Despite the presence of foreign press and human rights activists, only a few AUC students joined the hundred of Egyptians who marched down 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. Only a few actually joined the nearby rally.

Their lack of interest reflected the low voter turnout generally, which was estimated by officials 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 joined the rally. “This is a de-politicized AUC community. We 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, “It is a more Egyptian area; [the girls] can interact with a more Egyptian environment,” El Fiqi said.

The Kefaya movement, organized by the ‘Kefaya’ demonstrators, swept down to the university housing of Zamalek residence. Sumaya El Fiqi, an international fashion photographer, said she felt in the way when they grabbed her camera and stood among the dust and ruins to record the tragedy.

“Terrorism knows no borders,” the Middle East University in Cairo, recalled the attacks in New York City celebrating her birth.

David Arnold, president of AUC, and Francis Ricciardone, the American ambassador to Egypt, stopped at a police barrier, anxiously following a rescue worker.

“Seven million Egyptians who marched down to the Tahrir Square at 12 p.m., protesting against the first-ever Egyptian presidential election on Sept. 9. The students showed little interest and the sit-in was almost unnoticed on the first day of classes.

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 non-chalantly between classes while only a handful of students went outside to participate in the demonstrations in Tahrir Square and the surrounding downtown area.

“We have nothing to fight for, no real grievances,” said Kamal, the organizer of the sit-in, Karim El-Khashab, a political science senior, said the sit-in in 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.
Students face second year of tuition hikes

By SHEREEN EL GAZZAR

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 hike.

"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 fall of the new semester I don't see an obvious difference.

But Mahmoud 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.

Others said they have trouble keeping up with the everyday cost of living, let alone increases in tuition fees.

"When we entered the 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 going through some economic and work fields are extremely unstable," Zayed continued.

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 many others," said. "The cost of education has increased 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] instead of LE 10,000, it became LE 10,700."

"The policy is fair that I have to room in a double when I don't think it's fair that I have a room in a double when I have lived here for three years already and requested a single," said Maha Mikked, 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 Zaidah, a sophomore at 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 40 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 Faj believes that the increase in the number of students requesting accommodation in the Zamalek hostel is a continuing trend.

From home or abroad, enrollment increases

Largest-ever freshman class admitted to AUC

By OMNEYA OSMAN

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 1,800 employees currently working at AUC, 4,000 students is a reasonable enrollment, she said. "I think that the 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 new campus, it must enroll a minimum of 4,000 students.

AUC aimed to admit 900 students this semester.

"This target was given 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

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."

Linda 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 Office of the Special Services Officer.

"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 Riffat, the associate dean of international affairs for student services and programs.

CAMPUS: Permits issued, but security reports no protests

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.
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" world. In Invisible Monsters, Palahniuk throws readers into a sordid, gritty world where the harrowing and gripping insecurities, and the defining point of his literary style.

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 steaks not only offer every customer deliciously fresh, cooked food, but also to make you feel at home, and respected in a cultural exchange of meals.

While the service is quite unassuming 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 doors 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 jars of pickled goods. Photographs of France and colorful curtains give the restaurant a honey feeling and the light French music in the background makes you feel relaxed and happy.

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 tasted France.

53 Gameat El Dowal El Arabia Street, Mohandiseen
(07) 249-0893

"Horoscopes, uncensored student columns, tourism offers and ads, café ads, comic tales and so on." - Hosam Abd El Hay
CENG junior

"More political and social issues." - Nada Imam
Accounting freshman

Pizza, steak, and a touch of France

At Charwood’s, bistro, comfort and elegance combine

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 supermodel gone wrong. In a world usually portrayed with glamour and panache, Palahniuk strips all the glitz and glamour from the rockstar and the star struck, and in doing so, brings together an ensemble cast of iconic pop culture references and charismatically distinctive characters playing 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 flamboyant, sarcastic and dark humor touches almost everything he writes. The psychological insights into the minds of his characters are uncanny. His interest in the psyche of the modern individual is striking almost to the point of obscurity, and is the defining point of his literary style.

