A word from the new Student Government President

By Maha Obaidan
News Editor

“Ms. President,” my new title as of the day I was elected the third president of Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar. I still remember the day Reem Khalid called me to congratulate me for winning; she was the first one to inform me. At that moment all that I could think of was the honorable responsibility I will be holding from now on.

My main goal as a President of the Student Government is not to be responsible in establishing events for the university, but to make sure that the students’ voices are heard. There are several goals that we, the SG, would like to achieve before we leave our seats.

The first goal as stated is to satisfy the needs of the student body, whether this means taking part of the new buildings structure or having a comfortable study room. We will do that with the help of the representatives of each year and major who will express the students’ opinions and wants.

Our second goal is to give the clubs on campus the responsibility to establish educational, enjoyable or relaxing events for our community. In addition, we will be supporting all their ideas and providing any opinions if needed for any event as long as they are not against university policy.

Our third goal is to establish a joint “family” bridge between SG members and the other students. We feel every student should be comfortable enough to approach us, after all we are here because you voted for us. Moreover, all students are invited to join our meetings to express opinions or concerns.

Our fourth goal is to try to have joint events with other universities. Naif Al-Kaabi, the Ambassador of SG, will be responsible for this.

These are only our main goals, however there are more listed. I truly believe that students have the right to know every step we take in the SG, therefore you will always be updated on our ideas and goals.

Again I want to mention what an honor it is to be elected as your new president. I also would like to mention that the SG team is incredible. All of the vice presidents, representatives and student affairs staff are members who care dearly for the Carnegie Mellon community.

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Distinguished Lecture Series opens with A Model for Matisse

By Dana Hadan
News Editor

Carnegie Mellon Qatar was privileged to host Barbara F. Freed, Professor of French Studies and Applied Linguistics at Carnegie Mellon University since 1990, as the first speaker in the Distinguished Lecture Series.

In addition to her interest in linguistics, Freed has a great passion for art, which led her to develop a new area of exploration: film production. During her visit, Freed screened her documentary A Model for Matisse: The Story of the Vence Chapel, which is about the masterpiece of twentieth-century artist Henri Matisse.

Freed’s fascinating documentary is an opulently painted exposé of the relationship between Henri Matisse and a Dominican nun, Sister Jacques-Marie, who was the source of inspiration for him to create what Matisse declared as the masterpiece of his lifetime: The Chapel of the Rosary.

Faculty, staff and members of Qatar Foundation were invited to the event and were all enthralled by the personal and historic aspects of the story underlying the creation of Matisse’s masterpiece. After the show, the floor was opened for question, which gave the audience a better idea about Freed’s background, her interest in film production and arts and the production of A Model for Matisse.

Life on Wall Street: an insider’s look at a career in the city that never sleeps

By Ramzi Ramsey
Contributing Writer

Quite a few students have come to see me regarding what Wall Street is and whether it is right for them. This article is meant to assist those people who want to gain more knowledge about an industry where the salaries are unmatched anywhere in the world, the competition is intense and the workload is beyond demanding.

Most of the top students at Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh are majoring in business, mathematics, information systems, engineering or computer science looking into the possibility of getting a job in the financial services industry in New York.

Many IS majors prefer to go down the IT route at major New York banks as opposed to working at a software or programming company. However, the majority of people interested in Wall Street jobs look at two fields - sales & trading and investment banking.

Most Carnegie Mellon majors head into the sales and trading side of the business because it is quantitative and has an extremely fast-paced lifestyle. Salespeople call clients regarding the sale of debt, equity, currencies, forwards, futures, options, and other complex financial derivatives. They work hand in hand with the traders who execute the deals in the financial markets.

Traders and salespeople typically have to be at work by 6:30 am, which is a few hours before the market opens up, so they can get organized and get ready for the day.
Life on Wall Street: an inside look at a career in the city that never sleeps

(Continued from page 1)

their day at around 5:00pm.

Each analyst has to provide his or her seniors with market ‘color. This is basically your opinion on where the market will be moving that day. You are free to say whatever you want - you can say the market will tank or it will triple in the course of the next few hours. They key is that you have to know how to answer the why part of their question.

This is a lot harder than it sounds. Most of the people you will be dealing with have 15 or more years of experience in the market and some 20-something year old isn’t going to be taken seriously. You have to earn their respect.

