



The Dhow



VOLUME I, ISSUE 3

FEBRUARY 2007

Welcome SPRING 2007

Dates To Remember

Classes for Spring 2007

- Foundation Classes :
Sat., Feb. 17, 2007
- Semester Classes:
Sat., Feb. 24, 2007
- Add/Drop Period:
Feb. 24—Mar 07, 2007

**"The Dhow" 3rd Issue
Released: 14 Feb 2007
HAPPY VALENTINES
DAY**

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Humaid, Salwa share Student Council posts



Humaid H. Shuaily



Salwa Al Aishri

The Students Council of the Middle East College of Information Technology forms the hub for student activities. The council takes forward student aspirations. It follows a democratic structure that allows any student to become involved in its management and operation. Every year there is an election allowing students to run for office or choose student members to run the council.

The Student Council Election is an annual affair where students stand for elections for the position of President and Vice President. This year's election was held on the 18th and the 19th of November. As in previous years the candidate for the position of President had a running mate (Vice President) who campaigned together on a mutually agreed upon agenda.

The candidates who contested for the above mentioned positions were:

Team 1 Humaid Al Shuaily (Candidate for President) Semester, 4 Salwa Al Aisri (Running Mate- Vice President) Semester 4 while **Team 2** has Khoula Al Harthy (Candidate for President) Semester 4, and Khulood Al Rashdi (Candidate for Vice President) Semester 4

Campaign

Both teams were given one week period for a room to room campaign. Both teams were also instructed to fund their own campaign to the minimum level.

The campaign was conducted effectively as each team added in posters and slogans as part of their campaign. They visited classes and spoke to students about their agenda and visited the hostels to speak to students on different issues.

The student polling officials proclaimed the winners with the final count of votes as follows:

Humaid Al Shuaily – 409

Total No. of votes: 614

Salwa Al Aisri – 401

No. of Nullified Votes: 12

Khoula Al Harthy – 207

Khulood Al Rashdi – 209

Congratulations to the winners!

EDITORIAL**CANDIDLY SPEAKING**

It is now February, and this is a month with so much going on. We welcome students back after a short break for a new start in their college life. We are happy to celebrate our six month anniversary with this 3rd edition. Like a budding flower, spring semester brings lots of activities and events. The MECIT Cup and QUEST 2007 are coming up and expected to be in full swing next month. It is definitely a great time of year to buckle up and be ready for another spell of action-packed events at MECIT.

We at "The Dhow" have included a little bit of each subject in this month's paper and it looks like it will be an enjoyable read. After this issue, we'll also have two more for this semester—one in April and another in June. Therefore, now is the time to start writing an article for the newsletter. If you do not do it now, you might never get around to it. So please send us your thoughts and comments right now. As always, we continually ask for your support and your efforts to help make this newsletter remarkable.

LOVE IS ALL AROUND - RANDOM THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH OF LOVE

By now, most of you are aware that Valentine's Day is just around the corner. Ah, but to hold February all year in your hand. The month of love, of chocolates, hearts and true confessions, of singing Valentines, of Cupids (why does a rather short, chubby toddler represent love?) and red hearts of all sizes and shapes. Henry Van Dyke said time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those rejoice, but for those who love, time is eternity. Everyone writes about love. How to find it, how to keep it, who to give it to, who not to give it to. Indeed. So love it is then. Love the one you're with. Love your wife or husband, your kids, your friends, your pets, and love, if you will, new shoes, sports cars, chocolate, peace, fresh fallen snow, the moon, the stars—you get the picture? Without love what are we worth?



You will be happy to know that in the pursuit of love, people have created numerous ways to say 'I love you'. Forget that just the act of saying 'I love you', giving hugs, holding hands or doing something especially nice like spending time doing your favourite thing might be just the purest way of expressing your love. Still, sometimes it does take an extra mile by giving something just plain, unique and fabulous! Beyond the scope of imagination are things like: A portrait (like the one of the family matriarch that hangs over the large fireplaces). Naming a star after your loved ones. Reciting love poems and sonnets for your dear ones...(strictly for those who can sing!), Sending a message in a bottle, etc. Perhaps all this love stuff is not on your cards. Who is really 'in love' anyway?

Perhaps it's true that Valentine's Day was invented to sell chocolates, cards and flowers and ramp up the dining industry. But, as for love, someone unknown to me offers this: we are all a little weird and life's a little weird, and we find someone who's weirdness is compatible with ours, we join up with them and fall in mutual weirdness and call it love. This is what I know for sure: love in all forms is a good thing. It's all around you! Keep trying it...



MECIT welcomes 2007 with a bang!

28 December 2006. MECIT staff always love parties... their new year's resolution? - *No plans to reduce extra pounds!*

Come on guys! The table is ready, let's eat!



