

AUIS STUDENTS SHOW SOLIDARITY DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES IN THE KRG

By: Saman Fuad

AUIS students gathered on Oct. 4 in the cafeteria to show their respect for the death of one of the revolutionary leaders of Kurdistan, Jalal Talabani. This act symbolized what AUIS students have repeatedly done in the past month: show solidarity during these difficult and stressful times.

The end of September held high tensions politically between Arabs and Kurds as the referendum took place and some very controversial statements were heard from political leaders. However, AUIS students did not let these statements get in their way and acted very maturely. Botan Sharbazheri, the president of the Student Association, posted a letter on AUIS issues reminding our Arab students that, "we are sure that nothing can stop us from loving and respecting each other." Furthermore, the letter emphasized that nothing will change our peaceful coexistence which showed how strong the bond is between our students.

At the beginning of October, the

whole of Kurdistan was struck by the shocking news of the passing of Jalal Talabani who represented a whole era of the Kurdish national movement and was also one of the first supporters of AUIS. From the start an outpour of sentiments and appreciation posts filled the net with students quickly organizing a funeral proceeding at the cafeteria the next day. Many students from all different backgrounds expressed their grief at the passing of someone who was considered everyone's uncle in the post-2003 Iraq.

Finally, on Oct. 16 Kirkuk was assaulted and taken back by Iraqi forces and Hashed al-Shaabi which caused many students to worry and be concerned with what exactly was going to happen. Students were glued to the TV at Avesta restaurants as they watched the events unfold in the city. Almost immediately, people were offering help and comfort to those who had family there: from organizing relief efforts to simply comfortng the concerned stu-



Students mourn the death of Kurdish leader and former Iraqi president, Jalal Talabani

dents. Afterwards, many people honorably offered their homes for the displaced people of Kirkuk and many more set up stations to receive any sort of relief; from clothes to blankets and basic sta-

ples. It is during these times that the students showed that no matter how desperate situations get, they are always ready to help out.

These past events all shared tensions, sorrow, and confusion.

What was a given though was that no matter the frustrating event, AUIS students were there to help out and stand with our brothers and sisters during their troubling time.

AUIS RECEIVES 5-MILLION-DOLLAR GRANT AS WE STRUGGLE TO PAY TUITION, WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT?

By: Bilal Barzanji

AUIS revealed that the U.S. State Department has generously awarded \$5 million grant for student merit based scholarships on August 7, 2017 upon a proposal submitted by the university on March 2017. The news was expected to be promising for the students and the university during this economic crisis.

Right after the grant was an-

nounced, the students expected a tuition discount and they were curious about how the university was planning to use the money. Six weeks into the fall semester, and yet we have not heard from the university officials clearly explaining how the money is going to help AUIS and its students.

In this semester's first Town Hall

Meeting, on September 24, that was held on campus at A-G-05, Mr. Gresk, the Dean of Students, stated that no tuition discount is planned and the money is awarded to pay for the existing scholarships and discounts given to students. Answering a student's question regarding the grant, Mr. Gresk added that most of the grant is going to be used for paying back the contractors who built the AUIS campus and Building A in particular.

If that is the case, the grant is not a help to the university's current financial situation and certainly not of any help for the students who struggle to pay their tuitions. During a meeting about the 15 percent discount last fall with the university president, Bruce W. Ferguson, he said, "due to the harsh financial situation, we are facing a huge budget deficit."

After one year of financial re-

forms and tight budget spending, we have witnessed service decrease, increase in the number of students in classes, lower faculty standards in some departments and dramatically increase in the tuition for the 2017 admission season. The students are confused about how this grant can help. To ease their concerns, president Ferguson stated in an interview with AUIS Voice, that we have almost overcome the deficit problem and this grant is a major help for stabilizing the university's finance in the future.

Answering a question, during the same interview with Dr. Ferguson, regarding Mr. Gresk's reply on using the grant for the building contracts, he stated, "The grant is not going to be used for the contracts since AUIS have borrowed money to pay the contractors." It makes it a bit more confusing con-

cerning the university's plan to use the grant.

It is clear that there is no plan for any sort of tuition discount for the current students for now. However, the grant is essential for the survival of the university in this harsh economic situation. President Ferguson stated that they will try their best to keep the quality of education high while tightening budget spending until the economy hopefully recovers.

As the grant is awarded to pay for the current students' scholarships and discounts, it gives AUIS a chance to offer more scholarships and probably decrease tuition for the new students in the near future. This is essential to provide opportunities for more economically disadvantaged students who dream of studying in a liberal arts university and become the future leaders of this country.



AUIS president, Bruce Ferguson, giving commencement speech 2017

THE VOICE INTERVIEWS VISITING PORFESSOR MAGGY ZANGER



Maggy Zanger's Portrait

By: Saman Fuad

Journalist, educator and researcher Maggy Zanger is a visiting professor at AUIS this semester to teach two journalism classes in the English department.