I recently watched the movie ‘The Pursuit of Happyness’ with a few students. At one point actor Will Smith is running around in the office in the sales room and his boss comes up and asks him to get coffee for the guys. At other times in the movie, they tell him to get lunch and other seemingly useless tasks. However, this seemingly useless task is actually symbolic of the trust-building process at a bank.

Managing Directors (the top guys in a group) and your superiors will typically send their coffee and food orders to the small guys in a division and if that person consistently gets their orders right without any mess ups, he will start trading on the multi-million dollar portfolios quicker than the other analysts. It’s as simple as that. Coffee ordering and food ordering is a weeding out process.

After about six months on the job and you are certified and have passed your exams, you will start trading on accounts with small amounts of money ($100,000s) and work your way up. Your job has fewer hours than a banker’s, but your hours are much more stressful. You will typically have people shouting at you, cursing you and telling you how useless and pathetic you are.

It is also common to see people smashing their phones into their terminals out of frustration after losing a huge amount of money. You have to roll with the punches if you want to survive. Having thick skin to withstand their abuse is virtually a requirement. You have to be able to take it and move on.

Situations like this is an understatement - you basically have to have the skin of an elephant to survive in this industry. However, really talented traders and salespeople can make huge sums of money. All first years in the S/T field get a base salary of more than $60,000 with the potential for a 20-40% bonus based on their performance. As you move up in the ranks, your entire salary is determined by your performance. There was an article I read in the ‘Financial Times’ discussing an Iranian traders’ bonus for 2006. He was one of the top guys in Goldman Sachs in London - he made approximately $75 million in one year in bonus only. The relatively short 11 hour day is also highly coveted on the street.

Carnegie Mellon sends about 40 people to Wall Street each year. Of this number, about 20 are business majors with the others coming primarily from the engineering field. Of these 40, about 20 go into business majors with the others coming from the S/T field. Of these 40, about 20 go into S/T, 5 or 10 highly-quantitative positions, 5 into banking, and the others are scattered around the bank in the capital markets field.

The investment banking field is one of the most competitive positions in the world, with each bank selecting between 70-120 analysts from a pool of over 5,000. Investment banking is the raising of funds (debt and equity) for client firms. They help customers raise these funds in the Capital Markets and they also advise on Mergers and Acquisitions.

Many people get confused as to what an investment bank is and what falls under its umbrella. Many people consider sales and trading, research (people who research stocks/ bonds) and corporate finance as the ‘divisions’ under investment banking. Corporate finance follows the definition I gave regarding the raising of funds for clients. Even though research and S/T fall beneath the investment bank’s bracket, they do not refer to themselves as investment bankers.

These vague definitions I am giving regarding the groups within the investment bank could be contradicted when you go to work at a bank - each bank likes to name things its own way. Why? Because I’ve learned bankers have two things - big egos and low attention spans. They get bored of the typical names, so they like to change it up every now and then just to confuse everyone for the sake of it.

Bankers are notorious for working long hours. The average day ranges from 9 am until about 1 am Monday through Friday. You will also pump in about 15 hours on the weekend, for a grand total of about 95 hours a week. This is a normal week. Bad weeks when a deal is going on may bump your hours up to 110. This does not come without fair compensation though. Bankers also make the $60,000 base salary, but earn bonuses ranging from 80% - 120% of their salary the first year out of college.

While the horror stories aren’t as bad as you have been told, the stress is real. Life in the cube farms becomes home and home becomes that place you dream about every now and then as you are modeling away or creating a pitch book. So why do people want to be bankers? Employers know how selective the process is and an investment bank on your resume is gold. You also learn a skill set with the fundamental values of perfection, speed and quality and interact with the minds that are shaping the world. Some of my friends this past summer worked on the HCA healthcare deal that was worth over $30 billion - that is an experience of a lifetime.

Hopefully this article gives you a little taste of what Wall Street is about. If you have questions, email me at rramsey@cmu.edu. Next time - some tips about the stock market.
Basketball team whips Texas A&M in an action-filled, intense game

By Ramzi Ramsey
Contributing Writer

Carnegie Mellon’s basketball team beat Texas A&M 35-26 in an intense and extremely physical game on Saturday in the Green Gym. As the game was about to begin, Texas players outnumbered Carnegie Mellon players 2-1 and had a coach on the sideline. They even had a cameraman with a video camera and tripod. Before the start of the game, they practiced several organized drills and appeared to be a tough team.

