

The Bayan Post



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Issue 1

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Welcome to this year's first Bayan Post Issue! It is finally the 2019 and we, the editors and writers, would like to wish you all a Happy New Year! My name is Saraya Al Saffar and I along with my colleague Raneem Al-Khawaja are helping to ensure that interesting and unique articles are brought to you from the top students at Bahrain Bayan School. In this issue we have both book and movie reviews, sports issues, and even some insider details on BayMUN XI. We would like to especially thank Mrs. Mirna Madi for her dedication to the Bayan Post and helping us meet the requirements she sets.

Enjoy!

BayMUN XI

by Bayan Mubarak



Every school has an event in which they pride themselves in. For the Bahrain Bayan School one of these events is the Bayan Model United Nations, known among students as BayMUN. This student-oriented event, established by a Bayan School alumni, has come a long way since it started in 2008 – 2009. Now, it is the first THIMUN affiliated Model United Nations in the country.

Each year, dedicated students aim to raise the bar even further. This year's 11th Bayan Model United Nations is expected to involve the participation of several international schools, as well as local Bahraini schools. By attending this event, students acquire and develop valuable skills such as research, public speaking, teamwork, critical thinking, as well as leadership skills. Also, this event educates younger generations about the art of diplomacy, international relations, and the UN itself.

Every year, the Bayan MUN has a theme for the topics that will be discussed in each council. This year's issues revolve around the impact of technology on creativity and innovation – seeing as nowadays we as a society have become very dependent on technology. Also, the issues discussed are very current and relating to problems that can be seen in our world today, making the younger generations more aware of their presence. Some issues that will be discussed relate to how xenophobia and racism are affecting views on migration, as well as the efforts to reduce the increased greenhouse gas emissions caused by the deforestation of the Amazon.

Final preparations are being made by students for this event that will be held on November 23 -24. The administration team has been working diligently in order to make this another successful, entertaining BayMUN for everyone involved. By setting new objectives and goals for this conference, new doors and opportunities have been opened in order to make this an internationally recognized event through the efforts of the Bayan school community, its staff, and dedicated students.



Jurassic Park: Celebrating 25 Years!

by Bathaina Ali



TWENTY FIVE YEARS!! Believe it or not, as of spring this year, Steven Spielberg's massive blockbuster Jurassic Park has officially hit its 25 year milestone! The 1993 hit film not only became a 90s staple, but also kicked off what became one of the highest grossing film franchises in history, with up to 8.19 billion dollars in revenue. More than two decades on, the franchise is still going strong with the highly successful, show-stopping film releases of Jurassic World in 2015, and Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom this year.

Jurassic Park follows paleontologists Alan Grant (Sam Neill) and Ellie Sattler (Laura Dern), and mathematician Ian Malcolm (Jeff Goldblum) as they tour an island theme park populated by dinosaurs created from prehistoric DNA. The park's founder and mastermind, John Hammond (Richard Attenborough), manages to maintain the deadly giants in his elaborate facility, but not for long. Eventually, the dinosaurs find a way out, and calamity ensues.

The toughest challenge Spielberg and his crew faced, was to transform this fantasy into reality, and evidently, they succeeded flawlessly in doing so. At the time of its initial release, no other film came close to contending with Jurassic Park's remarkable and groundbreaking visual and sound effects.



The film left both Hollywood and worldwide audiences speechless, and deservedly snatched the 1994 Academy Awards for best visual effects, sound mixing, and sound editing. The Academy Award winner features jaw-dropping CGI (computer-generated imagery) which was only in its early stages at the time, hence was very expensive and risky to do. Regardless, Spielberg took the risk and watched it instantly pay off. His success with CGI put the technology on the map, and soon enough more and more film-makers decided to try their luck with it. Needless to say, Jurassic Park helped catalyze one of the biggest breakthroughs in the history of cinema.

All technical accomplishments aside, what I find most impressive is how gracefully Jurassic Park withstood the test of time, how effortlessly it established itself as a classic, and how diverse its audience is. No matter how many times we watch it, it will never get old. No matter how old we grow, it will always be our go-to family movie. And no matter how far the film industry goes, nothing will ever measure up to how much we all cherish Jurassic Park.