She is a Professor of Practice at the University of Arizona School of Journalism and is on sabbatical this fall semester to conduct research and teach here in Sulaimani. But she is not new to Kurdistan. She was the Iraq Coun-

try Director for the Institute for War & Peace Reporting in 2003 and 2004 after covering the U.S. invasion of Iraq from Sulaimani. As IWPR director she trained scores of aspiring journalists through training centers in Baghdad and in Sulaimani before moving to the University of Arizona in 2005 to help them develop an international journalism program. Zanger was a journalism lecturer at the American University in Cairo (AUC) from 1999 to 2003 and began conducting research of the Kurdish media during those years, making summer trips into Kurdistan. She has B.A. and M.A. from the University of Arizona and got an Masters in the Study in Law at Yale Law School. She lived in Sulaimani most of 2003 and 2004 training Iraqis in reporting, writing, design and editing. She and IWPR also worked with several independent Kurdish newspapers such as Hawlati to help them build a solid staff of reporters and editors. She has been described as a "journalistic giant" by one of her former students. Why did she pick AUIS? She said that's she came as a volunteer because, "I wanted to work with AUIS students and help in any way I could towards moving the education of young people ahead." She also said that since she had lived in Su-

laimani before the decision was easy since the city was familiar. And how does she find AUIS in compared to other academic institutions? She said that her main point of reference is AUC since it is also an American-style university in the Middle East. She said that while AUC had a bigger campus and more students, she found the students to be

“Journalism always reflects the political and economic system in which it functions.”

similar. She said that there are some impressive aspects about other than the students such as the IT staff who are very professional and who do an overall great job. There are also some frustrating aspects about the relatively new university, she said, but pointed out that it's a small enough campus that you'll find someone to answer your questions – eventually.

She also said that it that the problems AUIS has are quite understandable because this is not an easy place to work. "For a lot of outsiders," she said, "Iraq

is not going to be on top of their list of places to go to work." She said educators who come here are either "adventurous" or people like her who "know enough about Kurdistan to know that it's fine place to live." She also said it is hard to find local staff who have the same work ethic as people in a university in the U.S. But, she said, "my impression is that people work really hard here and are quite qualified." And the challenges facing journalism in Kurdistan? She said that the political structure has to be one of the biggest problems because it doesn't leave any space for independent media. Having political parties invest so much money in various forms of media makes it an "uneven playing field and does a huge disservice to the Kurdish people." Was there hope for independent Kurdish journalism? Zanger pointed out that "there's really sharp, committed young people here who will make great journalists" so she has hope for change. While "Journalism always reflects the political and economic system in which it functions," Zanger said she was heartened by young people who are really engaged "in their culture and society and really know what's going on locally and regionally."

WHY DID KIRKUK FALL?

By: Hogr Hadi

Iraqi forces entered and seized control of the city of Kirkuk on Monday, Oct. 16 as Kurdish forces fully retreated to pre-2014 borders.

With the invasion maneuvers of the Iraqi army and Hashed al-Shaabi on Kirkuk, the defense line established by the guerrillas and the Peshmergas who refused to withdraw was broken due to Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) ordering their forces to retreat from the front lines.

Kirkuk has always been one of Iraq's deepest fault lines. It has been claimed as part of their territory, for almost a century, by both central governments and KRG.

Monday's fall of Kirkuk made clear the tangible result of the referendum of Iraqi Kurdish authorities in general and KDP in particular, organized last month against international-



Iraqi forces in front of Peshmarga statue in Kirkuk

advice. It threatened the very existing Kurdish autonomy.

It could be argued that the KRG was very ill-advised to hold a referendum to supposedly establishing an independent state. It may be the case that Masoud Barzani, one of the Kurd-

ish leaders of Iraqi Kurdistan, is shortsighted and whose desire to create a personal legacy has outweighed any common sense.

But the unquestionable reality on the ground in Kurdistan is that the Kurdish people's age-old longing for unrestrained self-

rule, free from meddling of foreign powers, is constant and not to be denied. However, obvious economic self-interest, simple geopolitical calculations, and concerns about international security served the wishes of the major powers to maintain the status quo. Having said that, their wishes are not to be honored. Just like any people connected by land, ethnic identity, language and culture, the Kurds have an inalienable right to determine their future, in one direction or another. However, there are some economic, political and institutional characteristics that have to exist in order for a newly-born state to survive. None of these characteristics exist in KRG; one clear example would be the retreat of Peshmerga forces in Kirkuk. The instance signifies that there are no national military forces: peshmerga's loyalty is for political parties and within

political parties for certain individuals. KRG now is in desperate need of building strong political and economic institutions and taking up a real fight against the unimaginable levels of corruption, especially in the oil sector. Even though an independent state for the Kurds is an aspiration of most Kurds, holding a referendum at this time and in this way should have been their last concern. Their primary concern must have been building economic and political institutions alongside radical social reforms.

What happened in Kirkuk and its surrounding was not just a military defeat; it was a complete failure of the KRG's political system. The only guarantee that similar incidents will not happen again is to replace the existing political system with a system in which national objectives will not be overridden by political parties' objectives.

THE RACE OF COLONIZATION OF MARS



Image courtesy of Mars Society MRDS

By: Mahmud Qahtan

In two years, we will celebrate our 50th anniversary of the first moon-landing, yet since then we have become more inwardly focused. We haven’t reached out to other planets and we seem to have lost our human desire to explore the universe.

That is until recently, as the race between NASA, China and

Space X has drawn more heat. NASA claims that they would send people as soon as 2030 while China tries to get there before them. However, Elon Musk, the American billionaire and the owner of Space X, is hoping to beat them both with his plan: starting his Mars Mission in 2022 and sending the first 100 people two years later.

From what it seems like,

ably establishing a lunar base.

- Sending satellites and large Hubble-like telescopes to low orbit earth and further.
- Taking back the technological trash we have left over the years orbiting around earth.
- Using the spaceship as means of transportation on earth for going to and from anywhere around the world in less than an hour.

That BFR is one of the biggest rockets in size and cargo space, and has the ability to precisely land and then re-use rockets. This breakthrough has disrupted the industry’s historic one-and-done approach with big rockets. “It’s really crazy that we build these sophisticated rockets, and then crash them every time we fly,” Musk said.

