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Footie Chumps to Champs:
Rise of the Underdog

By Yasser Khan
Official Photographer

We’ve all seen the popularity of football. From the recent World Cup to the European Championship Leagues, it’s a craze year after year. And our team is no exception. We may have had our pitfalls, but we kept looking to the stars for our strength. In other words, we kicked butt.

In the one year long existence of this club, I decide to flashback to the beginning of this semester – to chronicle the rising wave of success that the club has been riding.

We struggled to make a better team than last year’s, and I wondered about the fate of our team. Though I don’t play football, I decided to put my money where it’s good. In the end, I got more than I bargained for.

With the efforts of one person in Georgetown University who brought the initiative of bringing all universities together to compete on a professional level, I thought there was no other chance than this to show that Carnegie Mellon is not just about book smarts and an easy life. We began our league with a little stump, but things got underway.

We didn’t beat Texas A – the very team who has clobbered every other university including ours. However, we did secure ourselves enough victories to make it to the semi-final, that also without much pain. With all this effort, the team was well rewarded.

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All Around is a bimonthly student led newsletter. It is Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar’s budding student body voice. The first issue was published on the 28th of September 2004. A team of four students were successful in publishing 8 issues in the first year.

You may forward any contributions, enquiries, questions, or suggestions to our official email address <all-around@qatar.cmu.edu>

Meet the All Around Team

A Word from the Editorial Board

Here we are at another end of semester. Though for some of us, life may not be very colorful at this point because of exams and pressure, we are holding on to our beliefs and strength in order to continue surviving. Though studies may cramp up on all of us, our team is dedicated to deliver its last issue for the semester. As a team we feel obligated to All Around, as though it is our extra course, one that we all enjoy and find relief from all the stress in. We are proud of keeping All Around successfully going. We are proud that we could find some time away from studying hard to maintain one of the few aspects of our lives which we have control over. We are proud that our newsletter is student-led; it combines our passion to writing and creativity in one place.

As a team, we would like to thank all our dear readers for being so loyal. We would also like to thank everyone who contributed to the development of All Around. Lastly, we would like to farewell all staff and faculty who joined the Qatar community for this semester and had a significant impact on our professional and personal lives. We hope you had a pleasant experience in Qatar and wish to see you again.
STUDENT OPINION: WISHFUL THINKING
Assembled by Amun Bashir (Theme Editor)

This week’s question: If you had one wish, what would it be?

Eatidal Qatami: “Well, I’m a Palestinian girl so I would wish to have a “free” country, where I can really feel like myself and live like any normal person in their OWN country!”

Basit Iqbal: “My wish would be to live in a ‘math-less’ world.” Although Oliver may beg to differ, we agree, Math is the Devil!

Noor Al-Maadeed: “Eternal life and youth! Oh, and the power to control the wind. Just think of the possibilities!” We’re not sure what you might have planned, but we’d feel a little scared leaving the wind in your possession Noor!

Pascal Siegel: “I would like for all people to respect each other, and to accept the differences. Even if they disagree, disagree respectfully.” A very unselfish wish.

Iyed Jouini: “My wish would be to skip the whole year and find myself chilling on the beach in Tunisia! I can’t wait!” We see someone is already in the summer mode! A little early Iyed, but whatever makes you happy!

Lina Menshawy: “24 hours in a day isn’t enough. I wish it could be more like 36 or 40 hours. I feel that I can’t do everything I want in 24 hours!” With those deadlines creeping up, we’re afraid 40 hours may not be enough either!

THE ALL AROUND FORUM
QUESTION: How should All Around go about changing its image?

Jinanne Tabra: “I’d love to see All Around become a real voice for our student body. The student opinion page is my favorite feature right now, but how great would it be if CMU-Q students wrote in articles or letters about the issues that really matter to them? Oh and also, Garfield, I just hate that damn cat...”

Yasser Khan: “Let’s change the entertainment section to focus on on-campus entertainment and humor. Perhaps turning our pictures into a comic book-like thing might be good. Even re-designing the layout and adding something new like having students submitting an article that pertains to a key point in the issue.”

