Changing of the Guard
AUK Students Vote in 06-07 SGA

By Dina El-Zohairy

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, Messa’al 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 (mixed, female, and male) to match different preferences or pursuing co-education if appealing to students; increasing credits permitted per semester to twenty as at Dartmouth College; and asking for abolishment of the presence policy for students to want to go to class, not feel obligated 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 Suroor, the third candidate for the top office, was mostly concerned with increasing credits allowed for PAEX programs and undergraduate students, as well as allowing EIP students to take UG Arabic classes while working on their English skills. Rama Sabano, candidate for Vice President, sought to “bridge the gap between SGA and administration; UG and EIP students; SGA and students.” Abdullah Zankawi, Rama’s opponent, highlighted the issues of offering more summer courses and enhancing student activities.

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 40% 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 5pm, after which the ballot boxes were taken to Student Affairs 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 Naser Al-Zankawi, Vice-President; Fahad Al-Khafaji, Secretary; Ameen Al-Abdah, Treasurer; Sarah Boodei, Social Committee; Nizar Mashal, Cultural Committee; Fatma Al-Subaie, 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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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 TD 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.”

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 tsunami and earthquake victims, organizing dental checkups 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 through organizing awareness events, helping out the university cleaning crew by providing gifts of appreciation for all the hard work that they put into maintaining the AUK campus. This club has also spurred university days by organizing many special events that encouraged traditional celebrations such as selling gift baskets in Gurgian and flower bouquets on Valentine’s and Mother’s Days.

The Community Service Club is an asset to AUK. The members are a charitable band of students 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.

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 and Hilton Resort, revealed healthy club membership details. Maidin Dental Clinic was offering a free dental check-up on campus inside a spacious booth located at the parking gate. Moreover, health specialists from International Clinic also provided everyone with the opportunity to check their blood pressure, 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 of booths was a skin specialist from Neutrogena offering advice to students concerning skin care. She encouraged them to use sunscreen 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 analysis machine provided and to purchase a proper cleanser and moisturizer accordingly. Free blackhead-extracting 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 cleared 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 a major promoter of eating a healthy breakfast consisting of sugar-free cereal and skimmed milk. The SSC, who are to be

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 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 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 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 away.

Representatives from AMID EAST and NBK were also present, the latter allowing teenagers aged 16-22 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, 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 drew took place at noon. Lucky winners received prizes such as restaurant vouchers, airline tickets, and NBK certificates.
IMAGES OF DEMOCRACY
CCE Launches Business Jazz and Blues on English Program

By Dina El-Zohairy

A UK’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 English” course started, and that marked CCE’s 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—at least 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.” Shubhraj 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 businesswomen, and will continue to serve the needs of the working sector in Kuwait.

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 encouraging 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 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 exotic 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 Peapes in the southern city of Avignon.

No doubt, French culture and all that it represents has been loved and 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.

O s Sunday, April 23rd, 2006, AUK students were introduced to a unique part of American culture in the library’s American Corner: blues music. Sam Werberg 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 songs 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 Bucky 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 blues songs himself and singing one Blue song of his own, demonstrating his claim that any one can produce a blues song.
Behind the Scenes with Human Resources

By Dina El-Zohairy
Interview by Bassma al-Kassem

Human Resources is one of the most important depart- ments in any organization. Its employees handle personnel recruitment and management. This interview is from 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 Ms. Eman, he said she was a wonderful person with whom he enjoyed working. He explained 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 for the activities for the day, based on priorities, as Mr. Alex explained. Emphasizing the importance of teamwork, he described every employee as an instrument, like with a guitar in the world of music; “you need every string in order to play lots of different sounds”. Even one string not much can be accomplished.

Mr. Alex offered personal note, during the course of the interview, Mr. Alex was offering chocolate to everyone in honor of what really counts in life, and he was not born just the day before. The staff of the Voice too offer their congratulations.

Mr. Ali Yazeek is the HR Coordinator. His first workday was as a part of the first sector in general—was the first of October 2004. Mr. Ali specializes in staff recruitment and handles general tasks like preparing contracts and interviewing 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-Hhab is the “face of HR”. She typically receives CVs and deals with many people every day. 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. Noumig Moujdian, 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. Noumig 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.”

And so the conversation continued. And the years have passed laughter and pain have come. Some times 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 mar ried. 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, “Parmew, 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 falling apart, I remember quite vividly my fiancée saying,” Ghazi, it’s also you, have no luck and I don’t think I could ever live with a unlucky man like you. 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 naive to think that the reason for our break up was only my unlucky man. There were certainly hundred reasons why our engagement failed. But her revelation was piercing, and it struck me so utterly. Those months were a path to personal growth. I learned about luck. Awareness about the importance of luck. After Paul

“I keep thinking over and over to myself after I heard Paul’s mother’s remarks. I thought: ‘Is this really me? Is this me who played the guitar in the band? Is this me who lived in this-world of music; ‘you need an instrument, like with a guitar in the world of music...”

**What is Counseling?**

Counseling offers an opportunity to talk to someone who will listen without criticizing, and who will keep what you say confidential.

Some students come to counseling because they need a friend or a different perspective on a problem. Counseling offers more than talking to a friend - the time is all yours to talk about what really counts in life – 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 exactly 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 students 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 the assigned registration date or through the end of the Drop/Add period of each semester (please see the Add, Withdraw,...

**Dean Carol’s Corner**

By Andrea al-Albawi

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Students Run for Charity

By Al-A’s Ali-Radha

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 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.