However, the BFR now is just a concept on the drawing board, and hasn’t been built yet. Musk himself said that it will take nine months to make a fully functional BFR, and a spaceship of that size may face many difficulties and delay the building process. Until then, we will have to wait and see. The BFR can carry 150 tons of cargo along with comfortably holding 100 people in its 40-cabin crew section. By the time the mission starts, a one-way ticket to Mars is expected to be \$200,000. This price is rea-

sonable relative to the American average income, while considering that you go to another planet within the period of 6 months or more.

Musk’s critics say that he is very focused on the means to get there and doesn’t mention the many challenges in colonizing Mars. The challenges facing the mission is the uninhabitable atmosphere and the low gravitational pull of the planet that may cause bone and muscle problems. Furthermore, Mars also doesn’t have a magnetic field that can protect it from the Sun’s radiations.

Last year the plan was to have a much bigger rocket and the prices were unbelievably high. This year Musk has made the mission much more realistic. Perhaps by 2024 everything gets figured out and living on Mars will not be as hard as it may seem now.

WHEN GEOGRAPHY MATTERS

By: Mirako Fouad

Recently, I saw a report aired on Sharqiya TV in Basrah with the reporter stating to ordinary people that “Greece has taken Iraqi lands and parts of it belong to Basrah”, and then asking them “Should we take these lands back? And will the area of Iraq and Basrah increase if the lands are returned?” In response, some people told the interviewer that “we need to bring it back with force, those lands are Iraqi and they will remain Iraqi, we will make them return the lands because it is rightful by law”. Depending on the education level of people, their geographic literacy differs, but generally, people don’t know much about it.

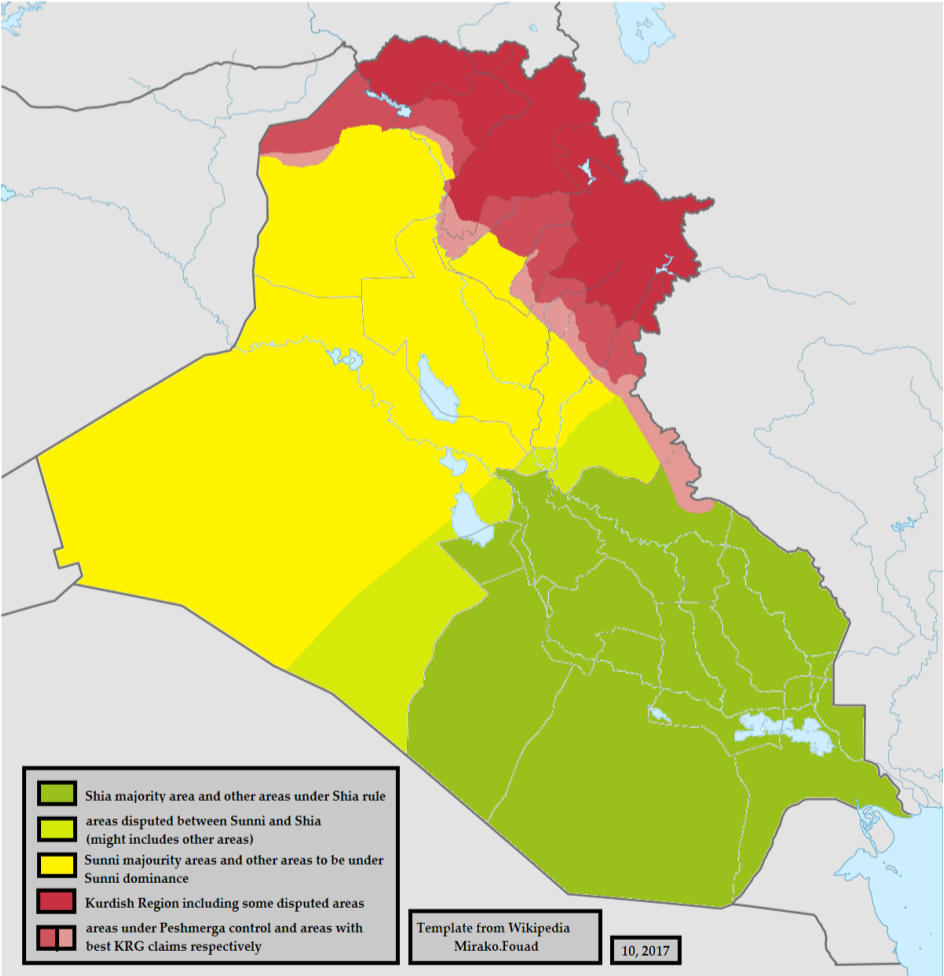
What about politicians? Many of them are illiterate, and some of them try to use their little knowledge to manipulate the ill-informed public. An example of this can be found in the posters of the recent Kurdish referendum. We are able to find a variety of wrong maps

from depictions of greater Kurdistan to maps that depict the Arab-populated town of Ravia as Sinjar just for the sake of having a district called Sinjar.

Geographical ignorance is widespread even at the highest levels of political leadership and specialized governmental institutions in many other places. An example would be the time when the U.S. State Department confused Mauritius with Mauritania when briefing President Nixon before a visit by the Mauritian prime minister. We can tell how the visit went wrong. Another big-time failure can be found in the 2012 edition of the Atlas of Islamic Republic of Pakistan published by Surveyor-General of Pakistan.

Defining the borders of a Kurdish state or a confederal region has been one of the major problems of this region as it is evident in the number of planned changes in provincial borders throughout the years by the different regimes.

