

The Voice of AUK

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF KUWAIT • September 2016 •



The Voice Members

Editor-in-Chief
Zeinab Wasfy

Hello. I'm a 20 year-old who like's the color green. My vision for the future is to be surrounded by tree's, greenery, a blank un-lined book that comes with an attachable pencil and a puppy that will grow old with me. Maybe also a turtle, because they're usually green.

Section Manager
Shahad Al-Failakawi

My name is Shahad Al-Failakawi and I am a 20 year old. I love to spend my time writing random things, cooking, and binge watching TV shows.

Section Manager
Ahmad Hasan

I am Ahmad Hasan, a business student at AUK studying finance. I enjoy playing music and reading fiction, as well as helping others with their English skills.

General Reporter
Farah Hamoudah

I'm Farah Hamoudah, an -18year-old computer engineering major. I have a passion for all things mind-boggling and writing happens to be one of those things. My friends say I'm too loud, but I think that makes me more enthusiastic than everyone else. I can't write too loud, so that's why I do it. Technology, science fiction, comedy and people (social psychology) are the four fields that I think I'll always be curious about, and AUK helps me curate that curiosity. My ultimate goal is to travel through time to erase all bad vampire novels from existence, which is laughable but necessary (like myself).

Graphic Designer
Alaa' Dashti

I'm Ala'a Dashti, a 25 year-old graduate from Box Hill College, Kuwait with a diploma Graphic Design. I enrolled in AUK to continue and get my bachelors degree in Graphic Design. One of my initial projects for The Voice of AUK was the logo, which was successfully changed. I designed it to portray that all AUK'ers have the right to express their opinions freely.

General Reporter
Sara F. Ayesh

السلام عليكم. I'm a 19 year old senior majoring in Management. I enjoy being a fact debunker, and taking photographs; ironic occurrences are my favorite subject, selfies are not allowed. I hope to be a writer in the near future إن شاء الله.

Section Manager
Shahad AlMousa

Entertainment Section Manager and social media correspondent
Managing and Editing the articles that fall under 'entertainment', also in charge of social media platforms related to The Voice Of AUK.

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Message from the Dean

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed- and gazed- but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

William Wordsworth, 1802

Among the many highlights of my life as a college student is discovering my love of Romantic poetry, or most specifically of William Wordsworth. And though my appreciation of Wordsworth, the Romantics, or of poetry and literature in general has taken different turns throughout my life, I still go back to this poem, and it still reminds me of my undergraduate years. What better than a poem from one who tells us that the wealth of beauty we see in our life often hits us with "a spontaneous overflow of powerful emotions" that are best understood and appreciated in a pensive mood as we "recollect these emotions in tranquility." As this new academic year unfolds before you, I wish you many beautiful moments of spontaneous emotions that will be recollected in tranquility throughout your years. I wish you a collection of wonderful memories that live with you. And I wish you a successful and active year. We at AUK always strive to offer you fields of daffodils and you, our students, are very often those dancing waves that fill us with glee.

Have a great year,

Dr. Hanan Muzaffar
Dean of Student Affairs
September 2016

An Unknown Successor: Part One

By: Zeinab Wasfy

An email was sent by Sheikha Dana Al-Sabah, Founder and Chair of AUK's Board of Trustees, on the 27th of July informing the entire community of AUK that Dr. Nizar Hamzeh, President of AUK and Professor of Political Science and International Law, has decided to resign from his position and assume a "faculty rank as a Full Professor of Political Science and International Law in the Department of International Relations" by Fall 2016.

Another email was sent by Dr. Hamzeh himself an hour later further informing AUK's student body, faculty and staff of his annual leave for a month. According to the email, the appointed acting Presidents are Vice President Amal Al-Binali, July 31-August 13 and Dean Rawda Awwad, August 14 - August 28.

There appeared to be no more updates on the matter of Dr. Hamzeh's resignation. Not only are there no further updates or viable explanations on the matter but the second email sent by Dr. Hamzeh neither confirmed nor denied the prior email sent on behalf of Sheikha Dana Al-Sabah, leaving the AUK community more or less left with an open-ended question. Naturally, one would ask who the next President of AUK is going to be?

So, what happens now?

Dr. Nizar Hamzeh took his annual leave from July 31 to the 28th of August, but according to Sheikha Dana's email the search for his successor will go on until the 27 of January when Dr. Hamzeh will officially resume his service towards AUK no longer as president but as a Full

time professor of Political Science and International Relations.

What's interesting is that the resignation and the search for his successor are planned perfectly leaving enough time for Dr. Hamzeh to have completed exactly 3 years of service. (Note that Dr. Hamzeh was appointed on the 26th of January in 2016 and will return to his faculty rank on the 27th of January 2017),

The AUK community appears to have a long way ahead of them until the fate of our current vacancy is secured. Most importantly; the future recruitment to office.

Furthermore, AUK is known to have a liberal set of students and the more students get admitted into AUK the more they are infected by its lively spirit. Will the next President realise this? Will he/she encourage this spirit of unity as we're all hoping? Who is next in line? Will it be the right decision? Is the next President of AUK going to be a good fit? As students, there are about a million queries such as these buzzing about our heads. It's safe to say we're excited about what's to come for AUK, and for us, its loving community.

According to some sources, the upcoming President of AUK is a non-AUK member, not currently at least. There are no solid facts yet. This raises the question of whether or not the new President will be able to assume the role that AUK so desperately needs.

We don't know the answer to that either. Once again the AUK community has been left waiting for answers, sort of like that kid in school waiting for homework. The AUK community being the kids and homework being answers. This news acts as the first day of school only, and The Voice will continue to seek answers until they are found. So worry not, our "hometime" is coming soon.



AUKars President Talks Tesla, Autopilots, and Mercedes' Weird Advertisement

By: Farah Hamoudah

For a very long time, people thought of 'going green' as some kind of pesky, irksome 'sacrificial offering' that they're obliged to go through with to save Mother Earth; That somehow, making an effort to be kinder to the planet messes with our steep, flamboyant, day-to-day whims and yearnings of flash, glitz and amenity. The prevalent stereotype was that owning a sustainable car is absolutely no different than owning a small, claustrophobic, crude, and appalling piece of machinery that won't run properly, or for enough miles, before it comes breaking and dismantling itself apart like some sort of frenzied, decrepit robot.

But the times, they are a changin'. The younger generation have pronounced their evident love for all things nature, and smart automakers like BMW, Honda, Toyota, Mitsubishi, Volkswagen and Lexus are all making their moves to capitalize on public interest by creating their own hybrid (internal combustion engine + electric motor) masterpieces. However, none of the distinguished businesses captured the world's imagination as the new and refreshing Tesla models did [Note that Tesla Motors is a small California-based startup automotive and energy storage company that's gained recent acclaim from countries like the Netherlands as being environmentally-conscious]. To gain some insight into the world's recent ordeal with 'green' versus 'non-green' cars, we talked to the president of AUKars Bassem Saleh so that he'd paint us a portrait of what the future of Kuwait (and the world) might look like, or if that portrait would look pretty at all to start with.

My first instinct was to jump right into the big question, so I did.

The Voice: "Recently, the Cabinet decided that Kuwaiti oil prices will skyrocket in September by a whopping 83%. The Kuwaiti public responded in rage of this. If this scenario of raised oil prices continue, do you think people might turn to the use of electric cars? Why?"

Bassem responded with a blunt and confident no. He continued on to justify his answer, as he said: "No, because electric cars may be targeting a central-specific audience, but that audience isn't in Kuwait. Car enthusiasts aren't that interested in electric cars. They like to fill the car up with gas, hear the engine roaring and feel the power of the car. An electric car can't give you that feeling. And seeing that there are a lot of car enthusiasts in Kuwait, electric vehicles won't manage to be that popular here."

I was flabbergasted. I had high hopes for cars like Tesla's to become the new cultural norms here in Kuwait. In my head, a car with no sound, a car that only

obediently does what it's told, is all that the world needs, but I now understand that it just may not be what Kuwait needs.

The discussion progressed, but much to my surprise, Bassem was now describing a fascinating experience he had in the BMW i8 which was named 'World Green Car of the Year,' in the past year of 2015, and many automakers consider this honor to be a very coveted reward. "I've been behind the wheel of a BMW i8 and it's beautiful," he proclaimed urgently. "The really fascinating thing about the i8 is the hybrid engine." He continued to explain to me how fast the hybrid feature allowed the car to be and how breathtaking the growl of vehicle was. He did note however, that when the car was set on 'electric motor' mode, the thrill of driving was instantly taken away, which was very disappointing. Following Bassem's remarks of the i8, I pushed for a more detailed answer.

The Voice: "You've mentioned earlier that electric cars can't thrive in the GCC region because the target audience isn't here, but major dealerships in the UAE are looking to acquire Tesla models. Even though we have 22 dealerships in Kuwait, why won't they acquire Teslas and who exactly is the target audience of electric cars in the Middle East?"

"I would say electric cars target the non-traditional Arabs, and by non-traditional I mean the kind of people you would find in AUK," he began. "As for Kuwait, it's true we have many car dealers, but among those 22 only 5 are big enough to dare acquire the Tesla Motors. They won't though because it's difficult and impractical. As an idea, an electric car is fascinating, but the reality and application is another thing. In the future, if we see it applied in better ways, then we may see electric cars in Kuwait." Bassem went on to refer to Porsche and McLaren as examples of companies that did hybrid cars justice. "The obvious disadvantage is they are not affordable," he indicated.

Now, it was time for me to face the music and ask the inevitable question.

The Voice: "There is a hype about Tesla Model 3 cars these days that's taken the world by storm. From the ravishing exterior design to the mostly helpful autopilot system, people are blown away by seeing their vision of a beautiful and practical electric car come to life and are paying 1000 \$ deposits for a car that's still expected to launch in December 2017. What are your thoughts on it? Is the hype exaggerated, is Tesla a gimmick?"

"I've heard about the Tesla thing going on- people paying money for a car they've never seen," he answered assuredly. "But, I wouldn't say that the hype about it is exaggerated. It's not as popular in Kuwait as, say, Pokémon Go." Bassem then gave me an example of the 'autonomous pilot' technology being put into work years ago by German cars for autopilot parking programs. At one point I recall he even said "The Germans are probably going to end up making the greatest car in the world," as he reminisced on a recent quirky "chicken and egg" video made by Mercedes that went viral which advertises their "body rolls" feature that allows cars to

simply pass by speed bumps. "Only a few months later the S-class AD was out and the car model launched; it was genius marketing, and maybe marketing is also the reason that Tesla gained credibility with its previous models."