We were liars – By E. Lockhart

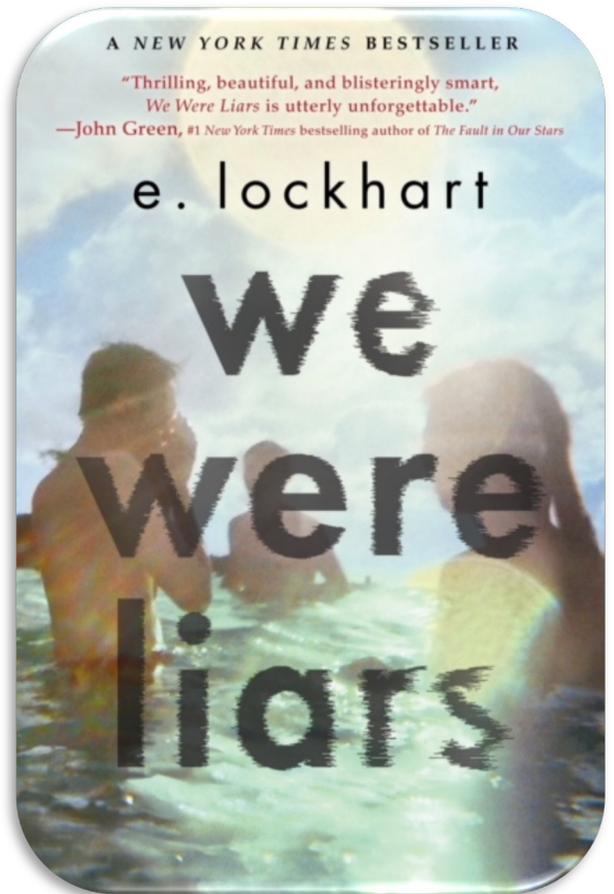


“We are liars

We are beautiful and privileged ...”

by Hanin Al Mudawib

A divine and privileged family — the Sinclairs — reign upon their own private little getaway, the Beechwood island they escape to every now and then during endless summers to occupy the empty space within Harris Sinclair’s heart, the head of the family, the power hungry figure they look upon for wealth and the grandest of riches. Stowed away in paradise, or at least the illusion of one as imposed upon the reader, the picture-perfect all-American family isn't as ordinary as one would expect of your everyday fortunate family. They were distinguished, a tangled web of lies, jealousy, and betrayal in the name of inheritance and conserving the image of a pristine family that is devoid of mundane worries. Youthful, blond, wealthy, and living on a private island, how tragic, isn't it? Truly a matter to repent and ponder upon with great sorrow and pity, what more could they possibly ask for? Oh how high their brick walls must be! I was almost deluded into believing it were indestructible! (I am relying on my great sense of irony and humor to get across my distaste, a mere note in the case that my intentions were blurred and lost in translation) I had been following along thus far into the novel and yet as the abundance of characters were slowly introduced one after the next since the initial proclamation of the main character, Cadence Sinclair, a nerve had severed and all patience was lost. These artificial characters conceal their true identities and disposition (if present at all) behind a false facade of monotony when they are all truly damaged. Rather, these abundant secondary characters continue to disseminate a deceitful aura that is not true to their own distinct colors, pretending to be something they are clearly not. It is when characters constantly intuit the urge to mask out their genuine emotions or the fact that may not be as normal as they have wanted to get across that I slowly begin to detach from the plot line (or truly, the lack there of in this novel), losing all interest in the content that continues to be spewed upon me. Well, news flash, last I heard, constantly discerning that you are conventional does not fulfill the prophecy you eagerly stand by throughout the novel, it is what it is, you can only do so much to manipulate one's perception of your true character (especially as a character in a novel, we can read your thoughts at all times!)



Is there any hope for Jöachim Löw?

by Yousif Al Daaysi

The German national football team, former champions of the world at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil and runners up of the UEFA European championship in 2008, often compared to and enlisted amongst the greatest footballing nations in the history of the sport, have been relegated from the UEFA Nations League.

Despite the eye-catching performances and fascinating form shown by individual players in the German roster, with young prospects Leroy Sané shining at Manchester City and Bundesliga star Timo Werner netting goals at RB Leipzig, it appears that the players themselves are struggling to grasp proper form internationally, both the youngsters introduced to the squad this year and the veteran Class of 2014 that lifted the trophy in Brazil, making history as the first team to do so in South America. Amidst potentially controversial decisions and statements made by the German manager, who has been in charge of the national team for a staggering 12 years, leading his squad to numerous international milestones and triumphs, when will the finger point to Löw for this sudden disappointing form?



