



NEW STAR

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Opinion: New Star needs formatting

Last issue *New Star* published an article called "How Afghan students feel at AUCA" under byline of Nina Muzaffarova. I was confused because earlier this semester the same material was submitted to me as home assignment by one of my students taking Writing seminar class, and as we found out, she was the original author of the article. I will omit the facts how the story ended up being published in the Star, but I have other comments.

In my view, the article is unbalanced and badly written. The big mistake is that the author collected opinions of three-four people and projected them on the overall Afghan community of AUCA. I am surprised *New Star* did not notice it and passed the article for publication.

Also, I am sorry for the people who appeared on the photo accompanying the article. When being photographed, they did not know what story the image would go with.

My student wrote on a sensitive

issue and received proper feedback on her work. She is learning how to write for media well, this is the purpose of her studying here. Therefore, I ask Afghan students not to be mad at her for unbalanced writing. The publication of the article was the result of poor editing standards of *New Star* and simply plagiarism by a student.

One might say that the newspaper has the right to publish anything it wants and rely solely on the freedom of speech encouraged by our university. We talk about freedom of speech a lot, but somehow we forget about high standards of reporting and editing, quality of material, ethics, and consequences. Regardless the status, media should take responsibility on the content it disseminates. I am hopeful that *New Star* will take its best efforts to be a newspaper we all would be proud of, and I sincerely wish it good luck in its endeavors.

Elza OROZALIEVA
Journalism Instructor

A few months ago, the original author of the article approached us and said she wanted to interview us to find out if we had any problems in AUCA, not how we **felt** here. We shared some problems. However, let us emphasize the following: when we shared some concerns with her, it did not mean that we were discriminated at AUCA. Whenever people go from one country to another, they do face some problems, and it does not happen only to Afghan students, it happens to many foreign students. Furthermore, if one or two

students face some problems, it does not mean that all students from that country have the same situation. In addition, it does not mean that all we feel in AUCA is being discriminated. Let us point out that we have great teachers and friends, both international and local, and we have very good relationship with them; so, upon returning home, we will bring so many good memories from AUCA.

Zohra Dastgir, ICP 106
Jahantab Faizi, ICP 106
Shaqaiq Farzam, ICP 106



Plagiarism: or public trust

"In the history of word journalism, there were always cases of plagiarism, because the whole system of journalism is built on trust", Sam Tranum, the instructor of News Writing class, said.

And this is what journalism is about; readers trust reporters, reporters trust interviewers and people trust other people. But what if that trust was betrayed? What if the author of the article was caught? What if you were misrepresented in an article, what if your own words were used against you? The mistakes of just a few journalists can ruin the image of journalism as a whole.

Arguing about ethical issues and then facing them in life are two different stories. While arguing, one can pursue an opinion without consequences, but in life someone has

to be responsible for each mistake.

Reporters are responsible for what they are writing, and readers are for what they are reading. Interviewers are responsible for what they have said. And the most effective way to check if one is cheating is to publish their work. Academic dishonesty and public lies are the same in journalism, only referred to by different names. And there is little to no chance of not getting caught if one lies in front of hundreds.

That is why if someone's work is published under other person's name, one of the authors still will be responsible for it.

So please, think over once more before turning in someone's work as your own. Because trust, once lost, is lost forever.

By Nargiza RYSKULOVA
Content editor

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DEAN OF STUDENTS COLUMN



Весна

сотрудники продолжают жаловаться на ненормативную лексику, особенно со стороны студентов мужского пола. Я буду очень признателен всем, кто возьмет на себя труд, сделать жалобу в письменном виде.

P.S. Тем, кто ругается матом, разговаривая со своей матерью, в виде исключения, по личному заявлению, это будет разрешено и на территории университета.

Желаю вам успехов в учёбе и личной жизни.

Декан по делам студентов Шульгин Н.Г.



Становится тепло. Студенты свободные от уроков покидают коридоры и начинают больше времени проводить во внутреннем дворике и на тротуарах прилегающих к университету.

Я хочу сделать очень небольшое напоминание.

Курение в зданиях и во внутреннем дворике университета запрещено.

Ненормативная лексика на территории университета запрещена.

К территории университета относятся все здания, а также внутренний двор и прилегающие тротуары.

К сожалению, преподаватели и

Антифакты

«Женщина, которая очень мудро могла бы управлять государством, завтра же создаст себе господина, которому и десяти кур нельзя дать в управление»
Кардинал Мазарини

«Какие у нас женщины красивые работают, смотреть приятно!» - сказал мой сослуживец, войдя в кабинет.

«Интересно, что эти слова ты говоришь, заглядывая нам в лицо, а, не заглядывая на что-то, ещё, только восьмого марта», - парировала моя коллега.

Что в сущности это за день такой? День, когда мне дарят подарки, просто потому что я родилась девочкой? Так это не моя заслуга. За это я подарка не заслуживаю.

Продемонстрировать какая я замечательная? Возможно.

Все же, благодарность или компенсация? «Молчи, женщина, твой день восьмое марта» произносится хоть и в шутку, но с обдуманным смыслом. И девушки/женщины (кому как угодно) на это обижаются. И, кстати, зря. Кто виноват в том, что мужчине не хочется каждый день устраивать женщине восьмое марта? Только она сама. Кто мешает ей ухаживать за собой, не вставать между



ним и его друзьями, подружиться с его мамой и не быть против наличия у него подруг? Только она сама. Вы все это делаете, и не помогает? Найдите другого мужчину. Ни я, ни одна моя знакомая всех этих условий не выполняет. Вывод: идеальных женщин нет, и мужчины любят нас именно за это. Женские капризы и кокетство умилительны. Но, пожалуй, этого умиления хватает только на один день в году. С 8 марта!

Русскоязычный редактор "New Star" Зарина Исамбаева

Being in charge: freedom and responsibility



A week ago, while writing an editorial about the newly appeared newsletter on campus, about what the editors are trying to do and what we actually are doing, I once more asked myself, "What is the purpose of university press: to inform or to entertain, to cover events inside the university or to write about topics outside?" Working for the past five months as a content editor of the New Star, I have faced these problems daily while coming to understand the real aim of the press.

