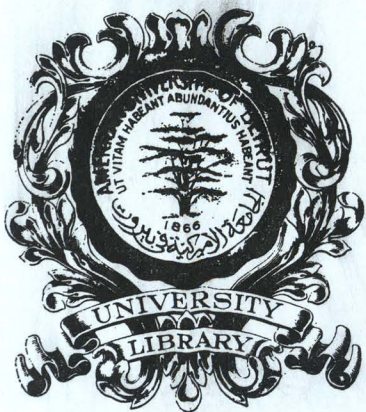




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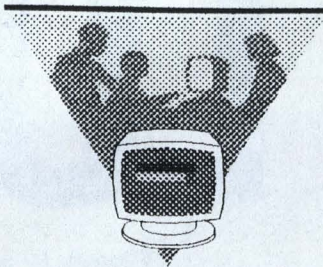
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# OUTLOOK

An AUB Publication

## FACTSHEET

- *OUTLOOK* is a student newspaper that is run by AUB students.
- The publishing license was obtained in 1957.
- *OUTLOOK* is licensed and used to be published on a weekly basis. For the time being, it is scheduled to appear on a monthly basis.
- *OUTLOOK* was issued by students during the 1960s and 1970s.
- *OUTLOOK* is funded by the USFC.
- *OUTLOOK* will be issued in English, but may later include an Arabic section.
- *OUTLOOK* adheres to a non-political, non-sectarian policy.
- *OUTLOOK* shall cover off/on-campus news catering to students' interests. All covered activities shall maintain educational, cultural, social and athletic significance.
- *OUTLOOK* encourages AUB students to voice their concern and opinions through the newspaper.

If interested in contributing to *OUTLOOK*, contact West Hall, room 202.





# OUTLOOK



May 6, 1997 • Volume 01, Issue 01

A Student Publication by The American University of Beirut

## Outlook is Back !

### Letter from A/P Dodge:

To: OUTLOOK

I have been informed by Dr. Fawzi Hajj, Dean of Students, that OUTLOOK will be published again in the near future, on the basis of bylaws established last year. These bylaws seem to me sensible and appropriate. I feel confident that, if they are adhered to all concerned, this publication will play an interesting and constructive role in the student life on the AUB Campus, and will be successful in the years to come.

I wish all those responsible for OUTLOOK my best wishes.

**David S. Dodge**  
Acting President  
American University of Beirut



## OUTLOOK ...Now and Then

By Samer Muala

More than twenty-three years separate OUTLOOK's last issue and this one. During its absence, AUB has managed to rise above the many challenges of a country at war, and continued to be the most prominent institution in the region. Each era has its "outlook". And like two friends who have not met in so long, the AUB of "then" and "now" seek to be reacquainted. Though many things have changed, the spirit of AUB remained strong and immutable, blessed with the immortality Gilgamesh desperately sought.

For Better or for Worse...

The last issue of OUTLOOK (1974) depicted an AUB community living in a politically turbulent time. The aftermath of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war had bred strong Arab nationalism that found its way onto the pages. The politically active student body was in constant conflict with itself and the outside world. Strikes frequently interrupted education. There was a "speaker's corner" where an hour was given each week for the many who wished to voice their concerns in front of their

fellow students. Politics was a popular issue at the time. Ironically, so were tuition hikes!

Today, the turmoil is replaced with the much needed stability for sound education. Politics is no longer at the heart of the student life, although it is occasionally discussed in a relatively friendly atmosphere.

Hip, Hip..

Students give their university its life and shape its identity. AUB students have always been in vogue. The latest fashions and fads the world has to offer can be seen around the campus. "Then" as "Now", whatever was "in", AUB was doing.

Hanging Out..

College Hall was the major "hang out" place before its tragic bombing. Students have since had to relocate to the "green oval" and West Hall, which have both grown to be indispensable to the student life. The "green oval" has two

different "outlooks" for the students of today and the yester-years. "Abu Rudy" now provides a needed snack, refreshments, and wanted newspapers. One can hardly picture it as the barber shop it used to be. The only remnants are an old chair, old mirrors, and a small sign at the entrance. Back "then", it was a full-fledged barber shop extending its services to the two dorms housed in Fisk and Bliss Halls. It is hard to believe that students actually used to live where students today receive their English course grades or send their e-mail.

There also used to be a coffee shop behind the cafeteria. Students "then" would place their orders at today's cashier's office, and sit outside in the fresh air enjoying their meals.

Diversity at AUB..

The demography of AUB has also changed dramatically as a result of the war. There no longer exists a Pakistani or German Club. Many foreign teachers left AUB to be now replaced by many of their students. The AUB community has paid the price of losing its richness and diversity which brought to its grounds people from all over the world. The "foreignness" of the faculty and student body is slowly returning. This semester, for example, two German medical students chose to do their electives at the AUB medical school.

AUB Strikes Back..

Sports have always been an important part of AUB. This domain paves the way for interacting with other institutions through the various competitions. There will always be room for improvement and more support. "Then" as well as "Now", the many sports that AUB took part in have given the institution's identity a certain zest.

Despite the many changes, AUB's spirit continues to guide its grandness into the next century. The restoration of College Hall symbolized the indestructible will to survive. AUB continues to be an intellectual center in the region with its distinguished faculty and respected degrees. Student life, parties, and "open houses" will continue to be part of every period in AUB's history. One day we will be the "then" of the future. But one thing is certain - AUB will continue to enlighten the region with an education second to none!



# "A WORD FROM THE DEAN"

After two decades of suspension, "OUTLOOK", the student publication, is back. I have observed with great pleasure and pride, and throughout all the stages of preparation, the enthusiasm and dedication with which students worked and planned the rebirth of this publication.

Not only does "OUTLOOK" provide a medium for the students to express responsibly their views and concerns in accordance with the principles of democracy and freedom of expression, but it also enhances the total learning experience expected from university education.

While all the time maintaining its non-political and non-secterian nature, "OUTLOOK" shall cover a wide variety of topics. News of cocurricular and other cultural activities on campus will be covered. Articles on important cultural and educational issues will also appear, as well as reviews on films, concerts, plays etc... In brief, we hope that all the student body and AUB community at large will find something to look forward to in "OUTLOOK".

I congratulate the editorial board on their efforts and, on their behalf, call on all and everyone of you to contribute to its success. It is your publication. SUPPORT IT.

**Fawzi M. Hajj**  
Dean of Student Affairs

**OUTLOOK welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle.**

**OUTLOOK is a non-political student publication American University of Beirut West Hall Ext: 3193 Box nb. 22**

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# THE LEGACY OF AUB

I am privileged to have been given the opportunity to participate in the rebirth of OUTLOOK - albeit for a short period of time. This rebirth is of monumental gravity, since it also signifies the continuing legacy of AUB. And as a new page is turned, I find myself eager to share a few cherished thoughts with you, readers.

Most of us have fallen into the trap of taking things for granted: Our families, our loved ones, the food we eat, the roofs over our heads, our work, our teachers, and our university. The list goes on. But if we take just one second to contemplate our existence, we will witness the making of history. And we, the students, are the makers of history.

Most of us take our university to be the front-line for a struggle - be it the struggle to achieve excellence, or to simply effect change. However, many of us fail to realize that our university is the melting pot for our thoughts and ideas. This is where our personalities crystallize to define new chartered

## Food for Thought -consider this quote:

"It was a wise philosopher who said, 'Man is a wolf to man; worse than the wolf is man to man, and this will not change for many days to come'...Stupid is the person who believes in his neighbor, good and loving as the neighbor might be; stupid is the person who relies on justice. Justice exists only for those whose fists and stubbornness make it possible for them to realize it... Do not believe anyone, be always on guard, carry your stick always with you—this is the only way of surviving in this wolfish battle of all against all."

**Do you agree? Write to OUTLOOK about your comments concerning this issue.**

# "The Mamluks in Bilad Al-Sham"

by Dania Al-Sa'adi

In the first few days of April, AUB walls were covered with arrows leading to room 409 Nicely. The people flocking to 409 were not the victims of a lame joke. They were prominent professors attending Aram's eighth international conference, "The Mamluks in Bilad Al-Sham".

If you are wondering what "Aram" refers to, there are two explanation: A learned person will tell you that it is an area in northern Syria that witnessed an active Syro-Mesopotamian culture between the 11th and 8th centuries B.C. However, in today's world, Aram stands for "an independent, inter-religious, non-political, non-profit-making society" initiated by Shafik Abou Zayd at Oxford University in 1986. Generally speaking, the society is interested in studying SyroMeso-potamian cultures and other cultures related to it. Aram held its first international conference in 1989 on Petra and the Nabateans, ancient people who lived on the border between Syria and Arabia in 312 B.C. Successive conferences dealt with areas such as the Syriac and Arab cultures during the Abbasid era in Iraq, and the Decapolis

(the 10 ancient cities of 63 BC Palestine). Future conferences are planned as far ahead as 2001. (For more information on the society, you can check their web page on <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~aram/>)

Although Mamluki Egypt is the center of attention for many researchers, the Aram society is more interested in the Mamluk culture of Bilad Al-Sham, where it suffered from deterioration due to several external factors.

Except for archeology and history students, very few students attended the conference. Lina Tahhan, a senior archeology student, complained about the lack of promotion for the conference, and about the conference's focus on specialists rather than students. She also pointed out that there was a need to focus on Islamic Art in Lebanon, especially with the absence of archeology courses that cover this area.

Another archeology student, Niveen Abbas, was pleased to meet important archeologists and professors in the field who provided valuable information about different archeological sites.

Dr. Al-Harithy, a professor of Architecture at AUB, was disappointed by the limited student attendance. "I do not blame the students," she commented. "It was not properly advertised for." Nevertheless, Dr. Al-Harithy views the conference as a "good exposure" to Islamic art and architecture.

Although still a "relatively young field", Islamic art benefits from excavations and symposiums that generate issues and literature. Dr. Al-Harithy exhibited a personal interest in the conference, since the topic of her Ph.D. dissertation focused on Mamluki Egypt. In the conference, she presented a paper on Mamluki architecture in Damascus where she examined the distinctive local style through the religious and socio-political dimensions. According to Dr. Al-Harithy, in order for Islamic art to be appreciated, one needs to have a deep understanding of the culture, religion, geography, history,

courses. And what better place to do that than at AUB.

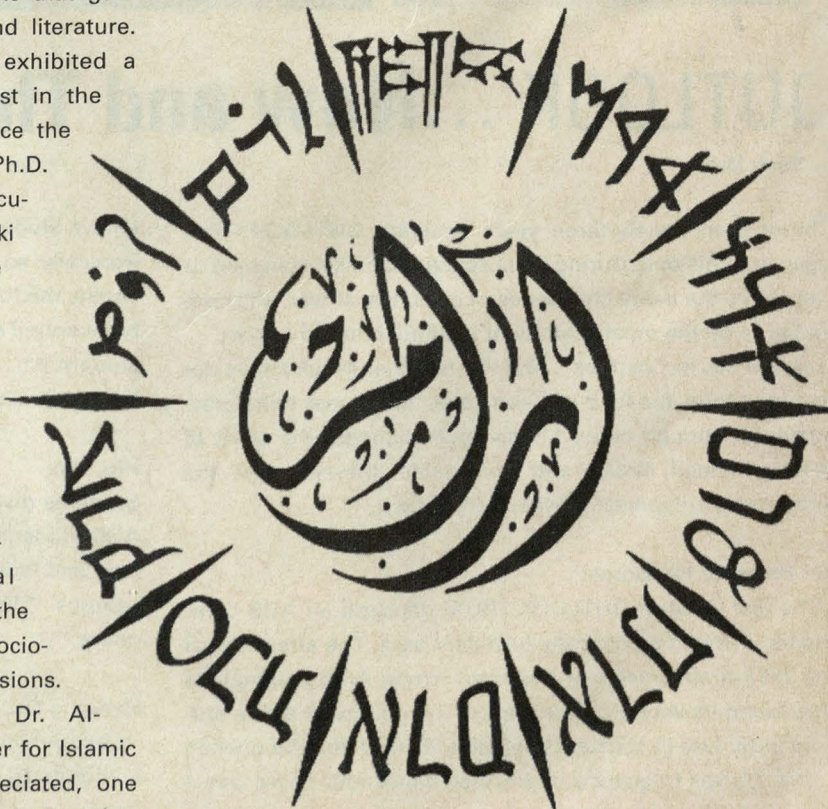
As you walk the paths of the AUB campus, and as you "chill out" around the premises, remember that a leader once stepped in your place. You, the AUB student, are entrusted with a very serious mission: to keep up the legacy of AUB. Take pride in being part of the chain that your fathers and your forefathers have begun. Many of the Arab leaders and the policy-makers you hear about today were once AUB students like you. And one day you will be one of them. That is the eternal legacy of AUB.

On a last note, remember that OUTLOOK will serve as a catalyst for change. It is your pulse as students and as elements of change. Here is where our mission to become leaders begins, and where we continue to keep up the legacy of AUB.

**Niveen Abboushi**  
Editor-in-Chief

and other internal factors.

The fact of the matter remains that it is crucial to make people aware of our eminent cultures. The survival of the Islamic culture in all its dimensions is crucial to preserving history and the peoples' identities. This is a task to be picked up by professors, students and experts and carried across through such activities as the Aram conferences.





# Wounds that heal ... Wounds that don't:

Professor Issam Khairallah\*, who is currently working on the restoration of the Martyr Square statue, spoke with Elie Awad about the restoration process.

**Q:** What does the statue symbolize?  
**A:** It represents freedom and liberation.

**Q.**The most significant figure in size and character appears to be the woman who is holding the torch. The man next to her seems to be secondary. Why is that?  
**A.**The fact that female figures are dominant is evident in most of the statues that are inspired by the Greek-Roman mythology.. The Statue of Liberty in New York, for example, is a woman. This originates from the Greek mythology that was affected by its northern neighborly Amazon culture which had female warriors and leaders, while males only had reproductive values. In Lebanon, when the statue was erected back in 1960, there was a lot of controversy regarding the female dominance.

**Q.** Given the Lebanese mentality, foreign rather than local expertise is usually more preferable. How come you got chosen for the restoration job?  
**A.** We, in Lebanon, have the necessary skill to restore as well as to create new monuments; we do not need foreign assistance. I had given a price quotation of US \$70,000 for the restoration job. Mr. Rupert Harris, a British restoration expert and advisor to Solidere, was the one who decided on the person for the job. Apparently, there were other bids by Lebanese sculptures that were as high as US \$200,000.

**Q.** The statue was cast in Rome. Did you order the original molds from the designer in order to simplify your task?  
**A.** Marino Mazzacurati, who originally built the statue back in 1957, is deceased. I contacted his son and grandson, but they were unable to find any of the original molds or any documentation.

**Q.** What is the statue made of?  
**R.** The statue is made of 8 mm thick bronze and is hollow from the inside. The exact composition of the bronze was determined through laboratory analyses, and all the bronze added for restoration purposes is of the same composition.

**Q.** How bad was the damage?  
**A.** The statue was damaged in three ways: First, bullets and shrapnel had torn through the figures. Second, there are cracks caused by thermal shocks and explosions that must have occurred around the site. Third, concrete had been added to hold down the two standing figures. Unfortunately,

this concrete had been unnecessarily added back in 1960 without prior approval. It was unnecessary because there are screws to bolt down the figures to the pedestal. The concrete has reacted with the bronze and eaten through the 8 mm metal, bringing it down to a thousandth of a millimeter in some places. Because of this, the statue had lost its rigidity. In restoring the statue, our emphasis was to replace the thinned out bronze in the lower sections, as well as to fix the cracks. Here I would like to add that only the major cracks have been fixed, but most of the holes have been left because the majority wants these scars to remain as a memory. Altogether, 48 pieces of bronze were replaced. The restoration process also included the cleaning up of the statue with distilled water, in order to protect from the unfavorable rusting of the bronze. Following this, a reacting agent (iron nitrate) was applied to the clean surfaces, which helps the bronze develop a self-sealing layer that prevents further oxidation.

**Q.** How many bullet holes are there?

**A.** (Laughs) I did not count them...several hundred, perhaps. After all that fighting, we are lucky there still remains a monument at all.  
**Q.** The standing male figure has both its hands missing. Will these be replaced?

**A.** The left hand of the figure was probably destroyed by a direct hit; it will not be replaced. The right hand that goes behind the back of the female figure has been screwed on to figure for ease of assembly. This hand had been missing for a while, but was recently handed in to the police station at Mina al-Hosn.  
**Q.** Who handed it back in?  
**A.** I do not know. As far as I am concerned, I am glad the hand was retrieved.

**Q.** What happened to the pedestal on which two of the figures stand?  
**A.** The restoration of the pedestal is also part of the contract. However, I suggested that a new one be sculpted because the original pedestal has several cracks within it and is not the safest base for the 2,500 kg. Statue we have.

**Q.** When will the statue be ready?  
**A.** The statue is ready now. I worked on the major repairs from June until October of last year. Only minor repairs have been done since. However, the agreement with Solidere is to keep the statue in Kaslik until the year 1998, when the infra-

**“In restoring the statue, our emphasis was to replace the thinned out bronze in the lower sections, as well as to fix the cracks.”**



structure of the Martyr Square area is expected to be finished.

(\*Professor Khairallah teaches at the Institute of Art at the Universite Saint Esprit in Kaslik, as well as at the Lebanese University. He received his degree in art from Torino, Italy.)

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE STATUE

Before 1957: A small monument by Yousef Howayek depicts a veiled woman holding hands with an unveiled women occupies same spot.  
1957-1960: The late Marino Mazzacurati works on casting present statue in Rome  
May 1960: Statue erected in Beirut  
April 1975: War break out in Beirut; Martyrs' Square becomes front-line for fighting  
1996-1997: Monument undergoes restoration in Kaslik  
1998: Monument expected to be restored to its original place in Martyrs' Sq.



Photographs were taken by Elie Garios





# AUB STUDENT GOVERNMENT-WHAT IS IT?

by Tamar Kechichian

Beside the joys of registration and course confirmation, a new AUB fall semester brings several weeks of an intensive rival called "student government elections". Having survived the constant barrage of fliers and stickers, and with the half-hearted promises of "yes, you have my vote", West Hall's polling booths become the last step in fulfilling one of your many important obligations as an AUB student-body member - voting.

However, once you've circled your choice and crawled your way out of West Hall, can you actually define what you've voted for? If the terms SRC and USFC do not sound familiar, then you can't.

What are the Student Representative Committees (SRC), and what have they achieved since you voted for them so many months ago? After the votes are in, does the democratic process continue or does it end?

"End?" Dean of Students Affairs Fawzi Hajj chuckles ruefully. "The elections are far from being over. In fact, the process moves on to a second stage, immune from the student body vote. On another day we hold what we like to call the longest day of elections."

If you thought that November 1 (the day you voted) was a long day, then the second stage must have been a nightmare. On that day, the newly elected student representatives elect just about everything. Each faculty committee (Arts and Sciences, Medicine, etc.) becomes the proud owner of a president, a vice president, a treasurer, and a secretary title.

Additionally, AUB's representatives elect some of their own members to represent them in a higher body called the University Student Faculty Committee, or the USFC.

While the SRC meets separately, the USFC becomes the place where all the elected get

together- Engineering & Architecture, Medicine, Arts & Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture & Food Science- and last but not least, the faculty. Faculty members, deans, professors etc. are elected into the USFC by the University. Senate members constitute representatives of the university's teaching elite.

These two forums, the SRC and the USFC, fit into what Dean Hajj calls "the pyramid". In order to understand the university hierarchy, one must visualize both bodies as being layers of a pyramid. While the board of trustees and the President are at the top of the University level, the USFC and the SRC occupy the largest "grass root" layer.

"We're only an advisory body. The SRC has no final decision-making power," points out an SRC member who favors anonymity. However, Dean Hajj is personally very happy with the system. "Students have a tendency to say 'we have no executive power,'" he points out, "but this is the true nature of the institution and no one really has a final decision-making power except on matters which fall within their authority and responsibility." Over the years, the Dean concludes, this system has served to integrate the layers of the pyramid, and, as a result, the student activities have become much more diversified and up to standard.

"We've tried very hard to improve the student life," says SRC member Lamia Hussein. This year alone hardship cases were reopened and money was collected to provide financial assistance to those students not able to fund their own tuition.

"We've been able to garner deferred payment for up to 40% of the money for some students and have fully funded three others," adds member Wissam Khoury.

In response to the deteriorating conditions of the dormitories, the SRC was able to provide improvements through the physical plant.

Dean Hajj states, "When the USFC has made recommendations, the administration has been willing to cooperate. For example, in response to the students' demands, we are in the process of providing public telephones throughout the campus premises."

Another SRC success story, was the opening of a new gate near the Engineering Department and the women's dormitories. Furthermore, SRC lobbying has led to the extension of opening hours for the gates of the men's dormitories.

A Bioethics conference organised by the student government three weeks ago drew so many students that "many were forced to stand at the door."

The films, posters, and processions planned by the SRC for the Qana massacre memorial were directed "to build unity and awareness."

"We strive towards the creation of a culturally and socially aware campus," declares Junior SRC member Kabalan Frangieh. "People should be given a chance to participate in activities which build character."

Yet not everybody seeks to build character. Instead, some members would like to see a general improvement of the campus social life. "We have been focusing on political issues such as resolution 425 and the Qana massacre memorial," admits an anonymous source.

Suggestions like the organization of junk sales or an egg hunt are often pushed aside for greater educational agendas. Many students wonder whether it is more important to build student-body character rather than to comply with student-body wishes.

"Life is not only fun and games. Any club can provide what we call 'social activities'," responds another member. "Students have to be politically-aware. We must have a

diversified knowledge of issues and learn how to debate."

Others conjure, "It is easy to have fun, but it is more difficult to educate ourselves, which is what we're ultimately here for."

The general opinion of the SRC seems to be that students should become more aware of the SRC activities and be encouraged to run for office.

"I wanted to actually do something. I noticed that AUB needed changes. Instead of complaining about the system, I decided to make a difference by working from within the system," asserts sophomore SRC member Charlotte Karam.

Over the years, the SRC has striven to become more influential in establishing itself as a force to reawaken a dormant campus. The student government has taken greater steps to unify itself and to create an aura of social diversity. At an unofficial and unprecedented meeting, where all faculty committees met under one roof, the general fervor and calls for a unified and empowered representative body could only explain one notion: AUB has the potential to emerge as a university that, having survived 18 years of strife, can still produce an enlightened and dynamic student body.

"We do not complain about tuition increases or the registration process because we harbor negative feelings, but because we care about this university and feel that greater changes can be made," another member affirms.

Dean Hajj agrees, "AUB was the first university to introduce some kind of student government in 1981. Previously, the AUB student body united through a student council. But throughout the years, the University student government has changed and evolved into a more mature body, whereby students of diverse backgrounds and political views have provided a healthy atmosphere of debate and democracy."

Writer's note: At present, the SRC is working towards introducing a program of teachers' appraisal into the Arts & Sciences faculty. Additionally, all SRC members are in the process of finalizing a draft for a new constitution, the crux of which would be the unification of all SRC committees into one student council - a form of government exhibited in U.S. universities. This type of government was disbanded by the administration in 1981 when it was replaced by the present constitution and government.

# Bored at 20?

by Reem Anchassi

Violence and drugs may threaten the well-being of the young generation, but there is a new phenomenon that is endangering their lives... boredom.

Boredom appears to be the social disorder of the nineties. This recent phenomenon is affecting the young people who are the productive constituents of society. It is stunting their growth and hindering their development.

Apparently, AUB students are no exception. Consider the case of Soha, a nineteen year-old sophomore student. Soha attends some of her classes and misses others. On average, she studies two hours daily. In her free time, she exercises, reads and chats on the phone. Although Soha seems to have a busy and fulfilling life, she does not feel satisfied. She is discontent with what she feels is a monotonous life.

Soha is not alone. She is part of a growing number of students and young people who fail to find life stimulating and interesting.

According to a survey conducted at AUB, 72% of the 60 students interviewed believe that boredom is a serious problem. However, the majority could not suggest new ways for overcoming this phenomenon. The students' prime concerns were to graduate, find steady jobs and make money - lots of it!



The survey merely indicates a growing trend that is becoming more pronounced at AUB. The university has established recreational facilities and clubs, yet students remain unsatisfied. Some find studying an unchallenging and non-motivating experience. Students do not seem to have grand plans or ambitious dreams they strive to achieve. They have seen and tried everything the world has to offer. By the age of 20, life seems to have lost its spark for many young people.

However, the problem must be viewed in a wider context. It involves society at large, and, therefore, it demands our full focus and attention. The fast tempo of the nineties and the various technological advances have denied young people the right to genuine happiness.

Consequently, parents and schools should play a greater role in teaching children to appreciate the simple pleasures of life. The phenomenon of boredom is a serious one that must be studied and solved. It is not healthy for a young university student to think that life is over before it has begun. On the contrary, students must be encouraged to believe that life offers many pleasures and surprises they can relish!





# Creative writing: "Boisterous, involved and fun"

by Nadine Sinno

Are you experiencing any of the following symptoms during class:

- extreme drowsiness
- fidgeting with your pen
- scribbling non-sense or signing your name everywhere
- resorting to your walk-man for entertainment

If the answer is yes, then you are probably suffering from Boring-Class-Syndrome. The English department is now offering English 236- a creative writing course- as a cure to relieve you of the pains of dry academic education.

We all know the feeling of having to sit there in class while professors ramble on about convergence/divergence of curves, stocks and bonds or Shakespeare and Milton... It seems that we are expected to leave our personalities and brains at the door before entering the classroom. Worse still, participation and class discussion have become almost extinct. In English 236, how-

ever, you are an active element in class. The teacher is not a "dictator" who is out there to stifle you, but rather a guide to help you find your own way through.

In both sections, students are encouraged to "explore" with different types of writing so that they may discover the genre that they are best at using. For example, in Section One (taught by Mrs. Khalaf), students choose between various types of writing like poetry, essays, short stories or plays. In the other section (taught by Miss Shami), students are also given different assignments that expose them to all sorts of expression. In one incident, they were offered candies and were required to describe the sensation they got. In another, they were asked to walk on campus and describe a natural scene through poetry or prose, depending on how they are inspired. In brief, both teachers allow their students to get more in touch with the language, in such a way that allows them to learn to

express themselves more fluently. According to Miss Shami, each one of us has a creative voice that should be "nurtured" and fully developed.

The course is also distinctive in the "relaxed" atmosphere that it offers. Students meet once a week for two and a half hours, during which they get to share their writings. They critique and evaluate each other's papers, such that each student gets enough feedback from the teacher as well as fellow classmates. Sitting either on the comfortable couches in the English department, or around the celled library table, students look more like a "get-together" party of friends. When asked to describe her English 236 class, Nadine Halabi said, "This class allows us to express our opinions freely. I do not need to think twice before I say anything. It's a free class in one way or another."

In addition to learning how to "experiment" with the language, students get the opportunity to meet professional people in the field of writing or publishing. The department invites various experts to share their

experiences with the students and to offer them career guidance.

Elsa Martson,, a children's book writer, Helen Al-Khal, an artist, critic and painter, and Philippa Neave, an editor, reporter, and translator, have all talked to English 236 students about their professional lives. "We get to see what goes on with writers in the real world," comments Dania Al-Saadi, an English 236 student.

The course will probably be offered every semester in 2 or 3 sections, so you can take it starting next fall. If you feel like a "change" in your academic life at AUB, go ahead and register for it. There you will be welcome to express yourself and to discover your talents. One thing is also guaranteed: you will never get bored because you will always be busy "creating" your own voice. When I asked Miss Shami to describe the course in three words, she said, "Boisterous, involved and fun."

Check it out, you won't regret it!

# Surviving the Men's Dormitories

by Etienne Kachichian

AUB dormitories carry the reputation of having unreasonably high semester fees and bad living conditions. Although this might not be fully true, there is some truth behind it.

The number of dorm occupants has dropped to approximately three-fourths of what is used to be last year. One reason might be that a scholarship once offered by the Hariri Foundation for needy students was discontinued this year. This has made the dorm fee of US \$790 per semester too high, forcing low-income occupants to move out.

