

Changing of the Guard

AUK Students Vote in 06-07 SGA

CORRECTION

The following students' names mistakenly failed to appear on the Dean's List printed in the March issue of the Voice of AUK: Bushra Zaher and Sara Zakahri
The Editorial Staff extends its apologies to Bushra and Sara for the oversight.



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May, 2006

By Dina El-Zohairy
and Emad Salamah

A day before the SGA elections, candidates were scheduled to assemble in the multipurpose room, along with students, staff, and faculty, in order for the former to introduce themselves, state what they hoped to achieve through SGA, and to answer students' questions. Candidates running for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, as well as freshman, cultural, and media committees were all present. Many students attended the debate, which started with an introductory speech given by outgoing SGA President, Meshal al-Ali, in which he thanked everyone for their support and trust.

Each candidate had different goals in mind, but all agreed on the importance of teamwork, communication, and good leadership as major factors for the success of SGA in making AUK a better place and linking students to administration effectively.

The major issues put forward by students involved lack of parking spaces, segregation, few credits allowed compared to other universities, and frustrating attendance policies. In response to these concerns, different candidates suggested providing valet service and constructing a multi-level parking lot; sticking to all three types of classes



Outgoing SGA President Meshal al-Ali congratulates president-elect Jawaher Ali-Redha

Jawaher Ali-Redha to Head Next Student Government

(mixed, female, and male) to match different preferences or pursuing co-education if unappealing to students; increasing credits permitted per semester to twenty as at Dartmouth College; and asking for abolishment of the absence policy for students "to want to go to class, not feel

obliged to do so."

Presidential candidate Jawaher Ali-Redha promised to address the shortage of student employment opportunities and low hourly rates (KD 2 per hour), in addition to offering more courses so that students could graduate on time. Sami Ma'an,

competing against Jawaher for the SGA presidency, would focus on arranging more trips and activities, adding more classes and majors, and placing suggestion boxes on-campus to update SGA with students' needs. Talal Sorour, the third candidate for the top office, was mostly con-

cerned with increasing credits allowed for PASS program and undergraduate students, as well as allowing IEP students to take UG Arabic classes while working on their English skills. Rama Sabano, candidate for Vice President and outgoing SGA secretary, seeks to "bridge the gap be-

tween SGA and administration; UG and IEP students; SGA and students." Abdullah Zankawi, Rama's opponent, highlighted the issues of offering more summer courses and enhancing student activities.

Running for Freshman Committee were Ala'a Ali-Redha and Tareq Al-Rifai. The latter proudly declared that he had helped with the introduction of a 10% tuition discount for siblings attending AUK, whereas the former vowed to make admission of new students easier.

As to the problems associated with the unfelt presence and unknown actions of the previous SGA representatives, candidates collectively agreed that this was a result of lack of internal cooperation and coordination and the presence of a huge gap between SGA and students. To improve internal communication, candidates suggested conducting weekly meetings and dealing with administration more professionally to prove themselves as a capable and serious committee representing AUK students.

The candidates were also confronted with a few questions to which they answered clearly and confidently. With Student Affairs responsible for students, the necessity of SGA was not fully understood. Therefore, Ahmad Abdulrazzaq reminded attendees that SGA consists of students who represent their fellow students.

Students Come Out to Hear the Issues and Cast Their Ballots

By Dina El-Zohairy

On Tuesday, April 25th, AUK students visited the Student Lounge on their way to classes, for one purpose: to cast their votes. Former SGA Treasurer, Rama Sabano, and the ladies' soccer coach, Fatma Hayat, were supervising the voting process. Voters presented their AUK ID, received a ballot, and were instructed to circle their preferred candidate's name for each SGA office at another table, then fold the paper in half and drop it in the box. According to Student Affairs, over 500 students turned out to vote, representing over 60% of the AUK student body, which is about the same as last year's election turnout. Students were allowed to vote anytime between 8am and 5 pm, after which the ballot boxes were taken to Student Af-



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fairs. After triple-checking the vote tally, the results were announced to an eagerly awaiting group of students the same evening in the lobby of the Arts and Sciences building. Mass e-mails were also sent

out the next morning, listing the new SGA members.

The newly elected Student Government Representatives are as follows: Jawaher Ali-Redha, President; Abdullah Nasser Al-Zankawi,



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Vice-President; Fahad Al-Kharafi, Secretary; Ameen Al-Ahmad, Treasurer; Sarah Boodai, Social Committee; Nizar Mashal, Cultural Committee; Fatma Al-Ibrahim, Media Committee; Tareq Al-Rifai, Freshmen Committee; Nawaf Najia, Public Relations Committee.

The new SGA will assume their responsibilities in early May.

On Wednesday, in an atmosphere of joy and victory, the winners were congratulated by friends, college mates, and professors. Jawaher offered Baskin Robbins ice cream as a "token of appreciation" for everyone who supported her. Campaign flyers were removed from campus, marking the end of the candidates' three weeks of campaigning and hard work.



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Presidential candidates Talal Suroor and Sami Ma'an.



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Enthusiastic students listen eagerly to the candidates' positions on the issues.



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Vice presidential candidates Adel Omer, Rama Sabano, and Faisal al-Zankawi.


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Community Service Strikes Again

By Noufa al-Sabah

Another Car Boot Success

The Community Service Club organized a “car boot sale” on Thursday March the 30th in the AUK parking lot. This car boot sale was yet another success, and the turn out incredible. The number of stalls tripled since the last car boot sale and sellers present on that day sold everything from toys to Indian slippers. This event included many additional surprises such as the surprise arrival of Mohammed Shukri, the former Kuwaiti contestant in Star Academy. He happily posed for pictures

and greeted his fans with smiles. In addition to organizing the event, the Community Service Club also set up a face painting and CD mixing stall, a concessions stand, and a barbeque. This entire event brought in a whopping 300 KD, all of which will be donated to charity.

Club Activities

If one were to pose the question, “which is the most active club at AUK?” the answer would certainly be the AUK Community Service Club. No one can deny that they deserve to be called “the most prolific club of the year.”

The whole purpose of the AUK Community Service Club according to the Club’s advisor Mr. John Barnett is to “encourage students to help others instead of always asking others to donate cash; we try to teach our students to market a service to their community and then use the profits to assist others.”

Ever since the inception of AUK, the Community Service Club has been engaging in various projects and activities that give back to society. They have worked on lots of projects such as fundraising for the



Rummaging for hidden treasure in the parking lot.



Mr. John Barnett



A young shopper displays her purchase.

tsunami and earthquake victims, providing for the elderly and visiting children in government care centers.

The Community Service Club has also had an active role in making AUK a better place. They’ve helped out the university cleaning crew by providing gifts of appreciation for all the hard work and effort that they put into managing the AUK campus. This club has also spiced up university days by organizing many special events that encouraged traditional celebrations such as selling gift baskets in Gurgian and flower bou-

quets on Valentine’s and Mother’s days.

The Community Service Club is an asset to AUK. The members are a charitable bunch who are enthusiastic and highly dynamic. Just sitting through a meeting, one can see the fervor and passion in their eyes, and according to one club member, “We are not here because we have to be here, we are here because we want to make a difference.” They sure do make a difference, if not to me and you, to the needy and underprivileged, and to society as a whole.



