

AUK'S STUDENT MAGAZINE

# VOICE

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AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF KUALA LUMPUR



Voice



# VOICE TEAM MEMBERS



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ADVISOR

Crace is currently working on his PhD in Theology and Religion with an interdisciplinary approach at the University of Birmingham. He has been an Instructor at AUK since 2011, where he teaches various courses in the Writing Program, English 470 Internship Course, and coordinates English 100 as well. His other research interests include: T.S. Eliot, Southern religious eccentricities and literature, esoterica, and Gulf Studies.



SHAHAD ALMOUSA  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Shahad is a senior majoring in Computer Engineering. She is a people person; she's friends with people of all ages and loves being around people with different mindsets. Her hobbies include programming competitively and basketball. Her spirit animal is the elephant, it represents strength and loyalty. She loves organizing and planning events in AUK.



KHALED F. ABDULLAH  
CREATIVE MANAGER

Khaled F. Abdullah lives inside the movie of his life. He is a 23 year-old filmmaker and 4th year Graphic Design major. His interests include deconstructing classic pop music and all things David Letterman. He has the unwavering belief that he will one day bring closure to the JFK assassination and maybe, JUST maybe find Amelia Earhart. Roger Ebert is his hero and time is his enemy. Say hello when you see him around. But not on Tuesdays. NEVER on Tuesdays.



DIMA JADAYEL  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Dima is weirdly passionate about ART. She has the ability to transform whatever you are saying into an art conversation without you realizing. She is very affectionate toward sloths, and finds dark chocolate and green tea relieving for the soul. You'd normally find her carrying her laptop everywhere she goes.



MYRIAM KOTB  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Myriam is a senior majoring in English Literature. She is the Executive Editor of three sections in VOICE: The advice column Dear Curly Sue, Entertainment, and Sparks of Creativity. Her interests include film, Children's Literature, drag culture, traveling, and anything related to the 18th Century. She is also an ardent lover of the felidae family, and occasionally slips in "Alas!" in casual discourse.



HAGER ALAZAB  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Hager is a sophomore majoring in Mass Media and Communication. She loves music and the color black. If you spot a very tall figure in black from head to toe, that's probably her. She also recently developed an interest in pool even though she is not all that good at it. She is an extroverted introvert and HATES public speaking unless by public you mean 3 people or less.



LARA JADAYEL  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Lara is a super hyper individual who admires good jokes but cannot make any. She is a huge basketball enthusiast who also enjoys good coffee and avocado juice with honey and nuts. She is a definite feminist. She loves to strike up conversations, so if you see her strolling down AUK's hallway, yell "WNBA" and witness the birth of a new friendship.



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# AUK NEWS

## AUK STUDENTS COMPLETE SUMMER PROGRAM AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

In its second year, AUK's Study Abroad Summer Programs Scholarship provided two AUK students the opportunity to study at the George Washington University (GW) over the summer (July thru mid-August). Leena El Hawary and Yara Al-Quorashy attended GW to take summer courses and engage in local, cultural activities, providing them one of the most challenging and fun-filled experiences of their lives. GW's Foggy Bottom campus is situated right in the center of Washington D.C., surrounded by famous sites and blocks of renowned structures, such as The White House, Washington Monument, National Mall, and the Smithsonian Museum. Both students shared their exciting experiences through the following articles:

### EMBRACING CULTURE AND ACADEMICS : MY TIME AT GW

BY: LEENA EL HAWARY

I attended George Washington University in the summer of 2017, and the experience was phenomenal. In the beginning, I found everything to be slightly overwhelming, as I was in a foreign place and ended up getting lost very frequently. However, it did not take long for me to get settled in DC and find my way around the city. One of the things I noticed at the start of the program was that everyone around me seemed very self-driven, and I was instantly surrounded by strong, open minded individuals. As the program went on, I felt myself grow and become more independent. I gradually became accustomed to life in DC and found the city to be exhilarating.

George Washington University is among the most academically challenging Universities in the United States, and therefore, being able to study there allowed me to compete with a diverse and scholastically brilliant group. I took two courses, Cultural Anthropology and Historical Geology, both of which count towards my degree at AUK. I managed to stand out and prove myself by reaching and maintaining high academic standards.



I was only there for a short period of time; therefore, I had to make the best of the entire experience. This included a lot of tourism such as visiting Smithsonian Institutes, The White House, the National Monument, and many more as GW is situated at the heart of the United States and allows its students to indulge in the rich culture surrounding it. The most challenging aspect of the program was to balance both work and leisure, which I managed to succeed at as I kept my grades up, while simultaneously visiting many sites in DC as well as take a trip to New York and Virginia. Another great thing about this program is its duration, which gave me the opportunity to live there as a local. I quickly had my daily routines and a list of places I would frequently visit. I even got the "do you want the usual?" treatment from a cafe near campus!

Overall, this program has proven to be incredibly beneficial. I was able to grow into a more independent individual as I learned to become more self-reliant. I believe this GW experience will open up many more opportunities in the future and improve my career prospects. It was truly an unforgettable experience.



