

AUIS VOICE

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AUIS Announces New Law Program

AUIS and the Social Sciences Department are excited to offer a minor in law. We are currently in the second semester of this program, which is being developed in conjunction with Stanford Law School and its Iraq Legal Education Initiative. The law program is open to all students, regardless of their major or future plans.

The curriculum is unique and designed especially for students at AUIS. The courses currently offered include:

LGS 210 - Introduction to the Laws of Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan
Part 1: Public Domestic Law

LGS 220 - Introduction to the Laws of Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan
Part 2: Private Domestic Law

LGS 301 - Thinking Like a Lawyer and Legal Reasoning

LGS 410 - Iraq's Engagement with the World: Public International Law in Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan

LGS 420 - Iraq's Engagement with the World: Private International Law in Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan

We are also working to develop new courses including an anti-corruption law

course and a humanitarian and refugee law course, which we plan to begin offering during the next academic year. In addition to offering the minor, we are hoping to eventually offer a major and postgraduate degree through the program.



In these courses, we cover themes such as the Iraqi Constitution and your rights as a citizen, how contract law is just as important in daily transactions as it is in multi-million dollar deals, legal issues regarding oil and gas, the role of Shari'a in Iraqi law, how to start a company in Iraq, and even what the law allows you to do if your unfriendly neighbor builds a wall on your property.

Whether you want to practice law, work in business, become an engineer, or simply become more aware of your rights, taking

at least one of these courses will benefit you immensely, as you will become more aware of the laws of Iraq and Kurdistan, and how they impact you, your family, and your friends.

The courses have been useful for student Dhuha Abdulmunem, who said, "We always complain about how there is no rule of law in Iraq, but we don't always know if something is lawful or not. This course teaches us what the law in Iraq is. The law, especially the Social Status Law, reflects the Iraqi culture. When we hear about things in the news, we assume that they are illegal, but some are actually done according to existing law. I would recommend taking these courses if you can."

Kozhan Wahid, who took one of the classes said, "Civility never starts in a society if the laws are unpopular amongst the people. These classes offer deep insight into individuals' rights and duties in Iraq and Kurdistan. For instance, I never knew that any transactional verbal promise would translate into a legal contract, and the Law class I took may have veered me of many troubles coming my way. I recommend taking these classes; even one would do you great benefit."

If you have any questions about the law program, please contact Professor Jeffrey Kongsol at jeffrey.kongsol@auis.edu.krd or visit his office at B-G-01.

Jeffrey Kongsol



In the KRI, the Sulaimani Forum works by providing a collective representation of the state of affairs in the region as a whole. This article, then, functions like the formal response to the State of the Union speech, part summary and part reflections on the Sulaimani Forum proceedings as a whole. Find out more on page 2.



A group of the American University of Iraq- Sulaimani (AUIS) students gathered in the cafeteria to protest about the dormitory policies on April 10th. The students who participated were dormitory students and non-dormitory students. Find out more on page 3.

Curriculum Changes at AUIS



This semester there have been some significant changes to the curriculum at AUIS. The introduction of a law program at AUIS and the revival of the journalism major have been the most significant. However, even though classes haven't been added or dropped for the business and engineering majors, hiring new professors is a top priority as stated by the Professor, Math and Natural Sciences Department Chair, Dr. Mazen.

Before going into the details of the journalism major, some structural changes in the English department must be talked about. These include the making of the Pedagogy class optional for English major students. It used to be that students had to take this class, with the presumption that they'll go into teaching. But as Dr. Ali Chetwynd pointed out, most English majors don't ac-

tually go into teaching so it stands to reason that the pedagogy class was made optional. Another change was done to the classes that were cancelled and couldn't be taught again for another two semesters. Some of these classes such as World Literature and English literature were made optional, making the major more flexible while also making it easier for the students to graduate on time.

But the more exciting change in the English department is the revival the journalism major! The major still needs final approval, however most of the paperwork is done. Dr. Ali has stated that there were two reasons for why the journalism major was revived. The first was simply because many students had come asking about the possibility of minoring in journalism. The second reason is because, according to Dr. Ali, an English department has to be able to provide a journalism major. It is the standard in other modern countries and AUIS should follow accordingly. Hopefully, there would be a visiting journalist per year who would come and teach some classes along with the already existing professors. Finally, Dr. Choman hardi, Chair of the English department, is hoping that a cross-department Gender

Studies minor, which would be run from the English department, will get approved within the next year; and, along with a minor in translation-skills-and-theory as well.

In the engineering and business department, there weren't significant changes. However, in talking with Dr. Mazen, it was made clear that the engineering and business major is currently understaffed and is going through a hiring process. The reason it's taken so long is the fact that some professors left and the one's who applied were not up to AUIS's standards. To solve this problem, AUIS hired some part-timers. Dr. Mazen made it clear that "hiring is a top priority for us. Especially qualified applicants." Another plan, pertaining to the Engineering department, is the replacement of construction engineering with civil engineering. Construction engineering is actually a subcategory of civil engineering. Civil engineering is a big umbrella that encompasses construction, highway, and many other subcategories, so it is a change for the better. Along with this it is hoped that by next year either architecture or computer engineering opens up. These two colleges are part of a long-term plan though, unlike the changing of the construction to civil engineering, which is hoped to be done by the end of the semester.

Saman Ihsan Fuad



"If you could have only one type of food for the rest of your life, what would it be?" Do you go for something light and practical, like pizza? Or something more juicy and dense, like hamburgers? Perhaps you're trying to stay healthy, so you stick with Caesar Salads? Find out what Artin's answer to this dilemma on page 4.