'Let there be peace on Earth and goodwill to men!' *(more pics on p 13)*

STAFF PROFILE

SAFIA obtains master's degree at U.K.

As so many overseas postgraduate students are coming to the UK, it might seem like swimming against the tide to do a Master's abroad. People come and go in Britain as it is one of the most prestigious places to study in the world.

In today's global marketplace, students are discovering that a postgraduate degree in another country can be a way of combining study with the chance to experience a new culture.

*MECIT's very own **Safia Al Marhoobi** has found the benefits of going abroad "far outweighed" the disadvantages. "Just being in an atmosphere where you meet people from different countries enhanced the academic experience," she says. "Having the motivation to go abroad, to set up a new life somewhere, builds up good skills - and the experience stays with you all through life."*

Ms. Shoba Prakash from "The Dhow" has got the chance to do an interview with Ms. Safia who just arrived from U.K. after doing her Master's. Recently, she has re-joined MECIT after her one year study leave.

The Dhow: What's your name?

S.A.M: My name is Safia Al- Marhoobi

TD: What is your specialization in Masters?

SAM: M. Sc Statistics and Management Science

TD: In which University did you do your Masters?

SAM: University of West of England, Bristol, U.K

TD: Tell us some of your academic experiences in Bristol.

SAM: Here in Oman the courses are basically text book based, but in U.K One needs to do a lot of self-study. There is a lot of reference to be done. You need to spend a lot of time reading articles and general text.

TD: Give us some interesting glimpses of campus life in Bristol.

SAM: Campus life was interesting. I also served as a Student Ambassador. Our job was to assist new students.

TD: How about accommodation?

SAM: I stayed in a student accommodation in the campus itself as it is very safe.

TD: Did you visit many places in London? What did you like those places?

SAM: London has a lot to offer for tourists. I went to the prestigious Oxford University. I also visited places like Cardiff and London and also Bath synonymous with the great writer Jane Austen, which is really beautiful. One thing about the buildings is that although they have refurbished interiors, the exteriors are kept as it is to preserve the old look. Another element which attracted my attention is the Public Libraries. Most of them have large collection of books and one can spend one's free time there very usefully. I loved shopping and of course the Italian ice-cream which used to be delicious.

"Just being in an atmosphere where you meet people from different countries enhanced the academic experience," she says. "Having the motivation to go abroad, to set up a new life somewhere, builds up good skills - and it stays with you all through life"





TD: What do you think of MECIT now and before?

SAM: MECIT has had many new changes since then. It is expanding. The number of staff and students have both increased. There is also an increase in the number of Omani staff.

TD: How do you feel to be back with the MECIT Family?

SAM: I feel very happy. I missed my family while I was in Bristol. On arrival at MECIT, every one welcomed me very warmly. I felt good. Now I am looking forward to doing something beneficial and innovative for my department.

TD: How has this knowledge helped you at work?

SAM: This has made teaching easier. I find it easier to explain concepts better. I hope it will help me to understand students' perspectives and assist them to perform well.

TD: What are your future plans at MECIT?

SAM: I would be interested to join the Dhow Team as I am familiar with Photoshop CS (design) SPSS Minitab. I am also interested to learn many new programmes. I enjoy writing poems.

"It will change your life." "You'll come back as a new person!". For years, the benefits of studying abroad have been described in these words. Everyone studying abroad believed it could greatly impact a student's life, but the exact long-term benefits have not been known until now.

The first large-scale survey to explore the long-term impact of study abroad on a student's personal, professional, and academic life shows that study abroad positively and unequivocally influences the career path, worldview, and self-confidence of students and professionals alike.





TEACHERS' NOOK

Managing Your Time

by Kakul Agha, Department of Business Studies



Time is one of your most important resources, and sometimes the most valuable one. In a few cases timing is everything. Yet few people know the little tricks of planning that can be used to put time on their side. Such planning can double your effectiveness and help achieve the targets they have set in their life.

Understanding the importance of time

Why is time important? It is said that if you value life - value what life is made of. Your time is your life - use it to enjoy.

Secondly, time plays a `major function of your career, as a student or a manager or a teacher... Almost no one is an instant success. As a certain pop star put it "I worked hard for twenty years and suddenly I feel it was an overnight success". Time plays an important role in your progress and prosperity - know how to use it and you can achieve much more quickly.

Thirdly, time is a major corporate resource. An organization pays its employees by the hour, week or the month. It is buying their time and what they do in that time becomes important for the organization. An individual is also selling or investing his time. But no matter how skilled a person if time is managed poorly all will be for naught. As a student you need to invest the given time in a planned and structured manner to avoid failures. Essential tips...

Here are some tips to make more effective use of your time:

- Everyone wants your time: Give it wisely especially your most productive hours.
- Begin with a list of things to do. Then give each item a priority like A, B or C.
- Be sure that A is high value or need long lead time.
- Mark the most important item with a star.
- Now dig in; do first thing first, one thing at a time.
- Try to work on tough items in your best time.
- Don't give into the temptation of doing easy things first.