Others who have moved out of the dormitories have found apartments close to the university with a reasonable price, and better living conditions. A person can find a two bedroom apartment in Hamra, for example, for around \$600/month. If two persons share the apartment, each will pay around \$300/month, compared to the \$160 one pays for a tiny dorm room.

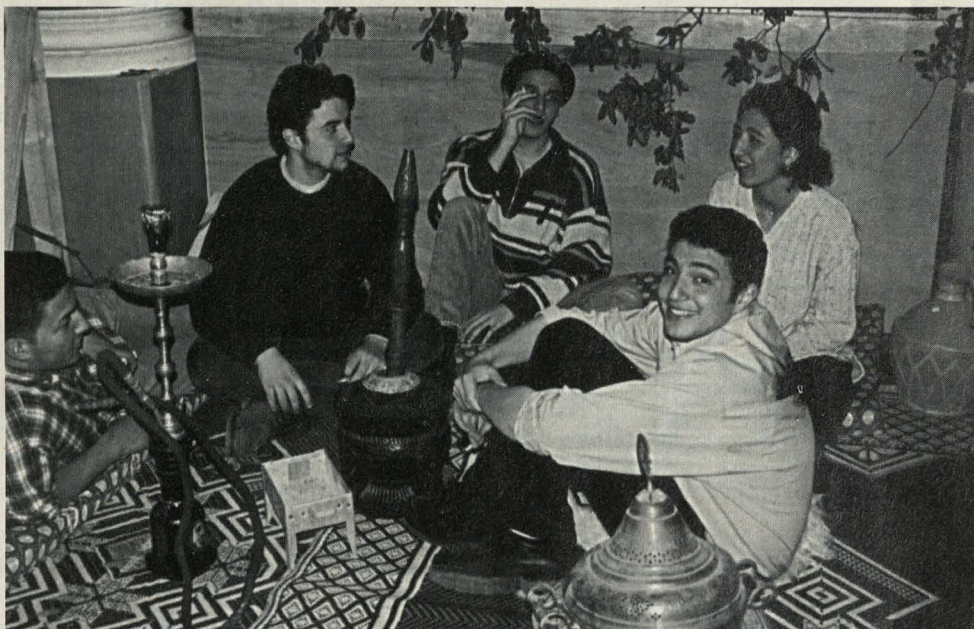
Noise from other rooms, and cleanliness conditions - give "dormers" a reason to move out. In addition, both dorms have less electrical power and limited availability of hot water this year.

With these negative features in mind, we must not overlook all the improvements that have taken place since last year. For example, two new washers and dryers have been acquired for Kerr, in addition to two new ping-pong tables, and shower heads. The same dorm provides its occupants with the latest movie features, such as "The Rock" and "Twister", thanks to the new VCR.

Penrose, however, is a little behind Kerr in the improvement domain. It has only one washer and dryer, and has only recently received writing tables.

Needless to say, the two men's dorms enjoy the no-curfew feature, in contrast to the women's dorms who have a set curfew. Most men "dormers" don't see these changes as being significant. All agree that these are things that should have been there in the first place.

The question remains: What keeps most students from moving out? "It's like a big family," one "dormer" says. "I feel as though I can count on my many dorm friends to be there and to keep me company when I need them the most." Kerr or Penrose "dormers" can't avoid being sociable. "Even in bad conditions, if you are with people you feel comfortable and accepted with, it makes the experience much more fun."



# The Arab Heritage Exhibition at AUB

by Gaby Afram

The spirit of an old Arab "souk" came to life in mid-April at the West Hall common room in the form of the Arab Heritage Exhibition. The event was organized by the Arab Heritage Club in cooperation with the Jordanian, Palestinian and Syrian Cultural Clubs. Unlike its predecessor or any other exhibition at the West Hall, this one had a unique flavor.

The first noticeable thing upon entrance was the cloth-covered pathway. Along this veiled pathway stood the various counters exhibiting their numerous artifacts. The setting was that of an old town market-place which, while it resembled an old Jerusalem souk, had characteristics more reminiscent to "Souk Al-Hamidieh" in old Damascus.

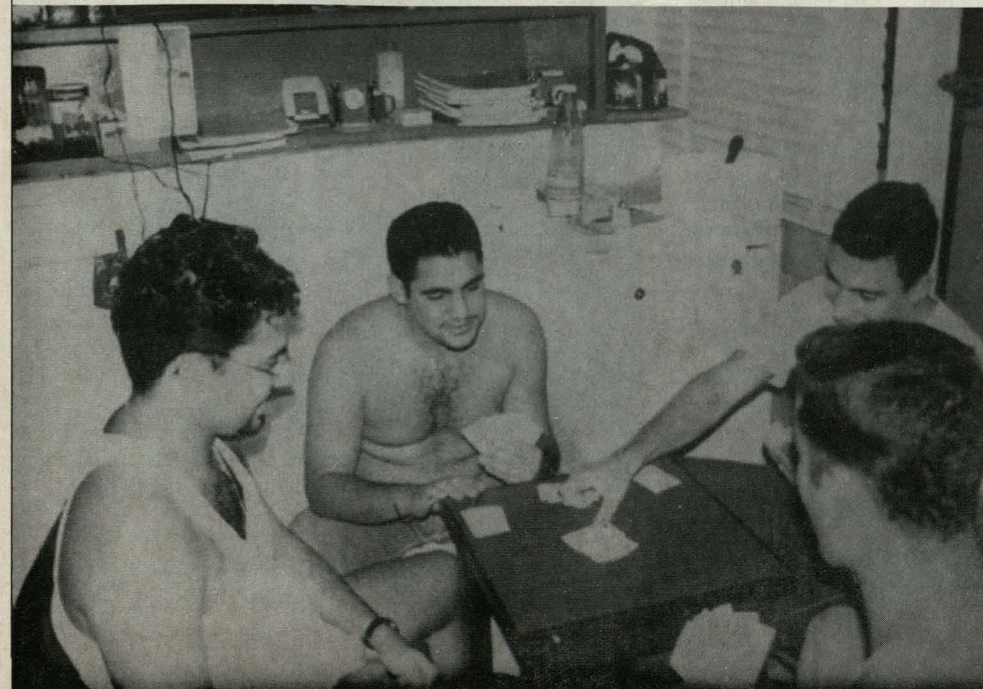
At the heart of the exhibition was a square made of wood and covered with tree leaves, meant to give the flavor of an old "Areesheh" and a distinct Jerusalemite touch. The square symbolized the market-place center where people used to rest in ancient times, and where water-pipe (Arjeeleh) smokers gathered.

The stands were rich in the quality and diversity of what they exhibited. The great variety of artifacts on show, while reflecting the profusion and depth of the individual cultures they represented, managed to clear-

ly demonstrate the dexterity of the Arab heritage. The various beautiful hand-made crafts included silver jewelry, china pots, clay pots, brass trays, rugs, damasks, purses, cushions, book-markers and cloth-made cards. Also on display were beautiful and unforgettable antique guns, rifles and swords, reminding us of our belligerent ancestors and the glorious past.

Wood crafts were in abundance, especially those of the Palestinian martyrs' families. Some CD's and old cassettes were on sale, promptly marketed by the surrounding music which accompanied one's journey through the exhibition. The smell of spices on sale managed to achieve a similar effect. Those worrying about the too many pollutants of today's world were treated to Dead Sea soaps and natural minerals. The star of the exhibition, however, was the young man working with the sand bottles. Skillfully and very artistically, he manipulated an abundant product of nature to create an item of decoration that should be present in every household. The beautifully-designed sand-filled bottles were one of the hottest items on sale.

Finally, all along the pathway, picture and photos of old Arab "souks" added a different dimension to the overall atmosphere, and transported the visitors to the world of their forefathers where they conducted their trade and affairs.





The Cult Culture

By Shadi Anani

What happened on Friday, March 21, 1997? At 2:20 pm on Friday, March 21, a group of 39 smiling people strolled into a restaurant in California, and ordered 39 identical meals. The identically-dressed diners laughed and joked as they feasted on turkey pot pie. Then they neatly stacked their dishes and left for an appointment - with death! No one who saw the odd group on that day had any idea that they had witnessed the "last supper" of the doomed Heaven's Gate Cult. That same weekend, the cultists began killing themselves with deadly desserts of poisoned apple sauce and pudding - in that strange belief that their souls would be picked up and taken to paradise by a UFO trailing the Hale-Bopp Comet.

The cult's maniac leader, Marshall Applewhite - a former music teacher - better known to his followers as "Do", left behind more than a trail of bodies in his crazed quest to become a Messiah - he left a trail of broken hearts. Applewhite formed the Heaven's Gate Cult with a nurse called Bonnie Lu Nettles. Applewhite was such a charismatic speaker that he convinced at least five cultists to join him in having themselves castrated, an act they believed would "neuter" their earthly "containers" before they could enter heaven.

Preparations for the journey began last fall after a photo was posted on the Internet that zoomed a UFO hiding in the trail of the Hale-Bopp Comet. The cult's leader believed that was an alien reincarnated as a second Jesus Christ and took it as the sign he had long waited to receive.

The cult members - intelligent computer experts with lost souls - began cutting their ties with this world to get ready for their "flight" into the world beyond. They sold off their possessions in January and ended up sharing a US \$1.6 million, seven-bedroom mansion until their "exit day".

A Growing Culture  
Heaven's Gate today has counterparts in every continent. Cult activity is growing worldwide as a result of the spiritual and geographic rootlessness of many modern societies. Growing secularism has left some people in desperate need for a deeper meaning of life. These would do anything - even commit suicide - to get it.

Cultism vs. Religion  
Cultism borrows from the belief systems of different cultures. However, one should be careful in not confusing the cult culture with religion. The Heaven Gate Cult teaches that the human bodies are mere "containers" of the soul which death liberates to move to a higher level of existence. These pervasions of religion could easily be mistaken for the widely-accepted Buddhist doctrine of reincarnation, or the Islamic belief in Heaven. The cult urges its followers to live communally to avoid contamination by worldliness. This practice should not be confused with well-established communities, like nunneries or monasteries.

Finally, the cult is dominated by a charismatic leader who claims to know the one true way to enlightenment. This is an obvious borrowing from the Old Testament account of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments from GOD. In short, we cannot really explain what has happened; but at least we are sure that it really DOES matter what you believe in.

(Compiled from the following sources: Newsweek; TIME; and the Web)

Your Skirt Is Too Short... Are You Too Modern?

By Nagham El-Khalil

Saturday night, 10:00 p.m. My friend will be here in exactly thirty minutes. I'm rushing to get ready for the night out. I am wearing my tight black blouse and matching mini-skirt. "Bye, Dad. I won't be late tonight. I promise!" I say as I rush out of my room hoping he won't notice my skirt. "Wait a minute young lady! Where do you think you're going in that skirt? What will the neighbors say when they see you dressed like that? We live in an Arab country; if you want to act as a 'modern' woman, go live elsewhere! You had better change into something more decent if you want to live this house."

Modern?! What did he mean when he said "modern"? Did he mean liberated? Innovative? Is being modern better than not being modern? Does modernity entail a relaxed life-style? And are we to assume that the women of today are more "modern" than the women of the past?

When writer Jean Makdissi asked her audience - in a lecture held in April at AUB as part of a conference on "Gender and Citizenship in Lebanon"- to define a "modern woman", she was bombarded with all sorts of replies: "Flexible and ready to adapt"; "an open-minded individual free from her familial domain"; "someone with a successful career, living a luxurious life-style". The list was endless.

There were no clear-cut answers to be provided. "The answer is in raising the question,"commented Makdissi, who was intrigued by the anguish associated with this question in women, in particular, and in society at large. This prompted her to investigate the issue further, starting with the roots of the problem.

Jose Carreras...Magical Moments

By Sandra Khalil

On Saturday the 12th of April 1997, Lebanon relived an old experience of beauty and high sophistication through the music of Jose Carreras, who was accompanied by the soprano Isabel Rey and the orchestra Da Camera Di Bologna. The



The Dramatic Story... of the AUB Drama Club

By Nadine Sinno

Once upon a time, there used to be a Drama Club at AUB - and even a Drama major given by the department of Fine and Performing Arts. But among the casualties of war was the department as a whole, the Drama major and the Drama Club almost...but not quite...made its final curtain call. It went from a fully functioning club with official directors, advisors, and actors to being a struggling devoted team of survivors. Now let's talk about the survivors. Professors Kurani and Shebay'a, Bshara Atallah, and a group of determined students have cooperated to keep the drama club alive. As Bshara Atallah, the acting president of the drama club, best puts it, "We try to be there to make sure that drama survives."Since 1991, Professors Kurani and Shebay'a have been directing major productions under the aegis of the CS program and the drama club activity. The following plays were performed at the AUB West Hall since then: Hotel Paradiso (Feydeau); The Proposal (Chekhov); Suppressed Desires (Glaspell); Love of One's Neighbor (Antoniev); Pen of My Aunt (Daviot); Bald Soprano (Ionesco); Caucasian Chalk Circle (Brecht); and Fools (Neil Simon).

Over five years ago, Makdissi set out to write a biography unfolding three successive generations of Arab women: Her grandmother's, her mother's and herself. To her dismay, she discovered that despite the significant roles that women played in the past, their official history was absent. She could not find one reliable source that was not written in the books, letters and biographies of Western women.

"How can we provide answers about the past," asked Makdissi, "if we know so little about our present? Can we fairly assume that the women of the past were less modern than today's women? And if modernity is associated with labor, women have long been agents of the work force, albeit within the domain of their households." And that is significant.

Najla Hamadeh, one of the organizers of the event and a faculty member at the CS department, commented that modernity had two faces. On the one hand, it positively awakened the senses of women and made them aware of their rights to speak up and to better themselves. On the other hand, it desensitized the social realm, instilling such values as materialism and self-indulgence. She stressed that women should balance between their own needs and their responsibilities towards society at large.

Makdissi concluded by saying that women should be an active part of an existing social system. That, according to her, will only be achieved when women investigate and learn more about their past in order to understand their present\*; only then will they develop into "social beings".

Therefore, in answering the question about what it meant to be a "modern woman", Makdissi emphasized: Self-expression. "I'm sure your grandchildren will love to learn about your experiences. Write down your thoughts. Talk about the conditions of your time and express yourselves freely. That is the way for a better future."

concert was directed by the maestro David Gimenez. The turnout for this event was astounding, and everyone was dressed in fancy suits and dresses for the occasion. It seems that after all these years of absence, the Lebanese audience is still as "tuned in" as it was before the war. The doors were closed at 9:00 o'clock sharp, and the concert began at 9:30. The stage was beautifully decorated in the style of a real opera house, with extravagant red curtains, plants and artifacts.

...Then Jose Carreras made his appearance. He sang and captivated the audience with his interpretation of Marechiaré by Tosti. He also sang excerpts from many other famous operas such as Maristella (by Pietry) and West Side Story (by Bernstein). As for Isabel Rey, she was just as good a performer and filled the gap captivantly during the great tenor's breaks.

I especially enjoyed the duos, such as Verdi's famous La Traviata, Bernstein's classic West Side Story, and Webber's magical Phantom of the Opera. At the end of the scheduled recital, Jose Carreras was forced by numerous standing ovations to sing some favorites like Grenada and O Sole Mio. He continued to please the audience until he started to get tired after four or five encores.

Two big screens on both sides of the stage enabled the whole audience to see and appreciate the performance of the singers. The screens also transmitted occasional shots of the audience that included important political and social figures. Unfortunately, however, the acoustic system was not powerful enough to convey the grandness of the music.

Currently, three one-act plays are being prepared for presentation between May 7-16, and these are: The Bear (Chekhov); Sunday costs Five Pesos (Josefina Niggli); and Passion, Poison and Petrification (G.B. Shaw).

Taking parts in the production of the plays are mainly students of the course CS 283, as well as others who feel they are qualified to try out for the plays. A talent contest was recently held to encourage creative students who wish to participate. Both Professor Shebay'a and Bshara Atallah agree that what is lacking is not the students' motivation, but rather the financial support and the professional personnel. Attalah also suggests that an official drama program be established for all those interested in specializing in drama and who wish to develop their full potential.

It is an undeniable fact that AUB has succeeded in the academic achievement domain. However, it will be a shame to have whatever remains of the "art" element disappear into oblivion!

In the meantime if people would just attend these productions, (and they have been praised by audiences and critics who have gone) that is another way to help a "dramatic recovery" at AUB.

THE CIVILIZATION SEQUENCE PROGRAM & THE A.U.B. DRAMA CLUB

PRESENT

three one act plays

SUNDAY COSTS FIVE PESOS

directed by PETER SHEBAYA  
produced by DAVID KURANI

AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT, WEST HALL, 7:30 PM

TICKET PRICES: 5,000 L.L. and 8,000 L.L.

THE BEAR

Anton Chekov

JOSEPHINA NIGGLI

PASSION POISON AND PETRIFICATION

G. Bernard Shaw



# Cloning: New Dimensions?

By Bashar Haidar

Considered as one of the most amazing breakthroughs in genetic engineering at present, "cloning" is dominating the global media headlines. Time and effort are being exerted to discuss and comprehend this extremely debatable and controversial issue.

What is cloning?

In defining the cloning process, some scientists simply refer to it as the manipulation of a cell taken from an animal, and making it grow into an exact duplicate of the same animal.

Needless to say, cloning has been performed frequently in past years. However, that type of cloning was based on embryonic cells. Simply stated, the cells in the embryo are "general cells", which means that they are not related a particular organ. These "undifferentiated" cells give rise to all the other cells in the body. As development progresses, the DNA in the cell is altered so that not all the genes are active, and only the ones needed for accomplishing a certain function are kept active.

If cloning has been performed for years, one may wonder why the issue was recently met with much controversy. It was the discovery of Dr. Ian Wilmut, a cell biologist at the Roslin Institute in Scotland, that caused all the hoopla. Dr. Wilmut used fully developed "adult" cells to make a clone. What is interesting about this is that he figured a way to activate all the genes in the cell so that he could manipulate them in the same manner as with the embryonic cells. He had began working on this project with his team ten years ago. He finally discovered that if the cell is deprived of its nutrients for one week, it will activate all its genes. This state is known as the "quiescent state".

Dr. Wilmut describes the whole process in a few words: "Take one of the sheep cells, slip it into an egg cell from a different sheep, put the whole package into a surrogate mother, and wait for 150 days." In reality, it might not be that easy. Out of 277 adult cells that he took from the sheep, only one cell was successfully cloned into what he called "Dolly".

The cloning process:

When the cell is taken from the donor, it is made to reach

the "quiescent state". Another egg cell is taken from another provider - which, of course, has different genetic characteristics - and the nucleus is removed from the cell. Next, the cell and the egg are fused together with the help of an electric shock. This fusion makes the molecules in the egg program the genes of the donated cell to produce a full embryo. Finally, the embryo is implanted into a surrogate mother. With this, it is possible to get an exact copy of the animal from which the donor cell was originally take.

It does not stop here, though. Much controversy has arisen over this issue by scientists and lay-persons alike. Beside the ethical issues that are being debated, there are technical questions that are being raised by scientists. Will the cloned animal live as long as the original animal? Moreover, some of the DNA which is essential for development is not present in the nucleus. This, along with the problem of getting the chromosomes re-programmed for the new cell may affect the health of the clone. The list goes on.

Playing God?

It can be argued that cloning creates new dimensions in genetic engineering and provides humanity with new

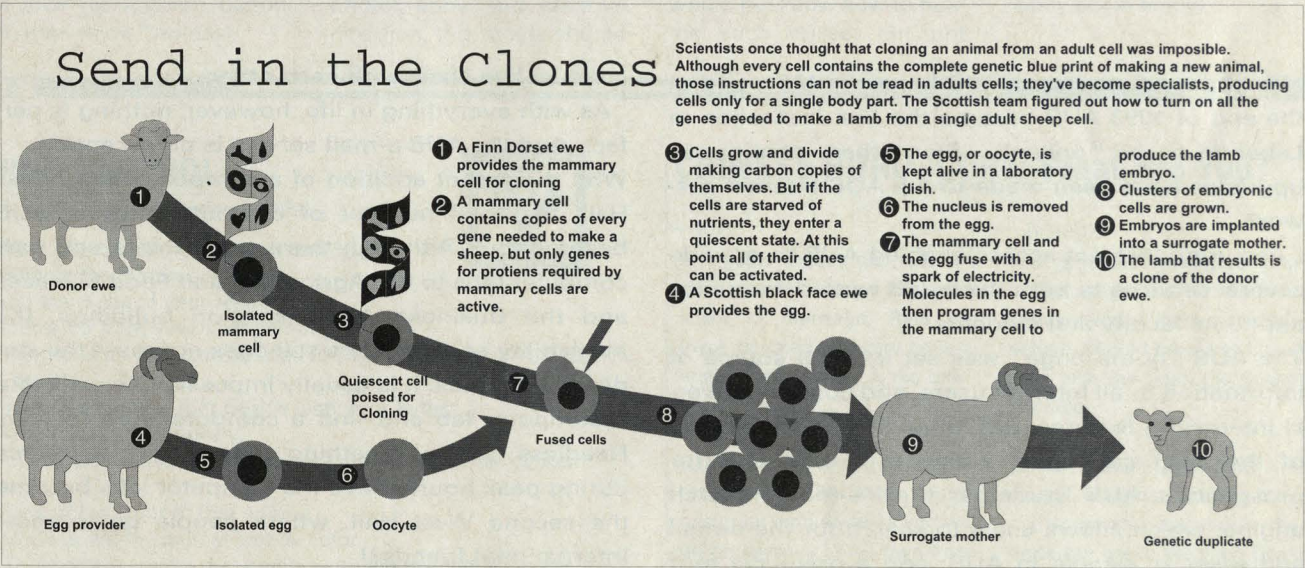
avenues. But will the day come when humans can be cloned? Scientists say that it is impossible yet, but that it may very well be on the way. Maybe then we can have two Gandhis and two Hitlers. Only God knows for certain!

"Cloning" at the AUB Alumni Club

Contributed by Elia Abou Jaoude

In light of the media-driven interest in the Dolly-clone issue, the Science Sub-Committee of the AUB Alumni Club organized a panel discussion on the subject of genetic engineering. The event was held on April 10 at the AUB Alumni Club, and hosted four prominent speakers: Dr. Rabih Talhouk (AUB), Dr. Marwan Sabban (AUB), Dr. Tarek Na'awas (LAU), and Dr. Andre Megarbane (USJ). The panelists succeeded in presenting the issue of cloning as a small part of the vast domain of genetic engineering, the "whats" and "hows" of which were introduced in a simplified manner to a non-specialist audience.

[The Science Subcommittee (SSC) of the AUB Alumni Club invites new applications for membership. All interested university graduates and students may apply. For more information, please contact Elia Abou Jaoude (AUB, Ext. 4853), Nina Farah (LAU, Ext. 1197), or simply drop by the Alumni Club on Thursdays At 5:30 p.m.]



# Yoga and Health

By Rima El-Harake

In an interview, the AUB yoga instructor, Susan Williamson, defined yoga as "a science [that] is still the best way to ensure good health, peace of mind and happiness."

It is a science because the various techniques that are practiced have been proven to be effective. The word yoga means union - union between body, mind and spirit, between the individual and his surroundings, and between the individual soul and the supreme soul. This is the way that yogis understand God.

Yoga is the only system that treats the five different levels of the human personality and being. Each level - the physical, the ethereal, the mental, the ego and the soul- concentrates on improving a part of the human body. The physical or Hatha yoga provides a balance between two appositely charged energies. The ethereal level provides the body with energy, or Prana, which is essential for the whole system. The mental level is for the control of the mind and senses. The ego level induces correct thinking and the study of the self. Finally, the soul is the highest level and is purified by meditation exercises and by devotion to God. The improvement on all these levels enables the individual to reach a higher spiritual dimension in his devotion to God.

The different techniques that are practiced by yogis ensure that the mind, ego, and spirit are modified and improved. Through concentration, the study of spiritual wisdom, and devotion and meditation, the highest level of pure existence can be reached.

Other than the actual practice of Hatha yoga, which concentrates on the physical being, the breathing technique is of utmost importance to yogis because it induces energy into the system and ensures vitality and resistance to diseases.

Yoga is, therefore, a system that improves the individual physically, mentally, and spiritually, and concentrates on making a person healthier and more resistant to disease.

Ms. Williamson confirmed that yogis must adhere to a vegetarian diet. Yogis believe that killing animals is a violent act, and, therefore, the food obtained contains many negative elements which affect the body and the mind. According to Ms. Williamson, "a vegetarian diet produces calm mental vibrations suitable for meditation, creativity and freedom from many of today's illnesses." She concludes, "As one Indian monk best puts it, 'My stomach is not a cemetery for dead animals'."



## What is Vegetariansim?

(Reprinted with permission from The Himalayan Academy Publications)

### -Must We Kill in order to Live?

Vegetarianism, known in Sanskrit as Shakahara, was for thousands of years a principle of health and environmental ethics throughout India. Though Muslim and Christian colonization radically undermined and eroded this ideal, it remains to this day a cardinal ethic of Hindu thought and practice. A subtle sense of guilt persists among Hindus who eat meat, and there exists an ongoing controversy on this issue.

For India's ancient thinkers, life is seen as the very stuff of the Divine, an emanation of the Source and part of a cosmic

continuum. They further hold that each life form, even water and trees, possesses consciousness and energy. Nonviolence, the primary basis of vegetarianism, has long been central to the religious traditions of India-especially Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism. Religion in India has consistently upheld the sanctity of life, whether human, animal or, in the case of the Jains, elemental.

There developed early in India an unparalleled concern for harmony among life forms, and this led to a common ethos based on non-injuriousness and a minimal consumption of natural resources - in other words, to compassion and simplicity. If the homosapien were to survive his present predicament, he will have to rediscover these two primary ethical virtues.

What really is vegetarianism?

Vegetarian foods include grains, fruits, vegetables, legumes and dairy products. Natural, fresh foods, locally grown without insecticides or chemical fertilizers are preferred. A vegetarian diet does not include meat, fish, fowl or eggs. For good health, even certain vegetarian foods are minimized: frozen and canned foods, highly processed foods, such as white rice, white sugar and white flour; and "junk" foods and beverages-those with abundant chemical additives, such as artificial sweeteners, colorings, flavorings and preservatives.

In my forty years of ministry it has become quite evident that vegetarian families have far fewer problems than those who are not vegetarian. If children are raised as vegetarians, every day they are exposed to nonviolence as a principle of peace and compassion. Every day they are growing up they are remembering and being reminded to not kill. They won't even kill another creature to eat, to feed themselves. And if they won't kill another creature to feed themselves, they will be much less likely to do acts of violence against people.

[For more information, write to Himalayan Academy Publications, 107 Kaholalele Road, Kapaa, HI 96746, USA]



## Five Reasons to Be a Vegetarian

In the past fifty years millions of meat-eaters have made the personal decision to stop eating the flesh of other creatures. There are five major motivations for such a decision.

### 1) The DHARMIC/SCRIPTURAL LAW reason:

Ahimsa, the law of non injury, is the Hindu's first duty in fulfillment of his religious obligations to God and God's creation as defined by Vedic scripture.

### 2) The KARMIC CONSEQUENCES reason:

All of our actions, including our choice of food have, karmic consequences. By involving oneself in the cycle of inflicting injury, pain and death, even indirectly by eating other creatures, one must in the future experience in equal measure the suffering caused.

### 3) The SPIRITUAL CONSCIOUSNESS reason:

Food is the source of the body's chemistry, and what we ingest affects our consciousness, emotions and experiential patterns. If one wants to live in higher consciousness, in peace and happiness and love for all creatures, then he cannot eat meat, fish, shellfish, fowl or eggs. By ingesting the grosser chemistries of animal foods, one introduces into the body and mind anger, jealousy, fear, anxiety, suspicion and a terrible fear of death, all of which are locked into the flesh of butchered creatures. For these reasons, vegetarians live in higher consciousness.

### 4) The HEALTH reason:

Medical studies prove that a vegetarian diet is easier to digest, provides a wider range of nutrients and imposes fewer burdens and impurities on the body. Vegetarians are less susceptible to all the major diseases that afflict contemporary humanity, and thus may live longer, healthier, more

productive lives. They have fewer physical complaints, less frequent visits to the doctor, fewer dental problems and smaller medical bills. Their immune system is stronger, their bodies are purer, more refined and their skin more beautiful.