After a chant of 1-2-3 CMU-GU (Carnegie Mellon and Georgetown) the team was ready to go. Although the chant was ugly, it apparently was effective enough to break down the Texas team. During the first quarter, Eric Helin started at the center position with David Duke at the power forward position. Our two big men reminded us of David Robinson and Tim Duncan as the Twin Towers for the San Antonio Spurs.

At point guard was Ramzi Ramsey, at shooting guard was Andrew Leung and at small forward was Jon Caulkins. During the first quarter, the Carnegie Mellon team used a barrage of drives towards the basket and the power of the big men to jump to a five point lead. The Texas point guard and a Texas forward seemed to be the main players on their team - Ramsey and Duke held them to a scoreless first quarter. Caulkins ran circles around the opponents with his stealth-moves he learned out of Rand. His defense proved to be an important asset to the team. For his students in Opti: you cannot run or hide from him, because he will run after you and find you.

After halftime, the Texas team began to rally from their nine point deficit halfway through the third quarter. They made two consecutive lay-ups and began to get their crowd into the game. After stopping the last Texas attempt of the half, the Carnegie Mellon team led by seven points.

Over the course of the first half, the Carnegie Mellon team had its incidents with the referee who apparently thought he came straight out of the NBA. The Carnegie Mellon team racked up over 10 traveling calls, 10 personal fouls, and a few other ridiculous calls. Despite the distraction, the team pulled together and focused on the opponent and tried to get that “W”.

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After the Carrollton team made a 3 pointer from the top of the 3-point line and put a dagger right through the Texans’ hopes.

Nedjari came back into the game and played some tough defense on the Texas guards. They came to realize quickly that Nedjari can run like fire and they had to adjust for his presence.

By the time the midpoint of the fourth quarter came about, the Carnegie Mellon team had built a comfortable nine point lead and was coasting on its way to victory. We still had our run-ins with the referee, who called more traveling calls on Duke and a hilarious technical foul on Ramsey (which even confused the Texas players).

All in all, the Carnegie Mellon team stayed together and did played a phenomenal amount of teamwork and cooperation. The camaraderie was thoroughly impressed. They were exhausted - but they stayed together and beat a coached team that was twice their size.

Special thanks go out to Lanny Duke, Caryl Tuma and Sylvia Pessoa for their support and out-cheering the 15 Texas fans. We do hope to see more fans at our next game.

Raindrops on Roses...What happened to the sunshine?

By Wesam Saeed
Features Editor

From the start of the 2006 Asian Games, citizens and tourists of Doha have been surprised by the strong rainy weather. Lightening, wet roads and layers of clothing are not things you think of when you say Doha, but that changed this year.

Weather changes seem to be redefining the seasons of Doha. We’ve had showers of cold weather in Qatar in recent years, but not to this extent.

One of the reasons the weather change is a big deal is because of the negative impact it had on some events such as the cancellation of the Sean Paul concert.

Also, the adverse weather conditions may have contributed of the death of Kim Hyung-Chil, a horse rider who was thrown off of his horse and stepped on during the Asian Games competitions.

Flooded roads and slippery conditions also contribute to motor vehicle accidents because a lot of Doha drivers are unaware of the extra precautions that must be taken in wet conditions. Your vision can be impaired, your car may handle differently and it may take you longer to stop.

Although the rain was “depressing,” it was a nice change. It may have affected us positively in that we can be more appreciative for the sunny weather we are accustomed to. Either way, the weather is expected to warm up at least for the next few weeks. And before we know it we will all be complaining about how hot and dry it is.

Some students feel that they can change the weather themselves. Lina El-Menshawy shares her opinion in class, when she says confidently “I can fight & change the weather by wearing bright summer colors!” I myself will try that method, as I hope that it works.
By Hanadie Yousef
POLITICS/World Events Editor

Saddam Hussein’s reign in Iraq and final overthrow by the US-led invasion into the region has resulted in many catastrophes. It has resulted in abrupt changes in lifestyle and stability for Iraqis and the Middle East at whole.

Weeks after his death, a few students in Education City ponder Hussein’s execution and how it has effected the Iraqi people and the country’s future.

Hussein’s execution and the manner in which it was carried out has intensified the rift between Shia and Sunni Muslims. There have been many mixed feelings throughout the Middle East regarding Saddam Hussein’s execution and its impact on the Iraqi people.

