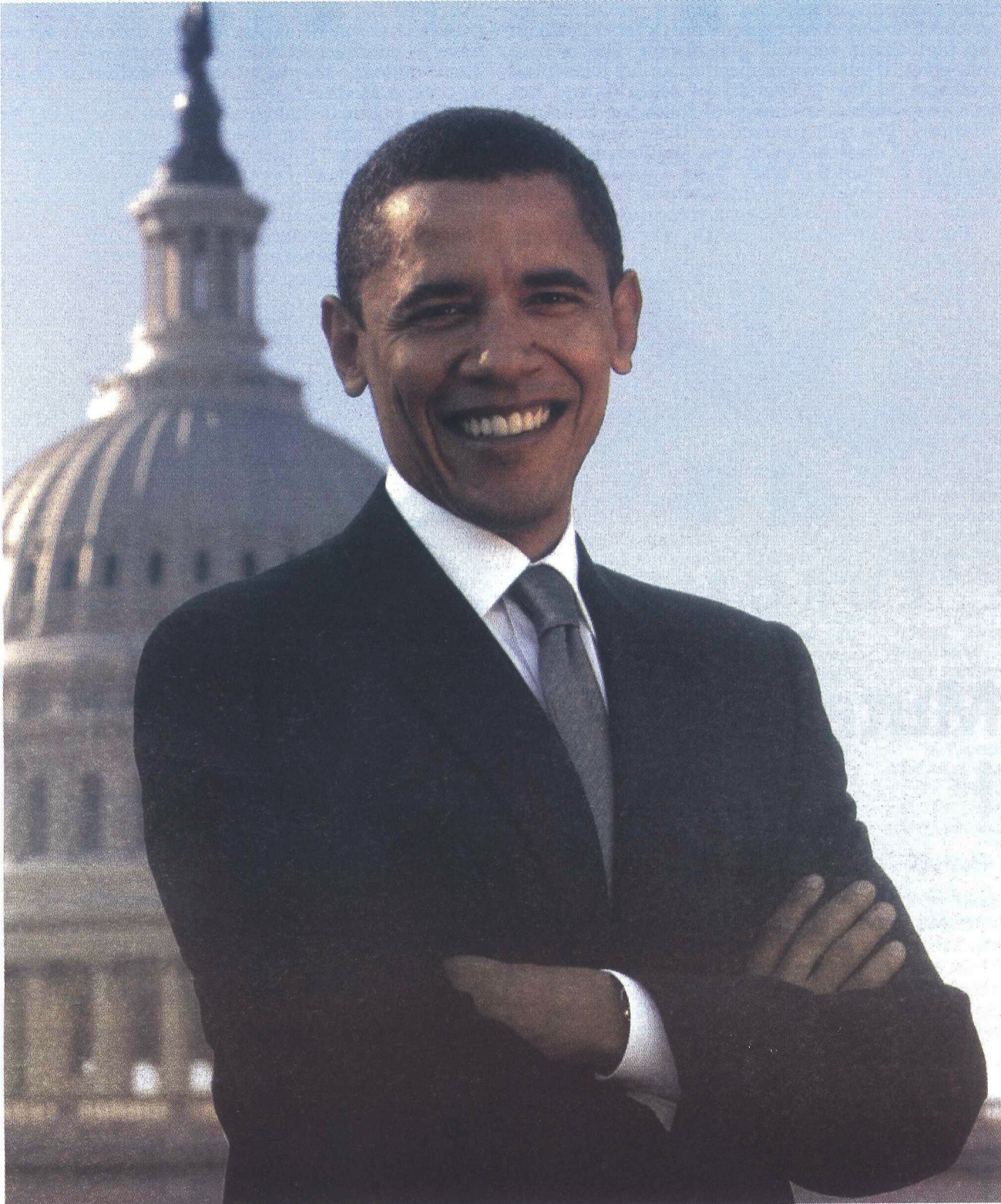


## God Bless Democracy

ZOUHAIR MAZOUZ



If you were able to find a seat in the Board Room on November 4th, 2008 at 5 : 00 pm, then you were probably very lucky. The room was overwhelmingly crowded, as students rushed into it from all over the campus to see and hear Fouad Ali Al Himma, a man from now on omnipresent in Morocco's political agenda. Unfortunately for the excited crowd, the guest was not able to make it; instead, his party's Secretary General Mr. Hassan Benaddi showed up. Everybody opened their eyes and ears to get the guest's message which was supposed to be about Moroccan youth and politics. Mr. Benaddi thought of introducing his party first before talking about youth; an "introduction" that lasted about 45 minutes. Only later did he mention the importance of youth and women, which he considered as being "the most critical absents from Morocco's political life". Unsatisfied opinion was widely spread after the talk: because their answers were not answered accurately, or because they couldn't ask a question that they thought was going to make a difference, or most importantly because the guest's message just did not appeal to their ideals. Who knows? Maybe we're too used to critical thinking to approve any message that goes by... After an hour of listening, I looked at my watch, but what captured my attention was the date displayed in it: November 4th. Only then did I remember that about 3500 miles away, the same moment of the same day, a real democracy was about to make history...

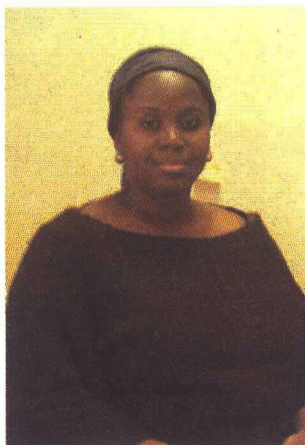
"Yes We Can" was Barack Obama's motto for his candidacy to the White House. And yes he did! That day, the American people gave the world a lesson of democracy: more than 63.8% voting turnout, and a result that symbolized smooth and peaceful change made by the people, for the people. A son of a black man from Kenya and an American woman, growing up in a middle-class context and being able to go to college, work as a lawyer, be a senator and then target the most prestigious office on earth was the most representative demonstration of the American Dream, the belief that anybody can make it if they try.

(Continued on Page 8)

### In this issue:

Euro-Med Agreement .....	p2
Library honors AUI authors .....	p3
AUI's official say about Scholarships .....	p7
Shattered: a movie you'll not want to end ....	p9
Euro Valencia 2008 .....	p10

### About Dr. Madia Thomson



Many of her students think she is British, or at least, she grew up in Britain. When asked, Dr Madia Thomson says that she is not British, even if her accent sounds very British with all of its articulation and the noticeable rhythm it carries.

(continued in Page 7)

### Adil Douiri on Mutandis



On October 21st, the Moroccan Economic & Political Leaders Club (MEPL) invited Mr. Adil Douiri, ex-minister of Tourism and co-founder of Casablanca Finance Group (CFG Group) to speak. Mr. Douiri presented his new company, Mutandis, during a conference held in the board room.

(continued in Page 2)

## African round-table on development

NEWS TEAM

On October 25th, AUI organized a round table in which a number of representatives from different African countries took part. Certain members brought up and discussed government projects to be accomplished between 2008 and 2018.

Mr. Rida Lamrini, President of the Moroccan Microenterprise Support Institution, talked about a number of developing southern provinces, specifically Tata, Assa, Goulmim and Tarfaya. Lamrini explained that such regions are still less developed compared to other areas in Morocco. The main point which Mr. Lamrini raised was the issue of young people and the importance of getting them employment so that they can help to contribute to the development of these regions. In order to achieve this objective Lamrini explained that credit can be used as a great way of helping young people to get started and realize their own projects.

