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Election day protests attract few students

Cheers and jeers as Mubarak revels in fifth victory

Tahrir site of mass demonstrations

BY OMNEYA OSMAN
Caravan Reporter

Despite the presence of foreign press and human rights activists, only a few AUC students joined the hundreds of Egyptians who marched down to the Tahrir Square at 12 p.m., protesting against the first-ever Egyptian presidential election on Sept. 9.

The protest, which was organized by the 'Kefaya' or 'Enough' movement, demanded that people boycott the election because it was allegedly stage-managed by the Egyptian government.

AUC graduates and undergraduates alike showed a lack of interest in the protest and only a few actually joined the nearby rally.

Their lack of interest reflected the low voter turnout generally, which was estimated by official sources at 23 percent. Approximately 7 million of Egypt's 32 million eligible voters went to the polls.

"The students are not passive, but numb," said Karim El Khashab, a political science senior who did join the rally. "This university is de-politicized. AUCians have nothing to fight for, no real grievances," he said.

As the Kefaya demonstrators swept down the busiest and most strategic area in downtown Cairo, they chanted, "Down with Mubarak. Down with the National Democratic Party."

See KIFAYA, 2

AUCians react to the election results.

ELECTIONS | 4-5



Shareen Nasr-El-Din / THE CARAVAN

MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD: A demonstrator holds a sign of disapproval at an election day rally in Tahrir Square. The sign translates to, "Leave already, enough. To every unjust person, there is an end."

Despite hype, students go about business as usual

BY HASSAN HASSAN
Caravan Reporter

As Egyptian demonstrators rallied in and around Tahrir Square, the American University in Cairo stayed calm, without any sign of demonstrations on its three campuses.

Students showed little reaction to the protests taking place outside. Students sipped coffee and relaxed nonchalantly between classes while only a handful of students went outside to participate in the demonstrations in Tahrir Square and the surrounding downtown area.

According to General Ashraf Kamal, director of the security department at AUC, nobody filled in a permission form for any protest other than a sit-in against the elections, which was scheduled to take place on Sept. 5 during assembly hour.

"Fifteen people were scheduled to speak. Not one showed up. We even gave them the megaphone," said Kamal.

The organizer of the sit-in, Karim El-Khashab, a political science senior, said the sit-in on Monday was "not a success at all. Only two people spoke."

The students showed little interest and the sit-in went almost unnoticed on the first day of classes.

But according to Kamal, no students came to the security office to request permission for a sit-in on election day.

El-Khashab said that plans for the sit-in were not derailed by the failure of the previous sit-ins on campus.

See CAMPUS, 2

Enrollment increases lead to dorm overflow

BY YUMNA YOUSRY
Freelance Reporter

An unprecedented increase in the number of AUC students requesting accommodation in the university's Zamalek hostel has university housing administrators scrambling for space.

With 349 students already living in the Zamalek residence, a hotel was rented out and transformed into a girls' dormitory. The new residence, Kanzy, currently houses 88 female AUCians, most of whom are non-Egyptians.

The Kanzy dormitory is located in Mohandeseen, near the Egyptian Shooting Club. Vice-President Ashraf El Fiqi described the merits of the new residence, which include private bathrooms, a television, a mini-fridge, and room service - all of which are unavailable in the Zamalek residence. The area is also lively and various shops and restaurants are available nearby, he said.

"It is a more Egyptian area; [the girls] can interact with a more Egyptian environment," El Fiqi said.

Although most international students say they are comfortable in Kanzy, some girls prefer the Zamalek dormitory.

Dalia Othman, a mass communication junior who lived in the Zamalek dormitory for two and a half years, is now staying at Kanzy despite requesting her former room in Zamalek. She finds it difficult to do her laundry and to find sufficient space to store her belongings.

"It's not Zamalek. It's not the dorms," she said. "It's a lower-class area."

According to Bahieh Yaish, resident director of the Kanzy dormitory, the main problem the girls have faced is that some of them moved in before the dormitory was ready for occupancy.

"There is a big difference from the moment we arrived at Kanzy until now," said Yaish. "The girls are settling in now."

But some students chose to transfer to the Kanzy dormitory from the Zamalek residence. Sumaya El Nahed, a mass communication senior, transferred to Kanzy with her sister in order to have a private bathroom.

Some residents of the Zamalek dormitory are not happy with their arrangements, as their requests for private or bigger rooms have been

See DORM, 2

Artist brings images, thoughts of 9/11 to Cairo

BY KRISTIN TROTTER
Freelance Reporter

On the fourth anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks in the U.S., AUC's Sony Gallery hosted the opening of the exhibit "Ground Zero: 9/11/01," photographs of the devastation taken by Lucie Pavlovich.

David Arnold, president of AUC, and Francis Ricciardone, the new American ambassador to Egypt, spoke at the reception along with Pavlovich, an international fashion photographer who happened to be in New York City celebrating her birthday when terrorists struck the World Trade Center towers.

Ricciardone, in his first appearance at AUC, recalled the attacks in the U.S. and said that terrorism has been felt not only in America, but also around the world, mentioning the attacks in Madrid, London and Sharm el Sheikh.

"Terrorism knows no borders," Ricciardone said. "And it does, at the end of the day, bring us together."

The photographs are stark black and white reminders of the tragedy four years ago. In addition to images of smoke billowing from the World Trade Center towers and the eerie, smoky aftermath of their collapse, Pavlovich focused her camera on

individuals, showing the suffering on a personal level. In one photograph, a weary firefighter rests from his job amid piles of debris. In another, a frail elderly woman is stopped at a police barrier, anxiously speaking with a rescue worker.

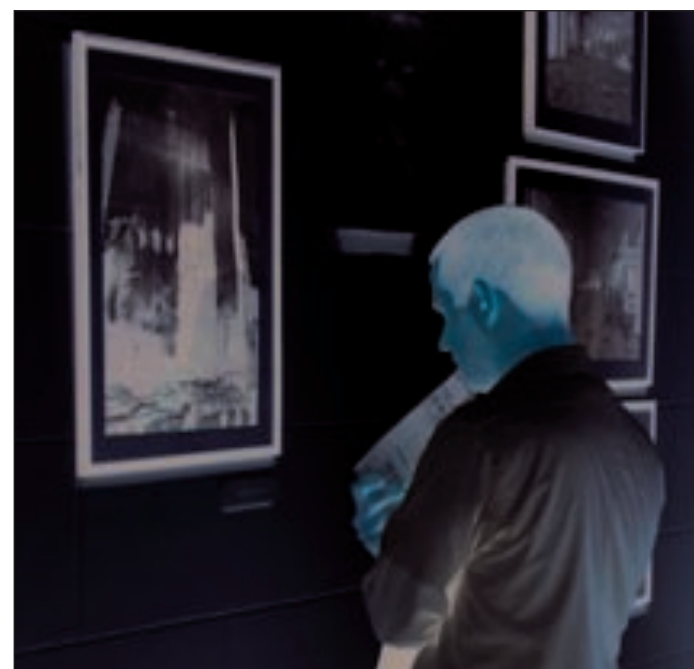
In a speech at the reception, Pavlovich said she felt in the way when she grabbed her camera and stood among the dust and the ruins to record the tragedy. The firefighters looked at her as if to ask, "What are you doing here? Go home," she said.