- Feel free to reorder your priorities as needed.
- Don't waste time travelling if a phone call will suffice.
- When you are delayed have other things to do.
- If a phone call gets too long say you have another call.
- If the phone interrupts you too often go to another room.
- Be good to yourself. If you do a tough job do an easy job next.
- Plan for breaks. This cuts stress!
- Avoid irrelevant items. Don't take on the world's problems.
- Route items and delegate—don't overload.
- Don't let people dump items on you.
- Beware of the time thieves who chat.

As a certain pop star put it "I worked hard for twenty years and suddenly I feel it was an overnight success". Time plays an important role in your progress and prosperity - know how to use it and you can achieve much more quickly.

Advantages of Effective Time Management

It is easy to quote certain advantages of managing your time in a planned and effective manner. Time management helps you to -

- Gain time
- Motivate and initiate activities
- Reduces avoidance of tasks
- Promotes review and generates clarity of work
- Eliminates cramming of tasks
- Reduces anxiety and stress

Key to successful time management

Self knowledge and goals: In order to manage your time successfully, having an awareness of what your goals are will assist you in prioritizing your activities.

Developing and maintaining a personal, flexible schedule: Time management provides you with the opportunity to create a schedule that works for **you**, not for others. This personal attention gives you the flexibility to include the things that are most important to you.



How Well Do You Plan?

DIRECTIONS: FOR EACH QUESTION, CIRCLE THE NUMBER THAT BEST DESCRIBES YOU.

	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Always
How often do you plan in an effort to keep life from running out of control?	1	2	3	4	5
Do you put daily plans on paper?	1	2	3	4	5
Do you allow flexibility in your plans?	1	2	3	4	5
How often do you accomplish your entire plan for a given day?	1	2	3	4	5
How often do you plan time for what matters most to you?	1	2	3	4	5
How often is your daily plan destroyed by urgent interruptions?	5	4	3	2	1

SCORING: Add the numbers next to your answers.

INTERPRETATION:**6-10: Terrible Planner.**

You should consider using new tools and processes to help you plan effectively.

11-15: Below average planner.

You may already have a planning system, but using it more effectively will help to reduce the stress and lack of control you feel in your life.

16-20: Average planner.

Your planning system is working, but you can do better. You need help focusing on priorities, dealing with urgent interruptions or writing your daily plan.

21-25: Above-average planner.

Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4



Who do you think is the terrible, below average, average and above average planner in the picture?

BLIND QUERIES - A PIECE FROM REAL LIFE

by Asfia Khan, Languages Centre



"He touched my face and said, "Aunty, are flowers blind?" I could not resist but open my eyes at once to this question. I took a long pause and said, "No". He stood up with a jerk and moved away from me. I could see a streak of disappointment on his face."



My neighbor's eight years old son is blind by birth. It was a pity to see him smiling at the blank wall of his room as if he was enjoying his favorite cartoon show. Like other children of his age he never complained of nightmares and nor was he afraid of the dark. He never went to shopping malls and had never thrown tantrums at toy shops. His parents and of late only I came under the umbrella of this friendship.

Once his parents had to go on an emergency visit, leaving him in my care. I sat for hours with him and just to be on the same platform, I shut my eyes completely. He asked questions as if wanting to see the whole world through my eyes. He asked, "How does rain look like?" I thought for a while and then answered, "Just as good as God's blessings". With my eyes closed I could not see how far the answer had convinced him, but within seconds I was confident because he asked another question. Very seriously he whispered, "Can I become a pilot like my father?" This time my throat was choked, but I managed an answer, "Yes, why not God is great?" He giggled with excitement and I could feel the goose bumps on his arm.

Coming closer to me he rested his head against my shoulder and said in a very low voice, "Can I ask you one more question?" My heart skipped a beat; one would have never felt the same in a panel interview, as I felt. Keeping my eyes shut even tighter, I said, "Yes why not sweet heart." He touched my face and said, "Aunty, are flowers blind?" I could not resist but open my eyes at once to this question. I took a long pause and said, "No". He stood up with a jerk and moved away from me.

I could see a streak of disappointment on his face. I was upset seeing such an expression on his face for the first time. But before I could ask any further he said in a cracked voice, "Then why does Mom always say that I look like a flower....I will never trust her again". I could hold no longer and a hot stream of tears rushed through my eyes.

More on seminars conducted

Writing Across the Curriculum

Maywald Jesudass from the Languages Centre conducted a workshop on Writing Across the Curriculum as it seeks to improve students' communicative and critical thinking skills through an increase in writing introduction throughout all departments and courses. The conversations about how to administer WAC-based instruction to students also produce improved communication and collaboration among faculty. Instructors and administrators must be committed and willing to change in order to make a WAC programme work.



