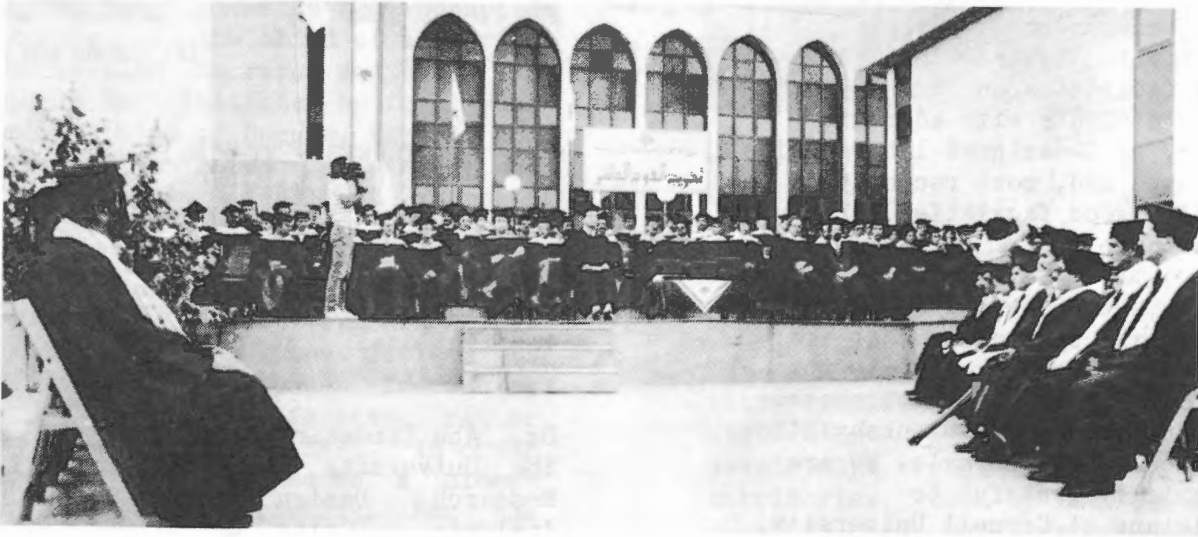




BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter Issued by Birzeit University, Occupied West Bank, Oct.'85, Issue #11



BIRZEIT HONORS NEW GRADUATES

In a September 19 outdoor ceremony in the University's new campus, 189 students received their bachelor's degrees. Dr. Sadi El Faqih, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and Dr. Gabi Baramki, Vice-President of the University addressed the assembly.

Dr. El Faqih noted the "strength of Birzeit's sixty-year tradition" and affirmed that Palestinian and Arab supporters of the University would assist the University in its current financial problems. He thanked the residents of Birzeit town who had "provided land for the University at symbolic prices."

Dr. Baramki said that "the secret of Birzeit University's ability to continue its work against all odds lay in the unity of all the various sectors of the University community." He added that "we are determined not to Lebanonize Birzeit."

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LETTER FROM BIRZEIT



Dear friends and colleagues,

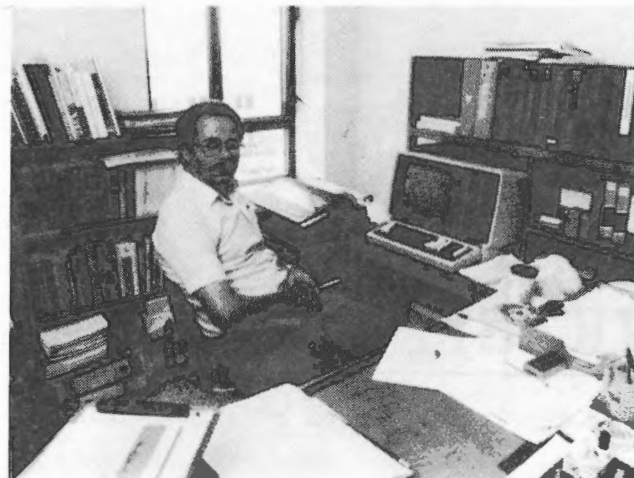
As we saw off our 1985 graduates and welcomed our incoming new students to the University, we at Birzeit University could feel justifiable pride in the progress we have made over the last ten years as a University in developing sound academic programs and innovative community development projects and in constructing the necessary facilities on our new campus to provide students with adequate classrooms, well-designed laboratories and workshops and, most recently, a new library with good facilities for study and research.