Another presentation was done by Mr. Abouaub about Tourism in Morocco. "As early as 2006, the government was very excited about the development of tourism in Morocco," said Abouaub. Tourism authorities reported a record increase in the number of tourists. Only a few years ago, the Moroccan government had launched a plan dubbed "Vision 2010", a broad-based policy designed to almost double the number of visitors to the country in the near future. Mr. Abouaub mentioned that in Morocco, even though results are sometimes lower than expected, still stands as a model of tourism management.

## Euro-Med Agreement: What does it mean for Morocco?

ISMAIL KHEJJOU

Dr. José Leon Lora, Consular at the European Union Delegation in Rabat, gave a public lecture on the Euro-med agreement on October 16th in the periodicals room of the library. His lecture was given from his perspective as an individual professor at the University of Madrid, and not as a responsible in charge of following consular relations. The talk focused on three aspects: the theoretical approaches to the Mediterranean region, the relevance of these three approaches, and whether the Euro-Med Union would be a custom union, an economic area or a free trade area.

Political integration, as Dr. Lora explained,

"Should be perceived from a macro state perspective with big opportunities for anybody". From this view point, he explained, the different actors have to conduct an inter-organizational and political dialogue through the establishment of the European-Mediterranean Union.

This political dialogue's overall aim is to ally the pacific and the violent concept of political union in order "To get unity through diversity". During his lecture Dr. Lora emphasized both the negative and positive factors that can occur as a result of the process of integration. An important negative point undermining integration, according to Lora, remains in the elimination of borders. Such an elimination could be an obstacle to free trade.

Dr. Lora went on to explain that the positive point that can foster integration remains in the building up of new institutions that can regulate trade among other aspects. Institutions of mutual recognition, for instance, would work on standardizing such things as voltage rates or the levels of alcohol in different national beers. This agreement would allow Morocco to participate in the European council in an ad-hoc fashion. It will, in the future, create joint congress commissions between Morocco and the EU while deepening the free trade area for industrial and agricultural goods. The Federation concept in the union, according to Dr. Lora, is out of the question and Morocco reserves the right to decline any aspect its government doesn't agree on.



## Adil Douiri on Mutandis: A novel form of venture capital

NEWS TEAM

(continued from Page 1)

Before introducing the case of Mutandis as a Moroccan investment firm, Mr. Douiri gave a little overview of the Moroccan conjuncture and history, praising the status of the country as the second oldest kingdom in the world and speaking favorably of its chance of having the monarchy bring together all members of the society to accelerate development and growth. He also insisted on the importance of stability and the natural business sense of Moroccans as assets to capitalize on.

Mr. Douiri proceeded to introduce Mutandis, a private equity investment firm established by a group of fifteen investors, which he founded in February 2008. Its mission is to acquire and accelerate the growth of businesses established in simple sectors with positive growth potential which are currently poorly managed.

The name of the company itself imply's a strong connotation, as it comes from the Latin expression "Mutatis Mutandis", meaning "The

necessary changes having been made." In fact, Mutandis' concept relies on its ability to change weak but sustainable firms into strong and well-managed companies. As such, Mutandis is helping the acquired companies to clarify and redefine their strategy, appeal to high quality human resources, strengthen their capital base, and build strategic partnerships when needed.

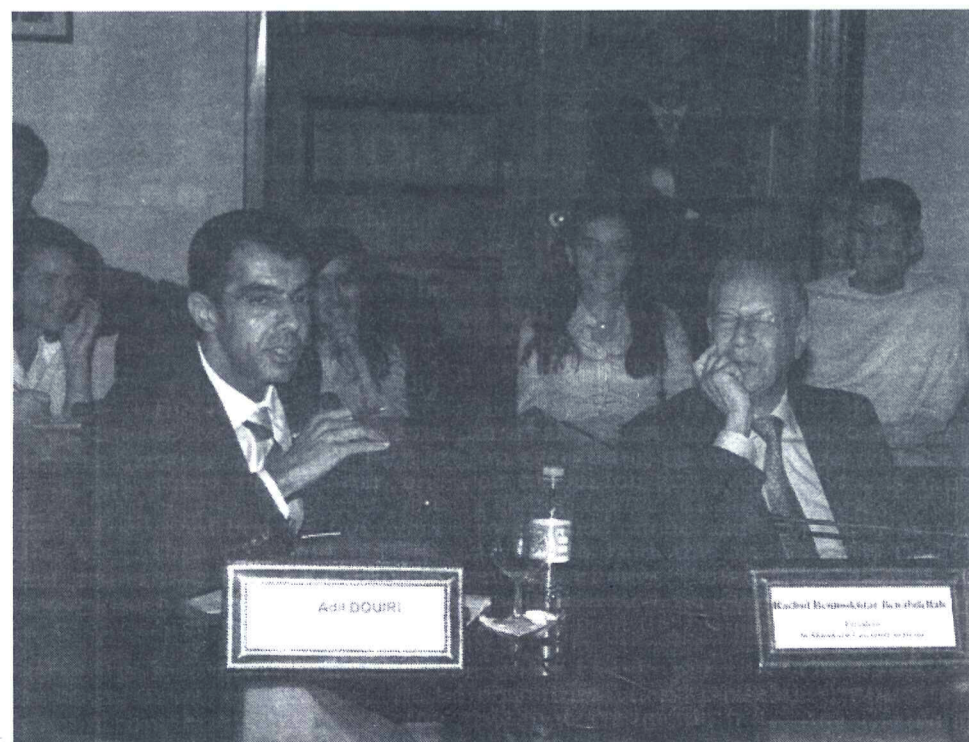
The company benefits from the expertise of renowned individuals in their field as well as solid financial support of its investors. Mutandis, which began with an initial capital of 777 million MAD, relies totally on equity and is not planning on using any debt capital whatsoever. As opposed to common venture capital firms, Mutandis does not plan on selling the businesses which it acquires. Mr. Douiri sees Mutandis opening to public investment sometime before the end of 2011.

AUI's President, Dr. Rachid Benmokhtar, praised Mr. Douiri, describing him as a leader with "The capacity to regroup quality people and to give them the

opportunity to make the best of themselves."

The conference recorded massive attendance and satisfaction

with the quality of both the lecture and the discussion: a good sign for the first event organized by the recently founded MEPL.



Mr. Douiri (left) with President Benmokhtar (right)

# Library honors AUI authors

NEWS TEAM

Mohammed VI Library organized the first edition of a series of talks, titled Honoring AUI Authors, on October 15th. Each talk allows an AUI faculty member to introduce his or her published books.

"We wanted to let our school's faculty introduce their books and give a chance for people to learn about their research," said Library Director, Dr. Abdelhamid Lotfi about the initiative.

Four editions of Honoring AUI Authors have or will take place this semester, each hosted by SHSS professors who have published books recently: Dr. Eric Ross, Dr. Nicola Migliorino, Dr. Mohammed Ibahrine, and Dr. Mohammed Bounejma.

"These talks will be hosted regularly every semester," said Dr. Lotfi.

"SHSS research is the most suitable to be published in book format," he said on the predominance of SHSS faculty who have been and will be hosting the talks. "We are discussing

with faculty from other schools the possibility to group their research into books so that they host a talk about them as well," he said.



Dr. Eric Ross in front of the first edition venue

Three talks have already taken place. The first was hosted by Dr. Eric Ross, who was invited to deliver a talk on his recent publications in the field of Senegalese studies. The inaugural talk was attended by President Rachid Benmokhtar, Mr. Kémoko Diakité, the Second Counselor of the Embassy of Senegal in Rabat, and several of the university's academic officers, faculty and students.

Dr. Ross, who holds his Ph.D. in Islamic Studies and specializes in Senegalese Studies and Sufism, presented three publications: Sufi City, Culture and Customs of Senegal, and his translation of Sufism and Religious Brotherhoods in Senegal by Khadim Mbacké. On October 29th, Dr. Migliorino, Ph.D. in Arab and Islamic Studies, presented his book (Re)constructing Armenia in Lebanon and Syria. International Relations & Communication Ph.D. Dr. Ibahrine introduced his book Neo-Media and Neo-Islamism on November 13th.