Our university is a like small

country with our own rules. The readers inside the university are so diverse that it is impossible to be liked by everyone. Every student has preferences and tastes completely their own. Every faculty member has his or her own vision of the university newspaper. And there are many laws and rules to follow; the one that is heard most often is "freedom of expression." To this term we refer when writing about topics that are provoking, debatable, and seemingly interesting. But who knows how much we pay for such freedom, and most importantly, who is responsible for it?

The day after the publication of the newspaper is when it starts; the search is on for the responsible one. People come up and ask about almost everything in a published newspaper.

First come those whose pictures 'somehow' appeared in the newspaper, every time surprising me by how genuinely they wonder why they are being photographed at a public event. For these students, the responsible one is the photographer.

A bit later come the people

who gave interviews to correspondents, but almost never said what was written, or moreover, almost never meant to say it in those words. They search for the reporter.

Reporters, after being found, seek out the editor, who apparently edited the story so poorly, that it turned out to be worse than the original version.

Then come the professors, some of who complain about the grammar and style of writing. They also search for the editor, but never agree to help with editing due to lack of time. The other teachers complain about being misrepresented in articles.

The rest of the students mostly do not come up, but they do complain. They complain in hallways or when they meet me; they complain while I stand in line for lunch. Some are displeased with the absence of the Farewell Kiss in the issue, some with too much fun stuff, or the lack of creativity in the articles, but most are simply displeased. Among them, the most critical ones are my friends; they criticize everything starting from the quality of articles on down to even the design of the issue.

After hearing all the complaints and questions, it comes time to make decisions. Looking through articles and topics to decide what will go in the next issue, we try to please the displeased audience. Put more (or less) fun stuff, check the grammar better, bring up public issues, republish an article that has been shortened too much; in other words, we take charge.

However, when the next issue comes out, the cycle begins again. Because you never know what your reader wishes to read about this week, you never know what the reader wants more, to read a serious newspaper about problematic issues, or to just look at crosswords and horoscopes on the last page. You never know... but you constantly search and look... because you are in charge...

And finally I want to thank, those who are displeased. I want to send my appreciation to those who write about how badly we are doing our job. We work only because you care. Thank you!!!

**Nargiza Ryskulova
Content editor**

Opposition...not!

On Monday, February 9th, a new 'newspaper' appeared in print at AUCA, called **Challenge**. The four-paged newsletter, financed by Sam Trnum, a professor of the Journalism department, made a big stir among the consumers. Evidently there were specific reasons, but what are they? And is true that **Challenge** is an opposition to the **New Star**?

Great resentment was caused by the content of **Challenge** among the members of the Student Senate, who called **Challenge** 'an opposition newspaper' that has only critical and subjective opinions, which is not appropriate for a respectable newspaper.

Jamilya Nurkullova, the chair of the Student Senate says, "It is really good that students are showing initiative, deciding to write something spicy, criticizing, and showing the medal from another side. However, **Challenge** has weak and unreliable information. It is not allowed to add anonymous interviews inside of opposition newspapers, it is necessary to indicate sources. Moreover, critiques should not be addressed to a person, it is better to criticize work, and it has to be objective."

The worst thing for her, Nurkullova added, was that **Challenge** accused her of not keeping promises, and after the elections of the Student Senate, she changed her attitude towards people. According to Nurkullova, Abdyrakhman Aripov, the editor of **Challenge**, does not even know where the information came from which means the newspaper is "not serious."

Another member of the student senate, Oktam Sapayev, says that not only was Jamilya Nurkullova criticized by **Challenge**, but all of the other members of Senate also. According to Sapayev, **Challenge** does not have supportive facts, which can prove information.

However, not all consumers agree with such statements.

"**Challenge** is a good newspaper," says Taty-

na Geldymamedova, a junior from the American Studies Department. "I like that it has students opinions, not like the **Star**, which has nothing interesting to read, no critics, the colors all are softened, problems are casually mentioned, no facts, and no investigations. Moreover, some articles were published several times. Gazettes are needed to discuss problems, so what's the purpose of the **Star**? **Challenge** promises to be more informative, and so I will read it."

Comparing the **Star** and **Challenge**, Tatyana Geldymamedova says that if the **Star** would be more objective, debate problems, if it would have news and new information, there would not be any necessity to publish **Challenge**. She believes that the content of **Challenge** is not as critical about Student Senate as truthful, without evaluation there would not be any progresses.

"We all know the problems of AUCA, but nobody discusses them, and critics can help create a solution," thinks Tanya.

When questioned, "Can **Challenge** be a com-

petitor to the **Star**?" she responded positively in terms of the informative value because, in her words, it has potential, but it depends upon students, how active they will be.

According to the words of both editors of **Challenge**, who are Yevgeniy Trapeznikov and Abdyrakhman Aripov, the idea of the newspaper was to write about the dissatisfaction of Student Senate politics. Also, to cover all information that AUCA media does not mention.

"It would be great to create fair competition, even though we lose in quantity and design, but not in quality of information. We will put all efforts to win. Moreover, it is an opportunity for students to publish their works, nearly 500-800 word in parameters. We don't have censorship, but it doesn't mean to write whatever the writer wants. Alternative and analytic information is welcomed. For example, in the first issue of **Challenge** was an article about Turkmens students' situation at one of the colleges in Bishkek. So, it means, writers can about anything

they want, following any standards," says Yevgeniy Trapeznikov.