Walid Khwaja: “I think the newspaper needs to start writing more about student issues. We need to get rid of the whole theme thing and start writing about the current events.”

Rooda Al-Neama: “I think it should change by reflecting more of what students (our readers) really want and we can do that with feedback from them!”

Amun Bashir: “If you go back to the basics, you would know that a good newsletter is comprised of good writers. All Around needs a more solid team of writers that would function like a backbone. We need more enthusiasm from the CMU-Q student body!”
It may be growing right under your looped Pink Ribbon...

By Marium Chandna
BA-Sophomore Staff Writer

As womanhood takes on a girl’s life, she goes through a metamorphosis of mental and physical development. The onset of both psychological and corporal changes pose a sense of maturity and responsibility in a young blossoming woman. However, with such pristine recognition of one’s self also comes obstacles of all sorts. One such possible complication is the susceptibility to being a victim of the second leading cause of cancer death in women—Breast Cancer.

What is Breast Cancer?

Breast cancer is a progressive, often fatal, melanoma most prevalent in women above the age of 30. However, this cancerous disease may also be diagnosed on the threshold of adulthood, or late teenage years varying from person to person.

But how does it occur? What triggers this critical illness in a perfectly healthy female?

The breast is composed of on average 15-20 glandular lobes, that are further segregated into smaller lobules which are responsible for generating milk during pregnancy and breastfeeding. About 80-85 percent of a breast is fat, which fills up the narrow spaces between lobes and vessels in the lobules. Vessels in the breast carry waste products and cells of the immune system, sifting toxic and bacteria. This mechanism of the constricted vessels helps fight all kinds of infection. In the case of breast cancer, the cells in the breast start multiplying and dividing at an abnormally rapid rate. They compete with the healthy cells and gradually spread through the ducts and vessels to the entire breast, and eventually to other parts of the human body.

Possible causes and perhaps, a cure?

The exact cause and cure of breast cancer, like any other cancer, are not yet known. However, studies show that breast cancer is mostly inherited. In other words if your grandmother, mother, or sister have been a breast cancer patient, then your chances of acquiring the disease are much greater than a person who has no genetic evidence of breast cancer. On the other hand, there are several factors other than genes, that may activate cancerous cells in the breast, such as exposure to or consumption of carcinogenic chemicals or food substances, such as deep fried food, obesity, lack of exercise, an unhealthy lifestyle or environment, excessive smoking and alcohol consumption.

Though there is no fixed cure for the disease as yet, an early detection can be treated by chemotherapy and assisting high potency drugs.

Misconceptions regarding Breast Cancer

The above are likely reasons that cause breast cancer. Nevertheless, breast cancer can occur in anyone. It is true indeed, that breast cancer is most prominent and more dangerous amongst women, however, men are prone to the disease as well. Also, breast cancer is not a contagious condition. Eating, sleeping, or having physical contact with a breast cancer patient does not augment your chances of acquiring the disease in any manner. A very common misleading fallacy regarding breast cancer is the assumption that women with a relatively heavier upper body are more likely to be affected by breast cancer. All women who have a genetic history of breast cancer, or are subjected to cancer triggering factors have an equal risk.

Early Detection and Prevention rather than Cure

The increasing rate of breast cancer diagnosed patients and deaths resulting from the disease have strongly endorsed the need for early detection tests. Breast Cancer Awareness campaigns are being run on monthly and annual basis in most organizations such as schools, universities and even multi-national corporations. These awareness programs provide substantial information regarding the prevention, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer. They encourage women and men to conduct self examination on a regular basis, and visit their local clinic frequently for a thorough clinical examination. Additionally, these sessions provide a set of guidelines to follow in order to ensure protection against breast cancer, such as a healthy, balanced diet, (preferably rich in anti-oxidants as they help fight cancer), and regular cardiovascular exercise. Recent studies show that olive oil is effective in fighting breast cancer. Mammography is also an exceedingly common way of detecting cancerous tissue. A mammogram combines a series of X-rays to produce images of the breast tissue. The screening is then examined to identify any malignancy or tumors, even before the patient feels them as lumps in the breast.

