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 club/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 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 Patron’s 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.

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 RhoEta chapter of Sigma Tau Delta at AUK, becomes the first chapter to be established in the Middle East.

Thursday’s inductive 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 RhoEta 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 Shakespear: Reconciling our Arabian Sand, Camels, Oil and Shakespeare, AUK’s panel will present a panel presentation in the United States.

The lecture started with a video that in turn was so emotional that one of the audience members was crying so much that he had to be helped up from the chair. The lecture was so intense that Professor Santoro was so moved that he came to tears as well.

Continued on pg. 2
Sigma Tau Delta from page 1

Life without Limbs, from page 1

The Voice of AUK

Volume 6, Issue 5

NEWS

of knowledge and leadership skills. AUK’s management to acquire while remaining sensitive to re- gional and cultural restrictions. Through this exciting academic experience, the presenters wish to share some of the misconcep- tions that embroil 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, educating con- vention attendees, the participants

will also have the opportunity to meet internationally renowned writers such as Chris Abani, au- thor of Song for Night and Grace- land, Jalilut Oikofe, author of TheMeaning 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 mem- bers shared their passion for lit- erature and the arts with the larger AUK community by hosting a read-in at an Arabic setting un- der the title of “Common Reader Every day, 9th of March 2010. They in-

vited AUK students, faculty and staff to read from Chris Abani, au-


Author Dr. Mohsen Bagnied

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 of-

fer an orientation seminar to the trip participants.

AUK Students to Visit U.S. in April

By Dr. Mohsen Bagnied

D r. Mohsen Bagnied, Head of the Business and Eco- nomics Division together with Dr. Marcia Denny, Assistant Professor of Business Law are planning to trip to Washington, DC and New York City in mid-September for 46 Business students during the Spring Break in April 2010. The study abroad program (spring 2010) will include 2-day inten- sive training seminars on Interna-

tional Marketing and Interna-
tional Business. The seminars will be given by two senior pro-

fessors from the University of Maryland, University College. The trip will also include visits to the World Bank, the UN In-

ternational 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.

By Dr. Mohsen Bagnied

The views expressed in opin- tion columns represent strictly the views of the author, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Voice of AUK, nor those of the American University of Kuwait. All submissions become property of the Voice of AUK. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit all submis- sions, including for grammar, spelling, style, and clarity. Writers have the right to with- draw submissions at any time prior to publication. The Voice of AUK is published in ten monthly issues from September through Oc-

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This is the third study abroad trip organized by the Business

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Flavours of Sound Delivers Musical Genius

By Farah Al-Shamali

On February 15, the Arab 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 ex-ecution was flawless and their arrangements exotic and re-freshing; 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 na-tions outside of territorial Eng-land (because so many mistake the entire region to be just one country), and, although being represented by Kuwait, Bah-rain, 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 genuinely felt that it had a solid po- litical agenda behind it; that is not meant in a negative way. By having musicians from the United Kingdom and several Gulf nations collaborate to pro-duce musical compositions that combine both English and Gulf elements, it is a statement about humanity and the United King-dom’s relationship with these respective states and the region in its entirety. One of the repre-sentatives of the British Coun-cil stated that the goal of such an endeavor was to build trust between the United Kingdom and other countries.

Incorporating several tunes and verses of songs 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 oth-ers and I concluded that it must have been part of the arrange-ment 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 be one o'clock and the audience roared with app-reciation for music and what it is capable of. I know I left on cloud nine.

SGA National Day Celebration

By Fatma Al Ali

A part of Kuwait’s na-tional and liberation day festivities, the SGA partici-pated by holding a national question and answer compe-tition 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 ac-tively made a new move. They stepped down and mingled with the students to encourage them to interact more heavily. Later, they launched cele-brations for the National and Liberation Day in all its forms, with national anthems and songs, beautiful mas-terpieces, both new and old.

