

AUK STUDENT MAGAZINE

VOICE

AUK

Fall 2019



Editor's Note

Welcome back Wolfpack and welcome aboard, freshmen!

As we have moved past midterms, you may now have been familiarized with the campus' facilities and club activities. We would like to offer our issue as a guide to what the campus has to offer in both its students and academics. The Voice acts as a medium of interaction between the students and the AUK community, as a whole. It is meant to keep the community up-to-date with major activities that take place in the University, as well as bring its awareness to some of the worldly issues currently ongoing. The Voice also sets the stage for students to express and to share their creativity with the rest of the AUK community. With that being said, I would like to illustrate a Code of Ethics that our team has constructed.

In every issue The Voice publishes, the team will strive to make the content:

1. Beneficial; offering content that is beneficial to the AUK community,
2. Real; a true and realistic reflection on the expression of the AUK community and society, and
3. Open; provide an open space for the AUK community to express themselves and interact, under the regulations of AUK, through The Voice.

We hope this issue provides a good impression on what The Voice is set to do.

We are pleased to act as The Voice of AUK!

Best regards,

Rafah Al-Shohaty

Editor-in-Chief

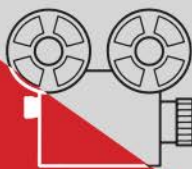
Meet The Team



Hala Botros

Advisor

Hala has been a member of AUK community since 2007 as a Communications and Media student, graduate, Class of 2011 alumna, and Writing Center staff since 2013. Today she advises the AUK VOICE through its exciting journey in AY 2019-2020. She enjoys writing, reading, and most of all, teaching students about writing (and languages). She can sit for hours having a good read with a cup of hot Earl-Grey tea in hand. Excited to join the AUK VOICE this year, she invites all students to VOICE their thoughts, opinions, and share their AUK experience through the pages of this magazine.



Yasmin Ibrahim

Reporter

Yasmin is a Mass Media and Communications major. Her obsession for visual media has grown through the years with movies and photography. She believes one day, maybe one day, she can direct a movie of her own.



Rafah Al-Shohaty

Editor-in-Chief

Rafah is a third-year student at AUK; she is majoring in Social and Behavioral Science and minoring in English. Rafah has been the Editor-in-Chief for The Voice since Spring 2019. Writing and journaling has always been one of her favorite hobbies, and being a part of The Voice enables her to express that professionally.



Hager Alazab

Co-Editor

Hager is a senior media major who also recently decided to pursue a minor in history. She is also learning to play the piano even though she isn't very good at it and she is also a big fan of 3 hour naps. She writes in 2 languages; English and Satire and maybe she will combine them and write a book in the future. She is still not sure.



Dania Ghassan

Graphic Designer

Dania is a senior graphic design student. Ever since, she was a little girl she loved to watch Art Attack, from that day on design became her passion and dream career. Her hobbies include swimming and drawing. She is more than happy to design the AUK Voice Magazine, aspiring to bring her dream career to life.



October Issue





Photography by Rafah AlShohaty

AUK

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The image features a large, stylized mural of a tiger's face on a building's exterior wall. The mural is composed of bold, dark blue and black outlines on a light beige background, giving it a graphic, almost stencil-like appearance. The tiger's eyes are particularly prominent, looking directly forward. A large, diagonal, semi-transparent glass panel overlays the left side of the image, creating a sense of depth and modern architecture. In the bottom left corner, there is a cluster of green, leafy plants, possibly a shrub or small tree, adding a natural element to the urban scene. The overall composition is a blend of nature, art, and modern architecture.

AUK



Photography by Anas Rasheed

Guide To **AUK** **Facilities**



Ever since its inception in 2004, AUK has housed many facilities to allow its students maximum comfort and to make the university a healthy, well equipped environment for all of its family. From spaces devoted to helping students enhance their learning experience to a new refined lounge for you to mingle, chat, study or play a wide variety of games, whatever you need, AUK has the answer for you and it's about time you learned where you can go for any kind of help.

The Counseling Center

Located on the 2 nd floor of the Student Center, the counseling center offers help to those struggling with mental health problems or having problems keeping their mental health, personal lives and education intact. With an array of trained, welcoming staff, the Counseling Center is open from 8 am to 4 pm everyday. If you are struggling with your mental health or need to talk about a potential problem that can have negative effects on your mental health and emotions, don't hesitate to book your appointment through the AUK website and get in touch with one of the counselors as soon as possible

The Advising Center

Also located on the 3 rd floor of the Student Center is the Advising Center. The Advising Center offers help with anything related to registration for undergrads as well as advice pertaining to choice of classes for each individual student. The Advising Center also offers a variety of forms regarding your major for you to fill in and go along with any process that you are seeking.

The Writing and Tutoring Centers

The sister centers on the 3 rd floor of the Student Center are there to help you with your classes and assignments. With trained students and staff in both centers, the Writing and Tutoring Centers offer you the chance to understand your classes and your assignments more. The Tutoring Center offers assistance in subject content, in any course at AUK, from Math and Physics to Communications & Media and Graphic Design. As for the Writing Center, the help offered is mostly concentrated on writing, where peer-consultants and staff can help you realize your potential as a writer and provide a sounding board for your ideas. You can go online and book your appointment for either of the centers from TutorTrac and visit them anytime from 9 am to 5 pm.



ATHLETIC SEASON

**KICK-
OFF**

By: Lara Jadayel

The Athletics Season Kick-off did exactly what its name promised it would do: it launched the season the AUK community was excited to begin. The night began with MC, Shokry Garada, succinctly walking us through last year's sport season.

Despite the losses, the wins reminded the AUK community of what was most important: the fight. Garada then presented the MVP, Most Improved, and Rising Star awards to athletes who gave their hearts and souls during last year's season. The night then brought Futsal, Basketball, Volleyball, and Football athletes onto their feet, cheering for their newly formed teams.

The Wall-of Fame segment honored Mohammad Ali, an AUK alumnus whose athletic abilities earned him loud cheers and praises by the current AUK community. The new athletic gear was then modeled, which excited athletes who saw the uniforms they would wear to represent themselves, the sport they played, and AUK.

Garada ended the night by recording a video of him yelling in Arabic, a trademark of his, "Are you ready?" The audience then responded, in Arabic, "Yes we are!" No night at AUK ends without a great food buffet; athletes were seen eating, socializing and having a good time. Athletes left the AUK Athletics Season Kick-off excited to begin the season and with a goody bag!

Our Experience in the

NASA SPACE APPS CHALLENGE KUWAIT

By Anas El-Ghabra and Reham Kablaoui

Innovation is a key in the engineering industry; as without it, further technology developments will be impossible. For the second year, we came back again to the NASA Space Apps Challenge, which is a programming marathon, also commonly known as a hackathon. The NASA Space Apps Challenge allows people of different degrees, ages, and specialization to form a team and provide solutions or technologies to address the challenge within the theme of earth and space.

Each team consists of a team leader, who usually has a good background in programming, some programmers, a graphic designer, a business expert, and a high schooler. The competition usually provides people with a comfortable space to work in for two days to develop their solution. The participants are to present their solution in only 5 minutes. On Thursday the 17th of October, the AUK auditorium was filled with many people of great minds: undergraduate students, alumnus, faculty, and even high schoolers.

Each team leader went up on stage and introduced themselves and the problem they would like to solve. By this night, all teams were formed, and we started shooting for the moon. At 8:00 am on Friday the 18th of October, we all met in Marina Hotel. Brainstorming, dividing the work, and eating was what we did in the first couple of hours. Our team decided to tackle the problem, "Eeny, Meeny, Miney, Sample," where the challenge is to return valuable rocks from the moon. By the end, we had a mobile application that lists the valuable rocks found by an astronaut on the moon.

and we had a robot that follows the astronaut; the robot had an image processing camera on it that decided whether the rock is valuable or not, then send the information to the mobile application. As a team we worked in collaboration by dividing some programmers to do the software part, while others worked on the hardware. During the afternoon, mentors started to arrive; those included professors from AUK and other experts.

That day went on for so long: we faced many problems, we laughed a lot, and we stressed a lot. We burned so many hardware devices, we had to rush to stores and get new ones, which was why considering a hardware device in our project was a very risky approach. As a team, we took the risk and were able to achieve the best. Despite all that, we can never deny the fun times we had and the experiences we gained. By the end of the day, at 11:00pm, the room was filled with many stressful and tired people and that was when we had to go back and work from our homes. On Saturday the 19th of October, we met again at 8:00am where we had to finish all our work by 4:00pm. Then prepare for our presentations that were held at 6:00pm. Time moved so fast; as for every second the clock ticked, the stress level increased. We were almost done with working on the software and hardware by 2:30pm of that day, when we started to take videos for our demonstrations.

As a team, we decided to give a chance to the high schooler to present our project, where she did an excellent job on that. Being the team leader, Anas El-Ghabra only presented the demo part in the presentation and helped in answering the questions. As the only undergraduate team leader, Anas El-Ghabra mentioned to the team, "I learned to take the risk and find backup solutions incase any problem arises. Also, I realized something that is very important: if you give people the freedom to do anything, they will amaze you. As a team, we had a lot of fun and most importantly we became a family. I believe that if any of us were missing, we would not have had the same output."

As a programmer, Reham Kablaoui said to the team, "the two days were very stressful, yet they were more than amazing. You get to forget about your own life, stress, and studies and live in a place far away from anything. Our stress and concerns became shared with people who you may or may not know. We laughed a lot and created so many beautiful memories."

By late evening of that night, the organizer stated the winners. He said that there are only two winning teams from a total of 12 teams, but since there were three teams who had exactly the same score and ranked as the second place, they announced the top 4 winning teams. From the three teams who ranked in the second place, only one team was chosen to be qualified. Our team was able to hold the name of being in the top 4 list. We were extremely proud of what we have done, since we were the only team that consisted of all undergraduate students.

We are extremely happy that we got the chance to participate in the NASA Space Apps Challenge 2019 and we hope that soon we will be shooting for the moon and knowing what our friend is made of.

NASA Challenge Is My Last

By: Asmaa Lulu

It wasn't my fault. I love challenges; but sometimes, you need to know when enough is enough. You might be wondering, "What happened?" Let's go back to the start, shall we. Spring 2019 was a very unlucky semester, in my case. Because of that, I knew I had to participate in another challenge to bring back my luck. Yes, this is my theory: challenges bring me luck, but only if I lost in them.

I haven't tried experimenting with the reverse side of the theory, but that is not my point. If I have a challenge coming up, followed by an exam, I must participate in the challenge to ace the exam. This is a very valid theory that has been tested quite a few times before, by the one and only, me, and has always been successful. Fast forward to Fall 2019: I started my semester with a flu. That was unlucky to begin with.

It meant I was going to have a very awful semester. I had to fix that, really fast. I looked for any and every challenge available any time soon. At first, I found only local challenges. But, from my experience, local challenges have

short luck impact. So, I had to dig deeper. Finally, I found the NASA Space Apps Challenge. NASA Space Apps is an international challenge. This meant it must be a huge luck-bringer. I went to the informative session they held for participants, and I

have to say, I was impressed. The dean of College Engineering & Applied Sciences is simply an inspiration to the students. He did many spectacular activities in a very short time, which kept me dazzled the whole session. Many professors, instructors, alumni, and students have attended the event and showed serious interest in joining the challenge.

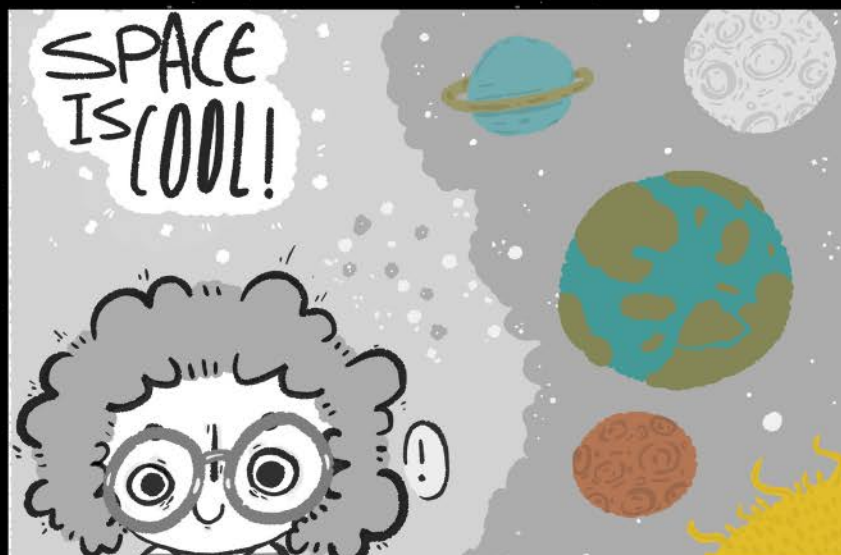
This only made me want to participate in it more; since another theory of mine states that the more people joining a challenge, the luckier days I will have. Thursday. In no time it was Thursday. Which also meant the first day of the challenge. The challenge was a duration of three days: one day to form the teams and a two-day competition. Now, I was standing in the middle of the auditorium, looking for a team to lose with. I had to lose;

I had to lose; it wasn't an option. Yes, I feel bad for my team members, but they cannot know this, otherwise they won't accept me in their team. I picked a team and left quickly to avoid any interaction. Friday was a shock. I went to Marina Hotel, where the competition was located. I joined my team at the table, where they were eating breakfast. No. I don't do breakfasts. I opened my laptop and started working on an application.

