

AUK Celebrates National and Liberation Day

By Farah Al-Shamali

The week of February 21st to 23rd saw the revival of AUK's campus life by way of the Office of Student Life's organization of a wide array of exhibitions and events along with other clubs/organizations that stimulated the nationalistic spirit and waved Kuwait's flag high above all others during these memorable days in our nation's history. The campus hallway was adorned with several displays of Kuwaiti culture hosting the Kuwait National Museum, Bayt Al-Sadu, and many more. There were also giveaways with a Kuwaiti twist offered to passing students, faculty and staff. The AUK Auditorium housed a book fair by the Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain.

Clubs and organizations also



AUK President Sullivan (third from left) leads National and Liberation Day festivities.

contributed time and effort to establish their own appreciation and love for Kuwait. The Cooperation Club honored children of Kuwaiti martyrs during

the Iraqi invasion, the Student Government Association held a national Q&A competition out in the grassy area by the soccer field, the Patriots' Club

brought the AUK community together by bringing in the Kuwait Television Band headed by Bilal Al-Shamy who sang several patriotic songs with the



crowd singing in tune with him and waving their national flag proudly, and the Arab Literature Club presented a poetry reading filled with verses that spoke to

the heart by Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, founder of "The Poetic Creativity Prize."

To a nation that is widely known for its openness and generosity, we give but a small token of our undying affection to Kuwait, pray that it will forever live on free of aggression, and continue to grow and evolve in every way. It is sad when anyone in Kuwait today, whether a national or resident, seems to do nothing but demand more and more of it. We have to give a little more than we take if we wish for our beloved Kuwait to prosper. I wish for my Kuwaiti people and all those who have created homes on this land to witness many more national festivities of this kind under the banner of a free, independent Kuwait.

Sigma Tau Delta Chapter Inaugurated



R - L: Amnah Ibraheem, Fatima Ibraheem, Nur Soliman, Nuha Al-Fadli, Alia Aref, Dana Al-Failakawi, and Kawther Sadeq

By Nuha Al-Fadli

On Thursday, February 18th, eight students from the American University of Kuwait were inducted into Sigma Tau Delta, the American-based, international honor society that promotes excellence in the study of English. Joining the ranks of over seven-hundred and fifty internationally active chapters, the Alpha Rho Eta chapter of Sigma Tau Delta at AUK, becomes the first chapter to be established in the Middle East.

Thursday's induction event invited family members to witness as the eight students received their membership pins and certificates from Sigma Tau Delta and words of encouragement, congratulations and guidance from the AUK administration and faculty. During the course of the ceremony, Dr. Tim Sullivan, AUK's Interim President, Dr. Nizar Hamzeh, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and Dr. Craig Loomis, Division Head of Humanities & Arts,

offered brief remarks. After the traditional distribution of pins and certificates, Nuha Al-Fadli, Sigma Tau Delta President, concluded the night by thanking families and instructors for their support and dedication, and for fostering an environment of free critical, cultural, and intellectual exchange. It is through their combined effort that the inductees find themselves prepared to uphold the Sigma Tau Delta's motto of 'sincerity, truth and design.'

To become honor society members, the AUK students had to earn above a 3.1 grade point average in upper level courses in English literature and be recommended by their professors as students who represent the best in scholarship and honor at AUK. All of the students have grade point averages well above the minimum requirement.

As one of the newest chapters in Sigma Tau Delta, the Alpha Rho Eta chapter at AUK is committed

to excellence in the discipline of English and takes its responsibility of being a 'first' in the Middle East seriously. Seeking to embrace that responsibility, the members plan to host an event that celebrates the act of reading at AUK and to deliver a panel presentation in the United States.

In March, some of the AUK members of the English honor society will present a panel at the 2010 Sigma Tau Delta convention in St. Louis, Missouri. Entitled Sand, Camels, Oil and Shakespeare: Reconciling our Arabian Gulf Identity with Studying English Literature, AUK's panel will take a comparative, intercultural, interdisciplinary approach to our experience as literature majors in the Middle East. In weaving literary theory, anthropological research, and cultural studies, members will demonstrate the breadth

Life Without Limbs...or Limits

By Shaimaa Bouyabes

One day, I received an email with an attached video called: Are you going to finish stronger? So I downloaded it. There appeared this man on the video; he had no arms, no legs and no worries. He was on a table and talking to a group of high school students. I wondered: how could he keep smiling? Nick Vujicic actually had a wonderful smile that you can tell comes straight from the heart. During that lecture, he was telling jokes and playing music and in a funny way, he would fall on the table and then he start the serious part when he would talk about trying to get up if you fall or if you faced any troubles in your life. It was amazing that most of the audience was crying because it was very realistic and inspiring especially when it came from a man whom you would think shouldn't even be alive.

Of course, I saved a copy of that video in and I watch it every time and feel inspired. The shock was when I opened my AUK mail one day and saw an invitation to attend a lecture given by this man here in Kuwait and I made up my mind that I would attend it no matter what happened.

The story of this young Australian man represents the true meaning of having a strong will and desire to live. He was born with no arms and legs because of a genetic disorder and only has a small foot attached to his left thigh; yet, he still does so many things that most healthy people can't do like play golf, swim, surf, play foot ball and write with his mouth. He also has a Bachelor's degree double majoring in Ac-



The author delighted to meet inspirational Nick Vujicic.

counting and Financial Planning at the age of 21 which is the expected age for students to finish college. His disability did not stop him from obtaining his degree on time while some of us healthy people can't achieve that. Isn't that amazing?

Was that enough for Nick? No it wasn't. He is also a preacher, motivational speaker and the director of an organization called Life Without Limbs for the physically disabled. Do you think he achieved all this easily? No, it wasn't. He had to depend on himself in almost everything; he has been through so many insulting situations in school caused by people who didn't respect the fact that he is a human even if he was disabled. Being a child with all that to deal with is not easy. Nick admitted that he tried to commit suicide before when he was hopeless but he didn't.

The lecture started with a video clip about Nick - where he came from, how he got to be the way

he is, how he adapted to his disability and what achievements he made.

Then he came on the stage with the help of a staff member with a big smile on his face and introduced himself again but this time he talked about funny situations he had been through in his life. It's all about people who were afraid from the way he is.

He started saying that there is one thing that stops people from moving forward in their lives and that is fear. He stated that "fear is the biggest disability and what beats fear is faith."

Then he talked about himself and how he decided to become a speaker. He had an assignment to talk for some audience for seven minutes but he was terrified but tried to hide his fear and overcome it. He started talking and it was so emotional that one of the audience members was crying so

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of knowledge and leadership skills AUK students manage to acquire while remaining sensitive to regional and cultural restrictions. Through this exciting academic experience, the presenters wish to shatter some of the misconceptions that enshroud Gulf countries and raise greater awareness to the unique position their citizens occupy as both members of the Muslim society and larger global community. Hence, they will seek to modify current academic and political discourse that centers on the Middle East.

In addition to educating convention attendees, the participants

will also have the opportunity to meet internationally renowned writers such as Chris Abani, author of *Song for Night* and *Grace-land*, Judith Ortiz Cofer, author of *The Meaning of Consuelo* and Li-Young Lee, author of *The Winged Seed: A Remembrance* and *The City in Which I Love You*.

Before traveling to the United States, the Sigma Tau Delta members shared their passion for literature and the arts with the larger AUK community by hosting a read-in in an Arabic setting under the title of "Common Reader Event" which took place on Tuesday, 9th of March 2010. They in-

vited AUK students, faculty and staff to read from Chris Abani, author of *Song for Night* in a simple tribute to the magical quality of the written word.

While Sigma Tau Delta is a new organization at AUK, it holds great potential for its members and the larger AUK community. When asked about her experience, Nuha Al-Fadli stated, "It is truly a privilege to belong to such a prestigious and intellectually stimulating organization. We all have great hopes for Sigma Tau Delta. I am sure our chapter will bring unique ideas and exciting events to both AUK and Sigma Tau Delta."

Life without Limbs, from page 1



AUK Students to Visit U.S. in April

By Dr. Mohsen Bagnied

Dr. Mohsen Bagnied, Head of the Business and Economics Division together with Dr. Marcia Denny, Assistant Professor of Business Law are planning a trip to Washington, DC and New York City for 40 Business students during the Spring Break in April 2010. The study abroad trip (Marketing 389) will include 2-day intensive training seminars on International Marketing and International Business. The seminars will be given by two senior professors from the University of Maryland, University College. The trip will also include visits to the World Bank, the UN International Monetary Fund, the University of Maryland College Park Campus, Congress, White House, US State Department, the US Supreme Court, the Smithsonian Institute, and Wall Street in New York.



Dr. Mohsen Bagnied



Dr. Marcia Denny

There are two major sponsors for the trip. They are MENA Holding Company which paid for all airfares to the United States and provided supplies. Also, ZAIN will cover all the costs of the intensive training programs in Washington. The US Embassy in Kuwait will offer an orientation seminar to the trip participants.

This is the third study abroad trip organized by the Business

and Economics Division in Spring 2010. The first was to Mexico (FINC 389), offered by Drs. John Rutland and Francisco Carrada-Bravo. The second is to Milan, Italy (FINC 389), offered by Drs. Jeremy Cripps and Athmar Al-Salem. Such study abroad trips will enrich the global educational experience of our students, and provide them with a competitive edge in the job market.

loud and waited until the end of the speech just to give him a hug. That's when he liked the idea of public speaking and decided to start a career based on it.

He said that when he told his parents about it, they had only one thing to say: "Son, you can't do it." But he said to not let anybody tell you what you can or cannot do because only you know what you are capable of.

So he started calling schools introducing himself as a professional speaker and telling them that he would like to be a guest speaker. Eventually, one school accepted and offered him 50 dollars.

Then he discovered that the school was so far away from his home that he asked his brother to take him there and paid him that 50 dollars; that is how he started speaking to audiences. By that story, he tries to prove that anyone can chase his dream and make it happen. He used to call people and ask them to let him speak but now he receives 200 invitations every week and has 27,000 invitations on the waiting list.

What Nick tries to say is that

if you have a dream, you have to chase it until it happens and that even if we fail, we should try again and again. He mentioned the story of Thomas Edison, the inventor of the light bulb, and said that he failed 9999 times in trying to make it and succeeded in his 10,000th experiment. Imagine, if he had stopped at his 1000th trial. He would have failed to invent the light bulb and we would have remained in the darkness or someone else might have invented it. Then, he won't be called Edison, the inventor of the light bulb.

Finally, he said that success is not about what we have and what we do with it. What is the benefit of looking at what other people have and feeling sorry for yourself for not having it? If we do that, then it's a waste of time. We should accept what we have and enjoy our moments – that's the real success. Starting something out of nothing, that is real success. It is not about how much money you have, it's about doing what you like to do and being happy.