## LESSONS LEARNED AND AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE!

BY: YARA AL-QUORASHY

*“Why do you go away? So that you can come back. So that you can see the place you came from with new eyes and extra colors. And the people there see you differently, too. Coming back to where you started is not the same as never leaving.”* A quote by Terry Pratchett, that I came across on Facebook two days before my program ended.

I started remembering how excited yet terrified I was by the fact that I am leaving my family and friends to live on my own (and with Leena) in a place so incredibly far for a summer course. I had a lot of inner personal goals that ranged from learning how to clean bathrooms to going zip-lining and facing my fears to impressing my professors. At the beginning of the experience, I noticed how every person is simply focused on their own personal or academic goals and growth. I noticed how people are motivated and self-driven. There is not a specific major at GW that is more favored by students than the other; every student has the freedom to choose what to study, as long as they know they will enjoy learning it.

This experience taught me that we should always push ourselves to become the best version of ourselves, and that we should exploit every single second of our days to do something we enjoy or challenges us. An example of this



would be Leena and I going to New York City for a weekend with our new group of friends, Baltimore for a day, and visiting tons of museums. I also challenged myself through attending a programming workshop held by “Women who Code” organization, zip-lining for the very first time, and ATTENDING A COLD-PLAY CONCERT; all while still passing our exams with flying colors and making AUK proud.

Moreover, being exposed to new cultures is always a plus, but being blended with a different community is in itself a challenge. I am now friends with Fing Beng from China (taught her some Arabic songs), Olivia from the US (we both have curly hair so we started talking about hair products), Alexa, my resident advisor, who has visiting Egypt on her bucket list, and my French professor (whom I will be meeting someday in France). This was endearing because despite how every single one of them does not share the same nationality or religion as mine, we became friends because we simply had something in common.

In a nutshell, this incomparable experience taught me to always challenge and fuel myself with energy and passion towards anything I want to accomplish. It taught me that human interactions are simple; you just have to be kind, respectful, and accepting.



# FREEDOM FOR SAUDI WOMEN

By: Hager Alazab

Women around the world are constantly fighting for their rights and demanding equality with men. Wherever you are, there is always some form of unjust treatment and prejudice against women that stop them from reaching their full potential. However, in Saudi Arabia, the discrimination against women was particularly acute as they weren't even allowed to perform activities others around the world would consider normal and part of their everyday routine. The most important one of these activities was driving. For a very long time, Saudi women were deprived of their right to drive, which often caused public outcries within the Saudi society and affected Saudi Arabia's international reputation. Nevertheless, all of this is changed now as a new law has taken over to prove that Saudi Arabia is evolving.

On the 26th September, a law of a royal command announced the long awaited ending to the ban on women driving in Saudi Arabia. Yes, you read it right, starting from the 26th of June 2018, Saudi women will finally be allowed to slide behind the wheels and drive themselves to places instead of being chauffeured around by drivers and male relatives. The announcement had Saudi Women celebrating what the Saudi feminist

Manal Alsharif described as "the ultimate emancipation." It was also met by international positive feedback as it is considered an important step in the right direction.

The law passed on also sparked a sarcastic reaction by some Saudi men who have grown very accustomed to women being second class citizens that they refuse to accept the iota of freedom that was just passed to the other gender. The Twittersphere was completely blown away by the news and some men took it upon themselves to sardonically point out that the government is putting men's life in danger by allowing women to drive. Not only is this insinuation beyond sexist, it is also very untrue as the Kingdom had over 9000 car accident fatalities last year alone, its highest rate since 2007 and only men were allowed to drive. So, if men are going to use the "life in danger" card to rob women of their happiness with the recent decision, they would have to try harder.

Over the past few years, there have been a lot of protests from Saudi women to try and gain their right to drive in the Kingdom. Perhaps the most popular one of those protests was the 1990 protest, where 47 women decided to break the rules, do the UNTHINKABLE, and get in



FORD AD FOR SAUDI

the driver's seat. It was followed by the immediate arrest of the women who got jailed and some even ended up losing their jobs. In 2011, the same thing happened with Manal Al-Shariff who posted a video of her rebelling and driving a car in the streets of the Kingdom. However, with the help of social media, Al-shariff managed to start campaigns called "Women2Drive" and "Teach Me to Drive so I Can Protect Myself," which gained a lot of support and attention from women who felt oppressed by the unnecessary ban.

Now that the ban is gone and Saudi women will finally have the ability to drive themselves without the supervision of a male relative, women like Manal Al-Shariff and many more who have fought for this right over the years will finally feel peaceful and less oppressed as they roam the streets of Saudi without having to worry about being penalized or fined.



# THE ONLY NEWS THAT ACTUALLY MATTERS

BY: HAGER ALAZAB

A lot of important events are taking place around the world as I type this article and thankfully, due to the existence of the internet, phones, laptops, and TVs, today, we have the ability to find out what is happening on our earth the instant it occurs. Phones and other technological devices, which have worked hand in hand with the internet to create a universe where nothing is quite unreachable, are constantly being worked on and evolved in order to satisfy the public and make everything more accessible. And one of the companies that have recently launched their newest creation in the world of phones was Apple.