## Housing Services testing card locks in building 26

NEWS TEAM

In early November, the Housing Services installed new card locks throughout building 26 as well as on selected storage rooms elsewhere on campus.

"Card locks provide more security in two ways: Cards can't be copied, and the times at which a door is opened are recorded, which should deter theft," said Ms. Yasmine Bahaji, Director of Housing Services.

These locks will eventually replace keys as the primary way to open the doors. The cards used were magnetic cards at first, but they have been switched to chip cards, similar to bank cards. "The magnetic cards are similar to the cash-wallets; they were too fragile," said Mimoun Amghar, Housing Officer in charge of the system.

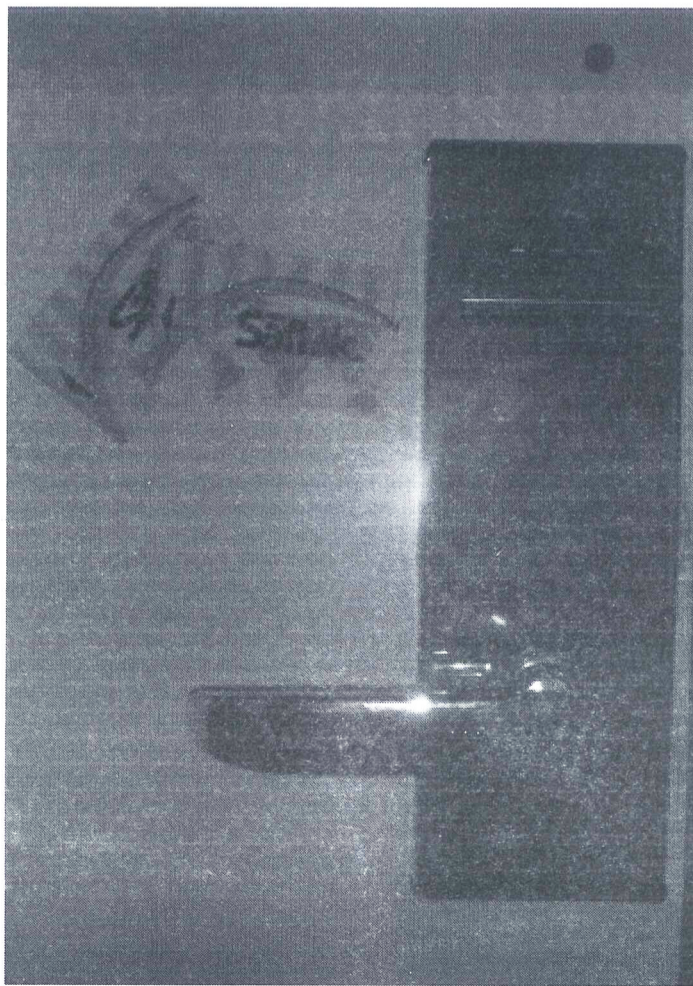
"Building 26 will be used as a test this semester, and if all goes according to plan, 2 or 3 more buildings will be equipped each semester after this one," said Ms. Bahaji.

Cards will display no sign of their owner, contrarily to cash-wallets. This is to keep a card anonymous, like a key is. "We don't want someone finding a lost card to know which door it opens," said Mr. Amghar. Some students complained their card was easy to mistake for another's as they have no distinctive code written on them like keys. "We encourage students to draw a small distinctive mark on their card so that they recognize it," said Mr. Amghar.

Another complaint that arose was the fact that doors lock automatically. If someone were to forget the card inside and leave, they would have to call Housing Services to get the door opened. "This may take time to get used to, but it's a good thing for security," said Mr. Amghar. "Several cases of theft [in the past] were due to people leaving their door open," said Ms. Bahaji.

The total cost of outfitting building 26 was around 85,000 MAD, which includes one-time system installation and training fees. Equipping the rest of AUI is expected to cost 1,700 MAD per door.

The new system was installed by Soloc Security Systems, a Moroccan firm that sells Saflock brand U.S. imported products.



A chip card, a magnetic one, and a lock

## U.S. Embassy educates on the elections

NEWS TEAM

Mr. David Ranz, Information Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Rabat, gave a lecture at the periodicals room of the library on the 28th of October. Mr. Ranz started his talk by giving the public an overview about the U.S. presidential elections of 2008, laying special emphasis on the U.S. political system and how the elections are processed in the United States of America.

First, Mr. Ranz started by presenting a brief historical lesson on U.S. elections, emphasizing that throughout the history of the U.S.A., and even during periods of recession or periods of unrest, the country has always held elections. Thus, elections have always contributed in fostering the democratic spirit of the country and the commitment of its citizens.

Mr. Ranz qualified the U.S 2008 elections as "historic" because, according to him, "They include a black senator, a female candidate (though she did not win the primary), and the oldest candidate ever to run for the presidency". That is the reason why, according to Mr. Ranz, the American public is much more interested in these elections than in any other past elections. It was also expected that many minorities would get involved and become more engaged in American politics than ever before.

Finally, Mr. Ranz gave insights about the political system in the U.S., how elections are operated within each Electoral College and how the final decision of who is going to run for presidency is at last delivered.

# Rotaract, VPSA's Office give advice on lifestyle practices

NEWS TEAM

On the 13th and 14th of October, Rotaract and Ms. Michelle El Ghardgui (Project Manager to the VPSA), Ms. Ashley El May (Counselor), and Dr. Abdelghani El Asli (SSE faculty) held a two-part conference dubbed "Got Balance?", on the benefits of a healthy balanced life. The talks were interactive workshops where students were taught in a cozy atmosphere how to succeed in maintaining equilibrium between their body,

revolving around nutrition were corrected. One of the main points discussed was how, contrarily to what people might have been told, there is no one proper nutritional system. As a matter of fact, depending on the shape, gender, age, or muscle mass, the metabolic rate varies and therefore the quantity of food needed varies as well. However, people are still advised to follow the food pyramid which dictates the maximum daily

the pyramid diet does not mean that one is necessarily leading an entirely healthy life.

Dr. El Asli, a PED instructor, strongly encouraged attendants to take up exercise. "Any kind of sport will do as long as it is practiced on a regular basis, from big activities such as stretching, balling or jogging, to the smallest daily activities such as house or yard work, climbing stairs, or walking to class," said Dr. El Asli. And here again, balance is crucial because too much exercise can hurt one's social life or diet. The first meeting ended with games on forming ideal meals within those available on campus specifically, and in Morocco more generally. Following the lecture free healthy food including yogurt, juice, and fruits, were offered to all participants.

"Mind your Mind", the second workshop, tackled the importance of having a schedule and sticking to it. College students have many things going through their mind, yet they only schedule work. "This period of your life is the best time to keep a schedule," said Ms. El May. A schedule that incorporates time for body, soul and mind helps one stick to a balanced lifestyle. "A schedule is like a contract, once it's written down, it has to be strictly followed," said Ms. Elghardgui.

Several attendants said they had taken the lecture to heart and made the decision to change their habits. "The food pyramid was very helpful, I never thought about balancing my food before," said Alaeddine Ouakib, a CSC freshman.



Project Manager Ms. Elghardgui (right) and new Counsellor Ms. El May (left) leading the workshop

mind, and spirit.