At the end of the lecture, Nick answered the audiences' ques-

tions and gave them a chance to take pictures and watch a movie called *The Butterfly Circus*. The duration of the movie was twenty minutes. In this movie, they show a man who has decided to start a circus and was gathering the circus's crew. First, Nick is shown being abused and treated like a monster so they offered him the new job. The movie shows everyone with a smile on his or her face. At the same time, it shows some flashes from the past of each one them and how they used to be miserable but they overcome those circumstances and kept going with their lives. I don't want to burn the movie for all of you but you can watch it on YouTube. I actually saw a man shed a few tears over the movie. Nick said that the movie was made to give people some hope.

The reason why Nick is giving this lecture here in Kuwait especially to college students is to make them aware of what they are doing and appreciate the opportunity that they think that they don't have and help them to overcome their fears and seek success in their lives.



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The Voice of AUK is a student-run, monthly newspaper that seeks to foster active communication among the entire campus community and keep it abreast of diverse and relevant issues by providing high-quality news and information in an academic context. Through this, The Voice also strives to heighten awareness of rights and responsibilities of membership in the AUK community. The Voice also espouses a commitment to philanthropy.

The Voice of AUK welcomes contributions from all registered students, faculty and staff members of the American University of Kuwait. Submissions should be emailed to voice@auk.edu.kw.

All submissions must be approved by the Editorial Board, in accordance with the Editorial Policy. The Voice of AUK offers no guarantee that any submission will be published.

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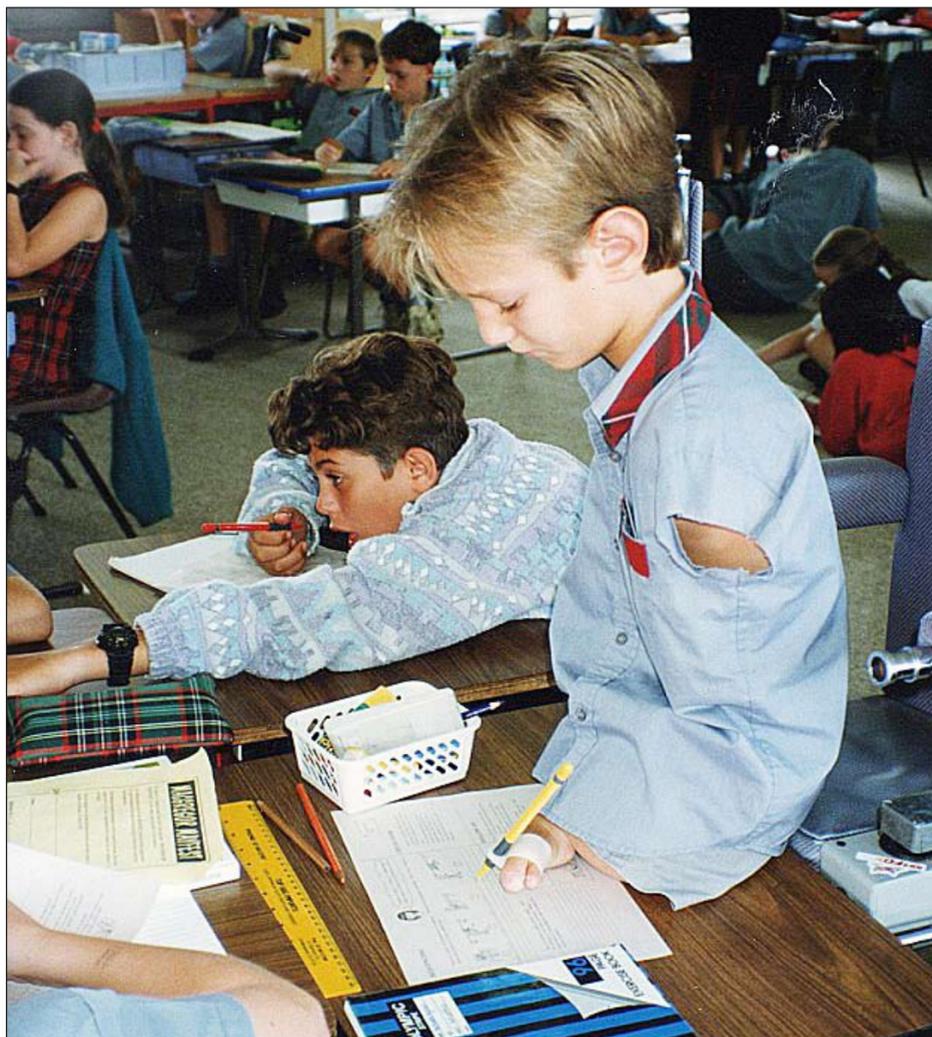
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Flavours of Sound Delivers Musical Genius



Panorama of the musicians taken by Mubarak Al-Mutair

By Farah Al-Shamali

On February 15, the Arabian Heritage Project at AUK hosted a group of thirteen individuals hailing from their respective backgrounds of the United Kingdom and various Gulf nations to present a night of musical genius and render the audience breathless at their stunning performance entitled Flavours of Sound. Their execution was flawless and their arrangements exotic and refreshing; the harmony among them that played itself out on stage oozed out of their collaborative music that brought

together sounds from both the United Kingdom, including nations outside of territorial England (because so many mistake the entire region to be just one country), and, although being represented by Kuwait, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia, the greater Middle East.

Anyone who had attended this groundbreaking concert would have readily agreed that it successfully demonstrated music's ability to bring people together on a social level and disregard differences. It was a remarkable initiative set up by the British Council and I genu-

inely felt that it had a solid political agenda behind it; that is not meant in a negative way. By having musicians from the United Kingdom and several Gulf nations collaborate to produce musical compositions that combine both English and Gulf elements, it is a statement about humanity and the United Kingdom's relationship with these respective states and the region in its entirety. One of the representatives of the British Council stated that the goal of such an endeavor was to build trust between the United Kingdom and other countries.

Incorporating several tunes and verses from both the United Kingdom and the Gulf states and meshing them together harmoniously spoke volumes about each. It is almost as if you can hear both cultures through the music. However, at times, there were some sounds that were emphasized over others and I concluded that it must have been part of the arrangement on that particular piece. However, every melody used in any of the pieces that night got its fair share of representation to a crowd that seemed to beckon for more and rightfully so. It is

incredible to first hear an English tune later complemented by an Arabic beat and percussions and vice versa. What was also noticeable is their mutual admiration and physical reaction to one another's musical styles. This is apparent when they would frequently smile in approval or nod their heads along with the beat. Because they are skilled professionals dedicated to perfecting their crafts, they were met with great respect and it was apparent as the audience roared with applause after every piece.

A lovely accessory that was

added on several times is the depth with which these pieces were composed and introduced. The musicians would not only play their instruments so effortlessly but would give brief, informative forewords to their works of art. They were so rich and literal drawing on themes of unrequited love, loss, and even the deer of Yemen at some point. Their music was haunting, mesmerizing and it can even be said that it left the audience with a newfound appreciation for music and what it is capable of. I know I left on cloud nine.

SGA National Day Celebration

By Fatma Al Ali

As part of Kuwait's national and liberation day festivities, the SGA participated by holding a national question and answer competition for students. The SGA started their event activities at one o'clock and the audience was a little apprehensive at the beginning of the program. Therefore, the representatives of the student government actively made a new move. They stepped down and mingled with the students to encourage them to interact more heavily.

Later, they launched celebrations for the National and Liberation Day in all its forms, with national anthems and songs, beautiful masterpieces, both new and old. There were over 150 attendees which included not only students but faculty members as well. The student government proceeded with questions and answers regarding Kuwaiti history, heritage and the present; questions were asked by



SGA President, Abdullah Al-Sharrad addresses National Day crowd.

the President of the SGA, Abdullah Al-Sharrad. However they stopped the competitions to start a show of the traditional and beautiful Artha, a traditional Kuwaiti dance

routine. Later, the contest resumed and prizes were distributed to students and various participants. At the end of the activity, students enjoyed their lunches together.

SGA-INJAZ Collaboration



SGA officers at the Injaz booth

By Fatma Al Ali

The Student Government Association at the American University of Kuwait is working with INJAZ Consulting and Training Company which is offering a new package of training courses from March to April to all students. SGA is working with INJAZ in cooperation with the National Union of Kuwaiti Students, the Student Association of GUST and the Public Authority

for Applied Education and Training Student Union.

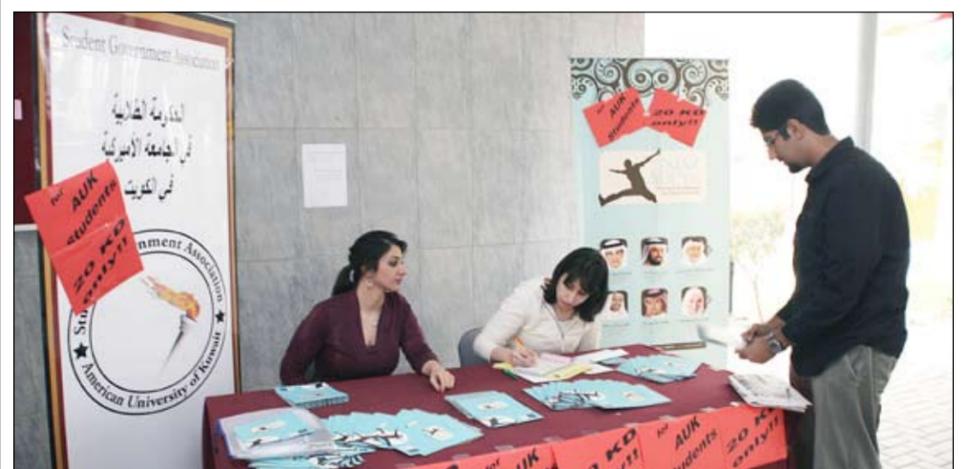
Injaz Youth is a project encouraging individual progress that offers packages of training courses, targeting university and college students, preparing them for life after university and in attaining a career in the job market.

Injaz is offering a new package of training courses for March and April, and selling tickets to all students at prices between 35-

40 KD. SGA at AUK is going a step further and is making a special offer exclusively for AUK students with a discount of 50% and also handling the remaining tuitions. The tickets for AUK students will be 20 KD and are have been sold at a booth in the AUK hallway. Tickets will also be available during the days of each presentation in front of the hall where the presentation will take place for the same price.



Traditional Kuwaiti drum players taken by Mubarak Al-Mutairi



SGA Secretary, Fatma Al-Ali, at SGA's Injaz booth

Technology's Endangerment of the Book

By Farah Al-Shamali

Working at the AUK Library for over a year now has reintroduced me to my undying passion of books that tends to get lost when I would have to read material in class I am not too fond of. However, it also opened my eyes to an archaic, dying world that is being overshadowed by the advent of the technological age. I love to conjure up the image in my mind of people disorienting themselves from the ruckus of their daily lives and seeking sanctuary in the pages of a book. It truly exports you to far off places and you will not have to move an inch. This marvelous world seems to be on the brink of extinction and the process cannot be reversed at the time being.