In celebration of the 10th annual anniversary of AUIS's establishment, a basketball tournament is ongoing between AUIS Alumni, AUIS Faculty and Staff, and our Eagles team split into blue and white team. Find out more on page 5.

Reflections on Suli Forum



It is a US political tradition that the President hosts a State of the Union address, providing an overview of the country's political problems as a whole. In the KRI, the Sulaimani Forum works by providing a collective representation of the state of affairs in the region as a whole. This article, then, functions like the formal response to the State of the Union speech, part summary and part reflections on the Sulaimani Forum proceedings as a whole.

A common theme was the size and inefficiency of government. Prime Minister Abadi inherited a large government that employs 4 million people but probably only needs 800,000. Dr. Naufel Al Hassan followed Prime Minister Abadi's lead to emphasize that 80% of the obstacles to reform are imaginary, requiring only the collective will to implement. Qubad Talabani and others emphasized that reforms can lead to sustainable economic development, and the speakers highlighted the use of e-government rather than paper. Laudable goals but when there was an electrical fire at my apartment last week, I was interviewed at the scene by the police then interviewed again at the Sarchinar police station twice then by a judge's assistant with the judge presiding. All the paperwork was in paper and it took hours for the paperwork to be hand-delivered from one location to the next. If someone wanted to ever read my paperwork again, how would they begin? This problem exists literally a million times over as paper is the norm, not the exception to the rule.

The emphasis on administrative reform leads to questions of knowledge and job creation. Creating e-government may limit the payments of ghost salaries but how will it create new jobs? Unfortunately, in Iraq and the KRG, the higher the education, the higher the youth unemployment. Abdulwahab Alkebsi and Abdulrazzaq Albdul Jalil Al Essa emphasized the mismatch of skills. If industry is at a low base, perhaps co-ordination between industry and the education sector can expand it. Minister Al-Essa described 51 private and 35 public universities today, with each institution having a political affiliation. His solution was to reform the curriculum with the help of industry. Yet I believe that some version of Mahdi Alaq's vision of industry protected by government will ultimately still win out. If Iran's car industry is any guide, government-run industry leads to low-quality industrial production and yet even Ambassador Silliman proposed that technocratic government is the answer. Never in the history of the world has government industry out-competed private industry in terms of quality and cost, mainly because governments prioritize politics over profits. It is fine to say that the government will invest in agriculture, industry, and tourism as alternatives to oil but the answer will still involve massive government investment. How then will these proposed electronically efficient regimes, something that also has never existed in Iraq or the KRI, outcompete similar government-run industries in Iran which have greater scale, let alone Dubai or other more capitalistic models? No speaker truly tackled difficulties of reforming the mission of government, rather than simply its administrative habits, leading me to believe these aspirations for a non-oil economy are currently more a dream than reality.

The final question is how to create a better society. I have been to three Sulaimani Forum's and this one was the first that embraced cultural heritage when it highlighted the plight of the Yezidis under Daesh. General Shagati emphasized how the Sunni and Shi'a, Arabs and Kurds, work peacefully together to liberate Mosul with a minimum of human rights violations. All of the talk of reforming governance at the Forum seemed to be a strategy to emphasize economic solutions over culture, yet the war with Daesh is above all a war about culture. It is about replacing diversity with obedience to one ideology. It is about strongman govern-

ment, rather than consent of the ruled. Daesh stands against everything AUIS claims to believe in. Yet, even if the challenges of cultural heritage industry are small relative to rebuilding pipelines, universities, and the electrical network, the proposed solutions are indicative of the larger problem. UNESCO in Paris and the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage based in Baghdad will run all projects dedicated to rebuilding cultural heritage. They will focus on rebuilding things that can be packaged to donor conferences like world heritage sites rather than community sites. Top-down governance created systematic intolerance such as Baathism in the past. How then can these top-down approaches satisfy the needs of the communities, which themselves have been torn by war? How can they rebuild social trust at the local level, where it is so badly needed? The only long-term solution has to be to strengthen our communities, as a part of strengthening our government and our economy. Anything else is just wishful thinking that conflict or tyranny will not come again.

Tobin Hartnell

Is Development Finance the Answer to Kurdistan's Economic Crisis?

By Ansar Omer

The international community and every single government in the world endeavors to eradicate poverty and build sustainable development to enhance their economy. Many countries introduce development finance as a method to help develop their economic status. Development finance is a huge sector that enables movement of loans and grants to help public and private sector management, which consequently leads to higher standard of living, employment, and economic growth. Development finance institutions usually target the poor in areas of the world where there is ongoing conflict and poverty. They provide medium and long-term loans, mortgages, and grants to develop industry, agriculture, manufacturing and other key sectors. The projects that are qualified to be funded are usually profitable, viable, sustainable, and capable of generating employment and economic growth.



Development finance is about promoting an integrated approach to provide funds and capital to support and sustain projects. It funds sectors like manufacturing, industry, and agriculture to maximize the use of innovative technology. It also builds a bridge between trade and investment to raise employment and propel the economy. Developing countries have, in recent years, increasingly taken advantage of this financial system to boost their growth. The backbone and driving force for any project is money. Funds are used for the purchasing of local and foreign resources such as equipment, factory expansion, and establishing and investing in creating a professional and skilled workforce to drive the projects.