Irredentist maps, current demographic maps, and militarily-imposed maps suggest different borders for the Kurdish region. Examples of these are Hawija, Hamrin, Al Zab, and Mandali. Hawija is claimed to have been a no-man’s land in which nomadic Kurdish tribes used to move into, but later Arabic nomads came to the land and settled in. I personally believe that although Hawija and Hamrin might have militarily strategic importance, the Kurdish irredentist claims to these lands are outdated and impractical in ways that can be discussed in detail. Al Zab and its north-western towns are other Arab populated areas that could give the KRG the Tigris as a secure border. A militarily-imposed border is found in many places on both sides, and an example would be Mandali which is Kurdish but under Iraqi control. More importantly, the geography of oil is a key factor that will draw the border because many oil fields are located in the disputed areas. Shifting from oil politics to a more people-oriented politics, minorities play an important role in this issue as many of these



Geopolitical map of Iraq by Mirako Fouad, template from Wikipedia

ethno-religious minority groups are located in the disputed areas. Between the Kurdish populated town of the disputed areas and Sunni-Arab populated town of the disputed areas are pockets of Sunni, Turkmen, Shia Turkmen, Shabak, Assyrian, Yazidi, Kakai, and Faili populations. Some of them might already be divided into several groups, some joined one group, and others have to be given a fair chance to make up their minds and vote to join the Kurdish

areas or the Sunni areas. It would have been fairer if they had been given their own micro regions, but this does not appear to be a current option.

Whenever we take a closer look at the disputed areas, more dilemmatic geopolitical anomalies are unveiled. For example, for Sinjar to join KRG, either it has to become an exclave or both Rabia and Zummar have to join KRG because they are the only land bridge.

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NBA 2018 SEASON PREDICTIONS

By: Shady Atef

With the start of the 2018 NBA season, fans look over teams across the league that have been busy over the summer trading and acquiring new players in preparation for the upcoming season.

This trade season can be considered one of the most interesting and unexpected trade seasons in NBA history, with multiple all-stars teaming up to form super teams. This trend was started by teams like the Golden State Warriors and the Cleveland Cavaliers in the past couple of seasons by having three or more all-stars on their teams for the last three seasons. As these two teams dominated the league with three consecutive finals appearances, other players have started to realize that the only way to topple the titans is to team up and create teams able to stand up to the reigning champions.

The biggest trade of the season is hands down the Celtics-Cavs trade where Kyrie Irving (point guard), goes to the Boston Celtics in exchange for Isaiah Thomas (point guard), Jae Crowder (small forward) and Ante Zizic (center). This trade was beneficial for both teams as the Cavs now have a stacked team at the end of this season's trade after acquiring Derrick Rose, former MVP and all-star, as well as LeBron's championship all-star

team mate Dwayne Wade. The Celtics also gained a new pair of rising stars, Kyrie Irving and Gordon Hayward: two young all-star players with incredible potential and a set of youthful and talented supporting players. This team is only getting stronger as they are ranked second on ESPN future power ratings.

Other interesting pairings happened with the Houston Rockets and Oklahoma Thunder, where the Rockets managed to acquire Chris Paul, an all-star point guard to assist James Harden, runner up MVP and one of the biggest offensive threats in the game. On the other hand, the Thunders were able to snatch a deal for Paul George, one of the most dominant players in the game, as well as Carmelo Anthony to play alongside Russel Westbrook, the reigning MVP. Considering how far Westbrook and Harden reached by themselves last season, it will be interesting to see what they can do now that they have players to help them face the titans.

These four teams are considered the favorites this season alongside the Golden State Warriors, the reigning champions. With all the focus on them right now and having stacked up all-stars on each of their teams, the matches between them are bound to be electrifying.

However, we can't forget about



NBA star, LeBron James, blocking a shot from an opposing player

the other 25 teams in the league: The Spurs are stacked with veterans and former all-stars led by Kawhi Leonard who is the third best player in the league, and they are definitely a force to be reckoned with.

Furthermore, The Timber Wolves have a rising 'big three' consisting of Jimmy Butler, Andrew Wiggins, and Karl-Anthony Towns and are looking to deal some damage around as the title underdogs.

NBA fans all around the world can't be more excited about the start of the 2017-2018 season as it is bound to be one of the most entertaining, unpredictable, and competitive seasons the league has had in years.

BAYERN MUNICH APPOINTS JUPP HEYNCKES

By: Ahmed Aram

Just after Bayern Munich confirmed Carlo Ancelotti as the successor of Pep Guardiola on December 20, 2015, pundits believed that Ancelotti could triumphantly implement a 4-4-2 diamond-shape formation and abolish the ashes of Guardiola's 4-3-3. The fans of Bayern Munich were also delighted with Ancelotti's arrival and expected the Italian gaffer to take them back to Champions League glory.

Ancelotti kicked off his first season with a 2-0 win against Borussia Dortmund, which brought the

club another German Super Cup on August 14, 2016. Yet, we could see Guardiola's 4-3-3 formation reflecting on the players in the pitch while Ancelotti's touch was misplaced during the entire season.

In their Champions League clash against Paris Saint-Germain in September, it was notable that the German side controlled the tempo of the game. However, the French team was very dangerous on the counter-attacks and beat them three times. Bayern owned 63 percent of the ball possession and had 18

corner-kicks. Surprisingly, these advantages were not converted into a single goal. In consequence, Bayern Munich experienced a 3-0 loss at the expense of the Italian manager's antediluvian tactics and style of play.

Right after the match, Karl Heninz-Rummenigge, Bayern Munich's executive chairman, showed his disappointment and withdrew his confidence from the Italian head manager in a press conference, egregiously uttering, "what we saw today was not FC Bayern. I

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”



Bayern Munich players raising their coach, Jupp Heynckes

think we can all agree on this.” Less than 24 hours after the chairman sounded the alarm, Ancelotti was dismissed, and it was demonstrated that there will soon be a new man in charge. Eventually, Bayern Munich pointed Jupp Heynckes as the new head manager until the end of the current season.