During the first meeting, "Brain Food", many of the misconceptions

servings of each food type. The key remains in maintaining a balance though, and religiously following

## AUI commemorates the founding of Fes

NEWS TEAM

To commemorate the imperial city's 1200 year anniversary, a three day conference on Fes was organized by the SHSS and the Esprit de Fes foundation from October 7th to 10th. Twenty three scholars from around the world participated by giving lectures on Fes' place in world history, in literature, and in today's world. The city was often described as Morocco's ancient center of learning and arts, and as having the potential to become the modern one. Attributes of the city and its special characteristics are the focus of several academic works. This might be attributed to the fact that Fes has always been associated with the Jewish people. This unique connection makes its historical evolution very appealing to many scholars.

"Today, we cannot talk about Fes without talking about the existence of Jewish people in places such as

the Mellah" said Simon Levy, director of the Casablanca Museum of Moroccan Judaism. Levy explained that the influence of the Jewish community can be clearly seen through the commercial aspect and the sig-



nificant role that it has played in much of the cultural life of Morocco. The Nouvelle Ville of Fes is another important part of this city. It is interesting to note that the nouvelle ville was originally constructed for French settlers, and it is located far away from the medina specifically for this purpose.

Its economic development is, perhaps, the most compelling aspect in the sense that Fes was flourishing and successful especially with regards to European countries of the time.

"There were a dozen of Fassi agents in Manchester purchasing and shipping out cotton; another Fassi was in Genoa purchasing silk goods; still another established a commission house in Marseilles employing French agents," wrote Horace Miner, professor at the University of Michigan.

## In Short

NEWS TEAM

Nov 19: Ms. Meriem Hassani of the Royal Air Maroc describes the firm's implementation of lean management for airplane maintenance.

\*\*\*\*\*

Nov 14: El Mehdi El Kettani, Hasnae Rehioui, and Yassine Elouri win the final round of the local ACM programming contest. SSE offers them a trip to Egypt to attend the Arab and North-African finals on November 22nd.

\*\*\*\*\*

Nov 13: SBA and the Al Akhawayn Upline Financial Center (AUFC) invite Mr. Younès Issami of Bank Al Maghrib for a talk on the management of interest rate risks.

\*\*\*\*\*

Nov 13: The Diplomacy Club invites Liberation Army veterans and experts on the period to discuss Morocco's path to independence.

\*\*\*\*\*

Nov 13: Regional Representatives from UN, the OXFAM NGO and the INDH discuss the achievements and shortcomings of Moroccan development, in a conference organized by the Moroccan Economic and Political Leaders club.

\*\*\*\*\*

Nov 12: SHSS and the Arabic Unit commemorate Mahmoud Darwish with readings by several poets, professors and students.

\*\*\*\*\*

Nov 11: Andre Azoulay, Advisor to the King, and Simon Levy, Director of the Moroccan Jewish Museum of Casablanca, among other notable speakers, describe Morocco as a model of Judeo-Arabic coexistence, during Mimouna Club's First Moroccan-Jewish Day.

\*\*\*\*\*

Nov 4: Mr. Fouad Ali El Himma, President of the Mouvement pour tous les Démocrates, and Mr. Salah Al Wadiaa, Spokesman of the Authenticité et Modernité party both postpone their appearance at the Diplomacy Club's conference on the role of youth in Morocco's political future. Mr. Hassan Ben Addi, the party's Secretary General, holds the talk alone, to mixed reactions.

\*\*\*\*\*

Nov 4: 82% of the 351 voters vote for Obama in the mock elections organized by the Diplomacy Club and the American Political System

\*\*\*\*\*

Nov 3, 4: Dr. Tim Niblock, leading authority on the Middle-East, describes China's relation to the Middle-East and Saudi Arabia's response to neo-liberal globalization in two talks organized by SHSS.

\*\*\*\*\*

Nov 3: Dr. Samuel Weber, a leading American thinker across the disciplines of literary theory, philosophy, and psychoanalysis, is invited by SHSS to discuss prominent philosopher Walter Benjamin's approach to the media.

\*\*\*\*\*

Oct 30: Flu shots are available to all anytime at the Health Center as Rotaract launches the Flu Campaign.

\*\*\*\*\*

Oct 29: Mr. Mohammed Afrine of the BMCE is invited by SBA to describe the modern methods of corporate evaluation.

## Staff Editorial

Dear Readers,

The auiBridge is back for a new issue, full of news and insights made by AUers, for AUers.

The Editorial team was delighted to see how its family has expanded over time. We thank all the students who have joined us and considerably contributed to the improvement of our publication. Again, it goes without saying: the auiBridge is your home, and you are more than welcome among us.

We also warmly thank the Design Club for setting up a whole new publications website. Yes, you can now access the auiBridge online, in an easier manner than before:

[http://www.aui.ma/sao/std\\_pub.html](http://www.aui.ma/sao/std_pub.html)

As usual, this month was packed with events at AUI: conferences, talks, sport team participations and shows to name a few... And whenever something happens, the Bridge is there! Inside you will find a complete coverage of all the major events having marked the month of November on campus.

November was also the occasion for the whole world to monitor a revolutionary change in World Leadership. By conquering the White House, Barack Obama not only made history, but also inspired a whole generation of youth on the power of will. As we belong to that generation, we thought that this issue would be incomplete without an insight on what this historic event means for all of us.

All this plus the usual sections: an exchange column, movie reviews, a faculty profile and a sports page.

Enjoy your reading!



## Letters to the Editor Scholarships at AUI

Dear editor,

I have read last issue's article about scholarships at AUI. Actually, I found the article interesting and I think it is important to raise that question and explore its details. However, I still think that more investigation is required to have an insight on the subject; perhaps the administration's opinion will be worth it.

Thank you.

El Mehdi Boudra,  
3rd year International Studies student

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear editor,

The scholarship article of the last issue was significantly rich of information concerning the merit details. Nevertheless, I need to know why the number of scholarships is not equally distributed among the three schools at AUI. Additional information will be great to include in your next article.

Ayoub El Mamoun,  
1st year Computer Science student

### NEXT ISSUE'S TOPIC

Human Resources  
Management at AUI

Have something to say?  
Write us a letter!  
Get it off your chest!

The AUI Bridge wants to  
hear from you!

[bridge@au.ma](mailto:bridge@au.ma)

## Letters to the Editor Policy

AUI BRIDGE welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 200 words and must include the writer's name. Editors have the right to edit letters for length, grammar and spelling. Letters may be delivered to the newsroom in the Student Activities Office or emailed to [bridge@au.ma](mailto:bridge@au.ma).

For more information, stop by the newsroom or contact the editor-in-chief.

**auiBridge**  
MASTHEAD

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Zouhair Mazouz

**News Editor**  
Abdelhadi Mekouar

**News Reporters**  
Ismael Khejjou  
Ismail Ougnaou  
Mouna El Mansouri  
Salma Lamqadam

**Features Editor**  
Ghassan Essalehi

**Features Reporters**  
Khadija Iraqi  
Zouhair Mazouz

**Entertainment Editor**  
Mohamed Amine Maissour

**Entertainment Reporters**  
Fatima Zahra Bennouna  
Mehdi El Youmi  
Mohammed Redouane Khrifi  
Omar Benabdellah

**Copy Editor**  
Nicolas Rogacki

**Production Editor**  
Mouna El Mansouri

Exchange at AUI

# My Experience in Morocco

 GRIFFIN EDWARD GASINK

As a former exchange student at AUI who decided to return to Morocco after graduation, my time at AUI clearly had a large influence upon me. When I arrived on January 16th, 2007, I had already lived in and traveled to several countries. I guess this fact made it easier for me to adjust to life in Morocco and I never suffered cultural shock. Life was made easier by the fact that I found the Moroccan students to be extremely hospitable, so much so that the first friends I made I met while waiting in line at the bookstore.

The rest of spring semester seemed to fly by, and I greatly enjoyed my Spring break where I traveled around Morocco meeting



up with my friends in their home cities. Now, by the time summer came around, I decided to stay and do summer session at AUI.