A few minutes later and the discussion came to a halt, with Bassem's conclusion that "There is no perfect car," a verdict that I knew I had to agree with. It's admirable to dream of idealistic visions of the future- a car that's both spiffy and speedy- yet, it's still important to know that the limits exist to every device. What's funny, however, is that, only a few days after the interview, I stumbled upon an article that announced Mercedes-Benz's new electric car brand 'EQ', and the pictures are amazing (a sci-fi fan's dream come true)! Maybe Bassem was right all along. Forget the Teslas for now, maybe Germans really do it best!



AUK Sports Participate in EuroZagreb 2016

By: Student Life

AUK Sports teams participated in the EuroZagreb tournament 2016 in Croatia from the 8th of June – 12th of June. AUK traveled to Croatia with the Women’s Basketball team, Women’s Volleyball team, Men’s Table Tennis team, Men’s Volleyball team, and Men’s Futsal team. The tournament had participants from all around the world competing in many different sports such as Turkey, Lebanon, London, and Spain. The AUK Men’s Volleyball team was able

to win the bronze medal (3rd place) in the EuroZagreb Men’s Volleyball competition. Meanwhile the Men’s Table Tennis team, Women’s Basketball team, and the Women’s Volleyball team finished 4th in their competitions.

AUK Sports teams participate in an international tournament every year. It is an opportunity for student-athletes to travel with their team and showcase the Wolfpack’s strength, teamwork, and sportsmanship on an international scale. Previous participations include:

- Beirut Unisports Festival 2010
- Beirut Unisports Festival 2012
- Abu Dhabi International Sports League 2013
- Beirut Unisports Festival 2013
- Bogazici University Sports Fest 2014
- Med-Saharan Sports Challenge 2015



Effective Study Tips

By: Sara F. Ayesh

As Fall rolls in, days spent sleeping in, and nights staying up, staring attentively at a tiny screen also come to an end. Whether you are a fresh-faced freshman, a relaxed sophomore, a confident junior, or an overwhelmed senior, it is never too late to learn a few extra studying techniques to help your stay in AUK go smoother.

Highlighters are your friends

Right before your first class, get a pack of different colored highlighters and use them to mark important things like dates, names, main ideas, and formulas while reading (preferably before class). This will enable you to find things much faster while revising.

Ex: Green- Dates, Blue- Names, Yellow- Main Ideas, Pink- Formulas.

Keep the highlighter-pen ratio under control

You should know by now not to highlight everything on the page, other than looking frightening when studying, it will make you lose the important facts amongst the slightly less important facts on the page (because we all know that "everything" is important). Instead, keep highlighting to a minimum and underline or circle the supporting ideas.

Margins should not be empty

Write questions, examples, and reminders on the margins of your notebook or textbook during class so they won't get lost in the middle of the rest of your notes.

Realize what class you are taking, and study accordingly

Studying for a Mathematics class is very different than studying for History. While the best way to study for History is to knacker down, read your lesson, and take note of dates and names, you will probably do badly in Mathematics if you do that alone. Mathematics requires repetitive practice more so than reading and vice versa for History.

Study Hint: YouTube videos are a great way to help you understand historical events.

Start small and go up

If you find yourself overwhelmed with what you are learning in class, go back to the basics. You can't understand chapter 7 if you are still having trouble with chapter 3. In many classes things are cumulative. Evne if you are not asked questions about previous lessons, you might still be required to know them well to answer current questions.

Study Hint: Try searching for high school level explanations or even "Insert Topic" for Kids to clarify complicated ideas, and work from there.

Use the textbook website

Most textbooks have websites with power points, or practice questions that are similar to the questions that come in the exams.

Skipping is for kids

If there is one thing you will take in the consideration out of all of these tips, let it be this; do not, under any circumstance, willingly skip classes. Many professors, if not most, take attendance seriously and some might even take it at the end of class, so leaving class early is also a very unintelligent idea.

Sometimes attendance and participation can be worth up to 10% of your final grade. That is the difference between a 60% and a 70%. Even if you have no idea what the class is talking about, or you have not done the assigned work, better hand it in a little late, then los free points. Realistically speaking, you will probably miss a few classes each semester for various reasons like family emergencies and doctor's appointments, those already have an effect on your grade, don't add anymore than you need.

Study Hint: Professors never accept the excuse "I was absent and didn't know there was homework."

Watch the clock, not your phone

Studying for 30-50 minutes with 10 minutes breaks, rather than for hours increases productivity. That will help you study for longer too, because you will not feel 30 minutes as burdensome as 1 hour study sessions. Also, time your study sessions, and your breaks, so you don't end up with 50 minutes of studying and 2 hours of break.

Study Hint: When taking a break, don't use your phone, watch TV, or read a book. You are supposed to relax during this time, not deviate your attention and energy to something other than studying, recognize the difference. Instead, go for a short walk or eat a snack.

When cramming, prioritize

Because we all know that no matter what we say, there will be at least one exam that we will end up cramming for. So if you find yourself with little knowledge, and little time, recognize what information is most important, and what might be only asked about a few times in the exam. For mathematics, make sure you know all your formulas, even if you haven't practiced them all very well, for History, memorize all the names and big events, Sciences, all laws and discoveries should be on the top of your list. Make sure you know all the main topics and ideas and then study each in detail.

Study Hint: Keep in mind what type of test it is; a multiple choice test might require you to read more then you practice, and vice versa for a written test.

Be aware of your limits

While repetition is one of the best, and most effective ways to study, there are limits. After a while, rereading a

paragraph for the 5th time will just be a waste of time. Instead of rereading something many times, try closing your eyes and recite what you understood from the paragraph to make sure something actually sunk in.

Forget memorizing, remember connections

While there are somethings you can not get around memorizing, like names and dates, don't attempt to memorize your powerpoints or textbook. Rather, try to make connections between ideas and concepts that make sense to you personally (like mnemonic devices- ex: BEDMAS) so that if you forget a few words of a definition or the steps of process, you are not completely thrown off.

Your time is precious, don't waste it

Keep in mind what you already know, and what you need to focus on. While it may be more appealing to focus on what you already know when revising for an exam as to not get discouraged, spend only the minimum amount of time on things you already know. Leave the bulk of studying for things you are having trouble with. Remember, it is better to have an idea of everything that is going to be on the exam, then know a few concepts very well.



Inside the Brain of a Hell-bent College Student

By: Farah Hamoudah

What if I can show you footage of yourself, as a learner, as a student, being monitored from birth up until right this very instant. What kind of learner would you say you were before or are now? Have you challenged yourself in Math class enough, or did you just give up? Have you skipped Art classes telling yourself that you 'can't draw'? That recording (view) of yourself as a learner is called a mindset, and depending on the answer you gave, your mindset will vary.

Ten years ago, Dr. Carol Dweck, a Lewis and Virginia Eaton professor of psychology at Stanford university published a groundbreaking book titled "Mindset: The New Psychology of Success," and made the groundwork to re-thinking educational systems. In her book, she explains how a 'mindset' is likely to form very early in a learner's life, such as in middle school. The mindset adopted could either be a fixed mindset or that of a growth mindset.

The fixed mindset is one that restricts the learner from reaching their potential. When faced with a problem that they don't immediately know the answer to, their mind draws a blank and the thinking process is cut off. Here, the cogs of the mind stop and all cognitive thoughts vanish like vapor. The student is now tense and on edge. They're in a room, performing a test and the paper is still blank. Tick tock, the clock is running out. The supervisor just so happens to be distracted at the moment. Now is their chance to fill the paper up with words, anything. The student gives up. They believe that they're never going to understand this stuff anyway, so they cheat off someone else's work. And pretty soon it becomes a habit. Because they believe they can't improve. Because they think it's impossible to grow, no matter what they do. However, the fictional scenario portrayed above is not to stereotype all those with the fixed mindset, but just to show insight of what the effect of 'too much passion' for a mere grade on a paper can do to a learner with a fixed mindset. That kind of passion for one's "work" is just the stuff of nightmares!

Oppositely, a person who functions with a growth mindset understands that their abilities can be refined and advanced in the future to surpass a certain obstacle with hard work, of course. Unlike their counterparts, they don't strive for validation, approval or straight A's.

Instead of that, they only wish to enhance their intellectual strength by treating their mind like a muscle and flexing it. A growth mindset opens every door there is for learners by showing them that they can have control of their capacity to learn enough to master anything they want to. The human brain has a remarkable feature of