"I've never been in war, and that day everyone talked about war," Pavlovich said. Her experience that day squelched her ambition to be a photojournalist, she said, because she found she did not have the strength to endure such horror again.

9/11 has also personally affected Arnold. He and his wife were both in New York City at the time, and watched the attacks unfold firsthand. The experience eventually influenced his decision to come to AUC.

"Coming to Cairo was part of a conscious effort to do what I could to build bridges between east and west," he said.

To Joe Lennon, 21, a study-abroad student at AUC, the exhibit seemed like a good way to commemorate Sept. 11. He lives 20 miles from New York City in Middletown, N J and watched the



Kristin Trotter / THE CARAVAN

FAR FROM HOME: Joe Lennon, an American student studying abroad for the semester, surveys Pavlovich's art at his exhibition on Sunday.

attacks happen in person, he said.

"My town had the highest area of concentrated deaths," the Middle Eastern studies major said. "Quite a few people I knew were affected."

Ricciardone said the terrorist attacks of 9/11 caused Americans to realize that terrorism is worldwide.

"Before we thought other people

were victims of it," he said. "This brought home to us that we are all victims of it."

Although the mood was somewhat somber, he struck a note of hope.

"There's a reason for everything, and we will come out the stronger for it," he said.

Students face second year of tuition hikes

BY SHEREEN EL GAZZAR
Caravan Reporter

Continuing its recent pattern of fee increases, AUC's administration decided this year to increase the cost of tuition by 6 percent, leaving students wondering about the reasons behind this latest escalation.

"I don't have a clear idea why the university increases the fees," said Kareem Mostafa, a mechanical engineering senior. "If they printed an official document of the reasons behind the increase it would be more convincing. They say lab and technology fees, but when I come back in the beginning of the new semester I don't see an obvious difference."

But Mamdouh Zayed, senior consultant for Student Financial Affairs, said this year's increase of approximately LE 2000 is nothing out of the ordinary.

"If we take into consideration the increase in the cost of living, we will realize that an increase of fees by 6 percent is very normal," Zayed said.

Other students said their families have trouble keeping up with the everyday cost of living, let alone the increases in tuition fees.

"When we entered university [we could afford it], but our parents are not getting promoted and our financial abilities are still [the same]," said Lara El Sherif, a mathematics senior. "I think that the increase in the tuition fees is unfair, especially nowadays, [when] the world is getting more expensive and the work fields are extremely unstable."

But Zayed defended the increase, citing rising costs throughout the university.

"The increase in fees is due to price increases of everything from equipment to salaries of faculty members, staff, Internet, transportation and other facilities," he said. "The cost of education has increased as a whole and a big part has to do with inflation."

Zayed said students who rely on financial aid to attend AUC should simply apply for more aid, as they have in the past.

"When the fees were increased last year, El Fiky, vice-president of the Student Financial Affairs, sent a letter to all students and urged those who have financial difficulties to apply for more financial aid," he said. "The scholarship increased [automatically, to match the fee increase]. Instead of LE 10,000, it became LE 10,700."

But some students remained skeptical of the need for a fee increase, saying they weren't sure the added funds would be used to improve current services.

"I'm one of the people who are convinced that the money goes to the new campus, although they say otherwise," said Waleed Galal, an economics senior.

Zayed said there is a specific fund for construction of the new campus, which is scheduled to open in 2007, and that tuition fees are totally separate.

"The increase in the tuition fees is only to maintain the quality of education," he said.

DORM: Dokki hotel holds Zamalek overflow

CONTINUED FROM 1

denied because of the increase in the number of residents. Many of them have been moved out of their former rooms or are now sharing rooms.

"It does not make sense that they give everyone accommodation without any concern for our comfort. I don't think it's fair that I have to room in a double when I have lived here for three years already and requested a single," said Maha Makled, mass communications senior.

But Alexander Guindy, resident director of the Zamalek hostel, insists that all decisions were made according to regulations.

"University policy [states that] single rooms will be provided when space is available," said Guindy.

Abeer Ziadeh, co-resident director of the Zamalek residence, was faced with many complaints and requests for single rooms, bigger rooms, and rooms in different areas of the dormitory. "We're doing our best to make everyone comfortable," she said, "but if a single room is not available, we can't give you one."

According to Fatma Abou Youssef, associate dean of international student affairs for residential life, there has been a 30 percent increase in the number of international students applying to the AUC this year alone. The university housing office is looking into ways to accommodate the expected increase for the coming year. "We're learning [from this situation]," Abou Youssef said.

El Fiqi believes that the increase in the number of students requesting accommodation in the Zamalek hostel is a continuing trend.

AUCians tell their side of Sharm story

BY HEBA EL-BIDEWY
Caravan Reporter

"There was commotion everywhere and people were running all over the place, but all that I remember is being pushed back and my ears starting to ring," said undeclared freshman Ahmed El Mallah, who went to Sharm el Sheikh this summer with his family to enjoy a quiet vacation.

Three bomb attacks hit Sharm el Sheikh on July 23. One of the attacks took place in Ghazala Resort in Naama Bay, the busiest area of Sharm El Sheikh on the night of July 22. Another bomb went off in a parking lot across from the Hard Rock Café. A third attack targeted the Old Souq.

El Mallah says that after each bomb the tension rose, more people cried, screamed, and ran. They became "hysterical," he said.

Esraa Samaha, mass communications senior, was also present in Sharm el Sheikh during the disaster.

By the time the third bomb went off, "People started running in the direction of the beach as it seemed to be the safest location because they didn't know where the next attack could possibly be," Samaha said.

According to both Samaha and El Mallah, contrary to media coverage, more than 50 percent of the tourists in Sharm el Sheikh left the Red Sea area after the attacks. But within a matter of weeks, tourism picked up.

Most Egyptians didn't leave, including El Mallah and Samaha.

"Sharm at the time was the safest place to be," said El Mallah, "There were police everywhere and security was tight."

Samaha said that everyone was frightened. "With all that said, we still chose to stay because it was safe," said Samaha.

A peace concert and rallies were held as a sign of solidarity with those living through the traumatic experience.

Celebrities from all over the world, including British singer Craig David, Lebanese singers Iwan and Ragheb Allama, Italian singer Nek, and Egyptian boy band Wama, came to show their support for the families in the fight against terrorism.



ASSESSING THE DAMAGE: Tourists inspect a destroyed automobile after the terrorist attacks of July 23.

Esraa Samaha / THE CARAVAN

From home and abroad, enrollment increases

Largest-ever freshman class admitted to AUC

BY OMNEYA OSMAN
Caravan Reporter

AUC enrolled an unprecedented 900 students this semester, according to Ghada Hazem, director of the university's office of admissions.

But, "the university is not overpopulated because it can accommodate up to 4,000 students," said Hazem, adding that total enrollment has reached 3,900 students this year.