With these credits, I was able to graduate in December. Though throughout my final semester at University in the states, I was already pondering my return to Morocco, and given the fact that I was unable to obtain a job in the US, especially since I wanted to work in the finance sector, I decided to go to Morocco to teach English, and I have done just that, though I did work in tourism during the summer. I have nearly finished a year of living and working at AUI and so far so good.

My life as a working expat instead of a student has been very different. For one thing, I live and work in Rabat, and not quiet Ifrane, though I will confess that I do occasionally miss the forests. My social life has only changed as I have retained many friends from

AUI, I have also made new ones among the population of Rabat. The students of AUI are generally of wealthy backgrounds, but as an English teacher I don't exactly rake it in, so my neighbors and new friends are from the Moroccan middle class.

I have also greatly enjoyed the expatriot community here in Rabat, and have made friends from the United States, Europe, West Africa, and even far away places such as Latin America, and Korea, and these people have helped me adjust of life here.

This is not to say life has always been easy here. Somethings about Morocco do annoy me greatly, but that's life in every country. Every country has its good and its bad aspects, and its good people (my neighbor who cooked for me during Ramadan), and its bad people (the border guard that wanted a bribe from me), but that's life all over the world.

# God Bless Democracy

ZOUHAIR MAZOUZ

(continued from Page 1)

Barack Obama made a whole nation break up with an archaic vision of politics, one that stipulates that in order for somebody to take office, they must be affiliated to somebody who already did: slowly but surely, he crushed the Clinton political machine, defeated John McCain's heavily lobbied campaign, and made quite a happy ending to 8 years of "Bushphobia". Furthermore, Obama's victory was proof that when the opportunities of social promotion are guaranteed and equally spread, it is very likely that an enlightened and wise elite emerges from bottom up.

A new brand of politics is now born, not only for the United States, but for the whole world. No matter how undemocratic third world regimes can be, Obama's victory has inspired a whole generation of youth for a better world. What does it mean exactly for us?

Although obvious, the lessons of Obama's victory need restatement and emphasis. First of all, abstaining from voting or casting a "white" vote are no longer valid options for expressing disagreement. People who complain about their situation and seek change, stand up and fight for what they believe in; and fighting in that mat-

ter does not go beyond going to the ballots and casting a vote. That same vote is the most powerful tool on earth: it gives you the power to elect power. The 63.8% historic turnout of the US elections was evidence that when people push for change, chances are that they will get what they want. For the sake of voting, many Americans were eager to wait up until 6 hours before the ballots. Far, very far away from our 37% national turnout of the 2007 legislative elections... In addition, the involvement of the American people in their elections began way before November 4th. In fact, most of the funds acquired by



Barack Obama for running his campaign were coming from individual donations of the people: students, workers, employees, executives or soldiers donating small amounts by internet or sending \$2 bills to their candidate, taking citizenship to a whole other level; one in which the individual citizens, instead of special interest groups, are the major lobbyists. Wherever one comes from, s/he can only wish that such a "fever of involvement" takes up his/her country.

The other important teaching from the 2008 US elections is related to the behavior of statesmen. After graduating from Harvard Law School, Barack Obama could have easily worked in an upscale corporate environment. Instead, his first reflex was to help the modest families of the south side of Chicago in their legal troubles. That, added to his experience as a volunteering community

organizer, made him aware of the realities of mainstreet America. Subsequently, all his political agendas as a Senator and Presidential Candidate were very much relevant to the realities of everyday citizens. No wonder the popularity... The lesson? A statesman is just as good as the people view him. Appropriate political programs are rooted in the needs and concerns of the people, and not pushed in a top-down fashion. Sound familiar?

The Arab world's happiness with Obama's victory was very much linked to the potential change it can bring to the United States' foreign policy in the Middle East. However, this may not be the point. The point is how we, as young citizens, can be inspired from such a model of democracy to concretise the ideals that we believe in; and neither the competencies nor the good will are missing to do so.



## Faculty Profile

# About Dr Madia Thomson

GHASSAN ESSALEHI

(continued from Page 1)

In fact, it was her upbringing that resulted in her articulated English, not her place of birth.

Born in Liberia, Dr Madia Thomson grew up and studied in the United States of America. For her studies, Dr Thomson received her undergraduate degree in history from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania. As for her Ph.D., Dr Madia got

it from Boston University in the year of 2005. Between her MBA and Ph.D., Dr Madia took a five year break in which she finished course work in Paris, France.

Before she became an AUI faculty member in August 2007, Dr Madia had several visits to Morocco. Some of these visits (between the years of 1991 and 1993) were merely touristic and aimed at touring the country and discovering its

corners. Other visits (after the year of 1995) consisted of conducting doctorate studies. The regions which she visited included the Anti-Atlas such as Tazerwalt, Tata provinces, Goulmim, Sidi Ifni, Tarfaya and Laayoune in the southern provinces.

During her stay in Morocco, Dr Thomson worked in the American Language Center while studying the classical Moroccan Ara-

bic (ddarija). In addition to learning Arabic, Dr Thomson has a significant knowledge in French. For this reason, she was able to work for her father as a translator from French to English (at the age of 13).

At AUI, Dr Thomson teaches English Composition I, Women and Culture, and Contemporary Moroccan History. About her teaching style, Dr Thomson affirms that "Students tend

to appreciate the lectures and extension to which students can interact between each other".

When asked about her strategy of teaching, Dr Thomson makes it clear that she works "From the assumption that people know things and students have ideas". This way she prefers to give students space to interact and to express themselves.

(continued in Page 8)

## Faculty Profile

## About Dr Madia Thomson (continued from Page 7)

GHASSAN ESSALEHI

Concerning AUI, Dr Thomson says that it is "A very interesting university" in which one finds it hard to keep in touch with people. Also, Dr Thomson says that her colleagues from faculty seem to just "Appear and leave" since many of them live off campus and only come, mainly, to classes and offices hours. In addition, Dr Thomson frequently has opportunities to participate in conferences and seminars overseas. Taking part in projects is another mission to which Dr Thomson is devoted.

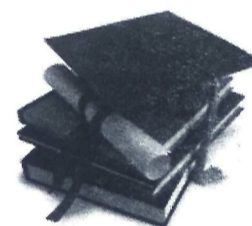
At AUI, Dr Thomson is not only a faculty member; she plays a role in the life of students through campus events. For example, Dr Thomson is a member of "Mimouna Club" and the advisor to the club entitled "Moroccan Economic and Political Leaders". Furthermore, Dr Thomson takes part of the German language classes of-



ferred by the "German Club". Apart from these regular commitments, Dr Thomson attended previous events organized by various clubs at AUI.

Regarding the faculty members and staff who leave AUI from time to time, Dr Thomson says that she fully understands the reasons why some people leave AUI. For example, Dr Thomson would like to "Stay around to see her advisee's finish their program at AUI". However, she says that she can do nothing if one day she has to leave AUI. Nevertheless, Dr Thomson points out to the fact that AUI's administration offers many advantages: clearly stated regulations about salary raises, sabbatical time details, tenure nominations, and work requirements as well as an important emphasis on faculty research projects, all constitute advantages from which faculty members can benefit.

## AUI's official say about Scholarships (Part 2)



KHADIJA IRAQI

As promised in the previous issue of AUI Bridge, our team did further investigation in order to provide adequate and convincing answers for the stated questions about the scholarship system at AUI. In this article, the administration's opinion about the scholarship will be presented. Other elements which will also be clarified in this article are the aim behind the scholarship system at AUI and to whom these scholarships are offered. In order to get responses to our questions, we met with Dr. Belfekih, the Vice President for Student Affairs, who was pleased to receive us and inform us about the administration's point of view about this subject.