Video Display Devices

"In this high tech world, the uses of display systems are inevitable in every aspects of life" says **Dr. Senthil Kumar** from Department of Mathematics and Applied Sciences. 'It ranges from monochrome wrist watches to true colour display screens. Even though different kind of display systems are available, the liquid crystal displays are playing a vital role', he continued. The presentation aimed to provide the basic concepts of LCD's.

provide the basic concepts of LCD's.

Quality Assurance Procedure at Coventry University

Madhuri Yatham, Coordinator, Examination Committee conducted a seminar on Quality Assurance Procedure at Coventry University. This the first among the series of seminars to be delivered by the MECIT team which visited the Coventry University recently. It is based on the session the team had with Mr. Ray Farmer and Kevin Noble, Quality Enhancement Unit, Coventry University, to discuss the Quality Assurance procedures applied to different areas which include Module Boxes, Course Consultative Committees, Responsibilities of PC's, Annual Reports of Boards of Study KPIS for QA, Group Work in Assessments and Examination papers shall be presented followed by detailed information on Guiding Principles for Assessment.



Cognitive Skills for Learning Outcomes in Line with Exam Papers Preparation



Santhosh John from the Computing Department conducted a seminar on '**Cognitive Skills for Learning Outcomes in Line with Exam Papers Preparation**'

The purpose of this workshop was to reach to a better understanding of the concept of plagiarism and academic dishonesty, its different forms, and methods of deduction. Some practical examples of different forms of plagiarism were shared during the workshop. An explanation of different bibliographic citation (author date method) in particular was also include. The workshop was a complementary in nature to the workshop conducted earlier regarding Academic Writing.

Moore talks on 'Globalisation 0.5'



Prof. Karl J. Moore, Associate Professor, Desautels Faculty of Management at McGill University & Associate Fellow, Templeton College, Oxford University visited MECIT on December 04 & 05, 2006. Prof. Moore has his MBA from University of Southern California and postgraduate degree from Harvard Business School. He joined McGill University to work with Henry Mintzberg and co-direct McGill's Advanced Leadership Program. Prof. Moore's publications include over seventy articles, books and papers on a variety of topics. His research has been published in a number of leading journals.

Prof. Moore held discussions with the Chairman, Managing Director, Dean and other senior members of the College and congratulated the team for the excellent facilities provided by the College. Prof. Moore also addressed the faculty members of MECIT on December 05, 2006. The talk titled '*Globalization 0.5: Known World Globalisation in the Ancient World*' was based on his new book *Globalisation 0.5: Pioneering the 'Known World' Economy from Iraq to Rome*.

He began the address by drawing the attention of the members to the fact that since about 1980 a number of academics, management experts and corporate executives have proclaimed the coming of a new age of a borderless global economy based upon information instead of production. He pointed out that most of those who study the US economy consider the characteristics of this new economy as something totally new and believe that history offers no lessons, no parallels for the age of the mobile phone and the Internet. This feeling is particularly true in the case of multinational enterprises.

He argued that despite the admittedly vast differences in scale, technology, and complexity between ancient and modern business, early prototypes of some of today's business forms and business cultures existed in ancient times. Through his presentation, he showed how globalization, multinational enterprises, partnerships, foreign joint ventures and mass production all had their precursors or prototypes in very remote times. Drawing on details from his research experience as well as his new book, Prof. Moore gave an interesting case of international business starting with its origins in the cottages and temples of Sumer around 3500 BC, reaching a climax with the creation of a far-reaching known-world economy in the days of the Roman Caesars. He also pointed out historic events in Egypt, Syria, Greece, India and China in support of his argument. The question and answer session that followed, dealt with a wide range of issues including the role of the Middle East in promoting international business.

Wortley addresses MECIT staff on Serious Games

Mr. David Wortley, the recently appointed Director of the Serious Games Institute (SGI) at Coventry University visited MECIT on December 10, 2006. Mr. Wortley's career has largely been in the commercial sector with British Telecom, IBM and his own strategic technology consultancy. Before accepting the post at Coventry, David spent a year at De Montfort University developing the New Technology Initiative Creative Industries Centre for Knowledge Exchange.



He addressed the faculty members on *Serious Games* and the Future. He informed the members that serious games (SGs) or persuasive games are similar to educational games, but are often intended for an audience outside of primary or secondary education. While serious games might have the look and feel of a game and hence the interest in the user, the usage actually corresponds to non-game events or processes, including business operations and military operations. Since the complex processes/activities are undertaken as games, the users are generally motivated and engaged in the activity. He gave many examples of specific sectors as well as instances where serious e-games are used.

THE BEST WAY TO MEND IS NOT TO BREAK!

by Dr. J. F. Thomas

Working in a hospital can change some of our perceptions and assumptions about life. In the quiet rooms of hospitals where health professionals and machines struggle to keep people alive, death lurks in dark corners like a thief waiting to snatch away our most precious gift from God called 'Life'.