With 1,600 employees currently working at AUC, 4,000 students is a reasonable enrollment, she said. "Each employee serves 3 students and that is a good number."

Since AUC has graduated its largest classes over the past three semesters, it could admit a higher number of new students each semester. In order for AUC to move to its new campus in 2007, it must enroll a minimum of 4,000 students.

AUC aimed to admit 900 students this semester.

"This target was given to us by the Office of Planning and Institutional Research (OPIR)," Hazem said.

The Office of Admissions announced that the SAT scores required for admission are the same this semester. Students with an American High School Diploma are required to score a combined 900 on the verbal and math sections of the SAT as well as have a minimum 2.0 GPA.

Record high for study abroad students

BY HODA SAID
Caravan Reporter

The number of study-abroad students on campus this semester has skyrocketed, reaching a peak of 380 students despite recent terrorist attacks in Cairo and the Sinai peninsula.

Jan Montassir, the associate vice president and dean of international students, said the university expects 100 study-abroad students every fall, but she said the number dropped in the year following the attacks of 9/11.

"International students are likely to study the Arabic language and learn about the Middle East, especially if their origins are Arab or Muslim. Americans, and particularly Europeans, are eager to learn and understand Arab culture and language," said Montassir.

Montassir added that the Arabic Language Institute has 100 study-abroad students registered for Arabic courses this semester, leaving no vacancies for anyone else.

Students who have come to AUC as study-abroaders are not worried about the bombings that occurred in Sharm El Sheikh this past summer.

Aaron Narva, a study-abroad from Tufts University in Massachusetts, said, "Mom and Dad are so worried about the bombings, but I realized that anything could happen. I came here to study Arabic. (Egypt is) a safe, culturally rich and interesting place."

Londa Jensen, an international business junior from the U.S., said that she had many Arab friends in the United States and she applied this semester to AUC in order to compare the Arabs living in the U.S. with and the Arabs in Egypt. "I wanted to know whether they kept their traditions or not when they live in the United States," she said.

Harlan Knipes, a study-abroad student in Middle East Studies, said, "I came here specifically to learn Arabic, which is a beautiful language. It's a good language to know for a job in the United States."

AUC has been a part of a student exchange program for the past three decades with several international universities, including Bocconi University in Italy, according to the International Student Services Office.

"They (study abroad students) are eager to understand and learn about the Arabs and Muslims who were seen as terrorists after Sept. 11," said Tomader Rifaat, the associate dean of international affairs for student services and programs.

KIFAYA: Party attempts to bolster opposition

CONTINUED FROM 1

"I was impressed by the energy of the people," said Yasmin El Rifaa, a political science senior and participant in the protest, "I haven't seen anything like it before."

Several times during the protest, Mubarak supporters attempted to diffuse the protest, said El Rifaa. "Cars unloaded pro-Mubarak guys who looked impoverished and dirty. It looked planned and absolutely not spontaneous."

"It was a very smart tactic on behalf of the government to let them protest," said El Rifaa. If the government had stopped the protests "it would have brought an end to the legitimacy of the elections," she added.

Bassem Khalifa, a computer science graduate and one of the participants in the protest, said he was happy about its success. But, one thing that disappointed him was the restraint of state security forces. "The government cheated us out of a beating," he said.

"It made sense. He won and allowed a protest against him to happen. It was a shrewd political movement," said William Jon Hummel, a Middle East studies junior who witnessed the protest.

El Khashab said that it was wrong for the opposition to participate in the elections.

"This regime needed opposition to make them credible," he commented, "The opposition has become a tool to legitimize the government's rule."

According to Khalifa, a major goal of this protest was "eroding the culture of fear," especially now that opposition groups are getting attention they never had before.

But that isn't likely to happen all at once. "It has to be a process," said El Rifaa, "Democracy doesn't happen overnight."

After all, the United States has had elections for almost 230 years and "they haven't perfected the process yet," said Hummel.

CAMPUS: Permits issued, but security reports no protests

CONTINUED FROM 1

A demonstration on campus would have taken place had they been allowed, he added.

A verbal warning was issued on Monday from "the Office of Student Development (OSD) and the head of security (saying) election campaigning was over, and any protest would be treated as illegal. They wouldn't give us a permit and it probably would have been stopped halfway through," said El Khashab.

"University policy is to allow students to express their own opinion, but not to represent a political group," said Kamal.



Fouad Hammoud / THE CARAVAN



Fouad Hammoud / THE CARAVAN

CULINARY MASTER: Eric Dunoyer, owner of Charwood's, was a chef before opening his restaurant in Mohandiseen.



Fouad Hammoud / THE CARAVAN

FRENCH ATMOSPHERE: The simple, yet cozy interior of one of Cairo's premier French restaurants.

Pizza, steak and a touch of France

At Charwood's bistro, comfort and elegance combine

By **FOUAD HAMMOUD**
Caravan Reporter

You walk into Charwood's with the expectation that you are going to enjoy a meal at a restaurant like any other, but this restaurant on Mohandiseen's busy Gameat El Dowal Street leaves you with a satisfied appetite and a warm and hospitable feeling. Charwood's strives not only to offer every customer delicious freshly cooked food, but also to make you feel at home, and respected in a cultural exchange of meals.

While the entrance is quite unimposing and may seem rather small, once you go up the three wooden stairs you will see how unique this French bistro-like haven is. Wooden floors and furniture are complemented by the warm lighting. The menus adorn the walls on large chalkboards, and shelves all around the seating area are decorated with antique measuring units and large jars of pickled goods. Photographs of France and colorful curtains give the restaurant a homey feeling and the light French music in the background makes you feel relaxed and happy.

Just like an authentic French meal, your dinner begins with freshly-baked bread and a green salad accompanied by your choice of drink. All the pizzas are baked on firewood and the steaks are grilled on natural charcoal fires. Once you see the infinite variety of steak types on order, and their various sizes, it becomes difficult to choose. The owner or his wife usually recom-

mend a steak depending on your appetite, and also recommend the way you should have it cooked.

