



Haigazian Herald

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And now, for the first time ever, the **Haigazian Herald** brings you, from the highest members of the "Haigaziani" hierarchical chain (&the Rev of course) *drum roll*

"Words of Wisdom"

- 1) What do you feel are the greatest opportunities, as well as the risks in front of this year's graduates?
- 2) If the graduating students were to forget everything they've learned and only remember 3 things, what do you think those three things should be?
- 3) What are your best memories from your college days and/or graduation?
- 4) Would you advise students to emigrate or to stay in Lebanon after graduation?
- 5) Do you have any advice/comments concerning the current situation?



1) A major opportunity is approaching the future and the workplace with a sense of flexibility and adaptability, due to the renewed awareness in the students'

experience that not everything is stable, static or balanced in the world. Thus, we need to keep an open eye. The risk is to lose trust in the systems that surround us. And if one really surrenders to this, then a sense of defeatism could take over.

2) a) Use what you have acquired. b) There's more to learn. c) There is a heavenly meaning to what/how we are, and what we do.

3) My best memory is graduation day in June 1984. Our commencement was in the Auditorium some time in the morning. Our parents could fit in there and graduating students waited outside for our turn to come. We went in, received our degree and came back out. That

same morning I had to apply for a UK tourist visa. I had gone there at 7 AM and stood in line. Then we were all taken in and given numbers. The commencement hour was approaching and there were still more than twenty people ahead of me waiting for the interview, so I took the risk and ran to Haigazian from the Corniche, got to the Auditorium on time, received my degree, and ran back to the Embassy in time for my interview. By coincidence a childhood classmate from Tripoli, Ghassan Mawlawi, was also there, so he accompanied me in the waiting area that I, his friend, had just received my BA, and that he was offering free coffee from the coffee machine there to all those present as a commencement reception for me. I did the interview and came back to Haigazian and took a couple of pictures with friends and teachers.

4) I advise them not to run away, but to move forward. That could mean either staying or emigrating.

5) Two things: a) The bigger/deeper picture is different from the easy answers we have found about our situation. b) We are the interpreters of the situation around us, so work on your way of interpreting.



3) My memory isn't what it used to be. Neither are my memories.

4) I would advise students to think carefully about what they want, and not imagine that life is rosy anywhere but Lebanon. Having lived here for 21.5% of my life, I can say that as tough as life is here, there are still a lot of nasty things "out there" that you don't realize until you get much older.

1) The greatest opportunity, as always, is to make an impact on the society and world. The greatest risk, as always, is to let the world make an impact on you. It is always easier for the second thing to happen than the first, but the greatest sense of satisfaction comes from the first. However, will the Class of 2007 choose to make a **positive** or a **negative** impact on their world?

2) a) Love is stronger than hate. b) Live for others. c) Humor, used appropriately, makes people want to spend time with you.

5) Don't forget to fight for the natural environment at least as hard as you fight for political issues. Find ways to network with students across the political, economic and social spectrum, to work on an improved quality of life for all, in Lebanon and the world. Make use of communications technology as much as possible to expose the hypocrisy of people in authority (but do good research first). Once a week, put your daily frustrations aside and think about big issues, like where your life is headed, and what lies beyond this life.



1) I think that the greatest opportunity facing our graduates this year is the chance to apply the strong Haigazian values in the outside world. More than anytime in the history of Lebanon, there seems to be a great rift between the values a student acquires on campus and those actually practiced in society. Students might feel alienated, and frustrated to live in a world where Truth, Freedom and Service don't always occupy the same importance or significance; yet it will be up to them to translate these values from simple words inscribed on a flag to a real philosophy of life.

2) I would of course wish that our graduates would remember everything they have read in the three Intercultural Studies courses. But knowing that this may seem too ambitious and pretentious, I will be satisfied if they could at least remember three basic concepts:

a) If you think that something is Just and Right, then be ready to fight for it the whole way.
b) Never treat Humanity as a Means but always as an End.

c) Everything has an exchange value except Dignity; it's Priceless.

3) I have numerous good memories from my college days and all of them are out of the classroom, especially meeting my future husband on campus. I was very active in numerous committees and clubs and I tremendously enjoyed the fellowship with other students. Unfortunately, because of a student strike, the commencement was canceled, so I missed my graduation for the second time after missing the high school one because of the 1967 war. So please enjoy yours to the MAXIMUM.

4) I encourage all students to travel, not to emigrate, either for academic reasons or for work; the Middle East needs experienced and professional young people, and to go abroad for such purposes is an asset. However, I would like them to return and serve their nation afterwards. Hence, this first season of "migration" I favor and encourage, but it is the final divorce, the complete cutting of the umbilical cord with their countries, their families, and their alma mater - Haigazian University, that I advise against.

5) I wish all the best to the class of 2007, and my message to them would be NOT to get discouraged. Remember, a few hardships and a few problems are simply opportunities for becoming stronger and more determined. The whole future is in front of you and you are the molders of what is to come. Act, participate, change, but do not remain indifferent. Good Luck!

1) The biggest risk for our graduates today is securing a decent job where they can use their acquired skills, a job that gives them a sense of achievement. The competition is increasing but our students should be confident about their knowledge and skills. The opportunities lie in being alert to new possibilities, ones that may grow out of their own experience. Networking will always create opportunities. The real unhappiness is realizing that we could have done more. Working hard and maintaining a positive attitude as well as the willingness to prepare well for every step we want to take, is what will create chances to advance and succeed.

2) a) Be confident about yourself and your capabilities. b) Be open to new information and ideas. c) Keep on learning.

4) I advise our students to follow their dreams whether at home or abroad. Set plans about your priorities in life, and then start applying them.





A Word From the Student Life Director, Mr. Antranik Dakessian



Prior to our kick-start at the beginning of this academic year, the Student Life Office was quite anxious. There were a number of serious concerns about the forthcoming year; too many negative expectations lay ahead: we were worried about the results of the summer war (sociopolitical fallout and divisions), as well as the previous unresolved issues which were likely to compromise the security in the country and polarize the Lebanese. We were sure a number of students would return to the university "conditioned" with whatever went on during the summer.

Were we resourceful enough to overcome the challenges? Was the HU family ready to address such problems?

We felt we were ready to "take the bull by its horns", even though we were all tired and exhausted due to the nerve-wracking summer that, unfortunately, was otherwise supposed to be a leisurely and relaxing time.

Now, as I reminisce about the different episodes of the academic year, I feel contentment moving through my veins. I believe it is natural to have such a feeling when I remember the big co-curricular activities of the year: the summer camp, the two-day workshop at the Safir Heliopolitan Hotel, the Citizenship Workshop, the UNESCO Conflict Resolution workshops, the

Marjayoun humanitarian outreach, the Vision manifesto against war, the Arts exhibition, the job fair, the theater performance, the dance performance, the hundreds of sports matches and tournaments, and the many indoor activities, just to mention a few. These activities made the dull situation around us more lively and upbeat.

Indeed, we - the HU community - did it.

One of the hallmarks of Haigazian University is that a number of healthy ingredients for positive, constructive, and humanistic products are abundant in the university because of the students, staff, faculty and the mission, which is the friendly magnet attracting those ingredients. However, the real blessing of this university is the chemistry which has produced the unique culture of Haigazian. Indeed, it is a blessing to see that the core element of this wonderful makeup, the students, are aware of their role, and have been able to do marvelous things. Anyone would take pride in the fact that for two consecutive years, we were able to maintain family-like relations despite, and against, all sorts of odds in the country. Furthermore, we even raised our voices and called out to fellow students in other universities to see the beauty of "unity in diversity" and enrich their lives through interacting with the other.

This achievement was pieced together by us all, and I particularly thank the students for that.

May each and every one of you keep up the good work - be it in the same teams or not, together or not...

Have a nice summer vacation...

A. Dakessian

Chaplain's Corner:

Time to Say Goodbye



Not only is this the end of another academic year, in my (and my wife's) case, it is the end of an important era in our lives. After seven years as Campus Minister here at Haigazian University, I will be returning to the U.S. to become the pastor of a church in Philadelphia.

It is an exciting and somewhat frightening change that lies ahead of us; to leave the university environment, where there is plenty of daily interaction with others, where you can be friends with people who honestly do not care what you believe, and (in my case) where the vast majority of those around you are less than half your age! Added to this is the unique flavor of Lebanese life, including its pleasures, its surprises and its worries.

Having undergone this change before (Note that every time I have begun a new position I have crossed the Atlantic Ocean to do so!), I find that in each instance I am faced with that most awkward of social situations: saying "goodbye" to people I love. I confess that I am not very good at it. I want to find a formula that I can use in all situations, so that I need not feel the pain of separation that my wife and I - and many of you - will inevitably feel during each of the fourteen hundred "good-byes" we will be saying up to our departure. But I have not been able to find any such formula.

So I find some guidance as I turn to the Bible, which has more than a few "good-bye" stories. There are almost always tears involved, a lot of mutual love, some questions as to why, and the sharing of some very important parting thoughts. With this as my inspiration, I give you this parting thought: take seriously my challenge to put your full trust in Jesus Christ. It will enable you to face just about anything in life, including all the things about which you are concerned for your

future, including transitions and changes, including death and what lies beyond death, and including goodbyes like these.

And one more thing: we will truly miss you.

Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian



Public Speaking Competition

On April 14, 2007, the English Speaking Union (ESU) held its yearly competition in public speaking at the Beirut Arab University. About twenty students from different universities participated. Hiba Makarem and Araz Tcherchian represented Haigazian University under Dr. Maissa Mahfouz's coaching. The topic was "Dynamic Earth", and the participants had to give a speech for five minutes in front of a jury. At the end of the competition two winners were announced, and Hiba Makarem was one of them. The winners were to represent Lebanon in the International Public Speaking Competition in London during May.

With the sponsorship of HSBC and the ESU, Hiba Makarem traveled to London on May 14, 2007 and represented Lebanon along with Tilda Eid, the winner from the Lebanese University. There, 58 contestants represented about 38 countries from all over the world in the International Public Speaking Competition. The Lebanese representatives spent four days in London until the competition was over. Then, they spent three days in the English suburbs where they lived with an English family and learnt a lot about the English culture. Although Hiba did not win in the final competition, she believes the experience was worthwhile especially because she made a lot of new friends, she gained more self-confidence, and most importantly she got to represent her country and her university in London.

Hiba is a student majoring in Advertising and Communication and believes that if it weren't for Dr. Mahfouz, she wouldn't even have thought of participating in the competition and thus wouldn't have won, so she dedicates the whole experience to her and to the Haigazian University English Department, especially Dr. Inglizi, who supported her extensively.

Students of Haigazian University: Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid!



On Tuesday, May 22, 2007, an assembly was held to launch the beginning of the Education Society.

There is an Education Society?!

Now there is!

The Dean of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Arda Ekmekji, and the Head of the ECE Department, Dr. Basma Faour, as well as the students of the Education Department were present. We are ready and willing to show the university and the community our talents, ideas, and events flourishing in creativity, originality, charisma, and motivation.

Are you ready to witness change?

Are you ready for innovation?

Serving the Community: a One Credit Course

This semester, HU decided to offer a one credit course that was different from all other major courses students are usually enrolled in: Community Service.

Since it is a new and unique course, we decided to interview a couple of the students who took it to ask their opinions about it.



Vicken Sagharian, a business student who volunteered in **Cahl**, is happy he took the course, basically because he gained many new experiences because of it. The prevailing experience, he would say, is learning how "to serve with love and not expect in return." Vicken spent time with the elderly, shaved them, got acquainted with their stories of the past, and tried to elevate their moods as much as he could. He believes that this course should continue being offered because it will give students a new perspective on life by allowing them to appreciate what they have and thank God for it; it will also allow them to experience a humane aspect of life. He encourages students to take the course if they are not very sensitive and can handle pain and suffering, which in other words are the reality of life, because there are no sugar coats covering what you encounter during community service!

Omar Hamzi, another HU student, also enrolled in this course; he volunteered at **Dar al Aytam al Islamia**, where he tutored 2nd, 5th, and 6th grade orphans. He believes that the course teaches students how to treat people in their daily social life. Concerning his personal experience, he especially enjoyed working with the 2nd graders. He says, "their innocence in all areas, including religion and politics, teaches us a lot." He also learned how to better interact with children, (especially orphans), and how to help people without pitying them. Another plus was that this gave Omar the chance to tutor in a class for the first time. For the future, if this course will be offered again, Omar suggests that the community service choices be restricted to organizations that deal with social problems. He believes that the course, in addition to filling the 1 credit gap many students have at HU, is similar to a workshop or a seminar where the student gains actual experience in serving the community. And *that* is a very positive experience.

Anita Moutchoyan (ENG)





The Moon for Sale

What would your reaction be if you are told that you can buy a piece of the moon as a piece of land? You say impossible, huh? Well my friend, listen to this.

Mr. Dennis Hope exploited a loophole in the 1967 UN Outer Space Treaty, and he has been claiming ownership of the Earth's Moon - as well

as seven planets and their moons - for more than 20 years.

From his office in Nevada, entrepreneur Dennis Hope has generated a multi-million-dollar property business selling plots of lunar real estate at \$20 an acre! Yes, believe it or not, this man is actually selling pieces of land on the moon. Unbelievable? Well this is not what Hollywood stars, large corporations - including the Hilton and Marriot hotel chains - and even former US presidents Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, and the current wise guy, G. W. Bush think since they are among those who actually bought property from Mr. Hope.

Hope's defense is based on this claim: "These are 'truly unowned lands', we're doing exactly what our forefathers did when they came to the New World from the European continent." He adds that he has so far sold more than 400 million acres (1.6m sq km), leaving a further eight billion acres still up for grabs by claiming he's "selling 1,500 lunar properties a day."

When interviewed, NASA rocket engineer Dr John Connolly made it clear that the forthcoming missions to the moon are not aimed to stay there for a couple of days, but rather for

the idea of learning to live there. Furthermore, other countries are also making such plans. After two successful space missions, China announced they have a similar plan. Russia, one of the world's leading space powers, may not be far behind, and Europe, Japan and India have also expressed an interest in the matter.

One of the largest private companies and rich entrepreneurs, who see business opportunities on the moon, are US space contractors Lockheed Martin, who are currently developing technologies that will allow the exploitation of the surface of the moon. They are particularly working on a process which will convert moon dust into oxygen and water, or even into rocket fuel. "Just like we use resources here on Earth in order to live off the land - we can do the same thing on the moon," says Lockheed Martin's Dr. Larry Clark.

And for those of you who usually attempt to impress their lovers by saying "I will get you the moon sweetheart!", this is your chance to actually buy them a piece of the moon as a token of your undying love.

Stepan Harmanlikian (ADC)

Hey Leba bomb, There's Nothing Funny about War

(Except What Happens to the Fridge
When the Power Goes Off)



I heard the car brakes slam. Glass shattered and fell to the ground. She stepped out of her driver's seat and ran towards us, her arms waving frantically. I was in the passenger's seat of our car when she started knocking on my window. I

sank into my seat. I wasn't moving. It's not that I couldn't, I just didn't know if I wanted to. I heard music playing in the background; I thought I was dead (until I realized it was only my CD player). Her screams got louder while my mother tried to open her door in the driver's seat of our car. I finally got the strength to open my door, unbuckled my seatbelt and tried to step out of the car... But the door wouldn't open. She continued her shouting and cursing, and as much as I longed to ask her to shut her trap, that I get the point that she's not very happy with the current situation, I kept my anger to myself. I jumped to the back seat and opened the door, and stepped out as my mom kept repeating "calm down, we have insurance we'll fix this". I looked at the girl, put my hand up in an "I got your point, now zip it" motion, and just as I thought things couldn't get any worse I noticed she had a cross on her necklace. "Oh great," I thought to myself as I watched my veiled mother cry, "she thinks this wasn't an accident, she thinks we're some Muslim terrorists."