But we also enter our new academic year with financial constraints that are currently affecting our ability to continue library development, whether in new acquisitions or in subscriptions to periodicals and journals. We are thus especially grateful to mathematicians at Cornell University, and the Department of Mathematics there, for donating needed back issues of periodicals and journals to our library, as is reported elsewhere in this Newsletter.

We are in the process of establishing an endowment fund for library development, a task we view as urgent. We hope friends of Birzeit will take an interest in this project. We would be happy to provide more information on how to assist us in maintaining and improving our library.

Sincerely,

G.A. Baramki
Vice-President



Dr. Othman Abu Libdeh

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR PLANNING

Dr. Othman Abu Libdeh has been appointed as the new Vice-President for Planning and Development, responsible for overseeing the academic and institutional planning for the University.

Dr. Abu Libdeh received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1983 in Research Design and Statistical Analysis. During the last academic year, he served as Assistant Vice-President for Academic Affairs and is a member of Birzeit's Department of Education and Psychology.

CONDOLENCES

The University community extends its deepest condolences to Birzeit student Mazen Abdel Aziz and to his family. Mazen's brother Munzir was shot and killed by Israeli soldiers in Gaza on September 17. Munzir was eighteen years old at the time of his death.

Conference Focus: Rural Development

Field workers and researchers working on rural development in the West Bank and Gaza met in a well-attended three day conference August 16-18 at Birzeit University to hear presentations on key issues in rural development and exchange views.

The conference, entitled "Strategies for Rural Development in the Occupied Territories," is the third of a series of conferences on rural sociology in the Middle East initiated by faculty at the universities of Durham, Birzeit and Amsterdam. The second conference was held in October 1983 at Birzeit University.

One of the conference organizers Dr. Kathy Glavanis (Birzeit) explained that the organizing committee decided to focus on rural development issues in Palestine at this conference, rather than the entire Middle East, in order to subject these issues to a closer and more critical scrutiny. For the first time, conference proceedings were primarily in Arabic (with English translation) and local participation was a priority, with the goal of promoting exchange between academics and people working in the field.

Papers were given by Dr. Hisham Awartani (Al Najah University), Dr. Kathy Glavanis (Birzeit), Alex Pollock (Arab Thought Forum), Ibrahim Mattar (agronomist, ANERA), Shehadeh Dajani (Community Development Foundation), Mazen Mustafa (Birzeit), Daoud Istanbuli (Chairman, Agricultural Engineers Union), Ibrahim Dakkak (Arab Thought Forum) Ismail Da'iq (Agricultural Relief Committee) and Ghassan Jarrar. Professors Salim Tamari (Birzeit), Pandelis Glavanis (Durham) and Eileen Kuttub (Birzeit) chaired the panels, which were followed by extensive discussion.



Conference session

Papers and discussion focused both on theoretical issues in rural development and on scrutinizing on-going development work in the occupied territories, both by non-governmental agencies and by grassroots and local groups. A number of the conference papers will be published by the Birzeit Research Center as occasional papers.

Papers from the 1983 conference are being edited by Professors Pandelis and Kathy Glavanis for spring 1986 publication by Zed Press.

BIRZEIT RESEARCH REVIEW

Free copies of the inaugural issue of the Birzeit Research Review, featuring reviews and trend reports on Palestinian education, can still be obtained by writing the Birzeit Research Center, Birzeit University. The subscription for upcoming issues is \$25 (or 15 pounds sterling) for four issues. Checks should be made out to Birzeit University.