Students selling their wares at the car boot sale.

Healthy Care and Health Wares on Display

By Dina El-Zohairy

On Monday 27th April, the SSC organized a health fair in the courtyard outside Starbucks. Representatives from more than six major companies participated to promote their different products and services.

Hotels, including Radisson

glucose level (pin-prick), and body temperature at their booth. Photographers and reporters were busy taking photos and details of the event. The food and drinks on display created a very ‘healthy’ atmosphere which attracted many students, faculty, and staff members.

At one end of the lengthy row

alyzer provided and to purchase a proper cleanser and moisturizer accordingly. Free black-head-eliminating creams were distributed.

A wide collection of healthy foods and drinks were available for free. A Vitamin C drink, offered in ice-cold glass bottles was especially appealing. Fresh juices were also made on demand. BredZ, a bakery shop, offered tasty sandwiches, salads, and pastries—all made with natural and organic ingredients—which were swiped off the trays very quickly. At the other end, distributing 375g-boxes of Cornflakes, Kellogg’s was a major promoter of eating a healthy breakfast consisting of sugar-free cereal and skimmed milk. The SSC, who are to be congratulated for the great success of the fair, offered fruit salad for students to chill out in the hot weather at midday.

A very interesting collection of products was displayed by a British lady, who started out the business with her friend a couple

of years ago. They sell essential oils extracted from plants such as jasmine, rosemary, and lavender. Under the brand of TISSER-AND, the products are manufactured in the UK and small oil bottles were on sale for KD 2.250. Therapeutic, sweet-scented, and antibacterial, these anti-light oils can be used for several purposes: soothing muscles, freshening rooms, or treating common colds. Aromatherapy for relieving exam stresses amused students the most.

In addition, Japa-

nese chefs carried out a sushi demonstration which was very successful, as proved by the people who were busy eating campus-made sushi everywhere. Organic food products were on display by Lime Light, also a clothes retailer. Representatives explained the benefits of eating foods produced organically and offered samples to taste.

When it was time for the raffle draw, lucky numbers won cool prizes, ranging from magazine subscriptions, restaurant vouchers, and movie tickets to iPods and iMates.

Later, Miss Ruth, the fitness supervisor at Hilton Resort, performed an amazing aerobics demonstration accompanied by loud music and some students. Last but not least, an AUK student volunteered to have a free massage treatment, given on the grass by a masseur from Palms Spa. (That was quite a scene!) Finally, at around 4 p.m., the bustle ended and everyone left with some profit: valuable information, a full stomach, and gift items.



Photo by: Fatma Khamis © 2006 AUK PR & Marketing Department

AUK Holds TOEFL at First Open House

By Dina El-Zohairy

On Thursday 27 April, AUK held its first Open House. Anyone was welcome to the event from 10 am - 2 pm, including prospective students who had come to take the university-required TOEFL exam. About 200 people showed up; reporters and photographers from various newspapers and magazines could be seen on-campus to cover the event.

Representatives from the SSC, Student Affairs, Continuing Education, and the Admissions Office were sitting at booths in the courtyard outside Starbucks, distributing flyers and chocolates, and helping out people with answers to queries. Information sessions about admissions procedures and a major workshop were held too.

Student workers who had volunteered to be tour guides for the day, took interested parents and high-school students for tours around campus.

IEP instructors had a booth, where they displayed some of the stories read by students, educational videos, and course books. Some members of the Anime

club showed up and talked to people about their activities and had some flyers to give out.

Representatives from AMIDEAST and NBK were also present; the latter allowing teens aged 18-23 years to sign up for “Al-Shabab” account. Cans of drink were distributed by salespeople from Red Bull, who also asked students to test-drive the Formula One racing car.

The grassy area next to the main entrance was shaded; families,



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SAS and Hilton Resort, revealed health club membership details. Maidan Dental Clinic was offering a free dental check-up on campus inside a spacious bus located at the parking gate. Moreover, health specialists from International Clinic also provided everyone with the opportunity to check their blood pressure,

of booths was a skin specialist from Neutrogena offering advice to students concerning skin care. She encouraged them to wear sun screen outdoors to avoid changes in skin color, especially with the sunny weather of Kuwait. She also advised both males and females to check their skin type using the skin an-



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friends, faculty, and staff members gathered in small groups by the benches, enjoying saj and shawarma sandwiches, soft drinks and donuts, and music.

Attendees were given raffle tickets at the welcome booth, set up by the parking gate. The raffle draw took place at noon. Lucky winners received prizes such as restaurant vouchers, airline tickets, and NBK certificates.

IMAGES OF DEMOCRACY



CCE Launches Business English Program

By Dina El-Zohairy

AUK's Center for Continuing Education (CCE) has been out of the spotlight until recently. On April 2nd, it received a large group of working adults who had enrolled to attend the first day of the 4-day "Achieving Leadership Excellence" course, and that marked CCE's successful start-off. Two weeks later, the "Improve Your Business English" course started, the first of numerous business-oriented courses planned to start in the coming months. There are no real entry requirements, except for a desire to learn and being over 18 years of age. This means that AUK undergraduates are welcome to take any of the courses, which will continue up to August and will host a number of professional consultants and trainers specially flying in from the U.S. and Canada.

Mr. Dave McHardy, Director of Continuing Education, joined AUK in August 2005, and has been busily preparing for these courses ever since. CCE courses are designed primarily for working adults who cannot attend morning classes, and thus opt for part-time evening programs instead.

Other programs currently being offered are in "Creative Writing" and "Decorating for Pleasure". The longer courses do involve regular quizzes and

exams, leading to a certificate of completion after each level. This may be useful to fulfill pre-university qualifications or enhance job-based skills.

"Improve Your Business English" is CCE's most ambitious project to date. It is a five-level program, entry to which requires applicants to take an English assessment to determine their level. Each level lasts five weeks and lectures are given four nights a week, for a total of forty hours. According to Program Coordinator, Mr. David Hart, it has proved very successful, as indicated by the large number of enrollees—about 60 students for the current session. He stated that "many of those are test cases for companies who have many more employees to enroll in the future." As to future sessions, the CCE "expects well over 100 students for the May session, and it will likely keep growing from there."

The *Voice* had the chance to speak to some of the program's students during one of their class breaks, and all seemed to agree that it was "great", even though it has only been going on for a short time. Isabelle, a French-educated store manager, declares that she learned about the program from a newspaper ad and enrolled hoping to improve her knowledge of business terminology. Despite being her first class, she feels that "it is

not easy and really needs some work." Shubra Shetty, on the other hand, was advised to take this program by his employer in order to improve his business language skills, to interact well, and to get a good grasp of the dos and don'ts in business. He is an operations consultant who is new to Kuwait, and finds the program looking good but hasn't formed an opinion yet.

Meanwhile, an Executive Secretary, who registered for the course independently, Abeer Tajuddin, is very enthusiastic about it and finds it "very good and useful; exactly what I was looking for". She hopes to be armed with the know-how of speaking professionally upon completion of the program. Another student, Dalia Badawy, a senior pharmacist who admits not being related to business job-wise, is looking forward to "knowing more about business, learning the technical words, and getting ready for the MBA."