We worked it out that day, but all I could think of afterwards was that any accident or unfriendly encounter between people of different religions or sects in Lebanon right now would be seen as an attack on the person's religion rather than a mere misunderstanding. And it got me thinking, politics has really taken its toll on us.

Of the nine students in my International Relations of the Middle East course, I'd say I'm one of the Top 9 (genius, yeah?), so you should take what I say in this article very seriously.

What I've learned about Lebanese people and politics is that the relationship should not exist. You see, some may say we're good for nothing, but that's not necessarily true. We make some pretty delicious falafel. Our tabbouleh's not that bad either, and minus the inclusion of fingerprints,

our ice cream is fairly acceptable. So maybe we should stick to food. That would spare the country its sectarian divides, since the only chance of a civil war erupting then would be over whose mom makes better kebabs. No need for politicians. Government would serve little purpose. Sure we'd still be some 50 billion dollars in debt, but we can pay that off with a few kilos of Sfoof and baklawa, since we've always been such sweet-talkers anyway.

The sectarianism has gone too far, and it's noticeable every time a Muslim/Christian walks around a Christian/Muslim area in Lebanon, cautious with their words or acting a certain way so as not to trigger any negative reaction to their presence. I guess all I'm trying to say is that I'd like to know that I can get into an accident, bump into someone when I'm running to avoid somebody else across the street, or be a bit rude when I'm hungry without being accused of being racist.

Because if we fail to put limits to it, we may be faced with greater dilemmas than our current obsession with "pleasing the outsiders", and after years of wars, we know the outcome very well. No one gains anything from a civil war besides household appliance stores and leeches. So if you ever crash into my car somewhere on the highway, and you can instantly tell what religion I follow, make sure you remind me that it's **me** you despise, regardless of how I worship, or if I do at all.

Riaf Hamze (PSC)

Scarred for Life

April 24, 1915... A date that all Armenians recognize and commemorate as the day of the Armenian Genocide. We have not witnessed the Armenian Genocide, yet we have heard so much about it at school, in books we have read, and by way of real life stories our parents and grandparents have shared with us. We have not been direct victims of the Turkish atrocities, yet we bear on our hearts, minds and souls the scar that the Turkish government "blessed" us with. The Armenian Genocide was meticulously planned and thoroughly executed.

First, Armenians were exiled from their homeland, and that rendered them vulnerable. Next, the children and the elderly were starved to death, young women were raped then slaughtered, Armenian intellectuals were tortured and killed, pregnant women were stabbed to death, famous Armenian doctors and writers were hanged, and many others were either burnt alive or shot dead, increasing the total number of victims to an appalling 1.5 million. Armenians were forced either to convert to Islam or be butchered.

As a result of the above, more than three quarters of historic Armenia is presently occupied by the Turkish state, and Armenian diaspora are dispersed all over the world.

Today, the Turkish government is in denial, a known defense mechanism that nearly all criminals and murderers exhibit after committing

their crimes. When the Armenian Genocide is brought up, the Turkish government confesses that some Armenians might have been killed, but only due to World War One circumstances, and not due to a planned genocide. The fact is, however, that 1915 was not the starting point of the Armenian Genocide, it was merely the climax of a long, premeditated process. As Ms. Katia Peltekian states in her articles, the massacres started in the 1890's (one of the bloodiest massacres is that of Adana in 1909) and continued until 1915.

But why shamelessly deny a crime when it is a known fact in history? During his encounter with Haigazian students, Mr. Hrant Guzelian said that the Turkish government worries about the consequences of recognizing its heinous crime. If Turkey recognizes the Armenian Genocide, there will be a penalty that would require its compensating for losses, its return of lands, etc...

A second defense mechanism the Turkish government makes use of is "projection"; the Turkish government not only denies the Genocide, but also accuses **Armenians** of massacring Turks.***

This type of projection differs from the projection in psychology in that the Turks are just as conscious of their doing now as they were when they actually planned and executed the Armenian Genocide.

Throughout history, Turkish governments have resorted to desperate measures in the futile hopes of obliterating the memory of the Armenian Genocide. They have blackmailed some countries into not recognizing the Armenian

Genocide and threatened and/or killed those who mention(ed) the Armenian Genocide in newspapers, books, journals, or on television programs; an important recent example is the late Hrant Dink.

Although the new generation of Turks is not primarily guilty of the Armenian Genocide, they will constantly bear as much responsibility for the previous crimes as long as they deny them and impede the course of justice. With such a barbaric history, it is not a surprise that Turkey still hasn't been admitted to the European Union.

Shushan Artinian (BIO)

*** Ed's note: Upon his visit to HU, political scientist Dr. Gerard Chaliand mentioned that the Turks have gone so far as to actually erect a monument in memory of the *Turks* that the Armenians have massacred.



Turkish propaganda in Times Square - A Pinocchio statue dressed in red, blue, & orange, representing the "Armenian lies".

" The Dance "

by Siamanto

And as her tears drowned in her blue eyes,
On a field of ash where Armenian life was still
dying,

A German woman told me of the horror she
witnessed

"This story which I tell you and which cannot be
told,

I saw with my cruel human eyes,
From the window of my safe house which looked
onto hell,

Grinding my teeth from my terrible rage...

With my cruelly human eyes I saw.
And watched the town of Bardez turn into a heap
of ashes.

The corpses were piled as high as the trees,
And from the waters, from the fountains, from
the streams, from the roads,

The rebellious murmur of blood...

Still speaks now its vengeance into my ears...
O, don't be shocked when I tell you this untellable
story...

Let men understand the crime of man against
man,

Under the sun of two days, on the road to the
cemetery

The evil of man against man,

Let all the hearts of the world know...

That morning in death's shadow was a Sunday,
The first helpless Sunday which rose over the

corpses,

I was inside my room, from evening to dawn,
Bending over an agonized girl slashed with a
sword,

I was wetting her death with my tears...
Suddenly from afar a black, beastly mob
Brutally whipping the twenty brides who were
with them,

Stood in a vineyard singing songs of debauchery.

Leaving the poor dying girl on her mattress,
I approached the balcony of my window which
looked onto hell...

In the vineyard the black mob became a forest.
A savage roared to the brides: "You must dance,
You must dance when our drum sounds."

And the whips wildly cracked on the bodies
Of the Armenian women who were missing
death...

Twenty brides, hand in hand, started their round
dance...

The tears flowed from their eyes like blood from
wounds,

Ah, how much I envied my wounded neighbor,
Because I heard her, with a peaceful moan,
Cursing the universe.

The poor beautiful Armenian girl,
To her young spirit gave wings toward the stars...

In vain I moved my fists against the mob.
"You must dance", roared the furious crowd,
"You must dance until your death, lustfully and
lasciviously,

Our eyes are thirsty for your movements and your
death..."

The twenty beautiful brides fell to the ground
exhausted...

"Stand up", they shrieked, waving their naked
swords like snakes...

Then someone brought to the mob a barrel of
oil...

O, human justice, let me spit at your forehead!
They anointed the twenty brides hastily with that
liquid...

"You must dance", they roared, "Here is a per-
fume for you, which even Arabia does not have..."
Then they ignited the naked bodies of the brides
with a torch,

And the charcoaled corpses rolled from dance to
death...

In my terror I slammed the shutters of my win-
dow like a storm,

And approaching my lonely dead girl I asked:
"How can I dig my eyes out, how can I dig them
out, tell me?"





On Lebanon

(no, it's not something out of Gibran's "The Prophet")

Granted, it's quite long, but reading's good for you, and besides, this is really interesting, as its author is American journalist Krystal Knapp from Princeton, New Jersey, and the Q&A below concerning her thoughts on Lebanon is adapted from her talks with students (especially those she had during her trip to Marjayoun in April with the Desert Streams Club.)

Just in case you're wondering about this, she visited Lebanon from December until May to freelance and learn Arabic.



What prompted you to come to Lebanon?

I am from the Detroit/Dearborn area of Michigan. I grew up with a lot of people whose families were originally from Lebanon. Many of them settled in the Detroit area in the first half of the 20th century because of the jobs that were available in the auto industry. A lot of others came during the civil war. Some of my closest friends in graduate school and beyond were from Lebanon. As someone who is interested in religion and specializes in covering religion as a journalist, I thought it would be good to experience a country with so much religious diversity. I also felt that as a reporter, it was important for me to live in the Middle East because the situation over there and its relation to the rest of the world is one of the central issues of our time.

What did you expect before you came to Lebanon and how did your experience here differ from that?

I tried not to have any preconceived notions. I had heard a lot about Lebanon from my friends. That said, I was very nervous about the trip due to everything that had been going on there. I had postponed my journey after Israel's 2006 war on Lebanon, and I made a tentative airline reservation for my trip the day before Pierre Gemayel was assassinated. The television footage of the tent city in downtown Beirut that was aired on U.S. television showed a lot of angry protesters shouting, pumping their fists and waving flags, so I was anxious. On my first night in Beirut, my friends pulled the car over so I could see the tent city. I was shocked to see boys playing ping pong, people smoking hubble bubble, others dancing... Right there I learned one of my first lessons: the media in the U.S. gives us a very limited picture of events abroad.

In terms of Americans' stereotypes about Lebanon, many people think everyone in the Middle East hates Americans. They see the Middle East as a monolithic place and think Lebanon is a desert filled with camels. They don't know there are so many different sects in the country, and were surprised to hear that I had a visit from Santa Claus for Christmas.

What was your first impression of Lebanon?

I was surprised to see so much diversity in such a small country. Lebanon is a land of contrasts and contradictions, from the religious diversity to the buildings and the landscape. People from very different backgrounds live side by side. The pluralism is expressed in the public square, for example in the way people dress and express their faith. The call to prayer rings from the minaret at the mosque for all to hear; the church bells ring, sometimes simultaneously. A woman in a hijab walks down the street with a friend or neighbor who might be wearing a mini-skirt.

Beirut is cosmopolitan yet also very traditional. You have people living in ultra-modern homes and others living the same way people did decades ago. The architecture expresses the diversity too. A new hotel sits next to an old French mandate style home, which is next to a high-rise apartment building, which is next to a bombed out shell of a building, which is next to a mosque. I found this scenery odd when I first came to Lebanon. Then of course there is the landscape itself, with the sea being so close to the mountains. Before I came to Beirut I thought it was just a cliché or myth that on certain days, you could swim and ski in the same day. Then I saw it for myself and I was amazed!

I challenge your appreciation of the religious diversity here. Look at our past history and our current situation, and you can see the problems it has caused.

I am not saying it has not caused problems or that it is something that is always good. It can be positive though and it's certainly something that strikes you when you come here. In the U.S. everything is much more spread out. The local mosque is tucked away on a large property that is not visible from the street. The combination of the space and the lifestyle means people can live very isolated from one another. You are not necessarily forced to interact with your neighbor, which means you might know very little about the different people around you. Religion is strictly limited to the private sphere. You normally don't hear a call to prayer from a mosque, and one in Michigan that broadcasts the call from the minaret is being sued by some residents who want it stopped on account of it violates the separation of church and state.

I would also say that one has to separate politics from the personal on the issue of pluralism and tensions in Lebanon. One could argue that many of the problems are the result of some politicians using religion for their own agendas, and of course there is the meddling of other countries in Lebanon's affairs. The average person here seems to me to be quite tolerant and to want the same thing his neighbor from another faith wants - peace, harmony and a bright future, both for himself and Lebanon. That said, there seems to be a lot of mistrust and fear and it is easy to capitalize on this and

use it to cause strife.

The construction of identity based on religious sect is a strange concept for an American, coming from a so-called secular society. In the U.S. it is illegal to ask someone about their religion when applying for a job, etc; it is considered to be discriminatory. The proportioning and election of public officials based on religion is also a foreign concept to an American. In theory, this is done to give everyone a voice and protect minorities from dominance by the majority, but clearly this system needs to be improved and the electoral laws need to be revised.

In the U.S., religion has been playing a greater role in politics, but it is something that is not formally a part of the political system. I will say that in general much of the world, including U.S. society, seems to be getting increasingly polarized. If you don't see eye to eye with your neighbor, you cannot have a civil conversation. This needs to change.

What do you like most about Lebanon?

Of course, the food is great. The fruit and vegetables are much fresher and more affordable than in the U.S. We eat too many processed foods there. I love manoushe, lahm bi-ajin, kibbe, tabbouleh, hummus, labneh with zaatar, knefe... I appreciate the fact that many people are bi- or trilingual here in Lebanon, unlike in the U.S. where most speak only English. I am impressed most of all by the dedication to family in Lebanon. It is common to see three generations living together in one home. When your parents are older, they come and live with you until they die. They end their lives in dignity, surrounded by the people they love. In the U.S. the emphasis is on the individual. The elderly often live alone or are placed in nursing homes.

What about Lebanese-Americans who move to the U.S.?

Many immigrant families try to hold on to the values they had at home. The church or mosque is a central place for the community to gather. Family dedication is often apparent. However, some immigrants from the Middle East and elsewhere assimilate to the American lifestyle, especially after having lived there for a few generations. Some people are in touch with their culture and roots and values, while others know very little about them. Some Armenians don't speak any Armenian, just like some Lebanese in the U.S. don't know how to speak Arabic.

[\[continued on next page\]](#)





As a journalist, what are your impressions of the media in Lebanon and the U.S?

The main problem I see with the media in Lebanon is that political parties control media outlets. Can a journalist working for a publication/station owned by a particular party present the news fairly and accurately, or is that person presenting it in a way that is beneficial to the particular political party? This can be dangerous. If people only watch or read one news source, they will have a very skewed view of the situation. You need to follow at least three sources to get a fuller picture of what is really going on. I have read coverage of the same event from different papers here, and one would think that the reporters were actually at different events, because the facts and interpretations diverge so much. In the U.S. we have this problem with FOX news, a fairly new media outlet. Many people watch FOX and believe they are receiving the facts, when the news is in fact very skewed to fit the agenda of the Bush administration.

Living in Lebanon makes me realize how limited the U.S. media is and how it presents such a simplistic view of events in the rest of the world. There is little room for complexity, nuance or depth. This is especially unfortunate given the role the U.S. is playing in the world right now, particularly in the Middle East. In general Americans don't know enough about the rest of the world or even the local events in their own country. The focus is on work, shopping and entertainment. Too much of the news is about Britney Spears.

I was extremely disappointed about the coverage of the war last summer. Most of the media failed to ask the fundamental question: How did the capture of the two soldiers by Hizbollah justify the level of Israel's response and the resulting suffering in much of Lebanon? There are various reasons for this that I won't get into here.

Were you afraid to come to the South with the students from Haigazian?

To be honest, I was a bit nervous. I did not know what to expect at all and what it means that the South is Hizbollah's stronghold, or how people here feel about Americans, or how supporters of Hizbollah feel about Americans. However, people in the South were all wonderful and hospitable to me, just like everyone else in Lebanon, regardless of political or religious affiliation. I like the slower pace of life in the South, where strangers invited me to sit with them and have coffee at their homes.

What have some of your most difficult and best experiences in Lebanon been?

Learning Arabic can be very frustrating. It is a struggle, but little by little I am learning. Traffic in Beirut is also maddening, and at first I could not figure out how to cross the street. The first day I tried, I waited and waited hoping for the cars to stop for me. I realized I would be waiting all day if I wasn't more aggressive...

You have a lot more holidays here in general and I enjoyed that. I think I celebrated Christmas at least three times! I loved visiting the Cedars in the north and going to Aleppo. I also made it to Jordan and got to see Petra.