### 5) The ECOLOGICAL reason:

Planet earth is suffering. In large measure, the escalating loss of species, destruction of ancient rain forests to create pasture lands for livestock, loss of topsoils and the consequent increase of water impurities and air pollution have all been traced to the single fact of meat in the human diet. No single decision that we can make as individuals or as a race can have such a dramatic effect on the improvement of our planetary ecology as the decision to not eat meat. Many seeking to save the planet for future generations have made this decision for this reason and this reason alone.



## Internet at AUB

by Wissam Adib

The Internet project at AUB began in 1991, and at the end of 1993 AUB became the first institution in Lebanon to go "online". Since then, continuous upgrades have been made to the AUB Internet network.

Acquiring Internet access enabled AUB to provide several services to both the world wide community, and to its faculty and students.

The AUB "home page" was set up as a source of information to all Internet users, and contains several interesting features, including: the online version of the AUB catalogue, which is a vital tool for prospective AUB students; the "e-mail" search engine, which allows users to search for the e-mail addresses of people in AUB; and a graphical tour giving "surfers" a quick introduction to the AUB campus. A recent addition to the AUB home page is a library search engine. However, this is only available from within the AUB premises and is still under testing.

To many students, the Internet in Lebanon is an expensive dream, available only to the few who can afford it. This year, however, AUB took an essential step towards providing e-mail access to its students, connecting them to the most important communications network to date.

As soon as students had e-mail access, they filled the computer labs all over AUB. Everyone had a reason for connecting to the rest of the world: searching for and talking to long lost friends; passing information around; and even forming new relationships. In fact, most students who have used it agree that the e-mail service has become an integral part of their everyday lives.

Two other services that came with the e-mail were USENET and Internet Relay Chat (IRC). USENET is a collection of newsgroups and discussion forums which allow people to publicly discuss issues of interest. Although the USENET has not taken off as dramatically as the e-mail, some students are beginning to utilize this service, publishing general discussions through aub.general, and posting "wanted" and "for sale" items on aub.wanted and aub.for-sale, respectively. IRC has only recently been implemented in the gw-fea server for engineering students. This is a system through which students can

conduct live chats with each other.

As with everything in life, however, nothing is perfect. And the AUB e-mail service is no exception. With the recent addition of a computer lab in Bliss Hall, the total number of computer labs at AUB become four. Although there are plans to add new computer labs to the Agriculture and Food Sciences and the Business Administration buildings, the availability of computers still does not meet the students' demands. It is usually impossible to walk into a computer lab and find a computer free for use. Needless to say, breathing room becomes scarce during peak hours. Have the computer labs become the second West Hall, where people go to meet international friends?!

Another aspect of the e-mail service, which students find extremely annoying, is the e-mail addresses. These have been pre-chosen by the institution on the basis of the students' initials and a code number. Students feel that they should be able to choose their own user names.

The Personal Computer and Network Support (PCNS) unit was the one responsible for the execution of the Internet project at AUB, and it is still working on improving and maintaining the system. The PCNS is in the process of constructing a more fool-proof network to avoid the loss of e-mail in case of an interruption in the Internet link. In the near future, the PCNS unit hopes to be able to connect the faculty to the World-Wide Web (WWW) using time slotting techniques. In addition, a project which is currently in progress will connect Lebanese companies with AUB, allowing students to have full access to the local Lebanese Internet service.

Faculty and students are encouraged to put their departments online by sending the finished web pages to the PCNS unit. An interesting method for designing the web pages - which is currently being implemented by the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture - is to offer a cash prize to the group of students who come up with the best design. AUB faculty and staff are also encouraged to create their own personal online home pages by using the Home Page Creator, which is available from the main page of the AUB server.

Nabil Bukhaled, manager of the PCNS unit at AUB

and organizer of this year's computer exposition in Lebanon (CompEx '97), explained how academic institution played an important role in the initial proliferation of the Internet in the United States. AUB must now follow suit to ensure that Lebanon catches up with the rest of the world on the information superhighway.

### JAFET On-Line

The long hours of fruitless searching for missing books at the Jafet library are finally over. A long-awaited computer search engine has finally been installed in the library, and students can now find books in seconds. Another great time-saver is the feature which shows whether the book is available in the library. No more waiting for the assistants to feel energetic enough to check if the book is available. The only downside to this is that students no longer have an excuse for handing in their home-

### Picks of the Month:

Lebanon.com (<http://www.lebanon.com/>): One of the most complete sources of information about Lebanon on the net.

TuCows (<http://www.tucows.com/>): You will find all the Internet related software you will ever need here, and with their "cool" rating system, a program worth five cows is worth a look.

Geocities (<http://www.geocities.com/>): Set up your residence on the Internet in one of the Geocities' many neighborhoods.

The Daily Muse (<http://www.cais.net/aschnedr/muse.htm>): World news presented in a humorous setting.

ESPN Sports Zone (<http://espnet.sportzone.com/>): A have for all the sports fans.

Net radio (<http://www.netradio.net/>): The first radio station on the net. All you need is a copy of the RealAudio program, and you will be ready to receive.



# The Poets' Corner:

— SHUT UP!

They hardly know you  
But they want to talk  
They think they can judge you-  
By the way you walk  
What they do not know is that  
There is so much good in the worst of us  
And what they cannot understand is that  
There is so much bad in the best of us  
People! Why don't you mind your own affairs?  
In life, simply just play your roles  
Live your lives - let others live theirs  
It is a free country after all!  
The world will never be in peace  
As long as people keep intruding  
Hatred will never cease  
When people cannot get enough of talking!  
JUST SHUT UP!

Nagham Al-Khalil

— ODE TO A NESCAFE!

We have become such good friends these days  
And you have helped me in great many ways  
This little rhyme is dedicated to you  
'Cause I owe you a lot; I really do  
You helped me overcome many a depressive state  
You helped me stay hours late  
When I had deadlines to meet the next day  
You never ignored me or walked away  
Whenever I felt that it was over for me  
You boosted me up and made me see  
That I can do it and that I'm strong  
That giving up is weak and wrong  
You are such a reliable friend  
And I got all my thanks to send  
Although not human, but a thing you are  
I'll call you my savior, my guiding star!

Nadine Sinno

— DEATH OF AN INNOCENT

I went to a party, Mom, I remembered what you said.  
You told me not to drink, Mom, so I drank soda instead.  
I really felt proud inside, Mom, the way you said I would.  
I didn't drink and drive, Mom, even though the others said I should.  
I know I did the right thing, Mom, I know you are always right.  
Now the party is finally ending, Mom, as everyone is driving out of sight.  
As I got into my car, Mom, I knew I'd get home in one piece.  
Because of the way you raised me, so responsible and sweet.  
I started to drive away, Mom, but as I pulled out into the road,  
The other car didn't see me, Mom, and hit me like a load.  
As I lay there on the pavement, Mom, I heard the policeman say,  
The other guy is drunk, Mom, and now I'm the one who will pay.  
I'm lying here dying, Mom. I wish you'd get here soon.  
How could this happen to me, Mom? My life just burst like a balloon.  
There is blood all around me, Mom, and most of it is mine.  
I hear the medic say, Mom, I'll die in a short time.  
I just wanted to tell you, Mom, I swear I didn't drink.  
It was the others, Mom. The others didn't think.  
He was probably at the same party as I.  
The only difference is, he drank and I will die.  
Why do people drink, Mom? It can ruin your whole life.  
I'm feeling sharp pains now. Pains just like a knife.  
The guy who hit me is walking, Mom, and I don't think it's fair.  
I'm lying here dying and all he can do is stare.  
Tell my brother not to cry, Mom. Tell Daddy to be brave.  
And when I go to heaven, Mom, put "Daddy's Girl" on my grave  
Someone should have told him, Mom, not to drink and drive.  
If only they had told him, Mom, I would still be alive.

My breath is getting shorter, Mom. I'm becoming very scared.> Please  
don't cry for me, Mom. When I needed you, you were always there.  
I have one last question, Mom, before I say good bye.  
I didn't drink and drive, so why am I the one to die?  
Anonymous

## MOVIE REVIEW

By Sandra Khalil

### The English Patient:

By Anthony Minghella, with Ralph Fiennes, Kristin Scott Thomas, Juliette Binoche

One would think that World War II and tragic love stories have become over-treated topics. But Michael Ondaatje, author of the story on which the film is based, gives these classic subjects a new dimension that is wonderfully presented by Anthony Minghella in his latest film The English Patient.

In an abandoned monastery, Hana (Juliette Binoche, winner of the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress), a nurse, takes care of Almansy (Ralph Fiennes), an agonizing pilot and archaeologist who recalls his tragic love for Kathryn Clifton (Kristen Scott Thomas).

The film retraces two love stories, portraying the misery that people lived in during World War II. The main characters are devastated by the war and are in search for peace, memories, and even morphine to ease their pains. As the movie progresses, the viewer lives alternatively between two love stories: that of Kathryn and Almansy, and that of Hanna and Kip.

Although the movie ends tragically, a sense of hope prevails. The music, which is very expressive of the moods of the characters, is most enjoyable. The last letter written by Kathryn in her last moments of life also seals the life of Almansy, creating a balanced melange of romanticism and awesome sorrow. For those who enjoy artistic photography and creative direction, this movie should

satisfy their quest for serene beauty.

### The First Wives Club:

By Hugh Wilson, with Bette Midler, Goldie Hawn, and Diane Keaton

Classic scenes. A woman, who gives away her career to take care of her husband and daughter, gets dumped for a working woman who "can have a more interesting conversation". An aging actress finds out that she has to split her fortune and pay alimony to her husband - whom she helped to get into showbiz - because he found a younger, more promising actress. A woman who goes into labor and has gained some weight finds herself alone after her husband leaves her for a thinner, anorexic-like woman. Many women would not know how to handle such crises, but not

these three friends. The only solution is....GET EVEN! How? By creating the first wives club that would cover all their activities!!

"To never underestimate the power of women" could be the moral of this charming comedy. You feel taken by their revenge as if it were your very own. You may especially enjoy the rich life of the high New York society. This is a show of luxury cars, furniture, decorators, and, of course, buffets and clothes.

If you feel like traveling to another world without deep meaning and meditations, the First Wives Club is the movie to see and enjoy. Finally, this is a funny movie that may not have the typical jokes, but the subtle humor that everybody could enjoy!

## MIND CONTROL

(Please follow the instructions below carefully:)

1. Think of a number between 1 and 10.
2. Multiply the number by 9.
3. Add the digits of your results.
4. Subtract 5 from your new number.
5. Find the letter that corresponds to your number, if 1=A, 2=B, 3=C, etc..
6. Think of a country that begins with your letter.
7. Write down your country.
8. Think of an animal beginning with the second letter of your country.
9. Think of the color of that animal.
10. Write down the animal and its color.
11. Think of an animal that begins with the last letter of your country.
12. Think of a fruit that begins with the last letter of this second animal.
13. Write down the fruit and the animal.



Look on the next page for answer

## THE GRAMMAR GAME:

You can make the following into grammatically correct English by merely adding punctuation. You may not change the word order, nor add or subtract any words.

**"John while Jim had had had had had had had had had had a better effect on the teacher "**

(solutions on next page)

## May's TRIVIA:

( Send your solution to OUTLOOK, Box 22, and WIN PRIZES!!!!)

1. A taxi driver had been somewhat impolite to his passenger, so the passenger asked for the driver's number, with a view to reporting him.  
"So you want my number, do you?" said the driver. "Well, you can work it out for yourself. If you divide my number by 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, you'll find there is always a remainder of 1. But if you divide it by 11 there's no remainder. What's more, there is no other driver with a lower number who can say the same."  
What was the taxi driver's number?
2. On one of the escalators in a department store, you find that if you walk down 26 steps, you need 30 seconds to get to the bottom; but if you make 34 steps, the you only need 18 seconds to reach the bottom. What is the height of the stairway in steps? The time is measured from the instant the top step begins to descend to the time you step off the last step at the bottom on to the level platform.
3. Consider the number 7731.  
Now continue the sequence:  
153, 193, 197, 353, 413, 419, 793, 797, 813, 819, ?, ?  
What are the last two numbers?

## Good, Bad, Worse

J Bad: Your son's involved in Satanism. Worse: As a sacrifice.  
J Bad: Your wife wants a divorce. Worse: She's a lawyer  
J Good: You get a three-day weekend. Bad: You get the flu on Friday.  
J Good: Your uncle leaves you a fortune. Bad: It's counterfeit.

## CHINESE HOROSCOPE: What Are You?

- RAT: Energetic, industrious, playful, generous, but beware of his criticism in marriage. Rats are loyal, devoted and very considerate. Their partner is ox, monkey or dragon.
- HORSE: Well groomed, intelligent, innovative, active. The horse is independent and selfish until he falls in love. Should have a swinging time with the tiger, the dog or the goat.
- OX: Hardworking, strong, practical, reserved. The Ox hates failure, has great family values and will be prosperous in his own business. He will be happy with the snake, rooster and rat.
- GOAT: Quiet, graceful, elegant, creative, lucky, goats are charming and successful, but their hesitations can get in the way. Goats are most compatible with the rabbit, pig and horse.
- TIGER: Courageous, liberal, fashion conscious, unpredictable, the tiger is passionate. Risky jobs are what he likes. He will find the greatest compatibility with the horse, dog or dragon.
- MONKEY: Intelligent, witty, fashionable, amusing, they are so clever some tend to be conceited. Through signs of the dragon, rat and rabbit, monkeys should find true compatibility.
- RABBIT: Gentle, affectionate, artful, clever, rabbits are pacifists who hate drama. They make successful businessmen and diplomats. Their compatible signs are goat, pig and dragon.
- ROOSTER: Entertaining, outspoken, controversial, frank, roosters are generous with panache, active, always full of projects. They cannot go past the ox, the snake and the dragon.
- DRAGON: Enthusiastic, versatile, ambitious dominant, he is a winner. His love of perfection can make him hard on others. Dragons will find understanding with the monkey, rat and rooster.
- DOG: Honest, dependable, devoted, protective. Though his realism makes him look pessimistic, the dog is a true idealist. He should be very happy with the tiger, horse or pig.
- SNAKE: Wise, understanding, elegant, shrewd. Women snakes are beautiful. The snake is intuitive, lucky in business, versatile and possessive in love. His partner is ox, rooster or rabbit.
- PIG: Kind, friendly, courteous, charitable, pigs also have great inner strength. Women pigs are good mothers. Pigs will be happy with the goat, the rabbit and the rat.

RAT	1912	1924	1936	1948	1960	1972	1984
OX	1913	1925	1937	1949	1961	1973	1985
TIGER	1914	1926	1938	1950	1962	1974	1986
RABBIT	1915	1927	1939	1951	1963	1975	1987
DRAGON	1916	1928	1940	1952	1964	1976	1988
SNAKE	1917	1929	1941	1953	1965	1977	1989
HORSE	1918	1930	1942	1954	1966	1978	1990
GOAT	1919	1931	1943	1955	1967	1979	1991
MONKEY	1920	1932	1944	1956	1968	1980	1992
ROOSTER	1921	1933	1945	1957	1969	1981	1993
DOG	1922	1934	1946	1958	1970	1982	1994
PIG	1923	1935	1947	1959	1971	1983	1995





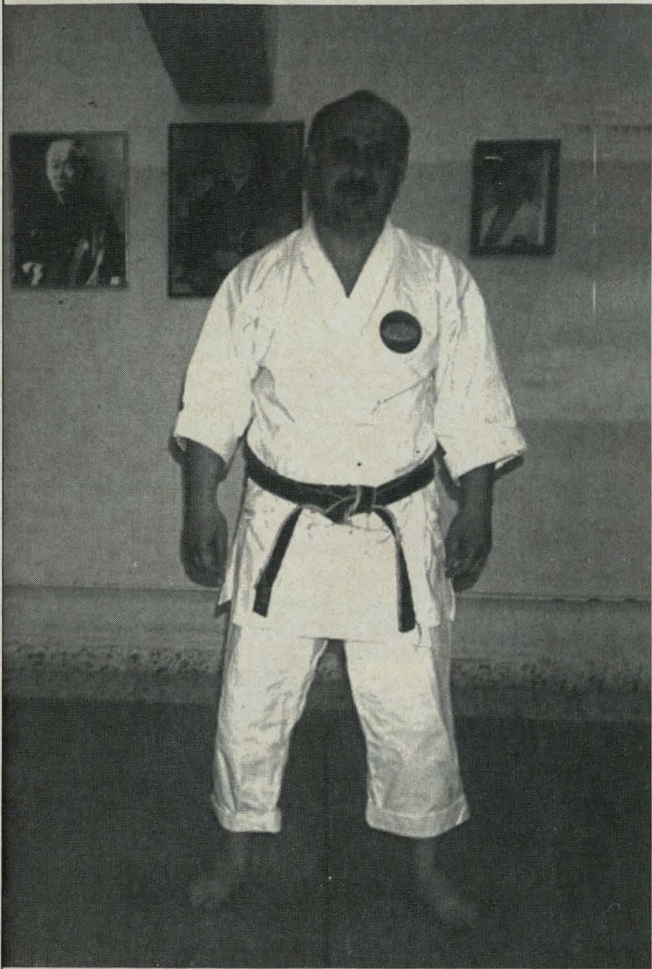


## SPORTS INVESTIGATION

Behind every success, there is a noble fighter. OUTLOOK will attempt to introduce the reader to these noble fighters—the AUB sports coaches to whom we owe a lot—in every issue. This month's choice fell on the coach for the AUB Karate Club, Mr. Abdallah El-Saleh.

Q: Please state your age and social status.

A: 40 years old and single.



What degree in Karate do you hold, and what is your present career?

I carry the 5th DAN in Shutokan Karate from Japan (W.S.K.F) I was a competitor in the Lebanese national team from 1973-1986, and the head coach since 1988. I became an instructor in 1984 following special training in Japan. I was promoted to the 6th DAN by the Arab Karate Federation for the work I did in promoting Karate in the Arab World. I am also an accountant by profession, and am in charge of employee relations at a company here in Lebanon.

How long have you been at AUB?

I have been teaching at the Karate Club since 1979, and became a coach in the Athletics Dept. in 1983.

What are some of the most memorable events of the Karate Club?

I remember when our team was at its peak and we participated in the European Championship in Zurich in 1974. I had excellent students like Fadi Abdel Khalek, who was excellent by international standards. I also had Dr. Hani Hajj and the outstanding captain of the team Omar Knio. I also recall a few female competitors like Nadine Abdel Khalek, who won 2 medals in the Pan Arab game in 1984.

Does Karate really involve the violence we see in movies?

Karate is part of the Bu Do family (the art of fighting). In fact, the word "Budo" means "To stop fighting". The ultimate goal of Karate is the perfection of the character. The violence shown in the movies is only for entertainment.

What is required of a person to be a good player?

Heavy training and discipline because Karate-Do (the Karate way) is more than a sport. It is a discipline.

How do you find the students' response to Karate?

I am surprised to see an increasing number of serious female players in our club. We also have a very promising men's team at the moment.



Your final word.

I thank you for the interview, and I also thank the Athletics Department for their support.

## GAME OVER

This section of OUTLOOK is the readers' section. In it, the reader may write about any topic of interest pertaining to sports. Questions, comments, information, etc., are also welcome.

Since this is OUTLOOK's first issue, this section will remain empty. We are waiting for your participation.

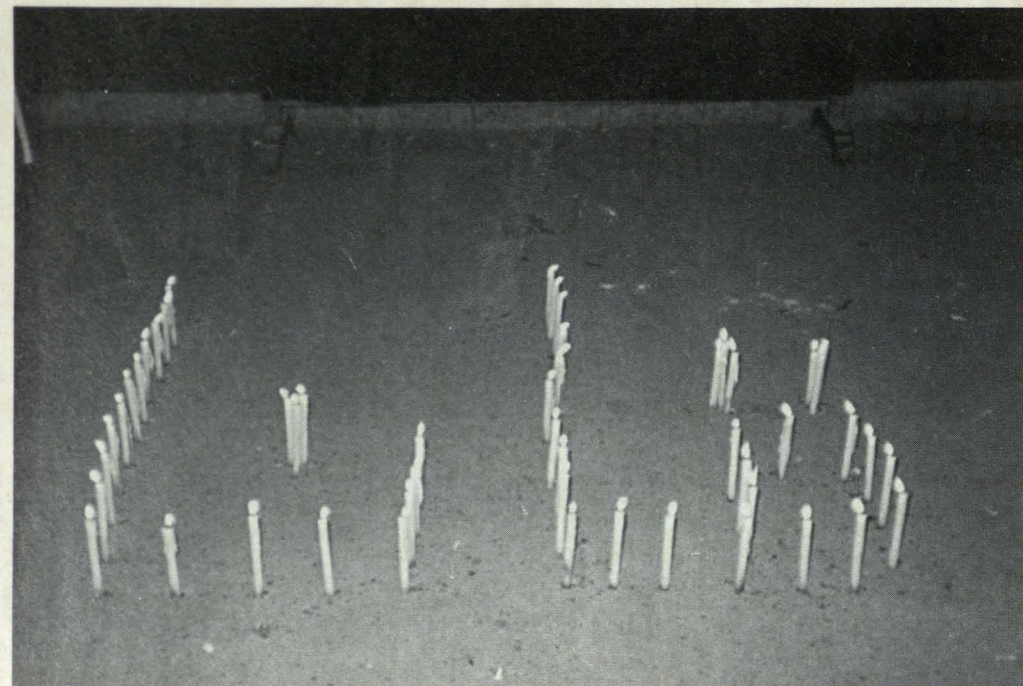
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A.U.B. Sports Teams that traveled to Egypt





## IN MEMORY OF QANA







## The 7% Dilemma

by Thamar Kechichian

Let us get straight down to the point. According to the administration, the 7 percent increase in tuition fees for the 1997 summer term is largely due to the annual 6 percent inflation of costs charged to the university. Additionally, faculty and personnel are in the process of requesting salary increases. Therefore, the 7 percent increase just about covers the rising costs charged to AUB's financial bill every year.

To clarify further, the administration's and the student affairs' offices are not the decision-makers when it comes to the annual tuition increases. In fact, the Board of Trustees handles this delicate aspect of the AUB budget.

These facts, however, do not deter most students from expressing feelings of frustration and downright disgust at the 7 percent dilemma. Wednesday, June 4, witnessed the disruption of the annual Athletes' Night, honoring our AUB athletes, with shouts decrying the 7 percent increase and condemning the Dean of Student Affairs. While feeling pride at the unified student body that openly voiced protests, others lament the sabotage of the widely attended event. In the future, most of the student body will not remember June 4 as "Athletes' Night '97", but as the "7 Percent Night '97".

While being hounded by "boo's" and other flattering remarks during the same night, Dean Hajj admits, "I fully support [the students'] protests." In fact, Dean Hajj, in conjunction with the USFC (University Student Faculty Committee) will present the AUB acting president with the following series of requests: 1) Abolishment of the expected tuition increase for Fall '97; 2) A summer term financial aid program; 3) USFC access to AUB financial records; 4) Increase of the Financial Aid Budget; 5) Full reintroduction of hardship cases; 6) An increase in wages and hours for student employment.

These requests are seriously considered by the SRC (Student Representative Committees). It is to the author's knowledge that the USFC will continue to work intensely to terminate the expected tuition increase. In addition, a few SRC members are said to be prepared to resign unless their demands are formally considered by the Board of Trustees. Considering the fact that the '97-'98 school year is nearing its end, the SRC members have a challenging road ahead of them.

One of these many challenges would be the mobilization of students' opinions which have ebbed from high to low



regarding the annual tuition increases. The high point was naturally the October '94 "uproar". Last year students remembered too well the arrests and violence following the '94 demonstrations and chose to remain quiet.

However, the AUB of '97 differs drastically from the AUB of '94. A decrease of financial aid and the termination of several scholarships have virtually eliminated a sizable sector of the student body which would, otherwise, would have expressed considerably stronger opinions. This year on June 5, a mellower protest was staged in front of West Hall. After the SRC finally convinced bystanders to join the sit-in on the ground, a

number of members attempted to arouse public opinion with strong statements and songs that were met with random rounds of applause.

The most generic yet widespread opinion of interviewed students has been, "They should have told us before." Actually, the Board of Trustees has no valid reason to warn students of tuition increases ahead of time. Page 67, paragraph "I", of the AUB Catalogue, an announcement in large print reads: "The University reserves the right to change any or all fees at any time without prior notice." However, most students do not really think about such technical language while standing in line at the bank and suddenly realizing that the amount specified in the statement of fees does not resemble the amount of Lebanese Liras they had sacrificed last year.

The general consensus seems to be that AUB students request that further increases be at least preceded by a warning. The main source of anger resulting from the 7 percent increase was due to its shocking suddenness. However, most students are not prepared to resort to radical or violent measures. "The AUB degree and the high prestige associated with attending this institution is basically what we are paying for," adds a psychology student. Considering the fact that the average Lebanese worker earns a monthly salary of around US \$450, the average AUB student is not from the average family.

Consequently, most students will continue to pay for an AUB education as long as they feel that they are getting their money's worth.

## A&S Go Big On The Big Game

by Hussein Abdul- Hussein

According to AUB tradition, the Big (football) Game is to be held on the Day of the Big (water) Fight, and immediately after the Parade on the green field. This year, Arts and Sciences (A&S) defeated Engineering. Although one goal determined the end of the game in favor of A&S, the audience could not care less about who was doing what. Everybody was just having a great time. On a professional note, both teams gave brilliant performances.

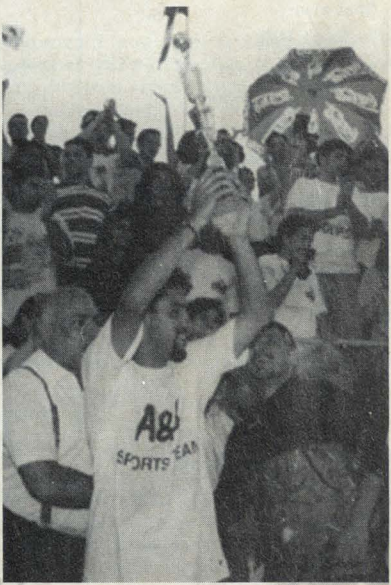
As the game started, it was obvious that the varsity players were in far better shape than other participating students. A&S had the varsity sweeper Salim Mikaty with his teammate Emile Tabanji playing defense. These two made it hard enough for the Engineers to break through the planks. Playing midfield, Gaith Awamly did not fail to give a supreme performance by forwarding balls to the tense attack

players who failed to score in the first half of the game.

The second half started with the Engineers on the offensive. Ziad Khalifeh, AUB's best 1997 player, was not in good shape because of a previous injury. To the Engineers' good fortune, Raja Jurdak proved to be the best player of the game despite his injury. As the game progressed, the Engineers pulled their act together, especially after A&S Kassem Zayour scored the first and only goal. A&S turned to defend the counter attack as the Engineers got more determined to catch up and score. But the Big Game ended in favor of Arts and Sciences with a final score of 1-0.

After the game, Outlook met the Engineering varsity player Raja Jurdak. "We are not used to play in front of such a big

crowd. Nobody attends the regular varsity games. The audience was encouraging and pumped us up," said Raja. Emile Tabanji of A&S commented that his team scored a brilliant victory and wished the Engineers better luck in the coming year.





## Editorial

## THE REAL CHALLENGE

It has come to my attention that Outlook has been dubbed "the administration's newspaper". Students who have popularized this title probably do not realize that they have honored Outlook with it. This affiliation is testimony to the seriousness of the publication, which is really our aim.

At this point, dear readers, allow me to clarify a few facts. Outlook is a newspaper for students, and run by students. It is the mouthpiece of the student body. However, that does not mean that Outlook should invoke anarchy and detach itself from the by-laws that were set by the AUB administration. On the contrary, Outlook aims to establish a line of communication between the students and the university administrators.

Success in achieving one's intended goals, whether at the university level or the professional level, can only be reached through effective management. This entails setting up strong and organized lobbying groups, as well as establishing communication networks among the different university layers - students, faculty, and administration.