Dr. Mike Seely



CORNELL MATHEMATICIANS DONATE PERIODICALS

Seven mathematicians from Cornell University, with the cooperation of the Cornell Department of Mathematics, recently donated a substantial number of back issues of mathematics periodicals and journals to the Birzeit library.

The mathematicians responded to an appeal circulated this summer by Professor David Henderson of Cornell University and Professor Marwan Awartani of Birzeit University. Awartani and Henderson, who taught at Birzeit University in 1981, were engaged in joint research this summer at Cornell. The appeal stressed the extremely limited resources of Birzeit University and the need to build its library resources, especially in periodicals and journals.

The donors included Professors Clifford Earle, Alex Rosenberg, Frank Spitzer, Harry Kesten, Marshall Cohen, Wolfgang Fuchs, and David Henderson.

The Chairman of Cornell's Mathematic Department, Dr. Anil Nerode has notified Birzeit Vice-President Dr. Gabi Baramki that his department, as a gesture of "continued cooperation with Birzeit University" will arrange for the shipment of the periodicals. Nerode and Henderson noted they will continue the campaign and solicit periodicals from other mathematics departments in the U.S. Birzeit University has warmly thanked the donors and the Cornell Mathematics Department for their contributions.

AMSTERDAM EXCHANGE

As part of the agreement of cooperation signed by Birzeit and Amsterdam universities, Dr. Michael Seely (Physics) has left to spent this academic year at Amsterdam University working on laser physics, with the aim of training to construct gas lasers needed by the Birzeit Physics Department for its research.

BIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY SEMINARS

The Department of Biology and Biochemistry held the following faculty seminars during the summer session:

* "The Effect of Rosmarinus Officinalis Aqueous Extracts in Delaying the Onset of Picrotoxin Chemically Induced Convulsions," Dr. Abdul Salam Abdul Ghani. July 23.

* "Effects of Polyamines on Platelet Aggregation." Dr. Nabeel Nahas. August 1.

* "Diabetes Management and Fenugreek," Dr. Riyad Amin. August 8.

* "Cell Surface Components Involved in Microbial Adhesion," Dr. Ali Fattum. August 22.

publications

"On the Non-extension of Contraction Mappings," Dr. Nadim Assad (Mathematics Department). Journal of Damascus University, forthcoming.

"School Education and Scientific Creativity," Khalil Mahshi (Education and Psychology Department), Al Mustaqbal Al Arabi, #77, July 1985. This article will also be published in the proceedings of a May 13-16 conference on "Preparing Arab Youth for Scientific Creativity" held in Amman Jordan and sponsored by the Center of Arab Unity Studies and the Shuman Foundation.

In the following joint publications, the name of the Birzeit faculty member is underlined:

"The Use of Fluorescence Activated Cell Shorter for Studying the Uptake of Fluorescent Derivatives of Fatty Acids into Cultured Cells," N. Nahas (Biology Department), E. Fibach, H. Giloh, and S. Gatt. Enzymes of Lipid Metabolism, 2,166 (1985).

"Enzyme Studies in Combined Carboxylase Deficiency," K. Bartlett, H.K. Ghneim, (Biology Department), H.J. Stirk, H.J. Wastell and H.S.A. Sherratt, Journal of Inherited Metabolic Diseases, 8(1),46(1985).

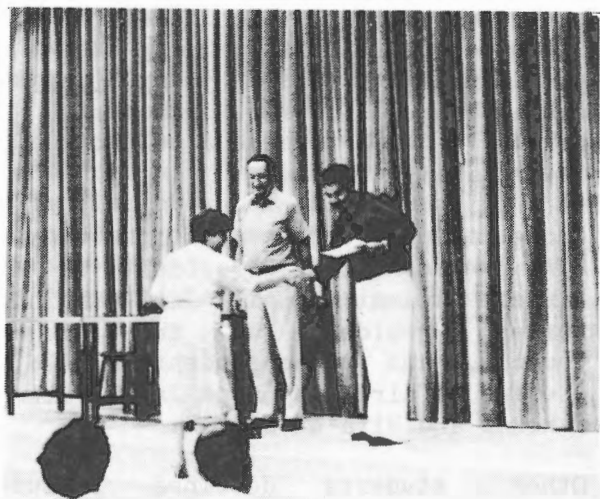
"Production of Emulcyan by Phormidium J-1: Its Activity and Function," A.Fattum (Biology Department) and M. Shilo. FEMS Microbiology Ecology, 31,3 (1985).