On the 15th of September 2017, the long awaited iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus were revealed to the public. However, what really took the world by surprise was the introduction of a completely unexpected and unprecedented new phone: the iPhone X (plot twist: it's actually pronounced 10). As always, the mere existence of a new iPhone got everybody starting up a saving account in hopes of being able to purchase the most expensive phone to ever exist. But before you rush to your nearest Apple store to preorder the iPhone X that is yet to get released in the upcoming November, *here is everything you need to know about it and whether the splurge required to get it is necessary.*

**The good, old iPhone style is no more, welcome the new edge to edge screen:**

Perhaps the most remarkable feature

of the iPhone X is its new shape; one that makes it possibly the prettiest smartphone ever. With its new screen that stretches from one edge of the phone to the other, the iPhone X has a wider screen area while remaining compact for those who are used to the average iPhone size.

**Face recognition instead of the beloved touch lock:**

The Face ID is yet another new feature in the iPhone X that users are excited and skeptical about trying out. With the fingerprint lock gone and replaced by the new lock screen that uses biometric technology to recognize your face and unlock your phone, iPhone users are wondering just how secure this face ID is going to be especially since it has proved to be a failure with other phones in the past.

**"Animojis" and a more advanced front camera:**

One thing has always been irreproachable about iPhones is the quality of their camera. The iPhone X has new qualities, such as an infrared front camera and a dot projector that makes the face recognition process more precise. As for the rear camera, it has taken on the new vertical shape that allows BOTH rear cameras to be aligned on top of each other. Animojis would take text messages to the next level as they allow you to have a 3D figure imitating your movements and speaking the words you record.

**A longer battery life:**

iPhone developers are constantly working on the highly demanded longer battery life in order to make it reach its optimum potential. The iPhone

X is expected to work for 21 hours non-stop and without getting charged, which makes it last about 2 hours longer than the iPhone 7.

**It's time to say Goodbye to the home button:**

With its full screened design, the iPhone X lacks the home button that iPhone users have grown accustomed to. Instead, the phone relies on systematic screen swipes and the pressing of buttons on either side of the phone, which might take a little while to get used to.

**Introduction of the world's fastest performance enhancing chip:**

The A11 Bionic chip, aka Apple's newest creation, has allowed the iPhone X to become the fastest iPhone as opposed to previous iPhones that have the A10 chip, which is slower and less efficient.

**Finally, A staggering price:**

The iPhone X, with all its new advanced technology, is going to be the most expensive phone to ever exist. So expensive that the other iPhones seem cheap compared to it. With a price ranging from \$999 to \$1149, depending on the amount of GBs you prefer to obtain, the iPhone X have successfully managed to become the first phone in history to reach a 4 digit price.

Now that you know the most important features differentiating the iPhone X from the other iPhones, you have to ask yourself the two most life-changing questions every iPhone user asks while contemplating whether to buy the new iPhone or not: A) is it a necessary expense? Followed by B) what colour am I getting it in? (it comes in 2 colours, silver and space grey)





# OVERWORKED OR INTERRUPTED? WHAT'S WORSE?

BY: LARA JADAYEL

**W**ell the obvious answer would be overworked, right? We would rather work on a single task, perfect it, then move on to work on something else.

Having too many things to work on frustrates us at first, then prevents us from finishing the tasks ahead. However, if you are worried over a paper to finish, a midterm to study for, and a report for work to get done all at the same time, the amount of work you have to get done isn't the problem; getting interrupted often in that process is.

"What do you mean getting interrupted is worse than being overworked! I can bear being interrupted if I have a few things to get done!"

*Wrong.*

Imagine this:

You are currently working for a reputable magazine. You have an article due in a day. You head to the office, turn on your computer, plug in your earphones and place your fingers on the keyboard ready to begin the process of constructing a stunning article, until you don't. Your team members walk in carrying a box of Dominos Pizza in one hand, and a guitar in

another. Your first thought would of course be "what is a guitar doing in the office?" But your second thought of "how will I get things done with all the noise and chit chat going on?" will consume you. The answer to that is you won't. Your temptation to have a slice, chat a bit, and attempt to play the guitar will keep rerouting your train of thought.

Now imagine this:

You have four articles, none of which have been brainstormed, due in a week. Choosing to work in a coffee shop away from the possible scent of pizza and synthetic guitar strumming is the better option. Your team members won't know where you are, so interrupting you with comments and possible ways to improve the issue's cover will be very unlikely. You are more likely to then devote a specific time to finish as much material as you can because your train of thought will surely not be disrupted at any point. You are then just typing away more and more until you look at the time thinking "wow, I got so much done!"

With personally having experienced both scenarios, I will emphasize on this: DO NOT underestimate the importance of a comfortable seat, a quiet place, and a good cup of coffee.



# WHY ARE YOU NOT DOING WHAT YOU WANT TO BE DOING?

BY LARA JADAYEL

**W**e are born with a set of facial expressions, and also born into our skin colors. What we are not born with are the things that force us to wake up early in the morning to contribute every inch of our energy in making those things attainable. Whether you crave the chance of backpacking through Europe, or aspire to compete in the Olympics, what is stopping you from pursuing your dreams?

With my personal assumptions always proving me wrong, money is not the factor preventing people from working towards their desired intent.

What is then?