Development finance works through loans, equity and guarantees. Loans are usually provided by investment banks, which are a driving force for this process of funding projects that are capable of generating profits and sustaining themselves by supporting them with direct or indirect loans in addition to joint ventures. Also, there are state-owned organizations such as WB and non-profit organizations such as IMMDF which fund projects. These organizations need effective business plans to ensure maximum profit from the projects they are funding. Development finance activities are costly, and if there are not guarantee of greater returns, the projects will not be funded. Also, there are some activities that, as a result of social norms, cannot be funded and are dismissed due to the potential harm or its unviability to the society. Consequently, projects should not be spoon-fed to their final stage and financing organizations should better teach the projects how to sustain and propel forward rather than finance it down to the last penny.

One way that development finance can help Kurdistan is through applying it on agriculture. The Kurdistan Region of Iraq is an oil based country which largely depends on the oil and gas sectors for revenue. With the help of development finance, agriculture can become a driving force for the economic bloodstream of the country and provide a huge return of finance for the country.

Nationalism and Democracy



The understanding of the relationship between nationalism and democracy is not that easy since nationalism cannot simply comply with democracy because it leads to egotism in the face of other nations. Nationalism is the loyalty and devotion to a nation, especially the sense of national consciousness: exalting one nation above all others and placing primary emphasis on promotion of its culture and interests as opposed to those of other nations or supranational groups. Democracy, on the other hand, is a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives. Nationalism has a synergic attitude towards religion and a braced stance in societal mechanisms. Kant believes that there is a strong and direct relationship between human nature and society with nationalism.

Historically, the idea of liberalism could not, considerably, have an impact on the nationalistic ideological framework. Moreover, democracies can also aggravate nationalistic tensions while handling international affairs. When the people take a hardline stance towards a national adversary, elected governments with populist tendencies could easily be tempted to adopt that stance as an official policy line. Furthermore, democratic systems can also harbor extremely exclusive or self-centered views. In this age of globalism, such attitudes are immediately communicated to other countries, which in turn, elicit strong responses. Thus, the vicious cycles can actually be perpetuated by democracies.

In addition, during the early stages of a country's democratization process, nationalism tends to surge in an intensified manner. Nonetheless, there is an inverse relationship between nationalism and democracy; the more nationalism is strong and tough, the

less there's chance for democracy to emerge. During the first and second World Wars, development of nationalism was along the collapse of democracy. For example, the emergence of Italian and German nationalism, concomitant with the strong nationalistic and communist Russia led to democracy disappear among the whole nations of Europe.

Shifting Eastward, the theme still holds. Turkey can be regarded as the most remarkable and prominent example of this lethal nationalistic idea in a democracy. For more than a century, nationalism had delayed the process of democratization in Turkey and each time returns it to the starting point over and over again. The problem with Turkey is that they cannot suit nationalism with democracy together.

Although it's vivid that the smaller nations see democracy as a shelter, they rarely abide by the democratic mantras. For example, history reveals the weakness of the link between Kurdish nationalism and democracy. Kurds have not cared about and depended on liberalism and democracy as much as the cared about religion and Marxist ideas. In a like manner, democracy, merely, cannot change every aspect of Kurdish society, nor does it have that particular power to directly

shape Kurdish identity and society. But, Kurdish identity did not have a democracy problem, but it had rather much deeper issues such as the wars fought with neighboring adversaries. These conflicts have caused a loss of vision and identity weakening for Kurds.

Nationalism can only be sustained through modernism when it avoids being an ideology. It has to correspond to Liberal ideologies and not perceive the nationalistic traditions and rituals as sacrosanct. Nationalistic ideology translates into creating boundaries of regarding others as inferior to one's nation. Most people rename nationalism and reshape the phenomenon. Some render American politics because it tries to keep intact the American nation, by waging war on other nationalities. I personally think these thoughts are not reliable and true because American wars, mostly, are against nationalisms although it is an illusion to think American wars are between democracy and nationalism. I think we cannot achieve democracy unless a whole society tries to weaken nationalism.

Nawroz Sabir

Dormitory Student Protest



A group of the American University of Iraq- Sulaimani (AUIS) students gathered in the cafeteria to protest about the dormitory policies on April 10th.

The students who participated were dormitory students and non-dormitory students. The protesters gathered on the front step of AUIS cafeteria, holding signs to show their demands.

The aim of the protest was to change some policies about AUIS dormitory policies that were considered "unfair" by the protesters.

In March, a group of students came up with a list of complaints regarding AUIS dormitory policies and presented it to one of the board members and the Dean of Students, but their demands were refused.

Mohammed Salh, one of the protest organizers, said, "We have the

rights to know why our demands are being rejected and how the decision process happened. Therefore we are protesting and will continue to protest to meet our demands."

The demands were: Dorm payment policy, the quality of Internet service, the re-opening of Bakrajo gate, and the girls' dormitory gate to be open just like the boys'.

On March 15, right after the rejection of student demands, the first protest took place in the cafeteria with roughly 19 protestors.

The dorm payment policy is per semester based and students have to pay monthly. There are three types of rooms in the dorms: private, four students, six students per department and cost 300 \$, 180\$, 150\$ per semester respectively.

The current policy states that each student staying between one to 14 days pays for half of the month. But if a student stays 15 days or more, he/she has to pay for the whole month. This means a day or two weeks would cost 75\$, 90\$, 150\$ at AUIS Dormitory based on the type of housing. Students demanded to be charged per day.

Dr. Bakhteyar Shamsadeen, Vice Chair of AUIS Board of Trustees, says that the university has been running on deficit for years. The cost for running AUIS has been increasing.

He also added that the cost for housing is fixed and it costs the same whether there are 10 students or 300 students who are staying at AUIS. For example, the heating system is central and it is working for the entire building. If we charge students per day, we will be at a loss.

