Students, pros debate emergency law

By REIHAM ROMERO

Political science professors and students at the American University in Cairo (AUC) mixed reactions to Egyptian Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif’s proposal to revoke the emergency law that has been in place for 25 years and replace it with new anti-terrorism laws.

The emergency law, which was enacted after the assassination of former President Anwar Sadat, grants security forces broad powers of arrest and detention within the country. Demonstrations and unapproved non-governmental political or religious organizations are formally banned under emergency law; press freedom is severely curtailed.

According to Saad Alasmar, a political science professor at the American University in Cairo, the issue was put to a referendum in May 2006.

In Egypt, the law has been extended every three years since 1981 and is due to expire at the end of May 2006.

“The emergency law violated international law by using it the way the Egyptian government...”

According to a press release, the banned, but tolerated Muslim Brotherhood, which gained 88 seats in the last parliamentary elections, has rejected the government’s plan to replace the emergency law with anti-terrorism legislation.

“The government says they want to remove the law for reform while they’re detaining members of the Muslim Brotherhood for no reason.”

According to David Cameron, a political science junior and an affiliate of the National Democratic Party headed by President Hosni Mubarak, who said such a change would take time to implement.

“I don’t think they’re going to remove the emergency laws unless there is a change in regime,” said David Cameron. “They have to play it safe.”

According to AUC...
Trip performance attracts outsiders

By Yasmin El Gamal
Carnac Reporter

Howard Theater was packed for the performance of the oriental rock and roll band Trip last Tuesday at the American University in Cairo (AUC). Few students attended the show however, because it took place during midterms and no one really had time to go to such events, said Mona Elsherban, an organizer of the event. The performance was instead attended by non-AUC and friends of the band.

“An audience at last, I can’t believe it,” said Aamir El Kashef, the band’s guitarist and singer. Few AUC students attended the show at AUC, their first being last month, also at Howard Cafe, for which only one organizer showed up, said El Kashef.

Trip played a mix of 10 Arabic songs and two English cover songs. Although they played to an empty theater during their first performance, the band didn’t mind coming to AUC again. “It makes no difference to us,” said El Kashef. “We play every day in our studio downtown and no one shows up. At least here at AUC, someone hears us.”

Alaa Salama, a friend of the band, said that she always attends their shows, but this was the first time she watched them perform at AUC. The band consists of five players: George Wahb, percussion and vocals; Aamir El Kashef, lead guitar and vocals; Mahmoud Tassouf, lead guitar; Tamer Al Tass, vocals; and Ahmad Safwat, bass guitar.

Trip has performed in many different places, including El Shamy Cultural Center, The Bibliotheca Alexandria, The Townhouse Gallery and Miraa International University.

“Unfortunately, this is the only convenient time for both the band and the availability of the Howard theater,” said El Kashef.

On The Wire

Twenty-eight people were injured and one person was killed in a clash that broke out on March 25 at Al-Wafd party headquarters in Dokki between supporters of No’aman Gomaa, who was elected from the party’s leadership in January, and rivals Mahmoud Abaza and Mufadda El Tarabli.

Gomaa, head of the Al-Wafd party for the last six years, was challenged for the leadership position after the party came in third in Egypt’s recent presidential election.

Gomaa and his supporters burned the Cairo headquarters with guns, attempting to force Abaza and his supporters to leave and firing Mullah Ibrahim, an employee of the party’s headquarters, before the police were able to intervene and arrest them.

“I don’t have time to watch the news.”

It was near my house. The police authorities notified the area where violence erupted.

Did you know that No’aman Gomaa, the former head of Al-Wafd party, and 70 of his supporters entered the Al-Wafd party headquarters and 28 people were wounded by gunshot?

By Nenine Ezzeldin
Carnac Reporter

A new teaching strategy that focuses on student-professor relations was introduced by economics professor Herb Thompson in a lecture organized by the Center for Learning and Teaching (CLT) for faculty members on March 30.

According to this teaching method, students are in control of what they learn; the professor only guides and pulls the student in the right direction.

The main concept of the program, Thompson said, is that students should be required to obtain information on a subject and keep the professor updated on their work. The students are therefore held responsible for their own learning and work.

Thompson formulated an experiment to see how effective this method was. He taught one class in the traditional manner, in which he assigned readings and gave a midterm and a final exam. Concurrently, he taught another group using his new strategy, which he describes as active learning through student collaboration.