There is something enchanting about holding up a book to read. For one thing, it's less tiresome on the eyes. Secondly, it's a lot more personal. Thirdly, and most importantly in my view, it's physical. For any literature junkie, there is no excitement associated with reading a book online or by way of the dreaded 'Kindle.' It just doesn't add up. What sounds more alluring: having to glue yourself to your seat to read off of the computer which seems



to absorb all your energy or take your portable book to a comfortable corner of your room, sit in comfort and enjoy every word? There's no question about it: the book takes the gold. Books are a lot more dear to their owners because they can occasionally make

marginal notes on them, highlight a phrase or passage that sparked their interest and can really personalize them to their liking. With a computer, there's a tangible barrier that will not permit the reader to make any sort of 'personal' addition. Online books cannot be

tampered with stylistically. They're just posted to be read but I find reading to be a much more engaging experience. Finally, the most distinguishable difference is observably the physical attribute of a book and how much that actually means to a reader. Publishing companies have become extremely innovative with cover pages – they're gushing with color and wonderful graphics that serve as the excellent precursor for the rest of the book.

I do not mean to make the overarching mood of this article one of loss and sorrow over this development but it has been going around that the culture of books is on the decline around the world although it is only felt minimally and the transition into a bookless world may be a slow one. It is completely regrettable that the book is aligned with such a dismal fate. It is hoped that the status of the book only fluctuates and does not spiral down into nothingness. I only hope that libraries worldwide won't close their doors because there is always a good amount of people who appreciate what a book can grant a reader that nothing Bill Gates can cook up can ever top.

The Undergraduate: Of Students & Scoundrels

By Ibrahim Al-Muskin

In my brief time thus far as a university teacher, I have discovered two kinds of adults who pass through my classes: students and scoundrels. I have found that attendance to a university does not make you a student any more than going to MacDonald's makes you a hamburger. You have to choose what you will be once you enter college: a student or a scoundrel. Allow me to compare and contrast these two kinds of people.

Let me begin with the scoundrel. One of the most common attributes of the scoundrel is his goal to proceed through the semester with the least amount of effort possible. This is what I call a minimum-effort trajectory. 'Trajectory' means path of an object or aim. A rocket and an arrow in motion possess a trajectory. The scoundrel maintains his pre-college habits of going with the flow of other people's moods rather than organizing his desires and duties into a schedule. He pours so much effort into hairstyle, video games, Facebook, and therapeutic shopping trips that he has no energy left over to study. If only he would limit his pleasures to one time and one place during the week, shopping on Thursday nights, for example, he would have enough surplus energy to make a good effort at school. But he does not limit himself. Like a swamp, he spreads in every direction, and, like a swamp, he slowly decays.

Let me describe another aspect of the scoundrel's minimum-effort trajectory: he does not take notes. When test time draws near, he must appeal for help from the note takers, even

classmates he may have previously made fun of for their seriousness. The scoundrel may have looked cool and carefree for weeks, but the hour before the test, he becomes a beggar.

A second attribute of the scoundrel is that his focus is on passing, not learning. He carefully calculates how many absences, zeroes and incomplete assignments he can permit and still obtain that magic number of 69.499. The scoundrel looks for short cuts: the copy/paste function, Wikipedia, eCheat.com, a fabricated traffic jam--anything to outmaneuver what is required, when it is required. He may attempt to use charm to beguile the teacher into giving the grade he wants. A woman may doll herself up in the latest fashion and smother herself in a cloud of perfume, hoping that beauty will bend fate. But if that does not work, the beautiful princess becomes an ugly witch who threatens and accuses. One student, for example, held up his flash drive before a teacher and said, "I have a letter to the Kuwait Times ready to be published on how bad my class is!" I have seen male students attempt to intimidate the teacher by walking out on an exam or boycotting class on quiz day. They hope the teacher will cancel or reschedule the test. When these techniques do not work, the same men who were bullies become crying children who whine to school officials that their teacher is unfair. What about you? Is your goal to wear down your teacher in order to force your way into a passing grade, or is your goal to learn to understand difficult subjects? Remember, you only have

to endure your teacher for 16 weeks; why not spend your energy wrestling with assignments instead of your instructor?

Another indication that a person is focused on passing instead of learning is his tendency to cram information into his short-term memory just before he needs it, instead of gradual, daily contemplation of the subject. The goal is to spit the information back out, half-chewed, for the test. The goal is not incorporation, literally 'into the body' for developing one's life. At the end of the semester, the scoundrel is as empty as he was when he started. He has nothing to carry forward to the next semester, and nothing to contribute to others.

A final attribute of the scoundrel is that he is more class-aware than course-aware. He is always taking a poll: What are my classmates doing? Do they appear apathetic? Are they eager to outwit the teacher? Are they for the teacher or against him? After looking around, he adopts the prevailing attitudes of his classmates. Like a chameleon lizard, he changes color to become the same as his environment. In addition, the scoundrel is fearful. "What do my classmates think of me?" he asks himself. "Do they resent my interest in learning this subject? If I ask the teacher questions and appear eager, they may mock me or give me the evil eye."

The scoundrel often relies heavily on caffeine and nicotine to get him through the minutes he must sit in class. However, the use of chemicals is not for the sake of focus, but to prop up his body so that he will not embarrass himself by

dozing off in front of others.

In contrast to the scoundrel, the student makes it his goal to work hard until semester's end. I call this a best-effort trajectory. He takes notes. He makes a schedule. He makes sure he gets some sleep. He eats well and limits his use of heavy stimulants such as Red Bull to strategic moments, such as just before a test. I personally do not recommend Red Bull, but I write it as a concession.

The true student is on time. And why is he on time? Because he plans to be early. I have found that those who plan to be on time are almost always late because of a red light, or a stop at the ATM, or the car needs petrol, or there is no parking, or the printer jams, or, or. . . . But the person who plans to be early takes into account that unexpected delays should be expected.

Once in class, the student goes beyond the goal of avoiding embarrassment; he asks questions. He asks even if he fears the question may appear foolish; even if it irritates other students; even if the teacher has an intimidating personality. The authentic student realizes the truth of this sequence: desire, discipline, delight.

His desire is to do well in class, but he realizes that it will require the discipline of delaying his pleasures in order to study. He is confident that if he does this, he will delight in a good grade and an improved mind at the end of the semester –which is the very thing he wants anyway. Because of this motto – desire, discipline, delight – he eliminates good things in order to make time for the best

things. Good things are often the enemy of the best things.

The student adapts to this four-year season of life by putting some things on hold. Have you considered putting a search for that special lifetime relationship on hold until you can have the time and energy sufficient to develop it? Have you considered establishing an internet filter such as Net Nanny or Cyber Sitter that will shut you off the internet after midnight as a motivation to get some sleep or do some book work for school? Have you considered giving your BlackBerry a 10 p.m. curfew? The notion of delaying a special relationship, using an internet blocker or shutting off the BlackBerry is a radical one to some, but not if you have a goal. The successful track runner moves for all he's worth inside the boundary lines of his lane. Only with such focus can he win the race.

Another attribute of the student is that his focus is on learning, not passing. Although he is not obsessed with being perfect, a goal that will doom you to continual frustration, the student usually turns in carefully done work. It is not sloppy. It lacks those small mistakes that careful preparation removes. In addition, because the student's focus is on learning and not passing, he maintains this attitude:

Not, "What's it going to take to pass this course?"

But "What can I take from this course for my life?"

A final, fundamental attribute of the student is that he learns from failure. He is realistic. He understands that sometimes, even with

his best effort, he will get it wrong. He realizes that sometimes, the grade and the teacher's comments may seem unfair. Rather than trying to fight this reality, he accepts what is usable in his teacher's comments, and moves on to the next assignment. He adopts this value: 'Eat the chicken and throw away the bones.' He looks for ways he can change rather than ways he can blame the teacher. He responds meekly to unmerciful family members when they obtain notice of his failure. How I pity the student whose parent deems a 'B' a 'failure!' Rather than arguing in self-defense, he simply acknowledges the disappointment and says, 'Let's move on.'

Students and scoundrels: some of both groups pass. Some of both groups fail. But with each passing, the scoundrel finds himself in an increasingly precarious position. He is forced to take more risks and more short cuts. He becomes superficial with teachers and unable to participate in class discussions. He is forced to make deals with smarter students and relatives to do his assignments for him. He is tempted to take desperate measures, such as entering the teacher's office to find test answers. On the other hand, the authentic student moves on to each new semester with an increasing sense of confidence. And should he fail, he does not place the blame on the teacher; he soberly evaluates what he did wrong. Maybe nothing went wrong; maybe he is just a slower learner than most. Or maybe there are habits that need to change, or a stressful situation that will, on its own, change. The true student learns from the failure and returns to learn more next semester.

Who Was Marwa El-Sherbini Anyway?

By Alia Mustafa Aref

In Germany a young pregnant mother was viciously stabbed to death in an open courtroom on July 1st 2009. Her 3 year old son Mustafa stood witness to his mother's murder as her husband rushed to her aid. It made no difference because he was stabbed then taken down by a security guard who appeared later on the scene. The befuddled guard thought the husband was the attacker. Maybe it was the stark contrast of the husbands olive toned skin against the attackers white skin. Or maybe it was his dark hair, I don't know. The incident caused a great uproar in Egypt and in many Arab/Muslim countries. Many claimed that Germany was a Muslim hating country, that they were racist and that her death shall be avenged, etc. German authorities were obviously concerned and rebuffed the allegations and claimed that the murderer was not an authentic German, he was actually Russian born. I guess they were trying to diverge any attack on Germany from fanatic terrorist groups by denouncing this criminal as Russian born. You may take a wild guess at which group they were most concerned with: Al-Qaeda anyone?

However not only were German authorities worried of an attack, they voiced 'concern' over the state and security of their courtrooms. The young mother was not the first person to be attacked in an open courtroom but unfortunately she was the first to be murdered. The authorities did try to handle the situation with care however it seemed that they were ignoring the murder itself and concentrating on 'improving' their court security! In doing so, they are not only minimizing the importance of this young woman's tragic life but also alienating its Muslim and Arab immigrants.



The murderer had flatly admitted his hatred for foreigners which is known as xenophobia despite himself being a foreigner who immigrated to Germany from Russia. He even proclaimed his hatred for Muslims in court. Islamophobia is a newly coined word and some say that it is has been deemed a word of intolerance alongside anti-semitism. Islamophobia means a fear or hatred of Muslims.

Most Germans including the murderer share the common belief that immigrants are taking away all their jobs. Xenophobic statements prove how intolerant of foreigners Germans really are. Now I do not mean to generalize but I need to make my point even if it means labeling a whole nation racist. A young pregnant woman was murdered in open court. Her name was Marwa El-Sherbini. Her husband, Elwy Okaz, was not only stabbed in his attempt to save her from her assailant but was also shot for his efforts. Marwa was a pharmacist as was Elwy, both were working and studying in Germany. Some have reported that Elwy was just about to finish his PhD and they were soon to return to Egypt. Things started to unfold in 2008 when Marwa went to a public park with her son, Mustafa. There, she

asked a man to make room for her son on the swing when he called her an Islamist terrorist and whore among other things. She took him to court for slander and it was in court on that day in July when he took her life stabbing her with a knife he had smuggled into court. Some reports have estimated that he had stabbed her 18 times, others say 16 times. This caused one blogger to suggest that a person make a stabbing movement in the air 18 times is tiring and takes a long time to do so, where were the guards? Why did it take them so long to act? Could her life had been spared if only the guards acted quicker? We may never know although all I know is whether it's 18 or 16, there is no difference because the end result is the same: Marwa died.

