

AUIS FACES THE BRAIN DRAIN



Saman Fuad

A high majority of Kurdish youth wish to migrate out of Kurdistan, including the most educated, due to lack of opportunities, more freedoms and adventure which has created a phenomenon called the brain-drain that is influencing the region's progress.

According to a study by the International Organization for Migration in cooperation with the British Foreign Ministry, 79 percent of Kurdish youth wish to leave Kurdistan. This data seems to be quite familiar in universities as well.

At our own university, a sample of the students gave an overwhelming "yes" to the question, "would you leave Kurdistan right now?" The reasons varied from pure adventure to lack of opportunity to security to pure adventure.

Of course, there were many young people who went outside in search of better education and expanding their ambition. Prusha Hassan, a former AUIS alumna and current grad-student at George Washington University, explained how difficult it is to have opportunities especially due to the polit-

icization of industries such as energy, and oil. She currently studies energy policy and remarked on how "you can't get a good paying job in the energy industry unless you are connected to a political party or from a highly connected family."

There are also the reverse brain-drainers who travelled outside for education and opportunity and then came back to work in their native country. They agree that this trend has a negative effect on the Kurdish economy and society, and had some advice for those who want to leave and those who want to change the situation.

Alka Aziz, an alumna of AUIS and former grad-student at Harvard who came back this year to teach, advised young Kurds to know why exactly they would leave outside. She elaborated by saying that her plan was always to come back and help the education system in Kurdistan. "I did not go to help the USA," Alka said. "They already have capable people who can do the job."

Choman Hardi, a professor of English at AUIS who came back in 2010 to teach, saw traveling as a "right that can't be taken away

from the youth." However, she advised young Kurds to have "more commitment" and emphasized that we need people to stay her if we want to make it a better place.

Akeel Abbas, an AUIS professor who came back to teach around 2010, said that we have a negative population meaning that we don't make things happen, but rather wait for other people to do so. His advice was to have continuous, regular protests and demonstrations or any other form of social activism with an organized goal in mind.

There is also large segment of students feel that there really is no security or stability in the region. Davar Mohammed, an IS student at AUIS said: "A bright future requires economic and life security, and we have none." He elaborated by saying there are currently no full salaries for government employees which is a huge issue. Also, he said that the situation between Kurdish and Iraqi forces is "very fragile."

Still, there were people who felt that the situation was not hopeless and simply wanted to leave because of adventure. Arez Aso, who

is a faculty at AUIS, mountain-climbing enthusiast and dance-instructor, said that the only reason he would leave is adventures. "In Kurdistan I have only have about six cities to explore," he said. "Outside there will be many more cities and more cultures to meet as well."

The youth in Kurdistan and AUIS were split on whether they would come back to Kurdistan after they would leave or not. Some said: "Of course we would come back!" but added no exact duration of how long they would stay outside if they did indeed go. Others gave a straight-forward "no" and said that this region is quite uncertain to come back to. And finally, some said that they would consider coming back if the situation got better.

The ambivalence of returning to Kurdistan begs the question: "How can this region get better if the people who seek a better life go outside?" The answer is not written in any university text book or an answer that a university professor can come up with. It is up to the youth of AUIS and Kurdistan to solve this paradox.

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The Champions' League quarter final first legs kick off this week. See which teams are going up against each other on page 5.



CZECH COURT RELEASES SALEH MUSLIM WHILE HIS EXTRADITION PROCESS IS ONGOING

Mohammed Shekhany

A court in Czech Republic has acquitted Saleh Muslim, the former Syrian-Kurdish leader of Democratic Union Party (PYD),

decision.

The decision was blasted and slammed by senior officials in Ankara. Turkish Deputy PM and spokesperson of government, Bekir Bozdogan, accused Czech

In a statement, Turkish Foreign Ministry recognized the decision to be incompatible with Czech's "jurisdictional responsibility of international law and fight against terrorism."

ing breaching any of its "international legal obligation because the court [...] did not conclude extradition proceedings".