A Powerful Lecture by Dr. Mahasen Oka-sha at Carnegie Mellon University – Qatar

Sources:
New England Journal of Medicine
Stolen or Lost?

By Rooda Al-Neama
Staff Writer

This is the question many of our Carnegie Mellon students are wondering. Are we all just being forgetful and misplacing things or is there a ‘mob’ out there out for our unattended belongings? Let’s review the facts. I’m not saying that we will find an answer to this, and I would rather keep it for you to decide.

Firstly, to list some of the things that have been stolen, I guess we can all go back to one year ago when the shock actually hit us: Yousef Al Sabeeh’s brand new apple power book! Well after that, the Carnegie Mellon community learnt that a whole more of the technological items are being ‘lost’: Khulood Al Farsi, Najwan Al Borshid and Mustafa Hasnain are one of the few who could not find their USB’s. This year a weird trend has been observed: Maha Al Shirrawi’s clothes? My shoes? Ibrahim’s perfumes? Which were all in their respective lockers!! Without looking further, let’s not forget the mail boxes in the game room. One of my friends left my digital camera in my box, because she couldn’t find me. I saw it in my box but decided to pick it up later, only to realize that my camera wouldn’t be there “later”!

There is no real trend to these items that are missing, Ibrahim’s two mobiles, Asma Al Nasser’s mobile, Eman Al Emadi’s mobile? So mobiles have a high demand and therefore are more susceptible to theft. A note that was displayed in one of the corridors regarding a lost mobile, which said “I hope God burns you with every riyal its worth and with as much pain as you caused me. I’m very happy because you can’t even open it”. The question that we all ask is WHY? Where did this sudden disappearance of items come from? Until we can find the answers, please don’t leave your expensive items unattended.

By Maha Obaidan
Staff Writer

“TWO MORE WEEKS”: that is all we have been hearing for the past week as we approach the end of Fall 2006 semester. Some say it has been a short semester. “It seemed as if orientation was last week,” screamed Yasmine Abdelrahman the other day in Production class. Meanwhile, others like myself feel as if a whole year had been compressed into a semester. Even though studies have overwhelmed the students on campus, Carnegie Mellon University- Qatar does not forget its concept of creating an enjoyable atmosphere for its students.

As always, CMU-Q offered great events on and off campus, ranging from sports and clubs events to intellectual talks. CMU-Q students participated in several sports competitions with Georgetown and Texas A&M. In addition to sports, there have been significant club activities, such as Survivor, Murder Mystery Dinner, Pink Day, and Qatar Night. Students’ lives are not all involved in school activities; there have been social events by Erik and Silvia, the Spanish professors, such as the Halloween gathering, and dinner at Bonita.

Not surprisingly, CMU-Q presents intellectual presentations to its students such as the HSBC talk, Dolphin, Exxon Mobile, Qatar Petroleum and more. In addition, the staff and faculty facilitate the students by providing them with yoga, massages, and other fun activities.

This semester has definitely been a hectic one with a lot of studying, activities, and events. In the future, I am sure we will remember all the days we spent studying together as a group and laugh at how we used to complain about it. The activities will definitely add to our great memories in the upcoming years, in which we will always look back in remembrance of this semester.
Hats off to Carnegie Mellon Qatar’s clubs and organizations

By Yasmine Abdelrahman
Managing Editor In Chief

As the end of Carnegie Mellon Qatar’s fifth semester approaches, I can only think back to how great this semester has been. Looking back at all the events and activities that have occurred, it is now time to thank all those who have contributed to making our university experience more cheerful. Our campus clubs and organizations have worked hard alongside with our Student Affairs to prepare a series of fun, helpful, and inspiring events.

Our football team brought us victory, scoring second place in the Education City Tournament. Last year, we could have never imagined such a victory. However, with the cooperation and ‘hard’ work of our students and faculty, together with the spirit of the fans and the cheerleaders, this victory was right under our grasp.

The Student Government was yet another success. Their teamwork and effort in their extraordinary events raised the envy of all of Education City. Whether you are part of the staff, faculty, or the student body, you had the opportunity to join in their events such as the successful (and now annual) Murder Mystery dinner, the Spirit week, and the first-time held hit Survivor.