The key to improving your university life is to become agents of change in an objective and organized manner. Going against the tide haphazardly will never achieve good results. This is the real challenge!

Niveen Abboushi

**OUTLOOK welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle.**

**OUTLOOK is a non political student publication  
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ersity of Beirut  
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## Young Scientists

If you had entered the West Hall Common Room and Auditorium "B" between May 20-22, you might have thought you were in Einstein's lab! All around you could see molecular structures, pipes, tubes, metal sheets, and oozing fluids. But make no mistake; it was the 4th Annual Science Fair.

According to Ms. Rula Zein, treasurer of the Educational Student Social Cabinet, the fair is held every year at AUB with schools participating from the different Lebanese regions. There were 11 participating schools in this

year's event, each with 9 projects that are distributed among elementary, intermediate and secondary level students.

Ms. Zein added that the aim of the fair was to have students interact with other students from different schools, as well as with university professors (who are the judges of the participants' projects) and school teachers. In their turn, the students get to discuss their projects with others and try to make a change in the world of science, Ms. Zein confers.

Judges from AUB's different departments assess the participants' projects, and the three winning projects for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes are announced at the end of the fair. Certificates and trophies are also awarded to all the participants. Students are usually evaluated on the basis of criteria ranging from creativity and scientific thought, to thoroughness, skills and clarity.

Ziad Raslan, one of the participating students from Rawdah High School, eloquently explained the idea behind his project on "energy from wind". "I chose this project because of the need for an alternative source of energy for petroleum. We need a source that would help the environment, and that is cheaper and more efficient for generating electricity. That is why we need to find the best mechanism to build an efficient windmill - the focus of this project," explained the 11-year-old scientist. Ziad, who was assisted on the project by Zahi Hussein. Ziad added that the wind energy method was used in several parts of the world, with the U.S. being the best producer of this source of energy that exceeds 150 million K-Watts annually. He explained that this method was not used in Lebanon because "we need continuous 18 km/hr wind to generate electricity, and this is not available here."

Karim Hamaoui and Basil Fakhry were other participants from the American Community School (ACS). Their project was more hi-tech in its presentation. A video display showed synapses about "water pollution and water in Lebanon". Their project was designed to assess the extent of the water pollution problem in Lebanon. The two students took samples from 15 Lebanese rivers, as well as from tap waters, whose pollution levels were tested. The results: Pollution is not a problem in Lebanon yet, but a growing one that is better nipped in the bud.

OUTLOOK congratulates all the winners of this year's fair, and all the participating potential scientists.

## Editorial

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## COPING WITH STRESS

By Shadi Anani

In a complicated and competitive world, anxiety - or stress - seems to be characteristic of a person's daily life. In many cases, a person under stress may be vulnerable to disease. Chronic stress causes several disorders, as it not only makes one more susceptible to disease, but it also disrupts one's performance of daily routines.

Therefore, it is essential to try to live a stress-free lifestyle as much as possible. For some, it may mean choosing an area of study at the university level that best fits their liking. Unfortunately, most of us are bound to live under stressful conditions, which leads us to a pertinent question: How can we deal with stress?

Listen to Your Negative Thoughts:

Many people have a tendency to blame others for their own wrongdoing. This often leads to negative reactions like getting into fights, or resorting to alcohol or other bad habits.

Moreover, we often tend to repeat negative thoughts like "I cannot do it", or "I will fail", or "she will think badly of me", etc.. At times, these thoughts are subliminal, so one cannot be aware of their impact on feelings and performance.

It is vital to learn how to listen to these negative thoughts that exacerbate stress. Once these are identified, their power can be broken.

Be Realistic:

We are often not in touch with our desires and needs because we judge ourselves by rules and ideas set for us by others. So the next time a thought like "I SHOULD have graduated by now", or "I SHOULD work longer hours" crosses your mind, ask yourself "Says who?" and check whether these "SHOULDs" are valid. For example, it is important to challenge ourselves in college, but in order to eliminate feelings of frustration or guilt, our self-expectations should be realistic.

All Work and No Play....

Play is not simply the opposite of work. Play is the positive, creative, and pure activity that is performed for its own sake. Most of the human experience lies between two extremes: At one end lies the "boring sameness", and at the other lies the "anxiety-producing chaos". It is the middle point where a person's psychic energy flows, and where the greatest pleasure can be felt.

Sky-diving, computer and video games, biking, and playing non-professional sports are only a few examples of activities that can generate positive energies. Purposelessness is essential to play. That is why professional sports that emphasize efficiency and results have only little to do with play.

Exercise, Exercise, Exercise!

In order to reshape our mental state and reduce the impact of stress, it is important to introduce some aerobic activity into our lives. Aerobic exercises flood the body with oxygen, which induces more energy, better concentration, and a more positive outlook on life. It is best to do aerobic exercises early in the day, as this gives a feeling of satisfaction throughout the day.

Yoga:

Yoga is the perfect remedy for stress because it allows one to detach oneself from all negative thoughts. If you are interested in Yoga, you may wish to sign up for classes or get instructional videos.



# AUB: Spice and All Things Nice

by Dania Al-Saadi

Boff. Nice. OK. Boring. Amazing. Lifeless. Interesting. Monotonous. Mysterious. Confusing. Funny. Empty. Great. Wonder what all these adjectives have in common? It is AUB! Who says AUB lacks spice. All you need is little investigation and a great tolerance for bad handwriting to find out what AUB students (around 100 surveyed) think of AUB. Which ever way you may look at it, AUB emerges as one big and confusing melting pot that brings out the unusual and the not-so-unusual in people.

It is impossible to make up one's mind about the true reality of AUB, and some of the gathered information was mind-boggling. Whereas many AUB students admire the relaxed environment of the American educational system, others complain about an educational system that is far from being open and relaxed! An amazing but true fact that reveals the contradictions that exist among AUB students.

Interestingly, what seems to attract students to AUB (beside the reputation) is none other than the picturesque campus. Strange, but true! Are AUB students romantic? You bet they are. The overwhelming majority choose the scenery and greenery to building a social life and making friends when joining AUB. What about the quality of education? Well, an amazing Art Appreciation course tops the students' list, in addition to the very few who actually like their majors and love the education.

Other than being a good place to play leekhah and walk one's dog, AUB is admired for its "breed of women". In fact, sexy ladies and hot "chicks" seem to be on the minds of most AUB students - male students, that is. Certainly, the experts on the female sex the studious engineering students. They naturally have interesting opinions. One student likes women "because although some are smart, others are dumb, but most are sexy." As admitted, and having no time for socializing, the future engineers experience satisfaction in the fast lane: As they rush by the "green oval", they take a peak at the "curves that entertain and add a nice dimension to the university." And who can blame them? With majors that will be completed in the next millennium, "killing time", as one CCE puts it, becomes a favorite sport!

Equality among the two sexes exists at AUB. "Chicks, nature, and myself" and "nature, guys, and some teachers" are listed by two students - male and female, respectively - as their main "likes" at AUB. This proves that males and females are indeed equally free to decide.

Naturally, the list of AUB dislikes is long, and the obvious comes out: the new color of West Hall, the cafeteria food, people with colored hair and nose rings, and guards who do not allow physical proximity! Clearly, tuition fees, the grading system, the teachers, and the administration are not at the top of the "dislikes" list because they tie with the previously mentioned items.

Putting the trivial dislikes aside, a few suggestions were made for improving AUB. The few ideas that are worth mentioning are:

1. Getting a trampoline;
2. Admitting more beautiful female students;

# Are you in the right major?

by Salma Mroueh

"So, what's your major?" I asked a newly-found friend sitting by the "green oval". "Biology." He answered with a grim face. "Why so sad?" I asked out of curiosity. "Because I really wanted to be an artist."

This is the type of conversation that I, and many others, always tend to have. Many people, especially at AUB, end up falling into the wrong major. Students

think that it is only 3 to 4 years of hardship to get the BA/BS. The fact is, this is a lifetime decision for anyone to make. Those who choose majors not by full conviction do so because of money illusions, nagging families, and sheer ignorance on what jobs are available in the market.

There is heavy competition among students wishing to enter the business department at AUB, for example. The standards for entry are painfully high - bordering on suffering... I mean, passing Economics 211 with at least a 70 average. Still, students insist on majoring in business.

George, a 3rd year business student, says: "I am guaranteed to get a job anywhere, even though I wanted to be in the advertising field." And if the major is not business, it is medicine.

Yehya, a pre-med student, strongly believes that all doctors are rich. "I will become a doctor. I will become rich," he says. He kept on mentioning the Porsche and swimming pool, but I took no notice of that. For some strange reason, the idea of being a doctor, an engineer or an architect, is always associated with "big money". Although this might be true in certain cases, it is too much of a generalization. Luckily, there are people like Rabieh, 21,

3. Having less screwballs;
4. A ----- resignation (you are free to fill in the blank);
5. Building an indoor swimming pool;
6. More quizzes for nerds;
7. More parking spots;
8. Firing some staff and...
9. More-uh-less wasta.

The good news is that AUB could be worse than it is now - but it isn't - since there are no drugs, no political parties, no great number of boring teachers, no censorship, no war, no guards to bug you, and no loss of morality?! The bad news is that AUB bores 30 percent (or 93) of the students that were surveyed, with the rest having mixed feelings. The truth of the matter is that AUB brings out the poetic side of some students who offer insights such as, "It is a classy, grassy and most of all ignorant campus", and "Life is like a bath, the longer you stay the more wrinkled you get".

Generally speaking, AUB offers students experiences ranging from the funny (registration, tuition fees, and getting a -5 on an exam), to the best (water fight, making friends and losing others, getting elected to the SRC), and to the worst (finding out that the majority of AUB students are shallow, getting elected to the SRC).

who is a chemistry major and loving it. But he cannot afford to continue his education. So he is stuck with teaching for the time being.

Ramsey, a 20-year-old, 3rd year biology student wanted to be an artist. But he is convinced that there is no room for this field of work.

Money is not only the real issue. It is the family relationship as well. Many parents want their children to become doctors to fulfill a dream they once had but did not follow through with. Plus, they think it is prestigious.

Dima, a freshman student, is having a hard time choosing her major. "My mum wants me to be a pediatrician and my dad wants me to study business, but I want to study English." She is trying to make it easier for her parents!

Other students have family pressures. Rami, a medical student, is having a hard time helping his father run the fam-

ily business. Every time his dad needs someone to attend a meeting, or to sign a contract, Rami is called. "I have no time to study, and my only dream is to become a doctor. But I have to work with my father to earn the family income."

Mohammed, still majorless, was shocked when he heard these cases. "I wish my father would tell me to work with him and take over the family business. It would be nice."

Most importantly, students are not aware of the job availabilities in the Lebanese market. The reason for this is the lack of career guidance, counseling sessions and information to help students make the right choices. Well-established international colleges usually hold career days where professionals lecture on what they do and how they got there. However, this is still not enough. The best thing to do is to major in an area of interest. Just imagine getting paid for something you enjoy doing the most!

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: Towards a Better Future

by Elie Awad

Dr. Toufic Mezher, an assistant professor in the Engineering Management Program at AUB, was involved in a joint AUB-MIT research on human resources for industrial and technological development in Lebanon. A related paper will appear in the August issue of the "sustainable Development" journal, published by John Wiley & Sons. Dr. Mezher spoke to OUTLOOK about his research.

Q: The AUB-MIT research was initially intended to focus on human resources for technological development; the outcome of the research appears under sustainable development. What is sustainable development and why is it important?

A: First, I would like to begin by stressing that there cannot be sound industrial and technological development without sustainable development. A formal definition of sustainable development is 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.' This concept recognizes that economic growth and environmental protection are inextricably linked, and that the quality of the present and future life rests in meeting basic human needs without destroying the environment on which all life depends.

In Lebanon, after the war, we have the opportunity to start almost from scratch. We should do our best to use "clean technologies" rather than "cleaning technologies". In Sibleen, for instance, a new cement plant is being built that employs a new and cleaner production method than the existing ones - in this case, the no "end-of-pipe" is needed.

Q: Some people argue that there is internationally a double standard issue when it comes to environmental matters. For example, in the 1950s the US and the former USSR performed open-air nuclear experiments. In the 1960s, the UN passed a resolution banning all open-air experiments, by which time the US and the former USSR had not had enough of them. Is that not double standards?

A: I would rather not relate that to double standards. Many of the soldiers who were involved in those nuclear training experiments later died of cancer. There is rather a lack of awareness in these cases, which is typical. We cannot assess the impact of technology as soon as it is introduced.

Q: How can Lebanon achieve sustainable development?

A: The consequences of development and their impact on the environment depend on three variables, namely population, technology, and national resources. In Lebanon we the following sequence: Population is greater than technology and technology is greater than resources. In order to sustain its development, Lebanon should have technology greater than population, and population greater than resources. The reason why resources come at the end of the sequence is because these are very limited. Thus, we can vary only two variables: First, population growth should be controlled; second, technology should be advanced.

Q: How can we advance the technology?

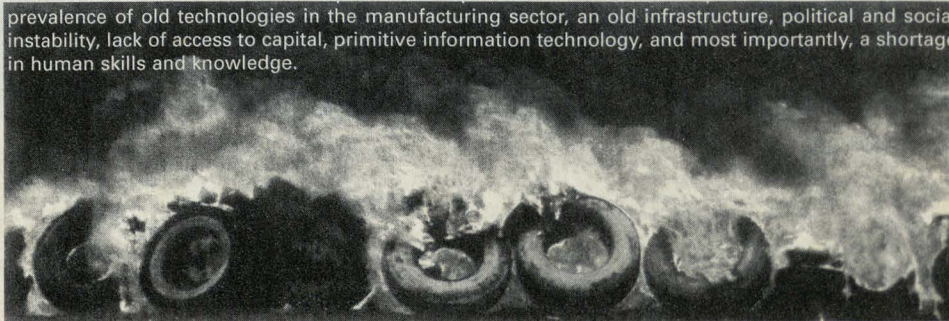
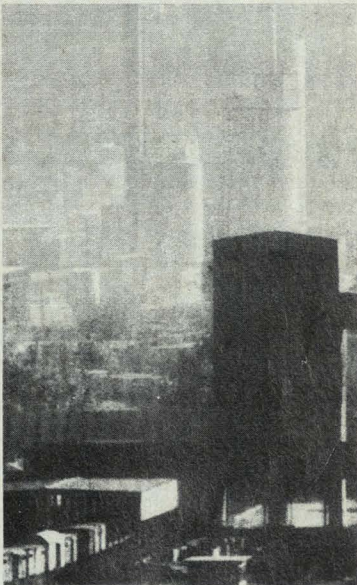
A: Technology advances can occur through the strategic interaction of what is called the "Technology Triangle": Government comes first, then the educational institutions, to be followed by the equally important private business and industry sectors. In Lebanon, the three parties that comprise the triangle exist, but there is no interaction or link among them. We could start by establishing a ministry of planning to set the long-term strategies and to place the government in the leadership role. If the correct link is established, the universities can boost the industry, and the reverse will also be true.

Q: In this technology triangle, who should take the initiative and start the cooperation?

A: We can start by having a ministry of planning to set the long-term strategies. However, as is the case in most developing countries, the government thinks that only foreign experts know what is best for the country. The government should consult more with local experts and industries. Of course, foreign assistance is needed to put the economy back on the right track. However, it is up to the Lebanese to push Lebanon ahead into the next century.

Q: Although there is considerable environmental awareness in Lebanon, not many improvements are taking place in that field. Why?

prevalence of old technologies in the manufacturing sector, an old infrastructure, political and social instability, lack of access to capital, primitive information technology, and most importantly, a shortage in human skills and knowledge.





# World Health Day

by Riad Rahhal

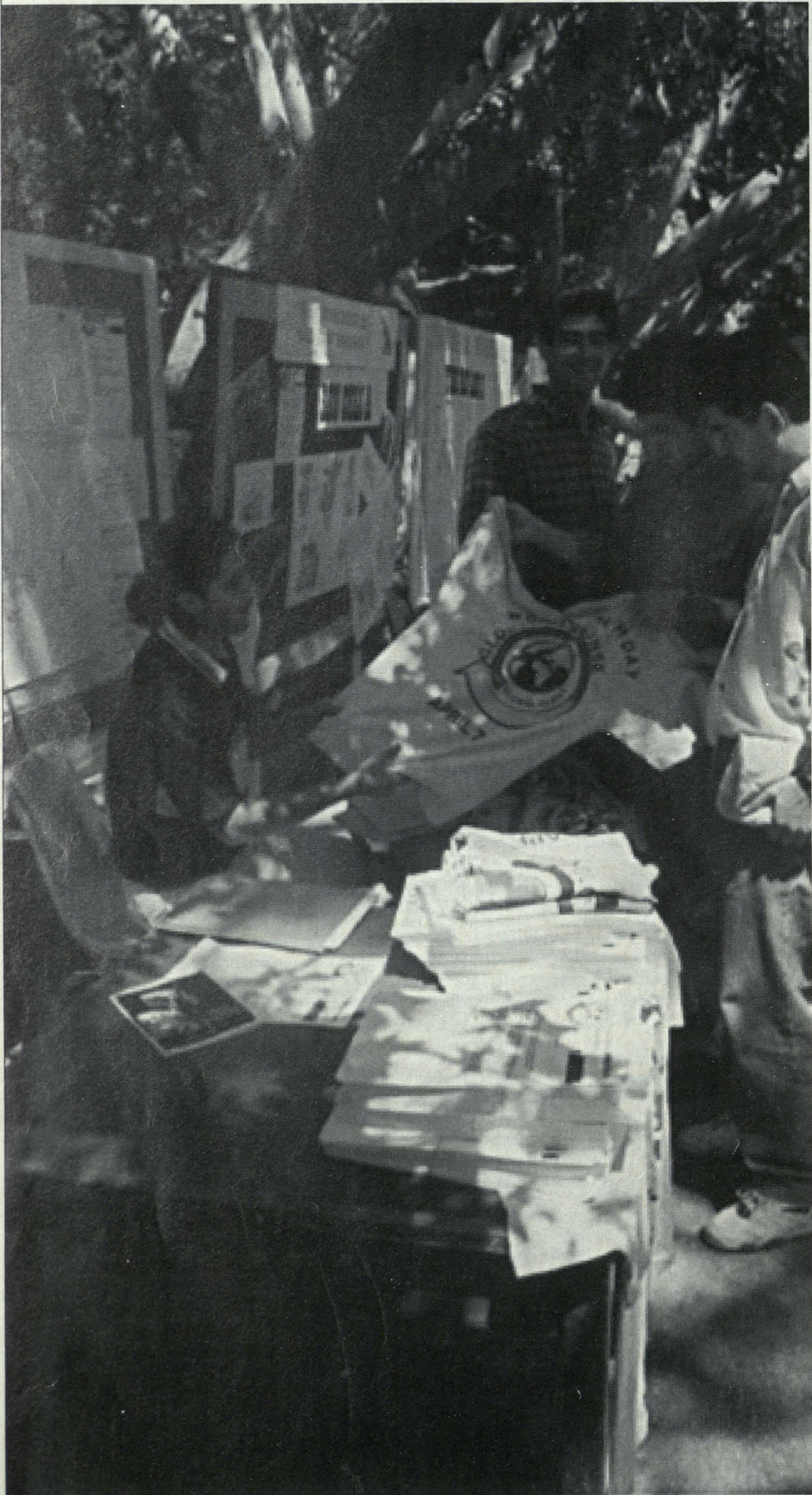
The 7th of April of each year, the World Health Organization (WHO) holds the World Health Day. In 1996, the theme of that day was Healthy Cities, and the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) successfully organized a health fair at AUB in commemoration of this day.

Following last year's success, the FHS, in cooperation with the Faculty of Medicine, organized the Emerging Infectious Disease health fair to introduce the April 7, 1997, WHO theme. The activity took place on that day, although a little late, despite the bad weather.

Flyers were distributed, stands were decorated, and T-shirts bearing the theme were sold in order to expose the AUB community to the most important infectious diseases in the world, and especially in Lebanon.

The diseases that were selected focused on those that are most relevant in the Lebanese environment, according to the Epidemiological Surveillance Unit (ESU) of the Ministry of Health in Lebanon. Identified diseases included tuberculosis, brucella, dysentery, among others.

We hope you participate in the April 7, 1998 event, so that we can share a whole new health theme!



World health day

# Razor-Sharp Shaving Tips

NEW YORK (Reuters) -- The average shave has the potential to turn the gentlest of men into Edward Scissorhands. But experts are here to help, yielding up the secrets of a better way to shave.

A panel of dermatologists, interviewed in the current issue of Men's Health magazine, say that although every man has his chosen shaving ritual, some of the beardless may be more adept than others.

### Their advice:

-- Keep it steamy. A hot shower softens facial hair. In fact, shaving in the shower itself will probably produce the closest, least painful shave. As an added bonus, a bracing shower probably ensures you'll be safely awake as you go under the blade.

-- Consider the cutting edge. For most beards, dual blades give the best results. But for men with heavier beards, anyone with a tendency to razor-bumps, a less-harsh single blade razor might be a better bet.

-- Don't get in a lather. Experts say the excess use of shaving cream simply clogs razors and results in missed whiskers. Dr. John Romano, clinical assistant professor of dermatology at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, believes shaving gels may be better skin moisturizers than traditional creams. "Gels are generally the best at keeping the face hydrated," he says.

And Dallas dermatologist Dr. Jerald Sklar says certain anesthetizing shaving cream additives, like novocaine or benzocaine, may irritate the skin. "Anything with 'caine' in it can cause contact dermatitis," Sklar explains. Lanolin is another ingredient which can sometimes induce adverse skin reactions.

-- Follow directions. Begin with the thinner hairs of the cheek, shaving downwards, then work on the mustache. By the time you're finished there, the coarser hairs under the chin will have been softened up by absorbed moisture. And never shave 'against the grain' -- "You'll make those hairs stand up," explains Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine dermatologist Dr. Jerome Litt. "It'll bring up a little bit of skin, even if you don't bleed."

-- Check it while wet. Stray, missed whiskers are easier to spot while your face is still moistened.

-- Aftershave, after all? Dermatologists say the verdict is still out on this one. Aftershaves containing alcohol can kill bacteria on the face, but alcohol also dehydrates skin. The experts say applying a moisturizing sunblock might be the healthiest of post-shave procedures.

SOURCE: Men's Health (June 1997, p. 131)

# Smokers? Vitamin C Might Help

NEW YORK (Reuters) -- Within minutes of inhaling a cigarette, a smoker's white blood cells begin to clump together and stick to vessel walls, an inflammatory process that partially explains a smoker's greater risk of heart disease, a new study in hamsters suggests.

The good news is that vitamin C appears to counteract that effect, according to study co-author Dr. Andrew Weyrich, an assistant professor at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

"Cigarette smoke induced these aggregates of white blood cells and platelets, which are both involved in inflammation and thrombosis (clot formation)," he said. "The major finding is that vitamin C can block that response."

In the study, Weyrich and colleagues found that hamsters exposed to cigarette smoke formed cell aggregates in their blood. When the hamsters were pretreated with vitamin C, "these aggregates were significantly reduced or abolished," Weyrich said. Cigarettes also have the same effects in humans as they do in hamsters, he noted.

"One important thing is we were able to take the blood from cigarette smoked-hamsters and expose those to human cells and caused the same type of aggregates," he said, "indicating that it's pertinent for humans."

According to the study, cigarette smoke prompts the formation of oxidized phospholipids, or molecules that act as platelet-activating factors, or PAFs. The cigarette-induced PAFs bind to platelet cells, beginning the process of cellular clumping and sticking to vessel walls. Vitamin C, an antioxidant, blocks the formation of PAFs, according to the report. The best advice for smokers? "If you can't quit, take vitamin C," Weyrich said. "All these data suggest that smokers might reduce their cardiovascular risk by adding vitamin C-rich foods or vitamin C supplements to their daily diet."

The study was conducted in collaboration with researchers at the Johannes Gutenberg university in Mainz, Germany; Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Experimental Medicine Inc. in Princeton, New Jersey.

SOURCE: Journal of Clinical Investigation (1997;99:2358-2364)



# Meet the World on E-mail??

by Etienne Kechichian

Have you gotten tired of sending e-mail to the same people day-in and day-out? Are you looking for variety and new concepts? Do you have the urge to voice your opinion? Well, ListServ can provide that for you. ListServ is a global system that provides access to whomever wishes to join a particular topic group or talk group. For example, if you are majoring in psychology and want to broaden your knowledge on cognitive psychology, all you have to do is subscribe to ListServ, and you will receive mail on this particular topic from people across the globe. ListServ covers a wide array of subjects, ranging from religion and soccer, to gold, medicine and geology, to name a few. You get to meet people from different countries. Since AUB students have free e-mail access, why not use it for something intellectual and fun.

All you have to do is write to "listserv@listserv.net." There is no need to specify the subject. Next, type "listglobal" followed by your topic title. The system will respond, if the

chosen topic is available, by providing a list of sub-topics to choose from. Pick the topic and follow the given instructions. If the chosen topic is not found, the system will inform you of this.

**Drawbacks:** an overloaded mailbox which is usually no problem if you use "Telnet", but a killer if you use "Pegasus" - since this program takes a while to download the mail. From personal experience, I can say it is worth it. One can express one's opinion freely and without any inhibitions. I have had the chance to theorize with professionals and ordinary college students about such issues as childhood depression. I have also joined in discussions with a group on American literature. And the best thing about all this is that it is for free.

So next time you are down at the computer lab and have no one to write to or just feel like voicing your opinion, give the world a call.

# The Year 2000 Bug

by Bashar Haider

What will you do if you wake up one morning to find your telephone bill with a call that lasted 100 years? Shocking, isn't it? O.K. You might figure it was a mistake and continue with your day. Then you pick up the phone and it is dead. Suddenly, the electricity is out. Bad luck? Well, this is not the end of the story. You try one of the automatic teller machines (ATM) to find that you have no money in your account. If you think this is a bad dream...think again. What is the problem? Well, it is simply the year 2000 problem.

You still do not understand? O.K. When a computer identifies the date, it presents it in the form of 6 bits. Whereas we may write down a date as 6-10-1951, for example, the computer will identify it as 061051, dropping the first two digits from the represented year.

But how will the year 2000 be represented? You might think that it will be identified as 00. But computers recognize 00 as being less than 99, and therefore precedes 99, which is exactly where the problem lies. Although this problem might seem trivial to some, it is the most debatable issue among computer experts around the world.

The problem is not in finding the programming solution but in whether the problem can be fixed in time before the turn of the century. Evidence shows that Bank Boston in the U.S. uses 200 software applications that contain 60 million lines of code to be reviewed, and so one can imagine what a tough and pain-staking effort it is to review the large and critical mainframes.

All computer systems should be checked and reviewed. The Social Security Agency in the U.S. has been working on this issue for the past eight years, and it has completed only 65 percent of project. Countries such as Germany and France are only beginning to become aware of the problem. Britain has already formed "the year 2000 team" to work on the issue. Russia is also trying to deal with the problem, but it is behind with the computer-controlled nuclear heads.

Scary, isn't it? Well, perhaps this is the price we have to pay for our technology!

**Is There a Year 2000 Lebanese Bug?**  
Bashar Haider spoke with Professor Ayman Kayssi of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department about the year 2000 problem and its relevance in Lebanon. Following are excerpts from the interview.

**Q: How do you describe the problem in simple words?**  
**A:** In systems using COBOL applications, the first two digits of the year are dropped. In the year 2000, the last two digits are 00. Therefore, these systems which rely on the last two digits to store and process the date will recognize 2000 as a number preceding 1999. This will cause a lot of disturbances in the functioning of the systems.

**Q: Why didn't computer experts notice the problem from the beginning?**  
**A:** In the 1960s and 1970s, programmers did not think that their software programs will last until the year 2000. There was also the problem of the cost at the time; memory and storing programs were very expensive, so the programmers dropped the two digits from the year to cut down on expenses. They were not aware of this problem until the 1990s.

**Q: Computer experts talk about a potentially terrible loss in several computer systems. How reliable is this information?**  
**A:** Well, unfortunately, COBOL software applications are critical mainframes. So if we do not act fast, all the computer crash-downs experts are talking about is likely to happen. It is possible that stock markets will crash, banks will go bankrupt, communication and power systems will go down, and hospitals will give false information and records on their

patients.