Evidently, all the students are ambitious knowledge-seekers, seeking to enhance their skills in a rapidly developing business world. Hopefully, this and other CCE programs will produce well-informed businessmen and businesswomen, and will continue to serve the needs of the working sector in Kuwait.

Jazz and Blues on Campus



By Daniya Alam

On Sunday, April 23, 2006, AUK students were introduced to a unique part of American culture in the library's American Corner: blues music.

Sam Werberg of the American Embassy of Kuwait was the guest of honor at Sunday's American Corner. Werberg works for the American Embassy as an Economic Officer for the Petroleum Industry. During his free time, he listens to blues tracks, plays the

guitar and creates his own blue songs.

Werberg introduced students and staff to the sound of blues telling us that most popular music genres today originally come from blues music. Blues music was created by African Americans during the time of slavery. Between 1920 and 1960, Blues music began to progress, as African Americans began to produce song about the hard life they were living.

Werberg presented to the audience a power point presentation

displaying the different Blues singers and songs they were popular for. Singers included Buddy Guy, John Lee Hooker, Muddy Waters and Big Bill Broonzy. Sadly, most of these blues singer died young, either being murdered or having been imprisoned for murder.

Werberg ended the presentation by singing some old Blue songs himself and singing one Blue song of his own, demonstrating his claim that any one can produce a blues song.



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On Tuesday, April 18th the New Orleans All Star Brass Band gave the AUK community a taste of authentic American jazz music in the quad in front of the library. The event was organized by the American Embassy in coordination with Dr. Lisa Urkevich, Visiting Pro-

fessor of Music and Division Head, Humanities and Arts. The 7-piece band played a variety of jazz styles from the southern US state of Louisiana, the place where jazz originated. The band has been highly acclaimed for its performances throughout the world, and notably those here in

Kuwait. The visit is especially meaningful this year since the band members, their friends and families, were victims of Hurricane Katrina, which devastated the great American city of New Orleans not long ago. Sound files of the band can be found at <http://www.kidmerv.com/>

Vive la France!

By Bushra Zaher

The multipurpose room at the American University of Kuwait hosts many cultural events during the educational year which are normally sponsored by the university in the hope of encourage its students to broaden their knowledge of different societies, customs, traditions and ways of life of different countries. On April 1st, 2006 this room witnessed an exhibition, organized by the French culture class, about the different regions of France.

Venturing onto French soil from Normandy, Brittany and Ile De France in the North, passing by the Loire Valley and the

Rhone river, to the Alps, on to Provence and the Pyrenees mountains in the south and across the ocean to the French Caribbean islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe, one can indulge in what enriches the mind, soul and senses of one being.

France, the home of world-renowned French cuisine, is the land of August Escoffier known as "The king of chefs and the chef of kings", the land of gourmet cheese and the most exquisite wines, the home of great thinkers and writers like Des Cartes, Victor Hugo and many others, the home of "la revolution", the country that once sheltered popes and was home to the Western Church at Le Palais

Des Papes in the southern city of Avignon.

No doubt, French culture and all that it represents has been and still is admired and studied. An experience to live, a river of knowledge that has been flowing for decades and centuries, a culture acknowledged throughout history and one that has been held in the foremost esteem by all nations.

The American University of Kuwait thrives and progresses not only through academic achievements but also by showing and teaching its students the importance of learning understanding and respecting different cultures, which is the essence of civilized human behavior.



Photo by: Fatma Khamis © 2006 AUK PR & Marketing Department



Photo by: Fatma Khamis © 2006 AUK PR & Marketing Department



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Behind the Scenes with Human Resources

By Dina El-Zohairy
Interview by Bassma al-Kassem

Human Resources is one of the main administrative departments in any organization. Its employees handle personnel recruitment and management. This month, the *Voice* goes behind the scenes with the department's employees, asking them about their typical work duties and how it was working with the manager.

Mr. Alex Pradeep, formerly senior consultant for HR at Gulf Bank, assumed position of HR Director at AUK early in 2006, upon the departure of former director Ms. Eman Hassan. Even though he only worked for two weeks with Mrs. Eman, he said she was a wonderful person with whom he enjoyed working. He expressed his happiness with the way the entire staff made him "feel at home from day one".

The challenging and busy day HR staff experience everyday requires coming in on time and planning the activities for the day, based on priorities, as Mr. Alex explained. Emphasizing the importance of teamwork, he described every person as an instrument, like with a guitar in the world of music; "you need

every string in order to play lots of different sounds", surely with one string not much can be accomplished.

On a more personal note, during the course of the interview, Mr. Alex was offering chocolates to everyone in honor of his new baby girl who had been born just the day before. The



HR Director Mr. Alex Pradeep

staff of the *Voice* too offer their congratulations.

Mr. Ali Yazzbek is the HR Coordinator. His first workday at AUK—and in the academic sector in general—was the first of October 2004. Mr. Ali specializes in staff recruitment and handles general tasks like preparing contracts and interview-

ing candidates for vacancies. He described Mrs. Eman as a "good manager" whom he loved working with and learned a lot from, by virtue of her experience in the Kuwaiti market. "Yeah, we'll miss her," he remarked. However, Mr. Ali doesn't quite foresee a major difference in her absence because, as he sees it, every department needs development and change in order to proceed to the following level.

Being the HR administrative assistant, Ms. Dalal Al-Hubail is the "face of HR". She typically receives CVs and deals with many people everyday. It is her first job and thus she benefited greatly from Mrs. Eman's experience and learned a lot from her, being a good person as well as a good manager.

Last but not least, Ms. Noushig Momidjan, who joined AUK family in March 2003, maintains the staff information system. She runs payroll and does reporting among many other tasks. When asked about her best experience at AUK, Ms. Noushig recalled her feeling when AUK opened for the first time, stating, "there were students on campus for the first time, the first day of students, so that was the best moment ever."

Luck and Money

By Dr. Ghazi Nasser

In the beginning of D.H. Lawrence's "The Rocking-Horse Winner," Paul and his mother argue about the importance of being lucky. After Paul asks his mother, "Why don't we keep a car or own one?" "Is luck money, mother?" She answers, "No, Paul. Not quite. It's what causes you to have money. If you are lucky, you have money."

I kept thinking over and over to myself after I have read Paul's mother's remarks. I thought: "Is there such a thing as Luck?" Is one person lucky and another unlucky?" Well, after a long pause, I concluded there is something special called luck. If you have it you will have almost everything, including money.

I remember when I was young, my parents used to talk to us, the seven brothers and one sister, about something important. I was fourteen years old, in the seventh grade, when my father kept us seated one evening after a typical meal.

"Boys, your mother and I have something we would like to discuss with you; something we think we should all talk about."

My six brothers and I squirmed in our innocence. We sat back.

"It is about money and luck," my father continued. "Your mother and I wanted to know if any of you have ever heard about money and luck."

We squirmed again and we laughed.

"Your father is serious, boys," my mother snapped.

"We are both as serious as we can be. We think it's about time that you know about money, poverty, and luck."

We squirmed a third time. Finally I broke the silence, relieving the tension for us all. I chuckled while I spoke, "Are you kidding, mom? I mean are you and dad really serious? Sure we know that we are rich and happy." There was a slight pause...

"We are just happy and fortunate to have parents like you because we have everything we need."

The ice was broken and everyone burst into laughter.

