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Arnold hosts dinner for Palestinian and Yemeni scholarship students

BY ASMA AL SHARIF
 Caravan Reporter

It is important for students on scholarships to build ties with their donors, said David Arnold, president of the American University in Cairo (AUC) at a dinner party held in honor of newly admitted Palestinian and Yemeni scholarship students.

The dinner was held on Sept. 17 at Arnold's Cairo home to welcome the scholarship students.

Scholarships from the Taher family, Ghalib El Farouky, Hael Saeed and Khalid Shaheen, among others, are responsible for providing tuition, housing and fees for more than 20 students this semester, according to Iman Kaffa, associate dean and executive director of the Diversity Scholarship.

Abdul Rahman Hael Saeed, an AUC alumnus, has contributed to the Yemeni Hael Saeed scholarship fund, which is providing scholarships for two Yemeni students this semester, said Arnold.

"We are the first two Yemeni students to be sent on a scholarship to AUC," said Laila Anaam, a student on the Yemeni Hael Saeed scholarship.

Other guests included Latifa Yusouf, a representative of the Palestinian government and Ali Ahmad Al Dailami, political counsel to the Yemeni Ambassador in Egypt.

"I think this event is a good idea



Mohamed Abu Bakr / CARAVAN STAFF

because it gives us a chance to know the new Yemeni students at AUC and to be in contact with the administration of AUC," said Al Dailami of the dinner.

Arnold described the Yemeni and Palestinian students as a "wonderful, diverse, talented and gifted group of students [and] great assets [to] AUC and their countries."

"It was a nice gesture from the president to invite us because it made us feel like there is someone watching over us, especially since we are here in a foreign country," said Nadeem Abdolla Saeed, an undeclared freshman on the Yemeni Hail Saeed scholarship.

"I think each new foreign student will have problems adapting so it is very good



Mohamed Abu Bakr / CARAVAN STAFF

BUILDING TIES: (Above) President David Arnold introduces Yemeni students to Ali Ahmed Al Dailami, the political counsel to the Yemeni Ambassador in Egypt. (Left) President Arnold and his wife welcome the Yemeni and Palestinian students to their Cairo home.

that the university is taking care of these students," said Ruba Ghazi, a mass communication senior who has studied at AUC under the Palestinian Nashwa Taher Scholarship for the past four years.

Ken Manotti, vice president for institutional advancement, explained there are

also plans for an event later this semester where the Egyptian scholarship students can meet with their donors.

"We are sending a message that we care about our students and that we are happy to have them on AUC scholarships," said Kaffa.

New campus to be completed on time despite challenges

BY DINA BASIONY
 Caravan Reporter



Dina Basiony / CARAVAN STAFF

DESPITE CHALLENGES: President Arnold says the move to the new campus is on schedule.

There are still challenges to completing the new campus but it is expected to be finished on time in the summer of 2008, said David Arnold, president of the American University in Cairo (AUC), in an interview with the Caravan last week.

"We're challenged to get it done within the time and the budget we can afford," said Arnold said, adding that the biggest challenge now is to build the new campus to the highest standard of quality because "that is what AUC represents."

He explained that safety proce-

dures are a priority in terms of meeting international standards. "We can't sacrifice safety for the sake of time," said Arnold.

According to Arnold, the existing Main and Falaki campuses will remain downtown to preserve Ewart Hall and the Falaki theaters' cultural programs. He added that the Greek campus, Rare Books Library and Zamalek hostel will be sold in order to fund completion of the new campus. "If you want to buy a new house, you...have to sell the old one to guarantee having a better new one," said Arnold.

A major issue of controversy between the student body and the

administration is the ongoing rise in tuition fees, which increased by approximately LE 2,000 this semester. Although Arnold said the increase in fees does not go toward funding the new campus, students were skeptical. "Why do I have to pay for the new campus if I'm going to graduate this semester? I'm not going to benefit from [it] in anyway," said Jasmine Mahmoud, mass communication senior.

According to Arnold, the increase in fees is caused by the university's determination to maintain the best quality in its educational programs. Operating higher technology facilities like computer labs and increasing full-time faculty members' salaries

are a few of the many priorities in maintaining AUC's quality. "We aim to attract the best, brightest international faculty," he said, adding that higher salaries would help accomplish that.

"I'm very proud of AUC as a remarkable educational system," said Arnold, commenting on the university's overall performance. The school has standards that are hard to match by any other university in Egypt, he said.

Arnold encourages students who want to know more about the financial aspects of the university to attend the Student Forum at the Falaki Mainstage during assembly hour on Oct. 2.

Alumni recreate Shakespeare's Othello

BY NERMINE EL GINDY
 Caravan Reporter

The set of *Othello* or *Who's Afraid of William Shakespeare*, a play which opened on Sept. 13th on the Falaki Mainstage theatre, was what first grabbed the audience's attention: the rough-looking stage set was decorated entirely with metal fans to symbolize contemporary life, according to Ahmed El Attar, one of the directors.

"We live in an industrial age that is rough," said El Attar.