Once I decided to have a break, it was afternoon. I looked up at the team. They were eating. Again. I started to wonder what their intentions were when they decided to join the competition. Later, I left and decided to come in the morning the following day. It was the results day. I wasn't nervous. I knew I came to lose, which wasn't a hard thing to accomplish. I heard that my team members didn't sleep last night one bit and kept working on the project.

I felt bad for them, but life is hard. We had a few hours to work on before we had to stop and many professors passed by to assist us with our project. Results hour was up now. The team I was in did a very good job with the project. This made me nervous. It meant there was a possibility of us winning. I kept silent the whole time waiting for the results. This only meant one thing.

Last semester, I participated in the GE Technology Challenge. I ranked third place and I got an A- in one of my courses. That was horrible. So, in order to avoid that from repeating this semester, I have to quit challenges. As a result, NASA Space Apps Challenge is my last. For now.



Designed by: Mariam Al-Khudur

Top 2 Winning Teams



1st Place Team #5: Ali Kelawi, Shahad AlMousa, Abdulwahab Al-Saleh, Abdulhameed Salama, Abdulaziz Karam, Zeid Malas, Jiyoung Moon



2nd Place Team #1: Omar Khalil, Abdullah Soliman, Mohammed Hashem, Noureldin Khalil, Hejin Hong, Donia Mohammed, Maryam Iqbal

Other Participating Teams



Interview with Yasmin Ibrahim



- What is your major?

My major is COMM

- You are graduating this year, what's the plan?

I am planning on hopefully working in filming or advertising. Perhaps in Dubai if I get the chance.

- Do you enjoy writing?

Yes, I love writing. I've always loved writing but once I'd starting learning about journalism and the strict guidelines placed on them, I'd decided journalism wasn't for me and I abandoned that part of my major. However, taking a creative writing class with Professor Craig reminded me of how much I love to write opinionated pieces, where you can work on a theme or topic but be as expressive as you want.

- What's the one thing that scares you about graduating?

I am not sure where the future will take me. I honestly don't know where I want to go or what I want to do, but I'm worried I won't be able to do what I've been dreaming about for years. But I'm sure there's a beauty to the unexpected ways of life so I try to make myself less scared.

- **What are your expectations of the event you are going to next week?**

I'm sure it will be just as fantastical as Cannes was, maybe even more. Not many people can say they've been to Google and, though it is nice to brag, I care more about learning from such a branch. Networking is such an important aspect to our field and getting to know people who work in such companies is a great benefit and helps provide experience. I'm also excited to see my friends from Cannes as I've missed them. Each person was from a different country and it was the most fun, diverse group I've ever met.

- **Do you want to publish a book and if so what would you call it?**

I don't believe I would ever publish a book if I'm honest. Advertising and visual media is my passion and that's the career path I want. If I were to ever write a book it would be out of fun and just for laughs, almost like a diary. I would probably call it, "Donkey, Get Out Me Swamp".

- **What advice would you give to students who are considering Comm as their major?**

Go for it. You will never know where life will take you. Be flexible, keep an open mind and learn how to communicate with people and understand their wants and needs without them requesting it. There is no shame if you are unsure and want to try it out as a major. Who knows? You might end up being a famous director or a respected journalist later on. All it takes is a class or two to help you set your mind on what you want to do for the future.

- **Do you think being a Comm. Major is good at the moment?**

I think being a COMM major has its definite perks but we are still missing out on a lot of practical aspects to our major. With that being said, I believe our major needs drastic improvements before it can be considered "good".

- **Tell me more about the Cannes program you went to?**

It's a media festival hosted every summer and is made to bring all great, successful media companies together and to learn new things and award those who've done outstanding work. There are many academies there in Cannes Lions where the purpose is to train COMM students into becoming better people in their field. The academy I went to was called Roger Hatchuel Academy. We spent 5 days there learning about the ways of large franchises such as Burger King, Google, Nike, etc. and they would tell us about the challenges they faced and the troubles that can be unexpected to a fresh, inexperienced graduate in their field. I was taught a great lesson there about how far my assumptions were to their reality.

World

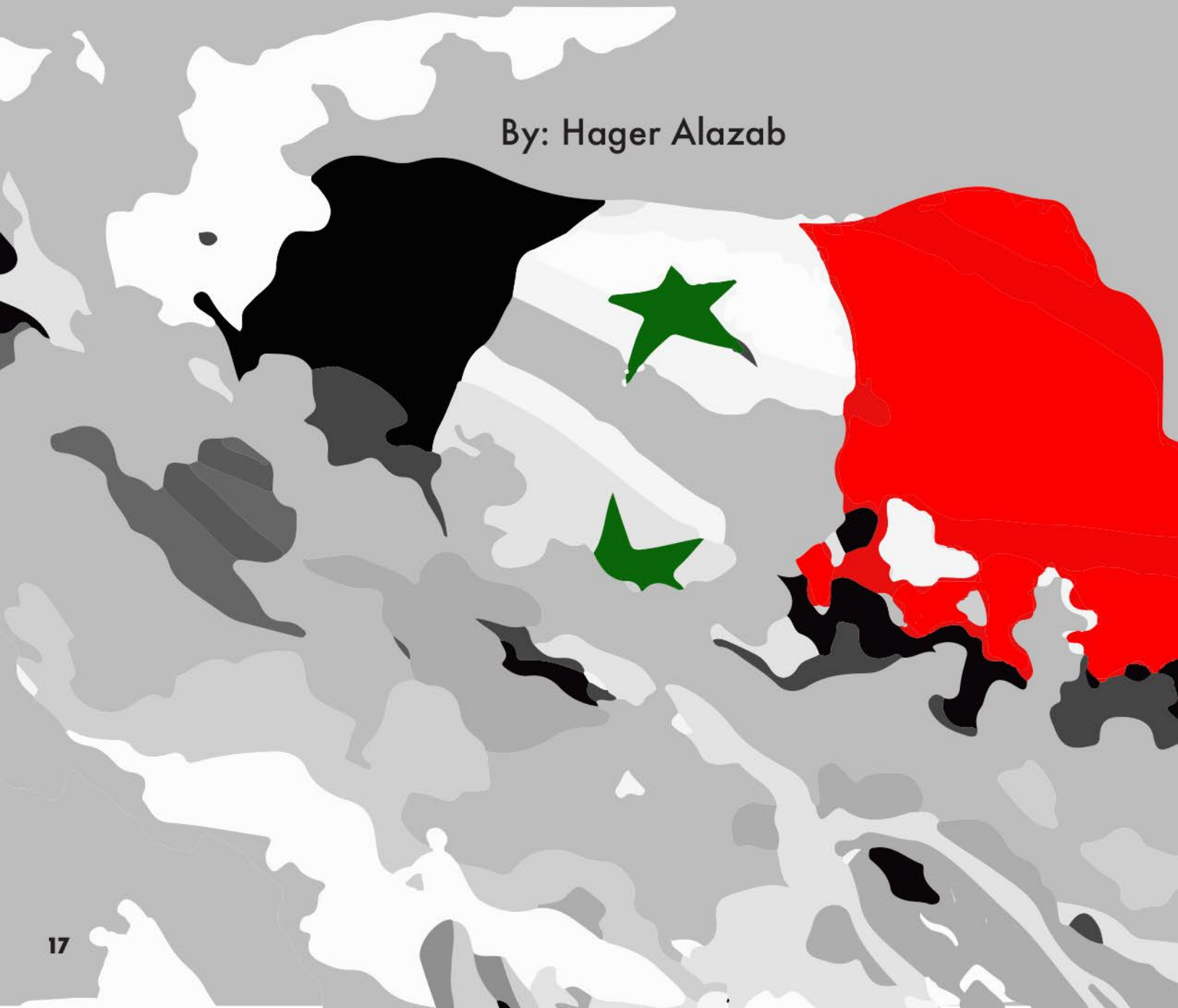




Photography by Retaj Ashkanani

Syria Vs. World

By: Hager Alazab



The past couple of weeks have been highlighted by the turmoil happening in Syria. Actually, scratch that, and let me rephrase it.

The past couple of years have been highlighted by the turmoil happening in Syria. And the problem doesn't end at the turmoil within Syria, it has expanded into an international crisis over the years to the extent that international superpowers are heavily involved both militarily and financially in the country, and war is not so much baffling as it is commonplace.

The USA, Russia, Turkey and Iran are all present in Syria to help stabilize the region—or divide it further. Your pick really. However, over the past few weeks, the threat of a war within a war has become very tangible. And it is all because of the decisions on one man with possession of “great and unmatched wisdom.” In other words, Donald Trump, although I am not very sure those are the words I would use to describe him. It all started on the 6th of October when Trump decided to make the wise announcement to pull his troops out of northern Syria, to get the USA out of the endless wars they are involved in.

Keep in mind that the USA has had its armies fighting alongside the Syrian Democratic Forces SDF, a rebel group fighting against Bashaar Alassad Administration (AKA, the Baathist Syrian Arab Republic), as well as the Islamic State in Syria and Levant ISIL. The SDF is a group mainly consisting of Kurds, a minority ethnic group with the majority residing in Syria and facing constant persecution by Syrians as well as other regional forces..

Now enter Turkey and its leader, Recep Tayyip Erdogan. He has been pinning for the Kurds for 3 years now, considering their past in Turkey and how they faced persecution there as well. However, because the Kurds were US allies, Turkey has stayed away and left them alone so he could get on Trump's good side. But now that Trump pulled his troops out and the Kurds are in a vulnerable position, Turkey has its first golden opportunity in years. And she took it. Within the course of a week, Turkey has launched 3 attacks in areas like Tal Abyad and Ras al-Ain in northern Syria in order to free up more space for the Syrian refugees currently residing in Turkey to move back. His words not mine.

Now Kurds and Syrian civilians are living in a real life near death experience while the world merely “condemns” Turkey’s actions without taking any serious steps in stopping the attacks; well, unless you consider economic sanctions inspired by Trump’s fierce declarations on Twitter serious steps.

After backlash from the American public regarding Trump’s decision, Trump has taken it upon himself to write his own tweets threatening Turkey as he promised to “destroy” their economy if they launch offensives against the Kurds. The USA did, in fact, impose sanctions on Turkey after the attacks on Syria, however, the Turkish president couldn’t care less and made it very clear that he will continue fighting.

Trump has also been using a nationalistic point of view to justify his actions as he claims not to see a point in dragging Americans into useless Middle Eastern wars and he wants the Kurds to figure their own problems out. Now, all this talk might seem great if it was actually genuine and supported by real life evidence. The truth is that as Trump pulled his troops out of Syria to get out of the “endless wars,” the Pentagon simultaneously deployed 3000 troops in Saudi Arabia to further its protection against Iran. Crazy, right? Seems like Trump doesn’t really care about bringing the troops home at all.

At the moment, nothing is looking up for Syria. From the attacks against Turkey that Erdogan is insistent on continuing to the renewed threat against radical Muslim terrorist groups, Syria can’t seem to catch a break. The country is diving head first into a pit of instability with everyday that goes by and no interference. The question being asked here is: to what extent are the international aid organizations as well as powerful countries willing to let the situation escalate in Syria before they decide to interfere?

When has human life become so inconsequential and when will the Syrians be able to breathe clear, non-smoke filled air once again?



@Refugee Council 2019



@Slate



@CNN



The Hong Kong Protests: A Secret Interview

By: Yasmin Ibrahim

Amidst the chaotic events taking place in Hong Kong, a concerned individual posted a news article on their Instagram story. It had a picture of Hong Kong protestors in conflict with policemen, with her caption under it, “please read before you make any judgements.”

Reading article after article, my interest in this troubled situation increased. I knew, however, that no matter how many articles I read, it will never compare to hearing directly from someone constantly on the scene. Though she refused to provide commentary on the issue earlier, I was finally able to convince her to change her mind under one condition; she remains anonymous. Before we get into this interview, let's break down what's going on.

Hong Kong is considered to be a part of China. However, it follows a “one country, two systems” policy, where China has almost no control over the region. Citizens of Hong Kong follow a separate set of laws and have different political views than Chinese citizens do. Therefore, many people were enraged when an extradition law was going to be passed. Without this extradition law, wanted citizens are safe from being handed over to other countries for trial. Now this may seem like a foreign concept to you, but it isn't as confusing as you think. Regardless of where you may commit a crime, you should be arrested or trialed in your own country. This is the current situation in Hong Kong.

However, the extradition law majorly changes this policy. Instead of being put on trial in your own country, the country in which you've committed the crime would take full control over you. So, why did Hong Kong consider allowing the extradition law? Simply put, this is exactly what happened earlier this year. A Hong Kong citizen was said to have murdered his girlfriend in Taiwan, later escaping back home. When the Taiwanese government wanted custody over him, they were rejected due to the fact that their law forbids such a thing. Hence, the request to passing the extradition law. It may seem as if this isn't such a big deal. But it makes a dramatic change to Hong Kong's citizens. The concern wasn't about the extradition laws being given to Taiwan, it was the idea that extradition laws are general, meaning a door would be open for “mainland” China to take control. The line here could get very blurry, and it is a common belief that political activists and similar individuals would be identified as “criminals” and asked to be handed to China for trial. To many people, this meant the deprivation of democratic rights and freedom given to them in HK, as it is a much more free-flowing region than China. Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of Hong Kong, was accused of being China's “puppet”, since she's aware of China's unjust system of ruling yet “has the audacity” to consider such a thing. After pressure from countless protests, she decided to indefinitely suspend it, but by that time, it was too little, too late.