"Unsaturated Fatty Acid Composition and Biosynthesis in Oscillatoria Limnetica and other Cyanobacteria," A. Oren, A. Fattum (Biology Department), E. Padan and A. Tietz, Archives of Microbiology, 141,138 (1985).

"Excited States of 'He'", H. Jaqaman (Physics Department, H. Lin and L. Zamick, Physical Review, #31, (1985, 2251.

MATH TEXTBOOK

The Office of Literacy and Adult Education released in August Mathematics for Adults, a new mathematics textbook designed for use in literacy centers in the West Bank and Gaza. The book, which is accompanied by a teacher's guide, was produced with the assistance of Birzeit faculty members Munir Fasheh, Elias Dabeet, Fatin Masa'd and Asa'd Sunuqrut.



Dr. Baramki and Dr. Suleiman award degrees.

COMPUTER COURSE GRADS

On September 17, the Department of Mathematics hosted a graduation ceremony for sixteen secondary school teachers who had completed a summer shortcourse in computer use.

Vice-President Baramki and Dr. Wahbeh Suleiman (Mathematics Department) gave out certificates at the ceremony, which was held in the newly-completed Kamal Nasser Assembly Hall.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION

West Bank universities and colleges begin their new academic year this month minus thirty-three of their students, who are victims of the military authorities' newly-reinstituted policy of administrative detention.

Between August 30 and September 6, the military authorities in the West Bank placed sixty-two Palestinians residents under administrative detention -- essentially imprisonment without charge or trial.

Over half of the detainees are students at universities and colleges in the occupied territories; many of the remaining are also young people. Detainees will serve six months in prison; these terms can be renewed by the military commander.

Among them were five Birzeit students: Marwan Barghouti, President of the Birzeit Student Council, Samir Sbeihat, former President of the Student Council, and three students active in student affairs: Mahmoud Jaber, Jibril Jahshan and Rifa'at Sabbah.

Other students detained included fifteen from Al Najah National University in Nablus, two from Bethlehem University, three from Hebron University, two from Gaza Islamic University, and a number from other colleges in the area. All the student council presidents of West Bank universities are currently under detention.

The practice of administrative detention originated with the Emergency Regulations of the British Mandate in Palestine (1945), which the Military Government of the occupied territories was empowered to use by Military Order 378 (1970). Under this order, the



Marwan Barghouti (Poster in background reads "Academic Freedom: Permanent Struggle")

authorities are at liberty to detain anyone through administrative proceedings, without charge, trial or conviction of any offense.

In a press release protesting administrative detention on September 4, Birzeit noted that the "new wave of administrative detentions appears to have been ordered as a result of political pressure, primarily from the settler movement in the occupied territories and other extremist pressure groups within and outside the government. As such they signal a new era of repression in the occupied territories: indeed, an era of "lawlessness" in the true sense of the word, however many military regulations are utilized to fulfill the political objectives of extremist groups."

In addition to the detentions, the authorities deported two Al Najah students, Amin Makboul and Bahjat Jayyousi, on October 3. An Al Najah press release noted that "These young

GUEST LECTURES

men have been charged with absolutely no crimes...their deportation reopens they way for the mass deportation of Palestinians."

All administrative detainees were first held in Jnaid Prison, and are in the process of being transferred to Bir Saba Prison. Conditions in both prison are bad, but confirmed reports from Bir Saba point to especially alarming conditions: to date, prisoners have not received books and newspapers; thirty-three detainees are held in a common cell; and food is poor and inadequate.

At this time, Birzeit University is working to revive its prison education program, stopped by the authorities in 1982, in order to provide correspondence courses for the student detainees.