Many claimed that their "dream" was exactly what it sounded like; a dream. They disregarded its significance because it was simply just not realistic.

My initial response would surely be nodding in complete agreement, because if someone would walk up to me and say "Lara, you could get a scholarship playing basketball!" Walking away laughing would definitely be my reaction. Now whether or not their opinion is a plausible one, why did I disregard it so heavily if I already devote so much of my time and ef-

fort into perfecting it? Low self-esteem would be the first reason, but the statement seeming so out of reach makes it appear much more unlikely.

That should not be the case. The more you think about the likelihood of something you desire coming true, the more you are to work harder to achieve it. The more you work hard to achieve it, the closer you get to attaining it. And if for some horrible reason you do not achieve it, then you can at least say that you tried. But if you actually do acquire it, then you get to spend the rest of your life swimming in its greatness.

So, the question still remains "what would you rather be doing right now?" Perhaps you want to be the owner of a successful business, compete in professional basketball tournaments, or maybe host your own TV entertainment series. As serious as such a dream might be, starting somewhere reduces the intensity of intimidation the process would seem to exert. So begin taking entrepreneurship classes, train with experienced players, and even get a TV production internship job to acquire some of the tactics and techniques not directly vended to you through your classes. Start somewhere, anywhere, to give yourself the satisfaction of at least trying and hopefully successfully procuring the benefits.



# STUDENT COUNCIL AGENDA 2017 / 2018

**T**he Student Council of AUK acts as the official representative organization of the student body; therefore, each elected and appointed member is meant to serve every student in regard to their academic and social goals. The Student Council's job is to not only to make the university experience smooth, but also meaningful by assisting in the creation of a stronger and more vibrant campus life.

The Student Council of the Academic Year 2017-2018 is very excited to share their plans for this year; ones that range from tackling pressing issues on campus to organizing different events and projects. This plan is open to suggestions from students, staff, and faculty. We look forward to having a productive year with your support!

## SUBJECTS:

- **Security on Campus:** Talks will be held with administration to find ways of improving security on campus.

- **Private Universities Council:** Student Council will be meeting regularly with the Private Universities Council (PUC) to voice student concerns and facilitate scholarship talks.



## PROJECTS:

- **Student Council Website:** We will be creating a Student Council website containing a variety of services for students, ranging from "Rate My Professor" to a Book Trading Portal.

- **Increasing Campus Accessibility:** It's happened to all of us. We need to submit a late paper and one of the security guards is kicking us off campus because it's 10 p.m.. This year, we would like to extend the campus opening hours to allow students more freedom to study and do assignments on campus.

- **Improving Athlete Experience:** To show our appreciation of the Wolfpack athletes, we would like to focus on improving the athlete experience by creating a 'Player of the Month' system and requesting the hiring of a part-time physiotherapist amongst other things.

- **Food Variety on Campus:** We know everyone needs a change from the AUK Diner. This year, we will be pushing to have more variety of food on campus. Which restaurant will we get? We'll keep that one a surprise!

- **Bookstore Prices:** We want you to pay less for textbooks; therefore, we'll be using a number of approaches in an attempt to subsidize the textbook prices at the AUK Bookstore.

- **Increasing Gym Hours:** We will be aiming to increase gym hours.

- **Senior Experience:** Your last year at AUK needs to be the best! We'd like to make it more memorable by making exclusive Senior items from Senior jackets to a Senior yearbook.

- **Awareness Campaign:** Student Council will continue raising awareness this year about your rights and responsibilities as an AUK student. Some of them might surprise you!

- **Student Council Constitution Amendments:** The Student Council will continue to add amendments to the SC constitution to make sure there are no loopholes for future Student Councils.

## EVENTS:

- **Student Forums:** First and foremost, we'd like to hear your thoughts! We will be holding a number of different styled student forums because we believe the most important thing is your opinion.

- **Town Hall Meetings:** We will be holding at least two Town Hall meetings throughout the year to allow students to speak directly to administration to voice their concerns.

- **Winter Camp:** Our bi-annual event consisting of a day out in Julaia'a, filled with food, music, and fun activities.

- **AUK's Biggest Loser Competition:** Time to get fit! The Student Council is challenging you to our version of the famous weight loss competition The Biggest Loser. Over the course of 10 weeks, participants will be weighed, challenged, and tortured to compete for the grand prize.

- **Cinema Day:** For the film lovers out there, our annual Cinema Day is back! We'll be booking the biggest cinema theatre in 360 mall just for our AUK community.

- **Student Council Seminars:** This year, the Student Council will be hosting a number of well-known social influencers, educational figures, athletes and actors in a series of panels and seminars.

- **AUK's Strongest Man/Woman Competition:** For those interested in challenging themselves physically, this two-day event will cater to different weight categories in a test of strength and fitness.

- **Major Fair:** For those who are undecided or would like to know more about their major, Major Fair will provide you with the opportunity to learn about each major offered at AUK in more detail.

- **Graduate School Workshop:** For those interested in continuing their studies, we will be organizing a graduate school workshop to discuss the requirements of universities in different countries.





Shirley Fox  
Director of Student Life

• Personality trait you like and dislike:

Like: Decisiveness  
Dislike: Lack of confidence

• One thing you wish you could be doing right now:

I want to be sleeping by the beach.