A marked appreciation goes to our fUnlimited! club members whose hard work proved to be of great potential for further development, what with putting together two successful events in their first semester. We cannot forget the efforts of our established clubs who organized great events. Thanks to our culture club with its Cultural day, we all had the opportunity to represent our different cultures. Also thanks to our Active Women Club, we all had the opportunity to learn about Breast Cancer in their “dress-pink” Breast Cancer Awareness day.

All these events couldn’t have taken place without the support of our Student Affairs team who worked hand in hand with the students to bring us all the events which we greatly enjoyed.

Great job everyone, and have a great holiday.
By Marium Chandna
Staff Writer

“Facebook is a social utility that connects you with the people around you.” Think again Mark Zuckerberg!

When students chose to procrastinate their readings, assignments, (and occasionally class participation), it isn’t often that they resort to an online friends network. Majority of us have already passed that stage where we would be fascinated by online communication networks, such as Hi5, Orkut, Friendster, Tagged!, you name it. Users chose to abandon them due to several reasons, most prevalent being the social abuse, lack of privacy and spam. As it is, you gain some, you lose some. In order to gain back their privacy and disassociation from certain groups, users lost the chance to keep in touch with not only friends and relatives in other parts of the world, but also friends who lived, worked and studied near them! It was high time that we needed a more exclusive, secure, and sociable online environment where such interaction was possible. And there you go, Facebook entered our lives!

Facebook, which was once, a private friends network only limited to users who actually belonged to educational institutions, took the university and college crowd around the world by storm. It was a safe and simple network of trusted friends, which brought together users with more or less similar interests and social circles, until of late, when this healthy level of confidentiality was invaded by the idea of our very own Facebook going public! Facebook is now open to anyone and everyone, just like any other random friends network. Hauling out the personal touch that was once the U.S.P of the whole concept, Zuckerberg and the rest of the team have totally defeated their main purpose. Not to forget, the exceedingly annoying “News-Feed” and “Mini-Feed” features that have been instilled into the new Facebook, which help in not leaving even a hint of discretion within the conversations that take place between two users. And please suggest one good reason why you would care if Person X joined the group, “60 things girls need to understand about guys!”?? Or perhaps why Person Y became single all of a sudden? How many times have you actually started thinking, “Hey, she’s not that bad after all,” JUST because she has added you as a friend or mentioned you in her “Notes”?? Moreover, anyone, in your university, in your city, in your country or anywhere else in this whole world has access to your information if you do not take the time and effort to adjust your privacy settings every now and then. Social crimes such as stalking and inappropriate use of information have been made much easier by this new feature Facebook has introduced.

What once used to be a straightforward, unpretentious and secure way of exchange of comments, pictures and other information between selected friends and peers has now been converted into a fancy and unsafe way of transmitting information, encouraging disclosure of private information and simultaneously giving heed to irrelevant and pompous issues.

Hence, after all, “Facebook”, as a social utility does not only connect you with the people around you, but also your social life with the people around “the people around you” and their friends, and any other stranger you may not even have the desire to know.

So much for the new Facebook!
By Shahriar Haque  
Staff Writer

I don’t know why some parents put so much pressure on their children to ace every single test they ever take. I don’t understand what drives children to become ‘geeks’ and spend almost all of their energy to outperform everybody in class. Is it really worth it? Did I really get what I wanted by being better than my classmates? It might be too late, but I am finally beginning to understand that I might have lost some of life’s precious moments by pursuing a mirage. Most humbly, I’d like to think that I have performed reasonably well in high-school, especially the last 3 years. In fact I have been raised from childhood to be geared towards studies. I am thankful to my parents for raising me up in such a way, for without them and their drive for success, I wouldn’t be what I am now.

October 2006, after about 3 months into my university life, I look back at my past and try to find out what was missing. I realize that if I try to write down the names of all the places I have been with my friends, the list wouldn’t even last a single page. It isn’t that I didn’t have friends at school, but it’s the fact that I never bothered to have fun with them is what is bothering me. I did realize this during the last few nostalgic weeks of high-school, but that feeling didn’t hit me with its equitable intensity until this Eid.