Another aspect about dormitory fees is that AUIS dormitories are closed during major holidays such as Nawroz and Eid. Protesters demanded that the dorms should remain open from the beginning to the end of both the fall and spring semesters.

AUIS has a diverse body of students who come from different national and religious backgrounds. In the list of the demands, it is mentioned that there are AUIS students who live in the UAE and Iraqi cities outside the Kurdistan Region like Baghdad and Basra. Dorm closures result in extra cost for them since they have to fly back during the time that the university is closed.

Mr. Ahmed Yousif, one of the organizers of the protests, said, "Since the students are already paying for the semester, it is only fair that they reap the fruits of paying by being allowed to stay until the semester is finished."

The main goal of the protests was to change that policy either by being

refunded for the days that the university is closed, not closing the dorms during breaks or another method that satisfies both parties.

One of the protesters says "This is an extra cost for students to fully pay for the dormitory fees and mandatorily leave without even being refunded". According to Dr. Bakhteyar, students were aware of this policy before signing the contract.

Mr. Geoffrey Gresk, Dean of Students says that it costing the university to remain open for a few students during major breaks since the cost for running the dorms daily is fixed. He also says that they are trying to communicate with students and come up with a solution that satisfies both parties.

Both Dr. Bakhteyar and Mr. Gresk say that they are here to help AUIS students, and just because they have had to refuse certain demands does not mean that they do not care.

Ahmed Yousif says, "since 2014 we as dormitory students are paying more money for lesser services." He also says these policies are unfair and quite hypocritical of an institution that "promotes democracy" to not practice it itself.

Mr. Ahmed, protest organizer, stated that "this is the first protest we've had in AUIS, and we're proud of that. Hopefully we'll get a result and if not, we will continue to protest."

Lava Omer

Restaurant Review: Qasm

“If you could have only one type of food for the rest of your life, what would it be?” Do you go for something light and practical, like pizza? Or something more juicy and dense, like hamburgers? Perhaps you’re trying to stay healthy, so you stick with Caesar Salads?

This question had baffled food lovers for centuries, up until the discovery of Qasm. No food seems to defy the laws of diminishing marginal benefit quite like Qasm’s quarter grilled chicken breast. Qasm is no one-trick pony, though. Their kebab, wings, lamb tikka, and chicken tikka are just as savory.

Kak Qasm, who formerly plied his trade at Abu Nawas in Baghdad, has been in the restaurant business since 1967. He has a keen interest in collecting antiques, which he proudly displays at his restaurant. Speaking about why he likes collecting antiques, he says, “That which doesn’t have a past, doesn’t have a future.”

The staff, who come from dif-

ferent places such as Syria and Iraq, are friendly and helpful. They always make sure to bring you nan from next door just in time for your food, so that it is still warm. Make your face familiar to them by becoming a regular, and you’ve secured yourself free tea, mast-aw, coke, and water for the rest of your days.

The restaurant, which has been open for six years, is beautifully decorated with antiques personally collected by Kak Qasm. The walls are covered in old pictures of Sulaimani’s most famous people and places, some of them dating back to the early 1900s. There’s also a conveniently placed loudspeaker and an AUX cord in one corner of the restaurant, which customers are welcome to use. So the next time you’re craving some delicious grilled chicken or kebab, you know where to go.

Artin Barawi



The Suli Runners



Suli Runners is a new club, which is dedicated to serving community through organizing weekly running activities and providing a healthier lifestyle for everyone. Created by a group of active AUIS students, it hopes to provide a stress-free, pleasant time for everyone, and make running in public a social norm in Sulaimani.

Suli Runners will launch group-running activities every weekend in various locations in Sulaimani. Each week the events will take place in different location so that people don’t get bored by repeatedly going through the same place every time. Also, the distances

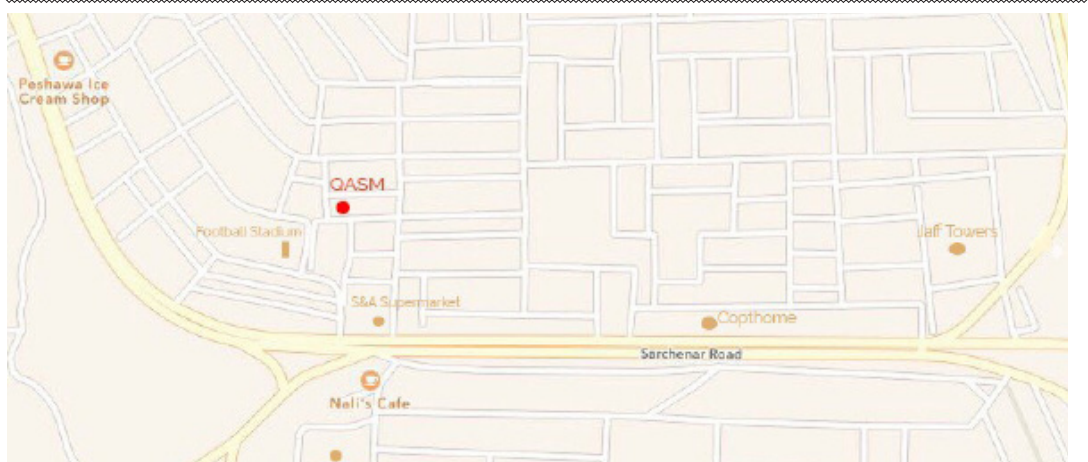
will gradually increase to help participants get out of their comfort zone and eventually get them closer to the fitness level of marathon runners.