"Scholarships are not part of a reward system. They are used to attract good students to the university," Dr. Belfekih declared. He clarified his point of view by stating that it is the best way to draw students with high educational qualities. According to the VPSA, it is also a strategy to remove the mistaken idea in people's minds

that Al Akhawayn University is only accessible to the wealthy people or the upper classes in Morocco: everybody has a chance to access AUI if he/she has the required qualifications for it. In the beginning of the interview, Dr. Belfekih clarified the imbalance of the scholarship distribution among schools by making clear that the only cause behind allocating more scholarships to the Engineering School than the Business or Humanities Schools is the special government program which sponsors the Moroccan engineers. Dr Belfekih also stated that the number of scholarships allocated depends on the budget of the university and the merit of the students and that the number of scholarships allocated to each school does not change since the scholarship system is set and clear.

The interview continued through discussing the criteria of selecting students that are eligible to receive scholarships at AUI. As a comment about the misleading grades of the high

school that are taken as a selection criteria when offering scholarships, Dr. Belfekih stated that these grades have a mere purpose of selecting the best students that deserve to be awarded scholarships. Furthermore, Dr. Belfekih insisted on the fact that the high school grades are the only data available to the university to rank students' academic performance as most schools and universities do; consequently, the administration is obliged to deal with it despite any unpredicted or undesirable consequences. In addition to this information, the University also uses its own aptitude test (GAT) and interviews applicants to assess other aspects that cannot be tested in writing. "Will the gain be worth the efforts?" answered Dr. Belfekih when we suggested that the university should have another exam next to the GAT for the students who ask for a scholarship. According to him, there is a real complexity in preparing this test; gathering specialized professors who are able to make the test in

Arabic or other languages is not an easy task to do. Also, the time and effort that are required to fulfil this task make our suggestion hard to implement. In addition to what is cited previously, students are complaining from the over testing that Al Akhawayn imposes on applicants: in addition to the GAT, interview, and TOEFL, the university also makes students take the French and Arabic placement tests.

Despite the lack of reliability in the data available (high school grades), AUI's committee of selection, comprised of professors, uses the available resources in order to minimize any improper choices in selecting the best students who deserve the scholarships. At this time and despite all the difficulties that the university faces in this field, the responsible committee tries to improve the scholarship system in terms of the selection process by studying all the suggestions and the alternatives that they can afford which would make a good return on investment.

## Spotlight

## Shattered: A movie you will not want to end

FATIMA ZAHRA BENNOUNA

Today's cinema is bombarded by easily predictable movies. As a society, we are always looking for something that can keep our attention and stimulate our senses, if only for 90 minutes. *Shattered* is one of these movies. It has a vein of intrigue and mystery which is bound to keep a viewer on the edge of their seat. The movie stars Pierce Brosnan, known from his roles as 007, Gerard Butler, the talented Scottish actor from *300* and *P.S. I love you*, and Maria Bello, who also starred in the *Mummy*, *The Tomb of the Dragon Emperor*. This exciting combination of actors combine to make the story very believable. The viewer can feel the excitement, the fear and the panic of the actors from where they sit or stand while watching the screen.

The plot of the movie is extremely intriguing. The story begins with the description of the perfect young American household. Gerard Butler and Maria Bello (Nell and Abby) are the parents of a beautiful girl who is about five years old. Abby gave up photography to raise her child and Nell is a very successful marketing manager who is expecting a promotion. He seems like the best husband and the best father, just the perfect man to have by one's side. The story takes place on Abby's birthday. They hire a babysitter for their daughter Sophie and decide that Abby is going to spend the night with her

girlfriends, and Nell is going to spend the weekend with his boss. The couple gets in the car and drives off leaving Sophie with the new babysitter whom they have just met for the first time. While still in the car, not too long after they said goodbye to their daughter, Tom (Pierce Brosnan) shows up from underneath the backseat with a gun in

his hand which he points at Nell as he gives a phone to Abby to tell her that he has her daughter. The babysitter is with him. Nell and Abby are panicked but what is there to do?! They follow Tom's instructions to the letter; he has their daughter. Tom makes Nell empty his bank account but soon it becomes clear that he is not interest-

ed in the money. He wants to see how much truth there is to the statement that parents will do anything for their child. Tom pushes the trapped parents to their limits and steps on Nell's pride cruelly. He has his wife and his daughter; he has burned all his money and made him lose his job. He leaves him with nothing for a while and makes him look like a fool when he finally decides to go see the police.

The story does not end here, at this point, you would be waiting for something to happen to the bad guy that would release Nell because you feel for him and his family, but it won't be the case. You may be wondering why Tom is torturing Nell in particular, that was also Abby's concern throughout the whole movie. They couldn't figure it out either, not until the very end of the movie at least. The plot is much more interesting than anyone can write here. The end is so shocking that you will not want the movie to end. I'll let you guys discover it for yourselves and I am sure you will enjoy it as much as I did.

*Shattered* is one of those movies that you like to watch over and over because it is so well done and so well acted. By the end, you feel so moved you can't wait to tell everybody about what you just figured out... Too bad the movie didn't make it to the theaters; it would have been a good one for a "Soiree cinema" with friends and popcorn.



## You Got Style

## The Nabaztag: living with a rabbit

MOHAMMED REDOUANE KHRIFI

Imagine you are at home. In a corner of your room on a coffee table, shelf or desk sits a beautiful little white rabbit. It says

## Technical details

- \* Size and weight: Height: 23 cm - base diameter: 13.5 cm - Weight: 1 kg
- \* Ears magnetic interchangeable
- \* Power adapter with tips for Europe, UK and America
- \* 110-220 Volt Power Supply
- \* Wi-Fi: 802.11 b or g
- \* Supported Encryption: WEP and WPA
- \* 2 W speaker integrated
- \* Jack for connecting external speakers
- \* Knob volume
- \* Microphone
- \* Ears motorized output / input

nothing, it is just there, wise and discreet, with a small light on its belly it spreads quietly funny animations.

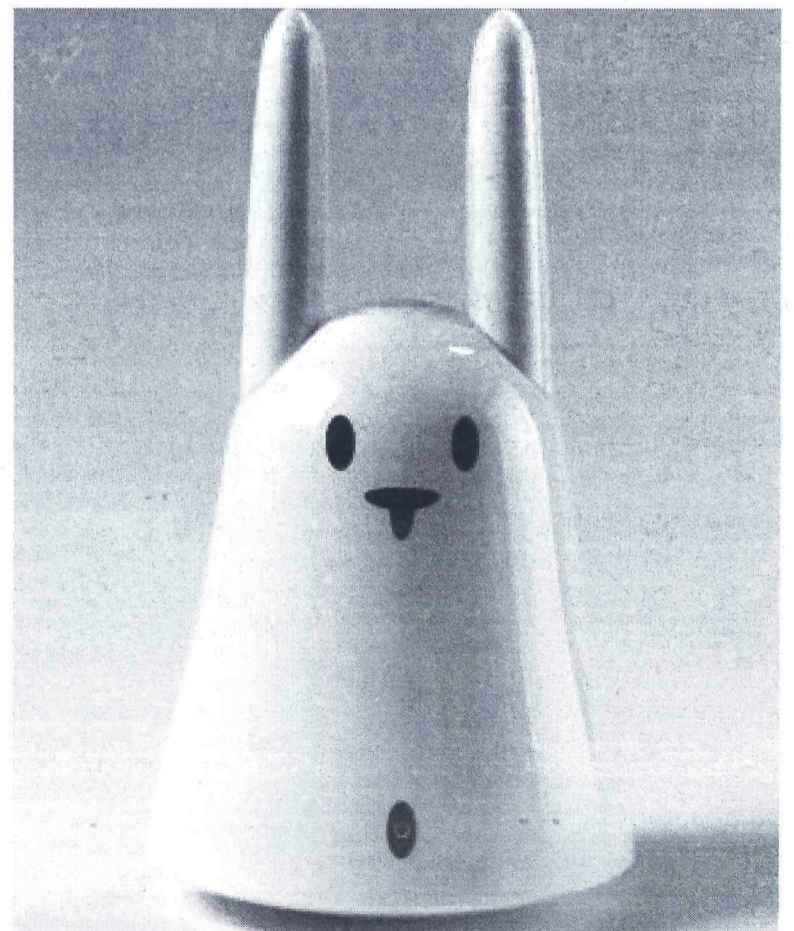
Suddenly, your rabbit comes alive and starts talking while moving its ears. It tells you that you have received an important email you were expecting, reads news that just come on a website, starts singing "Que

Je t'aimeu !" a declaration of love music that a friend sent you, or just does some minor exercises of Tai Chi to relax.