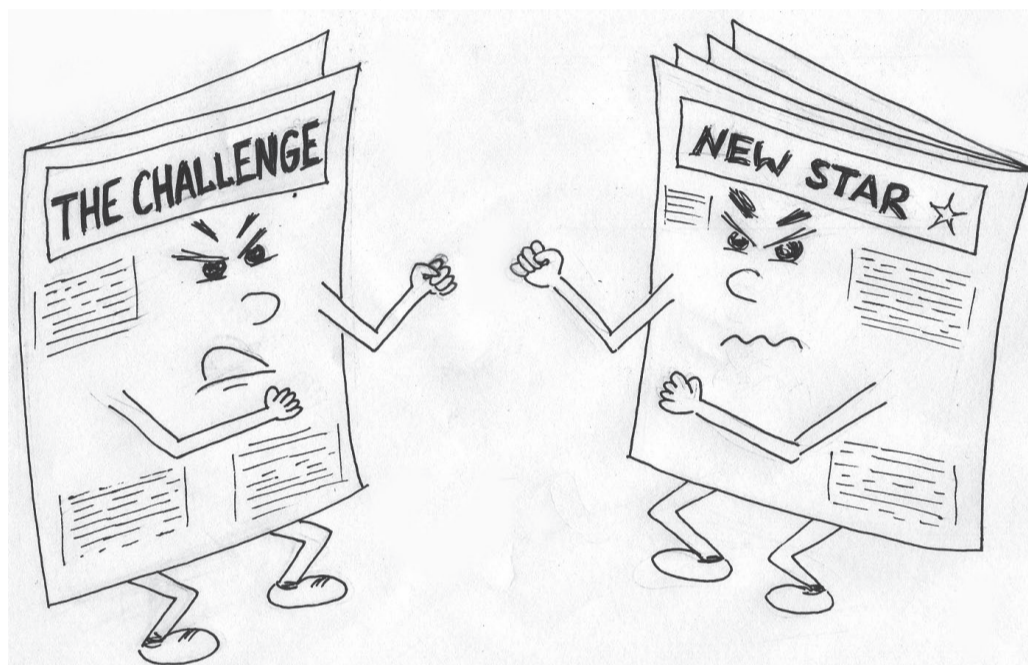
The second editor, Abdyrakhman Aripov, stresses that the **Star** does not have articles about Student Senate, to the point that editors of the **Star** can cut articles. The shining example of this, according to him, was Trapeznikov's article that was edited when it was published the first time, but then **Star** published the whole, unedited article in the following issue. He says the situation is that the editors of the **Star** felt the competition with **Challenge**. They started to relate more liberally to the materials they get, but it is just a fake relation that was not before.

In its defense, the **Star** explains its position. The adviser of the **Star**, Lazarina Kuchmenova, responded that what had happened with Yevgeniy Trapeznikov's article was a usual case that happens with every article that is too long. She admits that the **Star** editors did change the content of his article, and the headline of it, because it was impossible to leave it the way it was.

The golden mean of these debates is Sam Trnum, who is not only a financial supporter of the **Challenge**, but also the ex-editor of it. In his words, the first idea to create the **Challenge** was to help students to work hard and to see their work in print.

Today, the control of the **Challenge** is under the aforementioned editors, and whatever they want to make it. However, Trnum would not call the **Challenge** an opposition. He added that there is no censorship at all in AUCA and the **Star** did write controversial things, for he has previously worked with the **Star**. His suggestion to both newspapers was this: "Do good journalism, not yellow. Competition doesn't mean they cannot be civilized and respectful competitors; they should focus on substantial issues, not personal conflicts. I hope having two newspapers will create public debate at the AUCA."

Mayya KELOVA



Lenin or Liberty?

For 19 years, a monument of Lenin stood in the main square of Bishkek, Ala-Too. However Lenin was replaced by the Statue of Liberty, Erkindik, on to the 8th anniversary of Kyrgyzstan's independence in 2003. Six years after Lenin was lowered from his stand in the square and creation of a new monument, people still argue about the purpose of change and the meaning of the new statue.

Great debates were held on this issue between an ex-prime minister, Nikolay Tanaev and

parliament. On August 11, 2003, Mr. Tanaev in his decree ordered to replace a monument for Lenin in the old square.

Debates about these two monuments were mainly about the decision of Mr. Tanaev, who posted the decree without asking Parliament. Actually, the decision was made only by the ex-prime minister. Arguing on the right to give an order, neither side paid attention to the meaning of the new statue.

The new monument is a woman, who holds a tunduk (the upper side on the ceiling of a Kyrgyz national dwelling – yurt) in her hand. According to government, a woman with a tunduk is a collected image of the Kyrgyz women. A tunduk is a symbol of Kyrgyz sovereignty. Also, according to architectures, a globe in the base of a sculpture means that "all people in the world dream about independence and peace."

Jyldyz Bekjanova worked as a guide for foreigners who come to visit Bishkek. According to her, she faced problems both by explaining the meaning of Lenin's monument and a new statue of Liberty. "Visitors couldn't understand the purpose of a monument of Lenin, but it is even harder to explain the real meaning of the new statue," Jyldyz said. In her opinion, the changes made by government, do not feel right and have inconsistencies.

Uulkan Kambaralieva, the head of Kyrgyz language department of AUCA, says that this sculpture has an incorrect meaning. "Kyrgyz people would never make our women hold a tunduk, it is a shame". She explained it by saying that woman never do men's duties.

Kyrgyzstan was the last republic of the

post-soviet countries which replaced, or even restored, the monument of Lenin from the main square. Kyrgyz government even made a decree on saving the monument by replacing it to Old Square, which is considered to be the second after Ala-Too by significance. "The government showed respect to the history and the deeds of Lenin in the history of our country, even though all of Central Asia region countries restored the monument. This means we respect history. But if to speak about a new sculpture, here we have a conflict," a citizen of Bishkek, Begaim Birikova, says.

Taalantaly Baktiev, professor of Philological and Social Sciences of Kyrgyz Governmental Technical University, and a scholar of Philological Sciences, manaschy is not very surprised by this sculpture. According to him, the sculpture does not feel like the image of a Kyrgyz woman. "The wind is behind the woman's back, she has a short haircut, and naked legs do not represent the traditions and views of Kyrgyz people", Mr. Baktiev said.

Mr. Baktiev compares this sculpture with the sculptures of other countries, but underlines that they have a different mentality and historical background, in comparison to Kyrgyz traditions and customs. "It is not the symbol of Independence (Erkindik in Kyrgyz). I call this sculpture bat", Mr. Baktiev said. "The government should change this sculpture as soon as possible", Mr. Baktiev added.

Saltanat Tynystanova, a history teacher in a local school, has considered that even if the statue has a wrong, or even has no, meaning, now is not the right time to think about it. Ac-

ording to Ms. Tynystanova, construction and sculpturing of another new statue will take a lot of money from national budget. "We have better think about the future, think about how to avoid world crisis and increase our economy, rather than to criticize the government or creators," Ms. Tynystanova said. She also added that when problems in the country end, then we should think about a new sculpture problem.

Chinara SULTANALIEVA



Stream song competition

On the March 3, 2009 Stream Competition took a place in main concert hallway of AUCA. The winner became Nusuvallieva Aijan, an eleventh grader of school #29. Second place took Shailoobek Tegin Adilet and the last prize received Daniar Tynaliev.