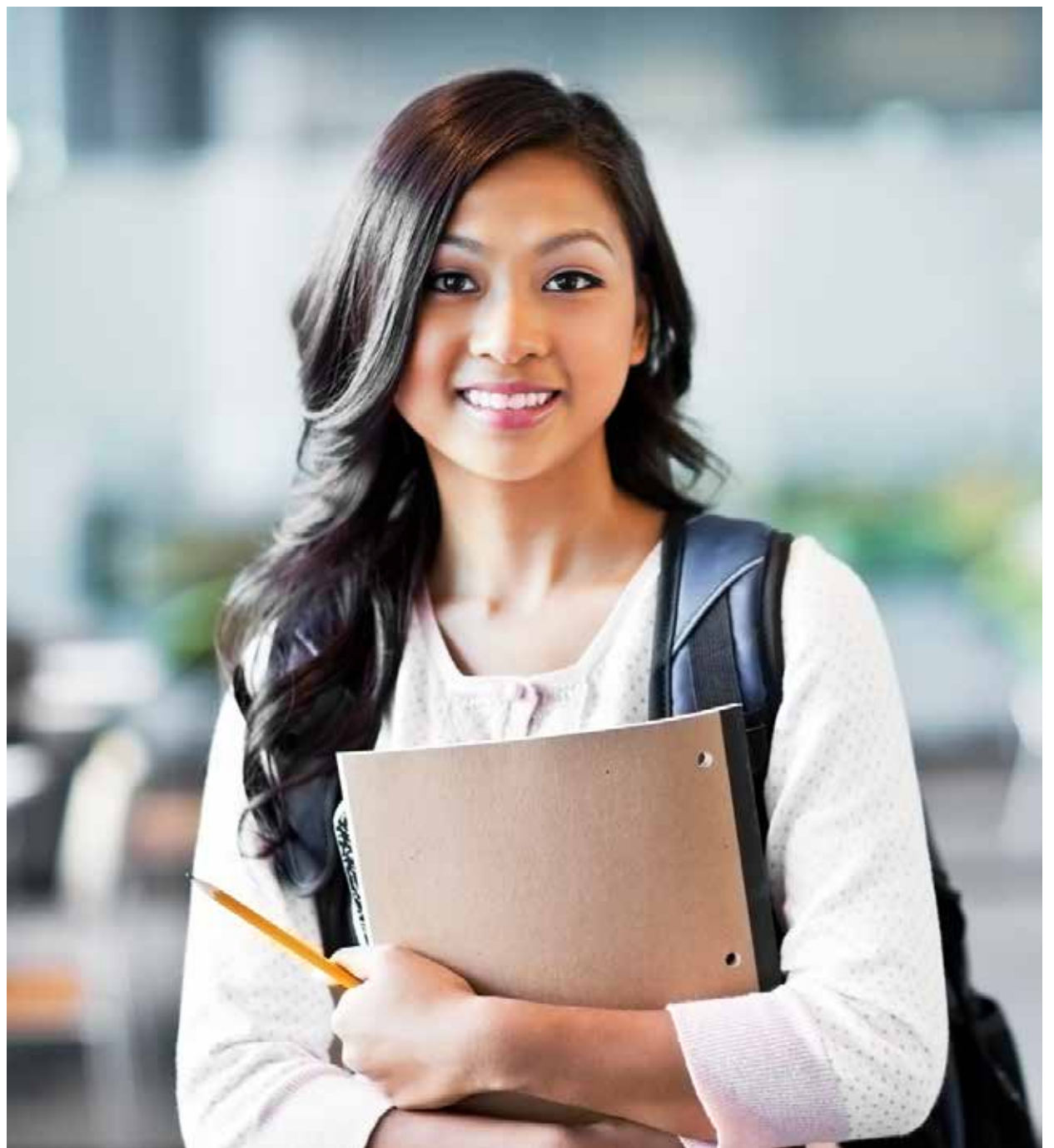
malleability; it can rewire itself, create new pathways as well as delete or even create neurons. It all depends on what mindset you choose to adopt.

In the fourth week of my first semester at college, I woke up from a very distressing and implicit habit that was somehow so wired into my mind, that it was almost as if it wasn't there at all. I discovered the habit when I walked into my University 100 class. I sat down and prepped my assignment paper neatly on the desk. Dr. Abdulaziz Abal, my professor at the time, then called my name, read through the paper, assigned a grade and then told me to shred my paper to pieces and put it into the bin. I was jarred. That piece of paper was like a little piece of myself, and I had to tear it up and throw it away like it was nothing? I hesitated for a while, but then I tore it up.

Goodbye, token of my hard labor. After that emotional roller coaster of an exercise, Dr. Abal explained how we

needn't be attached to a material object, especially in the field of education. He said, we shouldn't glorify our present work no matter how good it is, because it could always get better. That two hour class is still a conscious reminder for me, as a student aspiring success, to value the fluctuating stream of knowledge above all else, especially that as shallow as affirmation. I am ever so thankful to Dr. Abal for that golden lesson.

As a previous freshman, I now know that being hell-bent on something can prevent other opportunities, skills, and accomplishments from booming out and taking place. Most of my freshman year, I defined myself with a) things I can accomplish and b) things I will never be able to go near. In the short-term, it seems easy and may feel way more pleasant to pass up on a chance to flounder at something, but as life goes by you may begin to wonder where that slip in the road may have taken you. I know I do.



Places To Study On and Off Campus

By: Shahad Almousa

As fall dawns its way back into our lives, so does the beginning of a new semester. With every passing semester our classes become a bit harder, a little more serious, and the workload builds up on our backs. We soon realise, however, that the only way we can salvage our GPAs before we start losing all sanity is to follow a steady study plan from the start.

Most students are accustomed to studying or working at home, which is naturally the most comforting of all options. Working from home is great, unless you have younger siblings that can rattle up the house into a jungle, or if you're stuck with two-hour breaks at the university during rush hour and going home just doesn't cut it as an option anymore.

As sad as it is sometimes you just have to let go of the comfort of working in your pyjamas, on your bed, and start to adhere to new study locations; here are some alternatives that may even prove to be better than the mundane, traditional choice:



On the AUK campus:

Note that the on campus locations are all free for students.



The Library: The library is open on Sunday to Thursday from 8:00am until 9:00pm and on Saturday from 12:00pm to 6:00 pm. The library is a very spacious area

that offers many utilities for student conveniences such as conference rooms and printing services, all free to the students. There is little noise and is the most comforting of all the options on campus.



The Benches Outside: On a more chilly and cold day it's the perfect place to study. There's always fresh air. The noise level is moderate but it can be ignored. Last, they're always available and surprisingly meditative, from the moment university gates open at 8am until they close back up.

The Diner: The diner is a great indoor place to study, however it is ultimately just a diner so you can not expect the noise level to be revision appropriate. It is however the perfect spot to snack on something while finishing up some homework. Note that you do not need to buy anything in order to sit there.

The Computer/Open Lab: The computer lab, located in the building B on the ground floor, is a very quiet and empty place to study. It is comforting and spacious. It is always open for anyone on campus. The only downside is that the admission department, for admissions tests and registration, sometimes occupies it.

Off the AUK campus:

Note that upon going to these locations, you are required to purchase something in order to sit and enjoy the luxuries.



Think Café: Think café is located in Kuwait City on Khalid ibn al Waleed Street. It has an array of wonderful books to choose from. It has several computers to browse on. Also, according to blogger 'Kuwaitiful', the menu has a wide variety of items to select from.



Piano: A restaurant located in the Khaldiya supermarket. The noise level is moderate with no music playing by the shop employees. It is moderately spacious with very nice seating, suitable for studying. It might be a little bit pricey for a place to study since it is a restaurant.



Starbucks Salmiya: The Starbucks referred to here is the one on Salem AlMubarak street right next to Centerpoint and H&M. It is very close to the AUK campus, always empty, and they offer Wi-fi for customers. The price to pay is merely just purchasing any drink or food item off the counter. It is spacious and offers indoor and outdoor seating. Indoor seating however, is big



Johnny Rockets: Located just across campus in Symphony Mall. It is very spacious, very relaxing, and almost always empty. The price to pay might be high again because it is a restaurant. They are open all day during university hours. They have comfortable chairs and booth couches also remarkable for studying or if you just want to read your novel and are looking for a bit of solitude.

Interview with Professor Hesham Al-Awadi

By: Bader Al-Mutawa



Where did you complete your undergraduate and graduate studies, and in what fields?

Initially, when I did my undergraduate studies it was in Chemistry, and this was because I loved chemistry, biology, and math. Then my undergraduate studies was interrupted by the Iraqi invasion. I went back to Kuwait for vacation and I could not return back to study. During the occupation, I felt that I am more of a social scientist than a scientist – particularly after the publication of my first book on the invasion of Kuwait. So I changed track from Chemistry to Politics and I double majored in Politics and Communication Studies. After that I did my graduate studies; I have an MA from University of Kent in International Relations and two postgraduate studies (one in International Studies from University of Cambridge and the other in Middle Eastern Politics from University of Exeter).

When did you join AUK and how different was AUK and the IR Department when you first joined?

I joined AUK in August 2005. The department was only composed of myself and Professor Nizar Hamzeh, the current President of AUK. Buildings compared to today – there was no B-building. Most of the activities and classes were taking place in the A-building.

How has the AUK student changed since you joined AUK?

Honestly, I do not intend to compare between generations of students. I believe that every generation of students has its own uniqueness. Every generation reflects the changes that Kuwait is going through. It is obvious that you have memories with the earliest students, simply because that was your earlier period at AUK. After completing several courses with you, I realized that you are keen in using visuals.

What is the importance of visuals? And how can teaching be an art (ex. giving a story, localizing the topic)?

More than 60% of Kuwait's population are below the age of 20. This generation is highly a visual one; so their comfort zone in learning, communication, and understanding is mostly visual. I think lecturers that are not sensitive to this change will be obsolete and perish. When I began at AUK, I did not use PowerPoints; I used to lecture in the old style of lecturing just talking about the subject. But as we began to have Apple, smartphones...etc. the concentration span of the later generations have actually shrunk a lot and I had to adapt with the new mode. My early PowerPoints were very primitive; they were mostly words. Then they converted from words to bullet points, but now they are highly visual with minimal amount of words.

Stories I think are important. It is an old human passion for stories and I think that any lecturer can incorporate stories even if teaching business or science. Everyone likes a twist, everyone likes a problem, everyone likes to see the problem solved, and everyone likes to see a victory at the end of the narrative. We live in a very busy world and we are all easily distracted unless you speak with the tone of the famous WIFM question (what's in it for me?) – how can whatever I am learning help me as a student.

I am proud to see that you are continuously offering new courses. As a social scientist, on what basis you select the courses' topic?

We need to offer students with as many varieties as possible. Students who need to graduate need to expose themselves and encounter different disciplines and fields. Another personal reason is my passion for newness. If I teach a subject for many years I myself get bored or feel that I am less challenged. Even when I teach a subject that I have taught before, I have to make sure that I have introduced anything that is new – because it's the 'newness' that recharges my battery for passion. Since 2005, many courses in the department were not activated simply because we did not have enough faculty to teach. Now a lot of the courses are activated and faculty get to offer courses related to their discipline and specialty.

I see that the courses you teach are usually related to the Middle East. Which specific areas interests you in the Middle East and why?

I am from the Middle East, we are in the Middle East as a university, and 99% of our audience are from the Middle East – so one needs to take this into consideration. But the other thing is that whenever you mention 'Middle East' straightaway politics comes into your mind (the Israeli-Palestinian issue, terrorism, suicide bombing). Lately, I have become more interested in showing the students that the Middle East is not just trouble and not just politics. It's also about culture, art, society, woman,

youngsters...etc. The Middle East is also very important, not just the Arab world, it includes Iran and Turkey and these are wonderful cultures throughout history that I feel students need to know about. I think this is part of creating an open-minded student, and this is the spirit of true Liberal Arts education.