Turkey demanded Saleh's extradition after he was detained in Prague on Feb 25. However, a Czech court released him two days after, refusing to retain him in custody. The reason according to Al Jazeera is that "the extradition process could take a month or even half a year." In addition, according to Saleh's lawyer, Saleh had promised to be at the disposal of the court.

Saleh is in Turkey's Interior Ministry's "most wanted terrorists" list, with 1 million-dollar bounty to report his place. According to Al-Monitor, Turkey claims that "Saleh was involved in a March 2016 car bomb attack in the heart of Ankara that left at least 37 people dead and over a hundred wounded."

"[Other] charges against him include damaging public property and national unity, predominated murder and transporting dangerous materials," State-run Anado-

lu agency reported.

The allegations stem from Turkey's perception of PYD and its armed wing, YPG, to be "terrorist groups" with their rigid ties to PKK. The latter being a resistance group, striving for self-rule in Turkey since 1984.

In an interview with Al-Monitor, Saleh did not deny that "he had met with Ocalan in Damascus before he was forced out in Syria in 1998." Nevertheless, he denied that PYD and its armed wing, YPG, to be an extension of PKK and said that "their thinking is inspired by [Ocalan's] teachings."

According to a report by Al-Jazeera: "[Saleh] didn't take the arrest warrant seriously in Europe prior to his detention as he was amid 49 others in this Turkish list, hanging around in Europe freely [...] nobody was taking it seriously."

"It's nothing. It's unbelievable. First of all, I am a citizen of Syria. I am not a citizen of Turkey and the second thing is, I am a politician," he added.



photo from warmedia.com

on Feb. 27 despite Turkey's call for extradition elevating angry statements in Ankara about the

Republic of "backing terrorism", and warned of negative impacts on their bilateral relations.

According to Ahval News, Czech Republic's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement deny-

ABADI LIFTS FLIGHT EMBARGO ON KURDISTAN AIRPORTS

Shad Hawrami

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi announced in a decree issued on March 13, the resumption of international flights in the Kurdistan Region.

The statement released by the PM's office said that the flight embargo was lifted after the "response of local authorities in the Kurdistan region" and their agreement to the "restoration of federal authority on the two airports."

Kurdish Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani welcomed Abadi's decision over canceling the flight ban and said that they will continue to "work with counterparts in Baghdad to address all outstanding issues between the Kurdistan Region and Iraqi Government."

NATO members expressed their concerns over the diplomatic sanctions held by Baghdad over Erbil after September 25 and demanded both sides to reach "concrete solutions."

The United States Ambassador to Iraq Douglas Silliman praised the Iraqi government's decision and encouraged both sides to continue talks over "outstanding issues until lasting

resolutions to all remaining differences can be achieved."

France and the United Kingdom have also commended the progress made by the Iraqi

dad urged the Iraqi Government and the KRG to "find concrete solutions to their differences on the basis of the Iraqi Constitution without further delay" and

posed the flight embargo after the historic September 25 independence referendum, which many people saw as a punishment for their votes to separate

the authority of the federal government in all of Iraq, including the crossings of the Kurdistan Region, the airports in Sulaimani and Erbil," he added.



Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi giving his weekly press conference

Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) over the current vital issues in the area.

French president Emmanuel Macron lauded the decision made by Baghdad to lift the flight ban over Kurdistan and showed his country's support "to strengthen the national dialogue in Iraq."

Also, in an official statement, the German Embassy in Bagh-

warned that

“
stability in [Iraq]
depends on the res-
olution of internal
conflicts.
”

The Iraqi Government im-

from Iraq.

However, PM Abadi reiterated in a press conference this Feb. 20 that he does not want the Kurdish citizens to be punished. "They are our citizens," he added.

Abadi has wanted to extend the Federal control over the Kurdistan region after the majority voted for secession from Iraq in the referendum.

"We continue in strengthening

"The ban has affected international flights and for a simple reason," he said. "Because this is an international entry point, and based on the constitution, international entry points fall within the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government."

IS MAJORITARIAN DEMOCRACY FEASIBLE FOR IRAQ?