• One thing that makes AUK stand out:

The spirit and the culture of our student body.

• If you were given 3 KD right now, what would you do with it?

Buy 3 KD worth of Limonata.

• A person you look up to and why?

Dr. Ahmed Al Rubei. He is easily the best human being. There was nothing he did not do. He was a politician, a journalist, and a professor. He was a visionary who lived up to the highest standards. He was the best person to ever live.

• Personality trait that you like and dislike:

Like: Integrity  
Dislike: Dishonesty

• One thing you wish you could be doing right now:

Laying on the beach.

• One thing that makes AUK stand out:

Its culture and spirit.

• If you were given 3 KD right now, what would you do with it?

Buy Pufak, KDD juice, and Kit-Kat.

• A person you look up to and why?

My dad because he really taught me how to be calm, and how to reason with people rather than come to conclusions. He is the perfect role model.



Omar Mehdi  
Senior Sports Coordinator





Mohammad Al Saleh  
Sports Coordinator

• Personality trait you like and dislike:

Like: Honesty  
Dislike: Dishonesty

• One thing you wish you could be doing right now:

I want to be overseas.

• One thing that makes AUK stand out:

The diversity of its students.

• If you were given 3 KD right now, what would you do with it?

Buy a combination of Red Bull, Instant Noodles, and a pack of Sweet Corn Chips.

• A person you look up to and why?

Emma Watson. She was academically successful, and is now greatly succeeding in her career.

• Personality trait you like and dislike:

Like: Commitment  
Dislike: Laziness

• One thing you wish you could be doing right now:

Hiking [mountains] in Colorado.

• One thing that makes AUK stand out:

Its students.

• If you were given 3 KD right now, what would you do with it?

Donate it to hurricane Irma disaster relief.

• A person you look up to and why?

My grandfather because he was always different; he always did the unexpected.



Razan Al Aghbar  
Student Employee



# PEACE BE UPON YOU

By Shahad AlMousa

**“L**ife is not fair, but thankfully life is a minuscule fraction when compared with existence, and existence is more than fair.”

With every ounce of acceptance, we mourn those whom we have lost. As we bury them deep and place them into the hands of a god bigger than anyone or anything on this earth, we shed tears. A tear for sadness, a tear for memories, and a few for days we will encounter without them.

She was an instrument of knowledge. Yes, she may have lived a short life, but this short time on earth was spent touching the hearts of children so pure and so beautiful. She was a friend, a colleague, a mother and a wife; most importantly she was a teacher, a mentor, and a giver. The career she chose was one where the generous act of giving had to be a passion.

Teachers. They give us knowledge, they give us something more valuable than anything tangible with no expectation of receiving anything in return. They settle with the satisfaction of knowing we, their students, have reached places and done things that were built over the knowledge they have given us. But only after they are gone do we realize how much they had to offer.

If you think about it, everything you know, from birth to this moment, is taught to you in any way, shape, or form.

Our personalities are fractionated off into the people we meet throughout our lives. Ultimately we're fractions of our teachers and their teachers.

As we grow from young children, to teenagers, to adults, we start to appreciate more and more those who inspire us, and from there we recognize those who paved our paths to success. It is they who made *it* possible. It is *they* who deserve more than just a “thank you.” *They*, our teachers. They, who set us free into a world where we must discover what to do with our knowledge, how to uncover more knowledge, and when to recover buried knowledge. It is they who taught us that with every new day, there is a new beginning. There is a fresh start where we can imprint into the lives of everyone we know a piece of us. With that we create our legacy, and it is us, living breathing proof of their own.

“Stand up in respect for your teacher, for a teacher’s status is almost as high as that of a messenger (prophet).” – Translated, Original by Ahmed Shawqi

As we all remove our hats, curtsy, or bow in *your* honor, know that no good deed is left unappreciated or unnoticed, and there is no better deed than to teach.

For my beloved teacher, RK, “and upon you be peace.”



# LOST ITEMS

By: Alexis Colbert - Dartmouth Intern

Books made me think that life is a straight line. Things fall into place without effort and a happy ending always comes down the road. Jokes told me that I was the punch line, my life a setup, and my dreams a hoax. Running is healthy in a physical sense, but the more I run from my past the closer it gets. Sometimes, it lies in front of me waiting for me to trip and fall into the future. A future that has been waiting all along, waiting to be edited like the thesis of my paper, only I haven't yet realized I am allowed to make a change. Organization has always been a friend of mine; containers, boxes, and closets too. If I could put organisms in boxes, I might just choose you.

There is a box under my bed that I have had for years. Sometimes I fail to remember a time without it. Whenever I move, and occasionally when I do not, I see the box tearing; some of the knock-off duck-tape is wearing and I can see the strings along its edges. It's impossible to carry, over the years I've only ever added things, and my friend asks why I "don't go through it and throw out what I don't need." I don't need any of it. I don't want it either. But, I'm moving right now and it would be too much of a hassle. I don't have the time.

