Al Azhar bans ‘un-Islamic’ book by AUC Press

BY HERA EL-BEIDNENY

For the first time in 44 years, Al Azhar, the foremost authority on Islam, has banned a book published by the AUC Press.

Al Azhar banned “Wahhabi Islam: From Revival and Reform to Global Jihad” by Nataha DeLong-Bas, claiming it’s contrary to Islamic teachings, the AUC Press said.

The issue is one of “freedom of thought and expression,” said Mark Litz, the AUC press director.

Litz said that the AUC Press has received a request from Al Azhar’s expert board to report on which information contributed to the book’s creation.

Litz added that Al Azhar has requested that in the future, reports be useful and aligned with the Islamic religion.

By the end of last week, the book arrived at Port Said in the early summer and was kept there until they were reviewed by Al Azhar, a normal procedure for any books about religion.

On Oct. 5, a letter was sent to the AUC Press notifying [s] that copies of the book would not be allowed to enter Egypt because it contained “information not in accordance with the principles of Islam,” said Litz.

Al Azhar wasn’t available for comment.

In a note to the Caravan, DeLong-Bas said that she had only a “vague” understanding of the charges against her book, and had no intention of being offensive towards Islam or the Quran.

“I can only assume and hope that the ban is based on a terrible misunderstanding about the book’s actual content,” DeLong-Bas said.

“It has been very well received in the West. The Christian Arabic edition is forthcoming shortly. I was invited to Saudi Arabia to speak about the book, and interviewed by both the newspapers and TV, so clearly the book has not done it any favors.”

DeLong-Bas said that she would be “happy” to discuss the book with the Grand Mufti and resolve any misunderstandings.

The AUC Press wants to find a way for the book to be read “not only in context of the Arab world but also in Egypt,” Litz said.

Litz said that 1,000 copies of the book arrived at Port Said in the early summer and were kept there until they were reviewed by Al Azhar, a normal procedure for any books about religion.

ICT opening overcomes technical difficulties

BY HASAN HASSAN

Caravan Reporter

Today’s youth need to be brave and take risks to succeed in life, said Khaleed Ibrahim, senior advisor to the Egyptian minister of communications and information technology at the opening ceremony of the fourth International Conference on Information Technologies (ICTs) at Ewart Hall last Tuesday.

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The ceremony inaugurating the four-day conference was a success despite some technical problems, including the short time available for preparing Ewart Hall.

“We weren’t allowed to be here until 6 p.m., and the technical problems took place because of this,” said Sara Saadany, the ICTC human resources executive coordinator.

“The opening went well,” said Saadany. “We worked really hard. We were able to work all night so that when people joined us in the morning, we could start the conference in time.”

A documentary featuring the members of the organizing committee was made by Dr. Tarek El-Khateeb. All the hard work really did pay off,” said Bassem Abou El Nour, the president of ICTC.

By FORAD HAMMOUR

Caravan Reporter

The biology department at AUC is taking warnings about bird flu seriously, said Sulter Zada, the biology department chair. She customarily delivers a pigeon in her introductory class (BIOL 104), but after the spread of the bird flu pandemic, she has decided to change that.

“I will not let them dissect a pigeon this semester… just for precaution,” Zada said.

Although Egypt is not in immediate danger from the bird flu epidemic that has emerged in parts of Asia, precautions have also been taken by the government and the World Health Organization (WHO) to develop a plan to prevent an outbreak.

According to Dr. Nada Teleb, epidemiological surveillance officer for vaccine preventable diseases and immunization at WHO, Prime Minister of Egypt Ahmed Nazif has banned hunting birds in places such as Al-Fayyum and the importation of birds. On a larger scale, WHO is asking people to obtain regular flu shots and stay away from poultry farms.

Teleb said that Egypt may see an “occurrence of bird flu among people, not just among birds.” According to Teleb, the virus is not transferred from one person to another.

It may not be immediately obvious if a human has bird flu, because its symptoms are similar to that of the common flu, such as cough, sore throat, fever, pneumonia and severe respiratory diseases.

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Comic books depicting Arab heroes sell well

BY SHERENE EL GAZZAR

Finally, Arab youths have their own comic book superheroes — and the editions are selling like hotcakes, said Michael Zang, manager of the AUC bookstore, which stocks the comics.

"The bookstore sales of the comics are 800 copies each of issue," said Zang. "People who buy comics are usually [a] loyal audience who buy every issue."

The false impression and misconceptions of Arabs caused by the region's instability and the war in Iraq has made the international audience interested in knowing more about the Middle East. As a result, around 2.5 million people have visited the comics' website and 850 international readers have subscribed online.