Davar Mohammad

The Kurdish referendum of September 25th has altered the political landscape of Iraq. The fine relations among the major political parties of Iraq, the Kurds and Shiite, were impacted negatively due to the referendum. However, the goals of the referendum were not accomplished, and as a result 51% of the disputed Kurdish-held territories was lost to the Iraqi government. The Kurdish referendum seriously alerted the ruling Shiite political elites to review the political structure of Iraq in order to thwart any successful attempts by the Kurds.

The post-Saddamist regime was the period that the Shiites of Iraq became the dominant player in the Iraqi political arena. The political position of Sunnis was weakened after the destruction of the Baathist regime. However, even though not all Sunnis were

Ba'athists, they were still viewed as a defeated component of Iraqi politics. This view led to the political marginalization of the Iraqi Sunnis that later resulted in mass demonstrations in the Sunni regions against the government and the emergence of the Islamic State. Some believed that this view towards minorities could be changed in the post-ISIS period, but the fall of Kirkuk and the ill-fated referendum, renewed that outlook, this time, towards the Kurds.

Since 2003 the form of the democracy that has been practiced in Iraq has been the coalition model. Before jumping into the argument of which form might fit Iraq's political system best, a brief introduction might be necessary.

In the political sciences, democracy, unlike how its known amongst people, has different kinds. The popular model which



credits: thematpicture.com

is widely known by everyone is the majoritarian model of democracy. In this model, the political entity that wins the majority of the votes is able to form the government. And the minority that did not win the elections would become the opposition. Usually, this form is practiced in the centralized governments, and the most well-known example of this model is in the United Kingdom.

In order to practice this model smoothly, without causing trouble for the political environment, there has to be certain criteria. Firstly, this system is practiced in those contexts in which the people are not very ethnically and culturally diverse. Secondly,

the political parties that have the role in the country are those that represent a comprehensive interest and will of the entire country not a single ethnicity or group. Thirdly, the political entities do not have essential differences in terms their political ideology such as secularism versus theocracy. If we apply these criteria to Iraq, none of them would be met due to the diversity in religions, cultures, and ethnicities. Hence, in order to have a politically stable country, we have to forget this form of democracy and look forward to another form which is the coalition model.

The most remarkable difference in the coalition form of democracy would be that the minorities

that could not win the majority of the votes are not powerless. In other words, being opposition is not the only choice on the table. Also, any bills could not be passed without the consent of the minorities. Hence, the minorities do not feel they are isolated or marginalized because they would be politically active participants. With the spread of these voices, especially those among the Shiite political parties that ask for a majoritarian form of democracy, it will not be costless to switch to the coalition model due to the differences that exist among the Iraq's components.



Credits: rt.com

Awyer Jwanroyi

The Turkish military started an offensive on Afrin after Turkish president Recep Teyyip Erdogan vowed to destroy "terrorists" neighboring Turkey's south-western border. While mainly populated by civilians, the Kurdish town of Afrin holds a population of about 170,000 people and faces the same destiny as eastern town of Ghouta if world superpowers do not intervene. Because sieges in Syria and Iraq have proven to be devastating as bombers and artillery try to make way for

infantry, Afrin may suffer countless civilian losses and immeasurable destruction.

The People's' Protection Units (YPG) that controls the Afrin region has long been allies with the US and Russia in the fight against ISIS, and has proven to be a more worthy and effective force in the war against ISIS as they helped recapture Raqqa - the capital of the Islamic caliphate - and numerous other ISIS-controlled locations in Syria; all of this while Turkey provided passage for foreign ISIS fighters into Syria, released ISIS prisoners and denied Incirlik air base to US per-

sonnel for use against ISIS.

So why are the US and Russia idle and silent as the offensive on Afrin continues?

One of the biggest reasons is that Turkey is perhaps the biggest ally for both countries in the Middle East, and whichever country manages to completely win Turkey over to their side, gains large influence and secures its interests in the region.