These feelings are echoed among the culturally diverse students here in Education City.

“Saddam’s execution was a humiliation to the Arab people, a slap in the face. Saddam, an Arab leader, was executed on the first day of Eid. His execution displayed prejudice between Shia and Sunni,” said Anas Abu Qamar (Tepper, 2009), who is of Palestinian origin.

“Saddam did many bad things in his life and the people hated him for it. He killed thousands of people, but the way his life was ended changed his image. He was strong till the last minute, and it made more people respect him and even have pity on him. Execution had a positive effect on his image,” Abu Qamar says.

Hussein’s hanging was committed unceremoniously, on the first day of Eid for Sunni Muslims. Eid is a holiday whose theme is forgiveness.

In so doing, the Shiite-dominated regime made it clear that its own religious calendar, not the Sunni version, is all that matters in the New Iraq.

“Saddam was a criminal for so many reasons, but the way they humiliated Arabs in general, is not the way the Iraqis wanted it. His execution was done on the first day of Eid- I really did not know how to react,” says Wessam Said (Tepper, 2008), who is of Iraqi origin.

In many Arab countries where Sunni Muslims are a majority, Hussein has been regarded as a martyr. The way he was executed and the dignity he displayed virtually cleansed him of his murderous past.

Libya for example plans to erect a statue of Hussein near the site of a monument to Omar al Mukhtar, a Libyan national symbol who resisted the Italian invasion of Libya and was hanged by the Italians in 1931.

“The situation there is so bad and killing him right before the new year and within the 1st day of Eid for Sunni people left such a bad impact on the people everywhere in the world and this mistake made Hussein into a hero. I am not saying he was a hero, not at all, but every president makes mistakes and no one is perfect in this world,” said Sinan Sabih, a pre-med junior at Cornell University. Sinan grew up in Baghdad, where his family remains.

Not everyone feels Hussein’s death has resulted in him being a martyr. “The fact that Saddam Hussein was executed on Eid was insignificant to me. I have heard conspiracy theories that his death on Eid was a tactic, in order for the US to air footage of Muslims celebrating and say it was due to Saddam’s death,” said Hadi Darvishi, a foreign services freshman of Iranian origin at Georgetown.

“Saddam deserved to be punished, but he should not have been executed by the new government,” said Muhammad Jwad, a first year pre-med major at Cornell University.

Muhammad grew up in Baghdad, where his family still remains. “The government is a puppet government- they are criminals. There is no justification in criminals murdering criminals.” Many Iraqis do not feel loyalty to the Shia dominated government that was put in place after Hussein’s downfall, claiming the United States controls it.

“The new government cannot control the current situation. It is a puppet of neighboring nations and is subject to the interests of other over seas forces. Unfortunately, Iraq has become a base for the terrorists to get revenge on the United States. So basically the Iraqi people are in the middle stuck between governments that do not care about the destiny of Iraqi people, and are stealing from Iraq,” said Sinan.

“Things are even worse now than before. The Iraqis have no electricity, no telephone lines and no benzene. In a country filled with natural resources and oil, why are the Iraqi people suffering so much, and in such poverty? The people have nothing, and the government is not and cannot do anything about it,” said Muhammad.

“Saddam stole and kept the money inside Iraq, but now foreigners, multiple governments are stealing our oil and natural resources. Most of these foreign governments do not care about the Iraqi people, and even have relations with the Death Squads. Rather than take measures to preserve Iraq’s resources and improve the lives of Iraqis, the new government collaborates with the foreigners.”

Will peace and stability return to Iraq? Can an uncorrupt democracy solve Iraq’s sectarian problems? Will there be a day in our lives when Iraq has a stable government that takes care of its people and thrives off its own natural resources? Only God knows.
Palestine: The fight for power
Fatah and Hamas to form a Unity Government

By Hanadie Yousef and Anas Abu Qamar
Politic/World Events Editor & Contributing Writer

Recent events in Palestine have been leading up to what many Palestinians fear the most: an all out Palestinian civil war between supporters of the two ruling factions, Fatah and Hamas.

The recent agreement made in Mecca, brokered by the Saudi government, calls for the resignation of the leading party Hamas and the creation of a Unity Government which recognizes previous agreements made between the Palestinian and Israeli governments.

What are the circumstances behind the current Palestinian crisis and inner politics? What are the prospects for peace and unity between Palestinians, and the moving forward of negotiations with Israel?