Going on the HU Desert Streams trip was one of the highlights of my time here. As one student put it, it was great to "forget about the politics and problems for a few days and just focus on doing something good." The students welcomed me and made me feel like a part of the group and I got a better idea of what young people here care about. I was impressed with the students; seeing them work together gave me hope for the future of Lebanon. They were from such diverse backgrounds but they were a very tight-knit group and

they worked very hard. Participating in the group reminded me of the value of a liberal arts education. My college had less than 3,000 students. In an atmosphere like that, your education goes way beyond what you learn in the classroom. The relationships you build with other students and faculty, as well as the activities outside the classroom are an important part of the education. The experience makes you a well-rounded person if you take advantage of what is offered to you.

How will it be for you when you return to the U.S? Will you feel like you have lost part of your American identity after this experience?

After experiencing another culture I think you always feel part of your heart belongs in each place. Lebanon will always be a part of me now. An experience like this gives you a better perspective about the world, yourself and where you are from. I faced challenges here as well as adapted to them, and this has given me more self-confidence.

What will you take away from this experience?

I don't think I will fully know until I return, and maybe it will be months or even years later when I realize all I have gained from this trip. It has changed my perspective in ways that are still difficult to articulate. Most of all I will remember the people I met in Lebanon, the friendships I made or rekindled. I have been taking a lot of pictures lately because I don't want to forget the beautiful faces of the people I met. I hope the experience will make me a better journalist. I am eager to share the experience with others back home and expand their understanding about Lebanon. I liked Lebanon so much that I want to come back... Inshallah I'll be back soon!



SPRING SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT "Connecting with Opposites"

Who wouldn't want to get away from the pressures of daily life and enjoy friends, nature, and God? A lot of people, it seems. Anyway, 14 Haigazian students decided not to pass up that opportunity last March 2-4, and here are some of their thoughts on the retreat they were part of.

"Being there was both: challenging to leave everything, and fun to be with friends joking and laughing together... Well, why not, crying too! Learning and

discussing (sometimes having debates) about connecting with opposites - opposite ideas, opposite sex and opposite beliefs - was what we were waiting for especially living in a world of opposition and rebellion (which is the case in Lebanon)."

Houry Demirjian

"The idea that God knows everything about me provided me with spiritual rest and confidence. I had a time of confession and renewal of my soul that led me to experience internal peace and happiness provided by God... God is love, and it is our responsibility to be good listeners, understand each other, and be strong to obey Him anytime, under all circumstances."

Markrid Markarian

"The place was like a miniature of a modern pilgrimage where I was able to disconnect from the hassle of my everyday life, relax within the beauty of nature, have fun with my friends and spend quality time with my Lord. The theme was illustrated by many discussions, group talks, and two movies, namely "Shark Tale" and "Akeelah & the Bee," which helped in internalizing the concept of communicating with others."

Hagop Akbasharian

"Although I go to church quite regularly, I needed this retreat to get closer to God. With all the distractions in the city, studies, TV, internet, and noise pollution, I had slowly drifted away from God, and it is only when I was on the retreat that I realized how far away I'd become. I thank God that I had the chance to be on this retreat and I recommend it to you all... because it is an out-of-the-world experience!"

Shushan Artinian



March 3: Citizenship Workshop



March 12: "Gender Contest" (Social Activities Club)



March 16: Meeting with Salpi Kasparian (Heritage Club)



March 16: Book Forum (English Society)



March 20: Fundraising for the Marjayoun Project (Desert Streams)



March 23: Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" viewing (The Environmental Club & the Haigazian Herald)



March 23: "Yummy Tunes" (HU Band, "Remedy")



March 26: Salad Sale (Seniors' Society)



April 2: Computer General Knowledge Contest (CS3)



April 3: Islamic Unity Week



April 5: Meeting with Harout Sassounian



April 5: Visit to the Rainbow Warrior II (Environmental Club)



April 5: Easter Bazaar (Arts & Crafts Club)



April 20: Interschool Environmental Awareness Contest (Environmental Club)



April 23: Meeting with Hrant Guzelian (Heritage Club)



April 22: Armenian Genocide Commemoration in Bekfaya



April 25: Armenian Genocide Commemoration on Campus



May 4: Cultural Night (Heritage Club)



May 10: Discussion with Political Scientist Dr. Gerard Chaliand



May 11: Event about "Nidal" with Claudia Marashlian (Heritage Club)



May 18: STD Awareness Lecture by Dr. Assaad-Costanian (Haigazian Herald)



June 6: Formal Debate, "Does the End Justify the Means?"



June 7: Classical Music Performance



June 7: Education Society Inauguration



Staff/Faculty Appreciation Certificates

Dr. Arda Ekmekji	Rev. Nishan Bakalian
Mrs. Sarar Maalouf	Ms. Aline Zeitunlian
Dr. Najwa el Inglizi	Mrs. Roubina Artinian
Dr. Hanine Hout	Ms. Ailsa McLardy
Ms. Najoie Nasr	Ms. Samira Shami

Haigazian Herald Competition Results

Best Author: Jenni Feghali

Most Prolific Writer: Riaf Hamze

Best Cartoonist: Shogher Hawatian

Best Article: Hala el Moghrabi (Got Face?)

Honorary Best Creative Writing Article: Raja Mouawad
(The Lost Land of Opportunities)

Best Creative Writing Article: Anita Moutchoyan
(Even Adam Wasn't Happy Alone)

Individual Clubs

Most Dynamic Sports Team: Tennis

Most Organised Team: Kickboxing

Athlete of the Year: Vicken Sagherian

Most Dynamic Club: Social Activities Club

Most Dedicated Club: Desert Streams

Most Organised Society: HUBS

Most Popular Activity of the Year: Dance Club -
"Expressions"

Best Activity of the Year: Actors' Club - "Noises Off"

Most Significant Activity of the Year: Vision - Unity in
Diversity

Individual Students:

Most Persevering Student: Hasan Dika

Most Active Student: Khaled Saleh

Most Outgrown Personality: Mohammad Bitar

Most Supportive Student: Nijad Itani

Most Achieving Student: Abed Machaka

Most Helpful Student: Ali Mouzannar

Most Lovable Student: Aline Keshishian

Award for First HU Job Fair: Hasan Dika

Rings to the Most Active Graduating Students: Ani
Nadjarian, Khaled Saleh, Mohammad Bitar

STUDENT OF THE YEAR: ANI NADJARIAN

The Student Life Office's Response to the below was the following:

We welcome and respect the complaints of students concerning Awards Day. We do acknowledge that some mistakes may have been made, and we are reconsidering altering the format of the whole function.

"Awards Day"... The highlight of the semester's end... The day where clubs, societies, and students who were active in Student Life get recognition and well-deserved awards...

... Or do they?

For one whole hour, the HU students & faculty stood there in the same **Environment**, watching almost the same individuals step up to receive their awards, **Artfully** pose for a photo, step

down, step up again... well, you get the gist...

We saw many **Debate**-ably deserved awards **Heralding** the nice personalities, good clothing style, best blood type, and **Xtreme** sucking up abilities of certain clubs/individuals, while others were **Spiritually** troubled, wondering what the secret formula to get such appreciation was - obviously, hard work and major breakthroughs were not the valid criteria.

Within the disorganized chaos and the mostly pointless 588 awards that were supposed to be the final event, the mass "feel-good" event, of the year, many people, **Banded** together, ended up surprised as to how the **Heritage** of HU, the legendary Awards Day, had decomposed into such an asinine farce.

Jenni Feghali & Anto Ketchedjian (both BIO)





Building Our Home, Lebanon

Nour Clinic
Marjayoun
April 2007



This year, the Desert Streamers and a few other volunteers went on a mission to the South to renovate a clinic that 'indiscriminately' provides help to the Southern residents who need it; they also distributed 'rations' to the needy...

Although the two days of nonstop hard work and sleeplessness created zombies out of the students, they were truly enjoyed to the max by everyone (almost).

Sponsored by:



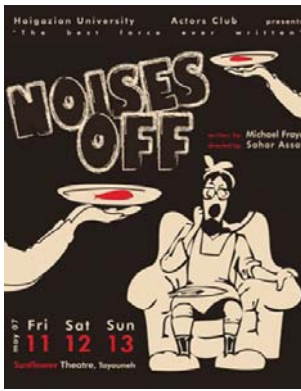
Vision Group

Founded February 7, 2007

"We embrace diversity and constructive dialogue and oppose all kinds of fanaticism."

HU students with multicultural backgrounds





Noises Off

"Haigazian's best theatrical production ever!"

"The set was very impressive."

"The script was perfect."



"The actors could not be considered amateurs. They did a great job."

"I got to see Shant in his boxers!"

"Great directing."

"The play was very dynamic; it's obvious how hard it must have been to perfect."

"Onward..."



Expressions

"Expressions" was the name of the event as it included live music, dancing, and a recital accompanied by some acting.

The HU Dance Club as well as other students gathered to put on a show to remember, one whose proceeds went to the Lebanese Down Syndrome Association.

The event began with the HU band, "Remedy" playing four songs; the last of which was their own composition, a song about the Civil War in Lebanon entitled "Flight 75".

Next, the HU dancers mesmerised the audience with a variety of Hip Hop, Rock, graceful performances of Valse, Tango, and Rhumba... A traditional Lebanese wedding scene was also presented. Throughout the event, guest dancers from Sipan and Bailando also added their own "spice".

Mary Ghazarian read one of her poems "Lebanon, Interrupted" and some of the dancers accompanied her reading by acting out a scene about a sister losing her brothers due to their killing each other during the Lebanese Civil War.

They danced to express themselves, and to send a message of peace and unity.

Special thanks to the wonderful group of dancers, organisers, backstage people and everyone involved in general, especially Elie Habbaki, Shant Kabakian, and Maya Iskandarani (whom we forgot to thank onstage.)



Peggy Bedoyan

A Sporty Overview!

This year, the Haigazian University sports teams organized many indoor tournaments and also took part in several inter-university championships. Let's take a look at some of their latest activities!



The Athletics Department of Haigazian University organized its 5th annual inter-university chess tournament which took place on the 4th of March in the Auditorium, and 47 students from 12 different universities took

part in it.

The mental combat lasted 6 rounds, and the results were as follows:

1st place: Houssam El Jouzou (AUB)

2nd place: Jamal Shamiyeh (Military School)

3rd place: Bilal El Habash (BAU) and Mohamad El Khalidiyi (AUB)

The tournament was refereed by the Lebanese international referee Charles Keily, and the prizes were offered by President Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, 1st Judge Nasri Lahoud (President of FSUL), and Antranik Dakessian.

It is important to mention that this year the tournament had a record number of participants compared to the previous years, and that the event was under the auspices of the Sports Federation of Lebanese Universities (FSUL).

The 5th annual mini-football league tournament took place in the Quad. It lasted from January 15 till March 30, 2007. Eight teams, divided into two groups A and B, participated, and 2 from each group qualified for the semi-finals.



The winning team was:

Sultan Raydan, Mahmoud Kaaki, Wael Khaddaj, Raafat Saad, and Mohamad Salloum.



The runner-up team was:

Omar Itani, Hrag Kozanian, Imad Hashem, Mahmoud Akam, Ahmad Sobh, and Samer Saad.



Bakery (Hazmieh), and then continued their long journey to LIU Bekaa.

Soon after, the Lebanese International University (LIU) organized an inter-university tournament at LIU Bekaa. On Sunday, April 22, 30 HU students, accompanied by their coaches and sports coordinator, left HU around 7:30 am, had their breakfast at Wooden

There, the HU men's basketball team played its 1st match against AUB and won (36-30). Unfortunately, their good luck didn't last long; they lost in the quarterfinals against the Lebanese University (45-40).

As for the football team, HU lost against BAU (3-1). Wael Khaddaj was the one who scored for HU. Although the team lost, they enjoyed playing in the great Jamal Abd El Naser stadium in Khayara, which is considered to be one of the biggest and best courts in Lebanon.

After this wonderful sunny day, they all returned in one piece to HU grounds by 5:30 pm.



Saving the best for last, we come to the kickboxing results!

The HU Kickboxing team took part in two championships: the Adel Nsouli Cup (held at Taadod Club - March 25) and the Lebanese Championship (April 22); they came in 1st and 3rd place respectively, and in both cases they were able to grab eight medals.

In the 1st championship, the medals were distributed as follows:

3 gold: Tarek Mouharram, Zeinab Chahine, Yousra Moghnieh

4 silver: Bilal Noueihed, Rami Kaddourah, Dima Matta, Catherine Moughalian

1 bronze: Alaa Jamaledine (who was unable to participate in the semi-final match because of an injury.)

As for the 2nd championship:

2 gold: Yousra Moghnieh, Zeinab Chahine (Lebanese champions, 2007)

4 silver: Alaa Jamaledine, Rami Kaddourah, Catherine Moughalian, Dima Matta

2 bronze: Bilal Noueihed, Nercese Armani

That's not all! Two members of the team as well as their coach will soon take part in the world championship which will be held in Germany from August 25 till September 2.

Best wishes!

Araz Keuroghlian (MAT) & Stepan Harmanlikian (ADC)

Re: Truth, Freedom, Service...and Attendance?



I was surprised by what Mr. Shahe Seukunian wrote in the March issue of the **Haigazian Herald** about some faculty members allocating 10% of the total course grade to attendance only.

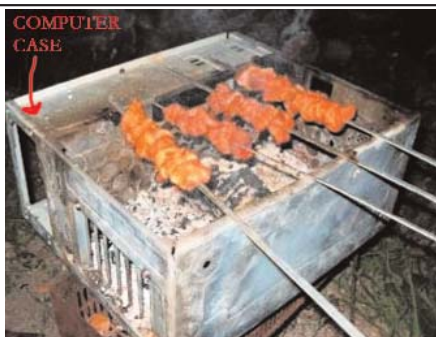
Years ago, in the early 1990s, the topic was discussed in faculty assemblies at the Geitawi campus. It was also discussed when we moved to this campus. The general agreement was always against allocating grades strictly for attendance, but if some faculty member felt strongly about it, then a 2 to 3% might be allowed.

I agree with Shahe about the inappropriateness of this issue to university-level education. It reflects negatively on both the professor and the university.

As for the number of absences allowed and the XF score, the issue is debatable. It has also been discussed at faculty assemblies a number of times.

The university follows the strategy that education is an **interactive** process. Benefits incurred by classroom activities establish and enhance textbook information in terms of knowledge and in terms of personal development...

Sarar Maalouf (*Instructor in Psychology*)



Once upon a time at **Haigazian University**, a group of unsuspecting students decided to use the infamous Internet Lab to do research for a project.

So, the innocent group headed towards the Land of Technology itself, the 4th floor of the Mehagian Building.

Upon reaching their destination, they were met by a tribe of tense Haigaziansmen prowling outside the renowned 18-computer lair, ready to injure anyone who might even attempt to beat them to their long awaited prey, an available computer. Now the poor beings waited, and waited, and waited some more, but it didn't seem like the locust-like assembly would disassemble at any nearby time interval, so they decided to return at around 15:30 - 16:00, when most people would've left campus grounds...

At the set "dead hour" they **did** find free pc's, but now they had to embark on a new mission: one to find a machine that would actually function!! After what seemed like hours of skipping from a seat with a doddering mouse, to one where the computer is so slow where nothing, not even the rotten "Java WinGate Application" will load, they finally *praises on high* found something up to *bare* standards! (Note: Please don't overlook the fact that at least one of the members would have suffered a back injury

due to the very stable, NOT broken seats by that time...)

With elation emanating from their finally triumphant faces, they filled in their Username and Password in that little square of evil, the above mentioned WinGate logon application, and they set out to surf **Google**. (I call it so because every time a window malfunctions - which is **quite** often - the "WinGate of Evil" closes, and then later during work its timer terminates the session, and ALL IS LOST!)

They typed in their topic, and the search came out with just what they needed, and within seconds! They couldn't believe what great luck they were having until they clicked the most relevant page. And lo and behold, a wonderful site (pun intended) met their eyes:

"HTTP 403 (Forbidden)... You are unauthorised to view this page..."