What is your opinion about the importance of self-development and how one (student and faculty) could develop?

I think self-devolvement is like reading, it's not a hobby. To me it's a way of life. It is not related to wearing a certain hat – being a student or faculty. I think every human should aspire for self-development. Self-development is what exuberates us and makes us enthusiastic. Self-development has also been important in the past 20 years because of the swift changes that are taking place either in education, job market, or family life. Unless you feel that every day you are improving, you will be unable to adapt to the changes that are taking place.

There are no specific steps or rituals to develop. But it begins with a desire to develop and a desire to pay the price; this means commitment, discipline, practice...etc. Also, there are the general common steps like reading self-development literature, listening to related lectures, attending seminars and workshops, and having a life coach or a mentor.

What are your latest publications?

I am currently working on two books. I finished one a year ago that will be published by Madarek in October 2016. This book is called Eshlon or in English How. It is about most of the life skills someone would need to thrive in the 21st century – how to think critically, how to think creatively, how to love mathematics, how to strive in your studies, how to take notes, how to influence other...etc. It is an old dream of mine to have written this book. The second book I am working on is on the history of Kuwait from 1961 to 2006; the book ends with the demise of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahamd Al-Sabah.

After spending almost 11 years at AUK, what advice you would like to share with AUK student?

They say, "to kill a book turn it into a textbook". I also add to that saying, "to kill motivation in the mind of a youngster turn it into an advice". We live in a time when you say the word 'advice' people are scared and run away from you. I am not sure how can someone advise without using the word 'advice'. But if there was another word I would say: (1) major in what you are passionate in – not in what your friends, parents, or government tell you, (2) go for the subject not the professor – professors come and go but the subjects make up what you are, (3) establish a romantic relationship with the library – don't just visit the library during the exam or study time, (4) attend as many outside class activities as possible even if not extra credits were given, (5) and register for HIST-201!

Spare a Child

By: Ola Al Shareeda

Having a family is always a good thing, but it also can be the most dangerous place a person can live in. The younger and less powerful the person is, the more danger that person can be placed in. "Researchers who have studied violence in community populations as opposed to clinical ones have long argued that parental violence against children has to be viewed in terms of a spectrum of behavior" (Ghate, 399). Violence against children is considered a crime in many countries for the horrible effects of the crime. Although physical punishments may not harm the child physically (in most cases of spanking), but it can lead to mental damage in a child. This paper talks about corporal punishment as a parenting style, and how it can affect the child's long term mental health. Also it takes into consideration the fact that some people/cultures endorse this type of parenting for many reasons.

Bringing up a child is a long and hard task full of surprises. The parent child relationship has important and significant impacts for a child. First, the use of corporal punishment in the household mostly intended to teach the child discipline. One point to highlight is the increase of aggression that can be noticed on the child, and his/her overall behavior. According to researchers (MacKenzie, Nicklas and other authors), there is evidence that indicates the increase of aggression on children who were frequently spanked from the age of 3 and above. Their study observed the impact of punishment on the child's cognitive outcomes, the child is less likely to perform good academically, and may be behind in communicating with others or he/she is late in speaking (26).

In another research, the experts put the parent's warmth, economic states and other factors into consideration. The findings indicated that there is a link between the child's bad behaviors and the use of corporal punishment and, controlling the initial levels of child adjustments and behavior's correction leads to more use of punishments and more misbehaviors from the child. Also, it shows that maternal warmth decreases the child's anxiety and aggression. Yet, the use of corporal punishment increased the aggression in children (Lansford, Sharma, and Etc. 682). DuRivage, Keyes and others verified the relationship between corporal punishment and mental health in many countries that legalized or illegalized it (8-9). The study conducted in different countries including Sweden and Finland, the first two countries to ban the use of corporal punishment since 1979 and 1989. The researchers highlighted the fact that parents who are less educated, young and from average class reported frequent use of punishment on their children.

Therefore, socio-demographic factors like: unemployment, young age and poor education are

associated with more use of punishments and higher rates of mental issues (5). The study showed no associations between frequency of corporal punishment and odds of mental health problems among those in countries where corporal punishment is legal, whereas there were consistent significant associations among those in countries where corporal punishment is illegal (8).

The culture of paddling (type of physical punishment) is passed as legacy.

In the south of America, it is normal to hear that a teacher used physical discipline to correct a student's behavior. Over 20% of the parents in the country signed a form forbidding the use of physical violence on their children at schools (Carr, 20). Carr gave some examples for some parents who signed the form and then changed their position after seeing the behavior of their children at school or households (20). A parent of a 13 year old daughter LaShunkeita Clark has changed her mind about striking her child at school after an embarrassing incident by her daughter who misbehaved publicly and disrespected her mother in front of the students of her class. Therefore, some people or cultures endorse the use of corporal punishment to stop bad/unwanted behaviors.

However, mental illnesses can be generated with or without the use of corporal punishments. As mentioned before, there is no association between mental illness and the frequency of corporal punishment in countries that it legal to use or illegal to use. In fact, in countries like Sweden that banned the use of corporal punishment since 1979. Research showed an increase of mental illnesses, indicating that it is not necessarily that corporal

punishment is one of the main reasons of mental odds. According to Sace Elder's article which talks about the right to use corporal punishment, there is not a direct link between harsh physical discipline and mental illnesses. The child's ability to emotionally adjust to many hardships in life, children can also adjust to corporal punishments posted by parents when they misbehave (73 and 75).

Another point to be mentioned is the child's academic scores. Studies showed a decrease in grades of the students who faced corporal punishments in their life. Save The Children and UNICEF claimed that the more punishment the child receives, the less he/she will perform in school and less confidence he/she will have leading to more corporal punishment (Ali, Mirsa and Rauf, 183). Yet, many other studies contradict those findings. According to a study done to link the student's gender, math scores and test anxiety, students who received corporal punishment did not do worse than the students who were reinforced to do the test (Nyarko, Kwarteng Etc. 217).

In conclusion, there is no specific way to insure that a parent can bring up a healthy child using a certain parenting style. However, the article proves that the use of corporal punishment to control or decrease unwanted behavior may not work in the parents' favor. Punishments from that kind can increase aggression and mood swings which can increase and develop farther as they age. Also the child may not be able to perform well at school or higher studies. This indicates the fact that some other studies showed that students who received punishments can score as good as other students in the study.





Abdulmohsen Al-Nassar

By: Mohammed Albaghli

On the best days and the worst, El Chupacabra sat on the benches across the Registrar stroking his beard with fire and passion in his caramel eyes. One would wonder endlessly what beauty or madness was being conjured inside his cranium, but that's where it would end, at a wonder. A reserved and quiet man, he offered wisdom to all those who sought it. Be it an idea for a project, business, or entire lifestyle, he had answers for all but none for himself.

Those who knew him loved him, those who didn't wanted to know him, and those who didn't notice him didn't exist.

On the benches, when he wasn't stroking his beard, he was pouring Arabic coffee or Matcha tea for a diverse group of individuals. He taught them all the ways of Bedouin etiquette. Shake once when you're done and don't pour more than halfway, and *never ever* move the Matcha straw.

El Chupacabra spent a lot of time tipping over water bottles and bestowing his dark sense of humor and sarcasm unto those who needed it the most, always generous with a punch line.

He taught us self-defense, pressure points, how to cause the most damage with the least force, how to trip over your enemy.

He had an eye for beauty and an ear for music, alternating one at a time. If his orange earphones were in his ears, he closed his eyes. If his eyes were fixated on something beautiful, he drowned out all other noise.

He was the kind of person who was always one phone call away whenever, or wherever you were in a jam, would come save you.

His car was his prized possession. He kept it no matter how many rolls of duct tape, water bottles, and car fresheners it needed. Although he held it dear to his heart, he offered anyone a ride to wherever they needed to go, even though it would take a toll on his car the next day.