My first experience as a hospital administrator was in 1987. Hold on..... I can almost hear some of you young folks mutter under your breath and wonder..... "I say! How old is this guy? Must be ancient..... Ready for fossilization.....?!!" Well, to be fair to me and people like me, we are not necessarily outdated although the presence or complete absence of silver streaked hair on our collective heads may declare otherwise.

Hospitals make you realize that ultimately the all important issues in life are common to everyone. People at the very edge of life often attempt to reconcile broken relationships; to mend fences as it were while facing the possibility of a final farewell. Conversely nicest things are often said about dead people as though they never had a flaw in their character. This behavior of most of us human beings makes me wonder as to why we do not bother to be honest with each other while we are hale and hearty.

Why do we promote conflict in relationships when the truth is that in the absence of relationships there is no possibility of celebrating life. There are several possible reasons: the first and foremost is fear; fear of rejection, fear of letting others find out who we actually are and fear of others gaining control over our lives. "Fear is the highest fence" said Dudley Nichols. When we are not sure of ourselves and our motives we are

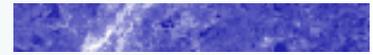
afraid of the possibility of being incorrect and therefore erect a fence between ourselves and others. Soon enough the insular fence starts defining our lives and we cannot see beyond it. It makes our world much smaller and excludes others and ourselves from sharing the joys of mutually enriching relationships. Everything beyond the fence is understood by us only within the context of our experience determined by the fence. We become arrogant and self-centered islands.



Once our point of view becomes a dogma and the guiding force of our lives we become experts in defining the motives and behavior of others. This is clearly an attempt to cut the feet of others to make ourselves appear to be taller. Worse still is the emergence of the attitude that if others do not think or act or view life on our terms based on our standards they deserve to be condemned. We become exclusive country clubs. The 'Sonnenkinder' mentality becomes evident in our relationships and actions.

'I for me and all for me' becomes the credo. If we find someone vulnerable enough to trust us we may even attempt to manipulate them betraying their trust and use them to manipulate others.

How do we counter this? The biblical maxim 'the truth shall set you free' is the best prescription. Learn to find and face facts, however bitter they may be. Ask when in doubt. Do not assume and do not attribute motives to others based on our limited experience or even worse our limited knowledge. There is a saying in my mother tongue, Tamil "Katrathu kaiman alavu kallathathu ulagalavu" (A tongue twister for many of you, I'm sure) – It means: Our knowledge is only like a handful of sand whereas what we need to know and learn is as large as the earth. We need to temper our conclusions with the wise notion that there may be more to a matter than what we know about it and then to seriously and sincerely make an effort to find out and understand the unknown. The next step is to always remember that if we judge people on our terms, others would judge us on their terms. This is particularly dangerous when we judge and attempt to control others because those stronger than us would do the same to us. Judging others on our terms therefore is a double edged sword and it certainly severs all harmonious relationships which are necessary for peaceful coexistence and vital for any fruitful team effort in all organisations and other group activities. Hence, "Judge not lest ye be judged".



There are several possible reasons: the first and foremost is fear; fear of rejection, fear of letting others find out who we actually are and fear of others gaining control over our lives. "Fear is the highest fence" said Dudley Nichols.

...continued from page 03

MORE YEAR END PARTY SNAPSHOTS!



WHAT ARE YOU DESIGNING NOW?

By Michelle Desouza, *Department of Technologies*



Many would argue that design being synonymous with innovation plays a significant role in designing our environment. I agree. My experiences in design have connected me with several dimensions of design both consciously and subconsciously. Design has always fascinated me – its vast canvas presents tremendous scope for exploration and study. While fashion design has always been my first love, the continuing education program on the theme 'Fashion Design- An Innovative Approach' presented me with an excellent opportunity to explore yet another perspective of design, namely Experience Design. We started off designing the programme swiftly, juggling our time and other resources to create a product that would be well received.

During the conception and planning stages of the programme the department faced several challenges of which one of the most critical being '*how can fashion design be taught in two weeks?*'. Several key questions had to be answered with regard to the outcome and as to how it would be perceived by potential clients. What would be the value and experience that our programme would offer? Would the cost justify it? What would be the outcome of the curriculum? The classes were to be run for 3 hrs a day for 5days a week and hence obtaining a balance between fashion design theory and practical was the most difficult part of the planning process. But the fundamental question of whether the time and other resources would be enough to achieve an effective outcome still remained.

After considerable amount of planning, the programme began as scheduled on the 16th of December, 2006. A total number of 10 students registered for the programme. As planned, every student was given a welcome kit that contained stationery that would be used in the programme. The programme included interactive sections that were a perfect blend of theory and practical work. Students were extremely captivated by the techniques demonstrated by Ms. Sunayna Bobby and myself. It was intriguing to see the level of motivation amongst the students as they showed-off their homework day after day.