All three winners of the contest will receive scholarship opportunities, from 50 to 85 percent of the full scholarship sum. The purpose of the Stream competition, according to initiator of the contest, Nikolay Grigorievich, is to give chance to enter the AUCA to as many talented people as possible.

The last tour of the competition went between seven people, four girls and three boys. The winner outshined her competitors by her talent.

"It was very hard to decide on winner, all were great, but there is something about the girl, which won, she is just so outstanding", member of jury Erkin Elfira pointed out.

Nargiza Ryskulov



Always in Search

The most challenging situation for foreign students in Bishkek is about to get worse. At the beginning of every academic year, students from foreign countries face the housing problem in Kyrgyzstan.

Education in Kyrgyzstan is much cheaper than in other boarding and CIS countries and the number of international students is growing each year. Turkmenistan especially sends many students due to the lack of sufficient universities for the local students. A few local universities in Bishkek offer dormitories for the students. Those that refuse to live there for extenuating circumstances are not offered support to find a place to live. Students are usually left on their own. Those who come to Bishkek for the first time have no friends to rent an apartment with. When it is about the person with whom you will live for nine months, the decision is not easy to make.

The state universities have their dormitories and the cost is included to the university contract. But they are in such conditions that students prefer to live with 9 roommates in two-room apartment. The dormitories are in insanitary condition, there is usually no hot water, and the beds are in awful con-

dition. "I cannot imagine myself living there in winters," said Jazgul from Osh who studies in the Law Department of National University of Kyrgyzstan. So she rents an apartment on Manas street with her friends.

However, apartments for rent in Bishkek are not in abundance nor cheap. Two-room apartments are approximately \$300-\$500 and three-room apartments are \$400-\$700. If five students rent a three-room apartment, they usually pay \$100-\$150. Nazar Klychmamedov and his two friends pay \$170 each for a four-room apartment. They just cannot find another apartment or another roommate.

Another situation that makes the problem more challenging is the attitude of the owners to students. Landlords have stereotypes about the students that they are irresponsible, lazy and noisy. That is why usually one of every two owners usually refuses to rent an apartment to students. "When I called for an apartment, most householders first asked if I was a student. They dropped the phone when I answered positively," said Zalina from Slavic University.

There are a lot problems caused by each student personally, too. Some of them do not care about the studying

and are ready to live with a crowd to save money. Others who need to study, like those on scholarship at AUCA prefer to live with just a few, three or four people, and do their studying. These two types of students get together and separate all the time.

The absence of organizational skills makes the solution of the case even harder. There is not enough contact among the students in Bishkek, even between those who study in the same university. That is why there are always announcements on the AUCA walls of people looking for a roommate. A website for such an issue could make the searching much easier. It is not hard to open a forum section on a university website.

It seems that the situation with housing will get only worse for international students in Bishkek. Students are coming to Bishkek in droves. The dormitories are not getting better. The prices for apartments are growing steadily. The first thing that students should do in coming for an academic year in Bishkek is to find a place to stay for nine month and only after that care about the visa for that period.

Nurguly ASHYROV



The Way to Success

Natalia Slastnikova and her strong crew made an important contribution to AUCA, but not everyone knows about their achievements.

Slastnikova, the instructor at a technical college in past and the Executive Director of Leadership Development at present, came to AUCA ten years ago, offering her administrative capabilities as well as joining the teaching staff.

"AUCA was like a small entity, there were so many undeveloped units here. I actually caught this opportunity and started developing, first of

all, myself, and then my projects," Slastnikova said.

At the beginning of her career in AUCA, Mrs. Slastnikova worked as an assistant of the provost, and her AUCA life was devoted to the development of fundraising, annual fund, and the alumni association. She also managed to create and develop two recent projects with the Career Center and Continuing Education Center. According to Slastnikova, these projects function very well and their main goals are to help students in developing their career and in preparing for the future independent life.

The classes conducted by Mrs. Slastnikova, such as Leadership in Organizations and Career Planning & Development, are aimed at the person's ability to plan, develop, accomplish their career and to always be enthusiastic of what one is doing. She has her own formula for success, which, as the time shows, turned out to be very effective.

"If a person wants to achieve success in his or her career, he or she has to be projective, creative and well-prepared," Mrs. Slastnikova explained.

Timur Huseynov is one of volunteers of Continuing Education Cen-



ter and Career Center. He also took courses conducted by Slastnikova. Huseynov considers Slastnikova a person who is full of ideas and plans, and they always turn into reality.

"She is a sociable and affectionate person. She always tries to be frank, and even if you have a lot of mistakes, she tries to correct you in a polite manner," Huseynov said.

"Natalia Georgievna (Slastnikova) is a leader by vocation," Eleonora Proyaeva, the AUCA professor and the Head of Journalism Department said.

Mrs. Slastnikova describes a real leader as a person who always tries to develop people and help them in accomplishing their tasks. In

addition, the main quality of a real leader is his opportunity to persuade people, and be always ready for any changes.

"Natalia delights me with her inexhaustible optimism. She is a successful and confident woman. She has an opportunity to correspond to any situation," Proyaeva added.

Not only the formula for success, but also the life motto, accompanies this woman on her course of life:

"If something is not developed, you always have a chance to develop it."

Aleksandra REVINA



STUDENTS SEE HOW RAP MUSIC INFLUENCES CRIME IN SOCIETY



Many people enjoy rap music, but police and legal authorities are against this faction of music because it is believed to cause petty crime in society.

Rhythm and Poetry (RAP) music is a form of popular music that emphasizes on spoken rhymes with heavy "rhythmic backing tracks". Rap music originated in America in the mid-1970s.

According to Kerim Atayev, a student from Turkmenistan who is studying in ICP department at AUCA, music is a way of communicating feelings and thoughts; he listens to many different kinds of melodies such as rock & roll, classical, and rhythm & blues (R&B). But rap music has a negative effect on people because they make judgments based on what they hear. Some people become thieves, kidnappers, and even gangsters.

"Turkmen who have been to United States are more interested in such music," Kerim said, explaining his enjoyment of the music. However, he added, "people are not only motivated to commit crimes, but they are also showing off by using rappers' styles."

Nushek Ababakirov, from Kyrgyzstan studying in BA department at AUCA, said that rap has seriously

influenced crime in every society. And it influences the evil choices in life. The young generations become more addicted to wickedness while listening to rap songs. People listen to rap music while driving and walking; they do not concentrate on driving or walking on the streets, thus causing a lot of accidents on the road.