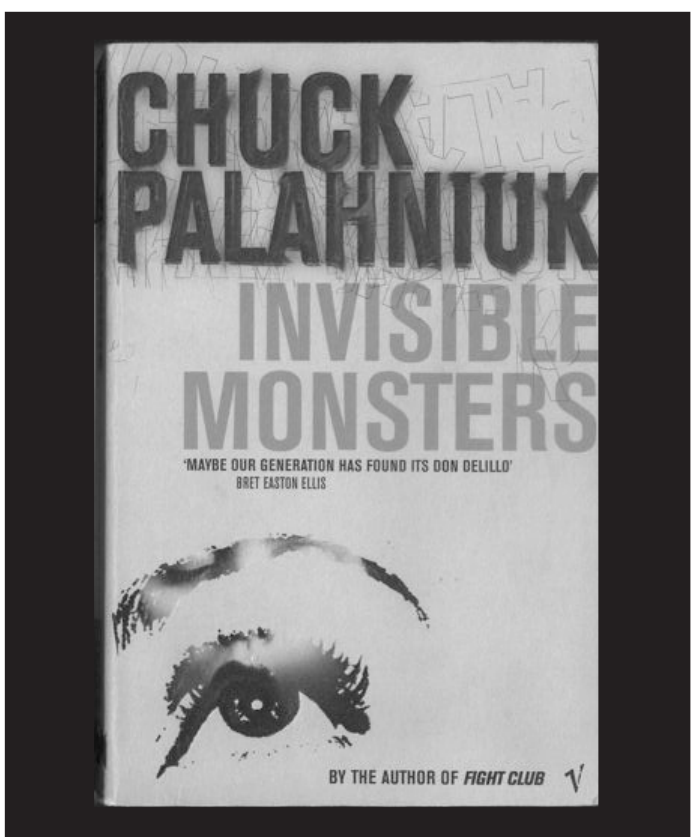
All the meat is organically cultivated on a farm, and the owner makes sure that the meat is properly cut and freshly served. Steaks are served in an appealing manner with a side of either baked potato or French fries, sautéed vegetables, and your choice of three sauces. All this is cooked under the supervision of the owner, Eric Dunoyer, a loveable Frenchman who also loves Egypt.

"Treat your guests like friends," is Dunoyer's motto, and the staff follows through. A former executive chef at the Sheraton Cairo, Dunoyer opened Charwood's a year ago, not only for the money, but to teach Egyptian employees how to treat customers in a respectful and professional way. His restaurant has gained its reputation solely by word-of-mouth. Dunoyer and his wife believe in providing excellent service for all, and treating everyone, from the busboy to a celebrity, equally.

Because the seating is limited, it is advised that you go to Charwood's with a small group of friends or even on a date, enjoying its romantic atmosphere. Steaks range from LE 60 - LE 180, but in the end the fine French cuisine is worth it. You will leave not only with a satisfied stomach, but you will also feel as though you have made new friends.

53 Gameat El Dowal El Arabia Street, Mohandiseen
02-749-0893

A 'not so pretty' look at American society



By **HASSAN HASSAN**
Caravan Reporter

Chuck Palahniuk, the author most famous for his award-winning novel and film *Fight Club* again takes readers into his now trademark 'not-so-pretty' portrayal of American society. In his novel *Invisible Monsters*, Palahniuk throws readers into a sordid, gritty

and angst-ridden world of a super-model gone wrong.

In a world usually portrayed with glamour and panache, Palahniuk strips all the glitz, leaving the harsh and gripping insecurities. *Invisible Monsters* pulls you into a contradictory tizzy guaranteed to unsettle your stomach and tweak your brain. The narrator exhibits empathy and hatred, repulsion and

undeniable attraction to the world she inhabits. Palahniuk doesn't allow you to put the book down; with an almost vice-like grip, he forces you to be simultaneously repelled and intrigued by a series of events that slowly allow clarity to unfold.

Palahniuk tackles the central theme of beauty: its allure, pressures and pleasures. Within this context, he also artfully incorporates everything from sibling jealousy to sexuality, religion and drugs, all tied intrinsically to the deep insecurities that plague us all.

The narrator is faced with challenges of exacting revenge on an ex-boyfriend, a best friend and a scheming role model, Brandy Alexander, one of the most interesting and complex characters of the modern novel. Not only is this a quest for vengeance, but the narrator must also deal with the battle scars of the mundane universe she grew up in. Her parents, her suburban American lifestyle and her own failed aspirations play pivotal roles in the novel.

The literary mastery of Palahniuk is striking and very apparent from the first page, with his use of iconic pop culture references and phrases. And his sarcastic and dark humor touches almost everything he writes. The psychological insights into the minds of these characters are uncanny. His interest in the psyche of the modern individual is striking almost to the point of obscenity, and is the defining point of his literary style.

Seasoned correspondent takes reins at Adham

By **ETHAR SHALABY**
Caravan Reporter

A two-time Emmy nominee and a former CBS News Middle East correspondent, Lawrence Pintak is the Adham Center for Electronic Journalism's new prize, taking over as the director from Professor Emeritus Abdallah Schleifer.

Pintak's journalism career began in 1975 when he worked as the Washington correspondent for the Associated Press radio. Ten years later, he began his television career with CBS as their Middle East News Correspondent, covering major stories about the Iranian-Iraqi wars, the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, U.S. Marines bombings in Beirut, the Libyan invasion of Chad and Indonesian revolution.

"I had a great deal of coverages. While covering the Iran-Iraq war, I was the only Western journalist covering the war," Pintak said.

In 1980, he earned the network's "Citation of Excellence" award for his exclusive coverage of the opening days of the Iran-Iraq War for the CBS Evening News. He was given its "Outstanding Coverage of a Single Breaking News Story" award for the bombing of the U.S. Marines in Beirut in

1983.

Pintak has also received many awards from such organizations as the Overseas Press Club and the New England Press Association.

In addition to his 25 years of experience in journalism, Pintak has written three books, which discuss the American-Middle East policy and the communication gap between the U.S. and the Middle East after Sept. 11.

His first book is titled "Seeds of Hate: How America's Flawed Middle East Policy Ignited the Jihad," while the second is "A TV correspondent's Portrait of America's Encounter with Terror." The latest, which will be published in Jan. 2006, is titled "Reflections in a Bloodshot Lens: America, Islam and the World of Ideas."

As the new director of the Adham Center, Pintak said he intends to evaluate and develop the training programs offered in the center.

"I intend to promote external training and academic programs and resources," Pintak said.

Pintak also teaches television/camera editing as well as an electronic newsgathering course.

He said that journalism is a significant field that should be professionally taught to students and researchers.

"Journalism is a fundamental element of existence," Pintak said.

Q & A

QUESTION:

What kind of news and features would you like to see added to the Caravan?



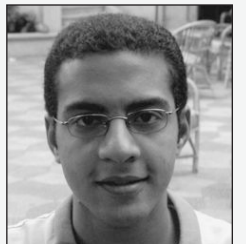
"Horoscopes, uncensored student columns, tourism offers and ads, café ads, comic tales and so on."

- **Hossam Abd El Hay**
CENG junior



"More political and social issues."

- **Nada Imam**
Accounting freshman



"I'm not interested in reading the Caravan."

- **Ahmed Bahgat**
EENG senior



"I want to see caricatures."

- **Dalia Amr**
Undeclared freshman



"Movie critiques."

- **Alaa Shalaaby**
BADM senior



Hassan Hassan / THE CARAVAN
CROWD OF ALL AGES: AUC political science senior Yasmine El Rifae stands in protest.



Ahmed El Mallah
SIGNS OF PROTEST: 'The last pharaoh.'



Shareen Nasr-El-Din / THE CARAVAN
ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS: Silent protest-er in Tahrir Square.

Revolutionary election met by unprecedented emotions

MANY AUCIANS BELIEVE THAT THE NEWLY-REFORMED ELECTORAL PROCESS IS BIASED AND DISORGANIZED.