This level of enthusiasm was extremely motivating for me as an instructor. It made me say "Yes maybe we did a good job..... may be the product design was an effective one"

As it turned out, the course was in fact an expression of good design. It was designed in such a way that it progressively led to a final product to be created by students. The students' design process began on day one and ended on completion of the course. Every day the students engaged in a value addition activity for their fashion product. They had thoroughly and systematically experienced the design process of a fashion collection. As every day added value to their product, every class offered value addition to the service, which we as instructors provided.

On the last day of the programme as the students bragged about how much they had learned, I realized something- 'we are all designers'. Especially in the field of education, we constantly engage in design activity, whether it is in designing our lesson plans, a question paper, an assignment template, an exam procedure or an assessment reporting tool. The same paradigms, principles and design theories apply to each one of us, as we persistently and actively engage in designing an experience for those with whom we interact. So the next time you engage in a creative activity you can ask your self "What am I designing now?"



CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Fashion Design: An Innovative Approach



ARABIC SECTION

* الامتحان *

أخبرنا معلم مادة الرياضيات بأنه سيقدم لنا امتحان صباح الغد له عشر درجات من مقدار كافة الدرجات الموجودة لدى المعلم . بدأنا الإستعداد الجدي للإمتحان فنحن طلاب الثانوية العامة لا نحب أن نخسر أي درجة. وعشر درجات لها ميزانها الخاص لدينا ،أتممت إستعدادي في المنزل ،راجعت دروسي جيدا ولم تبقى لي مسألة في الرياضيات إلا وقد حللت افكارها ووجدت نواتجها .

وفي الصباح اليوم التالي انطلقت من المنزل وأنا مسرور رافع رأسي لأنني قد درست الكتاب جيدا،وأنتظر تلك اللحظات التي يلقي فيها المعلم علينا أوراق الامتحان ، وصلت المدرسة قابلت أول صديق لي على باب المدرسة فسألته كيف هو استعدادك لإمتحان اليوم فأجابني: الحمد لله كل شيء على مايرام... انطلقنا سويا الى قاعة الامتحان ... ولكن ريثما وصلنا! علمنا بأن الإمتحان قد تأجل إلى الحصة الثامنة -آخر حصة- بسبب زيارة بعض الموجهين والمسؤولين للمدرسة . كم كرهت حينها ذلك الخبر المقرف. فأنا قادم للإمتحان وكأني طفل فضولي غلب عليه غروره وعفوانه الطائش ليتحدى من هو اصغر منه سناً. بدأنا التعليم واستمرت الحصص ، وزارنا الموجهون والمسؤولون في ذلك اليوم حتى حضرت الحصة الثامنة... وقت الامتحان... اكيد ان الكل يكره هذه الحصة فهي آخر حصة ومملة فكيف بنا مع إختبار الرياضيات في هذه الحصة .



بدأت الحصة كنت قد فقدت نصف عزيمة . أنزل المعلم علي الورقة بدأت أقرأ الأسئلة، ولكني لا أدري أي شدة التعب أم هو سوء الحظ فلقد أصبحت أقرأ الاسئلة وكأني أقرأ كتاب فلسفة او علم النفس، أشياء غريبة لم أفهم معناها لم أستطع التمييز بين السطور. ماذا عساي أن أفعل في تلك اللحظات يجب علي أن أقدم إجاباتي في أسرع وقت ولا أفرط في أي دقيقة ... ولكني لم أستطع التركيز اتخذت قراري رفعت يدي للمعلم للاستأذان ... اعتقد المعلم إنني لم أفهم سؤالاً في الإختبار، جاء إلي مسرعاً ... ماذا؟؟ أخبرته بأنني أرغب في الخروج لبعض الوقت لأغسل وجهي فانا

متعب ... إندھش المعلم، أهذا وقته الآن لم تذهب مسبقاً؟ أجبته أسف يا معلمي إنها حالة طارئة . قال: إذهب بسرعة وعد إلى أداء الامتحان ... إنطلقت بسرعة الى دورات المياه لأغسل وجهي ولكني لم أنتبه أن عامل النظافة قد وضع الماء والصابون على الارض ليغسلها هذا ما وضع الارضية زلقة جدا.. دخلت دورات المياه لأتجه الى صنابير الغسيل بكل سرعة ولكن ...!! لم أشعر إلا أن قدمي قد ترحلت بالماء والصابون لأسقط على أرضية دورات المياه ويرتطم بها جسمي ورأسي على سوء عليها .