"Although rap music has a negative impact on young generation, adults like listening to rap music," Nushek said. "I listen to rap music while I exercise because I feel fresh and comfortable."

Yee Eun Choi, from South Korea, studying in the BA department at AUCA, said that she does not like rap music and she rarely listens to it. She said that the African-American culture has influenced Korea and some people from Korea have become rappers, and some prefer the dance of this culture as well.

"Rap songs have a terrible effect on life and they rarely talk about any of the good things that are going on in the world," Yee Eun said. "Parents constantly try to have their children listen to various kinds of music that have good meaning."

Wazhma Samandary, from Afghanistan, studying in the ICP department at AUCA, said that rap music is known as a crime itself because it develops unnecessary illegal action from which people suffers endless in the society. In Afghanistan, there are many singers that rap and use bad language

in their songs, which are contradictory to the culture.

"Adults like to use rap words, and use the non-verbal actions on the streets, which are impolite and annoy people," she said.

According to Oybek Aitbaev, from Uzbekistan who is studying in the Economic department at AUCA, music is an important part of his life and he admires it a lot. He listens to many kinds of music. He said that rap music spread out all over the world and there are a lot of rap readers in Uzbekistan that greatly effect the young generation.

Oybek said that the introduction of rap to many cultures brings a gap in societies. Some people start getting involved in criminal actions, because rap talks about illegal dealings in its words.

"I believe that sex, drugs, and crime are the main theme in rap songs. It must be all that rappers experience, so they sing about it. They do not realize that they influence sex, drugs, and crime by what they do," Oybek said.

Rap music is developing in almost all countries of the world and people are listening to it more and more everyday. But while this is true and rap music has attracted attention in its favor in most countries, students see past the attraction and keep it from being widely welcomed into the local culture.

Breshna SHAHAB



“HTTP 404 – KYRGYZSTAN HAS NO FUTURE”



The policy of hiding unsatisfied opinions of citizens is not always good. As they say, everything secret becomes public one day. This happened to president of Kyrgyzstan Kurmanbek Bakiy at the end of the last year. On 19 December, 2008 unidentified hackers cracked the main web-site of the country –www.president.kg and put there a picture that looked like ERROR 404, but with changed words to obscene words.

For example the line, which supposed to explain the reason of an error on site and usually says “you’ve typed a wrong address or you are not connected to the internet” was changed into line with the following text “Because we don’t have any power, Toktogulka has stopped, heat station was sold, the whole country is messed up, administrators are very angry.” The line with proposals to solve a problem was written like this: “You can try following: you can use bricks of dry dung to have a fire in your fireplace, learn the recipe of the “presidential dumplings”, click BACK to make “Bold” come back, click SEARCH to find new jerks.” But the final line had the best furor. It said “HTTP 404 – Kyrgyzstan has no future.”

The first people to notice that prank of course were journalists, who were looking for information on the president.kg website. One of those

journalists Yuriy Kim expressed his opinion like this. “If president Bakiy thinks that he can behave as he cares about the country, while he doesn’t and all problems will fade

away, he is really wrong! I’m always glad, when I see such pranks – they show what people really think about our president. You will never see truth on TV,” said Kim.

Pranks like this are usually placed in the Internet, especially on free blogs like Live Journal that are full of unsatisfied by the government’s work users. Especially this prank was published by one of the most popular bloggers of Kyrgyz blogosphere and well-known photo-reporter – Elena Skochilo, aka Morrire.

However, Mr. N – programmer from the *** said that he doesn’t know about that episode, but he is sure that it was made by someone, who doesn’t live in Kyrgyzstan.

“It is really hard to find the prankster in Kyrgyzstan. Our technical resources are just not good enough...” said he.

The fighter for the free expression of opinion is not found and seems no to be searched for. Only bloggers and people in the small circles of journalists and curious users talked about it. Of course, there weren’t any news dedicated to this fact on TV, newspapers or net. Well then, the lucky guy just gave president Bakiy’s non-lovers’ a good thing to talk about. Or maybe he just thought: “well, if not media, then who?”

Dina KARABEKOVA

Kin Kidnapping in Kyrgyzstan or just KKK

“My ‘nightmare’ started when I was leaving from the university, when the young and strong guys put me in their car and I had no chances to get free,” said Murzakhoeva Fatima. That was a brief recollection of a female student who was kidnapped at the age of 18. The question arises: why should the girl become a victim of irresponsible laws and behavior in our republic?

The bride kidnapping is the tradition that is close to Muslim society, which arose in XIII century when the warriors of the winning tribe got everything that they wanted: gold, horses, silk, and of course any women they wanted. This might be the reason why young people are practicing the following tradition, and choosing the willing girlfriend. Another fact must also be taken to account that in a Muslim society, the idea of gender equality is not greatly practiced and in most cases it is the man who decides. Thus, such rules are making bride-kidnapping flourish.

In Kyrgyzstan, the issue of bride kidnapping is very controversial and problematic today. Because what happens is that a lot of young men who desire to marry a girl abduct girls, no matter if she wants it or not. And what makes the story even sadder is that the following type of forceful marriage is getting more and more popular. The following tradition is called ala-kachuu.

In the process of ala-kachuu, most of the time girls have not given consent, but to disagree would mean to live in shame for the rest of your life. There is an old Kyrgyz proverb that says, “Tears in the beginning of the marriage are indicators of a long and happy life”. Despite the protest that husbands might face in the beginning, most girls stay. That happens because physical force is used, but also older women, the relatives of the husband, often use psychological pressure. There exists one legend, which states that if the older woman curses the bride, she will never be happy and the rest of

her life would be unfortunate.

Of course, in today’s world, these old legends just became a means to persuade young girls because no other myths have been created yet. They are just old.

According to the Laws of Kyrgyz Republic, the law will protect any kidnapped woman, and the one who abducts will be persecuted. The foreign NGO’s and organizations such as Humans Rights Watch are also doing good work, but despite all the laws that are taken against bride kidnapping, they are not useful. “That happens because old stereotypes are working well and the victims do not appeal to the courts, not because they do not know how, but because they are shamed, and that will harm their reputation.” said sadly Murzakhoeva Fatima.