On October 9, the detainees commenced a hunger strike to protest their illegal detention and asked the local and international community to join their protest.

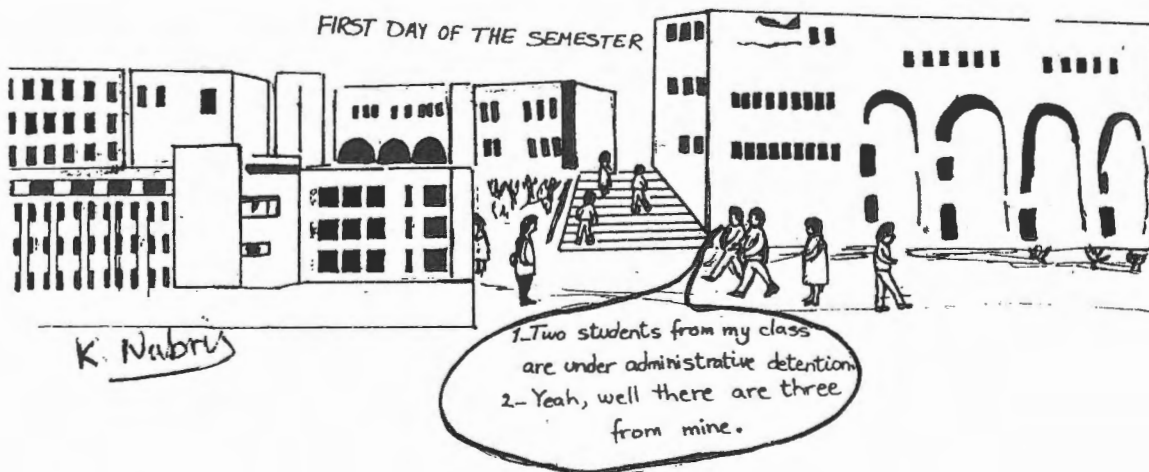
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* The Department of Mathematics sponsored an August 13 lecture by Dr. Edriss Titi on "Existence of stationary solutions for Navier-Stokes equations."

* Annalies Moors of the University of Amsterdam gave an August 22 talk on "Women and Agricultural Work in the West Bank." The lecture was sponsored by the Department of Sociology. Moors was visiting Birzeit as part of the exchange between the two universities.

LITERACY TRAINING

Sixty-five literacy teachers participated in an August 8-22 training session held by Birzeit's Office of Literacy and Adult Education. Practice teaching and evaluation were combined with lectures on the methodology and psychology of teaching adults, teaching mathematics to adults, functional literacy, and other pedagogical issues.



VISITORS

* A 15-member fact-finding mission sponsored by the U.S.-based Resource Center for Non-violence met with Dr. Gabi Baramki and the Public Relations staff on July 10 to discuss problems of universities in the occupied territories.

* American faculty participants in an academic delegation sponsored by the Palestine Human Rights Campaign met with Birzeit faculty and administrations in several in-depth sessions during their July 10-18 stay in the area to discuss issues of academic freedom, problems of research, and human rights in the West Bank and Gaza. The delegation, led by Professors Cheryl Rubenberg and Robert Ashmore, also visited Al Najah University, charitable societies, research institutes, schools and other institutions, as well as leading educators and public figures in the occupied territories.

* Professor Jean-Paul Chagnollaud, ex-Dean of the Law School at the University of Nancy, visited Birzeit several times in early June in the course of research for a new book profiling different sectors of Palestinian society.

* A group of American students sponsored by the Association of Arab Women in the U.S. visited the University on July 31 and met with faculty members and students. The Association selected the students for a trip to the Middle East on the basis of an essay contest.

* A four-member panel from the Lawyers Committee for International Human Rights, headquartered in New York, visited Birzeit on August 24 to take testimony from students on conditions of detention and trial.

* On September 19, the University welcomed a visit from the Ramallah Federation, an organization of former



Ramallah Federation visits new campus

residents of Ramallah now living in the U.S. The group toured the new campus, met with Dr. Gabi Baramki on the current situation of the University, and lunched with administrators and faculty.