My Experience with Democracy

BY ESSRAA MAHMOUD
ECLT Sophomore
Letter to the Editor

On Sept. 7, I headed optimistically to Al-Omrana police station to vote. At the station gate, Islam Hamdy, a representative of the National Democratic Party (NDP), welcomed other voters and myself and led us to an office to collect our voting cards. The official in the office told me that there was no voting card bearing my name because I was born abroad. I turned to the NDP representative, who advised me to go to Al-Sadat electoral booth where I would find my name enrolled.

When I went there, I found a few electoral lists in which the names were not even organized alphabetically.

Having thought that I might have come to the wrong booth, I went back to the police station. I was received again by an NDP representative who advised me to talk to one of the judges in charge of the electoral process in the police station. He told me that the station did not even have copies of the electoral lists. He added that I didn't have the right to vote since my name was not present on the electoral lists.

At this point, I lost my temper and I told him that this is considered a personal offence belittling my Egyptian identity and my basic right as an Egyptian citizen. Nevertheless, he looked at me coldly and said, "Say whatever you want to say."

Having already gotten mad, I spoke again to the NDP representative who seemed to be the only helpful, well-informed person in the place. He told me that he was not surprised, as I was one of 7,000 to 10,000 people who came to the police station complaining that their names were not listed in the electoral rolls.

However, when I insisted on not abandoning

my right, he introduced me to Ahmed Fouad, the head of the NDP advertising campaign in Al-Haram district. Fouad seemed to be a well-informed person who advised me to go to Al-Giza court to present my complaint. When I went there, I complained to one of the judges, who told me, while enjoying a bowl of grapes, that the Ministry of Justice is only responsible for watching the integrity of the elections and that their organization is the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior.

I headed back angrily to the police station where I met Fouad again. At once, we went to four different electoral booths to search for my name but it was in vain. However, one of the NDP officials told us we should go to the Aziz Al Masry booth where they have something called the comer's list in which people from other governorates and individuals born abroad could sign their names to vote.

The NDP official was right. When I arrived at the Aziz Al Masry booth at 9:15 p.m., I signed my name in the comer's list and finally, I voted.

The Presidential Elections: A Voter UN-Friendly Snapshot

BY FATMA SIDKY
Business senior
Letter to the Editor

I was standing in a very long line for ladies and on the opposite side there was another line for men. Minutes passed, then hours. At last I made it to the front of this very long line at Imams' Aly voting station. I doubted they would let me vote using my passport and without a voting card. Brushing aside my worries, I stepped inside and waited for my turn. The man looked at me and said, "Your ID please."

Surprised, I handed him my passport. "Please sign here," he said. Without a word, I signed. In less than 30 seconds I was in front of the ballot box marking my vote, pressing my finger into the pink ink and finally putting my vote in the box. No voting card, no national ID, and I VOTED!

But this snapshot reflects only the final scene of my experience on the very long day of the elections.

The day began when my friend and I decided that we wanted to vote because we wanted to practice a right that we never have been granted before. We wanted to tell our grandchildren that we voted in the first multi-candidate presidential elections in the history of Egypt.

We first headed to the Dokki polling station,

expecting to find our names registered. After asking three policemen where to go in the station to vote, we finally reached the right desk. The first question was, "What's your birth year?" We answered 1983. With a drained look of half disgust and half boredom, the man answered that they do not have any files for years 1982 or 1983 and that there was nothing they could do.

Feeling defeated by the bureaucratic system,

**"No voting card,
no national ID,
and I VOTED!"**

we headed out of the station when a policeman saw our two frustrated faces and told us, "Why not try Gamal Abd El Nasr School for girls voting station? Maybe you'll find the missing files with your names there."

Hope emerged and so we went to that station. The volunteers there were very sweet but their kindness didn't compensate us for the misery we experienced by going through piles of papers with

names listed in a non-alphabetical, haphazard order. After going through all the lists and spending hours trying to find our names, we didn't find them. At the end, they advised us to go to the Agouza polling station.

Our hope didn't rekindle the way it did the first time. Regardless, we checked it out. We arrived at the Agouza station soaking in our sweat only to hear the same old answer: "No files for birth years of 1982 or 1983."

We didn't argue. As we were leaving, they told us that maybe we could find our names in Imam's Aly polling station, 30 meters from the Agouza station. Angry and frustrated at all the obstacles that we had been facing since we decided to vote, we headed in the direction of the Imam's Aly station, not expecting much. We didn't even ask each other whether we should go. In silence we left our feet to lead us there.

Do you still remember the snapshot I told you about in the beginning? This is when and where it happened.

All the citizens and government employees in charge of the voting stations would have been better off if there was an organized, computerized system. It would have made up for the lost segment of voters who wanted to vote, but either didn't find their names registered or couldn't get their voting cards.

“It's one small step for democracy, one large leap for freedom.”
- Meena Nageeb
CENG senior

“It's a large improvement for Egypt to take this step to allow people the freedom of choice, however, more than 60 percent of the people did not seize this opportunity.”
- Salma Fawzy
BADM sophomore

“It's a positive sign that we are starting to appreciate democracy. However, since either way the National Democratic Party have the majority of seats in the parliament, it seems like we have a long way to go.”
- Amira Tarkhan
Political science senior

“I think the election was unfair because the campaigners did not have enough time to persuade the Egyptian citizens to elect them. I didn't vote because I know that Mubarak would win anyways.”
- Rana Swellam
JRMCM senior

A day in the life of a Cairene voter

BY SHAREEN NASR-EL-DIN
Caravan Editor



Shareen Nasr-El-Din / THE CARAVAN
MAKING THEIR MARK: Mai Abdel Hadi and Amr Ramadan wait in line to vote on Sept. 7.

6:15 a.m.

I clumsily rolled out of bed, rubbed my eyes, then made a mental checklist of all the things I had to do today. One of the major things included hitting up the voting stations with my AUC pals in order to witness a mark in Egyptian history.

7:10 a.m.

I trudged down the stairs of my apartment building, with coffee in hand, and met Amr Ramadan, an economics junior, Mai Abdel Hadi, an undeclared freshman, and Mohamed Fata, a graduating economics senior. We started our journey to Falaki Street.

7:26 a.m.

We arrived at university fairly quickly, due to lack of any traffic, and waited for the voting center at the school on Falaky Street to open for the morning. I got another cup of coffee.

8:45 a.m.

We entered the voting center. Ramadan being the only one intending to vote, walked into the room

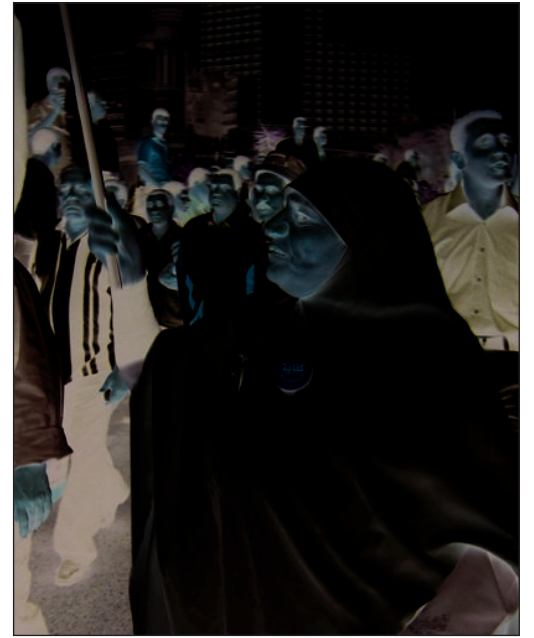
where men vote, only to find that he must go back to Heliopolis and vote there, since that is where his voting card said he was from. This little announcement, we realized, contradicted the ad placed in the Al-Ahram Newspaper, which stated that voters, with their card, may vote at any designated center within the city.