Rozamatov MIRIUNUS



CURIOUS TO KNOW THE FUTURE

“The fortuneteller told me that I’ll get married to a foreigner and will go abroad next year,” Anara said.

Anara, 23, visits the fortunetellers twice a week. She is anxious about knowing the future in order to not make mistakes now.

“I have a personal fortuneteller who helps me with my problems regarding the future and opens ways to a happy life,” Anara explained.

In the Oshkskiy bazaar in Bishkek, fortunetellers have their own corners, or tents, where they “predict the future”. On their tables there are different-colored stones and two to three books.

The ages of the fortunetellers are from 35-70. The forecasters have assistants who are about 9-16 years old. When someone passes by the fortunetellers’ tents, the assistants begin to tell people about their problems, and how they can solve them with the help of fortunetellers.

Besides the Oshkskiy bazaar, fortunetellers gather near the ZUM (Central Department Store), Beta Stores located on Chui Avenue, and also Dordoi and Alamedinskiy bazaars where many people with many problems are found.

“Every day I serve about 9-15 people. Most of my clients are women, and only 2-3 people are young boys who are interested in knowing their future,” Saltanat Apa, a fortuneteller of the Oshkskiy bazaar said.

According to Saltanat Apa, about 80 percent of the women who come to her want to know about their husbands, do they cheat on them or not. And the other 20 percent are

young girls who want to know when they will get married and how their future husbands look.

Saltanat Apa doesn’t count herself as a “black fortuneteller”, the fortuneteller who uses “black magic” to predict the future. On the contrary, she thinks that she uses only good magic.

“I do help people a lot by my white magic. I know what people want and what their problems from the first impression are,” Saltanat Apa said.

Saltanat Apa uses the little branches of fir tree to tell the future. She burns the branches in the copper plate and “this smoke drives evil ghosts away”.

The neighbors of Saltanat Apa tell the future by looking at the person’s faces and hands. Others use playing cards and beads, according to Saltanat Apa.

“I just don’t believe these people who try to tell the future. I think they just want to earn easy money by hypnotizing us,” Lola Usmanova, a student of AUCA, said.

Some people believe in fortunetellers, others do not. Svetlana Alekseeva, 26, has been deceived by fortunetellers several times.

“Fortunetellers are good psychologists. They know how to speak, and know what you want to hear from them,” Svetlana Alekseeva, the client of fortunetellers said. “It’s dangerous to go alone near the fortunetellers, they can easily hypnotize you most of the time, and unconsciously you are caught on the hook.”

“I was standing near the ZUM with my friend and two gypsies came to us. One of them loudly told me that a guy whom I love is going to break up with me, and she knows how to escape this

situation,” Svetlana said. “Of course I didn’t believe that and told them to go away”.

According to Svetlana, after two weeks her boyfriend broke up with her and it made Svetlana think about those gypsies near the ZUM.

“I cried a lot and wanted Sergey to come back to me, because I love him very much. However Sergey didn’t return,” she added.

So Svetlana visited the fortunetellers and asked them to help return Sergey back to her.

“I spent about 2,000 soms and gave my golden earrings to fortunetellers, I don’t know why I did it,” Svetlana said. “When I came back home I understood what mistake I did, but it was too late. Sergey didn’t come back. And those gypsies’ promises and helps were just another lie.”

It is not only in the streets of Bishkek, nor in the bazaars do people see the fortunetellers.

The newspapers also dazzle with announcements such as: “I will solve all your problems. Call ****”, “will help with celibacy”, “I see the future”. The last announcement, “This hereditary healer NN will return husband to the family; will predict the future. Call...”

“Curiosity is one of the reasons which lead people to fortunetellers, and those who are not self-assured mostly go to the gypsies and fortunetellers,” Alexander Sviash, the psychologist of Djal Hospital said. “However, for successful people it’s also difficult to resist from temptation to glance into tomorrow’s day.”

Gulia Karimova

Photo by the author.

Oshkiy bazaar. Fortuneteller’s corner.



Poetry

Мечтать он любил

Мечтать он любил, сидя ночами у окна
Бескрайний простор открывался пред ним, но она...

Порой он был рыцарь Айвенго, спасая девиц от злодеев
И розу увядшую у сердца храня.
Умен как Атос, силен как Портос
Дерзостью он превосходил Д'Артаньяна
Казалось, что нет в этой истории изъяна.

Но увы, мимолетному счастью конец недалек
Он встретил её и вдруг изнемог Укол прямо в сердце.
Ни друг, ни злодей Это - любовь. Что всех их сильней.
Быстрее чем молния, громче чем гром
Все пусто теперь, нет огня теперь в нем.
Он бродит по улицам, все мысли о ней
Понизился резко его GPA.

Но вот он решился и к ней подошел
Не зная что молвить начал он разговорчик простой
Сердце как молот в ковальне, душа словно бес,
Забыл он слова. "Ах зачем я полез?"
Но она улыбнулась и растаяли льды,
Расцвели вдруг фиалки, заполняя сады.
Как прекрасен был мир, ах как счастлив был он
Солнца лучами он весь опален.

Миг счастья так краток, а несчастье приходит внезапно
Пред ним его друг. Не видя его, он ее обнимает
Ласкает, смеется и нежно ей в ухо... О как ужасно!
Она улыбается. И с счастьем в глазах ему отвечает
Теперь уже поздно хоть что-то менять
Он должен любить иль навеки страдать.
Все кончено.

Фиалки увяли, а солнца лучи бесполезны.
"Лучше разбить свое сердце и бросить в пасть бездны
Зачем мне вторгаться в их счастье, его разбивать?
На осколках ненужного сердца карьеру создать!"

Мечтать он любил, сидя ночами у окна
Бескрайний простор открывался пред ним, но она...

Атай Муратбеков

На грядке крыши я торчу,
Где чучела антенн маячат.
Моё торчание не значит,
Что я отсюда полечу.
И люди, глаз не поднимая,
Пристойно ползают внизу.
А я похожа на грозу,
Которая в начале мая.

Бенька

AUCA to establish affiliation with a US college to speed up accreditation



The Board of Trustees of AUCA approved the resolution to explore a fast track method of US accreditation through an affiliation with an established, well-known accredited

liberal arts college in the United States. The school's name will not be officially disclosed until the final agreement signed.

The affiliation, yet to be finalized, will enable AUCA to provide students who major in liberal arts with accredited American diplomas.