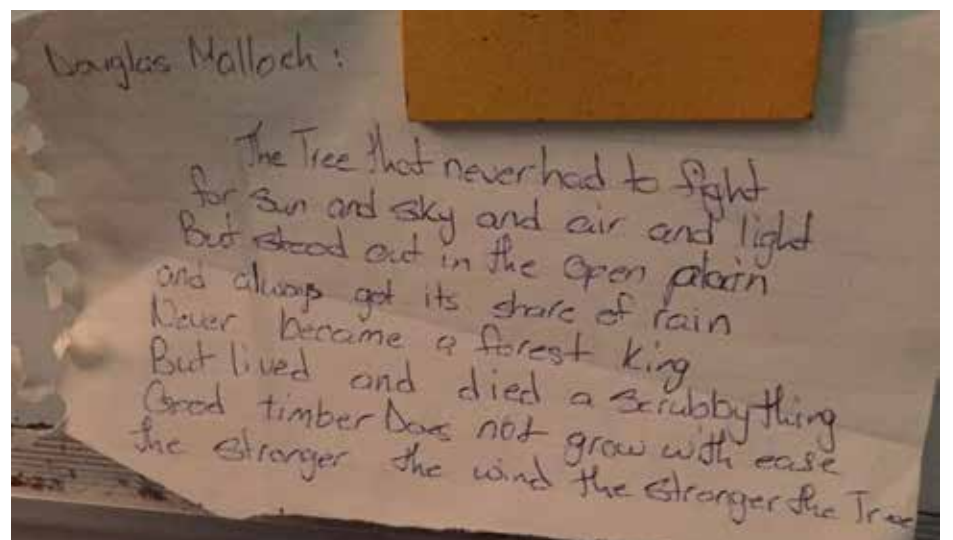
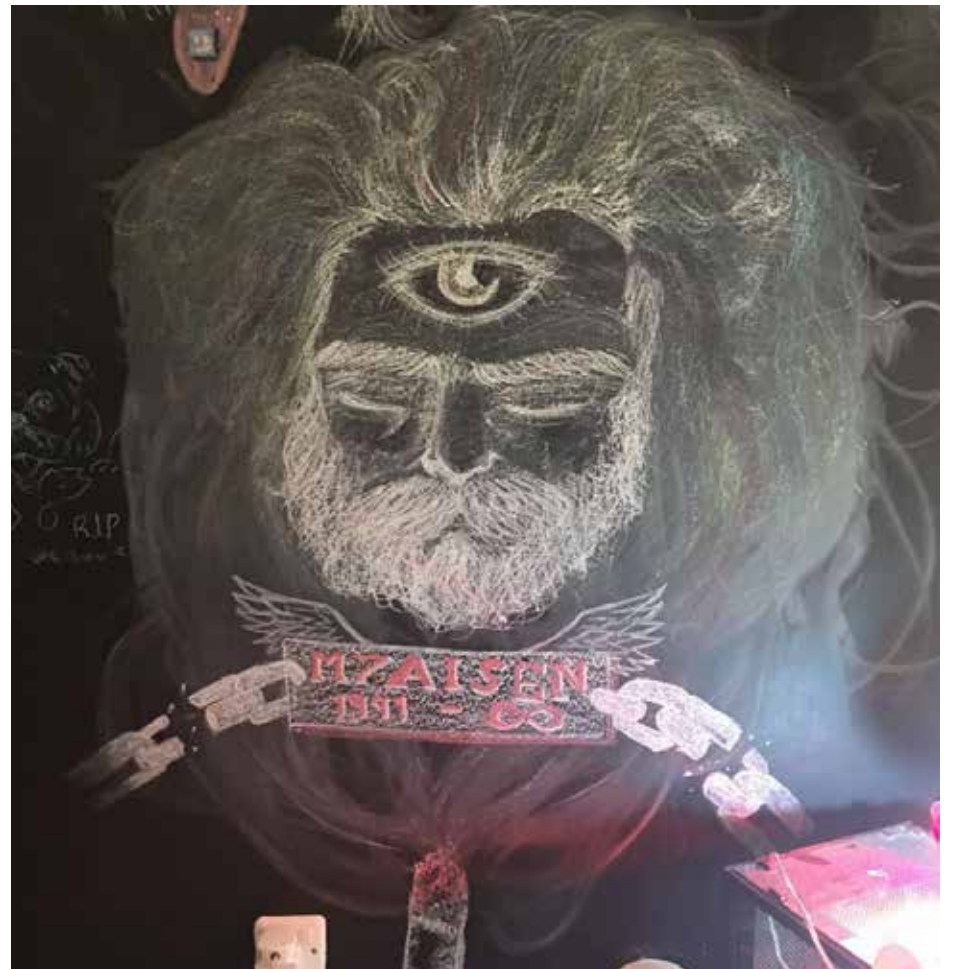
There is a special skill that very few people possess, which should be universal but is not, and that is a skill of basic human decency and emotional intelligence. Mihsen not only had this skill, but he harnessed it to its full potential. If you sat with him, he could tell exactly how you felt just by looking at your eyes. We all lost at poker. Eye contact was his superpower. His eyes were everyone's kryptonite, but he would never use it against anyone. Instead, he helped you harness your own powers. If you looked deep into his eyes, you saw something you could not describe with words.

For some, it was power, others saw intensity, and some saw the universe. If you didn't believe in magic, you are greatly mistaken. His eyes are magic, and we apologize if you did not get the chance to look into them. I'm sorry for your loss. For the most of us, our rage and impatience can often get the best of us, with the exception of Mihsen. Even if it did get to him, no one ever knew. Rather, he helped those who felt trapped in their own emotions to see past them and arrive at the most optimal course of action.

This piece may sound biased, that's because it is. As we write this, we try and find flaws in our friend, but very few can be mentioned. We can describe him as a paradox, an extreme spectrum of caution and impulse. Believing in everyone but not himself, an extreme humility.

The man had his bad days, but we couldn't see it because he would never show it. We wouldn't have known whether he had spent the night in his car or was down to 400 fils, because he greeted us all every morning with our own customized greetings.

Mihsen was just, but what fate he met was not. On the morning of the burial, many of the souls he had impacted drove to Subhan Cemetery and surrounded his grave until they were asked to leave by the guards. Seven other people passed away that day, but only Mihsen's grave gathered a crowd to say their final goodbyes. Except, it wasn't a final goodbye. He still is with us in spirit, continuously showing us things we didn't know about ourselves. He was humble and would probably hate us for all the attention and spotlight, but it is beyond our own capabilities. Greatness deserves to be celebrated and continued.



Home

By: Yousef Muzairai

I hate this place but I need it. When I first arrived in this place I was greeted not by smiles, not by laughter, but by contempt, of who I am and where I come from. Surrounded by a culture I don't understand and people who dismiss me without a thought. Everyday, I clean the floor of these hateful strangers. I mop, I vacuum, I take out the garbage, clearing up the mess of others for poor pay and no thanks. But I need it.

At the end of a long and back-breaking day, I trudge home to a tiny room I share with five other people, hemmed in, suffocating slowly, crushed together as an afterthought by those who don't care. Yet, I need it; For my son, my only son, my beautiful boy. Hoping and praying to see him, smiling, happy, hearing his laughing voice cry, "Mama I love you!" in a way that so warms my heart. It's all that keeps me going.

Days turn into weeks, weeks turn into months, and months turn into years. I have not seen my son now for more than ten years, so long that often I worry I'll forget what his laughter sounds like. I carry this fear with me always. In order to get more money to send my son, I had to give up my passport to my employers, giving up my rights as a citizen and a free woman, and work so much that I almost kill myself from exhaustion.

During my first year here I couldn't afford to go home so I had to make a choice: either spend the money on myself or send the money to my sister for my son. I chose my son. During my rare days off, I spend what little time I have writing heartfelt letters to my son telling him how much I love and miss him. I sent these letters to my sister and I would get one back from time to time, but soon after my second year the letters stopped coming. I was now truly alone. For more than ten years, I have had no word from my son. It hurts so much. I often wonder if he hates me. I cannot blame him.

I can't remember the last time I was home. I can't even remember the last time I saw my son anymore. The days turn into nights and the nights turn into days, all blurred together until I forget where I am. Time is my greatest enemy, and yet also my greatest friend. I hold onto all the memories I can, desperately clutching them to my breast like a delicate flower. I can still remember the day I left home, saying goodbye to my only son, leaving him with my sister back home. Seeing his little face, tears like the morning dew, desperately clutching my arm, crying out, "Mama! Don't leave!". My heart bleeds leaving him behind but down, deep down, inside my shattered heart, I know I'm doing this for him. He is my only reason for living. My son. My child.

Every day I would go to work, and from time to time I would suddenly stand still, start staring into the distance thinking, and wondering, what happened to my son, is he alright? Is he getting the money from me? These are the questions that rush through my mind.

Twenty years passed, and I was finally able to go back home. Many years have passed since the last time I was home and so many things had changed; the land, the buildings, and the people. I started to make my way to my sister's house, when suddenly I saw him, my son. Many years have passed, I looked older, weaker and he looked handsome, and older. As I started to approach him, he turned and looked at me in a way that showed he didn't recognise me. The first words that he said in almost twenty years; "Can I help you miss?" I was in shock; I couldn't give him a response. I ran straight to my sister's house, knocked on the door and suddenly a young woman answered. I asked her "What happened to the person that lived here?". Her reply "She's gone, she left a few years back". My heart dropped to the ground when she said those words, the person that I trusted most on this world has left behind the most valuable thing that I have, alone.

I started to ask myself; was that really my son? Where is he? These are the question questions state of sadness.

I went to look for the man who I thought was my son. I found him, and I asked him "Did you live in that house with a woman?" to which he responded "Yes, I lived in that house with my mother before she left me". When he uttered those words I can see the anger in his eyes to the "Mother" that had left him, but I asked myself why does he think that his aunt was his mother? Was it because he was too young to know anything, or did my sister lie to my son and tell him that she was his mother? I couldn't bring myself to tell him that I was his real mother; I didn't want him to be angry at me. I looked at his life now, that woman who answered the door was his new life; I could see that his life was good. So I left, not telling him who I was; my purpose was to provide for him, so I did.

For many years, I wondered why the letters had stopped coming. The person whom I trusted has left, lied to my son for many years, and had stolen the money that was meant for him. I knew the truth now, but it didn't matter, I left home the first time with nothing, and I left again with a bit joy and comfort in heart. For the rest of my remaining years, I would still clean stranger's floors and take out garbage. I will continue doing it until the day I die. I will do it for my son. I will leave behind one last thing for my son before I die; I will leave behind letters of love from his mother which no one can steal.



The Heirs of Sinbad

By: Ali K. Al-Qallaf

Years before the *black gold* (Petroleum) was discovered, the Kuwaitis depended on the sea as their main source of living, due to the marine environment of Kuwait and its location near the Arabian Gulf. In the beginning of the nineteenth century, and under the rule of Sheikh Jaber The First, who was known as "Jaber Al-Aish" (on account of his charity to the needy, as he used to give them bread and rice), Kuwait had its first transformation point, when trade noticeably increased during that time.

Kuwaiti shipwrights (Al-Qalaleef) built great dhows for transporting trade; such as "Al-Baghla", which was the traditional deep-sea dhow of the Gulf, and "Al-Battil", a cargo-carrier that was one of the earliest dhow models in the Gulf. Shipwrights would build several types of dhows, under the burning sun of the Arabian Peninsula during scalding summers and cold winters.

The great dhows of Kuwait, which carried strong sailors and their leader, who was known as "Al-Nokhitha", would travel across the Arabian Gulf for weeks and months, for the sake of carrying cargoes of dates from Iraq, various spices and exotic woods from India, and cloves from Zanzibar.