There were over 150 attendees which included not only stu-dents but faculty members as well. The student government proceeded with questions and answers regarding Kuwaiti history, heritage and the pres-ent; questions were asked by the President of the SGA, Ab-dullah Al-Sharrad. However they stopped the competitions to start a show of the tradi-tional and beautiful Artha, a traditional Kuwaiti dance. Incorporating several tunes and verses of songs 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 oth-ers and I concluded that it must have been part of the arrange-ment 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 be one o'clock and the audience roared with app-reciation for music and what it is capable of. I know I left on cloud nine.

SGA-INJAZ Collaboration

By Fatma Al Ali

The Student Government As-sociation at the American University of Kuwait is work-ing with INJAZ Consulting and Training Company which is of-fering 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 Stu-dents, the Student Association of GUST and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Train-ing Student Union.

Injaz offers a new pack-age of training courses for March and April, and selling tickets to all students at prices between 35-

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

Traditional Kuwaiti drum players taken by Mubarak Al-Mutair

SGA officers at the Injaz booth.

SGA Secretary, Fatma Al-Ali, at SGA’s Injaz booth.
By Farah Al-Shamali

W orking at the AUK Library for over a year, I have become fascinated with the passion of books that tends to get lost when I would have to read material in class. I am not too far from describing the book to a book as an archaic, dying world that is being overshadowed by the advent of the technological age. I love to conjure up the image of people disillusioning themselves from the rucks of their daily lives and seeking sanctuary in the pages of books that don’t move off places and you will not have to move an inch. This marvelous world seems to be on the brink of obsolescence and the process cannot be reversed at the time being.

There is something enchanting about holding up a book to study. 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 feel right. I find myself reading all the more effortlessly: having to give yourself to the seat to read off of the computer which seems to absorb all your energy or take your portable to a comfortable corner of your room, sit in comfort and enjoy every word. The scoundrel's my body is preconditioned to find a book. Golds. Books are 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 book, you can't, unfortunately, not permit the reader to make any sort of 'personal' addition. Online books cannot be tampered with stylistically. They're just post- ed to be read but I find reading to be a much more personal experience. The most distinguishable difference is observably the physical attribute of a book and how much that is admired. Reading companies have become extremely innovative with cover pages – they’re gushing with color and wordplay and design which is the excellent precursor for the rest of the book.

I do not mean to make the overarching moralization that the book is on the way out. But it is only felt minimally and the transition into a bookless word may be a slow one. It is completely regrettable that the book is aligned with such a dastardly 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 special relationship between the student and a book. I completely appreciate what a book can grant a reader that nothing Bill Gates can cook up can ever top.
AUK Students and Email: A Bitter-sweet Relationship

By Farah Al-Shanali

I never had to struggle myself with cyberspace communi-
cation when I was in mid-high school. Thinking back, it’s almost as if those times were ancient and the past four years have made me see the light: the age of the email. I do mean to write with importance because that’s ex-
actly how I’m starting out this piece. I fail to understand why my AUK colleagues dismiss checking their emails on a dai-
y basis. Actually, I fail to understand why anyone would do so. I know we will testify that I may be well on my way to exchang-
ing valuable official and personal information through 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 try-
ing to make this sound like a Shakespearean tragedy even more dramatically). The only way to avoid getting emails about important matters is just to come out of the way that email

over the World Wide Web but it dol-
est out a much higher pur-
pose especially when it ser-
vices a tight-knit community

such as a university. The best anal-
ogy with which to com-
pare this phenomenon 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

smooth, silky, smooth pieces of fabric. In much the same way, the de-

velopment of the email system has simplified interdepartmen-
tal and person-to-person com-

munication when distance be-
noms an obvious factor that may otherwise impede it.

Going back to the conun-

drama that people, who might not have known that 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. How-
ever can we really blame the me-
dia? How can they report on something they didn’t know happened? Did they know

but decided it wasn’t newswor-
thy? 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 murder. It was really good in expressing my feelings and am not afraid to talk to each other. It was a second to think about it but I immediately said no. Maybe it was because I was busy or I was just not very interested about the issue and I said: ‘what do I have to do with it?’