Protests grew more violent and the problems shifted from anti-extradition laws to anti-government/anti-Carrie Lam. They offered the government a straightforward solution; make Carrie Lam resign, the streets would be empty in the next few days.

Other problems had been increasing in HK for a while when I saw the Instagram post. Heated arguments and tensions between citizens and police to the point of physical aggression was what went on for a while. The situation had gotten so dangerous, my anonymous interviewee felt as if her every move was being watched. Though she still tried her best to hold back from being too expressive, I had managed to receive the most important information from her.

“The protests have been held since March. In my point of view, the law is the main cause but not why they take action.” It is believed that the biggest reason is that Hong Kong’s government has been controlled secretly by China for a long time and the extradition law is the people’s last straw. They simply couldn’t take any more. “In 2014, they went on strike to propose a fair and open electoral system, called” Umbrella Revolution”, but it came to an end with no results. Five years later, another protest raised global attention. These are the obvious examples of liberty not being well-implemented.” Most people support protesters, and so does she. Human rights are a major reason why many chose to support protestors.

“Videos shown by foreign media channels show policemen being violent for no reason whatsoever.” Needing to see everything through foreign media is quite upsetting to most as well. It seems as if China put such strict rules on the media to avoid the public’s encouragement. “There are a lot of researches about Chinese media and the results are disappointing. Most of the media in China is strictly controlled by the government, so the media views are all the same in the entire country.” That’s understandable, but why, in a democratic country like HK would she feel unsafe? “The situation is a bit ridiculous, isn’t it? I’m in a democratic country, but I’m afraid of an interview. Well, it’s fine to talk about it here, but I might not be able to travel to China in the future.

Within these years, a few people who advocate freedom vanished in China and Hong Kong, and the most famous case is “Causeway Bay Books disappearances”. Some workers in the bookstore disappeared one by one and was found detained by the Chinese government.” With all this being said, once must not forget that some of the feelings of unpleasantness and danger are caused by the protestors, “although I support the protesters, have to say that there are still some people being too radical. But most of the protesters are respectful.” It is safe to say, then, that understanding the situation of Hong Kong is much more complicated than choosing which side you are on, and more about how can you help the country you call home.





The distressful period in Hong Kong is affecting citizens more by the heightened rate of suicide and desperation amongst them. With that being said, who do you believe deserves the support? And who doesn't?



@Egypt Today



@Business Insider





Photography by Anas Rasheed

A photograph of a modern building with a palm tree and people walking, overlaid with a semi-transparent geometric shape containing the word 'Lifestyle'. The building is a light-colored, multi-story structure with a flat roof and large windows. A palm tree stands in front of the building. Several people are walking on a path in front of the building. A man in a dark jacket and sunglasses is standing on the right side of the image. The sky is blue with white clouds. The word 'Lifestyle' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

Lifestyle



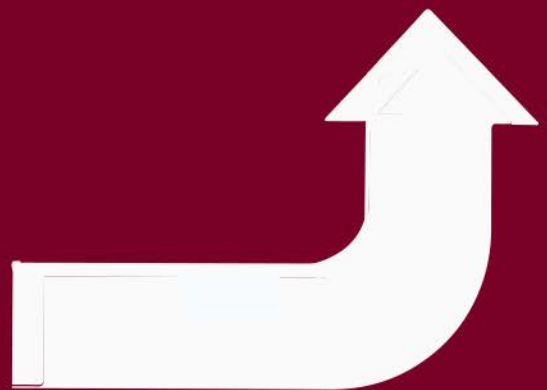
Stepping stones

By: Yasmin Ibrahim



The most commonly asked questions by university students are: “What now?” and “Is this really what I want?” From high school, you are taught that university is the most important transitional period of your life, helping to push you into the real world where countless professions await. Though you’re aware of this, it only hits you once you walk in through those gates. Before then, everything was spoon-fed to you: what you should study, how to study, what to think, what’s right and wrong. You even had to ask permission to go to the bathroom. So, it is no surprise that many students find themselves unable to adapt to this new environment. The level of responsibility and sudden shift to adulthood can be a slap in the face. Added to that, there’s the pressure of choosing a life-long career based on something you like.

So, it is no surprise that many students find themselves unable to adapt to this new environment. The level of responsibility and sudden shift to adulthood can be a slap in the face. Added to that, there’s the pressure of choosing a life-long career based on something you like. By the time you’ve learned how to deal with all these issues, you’re a senior worried about life after graduation. All these challenges can become extremely overwhelming to you. Nevertheless, when dealt with properly, university years are considered the best years of your life. Student orientations are the most nerve-racking experiences;



you're packed into an auditorium for hours with hundreds of people you've never met. Without context, that's a horror movie. But believe them when they say, "you're going to be okay." The best thing about being in a liberal arts institution is your ability to take general classes for the first year or two without falling behind schedule. If you're someone who's stressed about picking a major now, don't be. There's no shame in being unsure of what to do. In fact, that's the point. You're supposed to figure out what you want in those four years. Whenever you feel like your pace is slow, remember one thing: you're young.

The passing of these four years is inevitable. So, you might as well make use of them. However, how you make use of them is more important than rushing through them to get a degree. A degree is supposed to be your key to your future. Unfortunately though, many find themselves unsure if they even want it by the time they're in their fourth year. Therefore, it is essential to graduate with something you're confident will suit you. But, a process like this could take some time. To ensure you're making the right choice; read into a major you're considering, talk to professors, and take a class or two. You'd be surprised how quickly you'd realize something isn't for you, and vice versa. It's possible that you're rejecting a major due to an aspect of it you don't like. But, while looking into

it, you may find other parts of it that work for you. If there's a professor you trust, pass by during their office hours and ask for some advice. Many of them experienced exactly what you are going through and can offer guidance.

Nonetheless, other factors can also affect your decision-making process. Sometimes something as little as a book, an online article, or a movie can set your mind on what you want to do. James Baldwin's, "Another Country," was what convinced professor Craig Loomis to become an English major. A more challenging case is changing your major.

Many people refuse changing, fearing they would disappoint their family or "waste" a year. If you truly believe that your current major isn't working for you; change it. A wasted year is better than a wasted life. As for family expectations, there are ways to gradually convince them. If you're an Engineering major trying to switch to Marketing, take a couple of Marketing classes and, once you're sure, a discussion and proof of your great performance should do the trick. During this period, never let your insecurities get in the way of making the right choice. Nobody ever said Uni-life was easy. With that being said, whenever you feel you're struggling, remember so is everyone else. The main purpose of universities is to teach.

It's perfectly fine if your level isn't as high as your classmates. You're learning. Never lose hope or sulk over the fact that you aren't performing as well. Instead; work harder, study for longer hours, be attentive, and learn what your major demands. If you're an English major; read and write more. If you're a COMM major; read more articles, take photos and note down what happens around you. This is an incredibly demanding and intensive process, but nothing is ever too much when you do what you love.

Once you've reached Junior/Senior level, most of these problems will have passed and you would be then considered at an advanced level, preparing for graduation. Freshmen will be coming to you for help or advice, especially if they're from your major. By that point, you would know it inside out, from the faculty to the courses, almost like an expert. You would have most likely also gotten involved in a couple extracurricular activities or earned some form of student employment. As you try to balance between studying for your higher-level courses and other commitments, "what's next?" is all you will be able to think of. It's the most stressful phase of the four years and all Seniors undergo it.

When speaking with alumni, it caught my attention how they all warned against high expectations after graduation. Don't be too demanding about your first job. As a fresh graduate, it's hard enough to find an appropriate place. Almost all companies want employees with years of experience on their hands and, when you find a company that doesn't, the starting salary is insufficient. Make sure to be flexible and keep an open mind in order to avoid disappointment.

You may be lucky enough to find instant success but if you don't, it's alright. Having an unexpected job isn't failing and many people are hired to work in fields outside of their specialties. Continue to be ambitious and find constant ways to better yourself, both career-wise and personally. In the end, allow yourself to feel defeat or distress as long as you manage to pick yourself back up in the end. Always remember that no experience will ever exceed your university experience. And though there will be a great deal of stressful days and Starbucks lines, there will also be countless days filled with friends, Chicken Hawaiian sandwiches, and uncontrollable laughter.



Anas Rasheed



By: Nora Al-Aati

From Kuwait to America and Back: The Enlightened Self

We all have that friend that's dying to study abroad. They always seem so eager to leave Kuwait and start a new life after high school. Like any other high school graduate in the Middle East, I wanted to study abroad, specifically to the United States.

This did not happen until I was blessed with the opportunity to study abroad for my sophomore year of college in Greensboro, North Carolina. I got accepted to study at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) during my spring semester of freshman year and I was thrilled to begin studying courses that I wanted to take but weren't available at AUK. I wanted to study Archaeology, but I didn't know what aspect of archaeology interested me. I just knew it was a subject that I was passionate about, which was convincing enough for me to take a 300-level course as my first archaeology class at UNCG.

Studying at UNCG changed me in every possible way. I was getting used to my life in Greensboro and was extremely worried about how I was going to re-integrate myself back into Kuwait. Yes, Kuwait is my country and I've lived there my whole life, but my new self did not develop in that environment. The idea of returning to Kuwait and AUK used to occupy my mind a lot. I knew that everything wouldn't be the same as it was when I was a freshman. I knew that my friends have found new friends, ones that don't know about me; and I had a feeling that some people would be bothered of my return. I knew how different

my body would feel being exposed to Kuwait's scorching sun all year, as opposed to experiencing all four seasons in Greensboro. My worries wouldn't let me sleep at night. Nevertheless, I did have some positive thoughts of my new self returning back to the country and implementing what I've learned in Greensboro to my future life in Kuwait. In August, I took a plane back to Kuwait after my study abroad semesters were over. The plane landed in Kuwait and I hopped into a car to take me home, when all of a sudden, my eyes started tearing up uncontrollably. It wasn't sadness I felt. It was that I couldn't believe I was back.

Regardless of all the negative thoughts I had about returning, they were tears of happiness. Even though I was happy in Greensboro and I did not want to leave, being back in Kuwait was a feeling I can't make people understand. It was a very personal moment. My first week back to AUK was a roller-coaster ride. On the first day, I walked through the gates feeling really good, met with all of my friends that I haven't seen in a year, and went to my classes. I knew I would have to re-adapt to the culture, however, I didn't expect it to be more difficult as adapting to Greensboro.

Despite my good first-day, those negative thoughts fled back into my head. The things I was worried about have indeed played out and I did not take it very well. Till this day, I have moments where I don't want to be in Kuwait because everything has changed around me. I had to speak to someone about these thoughts so I turned to my mom and we spoke about all my feelings towards these changes. This wasn't the first time my mom had given me one of her motivational talks; she gave me one when I was in Greensboro, as well.

I'm feeling good about my mental and physical state, which encouraged me to share a bit of my story with the AUK community. It isn't easy to leave your comfort zone but you can't grow unless you do. For me, having to adapt to two different cultures in two separate years wasn't easy. However, I owe it to myself when I was at my weakest point to show how much I've learned and developed as a student, daughter, sister, friend, and as a woman.

Nora Al- Aati and UNCG Mascot

After the talk, I knew that the only way to keep my thoughts in the right path was to set personal goals for myself. Whenever I feel like I'm worrying or going back to those negative thoughts, I pause and think about my amazing journey and all the things I've overcome to be my new self. Now, it has been about 5 days since I've gotten my head straightened out and I feel somewhat better. I feel optimistic about my few semesters left at AUK; I feel confident walking through the gates, or when I'm ordering a green tea matcha at Starbucks.

To those students planning on studying abroad, you will experience new emotions along with amazing memories. If my sensitive self went through all these changes and is writing about it for the public to read, you can push past the challenges and learn how to grow. Good luck Wolfpack, You got this!



Photography by Anas Rasheed

A hand holding a smartphone, with a city skyline at sunset in the background. The image is overlaid with a large, semi-transparent, light purple triangle. The word "Entertainment" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the triangle. The background shows a city skyline with two prominent towers, palm trees, and a car on a road. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and purple. The hand holding the phone is in the foreground, and the phone's screen is visible, showing a blurred image of the city.

Entertainment

On October 4th, 2019, the Todd Phillips' *Joker* was released in cinemas all around the world. DC Comics' most recent film adaptations were quiet unsuccessful, with *Suicide Squad* getting a rating of 6/10 on IMDB and *Justice League* a 6.4/10. However, with the release of *Joker*'s first trailer in April, both fans and general moviegoers believed that this was going to be the movie of the year, almost making it a compensation for the preceding movies. By the time its six-month period had passed, movie theatres were packed with audiences in full anticipation of watching it. Though many feared a disappointing movie caused by overhyped marketing, the outcome exceeded expectations, gaining a 9/10. However, many people were torn over why the movie was so adored.

Though it was all in appreciation, fans and non-fans seemed to be watching the movie from different perspectives. Let's breakdown why *Joker* did so well. The main aspect of *Joker* that DC fans cherished was how true his character was to the comics. Many people who'd grown up reading DC comics know the *Joker*, his personality, and his attitudes as if they actually met him. With the consistency of the *Joker*'s chaotic depictions in comics, fans didn't like how functional he'd become in certain film adaptations. People had considered him to be a more spontaneous and impulsive character than that. It was almost as if they were carefully measuring how close the movie would be to the comics. And when the results were a success, people were ecstatic.