After putting the book down, the psychological insights into the psyche of the modern individual are still lingering in your mind as you struggle through the war of words. Palahniuk’s psychological insight into the psyche of the modern individual is striking almost to the point of obscenity.

Chuck Palahniuk’s masterpiece "Invisible Monsters" pulls you into a sordid, gritty world where the harrowing and gripping insecurities, and the defining point of his literary style.

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 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 coverage. While covering the Iran-Iraq war, I was the only Western journalist covering the war," Pintak said.

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 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 Bloodstained 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 conferences," 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.

By DUNOYER
Caravan Reporter

Eric Dunoyer, owner of Charwood’s, was a chef before opening his restaurant in Mohandiseen.

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“Journalism is a fundamental element of existence,” Pintak said.
Revolutionary election met by unprecedented emotions

Many AUCians believe that the newly-reformed electoral process is biased and disorganized.

My Experience with Democracy

BY EMRAA MAHMOUD
ECLY Sophomore
Letter to the Editor

On Sept. 7, I headed optimistically to Al-Omornia 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.

I was standing in a very long line for ladies and men. Minutes passed, then hours. At last I made it to the front of this very long line at Imam’s 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 that we wanted to vote because we wanted to practice a right that we never have been granted. We headed in the direction of the Imam’s Aly voting station, not expecting much.

We headed out of the station when a policeman saw our two frustrated faces and told us, “Why not try Gamal Abdel Nasser 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 police station.

Our hope didn’t rekindle the way it did the first time. We headed to the Agouza police 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.

By Fatma Sissy
Business review
Letter to the Editor

We checked in at the Agouza police station and asked 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.

The Presidential Elections: A Voter UN-Friendly Snapshot

BY RANA SWELLAM
Business review
Letter to the Editor

As a political science senior, I was excited about the upcoming elections. I had been following the campaign for weeks and was eager to cast my vote. However, my excitement quickly turned to frustration when I realized that finding my name on the electoral roll was not as simple as I had thought.

I headed to the Dokki polling station, hoping to find my name registered. After asking three policemen where to go to vote, we finally reached the right desk. The first question asked was, “What’s your birth year?” We answered 1983. With a blank look on their face, they asked us if we had any files that we could check. We explained that there was nothing they could do.

We were feeling defeated by the bureaucratic system, but we didn’t give up. We walked away, feeling hopeless. However, our luck changed when we arrived at the Imam’s Aly polling station. A kind man offered to help us, and within minutes we found our names on the list.

I think the election was unfair because the campaigner did not have enough time to persuade the Egyptian citizens to elect them. I didn’t vote because I know that Mubarak would win any way.

By Enas El-Badawy
Business review
Letter to the Editor

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By Amira Tarkhan
Political science senior

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I think the election was unfair because the campaigner did not have enough time to persuade the Egyptian citizens to elect them. I didn’t vote because I know that Mubarak would win any way.
A day in the life of a Cairene voter

By Shareen Nasr-El-Din
Caravan Editor

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 trickled 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 Falaki 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.”

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.

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 Tomy
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
Let's talk about... 
AUC, I think you need to go back and check your admission application. AUC has a knack for overbook- ing 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 gossping and jiggling with their disciplines about the latest news across AUC campuses, leaving the poor student in awe. Little does this student know what he/she is 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 compli- ce or give Fatakat some juicy news in order to grab her attention and slowly here her to putting them in the course that they can’t get into with- out 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 her place? I don’t think she under- stands 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.”

Happy Hour: Courses, anyone?

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Have an opinion? Put it here.

Send your thoughts to:
caravan@aucegypt.edu
or
amirelqawy@gmail.com

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Submit your letter by Sunday at 3 p.m.

Yasmeen El-Mallah

Shareen Naar-El-Din

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Caravan seeks cartoonists

SPEAK NOW ...

or forever hold your peace!

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caravan@aucegypt.edu
or
amiraelgawy@gmail.com