Another reason for Russia not interfering is securing more territory for its main ally in Syria which is the Assad regime. Some political analysts suggest that there is an ongoing bargain

between Russia and Turkey, which includes Russian troops retreating from Afrin and allowing Turkey to eradicate the Kurdish threat on its borders, in exchange for Turkey handing over Afrin to the Assad regime.

There are many risks to the continuation of the offensive on Afrin. One of them is the retreat of YPG fighters from eastern fronts to return to Afrin, which will give rise to ISIS again and allow them to seize territory that they had previously lost to the Kurdish forces. It will also cost the US the only non-radical ally it has in the Syrian region:

the YPG. And perhaps the biggest downside is the continuation of the Syrian civil war which has lasted over seven years thus far.

Although Erdogan's reason for this operation is "eradicating terrorist threat on Turkish borders," we can without a doubt say that his real objective is the ethnic cleansing of the Kurds in Syria. And even though Erdogan calls the Kurdish forces defending Afrin terrorists, he has embraced groups such as Hamas in the past that are known to openly target civilians, and all of this while the international community remains silent.

WORLD SUPERPOWERS WATCH AS TURKEY ATTACKS AFRIN

AUIS HAS FAILED TO REACH ITS PREDICTED GROWTH BUT HAS IT BEEN THEIR OWN FAULT?

Rez Latif

Back in 2009, when the American University of Iraq-Sulaimani (AUIS) was only two years old, an official publication by the Kurdistan Regional Government by the name of Invest in Kurdistan published an article about AUIS in its very first issue that contained some predictions as well as some information about the University. What caught my attention most was their prediction of having an estimated 5,000 students by the year 2021 for AUIS.

According to the publication, AUIS had about 500 students in 2009. It now has about 1,500 students, which is in no way close to the predicted number. In the best-case scenario, the university might be able to double its number of its students by 2021; however even this may not be possible, especially given the

events that followed the referendum of September 25th.

Ever since 2009, the problems between Kurdish and Iraqi governments have gotten worse by day, both demanding power over the other. The referendum for Kurdish independence on September 25th, 2017 has caused great turmoil in the region and has been a blow to many institutions such as AUIS.

I personally interviewed the Dean of Students at AUIS, Geoffrey Gresk, who informed me that many of those students from

Middle East and Africa who were interested in studying at AUIS, had changed their minds following the events of September 25th.

As a result, instead of having an increase in the number of students, AUIS has failed to meet with the 2009 predictions due to the events that happened in the region.

It is worth mentioning, how-

ever, that the Baghdad and Erbil governments have been in touch during the past two months, but it is not clear whether they will reach an agreement. But the fact that both sides are willing to discuss the current issues might be a good sign for the region and AUIS in particular.

Nonetheless, the provincial and parliamentary elections of Iraq

will be on May 12. This election is crucial for Iraq and Kurdistan, since it might bring an end to the crises started in September 25th.

-- Finally, any improvement in the situation might benefit AUIS because less crises means that more students from the surrounding region would be willing to come study at the university.



CGDS HOSTS SILENT AUCTION FOR FINE ARTS ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK

Karbin Darwesh

On March 3rd, 2018, at Sulaimani Palace, the Center for Gender and Development Studies-AUIS held an Auction gallery for two Kurdish female artists. The two local artists were Avan Sdiq and Narmin Mustafa. CGDS also invited the president, faculty and lecturers of AUIS.

The goal of the project was to introduce a new model of selling art works and to financially support the artists by holding an auction. Avan Mustafa, one

of the artists, said, "We want to introduce the idea of auctioning art works to make it possible for everyone to own an original piece of art." The revenue earned on the event was for the two local female artists. They were full time artists, and they did not have any other occupations.

CGDS also organized several other awareness-raising activities around campus. On March 8th, they hosted a poetry slam at the newly renovated Bees Restaurant, where students and

faculty shared writings dedicated to women. The university was decorated with purple ribbons and balloons for the week, and students wrote their names on a whiteboard using their mother's name as their last name as recognition to their mothers.

CGDS's mission is to obtain justice and equality for both genders. The center continues to strive to raise awareness and give women the recognition they deserve through activities and events such as the ones for Women's Week.