The four heroes, Zein, Jalila, Aya and Rakan, were created by Ayman Kandeel, an economics professor at Cairo University. While Kandeel was working on his Ph.D. at the University of Southern California, he attended comic book conventions that inspired him to create superheroes who reflect Arab traditions as opposed to characters like Superman and Batman who reflect Western culture.

Each character is distinctly from the Middle East. For example, Zein is the son of a pharaoh, and Rakan is an Arab cowboy. Most superheroees come from the American culture," said Zang. "It is good to have Middle Eastern heroes that kids can relate to.

Middle Eastern Heroes comics currently sell 20,000 copies per month in Egypt, including 2,000 overseas.

"The comics are selling very well," said Emad Samir, a sales assistant at the AUC bookstore. "Foreigners mostly buy them for kids but some ask for them specifically."

One of the more controversial characters, Jalila, is a Muslim army whose mission is to save Jerusalem from the Zion army. The name of the army has been criticized by some readers. "In the Jalila [comic], the Zion army indicates or sounds like the Zionist army," said Omar Al Hussany, a political science junior.

"I do not think [the author] is trying to be political," said Zang. "The comics aim more to entertain people."

Last fall, the Student Union distributed Middle Eastern Heroes comics with their welcome package. The students' reactions were very positive," said electronics engineering senior Ahmed Bahgat who was responsible for the welcome package. "They found the comics very interesting, especially since they are different from [comics such as] Batman and Spiderman."

New philosophy library stocks professors' books

BY SHERENE EL GAZZAR

The philosophy department has opened a library for its faculty members and students, which includes books by AUC's philosophy and literature professors. "The library is in the library and is to help students get to know more about any subject that their professors wrote about first," said Sharahien Hamed, a philosophy senior.

The library is located on the sixth floor of the New Falaki building in the office of Ayman Morsi, the philosophy department's administration assistant.

"The idea of the library came when Aya [Morsi] asked me to write the names of the books in alphabetical order," said Hamed. "So I did a listing of the all the books and the articles in the Aljf journal [a literature journal named after the Arabic letter 'A']"

Hamed said that the Aljf journal is compiled by Ferial Ghazoul, a literature professor who collects and edits literary periodicals.

The Aljf journal includes articles by AUC professors such as Steven Salzman, chairman of the philosophy department; William Melaney, associate professor of literature and chair of the English and comparative literature department; Walter Lummis, associate professor of philosophy and chair of the University Senate and Graham Harman, assistant professor of philosophy.

"Iula El Hadidi, a philosophy graduate, said that books in the library are donated by professors or anyone who wants to contribute to the library. El Hadidi hopes that there will be more space for the books in the new campus.

The library's main highlights are Tool Being and Guerrilla Metaphysics, two books written and donated by Harman.

The library also includes volumes 19 to 24 of the Aljf journal. Despite the vast quantity of philosophy books that the university's main library already has, philosophy professors still like the idea of having their own library.

"I think it is an excellent idea for philosophy students to have access to publications of their teachers," said Sfeirze.

"I am one of the people who suggested the idea when I was a student. I was interested to know what my professors were reading," said Harman.

Hamed said that students who want to borrow a book from the library can do so by leaving their name and telephone number.

Students monitor polling stations in Egypt's parliamentary elections

BY DINA EL ORABY

AUC students in sociology professor Saad Elsaid Ibrahim's 210, 431 and 450 classes worked as monitors for the Egyptian parliamentary elections Wednesday in the Cairo and Giza governorates.

The monitoring was done by several Egyptian NGO's, including the Ibn Khaldun Center, which Ibrahim heads. Ibrahim is also a well-known democracy activist in Egypt who has been jailed for his activities.

"As observers of the elections, we monitor violations, bribery and irregularities such as littering and manipulation of voters by campaigners," said Sara Khafan, English literature senior and one of the monitors of the three classes. "Students then submitted a report with their observations.

"Students were given four training sessions in the university to teach them how to observe by a moderator from the Ibn Khaldun Center. Students were also given an introduction about the elections and a brief description about what they should be expecting in the electoral districts.

Khalaf's role as a coordinator is to keep all the numbers and contacts of the students who are participating in the monitoring. She is also responsible for informing and updating them with the latest developments and reporting all the observations to the Egyptian Center for Democracy.

"As observers, we don't have the right to stop anything or change anything wrong that we see; we are just asked to observe and report," said Fadel Megahed, a mechanical engineering junior.

"We are asked to assure fairness of elections and, for Megahed, for example, the students are asked to check that nobody is voting twice. Observers are walking within a range of 30 meters around the polling station. It is the first time that Megahed has participated in monitoring, and he considers this a great opportunity to learn more about Egypt and its parliamentarian elections. "I want to go somewhere chaotic because I want to know what really happens in the electoral districts," said Megahed.