As tensions between Fatah and Hamas have escalated and economic sanctions by Europe, Israel and the United States continue unabated for over a year, an increasing number of Palestinians have called for the creation of a Unity Government in the hopes of ending the sanctions and reopening peace negotiations.

"The people of Fatah and Hamas must fight the occupation together; they are one nation that must defend their land," said Omar Alaref, a sophomore at Texas A&M, who came to study from Jerusalem. "I think the recent agreements made in Mecca has put a permanent end to the blood shed."

Not everyone is so optimistic. "I do not believe the Mecca deal will bring change to the current situation of civil war between Palestinians," said Ma's Taha, a sophomore of Palestinian origin at Texas A&M University. "It will help minimize the blood shed, but if the internal disputes don't get solved on the personal level, if the powers don't make an agreement amongst themselves then the blood shed will never stop."

The question remains as to who is to blame for the recent tensions between Palestinians, and the economic and political crisis that is threatening to suffocate the Palestinian people.

"The fighting powers, Hamas and Fatah, should be blamed for the current Palestinian economic crisis since each of the powers is trying to defeat the other and are forgetting about the real crisis they are facing, which is to end the occupation of their land, stated Ma's.

"Recent political events might help them reach an agreement to face their real enemy instead of each other."

"Fatah and Hamas are to blame for the current Palestinian inner fighting, although Fatah made a separate security force as soon as they came into power. My grandfather did not support this," said Hala Abbas (Tepper, 2008), who is the granddaughter of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Hamas denounced former Palestinian agreements made with Israel as soon as they came into power and refused to change their stance on the recognition of Israel.

From their very first moments in power they were refusing to cooperate with Mahmoud Abbas. How can any progress be accomplished with this sort of mentality? How can they refuse to recognize any former agreements, when, ironically it was the Oslo Accords that even gave them the ability to become an accepted political party?" said Abbas.

"I think that the fighting between Fatah and Hamas stemmed from the normal difference of opinions and points of view, but what made all this increase to physical clashes is the lack of authority which Israel is ultimately responsible for," said Omar. Many Palestinians do not trust Israeli intentions, and believe Israel is at the source of the tensions and chaos raging in the Palestinian government.

"Israel is the main cause of the current crisis, although the Israeli government didn't start it in a direct way. It destroyed Palestinian authorities and gave weapons to the traitors, whom are composed of rebelious people from both sides," said Alaref.

"The only one who can benefit from this situation is Israel. It wants to apply the concept of 'Divide-and-Conquer'. All the facts point that Israel doesn't want adopt any peace agreement with anyone," said K. Hassiba, a sophomore of Palestinian origin at Texas A&M University.

Israel is now making several demands to the Palestinian Unity Government, which the Palestinians must comply with before Israel releases the millions of dollars in taxes it has been withholding from the Palestinian government for the past year. These demands include public recognition of the State of Israel's right to exist, acceptance of former agreements signed by the PLO, and an end to Palestinian resistance.

The most controversial of all demands and the center of Israel's arguments has been Hamas's refusal to recognize Israel. "As for not recognizing Israel: how do you expect one to recognize the murderer that kills his family and friend? Israel doesn't deserve to be recognized by Palestinians; let them stop their tyranny and then we will think about recognizing them," said Alaref.

Even Israeli army acknowledge the one-sidedness of these public demands. "The Palestinians must recognize the right of Israel to exist (without defining its borders, of course), but the Israeli government is not required to recognize the right of a Palestinian state to exist at all."

The Palestinians must put an end to "terrorism", but the Israeli government is not required to stop its military operations in the Palestinian territories and stop the building of settlements. The "roadmap" does indeed say so, but that has been completely ignored by everybody, including the Americans. The Palestinians must undertake to fulfill the agreements, but no such undertaking is required from the Israeli government, which has broken almost all provisions of the Oslo agreement," said Uri Avneri in Gush Shalom.

The sanctions imposed on the Palestinian government by the US and its European allies, and the amount of financial and political support being given to Israel by the US have strong impacts on the motives and success of a future Palestinian Unity Government. How will the West, and particularly the US, respond to a unified government? "I don't believe that they will respond to any government unless its plans is similar to the US government. The US government claimed that it wants democracy for the Palestinians, assuming that the resulting new government would be a group of people who shares its ideas, and it was unprepared for Hamas's victory. So the world won't respond positively unless the new government gives up some of the Palestinian's essential beliefs, like: if they confirm the right of existence of Israel, and give up the Palestinian right to self defense," said Hassiba.

