

Landscape student rehabilitates FAFS garden

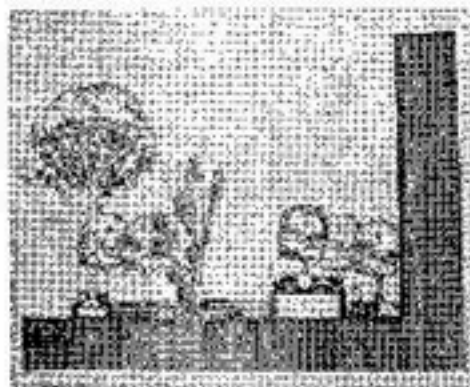
By Raya Abdel Baki
Staff Writer

As we travel to and from our classes everyday, most of us seem oblivious to the landscape surrounding us. We often take for granted the lush gardens that adorn our green campus. For many, a small unused corner is a waste of space, but to a landscape student like Zeina Salam, it is an opportunity to create beauty.

Zeina is the winner of the first prize in a competition organized by the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, and funded by the FAFS-SRC. The competition involved the design for the courtyard garden at the entrance to the Agriculture Building, and it included all of the second year landscape students who submitted their designs to the jury in charge of selecting the winners.

Dr Jala Makhzoumi, coordinator of the new program entitled Landscape Design and Eco-management described the origin of the idea, explaining that it started out as a request from the FAFS- SRC, who asked her to help design the entrance garden. Dr. Makhzoumi suggested that the students execute the garden themselves in order to "let students at AUB do something for other students at AUB." Thus the competition was planned, and three winners were chosen, among whom Zeina Salam ranked first.

Zeina expressed her excite-



ment about the work, saying she and her classmates had learned a great deal, mostly about working together. Despite some obstacles, such as the need to execute their designs for a preexisting space with irreplaceable old trees, the students succeeded in performing the task. "We felt productive; we knew something was going to come out of our work" explained Zeina.

Professor Makhzoumi pointed out that the idea of students designing landscape areas on campus was being repeated again with Dr. Bashar Haidar, head resident of Penrose Hall, who is expected to choose this Wednesday, for the area surrounding Penrose, a design from among several submitted by students on. Professor Makhzoumi expressed her approval of this student involvement; she would like to see this activity expanded to areas beyond AUB into the city of Beirut, and possibly to more rural areas.