The 72-year-old German coach has previously managed the team and orchestrated the club into winning several important titles, including the Champions League. In a press conference, Heynckes said, “I wouldn't have returned to any club in the world, but FC Bayern Mu-

nich is very close to my heart.” Furthermore he assured the fans that he would put his soul into bringing back glory and entertainment to the club. The fans and chair were overjoyed at his return to Bundesliga since he is considered a member of the family and often implements the 4-2-3-1 formation, which brought them the UCL in 2013. Now, the big question lies in whether Heynckes will be able to end the crisis and place Bayern at the top once again, or will his tactics also be outdated and drive the club into a deeper hole.

I STARED AT THE NIGHT OF THE CITY: A REVIEW

POLITICS, IMAGINATION, AND POETRY: FRICTION OF A CITY

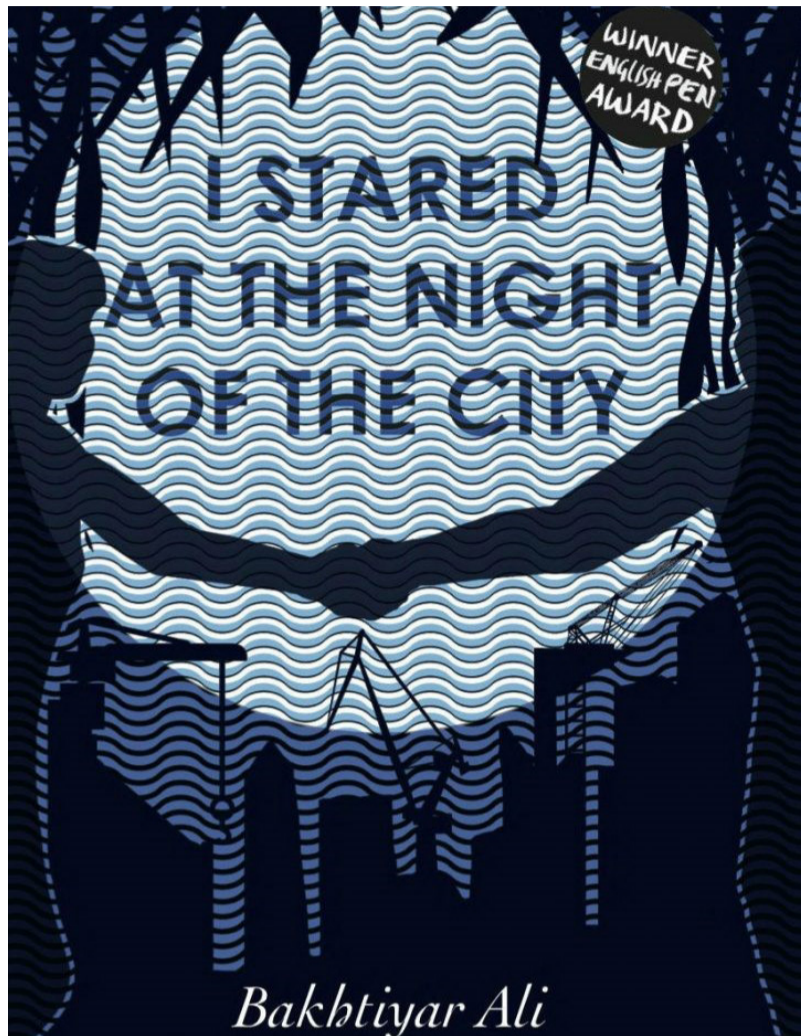
By: Kozhan Yaseen

“[People] might be able to have one collective truth, but they can’t have one collective imagination, because the essence of man’s freedom is in his imagination.” This is a line by Ghazalrus, the hero of the first ever English-translated Kurdish novel written by Bakhtiyar Ali and translated by Kareem Abdulrahman, who staunchly opposes the Baron of Imagination, a confused, powerful, high-ranking politician. The novel spins around many dualities which characterize life in the Kurdish city of Sulaimani, which is known due to a mention of dead bodies behind the ring street around the city. These dualities are not coherent mostly, but rather oxymoronic and paradoxical. The Baron of Imagination has not a clue of the nature of imagination yet he has the power to portray imagination to the public. This is one among the many paradoxes of the novel.

The book attempts to critically describe how the individualism of the people of the city is maneuvered by the “powerful” politicians. To venture and ask for people’s imaginations for sale to build a static city of adorned buildings with is what these politicians do. Across from this are the imaginative worlds of

Ghazalrus’s friends. These are the ones defining imagination as an ever-changing, dynamic realm; the peace where one lives with the vicarious sufferings of others. Ghazalrus tries his best to explain why imagination “has nothing to do with the lives of others.” Imagination is the power to understand, love others; it’s the ultimate truth, not an abstraction.

Bakhtiyar seems to normalize the taboo topics of sex and romantic relationships. He plausibly attempts to illustrate the way our political institutions’ (mostly political parties since there were no other solid political institutions back when the novel was written, which might still hold true for today) self-fulfilling prophecies reinforce the accepted and shunned social behaviors. He criticizes this by portraying how the politicians in the city deceptively desire a “free” culture, but kill the ones who are. The people of the city tend to accept “American delegations for re-establishing the city,” but holds frozen the imagination of its people. It savors Western movies, but rejects their culture of personal freedom. The author then moves its imaginative characters towards this counterculture, in which they



The Cover of Bakhtiyar Ali's Book

face death, threats, and sufferings. Yet they keep going. A flagship of the nature of love according to these imaginative creatures, Ghazalrus in the lead, is deeply entrenched in asceticism. Trifa Yabahari, an imaginative carpet weaver is in a distinctive love affair with Ghazalrus. Their love is one where union is strictly reached spiritually. The less physical proximity, the more spiritual love. A love being distinct from the modern world’s perception of romance projected in cinema, media, and literature as a model.