Fury and rage erupted within the souls and minds of the tortured clan... "WHY?!" they wondered in agony, "We're not surfing anything wrong! It's not pornography, it's not gambling, it's not MSN Messenger (which I still don't get the point of blocking, by the way... Oh wait, maybe it's the fact that we have 18 pc's for a student body of 700. No, wait again, that doesn't explain why it's blocked on laptops, too.), and it's nothing morally demeaning!" ***

So, they finally gave up, and decided to drown their sorrows in a dose of inane, time-wasting (or socially enriching, pick whichever) websites such as the latest plague, **Facebook**. But for some reason, an evil spirit thriving in the Haigazian University Network thwarts access to those pages, too!

And that familiar message, this time ensuring not only lack of project information, but social isolation as well, pops up once again... "Error 403..."

Jenni Feghali (BIO)

*** Personal Experience, just for the record: I was once forbidden to access a health awareness website...

Make It Easier On Us

Why doesn't Haigazian offer employment or loans to help students, especially those who have very little or no financial aid at all? It might be that the university can't afford to help everybody. Ok, so maybe the students should try to help themselves by finding a part-time job, but how could they do that if it is virtually impossible to aggregate all their courses **either** in the morning or in the afternoon? The problem lies in that the major courses are scattered throughout the early morning and late afternoon, not to mention that there is **one** section of each and that you **HAVE** to take the specific major courses offered each semester. I'm not talking about the general requirements such as English or IST which have around 5 sections, but rather about the major courses in the not-so-common majors such as: Education, Psychology, Political Science... So if the idea of employing students seems to farfetched, why not make it easier on us by offering one morning section, and one afternoon section of courses so we can fix our schedules?

Another concern I have is why on earth **CAN'T** students drop a course if they are taking 12 credits?? I mean what difference does it make if it is 12 or less? Maybe this course will negatively affect the

student's entire grade! How was he/she supposed to register for more than 12 credits if he/she didn't get financial aid, can't take a loan, can't work in the university, and can't adjust his/her class schedule to work a part-time job??? In my opinion, there are a few regulations that need some adjustments and some new ones that need to be introduced. Some would ask why I didn't raise my concerns in the Town Hall (or should I say the "Neo" Town Hall)? But how could I if its big bright banner mentioned neither the date nor the time it was to take place?

(-Ed's Note: I also want to add that I rather preferred the public boxes on campus where we could fill in our concerns prior to the actual Town Hall meeting. This year it was almost as though a secret, underground Town Hall was planned...)

(-Student Life Office's Note: Flyers were posted in the boxes which mentioned the time and place where the NeoTownHall Committee members were to have personal interviews with students.)

Samar Choujah (PSY)



Gossip Mania

It's interesting how everyone in our 'quaint' university always talks about how having a tiny university isn't a problem, and how it's supposed to be this supportive, social, altogether 'good' thing. And in some respects, it really is a good thing.

However, many fail to see how cramped our university can get at times. Honestly, there is absolutely no existence to something I like to call my "personal space". Actually, the concept of personal life will not enter our blessed university any time soon.

My issue lies in the fact of knowing that when I sneeze, everyone will know about it and make it 'the' subject to discuss over the next 2 months. Having lived through this experience has made me despise it. The question is, is there a remote chance, a fading hope, that the endless cycles of gossip will end and people will deal with their own pathetic lives for a change??

S.B.



Not much to introduce... Below are the questions, 'below' are the answers.

- 1) Give a 5 word biography of yourself.
- 2) If you were to be reincarnated, what object would you want to be?
- 3) What do you think of plastic surgery?
- 4) Describe Lebanon in two words.
- 5) Who would the world have been better off without?



Diana Assaf

- 1) Funny, quiet, trustworthy, good listener, sensitive.
- 2) A sunflower.
- 3) For it and against it.
- 4) Green Chaos.
- 5) No one.



Ani Boyadjian

- 1) Sensitive, tall, funny, chatterbox, sociable.
- 2) A cellphone.
- 3) It is really important for some people since it raises their self-esteem.
- 4) Messed Up.
- 5) Tony Blair.



Guy Jakmakjian

- 1) Moody, devil, god, overly self-confident.
- 2) A cigarette.
- 3) There's no point to it. It's meaningless.
- 4) No Comment.
- 5) Mohandas Gandhi.



Shant Kabakian

- 1) Singer, actor, fun, cuddly, kissable.
- 2) A curtain.
- 3) I don't know. You know how stupid I am about surgery (refer to Noises Off).
- 4) Stool Sample.
- 5) Mr. Ego.



Hussein About Dahsh

- 1) Hopeful, smart, fun, humorous, punctual.
- 2) A chair.
- 3) It's good.
- 4) Opportunity, beauty.
- 5) A friend, for personal reasons.



Samar Choujah

- 1) Spontaneous, expressive, honest (as much as I can be), crazy, stubborn.
- 2) An Oscar.
- 3) People should accept themselves as they are, so I'd say no to plastic surgery.
- 4) Unpredictable, unique.
- 5) Hugo Chavez.



Dunia Kraiem

- 1) People person, funny, serious, trustworthy, sincere.
- 2) A book.
- 3) I'm with it when needed, not if it's for fun.
- 4) My Home.
- 5) Any dictator.



Marwan Jaffal

- 1) Poetic, thinker, wrestling god, atheist.
- 2) A white dwarf (collapsed star).
- 3) Why don't we all go reconstruct ourselves?
- 4) Conflict Eden.
- 5) Johnny Ace (wrestling creative writer).



Clara Tenkerian

- 1) Honest, good listener, trustworthy, friendly, smart.
- 2) A fast car.
- 3) Against it. Be yourself!
- 4) Chaos, fun.
- 5) G. W. Bush. He came to the world and destroyed it.

Meghri Terzian

- 1) Honest, moody, adventurous, independent, risk taking.
- 2) A TV for everyone to watch me.
- 3) I'm with it. Everyone is free to do what they want.
- 4) Disgusting Place.
- 5) No one.



Dima Matta

- 1) Nervous wreck, hyper, actress (everyday), loony, Poppy.
- 2) A stress ball.
- 3) Against it now, but ask me again when I'm in my 40's.
- 4) Psychotic Nation.
- 5) Well I wouldn't say better, but it would definitely be quieter without me.



Arpa Khoshoyan

- 1) Anxious, optimistic, friendly, stubborn, nervous.
- 2) Stairs.
- 3) If needed, why not?
- 4) Adventure - filled, wonderful.
- 5) George W. Bush.

Natalie Adourian

- 1) Stubborn, calm, sociable, lazy, likes chocolate.
- 2) A cellular.
- 3) Against it.
- 4) Beautiful, destroyed.
- 5) Me.

Maria Solakian

- 1) Calm, sociable, laughs a lot, likes eating, shopping.
- 2) A TV.
- 3) Necessary if needed.
- 4) Action, social.
- 5) George W. Bush.



Farah Ghazzawi

- 1) Sweet, impatient, confident, funny, 'dallou3a'.
- 2) Jewelry because it's always shining.
- 3) It's fake and costly.
- 4) Tough, amazing.
- 5) Whoever invented cigarettes (-Ed: maybe Guy & Farah should debate this).



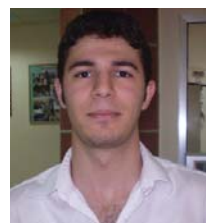
Araz Ladayan

- 1) Patriotic, happy, sociable, friendly, sweet.
- 2) Chocolate.
- 3) Definitely with it cuz it makes people happy.
- 4) Hell on Earth.
- 5) Two girls from our old class in high school (HAHAHA).



Liana Hagobian

- 1) Sensitive, respectful, honest, romantic, hardworking.
- 2) A cellphone.
- 3) Good when there is a defect.
- 4) War vs. Peace.
- 5) Satan.



Christapor Kouyoumdjian

- 1) Fine-looking, hardworking, loving, smart, sincere.
- 2) Water.
- 3) It's nice if necessary.
- 4) Aakh, Aakh.
- 5) Oussama Bin Laden.



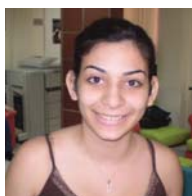
Khoulood Zahr

- 1) Clever, fun to be with, friendly, cute, honest.
- 2) Chocolate.
- 3) It's helpful when really needed.
- 4) Beautiful, risky.
- 5) No one.



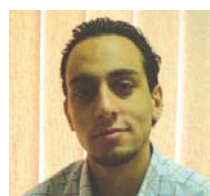
Wael Khaddaj

- 1) Smart, funny, cute, friendly, pincher.
- 2) A cup of ice water.
- 3) Not bad.
- 4) Boom, Boom.
- 5) My 'teta'.



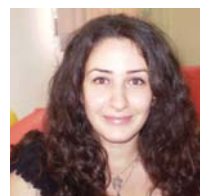
Grecia Souki

- 1) Respectful, honest, serious, sociable, hardworking.
- 2) A book.
- 3) Not good at all! We are beautiful the way we are..
- 4) Fantastic, home.
- 5) Tony Blair.



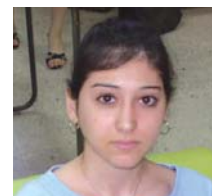
Rami Kaddourah

- 1) Serious, sensitive, passionate, active, motivated.
- 2) A video camera.
- 3) For a good cause, I'm with it.
- 4) Beautiful, damaged.
- 5) Ariel Sharon.



Tamar Majarian

- 1) Humanistic, optimistic, animal lover, sensitive, honest.
- 2) I'm against it, but if I had to, I'd choose Akhtamar Island.
- 3) With it if necessary.
- 4) Bleeding, gorgeous.
- 5) George W. Bush.



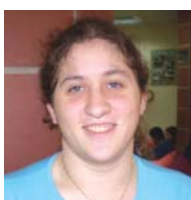
Joumana Ghazali

- 1) Honest, active, sociable, adventurous, likes comedy.
- 2) A pen to write how people usually must be.
- 3) It's not good because no one will be natural.
- 4) Unlovable, divided.
- 5) Ahmadi Najad (he is a stupid devil).



Amal Yatamah

- 1) Dynamic, sardines, pure hearted, big hair (trademark), lady-like.
- 2) A beautiful painting.
- 3) It's a relative issue. I'd choose to undergo plastic surgery only in case of an accident..
- 4) Love, hate.
- 5) Any person who is not willing to truly make Lebanon a better place.



Grace Abboud

- 1) Always smiling, moody, honest, friendly, not very serious.
- 2) Fast food.
- 3) Hate it, God created us like this.
- 4) Bombs, multicultural.
- 5) Ehud Olmert.



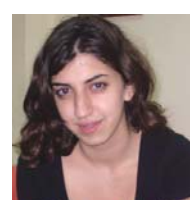
Markrid Markarian

- 1) Loving, caring, fun, trustworthy, honest.
- 2) The sun.
- 3) It's like cloning. I'm against it!
- 4) Injured Baby.
- 5) George W. Bush.



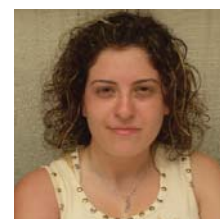
Rahil Abdul Sater

- 1) Shy, confident, impatient, honest, bride.
- 2) A watch.
- 3) It's good only if it's needed.
- 4) Unsafe, very nice.
- 5) Condoleezza Rice.



Aline Keshishian

- 1) Honest, caring, sensitive, assertive (Ed: she won "Most Lovable")
- 2) A comfortable chair.
- 3) If it's just to alter your looks, then I'm against it.
- 4) Amazing, risky.
- 5) God.



Ani Sapsezian

- 1) Friendly, nervous, loyal, sensitive, funny.
- 2) A book.
- 3) It should be done if necessary.
- 4) Messy, unstable.
- 5) George W. Bush.



Vahan Hovsepian

- 1) Loyal, honest, nervous, hardworking, moody.
- 2) An airplane.
- 3) It's good if it's necessary.
- 4) Dead Meat.
- 5) George W. Bush.

Kohar Parseghian

- 1) Shy, trustworthy, nervous, loves music, funny.
- 2) A magic stick (-Ed: I'm sure she meant 'wand', people. Ahem.).
- 3) I am okay with it as long as the person needs it.
- 4) "Lebnaan El Akhdar" - Yabba!
- 5) The person knows himself/herself.

Vahan Youghourdjian

- 1) Promiscuous, fun, honest, sleepy, patriotic.
- 2) A sword (-Ed: Could it possibly be to slice some Turk's neck, Vahan?).
- 3) It's okay.
- 4) Green Sanctuary.
- 5) A Turk. (because I had to choose only one)



Sarine Topalian

- 1) Charming, lovable, hot, cool, fun.
- 2) Water.
- 3) It should only be used in appropriate cases.
- 4) Action, Haifa Wehbe.
- 5) Condoleezza Rice.

Yousra Moghnieh

- 1) Tall, loyal, honest, thoughtful, ambitious.
- 2) A tree.
- 3) It is needed in case of deformations or extremely ugly features.
- 4) Unsafe, beautiful.
- 5) George W. Bush.



Natalie Shirinian

- 1) Moody, funny, fun loving, honest, white hearted.
- 2) Crystal.
- 3) It makes people more beautiful, but inner beauty is more important than outer beauty.
- 4) Unstable, chaos.
- 5) Adolf Hitler.



Layal Naim

- 1) Naggy¹⁰, stubborn, hard working, friendly, active.
- 2) The moon because its light never fades.
- 3) It sucks, unless a defect someone has is psychologically affecting them.
- 4) Unappreciated Country.
- 5) Politicians (without exceptions).

-Ed: This photo is excessively enlarged due to a special request. More like plea.



- 1) Give a 5 word biography of yourself.
- 2) If you were to be reincarnated, what object would you want to be?
- 3) What do you think of plastic surgery?
- 4) What's the silliest thing a student has ever said/done in class?
- 5) Describe Lebanon in two words.
- 6) Who would the world have been better off without?
- 7) What are you obsessive compulsive about? (-Ed: Originally, this was also a question for students, but to our utter shock, most students didn't even know what that meant.)



Dr. Lamia R. Shehadeh

- 1) Loving wife and mother and an intellectual humanist.
- 2) I can't see myself as an object at any time.
- 3) It has its benefits. It's one domain that's helped people a great deal, but whether it's being abused is a different issue. It's a treasure to those who are disfigured, burnt, need reconstructive surgery... It's the 21st century's plus, provided it's not abused.
- 4) Two things:
 - a) We were discussing Freud during the war, and one of the students was bothered that his parents wouldn't let him go out at night. So I told him "You have to see their point, it's fear of death. Are you willing to die?" He thought for a fraction of a second and said, "In **five** years."
 - b) I was talking about women's role in society, whether they should work or not, be independent or not, and one of my female students said "No, I wouldn't want that." So I asked her what she wanted, and her reply was that she wanted to get married and "baddi itghannaj".
- 5) The land of "Milk and Honey".
- 6) Adolf Hitler.
- 7) Nothing, I'm very rational.



Dr. Basma Faour

- 1) Organised, perfectionist, hard-working, dreamer, mother.
- 2) The sea.
- 3) I'm neutral. People who need it should get it.
- 4) When they have the syllabus in front of them and still ask about some stuff in it.
- 5) Keep Living.
- 6) Adolf Hitler, because many changes took place because of him.
- 7) Pushing students to their limits.