This would lead to an accreditation of liberal arts programs of AUCA, says President of AUCA Ellen Hurwitz. "Students would receive accredited American diplomas. We are hoping to be able to provide the diplomas within a year and half," she added.

The President stated that through this affiliation [partnership], all majors would receive an accredited American diploma except business administration, journalism and law students. She said that professional program are unlikely to qualify under the arrangement since similar subjects are not offered at the affiliate college.

"We are working on what we are going to do to address the issue of US accreditation of the professional programs and whether we actually need it," she added.

She also stated that law students and some business and journalism alumni tend to practice locally or achieve high degrees of success in any event.

The author's story was submitted as part of his class assignment of Writing Seminar II by Elza Orozalieva. The New Star will publish a separate story with more details of the news in the coming issues.

Bahtiyar KURAMBAEV

AUCA instructor of Preparatory Program Igor Minenkov proposed new hymn for AUCA.

The students come from many lands
But breathe the same air
They shape this world with their hands
They want to learn together,
And though they are not alike
They hold the same dream
They learn respect, do what they like
In chorus sing this Hymn

AUCA, AUCA – the world of equal rights
You've never heard, you've never seen
this richness
of the sights,
AUCA, AUCA – the temple serving peace
Please join us, be one of us and help us plant

new seeds

We'll teach to think creatively
To learn, not memorize
Respect and work effectively
And use your knowledge wise
Let academic honesty and honor guide your way
Make people all around the world say that's
the AUCA.

AUCA, AUCA – the world of equal rights
You've never heard, you've never seen
this richness
of the sights,
AUCA, AUCA – the temple serving peace
New students come, they join us, our numbers
will increase.

Launching Russian and Kyrgyz AUCA Websites

Finally, American University in Central Asia has launched Russian and Kyrgyz versions of its official website.

Charter Morris, Director of International Recruitment, initiated the launch. Morris said the main goal of the project was to develop new electronic recruitment strategies in AUCA, and part of this was to provide international students with basic information about AUCA in other languages on the website.

"More and more, students in developing nations rely on websites when deciding about a university. Students are much less likely to visit our campus or call our admissions office with questions about admissions. So, it is important that our website speaks the languages most common to our students and to their parents," said Morris.

As Morris explained, the English website has always been great for students who already understand English, but many parents faced challenges trying to get more information about the university. For them, it is important to read about AUCA in their own language.

"It is an intentional outreach effort. We are delighted to see it happen," Rustam Niyazov,

administrative assistant to the president of AUCA, commented on the launch.

The address of the new Russian and Kyrgyz versions of the website is www.auca.kg/ru. It has the same content as the English version has. The Russian and Kyrgyz language departments contributed greatly to the project by having professors translate the content. However, the work is not finished yet; versions might see more corrections and edits.

"We sent all [translated] information about the programs to the departments in order to let them [double-check] it," said Emil Ahmatbekov, assistant to the director of university development, who also helped on the project.

The university has existed for more than 10 years; however, the website in Russian and Kyrgyz languages has been launched only this year. Ahmatbekov thought there was no person who could be able to work on it.

"I think [the website] is necessary for students' diversification. If an applicant doesn't know English yet, but he wants to enter AUCA in a few years, he would have a chance to know about the university on the website in his own language," said Nazik Mamedova, a journal-

ism junior student.

AUCA plans to launch Chinese and Korean versions of the website in order to attract more applicants from China and South Korea. The university recruiter decided to focus on the largest potential market for the university based on current student numbers. As Morris explained, there is no intention to offend anyone who speaks Turkic, Kazakh, Uzbek, Arabic or other languages. If AUCA had a large and growing number of students who spoke Arabic or any other language, then the focus

would have been on translating the websites into these languages.

"Finally, it is important to note that with limited resources, AUCA has been able to realize a dream of including some basic information about our university in Russian and Kyrgyz, and we are getting ever closer to launching the Chinese and Korean web pages. That is an amazing feat for such a small institution," Morris concluded.

Elmar OSMONOV

American University
of Central Asia

10 Years of Academic Innovation

- Русский
- Об АУЦА
- Прием абитуриентов
- Академические программы
- Подготовительная программа
- Дополнительное образование
- Ресурсы и библиотека

- Кыргызча
- БААУ жөнүндө
- Кабыл алуу болжолу
- Окуу курстары
- Даярдоочу программа
- Кошумча билим берүү борбору
- Ресурстар жана китепкана

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АУЦА запустил сайт на русском и кыргызском языках.

Бишкек, январь 30, 2009. После нескольких месяцев усердного труда, благодаря поддержке программы кыргызского и русского языка, АУЦА с радостью сообщает о работе русского и кыргызского вебсайта - www.auca.kg/ru.



Farewell kiss to Lazarina Kuchmenova

Photo by Gella san - несколько простых слов, ставших уже привычным названием различных фотографий на сайте «Одноклассники». Кто же эта Гелла сан? Ответ прост: это наша дорогая и любимая Лазарина Кучменова, куратор газеты New Star, участница студенческого театра «Дебют» и просто замечательный, так не похожий на других, человек.

Сначала традиционный вопрос, почему ты учишься именно в АУЦА?

Еще со школы хотела поступить в АУЦА. В 7 классе занималась английским языком с Насибой Худайбергеновой, которая училась в АУК на ИСР. Она очень много рассказывала об университете, и у меня появилась мечта поступить в АУЦА.

Я помню, что ты писала свои стихотворения в Poetry Section.

Да, раньше, когда у меня было время бурной влюбленности, я любила сочинять стихи. Придумала poetry section, которая затем стала постоянной рубрикой.

Я знаю, что Ты также любишь фотографировать. Что послужило причиной заняться фотографией?

Мне всегда было интересно фотографировать. И я начала фотографировать, когда училась в школе. Первой моей моделью была моя одноклассница. Ну, а когда я поступила в АУЦА, взяла курс фотожурналистики у Федорова Александра Павловича, замечательного фотографа нашего города, который по-настоящему и до конца открыл мне глаза на это искусство.

Что ты любишь фотографировать больше всего?

Я люблю фотографировать, конечно же, людей. Работать с людьми очень интересно. Некоторые люди очень стесняются, когда видят объектив, поэтому моей работой является также их раскрепощение.