This rabbit is a "Nabaztag". It's a companion that is often quiet, but who knows how to be thundering, versatile, useful, funny, or poetic. A magical presence in your life. But Nabaztag is not just a rabbit; it is also a new technology.

The Nabaztag is a clever idea. It automatically connects to your home Wi-Fi network and starts looking permanently in the network to execute services you have requested and carries out the tasks that you have entrusted to inform you in real time. It reads the news and weather (from selected sources), tells you the time, reads emails and SMS messages and it even gives its own opinion on how well you have been interacting. And since Nabaztag feeds on the Internet and the Internet is not limited, there are no limits to what they can or will do. In short, it's a kind of sophisticated Tamagotchi for grown ups.

In summary, Nabaztag has the potential to be very impressive. Once you've got it set up correctly, it'll sit on your desk and keep you amused. The Nabaztag has proven to be a very useful tool while remaining a smart, friendly, funny and very cute gadget.



# Euro Valencia 2008: AUI Tennis and Soccer Teams Represent Al Akhawayn

MOHAMMED AMINE MAISSOUR

From October 15th to 19th, the AUI team sections of tennis and soccer were in Valencia, Spain to compete in the collegial tournament of Euro Valencia and defend our university colors. The teams arrived in Valencia Wednesday night to have some time to prepare for the tournament that was to start Friday. Training sessions on Thursday went well and allowed the teams to adapt to the climate and familiarize themselves with the soccer field or the tennis court. On Friday the 17th, the AUI soccer teams debuted in their first match against Madrid Elias University. AUI team dominated early on, netting three successive goals, and quieting the home crowd. A mistake in wall placement after a free kick helped to put Madrid Elias on the board 3-1. A second goal followed quickly making it 3-2 and giving Madrid Elias the momentum. Another free kick accorded to Madrid Elias tied the score. The game ended 3-3, giving one point to our team in interschool play.

The second game of the tournament matched our AUI Lions against the Lebanese of Saint Joseph University. The players were determined to leave their own defensive mistakes from first match behind them and started their second match with focus and confidence.

Their focus kept up throughout the game and our Lions, led by the coach Adil Kamane (a.k.a Sba3), savagely dominated their opponent. Showing their superior "footballistic" skills and their team spirit the Lions ended the match 3-1 in their favor.

The third match only served to reinforce the devastating effect of AUI Lions' determination and team spirit against the formation of ESADE Business School of Barcelona and

ended the game 3-0. The win against ESADE Barcelona allowed them to advance to the next round.

In the quarterfinal match, the Lions played the host team Valencia Polytechnic University. Prior to the game many of the players were wary of possible favoritism of the home team by the referee. The Valencia team played very well, and was dangerous thanks to their fast execution and their well

deployed collective game. After fifteen minutes, the referee indicated a free kick as a result of a catch by goal keeper Youssef Ztot which was called to have occurred outside his area. This call quickly led to a contestation from AUI team players who argued that the borders of the pitch were not well defined and that Youssef's action was regulatory. Valencia team took the opportunity of inattention by the Lions to score their first

goal, while the goal was empty. After trying to contest the goal, the game resumed and despite the numerous efforts of the Lions to tie the score, the game ended 0-1 resulting in their elimination from the tournament and the end of the journey for our team. Following the game, some of the players suggested that the referee was in the favor of the host team.

Our Tennis team, made up of Safaa Hajji and Anas Benghazi, fared better than our soccer team and was able to decisively win the tournament. The competition was played like a mini Davis cup; each match consisting of a male game, a female game, and a mixed double. In the round robin, the AUI team played Madrid Elias University and ESADE Barcelona respectively and beat them both easily. Not satisfied with their convincing victories, Hajji and Benghazi devastated the Swiss of Galen University, and then played a great match against the Lebanese of Saint Joseph University, to win the tennis title of Euro Valencia 2008.

Both of our AUI teams proved themselves as forces to be reckoned with and made us proud! We at The Bridge would like to wish them luck in the coming events on the national and international stage. GO LIONS!



## Derby Raja Vs Wydad: No winner for this time

MEHDI EL YOUNI

Sunday, November, 16th at 06:00 AM: my alarm rings and I wake up full of energy. Unlike every morning when I wake up to go to class, I knew that today was going to be special, I was going to watch the best Moroccan soccer game ever, the one that takes place only twice a year: the big Derby between Wydad Athletic Club and Raja Club Athletic.

Of course, I was not going alone. Twelve other students of AUI decided to go to Casablanca for the derby. We met at 06:30 for a quick breakfast and we took the road to Casablanca at 07:00. The atmosphere was nice and everyone was betting about the twenty-two players that were going to play. We arrived to Casablanca at 11:00. Everyone got their entrance tickets, and we all went to the stadium.

"Iwydad ou raja, jina lfraja": it was the slogan of this 105th edition of the derby. Like every year, the attendance was exceptional, but of course that meant that the queue was very long in the two check points. This year, the security was improved to prevent any type of hooliganism. While I was still in the back of the line, I could easily hear the massive crowd delirious inside the

stadium. Everyone was singing for their favorite team and the atmosphere was starting to heat up. Ninety minutes before the game, the stadium was almost full. Everyone was waiting for the best derby in the Arab world to begin.

Forty-five minutes later, the twenty-two heroes appeared for a warm up to the thunderous applause of about 60,000 attendees. They began to sing, adding to the already mounting pressure that threatened to bring the stadium down. We could bet about the tactics of the two coaches, and the critics started before even the beginning of the game. Regardless of the critiques and expectations everyone was confident in their own teams victory.

Five minutes before the start of the game, the two teams walked onto the lawn. The supporters of the two teams presented some of the best choreography I have ever seen in Morocco (called TIFO in the football jargon) and the derby began.

The derby started quickly. Omar Nejari missed the first real opportunity for the Greens in the third minute of the game. Assisted by "Tair" who gave him the ball on a silver plate, his shoot

went too far from the goal. Ten minutes later, the Red devils responded: Hicham Jouiaa intercepted a ball and missed his shot by mere centimeters. It was obvious that both Baddou Zaki and José Romeo, the respective coaches of the Reds and the Greens, were waiting for any mistake from the other team. Except a header of Mustapha Bidoudane that was not very dangerous, the crowd didn't see any real action, until the 27th minute, when the Reds got a free kick on the left side, 35 meters from the goal. Reda Doulyazal shot the ball, and hit the cross of the keeper, putting half of the crowd in total hysteria. Then in the 43rd minute, Nabil Masloub shot a free kick for the Greens that was easily intercepted by the international keeper Nadir Lamyaghri.