You, reader, may have heard about her then, maybe not. Why is that do you think? Why haven't we all heard of her? Well maybe because the media was so wrapped up in the death of another person, a famous skinny, once black but turned white, pop star who wanted to be regarded as royalty; yeah, 'him' the drug addict. However can we really blame the media? How can they report on something they didn't know happened? Or did they know



but decided it wasn't newsworthy? After the attack, I checked Kuwaiti newspapers, local and international news channels and not one spoke of Marwa's death, and not one spoke of Marwa's death. Al Watan newspaper did however mention that her murderer was expected to go on trial but that was months later! Why wasn't there any media coverage of this incident? Some news channels report on the slightest attack or accident, why did they choose to neglect Marwa? Was it fear of Al-Qaeda retaliation? Was it because they were too busy with the public funeral of one of the most famous entertainers in history? Were they too busy for Marwa? Didn't she deserve some news coverage? Was her life so much less significant than that of Mr. Jackson? What is this world coming to when a pregnant Muslim woman gets killed and nobody cares? Nobody is talking about it? I didn't even know about it till a dear cousin told me. He said that I was being naïve and that the media was so caught up with this guy's funeral that they have neglected the death of a Muslim woman. We should be crying for her because she deserves our tears and not an entertainer who took his own life as a result of his obsession with drugs.

Loving Kuwait

By Shaimaa Bouyabas

I have been asked by one of my friends in one of the students clubs at AUK to speak in public about my love for my country, Kuwait. She knows that I am really good in expressing my feelings and am not afraid to talk in public. I didn't even need a second to think about it but I immediately said no. Maybe it was because I was busy or I'm just not very interested about the issue and I was said: what do I have to say about Kuwait?

That same evening, I went to my favorite coffee shop to relax after a busy day. Looking back at what had happened during the day brought me back to my conversation with my friend and my refusal to speak about my feelings about Kuwait and I asked myself: do I really love Kuwait? I am sure that I do but why do I love it? What did Kuwait give me or what do I have to give to Kuwait? As soon as I started answering all these questions, I started thinking about what I wouldn't be able to do if I wasn't a Kuwaiti citizen. We have everything we need to be happy and most of it is provided by our government. We have the right to question as a part of our democracy which is represented by the parliament and free elections. I still recall the day when the Amir gave Kuwaiti women their right to be a part of that democracy by allowing them to participate in the elections. Remember that day? Wasn't it amazing? I should mention that one of the important blessings of Kuwait is that as soon as oil was discovered, the Kuwaiti government started sending its students abroad to study. This was due to the fact that there were no universities in Kuwait until 1961 after its independence. This was in order to prepare Kuwaiti citizens to be part of the new modern civilization of Kuwait. Furthermore it was to provide the country with a national labor force that was willing and able to build the country using the education they acquired.

Being here in AUK today shows how the Kuwaiti government brought education to our state to provide an equal opportunity for learning for all its citizens. I know people who live in other countries who can't continue their education because they don't have the nationality. Kuwait opened the doors of education for everybody; our universities represent the real multinational, educational environment for the whole region. I am a very proud student however Kuwait offered us much more than education. It provided us with all the necessities for a comfortable life with no limitations, our primary needs such as shelter, food, security and health care are met. We are also provided with a democratic society.

I can't speak about all the things Kuwait gave me just for being one of its citizens. I also should mention that the wealth of Kuwait has reached so many countries around the world. If there was any natural catastro-

phe like a tsunami or any war such as what happened in Gaza recently, Kuwait is always there to provide help for all. One of the most important events in Kuwait's history was the invasion in 1990. At the time, I was only a little girl and knew nothing of wars, only what I had seen in movies. My family stayed the whole 7 months in Kuwait. I remember that I used to go to the roof with my family to scream "Allah Akbar" to anger the enemy. We prayed to God so that he would help free our country from the invaders. We used to collect the trash from the neighborhood and burn it every Wednesday; my dad was distributing food to the people who lived in the area. We shared all the responsibilities of the civilized community. Why did we do that? Don't you think that represents the true meaning of pure love for Kuwait?

Even on an international level, almost all nations worldwide were against the invasion and they actually sent their troops to help us free our country from the invaders. Doesn't that represent the true love for Kuwait? If the whole world loves it, I guess that we, as Kuwaitis, are willing to die for it. I know that if there was any threat that might be directed towards Kuwait, I would be terrified. I am much older now and have a different wider concept of war and I'm afraid that I might lose all the beautiful things in life such as my home, my neighbors, my friends and my wonderful memories. Am I ready to fight for it? I guess that I absolutely can do that with a smile on my face.

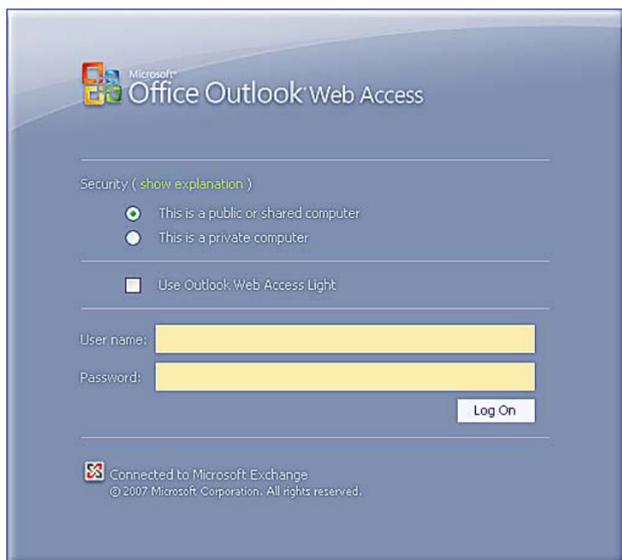
We always travel to other countries but we soon start to miss our homeland and wish to go back as soon as possible. It is as if, without Kuwait, we are lost in this world. Even if there are a few things that we might dislike about our community, we should not take it as an excuse to let it go. If we did that, the situation might get even worse than it is. For example, in families we always have some arguments or problems but that doesn't change the fact that we love each other and when we disagree with someone, we disagree only because we love them and we wish the best for them no matter what. Don't you think that it applies to Kuwait as well?

I think that we, as students, should work harder and harder to learn so that we may apply what we have learned in the process of maintaining what we have and help in improving it and prepare it for the coming generations. There is no time to waste when it comes to the destiny and future of our beloved Kuwait. Kuwaitis are really proud to be Kuwaiti and our ego as Kuwaitis is very well known worldwide. We have our special character that people, wherever we go around the world, recognize as Kuwaiti. I would like to conclude this article by saying: yes Kuwait, I love you I always will and I am not shy to show it to the whole world.

AUK Students and Email: A Bittersweet Relationship

By Farah Al-Shamali

I never had to trouble myself with cyberspace communication when I was in mid/high school. Thinking back, it's almost as if those times were ancient and these past four years have made me see the light: the age of the email. I do mean to weigh it down with importance because that's exactly how I'm starting out this piece. I fail to understand why my AUK colleagues dismiss checking their emails on a daily basis. Anyone who knows me will testify that I may be well on my way to exchanging wedding vows with my AUK email but I'm not saying students should be as crazed as I am over it. Unbeknownst to anyone who doesn't check his or her email, there are pretty serious consequences



that could befall them due to their lack of interest (not trying to make this sound like a Shakespearian tragedy but it just came out that way). It may just be a tool by which users can send and receive messages electronically

over the World Wide Web but it doles out a much higher purpose especially when it services a tight-knit community such as a university. The best analogy with which to compare this phenomenon to is like having loose strings that are parallel to one another and present no form of interaction whatsoever; only by using a high-tech mechanism do they begin to intertwine and create silky, smooth pieces of fabric. In much the same way, the development of the email system has simplified interdepartmental and person-to-person communication when distance becomes an obvious factor that may otherwise impede it.

Going back to the conse-

Continued on pg. 6

By Farah Al-Shamali

Nothing frustrates me more than when I'm trying to get an assignment done or am working on a make-or-break term paper and I magically find myself on Facebook – the social utility that seems to have everyone buzzing and some fussing. I thought it was useful, in the past, to contemplate why I created an account in the first place but I concluded thinking that its benefits outweigh its drawbacks by a long shot. Or so I thought. I detected the symptoms of this chronic disease way back and tried everything in my power to keep a physical and mental distance from this vile creation. Facebook developers don't exactly hand you the option of leaving this explosion of a social network because once you deactivate, you can always reactivate even centuries later (obviously a gross exaggeration but it fits the tone of sarcasm). Where's the point in deactivation? I want to leave with the assurance of never returning on any occasion. On the other hand, the only reason why I attribute any importance to it is because it keeps me connected to my overseas friends whom I rarely and probably will never see or meet up with due to complications such as geographic proximity and what not. With this tirade of emotion boiling up inside of me and my attempts to come to terms with my apparent addiction, I long to be provided with the proper remedy.

So what is good ole Facebook doing by putting out the bait of using a free, convenient mode of communi-



cation, reeling us into creating accounts, and sending us friend requests and notifications? Simple – rendering an already sedentary society immovable and having to succumb to the imagined state of comfort as we recline in our armchairs, choice of drink in hand and watch the world pass us by because we receive an average of fifty notifications a day. Is anyone else seeing a pattern here? What I'm sensing these days is that Facebook users are also being eaten away by this inward conflict as they try to

battle their infatuation with it through it. For instance, a number of fan pages make commentaries on how dangerously compelling Facebook has become so much so that we'd rather leave our responsibilities on the shelf and respond to that wall post in record time.

We, as in my generation, were ultimately caught up in Facebook's sudden popularity and 'having a Facebook,' as it's come to be known, was and still is in. There may be some study backed by statistical information out there

somewhere about what the most frequently practiced activity is on Facebook but even without it, I'd like to take a stab at it and make my own assertion even if I'm not being all Aristotelian about it. Most of the time is spent doing almost nothing. There's only so much you can do on Facebook; once those are out of the way, you're left with stalking profiles, stalking them again, refreshing your Home page every few seconds, refreshing your Profile every few seconds, scrolling up and down various pages,

clicking on photographs that take you to profiles of people you've never heard of in your life, and it becomes tragic when you actually start to look at their profiles. So all of this amounts to an absolute waste of time! All of that mindless clicking that gets you nowhere could be exerted finishing up something that'll really count in the long run and you'll end up beating yourself up about not focusing all your energy on what's important. Almost anything assignment-related gets done by way of a laptop or com-

puter in this day and age and not being connected whenever you are is almost a sinful act. So whose to say your cursor might not scroll over to create a new tab in your internet browser to open up your Facebook account?