The first group running activity was held on Friday 31st March at 9:00 AM in Azadi Park, which more than 30 people attended. It started with everyone meeting up and an introduction of the group by the organizers. Some warm-ups and stretches followed, and after that the running started. All the participants managed to complete the 2 km target.

Joining Suli Runners is easy because you can get in contact with the organizers by either emailing us on our official email address (sulirunners@gmail.com), on our Facebook page (Suli Runners), or simply just show up to one of our events. Anyone can participate so don’t hesitate to invite the people you want to run with as well.

Suli Runners wants to promote a culture of friendly communal spirit in the community. For the coming events, we want to expand our reach and have a greater diversity of people getting involved in our activities. Also, our main goal is to establish the ‘Sleman Marathon’ in the future.

Yad Mhammed



Bitcoin: the Future of a Global Currency

Bitcoin is the first decentralized cryptocurrency in the world. It was published in 2009 by a cryptographer named Satoshi Nakamoto in a cryptography forum as a solution for the financial crisis of the United States in 2008. Bitcoin is a fully digital currency. They are exchanged between computers in a worldwide peer-to-peer network. Bitcoins bring a lot of advantages and challenges with itself. Because Bitcoins are decentralized, there isn’t a single point where theft and fraud will be detected, making it hard to detect who does what and how. To keep everything under control and decentralized at the same time, Bitcoin has miners. Miners are people who volunteer and have access to a list of all of the users and how much money they have and the transactions they do to keep updated. Bitcoin users are constantly increasing; transactions are done swiftly and efficiently without any paperwork or governments and banks intervention. The transaction fees are very cheap as well, and can outdo other currencies’ transaction fee, like US dollar, from that aspect, easily.

Digital currencies don’t use cash as representation of money, which is paper in most of the countries. Instead, Bitcoin miners use a list of all of the users and how much money they have: which is called a blockchain. There are multiple identical blockchains

around the world, all run by Bitcoin miners which get updated each time transactions occur. Multiple blockchains will cross-check each other regularly, so that they can validate each other: leading to a secured self-verification system. Bitcoin’s database can detect faulty transactions easily. Even if one or multiple blockchains get lost, hacked, or changed, the amount of money that each user has, will be recorded and the user will be removed from that blockchain list, to ensure safety.

Bitcoin miners use their computers, or special computers, to keep the blockchains updated regularly and verify them. The encryption of the sender and receiver’s IDs are essential to ensure privacy and security of both sides. Otherwise, everyone will be able to tell who sent money to whom, and may be able to send money to their own accounts.

Bitcoin miners work to keep the system stable. Miners use their computers’ processing power to encrypt and update blockchains of data and get paid around 12.5 Bitcoins per blockchain, which is nearly \$15,224. The money the miners get paid is created out of thin air in the Bitcoin servers. Of course, the tasks that miners have to perform are not easy to finish, so that the value of Bitcoins won’t fall. It takes between several months to a year to finish the processing of a



block chain. The remuneration of processing a whole blockchain becomes half of its last term’s price every four years to keep Bitcoins on high demand and low supply to increase its value. As of April 2017, there are 16,000,000+ BTC (Bitcoins) available, all of which have been mined by miners and used for daily transactions. The number is expected to reach 21,000,000th Bitcoin, by 2030.

Mahmud Adnan

La Liga Round Up

Match-day 31 of La Liga Santander was a bolt out of the blue. The first clash of the week resulted in an important 3-1 win for Villarreal against Athletic Bilbao, which solidified their fifth-place position, taking them four points ahead of the Basque club. In the Madrid derby, however, Los Merengues started the derby with accurate passing and high quality one-touch football, which brought them a goal in minute 52nd by Pepe, exploiting a dead-ball situation. But Antoine Griezmann's late equalizer in the 85th minute cut their celebrations short.

In a surprise result, Malaga made the Catalan giants suffer a 2-0 defeat at Estadio La Rosaleda. Although this was an easy match for Barcelona on paper, Malaga could exploit Barca's vulnerabilities and present itself as very dangerous side on the counter-attack. Despite the fact that Malaga also won the psychological battle that caused Neymar a sending-off in the 65th minute, they prevented the Catalan side from gaining ground on Real Madrid at the top of the table. Ney-

mar also received a three-match ban, which means he will miss El Clasico, after he sarcastically applauded the fourth official. The issues in the dressing room of the Catalan team makes the situation even worse, as they are facing a back-breaking visit to Torino to play against Juventus in Round 8 of the UEFA Champions League.

Real Madrid also have a difficult run of games starting with an encounter against Bayern Munich. This match is special for both Zinedine Zidane and Carlo Ancelotti as they have previously worked together in the management team of Real Madrid. Apart from this, Toni Kroos also makes an emotional return to Allianz Arena. Diego Simeone's team also prepare to face Leicester City. Even though the Foxes gave a good account



of themselves in the Round of 16 and knocked Sevilla out, the Rojiblancos seem more experienced with the competition and more likely to reach the semi-finals.

Ahmed Aram



Eagles Win Comfortably Against CSM

The AUIS Eagles Men's Team emerged victorious in a comfortable win against the Classical School of the Medes. The Eagles, managed by Coach Shad Rashed, came back from a goal down, but it was easy in the end as they marched on to a 9-3 win, with Omar Al-Obaidy contributing with five of the goals.

CSM were in control and deservedly went ahead early on as striker Akar Faris finished from close range. The Eagles responded quickly with 2 goals in quick succession to put CSM under pressure. CSM equalized and almost went in the lead after hitting the post several times with 10 minutes remaining in the first half, but a flurry of goals from the Eagles put them 5-2 ahead at half time.