**Q: Might we be affected by this problem here in Lebanon?**  
**A:** In Lebanon, the good news is that we do not rely completely on computer mainframes and systems. There are still records that are processed manually and kept on paper. However, there are a few mainframes that might be affected. Here at AUB, for instance, we have a mainframe that is going to disturb the system if the PC support staff do not act on solving the problem - that is if they have not solved it yet.

**Q: In your opinion, will computer experts solve the problem on time, that is before December 31-1999?**  
**A:** They should be able to. It is a deadline that cannot be missed. If they don't, there will be major technical problems which, in turn, will lead to legal problems. Clients will sue banks, for example, if they find themselves suddenly broke. In addition, there is a problem other than the year 2000 one that we have just talked about. The problem is that not all computer systems are able to identify the year 2000 as a leap year. This will create problems regarding February 29 for some computers which will identify the day as March 1.

# Net Service in Lebanon

by Wissam Adib

Ask anybody who has been using the Internet in Lebanon about the web service, and the common complaint is that the lines are slow. In fact, with some Internet Service Providers (ISPs), it is so slow, the net surfer barely logs on. Even though prices have been declining slowly, the service has been following the same trend much faster. People are being encouraged to hook up to the Internet due to the lower prices and thus the line transfer rate has fallen as the limited Internet bandwidth is more on demand.

Let's delve into a little bit of math to see where the bottleneck is coming from: Most ISPs in Lebanon have a 64kbps (thousand bits per second) line to the Internet. A decent modem these days can transfer at rates up to 28.8 kbps. Therefore: 64/28.8=2.22. In other words, you can use around three modems using this connection at the same time without any loss in speed. It is generally accepted that each modem supports about 10 users, with this figure changing slightly with the number of

# Microsoft Exposes Lebanese Software Piracy

by Wissam Adib

According to Microsoft Corp., the largest software company in the world, software piracy in Lebanon has reached levels exceeding 90 percent. Microsoft also stated that companies would not be interested in investing in Lebanon until anti-piracy laws are set up.

Sami Nsairi, head of Lebanon's Professional Computer Association, said that an anti-piracy bill is under preparation and will be presented to the Lebanese parliament for approval within a month. "We have completed all the steps necessary to fight software piracy," Nsairi said.

Ahmed Chami, Microsoft's regional general manager, met computer dealers in Beirut and discussed with them the problem of software piracy. The Daily Star quoted them as saying that compared with the \$1,400 cost of local PCs, the \$600 price tag for the Microsoft Office Package is expensive.

## Surfing the NET..

This month's topic is going to be sports and games. Almost everyone follows sports these days, so a list of good sites with a lot of information should be helpful. First let's start with a few well-known sports news sources:

Sports Illustrated has an information rich site at <http://pathfinder.com/si>; CNN also has a sports news feed at <http://cnn.com/SPORTS>; and the leader in sports on TV has one of the best sports sites on the net, which was also mentioned in last week's issue of Outlook, at <http://espnet.sportszone.com/>.

Other sources of sports information include: Yahoo! Sports at <http://sports.yahoo.com/>; The Sporting News at <http://www.sportingnews.com/>; and Sportsline USA at <http://www.sportsline.com/>. For local sports information, check out Future TV's sports site at <http://www.future.com.lb/sports.htm>.

Anyone interested in chess, or has some friends who are, would have heard of the historic chess rematch between Gary Kasparov, the current world champion in chess, and Deep Blue, IBM's ultimate chess machine. To find out the results, get the games and commentaries, and find other related information, point your browsers to <http://www.chess.ibm.com/>.

That's about all for now. If there are any topics you would like to see links for in this section, please send your request to Outlook at box # 22.

-- Wissam

customers. Thus: 3 times 10 = users. That is, an ISP which has a 64kbps connection to the Internet, should not have more than 30 customers.

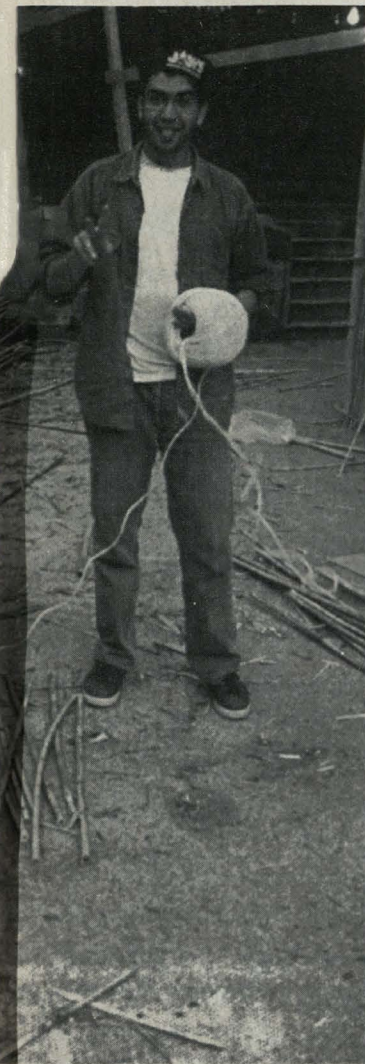
ISPs in Lebanon have more than 3,000 users online, each. So, it is no surprise where the speed lag comes from. But why can't the ISPs simply increase the capacity of their link? They are absorbing a lot of money from people. If we take a very conservative figure of 1,000 users per ISP, and assuming each user pays an average of \$50 per month, then each ISP earns a minimum of \$50,000 of monthly

revenues. Links to the Internet are currently very expensive, reaching around \$50,000 per month per 64 kbps (as opposed to \$50 in the US), yet these charges are becoming cheaper. Yet, even with these high connection fees, and after paying monthly costs, can't the Lebanese ISPs afford higher than just a 64kbps line?

The facts mentioned above indicate that they can. And unless the users do something about it and demand better service, the ISPs are going to continue to take advantage of the customers' naivete and to offer poor connection speed.

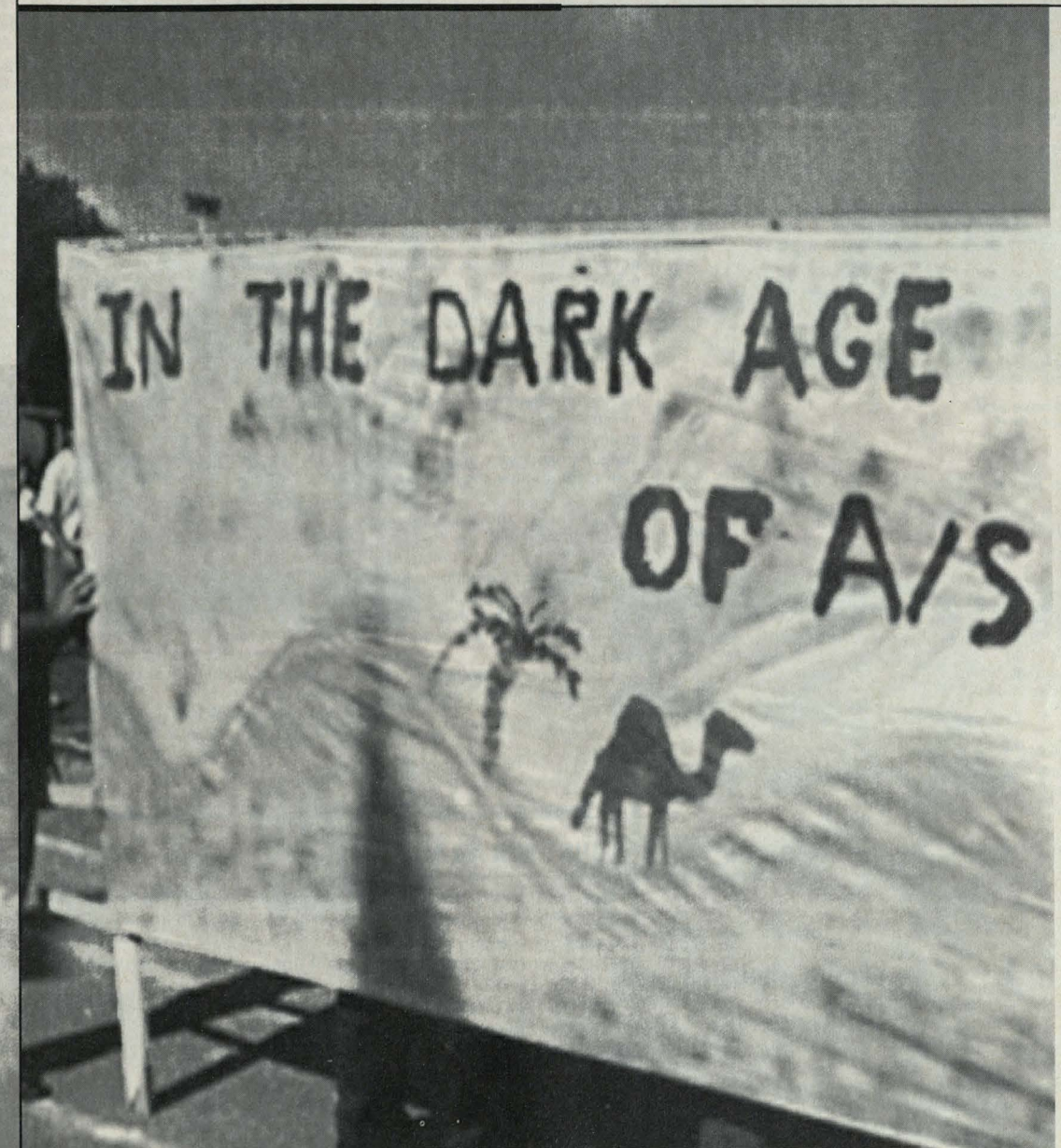


## AUB OUTDOORS



Qana children at the Outdoors

## AUB PARADE





# The Poets' Corner:

— The Barren Heart  
By Samer Muala

Like an autumn leaf,  
She fell away  
From the branches  
Of my heart.

And the barren tree,  
Now stands shivering,  
From the freezing  
Rain of tears.

— Chill Out  
By Nagham El-Khalil

We only live once - so chill out  
Don't waste your time in confusion and doubt

Enjoy yourself, dine and wine  
For tomorrow definitely the sun will shine

Go out, cheer up and socialize  
When you make mistake, don't regret and rationalize

Do not worry if sometimes you lose  
Next time just watch out for life's coincidental clues

Work hard, be active and alive  
Don't just sit there awaiting your "luck" to survive

Don't be a fool; live and learn  
You never know when the tables may turn

Sighing, weeping, and whining will do you no good  
Be the master of your mood!

Chill out! Relax and have fun!  
Life is not many - only one!

Poetry by Salma Mroueh

— NO T!TLE

Tne best time is night time  
All cats are gray  
Everybody is sleeping  
Shadows in the streets  
Stars sparkling everywhere  
The moon is shining bright  
Sweet dreams are coming and going  
Soon the first sunshine will fall.

— LEBANESE LIMERICK

There was an old man from Beirut  
Who crashed his car from the boot  
He got out of the car,  
Yelled "Ya Hmar!"  
And never continued the route.

Misfortunately Lonely  
Tonight is the night, the horoscopes say  
My heart beats with eagerness  
The spell has been cast  
And the cards are on my side  
The image in the crystal ball shows  
A couple dancing in the midst of the glittery moonlit sky  
My mind is turned to love  
The mood is just right  
This perfume guarantees a night of passion  
My clothes are as decorative as a peacock's plume  
Now the only thing that is missing is someone to love.

## MUSIC REVIEW

By Salma Mroueh

### CD Check :

**K's Choice:**  
Suited for Rock/Alternative lovers. Forgive my ignorance on the juicy information of the band, but I know most of Europe is in love with the band from Berlin. Their weird lyrics are totally original in a poetic sense, with the singles "Not an Addict" and "Mr. Freeze". There is also a wide variety of music on the album, ranging from grunge, to — alternative and slow.

**Romeo and Juliet:** The Soundtrack  
This soundtrack has been tailored to fit the two love birds intentionally. The loving of Desree, the weirdness of Radiohead, the headbanging of Butthole Surfers, and the sadism of Garbage are some of the interesting bands on this flavored grungy soundtrack. If you buy the CD, then there is the opportunity of watching snapshots of the movie on your computer. So while you are listening to the soundtrack, you can also sit back and enjoy the view.

**Spice Girls**  
I should have been the sixth spice girl. Who does not know this band? Basically, they are the female version of Take That. For some strange reason, they have rocked the world. Even Prince William has a poster of Emma on his royal wall! So I have to give them credit for their looks and simple "Brit" pop tunes (that got me humming along). Their songs touch on feminism, boyfriends, etc. - stuff the typical teenager thinks about. There is a bit of slow and boogie-woogie. So this album deserves a place on a frilly and pink teenager's bedroom shelf.

## MOVIE REVIEW

By Sandra Khalil

— **Some Mother's Son**  
by Terry George with Helen Mirren and Fionnula Flanagan

The struggle of the Irish people and the IRA movement are the focus of interest for the producer. After the Devil's Own, Some Mother's Son takes the relay in talking about this fight. In 1981, the Maze prison in Belfast is the center of attention for everybody. Several IRA members, caught by the British government, refuse to wear the official prisoners' uniforms. These prisoners believe they are war prisoners, not criminals, and that they should be treated differently. After two years of fighting with the prisoners, the British government decides to take severe measures to pressure the IRA prisoners. In response to these measures, the prisoners declare a hunger strike, and ten of them die.

The real focus of the movie is on the mothers of these prisoners, and on how they are bound by pain and suffering. The movie is very emotional in portraying the dilemma of the parents of rebels who refuse to be slaves to anyone. It is the parents of the hunger-strikers who have to take their children after they fall into a coma.

This movie forces its watcher to feel with the IRA fighters and their cause. As mentioned earlier, it is very emotional, and these moving emotions are very well portrayed by two of the mothers (Helen Mirren and Fionnula Flanagan).

Some Mother's Son might not be the best movie ever

produced, but it is definitely worth seeing. I hope you will enjoy it as much as I did.

### — Microcosmos

"Insects?! You are taking me to a movie about insects! Are you crazy?" my companion yelled as we entered the movie theater. By the time the movie ended, he had already changed his mind and was thanking me for dragging him to see it.

The producers and directors of Microcosmos have succeeded in making the most "insectophobic" person enjoy an hour and fifteen minutes of watching insects go on with their lives. Microcosmos is an hour and fifteen minutes of cockroaches, spiders, flies, snails, bugs, ants, mosquitoes, bees, and a whole cast of beautiful insects - and I do mean beautiful - as seen closely in their true colors and forms.

Microcosmos portrays a day in the life of some insects and how they face the rain, the darkness, and larger insects who are capable of destroying them. The cinematography is brilliant as it brings the audience into the lives of these insects and their every move. I especially enjoyed the scene of the snails copulating, which is very similar to when two persons kiss. A very captivating scene is that of falling rain as it hits its insect captives as if they are being bombed.

Those of you who still have not seen Microcosmos, I strongly recommend that you do. It is a beautifully made movie. Don't miss it!

### JUST FOR A LAUGH:

A grad student, a post-doc, and a professor are walking through a city park and they find an antique oil lamp. They rub it and a Genie comes out in a puff of smoke. The Genie says, "I usually only grant three wishes, so I'll give each of you just one."

"Me first! Me first!" says the grad student. "I want to be in the Bahamas, driving a speedboat with a gorgeous woman who sunbathes topless."

**Poof! He's gone.**  
"Me next! Me next!" says the post-doc. "I want to be in Hawaii, relaxing on the beach with a professional hula dancer on one side and a Mai Tai on the other."

**Poof! He's gone.**  
"You're next," the Genie says to the professor. The professor says, "I want those guys back in the lab after lunch."

### Deep Thoughts

●If you ever drop your keys into a river of molten lava, let'em go, because, man, they're gone.

●If trees could scream, would we be so cavalier about cutting them down? We might, if they screamed all the time, for no good reason."

●To me, it's a good idea to always carry two sacks of something when you walk around. That way, if anybody says, "Hey, can you give me a hand?" You can say, "Sorry, got these sacks."

●Whenever I see an old lady slip and fall on a wet sidewalk, my first instinct is to laugh. But then I think, what if I was an ant and she fell on me. Then it wouldn't seem quite so funny.

●If I was the head of a country that lost a war, and I had to sign a peace treaty, just as I was signing, I'd glance over the treaty and then suddenly act surprised. "Wait a minute! I thought we won!"

anonymous

## Did You Know...

- The soldiers of World War I were the first people to use the modern flushing toilet. The inventor: Thomas Crapper.
- A typical bed usually houses over 6 billion dust mites. (Not bedbugs.)
- A sneeze travels at more than 100mph out your nose/mouth.
- The plastic lawn flamingos outnumber real live flamingos in the United States.
- Ernest Vincent Wright wrote a novel, "Gadsby", which contains over 50,000 words – none of them with the letter E .
- Dolphins sleep with one eye open.
- Of all the words in the English language, the word set has the most definitions.
- The beetle population outnumbers any other species in the world. Chances are, there's a beetle only a few feet away from you.
- Bulls are colorblind, therefore will usually charge at a matador's waving cape no matter what color it is – be it red or neon yellow.
- Bananas are actually herbs. Bananas die after fruiting, just like how all herbs do.
- Blue toothbrushes are used by people more than red toothbrushes.
- Apples are more efficient than caffeine in keeping people awake in the mornings.
- Smelling bananas and/or green apples (smelling, not eating) can help you lose weight.
- Soybean products help lower cholesterol levels.
- The scent of cinnamon buns sexually arouse men. Pumpkin pie works, too.
- Eating tomatoes reduces risks of getting cancer.
- If you had \$1 billion in dollar bills and for every second would put down one dollar on the table, it would take you approximately 32 years to finish putting down the last dollar bill.
- A hard working adult sweats up to 4 gallons per day. Most of the sweat evaporates before a person realizes it's there,though.
- In the movie Babe, it took 48 pigs to play as the main character. (This was because pigs normally grow fast.)
- An average mosquito has 47 teeth.
- The list of ingredients that make up lipstick include...fish scales.
- Yet another banana fact: You're more likely to be a target for mosquitoes if you consume bananas.
- Ants don't sleep.
- If you have hiccups that just won't go away, massage your ear lobes.
- When brushing your teeth, hold your toothbrush like how you would hold a pen. This makes brushing more thorough and easier on your gums.
- The average ice berg weighs 20,000,000 tons.
- TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters on only one row of the keyboard.
- If you were freeze-dried, 10% of your body weight would be from the microorganisms on your body.
- Flying once around the moon is the equivalent with a round trip from New York to London. (Earth is about four times the size of the moon.)
- A lump of pure gold the size of a matchbox can be flattened into a sheet the size of a tennis court.
- It takes over twice the amount muscles on your face to frown than to smile.
- The position of a rabbit's eyes allow it to see in front and behind.
- A human being loses an average of 40 to 100 strands of hair a day.

### FAMOUS QUOTES: ☺☺☺

-“Whenever I watch TV and see those poor starving kids all over the world, I can't help but cry. I mean I'd love to be skinny like that but not with all those flies and death and stuff.”

**Mariah Carey**

- Question: If you could live forever, would you and why?  
Answer: "I would not live forever, because we should not live forever, because if we were supposed to live forever, then we would live forever, but we cannot live forever, which is why I would not live forever."

**Miss Alabama in the 1994 Miss Universe contest**

- "Researchers have discovered that chocolate produces some of the same reactions in the brain as marijuana. The researchers also discovered other similarities between the two, but can't remember what they are."

**Matt Lauer on NBC's Today show, August 22**

-“Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life.”

**Brooke Shields, during an interview to become spokesperson for a federal anti-smoking campaign**

### Answers for May's Trivia:

1. A taxi driver had been somewhat impolite to his passenger, so the passenger asked for the driver's number, with a view to reporting him. "So you want my umber, do you?" said the driver. " Well you can work it out for yourself. If you divide my number by 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, you'll find there's always a remainder of 1. But if you divide it by 11, there's no remainder. What's more, there's no other driver with a lower number who can say the same." Just what was the taxi's driver's number? [ 2 points]

**A. 121**

2.On one of the escalators in a department store, I find that if I walk down 26 steps, I need 30 seconds to get the bottom; but if I make 34 steps, then I only need 18 seconds to reach the bottom. What is the height of the stairway? The time is measured from the instant that the top step begins to descend to the time I step off the last step at the bottom on the level platform. [2 point]  
**A: If I walk 26 steps, I need if I walk 34 steps, I need only 18 seconds. Multiply 30 by 34 and 26 by 18, and we get 1020 and 468. Divide the difference (552) by the difference between 30 seconds and 18 seconds ( that is, 12 seconds). The answer is 46, the number of steps in the stairway, which descends at the rate of 1 step in 1.5 seconds. The speed at which I walk on the stairs doesn't affect the question, as the step from which I alight will reach the bottom at a given moment, whatever I do in the meantime.**

3. Consider the number 7731.  
Now continue the sequence:  
153, 193, 197, 353, 413, 419, 793, 797, 813, 819, ?, ?  
What are the last two numbers?  
**A. 857, 859. Re- arrange the digits of 7731 in every possible way and then divide the resultant number by 9.**

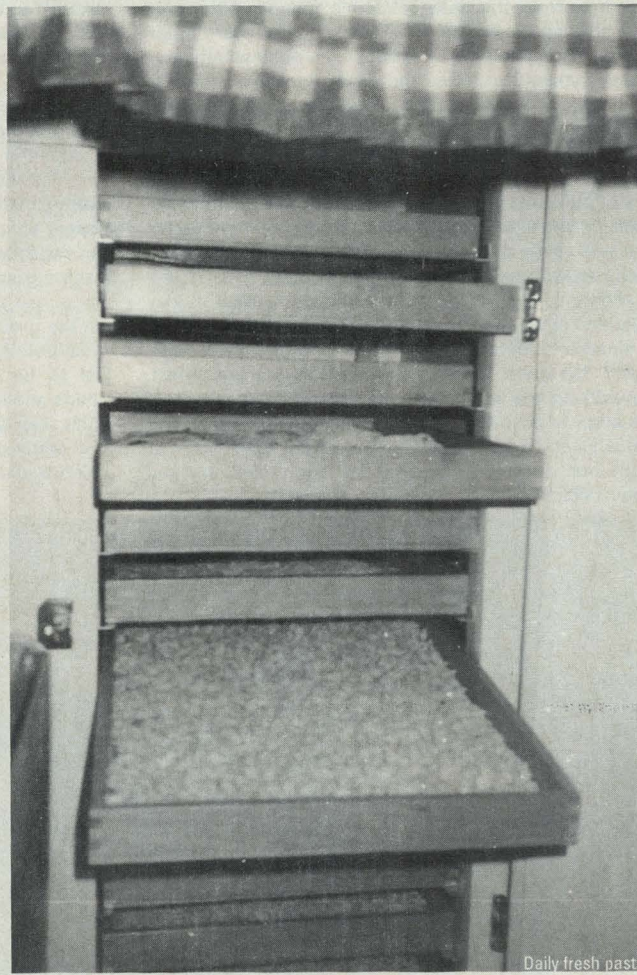
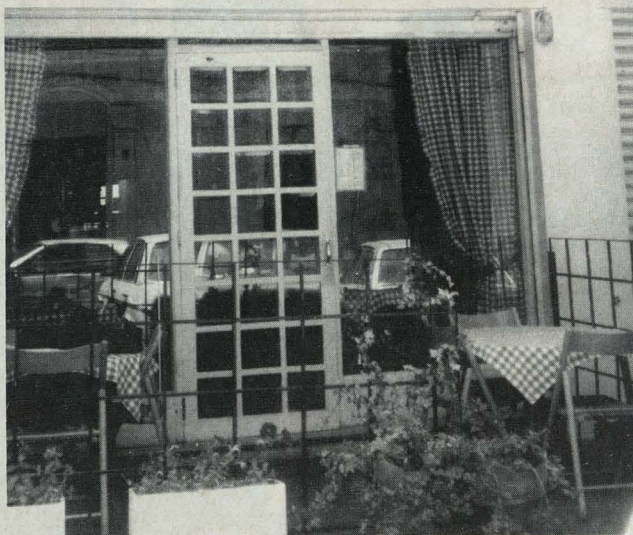


RESTAURANT REVIEW:

Pasta Di Casa

If you love Italian food, cozy surroundings, images of a little Italian restaurant, and excellent service, you will love Pasta Di Casa. This a very small restaurant hidden between towering buildings on Clemenceau St.

The restaurant, which seats approximately 25 people, is run by Samar and Amal Amhaz, assisted by their mother. It serves fresh, daily-made pasta prepared by the Ahmaz family, in addition to a variety of salads and daily dishes. "Some of the dishes are prepared by us at home," explains Samar. Your hunger pangs will definitely be satisfied by the variety of dishes that taste just like home-cooking, if not better. Along with your food, all the "casa" ornaments - from the checkered table cloths, to the small fish aquarium and the pictures depicting Italian villages - make you slip into a cozy Italian dream. The owners, who also serve the food and shower you with warm smiles, become your friends by the end of the meal. "We come here for the home-like recipes, the cozy atmosphere, and the owners' hospitality," agreed university students Zein Alkhas, Ghadeer Abul Ragheb, Tohama Nabulsi, and Lara Dajani. If you try this restaurant once, you are bound to feel the same. Guaranteed!



Daily fresh pasta

Battle between the Sexes:

-This assignment was actually turned in by two English students: Rebecca (last name deleted) and Gary (last name deleted) for English 44A Creative Writing at the Southern Methodist University (Texas).

In-class Assignment for Wednesday

Today we will experiment with a new form called the tandem story. The process is simple. Each person will pair off with the person sitting to his or her immediate right. One of you will then write the first paragraph of a short story. The partner will read the first paragraph and then add another paragraph to the story. The first person will then add a third paragraph, and so on back and forth. Remember to reread what has been written each time in order to keep the story coherent. The story is over when both agree a conclusion has been reached.

At first, Laurie couldn't decide which kind of tea she wanted. The camomile, which used to be her favorite for lazy evenings at home, now reminded her too much of Carl, who once said, in happier times, that he liked camomile. But she felt she must now, at all costs, keep her mind off Carl. His possessiveness was suffocating, and if she thought about him too much her asthma started acting up again. So camomile was out of the question.

Meanwhile, Advance Sergeant Carl Harris, leader of the attack squadron

now in orbit over Skylon 4, had more important things to think about than the neuroses of an air-headed asthmatic bimbo named Laurie with whom he had spent one sweaty night over a year ago. "A.S. Harris to Geostation 17," he said into his transgalactic communicator. "Polar orbit established. No sign of resistance so far..." But before he could sign off a bluish particle beam flashed out of nowhere and blasted a hole through his ship's cargo bay. The jolt from the direct hit sent him flying out of his seat and across the cockpit.

He bumped his head and died almost immediately, but not before he felt one last pang of regret for psychically brutalizing the one woman who had ever had feelings for him. Soon afterwards, Earth stopped its pointless hostilities towards the peaceful farmers of Skylon 4. "Congress Passes Law Permanently Abolishing War and Space Travel." Laurie read in her newspaper one morning. The news simultaneously excited her and bored her. She stared out the window, dreaming of her youth -- when the days had passed unhurriedly and carefree, with no newspapers to read, no television to distract her from her sense of innocent wonder at all the beautiful things around her. "Why must one lose one's innocence to become a woman?" she pondered wistfully.

Little did she know, but she has less than 10 seconds to live.

Thousands of miles above the city, the Anu'udrian mothership launched the first of its lithium fusion missiles. The dim-witted wimpy peaceniks who pushed the Unilateral Aerospace Disarmament Treaty through Congress had left Earth a defenseless target for the hostile alien empires who were determined to destroy the human race. Within two hours after the passage of the treaty the Anu'udrian ships were on course for Earth, carrying enough firepower to pulverize the entire planet. With no one to stop them they swiftly initiated their diabolical plan. The lithium fusion missile entered the atmosphere unimpeded. The President, in his top-secret mobile submarine headquarters on the ocean floor off the coast of Guam, felt the inconceivably massive explosion which vaporized Laurie and 85 million other Americans. The President slammed his fist on the conference table. "We can't allow this! I'm going to veto that treaty! Let's blow'em out of the sky!"