Remember the good ole days when we actually had lives before signing on to death row, I mean Facebook? I may be on an emotional rant and am probably blowing this whole thing out of proportion but I do understand that some of us are more physically and socially active than others. Life in general has become too static and it really comes down to your own ability to control your usage of any technological advancement and not letting it jeopardize your happiness in being a healthy human being who can run up a flight of stairs without having to camp out in the middle to catch your breath. It's amazing how Facebook tricks the mind into thinking that doing absolutely nothing important can be a worthwhile pastime. There's more dirt on this gargantuan web of human interaction but we have to dig deeper. I don't know if it's the analytical geek inside me but I can't help but feel Facebook is more than what it claims to be. I may be so far as prosecuted for wanting people to take my words for truth on this matter but I feel more than confident to foresee that Facebook isn't doing Kuwaiti youth a favor. Prior to 2006, when Facebook was unveiled to the world, we were still deskbound but its worst off today. You know what's funny? I had my Facebook page open the whole time while writing this.

Email, from page 5

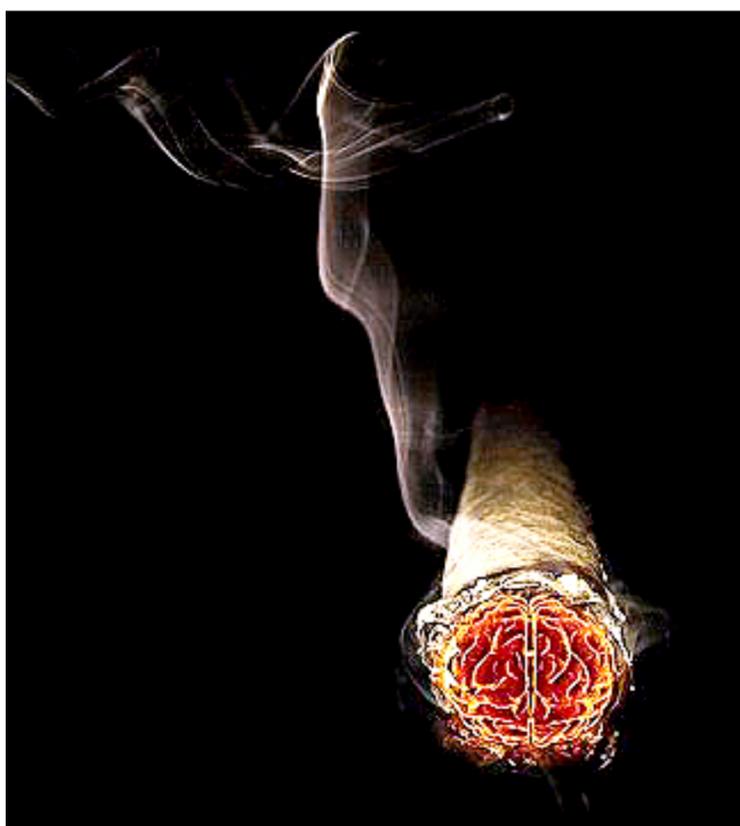
quences I so solemnly brought forth into existence, to start off with, they are not really supported by anything concrete and I didn't go out of my way to gather facts on the matter but I believe my claims to be legitimate nonetheless because they are seen and felt. Initially, everything that has anything to do with on-campus (and occasionally off-campus) events and functions is transmitted to students via email at AUK. Granted other mediums are utilized such as posting an insane amount of flyers on bulletin boards and placing roll-up banners on the ground floor of every main building on campus but the email is really the most economic and convenient way to get to people fast. The Office of Student Life, for example, is commended for all the effort they put into planning, organizing and executing fun-filled and educational on-campus events that are meant to narrow the ideological, cultural, etc. gap between AUK students but there has to be some sort of reception on the other side! I, for one, have heard a number of times from AUK staff that they can't go up to every single student, question them as to their email activity

By Nada El-Badry

From the beginning of my first year here at the American University of Kuwait, one of the things that stood out most to me was the abundance of smoking on campus. It is hardly easy to ignore, after all, and I know for a fact that I am not the only one who finds it bothersome. The last thing one wants to be greeted with when walking through the campus first thing in the morning is the choking smell of smoke, especially since most of the smokers tend to stick around the main hallway and the bathrooms (or at least the girl's bathroom as far as I know) – in other words, the most sheltered part of the campus, thus causing the smoke-y smell to remain rather than diluting in the air and also making it unavoidable. It is understandably a free country, but the least a smoker could do is direct their smoke away from passers-by and choose a more open spot, not one where innocent bystanders would suffer from smoke inhalation. Not only that, but I – and, I am sure, many other students like myself – find myself returning home smelling like smoke, which is hardly a pleasant perfume to wear.

I realize that the easiest way is to simply ignore this matter completely as it has obviously

Smoked Out: A Little Consideration Please



been discussed on more than one occasion, but frankly it is quite ridiculous. Yes, people are free to do whatever they wish, but there must be a limit, and I believe the limit was crossed when whatever it is that is being done brings discomfort to

others. Consideration for others would be quite appreciated. And if not that, then smokers should at least have consideration for one's self. It has probably been heard a thousand times over by others, but that does not make it any less true – smoking is dan-

gerous for your health. And I do not think students who are eighteen and older ought to be cutting down on years of their lives already. There is a reason why cigarettes are called "cancer sticks" after all.

And why smoke, really? To look good? To relieve stress? Simply out of boredom? Surely you can find alternatives that are not life-threatening. If it is for any of those reasons and while I might sound over-dramatic or paranoid, many statistics show that heart disease and lung cancer and so on are chiefly caused by smoking. While many of you think that they will 'quit long before health becomes an issue,' it is not as easy as it sounds. It is better to quit while you are ahead – or, better yet, not start at all – if not even for your own health, then for the health of the people around you. None of us wish to have complications due to second hand smoking – and I am sure none of the smokers at AUK wish to be causes of said complications.

All I can really say is: please think twice before you light up your next cancer stick; think of the consequences of every puff, and the disturbance you're causing to the others around you. And then perhaps you'll reconsider lighting it up.

The Dean's Corner

By Dr. Carol Ross

Somebody's got to say it so here goes...

1. Whether it's your parents money, the government's money or your money, don't waste it! Your college education is a serious investment of time, effort and money. There is nothing wrong with playing hard if you are studying harder! Springtime breathes life... Watch for opportunities to BE LIVELY!

2. You have been given an AUK email account. AUK email is the primary method of communication with the students. If there is important information for you, it will be sent via email. If you do not check your email, then you are going to miss out on information. We may put pop-ups on the web, send a text or even send a note to your home via messenger. However, email is how AUK will communicate with the students. If you are having problems accessing your email, check with Information Technology department.

3. If you are a Government Scholarship student, you have

an assigned major. You may have declared your major. Whatever classes you are taking must be applicable to the assigned major. If you don't like the assigned major and you have every intention of petitioning for a change of major, make sure that every course you take is for the assigned major until you get official word that your major has been changed. If you decide you are going to do things your way, then you are also willing forfeit your scholarship and pay for your courses. Government scholarship students MUST abide by the rules. You signed lots of papers saying that you will abide by the rules. Remember what you signed!

4. All students must complete their remedial and other foundation courses within their first three semesters of enrollment. This means that you cannot leave English 101 until your junior and Math 095 until your senior year! You must take English 099 during your first semester of enrollment. You must take EDUC 100 during your

first semester, as well as English courses 102 and 108 during the subsequent semesters. If you must take Math 095, take it within the first three semesters as well. Student registrations will be checked to ensure the foundation courses are being taken. Doing remedial and foundation courses right away make the rest of the college journey go more smoothly!

5. When you applied to AUK, you were required to submit a variety of official documents from valid civil ID to official and/or certified transcripts. If you have missing documents, a hold will be placed on your records until your file is complete.

6. Gotta love those extra parking spaces! Park between the lines, not over the lines or across the lines! Don't block the access to the spaces. We all must live and park in the AUK community so let's be respectful of one another!

Backing out of the Dean's Corner until next time...Go Wolf Pack! dears

Student Abdulaziz Al-Mutawa Attend LIMUN 2010



AUK Student Abdulaziz Al-Mutawa

By Farah Al-Shamali

On February 19, 2010, the London International Model United Nations Conference kicked off in London, England. Being one of the most vibrant student conferences in the world and boasting over 2000 participants, LIMUN has much to live up to and it came back even bigger and better this time around as told by AUK's own Abdulaziz Al-Mutawa who took on the pivotal milestone of heading an entire commis-

sion. I, myself, having participated at LIMUN last year witnessed its profound effect on bringing youth together from countless nations under the auspices of world peace and cross-cultural dialogue and understanding.

This year, LIMUN this year had eighteen different commissions with various topics to discuss ranging from small arms trade to the current environmental crisis that is in our planet. The London School of Eco-

nomics and King's College London were the main universities behind the LIMUN conference. State support to the LIMUN Conference is shown through it actually being a registered charity in the United Kingdom. As with any MUN conference around the globe, guest speakers are usually necessary. LIMUN's 11th session was honored to receive Mr. Luis Moreno Campo, the lead prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. Mr. Campo is leading the investigation on many worldwide cases such as Darfur.

Apart from having been a proponent of events of a diplomatic nature, Abdulaziz was motivated to join the LIMUN conference this year due to the rewarding experience he gained and the many benefits he reaped from the previous conference in which an entire delegation from Kuwait was represented. It is always a great opportunity for students to take advantage of the available resources around them and benefit their educational careers. As we move on to graduate and transition into our professional careers, these conferences can act as tools of experience to further enhance our professional skills and equip us to handle the promising future.

Although attending such a function as the LIMUN Conference may be a novel experience for many, Abdulaziz, a veteran of MUN-related activities, had directed a commission at an international conference previously. Nonetheless, the LIMUN

Ready...Set...GO!



Dr. Carol Ross during Tricycle Race

AUK's First Tricycle Race

By Nada El-Badry

The crowds cheered as the two competing bikers shot off. It was the 24th of February and also the finals for the first tricycle race the American University of Kuwait had ever held. It was down to three teams: the Intensive English Program's team, the Campus Services team and Team Fourteen, a team formed by the AUK students. The light drizzle that started at the beginning of the race did not seem to deter the contestants, for they obviously gave it their all, the winners of each race flying across the finish line to the sound of applause from the crowd. The

enthusiasm was infectious, and this writer found herself joining in, even running across campus with everyone else to see the rest of the race. The track ran all the way around the C buildings, and none of us wanted to miss any part of the race so that we might guess who would win. One of the best moments in any college is when students and faculty can join together in one event – and that is what happened during the tricycle race. Students and professors alike cheered on the teams they were supporting, making the race that much more successful.

The racers did their best and

it showed. Excitement was in the air as the teams cheered on their teammates. There were three races in all, and they ended all too soon. And the winners were: in first place came the Intensive English Program's team, who accepted their trophies and medals with large grins and posed for a picture. In second place, Team Fourteen accepted their winnings with just as much enthusiasm, as did the Campus Services team. Good job to all of you, and let us hope everyone does even better at next year's AUK Tricycle Race! I am sure the second one will be just as successful as the first.