"You mean...you mean you all are familiar with the connotation of money?" my father asked.

"Yes dad," I answered and added, "we know that you and Mom have money, and so we can have whatever we need, but we know nothing about luck

and its relation to money. Are we lucky Dad?" We laughed again.

My father cleared his throat, "yes, boys, I am glad we can sit here and laugh out loud together; we are lucky; I am sure. But I must remind you that at the same time this whole issue is rather serious. I mean you are going to come across unlucky, poor people in your lives who are going to remind you that you are lucky. Boys, you have to work hard to keep this luck running in the family. You must realize that what really counts in life is not only the money and luck, but the thoughts and feelings inside. That's what really counts, and I think your mother and I have always tried to teach you that."

And so the conversation continued. And the years have passed laughter and pains have come. Sometimes they stayed with us; sometimes they passed with the day, but I faced the challenge of "our family luck;" I faced the struggle, and endured. Even till this day.

About two decades ago I was engaged to be married. For me, proposing was a romantic moment. Just like in the movies, I took my girlfriend's hands in mine, looked her deep into her eyes, and asked softly, "Parween, will you marry me?"

"Yes," she answered. It was the happiest moment of my life; I cried happy tears.

But indeed, romance is uncertain. We were engaged too long. During the engagement, we had many opportunities to find out about each other's personality; when our engagement was failing apart, I remember quite vividly my fiancée saying, "Ghazi, it's also you; you have no luck and I don't think I could ever live with any unlucky man like you. It just wouldn't work. I'm so sorry, but it just wouldn't work."

I will never forget her words. My father's dinner table talk came back to haunt me years later. Of course, I'm not foolish or naïve to think that the reason for our break up was the result of not being lucky man. There were certainly hundred reasons why our engagement failed. But her revelation was piercing, and it struck to the very core. So, twenty years later I keep thinking, keep searching that someday, somewhere, the luck and money will come again. I will get to have the family I have so often dreamed about. I also know that if I have children, I will tell them about my father's belief in luck and money.

Dean Carol's Corner



Dean Carol, whose dean duties precluded her making a contribution to this issue of the *Voice*, is seen here researching her next article.

What is Counseling?

By Andrea al-Adwani

Counseling offers an opportunity to talk to someone who will listen without criticism, and who will keep what you say **confidential**. Some students come to counseling because they need a friendly ear or a different perspective on a problem. Counseling offers more than talking to a friend - the time is all yours to talk about what is important to you - and you will not have to face the person the next day in class! Coming to counseling does not mean that you are crazy, but just that you have decided to explore new ways of dealing with what life is offering you. Counseling offers a safe space to put into words the thoughts

and feelings that are inside you - and in doing this gain some understanding and control over them. Counseling is a very different process for each person and we encourage you to discuss with the counselor what you need from the time.

AUK counselors will help without judging or criticizing. Counselors are available to all students, without regard to age, race, religion, nationality, or lifestyle. Personal information will only be shared outside of counseling if the student gives permission or if someone is in danger

If you need to talk to someone about your personal problems, come to the Student Success Center in Room A-106.

Advance Registration Schedule Summer Semester 2006 and Fall Semester 2006

Advance Registration for Summer 2006 and Fall 2006 begins on Saturday, May 6, 2006 for all currently enrolled AUK students by assigned registration dates through their **AUK Self Service** account. All currently enrolled AUK Undergraduate and Intensive English Program students will be able to register, add, and drop Summer 2006 as well as Fall 2006 semester courses starting at 8:00 a.m. on their assigned registration date through the end of the Drop/Add period of each semester (please see the **Add, Withdraw-**

al and **Grade Dates** document on the Office of the Registrar website).

Students are encouraged to consult with their Academic Advisor and/or the Student Success Center prior to registering for the Summer and Fall semesters

The registration date schedule is based on the hours that you have ALREADY EARNED (including transfer credit). This does not include the hours that you are currently enrolled in.

Registration Date Schedule		
May 2006 6	Saturday	earned hours 90+
May 2006 7	Sunday	earned hours 80-89
May 2006 8	Monday	earned hours 70-79
May 2006 9	Tuesday	earned hours 60-69
May 2006 10	Wednesday	earned hours 50-59
May 2006 13	Saturday	earned hours 40-49
May 2006 14	Sunday	earned hours 30-39
May 2006 15	Monday	earned hours 20-29
May 2006 16	Tuesday	earned hours 10-19
May 2006 17	Wednesday	earned hours 0-9
May 2006 20	Saturday	IEP Level I and Level II Only*

* IEP Level III students who wish to continue their studies at AUK as Undergraduate students must apply for admission through the Office of Admissions. All newly admitted Undergraduate students must attend Placement Advising and Registration (PAR) in order to meet with their Academic Advisor and register for Sum-

mer and Fall courses.

You can view your earned credit hours via your AUK Self Service account by selecting Student Records and then selecting the View Your Transfer Credit/Academic Transcript link.

Students Run for Charity

By Ala'a Ali-Redha

The 25th anniversary for the Terry Fox Run took place in Ahmadi, Kuwait on a hot Friday afternoon on April 21, 2006. The 5-kilometer marathon started at approximately 1:30 pm from the Kuwait Oil Company stadium, continued outside onto the streets of Ahmadi, and ended back at KOC. Between 3,000

and 6,000 people participated in the event and over 20,000 KD was raised for cancer research.

Everything happened smoothly and all was extremely well organized. There were signs all around Ahmadi leading the way to the KOC stadium as well as volunteers standing on the sides of the roads, leading the cars into the parking lots and stopping traffic. Once inside the sta-

dium, you could see people of all ages and nationalities walking around, playing with beach balls, or just sitting on the grass waiting for the marathon to begin. The stadium was also filled with different companies that had set up their own booths as a way to promote their products to the people, giving out free food, drinks, t-shirts, and hats.

Minutes before the marathon started, the organizers of the Terry Fox Run had arranged a warm-up session in order to get the participants motivated and ready. People gathered in front of the big stage set up in the middle of the stadium to follow the lead of a young man on stage who was in charge of conducting the warm-up session. Along with the brief exercise, there was loud music on to get the crowd pumped up and in rhythm with the short work out. The major-

ity, if not the entire group in the stadium stood up and gathered in front of the stage to participate in the warm-up.

After the participants got their blood going, the people who were going to run were asked to stand at the start line so that they could lead the marathon. The groups following them were the individuals that were either on bikes, rollerblades, or had dogs. The walkers were the last to start the marathon, but nonetheless, all in the same enthusiastic spirit.

Throughout the route of the marathon there were volunteers giving out bottles of water and calling out words of encouragement. They would clap for the participants and tell them to keep going while offering them any kind of help they were in need of. You could see different groups of people who were



AUK students getting ready for the 5-km run for cancer.

walking together joking around and simply trying to have a good time in order to make the 5 km walk seem like a breeze.

After completing the run, all the people that took part in it were given certificates to show what they had accomplished.

When asked what he thought of the event, Mr. Dave McHardy, AUK's Director of Continuing Education and Master of Ceremonies for the day, replied,

"Overall the Run was definitely seen as a successful event. The organizers specifically expressed appreciation to AUK for its levels of student and staff participation and support." Special acknowledgement goes to AUK students Rawan Al-Baghly, Sarah Boodai, Rawah Jafar, Noora Al-Hassawi, Shaikha Al-Ghanim for the outstanding job they did of raising awareness and donations on campus.