This is absurd. I refuse to continue this mockery of literature. My writing partner is a violent, chauvinistic, semi-literate adolescent.

Yeah? Well, you're a self-centered tedious neurotic whose attempts at writing are the literary equivalent of Valium.

You total \$\*&.

Stupid %&#\$!.



# Trapped Beneath: The True Nature of the Annual AUB Water Fight

by Tamar Kechichian

"Could you give me the bucket?" I asked the referee in front of me. "No, khalas. The water fight is over!" he angrily responded. "Well, just give it to me anyway," I snapped and made a quick lunge for the orange plastic bucket dangling from the student's red-stained arms - by the way, that is why the Engineering T-shirts are so cheap; their color has the amazing ability to dye your body parts. In the meantime, the bucket was unfortunately out of my reach. The referee swiftly side-stepped my attack, bent down to fill the container with the sickly brown water accumulating on the ground and proceeded to victoriously drench me from head to toe.

Isn't it funny when people can behave in an extremely irrational manner while being caught up in a popular mass movement? I would normally have a hard time visualizing myself or certain people acting in this type of frenzy were it not for the chaotic circumstances of the water fight. Having run quickly away from the water balloons, the masses turned to the mud-filled buckets, then seized the hose on the "green oval" creating the ultimate dirt pit to which they hounded unsuspecting students, like myself, to bury in the wet mud. The motif for the entire water fight was the great amount of mud - mud on your cheap LL 6,000 T-shirt, mud on your clean jeans, mud on your new shoes. I definitely had a great time trying to get the brown goo off my clothes with a tiny toothbrush.

Nevertheless, this year's experience was my first in the AUB water fight, and I will honestly admit that it was fun. Hey, it was a complete and welcome change from the daily academic routine. Although I had survived the shaving cream fight during my senior year of high school, I had never participated in an event which enabled students to achieve a state of absolute chaos. The water fight allowed us to shrug off the constraints of term papers, deadlines, finals, and fun-filled trips to the library.

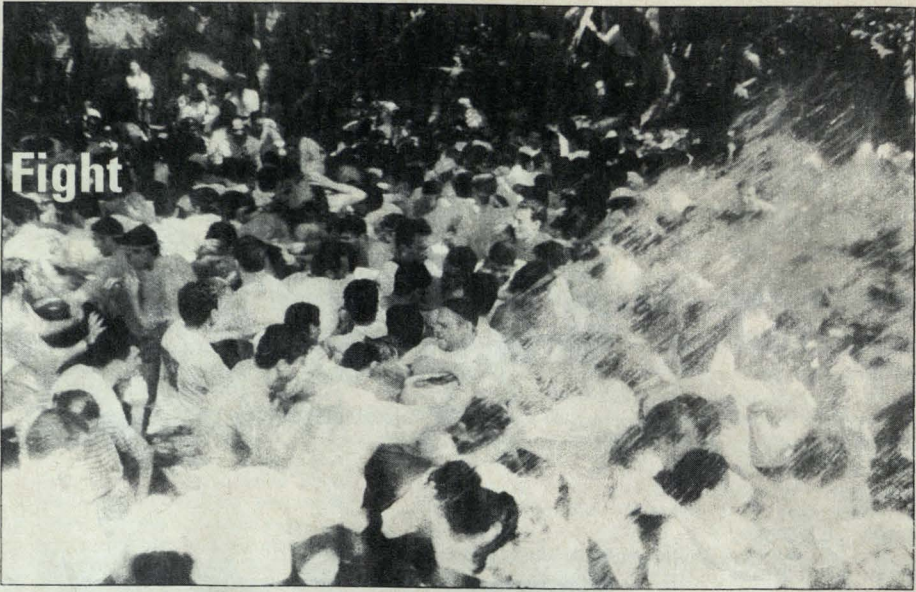
One look back and rave, "Yeah, I threw a water balloon at someone and really lost myself in the fight." It was anarchy - total war - with all the necessary ingredients: high emotions, battle cries, drum beats, ammunition, militias, and leaders. Oh, and did I forget to mention the casualties of war who really did end up in the AUH emergency room-but thankfully escaped with minor injuries.

On a different note: In our frenzy, did we happen to lose sight of our logic and control? Why does a normal water fight have to turn into a situation where students physically charge at each other like animals? The water, the mud, and the balloons are, in fact, fun. However, punching and kicking your way through an extremely crowded area in order to push the opposing team past the front lines is not. Any one of us could have been pinned to the floor with our arms underneath our bodies, suffocating by the bodies stacked above, feeling our tailbones crack, our bodies trampled upon by the

masses colliding above our heads, and opening our eyes just to find that the world had become a dark black void.

It is interesting to note how a state of war can succeed in exciting students into a state of an intense "push-and-shove" strategy. The latter term aptly describes the manner in which this year's water fight was won. No victor emerged through a water balloon attack but through a physical attack which no one, not even the "security personnel", could control. Or, was there actually any "security" hired to regulate the event in case circumstances careened out of control? Perhaps the water fight could return to the occupation of the entire or greater school premises so that large crowds would avoid getting cramped into an extremely confined space.

On the 29th of May, by the end of the day, having grasped the full picture of what had happened to those who found themselves on the ground as the militias collided, I felt disappointed that an event with the potential to be good fun could produce such chaos and instances of pain. To tell you the truth, casualties of war should not be the end result of a simple water fight. Tradition or no tradition, it is just not worth it.



The Engineers...

and the Arts & Sciences



## Escape to Nature:

By Hussain Abdul-Hussain

Away from the burden of their studies and academic responsibilities, a group of 25 AUB students escaped to nature heading to Rouwaisat al-Ballout in Mount Lebanon last April. They camped there for two days, a had a unique experience away from their urban lives. One of the campers said that he had spent one of the most exciting weekends at the camp, and that the whole group was "one big happy family".

The campers' responsibilities differed: One had to take care of tents; another had to supply water from the near river; a team was responsible for collecting logs for the fire that was needed for preparing meals in the daytime and for keeping wild animals away at night. The women campers assumed their traditional roles by cooking and feeding their male companions. On a lighter note, the presence of a few "parasitic" campers was necessary for providing entertainment.

The camp, although not approved or financed as part of the students' activities at AUB, was a success and was considered as a trial camp. An official camp might be held in the coming few weeks and all students are encouraged to participate.



## "OUTDOORS" AT AUB

by Rima El-Harak

What do you imagine when you hear that the preparations for the "Outdoors" have begun? Overnights? Panic? Hard work? The students who participated in the preparations for this annual event were running all over campus the day before the "Outdoors" opening day. They were in search of chairs, tables and booths. Students scurried around West Hall the day the chairs and tables were given out to begin the decoration process of their booths for the two-day event.

This year, the stands varied in what they offered. The most noticeable factor was the scarcity of games and the abundance of food on offer. One could have easily spent the entire day wandering about without giving in to hunger. Those who came in the morning could choose between "Manakeesh" or "Foul", both offered by the business department. For lunch, one could select from the variety of salads on offer by the English department or the education department. The choice for dinner could have varied between "shawarma", barbecued meat, or any other Mediterranean specialties the heart desired. All this was prepared by the Syrian Club. Other snacks on offer were pancakes, crepes, ice-creams, cheesecakes, and, of course, not forgetting the variety of drinks.

The clubs and departments that offered games were the Red Cross (a choice between buny-jumping and the trampoline), the biology department (the maze), and, of course, the Graphic Design Haunted House. The drama club stand was very popular as people queued to get their faces made up with false scars and wounds. The English department also had a beauty shop that attracted the young and the old with the colored hair sprays. Another popular booth was the fortune-teller's (again by the hard-working English department). If you happened to cross that path, Salma would definitely have dragged you inside her tent to read your palm or Tarot cards. If you were lucky, Nairi would have read your coffee cup.

Additionally, the Syrian Club offered computer games and other arcade games. The same club also brought an old camera all the way from Syria to

( continued on next page )



( outdoors at A.U.B., cont. )

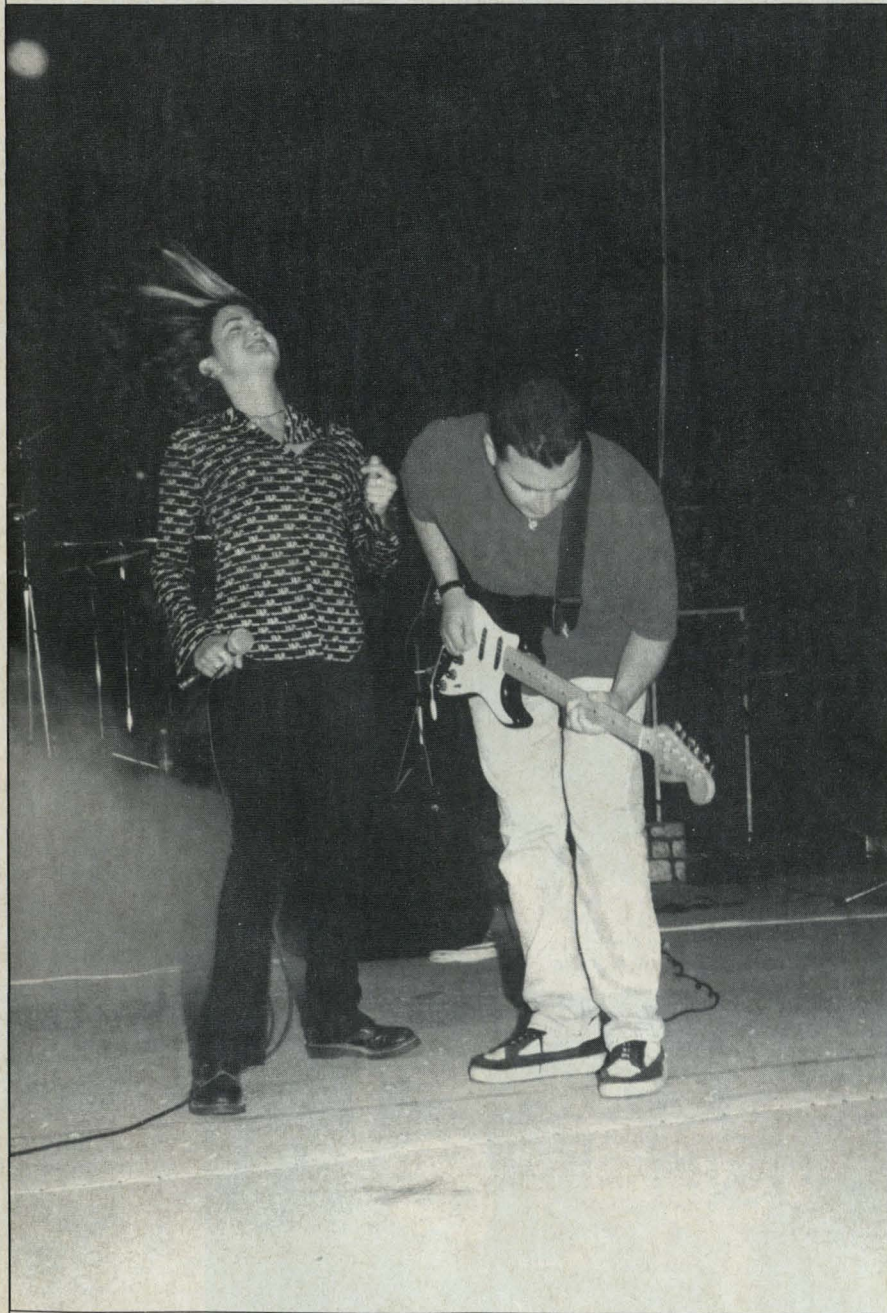
take memorable photos of the attendants. The Women's Club was supposed to sell African pants for a good price and have an African woman braid hair, but the woman never showed up!

Beside all the fun one had by meeting new people and working with other, the second day of the event brought back vivid memories of an unfortunate incident that will never be erased from our minds and hearts: A group of Qana orphans came to enjoy the day at the "Outdoors". Everyone rushed to give them free food, games and drinks. Red Cross members showed the children around and made them feel very welcome. The English department organizers spray-colored the children's hair. To these children, the thought of having their hair colored was very daring! The children spent the whole day on campus eating, playing games, and simply enjoying themselves. They were very eager to participate in all the games that the Red Cross members had arranged for them to try. The children felt that the fair was "out of this world". They had come a long way from home just to enjoy a day in the sun with other kids.

This was, by far, the most important and rewarding moment I, personally, had experienced throughout the entire two days of participating in the AUB Outdoors!



Body builder, Ziad Bakhazi, receives his trophy.



# ATHLETE'S NIGHT AT AUB

by Samer Muala

Beneath the glamorous fire-works that illuminated the night sky above AUB's green field on June 4th, the annual Athletes' Night was well underway. The world of music united with that of athletics to honor those AUB students who distinguished themselves in their respective sport areas.

The awards ceremonies were elaborately placed between the various parts of the program which lasted for about 4 hours. The AUB Choir, under the direction of Professor R. Betts, gave an outstanding performance that declared the beginning of the Athletes' Night. There were folk dance performance from East and West by the Lebanese Folk Dance group and the International Folk Dance Club (at AUB), respectively.

The AUB music club honored the athletes with contemporary western music, which was later followed by Arabic music performed by Abbas Chahine and the Band. The KORDZ did not fail to live up to their reputation as they rocked the audience with their magic.

The Athletes' Night did have those moments that make any event unique. This year, intermittent calls were heard protesting the 7 percent increase in tuition fees effective this summer. Some athletes received trophies which had the wrong sport represented. Others were dismayed

at the fact that their names were not engraved on the trophies. Some were aware that they would receive an award. Others were completely caught by surprise.

Regardless of who received recognition, Athletes' Night is in reality the way the student body and the university honor all who take part in athletics, and by so doing represent the university in competitions at home and abroad.

Athletics are integral to the success of any university, and they more support in the future in terms of equipment, facilities, and financial aspects.

OUTLOOK wishes to convey its heartiest congratulations to all those who received awards, and its sincere appreciation for all the athletes who continue to strive toward excellence.





## SAIL OR FAIL: The Wooden Boats Contest

by Shadi Anani

What better way to have an interesting and stimulating time than to get up close and personal with creative people! The first AUB Mechanical Design Contest, dubbed the "sail or fail" contest and held at the AUB beach on June 6, turned out to be a most joyful event.

The third-year mechanical engineering student undertook a project worth 40 percent of the grade for their "Mechanical Design I" course taught by Dr. Kareem Abdel-Malak. In an interview for Outlook, Dr. Abdel-Malak said that the main objective of the project was to boost the students' confidence by providing a realistic and practical experience.

The students worked for about three months in teams of 7-8 members to design and build wooden boats that can accommodate at least two passengers. The only criteria were to assemble the boats using ropes and wires, and to rely solely on mechanical power for movement.

What began as a project ended up as a race! In his speech prior to the race, Dr. Abdel-Malak said that he was very impressed with the students' creativity and hard work, and that he was very proud of what they had done.

As the boats assembled far in the sea and waited for the start signal marking the beginning of the race, none of the spectators seemed to feel the heat of the early summer, and certainly nobody cared. Then somebody shouted, "Hey, I think the race has started!" as the crowd erupted into a wild uproar.

Although the distant boats appeared to be static, one could see the boat drivers actively rowing, pedaling and handling the sails. As the boats battled for first place, fifteen jurors, including representatives from other universities, judged the quality of each boat in terms of strength, agility,

speed, presentation, and stability.

The crowd did not calm down until the boat "Mahrouseh" arrived in first place. The blue and yellow, three-meter-long boat was driven by four members: two for rowing and two for pedaling. Aref Abu Zahr, a member of the winning team, said, "Our group was the best group. Everybody worked hard. I would like to thank the man who taught us that a piece of wood can be made into something, and who, at the same time, made creative engineers out of us." "Mahrouseh" was given the speed award.

The other boats were also beautiful and exceptionally well-crafted, and offered outstanding performance. Another boat, the "El-Diablo" was given an award for minimum weight. The strength award was given to "Bauhaus", and "Bouga Bouga" received the Russian design award. The aesthetics award was given to the "Whales", and finally, the "Malika" received the very special turtle award.

Photos by: Khalil Kharrat



From A.U.B. ...with pride.



"Malekah"



"Booga- Booga sail away"



"hot, Hot, Hot... but cool!"



The winning boat with its crew next to the first runner up... with no crew.

## "Thuwwar al-Ard"

By Hussein Abdul-Hussain

On May 27, the Student Representative Committee of Health Sciences held an oriental concert at West Hall. Tickets were sold both at AUB and at the Lebanese University (LU).

"Thuwwar al-Ard" (the literal translation of which is earth's revolutionists) is a band composed of 20 musicians from the Lebanese National Institute for Music and Fine Arts. The band played four hours of music by Ziad Rahbani, Joseph Sakr, and Marcel Khalifeh. All the songs were nationalistic and revolutionary in nature.

The 330 attendees came from AUB and LU. Ali Hamadeh, a USFC Health Science representative, commented that the importance of the event was the joint cooperation between AUB and LU students. "Everybody was welcome to attend this event. We hope to further establish an intellectual and cultural link between AUB students and students from the different Lebanese universities through activities like this one," added Ali.

Behind the whole event was one non-SRC student: Wissam al-Hadi. Wissam thinks that the purpose of the concert was to encourage new students in the music world. Wissam stressed, "No matter how good or bad they perform, we are all here to tell them to go on."

On stage, the performance was not in total synchronicity. The band missed a leader needed more practice and coordination. Nonetheless, there were a number of very talented band members who managed to captivate the audience. As for the audience, they did not attend to assess the performance of the band. There were simply there to have fun and enjoy their time. Everybody sang along to the tunes of the band - at times the voices of the audience were higher than those of the singers.

Generally speaking, the crowd and the event were "revolutionary". Hardly anyone sat on the seats for the whole four hours - which were extended as the crowd continued in its celebration at the green oval. The concert was certainly unique.





## EDITORIAL:

With the following few lines, I sign off as the editor-in-chief of OUTLOOK with a sinking heart. Not only will I no longer be able to practice my favorite hobby of being a student (yes, you'd better believe it!), but I will be giving up the most sacred and privileged responsibility I have been endowed with.

But before I leave, I would like to share with you the four "C" keys to good living that I abide by: Challenge, Commitment, Courage, and Creativity.

Never cease to challenge yourself. When you seek goals, strive for the highest standards. When you set standards, let them be one step above your expectations. Never underestimate your abilities and never "sell yourself short". You may surprise yourself at what you are capable of achieving. Do not let obstacles prevent you from reaching your goals; those are merely self-created illusions. In short, and as one of my favorite quotes beautifully put it, "Aim for the sun and you may never reach it; but your arrow will fly higher than if aimed at an object on a level with yourself".

Always be committed to what you are doing. Commitment breeds excellence, and excellence breeds self-fulfillment. Never leave a job half-done. It is like breathing from only one nostril!

Always have the courage to go after what you want, no matter what it takes. Courage means taking that one step that might change your life, to the better. Courage means taking the blame for your wrong-doings. It means standing up to your rights with all your might, and with your head up high. And courage means accepting people for who they are and respecting their views. Without courage, you may never experience life's wonders - and these are many, I am sure.

Finally, be creative in living your life. Lead and let others follow. Always try something new. The world offers a plethora of choices; you may wish to add a few customized ones. Only then will you experience life in a different and exciting dimension.

With these final words I sign off with only one wish. I hope that you take good care of OUTLOOK and uphold its eminent reputation. It is your brain-child after all!

Niveen Abboushi

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

## Looking Back at OUTLOOK

Dear Editor-in-chief:

I was thrilled to see OUTLOOK revived. The efforts of the group responsible for the production of Vol. 01, Issue 01, are indeed commendable and deserve thanks and appreciation for producing an attractive and interesting first issue. The publication must be encouraged and supported by all the Faculty, the students and alumni.

It may interesting for your readers to know the historical background of OUTLOOK. The publication appeared for the first time during the scholastic year 1949-1950 under the aegis of the Student Council in office at the time, and of which I was a member representing the fifth year medical students. I had the honor of being appointed, by the Council, as the first Chairman of the Publication Committee of OUTLOOK.

A room on the second floor of West Hall was assigned by AUB administration as the office of OUTLOOK. There enthusiastic students of journalism under the able guidance of the late Mr. Hall Winslow, who was responsible for the course of Journalism at the time, poured their efforts in producing OUTLOOK which was acclaimed and appreciated by all the AUB community. The first Editor as far as I can recall was a dynamic student by the name of Fawzi Saba, who was ably assisted by another active student, Najwa Shaheen (Haffar). Najwa and I are still associated together, she as the Editor and I as the Chairman of the Publication Committee of al-Kulliyah magazine, the official publication of the AUB Alumni Association.

Remembering the good old days of the infant publication, there were a few interesting and somewhat funny episodes

I would like you to print this poem because it expresses the feelings of many women at this university.

**A Better End**

When I first realized that this is the end  
I cried a lot and couldn't stand  
That there is no hope and nothing in hand

I was thinking and thinking day after day  
But in fact I had nothing to say  
But 'My luck makes me always pay'

Suddenly, I discovered something essential  
That he is not that substantial  
To look at or force little potential

which I would like to relate. On April 1 (April Fool's Day), the publication appeared with the title "LOOKOUT" instead of "OUTLOOK". The cover story in that issue related the experiences of two medical students who visited, at midnight, the basement of Van Dyck Hall where the cadavers, used by first year medical students, were stored. They were scared out of their wits when they saw cadavers come to life and engage in folk dance. Vivid imagination indeed. But the article caused an uproar. The AUB president and administration were dismayed because, in those days, the use of cadavers to teach anatomy to the medical students was not generally known in town and was certainly frowned upon by the community. The editorial board and I were subjected to a severe reprimand by the president. Our only excuse was that it was April 1 after all. From then on we were careful to avoid controversial issues.

Another episode which made fun of frequent typographical errors in OUTLOOK was presented in one of the Medical Student Society's (MSS) popular variety shows in West Hall. One of the MSS members, the witty John Racy stood on the stage and read the following, "We regret the mistake in the following news item which appeared in the last issue of OUTLOOK... 'Mr. Youssef Youssef was appointed a Defective in the Police Force.' The correct version should read 'Mr. Youssef Youssef was appointed a Detective in the Police Force'". I am sure those responsible for OUTLOOK today will do their best to avoid such errors.

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations and my best wishes for the continued success of this worthwhile endeavour of the AUB students.

Sincerely,  
Jacob Thaddeus, MD.

He is really silly and superficial  
And absolutely not at all beneficial  
To me and not even that crucial

So why worry about such type of boys  
That are best described as toys  
In the hands of girls that make noise

In fact, he doesn't deserve  
But some retaliation reserve  
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R.K.

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The editor-in-chief did sign off with a sinking heart, but hers was not the only one. Quite predictably, her editorial reflects her character and achievements: Creative, courageous and committed.

She was always around to finish jobs that others left unfinished. In short, she "aimed for the sun", reviving OUTLOOK and setting it on the right track. It remains the duty of the future editor-in-chief to make sure that "the arrow aimed for the sun" keeps heading up.

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Acting President Dodge's remarks, which were read on his behalf by Dr. Haddadine, vice-president for academic affairs, sent messages of hope and optimism. "Today marks a bittersweet ending, but it is also an unparalleled time of new beginnings for you, the class of 1997, for the American University of Beirut, and for Lebanon and the region. Your graduation comes at a period in time like no other in this region, a time of great possibility and renewed hope.

Acting President Dodge reminded the graduates of their vital roles as catalysts of change in a reborn Lebanon. "The ugliness of war is slowly falling away to reveal the distinct beauty around us. Lebanon is poised to regain its position of prominence in commerce and culture. As a new chapter begins in Lebanon's story, you will be here to fill the pages."

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# The long day before graduation

by OUTLOOK Staff

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Deputy President Dr. S. Makdisi and Mrs. Makdisi, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Dr. S. Najjar, Dean of Faculty of Engineering Dr. N. Sabah and Mrs. Sabah, Dean of Student Affairs Dr. F. Hajj and Mrs. Hajj, Vice President Mr. G. Tohme, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences Dr. M. Haddadin, and Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture Dr. N. Dagher were all at the reception held at the Marquand House to welcome the graduating students and their parents. The reception started at 8:30 p.m., and by 11:00 most of the students headed to the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture to catch up on the second reception.

At the President's reception, OUTLOOK spoke to many of the graduating students who expressed mixed feelings of joy and fear about future prospects - especially employment. Both Abbas Kanso, B.Sc. in Chemistry, and Iyad Chaar, B.S. Biology, were happy to have graduated, but feared unemployment. Luckily, they said, they still had to finish medical school - which they will enter next year.

From the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, Hala Shanin thinks that it feels good to be a graduate, but that career guidance services are lacking. "I graduated last summer and I am still looking for a job," said Hala.

Graduates of Arts give rein to their fantasies and dreams

especially in laboratories.

By the time OUTLOOK had spoken to most of the graduates, Dr. Z. Yamout, director of the Physical Plant department and President of the Engineering Alumni Chapter, had begun to address the new graduates. He announced that a job fair would be held on the 7th, 8th, and 9th of August 1997, and that a barbecue will be held in mid-August to introduce the new alumni to their fellow members of the chapter. Yamout concluded his short address by asking the graduating engineers to join in a cheer for the dean, faculty and students of the FEA.

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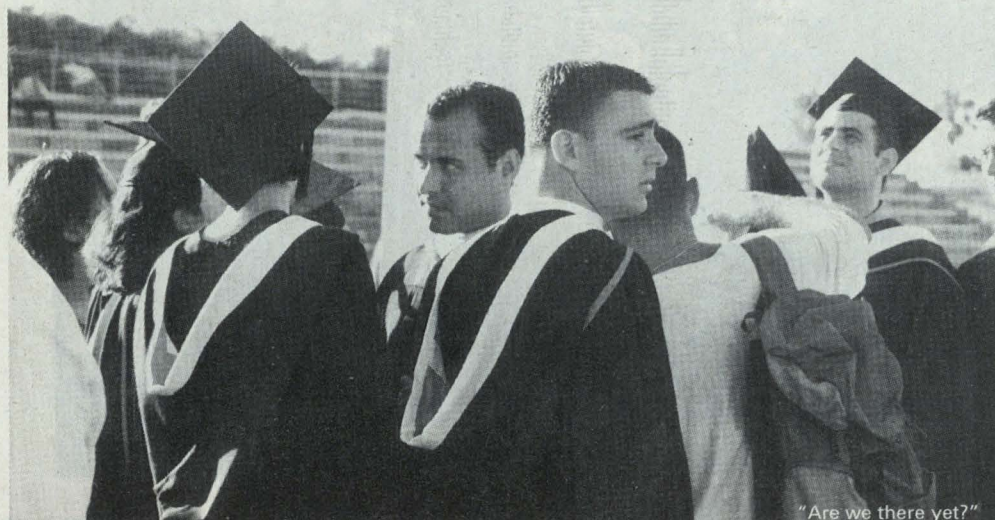
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Joe Sfeir, a Mechanical engineer, commented that freedom of speech was still missing at the university. Academically, Joe felt that the university was still lagging in the areas of technology,

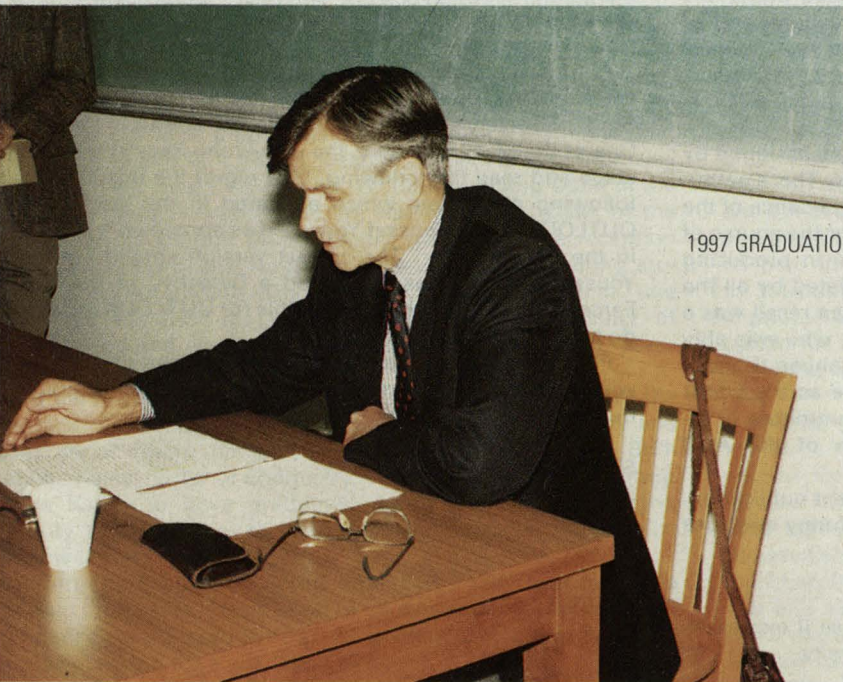






## SPECIAL ISSUE

1997 GRADUATION CEREMONY: Calls for Peace, Democracy, and Adherence to the Ten Basic Rules



### NEW A.U.B. PRESIDENT APPOINTED

On July 7, 1997, the day of the commencement, the appointment of Dr. John Waterbury as the new president of AUB was announced. Dr. Waterbury's appointment will be effective as of January 1, 1998. The new president has a long and an impressive record as both an academican and an expert on Middle Eastern affairs. Following is a brief summary of Dr. Waterbury's achievements:

- Holds a B.A. degree in Oriental Studies from Princeton University, and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Columbia University.
- 1961-1962: Fulbright scholar in Egypt - where he studied Arabic.
- 1968-1971: Taught political science at the University of Michigan.
- 1971-1977: Served as Cairo's Middle East correspondent for the American Universities Field Staff.
- 1977-1978: Taught at University Aix-Marseilles in France.
- 1978: Joined faculty at Princeton University.
- 1992: Appointed director of Princeton University's Center of International Studies (CIS) - a center devoted to the research of international affairs, war and peace, and development.
- 1992: Appointed editor to World Politics, a quarterly journal published by Princeton's CIS.
- 1995-1996: Fulbright research scholar in Ethiopia and Uganda.
- Carried out extensive research and published several papers on two issues: public ownership, private enterprise and privatization in several countries; and the politics of the development of international river basins.