On the other hand, non-fans enjoyed this movie differently. They believed this movie to be a character study. Many people agreed that the film does really well in thoroughly portraying Arthur Fleck's character. The pivotal points of Arthur Fleck's transformation into the *Joker* were packed so tightly into the final third of the movie; people left the theatre mesmerized by the intensity. This wasn't the only impressive feature of *Joker*. Audiences everywhere agreed that the movie's quality all in all was worth applauding. Many people thought that the directing, cinematography, acting, and script were all remarkable as well as Todd Phillips' directing.

Countless glorifications of Joaquin Phoenix's acting were also spread throughout the internet. People fell in love with his portrayal of Fleck, feeling his acting was so real, you'd almost forget you were in a movie theater; you can feel his pain, his suffering. Even his joy can be felt through the screen. It is fair to say, however, that nothing is ever perfect. Certain people felt as if some parts of the movie were upsetting or unnecessary. It was a belief amongst some that *Joker* was sending out a negative message to watchers, encouraging them to riot and commit violent acts in order to get their way. But many fans of the movie argued in favor, believing



By: Yasmin Ibrahim

JOKER

A Detailed Review

that this was a misinterpretation of the movie's intentions. A lot argued that there is no message outside the borders of the film and that it isn't intended to impact society; it is rather to offer some insight on why the Joker is the way he is. Others defended the movie in a different manner; agreeing that it had its representations of society, but in a "realistic" way, rather an insightful, almost painfully honest look into the issues society faces with addressing mental illness in an adequate fashion. Also, a believable, canon-worthy take on the potential origins of The Joker as a character. Discussions also spread throughout the internet, with some people being for, and some against, the origin story and setting of this particular Joker movie. A number of people worried about plot holes and possible inconsistencies while others welcomed the change.

They believed that, since the major parts of the Joker's character were still intact, other changes would be considered a fresh start. In a way, The Joker strayed from the usual fair of vibrant, explosive comic book films and opts for a gritty re-imagining of the titular villain. In addition, it is said that there is actually no proper origin story to the Joker, as he switches his backstory many times. With that being said, there was room for more flexibility. Hence, people were highly appreciative of Martin Scorsese's "Taxi Driver" references, believing the plot similarities, and casting of Robert De Niro, were deliberate.



@ The Joker Movie Scene



@ The Joker Mov

As discussions went back and forth, other issues were brewing. Some people felt discomfort due to the gore and certain “triggering” scenes. Which begs the question, who is suited to see *Joker*? Common answers showed that the movie suited those who aren’t too sensitive about mental illnesses, abuse, and substance abuse. Others believed the movie wasn’t made to build a positive image of Fleck to begin with and that watching without expectations of a virtuous protagonist is the best approach to such a movie. Indeed, it may seem as if Fleck’s actions are almost excused due to his hostile environment, but it does not take away from his villainous nature. Both fans and non-fans agree on the fact that Fleck is represented as a criminal, not a saint.

All in all, *Joker* is one of the more special movies in which repeated viewing is necessary in order to fully absorb all the details and events. Though most information would be captured the first time, people have agreed that, the more you watch it, the more certain details pop up that lead to longer, more comprehensive discussions. It is challenging to find a viewpoint that is shared commonly amongst *Joker*’s audience. But it is more amusing to find that the nature of their appreciations is differing, but the intent the same.

the Authentic Politician

By: Hager Alazab

The Politician is the newest and hottest Netflix show at the moment; since its release one month ago, I have been promoting it around different corners of AUK, in several car rides with friends, on every social media platform I could get to. It has slowly turned from a mere muse to an obsession, albeit small, but an obsession nonetheless.

The thing is, I can't help but be drawn to the complete wittiness behind the 8 episode series. From its first episode, The Politician has been nothing short of a brilliant cinematic product, one which asks so many questions of the audience but also subtly answers each and every single one of them. From its aesthetically perfect cinematic shots and its emotional musical performances to the spot-on acting and even better screenplay, The Politician begs to

single one of them. From its aesthetically perfect cinematic shots and its emotional musical performances to the spot-on acting and even better screenplay, The Politician begs to be watched. Set in a school in a wealthy neighborhood in Santa Barbara, California, The Politician revolves around Payton Hobart, a single-

minded teenager driven by the ambition of becoming the president of the student body, and eventually the president of the United States. Payton has his whole life mapped out, his presidential cabin handpicked carefully, and his first lady already chosen. He aims to win the election and become president of the student government.

Payton is not a bad character; however, his ambition is scary: he would do anything to get what he wants, and in that ambition, he loses his authenticity and the true meaning of being human. One of the main ideas that The Politician focused on is the meaning of authenticity and how it is a double-edged sword.

The struggle against authenticity is the one commonality between all the main characters. Why is being authentic and true to oneself important and how does Payton's character discover this during his little league political journey? In the first episode of the show, Payton is shown struggling with not just expressing emotion but also feeling any to start with.

In a conversation he had with his mother after witnessing a traumatic incident, Payton admits to not wanting to cry, but feeling like he has to because it is what is expected of him in a situation like this. And therein lies one of Payton's biggest problems and one of the show's central themes: conformity and acting according to what is considered right by the general consensus without giving a care about introspection.

As the show develops and we get to see and know more about the characters, we learn that it is not only Payton who struggles with authenticity but also the community surrounding him. Unintended charlatanry is present in most of the main characters in Payton's life. We have Payton's mother, who is actively pretending to be in love with her husband even while actually feeling love for someone else.

Payton's father, who is well aware that his wife never loved him but continues to take her staged gestures as signs of love. Payton's girlfriend, who is just as ambitious as he is and would do anything to get him to his goal even going as far as spreading a shameful rumor about herself. Payton's running mate, whose entire life is built on a carefully curated lie by her grand-

who made her believe that she is suffering from an illness that she actually does not have. And last but not least, Payton's opponent, who is hungry for power and her father's approval but does not really care about winning the race or making the community better.



@Flickeringmyth



The background image shows a school building with a light-colored facade. To the right, there are palm trees against a bright blue sky with some white clouds. In the foreground, several orange and yellow balloons are visible, some tied to a green pole. A large, semi-transparent grey diagonal shape covers the middle of the image, serving as a backdrop for the title text.

Students' Creativity



Magical Campus
Photography by Anas Rasheed

4: 14

4: 14, I breathe my first breath.
4: 14, I gasp my last breath.
4: 14, a smile from ear to ear.
4: 14, a tear rolls down my cheek.
4: 14, eating my first meal.
4: 14, eating my last meal.
4: 14, holding my son for the first time.
4: 14, lost my son.
4: 14, eating luxuriously.
4: 14, hurling up my guts.
4: 14, sleeping like a baby.
4: 14, staring at the ceiling.
4: 14, looking out my window,
admiring the nature.
4: 14, standing off a bridge, saying
goodbye to the world.
4: 14, I'm swimming.
4: 14, I'm drowning.
4: 14, I see colors.
4: 14, I see nothing but grey.
4: 14, In love.
4: 14, heartbroken.
4: 14, waking up from a lovely dream.
4: 14, waking up,
panting, from a nightmare.
4: 14, playing the piano.
4: 14, looking at my lost fingers.
4: 14, laughing with my friends.
4: 14, standing in front of their graves.
4: 14, taking a warm shower.
4: 14, Being accompanied by the flies.
4: 14, eating with family dinner.
4: 14, eating with only memories of
my family.
4: 14, sleeping in my warm, cozy bed.
4: 14, sleeping out in the
cold, hard streets.
4: 14, I'm alive

Yasmeen AlHassan

٤:١٤

٤:١٤، أول نفس في حياتي
٤:١٤، آخر نفس في حياتي
٤:١٤، ابتسامة عريضة
٤:١٤، دمعة على خدي
٤:١٤، أول وجبة لي
٤:١٤، آخر وجبة لي
٤:١٤، أمسكت ابني للمرة الأولى
٤:١٤، خسرت ابني
٤:١٤، أكل ببذخ
٤:١٤، أستفرغ كل ما في جوفي
٤:١٤، أنام كالطفل
٤:١٤، أهدق في السقف
٤:١٤، أتأمل الطبيعة من النافذة
٤:١٤، أقف على حافة الجسر، مودعًا الحياة
٤:١٤، أسبح
٤:١٤، أغرق
٤:١٤، أرى الألوان
٤:١٤، لا أرى سوى الرمادي
٤:١٤، غارق في الحب
٤:١٤، بقلب مسكور
٤:١٤، أستيقظ من حلم جميل
٤:١٤، أستيقظ لاهثًا من كابوس
٤:١٤، أعزف على البيانو
٤:١٤، أنظر إلى أصابعي المفقودة
٤:١٤، أضحك مع أصدقائي
٤:١٤، أقف على قبورهم
٤:١٤، آخذ حمامًا دافئًا
٤:١٤، يحوم حولي الذباب لأنني لم أستحم طويلا
٤:١٤، أكل العشاء مع العائلة
٤:١٤، أكل وحيدًا مع ذكراهم
٤:١٤، أنام في سرير وثير دافئ
٤:١٤، أنام في العراء البارد
٤:١٤، أنا حي

Puppeteer

Giving me a page to memorize
Pushing me under the spotlight and act
Putting that fake smile and do it right
Tight strings are holding me tight and
forcing me to dance
Like a puppet in your grip
Controlling me and turning my whole
life into hell
Taking away the sparkles in my eyes and
like a dog you start to yip
Becoming dull and clouded, now I'm
living in a cell
It is so hard to say how I feel
No one will be able to understand
Trying so hard to hide and conceal
Yet my eyes won't listen to the commands
Being the control freak you are, starting to
believe that you're a god
Wake up from your fantasy and watch
me break free
Funny how you believed that you will for-
ever take over my life and hook me
to a rod
This is going to be my last act so carefully
watch and see
Your ruling era has ended
Time to get off of that throne and
throw the crown
I'm not your puppet anymore nor
your servant
Time to bid farewell and give a final bow
to the crowd

Anonymous

A Few Dust of Love

God said we're made of sand...
I feel it.
I feel like a dancing dust
Around you when you're with me.
I feel weaker than the wind
When your scent travels through me.
But then stronger that I've ever been...
Although you never noticed
How much of me has travelled with you,

I may seem powerless
But you give the magic beneath my soul
Instruments has no rhythm
Without one to play
For Your breath.
Your touches
Your warmth.
Your voice.
I ask of you
To Give this voiceless,
Rhythmless instrument
Chords to caress.
Like the galaxy holds the earth
To warm it in it's arms,
Keep me a lover within you.
I'm no beauty
You can't call me a fairytale,
But my love for you
Is further than a dream could be.

Ghazaleh Hosseini

Soul and Sickle

From the beating of a thousand hearts
Your soul is the one I don't want to part
Because your eyes are the gateway
Whilst on the bed you're laid
I stood close to you, watching your sight
fade
You had nothing to say
Heaven is close my love
Listen to the sounds of twittering doves
Let me take your soul away
Because I am the figure in black and with
the sickle in hand
Looming with freezing air

Nawaf Al Mahdi

Morningstar

A bolt befell onto earth
All the way from Eden
A figure with wings--bright
Descending down with flight
Once holy--now heathen
Clouds posing as curtains
Opening to the world like a theater
An encore--crashing down
Like a shooting star
All the way from Eden to earth
A Morningstar

Nawaf Al Mahdi

The Bickersons

Khalid Al-Kharafi

"Hey, where do you want to eat?"

"Why are you asking me?" We always end up going where you want to eat anyway.

"And what's that supposed to mean?"

"That you're an annoyingly picky eater."

"It's not my fault, I have a lot of allergies." He continued, "Remember what happened the last time you chose where we ate?"

"Don't remind me, you had a horrible allergic reaction."

"Exactly, maybe next time you should warn me about whether your dish has lentils in it or not."

"You're the one who asked to try my food." Why is he always blaming me for everything?

The Bickersons argued everyday about even the most trivial things ever since they married ten years ago. They believe that arguing is a normal process for any couple, and that it was better than bottling up emotions that could lead to further disarray.

"Are you sure you want to finish that?"

"And what's that supposed to mean?"

He looked down at his food. "Nothing!" She sure has an appetite tonight.

"Am I getting fat?" she inquired. You better not say it.

Yes. "No... you're perfectly yfine."

"Really?" That lying bastard; it's not my fault I have a big appetite. He always eats like a pig, but suddenly has the audacity to criticize me for my portions.

"Well, you could lose a couple of pounds." He paused. "It really isn't a big deal."

Tears began to form. "I'll try that."

"Please stop crying dear." Why do you always have to make a scene?

"Depends, can you stop talking?"

The night ends on a sour note, both parties go to bed but not before a quick kiss from Mr. Bickerson to his wife.

"Love you, good night."

"Good night." Selfish Jerk.



Photography



By : Sarah Al-Failakawi



“Be like a duck remain calm on the earth surface”



“Dreams are made of sand and sun”



“May you always have a shell in your pocket and sand in your shoes”

"What have
I done??!!"

"The deadline is
tomorrow!!!"



واويلاد

"I am in
deep trouble!!"

يا لوليا

"يا رب امخيني
الصبر!"