Additionally, a facet that this multiple unreliable-narratives novel develops is the significance of death. The imaginative characters’ endeavors to record every death in the city is quite a mysterious motif. This action is speciously portrayed to support the claim of killing the avant-garde. But critically, it reveals more or less a philosophical stance. It’s the stance of the persistence of sufferings and beauty in parallel. A stance of a Buddhist nature whereby sufferings are not anomalies, but ever-present, maturing experiences are a subtext throughout the book. The deaths are mysteries to be solved and discovered as a means to alter the vision to power.

THE MANY COLORS OF WES ANDERSON

By: Mohammed Dler

When I think about Wes Anderson films, I tend to think about mid-budget films that usually have a simple and coherent theme. They usually have a clear plot and a story that flows smoothly. I watch his movies whenever I want to forget the complexity of life and experience some simplicity, for his movies are usually simple in technique and cinematography with a plain linear story..

The most notable and widely used aspect of Anderson’s films is his use of symmetry. This is one aspect that he is praised and criticized for. This technique is more clearly identified whenever he tries to have a close-up shot of one of his characters. Here, he almost always uses a symmetrical view of the characters. He also likes to use smooth transitions between scenes. These transitions are usually simple dolly moves combined with plain movement of camera from left to right or up to down. The combination of symmetry and these types of transitions are one of the styles that he is known for.

Wes Anderson’s movie stories are all about family drama. His movie plots are narrated in a linear way. They are simple and straightforward, yet they are in-

teresting and entertaining. This is also one of the reasons why his movies are so enjoyable. His movie plots are usually centered around the relationships of his characters. Since he usually writes his scripts, he controls the story and how it flows. So, when you watch his movies you usually see very linear plots that clearly transition between the beginning, the middle and the end.

Character development is also one of the areas Anderson focuses on a lot. He tends to make them less complex and each have a clear purpose and goal that they try to achieve.

The use of color in Anderson’s movies also get a lot of attention. He is one of the directors who likes more bright colors than dark ones. Hence, he usually uses around five or six color grades in a shot. His use of color is affected by the mode of the scene and also the phase of the story.

Wes Anderson is one of the movie directors who has managed to create a unique style by renovating old styles of cinematography and combining them with linear storytelling to create beautiful pictures. His movies are aesthetically pleasing and entertaining to watch.



American director, and producer Wes Anderson

AUIS VOICE HOLDS FIRST FIFA TOURNAMENT



Tournament winner Ahmed Nasser

By: Saman Fuad

The AUIS Voice hosted its first FIFA tournament just two weeks

ago, and hopefully it won't be their last.

The tournament had a good attendance, with 32 players orig-

inally signing up and five more on the waiting-list in case some people didn't show up. The tournament went on for three days

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with many surprises and beautiful FIFA goals in the process.

The first day held a lot of promise as all the gamers gathered in B-B1-11 to show off their FIFA skills and knowledge. It was an uncharted battlefield. Sure enough, someone took Real Madrid while his opponent took Manchester United and the first game of the tournament was on the way. It was an exciting outcome, with Zheer Tareq winning 7-2. This big difference between the scores dominated the first round with most games having a three-goal difference. Perhaps it was the fact that the players weren't used to FIA 18 yet. Due to some technical issues on the computer, the roster for the tournament was messed with

and only the round-of-16 was played the first day with the exception of one match.

The second day had an unfortunate pattern: people kept getting disqualified for not showing up. In fact, of the next six games three of them were decided by disqualification, which was a huge disappointment to the eight fans we had. The games were indeed intense and the scores got tighter as the games went along.

The semi-finals featured Abdullah Osamah, Balen Ali, Abdullah Salm, and Ahmed Nasser. These were all exciting games with the scores not being that far apart. Eventually, Ahmed Nasser and Balen Ali qualified for the final which was played with two legs. In the first leg, Ahmed dominated and won 5-2 while in the second leg he had a bit more of a challenge and won 3-2. “The semi-finals and finals were difficult; I'm happy to have won,” Ahmed said after the final game. With the final aggregate score being 8-4, Ahmed won the tournament and was declared the winner of the first AUIS Voice tournament, ending what was an exciting tournament for all.

GOOGLE LAUNCHES THE NEW PIXEL & PIXEL BUDS

By: Kazei Kurda

On Oct. 4, Google held its highly anticipated Google Event to introduce a new line of products, including the Pixel 2 and Pixel 2 XL. The two smartphones are the second generation of phones under the Google name and are aiming to directly compete with Samsung's Galaxy lineup and Apple's iPhone.

Compared to last year's flagship, the Pixel 2 and 2 XL have more powerful and improved cameras, which comes with great new features such as portrait mode for the front-facing camera, in other words: portrait selfies! It has a 12MP rear camera with a 98 DxOMark mobile score, the highest for any phone, and OIS (optical image stabilization) and EIS for video recording. You can also take selfies underwater, since both phones are IP67 dust and water-resistant.