"The West should, and must respond to a Palestinian Unity government by resuming funds and ending sanctions. If the Hamas representatives of the new government respect former agreements and the Oslo Accords, the world will surely respond," said Hala.

U.S. personal interests will play a very large role in the progress of the Palestinian Unity government, and whether it is recognized as legitimate by the world powers. Saudi Arabia, which is an American ally, a key oil player and center-piece of the Sunni influence in the Middle East, was behind Palestinian negotiations.

The Saudi king may inform the U.S. of the urgency of solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in order to curb the spread of Iranian influence in the Middle East. On the other hand, the pro-Israel lobby in America is very important, both for political and economic support of the Bush administration.

In the end, it will depend on the will of the Palestinian government to take control of its actions and do what is in it's power to protect the Palestinian people. As Omar said, "I think that Allah is great. If we have to pay a big price for our will, freedom and dignity so let it be. We chose Hamas and we're not giving up for some bloody money. I think this will all go away soon because Fatah and Hamas together can work out this problem. And I am positive about that."
Students react to story on culture being for sale in the Middle East

On February 5, 2007, writer Youssef Ibrahim wrote a story in The New York Sun entitled “Can Culture Be Bought in the Gulf?” Among the criticisms of the new wealth in the Gulf Region was that “nowhere near enough qualified Qatari or Gulf Arab students have been found, nor have foreigners, even when offered full scholarships, joined what in effect are gated communities in a society living in the 18th century.” This remark about Education City has sparked reaction among many here on campus.

Mohamed Dobashi
Associate Dean and CEO

Mr. Ibrahim, so right is the Arab proverb you quote in your article and my advice to you is to embrace it. As the Arab proverb says, “He who lacks something cannot give it.” He who lacks proper information should not provide unsupported assumptions and come to false conclusions.

The Qatar Educational program is at its infancy and certainly cannot be called anything more than a success today. It takes years to develop an educational system and what Qatar has done is leap-frog by bringing in these prestigious universities which are attracting students from over 25 different nationalities.

So, before coming to any conclusions I would recommend that you gain a little more knowledge about what’s going on in Qatar by speaking with the students, faculty and administration of the universities who are participating. By doing that you will have something to give and not be in violation of the Arab proverb you so kindly quoted.

Noor Al Atirah
Editor in Chief

It astonishes me how such an unsupported, shallow perspective is published in The New York Sun. I would not be surprised if the writer never visited Qatar or UAE and is just writing out of thin air.

Qatar’s “education system” (Education City) is one of the best. Each of the universities mentioned in the article in addition to Virginia Commonwealth University and Georgetown University, which are also members of EC, maintain the standards of their mother campuses back in the states. Teachers of all universities have taught in the US, most of which in the mother campuses.

The administrative and educational processes followed are very much like those of all universities have taught in the US, and molding. One thing has become certain to Mr. Ibrahim has wrongly interpreted an Arab proverb to mean something that supports his article.

He who lacks proper information should not provide unsupported assumptions and come to false conclusions. The Qatar educational program is at its infancy and certainly cannot be called anything more than a success today. It takes years to develop an educational system and what Qatar has done is leap-frog by bringing in these prestigious universities which are attracting students from over 25 different nationalities.

I appreciate and completely agree with Mr. Dobashi’s statement. No where else in the world have such initiatives been taken in order to provide a country’s residents as well as those from around the world with top quality education in a variety of fields. Through his article, one may infer that Mr. Ibrahim has either failed to pay this part of the world a visit in recent years or has completely misunderstood this regions growth for something else.

As a non-Arab student who has resided in the Gulf majority of my life, I took Youssef Ibrahim’s article as offensive and incorrect. Acknowledging that certain areas of corporate culture do in fact require finesse and molding. One thing has become certain from this article: Youssef Ibrahim should reconsider how he words his opinions in order to not sound so ignorant and offensive towards the people who have collectively experienced and been responsible for some of the largest economic growth that has taken place in any region in the last decade. It is going to be tough to find art lovers in a country in which the height of sophistication consists of chatting on cell phones in movie theaters at shopping malls.

Mr. Ibrahim should in fact realize this is more of a global phenomenon rather than an Arab one.