9:30 a.m.

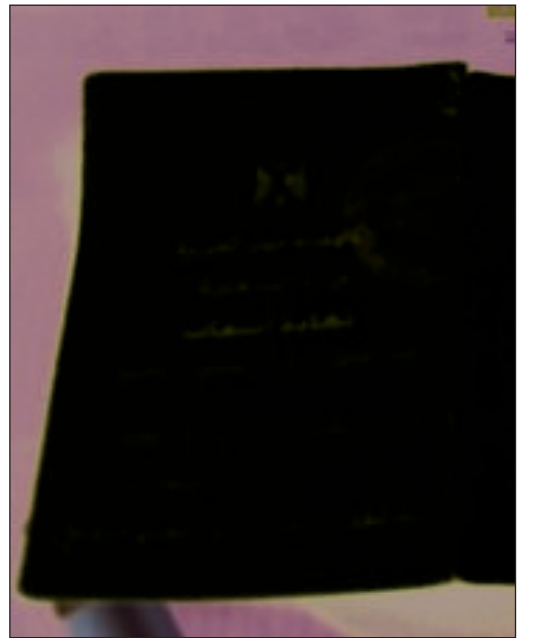
We pulled over in front of the police station of Heliopolis to find out where Ramadan could go to exercise his right to vote. After passing many pro-Mubarak supporters and a couple of helpful conversations later, we proceeded to the school beside the police station.

9:42 a.m.

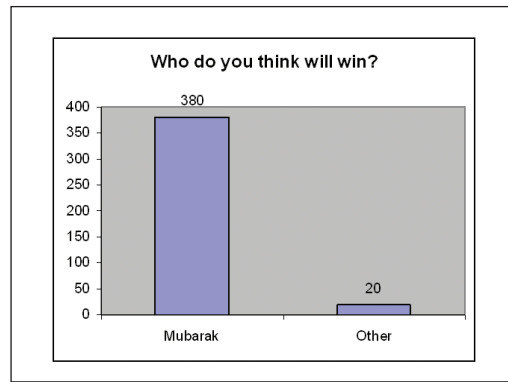
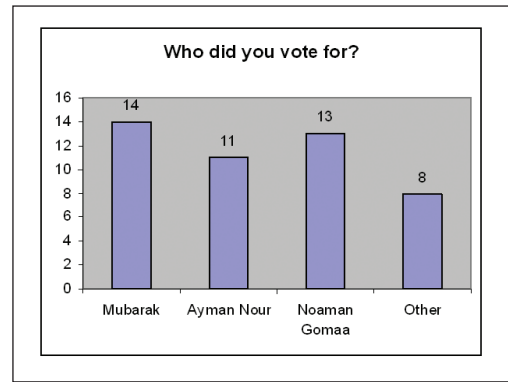
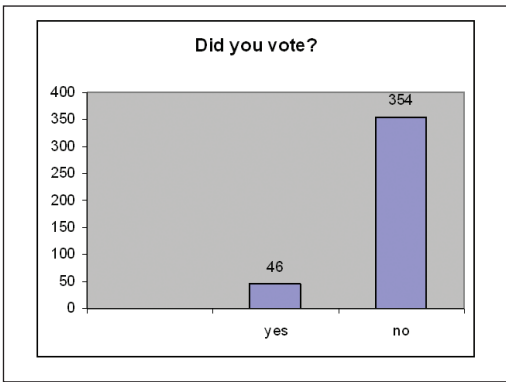
We arrived at the school. The officers working there were nothing short of helpful, they even let me pull out my camera and take a few shots. Ramadan concluded his voting experience, complete with a pink finger, successfully. Abdel Hadi, a witness to the voting process said, "The voting process seemed fairly systematic despite the common stereotype of Egyptian national activities being corrupt." On the way back to university, Ramadan said, "I think participation is important. Boycotting elections is like boycotting democracy."



Omneya Osman / THE CARAVAN
WOMAN OF WILL: Kifaya protester in Tahrir Square.

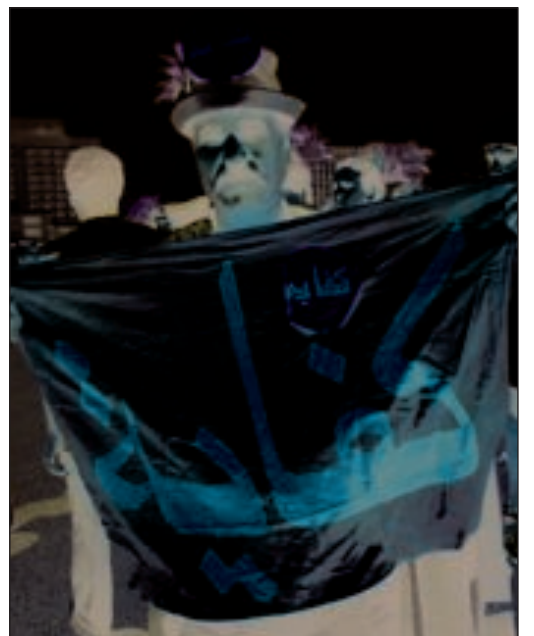
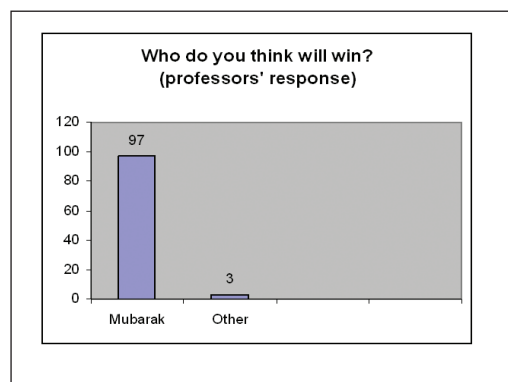
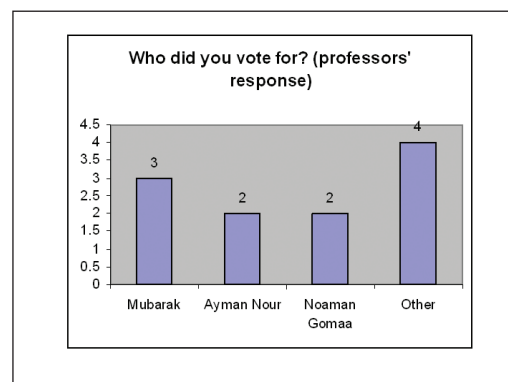
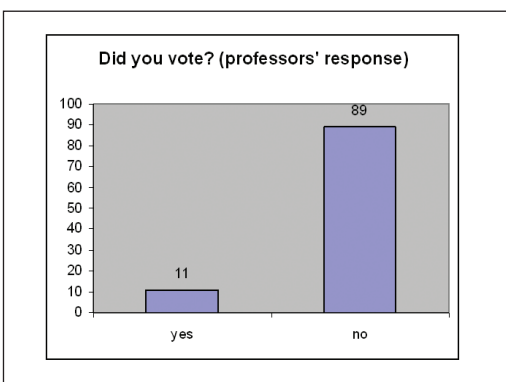


Shareen Nasr-El-Din / THE CARAVAN
TICKET TO CHANGE?: Voting card.