“I did it in vain to use technology to make learning more ef- ficient and give students control over the class to help them manage real-world responsibilities and use it as a life-long learning process,” said Thompson.

“There was a great difference between the innovative and the traditional methods, students of the innovative class showed more interest and participation in the course,” he said.

One barrier he faces in his new approach is the lack of time he has in class to implement his ideas, said Thompson.

“I think it is very useful. It shows alternatives to existing teaching methods, other than the strict academic lecturing,” said Amira Abdel Khalek, a sociology and anthropology professor.

“IT would incorporate some of the suggestions, but not all at once, because I have 40 students in my class. It also takes time for one to change his methods,” said Thompson.

Thompson encourages his students to engage in critical thinking, which is essential for alternative ideas and even his opposite ideas, and interactive games and group activities.

AUC athletes prep all year for tournament

By Mahmoud Illyad
Carnac Reporter

The American University in Cairo (AUC)’s female team won two gold medals in Tae Kwon Do and first place in the basketball medals in the annual universities tournament, which started on March 11 and ended on April 8.

“We were sure of the victory in the matches we played against the Cairo University team, and we defended them in their court and won first place in the championship,” said Hadi Arfi, a mass communication senior and former member in the females’ team.

The team found itself in hardball in which they competed against teams from Alexandria University, Helwan University and Cairo University.

According to Tarek Rabag, the acting director of the Sports Department, 350 AUC students participated in the tournament in sports including boxing, judo, squash, tennis, basketball, karate, body building, rowing, table tennis, swimming and diving.

Mahmoud Rabat, a business administration junior and a participant in the tournament, won a bronze medal for singles’ tennis and a gold medal for doubles’ tennis with Basel Eld Gendi, another participant.

“We have been the title holders for two years now. We defeated the Cairo University team on their home court in front of their fans and supporters, just because we believed we would win,” said Rabat.

“This is my first time to participate in the tournament, which was attended by 24 teams represented Egypt and Al Gezeera Sporting Club by previous achievements,” said Tarek, marketing and communications freshman and the winner of the British tennis titles.

The males’ team also won two bronze medals in Tae Kwon Do and one bronze medal in rowing.

According to Rabag, the universities tournaments are held annually in many universities and cities in Egypt. The tour- nament are organized under the supervision of the Egyptian Sports Union for universities, in which more than 10,000 students from 26 private and public universities participate in 24 different events.

Participating in those tournaments allows students to compete against other teams and socially interact with students in other universities, said Rabag.

The tournament team played friendly matches in Spain, Hungary and Portugal in order to be well-prepared for this tournament.

“This is a very well-attended, well-trained,” said Arfi.

Students of Al-Azhar University, a sports supervisor, AUC contestants train the whole year in order to be in suitable condition and win top places at the end of the tournament.

The Sports department awards the teams by granting them financial prizes that can reach LE 100,000 as well as scholarships. It also organizes an annual Sports Day, in which the students, train- ers, staff and faculty members who helped the teams achieve these accomplishments are honored, said Rabag.

“We also give the champions the medals they won and the AUC cup,” said Rabag.

Jazz festival cancellation disappoints fans

By Shereef Erefel
Carnac Reporter

The Performing and Visual Arts (PVA) department canceled their three-day Jazz Festival because it didn’t receive sponsorship from the American Embassy, said Ashraf Fouda, the director of the concert series.

The festival, which was to be held on April 2, was originally cancelled by the depart- ment last January, but fans discovered the can- cellation only two days before the event, because it remained on the calendar at the American University in Cairo (AUC).

“For one reason or another, I was not able to get the sponsorship, because I approached the embassy in a wrong way,” said Fouda.

Many of the Jazz festival’s participants were students of AUC’s Communications and Marketing Office, said that this is the first time this problem has come up, adding that John Babikos, the director of the music department, consid- ered it as “a failure on our part.”

According to Fouda, the PVA started work- ing on the project last May after the embassy initially accepted the idea, but months went by with no action from the embassy, so the depart- ment was forced to cancel the project in February.

Virginia Khalil, a PVA promotion and mar- keting specialist, said Fouda informed her of the cancellation and she removed the event from the PVA calendar. She also sent an e-mail to the Office of Communications and Marketing that this event is no longer responsible for publishing university events, informing them of the cancellation of the International University.