Hanzada Abou Youssef, a mass communication senior, thinks that the set is technically based and is the most complicated set she has ever seen in the Falaki main stage theater.

The play is comprised of 12 texts, which are derived from six different Shakespearean plays and recreated by directors El Attar and Nevine El Ibiary.

See OTHELLO, 2

Students initiate political campaign for Lebanon

BY LEILA SOBEIH
 Caravan Reporter

The Cairo International Model United Nations (CIMUN), the Model Arab League (MAL), and the Student Union development committee are cooperating to launch a 33-day awareness campaign about the reasons for and consequences of the Lebanese-Israeli conflict.

"People are not aware of the profound effect of this war," said Nouran Kashef, secretary general of CIMUN.

The 33-day campaign will begin the last week of September and will continue throughout October, with a different theme each week, according to Kashef. "We want to be diversified," he said.

The campaign will hold lectures dealing with the way the media covered

the war as well as debates, documentaries, photo galleries and movies on Lebanon and the conflict.

Political awareness is one of the main goals of the campaign, according to Mohamed Mossallam, secretary general of MAL and president of the campaign.

Kashef explained that although the campaign does not involve fundraising, it might help advertise and build awareness for Nosrah, a campaign that does collect funds to help Lebanese victims of the conflict.

The campaign also aims to change people's passive attitude towards the Lebanese war, said Mossallam. "People chose not to support [Lebanon] and to remain silent, and that is what we have to change," said Mossallam, adding that the campaign also wants to keep issues like the air strike in Qana, Lebanon "alive."

"It shouldn't pass easily as if it is only a bad memory...Wake up, there are humans being killed for no reason," he said.

In memory of the Qana air strike, an Israeli attack last July on a building

"It is the Arabs' responsibility not to be silent but they chose to remain so and surrender to their weaknesses, causing major damages."

-Mohamed Mossallam

in al-Khuraybah village in Lebanon which killed more than 50 people, the campaign is dedicating a week to presenting pictures of the destruction and discussing what occurred.

"It is the Arabs' responsibility not to be silent but they chose to remain so and surrender to their weaknesses, causing major damages," said Mossallam.

"We want the international community to know that the United Nations didn't do anything about [the war]," added Mossallam. He explained that the campaign wants to raise students' awareness to build a "community that might be more helpful in the future."

"We might be living well, but the expense of living like that is that we are losing our dignity," said Mossallam.

Many students encouraged the campaign and thought it was beneficial. "The campaign is a great idea to show the students the reality of what happened in Lebanon...People need more awareness," said Eman Mohamed, a mass communication senior.

Charity clubs collaborate for holy month

BY NOREEN OSMAN
Caravan Reporter

This Ramadan, Help Club, Alashanak Ya Balady and Volunteers in Action (VIA) have joined forces to collect money for *tamween* packages, the packages of food and donations that are traditionally given to the needy during the holy month, according to Sherif Save, the fundraising head in VIA.

"We're collaborating this year in hopes of maximizing the outcome," added Save.

The clubs involved are collecting donations and then plan to divide the money evenly among them, according to president of Alashanak Ya Balady, Eman Elba.

Charity plays a vital role during the holy month of Ramadan since it is the fifth

pillar of Islam. *Zakat*, or alms, must be given to the poor before Eid el-fitr, the celebration at the end of the fast.

All three clubs, however, are also a part of the Nusrah campaign, which aims to spread awareness and aid those in need in Lebanon and Palestine.

Because of that, the three clubs stopped collecting money for their *tamween* packages on Sept. 21 so that the two collection efforts wouldn't overlap each other and the causes would remain separate.

"All of us are a part of the Nusrah campaign and didn't want to collect donations during that campaign... We're all collecting for the same cause in the end [for the needy]," said Elba.

The Nusrah campaign, which organizers hope will raise more than LE

1 million, began on Sept. 17 and will end on Oct. 17. Besides AUC, the French University and the German University in Cairo are among the other universities helping out in the campaign.

"Nusrah is supposed to be the largest campaign at AUC... For the first time, all the clubs at AUC are merging together for Lebanon and Palestine," said Heba Marwan, a student volunteer for the Nusrah campaign at AUC.

"I think the idea of the Nusrah campaign is a step forward, answering those who claim that Egypt isn't aiding those in need in Lebanon and Palestine... Even though it's done by university students, it's still contributing to re-establishing Lebanon," said Omar Khalifa, a political science junior.

CCC to decide on new clubs

BY MERVAT BOTROS
Caravan Reporter

The Clubs and Conferences Committee (CCC), which manages student organizations at the American University in Cairo (AUC), is discussing whether to admit several proposed new clubs at the university, according to Sayed Omar, coordinator in the Student Organization Activities.

A decision is expected on Sept. 23.

Accepted new clubs will start recruiting in their booths in the Greek campus as soon as the CCC approves their plan.

"If there is a similarity between a new club and an existing one, the new club will be rejected," said Omar, who added that the new clubs' plans and objectives were being carefully reviewed.