HAPPENING THIS WEEK: OPEN MIC NIGHT

AUIS
VOICE

AUIS VOICE INVITES YOU TO

OPEN
MIC
NIGHT

April 4, 2018
6-8 PM
at White House

This event is for AUIS students, faculty, and staff only

Got any question? Contact Artin Barawi at
ab15005@auis.edu.krd

CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE DRAW PITS EUROPEAN GIANTS AGAINST EACH OTHER

Artin Barawi

The quarter final draw of the Champions' League has been made, and there are some huge games to look forward to in the coming weeks.

The current holders Real Madrid are up against Juventus in what is undoubtedly the biggest match of the round. Real Madrid easily saw off PSG in the last 16 after the absence of world record signing Neymar in the second leg. Juventus beat a brave Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley Stadium after the tie was poised at 2-2 in the first leg.

Manchester City will face Liverpool in an all-English quarter final. Liverpool are the only team to have beaten the sky blues in the league this season and will be looking to repeat the same feat again. Liverpool were in control in the last 16 against Porto with a 5-0 aggregate scoreline. Manchester City were also comfortable in their victory over Basel with a 5-2 aggregate scoreline.

Barcelona's 3-0 victory over Chelsea in the last round reaffirmed their credentials as one of the favorites for the competition, and will relying on the likes of Mes-

si and Iniesta to see them past Roma, who struggled against Shakhtar Donetsk, only managing to beat them on away goals.

Bayern face Sevilla after an unsurprising 8-1 aggregate result against Turkish side Besiktas. Sevilla will consider themselves lucky to have come this far, after a 2-1 win over a poor Manchester United side in the last 16.

The first leg of the Champions' League quarter finals will be played on April 3rd and April 4th.



AS WORLD CUP FEVER KICKS IN, WHO ARE THE FAVORITES?

By: Shad Hawrami

The World Cup is set to take place in Russia this year from

June 14 to July 15. Russia and Saudi Arabia meet in the opening game of the tournament, which is being built up to be

one of the most boring matches of the tournament.

Five-time winners Brazil are seeking redemption after their embarrassing defeat to the title holders Germany in Brazil. A team equipped with the likes of Neymar, Gabriel Jesus, Coutinho, and Willian up front, coupled with the newly appointed coach Tite, will be hoping to bring the sixth title back home.

The title holders Germany have gone through a lot of changes since their victory in Brazil. With several key players retiring from international football, Die Mannschaft will be

counting on young players such as Sane and Werner to be the shining stars of the Mundial.

Spain enjoyed a long spell of world domination under Vicente del Bosque, winning the 2008 Euro, 2010 World Cup, and the 2012 Euro, but the 2014 world cup did not work out for them as planned as they were knocked out in the group stages. The regeneration of the team has started ever since, and a new crop of players who look capable of going all the way will be wearing the La Roja jersey in Moscow.

Losing three cup finals in the last three consecutive summers,

Argentina will be determined to end their drought this year. Lionel Messi, who decided to retire from the national team after his penalty miss against Chile in his third cup-final, came back to rescue the team in the CONMEBOL qualifiers. The presence of the five time Ballon D'or winner among the Tango team is a big boost to his teammates and labels Argentina as one of the contenders to win the greatest tournament ever.



RUSSIA STILL SUFFERING CONSEQUENCES OF 2016 DOPING BAN

By: Yousif Al-Tamimi

If you saw the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, you would have noticed that there were many Russian fans holding the Russian flag and cheering for their national team. And sure enough, the Russians won 17 medals: 2 gold, 6 silver, and 9 bronze. But how can this be, when Russia is banned from the Olympics?

Russia is indeed banned from the Olympics, and the athletes participating in the competition are of the "Olympic Athletes from Russia", which is the International Olympic Committee's designation of selected Russian athletes permitted to participate in the 2018 Winter Olympics, where they play under the Olympic flag rather than the Russian flag.