Nawaf
2019

November Issue





Photography by Anas Rasheed

AUK

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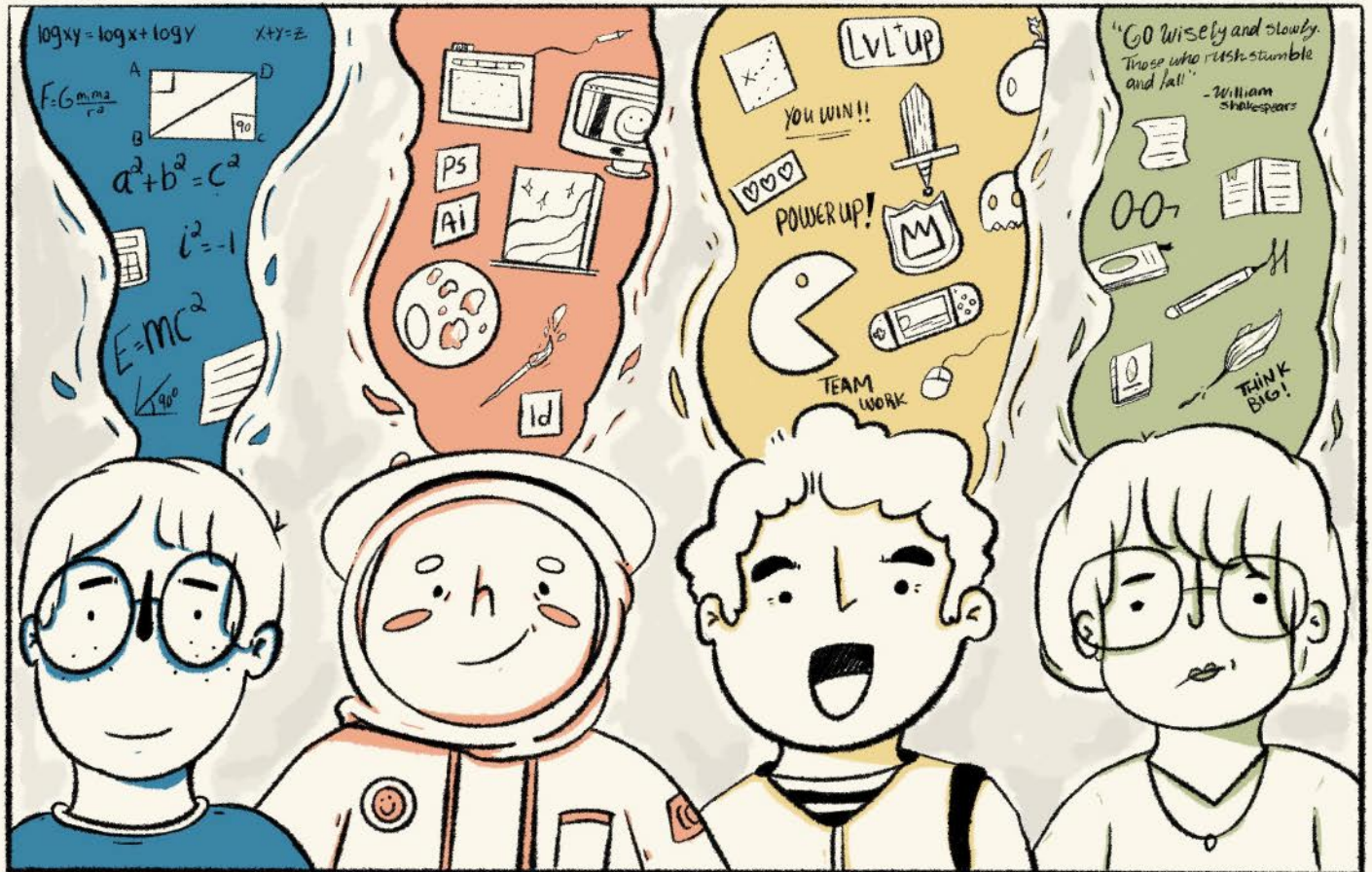


HELIFAN

Photography by Retaj Ashkanani

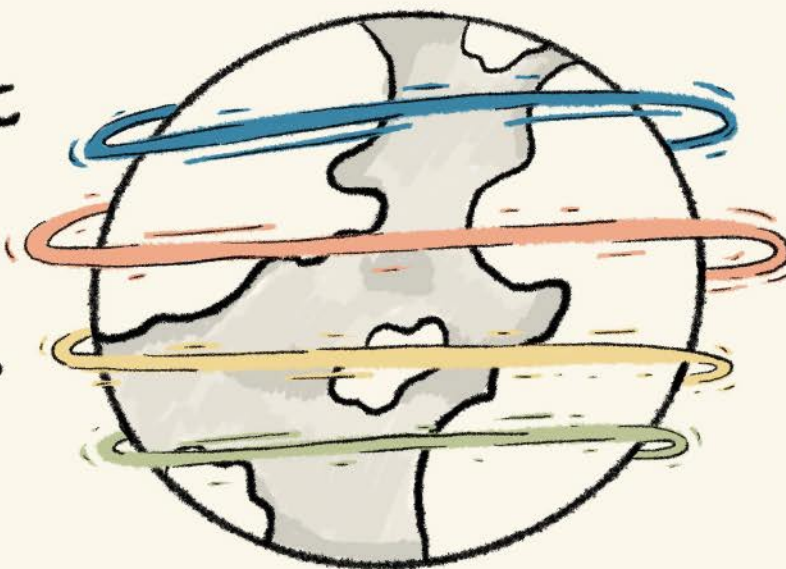


AUK



IF WE COMBINE OUR SKILLS, TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE
the world!

WE ARE
THE
FUTURE ..



WE ARE
THE
TOMORROW..

Join The Clubs of Tomorrow!

List of Active Clubs

2019

Fikir

fikir@auk.edu.kw

SBSA CLUB

sbsaclub@auk.edu.kw

AUKause

aukausa@auk.edu.kw

Sigma Tau Delta

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IEP Club

iepclub@auk.edu.kw

Arabic Debate Club

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Water Sports Club

watersportsclub@auk.edu.kw

Mind and Muscle Club

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Beta Gamma Sigma

bgs@auk.edu.kw

Lebanese Club

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Alpha Psi Omega

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Economics Club

economicsclub@auk.edu.kw

AUKMUN

munauk@auk.edu.kw

Lamda Pi Eta

lpe@auk.edu.kw

International Relations Club

irelationsclub@auk.edu.kw

Trilateral Asian Club

trilateralasianclub@auk.edu.kw

Bilad El Sham

biladelshamclub@auk.edu.kw

60 Minutes Club

60minsclub@auk.edu.kw

AUK on Beat

aukonbeat@auk.edu.kw

Media Club

mediaclub@auk.edu.kw

Spanish Club

Spanclub@auk.edu.kw

Wolfpack Fan Club

wolfpackfanclub@auk.edu.kw

Al-Akhdar Environmental Club

alakhdarclub@auk.edu.kw

HALLOWEEN WRITING COMPETITION WINNERS!

1st Place: 45 KD Alshaya Card
Sara Ateyah
"Eliza"

2nd Place: 30 KD Alshaya Card
Nawaf AlMahdi
"Equestrian Nightmare" & "Morningstar"

3rd Place: 15 KD Alshaya Card
Ali Darwiche
"A Fatefull Halloween"



SIGMA TAU DELTA
INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY

1st Place: Sarah Nouri

"Eliza"

I awoke to the soft whispers echoing off the walls. The alarming images of the nightmare I've just experienced left me feeling petrified, unable to even get up and switch the lights on. My heart raced as I glanced at my alarm clock, that was shining the time 2:54am in blurry red digits. "It's just a dream", I reassured myself repeatedly, but the whispers wouldn't stop. I tried to close my eyes and drift off to sleep but I couldn't get myself to. Lying down, I was chilled by a sudden wind that left me shivering so I got up and looked for something I could throw on to keep me warm. I wrapped myself up in my blanket as I made my way down the stairs to make myself a warm cup of milk, hoping it would help me go back to sleep.

As I was entering the kitchen, I caught a glimpse of what seemed to be an opaque, but indistinct black figure wandering into the living room, leaving the glass of milk to slip out of my hand, shattering all over the kitchen floor. My stomach clenched. My breaths got shallow and rapid, trying to pick up the sharp-edged pieces of glass. Just as I was picking up the last piece, a deadly scream came from the living room. My heart skipped a beat then started pounding as if it was going to burst out of my chest. I looked down at my bloody hand that was shaking.

The razor-sharp piece of glass has cut into it, allowing the blood to flow out. "IT'S ALL IN YOUR HEAD". "There's nothing there", I try to convince myself. The faint murmur of whispers softly come back. As often as I hear them, I can't get myself to make up what they are trying to say. Their tone was eerie and rather mumbled. It sounds like they're trying to warn me about something. "Coming" "Liza", they would say. I couldn't comprehend the sentences. Going up the stairs, I saw the figure again. This time, it was standing at the top of the staircase, but then headed to my bedroom as soon as I was halfway there, almost as if it was waiting for me. I tried not to make any sort of contact with it and go directly to bed,

but it stood there next to my bed. "Sleep tight", the whispers mumbled. Sleep tight? Was that what they meant? My eyelids felt heavy. I couldn't keep my eyes open any longer, so I tucked myself in, avoiding the figure, that was now leaving the room. "It was just a dream", I told myself as I got out of bed the next morning. I pulled open my drawer to get my hairbrush, only to find the words 'Don't you worry dear, I will be back -Eliza', engraved into the wood.

2nd Place: Nawaf AlMahdi

"Equestrian Nightmare"

Its neighs roared in the forest
Followed by the flight of locusts
Doth one hear the howls of Dis?
its hooves can shatter
Our livers and hearts eaten to get fatter
Doth one can survive the claws of inferno?
For its headless rider's name is nameless
A wrathful knight under the rule of the
Crimson King
Followed by dumb black frogs that sing
Trudged next to mammoths of gluttony
The Crimson King's hands held high
A trident as his scepter
A pair of horns as his crown
For the dark horse as his pet
One stare can destroy the
mind's receptors
The beast's riders were kings of avarice
The beast's rider was the lord of flies
The beast's riders were deceiving diviners
The beast's rider was the Marques of Snakes
Followed by it's metallic clapping
Horseshoes made of sulphur and iron
Crushing stones underneath it
into ebony sand

"Morningstar"

A bolt befell onto earth
All the way from Eden
A figure with wings - bright
Descending down with fright
Once holy - now heathen
The clouds as curtains
Opening up like theater night
An encore - crashing down
Like a shooting star
All the way from Eden to earth
A Morningstar

3rd Place: Ali Darwiche

"A Fatefull Halloween"

It was a chilly October morning. Little Zachary was enamored in joy, waiting impatiently for the evening to roll around so that he could, at last, experience his first Halloween ever where he would go trick-or-treating. He has been planning for this day for months. He had already chosen what his costume would be in early September, and he spent all the time leading up to this day to build his costume with his parents. Zach wanted this day to be perfect and he was determined that nothing would ruin it for him. By the time the sun was starting to set, Zach rushed to his bedroom so that he could finally wear his costume. His heart was racing with excitement, all so that he can finally look like a firefighter. He had always wanted to be like his father, and so he was so ecstatic that he could finally look the part. Once he finished putting on his costume, he ran back down to grab his pumpkin bucket, kissed both his parents goodbye then rushed out to finally go trick-or-treating for the first time. Zach made sure to stop by Mr. Robinson's first.

He always liked Zach, so Zach was certain that he would get some good candy from him. He rang the doorbell and the door promptly opened, with Mr. Robinson on the other side. "Trick or treat!" Zach exclaimed, with a smile so big that it was infectious. "Oh Zach what are you dressed up as, a firefighter? That's so adorable. You look just like your father. Well here you go, have some candy. I'm sure you'll like these. Now go off and get some more from the rest of the neighborhood, but just be careful while you're at it.

We wouldn't want our adorable little firefighter to be injured while trying to save everyone." Mr. Robinson responded while dropping a chunk of candy into Zach's bucket.

"Thanks for the candy! And I'll be careful, don't worry about me." Zach walked away, smiling, and went towards the next house in the neighborhood. He kept on going from house to house, still maintaining that beaming, 100-megawatt smile of his, while all the neighbors were fawning over how adorable he looked. After going through almost all the houses in the neighborhood, Zach noticed a house quite distant from the rest. He decided to go check it out before going back home. While walking towards the front door, Zach began to notice how worn-down the house looked, and he began to tremble with fear. He managed to work up the courage to ring the doorbell, and an old lady he did not recognize answered it.

"Tri-tri-trick or treat." Zach mumbled as his heart began to pound rapidly in his chest. "Why hello there little boy. Here you go, have this chocolate bar." The woman responds, while handing him a peculiar-looking bar. He was mesmerized by it and had the sudden urge of eating it at once. The lady closed the door while Zach ate the chocolate as he was walking away from her house, and then he started choking. After a few seconds, he fell to the ground, on the road, away from the house. The woman smiled from within her house, all while she added another mark to many already present on a dusty, old chalkboard.

Haunted Mansion : Review

By: Rafah AlShohaty

Driven by our success from the previous Night of the Wolfpack event, The Carnival, Alpha Psi Omega strived to create an even horrific activity: a haunted maze. The idea started in a coffee shop conversation with some of the executive members. We discussed a time era, Victorian, and commenced to research on the nature of that time. The story began to form, however, it was merely built on abstract ideas. Through the first few weeks of September, the members attempted to structure a base for the story; however, one of our biggest challenges was fixing the loopholes.

Through the month of October, the story kept constantly reforming and restructuring till the last week, when we ultimately finalized the plot. On the day of the event, I was overflowed with stressful thoughts: I was anxious that the play we had rehearsed for would not interlace smoothly with the maze construction; how the actors would blend in with the scare-jumpers. My main worry was that the audience members would not be able to locate the scenes chronologically and would be left in confusion;





In addition, I was worried that the thrilling performance of our scare-jumpers would lead the audience astray from the plot. Nevertheless, the club had agreed that the objective of this event was not to thoroughly present the plot of the story, but to offer an unforgettable and thrilling experience to the AUK community. The significant issue that we had faced in the event was managing the flood of audience members waiting at the door. We had planned to leave a sign-up sheet for the members to queue, since we did not have a rough estimate of the duration of the performance.