Volleyball Squad's Luckless Outings vs. The Marines

By Sara al-Farhan

On the 27th of March, the AUK girls' volleyball team and other participating students took on 6 representatives of the U.S. Marines, who had been invited by volleyball coach Dr. Tracy Ann Scholl. Students on the court were also welcome to play and the game turned out to be a fun event on a Saturday evening for both the marines and students.

The marines were amused as students in the audience recited "I don't know but I've

been told," keeping the spirit of the game alive. Eventually the marines won the game with AUK only 5 points away from winning the 3rd set. One marine commented that playing against AUK was the most fun he'd had in months. He said that all they did was work and playing volleyball was certainly a nice change. T-shirts were given to the marines as gifts before they left the court and as they left they promised us that they would definitely visiting AUK again.

...vs. KU

By Dua'a Husain

A friendly volleyball game against Kuwait University's faculty and students was held on April 3rd at AUK. Having mixed teams, their abilities were very similar to those of AUK's team, which consisted of students from both the male and female volleyball squads. The teams were very competitive during the games, as ev-

eryone performed their best to win. It was a fun match, so full of cheers and excitement that the teams played 5 games in a row. The atmosphere was very enjoyable and exciting since a good relationship was established between both teams. The team members didn't want to end the game but sadly had to do so with a friendly handshake and the hope to play each other again in the future.

...vs. Faculty

By Dua'a Husain

On April 2nd a friendly volleyball game was organized between the faculty/staff of AUK against AUK students. It was a friendly game filled with cheers from other AUK students who came out to support their fellow students. It was good to see the faculty/staff interact with

the students of AUK in many ways other than classrooms and school business. The teams were very competitive and the scores were very close, the faculty ended up winning. Their abilities were very similar, and the AUK students are to play them again in the near future seeking to avenge the defeat.



Campaign Promises or Academic Compromises

By *Abdulla Taki*

During the recent SGA speeches, I was astonished by a particular speech from presidential candidate Talal Suroor. I honestly find it disturbing to hear a candidate running for such a highly regarded position speak such nonsense in the unwavering manner that Suroor had executed. It was evident to myself and many others that Suroor did not understand an “issue” that he himself had raised.

Suroor declared that the preparatory English 090 course was simply a waste of time for all of the Intensive English Program graduates due to the *fact* that graduates of the program do receive adequate English language preparation, and so they should be exempted from taking

that course. I ask Suroor from where did he acquire such firm *facts*? Were these *facts* obtained from credible sources that affirmatively support his claims? Or was this an inserted objective in his agenda set to be merely an appeasement to students of the IEP? Apparently, Suroor believes that English 090 is an obstacle derived from the AUK administration in order to make the students’ learning experiences miserable.

I would like to take this opportunity to educate Mr. Talal Suroor on the purpose of the English 090 course and the policies and guidelines regarding placement of IEP graduates into English 090. According to the director of IEP, Ms. Margaret Combs, IEP students are given an exit exam upon completion of the program. This exam is

to measure the progress of the students in IEP. Later, the students are given the university’s undergraduate entrance exam which is equal in importance to the IEP exit exam. In fact, both tests are identical! Ms. Combs unveiled that, according to their exit exam results, 76% of IEP students qualified for English 101. The university’s entrance exam, on the other hand, yielded different results. Only five students were placed into English 101 based on the results of that entrance exam. Most students did not even bother to attempt the essay question in the entrance exam which clearly illustrates where the problem is coming from. The students’ lack of effort and awareness were the key reasons why they were placed in English 090.

The notion of eradicating

English 090 entirely from the curriculum of those who have completed the IEP is an absurd concept. Instead of looking at the short term benefits of not having to enroll in English 090, one must look at these critical matters as having long term effects. English 090 is an essential course that prepares students for undergraduate levels of reading and writing English. Without it, some students will struggle and may even fail. The entire curriculum at AUK is composed of work that requires mastery of the English language and the ability to apply it to all coursework. So why make English 090 a topic of concern?

I had paid a visit to the Writing Center to ask them their opinion of the idea that Mr. Suroor proposed regarding eliminating

English 090 and those whom I met did not think it was a good idea. Dr. Mary Queen, the head of the writing center, stated that it all depends on the students’ levels and so the students are placed in English 090 or 101 accordingly. Fahad Mohammed, one of the writing center consultants, acknowledged the following based on his experience with graduates of the IEP, “*I would rate IEP graduates below average with a few exceptions*”, he also noted, “*I believe that the IEP is step to making the students prepared for 101 classes. However I strongly believe that 090 classes are necessary in order for them to be fully prepared for the undergraduate work load and level.*”

What strikes me the most is that Mr. Suroor did not take into

consideration that students are placed into either English course based on their English language capabilities. IEP is there for a reason and that is to prepare students for future coursework; English 090 is to serve the same task, which is to provide sufficient preparation for those who need further assistance in English before tackling dense undergraduate course work. I cannot see the reason why such an objective was being flaunted in Suroor’s speech. It was a rather weak element in his agenda that severely damaged his credibility. English 090 is a necessity to some and so I am confident that AUK will continue to offer it to those who need it regardless of whether students such as Talal Suroor deny its importance.

J-LO in Kuwait? Not!

By *Noufa al-Sabah*

Being an avid pop music fan, I was thrilled to hear that Jennifer Lopez was going to have a concert in Dubai this April. Yes, people, JLO is going to be in Dubai on May 25th, the curvaceous Hollywood celebrity who is notorious for having insured her most valuable asset, her rear end, for like a million dollars—at least according to rumor mill.

This however is not the topic I want to tackle; instead, I want to emphasize the fact that those concerts which are held in Dubai are really popular with our local population of Kuwaitis. How do I know? Well, I was present at last year’s Destiny’s Child concert. It would be fair to say that 50% of the concertgoers were from Kuwait. All of whom had boarded airplanes, booked nights at hotels, and actually traveled all the way to Dubai just to catch this phenomenal show, and see Beyounce.

As I excitedly boarded the airplane to Dubai, I couldn’t help but notice how packed the airplane was with other concertgoers like me. Fellow students from university, acquaintances, people who graduated from high school with me, relatives, whole families, groups of friends, couples; the airplane was like a local party or gathering; you somehow know everyone if not by name, by appearance. The concert was the same and involved a lot of greetings hugs and kisses; it was like a typical Thursday at Marina Crescent, where you meet and greet a person with every step you take. I was dumbstruck by the fact that 95% of the entire VIP Grand Seating area were of people from Kuwait.

Come on, if you haven’t figured it out by now, there must be something wrong with you. We have a serious problem here. Dubai beyond doubt has something that Kuwait lacks and does not offer, and I do not mean either night clubs or alcohol; we lack entertainment venues such as those concerts.

Let’s face it, no normal person would book a flight and a hotel just to see a popular girl band play a concert, but take note that we’re not talking about normal people; we’re talking about Kuwaitis. Yes, people, we’re a new kind of human species; if we want something we get it, even though that means that we have to venture out of our familiar territory and pay extra. I’m not trying to criticize Kuwaitis; I am one. I’m just trying to stress the following: Why go to all the trouble of traveling to Dubai for a music concert when we could just have concerts here in Kuwait? Why pay all that money (note that prices of hotels in Dubai have risen dramatically, and airplane tickets aren’t exactly free) when we could save all those costs

and attend concerts here in Kuwait?