Dr. Nadim Hassoun

- 1) Positive, moody, funny, optimistic (I try to be), honest.
- 2) A musical instrument because I adore music.
- 3) God created us in His image... "Wa kama khalakana Allah nurzak!"
If it is highly needed, like in the case of face mutilation, then I am for skin grafting or the like. But if it is to beautify yourself, then I am against it.
- 4) When a student sleeps in class! Why come to class in the first place?
Plus a really stupid question is "Can we postpone the exam?" (-Ed: I apologise on behalf of all of us, Doc.)
- 5) Beautiful Country, Stupid People (they have no common sense and are too materialistic).
- 6) All those who are sectarian.
- 7) My kids' and family's safety.



Mr. Nazim Noueihed

- 1) Realistic, dedicated, knowledge-lover, perfectionist, anxious.
- 2) A star, because it's so complex and beautiful and it's the origin of life.
- 3) Good for people who can afford it, bad for those who can't.
- 4) When a student is the third person to repeat the same question.
- 5) Beautiful, immortal.
- 6) Hulagu Khan, because he destroyed our culture and civilisation.
- 7) I like to be in mental top shape all the time.



Revo (Rev. Nishan Bakalian)

- 1) "Me and my big mouth".
- 2) A mountain in historic Armenia... and nobody would kick me out.
- 3) It is a huge blessing to those who really, really, really (x infinity) need it. Really.
- 4) A misbehaving sixth grader (who graduated not too long ago from HU) once advised me to beat another student to keep him quiet. "Hit him, Sir, that's the only thing he'll understand." Of course that student in question was standing on the desk at the time.
- 5) Gestating Hopes.
- 6) The inventor of the electronic drum machine.
- 7) I put the mouse pointer back in the upper left corner of the screen before I shut down the computer. (So I can find it next time I turn it back on.)

Ms. Najoie Nasr

- 1) Humorous, loves life, tough, caring, professional (I try to be).
- 2) A cloud.
- 3) It's good when it's needed and it changes someone's life, it's bad if it's only for becoming pretty.
- 4) "Is what we're covering today important?"
- 5) Bitter Sweet.
- 6) No one. The bad is important to see the value of the good in life.
- 7) Getting the idea clear for the students.





Mrs. Sarar Maalouf

- 1) Crazy, stable, compulsive, determined, happy.
- 2) "Pate a modeler."
- 3) It's ok when in moderation, when needed.
- 4) When they ask a question that makes me repeat what I said half an hour ago.
- 5) Beautiful Mess.
- 6) God (religion).
- 7) Order, tidiness, structure...



Dr. Mohammad Ladan

- 1) Honest, hard-working, professor, up-to-date, flexible.
- 2) I don't believe in reincarnation.
- 3) Good only if it helps in fixing birth defects.
- 4) In my class, very silly questions don't happen.
- 5) Best Country (in the world).
- 6) Ariel Sharon.
- 7) Working, working, working.



Dr. Hratch Barsoumian

- 1) 300 years of undeterred abstinence.
- 2) An M-brane phasor (Gotcha! Reincarnation must conserve animosity.)
- 3) They are undercover ET agents planted to throw us off the track of the real Martians.
- 4) The collective poem improvised during a final.
- 5) Wonderful #&\$!
- 6) Most everybody you 'gnaw'.
- 7) Making origami models of Atlantis.



Dr. Fadi Asrawi

- 1) Open, understanding, excellent communicator, leader, compassionate.
- 2) I don't want to be reincarnated as an object, I need something with a soul.
- 3) In case someone needs it, it's ok. If it makes you feel good about yourself, go for it.
- 4) As long as the question has a merit to it, I don't find it silly.
- 5) Big Conundrum.
- 6) I believe everyone on earth serves a purpose.
- 7) I don't think I'm obsessive compulsive about anything.



Ms. Peggy Bedoyan

- 1) Always learning, funny (sometimes), realistic, anxious, loud (-Ed: And athletic. Ahem).
- 2) A sponge.
- 3) It's fine.
- 4) Once someone I don't know came and told me hello and kissed me, and then he realised that I wasn't who he thought I was.
- 5) Heaven and Hell.
- 6) George W. Bush.
- 7) My feet. I can't tolerate someone touching them, or getting near them.



Mr. Elie Shbeir

- 1) Humble, caring, patriotic, honest, straightforward.
- 2) I want to be a big cup.
- 3) If it serves the right purpose, I am for it.
- 4) "What grade would you give me if I give you a good evaluation?"
- 5) Hub of Terrorism.
- 6) George W. Bush.
- 7) Whatever I plan to do should be done on time.

Mrs. Rozine Moughalian

- 1) Ambitious, nervous, curious, sincere, hard-working.
- 2) I don't want to be an object, but if I were to be reincarnated, I'd want to be a male.
- 3) It's ok when it's really needed.
- 5) Beloved Country.
- 6) Nobody.
- 7) Fear of elevators, avoiding butter.



Ms. Talar Simonian

- 1) Ambitious, hard-working, sincere, friendly, meticulous.
- 2) The sun, because it's the only thing that people have not been able to come close to so far.
- 3) There has been some good progress, but some people are overdoing it.
- 5) Most Beautiful Country in the World.
- 6) I wouldn't say... Everybody has a purpose...
- 7) Nothing.





The time has come for some of our seniors to say goodbye to the institution that has been another home to them (for the most part) for the past, well, at least three years. And in some cases twelve. (I just made the latter up. I'm **sorry** if it's true.) So we hounded the seniors-soon-to-be-graduates (in some cases they hounded us) until they gave us their responses to a few standardised questions... Below are the answers of the few who had the time to reply.

- 1) What were your best memories at HU?
- 2) If you were to go back in time, would you enroll at HU again?
- 3) Anything to add?



Ani Nadjarian (FIN)

1) Where do I begin? FRIENDS, women's basketball, Social Club activities, Heritage Club events, Senior Society book fair, Prom Night '06, Student of the Year campaigns, Vision, Student Life, camps, workshops, field trips (still waiting for the 4th one!) student gatherings at Peggy's office...just to state few!

2) YES, of course... I feel like I was BORN in HU! After all, who wouldn't want to live the best days of her life twice? I'm proud to be an HU graduate!

3) Seize the opportunity and be a member of this family... Give yourself the chance to live the best days of your life! Be active; have your input & you will have a beautiful story of your own, as I do now!



Nazeli Kandakarjian (BAD)

1) Biking trips, field trips, and the dance workshops.

2) Yes I would.



Raphael Gumushian (BAD)

1) All the wonderful and happy moments I shared with my friends in all clubs, especially the Environmental Club members. I can't forget SNOW CAMPING with the Xtremers because although it was the most challenging and hard working activity in all my years in HU, I'm READY TO REPEAT IT AGAIN. Oh, and I almost forgot the pile-ups!!!

2) Of course I would go to HU again; it is my second home where I had my all friends and memories.

3) I would like to add a new campus (parking, swimming pool, ...) for the coming generations.



Mary Ghazarian (BIO, TD)

1) Being the Editor in Chief of the Haigazian Herald for two years, being on the Dean's and President's lists, field trips, Desert Streams events, Kefraya trip, and forming new friendships.

2) If I could rewind the video of my life and write a new script, I'll follow the same scenario at the best setting, which is HU, for here I grew the way I wanted to, and became the individual I dreamed to be.



Noura Alloud (MLS)

If I could miraculously go back in time, of course I will go back to HU, it has been my second home for four years; I feel that I belong there and that I'm a member in this great big family, and who wouldn't want to stay long with their family?!

HU provided me with the basic educational program, libraries, all sorts of sports, social interaction through clubs, and even a sleeping room.

Words can't express how grateful I am to this university for making me build my self esteem, and arming me with enough knowledge to reach Truth, Freedom, and Service.

Hail, favored one, from you I go to life, and wherever I'll be it's because of you, my lovely university.



Hovsep Tchaylian (BAD)

1) Every moment.

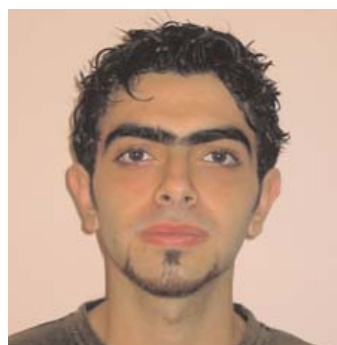
2) Yes, I would go back to HU again, first because the education level is the same as the other universities, so I would choose HU among them... Second the facilities in HU are different, and they are very helpful to the students.



Shushan Artinian (BIO)

1) I can think of many happy memories at HU; it's really hard to pin-point a single one. Some of them are meeting great new friends through clubs like the Environmental and the Haigazian Herald Clubs, performing at concerts with the Music Club, going to Spiritual Life retreats, horse-back riding, dancing, enjoying friendly and competitive games of ping-pong and tennis... And even just hanging out at the Student Lounge and laughing with friends at silly things such as pileups. Good thing I still have 2 more years to enjoy HU activities after I graduate... hehehe

2) I would definitely go to HU. I have no regrets, neither in the choice of university nor of my major.



Mohammadd el Muhtar (BIO)

1) Orientation, ushering during the graduation ceremony, NSSS.

2) Yes I would, because I met my lady Racha, Dr. Berge, Taline Nadjarian, Dr. Hassoun, Ms. Rula Halaby, Mrs. Roula Khoury, and my true friends who did a lot for me.



Mireille Boghossian (ECO)

1) Participating in the Virtual Stock Exchange Competition, contributing to the Orientation program.

2) This is my 4th year at HU! During these years, HU allowed me to make many friendships that may last forever. HU improved my managerial abilities, and it also taught me how to be a 'team player' through my responsibilities, as well as through the healthy, creative, and friendly atmosphere prevailing at HU. So if I were to go back in time, I would definitely go to HU again.

3) I would like to thank Dr. Paul Haidostian, my professors, and my parents who supported me during my education at HU. I would also like to thank Dr. Fadi Asrawi (whose International Economics course I will never forget, as I really benefited from it), and Mr. Nazareth Nicolian who was a true inspiration to me. I will never forget the two courses that I took with Mr. Nicolian: MIS272 and Senior Seminar Project Management. I really enjoyed and benefited from the lectures, assignments and group projects.



Shogher Oknayan (BAD)

1) Well, the four years that I spent at HU were definitely memorable since there's nothing in life that we can forget; memories remain. And there will always be something to be thankful for and in this case, that's meeting two of my best friends at HU... In the end, however good or bad my times were, I can't forget HU since it's related to many experiences I had (in and out of the university) which made me grow in different ways.

2) If I were to go back in time I would have picked my best friends from HU and moved them with me to another university... It's a bit complicated...

3) First, it's funny that I reached my last semester and then started socializing... But they say that it's never too late.

Second, I'm going to miss everyone at HU, even the people I didn't like, since that is what life is about.

Finally, to all those who have yet to graduate, I wish the best of luck and lots of patience.

Believe me, you will get there sometime!



Mohammad Fakhoury (MIS)

1) Tennis Team Trainings & Tournaments, Student of the Year Celebration, Student Life workshops, Orientation Day and definitely meeting new friends and becoming a "family".

2) I definitely would go to HU again because I don't think that I would have improved as a person on so many levels in another university, and I would have never met the greatest bunch of friends that I have now.

3) Thank you HU students and staff for everything :)



Helen Hobeika (EDU)

1) Spending our free time in HU's cafeteria playing UNO! Crowds would gather around us and noise would fill the area!

Engaging in the Vision - Unity in Diversity activity... It was a great experience!

2) Yes, but this time I'd make sure I'd get more involved in its social life.

3) To my professors...Thank you for making a difference in my life...

To my colleagues...College is a great experience, so make sure to enjoy yourself and study hard!

Nibal Sarieddine (MLS)

If I could reverse time I would definitely return to HU so that I can benefit again from every moment I spent there.

As an HU student, I have experienced four incredible years of internal joy. Haigazian University has offered me a good education, self confidence, and a social life, in addition to the good academic career that motivated me and challenged me to improve.

There is no doubt that I'm one of the lucky students who had the privilege to be at Haigazian University. And I do thank Haigazian University for helping me to achieve my goals and preparing me for a future Master's Degree.

Still Attached!

Haigazian University was quite significant in shaping my life and character throughout the four years I spent here to obtain my BS degree.

It is true that at the beginning, my going to university was for one sole purpose: to study and obtain a diploma. But soon after, my scope of interest and benefit broadened, thanks to the motivation that reached me from the Student Life Office. Being a part of the clubs and activities organized by HU Student Life enlarged my social circle. I got to meet people with different beliefs and habits.

The friends I made at HU and my relationship with them helped me learn a lot about life and people in general. My responsibility, as chairperson, towards improving the Dance Club was a big challenge to me, to form myself as a person dedicated to an aim. I also learned to be flexible

and diplomatic in order to reach others and motivate students to take steps similar to mine.

I would like to extend great thanks to the people, who as parents or friends helped me become the person that I am today: Mr. Antranik Dakesian and his assistants, Rev. Nishan Bakalian, and an HU Alumnus, Mr. Arkan Zaki. Each one, respectively, contributed heavily to my knowledge and discovery of my identity in the social, spiritual, and emotional aspects.

Now as a graduate, I still find myself attached to Haigazian University, with every corner of the campus full of memories and experiences that give value to the laughter and tears, the joy and fears that I experienced throughout the years I spent within my university. HU has truly become a place of unique importance to me.

As a thirsty person who found the spring of life in Jesus Christ during those years, I can confidently say that Haigazian University was the place where it all began.

Roubina Karaminassian, HU 2006



The "Chaplain's Corner" below, "Remembering", was featured in the **Haigazian Herald** of Spring 2001, Issue #2. Due to a layouting error, the title of the article was the same size as the name of its author. Ironically, 6 years later, that error seems to be perfectly fitting as Rev. Bakalian is ABANDONING us (excuse the drama, it's just that a selfish few of us are miserable he won't be at our graduation/commencement next year) to return to his native Philly.

Dearest Revo... You've been so many things to us: an advisor & great listener, a friend, a brother, a therapist, a voice of reason in times of blind [insert relevant negative emotion here], a primogenitor (bahah) of much needed comedy, and the list goes on... It's been **great** having you around, and we will truly miss you, too. *refer to page 2*

P.S. We'll probably visit you soon enough, accompanied by a **blaring 43"** plasma TV that we'll station right in front of your future office to make sure you don't miss the "old days" (or lose your now well-established talent of blocking sound out)...

Remembering Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian

In the early 1990s there was a tree on the edge of a park in New York City, a place frequented by skaters and skate boarders, in the midst of a weekly open-air market. At the base of this tree was a marker, indicating that the tree was dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915. While I was living there a few years ago, that small tree was cut down, and sometime after that, the plaque disappeared. As a pastor and community leader in New York, I was interested to know what became of it - who put it up, and removed it. But almost no one in the Armenian community there seemed to know about the plaque or the tree. They were surprised to find out that such a memorial had even been put there, and they of course had no idea who dedicated it or when. It was as though it had been forgotten almost as soon as it was placed.

What a frightening thought - putting up a memorial and then having it be forgotten!

Creating memorials is part of our humanity;

memory is an ability that God put into us. Our memory stands as a guard to our thoughts and behavior, and helps us to plan for the future. The memorials and monuments we build widen the effects of individual memory, so that others can benefit and think about their common interest. In this way, the experiences of one person or group can benefit other persons and groups.

The Bible teaches us the importance of memorials and memory. Whether referring to significant monuments, cities, natural phenomena, or actions, the important thing is to remember. But in remembering, we are not just supposed to think about the physical object in front of us, but to remember the event; and not just the event, but how God was helping people through that experience. (Think of how Jesus took bread and wine at the Last Supper and said, "Remember me whenever you eat and drink this.") Remembering is a way of encouragement and correction in some cases, although in other cases it can be a way of reviving bitterness and anger.