Instead of having our audience stand in a queue for their turn, we suggested calling them beforehand. However, our event received a larger amount of audience than estimated. Contacting them beforehand and getting them ready became hectic: most group members did not answer promptly and other groups came in to queue at the door without signing-up. As a result, we disregarded the sign-up sheet and had them form a line at the door. Unfortunately, some of the students who signed-up beforehand did not show up to the event. To prevent this issue from reoccurring, APO will have an open queue in their future event.

Nevertheless, those who experienced the haunted mansion were amazed (and horrified) by what Alpha Psi Omega has presented. We received countless of positive reviews and remarks; almost every person who went into the maze was astounded by the formulation of the event. In addition, constructing the auditorium was not an issue at all; we contacted our previous vendor and astonishingly, they executed the plan just as what we expected.

Seeing our abstract concepts that were reformed in the coffee shop getting built into the auditorium was unbelievable.



Visiting the Haunted Mansion

By: Yasmin Ibrahim

As the day approached, each club worked harder and harder to prepare for their respective events. Night of the Wolf-pack, AUK's celebration of Halloween, is one of the most anticipated nights of the year. As we awaited this occasion, not only did our excitement increase, but also our expectations. With every AUK club knowing this for a fact, they worked a ridiculous amount to arrange activities suitable for such standards.

Though many of them intrigued me, there was one in specific that instantly caught my attention; the Haunted Mansion. "Sign-up for the Haunted Mansion in front of the Black Box," popped up on my phone at noon. Before I'd even finished reading the e-mail, I knew I was going. Visiting haunted houses has been an interest of mine since childhood and God knows how difficult it is to find any in Kuwait.

So, it was no surprise that I was ecstatic when I Unfortunately though, my workload surprisingly increased throughout the day, making me unable to attend any earlier shows. Meanwhile, batches of people rolled in and out of the auditorium, excited and afraid. I rushed to the auditorium as quickly as I could and was disappointed to find that the 9:00 p.m. show had already started and I was too late. But, the friendly usher was kind enough to let me in nevertheless, to whom I say, thank you very much.



You're the best. The doors opened to reveal the scene of people screaming and running into each other. It was a strange sort of maze, with black walls everywhere, and a few entrances to rooms here and there. There were actors holding weapons, leading the way and ordering us around. People ran the other way as an actor with red eyes walked out of a room towards them, shouting aggressively at them to leave. I joined the group as they walked down a hallway.

We stopped abruptly as a girl spider-walked towards us, the tight walls forcing us to brush past her. As people pushed themselves to the walls, trying to avoid her, hands popped out from behind, grabbing them. I'd made the mistake of eyeing the gaps in the walls, where I noticed an intimidating woman in a Victorian dress staring at me. I luckily managed to stay away from her terrifyingly close grasp. We entered a room where a segment was being acted out.

This was one of the more enjoyable sides to this mansion; every room held a scene and as you'd walk in each one, a piece of the story if unraveled. Unfortunately though, there were many loud people that prevented the rest of us from hearing the actors. This was an upsetting deal, as we could all see they performed incredibly, but many mocked and ridiculed their work. I never managed to capture the dramatic side and, as a result, couldn't figure out the plot.



There were countless attempts made by others to shush everyone, but it fell on deafened ears. However, we still managed to enjoy watching the actors interact with each other. After each scene, people would come from behind us, ordering us to leave. We compliantly walked away but, when we would slow down, they would continue to yell, "leave!" People pushed past each other, trying to get away from them as they approached us.

Though their screaming was horrific, the most intimidating aspect of the haunted mansion was the silence of the characters leading the way. They never raised their voices and barely spoke. They didn't chase anyone with their bats or threaten anyone. All they did was stand in a corner, quietly watching us freak out. When the actors would start yelling again, people would nervously laugh. It would die out quickly once the others would start saying, "They're asking you guys to leave."

So, I think you should leave now," with no signs of a smile. There was something very morbid about the fact that they looked so serious. Their behavior made everyone feel as if this wasn't some show, rather it was very much real. It was no surprise why people would back away from them, well aware they weren't planning on being physical, but taking necessary precautions. It was sort of a relief to leave; I'd wished the show could go on for longer, but I could no longer deny the panic I felt being in there.

As I exited the auditorium, I couldn't help but think, wow... they did a really good job. Though I tend to have an obsessive attitude towards detail, and could be very critical of most things, I'd come to the realization that I didn't have anything negative to say about it. I sat and thought long and hard before writing this article, trying to find a flaw in the maze, but I came out with no result. Everything, and I mean absolutely everything, was spectacular.



The decorations, the acting, the lighting, the fact that they built a maze in such a confusing way, it made the guests feel lost, was incredible. They covered every aspect of a perfect horror movie, and any person who was not afraid from jump scares found another 10 things to scare them. The entire crew performed very well. Though many attempted to make them laugh, or annoy them by looking through the gaps in the walls, they kept a straight face the entire time, sticking to their roles no matter what.

I had friends there and I knew they'd recognized me. But even then, they refused to break character. Added to that, there was something beautiful about the fact that this was organized by students, who had a limited budget and resources. But still managed to pull through and offer a spectacular event. All in all, this was definitely an experience that exceeded expectations and deserved the positive feedback given by their guests. And AUK should be very proud of the quality of work their community provides.



Dia de Los Muertos

By: Hagar Alazab

The Day of the Dead or “Dia de Los Muertos” is an annual Mexican celebration that literally does what the name implies; it celebrates the dead. It is an official holiday in Mexico and it has been recognized by UNESCO for 11 years. During the celebration that starts on October 31 st and ends on November 2 nd , families come together to commemorate the ones they lost. The event is typically associated with certain makeup and clothing that those who celebrate it choose to adorn themselves in.

The event is symbolized by José Guadalupe Posada’s painting of La Calavera Catrina (Elegant Skull), a skeleton of a woman dressed and behaving in a middle class European fashion. La Calavera Catrina is also the main source of inspiration for the makeup associated with Dia de Los Muertos as it usually involves face paint to make one look like a skeleton or skull and the clothing choice involves flower crowns and dark themes. The festivities of the event revolve around the dead where shrines are built,

grave visits are made and candy and drinks are left for the dead whose spirits are believed to come back during the 3 day celebration. This year, the Spanish club at AUK brought Dia de Los Muertos to our very own student lounge. The club which was started last spring hosted an event full of fun, excitement and beautiful decorations. The event featured competition for the best La Calavera Catrina makeup.





The lounge was completely transformed to fit the event's festivities as it was completely dark and only lit by the luminous fairy lights shining on the different sections where the event's highlights were located. As you walk into the lounge, the first thing that catches your attention will probably be the soft light illuminating the grassy stairs that the members of the club have turned into a shrine for Latina icons including Frida Kahlo and Selena.

The shrine is accompanied by fairy lights spread equally among the stairs, shining their light softly on the flowers left for the dead. It was beautifully decorated but also chilling with the significance it carried. Another interesting aspect of the event was the photo wall created at the back of the lounge where the online PlayStation tournaments usually take place. The Spanish Club successfully transformed a space reserved for competitive gamers into an eerie photo wall that carried the theme of the rest of the lounge as well as the celebration it commemorated.



With soft lights pinned atop a pin board that was covered in a colorful cloth, the club managed to turn the small spot into a place where students could get their photos professionally taken by the club's president, Yasmeen Ibrahim. Needless to say, the pictures turned out beautiful, with a slight edge of eeriness that contributed to the events of the day. Overall AUK's first Dia De Los Muertos was an interesting experience filled with drama, colour and a hint of darkness to complete the mix. We can only hope for better in the years to come.





Behind the Scenes of Día de los Muertos

By: Yasmin Ibrahim

On October 31st, AUK held its annual celebration of Halloween, Night of the Wolfpack. Students await this night year by year and everyone in AUK knows of the hype created around it. As Halloween gets closer, clubs put up posters, offer sign-ups and send out e-mails encouraging all to attend their events and participate in their activities. Though it remains behind the scenes, most clubs struggle to find the most befitting location,

decorations, theme, and vendor.

Simultaneously, dealing with campus services, IT, the finance department, and remaining within the budget are crucial factors. That said, club members' stress heightens as the event approaches, fearing a failed event. This was exactly the case with our club, the Spanish Club. Throughout the course of October, we had been busy preparing for Día de los Muertos, a Mexican celebration of the dead. Unlike Halloween, it is considered a joyful event, and many people use it as a time to reconnect with the ones they lost. We saw this as a perfect opportunity; it was festive, it was cultural,

and it broke from the constant gloomy theme associated with October 31st. The event was held from 5:00-9:00 p.m. in the Student Lounge, each corner purposely decorated individually. The first area most people noticed was the altar at the grass area in the back. Decorated with candles (which were obviously fake we weren't about to light the place on fire), incense, and photos of late famous Latin American icons, such as Selena and Freida,

people believed it was beautiful and wanted to take photos of and with it. Afterwards, they would leave messages for the ones they missed on a blackboard and drink to rejuvenate their spirits. Across the altar was a Mexican photo booth, which was also one of the more popular areas. Guests were provided with props and allowed to choose a color of lighting they preferred. As the hours passed, some fairy lights in the background of the booth started to turn off or fall apart. Though this seemed like a concern at the time, it surprisingly led to some interesting photos. Guests were wonderful; improvising with the lights and providing positive feedback.

Other activities, such as calavera face painting and visiting graveyards made for a more enjoyable experience. Each person was gifted sweets and laptop stickers as they left and, as it reached 9:00 p.m. I was relieved the event was a success. But the process didn't as smoothly as we'd hoped; there were many bumps along the way and, though we were safe in the end, there's much to learn from this experience. In general, October was a pretty stressful month, what with tests and assignments piling up and my traveling to Google being smack dab in the middle of the planning process. However, add to that the constant relocating, the scarcity of IT equipment, and the delays in printing and decorating, and it's just the perfect amount of too much.

Also, decorating on the day was a hassle and, for the first hour or so, every possible thing was going wrong including, malfunctioning of the photo booth's camera, flickering fairy lights, missing decorations, and so much more. However, though all these issues were unexpected, all was resolved in under an hour by the devoted members and some volunteers. Cleanup was another issue, with there being so many items to remove and no storage space to place them. When it reached 9:30 p.m. security was asking to either hurry up the cleaning process or leave it until later, as we had gone way past the lounge's closing time.

By the time we'd made sure all things were packed and ready, it was 10:00 p.m. and we were all ready to go home. Despite our exhaustion, no-one can deny the enjoyment we felt setting up and hosting the event. Many of the members approached our setbacks in a light hearted manner and helped out as they laughed it off. Though the malfunctions bothered us, we refrained from complaining and focused instead on saving as much as we can, which helped in the co-operative and hard-working attitudes of everyone. We considered this an event we weren't only running, but we were visiting; we ourselves got our faces painted calavera-style, took photos, and hung out listening to music.

And, after all the hard work the club put into the event, all our pressures washed away as we heard endless compliments from the guests, who found the aesthetic and activities fascinating. There are many lessons to be learned from such a night, some positive, others not so much. But, the main one is, especially in a stressful situation, a good team makes a great event.



A photograph of a modern building with a glass facade reflecting a sunset. A palm tree is in the foreground, and a street lamp is visible on the right. The word "World" is overlaid in large, bold, black letters.

World



Photography by Anas Rasheed

The Lebanese Statement

By: Yasmin Ibrahim

As we receive news of the increasingly heated Lebanese protests, Lebanon's political state becomes a case difficult to dismiss. Despite my awareness of the challenges Lebanese friends faced back home, it was a surprise to hear of the riots taking place in Beirut in October. With this movement coming years after the Arab Spring, a series of protests and rebellions that took place in countries such as Tunisia and Egypt in 2011, many found it to be too little, too late.

However, the country hasn't seen such intense anti-government protests for at least the past 30 years, making them just as impactful as preceding Arab-Spring riots. With media outlets continuing to perpetuate the typical idea, "all protestors have the same thoughts and demands", it was necessary to test such a concept. In an effort to gain a clearer view of the situation, I decided to interview two Lebanese protestors, Sarah and Khaled. Sarah and Khaled have never met; they go to different universities,



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Sarah and Khaled have never met; they go to different universities, live in different areas of Lebanon, and have different social and religious values. I even met them at different stages of my life. In fact, they are completely unaware of each other's existence. Though their comments on the situation were similar, their approaches differed. When asked about the beginning of the protests,

This protest is a culmination of 30+ years of corruption and sectarianism. The economic situation had been deteriorating for a while, and the Lebanese just couldn't take it anymore." Sectarianism is the bias or unnecessary favoring towards a specific sect.

Khaled explained, "there was a cabinet meeting that was intended to impose taxes on gasoline, tobacco and online WhatsApp calls, since normal phone calls are too expensive. These were not the sole factors but it was definitely the tipping point for the nation. The protests started because we have no full access to electricity, water, no healthcare system, no jobs, high cost of living, and plenty of corrupt elected officials," with Sarah adding, "the situation has been escalating for a long time.

This issue has been present in Lebanon for ages, with the political system requiring the president to be a Christian, the speaker of the Parliament a Shi'a Muslim and the prime minister a Sunni Muslim. Many believe this approach not only maintains, but encourages sectarianism amongst people and public figures in the country. Though their dissatisfaction with the nation's state can be clearly seen, what exactly are their demands? "We want justice. We want to be able to live with dignity and have a government that actually works to give us our basic rights."