The e-mail noted that the event was can- cellled, but it did not specifically state that it should be taken off the AUC official calendar so it was retained, said Hanan Naeel, the asso- ciate director for communications in the Both and in Khalik marketing Office.

“The cancellation does not mean that the event is to be taken off the calendar, unless it is officially cancelled,” said Naeel.

Information about the events organized in all departments should be sent to the office dur- ing the end of the academic calendar, which is to be held on the AUC calendar, which is posted on the AUC Web site.

“I feel very realistic; no one can plan a year ahead,” said Hamam. “Instead of a long- range plan, we have a list of events that will be finalized through the departments’ confirmation, including cancellations.”

Fouda said that he had planned to have “Brasilita Hot Sereen” as the featured band along with other bands in the festival. All these were now expected to be donated to the victims of hurricane Katrina.

adies: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2: “The Kucma government has been criticized and junked by the opposition parties.”

Others were indifferent about the change, claiming that the law had no effect on their lives. “The Kucma government has been criticized and junked by the opposition parties.”

Women of the Kucma party celebrate Wednesday with the BCPE after her three-year battle with breast cancer. Sarwot feels that if other women know she is a survivor, it will give them hope.

“I know that some people feel you can’t let it fight you. It’s not something to be ashamed of because it’s not something a woman brings upon herself,” she said.

Mohamed Shalun, chairman of BCPE and an associate professor of surgery at Cairo University, said that the “Run for a Cure” is getting more Egyptian participants every year. The organization is trying to eliminate the image of cancer as a “bad disease” as many people in Egypt describe it.

CARACAS: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1: AUC students volunteer for cancer cure

women a feeling of security and acceptance,” said Rafaat. The BCPE held a breast cancer awareness with the BCPE after her three-year battle with breast cancer. Sarwot feels that if other women know she is a survivor, it will give them hope.

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By Syracuse S. Khan
Caravan Reporter

If it's 1 a.m. and you're craving for some good old Egyptian falafel kicks in your gut only have LE 5 to spare, it's time to thank the gods you live in Cairo. Hamdouna, shaw rmus and falafel are only three of many Egyptian foods found on the streets of Cairo regardless of the hour. Near the American University in Cairo (AUC) rests Felfela, the home of some of the best foul and falafel sandwiches in Cairo. Most AUC students are not aware of Felfela, the restaurant, and its proximity to the university. Offering more than just foul and falafel, Felfela offers a tasty chick tuna, grilled chicken, and molokhaya, a classic Egyptian dish.

“Their food is really good,” said Amit Amran, an unemployment. “But it’s not very cheap, one of the variety of Egyptian food, the prices are really cheap.”

Although not a very casual and relaxed alfresco food is served fast and tasty. “It’s great for a quick meal,” said mass communication junior Yousef Gamal El Din.

At the end of the month, when your budget is close to extinction, you can’t go wrong with a LE 2.50 shawrmus sandwich at Mohamadian’s favorite food cart, My Queen. Known for their drive-in service; My Queen takes your order and serves you in the comfort of your own car. It offers a variety of foods but is famous for their fanta, a mix of meat and rice and bread, and their malduty, a toasted chicken filet sandwich with melted cheese. “The malduty is amazing,” I always order it,” said Osman.

Famous for their LE 1.25 small sausage, tomato and mustard sandwiches, Majda, which is located in Helispolis, is one of the oldest fast-food restaurants in Egypt and still one of the tastiest. Besides their sandwiches and hawawsh, or meat pies, Majda also satisfies your sweet tooth with their ice cream with fruit salad for LE 0.80.
The Voice

Ideally, learning at AUC does not only occur in the classrooms; a large part of the learning process occurs when students join clubs and attend seminars and lectures.

This university offers a surprising number of weekly lectures, ranging from musical concerts given by resident professors to discussions of current issues led by visiting experts.

Although many of these lectures offer valuable information and insights into topics not discussed within course materials, many students do not choose to go to them. Instead professors must practically force their reluctant students to attend, either by requiring them to write a paper about it or offering extra credit for attendance.

