND THE WORLD ENTERTAINMENT > OPINION SPORTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAR 27 Tue Last Day to Withdrawal from a Course

APR 7 Sat 11:00 am Fun Run 2012

MAY 1 Tue Labor Day Holiday

JUN 4 Mon Beginning of Summer Semester

JUL 16 Sat Commencement 2012

IFRANE FORECAST

4°C
Feels like 4°C
Clear

Today: 24°C / 4°C

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

جامعة الخويزن

AL AKHAWAYN UNIVERSITY

International Reception: Spring 2012

On the 2nd of January, an international reception was held in Auditorium 4 in honor of international students, Al Akhawayn students returning from abroad and student ambassadors for international orientation. The president [More >](#)

February 29, 2012 Around Campus, Events No comments

Benkirane's Government: Debate Session

On Tuesday February 21st 2012, students from Al Akhawayn University joined a discussion about Morocco's newly formed government. The event was organized by the Dispute Club, the

RECENT NEWS

- Benkirane's Government: Debate Session
- Upcoming Releases: Metal Gear Solid: Snake Eater 3D (3DS)
- Upcoming Releases:

In the framework of making Al Akhawayn Chronicle /AUI Bridge a more interactive interface for Al Akhawayn University students, a new website has been launched. The digital world is an important aspect of our lives. At AUI, where computer literacy is considered a must, students are constantly in contact with technology.

Moving to an online interface would not only increase the readership of Al Akhawayn Chronicle /AUI Bridge but it would equally enhance student involvement in the making and shaping of Al Akhawayn Chronicle /AUI Bridge itself. The new website will be a powerful recruiting tool and it will, more importantly, broaden the spectrum of engagement on campus. The purpose of the website is to put into practice Al Akhawayn Chronicle /AUI Bridge's vision: to make a real student-centric place for our community to read the news.

The new website will render news more accessible for AUI students, faculty, administrators, staff and alum-

ni. It will allow everyone to easily stay up-to-date in regards as to what is happening on campus. An online interface will not only allow for increasing coverage of campus news, but it will also improve the performance of the newspaper in terms of the quality of its content, which will constantly be up-to-date and therefore closer in practice to professional journalistic work.

The website will also be an open window to the outside world. It will be a representative example of student involvement in all sorts of activities, from sports competitions to social work done by groups such as Hand-in-Hand.

Our vision also consists of making Al Akhawayn Chronicle /AUI Bridge an interface, from which the outside world can get to know AUI from the perspective of its students. It is the added value of various media that the online version is able to provide, along with tools in the form of videos and comments from the students. The idea is not only to make the online version limited to reports, but to also make it

interactive to help students become more involved. At his moment, the idea of launching a student-centered news website remains experimental. We ask for flexibility as suggestions might come out in the process of putting this project into practice. Al Akhawayn Chronicle /AUI Bridge's team is looking forward to your feedback about the website. Your suggestions are welcomed and appreciated.

Please visit our website, which remains a BETA version for the moment, and don't hesitate to write to bridge@au.ma for your suggestions.

fjtech.us/auibridge/