From Left to Right - Jabran Butt, Samih Damerji, Abdulsamad Marafie, and Jawdat Khalaf

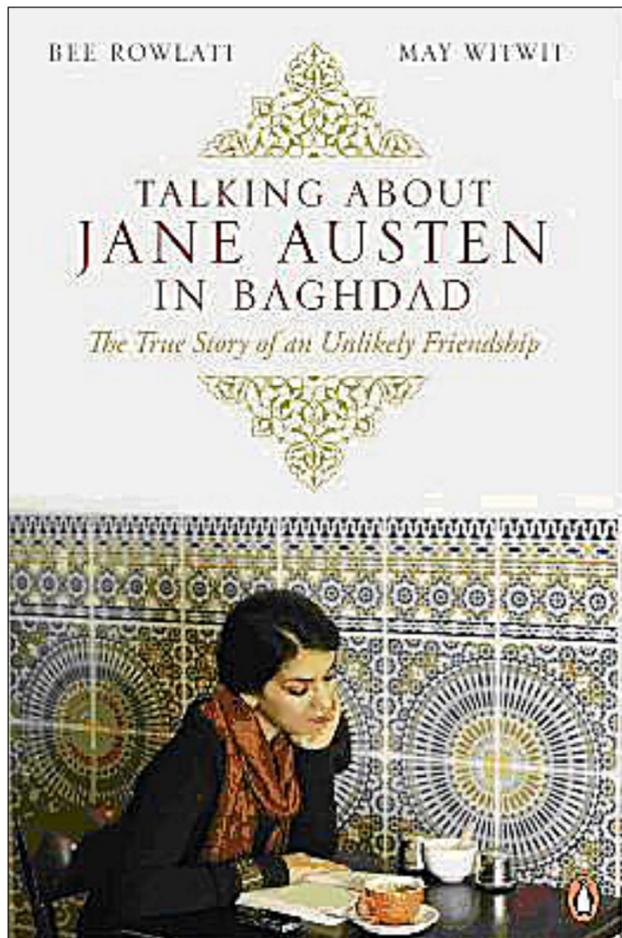
experience is a unique one as he was able to explore different nationalities, cultures and different political views. His commission was the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC). DISEC is the largest committee at the LIMUN conference and includes a wide discussion panel while maintaining rules of procedure and diplomacy. The DISEC discussed two main topics: control of arms trade and flow in violent militia

regions and the link between security and development. As for the challenges that Abdulaziz had to overcome, communication while he was in Kuwait was one of them. However, communicating all the specific conference details and preparation via email, polycom, video conferencing, and other means simplified the challenge presented by communication.

Over the years, LIMUN has definitely changed drastically in terms of logistics, technicalities

and overall organization. This year, the event was impeccably organized due to the Secretariat's efficiency and high qualifications to take on several responsibilities. The guest speakers present at the opening ceremony and at individual committees were very prominent and well-known figures of the international community. What is also interesting to note is that the conference organizers received immense amounts of support from their respective universities both financially and logistically.

An Unlikely Friendship



By Amal Behbehani

This is a story of an unlikely friendship between two women in different worlds. In England, there is Bee, who is busy running around taking care of her three children while dealing with family issues and her husband's traveling. In Baghdad, in the midst of the bombings, there is May, who is an instructor in English at a girl's university. May deals with the bombs and blockades that occur on her way to work and the trouble of straightening her hair during a blackout. Their bond forms through emails sent back and forth for several years.

Written in epistolary form, this story covers all issues of love, family, and friendship. The reader enters a world where friendship truly forms through the internet. May and Bee lead different lives, but somehow they have overcome the boundaries and found something similar within another by a simple email. They continue communicating back and forth, discussing their love for Jane Austen and their experiences with children and work.

The writing style is the normal email form of writing, but through the multiple emails, the reader gets to see sides of the women and their personality as it seeps

into the writing. They let you into their lives and sweep you with their daily routines and happiness or sadness that accompanies them.

May's emails focus on the unfairness of her living situation as opposed to her life before the invasion. There are times when the state of her life seems funny yet sad, like trying to blow-dry her hair with the electricity going on and off. As for Bee's emails, they are mostly about her being a mother, but in contrast with May's life, it becomes more interesting and shows a different aspect as how two lifestyles can be totally different – or the same. While Bee is dealing with her children, May is dealing with her own children – the students at the university. Both have husbands who, at times, drive them crazy, which is amusing that both women who live in different countries and culture both deal with the same issue.

A part of the book shows post-invasion Iraq, and the other part, the modern lifestyle of a working mother. Two concepts in one story that shows how hope can be crushed and found again. The reader will not be able to leave May and Bee's emails without feeling some sort of connection with these two extraordinary women.

The Orange Mountain Music

By Nur Soliman

For those of you who have watched *The Hours* and liked the unusual soundtrack, the name of composer Philip Glass might not be so strange. However, even if you have heard the soundtrack to *The Hours*, there is in fact, a whole wealth of work by Philip Glass that is totally different to *The Hours*; but just as deep and enjoyable. From his famous operatic masterpieces *Einstein on the Beach*, *Satyagraha*, and *Akhenaten*, to his soundtrack compositions for *Koyaanisqatsi* (1982) or *Powwagatsi* (1988), Glass has a remarkable career in experimental, epic, Minimalist music, working with David Bowie and Paul Simon, among others. This Music Sampler is a good introduction to Philip Glass's major and minor works.

The first track, "Etude No. 2" is a nice transition from *The Hours*-type music (the lovely "Escape" is the only track from *The Hours*), the melancholy piano chords running under a repetitive melody. "Music Box" is dramatic; the music box chimes sound-

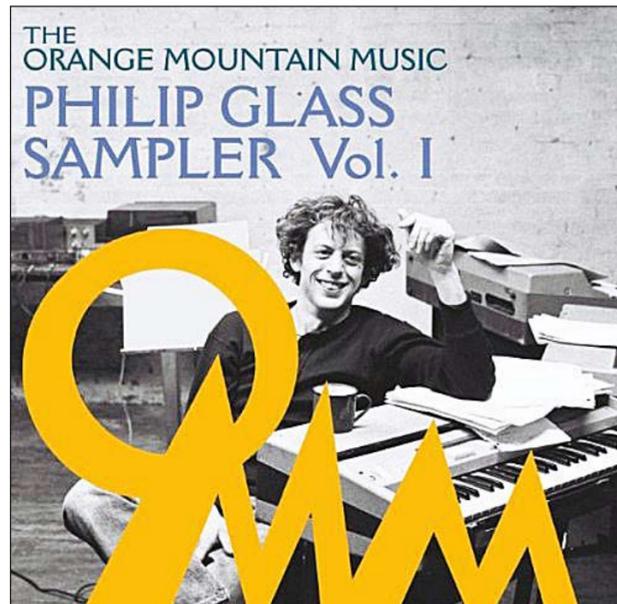
ing like Japanese wind chimes or bells. "Mvt. IV – Concerto for Saxophone Quartet" definitely recalls Michael Nyman's compositions for brass (think "Here to There" from the film *Piano*), with mellow,

phé's *Bedroom*" has some classically beautiful piano, while "Mvt. 1: Concerto Fantasy" has a more epic, orchestrated drama to it, which is quite different. "Etoile Polaire" has a Vangelis

"Molly is a Dreamer" features a beautiful violin tune like a theatric Ysaye piece. "The Grid," from *Koyaanisqatsi*, is an excellent end to this volume of works, demonstrating the quintessential minimalist Glass with repetitive, scintillating arpeggios that seem to have no end.

This first sampler to Philip Glass, no doubt targeting newer listeners, might have been better off with more samples of his operas to add vivid variety to the selections. It has an excellent choice in the instrumental studies and works, and also from a few soundtracks, but perhaps if there were samples from the glorious-sounding *Satyagraha* ("The Kuru Field of Justice") or *Einstein on the Beach*, there might have been a bit more aesthetic dazzle to the selection. However, the producers were careful not to overdo Glass's famous arpeggios, which potentially turn many listeners off, so this album is quite a good introduction to Philip Glass.

Philip Glass, primary artist, composer. Orange Mountain Music Records. September 22 2009 (Approx. 1:07:36).



bubbling saxophones, some of them with deep Baroque chords, or like Brubeck's "Rondo a la Turk." In "Help Me," the back-and-forth cello scales lend gravity to the plaintive melody. "Or-

tone, the timeless, silvery chorus kept tense by the synthesizer. "Funeral of Amenhotep III," from the opera, *Akhenaten* is included: the percussion passionate under the tenor and baritone voices.

Loves Me, Loves Me Not, A Collection of Shorts

By Amal Behbehani

Now here is a book you do not want to miss! Over forty stories from authors such as Joanna Trollope, Adele Parks, Carole Matthews, Katie Flynn and more, *Loves Me, Loves Me Not* has all the type of love stories that you can wish for. From magical romance to second chances to middle-age relationship, this book contains all types of love situations.

The stories focus on love, but not the fairy tale kind of 'love'. Mostly the authors in this book write a story of 'realistic' love. They focus on when cupid's arrow hits its target, when love strikes the person. It can happen when you least suspect it, or it happens normally without any Hollywood exaggerations. You can fall in love with a person you would least expect, or with someone who just makes you happy. Basically, none of the stories end in a fairytale ending, but an optimistic look into the future with the promise of finding love.

Before every story, there is a little introduction about the author. It can be bias as some authors would be better known than oth-

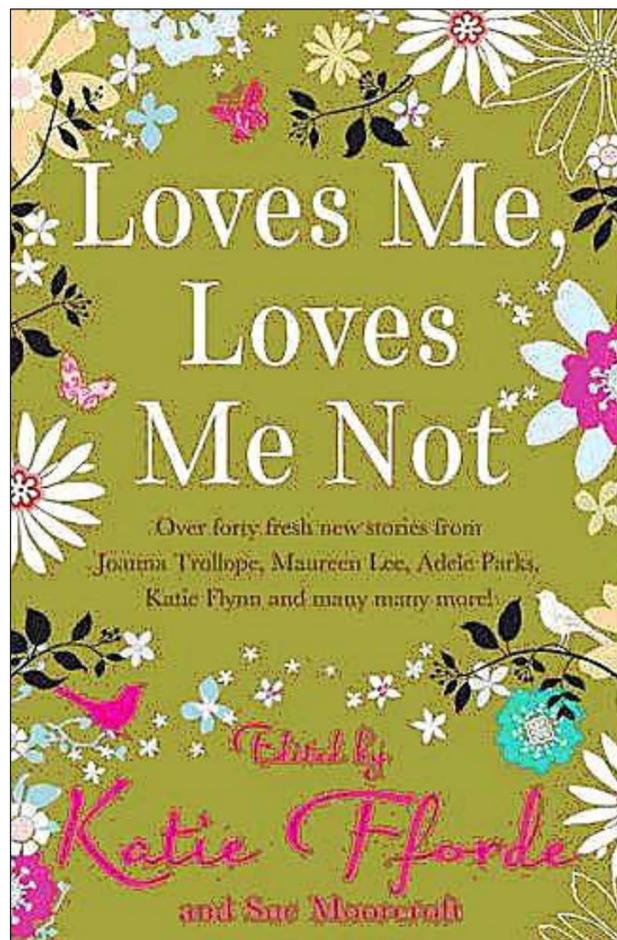
ers would; but it is useful for knowing if this is the type of love story you would like to read, and what other stories

chick-lit authors on the scene.