Russia's doping allegations came to worldwide attention

when Germany aired a documentary about it in Dec. 2014, which claimed that Russia was running a state-run doping programme, which without a doubt was very humiliating for a country that takes pride in its high number of elite athletes.

In Nov. 2015, the World Anti-Doping Agency published a report confirming the allegations, prompting the International Association of Athletics Federations to suspend Russia indefinitely from world track and field events. And On December 9, 2016 a Canadian lawyer published an independent report. His investigation found that from 2011 to 2015, more than 1,000 Russian competitors in various sports benefited from the cover-up of the doping, which as previously alleged, confirmed that it was run by the state.

On Dec. 2017, after several investigations with the Russian



athletes, Russia was banned from the winter Olympics until further notice.

The Russians have not been too pleased with the the developments, and according to a popular Russian newspaper, 86 percent of Russians are against

the actions that led to Russia not competing under the nation's flag and anthem. Vladimir Putin, the president of Russia, who has always showed a keen interest in his country's Olympic team, stated that the USA is "using the Olympics to meddle

in the Russian presidential election." Also, the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sergey Lavrov, was not far away from Putin's point of view, by stating that the USA "fears honest competition."

THE MIDDLE EAST HAS A CRYPTOCURRENCY TO RIVAL BITCOIN

Aya Adnan

It is likely that we are witnessing a new breakthrough in the Middle East. But don't worry, this time it is not going to be like the Arab Spring! It is actually a new technology that has created a buzz around the world: Blockchain technology. In the Middle East, the same technology has been commercialized under the named of "ArabianChain". But using blockchain technology is not something new in the Middle East. Israel has already started using blockchain. As a matter of fact, "Israel recognized bitcoin as a 'virtual currency', apt for payments" according to Sanya Samtani.

However, ArabianChain is slightly different. Alsehli, ArabianChain founder, told Al Arabiya, "We did not directly develop a currency similar to bitcoin so we developed a platform called ArabianChain, and it is in a way the first public and decent block-

chain in the Arab world. For this blockchain to be running, it requires a fuel and here is where Dubaicoin comes in. So it is the fuel and the crypto-currency of this platform"

DubaiCoin can be programmed to represent shares in a company or even a vote in an election. ArabianChain is the first public, decentralized and consensus-driven blockchain in the MENA region that allows for self-executing and globally accessible smart contracts and decentralized apps to be developed, and for digital tokens to be transacted, tracked and safeguarded over a network of thousands of connected yet distributed devices. "ArabianChain technology is an open source, community-based project with the goal of building a decentralized, consensus-driven, peer to peer, open source, blockchain-based platform for distributed applications. ArabianChain tech will leverage and improve blockchain tech-



DBIC

DUBAICOIN CRYPTOCURRENCY
أول عملة إفتراضية عربية

nology and build a full-featured application platform on top of it." Therefore, it might be more exciting to own ArabianChain instead of Blockchain and invest in DubaiCoin instead of in-

vesting in bitcoin. Eventually, it could be even safer to invest in DubaiCoin since the UAE is a development-driven country and investments are growing rapidly in this region of the world.

OSCARS 2018: WHAT WENT ON?

Chenar Chalack

On March 4th, the 90th annual Academy Awards was held at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, California, hosted by comedian Jimmy Kimmel. Aside from the fact that it was the 90th anniversary of the prestigious awards show, this year's ceremony was historic for many other reasons, including the main theme of the night, which was the topic of sexual harassment, and the "Time's Up" and "Me Too" movements.

Guillermo Del Toro's The Shape of Water was the biggest winner of the night, taking home four awards: Best Production Design, Best Score, Best Director, and of course, the biggest prize of all, The Best Picture. Other nominees in the category of Best Picture also included: Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri, Get Out, Dunkirk, Phantom Thread, The Post, The Darkest Hour, Call Me By Your Name, and Lady Bird.

The Shape of Water tells the story of a deaf janitor that forms a unique relationship with an amphibious creature that is being held in captivity at a top secret research facility in the 1960s. The movie earned visionary Director Guillermo Del Toro his first Oscar for directing after three previous nominations. And to achieve that feat, Del Toro had to compete with the other four nominees in that category,



which were Christopher Nolan for Dunkirk, Jordan Peele for Get Out, Greta Gerwig for Lady Bird, and Paul Thomas Anderson for Phantom Thread.