That same evening, I went to my favorite coffee shop to have a lazy day. Look-

ing 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 this attack. I mean: Why do not we 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 was thinking about what I couldn’t be done if I wasn’t a Kuwaiti. Every Kuwaiti believes that his life is important and need to be happy and most of it is provided by our government. Right? Shouldn’t that be a part of our democracy which is represented by the parliament? I mean, if we have the right to protest the day when the Amir gave Kuwaiti women their right to be educated, then why wouldn’t we have the right to show them or 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? Did they know...
Of My Way
do you have a facebook?

Through Life

Email, from page 5

By Farah Al-Shamali

Nothing frustrates me more than when trying to get an assignment done or am working on a make-or-break term paper and 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. So or so I thought. I detected the symptoms of addiction and chronic disease way back and tried everyting in my power to keep a photo of the creation of this disease 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 deactivating? 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 meet or see up with due to complications such as graphical proximity and what not. With this tirade of emotion boiling up in my heart and my attempts to come to terms with my apparent addiction, I can’t help but be blinded by the proper remedy.

So what is good ole Facebook? Putting by putting out the bait of using a free, convenient mode of communication, 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 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, 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 abysmal waste of time! All of that mindless clicking that gets you nowhere could be expected finishing up something that’ll really count in the long run and you’ll end up bearing yourself up about not focusing all your energy on what’s important. Almost anything assignment-related gets done by way of a laptop or computer in this day and age and not being connected wheresoever you can, is a worryingly sin-ful act. So whose to say your cursor might not scroll over to create a new user and your internet browser to open up your Facebook account? Remember the old 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 technologically advanced. Life in general has become too static and it really comes down to me wanting control over 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 so momentous. 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 feel more than confident in saying that smoking is more than what it claims to be. I may be so far as prosecuted smokers who didn’t even consider lighting it up and am probably blowing this whole thing out of proportion and am probably blowing this whole thing out of proportion and am probably blowing this whole thing out of proportion. I might sound over-dramatic or paranoid, many statistics show that heart disease and lung cancer and so on are chiefly caused by smoking. Why? Well, I think that they will ‘quit long before health becomes an issue,’ it is a matter of survival. It is better to quit while you are ahead – or, better yet, not start at all. I am speaking from my own health, then for the health of the people around you. None of us wish for one’s self to see second hand smoking – and I am sure none of the smokers at AUK are the cause 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 caus-ing 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 own money, don’t waste it! Your college education is a serious investment of time, effort and money, the government’s money to be precise. Scholarship students, you have a serious investment of time, effort and money, the government’s money to be precise. Scholarship students, you have problems accessing 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.

2. 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 wishing forlorn your major and you are wishing forlorn your grades.

3. 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 smoother.

4. When you applied to AUK, you were required to submit a variety of documentation. It is possible that you may receive a hold will be placed on your records until the information is complete. Whatever classes you are taking must be applicable to the major 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 wishing forlorn your major and you are wishing forlorn your grades.

5. Gotta love those extra parking spaces! Park between the lines, not over the lines and 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!

6. AUK Student Abdulaziz Al-Mutawa Attend LIMUN 2010

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

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 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 campuses with everyone else to see the rest of the race. The track ran all the way around the C building, 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 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.
An Unlikely Friendship

By Nur Salimian

For those of you who have watched The Hours and liked the usual soundtrack, the name of composer Philip Glass might have seemed strange. However, even if you have heard the soundtrack to The Hours, there is a whole wealth of work by Philip Glass that is totally different to The Hours; but just as deep and enjoyable. From virtuosic interludes Einstein on the Beach, Satyagraha, and Akhnaten, Glass's soundtrack compositions for Koyaanisqatsi (1982) or Kundun (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 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, while the piano chords running under a repetitive melody, "Music Box" is a more literal "realistic" love. They music box chimes sound like Japanese wind chimes or bells. "Mvt. IV" is an example of finding love. The stories focus on two different forms, this book is the type of love story for those who ever wondered what would have happened if Wickham and Wil-oughby were not in the Jane Austen orbits. The Orange Mountain Music