يا الله !! ساعدني أحسست بدوار وأن عظامي قد تهشمت ولكن عامل النظافة سرعان ما انطلق إلي ليساعدني ويحاول إيقافني على قدمي، نهضت من على الارض الوسخة لأرى أن ملابسني قد اتسخت بالماء والصابون والطين المتبقي على الارض ... ماذا افعل؟؟ لا حيلة لدي سوى غسل ملابسني وجسمي ، ولو كانني أخذ حمام إستحمام ولكن على المدرسة. لحسن الحظ لم يدخل أحد إلى دورات المياه تلك الساعة ، وإلا قد انفجر ضحكا وقهقهة على حالتي التي لا يرثي عليها مضي من الامتحان أكثر من ربع الوقت رجعت بعدها إلى قاعة الامتحان لارى أن المعلم غاضبا وقد تقطبت عقد جبينه علي... صرخ في وجهي أين كنت يا أحمد؟! ولماذا ملابسك متسخة ومبللة بالماء من رأسك حتى ساقيك؟ بماذا سأجيبه؟ إذا أخبرته بالحقيقة فسوف ينفجر كل الصف ضحكاً علي .. اخترعت حيلة لأواري موقفي الفضولي .. فقلت له أن أحد أنابيب الماء قد انفجر في وجهي..- وهل يعقل بأن أنبوب مياه ينفجر تلقائياً- صدق المعلم الكذبة. وقال لي أذهب وأكمل الامتحان ، ولكنني لم أسلم من ضحك وقهقرت الطلاب علي ..

بدأت أودي الإمتحان ولقد عاد تركيزي وكيف لا وقد أخذت حمام سباحة مدرسي بدأت أجيب على الأسئلة سوألا تلو الآخر ، حتى وصلت إلى آخر سوألين واتفاجأ بان السوألين غير واضحان على الإطلاق لخطأ في آلة النسخ... ناديت المعلم.. فاجاب بسرعة ماذا الآن؟؟ خروج لا يوجد فانا أعرف أن هذا تحايل منك تريد التهرب عن الامتحان ، فهذا يدل على أنك لم تدرس جيداً بالأمس ... أجبته بسرعة لحظة يا معلمي !! أنظر إلى ورقتي ... نظر إليها وأحترار ماذا سيفعل هل سيذهب إلى آلة التصوير وينسخ لي من جديد احدى النسخ الموجودة هناك؟؟ ولكنه لا يستطيع الذهاب لأنه ولو خرج بضع سنتمترات عن الفصل لأصبحت شركات النقل والنسخ تعمل جيداً فطلاب صفي ماهرون في الغش ... ولحسن الحظ رأى معلمي أحد أصدقائه المعلمين يمشي بجوار الفصل فأخبره بأن يبقى ليراقب الفصل ويذهب هو لنسخ الورقة . إنطلق معلمي . كان حينها قد تبقى ربع الوقت الأخير ، وأنا لا أدري كم من الوقت يحتاج لحل تلك المسألتين ، عاد معلمي بعد أن نسخ لي نسخة واضحة ، بدأت في حل السوألين .. ما هذا ؟ أصعب مسألتين رأيتهما في حياتي ، وتحتاجان إلى حصتين لهما ، والباقي من الوقت ربع ساعة .

بدأت أفكر في حلول مناسبة لتلك المسألتين ، إلا أن سمعت أهدم يطرق الباب طرقتاً عنيماً . فتح المعلم الباب، لأرى أحد طلاب المرحلة الابتدائية يقول أن المدير أخبره أن يخبرني أنه علي الذهاب إلى مكتبه فوراً . يا الله ماذا فعلت ؟ وماذا يريد المدير مني؟؟ لم أصغي إلى كلام ذلك الطالب ، وواصلت حلي ، ولكن بعد دقيقتين جاء أحد المعلمين يطلبني ويخبرني بأن المدير يحتاج إلي فوراً . أخبرته بأن الوقت وقت إمتحان ، فأجابني : بأن الأمر طارئ ليس قابل لتأخير ، قلت : لا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله العلي العظيم . تركت ورقة الإمتحان لأتجه إلى مكتب المدير وفي نفسي الكثير من الأسئلة ؟ يا ترى ماذا يريد المدير مني ؟ وما هذا الأمر الطارئ ؟ لم أنكر أنني قد فعلت مخالفة داخل المدرسة ولم أضرب طالباً ولم أكسر طاولة ولم ولم ولم ؟

رجعت إلى البيت وأنا أجز أذبال الهزيمة .