* Dr. Allatin Egemen, Associate Professor at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey visited Birzeit University from September 18-27 to consult with the Engineering Office on landscaping plans for the new campus. Dr. Egemen's trip, the second he has made to the University, was sponsored by the Aga Khan Award in Architecture in Geneva.

ALEXANDER M. ODEH

Birzeit University mourns the tragic death of Alex Odeh and protests the brutal and inhuman act of violence which caused his death. Alex was killed by a bomb explosion in the office of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee in Santa Ana, California on October 11. Alex, a warm friend of Birzeit, visited the University several times this summer in the course of his stay in his hometown of Jifna. A gentle man deeply committed to justice and equality, Alex Odeh will be greatly missed by his friends and colleagues at Birzeit University.

SUMMER RESEARCH GRANTS

BIRZEIT ABROAD

* Dr. Riyad Amin (Dean of the Faculty of Science and member of the Department of Biology and Biochemistry) spent August 17-September 14 at Essex University as part of an exchange program. Dr. Amin conducted research on the effect of medicinal plants on the management of diabetes.

* Dr. Ali Jarbawi (Coordinator, Political Science Program) participated as the observer from the occupied territories in meetings of the Executive Committee of the Arab Society for Political Science. The meetings were held in Baghdad from July 5-7.

* Dr. Edward Sader (Physics) attended a September 9-17 conference on "Nonconventional Energy Sources" held at the International Center of Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy. His visit was part of a continuing exchange between the Center and Birzeit's Physics Department.

* Dr. Khalil Athamna (History Department) visited the archives of the British Museum in London, the Proziana Library and Vatican libraries in Italy and the Suleimani Library in Istanbul this August as part of his research on the social and political history of the medieval Islamic world.

* Dr. Mazin Hamad (Chemistry Department) conducted joint research this summer at Essex University with Professor Michael Wilson on iron ascorbate reactions using rapid kinetics and Mossbauer spectroscopy. Dr. Hamad also worked on a joint project with Professor Baldwin of Oxford University on Iron glutathione reactions in relation to isopenicillin synthetase.

Three Birzeit faculty received grants to pursue joint research with colleagues at universities in the U.S. this summer. They were able to spend about two months in the U.S. pursuing their research interests.

Dr. Suheil Abboushi (Economics Department), in consultation with a colleague at the University of Pittsburgh conducted field research in Pittsburgh this summer on the work values of employees in business enterprises. Dr. Abboushi will use this research in a comparative study with employees in similar enterprises in the West Bank.

Dr. Marwan Awartani (Mathematics Department) and Dr. David Henderson (Cornell University) finished the first stage of research begun in the fall of 1984 in a collaborative effort this summer at Cornell. The two mathematicians aim to establish a conjecture posed by S. Cairns in 1941 concerning the homotopy type of the space of geodesic triangulation of S^2 . Their joint paper concluded this summer is titled "Spaces of Geodesic Triangulations of the Sphere."

Dr. Abdullatif Abu Hijleh (Chairman, Chemistry Department), working with chemist A. Ahmed at the University of Mississippi this summer, continued his research on the synthesis, characterization, biological and catalytical activities of Copper (II) carboxylate complexes with different ligands. The results of this research will be published in an upcoming paper. With the assistance of the Birzeit Biology Department, Dr. Abu Hijleh plans to study the biological activities of these complexes as an anti-inflammatory, and perhaps anti-cancer, agent.





Rod Nesbitt

DIRECTOR OF STUDIES FOR
NEW LANGUAGE CENTER

Birzeit University welcomes Mr. Rod Nesbitt, who has been dispatched, with the assistance of the British Council, to fill a University post as Director of Studies of the new Birzeit University Language Center. This academic year, Mr. Nesbitt will be planning and developing the programs of the Center, which aims initially to tackle some of the problems of students carrying out part of their studies in a foreign language.