### 1997 GRADUATION CEREMONY: Calls for Peace, Democracy, and Adherence to the Ten Basic Rules

Another year unfolds, more graduates enter the professional world, and final university lessons are learnt at the graduation ceremony. This year's speakers touched on a variety of crucial issues ranging from peace and human rights, to the ten basic rules for success. Following are highlights of the speaker's remarks:

#### President Hrawi's Peace Appeal:

President Hrawi did not fail to use the graduation ceremony as a forum for appealing to the American administration to assume its role as honest partner in the peacemaking effort. "We expect the peace process to speed up the lifting of the travel ban, and we appeal to Clinton to take the initiative in ensuring the implementation of international justice in our region before the peace process collapses entirely."



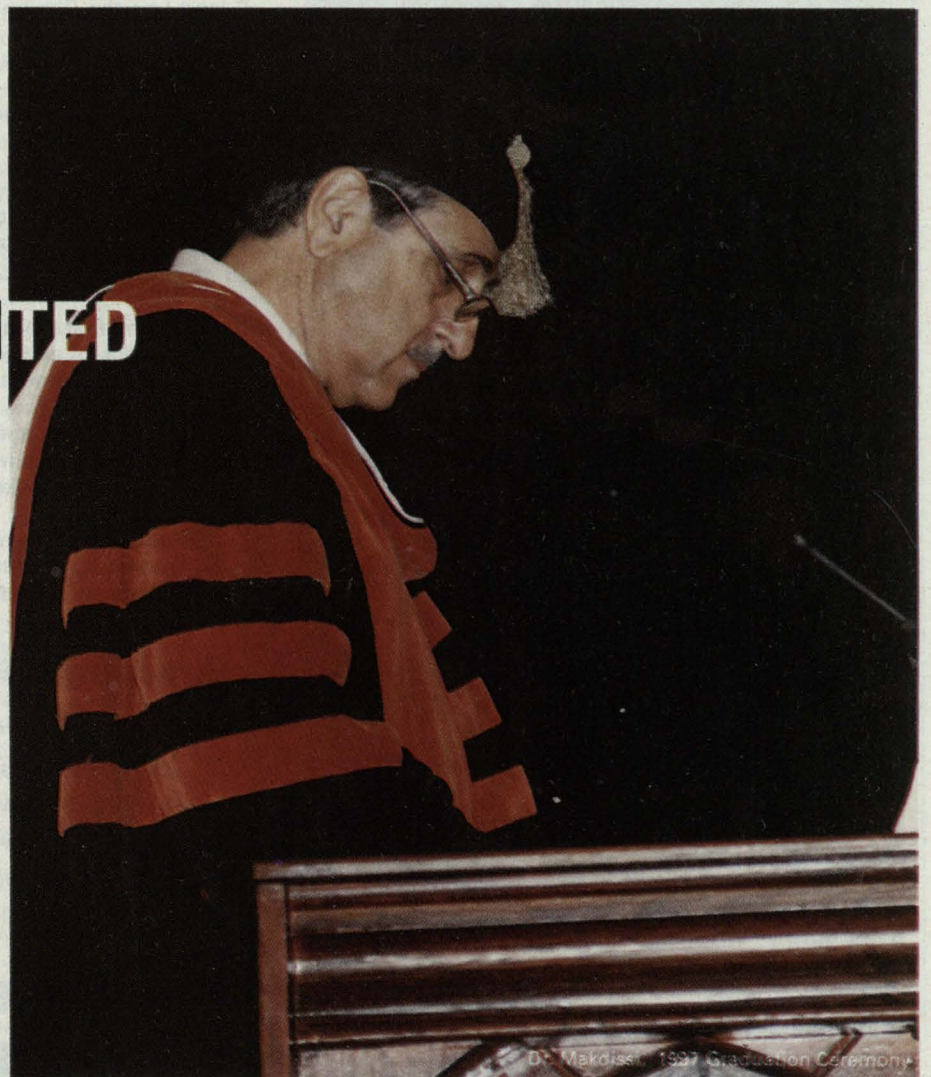
The President also urged the graduates to be committed "towards building a future, not reviving the past." He added that "self-confidence, coexistence, genuine adherence to national goals, a spirit of adventure, transforming dreams into realities, and commitment to freedom and democracies" were crucial to upholding a sense of dignified citizenship.

Hrawi concluded by reminding the graduates that they will be faced with many challenges such as "market economy versus state economy, globalization versus ethnic roots, ethics and values versus chaos and opportunism, [and] just peace versus submission."

#### Dr. Ray Irani's Ten Basic Rules:

"As I look across this sea of caps and gowns, I see young men and women of different religions, diverse political beliefs and widely varied family backgrounds. Here you sit side by side as equals about to begin a grand adventure. You have learned not only from the teachings of your professors, but also from your interaction with each other. The lessons you have learned here go beyond the purely academic. This institution places a high value on promoting understanding and tolerance for widely diverse views. You have learned to live together ... To deepen your understanding of human nature and tolerance of human differences."

"...[T]he first piece of advice is to live life to the fullest. Living life to the fullest begins with self respect and means having a deep sense of personal responsibility for your thoughts and actions. It means keeping your word. It means being faithful to your family and friends. It means believing in what you are doing and working hard, because hard work adds flavor to life. It means being counted on to perform well in good times and bad times. It means setting your own internal standards, and not comparing yourself to others, for



each of you has unique talents. It means not worrying about who gets the credit, but rather getting the job done well. It's not a question of being better than someone else. Self-respect and integrity demand that you be better than you thought you could be."

"I'd like to give you a list of ten basic rules that I believe can help each of you achieve your full potential. These are simple rules that are easy to remember. The challenge is to follow them consistently."

"First, be willing to pay the price. Today's preparation determines tomorrow's achievement. If you want to be successful in your chosen field, find out what it takes to excel. Time. Practice. Commitment. Sacrifice. There is a price. Success is never on sale. It's just a matter of deciding how much you are willing to pay."

"Second, exercise self-discipline. Discipline to put in the necessary hours. Discipline to stay up-to-date in your field. Discipline to read. Discipline to use your time well. Discipline to stay with a task. Self-discipline is simply self-control."

"Third, have a bold, clear vision of what you want to do, and remain true to it. Remaining true to your vision means that you can't just set goals one day, and then the next day act as though your goals didn't exist. Your goals should govern every decision, every day. That's the only way you have of achieving anything worthwhile. Remember that choice not chance determines one's destiny."

"Fourth, learn to get along with others. You may not please all of the people all of the time, but you can please most of the people most of the time... If in no other way but by being open to their criticism. Weigh it against the considerations of others. People seldom improve when they have only their own standards to measure themselves by. So measure yourself with someone else's ruler occasionally."



EDITORIAL:

With the following few lines, I sign off as the editor-in-chief of OUTLOOK with a sinking heart. Not only will I no longer be able to practice my favorite hobby of being a student (yes, you'd better believe it!), but I will be giving up the most sacred and privileged responsibility I have been endowed with.

But before I leave, I would like to share with you the four "C" keys to good living that I abide by: Challenge, Commitment, Courage, and Creativity.

Never cease to challenge yourself. When you seek goals, strive for the highest standards. When you set standards, let them be one step above your expectations. Never underestimate your abilities and never "sell yourself short". You may surprise yourself at what you are capable of achieving. Do not let obstacles prevent you from reaching your goals; those are merely self-created illusions. In short, and as one of my favorite quotes beautifully put its, "Aim for the sun and you may never reach it; but your arrow will fly higher than if aimed at an object on a level with yourself".

Always be committed to what you are doing. Commitment breeds excellence, and excellence breeds self-fulfillment. Never leave a job half-done. It is like breathing from only one nostril!

Always have the courage to go after what you want, no matter what it takes. Courage means taking that one step that might change your life, to the better. Courage means taking the blame for your wrong-doings. It means standing up to your rights with all your might, and with your head up high. And courage means accepting people for who they are and respecting their views. Without courage, you may never experience life's wonders - and these are many, I am sure.

Finally, be creative in living your life. Lead and let others follow. Always try something new. The world offers a plethora of choices; you may wish to add a few customized ones. Only then will you experience life in a different and exciting dimension.

With these final words I sign off with only one wish. I hope that you take good care of OUTLOOK and uphold its eminent reputation. It is your brain-child after all!

Niveen Abboushi

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Looking Back at OUTLOOK

Dear Editor-in-chief:

I was thrilled to see OUTLOOK revived. The efforts of the group responsible for the production of Vol. 01, Issue 01, are indeed commendable and deserve thanks and appreciation for producing an attractive and interesting first issue. The publication must be encouraged and supported by all the Faculty, the students and alumni.

It may interesting for your readers to know the historical background of OUTLOOK. The publication appeared for the first time during the scholastic year 1949-1950 under the aegis of the Student Council in office at the time, and of which I was a member representing the fifth year medical students. I had the honor of being appointed, by the Council, as the first Chairman of the Publication Committee of OUTLOOK.

A room on the second floor of West Hall was assigned by AUB administration as the office of OUTLOOK. There enthusiastic students of journalism under the able guidance of the late Mr. Hall Winslow, who was responsible for the course of Journalism at the time, poured their efforts in producing OUTLOOK which was acclaimed and appreciated by all the AUB community. The first Editor as far as I can recall was a dynamic student by the name of Fawzi Saba, who was ably assisted by another active student, Najwa Shaheen (Haffar). Najwa and I are still associated together, she as the Editor and I as the Chairman of the Publication Committee of al-Kulliyah magazine, the official publication of the AUB Alumni Association.

Remembering the good old days of the infant publication, there were a few interesting and somewhat funny episodes

I would like you to print this poem because it expresses the feelings of many women at this university.

A Better End

When I first realized that this is the end  
I cried a lot and couldn't stand  
That there is no hope and nothing in hand

I was thinking and thinking day after day  
But in fact I had nothing to say  
But 'My luck makes me always pay'

Suddenly, I discovered something essential  
That he is not that substantial  
To look at or force little potential

which I would like to relate. On April 1 (April Fool's Day), the publication appeared with the title "LOOKOUT" instead of "OUTLOOK". The cover story in that issue related the experiences of two medical students who visited, at midnight, the basement of Van Dyck Hall where the cadavers, used by first year medical students, were stored. They were scared out of their wits when they saw cadavers come to life and engage in folk dance. Vivid imagination indeed. But the article caused an uproar. The AUB president and administration were dismayed because, in those days, the use of cadavers to teach anatomy to the medical students was not generally known in town and was certainly frowned upon by the community. The editorial board and I were subjected to a severe reprimand by the president. Our only excuse was that it was April 1 after all. From then on we were careful to avoid controversial issues.

Another episode which made fun of frequent typographical errors in OUTLOOK was presented in one of the Medical Student Society's (MSS) popular variety shows in West Hall. One of the MSS members, the witty John Racy stood on the stage and read the following, "We regret the mistake in the following news item which appeared in the last issue of OUTLOOK... 'Mr. Youssef Youssef was appointed a Defective in the Police Force.' The correct version should read 'Mr. Youssef Youssef was appointed a Detective in the Police Force'". I am sure those responsible for OUTLOOK today will do their best to avoid such errors.

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations and my best wishes for the continued success of this worthwhile endeavour of the AUB students.

Sincerely,  
Jacob Thaddeus, MD.

He is really silly and superficial  
And absolutely not at all beneficial  
To me and not even that crucial

So why worry about such type of boys  
That are best described as toys  
In the hands of girls that make noise

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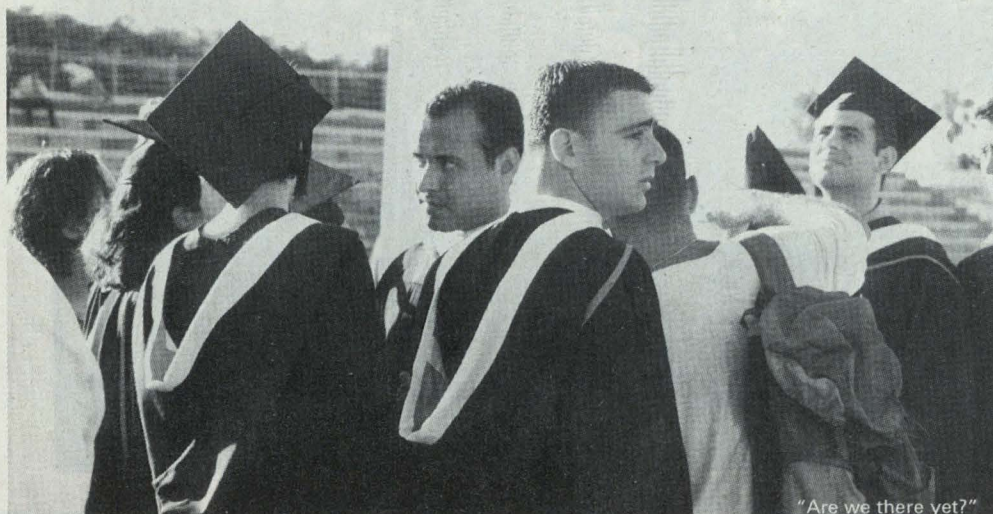
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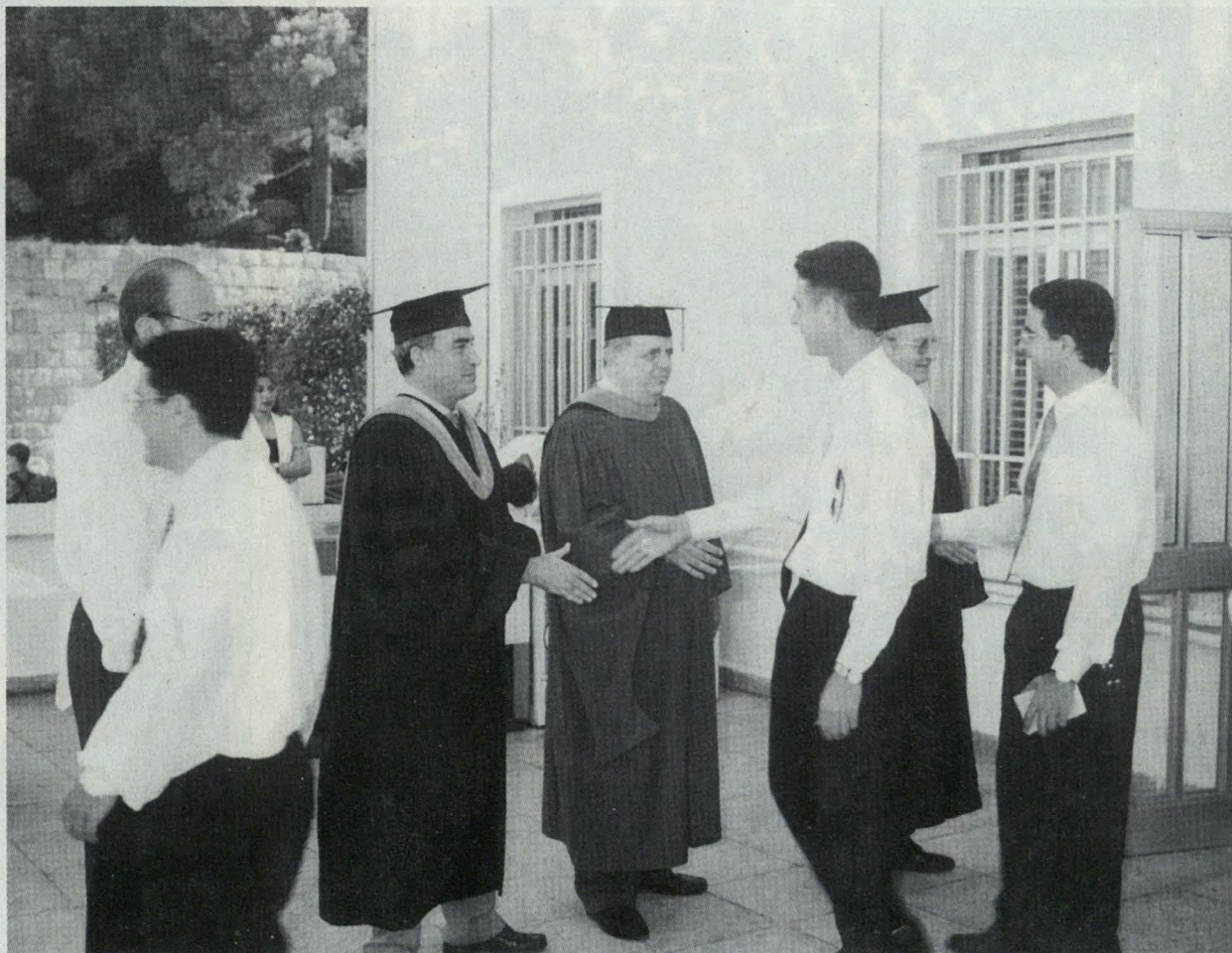
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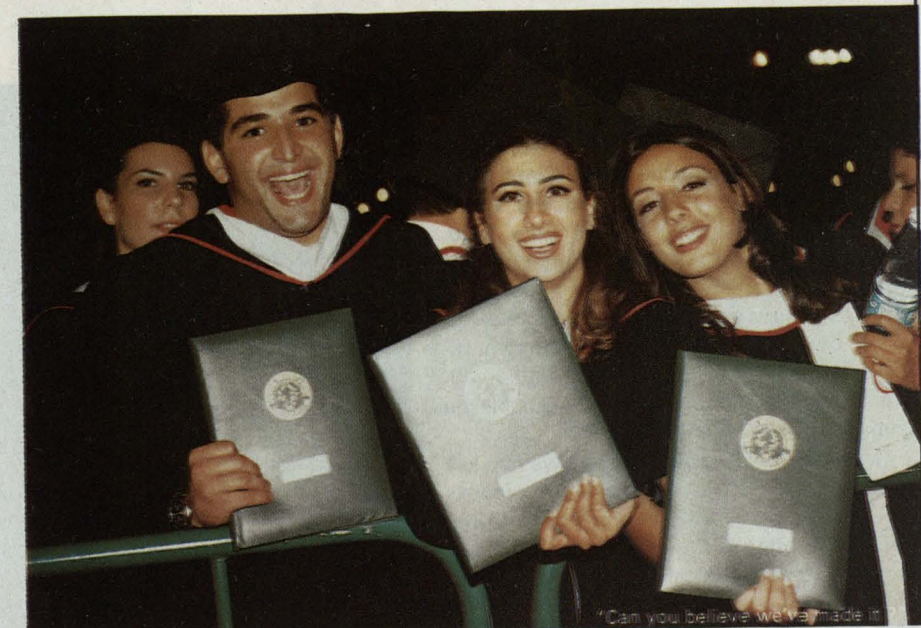
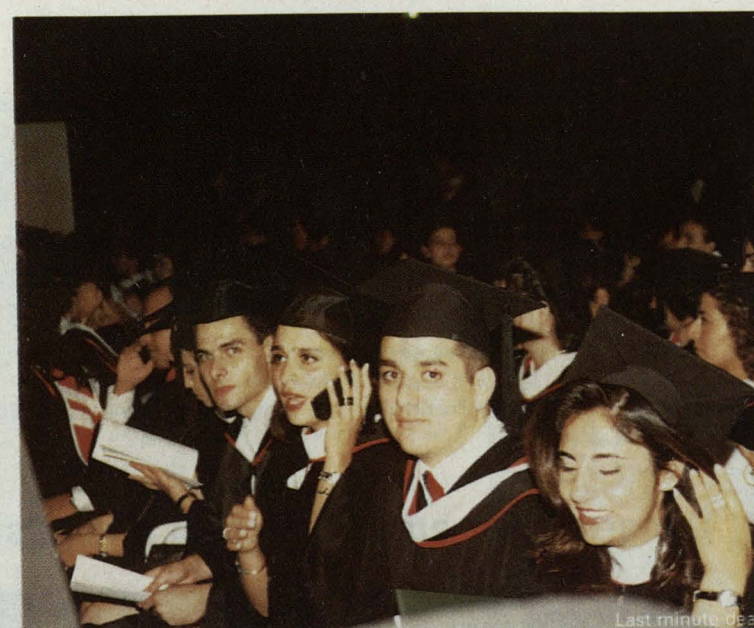
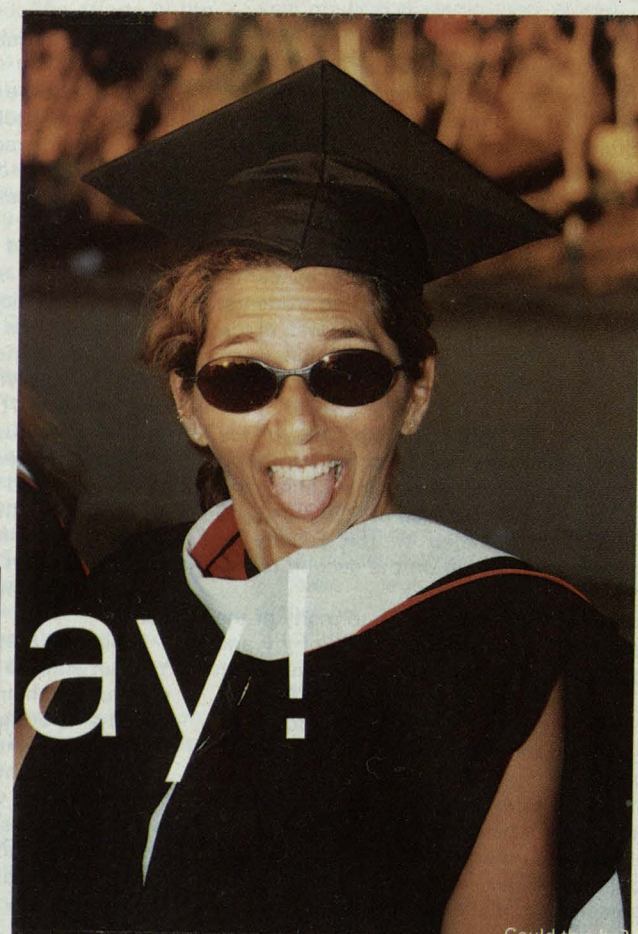
Joe Sfeir, a Mechanical engineer, commented that freedom of speech was still missing at the university. Academically, Joe felt that the university was still lagging in the areas of technology,







# graduation day!



## The 1997 Graduation Party: *from A to Z*

by OUTLOOK Staff

The Mechref Country Club might be remembered by many as the official AUB graduation party site, after having hosted the graduation party for two consecutive years. This year's event was considerably successful as the 1800 attendees reveled and partied the night away.

As most AUB students prepared for the final exams, there were the few who were busy in preparing for the great event: the GRADUATION PARTY. A special organizing committee was formed comprising one faculty member of the USFC as the committee advisor, the USFC treasurer as the committee treasurer, and the self-appointed committee president and vice-president. There were also the committee members who followed up on all the details and the few odd members who simply attended a couple of meetings to secure themselves free entry to the party!

Although the number of the so-called committee members reached 14, only 4 members had really sacrificed much of their time to make the event come through. Others were simply "parasites" who used their authority as committee officers to book tickets and to facilitate the entry of their close friends.

The committee carried all the responsibility from selecting the venue and appointing the security guards, to securing sponsors and the proper DJ. Of course, there was also the responsibility of printing and selling the party tickets. To safeguard against forgery, the committee treasurer stamped each and every ticket sold. Moreover, in order to avoid the typical "wasta" among committee members and their friends, ticket-booking was strictly forbidden and tickets were sold on a "pay as you go" basis. Unfortunately, one or two members took it upon themselves to increase the ticket sales from 1,500 to 1,700 without consulting the other members - which resulted in a seating frenzy. By the time people reached Mechref, the number reached up to 1800, and the final outcome was an uncontrollable crowd.

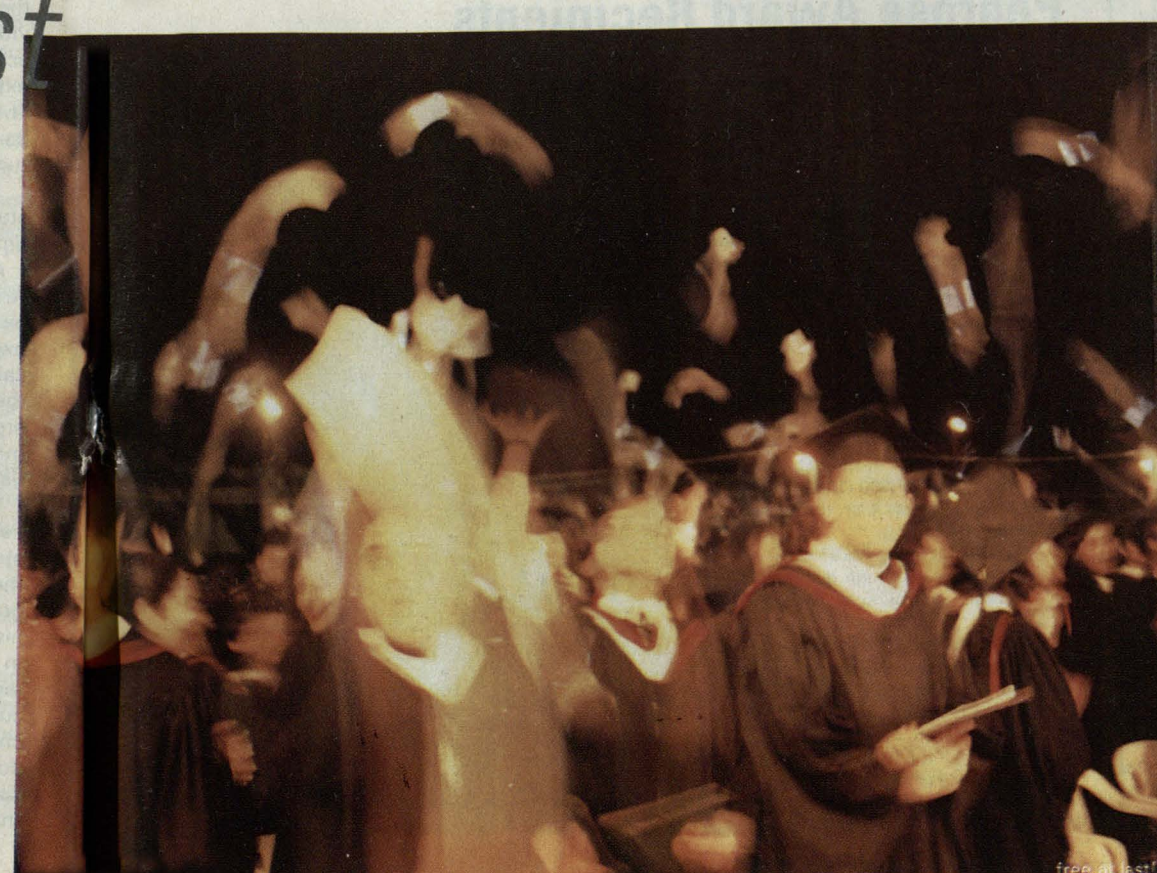
Why is there always a problem when it comes to tickets? The committee put a stand a week before the day of the party. By the end of the fourth day of setting up the stand, the number of tickets sold did not exceed one-third of the total number of the available tickets. On July 7, the day of the party, the committee sold around 400 tickets within 2 hours time. Those who came late to buy tickets blamed the committee for not having more to sell, which is when "wasta" played its role!