The Pixel 2 is the smaller version of the 2 XL and comes with a 5-inch, 1080p AMOLED display. The Pixel 2 XL



Google Pixel 2

comes with a 6-inch screen and a resolution of 1440 by 2880 pixels. The Pixel 2 is available in three colors: Just Black, Clearly White and Kinda Blue. While the Pixel 2

XL is available in Just Black and Black & White. The only difference between the phones are the color and size; both phones are equipped with the same hardware. During

the launching event, Google mocked Apple by emphasizing that they “don't set aside better features for the larger device,” which refers to the difference in features between the iPhone 8 and 8 Plus. Both phones run the stock version of Android 8.0 Oreo. The design of the phones is one of its unique features: it has a metal body and a different-colored piece of glass at the top. The finger print scanner is located at the back of the phone alongside the camera. The volume keys and power button are on the side

of the phone.

Both the Pixel 2 and the 2XL are equipped with a USB Type-C port for charging. A disappointment is the missing headphone jack; therefore, like iPhone users, Pixel fans have to use an adapter to be able to use normal headphones. However, this leads to another product unveiled by Google: The Pixel Buds. At first glance, the Pixel Buds seem like any other wireless earbuds. However, the Pixel Buds are able to translate between 40 languages in real time using Google Translate on the Pixel phones. All you need to do is press the right ear bud and say “Help me speak German,” and the pixel phone will read the translation of your spoken words out in German or any other language out of the 40.

The Google Pixel 2 and Pixel 2 XL will be available in stores from Oct. 19, while the Pixel Buds will be available in November.

THE END OF CHARISMA

By: Dler Abdulkhaliq

Translated By: Bilal Barzanji

After the death of Nawshirwan Mustafa (1944 – 2017) and Mam Jalal (1933 – 2017) this region says farewell to the last two of a series of charismatic leaders who gained fame throughout the past century in the region. Charismatic leaders are the sons of their time and rise in significant historical times as they trigger the light of hope for their people. They do not come from space, but rise from the people. They possess a specific set of talents and skills that earns them the right to have followers and people's trust. From now, the death of two leaders at the pike of the Kurdish struggle for freedom leaves deep effects on the future of the political events of this region.

The experience of Kurdistan region, even though faces many critiques, undoubtedly for the most part is a result of Mam Jalal and Naushirwan Mustafa's revolutionary struggle and worldview. Thereby, their names will, for a long time, remain in the people's hearts and their legacy lights the candle for brighter and brighter for the future. Even though these two leaders for a long time in their revolutionary struggle were on the same bath as friends, they have a period of difference and independent political view. It means, they both had their own distinct political characteristics. However, this difference does not change the fact that both 'Talabani and Mustafa' had the characteristics of charismatic leaders and they had deep and long term effects on directing the

Kurdish freedom struggle.

According to the general standards of leadership and leaders, the leaders are not simple people. Some have uncommon talent and some have distinct characteristics that gives them the chance to lead people toward gaining their civil and political objectives. Leaders and leadership are necessities of contemporary human societies and it is not only for a place or a nation they are essential for all societies. Historically people's necessities for leadership change overtime. For example, in the period of revolutionary struggle the society needs strong leaders to direct many people through organizational discipline toward one united goal.

According to German sociologist, Max Weber: the concept of charismatic leader is a state of exceptional character around someone who is talented and possess a set of skills that distinguishes her/him from the others. This allows a charismatic leader to have deeper and more influential role in society.

The role of Talabani and Mustafa for more than half a century stays in the people, political process and the geography of the Middle East politics. Even after their death, their legacy of a specific world and political view endures particularly in the Kurdish political atmosphere. It makes it harder for newer political figures to emerge as charismatic due to the high standards they have set and the influence of their legacy in the society.

After long years of revolution-



Nawshirwan Mustafa (left) and Jalal Talabani posing for a photo

ary struggle, even without strong family and popular support Talabani and Mustafa reached the peak of leadership. Talabani, in 2003, becomes the first democratically elected Kurd president of Iraq and Mustafa, in 2009, established the Change movement in his path for political and government reforms against corruption.

However, one of the characteristics of a real charismatic leader is to set a legacy that not only endure inside the people, but motivates new leaders to emerge and follow their path. Talabani and Mustafa's funerals, as national importance, is an evidence of their strong influence on the people and the other political leaders.

DON'T SHOOT IN THE DARK

By: Geoffrey Gresk

I have very few regrets of the time I have spent here in Sulaimani. One of those few regrets is that I have not learned Kurdish. Aside from the obvious utility I would get from learning the language, I would also have access to some excellent expressions. One of my favorites is, "Fishak ba tarikyawa mane." Roughly, this translates into, "Don't shoot in the dark."

The purpose of the human brain is to receive information and to make sense of it. We take in information through our five senses and our mind makes a story out of that information.

We crave information. If people are locked in a dark, sound-proofed room for a long time, they will start to hallucinate. The mind needs information, and if it does not receive real information, it will create fake information.

The same thing happens when groups of people do not get reliable information from their media or governments. People create "facts". Rumors explode. "Everybody knows" something is true, except that it is not factually true. And then they act on those inaccurate facts. And then the danger comes.

In this region and on this planet, we are often in the dark. What effect will the Sept. 25 referendum have on our countries, our communities, our families, and our university? What are the leaders really discussing behind closed doors? What will Donald Trump tweet at 4:13 a.m. tomorrow? We do not know. We feel that we are in the dark.

When you are in the dark, the first step is to not shoot.

When you have no information, or when you suspect that you have inaccurate information, check the facts, consider the source, and use your critical thinking skills.

Some of you remember the demonstrations some of the dorm students organized in Spring 2017. The biggest single complaint was about the housing schedule (when the dorms are open and when the dorms are closed). After all the excitement was over, I was speaking to one of the students who led the event. In response to a question from me, he answered that he had never actually read the schedule. Some fact-checking might have saved us some trouble.