Mr. Nesbitt received his M.Sc. from the University of Edinburgh, after completing a thesis on "Simplification Strategies in Teacher Rhetoric," a study he is continuing in his doctoral research. His interest in this area grew out of his work with the Ministry of Education in Kenya.

On completion of his research, Mr. Nesbitt was closely involved with the establishment of language centers in Malawi (1978-82) and at the University of Aleppo in Syria (1982-85).

The Language Center, Mr. Nesbitt hopes, will provide specific English courses to service students in different fields, as well as facilities for the improvement of study skills. In the future, the Center plans to offer adult education classes in a number of languages to service the community.

GERMAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

In the past, German language teaching at Birzeit has been confined to tutoring staff and faculty for graduate work in German universities, a program carried out with the cooperation of the Goethe Institute.

This academic year, Dr. Werner Steuber, who has been dispatched to the University by DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) will be developing a program in German Language and Literature for Birzeit students, and for the newly-formed Birzeit Language Center.

Dr. Steuber received his Ph.D. from the University of Frankfurt. His last post was at the University of Indonesia.



Dr. Ahmed Bakr and Dr. Said Zedani

FACULTY OF ARTS

Dr. Ahmed Bakr of the Department of Education and Psychology has been appointed the new Dean of the Faculty of Arts. Dr. Said Zedani of the Cultural Studies and Philosophy programs will serve as Assistant Dean. Dr. Bakr began teaching at Birzeit in 1983; he received his Ed.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Virginia in 1977. Dr. Zedani received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1982 and has been teaching at Birzeit since 1982.

of fallacy & folly

A highly irregular column from the Birzeit Public Relations Office.

A SINCERE REGRET

Never let it be murmured in the corridors of power that the authors of this column cannot admit a mistake. Taking our cue from world leaders, we will now make a full and open disclosure of our errors.

Yes, we sincerely and regretfully confess, a slight degree of irony did creep unnoticed into our remarks in the last column on the "quality of life" improvements claimed by the outgoing "civil" administrator of the West Bank. A suspicious mind might have detected the merest tinge of sarcasm when we praised the "novel liberal notion" of the army forbearing to close universities and barring students from campus instead.

We certainly must have hurt somebody's feelings. Just look what happened: on the heels of our "all in good fun" remarks, the authorities closed Najah University for two months. Instead of the stylish innovation of barring students from campus, we are back (with a vengeance) to the tired convention of imprisonment without trial under the same old lackluster title of administrative detention.

Not that the "iron fist" lacks all panache. It has bedecked our streets with tastefully attired paratroopers with stunning little red berets and nouveau South Lebanon manners.

So, what can we say? We just didn't understand how delicate are the sensitivities of high military officials. Anyway, guys, we promise no more wisecracks. Do you think you could call off the troops?