Nora Al Subai
CS Junior

It seems as though Youssef Ibrahim’s recent op-ed titled, “Can Culture Be Bought in the Gulf?” has raised many controversial arguments. While many of his statements are unsupported, Ibrahim brings up issues that are in dire need of discussion.

While Ibrahim criticizes Arabs of “faking modernity and letting go of their Arab history, he too, hypocritically does the same. In speaking of Arab interests, Ibrahim refers to them as “our American nation interests.”

Youssef Ibrahim is a pretentious Egyptian, also commonly known as an “American wannabe.” While it is undoubtedly true that many Arabs are modernizing, could it be possibly true that they are indeed “confusing modernity with tall buildings?”

While Qatar’s aspiring act of bringing high-class education to the Middle East is an evolutionary act of progress, how promising are the universities taking part in this evolutionary development? The people of Qatar, in some ways, are at a greater disadvantage than most people around the world. We have no Gandhi’s, Martin Luther Kings, Nelson Mandela’s, Che Guevaras or even the Beatles.

But what we do have, is a lust for learning and progress for progressive change – all made possible by H. H. Sheika Moza Bint Khalifa Al Thani and Sheika Moza Bin Nasser Al Misnad.

Although in recent history Arab nations have had a blurred vision from the growing economy of its oil industries, let us not forget our historical achievements. Algebras was invented by Al Khawarizmi, the telescope by Abul Hasan, the pendulum by Ubn Yunus, the watch by Kuthbi, gunpowder by Mir Fatehullah Khan, as well as other innovative progressions in science and math.

It seems to me that in the past Arab nations have forgottten their contributions to the advancement of the world. Moreover, by their growing oil discoveries, they have been absorbed by the money they consumed, that they look to the progression of entertainment and fashion rather than education. But the money that the Arab nations have will not last long, if they do not invest in long-term benefits, education being the most important of those benefits.

Those familiar with the movie “Syriana” might remember this quote: “They think that a hundred years ago [Arabs] were living in tents out here in the desert chop ping each other’s heads off and that’s where you’ll be in another hundred years.”

While many Arab nations use their country’s money to buy expensive and point less yachts, mansions and other unnecessary commodities, Qatar is aware that money doesn’t last and is choosing to invest it.

In the past decade or so, there have been a lot of changes. It would be ignorant to say that the United States is not one of the leading countries of the world (in terms of advancements), and our Arab students are learning American education in a way that is applicable to our region as well as to the international community.

Furthermore, Arab students are far more educated and promising than Ibrahim. While Ibrahim preaches on behalf of Arabs whilst living in his American Dream, the Arab students in Education City take pride in their education and in using that to better the Arab world – which is more than can be said about Ibrahim.

Editor’s Note: To read Can Culture Be Bought in the Gulf, log onto http://www.nysun.com/article/480017/page_no=1.
Israeli police enter Jerusalem: Muslim’s third holiest shrine

Noor AlAthirah
Editor-in-chief

After a rage elevation between Muslims praying the Friday prayer at Al-Aqsa mosque, they erupted by throwing stones over Israeli renovation work near the mosque. The issue of controversy is the renovation of an earthen ramp leading to the hilltop compound, which is believed to damage the mosque.

The mosque and Dome of the Rock are two of the most sacred places to Muslims. Hence, rejection to any threats of damaging either is only natural. Israeli renovation efforts might be of good cause. Nevertheless, knowing that Muslims get furious when any of their religious sites or beliefs is at risk should have signaled to Israel that such an effort is troublesome.

When Palestinians take any action against Israel, Israelis respond in the most brutal manner. However, when Israelis take an action against Palestinians, such as risking the being of their holy sites, Palestinians are not expected to respond aggressively according to the Israeli mentality. Where is justice in that?

A number of Palestinians were injured by the storming of the police. Tear-Gas bombs were thrown on Palestinians right at the door of the mosque. What happened to respecting our religion and holy sites? Why were old men beaten up by the police and dragged like animals?

Despite the unjust move of the police to Muslims’ holy site, the way Palestinians attempted to fight back was honorable. Palestinians were still praying when the Israeli police surrounded the mosque.

On the one hand, the police was armed, as always, with guns and bombs, and were covered from head to toe with protective wear. On the other hand, Palestinians were unarmed, dressed in casual clothes. When attacked by Israelis, Palestinians did not run away, they stood and cried “Allaho Akbar”.