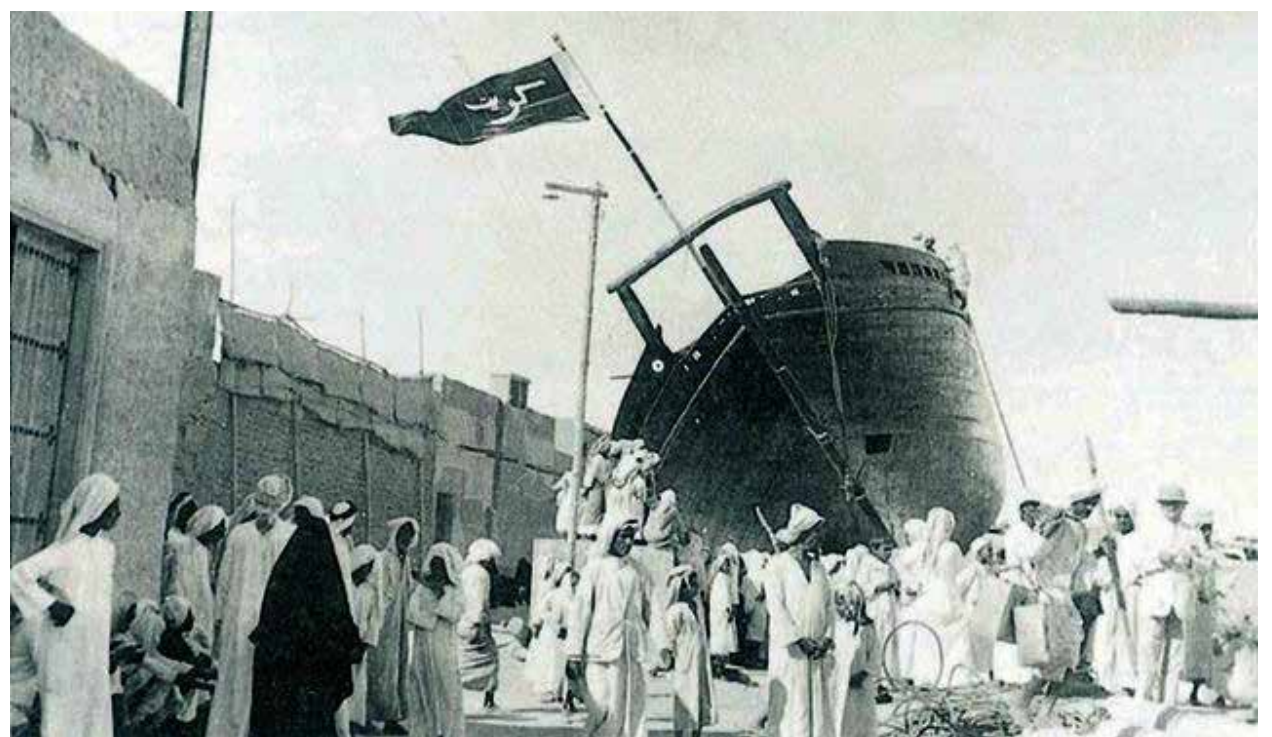
The famous English traveler and author James Silk Buckingham called the port of Kuwait as "The Great Port" and called the Kuwaiti sailors "skillful and brave". Indeed, Kuwaiti sailors and shipwrights were known for their willpower, persistence, strength, and patience. Furthermore, Arab shipwrights, especially those from the Arabian Gulf, are known for building the fastest and strongest dhows, which could sail across the terrifying sea. During these lengthy trips to the middle of the sea, grandfathers, fathers, sons and grandsons left their families behind for the sake of bringing goods to their country, for the sake of providing their family with a generous life, and most importantly, for the sake of building Kuwait.

In the beginning of the twentieth century, and under the rule of Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah, "Mubarak Al-Kabir", trade improved, as many ships and dhows were built and Kuwaitis started to sail to the ports of Tanzania, on the east coast of Africa, and sailors started to hunt for pearls, which are found inside oysters, by diving deep down to the bottom of the sea. At that time, pearl divers would dive for up to 100 feet on a single breath, which put them under risk of facing hostile creatures, like sharks, strong waves, and drowning. Indeed, pearl hunting at the time was the prime industry in Kuwait and a source of income, but also leading to wealth.

Pearl hunting in Kuwait formed relations with other countries, like Yemen and Oman, obtaining more opportunities for bringing different goods into the country.

From 1918 to 1920, the population of Kuwait reached 85 thousand people, and the number of dhows and ships in Kuwait increased to around 900 dhows, 200 of them were for transporting goods from country to country, and the remaining 700 dhows were for pearl hunting as well as transporting water and fishing.

In the end, it is very important to know about our country's history, how it was built, and how hard its people have worked to build a modern society. It is also our duty to know about all of that, as it is a way to show our respect and appreciation for what those men have done for our beloved Kuwait. From the past, many valuable lessons and wisdoms could be found; by knowing stories and knowledge from that period of time, when they started from nothing, becoming, by time, something great. Nonetheless, we should always look into the past, in order to understand the present, and predict a good future for this country, for Kuwait.



Summer in Three Continents

#1: Turkey

By: Faye Al-Mutawaa

This summer I went to Turkey. I went into crazy adventures that took me out of my comfort zone. I tried zip lining for the first time and it felt amazing. It was like ripping off a band-aid, scary at first, then relieving.



These wooden Pinocchio puppets were sold in a village that surrounded the oldest tree in the world. The local markets and handmade souvenirs were the highlight of my vacation.



This kind woman sold bread in the Ottoman Village. I enjoyed eating delicious Turkish food and trying new dishes.



#2: Africa

By: Shahad Al-Failakawi

This summer I went to visit a family member in Ghana. I loved every minute of it.



Ghana had mini local markets that sold handmade accessories and table pieces.



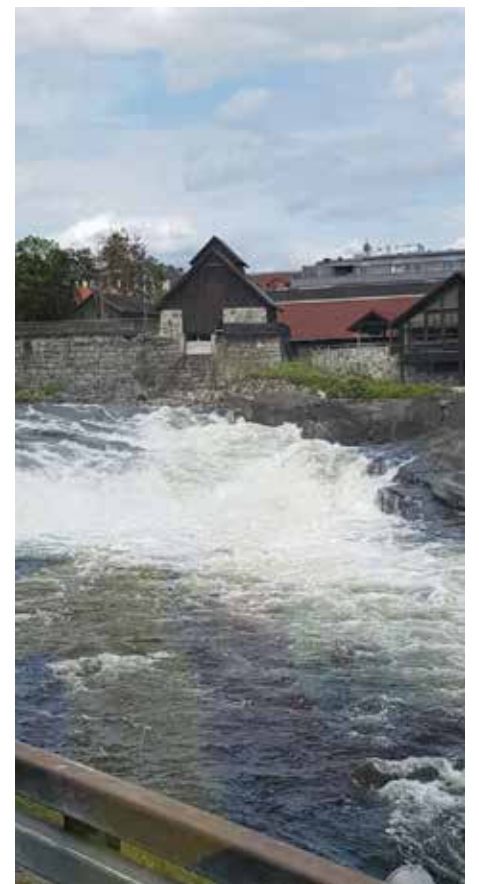
I went to Labadi Beach, there were so many nice people there and they were all so very friendly. The food and colorful sceneries were big factors that made me enjoy this trip.



The weather there was perfect. It rained constantly and I loved that. The vibes of the rain and the scenery were dreamy.



I got the chance to go on a boat and look at the cute houses across the shore. It was truly an unforgettable experience



#3: Denmark

By: Fatma Al-Sahlawi

This summer I went to Denmark. I had a blast exploring around and endlessly walking from one beautiful area to another.



Insects As People's Personalities

By: Shahad Al-Failakawi

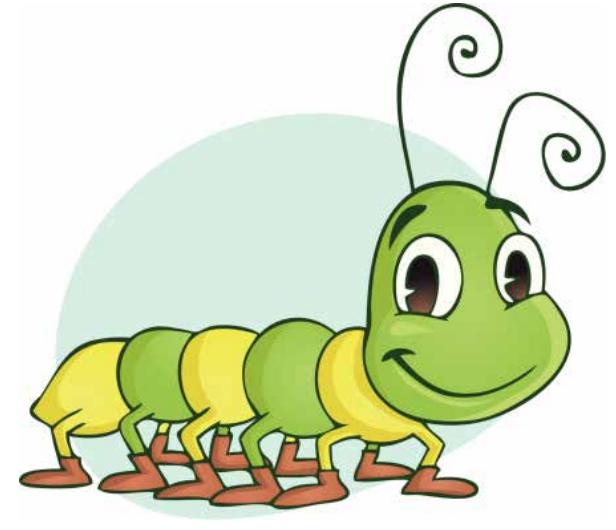
Did you ever stop to wonder what your world would've been like if you somehow had to live life as an insect? Or, for that matter, which insect you'd turn out to be at all? This article will reveal answers to these questions for those of you that are curious enough to ask them. Match your engrossing personality to one of the insects listed below and discover your alternative-world fate.



Lady Bugs: Elegant, easy-going, and well-mannered. They like to spoil their family and friends more than themselves. Basically, they aren't generally big spenders, but are willing to spend what it takes to make their homes and surroundings stylish and comfortable. They want things to be exactly the way they want them, and are very diplomatic about getting exactly that. They can be a little hard to comprehend. They seem to lead simple, care-free lives, but there is more to them than what meets the eye.



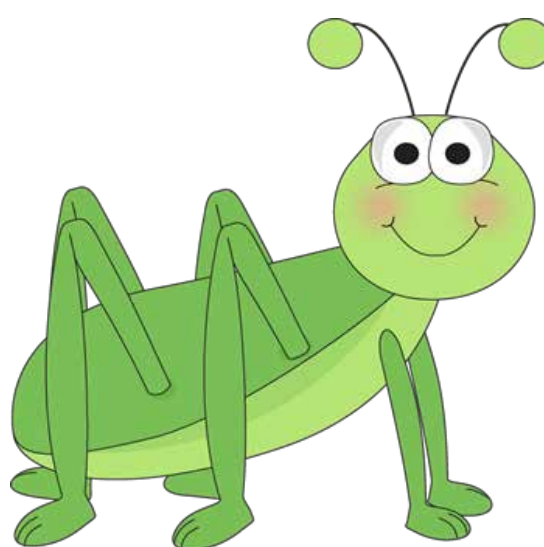
Butterflies: Sweet, sensitive, caring, and generous. They have a deep affection for friends and family that almost matches their deep affection for nice things! Butterflies enjoy having nice homes, clothes, cars, and other luxuries. They have great taste in art and fashion and don't like to leave home without looking good. Butterflies do not engage in conflict of any kind. They are quick to walk away from uncomfortable situations and while they are exceptionally sympathetic listeners, they cannot deal with true suffering or misery.



Centipedes: Centipedes are sweet, caring, and always know what the right thing to say is. They are always pointing others toward the positives in life, though they themselves are prone to anxiety and depression. They try very hard to be there for others, but hate to ask for help when they need it most. Members of this sign are not great with money or very frugal, though they always seem to acquire it when they really need it. Centipedes like to own nice clothes, cars, and homes and don't mind spending the money to do so. They are smart and often go far in education, but they can be a little scatterbrained at times which doesn't make them very good multi-taskers.