عدت إلى المدرسة صباح اليوم التالي ، وأتت حصة الرياضيات ، الكل يسأل المعلم عن الدرجات ، إلا أنا فانا أخاف منها ، قال المعلم : إجلسوا كل واحد في مكانه وسأخبركم عن الدرجات . عم الهدوء في الصف وكان ملك الموت قد أتى ليأخذ أرواحهم . بدا المعلم بكلامه أن الدرجات سيئة جداً ، حيث أنه لم يستطع أحد من الطلاب حل آخر مسألتين هذا ما جعلني الغي تلك المسألتين من الإختبار ، هنا قد عادت على وجهي علامات السعادة والفرحة وأنا أعرف أنني لم أجب على السوألين الأخيرين ، بدأ المعلم بإعلان النتائج النهائية بعد أن

فلماذا يريدني المدير؟؟ وصلت إلى غرفة المدير طرقت الباب ثم إستأذنت بالدخول. رأيت المدير على مكتبه، إستقبلني، أهلاً يا أحمد لقد تأخرت ، أريد أن أطلب منك خدمة . عجباً المدير يطلب مني خدمة ، قلت : تفضل ، قال : أنا أعرف أنك طالب تجيد التصوير بالكاميرا ؛ لذا أخترتك لأن تصور لي حفل المدرسة في هذه الليلة .

سألته ؟ أهذا هو الأمر الطارئ الذي تريدين فيه؟! قال : نعم. ولكن من أخبرك أنه طارئ أنه أمر عادي. أخبرته أن أحد المعلمين قد قال لي هذا وأنا في الصف أقدم الإمتحان ، فأجاب : أنا أخبرته أن يذهب ويناديك بسرعة حسبت أن الحصة عادية ، ولم أخبره أن الأمر طارئ لهذه الدرجة . على العموم لم أستطع رفض طلب المدير لأنه يثق بي وقد أختارني مع مجموعة من الطلاب لأصور الحفل ، أخذت الكاميرا وابتلقت إلى الصف ؛ لأرى المعلم أمام وجهي . ياسلام ! وصل حضرت الصحفي! جاي تصورنا ، تفضل تفضل . ماذا أفعل في ذلك الوقت؟ وماذا أقول ؟ لملمت فمي ولازمت الصمت وجلست في مقعدي لأكمل الحل ، ولكن وبعد نصف دقيقة ضرب الجرس ليعلن عن نهاية الحصة الأخيرة . سمعت المعلم يقول ضعوا الأقلام لأجمع الأوراق ، حزنتم حينها حزناً شديداً ؛ لأنني لم أستطع تكملة آخر مسألتين بالإختبار ، ولم أدري ما الذي حدث بي أهو سؤ حظ أم أنها الصدقات ؟

رجعت إلى البيت وأنا أجز أذبال الهزيمة .

عدت إلى المدرسة صباح اليوم التالي ، وأتت حصة الرياضيات ، الكل يسأل المعلم عن الدرجات ، إلا أنا فانا أخاف منها ، قال المعلم : إجلسوا كل واحد في مكانه وسأخبركم عن الدرجات . عم الهدوء في الصف وكان ملك الموت قد أتى ليأخذ أرواحهم . بدا المعلم بكلامه أن الدرجات سيئة جداً ، حيث أنه لم يستطع أحد من الطلاب حل آخر مسألتين هذا ما جعلني الغي تلك المسألتين من الإختبار ، هنا قد عادت على وجهي علامات السعادة والفرحة وأنا أعرف أنني لم أجب على السوألين الأخيرين ، بدأ المعلم بإعلان النتائج النهائية بعد أن وزعت درجات السوألين المحذوفين على باقي الأسئلة . حتى وصلت إسمي .. الدرجة هي 9.5 من عشرة وتجب إلى عشرة من عشرة . لم أصدق ما يقوله المعلم من كثرة الفرح . عدت أطيير في السماء ، فرغم تلك المواقف التي حصلت علي بالأمس أنحصلت على الدرجة النهائية.



تأليف الطالب: أحمد سالم ناصر الريامي

Languages Centre conducts series of workshops

Dr. Algirdas Makarevicius, HOD of the Languages Centre spearheaded a workshop on '**Classroom Teaching Methodologies**' on February 04, 2007 at 10:00 o'clock am to 12:00 o'clock pm. The workshop was devoted to the analysis of problems related to teaching English to MECIT students: motivation, dealing with mixed ability classes, contemporary methods of teaching reading, writing, speaking and listening. This was the first in the series of workshops to be handled by the LC's HOD. The other two remaining workshops will be as follows:

Workshop 2: Issues of Language Pedagogy and Evaluation of Teaching Materials

The following issues will be discussed: planning of teaching process, planning of assessment, procedures of material design and psychological aspects of assessment.

MIDDLE EAST COLLEGE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



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Are students our customers or not? Some students do not want to attend English classes and they miss a lot of them. Other students attend classes but do not listen what the teachers say in class. How should English teachers cater their students' tastes and needs?

COMMENTS? OPINIONS? SUGGESTIONS?

If you'd like to share your point of view about anything under the sun, drop us a line at dhow@mecit.edu.om or at salvador@mecit.edu.om and shoba@mecit.edu.om Your message or article will be published in the subsequent issue of this newsletter. Thank you very much!