So I pack the box a little heavier and reinforce the tape, never throwing a thing away. It moves with me, but not for me. I bring it, but do not select it. It's a dress I wear because my mom bought it, despite how hideous I believe that it is. When I reflect on myself, I end up going in circles, rediscovering what I had already been told. Somehow, even when warned, it takes years for the words to reach me, for my light bulb to flicker on. Unfortunately, life, has become neither long nor short, it remains irrevocably temporary. My breaths have been gifts, though they sometimes feel like burdens. My bones may be heavy but they will always be there. When they fade so will I and this is no sad fact. Perhaps my bones are brittle and crack with the weight shift, or stand like the foundation of a building.

Last week, I took out the box from beneath my bed full of knickknacks and reminders of moments I long to forget. Life is made of moments, the ones that I want, the ones I don't, together they compile the feeble soul that is mine. And to cast some aside is to break myself apart. Today, I peel back the tape and open the sides. I free lost moments, for they are all mine.



# EVEN ANIMALS FALL IN LOVE

BY OMAR AL-NAKIB

Please stop bringing up Freud's horse analogy,  
Because I don't know what you mean.  
that ego borrows sources as riders  
Use manpower to tame id  
is like telling me nothing.

I'm not something to be had,  
To have my kidneys spurred.  
Foam livestock in  
Your barnyard playpen.

You have to love me,  
Not nibble my lobes  
While your fourth  
Stomach whirrs cheese.

If you were to nakedly tell me  
I love you, maybe we'd transcend  
The human experience in earnest  
Even when my knees aren't 100%.



# YOU DONT SOUND LIKE YOU'RE MADLY IN LOVE WITH ME

BY OMAR AL-NAKIB

Another no,

And I'll make the little sound you make  
As you get whatever's chipped filled in.  
A blue note from a rusty trumpet  
For mothers deaf to middle children.

Let me let you laugh,  
Find me a yes in your mouth.  
Scratch until the hair grows back.

I can be to you just like how  
Mud can be good for you,

Like for your skin.



# من أكل لسان العرب؟

بقلم: فرح حموضة

فما الذي ينقذنا من بعد كل هذه الحروب؟ هل من منقذ؟  
إنني كثيراً ما أسأل، ولا ألقى من مجيب .

أريد أن أصحو وأريد أن أجد لساني العربي لكي أكمل  
هذه الجملة الضائعة، الضيقة، المتحطمة كحطام المباني  
في أوطاننا .

أريد أن أصحو وأصلح الواهن والهشيم. أريد أن أبني  
العزيمة في العربي المهزوم، الضعيف. انظر حولك أيها  
المقهور، هل ترى من مستقبل شريق؟

تحرّر من أغلاك! أوجد لسانك! قم لعزمك! اكبح لنفسك !

تحدّث بلغتك وحادثني بها لعلّي أجد لغتي أنا أيضاً،  
ولعلنا نبدأ نتكلّم !

صحت من النوم اليوم، فغسلت وجهي، ووجدت لساني  
في فمي، فأكلت فطوري. ثم أردت التحدّث مع أهلي  
وأصدقائي، فاخترت لساني! هل ضاع؟ هل سُرق؟ من  
سرق لغتي ولماذا؟ هل يُعقل أنّي نسيتها؟ ومن أنساني  
إياها؟

لغتي الثمينة، التي ضاعت منّي، ضاع مستقبلنا معها،  
فاستوردنا الأعجمية وبايعناها، وحملناها أعلى المراتب .

ويا ليتنا وقفنا إلى هذا المدى! الآن نحن نهزأ من الإنسان  
العربي. الآن، ما بقي له من شأن. ما له من حيلة. إنه  
يقعد ساكناً، هادئاً، أبكماً، أخرساً، صامتاً، من دون رأيٍ  
ينتقد فيه، من دون دفاع، يتربّط بطش سلطانه عليه. هذه  
أحوال الذي ينسى من يكون، وتخاذل مع المتغترسين  
ليرضي أهواء أناس استوطنوا أرضه، وحرّقوا بيته،  
ولاموا أخاه ليغتالوه هو أيضاً.



# Dear Curly Sue

I hope you are well! I'm in need of your prompt help. It's been over a month since university started and I still haven't found my clique. Aristotle says we're social beings and I don't know how to socialize without being an outcast! What should I do?

Yours forever,  
Desperately Lonely

Dear Desperately Lonely,

Kiddo—compose yourself. We all get lonely sometimes and we all get desperate sometimes, and when we get desperately lonely, it's common courtesy not to announce it. You're embarrassing yourself. Unless, of course, you're confusing loneliness with boredom again. If so, you gotta ask yourself, am I *just* desperately bored? Perhaps the answer isn't "yes." Perhaps you are one of those wretched souls who are just terminally lonely. In any case, go rumba dancing with your loneliness. That's what I did after the divorce. Trust me! It doesn't work. But it does sound poetic.

What actually may work for you is this: consume yourself in the fantasy of the lonely and misunderstood soul, and shut down every tinge of reality. Live in a universe where you're your own antagonist, and everyone else's protagonist. Believe in this narrative and embrace the pariah identity. Reject any storylines that won't benefit your existing oxymoronic life. Be... complicated and wear only grey hoodies. You will gently but undoubtedly become the enigma everyone wants to unravel. This way, my dearest Desperately Lonely, you will hit two birds (four birds?) with one stone: you will have something to occupy yourself with and cure your boredom, you will receive the anticipated attention, you will spare others from painful interactions with you (kindness is a virtue), and you won't have enough time to think about how desperately lonely you are anymore.