But even if we risk bringing back anger and pain, remembering is much safer than forgetting. Imagine if our memories were stored somewhere out of sight, and out of mind. We would not bother having holidays and commemorations, nor

would we be concerned about learning anything from the past. We would not keep records of anything good or bad, and not try to correct injustice. It would be a condemnation to animal or plant-like existence, to the endless cycle of repetition. And if we just left what we were supposed to remember in some kind of storage area, say, a room, or a computer hard disk, all our memory could be wiped out with one accident, or a huge solar flare, or a power failure!

God wants us to remember, so that we can be truly human, and strive to live godly lives. We humans are infected with the potential to do great evil. Writer Philip Yancey says that out of the arms of yesterday's victims arise tomorrow's oppressors...

And so it is a good thing that we celebrate those dark days of the past, such as Armenian or Lebanese Martyrs' days. But so that our remembering does not turn into self-pity or self-righteousness, it is important to remember the One who is capable of helping us to carry on, and helping us to see the pain and need of others. With His encouragement, and by trusting in His promise of victory over evil, sin and death, we can continue to work for what is right.



Things You Might Not Have Known About the Rev...

- * He once broke his brother's tooth.
 - * He's a black belt in Aikido.
 - * He was a boy scout.
 - * He played many, many roles in school plays.
 - * He also conducted school orchestras...
 - * He started learning Armenian at age 24.
 - * He had a cat called Joshua when he was in college, which he kept in his dorm.
 - * He used to give sermons to kids on Sunday, and he even took a kitten to church to use as an object lesson once.
- ...Wait for it...
- * He's allergic to cats.

I caught the Revo having his last supper in the HU cafeteria on its closing day (end of semester stuff)... I shall, for once, make no comments... Just admire the picture. :D



We wish you all the best, Rev. & Mrs. Bakalian...

...With LOTS of love...



Six Feet Above Yesterday

"To those I care for the most...I wish upon you the greatest of sufferings... disease, poverty, heartbreak, loss, treachery, sickness, despair, helplessness...for this is the only way you will ever overcome yourselves and amount to anything."

~ Friedrich Nietzsche



You wake up to an electronic bleep. You strap on your designer clothes and your gold watch. You medicate yourself on your branded coffee and cigarettes. You are then trained on how to push the appropriate buttons at your future workplace. You come home to a moving-image tube and you watch your favorite episode of the latest comedy show all your friends are raving about.

Sounds about right...

Until one day you wake up to loss, heartbreak, disease, addiction, bankruptcy, mass murder, threats to freedom, senseless contrived wars, ill health, failed religious systems, premonitions of Armageddon (which you eagerly await...You sure could use a vacation after all this) and the other thousand of life's enduring "deviances" to your well-being.

What do you do then? You up the dosage. More TV. Stronger Prozac. Newer illicit drugs. More sex. More religion. More. More. More. More.

Civilization has miracle cures for any of your distresses. While you're slouching towards bedlam, the past becomes a gaping hole you can't run away from anymore, and you choose the option of popping a pill as you start tumbling down to the depths of your psyche.

You are your own god, and your strength of character you ingest; accept unconditionally and use to its fullest effect. It doesn't exist high in the clouds with the promise of a permanent luxury resort. It doesn't reside in the barrel of a .45. And neither does it have 500 channels for your viewing pleasure.

Strength to jump headfirst into that gaping hole to end the running, the sweating, the hyperventilation and the eventual collapse of your system comes from within, and no counselor or spirit can push you to this.

Pain and its other spectrum, dull routine, are cured through your strength of will to go on, to make things as right as they ought to be, to quit whining and start facing your troubles as you face the collision course head-on **and accept the potential for a better tomorrow despite the hurt of today.**

Life is eternal suffering; escape the greatest enemy. Rely on nobody or nothing but yourself to mold your character and self-respect. Destroy your weakness. Muster up the strength of character needed to stand tall and rise six feet above yesterday. Find the god in yourself and stare back into the abyss. Don't let it stare back into you.

Serge Kirdikian (PSY)

Death

A subject that scares many!



Just recently, I lost the person I admire most to death. It is sad that I won't be spending time with him when I have become accustomed to that. Yet, I can't help but perceive a beauty in the situation. You might think that I have gone insane yet again, but fellow readers, I assure you, in this case, I have not...

All of us are bound to face death sooner or later, and although I thought he would outlive us all, his time to experience death did arrive, as his time to experience life came to an end. Yet, what is beautiful in this whole experience is the fact that he truly lived life to the fullest.

My only fear is not death itself, but whether I will manage to accomplish enough in my life until the end of my timeline comes. Is it a matter of preparing for the next timeline? I cannot say.... Yet, it definitely is about enjoying each step we take during the course of our lives, as well as improving what is in our power for the coming generations who shall have the chance to experience life, too.

This, I learnt from him. He was ready for the next stage of this game we call life and death. He was a very wise man, who lived history and made the best of each card he was dealt with. As such, he served his purpose for being here very well, ensuring a good life to all that he touched.

He helped me find myself and gave me a sense of belonging when it seemed that I was the odd nail being hammered down. He taught me how to play my cards right during this timeline. Knowing that his timeline was nearing its end, he taught me to accept the next stage of his life. He always joked around saying that he was waiting for God to send him the visa to His Kingdom.

Hence, now I'm left with a great sense of gratitude for his successful efforts in molding me into the person I am today; he showed me the importance of living life and accepting death as part of this joy ride - which is what this whole experience is all about.

For now, I only hope that I too can bring such beauty to those around me.

This is for my grandfather, the one and only, with all my love and respect, The memories will only pass from one generation to the next.

Araz Keuroghlian (MAT)

Debut

I welcome myself here and promise that... well I don't promise anything. They say in the wrestling community that if you don't win your debut match, it's hard to win them all, but this isn't a wrestling promotion, this is my turf now. Anyway, on with my first topic. Many people regard wrestling today as fake. From me there will be no argument over that; I do believe that, but also on the other hand, being a 14 year fan of the industry, I feel that in a way I have to defend it.

Today, wrestling is divided into three major parts: professional wrestling, amateur wrestling and sports entertainment (aka pro wrestling). Basically, the wrestling you now watch on TV is sports entertainment, and is defined as story-telling. It doesn't relate to the real name or character of the wrestler. Wrestling as it looks today wasn't always in this shape. Back in its gold-

en days, in the 1940s and 1950s, it was a lot like boxing. Territorial; every promoter had control over a certain area or state and controlled all the talent in it. Every wrestler had to earn several wins before he could challenge for a title. It wasn't until the late 50s and early 60s that wrestling started to shape up to today's sport. The NWA was formed by promoters who wanted to earn more profit and get more national exposure, so they started trading talent, and for the first time, wrestlers could wrestle outside their hometowns.

In the mid-60s, capitol wrestling emerged, owned by future Hall of Famer Vincent J. McMahon, who sold his company to his son, the current owner Vince K. McMahon. The latter went on a "war" against the NWA expanding from the mother state of New York. He soon owned several territories, and by the 80s, was one of the dominant promoters in the USA. Some famous wrestlers who emerged from his organizations

were the likes of Bruno Sammartino, Pedro Moralis, "nature boy" Buddy Rogers, Dick Murdoch...

Although associated with the organization now, the famous Hulk Hogan (boooo!) was not an original talent of WWE. He was turned down by NWA owned WCW. He would work for the American wrestling association (AWA) before Vince stole him from the promotion.

At that time, wrestling was presented as real, with the bad guys and good guys presented as real life enemies to better attract audiences. It wasn't until 1987 that the perception changed. Two WWE talents, who on-screen were mortal enemies, were arrested for having illegal drugs. The incident that two supposed mortal enemies were actually friends was responsible for some of the greatest cover ups in wrestling history. That day, 20 years ago (the year I was born), wrestling was changed forever.

Marwan Jaffal (HOM)

Evil on Canvas



We were all sitting quietly, with nothing to say in such a difficult situation. I looked at the people around me and it seemed as though everyone was in their own world. Some were staring into space, others had their eyes closed, as if napping, and some were even crying softly. The doorbell rang. Someone opened the door; I'm not sure who did. The hinges creaked, and a greeting was heard. Heels started clacking on the cold, carpet-free tiles. They were moving in a rhythm; click-clack, click-clack. I couldn't help but look up, and I noticed that everyone else was also looking, craning their necks to get a better view. The heels kept on clacking, and when she came in, I could see the awe on everyone's face. The black heels were shiny and fit so well on her feet; one could imagine they were custom made especially for her. Her long, slender legs made every man, and woman, stare at the way they were moving. Her short black skirt was probably sewn on her body and it perfectly showed off her womanly curves. She continued walking towards me. I looked at her jacket. It was also black and had three, large, gold buttons in the middle of it. You would think that she was wearing a chemise under the jacket, but when you looked at her neck-line, you could

only see her clear white skin. She kept on moving, ignoring the whispers and the stares. Her black purse was motionlessly strapped on her right shoulder, as if it had taken orders from her not to move one inch from its position. She looked to her right, then to her left. Her straight black hair hung loosely on her shoulders, and swooshed as her head moved. But each strand of hair moved in unison, as if trained not to move otherwise. She spoke to a little girl sitting on the couch in a hushed voice, and everyone seemed to lean forward to try to hear at least a word. But nothing was heard. However, the little girl got up, tears glistening in her eyes. What could she have possibly told her? Her full lips were painted red, and they were kept in the same position; tight, never smiling, never moving. Her high cheekbones and her straight nose were so perfect even an artist couldn't carve something close to them. But what hypnotized almost everyone in the room were her eyes. Her dark eyes were large, surrounded by branches of thick, long lashes. Even though she was walking in a straight line, and even though her head never turned around, her eyes were doing all the work. Each time she looked at someone, it was as though she was sending a flash of fire from these two olive shaped eyes. No one could stare at her for long; they ended up lowering their heads; as if bowing to her. She finally reached the end of the room, sat on a chair, put one long leg over the other, and lit a cigarette. She sat there, taking one puff after the other, studying everyone in the room. She was captivating, and everyone was waiting, anticipating her next move, wondering who she was and what she was doing at my grandfather's funeral.

Fifteen minutes passed; the clock ticking and people breathing were the only sounds heard in the room. From time to time, you could

hear one or two people shuffling in their seats. Other times, you could hear them setting down their coffee cups on the small wooden tables. Every ten seconds, eyes would stir to the end of the room to take another look at the beautiful stranger.

"Where is Michelle Brown? Tell her I'm here to take my money!" Her voice was icy, her tone merciless. Without even looking, I knew. Who else could it be? I stood up with a confidence I didn't really feel: "My mother isn't here. She is still out dealing with the burial preparations."

A second before I finished my sentence, she had started walking towards me. Her legs moved like a soldier's, her gaze never leaving me, as if she was worried I might disintegrate if her eyes averted. Although I felt I really wanted to sit back in my chair or make a run for the door, I stood firm. She came close to me, and closer yet, until her perfect nose was inches from mine. "Then tell your mother that her sister is here, and she needs the money our father left me".

Even though her voice was low and she was hissing in my face, I didn't need to look around to see the shocked faces; I could already hear it. I don't have an aunt or uncle. My granddad never remarried, and he had been living with us for the past ten years, ever since granny died in his arms. How can she be my aunt? I was sure she was lying; this couldn't be true. The doorbell rang again, and someone opened the door; again I don't know who did. Footsteps were heard, but these heels were softer. "Well, well... if it isn't Rebecca Stone. I'm definitely not surprised you're here." My mother was calmer than I thought she would be. Rebecca sneered at my mother. "Michelle, it seems that you're getting better at this. But since I cannot waste more of my precious time chit-chatting with you and your poor, pathetic little family, I'd rather take my money and get

out of here quickly." Venom dripped every time she spoke. Every word out of her mouth was pure evil. My mother simply opened her brown purse, pulled out an envelope, and shoved it in Rebecca's outstretched hand. Her white, long fingers wrapped around the envelope, and with a look of disdain, she started walking towards the door. This woman showed no remorse, no regret, not one single heart-felt emotion; if she weren't a living human, I would've said that there was a chunk of metal where her heart should've been.

The icy air seemed to grow warmer upon her departure, and as soon as everyone settled down, questions started pouring at my mother; everyone wanted to know the story of Rebecca Stone. My mother patiently explained that her father had had an affair on one of his business trips to Denmark, but he didn't know he had fathered a child. Rebecca's mother was a rich artist who did not have the time to raise her daughter. Rebecca went to school, graduated from one of the top universities, and knew at least six languages. But the truth of the matter was that she had raised herself; her mother was away almost all the time and she never knew of her father until a couple of years ago when she accidentally found out his identity. My mother was ready to welcome her into our home then, but the draft of ice had already eaten the last human part of Rebecca's heart.

I was as shocked as everybody else was, but at the same time I couldn't help feeling sorry for her. I was also overwhelmed by the fact that I had an aunt! I wished at that moment that I had hugged her when I found out we were related; maybe that would have helped thaw some of the ice frosting her heart and in return grant me an aunt and my mother a sister...

Maysa el Masri (EDU)

A Beautiful Friendship

The time you made yourself a friend,
Life couldn't a better treasure lend;

Love, care, hope, and faith you gave,
In the face of troubles you made me
stand so brave;

Impossible, you never said,
Cheered me up everytime you saw my
face sad;

Words of encouragement, words of kindness,
Everytime I felt so worthless;

You're a shoulder to cry on,
And the one to rely on;

You lift me up when I fall,
You're there whenever your name I call;

Friendship so perfect and fine,
Just like an old tasty wine;

So why should I let you walk away,
When all I want is to have you stay?

Kohar Eid (ADC)



Floccina ucin ihil ipil ifica tion of Racism

(it is a word, google it if you don't believe me)

In an era where globalisation has dominated a major part of the world, and where many societies attempt to mimic others and end up losing themselves, it is no wonder that people who have respect for their ancestry would go to great lengths to preserve their culture, language, bloodline, etc... (Especially if they're out of their motherland and reside elsewhere, a place in which they feel they're considered a minority). So how can they cope??

There are many things a 'minority group' can do to make sure they are not neglected or overridden in their country of acquired citizenship - on the larger scale, they can demand political rights/equality, establish their own institutions, look out for each other... And on the more interactive social scale, they could avoid negative differentiation between people, and promote mutual respect between all, towards anyone and everyone's beliefs and roots. When one group, minority or not, infringes upon the principle of respect, it is not shocking that we see acts of retaliation from the disrespected group.

The Lebanese society could be described as a collection of ethnic and religious minorities, so each group's sense of self-preservation can morph into a deep-rooted fanaticism which caus-

es them to disregard and sometimes even disrespect those who are not of said group - just because of who they are. Even worse, those fanatics might even look down upon members of their 'own people' if that latter group dares to associate with "the others".

Whether Armenian, Arab, or something else, whether Christian, Muslim, or something else, such an attitude turns into needless racism which really is nothing productive; it's never gotten anyone anywhere! It merely further degenerates relations and pushes groups into estrangement, causing them to relinquish their deference towards the others, and maybe even begin to harbour pure, unadulterated hate!

If we want to emerge from behind our 'invisible' walls or stereotyped status among others, and have people see us for who we truly are - as different in culture, but similar nevertheless - each of us must be open to mingling with those who differ from us. Good communication between the groups is crucial to explain and clarify causes and ideologies within the supposedly hardened mentalities of the 'others'. Talking to "the others" will not mean that you're forsaking who you are - it will allow facts of your heritage to spread, it will correct misconceptions, and most of



Ali is not really Koko's nemesis, contrary to what the picture depicts. They were just kind enough to tough-lovingly gaze into each others' eyes for the sake of the article.

all, it will not drive people to subconsciously wonder why you're so introverted. ("Are they masking an inferiority complex by attempting to seem superior, perhaps?")

I have heard many people complain about this "racism" that some have towards others in our university... It has caused a great elevation in tension at times, and has fueled quite a few "spats".

I don't know how easy it would be for certain people to transcend their differences and upbringing, but there surely is a way, and shunning "the others" is most certainly not it.