"The training was beneficial and I learned a lot from it," said Jaya Parsa, a study-abroad student who is participating in the monitoring. "This is my first time to participate in such an activity and I am hoping to see a lot of people there," said Parsa. She believes that monitoring the elections is a great opportunity for us to observe and decide for ourselves about democracy in a country. After the students write their reports, they will be delivered to the Independent Committee on Election Monitoring. According to a press release issued by the committee, the students' work is to provide the integrity and the credibility of the election process.
Virgin lives up to expectations

Every entertainment buff’s dream has just come true with the opening of Virgin Megastore at City Stars. Now you can stroll at your leisure and buy your favorite artist’s latest CD, a computer game, or night out; it’s the scarf, the hat, the leg warmers, and possibly, even those black leather boots.

Here are some style tips for both sexes.

Girls:
1. Colorful knitted or wooden scarves always work in winter, with any outfit.
2. Black or beige boots can always be effectively paired up with blue jeans (the tighter the better).
3. Ponchos compliment all body types, and add elegance to any outfit.
4. Caps are big now. Long treads and suede caps go very well with tailored pants.
5. Coats never go out of style, so go for knee-length coats that fit your waist well to make sure that you don’t look bulky.
6. Pure cotton tights with sensual patterns and colors should be in every girl’s closet.

Boys:
1. You’re probably going to be wearing jackets every day this winter, so try going for velvet jackets with midnight hues of blue and black.
2. Gray, white and black ice caps work well for a casual look.
3. The essential item that all men should have - a black leather jacket.
4. Boots aren’t just for girls to wear during winter time. Ankle boots or Uggs can be worn with jeans and formal boots can be paired with wool flat-front or dress pants for a classic look.
5. Basic scarves in colors like navy blue, white, beige or brown give off a sophisticated vibe, but scarves with a wider range of colors will go well with blue jeans.
6. Corduroy pants in black, navy blue or dark beige always give a classic winter look and will never go out of style.

Virgin Megastore is divided into five main categories: music, movies, games (both computer and PlayStation), accessories and books. The store occupies two floors already underway.

Assistant Store Manager Haitham Asfahani said that entertainment catering to every taste imaginable.

The Virgin Megastore in City Stars Mall, which opened in September, offers the largest selection of CDs and DVDs in Egypt.

“From requests and inquiries, we increase or decrease the selection has already begun, especially during Ramadan, said. “From requests and inquiries, we increase or decrease to the Egyptian market and its entertainment needs.

The idea of helping Palestinian refugees in Lebanon came about because their camps represent one of the world’s oldest refugee crises.

Kids are my weak point because they are different from other kids all over the world in terms of their ambitions. They feel isolated where they live and they want to travel abroad,” Nagy said.

The speakers described their experiences in the Shatilla camp last August, according to Said, who was impressed with the children’s talent. “I was really good to feel that these kids are happy and enjoying their time. This was crystallized in the final performance,” he said.

“I learned about Cairo to Camps from my brother and sister who traveled in previous years,” said Nihal Nourah, a student at Miss International University.

“I once put a cast on my leg because I got hit by a car. When he came to see me, I went and bought a cast and put it on in the Falaki changing rooms with my friend’s help.”

“I forged report cards.”

“I don’t like to lie.”

“I can’t pity them,” Atallah added.

“I’ve learned from a distance,” said Abdel Aziz, an economics professor.

“I’m good at being a humanistic teacher who traveled in previous years,” said Nihal Nourah, a student at Miss International University.

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The Voice

Last month, Al Azhar banned the book “Wahhabi Islam: From Revival and Reform to Global Jihad” by Nataha Delong-Bas, from being distributed within Egypt. The incident marked the first time that the Islamic institution has censored a book from the AUC Press.

While the reasons behind Al Azhar’s decision are unclear to both the author and publisher, both deny any intention to offend Islam or the Quran. What is clear is that Al Azhar felt that the book was unsuit- able for an Egyptian audience, and that people should not be exposed to theses and research.

This incident brings to the forefront the question of the legitimacy and efficacy of censorship. On a philosophical level, the information age, where more and more people have access to high-speed internet and satellite television, is making it increasingly easier for people to bypass traditional boundaries. What Al Azhar can block from the shelves of bookstores, it cannot bar from the internet.

On a practical level, limiting people’s access to knowledge accomplishes far less than increasing it. How can a person ever know the true meaning of family? Because faith is what made her family. She was shuttled between homes and treated abusively. Although she never was given any form of emotional support or love from them, she hasn’t given in to self-pity. They say that an ounce of blood is worth more than a pound of friendship, but I beg to differ. When I first began writing this, I was going to defend this provetit. But my mind has taken a sharp turn. She could have chosen to live a life of self-pity. She could have decided that because her family never really was a family to her, they love was nowhere to be found. If your family is supposed to be your rock, your support, your sanity, and it fails, then others can’t be any better, right? Wrong.