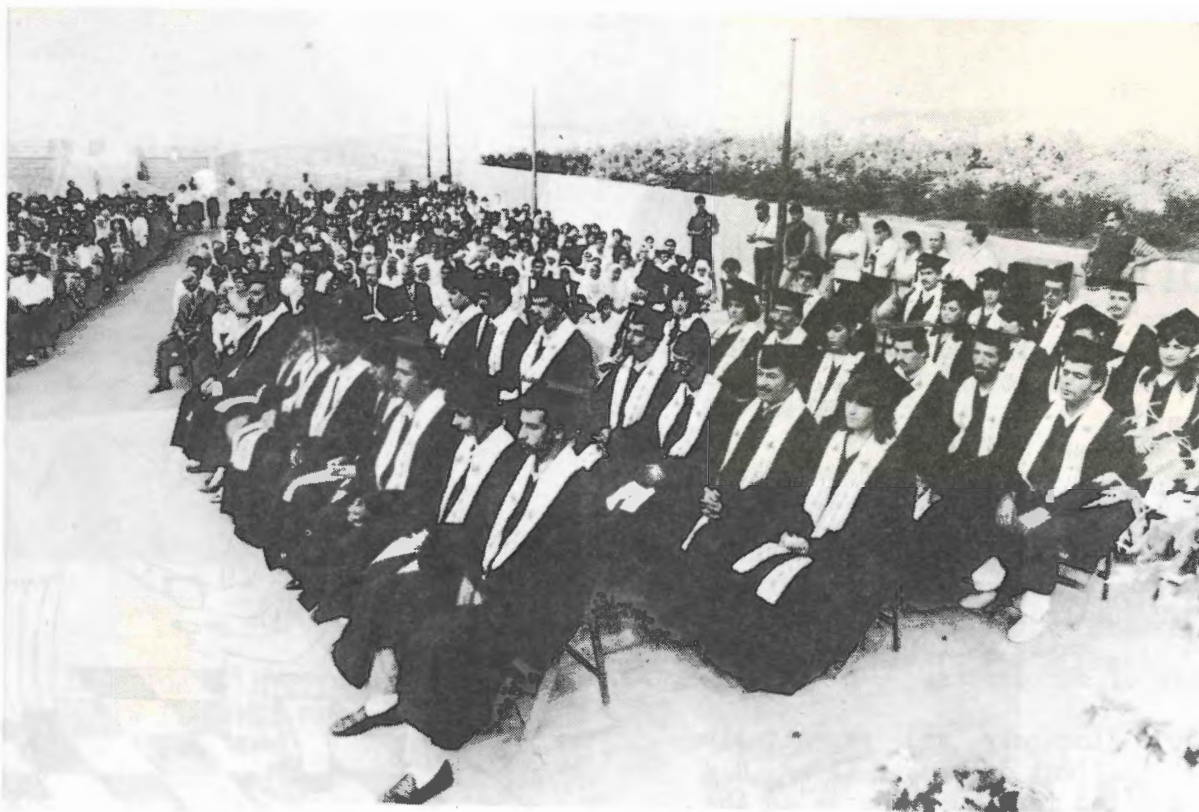


A LESSON IN PSYCHOLOGY AND CAUSALITY

Speaking of paratroopers (respectfully of course), we forbear from making our own comments on their current behavior in the occupied territories, lest we fall into the same criminal irony that caused so much trouble in our last column.

Instead, we quote the Jerusalem Post of October 3 which interviews a "senior defense source" on why (unfortunately of course) these young paragons occasionally shoot and kill innocent civilians in the occupied territories these days. The Post notes this source as observing that "soldiers were quicker on the trigger today because 'that is what happens when people are nervous.' Their instinct to shoot is 'natural' and consequently more people are injured..."

Now we sympathize with psychological distress as much as the next person, but could we humbly suggest to these youthful bundles of nerves that they try camomile tea, rather than indiscriminate gunfire, the next time they're feeling a bit edgy?



New graduates.

continued from page 1...

Dr. Baramki referred to a growing emphasis in the University on providing in-service programs: last academic year the University held training courses for teachers, high school principals, social workers and engineers. He also highlighted Birzeit's expansion of international academic exchange and the participation of faculty in Arab and international academic conferences.

The Master of Ceremonies, Albert Aghazarian, noted that Sharaf Tibi, a Birzeit student killed by soldiers on November 21, 1984, "should have been among the graduates today."

Warm applause greeted each student as the degrees were presented. 80 students received Bachelors degrees from the Faculty of Arts; 63 from the Faculty of Commerce; 42 from the Faculty of Science and 4 from the Faculty of Engineering.

Four students received their degrees with honors: Mayada Jarallah

(Archaeology Major), Nabil Audeh (Business Administration), Rami Badr (Engineering) and Wael Zakut (Engineering).

During the ceremony, an army patrol stayed at the entrance to the new campus as if to remind the graduating students of some of the problems they faced during their years at Birzeit University.

SUNSHIP INVENTOR BIRZEIT GRADUATE

A Birzeit College graduate elected "most likely to succeed" by the class of 1964 was featured in the September 1985 issue of The Middle East Magazine as the inventor of a solar-powered airship.

Dr. Gabriel Khoury of London's Imperial College adapted the airship concept specifically for use in the Middle East. Funds are currently being sought by a team of engineers to build a prototype of the sunship.