A great factor in this book is that the stories are short and can be

able to put the book down without thinking what type of story will come next. The book includes different styles of writing, from historical to romantic to comedic to realistic, all focusing on love. I would advise the reader to read a story a day to appreciate every type of writing style shown through these different authors.

The best love situation that was heartwarming in this collection of short stories is the "Save the Last Dance for Me" by Benita Brown. It will, without a doubt, bring tears to your eyes, and you cannot help yourself to root for the "next-door" girl. If adventure romance is what you are looking for, look at "A Matter of Time" by Elizabeth Bailey. Jumping through paintings, sword fights, and the battle for the necklace all included in this love story. As for Jane Austen fans, "Just Deserts" by Amanda Grange is a must read for those who ever wondered what would happen if Wickham and Willoughby were to meet. There are several more lovely stories, but then you should get the book and read it to see it yourself and find your own favorite story.



the same author writes. It is safe to say that *Loves Me, Loves Me Not* is a chick-lit story, with the best of British

read in ten to fifteen minutes. However, its impact on the reader continues longer than that. You will not be

Kuwait Jazz Collective: An Evening of 'Real' Jazz at the Dar

Nur Soliman

On the night of 3rd March, the Kuwait Jazz Collective, led by Raphael (Raffy) Bushman, played for the second time at the Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah, this time with seven more members and a definite new sound. They performed to a large, enthusiastic audience, and in the space of an hour, performed pieces by Ray Charles, Miles Davis, and others, even performing some of Raffy's own compositions. Below are some highlights from the performance.

The first piece, "65 Bars and a Taste of Soul," originally by Charles Wright & the Watts, was a good start to the concert, and was more or less characteristic of the Kuwait Jazz Collective's style. Sobiyrn Mukhammadiyev on the drums, and Raffy on the bass guitar, played a sharp, catchy pop/rock beat, while the trumpets and the other brass instruments played with a rich, full sound. It was upbeat, creative, it had touches of funk, soul, and fusion in it, which made it contemporary, like Kyle Eastwood's jazz band, but it still managed to preserve the warm dynamism of jazz brass.

"On Green Dolphin Street," made popular by early artists like Miles Davis with John Coltrane, and Bill Evans, was performed brilliantly. Richard Bushman on the double bass performed superbly, his dark, resonant strings in Ray Bauduc-tandem with Khalid Abuwarda on guitar and Mukhammadiyev with great drum-and-cymbal lines. The brass maintained mellow chords in the back while Edward Timershin played the melody in the gentle tone of Miles Davis. Sayidburhon Gapparov on the trombone had his only solo of the evening, a beautifully rich, coaxing melody that perfectly complemented Timershin. Raffy also had his first piano solo with this number, performing excellently with a nimble, light hand. The loud explosive ending, while not characteristic of most clas-

sic renditions of "On Green Dolphin Street," was still done very well, and gave a nice, bright celebratory ending to the piece.

"Soul Rhythms," Raffy's own composition, starts out with him on his bass guitar in his own poppy, bossanova sound, then the whole brass section came in with a blaring opening phrase, softening down to a soft, bossanova, Herb-Alpert-type tune, with a few jolting phrases every now and then to break it up. Then the ensemble moved to a loud bebop tune, with Timershin playing small, muted phrases in between.

The audience was introduced to the popular Ahmadi Music Group soprano Tonya Caliph Ray with "You Are My Sunshine." Playing briefly in quick ragtime and parody singing in an earnest voice, Raffy told the audience this was not going to be your average country folk rendition of the piece, but they would be playing it Ray Charles-style. Most everything about it was very Ray Charles. Without trying to imitate him, Raffy sang along to his great minor piano chords in a rough, plaintive bluesy voice, sometimes coming close to the feel of Charles' voice, sometimes a little like Jamie Cullum. His soft accompaniment was accompanied by the bursting sound of the brass section. Then came (Tonya) Ray. She is clearly very good at what she does, her robust, soprano voice belting out a truly soulful tune alongside Raffy's lower singing, now in accompaniment to him, now as the main voice. She has a deep, rich, and confident voice that lapses often into the realm of Aretha Franklin (when the tone might be better off with a deeper Nina Simone).

"Stella by Starlight" had a very nice "Green Dolphin" opening, with similar unconventional bursting opening phrases, followed by the cool Chambers-double bass echoing the silvery-cool brushing of the percussion. Timershin had a superb solo here, his trumpet with a sweet, joyful

tone reminiscent of Baker and Davis, followed by another great solo by Raffy. The percussion had a great effervescent voice here that led the brass, carrying the melody robustly, with force, suddenly subdued while the horns all played the chords back and forth, then the melody again.

"Desafinado" was possibly the best selection of the evening. It had a lovely, flowing melody that displayed every section beautifully, from the very quick, light bass-line to the sentimental, Ellington voice of the brass, highlighted by a Timershin solo. If anyone thought, it had the sentimental "The Girl From Ipanema" sound to it from the beginning, they must have been right, because after the distinctly sweet Alpert voice of the brass, Raffy marvelously improvised on "The Girl From Ipanema." The brass had a lovely undulating rhythm, rich and bright, bursting out on a false ending then falling quieter before continuing in a crescendo ending that was a delight to hear.

"In the Basement" was another of Raffy's compositions, and had a great rhythmic opening with Raffy's bass-guitar along with some energetic, upbeat Philly Joe Jones' drums. Underneath the flawless mechanical sparkling of the bass, drums, along with the great brass, came the rich sound of Timershin's trumpet in a marvelous solo. At this point, it was enough to convince anyone that the Kuwait Jazz Collective was probably comparable to any other young, modern jazz ensemble internationally.

It may have irked some of Simone's fans to hear Tonya Ray crank up the volume on Simone's deeper vocals for "I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to be Free". It was not performed in the quietly enjoyable way of Simone's, but in the flamboyant Franklin tone. Other than that, her powerful voice went well with the

Continued on pg. 10



Portrait in Seven Shades – Jazz at Lincoln Center

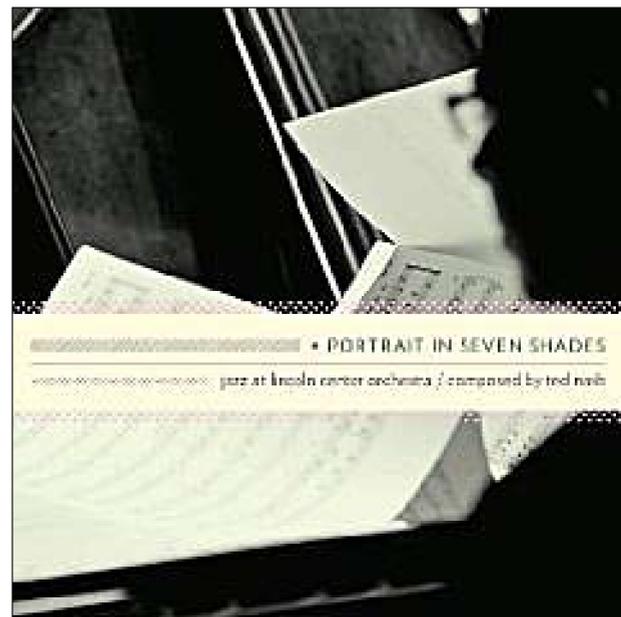
Nur Soliman

This is a new project, a "Jazz and Art" concept by the Jazz at Lincoln Center, composed by Ted Nash and musically directed by Wynton Marsalis. If you liked Fantasia, you will really like Portrait in Seven Shades, except the relationship between the music and art is slightly different. An artist, from the 19th century up to modern times, inspires each composition.

"Monet" is a symphonic, playful tune characteristic of the JALC orchestra, from the bright flute scales to the brash brass sounds over the percussion. "Dali" is evocative of his Surrealist works, with quick clicking drums evoking a Spanish air along with the salsa-paced, swinging trombones that evoke Dali's quirky uniqueness. "Matisse" is a brilliant double-bass rhythm under saxophones playing a catchy bebop beat reminiscent of the bright colours of Matisse's "La Gerbe" or "L'Escargot."

"Picasso" is mournful, with a Miles-Davis-grittiness to it, but mellowed to a minor brass melody, perhaps evoking "Blue Period" works. "Van Gogh" has a Dexter-Gordon or Charlie-Parker-type contemplative saxophone flowing over percussions, recalling the richly coloured "Starry Night" with its warm trumpet, or even "View of Arles with Irises."

"Chagall" is a catchy klezmer melody that starts out typically



slow on the concertina, but then speeds up with the clarinet, blending in jazzy Goodman or Shaw sensibilities and reflecting Chagall's Russian-Jewish heritage in paintings like "I and the Village" or "The Fiddler." "Pollock" ends the album with a refreshingly up-to-date, clean rhythm with piano, like Aaron Goldberg and Bill Evans, or Ellington with a 21st century edge, with a sharp orchestral sound that is more like cool jazz and something like Dizzy Gillespie's ensemble sound.

Portrait in Seven Shades is an exciting project that inspires its listener to think in wonderfully

unnamed directions of thought on music and art. Ted Nash thoughtfully structured his compositions to evoke impressions of these artists, and also to teach us to listen to art as much we should look at music. The whole album can be purchased and downloaded online, which might be more convenient – a definite recommendation.

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, primary artists. Laura Johnson, executive producer; Ted Nash, Sandra Palmer-Grassi, producers; Wynton Marsalis, musical director. Jazz at Lincoln Center Records. February 2 2010 (Approx 53:00)





An English Literature Student's Guide to Enjoying Movies

By Hawraa Ashour

Ask yourself these questions, how many movies have I seen this month? And no, nothing that was on your syllabi count. Second, read the summary of the movie, and then depending on your mood or personality of the day avoid the movies that contain themes you would rather not encounter.

Have you ever had that feeling? That whilst in the movie your brain is working on overload, when it is supposed to wind down and relax? You are cutting back on the use of your imagination, you are not likely to be quizzed, questioned or asked to write a response paper on the movie. So then, why is your inner geek fighting with your inner English Literature –know-it-all self?

It is incredibly silly and frus-

trating, that while you want to enjoy the mechanics and the fascinating digital artwork of Avatar, you find your mind wandering towards Edward Said and Orientalism. Or that while you are immersed into the action and the fighting and are on the edge of your seat expecting casualties, your brain suddenly begins to wonder about the idea of what a hero is, and whether Jake Sully fits into it.

The only way to do that is carefully examine what you are going to watch, and decide whether it will feed into one or the other; the geek-ness or your area of study, then decide if you are in the mood for it. Remember to avoid signs of obvious spoilers, check the poster for signs that might distress your watching experience, and lastly tell yourself that you are going to need the random information

that pops into your head, one day.