P.S. If you need instant gratification, I suggest less Aristotle and more Adriana Grande. Kids won't relate to turgid waffle.

P.P.S. Ariana. Not Adriana. Adriana will get you nowhere.

I Love You!  
Curly Sue





ILLUSTRATION BY  
OMAR F. ABDULLAH



# REMEMBERING THE LEGACY OF ABDULHUSSAIN ABDULREDHA

By Farah Hamoudah

**T**he Father of Comedy, Abdulhussain Abdulredha, passed away on the 11th of August, after going into a coma, in a hospital in London.

When the time came for his burial, thousands of mourners gathered at his funeral to grieve over him and say their final farewells. His passing didn't only shake those in Kuwait, the entire Arab nation was mourning his loss that day.

I am still going through the motions, he is gone, but reminiscence of his bold, witty humor is still everywhere to be found! Every day since his passing, I find myself delving into conversations with my friends and family that end with at least one mentioning of his iconic or controversial roles. Every day, on the way to campus, I pass by the theatre he founded in Salmiya, near the roundabout by gate 5. And every day I am reminded of the legend this nation lost a couple of months ago.

Abdulhussain Abdulredha produced, directed, wrote, and played works of art that are still pertinent today. His exceptional, comedic vantage point helped the Arab audiences grasp complex and contentious subjects that were seldom spoken about in media, such as corrupt tyranny and kleptocracy. Not only did he make us laugh at issues we once deemed to be too "sensitive" or "precarious," but he also involved us in his narrations. In a way, he made it easier, for me at least, to be an Arab.

In Ramadan, my family and I would watch him tell the hilarious tale of a confused millionaire in *Abu Al-Malyeen* and another social commentary titled *Al-Afoor*. He was an essential part of every TV-loving Arab family during the holy month. And every Eid, Arabic TV channels would be blasting with his famous play *Bye Bye London*.

London, to most Kuwaitis, is more than a city or a landmark. It is second to home. The day after his passing, most Kuwaiti newspapers were quick to link his most charismatic role in *Bye Bye London* to the painful irony of losing him in the city of London. To me, the connection these newspapers made was sorely sinister to the point that I almost didn't want to watch that play anymore. As long as this prevalent thought that all great Arab artists are destined to die in the "swinging city" lives on, London will never really feel quite like home again. But I know that if he was still here with us, he'd snicker at the mundane, foreseeable association the Kuwaiti newspapers have made.

Abdulredha, amongst other notable Kuwaiti actors and artists, encouraged the Kuwaiti community to appreciate all forms of art and showed, by example, that there is still a lot of potential to be harvested in these fields. The comedy icon, the meticulous playwright, and the professional actor has inspired many, including me, to work hard for what we believe in and to find humor and peace in what looks on the surface to be unsalvageable, all through an archive of work that will continue to stand the test of time.



# THE SPECTACULAR 60'S

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SOUNDS & FILMS OF THE SIXTIES...WHO CARES?

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**I**n our September issue, one seemingly incongruent (some dared to say unnecessary) spread was published: The music and film lists. Many find these types of lists to be pleasant and enriching, and many take offence at the ostensible imposition of the author's taste on them. But the true winners are those who couldn't care less. Cheers to you!

The theme of the previous spread was the "Fabulous 50s." Why the 50s? This decade has the inexplicable ability to elicit a curious sentimentality over things we never experienced from us; a queer nostalgia for a time we never had. Perhaps that's a thought that can be applied to various other things and times. Or, perhaps it's this generation that's innately nostalgic. Whatever the answer might be, it's safe to say that the zeitgeist of the 50s persists in our false memories. We long for the A-line polka dots skirts, the jitterbug dances, the polio outbreak, and of course, the time of wonderful Capitalism. But predominantly, we long for Elvis and Monroe. So, to the vexed souls, why not the 50s?

For the skeptics and the existentialists, this spread is neither a fluff nor an apparatus to foist our opinions upon the readers. It is an introduction of songs and films that you may not have heard or watched yet; an incredibly succinct pop history. These spreads will continue to introduce ten song and films from every year in every decade starting from the 50s.

For this issue, we present to you "Sounds and Films from the Spectacular 60s!" The 60s were a time of incessant political riots, the assassinations of Kennedy and King, the development of the polio vaccine, the historical marking of the first moon landing, and the unintentional monopolization of the US Single Charts by The Beatles. So, to answer your question frankly, no one cares.

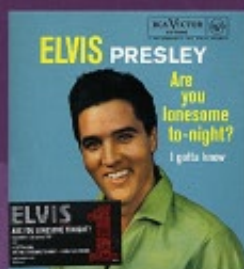


# THE SPECTACULAR 60'S

## MUSIC EDITION

**1960**

ELVIS PRESLEY-  
ARE YOU LOESOME  
TONIGHT?