By Amal Behbehani

No here is a book you do not want to miss! Over forty stories from authors, such as Joanna Trollope, Adele Parks, Carole Matthews, Katie Fforde, and more, Loves Me, Loves Me Not has all the type of love stories you can wish for. From magical romance to second chances to middle-age relationships, 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 expect it, or it may not even happen without any Hollywood exaggerations. You can fall in love with a person you would least expect, or with someone they choose to make you happy. Basically, none of the stories end in a fairy tale ending, 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 others; but it is useful for knowing if this is the type of love story you would like to read, and what other stories would; it is useful for knowing if this is the type of love story you would like to read, and what other stories

The Orange Mountain Music

PHILIP GLASS SAMPLER Vol. 1

Loves Me, Loves Me Not, A Collection of Shorts

By Amal Behbehani

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NurSoliman

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 their performance.

The first piece, “65 Bars and a Taste of Soul,” originally by Charles, performed brilliantly by young artists like Miles Davis and John Coltrane, and Bill Evans, was performed superbly, 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 excellently, while not forming excellently with a solo with this number, Raffy also had his first piano. Raffy’s own composition, starts out with him on his bass guitar in his own original bass sound, then he 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, plain-voced 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 along with 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 tune 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 subbed 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, high-lighted 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 imitated on “The Girl From Ipanema.” The brass had a lovely un-dulating 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 rhythm opening with Raffy’s bass-guitar along with some energetic, upbeat Phiie Jones’ drums. Underneath the flawless mechanical sparking 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 other great solo by Raffy. The percussion had a great effervescent voice here that led the brass, carrying the melody robustly, with force, suddenly subbed 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, high-lighted 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 imitated on “The Girl From Ipanema.” The brass had a lovely un-dulating 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.

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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 spirit 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 watching something then avoid these three main themes: terrorism, colonialism and feminism. Something like Percy Jackson and the Olympians may be your cup of tea, driving into Greek mythology and then having intelligent conversations about what a failure of a god Zeus was, and how your favorite god could ob-so-easily take over Mount Olympus. Or how ‘bling’ Hades was there. 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’ mood and 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 Rehbehani

Going back to the 1980’s, The Labyrinth is a classic fantasy adventure movie with lovable characters and musical cues. 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 that 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 ladder game: the protagonist is either three steps forward or two steps backward. The best scene is the dance, where an 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.


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ensemble, which excellently followed Simone’s instrument, from snapping fingers in the opening and the trumpets and trombones that really warmed in the truly epic ending with the streamlining 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 overdense Aretha Franklin-style performances by Ray (who most of the audience adored), this was the real thing. Ralph 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 hugged 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 reply, “There is something called ‘Hi mom! How are you?’” She said… She said…

Bios of New Consultants

S arah Juna is a W riting 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.

H awra Ashour is an AUK transfer student; she came to AUK after obtaining a two-year verb 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 in order to improve her feelings in different ways, while using the same mode of writing.

S hadah Al-Rashidi is an AUK major 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. She enjoys working as a Writing Center Consultant, Shahad also works as a tutor for Communication and Media majors at AUK.

N ada Bedir is a W riting Consultant at AUK. She is a sophomore at the American University in Kuwait, double majoring in Accounting and Finance. She believes that writing is the best method to express one’s thoughts, Nada wants to encourage people to discover their hidden potential while working at the Writing Center.

S ara Soliman is a freshman studying English Education, she writes frequently in the Voice of AUK, and works with the AUKReview. She enjoys reading, playing and listening to music, writing stories, and painting, and shops in her free time. Helping people to satisfy my hunger. I give me something delicious to have, and then I go back to the job at hand. Mom, the teacher was about to cry because of my laziness, “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, but let’s face it, 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

W e 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, but let’s face it, 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 burnout. 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 gathering 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 forth.

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 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 blog fans’ responses to the same question. You would be surprised how to answer those random questions in creative ways when not asked in person, there is no lack of ideas. Sometimes all you have to do is to sort out 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.
Wolf Pack!

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