Presidents of the new clubs must submit several documents, including a constitution for the club, the clubs' objectives, committees, and bylaws to the CCC committee. "Bylaws should include how to elect a president and how to be a member in the club," said Omar.

Members of the CCC will allocate a budget for each accepted new club. "New clubs usually take a smaller share [of the activities' budget] than existing clubs and conferences," added Omar.

One proposed new club, Vision, aims to create a link between international and

Egyptian students to promote tolerance, according to Yahia Alaa Alli, a mechanical engineering senior and Vision's president. "Our objective is to accept other cultures and diversities by realizing their beauty," said Alli, adding that the club will also try to introduce modern Egyptian culture to foreign students.

Another potential new club, AUCian Idol, is trying to replicate the popular *American Idol* TV show, where young musical talents compete, according to Hassan Abuhaif, a mass communication junior and AUCian Idol's president. "Anyone can be a member if he has the talent. There will be seven judges [to judge the contest]. If you win, you will have the chance to sign a contract with big production companies," said Abuhaif.

The proposed Finance and Investment club, founded by Mohamed El Fouly, an actuarial science senior, will give students first-hand experience with the stock market and financial skills. The club is one of the few that helps students in a particular major.

Other proposed new clubs include Showmania, the Political club, Robotics, and the chess club.

Although the Student Union (SU) doesn't have an activities' committee this fall, this will have no effect on the new clubs, according to Seif Abou Zaid, SU president.

"CCC is the committee responsible for the clubs," said Abou Zaid.

Ingmar Bergman film series runs throughout fall semester

BY SARAH NOUR
Caravan Reporter

Students from different majors will be attending the Ingmar Bergman Film Series, a collection of 24 of the Swedish writer and director's best works as part of their philosophy and film courses this semester.

The films, which are available to other students as well, are being screened by the department of performing and visual arts (PVA) in the American University in Cairo (AUC) from Sept. 10 to Dec. 19.

Ernest Wolf-Gazo, a philosophy professor at AUC, integrated Bergman's movies into the syllabus for his philosophy 220 course.

"Not only are the movies informative and related to the course, but they're also interesting," said Heidi el-Zanaty, a mechanical engineering senior, after she watched *Summer with Monika*.

The collection ranges from Bergman's earlier works, which date back to the 1940's, to his most recent, *Saraband*, in 2003.

Every Sunday and Monday a film from the series is shown at the Jameel Center (JC) Auditorium. On Sept. 10, the film series opened with *Summer*

with *Monika* (1953), a film which revolves around 19-year-old Henry and 17-year-old Monika, who fall in love and in rebellion run away from their parents to spend the summer on an island. Monika later gets pregnant, forcing them to move back to the city and face the harsh reality of their situation.

Although Bergman's works are criticized for being dark, pessimistic and skeptical, many justify this by the fact that his films tackle philosophical issues such as life, death, religion, and the afterlife.

"He plays with drama; any dramatic work has the possibility of evolving major philosophical questions," said Mohamed Elassyouti, film professor at AUC.

He explained that the films are not simply dark Bergman's films deal with questioning life and this reflects a serious tone that isn't necessarily dark. "Many of his films were derived from the ideas of philosophers like Henri Bergson and Immanuel Kant," said El Assyouti.

Aside from being one of the most famous authors and directors in film, Bergman is also recognized as a philosopher and earned an honorary doctorate of philosophy from Stockholm University. His films are acknowledged and awarded on an international level, according to El Assyouti.

"He's the Beethoven of film," said Elassyouti.

Bergman was born in 1918 in Sweden to a strict religious family. His films are known for discussing existential questions of loneliness, mortality and faith. He received Academy Awards for more than nine movies including, *Wild Strawberries* and *Cries and Whispers*, showing on Dec 10 and 13, as well as *Autumn Sonata*, showing on Dec 17.

Entrance is for free for all AUC community but an invitation is required for non-AUCians.

"Students, faculty members, and outsiders are welcome to watch the films," said Aida Eltorie, marketing and promotion specialist of the PVA department, adding that some of the films can also be seen in the Contemporary Image Collective (CIC) in 20 Safeya Zaghloul Street, off Kasr El Aini Street.

Wild Strawberries, a film telling the story of ageing professor Isak Borg, who is forced to face his fears and faults while being haunted by his past will shown in the JC Auditorium on Sept. 25 and 26. Another Academy Award winner, *Through a Glass Darkly*, a film discussing schizophrenia through the story of a girl who was recently released from an asylum and traveled to an island with her family, is showing on Nov. 5 and 8.

Othello: Shakespeare for modern times

Othello was chosen as the theme, "because he is an Arab living in Europe and that is very important today," said

El Attar. The theme of Shakespeare's original *Othello*, an Arab living in Venice and married to a rich Italian girl,

is used to reflect on current issues of Arabs' agony abroad. The play looks at many serious issues in a comic light, without presenting solutions.

Although the play's opening was well received by a clapping and whistling audience, students' reactions varied.

"It was well organized and very symbolic," said Abou Youssef.

Some, however, differed. "[The play] was too abstract. I didn't understand anything," said Shaimaa Baker, an electronics engineering senior.