Bees: Bees work hard at their respective duties; they are also very social creatures who like to interact with the world around them. However, not everyone can handle a Bee's energy. Although their honesty is appreciated, they can be painfully blunt with their words and are often disrupting conversations with their need to be seen and heard. Bees cannot see why anyone would dislike seeing them shine, and often assume that others are simply jealous of their natural talents and charm.



Crickets: Crickets make friends easily. They are excellent listeners but are also informed enough to add to just about any conversation. When talking about something they are interested in, they have an energy about them that is hard to ignore. This is a sign that might express their opinions about seemingly insignificant things but doesn't like to get into arguments that can turn volatile or emotional.

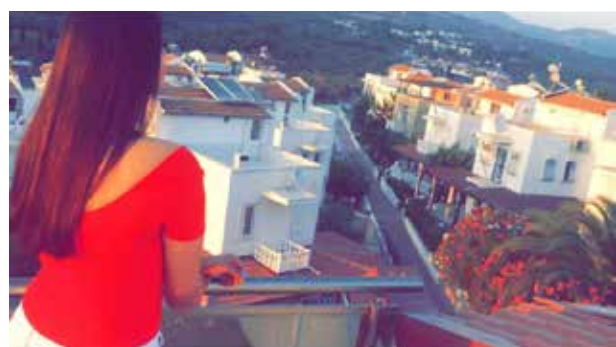


Spiders: Spiders have a reputation for wanting things done a very specific way. They can be difficult to work for at times because they can become dictatorial, demanding things of others. They try to avoid conflict if possible, but even those who volunteer to help them for no personal gain will find that a Spider's standards are impossibly high and much of what they want exists strictly in their heads and imagination.

So, which insect are you?

Source: "Primal Astrology - A Guide To Your TRUE Zodiac Sign." Primal Astrology - A Guide To Your TRUE Zodiac Sign. 09 Aug. 2016.

What Students Did this Summer!

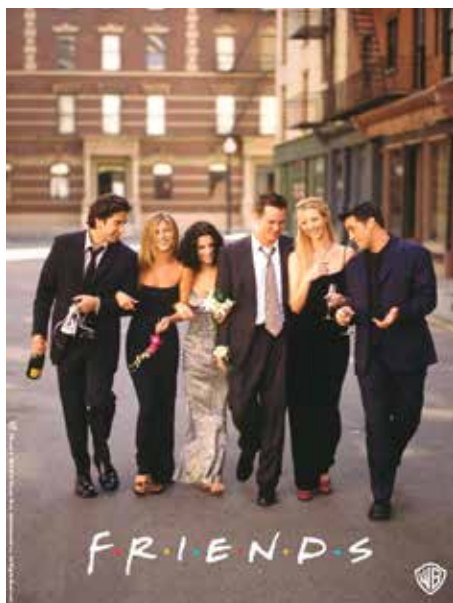




TV Shows of the Month

By: Shahad Almousa

There's one truth we all have to face. Whether we like it or not, everyone has been addicted to at least one TV show this summer. We underestimate shows until we stay up binge watching a whole season in less than three days. According to a social media poll there are two genres that were the main attraction this summer: Sitcom and Drama. Sitcoms are situational comedy shows whose characters typically share a common setting or atmosphere. Here are some fan favourites:



• **F.r.i.e.n.d.s:** The TV show aired for 10 seasons in between 1995 and 2004. When 6 friends who all live in Manhattan struggle to develop their personalities, find relationships, and juggle full time jobs they find out who is really there for them when times get tough.



• **According to Jim:** This TV show, starring Jim Belushi, originally aired in 2001. The show focused on Jim's role as the father of three children: Ruby, Gracie and Kyle.



• **2 broke girls:** The TV show is still being produced and run to this day. It is 5 seasons in, and revolves around two roommates who come from different backgrounds. Because of their different upbringings their perspectives clash. The show is about how they work in a diner to support their future goal of opening a cupcake bakery.



• **Full House:** The show first aired in 1987, the oldest sitcom mentioned yet. It portrays a family struggling to get their routine back together after one member dies.



• **Fuller house:** Released this year and only one season in, the show is a sequel to Full House. It revolves around D.J Tanner, one of the main characters of the original show, and her three boys.

Another genre, that is as appealing as sitcom, is Drama. There are different types of dramatic shows; but one thing they have in common is that they are the perfect shows to keep you alert and anxious.



• **Containment:** The series, released in 2016, follows a disease that has spread in Atlanta. With half of the city suffering on the outside, and the other half secluded on the inside, they struggle to be with loved ones while separated.



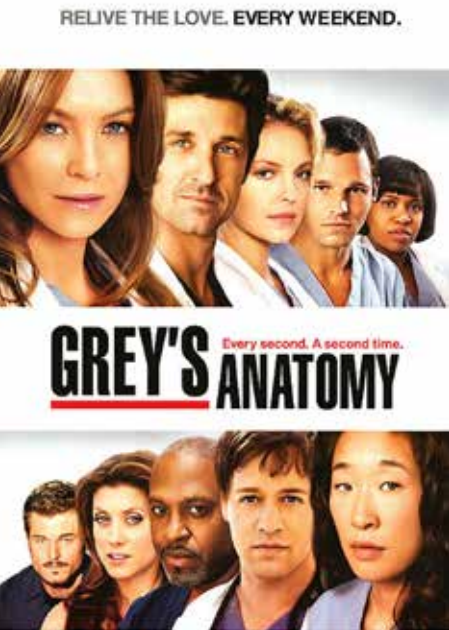
• **Blindspot:** Released in 2015, this show is a mix of drama and crime. It revolves around a tattooed woman who has lost her memory. Investigators soon find out that each tattoo on her is one step closer to solving a crime.



• **Pretty Little Liars:** Aired first in 2010. The show, based on the Pretty Little Liars book by Sara Shepard, is set in a small fictional town. The story follows four girls as they try to figure out who is sending them anonymous messages.



• **Revenge:** Also a soap opera, this dramatic story is slightly based off of Alexander Dumas' The Count of Monte Cristo. Amanda returns to her hometown for revenge. Her plan changes along the way as she discovers more to her story than what meets the eye.



Winner for the best TV show this month, and the most popular right now, is **Grey's Anatomy:** Released in 2005, the story follows a doctor named Meredith Grey and her co-workers. As the team transitions from interns to doctors, they struggle with friendship, relationships and medical drama.

Pokémon Go was Niantic CEO John Hanke's Eureka Moment

By: Farah Hamoudah



Nobody saw them coming. We just woke up one day and they were there. Those quirky creatures were roaming the Earth with us. At first, I thought it was some kind of weird lucid dream I was having, but there it was; A Magikarp was staring at me in the aisles of my local supermarket, and I was staring back at it in disbelief. I tried to ignore the Pokémon Go craze for a while, but eventually, I had to give in. I had to take a peek at what everyone else saw. "What was so great about running around Kuwait catching legendary Pokémon, anyway," I thought. "How can capturing a Mewtwo make me happier?"

Then one day, the inevitable happened. Like most people, I owned a smartphone, the official transitory medium between trainers and Pokémon. I was instantly gripped by the game's own mind; nothing and no one could anymore bring me back to a world without Charizards, Bulbasaur, or Squirtles. It's like Jurassic Park out there with equal parts madness and cheer, but minus all the horror of having your head bitten off.

The location-based, augmented reality of Pokémon Go offers a little more than catching fictional creature with a fictional poké ball. Yet somehow, it has mapped out the new and unfamiliar technology of augmented reality and deemed itself, not only acceptable and comforting by a mass audience of varying demographic around the globe, but also maybe even revolutionized gaming as we know it forever.

For a lot of gamers, looking through the screens of their mobile devices and their tablets is the same as leaping through

the looking glass to a world that they feel to be more real and enjoyable than their very own. When I as well felt that, I knew then that the augmented reality projects that big companies like Microsoft talked about for years now, like the secretive and beguiling HoloLens A.R project, were much more than just mere ideas or frivolous humors.

To the humdrum world I once knew, I look ridiculous. To them I'm just another zombie-fied millennial trying to reminisce on the relics of their childhood. I know that because that's how I used to look at the game and its frenzied users not too long ago.

However, this is not to say that the people who think that Pokémon Go is a folly of sorts are entirely incorrect. Pokémon Go did indeed start as Google's own April fool's joke back in 2014. The multinational company summoned people to celebrate April fool's by catching Pokémon via the Google Maps app. It is particularly noteworthy to mention that John Hanke and his colleague Brian McClendon founded the software development company Keyhole, Inc.

It was acquired later by Google in 2004; the company laid the foundations for the technology that made Google Maps and Google Earth possible. Following the success of Google's viral April fool's video and the "challenge" that millions of people enjoyed, Hanke had a stroke of genius and proposed to expand and capitalize on the momentum that the miniature game compelled, to which The Pokémon Company and Nintendo agreed.

Hanke then developed the project of making Pokémon go into a reality with his team of Niantic, Inc. (another software development company he founded in 2010 which was earlier a part of Google but has now become independent). The hype that Pokémon go has gained since its release in early July is so incredible that plenty of businesses are lining up to get advertised on the notorious app.

It's a great time to be a game developer, because things are only going to get better from here. Even though Pokémon go (just like google maps did some time ago) has raised a lot of eyebrows amidst privacy concerns, ethical questions are

currently being put into place. The global conversation for the future of augmented reality technology has already begun! And, once a conversation starts, we're bound to see progress on the way!



Administrative Court Calls Off Demolition of Historic Mosque, Twitter Users Rejoice

By: Farah Hamoudah

In the blazing summer month of July, the Kuwaiti cyber space, specifically the Twitter-sphere, was rocked and rattled by riots that emerged by sparking news of a potential closure and demolition of the 123-year-old Shamlan Al-Roumi Mosque in the Mataba area of Kuwait City. The demolition was scheduled as far as 2015 in order to make way for developmental plans for phase two of the first ring road project that is currently underway.

The protests did not only feature public opinions on Twitter, but they also included criticisms and backlash from several esteemed members of parliament such as MP Dr. Abdullah Al-Turajji whom immediately condemned the government's hasty decision of removing a celebrated Islamic land mark according to several news outlets such as Al-Rai and Kuwait Times.