Some students complain because they are too lazy to attend lectures; others complain because the lectures are useless, boring and incomprehensible. The organizers of lectures should start taking into consideration their audiences when deciding on topics and speakers.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AUC: Alienating us from our culture

Many decisions are taken in this university that we as students are unaware of. We tend to complain about certain things only when it is too late to influence the decision-making process.

AUC students are often criticized for being alienated from the society they live in. Because a great many of us have attended international schools, we tend to feel detached from Egyptian and Arab society. In addition to many other courses in different fields, the Core Curriculum requires students to take three Arab Studies courses: Arabic Literature, Arab Society and Arab History. Unquestionably, enough, some Egyptian students who were born and raised in Egypt cannot even read a newspaper article in Arabic. The Core Curriculum attempts in solving this problem by offering a variety of public lectures and courses that deal with different topics such as short stories, novels and other pieces of literature. Most students are unaware of the choices they have and therefore do not attempt to make the best of these courses.

Lately, President David Arnold has proposed to revise the core curriculum. His emphasis is on the importance of replacing Arabic studies with international studies. The argument given to support this decision is that AUC students do not need an extensive load of Arabic studies courses due to the fact that they are already in touch with their culture. However, in undertaking such a move the university will be further isolating its students from society.

Some action has already taken place against this new reform. A committee meeting was held and a few concerned students voiced their opinions very convincingly. A few professors also attempted to address the subject. Yet the committee itself continued to ignore the numerous complaints. Later, a petition was sent around university and approximately 300 students signed it. A few concerned students joined another petition demanding that no changes take place concerning the amount of Arabic studies courses required in the Core Curriculum.

President Arnold’s reaction to the pressure from the petitions was to offer a compromise. His new proposition is to reduce the number to two courses placed under the broad topic entitled “Arab World,” which includes modern media and politics.

I am calling for all AUC students to protest and refuse the new Core Curriculum program. The fact that it will be only implemented after most of our graduates do not mean that we should be passive about it. Active participation on behalf of all AUC students is necessary in order to end the growing stereotype of “silent AUC.”

Hussein Marou and Youssef El Lucy

Arabic Studies Department

Discrimination by professors

When applying to colleges, I had a wide variety of choices. I was in the U.S. and I had applied to 11 colleges there, as well as AUC. I got accepted at 16 universities, including this one. Of the nine colleges in the U.S. I have the right to pay with institutional funds, but the student who is in the country is not given the same opportunity.

An important factor that made me return to Egypt of my own free will was that I’ve always had a feeling that I fit in; this is my place. But a few incidents have shown the opposite.

For some reason, when I tell them that I was born in Rome, they are very surprised and give me the, “are you stupid?” look. Yes, of course I was born in Rome. This is my country, my culture. Even though there are problems here and even though another place would have had a higher standard of “living.” I think that in being in Egypt allows a change in the quality of life.

Other phenomena that have made me very angry are stereotypes and discrimination. Being a foreigner in the West, I’ve faced ridicule and discrimination, but I never thought this would happen in my own country and by my own people. Recently, I put on the veil and for some reason, I’m giving off the idea that I’m less educated than my peers. In my class, where there are foreigners, I’ve realized that the professor prefers the foreigners. Besides that, I have also realized that my professors believe that these students work harder than the Egyptian students and therefore give them more respect.

I’ve been put in many situations where I have had to defend myself by speaking in my American accent so that the professor takes notice that I, too, am “educated.”

Come on, this is AUC. I came here in search of diversity. Why does this exist? It seems our own professors are finding it hard to accept their own culture. So much for the “discrimination and harassment” training!

Ammar Khalil

Actuarial science Brooksman

Have an opinion? Put it here.

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

Submit your thoughts by Sunday at 6 p.m.

Watch out

Love is in the air

Heba Hassabou

English News Editor

When people are single, they say they are “single and loving it” and brag about how the singles life is. They say that Life is better because it allows them to focus on their careers, to have five practice with their favorite fighting, and have fun hanging out with their friends.

They even view commitment and settling down as limiting their free- dom and not leaving any space for them to breathe. They make this mis- take in judging because they have seen their friends fall in love, get married, and have kids, and they never long to do the same.

When “the one” comes to you, you shouldn’t move quickly in the rela- tionship but take your time and observe every moment. There is a huge dif- ference between loving and liking someone. You may be convinced that you love someone and you have been with him/her for a year but it might be that you are just enjoying spending time together but not necessarily liking you go on. That’s why I believe if you love someone, then you would love spending all your time alone with him/her without getting physically intimate. 