In response to students who thought the play was abstract, El Ibiary said, "personally, when I direct a play I don't really think of it as abstract or realist. We have a vision and we put it on stage."

The unusual name of the play comes from the directors' feelings while working on the play. "The play's name reflects that we were afraid of William Shakespeare as well," El Attar said.

The two directors are AUC theatre graduates. El Attar continued his education, receiving an MA in arts and cultural management from Universite' de Sorbonne Nouvelle: Paris III. He founded the Temple Independent Theatre Company in Egypt. El Ibiary joined him in the company as an assistant director after she graduated in 2002.

The play will be shown next in Switzerland on Nov. 14 and 15.



Nermine El Gindy/ CARAVAN STAFF

INNOVATIVE ALUMNI: Ahmed El Attar and Nevine El Ibiary recreate Shakespeare with an industrial-age twist.

Open-air talk show hosts Lebanese Ambassador



Shannon Lodermeier / CARAVAN STAFF

Lebanese Ambassador Aly Halaby thanked students at the American University in Cairo (AUC) for their help in reconstructing more than 100 Lebanese schools and colleges damaged during the Israeli-Lebanon conflict and for their ongoing efforts to raise food and money.

Halaby made the remarks last Monday during a talk show hosted by the Student Union president, Seif Abou Zaid.

Although awareness is increasing and aid campaigns have flourished, student effort is still needed to help Lebanon during this unstable time, said Abou Zaid. "We have to believe [that] in the near future we will be next, so we have to do something now," he added.

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Stanford professor joins ME studies program at AUC

BY DANIELLE WHITE
Caravan Reporter

Organized, punctual, and refreshing are some of the words that students and colleagues use to describe Dr. Joel Beinin, the new director of the Middle East Studies Program, according to Lulwa Borecosh, a Middle East studies graduate student.

Beinin previously taught at Stanford University for more than 20 years. However, the school's lack of focus on the Middle East and his failure to convince colleagues of its importance, led Beinin to become a professor and director in the program at the American University in Cairo (AUC).

"My personal ambition is to make this department into a world class program," said Beinin.

In addition to his teaching, Beinin is a member of the advisory council of the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies and has served several terms as an editorial committee member of the *Middle East Report*, a publication dedicated to Middle East research and analysis. Dr. Beinin is also the author of two books, *Workers and Peasants in the Modern Middle East*, and *The Dispersion of Egyptian Jewry: Culture, Politics, and the Formation of a Modern Diaspora*.

Despite Beinin's departure from Stanford, he still retains the school's prestige. Kira Jumet, an Arabic studies graduate and student of Beinin, said that, "the fact that he came from Stanford seems to be a big plus." And according to his colleague, Ann Lesch, Dean of AUC's School of Humanities and Social Sciences, he is recognized as an "internationally known scholar."



Danielle White / CARAVAN STAFF

A NEW DIRECTION: Joel Beinin pursuing his passion for Middle East studies at AUC.

After only a few lectures, Beinin's students have already begun to appreciate his approach to teaching. "He is very good at managing a seminar-type class. Students have a lot of input and he allows us to [express] our own viewpoints," said Jack Brown, an Arabic studies graduate student.

All of Beinin's students this semester are graduate students. Next semester he will also be teaching undergraduate classes.

Although Beinin is a very experienced professor, he is not afraid to admit, "teaching AUC freshmen will be pretty different from anything I've ever done," but he added that he is open minded and "willing to alter my teaching style to fit the needs of the students if necessary."

Borecosh believes in Beinin's ability to take the program to a higher level: "When he reforms the program to the same level of prestige as those at American universities, it will make our lives that much easier, and when employers see that I went to this program at this university, it will facilitate the jobs I get."

AUCian idol: Students start online beauty pageant

BY NOREEN OSMAN
Caravan Reporter

Lana Ali was unanimously voted the "hottest girl" at the American University in Cairo (AUC) in an online competition hosted by the social network Facebook this August.

The competition, which was meant to be fun rather than serious, was called, "AUCian Idol: Top 20 Hottest Girls." For winning, Ali was given a signed CD from one of the judges' band, "The Marbleheads," as her prize.

The website, which was founded in 2004 by Mark Zuckerberg at Harvard College, serves as a networking tool for high school and college students who want to reconnect with old friends, meet new friends, arrange different clubs and events, and form interest groups.

It now connects approximately 7.5 million college student worldwide, with an additional 20,000 new accounts created daily. Only college and high school students can register, which allows them to search for students from any American university or high school and from some international schools like AUC.

As more students became acquainted with the website, more interest groups were being created daily about various topics from politics to television shows. One group in particular, "the AUCian Top 20 Idol" caught the attention of the AUC community. The competition was created by AUC political science graduate Mohamed Ghazy and political science senior Tamer Bakeer, based on the popular U.S. show *American Idol*.

There were three judges, including Ghazy, Bakeer, and Cairo American College graduate Laila

Gohar, who picked the top 20 from the profiles and pictures of AUC girls registered on the website. The group was an online forum that had approximately 90 members join within the first week, in addition to the approximately 50 girls participating in the competition.