The backlash from both officials and civilians urged the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic affairs to clear the air, and so the ministry immediately issued a public statement declaring that the project was 'handed over' to the Ministry of Public Works and that the Ministry of Awqaf has no jurisdiction over it any longer, claiming that there are multiple governmental forces in play.

Amidst all this chaos of squabbling over the elusive authority responsible for the preservation (or the lack thereof) of the archaic Al-Roumi mosque, The Urgent Matters Administrative Court stepped in to clear the air with an expedited trial. It was said by local sources such as Al-Qabas, that a local citizen hired lawyer Adel Abdulhadi to appeal to the court that the removal of such a distinguished landmark is like 'erasing' Kuwaiti history. The court ruled, on July 28th 2016, that the government's decision to demolish or relocate the mosque is

ultimately cancelled, since the mosque is considered Kuwait's own prominent Islamic artifact and embodies great value with its rich and influential history of our sacrosanct Islamic heritage.

With this news, Kuwait's street talk took to the notorious social media website Twitter once more but this time their purpose was to celebrate a victory, for in fact, their trending hashtags had paid off! People even retweeted pictures of lawyer Adel Abdulhadi to shine a spotlight on their hero and praise his efforts of lending the Kuwaiti public a voice in this campaign for the protection of Kuwait's most classic antiquity.

It is a relief that this conundrum had ended on a happy note and I, having lived here my whole life, am exhilarated that a beloved and beautiful landmark is being preserved, but there are still questions left unanswered. Neither the court nor the members of parliament whom opposed this demolition had any clear alternative solutions to the perplexing situation. Even though some MPs pushed the government sector to "find another way," or ushered them that "surely there must be a solution," the future still seems bleak

for those working on the construction and road renovation of the 32 million KWD project because plans and infrastructure have already begun and it may prove to be something very vexing, if not insurmountable, to backtrack from.

Maybe there's a lesson to be learnt from all of this.

Instead of clashing with one another, or tenaciously taking sides and clinging to our opinions as if they represent our pride, we need to come together and share our assessments of difficult and important

decisions like this one, so that we can promote both Kuwait's grandeur legacy as well as its promising urbanization. For a better Kuwait, we need to come together, both as government and as people.

We need to talk to each other in public forums (the government needs to host public forums); we need to partner with one another because things will only get more complicated from here, and there are a lot more battles to be fought for the betterment of this great country, so why can't we fight them together?



The Craziest Things That Have Ever Happened: Sports

By: Sara F. Ayesh



As the 2016 Rio Olympics just came to a close and the euphoria, and pride for how our great country participated in the Olympics still lingering in our minds (thank you Fehaid Aldeehani (Gold) and Abdullah Al-Rashidi (Bronze) let us remember some of the most memorable, and *shocking* things that happened in Sports' history during previous years;



23rd Olympiad, Los Angeles- 1984

The 23 Olympics were memorable, but one of their highlights had nothing to do with sports. The US shocked the world when Bill Suitor flew to his place in the Los Angeles Olympics opening ceremony using a jet pack. Talk about raising the bar.



Summer Olympics, Beijing- 2008

Beijing put on quite the show during the opening ceremony, from digital fireworks to the controversial choice of having a 9 year old girl, Lin Miaoke, lip sync "Ode to the Motherland," using another young girl's voice, Yang Peiyi. While Yang Peiyi was a little too "chubby", singing was her forte.



Summer Olympics, London- 2012

Queen Elizabeth II decided to try acting after decades on the throne and debuted a short clip of her and James Bond walking through Buckingham Palace and into a helicopter. The same helicopter that she then jumped off of and descended on to The Stadium at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. After the shock wore off, it was revealed that it was actually a stunt double who had done the jump, and the world was royally shocked.



Summer Olympics, South Korea- 1988

Lawrence Lemieux, Canadian sailor, abandoned his spot as second in the race and helped two Singaporean sailors, competing in another race, when unexpected winds capsized their boat. Despite his heroic delay, he still beat 11 other sailors when he rejoined the race. He was awarded the Pierre de Coubertin medal for sportsmanship by Juan Antonio Samaranch, the President of the International Olympic Committee, stating; "By your sportsmanship, self-sacrifice and courage, you embody all that is right with the Olympic ideal." He was the fifth person, and first Canadian, to earn that medal. About time someone exemplified the true spirit of the Olympic games!



World Cup Final, Germany-2006

Zinedine Zidane is arguably one of the best soccer players and during his last career match, he made sure he was also one of the most remembered. As it was the final match of the World Cup, tensions were high between Italy and France, after a deadlock of 1-1 that would not be changed even after extra time. While Italy won the match 5-3 at penalties, it was Zidane head-butting Materazzi, after insulting Zidane's sister, which really got the media talking. That was one line no one can deny he crossed.



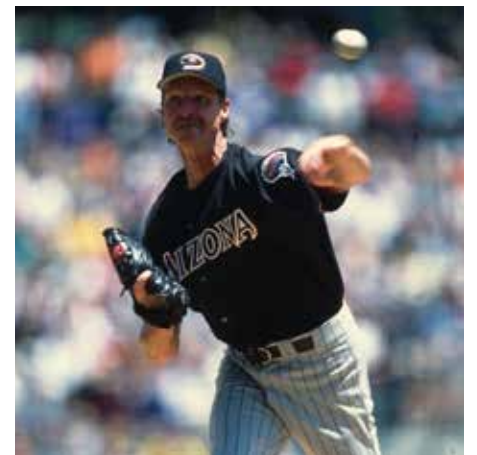
Boxing Rematch, MGM Grand Hotel, LA- June 28, 1997

Boxing is not a sport for the faint hearted. Mike Tyson was a boxing legend, but what he is most known for was biting a chunk of Champion Evander Holyfield's ear off and spitting it out during the last 40 seconds of their historic match. It seems Tyson really wanted a piece of him. For the first time in "the 50 years of Heavyweight Championships' history" someone was disqualified.



Boxing Match- November 6, 1993

Champion Riddick Bowe and challenger Evander Holyfield were on their seventh round of the second Heavyweight title fight between them when James Miller, known as the Fan Man now, crashed landed on the edge of the boxing ring on "a paraglider with a large parachute powered by a giant fan". Bowe's entourage wouldn't something like this fly over there head, and beat him unconscious.



Baseball Spring Training Session- 2001

"Randy Johnson, the 6 foot-ten pitching legend", showed everyone how lethal his fastball was when he threw his baseball just as a dove was flying by the batters box, turning it to a pile of feathers, proving that baseball does not discriminate, and that all living things are competition on the baseball diamond. Alternatively he could've just had a lot on his plate and wanted to let loose. Just this once we will let it slide Johnson.

Sources:

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http://www.etonline.com/news/194853_7_craziest_moments_from_past_olympic_opening_ceremonies/

Days in September

By: Sara F. Ayesh

1	2	3	4	5
Journalist Day (Taiwan)	Democracy Day (Tibet)	Independence Day (Qatar)	Newspaper Carrier Day (United States)	Teacher's Day (India)
6	7	8	9	10
Defense Day (Pakistan)	Victory Day (Mozambique)	International Literacy Day	Children's Day (Costa Rica)	World Suicide Prevention Day
11	12	13	14	15
Emergency Number Day	National Day of Encouragement	Engineer's Day (Mauritius)	Mobilized Servicemen Day (Ukraine)	International Day of Democracy
16	17	18	19	20
International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer	Heroes Day (Angola)	World Water Monitoring Day	International Talk Like a Pirate Day	National Youth Day (Thailand)
21	22	23	24	25
International Day of Peace	World Car-Free Day	Holocaust Memorial Day (Lithuania)	National Punctuation Day (USA)	Armed Forces Day (Mozambique)
26	27	28	29	30
European Day of Languages	World Tourism Day	International Rights to Know Day	International Coffee Day	International Translation Day

By: P.O. Boxistilis



Aquarius:
January 20 – February 18
(Air sign)

Your Chris Tucker's really racist.



Taurus:
April 20-May 20

Like children of working-class on a pitch, you too tell your neighbor *pass*.



Leo:
July 23- August 22 (Fire Sign)

When told when the French midterms are, you set the day down in your notes as *dimanche*.



Scorpio:
October 24- November 22
(Water Sign)

Yeah, it's a bit foolish, but it's okay to be sometimes. Chairs were ordered, the table's already set, cake's cut, glasses're full;
the care's put in, *why not?*
You're gonna be had through and through.



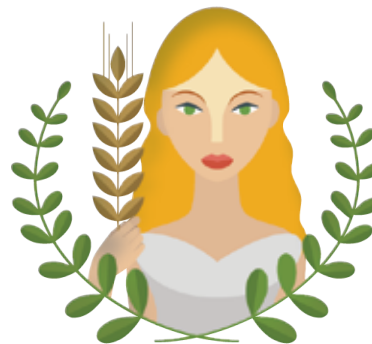
Pisces:
February 19 – March 20
(Water sign)

To have and to hold is a phrase you care less for this month, but only *slightly*, slightly less than you used to.



Gemini:
May 21-June 20 (Air Sign)

There's that beeping again and still you don't fasten your seatbelt. *It's only five minutes away* is no excuse.



Virgo:
August 23- September 22
(Earth Sign)

I often do this thing when I'm attracted to someone where I try not notice them and play it cool; when they glance at me I notice only from the corner of my eye and spend the whole time staring into the middle distance mentally ill.



Sagittarius:
November 22 - December 21
There's a song this band called Charles Bronson did titled something along the lines of *What are You Gonna do When it's Cool to be Yourself?*



Aries:
March 21 – April 19 (Fire sign)

Prick up your ears. Remember, an *accident* is when stupidities coincide. A little goes a long way, and it's the thought that counts. Can't go to Dubai because of the eye infection.



Cancer:
June 21- July 22 (Water Sign)

Think about how Ambrose Bierce defined 'Backbiting' as "to speak of a man as you find him when he can't find you" and that Fran Leibowitz loves talking behind backs because then they hear it twice.



Libra:
September 23- October 22
(Earth Sign)

Apologize for setting the thing up tomorrow night; you were a bit too eager. Do it sometime next week, if that's ok.



Capricorn:
December 22 - January 19

You did the joke a second time and it wasn't funny the first, but what's impressive was how you said it *exactly* the same.

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