The Eagles managed the game well in the second half and did well to stop CSM from posing any significant threat, scoring four and only conceding only one. The game ended 9-3 to the Eagles.

Man of the Match: Hawdin was energetic and reliable at the back as usual, but it's hard to look past Omar after his impressive 5-goal haul.

Artin Barawi



Don't Miss Out: AUIS Basketball Tournament is Underway!

In celebration of the 10th annual anniversary of AUIS's establishment, a basketball tournament is ongoing between AUIS Alumni, AUIS Faculty and Staff, and our Eagles team split into blue and white team.

The tournament started on April 1st in rainy weather, as our four teams faced off at Peshmerga Club's basketball court. The tournament is sponsored by Family Mall and every Saturday there are ongoing games, which are all played at AUIS's basketball court if weather doesn't get too bad.

Players of all four teams include guys and girls of different nationalities. These mixed teams have become a norm in our basketball play-offs at AUIS which means less gender/ethnic specificity and more playing a team sport without any consideration to gender, race, or nationality which in essence is the beauty of sports.



Every game a male and female MVP (Most Valuable Player) is chosen based on influence and impact on the game and final score. Here I want to include the names of the female and male MVPs of the last four games of the tournament respectively:

Game one: Rachel Hittepole, Arya Abdulla

Game two: Zhilwan Hassan, Miran Burhan

Game three: Zhilwan Hassan (Again), Brusk Muhammed

Game four: Sozi T. Faris, Peter Choi

22nd of this month marks the end of the tournament with a final game between two top teams having the two top winning records of the tournament.

What's left there to say is that tournaments and other sport events like this are great means by which we as students of AUIS can practice and show our sense of sportsmanship and tolerance. What's great to see is that our female players are phenomenal in their performance thus far and are crucial to their teams' successes; Zhilwan Hassan from the White Eagles team has been female MVP in both games she's played in, which is quite an accomplishment to say the least. Every Saturday if you had some time on your hands, come by to watch the tournament games starting at 2 PM; we'd love to see you there at the court!

Gardenia Boskani

French Revolution

The French Revolution was the anger of a nation that was suppressed under unfair laws and rules for decades. The revolution happened for a good purpose, but ended as a disaster in Europe's history. The French Revolution is an important event in history because it spread the idea of democracy even though it did not gain democracy for its own. While the French Revolution spread ideas of democracy and helped other nations, it was not a positive happening in French history because it did not achieve most of its goals. I will consider French's politics, economy, social structure, religion before and after the revolution, and also talk about the achievements of the revolution, such as the Napoleonic Code. In neither of those fields did the revolution obtain its goals except for the few laws in the Napoleonic Code.

The idea of the French Revolution was accomplished on several political promises, but almost none of them were achieved. In June 1789, the Third Estate separated from the Estates General and met in a tennis court. The first political goal that the Third Estate announced was gaining constitution for France. Gaining constitution was also a feature of the American Revolution. America became a democratically elected republic after their constitutional document, which influenced the French revolutionaries to become a democratic nation. Constitutionalism was accepted in France, but the actual constitution of 1799 was a farce. The revolutionaries overthrew a monarch, Louis XVI, but another monarch seized power, Napoleon Bonaparte. Democracy was declared, but it was never really tried because the dictatorship of Napoleon began in 1799. The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen "Déclaration des droits de l'homme et du citoyen" was a statement of democratic principles in the philosophical and political ideas of enlightenment thinkers like Jean Jacques Rousseau, and it was adopted by the assembly and was made three times to replace the monarchy regime. These declarations were more form than substance and were omitted in 1799 when Napoleon took power. Liberties were declared in writing, but it was violated in the Reign of Terror "la Terreur," "a 10-month period in which suspected enemies of the revolution were guillotined by the thousands". Also, right to Property was declared in Article 17 of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, but it was not for the clergy or emigres. Llewellyn said that, "On February 9th 1792 the Assembly passed another decree, declaring the property of émigrés to be bien nationaux ('national goods')".

The people of France suffered from a cycle of failing regimes for decades, but after the French Revolution when Napoleon seized power, this successive cycle ended for some time and the economy of the country strengthened, but Napoleon's regime also failed and the country went back to its previous conditions and even worse. Before the French Revolution had even started, there was an economic crisis that was happening in France since the king and queen refused to stabilize the economy by contributing some of their profits. According to Anderson, "While the French Revolution was in part fought because of the inflated price of common foods, the revolution actually caused food prices to stay inflated and the Napoleonic war that followed intensified the economic problems for the common people". After the revolution, it was claimed that there is free land ownership for everyone but later on it was realized that free land ownership is only for those with money. Agricultural reforms were another promise of the French Revolution that was violated and this affected the province's economy negatively. According to Anderson, lack of agricultural reforms harmed the economy of France. Agriculture could not help the country's economy un-

til after the revolution and end of Napoleon's power.

The social structure of the old regime before the French Revolution contained of three levels: The First Estate (the clergy), Second Estate (the nobility) and Third Estate (farmers and peasants or the rest of society). The First Estate consisted about 0.6% of French society but owned around 10% of its land, and they were excused from most taxes because of their role in relieving poor, health care and education. The Second Estate consisted about 2% of France's population but owned 20% of the land. These nobilities also paid very little amount of tax. On the other side, the Third Estate, who consisted of everyone else in the society, were overtaxed by Louis XVI, and this overtaxing caused the revolution by the Third Estate. The revolutionaries wanted to change this unfair social structure, but they failed almost entirely. After the revolution, the clergy and nobles were replaced by a social class called the Bourgeoisie, who were the upper middle class, especially lawyers. The revolution did not change a lot in terms of social structure because the common man was left out. Class consciousness was still persisted and privileges were still sought, and the revolution could not gain socialism. They worked on social reform and passed it in Legislature, but it was never applied to real life. Overall, the revolution was not much of a success in terms of social reforms.