According to Ghazy, there were mixed reactions from all the contestants, but most of the participants were very curious to see how far they would make it in the competition. "As soon as a contestant got eliminated, they'd send bitter posts or very, very bitter private messages." He added that, "some girls just took the whole thing lightly and enjoyed it, which was the whole point in the first place."

According to Bakeer, "Mohamed Ghazy, [the] creator and a close friend, asked me to take one of the judges positions. I welcomed the idea and believe [I] ultimately gave the perfect exam-

ple of an unbiased judge in a fun and harmless competition."

According to Ghazy, the winner and runner up Dina Hazzan actually became friends after the competition. "A lot of people got to know each other because of [this], which is another thing that made this group popular and entertaining."

"I thought it was actually a lot of fun because a lot of people joined the group in no time and it wasn't anything serious, it was just for fun," said Rima Naamani, a psychology junior who was one of the top 20 contestants.

The website has exclusive privacy settings allowing profiles and groups to be public but with safe limitations. "Facebook isn't as sketchy as other sites; its exclusiveness definitely adds to its genuineness. And I sincerely doubt that a competition like AUCian idol could have taken place anywhere else," said Bakeer.

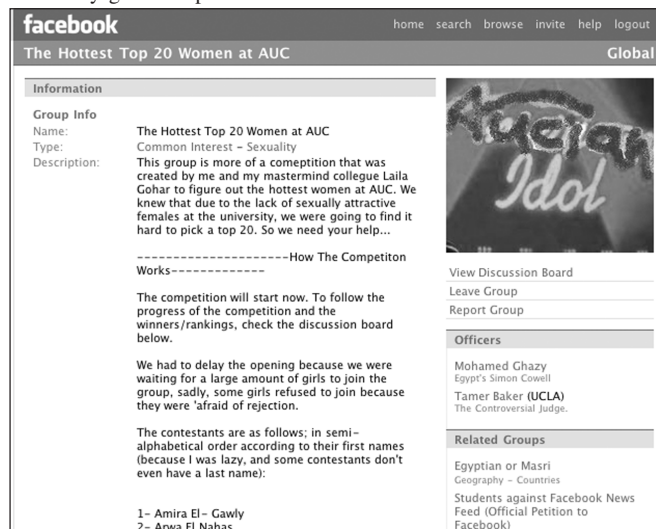


Photo from the Facebook website

AUC BEAUTY PAGEANT: Facebook interest group, AUCian Idol, started by students for fun, was taken seriously by some participants.

Q & A

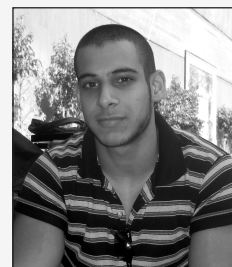
QUESTION:

"What do you think about Facebook?"



"It protects your privacy and most importantly it keeps you connected with your friends abroad."

-Sarah Eid,
POLS freshman



"I think all these networking sites are a waste of time."

- Mahmud Al Durrah,
CENG junior



"These sites kill time and are addictive, but they also keep you in touch with people abroad."

- Naela Al Abbady,
BADM junior



"It is useful but very few people have time to use it."

- Maged Raouf,
CENG senior



"It's good, it keeps you in touch with your old friends."

- Madonna Mekhail,
JRM junior

Take your sohour to restaurants that offer Ramadan menus

BY DALIA SOUKKARY
Caravan Reporter

Your typical meal before beginning Ramadan's day-long fast, the *sohour*, consists of a couple of sandwiches and some water after waking up at 3 a.m. and after that you go back to sleep before sunrise. Now, you can leave your home and find a

much more diverse selection of food and entertainment.

La Pietra, a popular cafe in Mohandiseen off of Wadi El Nile St., is known for its relaxed atmosphere and great food. La Pietra caters to all ages and offers a diverse selection of foods. Their menu, which includes famous pizzas and pastas, will offer more Ramadan-like drinks such as

Hommos El Sham, a hot chick pea drink, or sahlab, a sweet milk drink. The average cost is about LE 30 per person.

According to Hossam Mahmoud, who is in charge of La Pietra's Ramadan menu, people come to La Pietra because of the special food and the service that they provide. In addition, unlike the rest of the year when shisha is

only allowed outside, during Ramadan shisha will be allowed indoors, he said.

One of the most famous spots for *sohour* during Ramadan is Sequoia, also known as El Sultan, located in Zamalek at the end of Abou Fida St. The open-air restaurant on the Nile offers a wide selection of food, and one of the biggest selections of shisha flavors, including vanilla and banana. Their food includes oriental dishes and mezzas, including sambousak, and wrapped vine leaves. Call early to get a reservation because it's always packed. There is usually a minimum charge of LE 50 per person.

Sequoia is an especially popular place for students at the American University in Cairo. "The people are nice and food is good," said Joana Safra, a business administration freshman.