У меня иногда спрашивают, почему люди на твоих фотографиях редко улыбаются, они или грустные или слишком уж серьезные. И

как любой художник или писатель вкладывает свои черты характера в своих героев, так и я проецирую свою личность на людей, которых снимаю. И так как я сама редко улыбаюсь, я снимаю грустных людей, или просто не разрешаю им улыбаться (смеется).

Какой момент в АУЦА тебе больше всего запомнился?

Ну, вот так просто оглянуться назад на три года и сказать, что мне больше всего запомнилось? Сложно! А хотя, есть один момент. Это было мое посвящение, которое проходило в филармонии. Когда шла официальная часть, мы стояли на полу оркестровой ямы, который должен был подниматься. А перед этим шла клятва первокурсников, и все первокурсники сидели и говорили: "Вот, мы ничего не знали, мы не поклянемся". А я одна стояла и клялась.

Почему ты себя называешь Гелла Сан?

О, Господи! Ну, может быть это и хорошо, что ты спросила об этом, потому что меня постоянно просят объяснить, что это значит. Я всегда отвечаю что-то типа: "Давай подождем, и когда у нас будет больше времени, я тебе расскажу".

Ну, так вот, в 8 классе у меня случилась весенняя хандра, и мне посоветовали прочитать "Мастер и Маргарита". У меня были впереди выпускные экзамены, а я вместо того, чтобы к ним готовиться, читала. Сидела на кухне вечерами, за окном кричали дети, из динамиков магнитофона лилась музыка Джеймса Ласта, для меня это была достаточно романтическая обстановка, и я читала. На меня это произведение произвело огромное впечатление: история людей,

и непонятных героев. Конечно, самыми яркими из них являются Мастер и Маргарита. И я, также как Мастер, писала рассказы, писала стихи. Но не хотела, чтобы все знали имя автора, вот и взяла для себя nickname Гелла. Гелла – это та сущность, которая связана с иным миром, и я себя с ней ассоциировала. Сначала я была просто Геллой, а потом я увлеклась японской литературой, особенно произведениями Мураками, и решила добавить приставку сан.

Какое твое самое любимое произведение?

Мне нравятся многие книги, но, наверное, самая запоминающаяся книга, из всех тех, что я прочитала за последнее время, была "Страна чудес без тормозов или конец света", написанная Харуки Мураками, и "Война и мир" Толстого, которую к своему стыду я прочитала полностью лишь прошлым летом, перед 4 курсом. Также я люблю Чака Паланика и Достоевского.

У каждого человека есть свои страхи. Чего ты боишься?

Ну, я точно могу сказать, что я не боюсь ходить одна ночью домой. Когда все ждут сопровождающего, чтобы пройти мимо парка, я иду одна. А вот чего же я боюсь? Ну, наверное, я боюсь не успеть что-то сделать или узнать, почувствовать или увидеть, из-за своей лени.

А почему ты не боишься ходить одна по ночам? Может быть, ты владеешь восточными единоборствами и можешь постоять за себя?

Нет. К сожалению, я не знаю восточных единоборств. Кстати, я очень хотела пойти после нового года на бокс, но у меня не получилось. Ну, а почему я не боюсь ходить одна, потому что всегда так получалось, что мне приходилось поздно возвращаться домой, и я как-то привыкла к этому.

В какой стране ты бы хотела больше всего побывать?

Моя мечта – поехать в Японию и залезть на Фудзияму.

Если бы у тебя была возможность вернуться в прошлое и что-то изменить, что бы ты сделала?

Я бы по другому стала планировать свое время и больше времени и усилий отдавать на учебу. Сейчас я понимаю, что с таким же успехом можно было бы участвовать в социальной жизни и при этом достаточно внимания уделять учебе.

Как всем известно, ты работаешь куратором в газете New Star. тяжело ли тебе

справляться с этой работой?

Нет, с работой мне нетяжело справиться, но мне очень тяжело совмещать ее с учебой, потому что я хочу, чтобы моя работа была выполнена хорошо и из-за этого, я в какой то мере жертвую своей учебой. Вместо того, чтобы делать домашнюю работу, я готовлю очередную выпуск газеты. Вот это тяжело.

Тебе жаль прощаться с нашим университетом?

С одной стороны да, жаль. Когда я прихожу сюда по выходным, меня даже сотрудники СБ в очередной раз спрашивают, почему же мне не сидится дома. Я понимаю, что это то место, где мне уютно, тепло и радостно. Хотя иногда, сидя в 104, когда толпа людей орет вокруг тебя, и ты не можешь ни читать, ни писать, хочется наорать на всех и уйти. Но все равно университет для меня многое значит.

Что бы ты хотела пожелать нашим студентам?

У нас раньше учился один студент, который очень хорошо окончил наш университет, его зовут Владимир Иноземцев. Он из Туркменистана. Смотря на него, можно сказать, что это именно тот человек, который умеет правильно использовать свое время. Его GPA был почти 4.0, и помимо его хорошей учебы он успевал тусоваться, развлекаться, и жить полноценной жизнью. При этом его учеба не страдала. И я считаю, что такие люди как Владимир Иноземцев должны быть не то чтобы идеалом, но предметом для

подражания для многих студентов.

И перед тем как мы прощаемся, кому бы ты хотела сказать «спасибо»?

Наверное, первое "спасибо" я скажу Галине Харламенко, сейчас уже Калюжиной. Это первый человек, с которым я подружилась на первом курсе. Также "спасибо" Николаю Григорьевичу Шульгину за его неиссякаемый юмор, творчество и дружелюбие. Еще я хочу поблагодарить Венеру Ким за ее доброту и понимание. Также спасибо Кайрату Тынаеву за его бесшабашность и открытость и за то, что в тяжелую минуту он мог всегда успокоить и подбодрить. Спасибо Айзаде Тынаевой за ее терпение. Спасибо Наталье Мартиросян, за то, что в период слабости она могла выбить эту слабость из моих изнеженных нервов. Так же спасибо Инне Валерьевне, нашему бывшему дизайнеру, которая тоже в какой то мере повлияла на формирование моей личности. Еще хочу поблагодарить Эльвиру Борисовну Ибрагимову, которая открыла мне глаза на хорошее авторское кино. Спасибо Арону Абрамовичу Брудному за его мудрость и безмятежность, которыми он делился с нами на своих занятиях.

Натали АНАРБАЕВА