This year's Best Actor in a Leading Role award went to the brilliant Gary Oldman for his role as Former British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill in The Darkest Hour. Other nominees in that category included Denzel Washington for Roman J. Israel, Esq., Daniel Day-Lewis for Phantom Thread, Daniel Kaluuya for Get Out, and Timothée Chalamet for Call Me By Your Name. This was Oldman's second Oscar nomination and first win.

Frances McDormand won the award for Best Actress in a Leading Role for her amazing portrayal of a mother taunting the police to uncover the truth about her daughter's death in Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri. Other nominees in that

category included: Margot Robbie for I, Tonya, Saoirse Ronan for Lady Bird, Sally Hawkins for The Shape of Water, and Meryl Streep for The Post. This was McDormand's fifth Oscar nomination and second win. She took home her first Oscar for her role in Fargo back in 1997.

Allison Janney for I, Tonya, and Sam Rockwell for Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri, took home the awards for Best Actor and Best Actress in Supporting Roles.

Jordan Peele made history by becoming the first African-American to win an Oscar for Best Original Screenplay for Get Out. Get Out was Jordan Peele's directorial debut and it garnered him three Oscar nominations.

Cinematographer Roger Deakins broke his losing streak and won his first Oscar, after being nominated 14 previous times without a win, for his work on

Blade Runner 2049.

After winning five NBA championships, Basketball legend Kobe Bryant is now also an Academy Award winning screenwriter for his animated short film Dear Basketball.

The rest of the night's winners are as follows. Dunkirk received three awards for Best Sound Mixing, Best Sound Editing and Best Film Editing. Coco for Best Original Song (Remember Me) and Best Animated Film. Call Me By Your Name for Best Adapted Screenplay. Blade Runner 2049 for Best Visual Effects. A Fantastic Woman for Best Foreign Film. Icarus for Best Documentary. Phantom Thread for Best Costume Design. The Darkest Hour for Best Makeup. The Silent Child for Best Live Action Short Film, and Heaven is a traffic jam on the 405 for Best Documentary Short Subject.

Despite all these historical achievements, this year's Oscar's ratings scored an all-time low in TV viewership. This is mainly due to the fact that the Academy always nominates films that were not watched by the majority of people and avoid nominating popular blockbusters, which leads to the loss of interest of the audience. Although it is hard to predict, it is possible that we will get a completely different set of nominees and a completely new approach for the Oscars in coming years' ceremonies.

THE FUTURE OF KEYBOARD AND MOUSE

Rawand Ali

In the last AUIS Voice issue, I talked about the new generation of headphones that will turn into 3D audio with advanced improvements in headphones. Now, it is time to talk about a hardware that we use every day for texting, gaming, writing, coding, and so on, the keyboard. Keyboards are one of the most necessary hardware for handling daily work. Over the past years, keyboards have developed with every generation by changing shapes, the locations of their keys, the type of buttons, as well as by adding more functions. The improvements are never-ending.

A new gadget, Tap, has entered the market that combines features of both a keyboard and a mouse together! This could be the gadget that radically changes the way we type. This new gadget is wearable and allows your fingers to control the cursor, characters, and commands. It fits between your 5 fingers and connects to devices like your phone, laptop, tablet, smart watch, VR device, and so on via Bluetooth.

You may be wondering how Tap is used. All you need is to see your device's screen to see what you type. Wear the gadget and put your fingers on any surface, it could be a table, your arm, thigh, or any other surface near to you. After that, you simply type away. It is extremely easy to use and quite useful.

Of course, to accommodate for different hand sizes, the strap comes in two sizes, small and large. The small size is built for those with narrower palms, around 3 inches or less. The large size is built for palms wider than 3 inches. The company website provides a guide that helps you figure out which size is best for you. The gadget costs the same for both sizes, \$149.99.