She seeks life. She seeks love beyond the meager morsels, if any, that were fed to her. She is so eager to be with those who are willing to be her family. And I respect her so much. She looks for more without ignoring her situation. She is living her reality, but isn’t willing to let control her. She is fighting for a better life. This girl has taught me to appreciate the beauty of faith. Because faith is what made her who she is, and faith is what will keep her alive and full of love. She looked beyond what she could see, and lives in hope of what she will feel.

If you meet this girl, you would think nothing of yourself. She’s unattractive. Her smile is so bright, her words so sweet.” There is no way you would imagine she lived a life as bleak as hers. As she told me her story, I didn’t know what to say, what to do, what to think. I had to put aside all that I knew and see life through her eyes. The more she said, the more I realized that she isn’t the only one. She isn’t the only one who has had a loveless life or a painful year.

I realized that I, and many others, are so deceived by appearances. Someone’s smile or laugh will put me at ease. I like it as a green light to move on without giving a little extra love, so carelessly assuming that they don’t need it. But, really now, who doesn’t need it? Would it really hurt to smile at the old woman lying on the side of the street? Would it really take too much time out of my busy schedule to make sure that the boy crouched at the bottom of the stairs is alright? I doubtingly do.

But I assure you, that old woman will appreciate your smile and the boy on the staircase will appreciate your concern. Because it takes so little to make a difference.

I know now that I will never again assume. I have learned that I must look beyond what my eyes can see. And although you can close your eyes to what you don’t want to see, you can never close your heart to what you don’t want to feel.
Solutions to the word search and crossword puzzle are posted on the Caravan website.
فازرو شوشا يدعو إلى تطوير اللغة العربية

كتب: سما الأزهري

فصل جاهزتية معطلة على المدارس، السيرة الذاتية، وثقافة التبادل الأدبي، والثقافة العربية

联邦政府表示，这些措施旨在保护和促进阿拉伯文化，以及阿拉伯国家之间的友好关系。政府还承诺，将为阿拉伯语在国际上的推广提供资金支持。

该决定得到了阿拉伯国家的一致赞同。各国部长表示，这些措施将有助于阿拉伯语的复兴，以及阿拉伯国家之间的合作与发展。阿拉伯世界国际组织（AWIO）主席阿里·阿卜杜拉表示，这些措施将有助于阿拉伯语在国际上的推广和传播，以及阿拉伯国家之间的合作与发展。

阿拉伯语是世界上的重要语言之一，是阿拉伯国家的官方语言，同时也在世界其他地区被广泛使用。据联合国教科文组织统计，阿拉伯语的使用者人数超过四亿，分布在中东、非洲和南亚等地区。阿拉伯语的复兴和发展，对于阿拉伯国家的经济发展、文化繁荣和国际地位提升具有重要意义。
العَنَى يَدْعَوَ بَعْدَ الْرَّى عَلَى الْعَرْضِ عَلَى الْعَفْضِ وَعَسْطِهِ يَتَسَامَحُونَ

كتاب خدمات

كَأَنْ قَفْتُ عُنْبَةَ نَقَائِلًا الْمَهْدَى أَضْرَابُ الأَطْلِسَةِ لَيْتَفَصَّلُوا تَطْهِيرًا حَتَّى يُضْرِبَ الدِّيدَلُ قُلُوبُهُمْ مَرَّةٌ وَمَرَّةً

فيما وهو يُدُعٌّ أَرْضًا ثُمَّ لَا يَكُونُ أَرْضًا أَيْضًا: لِيُبْعِثَ الْبَرَّاءُ عَلَى الْبَرَّاءِ بِعَجْلٍ أَعْمَلُوا فَاكَتِبُوا وَأَحْمَذُوا وَلَا يَمْسَكُكُمْ شَيْءٌ مِنْ غَيْرِ وَسْعٍ مَّنِ الرَّحْمَةِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَشْكُرُونَ

فَظَاطِلَةِ تَرْوِي لِلْفَقَاهَةِ مَعَانَاةُ الْلَاجِئِينَ الْسُوَادِيِّينَ بِالقَاهَرَةِ

**قسم علم المصريين يشكر من قبل العلماء**

**أحمد** أُرْنَى الْأَرْوَى الْمَهْدَى أَضْرَابُ الأَطْلِسَةِ لَيْتَفَصَّلُوا تَطْهِيرًا حَتَّى يُضْرِبَ الدِّيدَلُ قُلُوبُهُمْ مَرَّةٌ وَمَرَّةً