**1961**

DION-  
RUNAROUND SUE



**1962**

FRANKIE VALLI &  
THE 4 SEASONS-  
SHERRY



**1963**

THE RONETTES-  
BE MY BABY



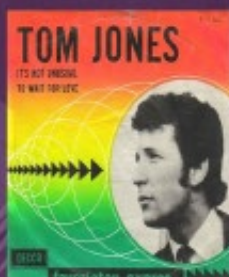
**1964**

SIMON & GARFUNKEL-  
BLEECKER STREET



**1965**

TOM JONES-  
IT'S NOT UNUSUAL



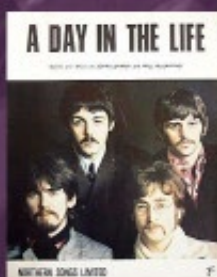
**1966**

THE BEATLES-  
FOR NO ONE



**1967**

THE BEATLES-  
A DAY IN THE LIFE



**1968**

THE FOUNDATIONS-  
BUILD ME UP  
BUTTERCUP



**1969**

JOHNNY CASH-  
A BOY NAMED SUE





# THE SPECTACULAR 60'S

## FILM EDITION

**1960**

THE APARTMENT



**1961**

YOJIMBO



**1962**

WHAT EVER HAPPEND  
TO BABY JANE?



**1963**

ITS A MAD, MAD, MAD  
WORLD



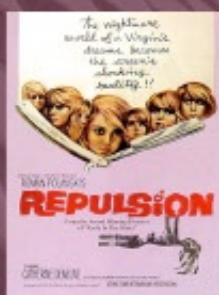
**1964**

KWAIDAN



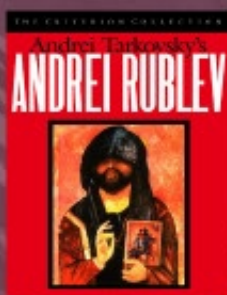
**1965**

REPULSION



**1966**

ANDREI  
RUBLEV



**1967**

BONNIE AND  
CLYDE



**1968**

ROSEMARY'S  
BABY



**1969**

TAKE THE  
MONEY HOME





# ARE YOU A FOLLOWER, A LEADER, OR THE MIDDLEMAN/WOMEN?

- |                                                       |                                 |                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. On campus, we would likely find you chilling at... | 2. You are more of an... person | 3. You read the news on... |
| A. Starbucks                                          | A. iPhone                       | A. Instagram               |
| B. The Diner                                          | B. Android                      | B. News websites           |
| C. Neither                                            | C. Neither                      | C. Newspapers              |
| 4. New coffee shop in town...                         | 5. New trend in town...         |                            |
| A. Snap about it                                      | A. Follow it                    |                            |
| B. Don't know about it                                | B. Ignore it                    |                            |
| C. Try it once it loses the attraction                | C. Criticize it                 |                            |

## If you got...

### More A's, you are a follower!

You are a person who finds comfort in watching other people set the rules for you. This allows you the space to develop your character and career without having to worry about wasting valuable time. This, in result, gives you more time to invest energy doing other stuff like waiting to follow the next trend!

### More B's, you are a leader!

Just like many powerful and influential leaders, you are either idolized or completely ignored by the people around you. In both cases, you are a person who finds comfort in making other people seem bland. This makes it easier for you to achieve your goals faster. Be super careful of falling face first!

### More C's, you are the middleman/-women!

You are also known as "oldschool." You enjoy being involved from afar and feel most superior when you enjoy the perks of a trend after it has died down. You need to acknowledge that some people might dislike you because you are different, and some might like you for the same exact reason. What to do? I'm sorry, but I simply don't know.



# H O R O S C O P E S

## Aries

March 21st-April 19th

You've gotten way too many people involved in your personal affairs. Grow up and figure your problems out. Or don't, it really won't change a lot.

## Taurus

April 20th-May 20th

A surprising destiny is awaiting you. Whether it's good or bad is yet to be determined. Don't Freak Out.

## Gemini

May 21st-June 20th

Being a social butterfly is never a bad idea but try not to share every single detail about your life with everyone. It's creepy and weird.

## Cancer

June 21st-July 22nd

I'm so sorry; there is nothing we can do. Spend time with family, get your affairs in order. I'm so very sorry.

## Leo

July 23rd-August 22nd

You are a sweetheart. Stay as you are. If it gets boring, maybe try getting a new haircut.

## Virgo

August 23rd-September 22nd

Something interesting is bound to happen to you. Just not now. Not in a year either. All you can do is sit and patiently wait it out.

## Libra

September 23rd-October 22nd

You are way too skeptical for your own good. Have some faith in people and maybe then you will be able to make friends.

## Scorpio

October 23rd-November 21st

Stop taking yourself way too seriously. Stop holding grudges against people. Stop wearing black 24/7.

## Sagittarius

November 22nd-December 21st

The stress you have been under in the past few months is coming to an end. Now get ready for an eternity of relaxation and repose. Good luck with this semester!

## Capricorn

December 22nd-January 19th

Stop focusing on your love life; it's not going to evolve anytime soon.

## Aquarius

January 20th-February 18th

Good luck has been and will remain your best friend for a good amount of time. Be grateful. Be humble. Sit down.

## Pisces

February 19th-March 20th

Learn how to get what you want without losing every single human being that ever decided to come into your life.





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