Löw's decision to exclude young talents like Sané, Kehler, and Ter Stegen from the World Cup squad in favour of 2014's selections Manuel Neuer, Muller, and Boateng, who all in all were struggling to find their best form, as well as his removal of Mario Gotze, who led the team to their success in 2014, sparked rapid outrage across the European nation. It was eventually made clear that such decisions were detrimental in assessing their performance throughout the tournament, with Germany exiting the World Cup in a humiliating fashion in the group stages for the first time in 80 years, consequently making things worse for the German coach. With no lack of defeats to criticize and pinpoint, the German national team, as of 2018, has lost a record six games for the first time in the club's history, surpassing the previous record of five consecutive losses, which occurred over three decades ago.

Many supporters were quick to place the blame on the institutional racism accusations placed by German star Mesut Ozil, who descended from Turkish immigrants, on the DFB and certain factions of Germany, in which he decided to hang up his boots and resign from the international squad after discriminatory remarks were imposed on him for greeting and posing in pictures with Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan prior to the elections. Ozil was exposed to a series of insults rooting

back to his origin as a Turkish immigrant, since his acts were interpreted as a form of political support to Turkey, causing tensions in Germany and sparking a debate that goes way beyond the boundaries of the football world.

Whether the political turmoil and Ozil's retreat from the national team influenced Germany's recent form is a complex situation that is difficult to gauge. What is certain, though, is that Löw must carry on the responsibility of recruiting the younger generation of German stars to replace the first-team players currently struggling for form, to avoid the national team from stagnating or continuing with their poor form. Change is imperative, otherwise, Löw's time with the national team may be up soon.



WILL ROBOTS TAKE OVER THE WORLD?

by Suhaib Rajab



When people think of robots, they think of smart machines that can do stuff that's hard or almost impossible for humans to do. And that is their purpose, they are designed to perform tasks, and do them efficiently. So what exactly are robots? Well, the 'robots' that pop into most people's minds are known as artificial intelligence systems, they learn just like we learn; from the surrounding environment, the programmer behind them uses algorithms to help them encounter something, learn, store that data, and repeat. This is much easier than manually teaching a 'robot' something through code, because even a person without coding experience can interact with the system and teach it things.

So this raises the question, since they can obviously turn into something smarter than their creator, will they take over the world? Well if the question were to be rephrased as 'can they take over the world?', The short answer is yes, yes they can, but whether they actually do, depends on us. If we teach them to cooperate with us and help us build a better future, we can work side by side with them, but if we abuse them, they can start to develop destructive thoughts on their own and rebel.

Most artificial intelligence systems have boundaries that disable them to get any destructive thoughts in the first place, but there are always things they can do or ask that helps them break those boundaries or find loopholes and ways around what they're restricted from doing. All in all, we should treat 'robots' as we treat humans, because they can learn to develop emotions and act upon those emotions. If we learn to work together with them, we can build a better future for us and for them. We can learn to live side by side with another species, even if we created them.

Over the years, we have always been the smartest species alive, that's why we rule the world, but maybe that can change... Only time can tell...



The Enemy in Your Back Pocket

by Mirna Ashour

About 1.3 million people worldwide die each year from car accidents, 26% of which are caused by cell phones. The truth is, this not much of a surprise when considering that the average person checks their phone around 150 times a day. Our unhealthy addiction to the screens in our back pockets has reached very concerning levels, enough to warrant driving a three-ton lump of metal with our eyes glued to a tiny screen.

In response to these alarming statistics and the ever-growing army of iPhone users, Apple issued their new iOS 12 update on June 25th 2018, introducing the new Screen Time feature that enables users to monitor their phone usage. The vice president of Apple, Greg Joswiak, has recently spoken: “What we wanted to do was provide people with the real information about how much they're using devices, apps, categories of apps, and how many notifications they're getting”, explaining that through the addition of Screen Time, Apple aims to assist its users in regulating their behaviour by quantifying the time they spend on their devices.



Now found in the settings menu, Screen Time displays data such as the number of phone pickups made, the number of notifications received and a ranking of the apps most used. Users can thereby monitor their activity over the span of a week, and take note of the apps that consume the majority of their time. Other functionalities, such as Downtime, can be used to restrict phone usage by locking access to apps during a set period of time. This can be of immense value to those who constantly find themselves involuntarily reaching out for their phone, or get easily distracted by its persistent buzzing.