I had studied at Bangladesh MHM School and typically all the students there head off to Bangladesh after completing the 12th grade. I was one of the lucky ones who got the opportunity to study in Qatar, thanks to an ‘excellent’ track record at school, an ‘excellent’ TOEFL score and a ‘decent’ SAT score. This was my first Eid after joining university. More so, the first after leaving high-school and I knew that this time around, there wouldn’t be anyone I could hang out with. I had mentally prepared myself for a miserable Eid. My girl friend (and best friend) suggested that I should go to City Center and hang out with her group of friends on Eid. I didn’t have anything to lose, and I went even though I didn’t like the idea of hanging out with a bunch of noisy girls. I was there at 12 waiting for them, when I was greeted by another bunch of boys and girls of my junior class. They sort of dragged me into their group. With them, I did things that I had never done before. I went for rides at the Extreme World. I went down the icy slopes with two other girls, and it was very enjoyable. For the first time in my life, I screamed with pleasure. The kids applauded and said that it was a good first scream. I smiled, I laughed and most importantly, I enjoyed every moment. Later that night, I thought over the day’s events and I thought to myself, “These kids have been partying on almost every occasion. What did I do when I was at their age?”.

Of course, I knew the answer. The only time I went out was during Eid, and that outing usually consisted of sitting and watching a movie at a friend’s house. What a waste of life!
Mystery of Love?

ByNoor AlAthirah
Executive Editor-In-Chief

“Why can you control almost everything in your life but not your emotions?”

People are smart by nature. Our instinct, if not knowledge, usually directs our way. We know what to do and what not. In a perfect world, there would be no crime, no theft, and no terror. But we are not in a perfect world, because people tend to forget or intentionally ignore what they believe is right. Love is, in a way, similar to crime, though on a personal level.

For love to prosper, a couple has to share certain characteristics such as personal qualities, social status, and in some cultures family history. It is very important that a couple develops an understanding of the suitability of their being together. It is ignorant to think that problems they face at the beginning of their relationship due to the mentioned characteristics will eventually vanish with time. This is not a matter of acceptance by others; it is a matter of acceptance of one another.

They say love is about forgiveness and sacrifice, which is true. Nevertheless, when forgiveness and sacrifice are practiced daily, something is wrong. On one hand, if love was based on emotions only, then minds will clash and the relationship is doomed. On the other hand, if love was initiated by understanding and emotions, then it will prosper to what many fantasize about, an endless love.

If we were in a perfect world, the poor can love the rich with no obstacles, and the arrogant can love the humble with no problems. Unfortunately, we are not in a perfect world. A strike of love is the ignition of a long trip of happiness or torture.

To all those who love without thinking: Wake up!

From Chumps To Champs…….

Continued from page 1

They didn’t want to rest on their laurels, so they decided to do something different. Behind the scenes, the freshmen were boasting about how much the team has improved because of their arrival. On the contrary, the captain disagreed. So, they decided to settle it on the battlefield, mano y mano – by having a Freshmen vs. Sophomores & Juniors game.

We had that game a few days ago, and it ended up in an abysmal defeat of our upperclassmen. Even though the freshmen won, we’re still glad to have them on the team. If it wasn’t for their spirit and energy, we wouldn’t have made it this far. Adding that to the roster of our previous team plus their experiences, our team is going places.

Just weeks ago, we played our semi-final bracket and guess what? We beat our opponents with a perfect score. How’s that for our victory? With a first-class ticket to the finals, we are now within reach of the coveted prize and title – Champions of Education City.

Then, the day came - the very day when we would fight for the coveted title of being crowned champions. We began this league, and now we’re finishing it. Is this history repeating itself or what? Not quite. Neck to neck, our team put up a fight to make sure they would win. In both sets, they kept the score tied. However, this placed an even heavier burden upon them when we went into extra time. Sadly, things did not go as planned. In the end, we lost. We did win second place, and that still meant a lot to us. No matter what the outcome, all of us at Carnegie Mellon are proud of our team, and there’s always next semester.

You might be getting sick of football already. Don’t worry, I promise to give more coverage and equal opportunity to other sports as well. I promise you that, and it will begin from next semester.