As with every other new gadget, users might face some challenges upon starting to use it. The first challenge most users face is how to use it and how to figure out the position of each character. To overcome this challenge, the gadget's application comes with a game called Tap Genius, which helps train your fingers with the new system. Another challenge could arise when multiple devices try to connect to the gadget. However, Tap solves this problem by connecting to only one device at a time and will automatically connect to the closest device.

New gadgets enter the market often, but not all of them are successful. However, considering how practical and innovate Tap is, I believe it has a good chance.

WHAT IS ART?

AN ARTIST AT AUIS SHARES HER THOUGHTS

Artin Barawi

Bahashty Ali is an undergraduate student in her third semester at AUIS. When she isn't busy studying for CIV 101, she makes art. Her art consists mainly of drawings, sketches, and paintings. I recently sat down with Bahashty to talk about herself and her art.

Tell me a bit about yourself. When did you get into drawing?
I'm Bahashty, I'm 19 years old. I started drawing about four years ago.

How did you learn to draw? What materials do you use?

I learned to draw on my own. I used videos and other online resources to help me learn, but I never took any classes or had any sort of formal training. I started out with a regular pencil, but I soon learned to use charcoal and realised I draw better with it. I also use acrylic and oil paint sometimes, but mostly charcoal and pencil.

Has your art changed since you started? How?

Yes it has, a lot. I think I've gotten a lot better. When I started out, I wasn't aware of the specific techniques that there are to drawing, so I would just free draw. Now I sketch first, especially when I draw faces, I draw the lines first, so that everything is symmetrical. I used to think that I can't draw people, but I worked on it-- mostly because my friends would keep

asking me to draw them-- and now I've become a lot better. I was also reluctant to use colors at first because I thought it would ruin the drawing, but now I'm a lot more comfortable with using colors.

Is art something you want to pursue as a career?

Not really. If I wanted to pursue it, I'd study fine arts. Art is something that I enjoy and I wouldn't want to mix it with reality; it's something I use to escape reality.

What is art, to you?

Everything is art. Art isn't talent, I don't believe that. I believe that anyone can make art, and that anything can be art. I feel like there's an artist inside everyone. Some people choose to get in touch with their artistic side and develop it, while others don't. It's all about practicing and improving what you already have. And people can have different ways of expressing their art, that is what I mean when I say "everything is art". It can be obvious things like drawing and music, but it can also be everyday things like the way you dress or the way you decorate your room. Everything we do in our lives, it's all art.

When you start working on a new drawing, where do you get the idea from? Do you try to recreate something you've seen or do you use your own imagination?

I mostly rely on my own imagination

because I think I have a very strong imagination. My imagination drives me most of the time. I sometimes look at other people's work to try and recreate bits and pieces, but I never recreate a complete work. I've noticed I draw much better when I'm sad. I draw when I'm sad because I have so much to express that I can't express with words, so I use art.

You don't like to talk about your art to people. Why is that?

I don't like to talk about my art because I don't believe I can explain my art to people the way artists normally explain their art. That's not something I can do. I always say "If I could have said it, then I wouldn't have drawn it."

I know this is hard for you, but tell me about the drawing. Who is she? (referring to the drawing featured on the right)

She's just someone I imagined. She's the same girl from all my other drawings, but I draw her differently every time, and her face changes every time because she's in a different situation. Most of my art is about how women are struggling in this life, especially where we live. Women have very limited freedom here. Freedom to go where they want and wear what they want. A lot of my art features women who have been emotionally hurt. And my drawings aim to express that pain through the colours that I use.

What about the tattoos in the



drawing, what do those mean?

The tattoos symbolise the dual nature of women. The flower on her neck symbolises the delicacy of women; a woman is delicate and pretty like a flower, but once the petals on a flower fall off, it can never be exactly as it was before.

The Taurus on her arm symbolises her strength, but the flowers on its horn is a reminder of how delicate she is. On her chest is a hybrid of a butterfly and a bee. It symbolises how even though she can be pretty and delicate like a butterfly, she can also sting you like a bee.



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