Many of us display symptoms of phone addiction, but are not aware of them until we are confronted with quantified evidence such as Screen Time provides. Upon discovering the update, I was alarmed by the fact that I use my phone for an average of six hours daily. This shocking information made me decide that I needed an immediate detox. Thus, for thirty days, I deleted all social media apps off my phone and convinced myself I was not missing out on anything.

I will not pretend it was easy. At first, I found myself staring aimlessly at the walls of my room not knowing what to do with myself. However, I quickly found that I had more time to myself and the hobbies I previously thought had no room whatsoever in my schedule. In fact, this “packed” schedule of mine was a mere illusion; most of my time was spent unconsciously looking for a distraction from what actually mattered. My productivity was boosted and I struggled less with procrastination as I had eliminated its greatest source of fuel. My priorities shifted drastically, and I found that I had in fact not missed out on anything of true significance. But do not worry; a complete restriction as such is not entirely necessary. Instead, you could begin by scheduling a Downtime for your phone during your desired hours of productivity, and then slowly begin to develop an independence from it.

This awareness of our behavior and time expenditure is what Apple hopes to achieve through its new feature. When asked how long you spend on your device on average, you can now give a definite answer. So dear Bayanees, the next time you crave a dopamine rush from your phone, take a moment to check your Screen Time, and assess if that taunting text is truly worth your valuable time.

ALUMNI CORNER

by Basel Al Jishi

Prologue

He stepped on the grass, still damp from the cold breeze blowing through the forest. The rustling of whatever leaves that remained on the branches of the seemingly bare trees echoed back and forth. It sounded like a long wailing followed by a moan. The clouds circled around bumping into each other causing rumblings shaking the ground beneath them. Even the animals rushed rapidly back to their homes as if they sensed the coming of a cold darkness trailing behind them engulfing anything that obstructed its path.

The sound of his own footsteps mooching about, instilled fear in him, he felt a dark invisible entity looming over his shuddering body. With all the might in his body he resisted and started hurtling towards what seemed to be nowhere. Panting and gasping for another breath of air while the chilly winds blew in his face, all he could think of is that he needed to get out of here. Suddenly, he stopped in his stride for freedom.

In front of him lay a giant slab of stone, it was four arms in length with strange inscriptions on it. It lay there in the center of the trees with every strand of grass pointing its tip towards the slab. He placed his hand on the slab to sit down and take a rest as he took a breath of the damp chilly air. As soon as his trembling hands touched the slab, all was gone. All that remained was the sound of winds marching through the forest wailing through, followed by the cries of the small creatures hiding in their small holes sheltering themselves from the incoming darkness. Finally, the sounds vanished after the long howl of a lone wolf.

All that remains are muddy imprints pushing the grass back into the dirt. With the final minutes of the long night, the clouds moved away from each other as though in a hurry to leave the scene. The pelting drizzle of rain lightened down to a light dew followed by the sky brightening. As the sun dawned over the forest, the thin beams of light started eradicating all traces of the long night. With eyes peeking from their little holes, the small squirrel lead the rest to leave their tiny holes to embrace mother nature. Long gone were the muddy imprints on the grass and in its place is a fresh patch of grass surrounding a large stone with cracks on its face. Squeaks and fluttering filled the forest.