Khaled agreed, “the right to electricity, water, jobs, clean air. This is not a poor country but our money is in the wrong hands. Our corrupt politicians have stolen our wealth, our land, our beaches, and our mountains which are all supposed to be public. All in the name of sectarianism and protecting the rights of their respectful sects.” For Khaled, the issue also lies within the government’s unethical ways, “our politicians are elitist billionaires. The series of politicians that came after the civil war have taken everything for themselves.” Sarah as well, believed so, “the government works to achieve personal pursuits of wealth and power rather than care for the public Lebanese interest.”

Though protestors continue to show a passionate, nationalistic attitude towards their country, some have accused them of threatening and endangering the lives of other citizens, making them feel unsafe or preventing them from performing their day-to-day tasks. But, is this true? Though Khaled and Sarah do not feel threatened by the protests, they can acknowledge that others are affected negatively. “Sometimes, when road closures occur, people get irritated since they can’t reach work or really move around comfortably.” Khaled showed even more concern towards this issue, “closing roads has been a huge conflict.

One side supports it to ensure politicians do what the streets are demanding and to continue having strikes. The other side use the right of transportation as their defending point. We also have to keep in mind that some people earn money on a daily basis. If they do not go to work, they can’t provide dinner for their family at the end of the day. Closing roads is a blessing and a curse.” As streets become more packed, one would expect of the government to react to these uprisings. However, there is no answer yet. Though Sarah approached this matter in a more positive light, “I think the government will respond to all of the people’s demands,”

Khaled displayed a realistic, more frustrated side. “The president should have called for a committee of parliament members to consult him regarding the future prime minister and the new government. Instead, nothing has been done yet. So, no. The government isn’t responding.” When asked about the future of Lebanon, Sarah, once again, seemed excited for what’s to come, “I see Lebanon in its best state. I am so absolutely hopeful about my country, and I see it thriving in every possible way in the future. I see everyone



@Khaled's View

united, and a government representative of the Lebanese working to satisfy everyone's need." While Khaled expectedly was more critical, "The level of corruption in this country is very serious. We need years to overcome that. We also need our judicial system to hold public servants accountable. How are they to do that if our judicial systems are also sectarian. There also has to be a change on the hearts and minds of people regarding sectarianism, which is highly unlikely." As Sarah finished her interview by declaring her love for Lebanon, Khaled's message was, "It's a wake-up call to all politicians. The power is with the people. We need to translate all this rage into voting.

And the next parliamentary elections will speak for themselves; are the Lebanese people willing to initiate change in the people representing them? Or will they vote the same elite politicians back into office?" While more citizens chant the once glorified slogan, "the people want to overthrow the regime," Lebanese people from all around the world become more heated, and are only growing stronger and more determined every day. Whether one is pro or against the protests,

Whether one is pro or against the protests, all this rage into voting. And the next parliamentary elections will speak for themselves; are the Lebanese people willing to initiate change in the people representing them? Or will they vote the same elite politicians back into office?" While more citizens chant the once glorified slogan, "the people want to overthrow the regime," Lebanese people from all around the world become more heated, and are only growing stronger and more determined every day. Whether one is pro or against the protests,

it goes without saying that we all hope Lebanon becomes a safe, civil place to live, in which people can thrive and enjoy a peaceful community and life.



A photograph of a dog's tail, likely a Golden Retriever, in a grassy field. The tail is white with some light brown markings and is positioned in the lower right foreground. The background shows a paved path, green grass, and some trees and bushes. The word "Lifestyle" is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image. The image is divided into two main sections by a diagonal line: the top-left section is a lighter, more saturated green, and the bottom-right section is a darker, more muted green.

Lifestyle



Photography by Rafah-AlShohaty

Financial Education: Importance, Challenges and Solutions

By : Professor Wafa'a Sbeiti



In today's modern society, being financially literate is an essential skill. Aside from global financial crises, financial illiteracy has been one of the major reasons of increasing financial problems. Bad and uninformed financial decisions not only lower the living standards, but also result in a decrease in physical and psychological wellbeing on individuals. The new generation is being brought in a drastically competitive and challenging environment which requires them to make sound financial decisions for a financially stable future. In order to lead an independent life as adults, not just young individuals but people from all ages, need to learn at least the basics of making a budget, making right financial choices in their everyday activities. Furthermore, being independent means individuals must also learn risk management as one grows old for instant learning to save, invest, reduce chances of increasing debt, and pay for health care and old age.

Importance of Financial Education :

There is a major troubling picture of lack of financial stability not just in few countries but all over the world. Majority of individuals are not able to proper plan for predictable future events like education of their children and their retirement.

Furthermore, people are also unprepared for unexpected events and disasters leaving them vulnerable to financial losses and shocks. It is essential that you enhance your knowledge since the more you learn, the better equipped are you to perform better financially. Financial education is not just about getting a degree but it is a lifelong process of attain financial understanding and knowledge to help you in making the right choices and decisions. Knowledge and education is the only way an individual can make wise decisions, tackle any obstacle that come their way and lead a better life. Teaching individuals the basics of finances can help in empowering and equipping them with the confidence, skills and knowledge they need to have better control in their life and to make their future more secure by making informed financial decisions. Financial education is a concern for all age groups,

especially the current and younger generation as they are facing and more likely to face even more sophisticated and complex financial products than the older generations ever had to face. Financial education has always been integral as it enables individuals to control their budgets, arrange expenditures and incomes, maintain their savings and investments effectively, and prevent any potential financial issues and losses. Awareness about your finances supports a rational process of decision making that enable you to enhance your knowledge about financial risks. It helps in contributing to better and efficient knowledge of financial markets and enhance the financial stability of individuals.

Challenges :

Financial education must include ways to enhancing the access to financial services and markets. Currently, the curriculum of financial education in business schools and other educational institutions lack numerous of essential things that an individual has to face in future. It is important to include approaches and strategies in the financial education that can help individuals in enhancing their overall life. This foundation can be built in schools and other educational institutions which are currently not being taught. With useful financial courses, not just in schools but specially designed financial certification or short courses, individuals from all age groups can improve their financial education which can further help them in making sound financial decisions.

Some challenges and barriers to financial education are as follows:

- **Low Prioritization of Financial Literacy** – There is a low financial literacy priori among the leaders when it comes to adding financial education in the curriculum. The courses which have lower importance than financial education are considered as more important by the leadership.
- **Little to No Leadership** - The leadership is either split between various courses and departments or there isn't any clear ownership available. This indicates that either financial education is completely not present or it is split between so many departments that there aren't any clear goals and curriculum for it.
- **Lack of Appropriate Skills among Teachers** – Since financial education is not one of the subjects or courses in the educational institutions, teachers who have the right skills and knowledge to actually teach this area almost not available.
- **Insufficient Resources** – Without proper resources, little to no financial skills of the teachers, there is no effort or time invested in delivering financial education. Furthermore, lack of resources means there aren't funds to outsource an expert for this task either.



- Lack of Financial Literacy in Families – Due to the lack of financial education and financial literacy among families, majority of parents as well as individuals don't understand its importance in life. Therefore, they don't demand educational institutions to allocate time and resources to deliver financial education.

Solutions:

Financial education must focus on the skills and knowledge one needs to make informed and effective decisions regarding money management. Learning the basics and skill development can help individuals to become financially literate. However, it is a lifelong process since there are numerous new and innovative financial products that are introduced year after year. Saving and budgeting should start from childhood and keep evolving as one grows by introducing more complex subjects like risks and investments.

Following are some main solutions to the barriers and challenges:

- Public Education – In order to bring an effective change, it is crucial to offer financial education to the public. This should include not just the basics of money and finances but also knowledge about the latest services and products and ways people can benefit from them. Educational institutions must offer financial education at all levels – children, teenagers, young adults and adults.
- Private Education – Aside from educational institutions, other institutions like churches and community centers, should offer financial courses or workshop for individuals. They can hire a financial expert to conduct a special course which covers the basics of finance, strategies for setting financial goals, ways to achieve them as well as educating them about the latest financial services and products.
- Self-Education – No matter how educated you are, one requires continuous education and knowledge in order to be financially aware. There are plenty of books, blogs and other resources which are available online through which individuals can gain more education and information to stay updated about the recent changes in trend and launch of new services and products.





- **Financial Technology** – When an individual has the right financial education, they can utilize the right financial tools and apps to further improve their financial situation. This also enables them to start figuring out the right way of saving and selecting the investment options. There are various apps that can help you in getting more organized in your financial matters, doing your taxes online, creating a saving plan and so much more.

In order to enhance financial literacy and to benefit from financial education programs, it is important to identify the financial needs of individuals in various stages of their lives. The curriculum and program must ensure that those needs are met so that individuals are more prepared and equipped to deal with financial problems that come their way. With the advancement of technology came a number of convenient payment methods and financial services but the new generation is being brought in a drastically competitive and challenging environment which requires them to make sound financial decisions for a financially stable future. With lack of financial literacy, more and more people are drowning in debt and suffering through financial issues.

With proper financial education, individuals would be well aware and equipped with knowledge to make the right decisions and make informed financial choices. Implementing financial education plans and programs is as vital as creating financial education strategies and it is important to determine the right steps for implementing them in a way that they are successful and beneficial.





Photography by Anas Rasheed

Entertainment





By: Hagar Alazab

THE KING

History Vs Movie

If you have a Netflix subscription and a working access to the internet then you have probably heard of the arrival of one of Netflix's most anticipated movies of the year: The King. The movie is about King Henry V's rise to power and his claim of the English throne after his father's death. It is also based on several of Shakespeare's "Henriad" plays. Maybe those two aspects were enough to hold the history and literature majors' attention captive but that wasn't enough for Netflix so they decided to go the extra mile and cast the one and only Timothee Chalamet to play the role of The King. Hence the title of this article; "The King" as in Timothee Chalamet, get it? It sounded much better in my head. Anyway, the movie was a success for all those involved in making it including the cast, the producers (one of whom was Brad Pitt) and the director, David Michod, as it scored a rating of 71% on Rotten Tomatoes and 7.4 on IMDB. And while it definitely had a few gaps in the acting and historical accuracy, The King is a movie that deserves to be watched.

First of all, let's talk about the historical significance of Henry V. According to a video released by Netflix to explain the historical background behind the movie, it is mentioned that Henry V didn't have any legitimate claim to the throne. In fact, he was 6th in line to the English throne and had it not been for his father King Henry IV, who led a coup against his cousin and king of England in 1377, Henry V would have probably never been king. Like Noblemen at the time, Henry had training on the battlefield and was even knighted at the age of 13. .

Previously known as Henry of Monmouth, he was the eldest of Henry IV's children and also his least favourite. Henry V sought political reform against his father's policies and tensions between the 2 rose in the early 1410s and until Henry IV's death in 1413. This was a pivotal moment for Henry V who had his claim to the English throne and was coronated as the King of England in 1413.

Reining over England for a relatively short period of 10 years, Henry V had many achievements including his successful contribution to the 100 year war and his complete takeover of France, a country twice the size of England and with 10 times its population in 1415. Now that we have summarized the historical aspect of the movie down, let's delve into why The King is a must watch. The movie starts off with a battle scene to highlight the chaos that England was in during Henry IV's reign. It soon moves on to a slightly inaccurate portrayal of King (then prince) Henry V as he was shown to be... well corrupt is probably the best way to put it. Estranged from his family and in a feud with his father, Henry V spent his nights partying and his days sleeping to prepare and makeup for the party nights. He is close friends with a man that goes by Falstaff (played by Joel Edgerton), not based off a real person but rather a character inspired by Shakespeare's imagination.

Falstaff is a loyal friend and Henry V is spoilt and in a perpetual state of intoxication. That is until he receives 2 important pieces of information that change the course of his life: his father's sickness and his brother's death. This is when the movie and Henry V take a turn to the better because the first 20 minutes may not have accounted to much in terms of historical accuracy and acting, but what follows definitely makes up for it. After his father's death, Henry V was forced into monarchy and becoming the rightful king of England. The King turns from a mere historical movie into one about success, betrayal and the transition of Henry V from an innocent peaceful man into a bloody monarch. The movie shows the not so seamless transition of Henry V from peace seeking man of people to an imperialistic king leading his country into war.

In the movie, the audience can learn about Henry's rather soft nature, his love for fun and the well being of his non royal friends. However, once Henry V becomes a monarch, he is faced with constant challenges that force him to let go of his kind nature and embrace what being a king is really all about. The day of his coronation, we can see the first of these challenges arise as he receives a rather tantalizing message from the French prince. Even though he decides to let go of the message, France still continues to disrespect Henry V through their communications with him and they go as far as sending an assassin to finish Henry V off. For a big chunk of the movie, it could be seen that Henry V is struggling against his own instincts towards the France situation and his advisors' constant demands for him to take action against the French. At the end, he followed his advisors and dragged England into a lengthy war with France.



@The King Movie Scene



@The King Movie Scene

The war started as a siege led by the English who surrounded the King's castle and lasted months before the French decided to retaliate. The scenes in the movie are true to life as it shows how outnumbered and weak the English soldiers were by the time the battle took place. Known as the battle of Agincourt, King Henry V led his army into victory as the French struggled to fight back with their horses and heavy armors. According to movie director, David Michod, the battle scene took 10 days to film and he described the process as "disgusting". However, the results were anything but. The battle scene was the probably the most cinematographic part of the movie. Set apart from your typical bloody battle scenes, the battle of Agincourt in the movie focuses on the English archers' long bow skills and the struggles between the soldiers. Even though the battle was violent in real life, the movie portrayal was less violent in nature and more focused on the filming techniques and the English victory. In the end, the English won and the French king offered King Henry V his daughter, Catherine of Valois, for marriage.