Although they were faced by some 200 police men grouped together, holding guns, and throwing bombs, Palestinians were fearless.

It was well heard through broadcasting that reporters were asking old men and women to move away from the police, but they refused. Nobility, loyalty, and pride were obvious to the observer at that moment, and all similar moments.

Notes from the All Around Editor-In-Chief

Noor AlAthirah
Editor-in-chief

Welcome to our second issue in the semester, and first renovated edition. I am very proud of the All Around team for finding time in their tight schedule to write and work for the newspaper. The team’s motivation and commitment are astonishing. All Around started in the fall of 2004 with only four members and now we are nineteen strong. The newspaper (as of this issue) has attracted many readers since the very first edition.

The All Around success reflects the success of those working on it.

The team manages to represent the professionalism of our university. It makes me very proud to see readers waiting on an issue to come out or suggest new ideas and express concerns. I hope you enjoy reading this issue and all the issues that are to come.

Corrections, apologies and citations from the All Around staff

Successful entrepreneurs make mistakes early in their careers which they learn from for future perfection.

We, the entrepreneurs of All Around, have made mistakes in the last issue which we would like to address.

Last issue’s Relocating Carnegie Mellon story had two errors. The first of which is the title, which should say ‘Relocating Carnegie Mellon.’

The second is being short on citing the pictures. The pictures on the right and left (both of our new building) are from Carnegie Mellon Qatar’s official Web site ([www.qatar.cmu.edu]).

The middle picture of the LAS building was borrowed from a Flickr Page that belongs to Ahmad Al Mansoor ([www.flickr.com/photos/qatari]).

Ahmad is a student at Texas A&M university and a skillful photographer. We would like to apologize to Ahmad for not asking his permission prior to using the picture and thank him for expressing his concern.

We promise to avoid such mistakes to the highest degree.
AZ finally has a …’Face’book!!

..i can see your body moving….

How do I get out of this mess?

Don’t mess with 50 Riyals

Muscled up..

Time to get active: Fitness Challenge 2007 is on

Aysha Siddique
Entertainment Editor

And the Challenge is ON. Now through April 14 you can get credit for whatever (painstaking or otherwise) activities you do. And who knows, you might win a prize.

If you actually reach the goals you set for yourself – you get a BONUS prize! HOW?

Register yourself for the Fitness Challenge 2007 at the link – http://qatar.cmu.edu/fitnesschallenge2007. Log your activities and compete with several others in the quest for fitness.

Looking for the perfect holiday? How about ‘Make Your Own Day” Day

By Marium Chandna
Staff Writer

Holidays are a means of ornamenting our year with love, friendship, independence, gratefulness and birth. Or even marking it with hatred, sorrow and bereavement. They embrace a plethora of human emotions and expression.

We have received them in inheritance and celebrate most of them universally. While the elite take part in Derby, the middle and lower classes rejoice Labor Day. There are days creating awareness such as the World Aids Day, or April Fool’s Day, perhaps another kind of awareness.

Holidays are celebrated differently all over the world, according to culture, class, religion or just to express a group’s sentiments toward an issue.

By Aysha Siddique
Entertainment Editor

If you haven’t yet registered, it’s never too late. The Fitness Challenge continues through April 14.

Looking for the perfect holiday? How about ‘Make Your Own Day” Day

By Marium Chandna
Staff Writer

“Chocolate day.. I want the walls made of chocolate, books made of chocolate, everything made of chocolate! Mmmm...”

-Maha Mahmoud (Tepper, 2009)

“I will come up with a Muslim Unity Day”…because that is very important for Muslim brotherhood.”

-Basit Iqbal (Tepper, 2009)

“Suicidal Day!!”

-Shakir Hussain (CS, 2010)

“I would like to create Peace Day, where we would not have to hear the word ‘War’.”

-Mohammed (CS, 2010)

“BUSH-slapping day...(smiles)..”

-Dana Hadan (Tepper, 2009)

“My would say ANIMAL DAY! where every person dresses up like the animal they like or think they represent. Example if someone is a fast runner they might dress up like a cheetah.”

-Salma Kayali (Tepper, 2008)

“Definitely ‘International Shoe Sale Day’... everyone wears their funkiest shoes, shoe shopping is a MUST, and all shoes are half-price. I think any woman should also have the right to declare an international shoe sale day if she’s having a rough day.”

-Jinanne Tabra (Tepper, 2008)