Religion was another influential idea in the French revolution, but the revolutionaries could not achieve the aims of the revolution in terms of religion. Catholicism was the official religion of France. They negotiated some certain liberties that privileged the French monarch. France's population was almost entirely Catholic, and they were against Protestant and Jewish minorities. France was still Catholic after the revolution, and the revolution was meant to achieve religious freedom. It was even mentioned in the Napoleonic Code that there should be religious freedom in France. After the revolution, there was no freedom of religion. They were strongly anti-Protestant and anti-Semitic. Taylor said that, "After the revolution was over, and the Catholic Church was separated from the government, the number of worshipers slowly began to rise again". A part of the revolution was to bring liberty to the society and liberty of religion was included, but as it is mentioned, after the revolution, the French people were still worshipers of the Roman Catholic Churches, and they were entirely against other religions, such as Protestant and Jewish. In fact, the revolutionaries in the state took steps toward making the Catholic Church weak in France and there was a schism between the churches and the state. Then the Concordat of 1801 happened under the power of Napoleon Bonaparte, who was an appealing individual of the revolution and wanted to bring religious freedom to France, but he made an agreement with the Roman Catholic Churches and let the religion become the main religion of the state. Once again, the destructive French Revolution could not achieve the goal that it was meant to achieve, and the situation of France remained the same as before



the revolution.

One major accomplishment of the French Revolution and Napoleon Bonaparte is The Napoleonic Code. This was the French civil code established under Napoleon I in 1804. The civil code gave post-revolutionary France its first coherent set of laws concerning property, colonial affairs, the family and individual rights. Before Napoleon, law was not standardized across France. Northern France was ruled under customary laws, but the South followed Roman laws, and the Roman Catholic Churches had a major role in the government. There are pros and cons in the civil code of Napoleon. An example for pro is that it standardized the laws across France. For example, the church could no longer control secular institutions. Also, judges could not make new laws anymore, only the central government had that power. Hereditary of the nobles and class privileges eliminated. Private property, freedom of contract and freedom of individuals affirmed. Equality was a part of the revolution's slogan "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity," but it was not for everyone, which is a con. Equality was given to all male citizens but not women. For instance, women were defined as machines for producing children, and also mentioned that they had to obey men because they are men's slaves by nature. This is the exact opposite of the revolution's definition of equality. The French Revolution failed to achieve both liberty and equality, two major goals of the revolution, and it was part of the slogan of the revolution. Did the revolution achieve the third part of the slogan, fraternity? The answer is 'No.' After the revolutionaries succeeded, they did not care about fraternity because they would kill and guillotined anyone against the revolution. According to Llewellyn, "On October 25th the newly formed National Convention went further, banning all émigrés from France and promising them the guillotine should they ever return".

The French Revolution was a 360-degree turn. Louis XVI was traded for Napoleon Bonaparte, and both practiced authoritarian regimes. But the people questioned the rule of their monarch, questioned slavery and what the rights of man were. The revolution had some achievements like conveying ideas of democracy, equality and liberty, which were radical ideas back then, but it led to terror and dictatorship. The fact that there are people questioning the origin of law, whether it is by nature or man, people questioning the divine rights of the monarch, and it proves how the French revolution did not do well for France. But we saw the Haiti, the Latin revolution soon after. France helped spread ideas of democracy.

Movie Review: Logan

Logan is the wrap up of the famous X-Men comic book series. The superhero genre gets a great entry as it's the final role Hugh Jackman takes as the wolverine, the role that made him a superstar. Logan is the first superhero movie after The Dark Knight with the possibility of a nomination for the best picture in the 2018 Oscars. Jackman's performance in the film changes the face of the superhero we got used to in the previous films, and it's an iconic farewell to the famous character of X-Men. The film unfolds in the year 2029 and no mutants have been born in the past twenty years. Logan works as a chauffeur and he lives in the desert with his friend Charles Xavier, Professor X, who suffers from a neurodegenerative disease that caused the loss of his telepathic abilities. One day a woman called Gabriela Lopez asks Logan to drive a girl to the Canadian border in North Dakota, and that's when Laura an eleven-year-old girl appears. She's a female copy of the wolverine. Laura is the first mutant to arrive in decades and she's their only hope. Logan accepts the offer and steals a car to take Laura there with professor X. Soon they find out that Gabriela is murdered. Logan and Xavier reveal that Laura is one of many mutant children that were breaded using DNA samples from other mutants in the "X-23" project,

and that Laura is the biological daughter of Logan. From here their journey starts. This time the events don't go like the usual. Logan gets beaten up and the wounds that once used to heal immediately are leaving a trace, and his ability to heal himself is decreasing. This is Jackman's best performance as a wolverine, allowing him to get deeper into the character than any of the other films. We don't just see the usual anger, regret, and skepticism from Logan we also see the mix compassion, bitterness, and care towards his friend Charles Xavier. Then we see his denial of care and attachment towards Laura. Logan is more vulnerable in this movie as he remembers what it is like to trust, to love, and to be a part of a family again. Logan's journey began when a girl saved him 17 years ago, when



she showed him what it was like to be good, to be a part of a family in the X-Men series. Now again in Logan, it takes a little girl to remind him what is his real worth and who he really is.