When you meet that person that you are sure that you love that person and want to share the rest of your life, then you should try the relationship work. This can happen when Embark, express your feelings thoroughly, and have mutual respect for one another. You should be able to give and take.

Love alone can’t make the relationship work, though. You should both share interests, be able to communicate with one another and be compatible.

Everyone thinks it...
The needle in the haystack

Fouad Hammoud

Features Editor

Everyone since I was a child, I was taught that to succeed in life I have to always do something that will make me stand out from the crowd. Of course as a child, this was the only way I could have different from others in a positive light. I would take that as a challenge and make my coloring and book reports, not just to be different but to try to be different (it takes too much effort), my standing out didn’t seem so hard.

It’s true that we all are the same in terms of fashion trends or walking around with iPads, but I’m looking more at the personality perspective. I see a lot of students who are a replica of every other student sitting in their group. As the saying goes, “birds of a feather flock together;” but I never thought it would reach the point of inheriting another person’s character and look and I’m not sure I’ll like it. Of course, it is a part of life and I also do expect to achieve. After looking to AUC and noticing that most students confine themselves to the people everyone else does and don’t really try to be different (it takes too much effort), my standing out didn’t seem so hard.

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The solution to the crossword is posted on the Caravan Web site.

**Cross Word: Historical Figures**

**Across**

7. He nationalized the Suez Canal in 1956. (5,5,6)
8. Survival of the fittest. (6)
13. He invented the printing press. (9)
14. British Prime Minister during World War II. (7,9)
17. The apple fell from the tree next to him. (6)
18. French general that was later exiled to Elba. (7,3)
19. A general from the Ottoman Empire who led his troops into Egypt to kick out the French. (7,3)
20. Well-known for the Watergate scandal, he was the first president ever to be impeached. (7,3)

**Down**

1. $E=mc^2$. (6,8)
2. A Greek philosopher and Plato’s student. (9)
3. An Indian nationalist who led his country in a revolution against the British. (6)
4. “I have a dream…” (6,6,4)
5. The American president who abolished slavery and was later assassinated. (6)
6. First American president. (6,10)
7. A Nobel Prize winner who discovered radiation. (6,5)
8. England’s Rose who was killed by the paparazzi. (8,5)
9. She proposed that her people eat cake instead of bread. (5,10)
10. Because of him, more than six million Jews died. (6)
11. A Catholic nun that gave hope to others ad many believed she was a “living saint.” (6,6)
12. The most powerful Russian dictator until date. (6)
13. An Egyptian queen known for her beauty and love for Anthony. (9)
три لاب سائل بجائزة مادلين لامونت

لتحقيق الهدف، قرر أن يتم تطوير نظام يتيح فرجين لتصنيف النصوص، ويعمل على تحليل النصوص باللغة العربية لتحديد النوايا، وتوقع التجاذبات. إن المشروع يتطلب تنسيق بين فريق مختص بالتنقية اللغوية والذكاء الاصطناعي، ليكون قادرًا على التعرف على النوايا وتقدير التفاعلية. هذه النهائية تمثل خطوة أولى في تطوير نظام يمكنه التفاعل مع المستخدمين، كلاً من نشاطه والتفاعل معه.

للحصول على النتائج المطلوبة، فإن الاهتمام بتطوير النظام سيكون مهماً، واستمرار العمل في هذا المجال سيحقق النتائج المرجوة. للمزيد من المعلومات حول هذا المشروع، يرجى الاتصال بنا.

تمQuest للتميز في التعليم

جامعة القاهرة

٤/٢٠١٧

١. استخدام النصوص المحيطة بالكلمات في تحديد النوايا

٢. تحليل النصوص باللغة العربية لتحديد النوايا، وتوقع التجاذبات.

٣. تطوير نظام يمكنه التفاعل مع المستخدمين، كلاً من نشاطه والتفاعل معه.

٤. استمرار العمل في هذا المجال سيحقق النتائج المرجوة.

٥. الاهتمام بتطوير النظام سيكون مهماً.

٦. بالمزيد من المعلومات حول هذا المشروع، يرجى الاتصال بنا.