Till then……a budding winter break to everyone and good luck on your finals.
Saddam Hussein…
A history about to end…

By Dana Hadan
Staff Writer

For some, he has always represented an authentic embodiment of heroism, for standing against what they call the American ghost of colonialism and for constantly attempting to kill America’s appetite for superiority. For others, he is nothing but a living manifestation of dictatorship, for all the oppression that he forced his people to live in for that past 4 decades. But definitely for both, he is now nothing but a history on the verge of termination. After an 11-month trial, Saddam was sentenced to hang for murdering 148 Shiite civilians in 1982 after a failed assassination attempt against him, and within 30 days of the appeals panel delivering its verdict, Saddam will be one of those world leaders we read about in history books. And as the curtains start rolling down on Saddam Hussein’s long history of leadership and tyranny, many questions arise as to what extent the trial and its verdict be considered fair, and whether or not the trial should have been publicized from the first place.

While the Shiite’s and Kurds, who had been tormented and killed in the tens of thousands under Saddam's iron rule, erupted in celebration, the Sunni Iraqi civilians vowed to avenge the death penalty handed to their president. Many pro-Saddam political analysts tend to bring up the crimes of Hitler and Mussolini into attention and compare the 148 civilians Saddam murdered and will be executed for, with the millions of lives that Hitler and Mussolini have wiped out; ignoring the fact that killing is killing, whether you kill a person or millions. Others argue that Saddam was unfairly replaced by the new president Jalal Talabani, given the fact that Iraq is of a transitional democratic government, and the election process was anything but democratic. All done, in attempt of saving their president from the execution penalty.

Aside from the two groups, the pro and the anti, one fact becomes more and more indisputable everyday. Both groups are now under the American rule, and whether Saddam is right or wrong is the least of their worries now. It is true that the day in which Saddam should pay the price of all the crimes he committed against humanity has finally come, however, given the fact that the trial was conducted by a pseudo-government and that Saddam was not given his full rights as an offender facing justice, one would say that the trial definitely lacks justice. The question that remains unanswered is: Can Iraq find peace after Saddam is gone? Or will it just move from the oppressive reign of Saddam to the hands of the American colonization?
Poem of the issue

How to be Happy

- **STEP 1**: Figure out what is important to you in life. For example: Do you value a certain kind of job, material things, a relationship, time alone, time with others, time to relax, time to be creative, time to read, time to listen to music, time to have fun? These are just a few of the possibilities.
- **STEP 2**: Think about times when you have felt happy, good or content. Where were you? Who were you with? What were you doing, thinking or feeling that made you feel happy?
- **STEP 3**: Decide to make more time in your life to do more of what is important to you and makes you feel happier. To be happy, you have to make happiness a priority in your life.
- **STEP 4**: Start with little things and work up to bigger ones. Little things might be reading for 15 minutes; taking a walk; calling a friend; or buying great-smelling soap, shampoo, candles or tea that you will enjoy every time you use it.
- **STEP 5**: Focus on what is positive about yourself, others and life in general instead of dwelling on the negative. In a journal, write down as many positive things as you can think of. Keep it handy to read over, and continue adding to it.
- **STEP 6**: Appreciate what is working in your life right now. In the major areas of your life, such as your health, job, love life, friends, family, money and living situation, what is going well?

http://www.ehow.com/how_10192_be-happy.html

Beautiful Dreamer a poem by Stephen Foster

Beautiful dreamer, wake unto me,
Starlight and dewdrops are waiting for thee;
Sounds of the rude world heard in the day,
Lull’d by the moonlight have all pass’d away!

Beautiful dreamer, queen of my song,
List while I woo thee with soft melody;
Gone are the cares of life's busy throng.

Beautiful dreamer, awake unto me!
Beautiful dreamer, awake unto me!

Beautiful dreamer, out on the sea,
Mermaids are chaunting the wild lorelie;
Over the streamlet vapors are borne,
Waiting to fade at the bright coming morn.

Beautiful dreamer, beam on my heart,
E'en as the morn on the streamlet and sea;
Then will all clouds of sorrow depart.