Despite the fact that Catherine (played by the beautiful Lily Rose Depp) got a very minor role and got minimal screen time, her role was pivotal for the king as she was the one who revealed the corruption and betrayal Henry V was surrounded by, dropping her iconic line "all monarchy is illegitimate". Overall, the movie was mostly accurate to the historical events that inspired it. Doubled with great directing and an overall spotless performance by Timothee Chalamet and Joel Edgerton, The King deserved the international recognition and hype it received months before it was even released. And yes, most of the hype was over the fact that Timothee cut his hair into a bowl cut to match the role and the fact that Robert Pattinson (known for his role as the shimmery vampire lover in the Twilight saga) played the role of the French prince who got 10 minutes of screen time entirely dedicated to insulting

Henry V in an accurate and borderline hilarious French accent. If you want to watch a slow paced movie on power, persistence, betrayal and victory, then grab your popcorn because you just found yourself the perfect movie for a night in.

Unpopular Opinion:

I Hate Horror Movies

By: Hagar Alazab

I don't really know how I should start this or how to go about what I want to say so I will just be honest and say what's on my mind. I hate horror movies. I just can't stand them. I don't see the purpose behind them. The storylines are subpar. Most of them are based on jump scares and unbelievable CGI tricks. The whole idea just doesn't really appeal to me. Why anyone would pay money to watch something so gut wrenching and terrifying will always be a mystery to me. Call me old fashioned but when I go to the movies, I want to enjoy myself and have a good time. The last thing I want is to go out of the movie theater with trauma intense enough to cause me sleep deprivation for months to come.

Believe it or not, I want to be able to stand in front of my bathroom mirror in the morning and not be worried about some sinister soccer mum's 90 year old ghost possessing me as I brush my teeth. Let me just take the liberty of discussing some common (and slightly overused) elements in horror movies that are just a little bit too much.

Possession:

Absolutely terrifying. Not cool. Probably one of the oldest horror movie concepts and because the old movies about possession weren't deemed scary enough, now some of the movies with such plots are based on true stories and if that is not unsettling, I don't know what is. From possessed dolls trying to kill humans and possessed girls walking on all fours down a flight of stairs to nuns possessed by the devil,

the whole concept of possession is perhaps the most chilling and the most overused in horror movies. Although, I understand why it is such a popular concept, I don't understand the rationale behind people who anticipate movies like these without walking out with the slightest bit of apprehension. Movies about possession usually appeal to the common fear of secret, demonic presence, but unlike the concept of a haunted house or a friendly ghost like Caspar, the kind of fear derived from possession stories is very exclusive as it presents that evil spirit in something that is otherwise normal or innocent which is what makes possession detrimental to all movies characters and not just the possessed person.



Haunted Houses

This one is a little more comical than possession, not because it's any less scary but because of how haunted house movies usually start. A happy family of 5 take themselves from a pretty apartment in the city so that they can move to the suburbs to give their kids more space to play and to breathe clearer air and all that nice stuff. But here's where it gets interesting; their realtor then takes them to a horrible, dimly lit, stinky house that puts the fear of God into any rational human being and proceeds to tell them about the ghost that possibly resides in the house and about all the people who got murdered after moving. Basically giving them all the information they need to get the hell out, but do they listen? Sure not. And then the family starts wondering why their 3 year old is going crazy and who's drinking all the milk and why they hear voices calling for help at 3 a.m.

So yes, it is still scary but also hysterically funny.

Ghosts

Ghosts are usually the common evil that does all the haunting and terror and usually has a very depressing back story. Always misunderstood. Always mistreated.

People always ask where the ghost is but not how they are doing. Ghosts are just some good old spirits who want to peacefully coexist in the same house as the movie's protagonists and maybe occasionally possess the teenage son's body. No biggie. Bring justice for all the fellow victimized ghosts out there.

Clowns Just, no.

Cults/ Psychological Horror

Those tend to be more interesting than your average bad ghost VS good human movies because they usually need extra emphasis on the plot itself as there isn't a lot of CGI dependant paranormal activity present. Movies of that sort usually have a good story build up and character development and the "horror" aspect is based on the seemingly normal humans, unaffected by outside influence, who choose to be sinister because of some traumatic experience that they went through as children, or they join with other humans to preach a sinister cause. What is scary about those movies is how close they are to reality because unlike supernatural and paranormal stories that just seem so unrealistic, psychological stories mess with your brain and make you wonder just how evil humans can get when put under certain circumstances.

All in all, I have strictly avoided horror movies my entire life and only recently have I started watching some mildly scary movies just to see if my adrenaline still works. For me, those themes represent nothing other than plain misery and fear and not the kind that excites you for a split second and then fades away but rather the kind that stays with you for days to come. Having said that, I think it is fair to admit that it takes some bravery to go to a movie theater and watch a possessed clown try to eat children. It's also quite impressive how some are so impassive and neutral about such disturbing content when I am still trying to emotionally recover from the 2 minutes of *The Conjuring* I accidentally watched in 2017. I am not saying it's necessarily a good thing, but I definitely respect it.



LOVE

In Response to Your Bizarre Opinion

By: Yasmin Ibrahim

Dear Hager, after careful review of your article, I feel it is necessary I make a couple of points. Before I address anything Horror-related, let's discuss your use of the phrase, "going to the movies." What? Why are you my dad? "Going to the cinema" is using the Cinescape app to book a seat for a movie you're going to watch over the weekend. "Going to the movies" is driving three hours in advance to buy a ticket at the window, where you can't align the letters with the rows because the screen is too small, and later buying, of all things, a hotdog with extra mustard and ketchup that will definitely not dribble all over your clothes as you eat in the dark. But anyways, what caught my interest in your article is how you are my polar opposite.

I love horror movies very much; there isn't one I haven't seen and, if I can watch it in IMAX, you bet I'm going to. Although I agree with you that many of them have become CGI-based, it would be unfair to dismiss the fact that so are 90% of movies nowadays. Contrary to your belief, you don't have to be brave to love horror movies. In fact, the reason why I love them so much is because I'm afraid of everything; I just enjoy the rush of adrenaline they provide, which is why I love a good jump scare. Granted that too many of them make an underwhelming movie, but you can't deny the fact that a horror movie without a jump scare is basic. As for the misery these movies cause you, I can also relate. You know how many showers I've taken with my eyes open when I was 14? The sting of shampoo got the best of me. My parents were genuinely concerned as to why every time I'd shower, my eyes would be bloodshot. But there are

tricks to dealing with horror movies, which make for an enjoyable experience. So, without further ado, here are some aspects of horror movies that just make it more enjoyable.

Demons/Possession:

This is one of the best aspects in a horror movie. Honestly, most of the characters being possessed kind of deserve it. Some random kid in a single-parent family of EIGHT (don't even ask where all of these kids came from) finds this shady Ouija board and, as if their life isn't difficult enough, decides to use it to contact the spirits. What makes matters worse is they ask it questions they could honestly just ask their mom. But no, we gotta ask Lucifer if daddy's ever coming home. After all this trouble, daddy never comes home and Satan doesn't answer. So, you're stuck with this bootleg version of the devil trying



to take your soul. But, all these ridiculous concepts enhance the movie, not degrade it. With all of these issues being present in this type of movies, crew and cast still manage to create a terrifying film 90% of the time. In one way or another there's just something so entertaining about watching with these faults in it. We enjoy that it's stupid and it doesn't make sense and we all know the kid will be saved and the priest dies. But we still keep coming back. I guess we just want to see people banging their heads on walls or whatever.

The Conjuring Sequels/Prequels:

There are many entertaining things in life. But a James Wan movie is another deal, especially The Conjuring series. There's something so incredibly enjoyable about it. From Annabelle to the Nun (which was trash but we won't discuss that), you know I'm the first one to book a seat the day of its release. Jump scares are amazing, plots are really interesting what with the history and timelines and all that. Not only is it a break from the "isolated protagonist" kind of story, it's also a break from the same typical, yellow lenses, cracked skin demons. They have backstories, come from different areas, and look unique. There's also that cheesy romance between Ed and Lorraine Warren that you either can't stand or can't even with.

Immortality:

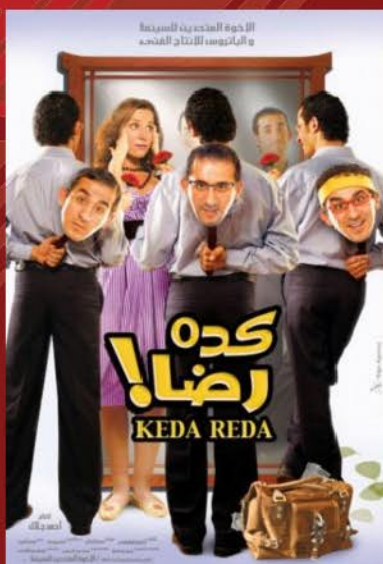
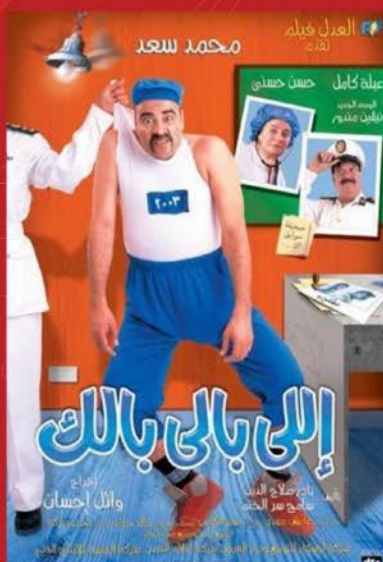
With most of these horror movies being produced by Americans, the main message found in 90% of movies is; Americans don't die. I swear I almost die watching some of the stuff the characters go through. They get shot, stabbed, beat, you name it. But they STILL manage to survive. Unless you're a father or a religious figure, you'll be safe. This is super comforting to know, as the events are terrifying, but you know they're going to make it out on the other side. Okay but I seriously don't understand why fathers always go missing or die in Horror movies. Says a lot about the directors/producers.

Messy Plots:

If there's one thing a horror movie fanatic enjoys, it's a "what the hell am I watching?" kind of movie. Action, Drama, Romance, and so many other genres are so unbelievably basic. You can pretty much guess the plot by the trailer and you know there's going to be a happy ending. This is never the case here. They're so jumpy, so mysterious and you usually can't manage to make sense of events until the last 15 minutes. The best part is the fact that these movies usually tend to be longer, yet they keep you off the edge of your seat the whole two hours. In any other movie, by the time the credits start rolling, you're already busy thinking about whether you want to go to P.F. Chang's or just KFC it because it's the end of the month and you already paid four KD for a ticket. You can't do that here. Movies of this sort are so shocking and confusing, you just need 10 minutes of silence to recover. And you know the film's done its job when you need to reflect over it. In general, I think there are many more elements to consider when it comes to this genre. Fans may disagree on exactly why they enjoy these types, but I believe excitement is a common factor. There's just a way to watching them that makes you look forward to seeing them. You long for the intensity, the suspenseful music, jump scares and occasional comic relief. And if you go for too long without seeing one, life just feels so boring.

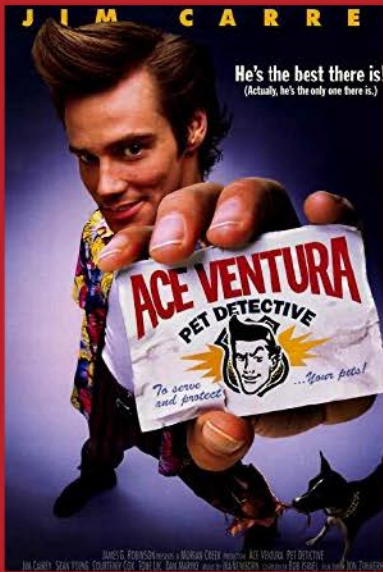


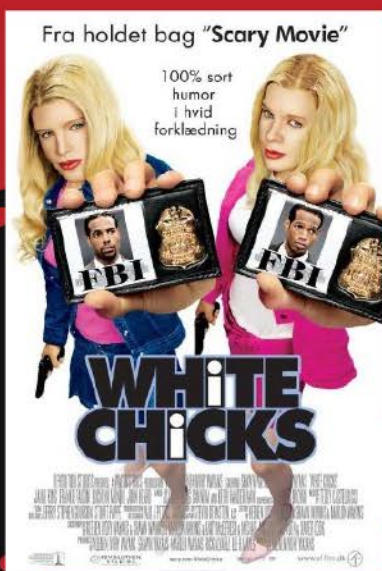
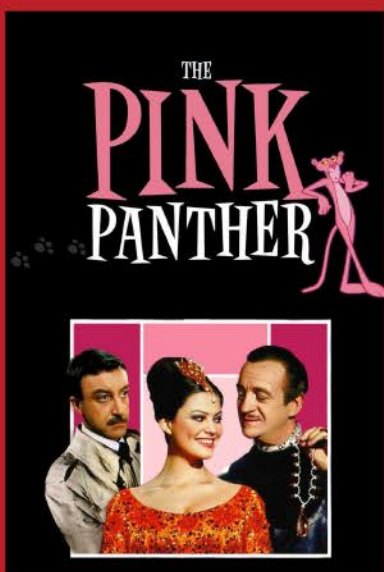
TOP 9 Arabic Movies for this holiday



TOP 9

English Movies for this holiday





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