(cont. next page)



"It was a party and they wanted to celebrate the most important day of their lives, that of their graduation."

*free at last*





(cont. from previous page)

The mess did not stop at selling the tickets. There were problems with the fireworks, the DJ's system - despite the presence of more accompanying technicians than the actual crowd, the bass system was very loud. Moreover, the cigarette sponsors did not live up to their part of the agreement, and last but not least, the stage collapsed under the feet of the raving dancers. A number of committee members felt not only disappointed with other committee members, but also by the club's organization of the event.

From a technical point of view, we can say that the party was less than average - thanks to the unorganized committee efforts. Thankfully, none of the attendees seemed to care about the technicalities.

On a more positive note, the Mechref Club kept its promise of keeping an open bar service throughout the night. There was an abundance of drinks for everybody. Similarly, food was also abundant. By the time we left, the buffet, as well as the bar, were both still open. The service was extraordinary and the waiters took orders incessantly. Gratefully, the Mechref Country Club manager herself spent the night making sure that nothing went wrong. As we left the club in the wee hours of the morning, she saluted us with a big smile.

Most students were in their best clothing and their best shapes - a scene we are not familiar with when we meet daily on campus. But after a few drinks, and after the "academic exhaustion" caught up with the students, most neckties were tied on men's waists or on their heads by the end of the party. After all, it was just a party and they wanted to celebrate the most important day of their lives, that of their graduation.

To make the graduation celebration more complete, a big cake was cut and served with champagne, accompanied by congratulation tunes and dancing. Dancers did not stop until the early hours of morning, when the security guards had to bid everybody goodbye. With this, the party ended and the graduates left with an aura teeming with happiness and relief. Another year unfolds, and more graduates will be missed!



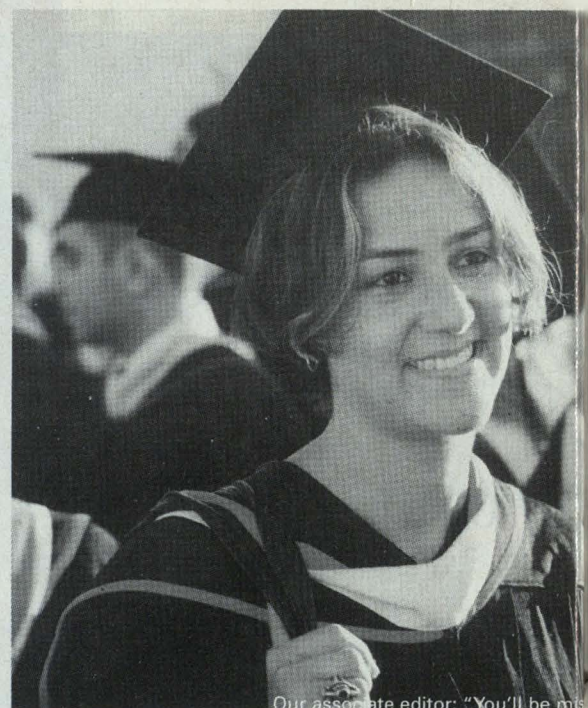
"Never allow yourselves to be blinded by injustice or prejudice, disheartened by adversity or discouraged by misfortune. Don't let anything paralyze your mind, bind your hands or destroy your spirit. Go out into the world not to dominate it, but to serve it...Not to exploit it, but to enrich it."

(Dr. Irani is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Occidental Petroleum Corporation, L.A., California. He is also a member of the AUB Board of Trustees)

#### PERSONAL PROFILE

- Degree: B.A. in Business Administration
- Future Plans: Master's degree in Finance
- Achievements: Vice-President of the University Student faculty Committee (USFC)

## Congrats our editor-in-chief and associate editor



Our associate editor: "You'll be mis"

(cont. from cover page)

"Fifth, be a dreamer...We need men and women like you entering the work force to say 'Why not?' The world has many problems that require solutions. Dare to dream up some ways to resolve them. So keep your head in the clouds and dream...But at the same time, try to keep both feet on the ground. By that I mean that while it is important to be a dreamer...It also is important not to lose sight of what's practical."

"Sixth, take risks. Don't be afraid to fail. Obstacles are those things you see when you take your eyes off your goal. The world is full of people who follow wherever the path leads. You need to take some risks by striking out where there is no path and create your own trail."

"Seventh, stay informed. Man's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original shape. I trust that after your years here, your mind has been stretched so that you will never stop learning about the world around you. Someone said recently in commenting about the modern world, 'Wealth was once measured in gold. Now it's measured by what we know.' So, stay alert and keep informed."

"Eighth, be ethical. Know when to compromise and when to hold fast to your convictions. What you once knew to be right and wrong...is still right and wrong. Right has been, and always will be right."

"Ninth, learn the value of humor and laughter as a remedy for disappointment. Setbacks happen, but they need not be so devastating if you can laugh at life and laugh at yourself. The best antidote for all the adversities that you will encounter will be a sense of humor."

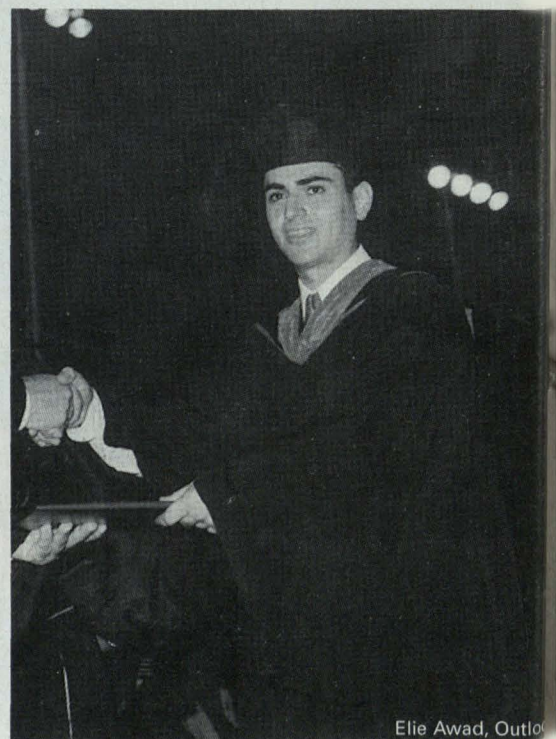
"Tenth, define success in your own terms. To many people, success is defined as getting to the top in achievement. But we all can't get to the top. Besides, that's not what life is all about anyway. Life is an endless process of self-discovery... An endless and unpredictable dialogue between our potential as human beings and the life situations in which we find ourselves. Your success as individuals will depend on your capacity to continue learning and growing in the face of life's unending challenges and changes."

"Let me close with this challenge to each of you. The past is yours, learn from it. The present is yours, improve it. The future is yours, define it. Knowledge is yours, use it. Tolerance is yours, practice it. Freedom is yours, defend it. Faith in the quality of human dignity is yours, respect it."

## Penrose Award Recipients

- **Degree:** BE in Mechanical Engineering
- **Activities:** FEA-SRC member; USFC member; member of the FEA academic committee; AUB Cinema Club member; AUB Yoga Club member; AUB Human Rights and Peace Club member; AUB Environment Club member; vice-president of the AUB Automobile Club; member of the Campus Yearbook Committee; member of the editorial board and writer to the AUB student publication, OUTLOOK; published several articles in Campus newspaper.
- **Achievements:**
  - Ranked second nationwide in the Lebanese Baccalaureate Exam (1993)
  - Ranked second in the SQ exam with an average of 921/1,000 (1993)
  - Dean's Honor List throughout all semester of study
  - Ranked 1st in the ME97 class
  - Graduated with high distinction with an overall cumulative average of 92.47/100
  - Recipient of the Penrose Award
- **Favorite Quote:** "Knowledge can be communicated, but not wisdom. In every truth, the opposite is equally true...A truth can be expressed by words if it is one-sided, only half the truth, it all lacks totality, completeness and unity. The world itself is never one-sided..." Siddhartha

(cont. on next page)



Elie Awad, Outlo



# COLLEGE HALL REVIVED

In 1870, the AUB campus became too small to accommodate the rapid expansion of the college (SPC at the time). Thanks to the trustee William Earl Dodge, the new money necessary for building a new campus became available.

This famous Main Building (to be later called College Hall) - designed in New York and constructed under the AUB presidency of Dr. Daniel Bliss - was inaugurated on March 13, 1874, when the students hoisted the bell and rang it at 5:00 p.m., marking the end of the US \$9,800 project.

The Main Building comprised all the facilities: a chapel (until 1891), classrooms, dormitories (for seniors and juniors), archaeology, geology and botany museums (until 1902 when they were moved to Post Hall), a library (moved to Jafet in 1952), faculty rooms, and, yes, an athletics field!

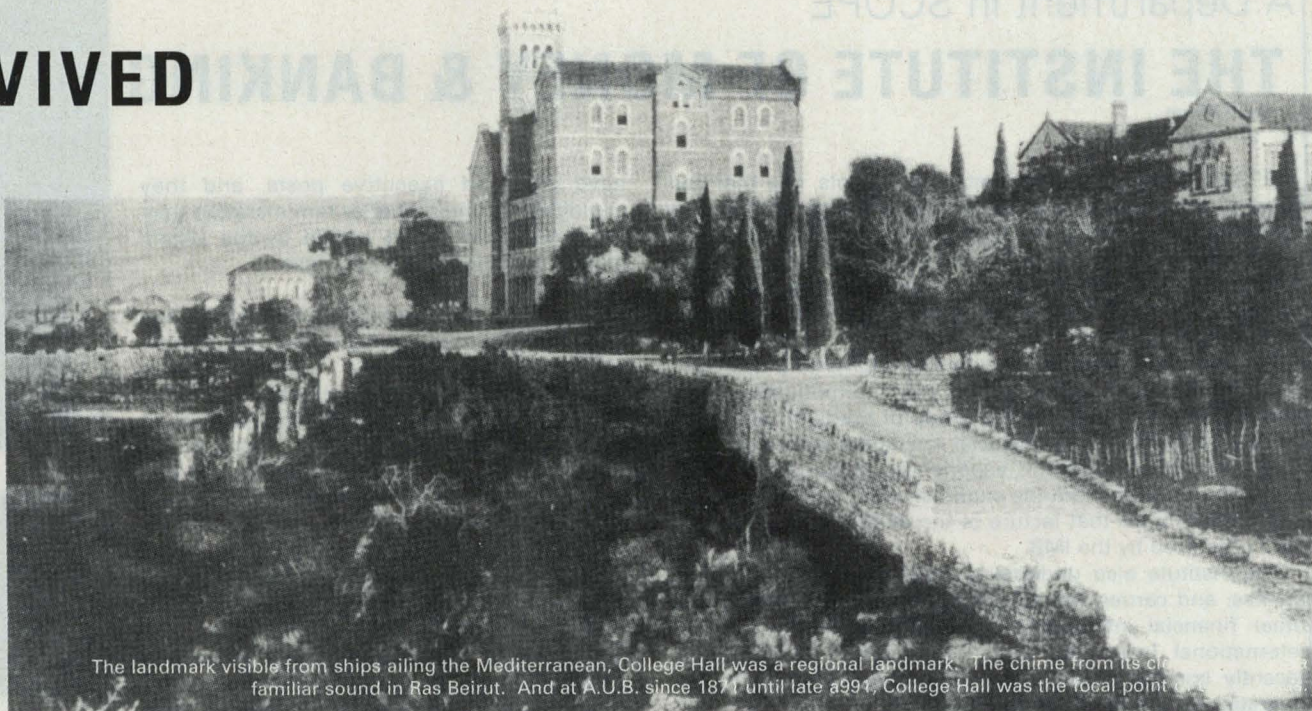
All in all it was a 44-room building that survived many modifications. In 1936 it gained a real tower (the first had been incomplete due to the lack of money) which contained the bell and the clock - later changed into a sophisticated one designed and manufactured on campus under the supervision of Professor Thomas Bridgewood of the Faculty of Engineering.

The "local clock" was installed in 1962 and was said to last for 1,000 years - Unfortunately, the validity of this estimate was never to be proven because on November 3, 1991 at 3:45 a.m., a 175 lb. bomb put an end to the legacy of College Hall, and later caused much financial angst resulting from the rebuilding of the College Hall.

On December 12, 1992, the construction of a new, 20 percent larger College Hall, began. The new building is 14 meters away from the original location (an area to be utilized as a plaza separate the building from the main gate). The height of the new tower has increased by 22 percent (1.06 meters) allowing for the clock to be seen from all over campus.

The most important adage will be the equipment: The new College Hall is more "intelligent" by virtue of the full computerization system therein. There will be a Maintenance Monitoring Program (MMP) covering fire protection, and a VAV (Variable Air Volume) system - an air conditioning system that regulates itself according to the number of people present within a specific area. There will also be a new basement connecting the building to the Jafet library.

Each floor will contain no more than 40-50 offices. The Registrar's Office will be located on the first floor, with the Development Office and the Comptroller's on the second floor. The third and fourth floors will accommodate for staff



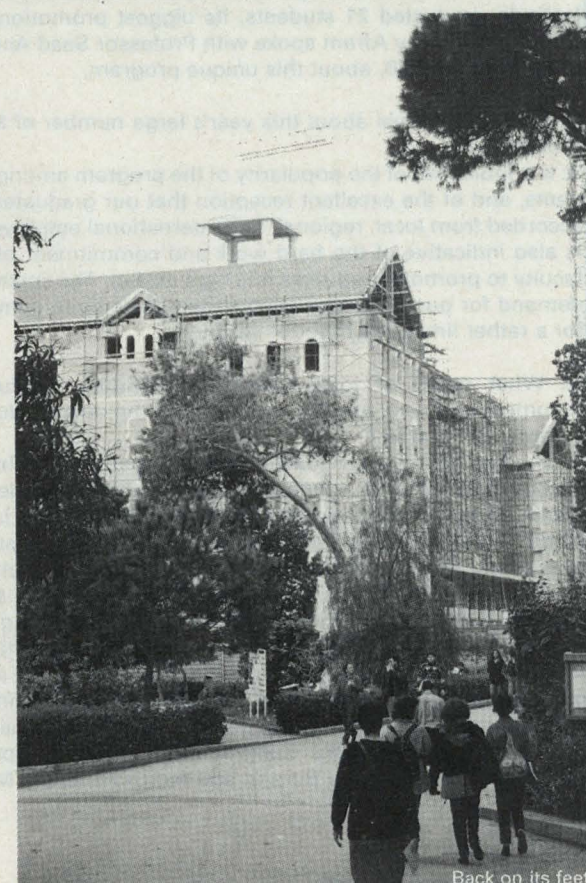
The landmark visible from ships sailing the Mediterranean, College Hall was a regional landmark. The chime from its clock tower was a familiar sound in Ras Beirut. And at A.U.B. since 1871 until late 1991, College Hall was the focal point of the campus.

offices and the vice-president's office, respectively. Finally, the last floor will be reserved for the president, the board of trustees, and a conference room.

The construction was initially scheduled to be completed by August 2, 1997. However, many modifications and routine delays rescheduled the completion date to August 7, 1997. The project was designed to cost around US \$8.6 million, but the actual cost more than doubled to reach US \$19 million - a figure that is still far from the final cost.

The AUB family has a date with College Hall on August 7th, 1997. This day will mark the end of 6 years of reconstruction that cost AUB students more than they could afford, especially since the high cost of reconstruction was the main excuse for raising tuition fees. Let us hope that all will be worth the wait and the agony.

(Note: At the time this article went to print, the writer asked for it not to be published. The writer feels that this article supports the reason behind raising the tuition fees, and wishes not to be part of this support. However, we, at Outlook, believe that all well-written articles must be intended to reflect the true reality on the ground objectively, as this is every student's right and our responsibility.)



Back on its feet

## Welcome Back AUB Valedictorian

by Outlook Staff

After a very long absence, the eagerly-awaited AUB valedictorian is back on the list of speakers at commencement day. Rami Sayegh paved the way in this year's graduation ceremony with calls for transparency, democracy, and commitment. Following are excerpts of Rami's speech:

"[W]e would like to share with you our two major concerns: transparency in interaction and democracy in practice....[W]e would like, in your presence, to undertake a commitment which we will permanently honor and uphold."

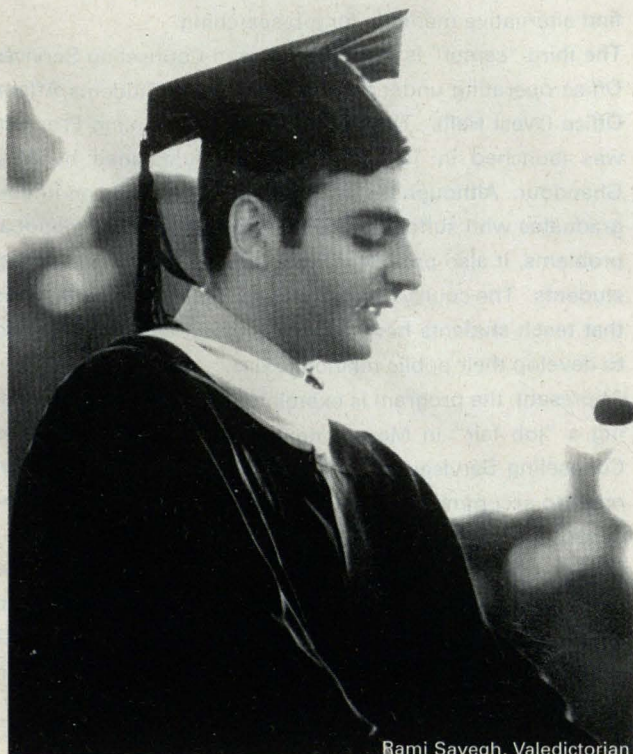
"Our first concern is transparency. AUB students, like their other colleagues in other Lebanese universities, believe in honest and open exchange of ideas and opinions. When we

indulge in a noble cause, it is exercised in crystal-clear transparency... At the base of all [our] appeals is a genuine and transparent concern for the well being of our society and our distinguished university. It is our sincere hope that the university administration, faculty and staff exercise the same openness and transparency towards us in providing a better relationship. Although there are some positive signs in this respect, we are still awaiting the response to our requests. Let us not forget that we are one family and, as beneficiaries in this educational enterprise, our concerns should be those of the university at large."

"Our second concern is democracy on campus. We are fortunate that our country has been historically committed to democracy, and that all efforts to shake down our belief in the democratic process have failed. We do recognize and are grateful to this institution for planting and nurturing the seeds of democracy in thousands of graduates over a period exceeding one hundred and thirty years. Were it not for the role of AUB and other academic institutions in Lebanon in fostering democratic ideals and practices, freedom would have long been curtailed and forgotten. Democracy should be lived existentially on campus in its fullest expression. The motto of AUB "that they may have life and have it more abundantly" is attained through the acquisition of the elements of truth and through a fair representation of the will of the students...It is true that the university granted the students the opportunity to express their opinion through various committees, but we believe that we have reached the time and maturity to activate an independent student representative body."

"We now turn to our commitment. As AUB students, we proceed with devotion in championing a noble cause, be it political, social, educational, compassionate, human love, or sports. Idealism being often our basic drive is coupled with a commitment to achieve a better society...One may migrate into different convictions but the basic elements of truth, honesty, compassion and love for each other, will be maintained in our behavior."

"Those of us who are graduating this year will be embarking soon on some sort of productive employment, each in his or her profession or expertise. While the Lebanese among us, in particular, pledge to share in the process of the reconstruction of the country, all AUB graduates are committed to share in the development of their societies and in presenting a model of efficiency, character and leadership. To our Alma Mater, we pledge our devotion and full support in the years to come."



Rami Sayegh, Valedictorian

## Penrose Awards



Najih Nimah

-D.O.B.: 1975  
- Degree: BS in Biology  
- Activities: AUB Softball Club; AUB Soccer Varsity Team; Biology Students' Society Committee member; Lebanese Red Cross; Photography Club.



Lena Kalfayan

- D.O.B.: 1975  
- Degree: BS in Medical Laboratory Technology  
- Activities: AUB Debate Club President (1995-1997); piano



Ashraf Osman

-D.O.B.: 1978  
- Degree: BS in Biology  
- Achievements: International College (IC) Artist of the Year (1993-1994); High School Graduating Class Valedictorian; IC Scholar; Stephen Penrose Award  
- Activities: AUB Drama Club member; painting; Beirut Symphonic Band (flute)



## A Department in SCOPE

## THE INSTITUTE OF MONEY &amp; BANKING

by Gaby Afram

Of AUB's various departments and schools, one that has been a considerable success among students and professionals equally is the Institute of Money and Banking (IMB). Established in 1983, it offers a graduate program leading to a Master's degree in Money and Banking. The program's courses provide a wide array of exposure in the fields of finance and banking.

The approach combines theory and application, with special emphasis on current regional and international issues. The delivery is by a prominent group of academicians, policy-makers, bankers and financial managers with solid professional backgrounds and experiences. Students and outsiders alike benefit from the expertise of numerous scholars and professionals that lecture in the annual series of seminars organized by the IMB.

The Institute also undertakes research work and policy studies, and carries out training programs for banking and other financial institutions in collaboration with renown international institutions and professionals - such as a recently conducted workshop about treasury and bourse operation in collaboration with Citibank.

All this makes the IMB special at AUB. This year alone, the Institute graduated 21 students, its biggest promotion yet. OUTLOOK's Gaby Afram spoke with Professor Saad Andary, director of the IMB, about this unique program.

Q: How do you feel about this year's large number of MMB graduates?

A: It is indicative of the popularity of the program among students, and of the excellent reception that our graduates are accorded from local, regional, and international employers. It is also indicative of the hard work and commitment of our faculty to promote graduates of a high caliber. The sustained demand for our graduates encourages students to compete for a rather limited number of vacancies.

Q: What types of jobs have the Institute's graduates assumed, and what are the prospects for the new graduates entering the market?

A: The jobs that our graduates have assumed cover a broad spectrum of financial markets. In banks, these include the credit, treasury, international and retail functions, and information systems. They also involve a variety of posts in investment banking, insurance, and financial management, with a number of major international business firms. In addition, our students have held jobs in the fields of auditing and management consultancy, primarily of financial institutions. Among the institutions that our graduates work at are commercial banks, investment banks, finance companies, insurance companies, central banks, banks' control commissions, as well as multinationals. Geographically, they are spread around the Middle East, Europe and North America. Many

have assumed executive posts, and they invariably command better remuneration than other graduates being served by the strong market demand for their services.

Q: What are the Institute's future steps and how will it meet competition from new entrants such as the Hautes Etudes Commerciales and the Haute Etudes Financiers?

A: The Institute has recently inaugurated an information center connected real-time via satellite to all major financial centers, and to a data bank from which detailed financial and other economic market information can be retrieved tracing back to ten years. This center also receives periodicals and recent financial reports from some forty countries, which makes it a unique center in the region. The institute is also working on plans to expand its training facilities to serve bankers and financiers from the region. As for competition from existing and new entrants, the Institute lives up to its role as patron to these institutions, and in fact regards them



as complimentary institutions.

## ON MY MIND- AUB, What a Wonderful Place!

by Hussain Abdul Hussain

It is hard to write about all those whom I have met and those whom I have worked with during my sophomore year. To begin with I would like to thank a very close friend for teaching me the most important lesson, the one thing that we all pretend to have when we actually do not: Honesty. Second, I would like to thank a group of mates for making me feel that common people, other than myself, should be regarded as brothers and sisters in citizenship, and that those command our utmost support. Third, may God bless the very hard worker who really impressed me, and from whom I have learned to do things the way others wanted me to do them whenever it was not possible for me to do them my own way.

My appreciation is also extended to the man who gave us, the staff of OUTLOOK, the greatest assistance. This same person was in our shoes two decades ago, and to him I say a big thank you. Finally, and to end my "thanking list", I am thankful to the man who makes our lives much more exciting. The one man we love because he is the one we can hate. The one we can blame whenever we find no one to blame. He is our friend who always welcomes us with a warm smile

and a hearty salute. AUB students oppose him strongly only because he diverts their efforts in their everlasting struggle with the administration.

On a different note, one may also meet a different kind of people at AUB - people one wishes never to have met. These are a bunch of people who symbolize the corrupt few in the real world. They are the kind that manage to stifle the natural sincerity of the AUB community bringing about nothing but hypocrisy. These are a segment of our society that live by the "me, myself, and I" principle when it come to dealing with the various issues of life. Without them AUB would not be real and would be boringly ideal. To these I owe nothing, but, I feel, it is our duty to make them differentiate good from evil.

Whether it is good or evil, AUB is a complex combination of different types of students resembling the varying strata of society. An academic year at AUB is thus far from being purely academic. It is so challenging that one feels one can spend a lifetime at the university. To our Alma Mater we say, Hurrah!

## AUB Graduates: Where Do We Go From Here?

by Reem Anchassi



Throughout the undergraduate years, we tend to lead a carefree life. Life revolves around studying, making friends, attempting new endeavors, and reevaluating our beliefs and values. Eventually, this academic and cultural experience comes to an end. The reason? You have graduated. Reality hits you hard then. A new phase in your life is just about to begin.

Next move? Go out into the real world and try to find a job. The process of finding a job in one's field of study is not an easy task. The market is both limited and competitive. Besides, you need to learn to "market" yourself and your skills and to prepare an impressive resume. Amidst all this, does AUB lend assistance to graduating students to help them secure jobs in their field?

In universities around the world, placement after graduation constitutes the ultimate service a university can offer its students. A few university administrators believe that placement is a practical application of the theoretically-based instruction the university offers. Thus, by finding jobs for its students, a university fulfills its educational and social role. What about AUB? How does it help graduating students? At AUB, the placement services are, unfortunately, not fully developed and constricted to three "centers": The first is the "bulletin board" located next to the Students' Affairs Office in West Hall, where notices for job opportunities and "wanted" ads are posted throughout the academic year.

The second "center" is the students' own departments. If the department and its faculty members are active, they will

take the initiative to "market" and promote their students. There are departments, for example, that send their students' resumes to professionals and to companies, or that invite recruitment representatives to meet with the students. Other departments encourage students to undertake training, while other departments require their students to train. If, however, the department is inactive, the students must find alternative methods for job-searching.

The third "center" is the Guidance and Counseling Services Office operating under the auspices of the Students Affairs Office (West Hall). The Guidance and Counseling Program was launched in 1991 and is currently headed by Mrs. Ghandour. Although the program mainly focuses on undergraduates who suffer from academic, social, and emotional problems, it also provides career counseling for graduating students. The counseling is in the form of career workshops that teach students how to write professional resumes and to develop their public relations skills.

At present, the program is examining the possibility of holding a "job fair" in May of next year. The Guidance and Counseling Services Office hopes to expand its services in order to accommodate the growing needs of graduating students.

In short, the placement services at AUB are limited to these three "centers". But the three centers are not adequate to cater to the growing number of graduates. The solution? Gradual improvement in these services so that AUB can regain its prestigious reputation.