The prestigious Le Pacha 1900 boat, docked in front of the Gezira Club in Zamalek, offers both food and entertainment during the holy month. The boat is known for the variety of cuisines in its diverse restaurants, including Asian food, Lebanese food, and a steak house. The average cost is approximately LE 100 per person. Although it's a little pricey, the taste, quality, and wide selection of food will make it

worth every piaster.

In addition to the diverse selection of food, the boat will provide different entertainment programs. For example, Sharky, the Lebanese restaurant, is going to offer live entertainment every day, while other restaurants such as Il Piccolo Mondo and Le Steak will be playing in-house music, according to Youssef Zakhari, assistant sales manager of Le Pacha. Akl Zaman, the Egyptian cuisine restaurant, will be offering oriental music.

"I went to Le Pacha for *sohour* [before], the food and the atmosphere were amazing," said Mira Gindi, an accounting senior.

Safari, another restaurant offering live entertainment, will host famous singers like Mohammed Hamaki, Saad El Saghir, and Mohammed Adaweya, said Ahmed Zaki, the general manager of Safari. "People want to go to places where there is desert and fresh air," said Zaki about its location at the beginning of the desert road from Cairo to Alexandria.

Safari Café: 5391403

Le Pacha: 7356730

Tabasco: 7358465

Sequoia: 0105470381

La Pietra: 3446643



Dalia Soukkary / CARAVAN STAFF

OUTDOOR SOHOUR: Safari offers an outdoor venue near the desert road for those who wish to get away from the streets of Cairo.

The Voice

In an attempt to show that violence and faith do not mix, Pope Benedict XVI quoted a 14-century Byzantine emperor regarding the issue of *Jihad* , saying, "He said, I quote, 'Show me just what Muhammed brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached.'" The Pope clearly stated that this does not reflect his personal views, and continued in the speech that, "Violence is incompatible with the nature of God and the nature of the soul." Granted, the Pope may have not used the best example to prove the point about the relationship between violence and faith, but it does in fact exist. All around the world, Muslims rioted, firebombed churches, burned the Pope in effigy, and shot a nun to death, all due to a misunderstanding of the difference between a quote and what the Pope actually said. Even after the Pope apologized for the misunderstanding, Muslim leaders still demanded an apology. In all of this, the Pope somehow became linked to the West and Bush, and was called an infidel and a blind man. The issue was blown out of proportion, which in turn caused the violence that took place. It is because of these kinds of misunderstandings and quick reactions that Muslims have a reputation for being extremists and terrorists with a violent religion. Instead of blindly reacting to a wrong impression spread by word-of-mouth, people should take a moment to understand the situation, read what was actually said, and think carefully about their reactions before going through with them.

- CARAVAN STAFF



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Everyone thinks it...

Learn from the best?

FOUAD HAMMOUD
Managing Editor

The American University in Cairo (AUC) is known as the top university in Egypt with the highest standards of education, the liberal lifestyle — the one that provides its students with an edge for their future. So why is it that we hire inadequate professors who do not come even close to the values the university holds?

Upon entering AUC, I thought that since I passed up the opportunity to study abroad, I would be getting an equivalent education from well-respected, English-speaking, praiseworthy professors. After a few courses, I realized that what some of my professors taught me I could have learned on my own by reading the book, without wasting my time or money.

The biggest shock was learning that I had professors who could barely speak proper English. I would hear words that I heard for the first time thinking it's another language, and then realize that they are just being mispronounced. For instance, determine was pronounced "deter-myne" while the "th" sound was simply replaced with a "z" (zis and zat). If the problem weren't mispronunciation, the professor would automatically begin teaching the course in Arabic, leaving those who do not understand the language lagging behind.

Sadly enough, I understood what they were saying, and managed to get through the lesson. But it didn't stop there.

I found that there were professors who believed they were paid to read the textbook to me, possibly thinking that if they read it aloud word for word, I would then understand better. Maybe they thought I couldn't read. Others would paraphrase the textbook as they read it for the first time in class, using textbook examples as their own. The trouble with them was that if you asked them a question, you would see them searching frantically through the book for the answer. Finally, there were those professors who loved the spotlight, and would spend three-fourths of the class talking about themselves, who they know, and how great they are. This is what I call a person with a power-rush who wants you to know that he/she is better than you merely because they are titled "Professor."

Yet as the saying goes, with the bad comes the good. I'm not going to sit here and say there are no good professors; on the contrary, I have had professors who I respect because of how they have affected my life. You can spot these professors because they really teach you

and want you to learn, not just memorize for the exam and go on to the next course. They dedicate their time to making sure that you leave their classroom with the knowledge you came in there to learn. Instead of bragging about themselves, they provide you with relevant life experiences that will definitely help you when you enter the real world, and make sure that you discover your strengths so that you can excel in them.