Yeah, I know, it seems impossible. I mean, come on, if the parliament is trying to segregate local concerts such as “Hala February”, how is it going to agree on having western outdoor music concerts, complete with talented entertainers, flamboyant costumes and racy dance routines?

Seriously, has any Kuwaiti decision-maker ever bothered to calculate how much those concertgoers paid to just go see this two-hour long concert? I’m sure if we asked them to list all of their expenses, we would have a startling sum of money. Wouldn’t having the concert in Kuwait be much more cost effective? Why make locals venture out and spend their money elsewhere when something similar could be done in Kuwait? Why don’t we start planning and promoting things in demand here in Kuwait, such as music concerts?

If I remember anything from my economics class it is that when there is a demand for a product (in this case music concerts) the market actually changes to accommodate this demand. In other words, people start supplying those concerts. Note to Kuwaiti business people and people in power, people who can actually make a difference in the entertainment sector: “WAKE UP AND SMELL THE ROSES.”

I saw half of Kuwait at the Destiny’s Child Concert; and whenever Beyounce addressed the concertgoers with remarks such as “Sing with me Dubai” or “Come on Dubai,” I couldn’t help wanting to correct her and tell her that in fact half if not two thirds of the entire audience was from Kuwait, and that she should be saying “Sing with me Kuwait” and “Come on Kuwait” instead. But what can I say? We were undeniably in Dubai, and the concert was on foreign soil; even though the clapping, enthusiasm and wild crowd were in fact Kuwaitis.

Alas, I can only dream and hope that one day I will be able to attend a popular music concert here with internationally renowned stars and not have to venture to Dubai every time one of my favorite artists plays there. In the meantime, other music fans and I will just have to face the facts, and quench our thirst for music concerts abroad, specifically in Dubai. In this case, JLO here I come!

AUK Loses a Gem

By *Ahmed Lofty*

Several weeks ago AUK lost a valuable gem. A gem that filled the students, staff, faculty and the soccer team with deep sorrow on the day of his departure. That gem—as most of you have figured out—is campus services worker and boys’ soccer coach, Anthony Salandy.

This man faced an expected tragedy a couple of weeks ago, when he was made to choose between either apologizing for something he didn’t feel warranted an apology and continuing to work, or resigning. His dignity didn’t allow him to continue working, and sadly he left in tears, satisfying his self-respect. Anthony was one of the most loyal campus services workers, and that’s what he gets in return.

This hard-working employee used to sacrifice his own time for AUK’s sake; he was so faithful; he never used to miss an assignment. His dedication to his job was above any definition. He used to handle dangerous and unpleasant situations yet never complained. I remember seeing him getting electrically shocked once while fixing a floor lamp. Why dismiss such a warm-hearted person that brought liveliness into AUK?

Anthony Salandy wasn’t only a valuable campus services worker for AUK, but he was also the main reason why the boys’ soccer team was at its peak. In spite of all the problems he faced, if any, he was the perfect coach. He used to train the soccer team in his free time, even though the man is married and has kids. He used to inspire the players and fill their hearts with harmony. He proved

that his players were the best by making them believe they were the best. Boys’ soccer captain Sami Ma’an stated, “If it wasn’t for Coach Anthony, we wouldn’t have won two championships, because we never believed we had the potential to beat all universities.”

A few days after the incident, AUK arranged a dinner meeting, where AUK’s acting president, Dr. Marina Tolmacheva, honored AUK’s sports teams for their tremendous efforts. Anthony Salandy attended this honorable evening as the Head Coach. The players pleaded for his return. The Captain himself requested his return in the speech he gave that night. Mysteriously, it seems that the directors want to hire a different coach! It just doesn’t make sense; why hire a new coach if the players beg for the old one? Perhaps there might be personal issues no one knows about since the request wasn’t to get him back as a campus services worker but as a coach.

Anthony still keeps in touch with his players and visits AUK regularly, showing up to their practices to cheer them on. This really shows how committed this guy was to the team and wasn’t just a coach with his players. His inspiring attitude made the players keen to attend every single practice and show up to every match.

To conclude, I only wanted to send the message to all of you guys who knew nothing about the situation, and my desperate belief that he is the best for that position made me write this article. I’m sure no one will forget Anthony or the contribution he made to AUK.



Former Campus Services worker and football coach Anthony Salandy poses with his players.

Photo by Faima Khamis. © 2006 AUK PR & Marketing Department

Racism Revisited

By Fahad al-Tukhaim

After reading Mr. Shardul Oza’s April reply to my article in the March issue of the *Voice of AUK*, in which I asked him to clarify what made him think that the society of Kuwait is racist, I was impressed at the lack of awareness that he demonstrated in his reply. One can see this in the examples he offers: whether it be an employer that lacks the etiquette or behavior to treat domestic help with decency, or the negligence of a private cleaning company that fails to pay its workers, these examples have one thing in common: they are incidents that involve individuals and do not reflect not the whole of Kuwaiti society. If my argument is unfounded, then so are Oza’s examples.

For example, the Bangladeshi workers stormed and vandalized their embassy because the cleaning company for which they worked had not paid them for five months. Does the owner of that company represent the whole society? Of course not. I think this employer was in the wrong, and I think other citizens probably feel the same way. So, be it a racial issue or financial, the owner is at fault and not the whole society. Furthermore, it was their own embassy that the

workers stormed because it had ignored the complaints of its citizens.

Secondly, regarding the issue of Asian maids often fleeing their employers, is the maid running away from the society, or from one employer’s house? I agree, some employers treat their employees poorly. Those people could be racist, but they do not reflect the entire society. I know a lot of families that treat their domestic help with the utmost respect and as members of the family. But, since we are on the subject of running away, I remember a time in 2001 when people that just “fit the profile” were tormented to the point of running away from a certain society due to systematic racial abuse. However, that still does not mean that the whole society that allowed these actions to take place should be labeled as racist; there were people that did not approve of the actions of their fellow citizens.

Thirdly, is racism really institutionalized in Kuwait? The example Oza gave of this is that the rights of the expatriates are not equal to those of Kuwaiti citizens. Isn’t that the case everywhere else in the world? I think foreigners get treated differently from citizens in almost every society, which brings us

to the *wasta* issue. Oza makes it sound as though every Kuwaiti is born with it. First I would like to explain to Oza that *wasta* simply means ‘connections’: strings that you can pull or people that you know in higher places. Isn’t that prevalent in American society too? I think *wasta* is everywhere. You either have it or you buy it.

Finally, I would like to clarify the hospitality bit. When I said that people come to Kuwait for its hospitality, I really do mean it in every sense of the word. Kuwait allows a large numbers of people to work here and benefit in ways that they cannot in their own countries. That’s the kind of hospitality that I am talking about; the accommodation of the expatriates that make up more than half of the population of Kuwait; and giving them the chance to work and make a living regardless of their race and no matter how trivial it is they make.

On a closing note, a man once told me that he feels much safer and accepted here than he did in his country, Canada. Not that I am bashing Canada, but a statement like that needs to be recognized as true evidence of the hospitality and the atmosphere of a society.