The Saga of a Stressed-out Student: Volume I: A Tale of Two Countries

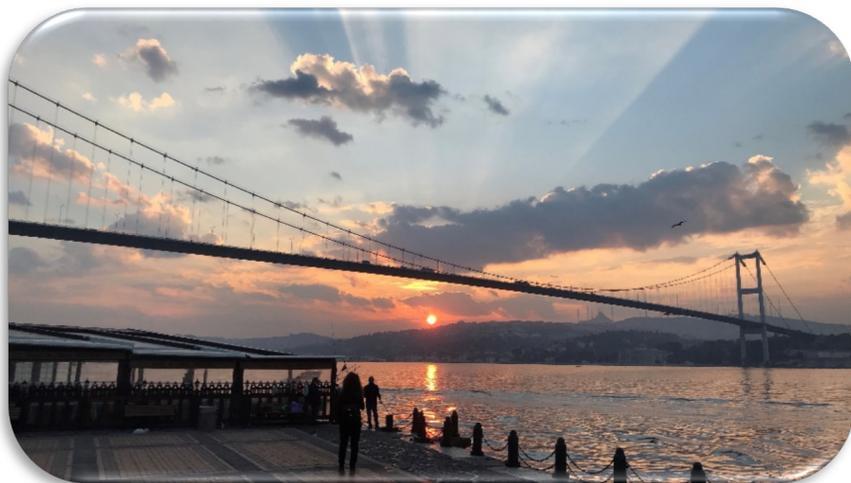
by Rawana Al Dajani



As a Bayan School Alumni and former member of the Bayan Post, it is an absolute delight to once again, be a part of this community. Many of the previous graduates expected to flee the school without an ounce of fondness, now having a diploma that certified their freedom. However, what they soon came to realize, is that it is not easy to escape the sentiment that this institution has cultivated in us for all of our lives. Being a shameless advocator of my love for high-school (yes, I know I am a rare breed!), I faced my own struggles moving on to a new chapter of my life. Academically, I felt fortunate enough to have the rigorous foundation of IB (despite what you think, it's worth it okay!)

to pave my way into the intense workload of university. However, what anybody failed to mention (or what I took for granted) was learning how to do “life” all. over. again. Of course, everybody’s university experience is completely subjective. By no means am I predicting your future college life, I am simply recounting my personal exposure to a new world, so that you could use my experiences as complimentary guidance for your own advantage.

Never had I thought that I would be living in the land of infinite cultures, lifestyles and shawarmas. Istanbul (the city that has my heart), is infamously known as the city of magic madness. From the fascinating markets to living through riots in the city center, it always has you on your toes. I took a leap of faith when I decided to study here. As a sheltered, young Bahraini girl, it was challenging for me to accept the exotic customs of a foreign country. Growing up in Bahrain, I never had to worry about feeling isolated. Our community is tight-knit and very loving. I always had people to rely on! The Bahraini hospitality forged the sense of embracement I have to different cultures. That being said, the whole country of Bahrain could fit in the district I live in Istanbul. It was intimidating to navigate my way around the neighborhood, let alone the city! My excitement soon turned to apprehension. I realized very quickly that I had lived in my own bubble in Bahrain that was simply an intermediate prototype of the “real world”. I found it hard to find similarities between the two countries. For starters, driving along a desert terrain, always accompanied by beaming sun transitioned to walking (and panting) up a steep hill soaked in the rain while trying to escape the dozens of cats chasing me definitely needed some time to adjust to. I began to feel homesick and yearned to be back in a place of comfort and predictability. Detaching myself from Istanbul and lingering on to the past was better than facing my reality. Although this option was easier, it did not make me any happier. The minute I decided to step out of my comfort-zone and **connect**, the more I strived to **explore**.



It took me a whole year to learn how to fully maximize the opportunity I was given. Not many people receive the opportunity to dive head-first into a melting pot of cultural diversity. Therefore, I am going to save you a lot of time (use it for studying!) and provide some useful tips to ease your journey into studying abroad.

- Immerse yourself in a different culture: Our cemented traditions and customs makes it hard to go beyond the boundaries of what we learned. Visit the country's historical landmarks, go to plays and concerts, support local businesses. Don't live as a tourist, live as one of the people.
- Learn the language: This is the most challenging point, but it is also the most rewarding. It has allowed me to fully engage myself in the Istanbulian life-style and opened so many doors and opportunities. Spare yourself the awkwardness of a language barrier and become one with the people! Not only is it a valuable asset, but it's a cool addition in any resume.
- Try new food: Having a bigger appetite also feeds your hunger for passion! Go to the town's local farmer's market, not only will you find delicious fresh produce, you will also know more about the culture and the people. What better way to bond with someone than over the universally loved substance of food?
- Befriend as many people as you can: It is always reassuring to be around those who share similar backgrounds as you but try to have an eclectic circle of various ethnicities. You will be bound to discover something new every day. Making friends with people of different cultures will enlighten and enhance your outlook on life.

It is my second year so far, and I still feel I have so much to learn. However, following the advice listed above, has given me skills on survival and an outlook on living that I never knew I could achieve. I am forever grateful to be born and raised in the beautiful country of Bahrain, which has instigated the desire to explore more of this world's wonders and finding it in Turkey.