Sadly in my experience, those were a few. However, those few have made me know exactly what I want to study, what I want to do with my life, and I praise them for that. As for the others who I have to say were amusing in class because of their inadequacy, but a drag to have to sit with them an hour (or more), I only have one thing to say to them: If you are going to be a professor, teach your students something they cannot get from a textbook, help them structure their strengths so they can become something, find an iconic professor and model your teaching after them. And finally, you're in an English-speaking university...learn the language!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

My hijab

After reading "Scarf's off to you" published in the Sept. 17 issue of the Caravan, I have a different response towards some of the issues the editor was talking about. Although I do not blame her for taking off her veil (it is a girl's decision based on its importance to her), I have personal views as a veiled girl myself in the same American institution. I've been a veiled girl for six years now and the *hijab* means a lot to me on the educational, social and spiritual levels.

Educationally, the veil never interfered with my learning. I have taken many classes with veiled girls who speak fluent English and I never [asked] how [or] why they speak the language so well. Instead, I would happily listen to them with pride, thanking God that people like them are present in our society today and are able to excel educationally while setting the perfect example of the person that their religion wants them to be.

Socially, yes, one of the situations that a veiled girl experiences is having people whisper certain topics instead of saying them out loud in her presence. When this happened to me, it honestly made me happier, as it gave me an insight on how much they respected me, because the veil isn't just about covering my head with a scarf, but also about respecting myself and allowing others to respect me. Even if they think differently of me because of the way I dress, at the end of the day, I did this for God who is the only one who has the right to judge. That is enough to make me content with myself.

As for the spiritual level, I have to admit that wearing the *hijab* is very difficult at many times, especially during the hot summer when jumping into a pool would be any veiled girl's ultimate dream. Yet, knowing that bearing the heat brings me every day a step closer to God really makes me enjoy my outfit, especially when I try to visualize how God is proudly looking down at me.

In essence, the veil is in the beginning obligatory, but in the end it becomes the shining root which our personalities and lives pleasantly flourish from.

Maha Fathi
ECLT Sophomore

AUC standards then and now

A few days ago, I went with two of my friends to a popular bookstore in Zamalek to check out the latest Arabic and English books. As we were looking around, one of my friends told me about a book he had at home that would fascinate me. So, we drove to his house later and he showed me the book. It was about the American University of Cairo from 1919 to 1987, and it was astonishing. This big, elegant, hardcover book talked about the history of our university ever since it was built. I skimmed through the book and didn't believe what I was seeing; the pictures, the articles written, the plans and a lot of other things.

I felt proud belonging to this university but also felt ashamed because of what we've reached now. The university's standards compared to back then are utterly disgraceful.

It is enough to know that the book mentions that the AUC board had planned to move the campus outside of Cairo since 1930, but didn't take the step until the 1997.

Another aspect was the distinctive and decent AUC culture. During the past years, the AUC student community has been going down the drain. Semester after semester, the standards of the students fall. I have seen it, and I guess anyone who is currently a student and had joined the university before 2003 would mention it too. You can see it right in front of you every day on whatever campus you're on.

There were joint lectures between Al Azhar and AUC, something that doesn't happen these days. Did you know that Omm Kolthom and Abdel Halim Hafez had a concert at Ewart Hall? The book was also about how Egyptian ministers used to meet with board members and AUC officials on campus.

It's sad to see that we no longer hold these high standards and have no events as prestigious as previous ones. I only hope that the university administration carefully look into what has become of our university and hope for a different future for it when we move to the new campus.

Name withheld upon request

The way I see it...

A home away from home

CHEREEN ZAKI
Senior Features Editor

It's funny how the grass appears greener on the other side, regardless of where you live. I grew up in the suburbs of northern Virginia for the first 18 years of my life, counting the days until my next trip to Egypt. I came to visit every summer, winter, and even sometimes on spring vacations. I looked forward to the family gatherings, the food, and most importantly, a society where I fit in. Although I was born and raised in the States, I always felt a certain cultural gap between my American upbringing and my Egyptian roots that I could never quite put my finger on. Maybe it was because my house smelled like *molokheya* and had Arabic satellite, but I'm fairly certain that it was because I lived in a society that was different from the culture I was raised in at home.

When it was finally time for me to graduate high school, I decided to enroll at AUC. I was excited about the culture, friends, the family, and yet again...the food. Granted, after two years in Egypt I didn't even want to go back to visit America, let alone live there. It was during my third and now fourth year in Egypt that I realized how much I miss America: a country where logic is a given, where gossip is not a national sport, and where it feels good to be able to run your own errands and get things done without having daddy call someone.

I cannot deny the fact that Egypt has taught me a lot about friendship and appreciation. There is no comparison to the friends that I've made here; the friends who will drive an hour just to see me, or the ones who are sometimes more comfortable with my family than I am.

Unfortunately, the lesson of friendship has also taught me the easiness of betrayal and dishonesty. I've witnessed girls sitting with each other and then talking about their friend's fiancée's fake Prada shoes the second she went to the bathroom. I've witnessed the closed-mindedness and hypocrisy of people where they criticize a person based on appearances, but then do the same thing themselves the very next day.

I have also learned to appreciate. To appreciate technology, clean air, and traffic signals that do more than decorate the street. To appreciate that although the US does not abide by many Egyptian norms, I have the freedom to take them with me; where I won't be judged for my actions because I chose to do something differently.