Terrific Tutoring!

By Noufa al-Sabah

Like most students on campus, I’ve heard a lot of the “Tutoring Services” the Student Success Center offers to AUK students, and like many of you I don’t admit that I need help. The other day, I faced reality, and decided to go get some help with my Calculus homework; math has always been a subject I have failed to master, it has always sounded Chinese to me, so there was no escape and I needed help. Unfortunately my professor was teaching a class, so I needed to ask someone else, someone who knew calculus. That’s when it dawned on me, I’ve always heard of the student tutoring service especially through the bombardment of the student success center announcements which I get on my AUK email. Yes, some of the constant mail reminders I get are annoying, but helpful nonetheless at times like this one. I just had to go, or else be clueless throughout the next couple of lectures and practically fail the subject all together!

So, I ventured off into the Student Success Center with my classmate to ask for help. We had been assigned an enigmatic set of problems as homework

and were struggling with some of them. Knowing our teacher gives a quiz after each homework assignment, we went to get clarified on what we did not understand. The Student Success Center, a spacey room which had a very homey feel to it with its comfy red chairs and wooden round tables, seemed like a tranquil spot in a sea of commotion that was AUK. As soon as we entered, it felt like there was this certain studious aura to the room, you could not help but pick up a book or start working on some kind of homework. Everyone in that room was either studying, reading, or working on something or another and what was really weird was that they were actually enjoying it. Yeah, I never thought people looked that happy studying, but I swear they did.

So, we went up to a tutor, Jawaher Ali Redha, hoping she could help us with the hard problems. She was not the least hesitant—a trait you sometimes see in people when you ask them to help you—especially with school work—and seemed delighted by the notion of helping us out. This delight amazes me since I have not met anyone who was ever thrilled to solve a calculus problem, let alone one

on summation. Hats off to Jawaher for that amazing passion for math problems.

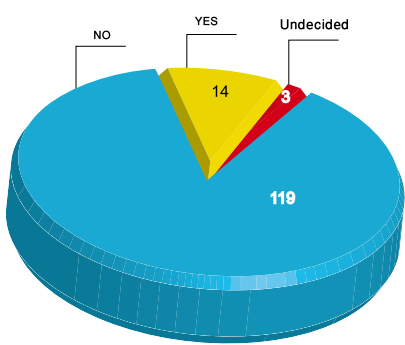
Anyways, after fiddling around with that enigmatic, unsolvable problem (at least that’s what I thought) our wonderful tutor finds the solution, double checks it and attempts to teach us the process of solving it. She was very calm despite our constant questions, like “where did you get that number from?”, “I still don’t understand could you repeat it?” She tried her best to help us understand, even though she could have not even bothered and just given us the answer to make us leave. Let’s just say she could have been doing a lot of other things, but she somehow made it her priority to tutor us. We finally understood the problem, even though she explained it a dozen times or so.

Surprisingly, we managed to get the same type of problem on the quiz, and practically aced it, because we had such a helpful tutor.

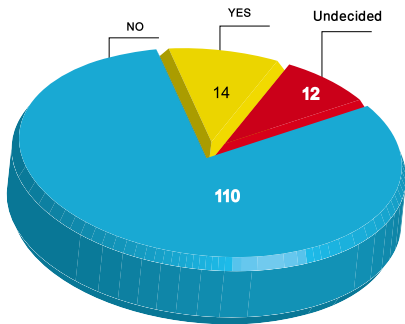
So my advice to you people is if you’re ever stuck in a homework or study rut, just pop by the Student Success Center where you’ll find the answers to all your study related questions, and an amazing tutor who will guide you through all the steps.

What do **AUK** students think about gender segregation?

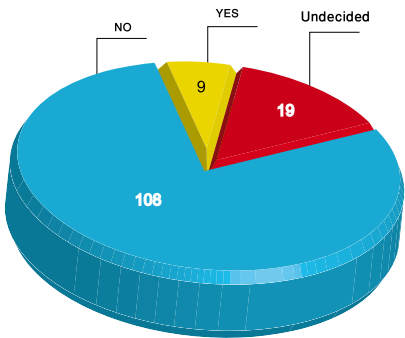
1. The Ministry of Education has recently been enforcing a law that dictates that education should be gender segregated. Do you agree with this law?



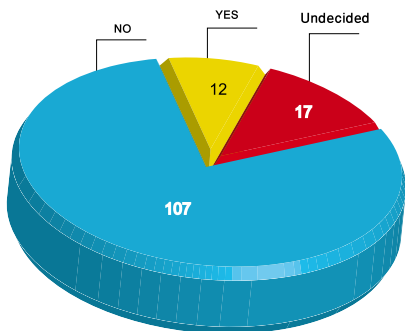
2. Is your educational focus improved when classrooms are gender segregated



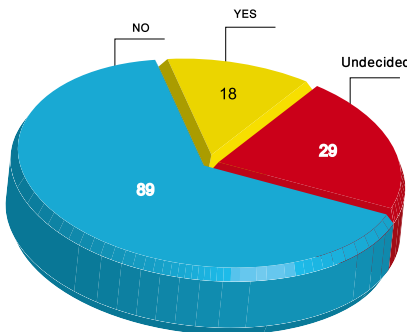
3. Do think that your tuition should be used to pay for segregated facilities?



4. Do you believe that laws regarding gender segregation should apply to all Kuwaiti universities, whether public or private?



5. Do you believe that gender segregation is important to Islam?





More Than Just Search

By Tasnim Saleh

The Birth of Google

Most people think of Google as another Yahoo! But Google is such a rapidly growing company that it has differentiated itself incredibly in the past few years.

The word Google is a play on the word *googol*, which was created by Milton Sirota, nephew of American mathematician Edward Kasner, and was popularized in the book, *Mathematics and the Imagination* by Kasner and James Newman. It refers to the number represented by the numeral 1 followed by 100 zeros. Google's use of the term reflects the company's mission to organize the immense, seemingly infinite amount of information available on the web.

So who are the geniuses behind Google? Well, they are still in their thirties, and when they came up with the first version of Google, the "Back-Rub" search engine, they were not even 24 years old. Larry Page and Sergey Bin were computer science graduate students at Stanford University when they first met in 1995. Google was created in 1998 in a garage rented from a friend, with an original staff of only three people.

Now, people fight to work for Google. To actually be considered for a job interview with Google Inc., a person has to pass an IQ test that is full of puzzles and logical thinking that few people are able to pass. While there are no guarantees, passing the test is the first step towards working for Google, which is more than a blessing, for the heads of Google are still Larry Page and Sergey Bin, fresh young creative minds who were able to generate millions from a garage.

A funny anecdote is that Larry Page, half of the brainpower duo behind Google, never completed his Master's degree at Stanford and still hopes that one day he will find the time to do so.

E-Mail? No, G-Mail!

Google has successfully added the letter "G" to many everyday words, just as the letter "E" started to precede many words in the late 80's and early 90's. In the 1990s,

keep improving everyday. Now guess what? You cannot sign-up for G-mail. Either you have to be invited by a G-mail member, or you must add your name to a waiting list. That is Google's clever marketing strategy: it's free, but you can't have it just yet.