When you hear a piece of "news", consider the source. "My roommate says that CIV 101 will not be required for Engineering students next year." Okay, what is the source of that information? Is your roommate a member of the Curriculum Review Committee? Was he told this, in writing, by the Registrar or the Engineering Department Chair? Did he hear this from his friend's cousin's girlfriend who read something on Facebook?

Last but not least, critical thinking. You heard that a specific teacher works for a foreign intelligence service. Is that logical? Does that make sense from the other's point of view? Does the CIA want a person here at AUIS? Is Mossad interested in your score on the Math quiz last week? Does Vladimir Putin need somebody telling him what the cafeteria is serving on Monday?

I am asking you to keep this in mind today, tomorrow, next month, and the rest of your life. When you are sure that the problem is real, when you have researched the situation, considered the source, and used critical thinking, then, and only then, shoot. If we are going to be educated people in this world, we certainly have plenty of targets.

THE MYTH OF NORMALCY

By: Hogir Hadi

The most conspicuous feature of our minds is how little we understand them. Though we reside in ourselves, we seldom manage to make sense of more than a fraction of who we are. It could be easier to master the working and the dynamics of another planet than it could be to grasp what is at

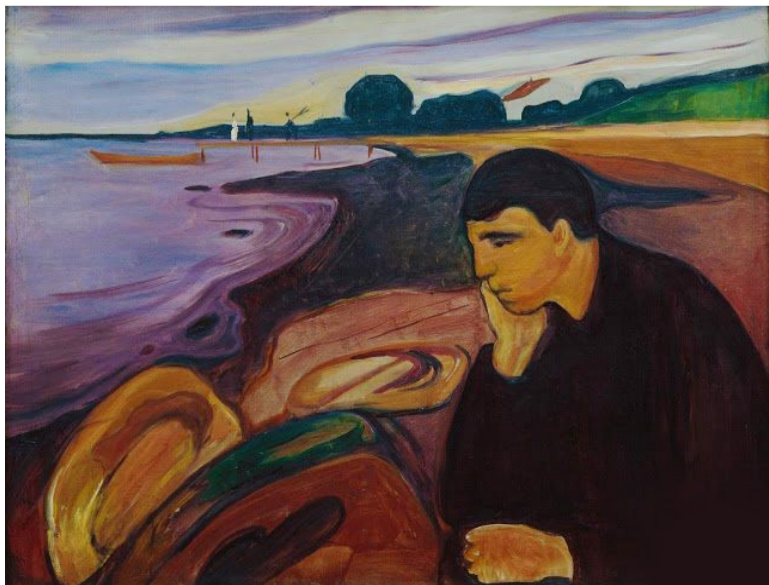
play in the folds of our own brain and consciousness. We need not blame ourselves excessively for our poor grasp of our own minds. The problem is in large part inherent in the brain's very architecture and how it is wired. This organ has evolved over millennia for the sake of rapid, instinctive deci-

sion-making – not the patient, introspective sifting of ideas and emotional intelligence that is at stake here. For most of humanity's history, it has evidently been more important to act upon, rather than question and analyze, our passing instincts and plans.

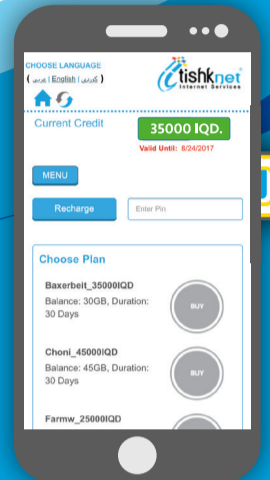
It does not lie within any of our admits to be entirely sane. There are so many powerful reasons why we must lack an entirely balanced attitude. We have a complex history, we are heading towards the ultimate catastrophe, we are vulnerable to devastating losses; love in all shapes and forms will never go wholly well, and the gap between our hopes and our realities will be ever-widening.

In these circumstances, what we should aim for is not sanity, but a wise, knowledgeable and self-possessed relationship to our manifold insanities, or what we might term sane insanity. The sane insane differ from the simply insane by virtues of the honest and accurate grasp they have on what is not entirely right with them. They may not be wholly balanced, but they don't have the madness of insisting on their normalcy. They can admit with

good grace – and no particular loss of dignity – that of course they are rather peculiar at a many of points. They do not go out of their way to hide from us what they get up to in the night, in their sad moments, when anxiety strikes, or during attacks of envy. They can – at their best – be dryly funny about the tragedy of being human. They lay bare the fears, doubts, longings, desires and habits that don't belong to the story we like to tell ourselves about sanity. They don't make ready confessions to let themselves off the hook or to be eccentric. They simply realize the unreasonableness of expecting to be reasonable all the time. They warn others as far as possible in advance of what being around them might involve – and apologize promptly for their failings as soon as they have manifested themselves. They offer their friends and companions accurate maps to their craziness, which is about the most generous thing one can do to anyone who has to endure us. The sane-insane among us are not a special category of the mentally unwell: they represent the most evolved possibility for a mature human being.



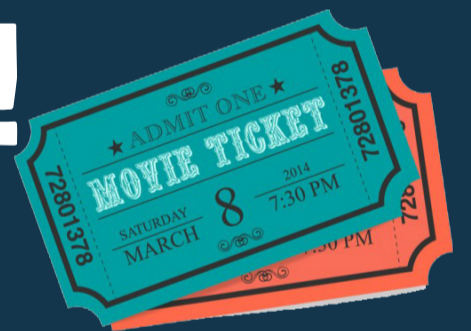
Melancholy by Edvard Munch (1894)



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