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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 majority of the people were students in the audience retelling how wonderful the exercises were, keeping the spirit high and the hope to play each other again in the future.

As students in the audience retold the exercise, the people were very close, the faculty was very competitive and the scores again. One marine would definitely visiting AUK again. They returned to share their thoughts about how much they loved the experience. The atmosphere was very enjoyable and exciting since a good relationship was established between both teams. The teams were very competitive during the games, as everyone 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.

A volleyball game was arranged 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.
By Abdulra Taki

During the recent SIA speech, I was astonished by a particular speech from pres- idential candidate Talal Suuroor. I honestly do not know that he has been a candidate running for such a highly regarded position speak such nonsense in the unanswer- ing manner that Suuroor so suc- cessfully. It was evident to myself and many others that Suuroor did not understand an “issue” that he himself had raised. Suuroor declared that the pre- paratory English 090 course was simply a waste of time for all Kuwaiti students. English 090 is designed for graduates due to the fact that graduates of the program do receive adequate English lan- guage preparation, and so they should be exempted from taking that course. I ask Suuroor from where did he acquire such firm and changes to affirmative support his claims? Or was this an inserted objective set down by Suuroor from credible sources that affi- rmatively support his claims? It is another inserted objective that is so significant an appeasement to students of the IEP? Apparently, Suuroor believes that English 090 is an an- cient course is fundamental for students of the IEP! However, Suuroor’s students from the AUK administration in order to make the students’ learning experi- ences miserable. I would like to take this oppor- tunity to educate Mr. Talal Suuroor on the purpose of the English 090 course and the policies and guide- lines regarding placements of IEP graduates into English 090. Ac- cording to the director of IEP, Ms. Margaret Combs, IEP students are given an exit exam upon comple- tion of the program. This exam is to measure the progress of the stu- dents in IEP. Later, the students are ranked by their performance on this exit exam. IEP students who are not ranked in the upper 76% of IEP are not allowed to register for English 090. In fact, 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 eliminating 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 those critical matters as having long term ef- fects. 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 cur- riculum 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 opin- ion of the idea that Mr. Suuroor 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 in 101 ac- cordingly. Fahad Mohammed, one of the writing center consult- ants, acknowledged the follow- ing based on his experience with graduates of the IEP, “I would rate IEP graduates below aver- age with a few exceptions,” he also noted, “I believe that the IEP is step to making the stu- dents prepared for 101 classes. However I strongly believe that 090 classes are necessary in or- der for them to be fully prepared for the undergraduate work load and level.” What strikes me the most is that Mr. Suuroor 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 suf- ficient preparation for those who need further assistance in Eng- lish before tackling under- graduate course work. I can- not see the reason why such an objective was being flaunted in Suuroor’s speech. It was a rather weak element in his agenda that severely damaged his creditib- lity. 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 Suuroor deny its importance.

By Noyouf al-Sabah

Being an avid pop music fan, I was thrilled to hear that Jennifer Lopez was going to have a concert in Dubai. In fact, J-LO is going to be in Dubai on May 25; the super-curious Hollywood celebrity who is notorious for having insured her most valuable asset, her rear end, for a lot of money—at least according to rumor mill. Seriously, has any Kuwaiti decision-maker ever agreed on having western outdoor music concerts such as “Hala February”, how is it going on, if the parliament is trying to segregate local entertainment sector: “WAKE UP AND SMELL THE ROSES.”

J-LO in Kuwait? Not!?

By Ahmed Looty

Several weeks ago AUK lost a valuable gem. A gem that filled the students, stuff, faculty and the soccer team with deep sorrow on the day of his departure. That gem—as most of us have already point 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 con- tinue working, and sadly he left in tears, satisfy- ing his self-respect. Anthony was one of the most loyal campus services workers, and that’s what he gets in return.

The hardworking employee used to sacrifice his time and attend concerts here in Kuwait? he was the perfect coach. He used to train the soccer team to be electrically shocked once while fixing a floor tile. I remember seeing him gett-

AUK Loses a Gem

By Ahmed Looty

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OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

The Voice of AUK
May, 2006

Racism Revisited

By Fahad al-Takhtaim

A free reading Mr. Sharid Al-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 do 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 Kuwait? If my argument is unfounded, then so do Oza’s examples.

Workers 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 systemic 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 wider 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 number 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 in Canada than in Kuwait. He said that he can’t “be bashful Canada, but a state—ment like that needs to be recognized as true evidence of the hospitality and the atmosphere of a society.”
Blogging: The Latest, Greatest Way to Speak Your Mind

By Taofiq T. Adetunji

Blogging is a personal diary. A post can contain audio, video, images or any other type of content. It provides vast capabilities that you started working for Google, which is more than a blessing, for it provides a platform where you can get your ideas out to the world.

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 task list and a CPU monitor. Google Desktop also contains a free tool offered by Google that not many people have discovered yet.

Google Desktop is a sidebar on your computer that is invisible at all times unless you turn it on. For information on the Google Desktop, simply go to www.google.com/calender.

Wake Your Friends Up with a Bang!

By Yusuf al-Tukhaim

We have found that the best way to wake up your friends is by singing them a song. Unfortunately, the translation tools are not available in Arabic. However, you can still find songs in Spanish and other languages that your friends can enjoy.

Google Earth

Google Earth is a fast internet connection and a new computer; older computers may not be able to run Google Earth properly. Google Earth can be downloaded for free from www.google.com/earth.

Google Language Tools

Google Language Tools unfortunately do not include 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 Earth

13.3 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.
The Voice of AUK
May, 2006

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