Caravan Election Survey

With all the hustle and bustle of elections in the air, Caravan staffers ventured onto the AUC campus to learn how the community felt about the elections. Four-hundred students and 100 professors were surveyed.



Shareen Nasr-El-Din / THE CARAVAN
A KIFAYA MASCOT: Protester makes a statement.

“The elections were not fair. There was no time for campaigning and the voter turnout was scandalous. Many people couldn't vote because of the bureaucratic system. Either way, Mubarak was the best candidate.”

- Mohsen Tonsy
Political economy senior

“This is not how elections take place in democratic countries. They were unorganized and unfair. The unnecessary restrictions make it impossible for people to run for office.”

- Dina Farag
BADM senior

“The Egyptian government gives us high hopes that they are going to implement democracy, but they never meet our [Egyptian citizens'] expectations.”

- Mohamed Mohsen
MENG senior

“I think that it was all planned so that Mubarak could win.”

- Lamia Shoeib
Actuarial science sophomore



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Letter Policy

The Caravan welcomes letters to the editor responding to published material or commenting on subjects that are of interest to the general community. Only e-mailed letters (caravan@aucegypt.edu) not exceeding 400 words will be accepted. All letters must be signed with the student's name, ID number, major and year.

We reserve the right to edit any submission to the Op-Ed section for libel, grammar, punctuation, clarity, and space. The Caravan is under no obligation to print all pieces submitted.

Submit your letter by Sunday at 3 p.m.

Editorial Disclosure

The opinions, columns and cartoons printed in the Caravan do not necessarily represent the opinions of the editorial staff.

Have an
opinion?
Put it here.

Send your
thoughts to:

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Happy Hour: Courses, anyone?

YASMEEN EL MALLAH
yasmeenmallah@hotmail.com

AUC has a knack for overbooking students in majors and then not having enough seats for them.

Only the in-crowd of every department are 'magically' added to courses that are supposedly closed. These people who decide (for the purpose of this story, we'll name her Fatakat) whether or not we'll have a good semester, spend hours on the phone gossiping and giggling with their disciples about the latest news across AUC campuses, leaving the poor student in awe. Little does this student know what he/she's in for.

AUC tries to convince its students that they have the freedom and choice to pick their courses, although the truth is anything but that. I've had friends tell me that they had to offer presents to Fatakat in order to get into courses that they wanted. Others have mentioned that they have to compliment or give Fatakat some juicy news in order to grab her attention and slowly lure her to putting them in the course that they can't get into without her.

What I don't get is, who on earth does Fatakat think she is to allow only her little 'buddies' to get into the courses that they want, leaving the rest of us to rot or spend hours at the glaring computer screen hoping some person will drop the class and allow us to take his place? I don't think she understands her job position. She's meant to be there for all students, no matter what. I think she's forgotten the fact that the sole reason of her existence is to help the students, not to help herself.

I now understand why students have to stoop so low in order to get what they want. It's not their fault, it's Fatakat's.

To all the Fatakats at AUC, I think you need to go back and check your consciences before doing something that you may regret later on. To all of you who suck up in order to get ahead, get a grip. You'll be the first ones to have the biggest reality check when you graduate from AUC. As for those of you who patiently wait and do as told, I leave you with Matthew Henry: "Goodness makes greatness truly valuable, and greatness make goodness much more serviceable."



Shareen says: 'University lovin'

SHAREEN NASR-EL-DIN
cameljockey16@hotmail.com

You have got to love this university. I mean seriously, how could you not? Don't you see what this institution does to its students out of unconditional love. It sends you a letter in the mail just when you come back from Marina to ask for a couple thousand pounds more in tuition. The letter claims that the money will partially go to financing the 'world class' faculty, which is great until you find that your department has decided to hire more part-time staff who are guaranteed to leave you either yawning in class or drinking a vanilla latte in some café in Mohandiseen. Or, if you're lucky, your professor just won't show up for the first couple weeks of class. Oh and let's not forget, you practically have to run a marathon from the department secretary's office to some other unknown location, and repeat that about 12 times to get anything done.

And heaven forbid if you're sent to the registrar's office because you know in the back of your mind - it's over.

It amazes me how there's a form for everything, absolutely everything - an add form, overload form, substitution form, drop form, withdrawal form, enrollment form - when the sad thing is that all a student really needs to do is go to one of the ladies at the Registrar, give them your ID number and POOF, all the forms become rather unnecessary. All the information that you print on the forms is either already on the screen or with the click of a button can be adjusted, printed and instantaneously provided. Unless you need something from the 'back room,' which would realistically take 10 minutes to produce. With our 'efficient system' it takes '3 working days' to do the above. It's as if without the existence of the forms, there becomes less of a reason for any of the staff to exist as well.

And finally, as your day dwindles down and you arrived home, you go through your desk only to find that you have an AUC paperback library book that has been checked out since last semester. You cautiously go to the computer to find out how much you owe, and the screen states \$400. You look through the book only to find that its worth is \$22.99.