Tara Burhan Mohammed

Movie Review: About a Boy

About a Boy is a movie adaptation of a novel by Nick Hornby, and it made its big screen debut in 2002. The lead actors, Hugh Grant and Nicholas Hoult, both excel in their assigned character and in many ways their role in this movie progressed and launched their careers to new heights. The movie addresses serious and emotional themes but does it with a lighthearted and distinct British-Dry-Humour approach.

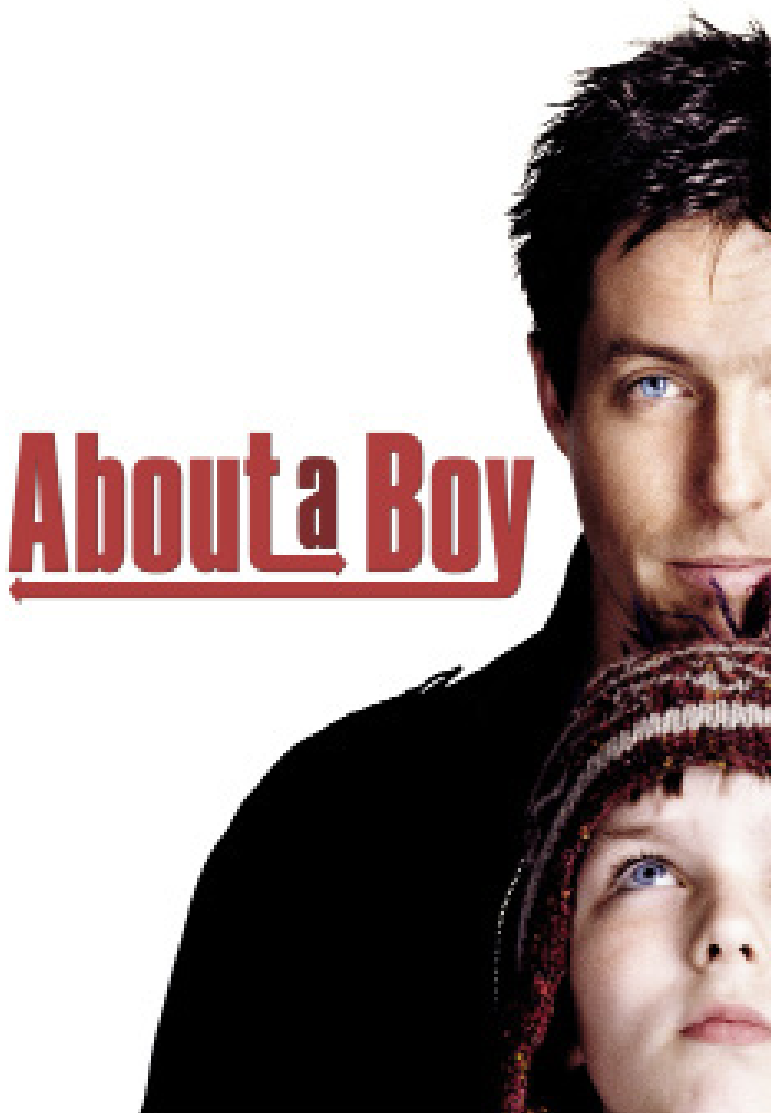
At its core, the movie tells the story of how much more you can get out of life when you let people in. Will Freeman, played by Grant, is in his late thirties and living off the royalties from his deceased one-hit-wonder father. This ensures he has never needed to work a day in his life and instead enjoys doing nothing much at all. He is cynical and selfish in every sense of the word, he is his own only priority. He believes life is much simpler when one is on their own, "Me, I didn't mean anything. About anything, to anyone. And I knew that guaranteed me a long, depression-free

life". This is arguably Hugh Grant's most three-dimensional role to date, he portrays a natural charm that manages to be charismatic without coming across as pretentious. Will's character develops throughout the movie after he meets Marcus, he even exclaims at one point that "Having been Will the Good Guy, I didn't relish going back to my usual role of Will the Unreliable, Emotionally Stunted Asshole." His transition is not only realistic and believable to the audience but it has real substance and leaves us with a truly memorable character.

Marcus Brewer on the other hand, is played by Nicholas Hoult, he is a twelve year old boy who lives with his clinically depressed and chronically suicidal mother, Fiona. He is willing to do whatever it takes to make her happy, even if it means that he is bullied due to the hippie-esque lifestyle established by his mother. Which is how he meets Will, he attempts to set his mother up with him because he is afraid to lose her, "Suddenly I realised - two people isn't enough. You need backup. If you're only two people, and someone drops off the edge, then you're on your own. Two isn't a large enough number. You need three at least". This is the movie that landing Hoult recognition from the acting community. Although Will and Fiona never get romantically involved, Will's presence in their life brings forth positive changes for them all. Although Marcus is weird and at times an awkward kid, the audience can't help but to love him for his quirky and endearing character.

Overall the movie hits home due to its brilliant combination of lighthearted humour (when Marcus attempted to feed the ducks in the park "I think I killed a duck!") and the reality of handling internal struggles (when Marcus confronts his mother about her suicide attempt, "The moment's no good for me. I can see you feel better at the moment. You just put the kettle on. What happens when you finish your tea? What happens when I go back to school? I can't be here to watch you all the time!"). If you are looking for a movie with substance that hits close to home but does it in a such a way that is simultaneously realistic and quick-witted, look no further.

Avan Kurbani



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