Jenni Feghali (BIO)

Prostitution: A Dignified Job?

It is a job; it pays, and in a way, it's more dignified than many other professions because the only people prostitutes harm are themselves. I personally consider the people who **finance** prostitutes the undignified ones!

An argument against prostitutes is that they're undignified because they "price" and sell themselves, diminishing their value as human beings. I think it is all a numbers game.

Prostitution is the oldest profession, one that even existed way back when chivalry was still alive; but that doesn't seem to matter...

Can we rightfully differentiate prostitutes from other employed people? Don't they all sell their services for a sum of colored bills? Are we to judge them, describing them as pieces of cheap used meat?

I say, how dare we!

Isn't the definition of prostitution the exchange of money for intercourse? If so, then those who sell their daughters to their future son in law's family are forcing prostitution upon them; it's a bargain of an unlimited supply of intercourse for the dowry paid.

What about the young and ill-directed youth who are forced into providing public entertainment to pay their way through a proper education or to meet the mere necessities of life? I blame both the family and the society for not hindering the innocent from committing such acts. If a family can't afford to properly raise a child, then maybe a rule must be enforced to prevent the family from getting custody over that child. If forcing abortion is the solution, then so be it.

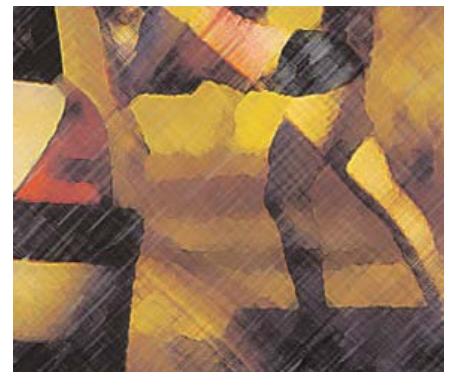
If a woman is widowed, has debts and a bunch of little kids to support, but has neither the education nor the experience to get a job, she can either become a waitress or a custodian. In Lebanon, these jobs pay a maximum of \$2 an hour! How is she to cover all the expenses? Will she not be forced into prostitution? Is it not better than being forced to lose her children as well, or having to drive them into a life of debt?

Should prostitution be a last resort? Yes, but sometimes, you end up selling your body because giving up other things would be more costly on the long run.

So, unless you are into prostitution just for the fun of it, then yes, it is a job, and as such, it is better to work than steal.

Is prostitution undignified?

Araz Keuroghlian (MAT)



Psychotic Nation

It seems yesterday was too long ago, and already our long term memory is faltering. Today is too soon and everybody is busy surviving. The present is made up of too many suppressed memories flat-lining at the back of our minds. Who governs the blind, deaf and mute?

It's a nation of post-traumatic stress syndromes, exploding into tics, disorders and cross-wired depressives. No electrical shocks are administered due to on-going shortage, and the entire government is on Prozac. Nurses with foreign accents monitor our every move, on hold with straitjackets and

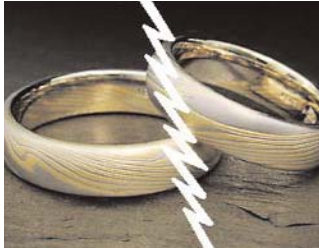
prescription pills with cautions written in every language except our own. It's a country of obsessive compulsive citizens; as soon as they commit an act, they never fail to endlessly repeat it. 1975, click, 1982, click, 1984, click, 2006, click... 2007?!

We are governed by Pavlovian behaviorists, and we are but their conditioned dogs; salivating and running, salivating and running... The bells of conflict are chiming, but there's no war left to go to, the drums of battle are beating, but there's no one left to go to war...

Dima Matta (EDU)

Divorce

How we came up with the topic this time is quite a weird story. The brainstorming sessions were not going too well, and then we realised that Araz had already written an article about divorce a while ago that we hadn't used in the previous issue. So, we decided that the staff members who were willing to would write a 200 word piece giving their opinions concerning that article. However, a couple of the radicals who seem to feel *somewhat* strongly about divorce kind of stretched that limit (just a little bit)...



Divorce is a topic that has long been debated. Is it right for a married couple to get divorced, or should they fight for the marriage?

Time says, all couples argue and fight from time to time. There can be various reasons for these arguments; they may simply result from misunderstandings between the couple, a wrong act committed by either one or both of them, the unwillingness of one or both to change or compromise certain ideas or

beliefs, a strain enforced upon them due to the loss of a child, financial regression, conflict on child-rearing styles and many other reasons.

Time also says that if minor fights and arguments aren't solved at the get-go, many marriages, more as each day goes by, seem to resolve in divorce.

Is it the right choice? Or is it simply an amateur's move to resolve a problem by calling quits? Where does that leave the future generations? Is refraining from getting married a solution?

Sometimes, when all else fails and the couple still don't understand that they need to be selfless in a marriage, divorce **is** the solution. Why should children be forced to live in a family that has created a negative atmosphere for them to grow in,

an environment free of love and respect? What if one of the partners in this contract is a drug addict, or an alcoholic, or a weak gambler? Or what if one of the partners is abusive? Are the children forced to live in such a harsh atmosphere? Are they not the future? If raised in a positive atmosphere, won't their future be positive too? Divorce should not be taken lightly because it confuses the children, leaving them unsure of where they belong.

The way I see it, people need more guidance and more information as to what to expect from a marriage. Maybe we should allow people to live with each other for a given amount of time, 6 to 12 months; or come up with a law that prohibits drunk or high people from getting married until they sober up and take their

decisions on a conscious mind. There is so much one could do to prevent divorces, but sometimes, that too is a step needed to be taken under the right circumstances and with the support of all. No religion or law should be allowed to stand against divorce. People are human; they make mistakes in their judgments. Sometimes, things should be left broken. Just like Humpty Dumpty, some pieces can never be put back together again. And as sad as that may seem, such is life.

People should learn to accept it, as they should learn from previous experiences, and not repeat the same mistakes they've already witnessed or been part of again and again.

Araz Keuroghlian (MAT)

It all starts so perfect; the boy and the girl fall in love, they cuddle, they can't think of anything else but each other, so they decide to get married to share the rest of their lives together... Supposedly!! You know the story... Unfortunately not all marriages are built to last; I don't think anyone can forbid any couple from getting married like Araz suggested...there cannot be such a rule, it doesn't make sense! Mistakes are meant to happen; some people might get a divorce and undergo depression, but maybe looking back, that happy year of marriage will be the only thing they will cling onto as they grow older. Also, I don't think living together for 6 months would stop divorces from taking place; I mean, couples who have cohabitated before marriage, or couples who have known each other for 9 years sometimes end up, unfortunately, getting divorced. Bottom line: yes, it is unfair for the children; yes, the world would be a better place with no divorces; but, I think that's the way it always was, and will be...I think that the couples should be guided before they get married and be told about what they are getting themselves into... The rest? Well, if they are really meant to be, I don't think they would get a divorce!

Anita Moutchoyan (ENG)

Screams

Each time she screams
My head goes numb
And the thoughts of corrupt childhood
Come back one by one
I remember the anger
The loudness of cruel words
The way they stung through me
Like a thousand swords

I remember the fits
The violence and blood
The spitting and smacking
The tears that caused floods
I remember the screaming

And the shivers down my spine
The way I couldn't move
When she'd lose her mind

I remember the depression
The love for running away
The armors I could never use
Against the words they'd say
I remember the blade
And the last time it touched my skin

And each time she screams
It all comes back again

A student...





I believe life is dynamic and never stable. So is human nature. If everything were perfect, if we humans were perfect, then the world would have been a boring place to live in.

Marriage isn't the path to perfection, peace, or heavenly life. One should accept the idea that his/her partner might change after some time... And hence he/she should be allowed to continue his/her life as he/she pleases rather than being imprisoned, for over 50 years, in a life where he/she doesn't fit.

There's nothing wrong with divorce.

Maro Krikorian (TEFL)



So this couple dates for EIGHT whole years before finally deciding to tie the knot... Within the next few years, they bring three kids into the world... Roughly thirteen years later, they take notice of what I'll just refer to as "irreconcilable differences" and they separate, creating one of the most dysfunctional families I've ever heard of - especially psychologically speaking (man, sometimes I wonder how those 8 years didn't serve their purpose...)

"You should've stayed together... If not for love, then at least for the kids." This is the 'chorus' that people started butting in with at the time, and approximately nine years later now, there are **still** some people who think they can talk them into reuniting (or make the 'kids' do the talking!!).

I'm really not sure whether to support or refute that statement... If the situation between the two is really unbearable, with life becoming a constant war zone, the kids might grow to dread their parents' being on the same continent!

So could divorce be an answer?

Well, getting back to that above mentioned ex-couple, one half of it has this pretty 'vengeful attitude' towards the other half, and that blows up in the face of the kids, who have become mere pawns in the evil games of "trying to get back at the other"... And thus, that situation becomes just as bad - if not worse. For this situation reflects very negatively upon the "kids" coming from the unhealthily broken home; what might begin as minor resentment merely towards their parents might later on surface full blast as a subconscious fear of ending up like them, lack of trust in others, inability to believe that people won't hurt them the same way, and it'll give them very rocky friendships and relationships in which they won't be able to 'commit'... It also has myriad effects on their psyche in general.

I cannot condemn or commend divorce. Every couple has different criteria that should be taken into consideration before judging their situation. However, I CAN say that if a couple with progeny ultimately decide that they can

no longer handle staying together and they do separate, no matter how much enmity they might have/develop for each other, if they **really love** their children as much as they say they do, they should do their utter best to refrain from inflicting trauma upon them, and they should thus not attempt to brainwash the kids, each telling different stories, trying to 'turn them against' the other partner; they should give each other equal time with the kids **NO MATTER WHAT** without giving them hell about it (especially if neither parent is abusive/a junkie/drunkard/etc...); they should be emotionally available (or at least give them enough attention... For example, I would never really be comfortable with too much emotional availability (*especially* parental), but maybe if you catch the coming generations at an early onset stage, they wouldn't develop this phobia.)

All in all, it's very important to note that if a divorce were to take place, the children should not be the ones to bear the brunt of it all.

Keep them out of it!

Jenni Feghali (BIO)

Divorce, according to **Oxford** dictionary, is the ending of a relationship between married couples. To me, that is not exactly the issue. Divorce is the ending of a relationship between a married couple **and** the ending of a normal life their children might have been able to live.

Divorce in so many ways affects the children more than the couple themselves. To me, divorce is a selfish act committed by two individuals who were not capable of love in the first

place and who could not put their issues aside for the sake of their children in the second place.

When parents get divorced, children think that they will finally be able to live in a bit of peace. Then they really realize that is totally wrong. They realize that in addition to facing up to the world because they come from broken homes, they also have to face both parents separately. The anger, the bitterness and the lies of both sides. They realize that they have two lives now. Two opinions, two

voices to listen to, two bitter people to talk to and two angry faces to see everyday.

No one can really understand divorce until they experience it; experience that destroyer of the home, the family, and the whole life. When your parents get divorced, reality smacks you in the face. You realize that you are the product of two human beings that can no longer stand being in the same room, the product of something your parents now call a lie. You realize that it's hard for you to trust

and love, because deep down you're afraid you are a copy of who they are and that eventually you might get divorced yourself and let the cycle of bitterness and anger continue.

When your parents get divorced they leave each other. What they don't know is that you also divorce them, the world, and any chance at **true** happiness.

Amani Kandil (PSC)

The product of a divorced home :)

Why I Hate the Whole Wide World ...and Parts of Canada



I remember how it started out. I began to notice the imperfections of this world in the most disturbing way possible. It wasn't too long ago that I had gathered my thoughts. I sat in the van on my way to the South staring at the head of a woman seated in front of me, since all other views were blocked. A man sat beside her, and as her hair smacked him like a whip across the face, I laughed to myself and thought, "Oh snap, women have a lot of power." And that's when I realized it.

So why do I hate everything?

Because the only point of schools in Lebanon is to give us something to do for a few hours in hopes of keeping us from getting run over by taxi cabs trying to park on the sidewalk.

Because nothing, NOTHING, on the face of all planets, and Pluto, is funnier than someone falling off the edge of something.

Because coffee tastes like chalk and people are addicted to coffee which thus

means they're addicted to chalkboards (deductive reasoning).

Because it is considered polite to offer your best friend a cigarette (here man, we've been through everything together, I love you like a rat loves cheese, take this cancer stick).

Because cattle are a car's best friend.

Because slapping someone's palm is the way you express love.

Because stomachs yodel when you're hungry.

Because some people get really far with no talent, effort, or hair (myself included, sometimes...huh?).

Because if you think about it earlobes have no real purpose. Neither do eyebrows. And what's Texas for again? Yeah.

Because doorknobs make great Christmas gifts, but no one ever thinks of that.

Because not eating is referred to as "fasting"...that is, the quickest way to start hallucinating (look mom, its grandma).

Because you can't always treat murderers like dogs, you know, play dead and they'll go away.

Because I don't understand why gas stations house "natural gas"; what do beans house then?

Because people water sidewalks; I don't care what scientific purpose it serves, you look like an idiot.

Because people throw in their "two cents" a bit too often (myself included again).

You know why it's called throwing in your TWO cents?

Because no one would pay more than that to hear your opinion,

Because that's how much your thoughts are worth.

Because vegans still don't understand that orange soda IS a substitute for milk.

Because I could go on forever, but I know I'll be getting hate mail from English teachers all over the country for starting my sentences with "because".

Riaf Hamze (PSC)



Lebanese Party

As we all know, the Lebanese haven't dealt pretty well with diversity for the past infinity years. We all say we are Lebanese and that we love Lebanon, but

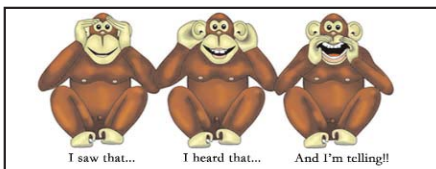
when a conflict arises, we instantly forget that. Let me state a political truth: Lebanon is an Ethnic Nation, meaning it's a nation that has diverse backgrounds, and civilians are loyal to their culture/sects rather than being loyal to the state only. It might be that Lebanon is so because its citizens feel the need to defend their culture, but why do they feel threatened in the first

place? Why do they resort to violence to solve their differences instead of respecting/accepting each other? Why don't the Lebanese divert their energy and anger to defend Lebanon as a whole? Why do politicians play such a dividing role among people? Why do we find ourselves labeled as 8, 11 or 14 March?

I know it's difficult to introduce change, but Lebanese should start viewing politicians only as representatives in parliament rather than "Messengers from God". Also, we should use criteria besides religion to elect leaders. In my opinion, all Lebanese are capable of making a difference, especially the youth who have the education and motivation to write our future, but they surely won't be able to if they run to take the first plane out of here right after graduating!! All this might sound like an unattainable utopian state, but why don't we try to change the "hell-hole" we are living in by shedding off our partisan cloaks and making Lebanon the major party?

Samar Choujah (PSY)

Blind Generals and Doctors with No Cure



It is very odd that even after a decade and a half of war which has caused very little damage to our dear country (killed 150,000 innocent civilians, destroyed cities, and caused \$30 billion dollars worth of damage), the Lebanese people still tag along behind the political figures who were responsible for all that warfare. Although many Lebanese have come to their senses and stopped believing the words of those politicians who will lead to nowhere but hell, the unfortunate truth is

that there are many other Lebanese who have missed the fact that those same people were responsible for the assassinations which shook them, the bombings which woke them in the middle of the night and made them go hide in dark shelters, the shootings that killed their loved ones, and the chaos which hindered a youth with a bright future from continuing its education.