And the strategy seems to be paying off: the number of G-mailers is on the rise and if you turn left or right you will find someone who can invite you to G-mail.

G-mail does not just show

ject line); all of those emails will be saved under one conversation, so when you do view them, you will see the history of your conversation along with your current email.

In addition, it is so easy to search your emails through a web-search. Simply type a word that you think is in one of your emails and you will get a list of emails with the keyword highlighted for quick and easy review.

G-mail also comes equipped with a calendar service that far outweighs that of Microsoft's Hotmail; it's easier to use and far more customizable. Also, while replying or sending a new email, G-mail keeps saving your drafts in case of any mishaps, so your hard work is not lost.

For information on G-mail, simply go to www.gmail.com. For information on the G-calendar, also known as CL2, go to www.google.com/calendar.

Google Desktop

It has never been easier to organize your life than it has been made with Google. Imagine, a sidebar on your computer that is invisible at all times unless you request it. This is the capability that Google gives you with Google Desktop. A completely free tool offered by Google that not many people have discovered yet.

Google Desktop is a sidebar that contains customizable items that can be changed through the addition of plug-ins or the manipulation of options. You can have anything and everything you want in this sidebar, including a calendar with an easy "add" option to add events to your days. It also contains a quick-view bar that lists your latest websites and documents

for quick retrieval. Most importantly, Google Desktop provides the capability to search your computer instantly, saving you the hassle of Windows Search which, if you've ever tried it, you know it takes forever. Google Desktop also contains a G-mail notifier which lists your latest emails and alerts you to incoming new email messages. It also includes an easy-to-use to-do list and a CPU monitor.

One of the nicest aspects of Google Desktop is a small capability called the Scratch Pad, where you can type anything you want and it will be instantly saved, even if your computer runs out of battery life, gets unplugged, or crashes. It can be used for quick notes, for taking notes in class, or for blogging. The material can then be easily saved to a text file or copied to wherever you want it.

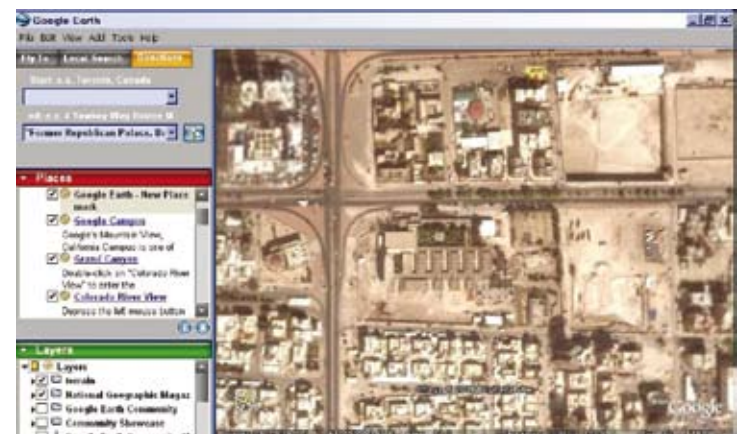
Google Language Tools

While the translation tools unfortunately do not including the Arabic language yet, Google does offer an Arabic web-search interface. The Google language tools are great for translating websites or text from-to many languages, including French and Spanish. This is especially cool if you're taking a French class or trying to learn Shakira's latest Spanish lyrics.

Google Language tools can be found at http://www.google.com/language_tools.

Google Earth

11.3 Megabytes of pure travel from the comfort of your own home. It has been said that some people have been able to view their houses from Google Earth,



A bird's-eye view of Salmiya from Google Earth.

The capabilities are endless with Google Desktop; just install it and give it a try.

Hey, did I mention that you can have your sidebar on the left or on the right of the screen, or minimized, and that it completely does not interfere with your currently running applications?

For more information and to download Google Desktop and other cool-tools from Google, visit www.google.com/options.

so you might want to give it a try, travel around the world, and back home. This program allows surfing the world through live satellites.

Note that Google Earth requires a fast Internet connection and a new computer; older computers (4 years or more) may not be able to run Google Earth properly.

Google Earth can be downloaded for free from www.google.com/options

Blogging: The Latest, Greatest Way to Speak Your Mind

By Fatmah al-Qadfan

In a country where freedom of speech is challenged, people have finally found a way to vent: Kuwaiti bloggers are establishing themselves in the blogosphere.

Forget e-mail, chatrooms, forums and newsgroups; blogs are now the easiest way to interact with people globally. The term *blog* is short for *web log* (or *weblog*). A blog is a website in which items are posted on a regular basis. These items appear in reverse chronological order, with the most recent on top, and are called "posts" or "entries". A post can contain audio, video, images or simply text. "A blog is a personal diary. A daily pulpit. A collaborative space. A political soapbox. A breaking-news outlet. A collection of links. Your own private thoughts. Memos to the world" - as Blogger.com puts it.

Most bloggers focus on a particular area

of interest. Some blogs are strictly political, whereas others concentrate on sports, education or movies. There are even bloggers who relate personal experiences and happenings. The diversity of blogs on the worldwide web reveals an astounding multicultural atmosphere.

Blogs are easy to own and maintain; they can either be hosted by blog hosting services (such as Blogger, LiveJournal and WordPress) or they can be run using blog software on regular web hosting services. They also have automated templates and settings and the form in which posts are entered is very similar to that of e-mail services. Blogging, in its simplicity, has become the most popular means of communication in cyberspace.

The blogosphere has become an uncensored political arena in Kuwait, for it grants the speaker physical anonymity, which, according to David Myers' *Social Psychology*, makes the people less self-conscious,

and more group-conscious. One of the internet providers actually blocked access to blogs for awhile, claiming that the content of some blogs was inappropriate. Nevertheless, where there's a will, there's a way, so the blog goes on.

As blogs continue to grow in number (more than 14 million exist right now), many believe that they should be recognized as a legitimate media source. Radio, newspapers and television are still 'alive' as the traditional media, but they mainly cover the bigger stories. Blogs on the other hand are the perfect place to talk about smaller issues that people find interesting. Many organizations have in fact started to give seminars on blogs for their PR staff, because they have seen how blogs affect journalism.

So, whether you're a sports fan, a political junkie, a movie lover, or just want to know what's really on people's minds, get blogging!

Wake Your Friends Up with a Bang!

By Yousef al-Tukhaim

Ever had a hard time waking up your brother, sister, or even your best friend from a deep sleep? Didn't you ever wish there was an easier solution to wake them up without wasting any effort? Well now you can. With Sonic Alarm, you can pretty much wake up just about anybody from a deep sleep. Simply pull the pin of the grenade, yell a spirited "Fire in the hole," and throw the grenade into the sleeper's room. In ten seconds an annoying, ear piercing loud noise will blast out from the alarm. What makes this device such a great novelty? In order for the sleeper

to turn the alarm off, he has to get up and find it. The concept is rather pathetic yet brilliant; and it will be the end of every chronic sleeper on the planet. Parents will most probably favor of such a novelty toy.

Source: <http://www.iwan-toneofthose.com/search.do?productCode=SONGRE>



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Career Fair

Bring your Resume, meet employers and find
Internships, Summer Jobs, and/or Full time
Opportunities

Monday, May 15 10:00 am-3:30pm

Multipurpose Room

For more information,
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