The second half was more interesting. In the 53rd minute, Khalid Sekkat assisted Hicham Jouiaa, who stole the ball from Jrindou and scored the first goal for the Reds. Half of the crowd was in a total delirium, but only for a few short seconds when everyone noticed that the referee indicated that "Hicham" was in an offside position. The goal was not validated and the game continued. Ten minutes later, Rafik Abdessamad, clearly the

man of the match, shot a free kick that really tested the Green keeper, Younes Ataba. Three minutes later, while everyone was waiting for his team to score, Hamada El Alami assisted Mustapha Bidodane who scored again for the Reds. However, the header of Mustapha was not validated by the referee who saw the ball going out of the bounds when it was shot by Hamada. The Greens tried to respond in the 70th minute when "Tair" missed a clear opportunity that could have been more dangerous for Nadir Lamyaghri. The Reds exerted pressure during the last twenty minutes, which lead to the two last opportunities of the game: the header of Rafik Abdessamad on the 86th minute and a free kick shot again by the same player on the 91st minute. The referee whistled on the 93rd minute to end game with 0 - 0.

We met in front of the van to go back to the AUI. All of us were exhausted, and most of us slept on our way back to Ifrane. It was a good experience that everyone wanted to repeat, though hopefully with a clear winner. That's why we've decided to meet four months from now for the second derby of the year. Hope to see you all there with us.

# Sudoku

Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

Level: Easy

5			4			7	2	
2	4		3		7			
		6	2		5	4		
	9		5			1		
	6	1				8	9	
		2			1		4	
		9	8		2	5		
			1		3		8	6
	8	4			6			3

Level: Medium

			5					4
	2	7			1		3	
8			9	2			1	
	7		6	3		5		
4				5				3
		1		8	9		6	
	8			7	6			9
	3		4			6	2	
7					5			

Level: Difficult

								7
			3			1	6	
6	2	3	5			9		
			4	7				3
		8		2		7		
5				3	6			
		1			3	8	9	5
	8	4			2			
9								

## Last issue's Sudoku solutions

Level: Easy

4	2	7	8	3	5	1	9	6
9	1	6	2	7	4	8	5	3
8	5	3	9	6	1	2	7	4
6	9	4	7	1	3	5	8	2
2	3	8	5	4	9	6	1	7
1	7	5	6	2	8	4	3	9
7	4	9	1	8	2	3	6	5
5	8	2	3	9	6	7	4	1
3	6	1	4	5	7	9	2	8

Level: Medium

6	1	8	7	5	4	9	2	3
7	3	5	9	8	2	6	4	1
9	2	4	3	6	1	7	5	8
8	4	7	2	1	3	5	6	9
1	9	6	4	7	5	3	8	2
3	5	2	8	9	6	4	1	7
5	7	3	1	4	8	2	9	6
4	8	9	6	2	7	1	3	5
2	6	1	5	3	9	8	7	4

Level: Difficult

6	4	2	5	8	7	1	9	3
9	1	8	2	3	6	7	5	4
3	5	7	4	1	9	6	8	2
4	2	6	8	9	3	5	7	1
8	9	5	7	2	1	3	4	6
7	3	1	6	5	4	9	2	8
2	7	4	1	6	5	8	3	9
5	6	9	3	4	8	2	1	7
1	8	3	9	7	2	4	6	5

## Living with Your Best Friend Quiz

WISSAM KHAOUID

When a freshmen lands on campus for the first semester, it is a whole new world. Most of the time you do not keep the same acquaintances and peer group you had in high school. You are assigned a roommate (If you have a single room then you'd better get outta here! This article isn't for you) ...Where was I? ...Yeah, they assign you a roommate that you don't usually know. The relationship is cold at first. Uncomfortable silence ensues, each in his territory attending to their own business, no crossing of the limits! At first, you might hang out together and some of these walls might be broken down, but more often you don't get past it. Simultaneously, you start cultivating your social garden on campus by making new connections and acquaintances. Suddenly, you find somebody eligible for being your best friend (a lot of common interests, tastes, etc.). You start making plans and sharing a great deal of your time with them, and systematically alienating your roommate. And

Mostly As:

You are obviously a laid-back person who does not like confrontation. While you are a good friend because you don't like drama, you run the risk of letting even your best friend walk all over you. Angeriness may start to build up inside if you don't ad-

finally, you think about moving in together. But how do you know that your friendship can handle living together next year? Our roommate experts have created a quick quiz to find out if you're ready to room together.

1. The carton of juice in the fridge is empty. You:

- a. Go to the store and restock
- b. Ask them as they are coming back to pick up some juice from the store
- c. Refuse to restock again because you feel you're the only one who ever buys the stuff

2. (for Ladies) Your best friend breaks up with her boyfriend the night before your midterm exam. You:

- a. Forget the intro fluff talk and persuade her that he still loves her
- b. Promise her to talk to her the next day
- c. You know this happens all the time between them, and don't get into what she's saying

3. Your best friend borrows

dress things that bother you.

Mostly Bs:

You and your best friend seem to have a strong relationship based on mutual respect and understanding. You guys can live together without major problems.

your shirt without asking. You:

- a. Are cool with it. You know they'll wash it later
- b. Explain to them in a mature way that they should've asked first
- c. Are upset because they always do this and get annoyed if you do the same

4. You like to keep the heat on and keep the windows closed. Your friend prefers the opposite. What happens?

- a. You play it cool, and adjust your clothing to the situation.
- b. You guys agree for somewhere in the middle, like opening windows in day-time and turning on the heat at night.
- c. You engage in a quarrel down the hall

5. You and your best friend have a disagreement. You:

- a. Just forget about it. It's not worth arguing over, and just apologize first to end the crisis
- b. Sit down and talk about it
- c. Don't talk for two weeks, and complain about their bad habits to all your friends

Mostly Cs:

You and your best friend obviously enjoy each other's company, but perhaps it's best to keep it in relatively small doses. The relationship is maybe superficial and won't last long.

## Jokingly...

There was a blonde who found herself sitting next to a Lawyer on an airplane. The lawyer just kept bugging the blonde wanting her to play a game of intelligence. Finally, the lawyer offered her 10 to 1 odds, and said every time the blonde could not answer one of his questions, she owed him \$5, but every time he could not answer hers, he'd give her \$50.00. The lawyer figured he could not lose, and the blonde reluctantly accepted.

The lawyer first asked, "What is the distance between the Earth and the nearest star?"

Without saying a word the blonde handed him \$5. then the blonde asked, "What goes up a hill with 3 legs and comes back down the hill with 4 legs?"

Well, the lawyer looked puzzled. He took several hours, looking up everything he could on his laptop and even placing numerous air-to-ground phone calls trying to find the answer. Finally, angry and frustrated, he gave up and paid the blonde \$50.00

The blonde put the \$50 into her purse without comment, but the lawyer insisted, "What is the answer to your question?"

Without saying a word, the blonde handed him \$5.

\*\*\*\*\*

A blonde had just totaled her car in a horrific accident. Miraculously, she managed to pry herself from the wreckage without a scratch and was applying fresh lipstick when the state trooper arrived.

"My God!" the trooper gasped. "Your car looks like an accordion that was stomped on by an elephant. Are you OK ma'am?"

"Yes, officer, I'm just fine" the blonde chirped.

"Well, how in the world did this happen?" the officer asked as he

surveyed the wrecked car.

"Officer, it was the strangest thing!" the blonde began. I was driving along this road when from out of nowhere this TREE pops up in front of me. So I swerved to the right, and there was another tree! I swerved to the left and there was ANOTHER tree! I turned to the right and there was another tree! I swerved to the left and there was ..."

"Uh, ma'am", the officer said, cutting her off, "There isn't a tree on this road for 30 miles. That was your air freshener swinging back and forth."



th  
Edition

# Moroccan Film Days

Tuesday 25th  
& Wednesday 26th  
November  
Starting 7p.m  
Blg 17

جامعة الأخوين  
AL AKHAWAYN  
UNIVERSITY

Em'  
Club

SAO