I really do love Egypt and definitely don't regret moving here. However, I do look forward to going back. Moving here taught me that some things are prettier from a distance. I will cherish the friends and family that I gained here forever, but I need a place where open-mindedness and common sense is in abundance, a place where people think for themselves.



Have an opinion?

Put it here.

Send your thoughts to:

caravan@aucegypt.edu

WORD SEARCH: DESIGNER LABELS

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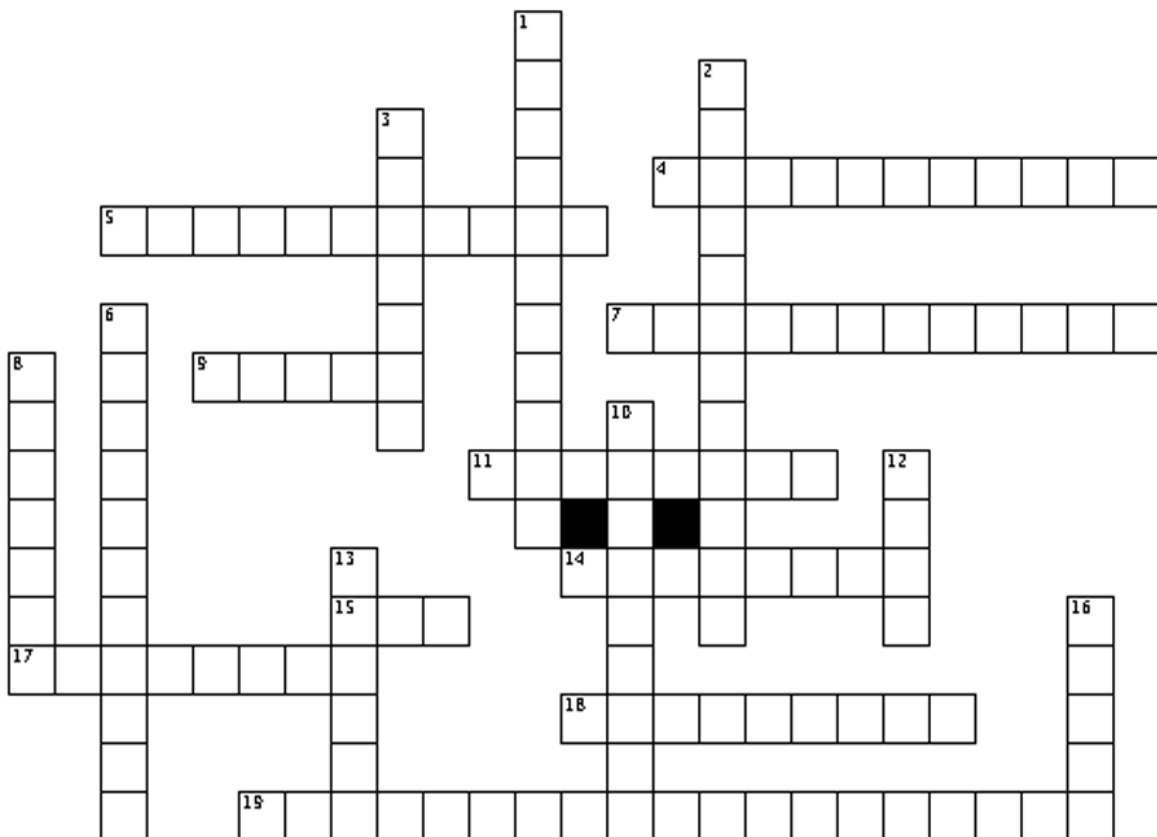
Prada
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 Christian Dior
 Burberry
 Tommy Hilfiger
 Robert Cavalli

Armani
 Boss
 Dolce and Gabana
 Coach
 Lacoste
 DKNY
 Fendi
 Calvin Klein
 Ralph Lauren
 Louis Vuitton



The Caravan is looking for cartoonists
 Interested applicants should bring a
 sample of their work to room 023SS
 before Monday, Sept. 25

CROSS WORD: TV SERIES



Across:

- 4) A teenage drama with high school marriage. (3,4,4)
- 5) Doh! (3,8)
- 7) Surgical interns and McDreamy. (5,7)
- 9) Rich beach community with never-ending drama. (3,2)
- 11) The show about nothing. (8)
- 14) Italian mafia with a father who needs therapy. (8)
- 15) The evidence doesn't lie. (3)
- 17) Darwin's theory. (8)
- 18) Dysfunctional family with a talking dog. (6,3)
- 19) How much do you really know about your neighbors? (9,10)

Down:

- 1) A show where cops and lawyers work together. (3,3,5)
- 2) Karma changed his life. (2,4,2,4)
- 3) "Tell me what you don't like about yourself." (3,4)
- 6) The map is on his body. (6,5)
- 8) How YOU doin'? (7)
- 10) Superstar and his posse move to L.A. (9)
- 12) "The others are coming" on a deserted island. (4)
- 13) Comedic doctors with a lot of imagination. (6)
- 16) Government agent battling her own internal demons. (5)