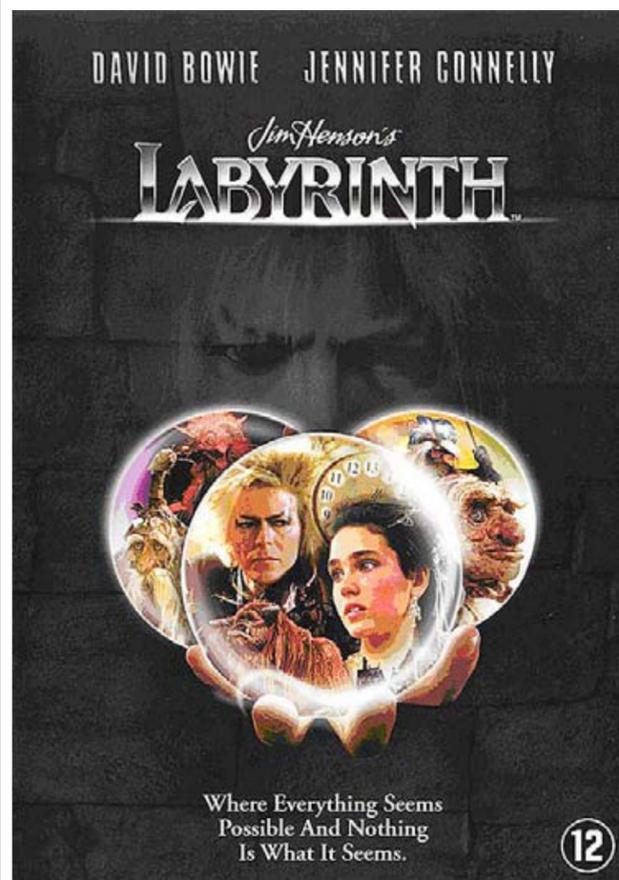
If you are in a movie geek mood and would just like some peace of mind while you are watch something then avoid these three main themes: terrorism, colonialism and feminism. Something like Percy Jackson and the Olympians may be your cup of tea, delving into Greek mythology and then having intelligent conversations about what a failure of a god Zeus was, and how your favorite god could oh-so-easily take over mount Olympus. Or how 'bling' Hades was. There is also Sherlock Holmes; though you will want to re-read the entire series afterwards, but do not worry...it is a phase that will pass, because you just do not have time for it.

If you're in a depressive "I must prove to my parents –or

the government—that their money isn't wasted" mood, and want to come up with conspiracy theories about how Warner Brothers supports movies aimed at spreading hate for certain minorities (I'm making this up); or that Walt Disney has been brain washing children through their classical movies (it's a plausible theory), then be my guest! Delve into the movies that are recent to the Kuwaiti cinema, there is 'From Paris with Love' –shush I liked John Travolta in this—and there is 'My Name is Khan' and others which I have yet to see. From the obvious location of both movies, the calculated romance or from the stereotypes to the special thanks list that rolls down, you'll have yourself just the right amount of analysis your brain will ever want for.



The Labyrinth: A Review



By Amal Behbehani

Going back to the 1980's, The Labyrinth is a classic fantasy adventure movie with lovable characters and musical scenes. Featuring Jennifer Connelly as Sarah; the girl who goes on an adventure to save her half-brother from the evil Goblin King Jareth, who is played by singer, David Bowie. On the way, she meets creatures who become her friends and help her along her journey while she realizes that life is sometimes unfair.

Directed by Jim Henson, the creator of The Muppets, this film features scenes that are comic-like and fairy tale-like. You never know what kind of adventure Sarah will go through next and whether she survives it or not. It is like a snake and ladders game; the protagonist is either three steps forward or two steps backward. The best scene is the dance, where adventure clashes with romance and everyone is dressed up very nicely.

The special effects are quite alright despite it being produced twenty years ago. The portrayals of the characters are excellent, though they seem to be flat or one-sided characters. The only developments are in Sarah's personality, and

the relationship between her and King Jareth. There is quite some tension in the scenes between them that hint some romance going on, for Sarah did include the following line in her speech about the Goblin and herself saying, "But what no one knew is that the king of the goblins had fallen in love with the girl."

The best feature about this movie is that no one dies. You have the antagonists torturing the protagonist, but other than that, there is no killing or dying. Most movies now have one of the characters dying; but in The Labyrinth, King Jareth gives up as soon as the girl knew her lines. There was no back scheming or tricks, just following the rules and accepting that 'game over' means 'game over'.

This movie is a classic that should be seen, if not for its lovely story but for the sake of seeing David Bowie dressed up in a fine costume as the Goblin King.

Directed by – Jim Henson,
Produced by – George Lucas,
Staring – David Bowie, Jennifer Connelly,
Studio – Henson Associates,
Distributed by – TriStar Pictures,
Release Date: June 27, 1986,
Running time: 101 minutes

Jazz Collective, from page 9

ensemble, which excellently followed Simone's instrumental, from snapping fingers in the opening and the trumpets and trombones that really warmed in the truly epic ending with the streaming brass and the brushing rhythm ending.

What was great about this concert was that (for the most part), it sounded like the jazz we had expected to hear. Sometimes "jazz" is replaced by contemporary soul, Motown, R&B, hip-hop, salsa,

or (worst of all) kitschy jazz. These genres are great in their own right, but it can be disappointing if you attend a concert and hear music that is not what you have come for. Save for a few overdone Aretha Franklin-style performances by Ray (who most of the audience adored), this was the real thing. Raffy Bushman had managed thoughtfully and creatively the voice of his ensemble in a way that left the entire audience thrilled by the performance.

Thoughts of a Consultant

By Amal Ahmed

He said...She said... Park. Turn off the ignition. Open and shut the door. Climb up a flight of stairs. Ring the bell. Get in and ask the ultimate question: "MOM!!! What's for dinner tonight?" obviously bugged by the question being asked by my amazing father and me every other day, she replies, "There is something called 'Hi mom! How are you?'" "Why don't you shout that when you enter through that door?" Now, usually I wouldn't enter the house demanding food, but it was one of those days where either the professor explains a very difficult concept and expects you to understand it immediately, or your team member complains that she just started last night on a project that was given a week before. So how could she complete all

her work in ten hours, or you just discovered that all your change was in the other bag and you had to be hungry for lunch or you had one of those students at work whose paper screams out dialogue format, punctuation and improper use of the active and passive voice!

So, one is bound to scream when one enters the door.

Somehow I calm down, ask my mom how she has been the whole day and she gives me something delicious to satisfy my hunger. That's when my sister who is ten years old and thinks that areas of a circle and decimals are 'so hard' decides to chatter about her school life. She thinks she has led my parents to believe that fifth grade classroom drama is so much more dramatic than 90210. While working on my final project, I can

only catch snippets of her story. "... And he was like 'I don't care about my grades,' and then you won't believe mom, the teacher was about to slap him, so his best friend gets up and goes 'you can't do that miss, at least he's got a C+.' Then I went out for basketball practice, but my friends told me a girl comes to him and were like 'do not worry everything will be okay' and she is consoling him. Mom what is this, it's his fault and that girl, I just so don't like her...why does she behave like that girl from Camp Rock!"

Thus, you see if I scream, I scream for a reason.

After hours of correcting grammar, explaining subject verb agreement and what the functionality of a pronoun is, if I have to repeat all of it at home, then my scream is legitimate.

Bios of New Consultants

Sarah Juma is a Writing Center Consultant at the American University of Kuwait and takes full interest in what she does without neglecting her goals. She is a senior majoring in Business Management, who is graduating in summer 2010. Apart from being a student and a student worker, Sarah also reads, paints, and shops in her free time. Helping people is her belief and that is why she enjoys her work at the Writing Center.

Hawraa Ashour is an AUK transfer student; she came to AUK after obtaining a two-year degree in Law. Now she is a junior majoring in English Language and Literature and a fresh Writing Center Consultant. When

the time permits, she likes to explore different aspects of creative writing and how people convey their feelings in different ways, while using the same mode of writing.

Shahad Al-Rashidi is a senior majoring in Communication and Media and graduating in summer 2010. She is deeply passionate about writing and hopes that she will have the opportunity to encourage others to feel the same way. In addition to her new position as a Writing Center Consultant, Shahad also works as a tutor for Communication and Media majors at AUK.

Nada Bedir is a Writing Consultant at AUK. She is a sophomore

at the American University in Kuwait, double majoring in Accounting and Finance. Since she believes that writing is the best method to express one's ideas and thoughts, Nada wants to encourage people to discover this fantastic tool through working at the Writing Center.

Sara Soliman is a freshman studying Graphic Design and hoping to minor in Visual and Performing Arts/English Literature. Sara writes frequently in the Voice of AUK, and works with the AUKuwait Review. She enjoys reading, playing and listening to music, and drawing. Sara hopes to help students develop confidence and clarity in writing.

Writer's Block

By Hawra'a Ashour

We have all had this condition at some point of our writing career, when we just blank out either in the middle of writing a paper, or before we even attempt it. This condition though, should not be confused with another condition called "Writer's Laziness," where you put off finding a topic to write about until the very last minute. The cure to the latter is easy, just start early! If you know that you tend to take your time finding a topic, an early start is just what you need.

Writer's Block is different, whether you start early or late would not matter as much, though it would help to find out the problem early enough to not let it ruin your papers. Some of the reasons you might have writer's block are stress, pressure of deadlines and burn out. If you have too many projects due at the same time or week, you will feel that it is an enormous pressure and so, the confusion over what to start and what to finish might cause the block. Sometimes it happens after you've submitted these assignments. Let's say you had three major papers to write and a couple of response papers, if you finish these three papers you might reach your burning point, and just not feel like you have anything to write for the response papers. Sometimes it is stress, you spend so much time researching and formulating your paper and memorizing all the details, that when it comes to writing it down, your words on paper just stop flowing.

There are of course other reasons, emotional distress, lack of self-confidence, unstable working environment and so on.

There are various ways to overcome this condition but they depend heavily on the

person as well. Some of those ways are to break away from the current paper and write something else. Get a prompt of words and a situation from other people and try to create a story or a piece of writing from that. Sometimes all you need is a blank paper and your current thoughts written on it to form something with them.

Another way would be to pick up some entertainment magazines; they are a rich source of articles, whether you agree with the content or not. If you don't get any inspiration from them, you might want to reply to some of them, formulate an argument of whether you agree with what is written or whether you don't. There are magazines all over campus and if those still don't help inspire you, the next option is fellow students. Most students have the same assignment but not the same views, getting into discussions and brainstorming sessions with them would spark an idea or two. Talking about the subject matter to someone else helps in getting the block out of your system, which is why I encourage visiting the Writing Center.

One of my favorite methods in getting over writer's block is one implemented by a blogging service called "Live Journal." The main page offers a daily "Writer's Block" question box, which links to several people's responses to the same question. You would be surprised how easy it is to answer random questions in creative ways when not asked in person, there is no limit to how many answers you have to the question on paper, sometimes a simple question can start an entire paper on its own. Even if you begin to write something that is not related to the paper you're most worried about, it gets you out of the block and on your way towards that goal.

B L I N D

A
D R A M A C L U B
P R O D U C T I O N



P E R F O R M A N C E

TIME

25TH OF MARCH
2010 7PM TILL 8PM

LOCATION

AUDITORIUM

TICKETS

1KD

Wolf Pack!



Color outside the lines!
Think outside the box!
Conformity is for parking!