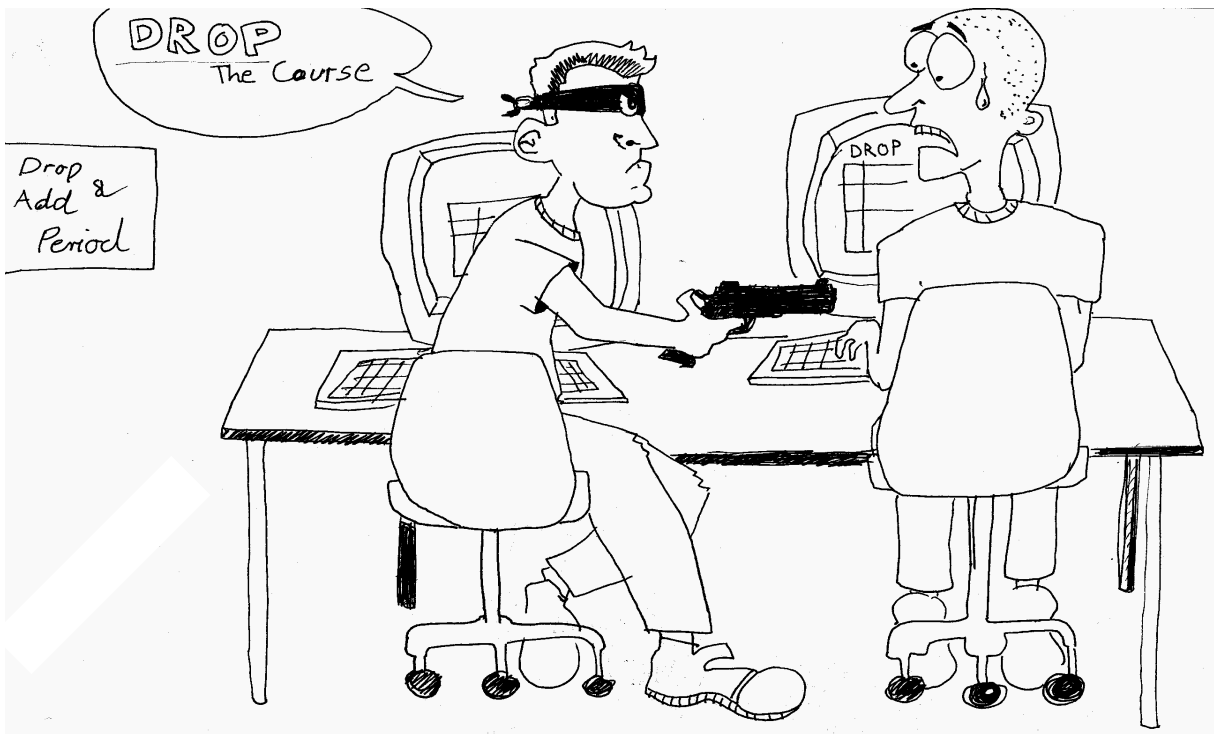
So folks, the next time you walk into a classroom, give your part-time professor a hearty pat on the back and a Colgate smile and when you head over to the registrar's office, pick up those forms. Those seem to be the only free things this university has to offer. Ladies and gentlemen, let's face it, this university loves you.



WORD SEARCH

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| affable | decorum | gracious | proper |
| agreeable | deferent | kind | refined |
| attentive | diplomat | manners | respect |
| charming | elegant | nice | social |
| civil | faultless | obliging | suave |
| cordial | formal | open | tactful |
| courteous | genial | pleasant | urbane |
| courtly | genteel | polished | well-bred |
| debonair | gentle | politic | winning |

D X W E L L - B R E D D M R L A I C O S
 D I W H V Z G C M N M K G N I G I L B O
 W W P R G A L B H T E M P O L I T I C N
 X I K L N K U K Y A U P D E F E R E N T
 L N N I O Q K S B R R Y O L T N B E M E
 M A C N Y M Z Y O D R M N L X P N X L F
 T E I F I F A C L E L P I N V A V B B W
 N Q L N K N E T S T F K J N B M A E L R
 A Z W F E D G P C A R P I R G E G L E E
 S M Z T G G E O U D P U U N E H L E E L
 A A P F C C R L E D P N O R D T L G T B
 E N W D T D T H R R C R G C M N R A N A
 L N L K I L S R E Z I A O C V L D N E F
 P E V A E I V I F L V Q Z P Z N B T G F
 J R L S L E N A I U I T V B E N D R H A
 Z S S O L T H N N F L T R B P R C K Z J
 Z L P T N B B O E T L A M R O F W J N V
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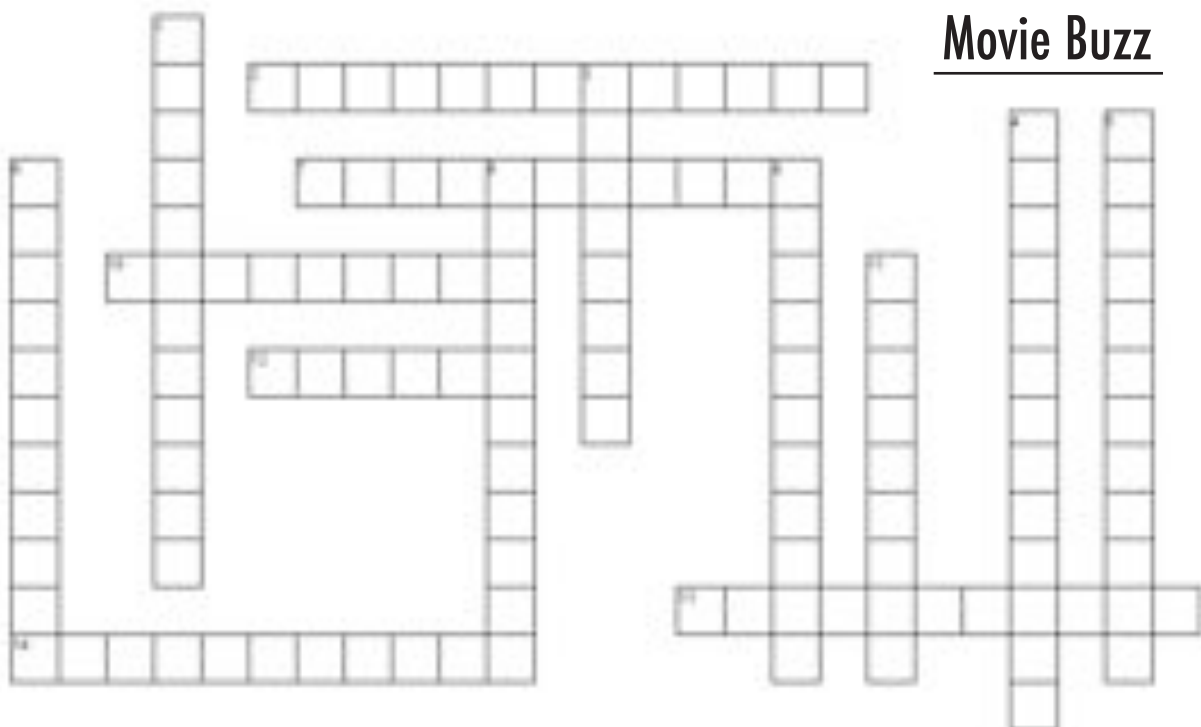
Caravan seeks cartoonists

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or forever hold your peace!

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Movie Buzz



ACROSS

- 2 Stated in a self-titled movie called Being _____
- 7 Stated in a remake of this movie where Burt Reynolds originally played his part
- 10 From Lieutenant to a stripper
- 12 What you get when you rub your eyes too much
- 13 Made a t-shirt after her movie that read "See _____ die"
- 14 This ex-James Bond embarks on 8 billion dollars in 'Entrapment'

DOWN

- 1 Australian "witch" actress
- 3 Big gorilla monster comes back to life in this Peter Jackson release
- 4 With the fullest lips in Hollywood, she's got to be pleasing Brad Pitt
- 5 "Trainspot" this British actor on the "Island"
- 6 Dating answer to number 11
- 8 Kate Hudson's new horror movie
- 9 _____ joined Catherine Zeta-Jones and Renee Zellweger in the Hollywood version of an old musical
- 11 Stared in the latest Steven Spielberg movie