It is ironic but amusing to see a well known figure now supporting the same cause he was fighting against just a couple of years ago. It is also very hilarious how some leaders who insulted and threatened each other literally yesterday, are today acting as though they're the best of friends, expressing their respect and admiration for each other. It is surprising that some people would still believe a blind 'leader' who, after delivering his share of violence and harm, now claims to be looking out for the people.

My beloved Lebanese, your politicians do

not keep their promises. They are just dummies in the hands of the more powerful countries of the world. And for that, they would sell you in less than a heartbeat. Stop considering them almighty gods, because they're **not**. They're far from it! Stop following hypocrites, who instead of working for the best interest of the state, constantly seek innovative methods to satisfy their eternal greed. Stop following those politicians; it's like going to a doctor with no cure to your ailments, being on board a ship led blind captain, or giving your dough to a frenchman who will eat your baguette. Stop hanging their pictures on your walls! Stop honking their famous jingles on the streets which were once filled with your loved ones' corpses. They are just 'people' who have ever changing mentalities depending on their moods, or maybe even the day of the week.

They say "history repeats itself".

Don't let them repeat history...

Manuel Kurkjian (ADC)



During last year's Student Life Workshop at the Safir Heliopolitan Hotel, the clubs' chairpersons, representatives, and secretaries took a personality quiz to find out more about their abilities and whatnot (they're listed below).

We thought you might want to follow in their footsteps and take the test, so we've reproduced it for you on this page. Go through each **ROW**, putting the numbers from 1 - 4 beside each adjective; 4 being the one that describes you most, and 1 being what describes you least. When you're done, add up the totals in each **COLUMN**. Check out the fruit below the column with the highest total. That's 'who you are'.

Note: If you get an equal total for more than one column, it's fine, it means you have characteristics of both. Let the fruit salad-ing begin! :p

Column 1

Column 2

Column 3

Column 4

Imaginative		Investigative		Realistic		Analytical	
Adaptable		Inquisitive		Organized		Critical	
Relating		Creating		Getting to point		Debating	
Personal		Adventurous		Practical		Academic	
Flexible		Inventive		Precise		Systematic	
Sharing		Independent		Orderly		Sensible	
Cooperative		Competitive		Perfectionistic		Logical	
Sensitive		Risk-Taking		Hard-Working		Intellectual	
People-Person		Problem Solver		Planner		Reader	
Associate		Originate		Memorize		Think Through	
Spontaneous		Changer		Wants Direction		Judger	
Communicating		Discovering		Cautious		Reasoning	
Caring		Challenging		Practicing		Examining	
Feeling		Experimenting		Doing		Thinking	
TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL	

Grapes



Natural abilities include:

- * Being reflective
- * Being sensitive
- * Being flexible
- * Being creative
- * Preference for working in groups

Grapes may have trouble with:

- * Giving exact answers
- * Focusing on one thing at a time
- * Organizing

Grapes learn best when they:

- * Can work and share with others
- * Balance work with play
- * Can communicate
- * Are noncompetitive

To expand their style, Grapes need to:

- * Pay more attention to details
- * Not rush into things
- * Be less emotional when making some decisions

Oranges



Natural abilities include:

- * Experimenting
- * Being independent
- * Being curious
- * Creating different approaches
- * Creating change

Oranges may have trouble with:

- * Meeting time limits
- * Following a lecture
- * Having few points or choices

Oranges learn best when they:

- * Can use trial and error
- * Produce real products
- * Can compete
- * Are self-directed

To expand their style, Oranges need to:

- * Delegate responsibilities
- * Be more accepting of others' ideas
- * Learn to prioritize

Bananas



Natural abilities include:

- * Planning
- * Fact-finding
- * Organizing
- * Following directions

Bananas may have trouble with:

- * Understanding feelings
- * Dealing with opposition
- * Answering "what if"
- * Questions

Bananas learn best when they:

- * Have an orderly environment
- * Have specific outcomes
- * Can trust others to do their part
- * Have predictable situations

To expand their style, Bananas need to:

- * Express their own feelings more
- * Get explanations of others' views
- * Be less rigid

Melons



Natural abilities include:

- * Debating point of views
- * Finding solutions
- * Analyzing ideas
- * Determining value or importance

Melons may have trouble with:

- * Working in groups
- * Being criticized
- * Convincing others diplomatically

Melons learn best when they:

- * Have access to resources
- * Can work independently
- * Are respected for intellectual ability
- * Follow traditional methods

To expand their style, Melons need to:

- * Accept imperfection
- * Consider all alternatives
- * Consider others' feelings- split the seeds



Since the summer is coming up, we're sure most of you won't be doing any intellectual exercise, so we thought if we assault you with some word games here, we'd be doing our part... Or at least attempting to. We present to you our very special package of:

Mental Abuse

Limerick Scramble

To solve, unscramble the five words given in capital letters to complete each verse. A good sense of pun helps :)



Footloose

That old dame in a shoe was a FROGE
To her kids she was maid, cook and FRAUCHUFE
Then the day that her DOROB
Left the nest, she was WREDSH
Packed her bags and moved into a EAROLF

Lofty Ambition

Two brothers named Wong couldn't EQTUI
Bill off their first aeroplane THFILG
When their rig crashed and DRUBEN
They both finally ENDREAL
Two Wongs never could make a GHWIRT



Grave Undertaking

A Russian who danced the TAVOTEG
On the deck of an Englishman s CYATH
Lost his balance and WREDDON
And was buried on ODRUNG
That's what's known as a Communist OPTL



Sylph Control

The doc told the heavy ETOGURM
Please diet, and don't YOBISED
You can eat cottage ESHECE
Just as much as you APELES
So finish your curds and then IHGEW



For Want of a Male

A prudish old spinster, a CLIRE
Whose conduct by day was CLAGINE
Would go to STEREXEM
At night in her RADEMS
And wickedly romp with Tom CLEKLES



Character Study

Find out what each of the letters, numbers, and symbols are conversing about.

- What dirty word are we this time?
- Come on over here. I'm thirsty.
- I guess I'm just old fashioned.
- Why are you always following me?
- So you're a college man! Big deal.
- I'd like you to meet my friend Pedro.
- I have an idea that'll make us all 10 times richer!
- Someone here's an impostor.

1)

1° 1

2)

$E = mc^3$

3)

5.00

4)

Q u

5)

6)

Ms. Mrs.

7)

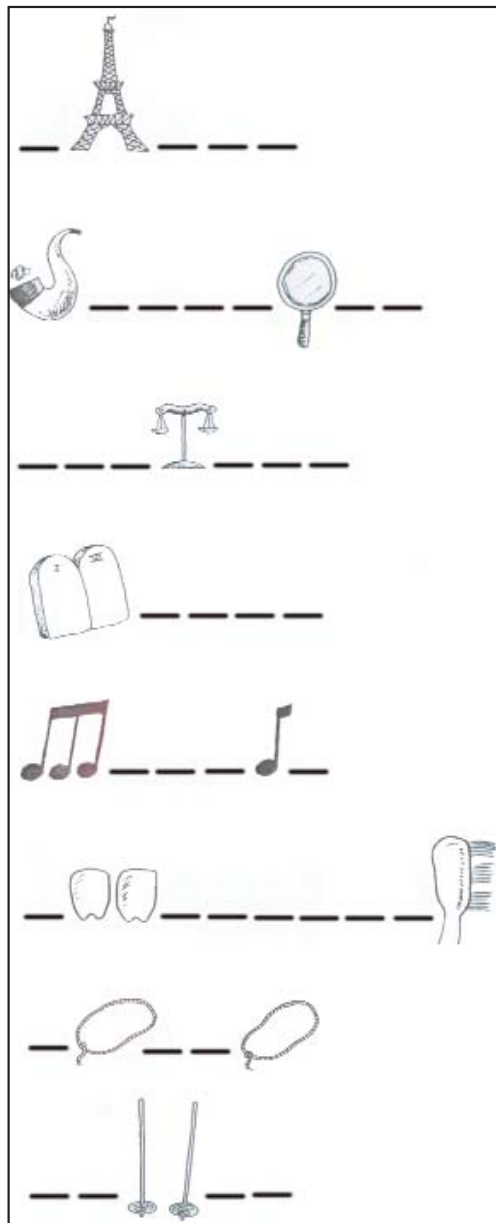
¿ ??

8)

$H_2 O$

Picture Words

Use the pictures as hints to figure out the words.



				8			4
	8	4		1	6		
			5			1	
1		3	8			9	
6		8				4	3
		2			9	5	1
		7			2		
			7	8		2	6
2			3				

“Weird General Knowledge”

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) What are co, e, et, hesh, jhe, and thon? | 11) Members of the World War II French Resistance had a euphemism for excusing themselves to the toilet. What was their pet expression? |
| 2) What would you do with a swacket? | 12) You're on the beach. You pick up a seashell, and you claim to hear the sea. What do you really hear? |
| 3) Tasters may refer to it as austere, brackish, clean, dank, flabby, ferruginous, skunky, swampy, or tinny. What is it? | 13) Why are wine bottles tinted? |
| 4) In a Pacific Islands Pidgin English dialect, a familiar object's referred to as "scratch 'im in belly, out come squeak allasame pussycat." What's the object? | 14) In 18th century English gambling dens, there was an employee whose sole job was to _____ the dice in case of a police raid. Fill in the blank. |
| 5) What should you feed your grown-up pet moth? | 15) The Aztecs enjoyed a primitive version of one on one basketball, using a solid rubber ball to be shot through a stone ring. The winner received an odd prize. What was it? |
| 6) Is a man or a woman more likely to stutter? | 16) The answer is "Aerospatial 001". What is the question? |
| 7) Twice daily, a panel of five men gets together in a small office in London to determine an international statistic. What is it? | 17) True or false: Studies at the University of Michigan show that the more educated you are, the less susceptible you are to colds. |
| 8) About 1/6 of Tibetan men follow the same occupation. What is it? | 18) In Ancient Rome, what could you tell about a woman with blond hair? |
| 9) Whatever happened to the first typewritten manuscript for publication? | |
| 10) Mildred and Patty Hill wrote a song in 1936 and their estate still collects royalties on it. It's the most frequently sung song. Name it. | |

Literary Lunacy

	la÷bor	Freu ian q	bathing suit	płr płr płr	Roger
come	your hands	1. D 5. U 2. R 6. L 3. A 7. A 4. C	ieieeie	ɟɛɹ wɔu	wheel wheel drive whccl wheel
	jobs in jobs	lo head ve heels	O MD BA PhD	cof fee	tax GAINS
	s d s r k n i house	DOSE	belt hitting	✓ yearly	g n i t c g da wn
	sugar Please	pit	e a v e s	broke	hold second

9	4		1		2		5	8
6				5				4
		2	4		3	1		
	2						6	
5		8		2		4		1
	6						8	
		1	6		8	7		
7				4				3
4	3		5		9		1	2

Character Study

[illegible]

- (1) e
(2) h
(3) g
(4) d
(5) a
(6) c
(7) f
(8) p

Again, we advise the use of a mirror.

Literary Lunacy

- (2) Hold on a second.
- (3) That broke.
- (4) Take a drop.
- (5) Bottomless pit.
- (6) Please with sugar on top.
- (7) Getting up at the break of dawn.
- (8) Carry a check up.
- (9) Hitting below the belt.
- (10) Post script (aka PS for the unwary).
- (11) A round of drinks on the house.
- (12) Lay on capital gains.
- (13) Coffee break.
- (14) Zero degrees.
- (15) Lead over heels in love.
- (16) In between jobs.
- (17) Join wheel chair.
- (18) Turn over a new leaf.
- (19) Part company.
- (20) I expect a reciprocal effect c. (You hear Count Dracula).
- (21) Come out with your hands up.
- (22) Rocket over and out.
- (23) I have little pigs.
- (24) Topless bathing suit.
- (25) Freudian slip.
- (26) Division of labour.

Weird General Knowledge

(8) She pursued "the oldest profession."
(9) "I fear, if you rescued correctly," Remondino
(10) "What was the name of the first Concordia
(11) "The secret was put to death."
(12) All the spectators, clapping, by the way, the
(13) "Well!
(14) "Exposure to light may spoil wine.
(15) The echo of blood playing in your ear.
(16) "I'm sorry, but I was telephone a Hitler."
(17) "I'm sorry, but I was telephone a Hitler."
(18) "I was quite a success" — Mark Twain's "Tom
(19) "The piece of rope.
(20) A man had shown 2 to 1.
(21) Nothing. A quiet words don't eat.
(22) A violin.
(23) Better.
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Picture Words

toothpaste, rodeo, skiing
Paris, Sherlock, justice, Moses, melody



Quotable Quotes

Great Minds Discuss Ideas; Average Minds Discuss Events; Small Minds Discuss People.

The nice thing about egotists is that they don't talk about other people.

Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away, AND you have their shoes!! Bahaha.

Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest. Mark Twain

All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence, and then success is sure. Mark Twain

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. Mark Twain

Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear - not absence of fear. Mark Twain

Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first. Mark Twain

A man cannot be comfortable without his own approval. Mark Twain

I didn't want to hurt them, I only wanted to kill them. David Berkowitz, serial killer.

It is a miracle that curiosity survives formal education. Albert Einstein

Peace cannot be achieved through violence, it can only be attained through understanding. Albert Einstein

If A equals success, then the formula is: A = X + Y + Z, X is work. Y is play. Z is keep your mouth shut. Albert Einstein

Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything he learned in school. Albert Einstein

Common sense is the collection of prejudices acquired by age eighteen. Albert Einstein

Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new. Albert Einstein

An archaeologist is the best husband any woman can have. The older she gets, the more interested he is in her. Agatha Christie



Have a nice summer, from all of us :)
... including those missing from the picture...

And finally...

The Credits

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This ought to reduce some of the grumbling about the Haigazian finals... :p

Final Exam

Instructions: Read each question carefully. Answer any five questions you choose.

Time Limit: One hour. Begin immediately.

1. **HISTORY** - Describe the history of the papacy from its origins to the present day, concentrating especially, but not exclusively, on its social, political, economic, religious, and philosophical impact on Europe, Asia, America, and Africa. Be brief, concise, and specific.

2. **MEDICINE** - You have been provided with a razor blade, a piece of gauze, and a bottle of Scotch. Remove your appendix. Do not suture until your work has been inspected. You have 15 minutes.

3. **PUBLIC SPEAKING** - 2,500 riot-crazed aborigines are storming the classroom. Calm them. You may use any ancient language except Latin or Greek.

4. **BIOLOGY** - Create life. Estimate the differences in subsequent human culture if this form of life had developed 500 million years earlier, with special attention to its probable effect on the English parliamentary system. Prove your thesis.

5. **MUSIC** - Write a piano concerto. Orchestrate and perform it with flute and drum. You will find a piano under your seat.

6. **PSYCHOLOGY** - Based on your knowledge of their words, evaluate the emotional stability, degree of adjustment, and repressed frustrations of each of the following: Alexander of Aphrodisias, Ramses II, Gregory of Nicea, Hammurabi. Support your evaluation with quotations from each man's work, making appropriate references. It is not necessary to translate.

7. **SOCIOLOGY** - Estimate the sociological problems which might accompany the end of the world. Construct an experiment to test your theory.

8. **ENGINEERING** - The disassembled parts of a high-powered rifle have been placed in a box on your desk. You will also find an instruction manual, printed in Swahili. In ten minutes, a hungry Bengal tiger will be admitted to the room. Take whatever action you feel appropriate. Be prepared to justify your decision.

9. **EPISTEMOLOGY** - Take a position for or against Truth. Prove the validity of your position.

10. **PHYSICS** - Explain the nature of matter. Include in your answer an evaluation of the impact of the development of mathematics on science.

11. **PHILOSOPHY** - Sketch the development of human thought, estimate its significance. Compare with the development of any other kind of thought.

EXTRA CREDIT - Define the Universe. Give 3 examples.