AUC delegation receives first place award at NMUN

By Rym Ibrahim
Caravan Reporter

The Model United Nations (MUN) delegation from the American University in Cairo (AUC) won first place in the general assembly of the National MUN (NMUN) competition in New York City over spring break out of 239 participating universities.

This is the first time that the AUC delegation, which consisted of 27 delegates and one head delegate, has won first place in the national conference, which took place from April 11 to 15, according to Omar El Islam, a business administration junior and a World Trade Organization (WTO) delegate.

“We represented South Africa across 13 different committees covering topics such as WTO agriculture, partnership for development in Africa, and we were the only delegation that represented Middle East,” said Hadeyed Heikal, an electronics engineering senior and the head of the AUC delegation.

“I think it is an amazing achievement for AUC because AUC was the only university outside of North America that received the award this year,” said Heikal.

In 10 years of participating in this conference, AUC has won the “Honorable Mention Award” four times, the “Distinguished Delegation Award,” and now the “Outstanding Delegation Award.”

“Their general assembly of the United Nations during the announcement of the awards was unusually tense. We knew we had worked hard, but hearing AUC come in first place was absolutely gratifying,” said El Islam.

According to Ahmed Ghalwash, a political science junior and a WTO delegate, “[The AUC delegation was] the only delegation from Africa and the Middle East. Universities from the U.S. congratulated us for our participation in the conference. It is inspiring and impressive that students outside the U.S. are of such high caliber and have achieved outstanding status.”

Presidential candidate interviews

By Yasseen El Mallah
Caravan Editor

Bassem Raouf, an electronics engineering senior and one of the candidates in this year’s Student Union (SU) elections, announced at the annual debate on May 3 that he’s withdrawing.

Raouf, who is also the academic committee chairperson of the SU, said, “I am not running for the election itself but nominating myself to send a clear message to the leaders of the university through the debate.”

Raouf’s message was directed at the audience for the debate: “[My message is that] there is a corrupt system of elections that influences us and discredits the power and unity of the student body. [It] discourages people from participating in the election.”

People put the criteria for choosing their candidate as last priority,” added Raouf. He said that a lot of fights break out, people consider a person’s racial background and eth-
The Hallucinations of Obsessive Dancers (HODD) has donated the revenue of their second performance to the Caravan Advisor office on April 28, to the Community Service Office at the American University of Cairo (AUC). Seventeen dancers, including four international students, captivated the audience with their dancing, including 14 hip hop and two modern dance performances. The event was sponsored by Nike women.

Madhoun Shoukry, the founder of the club, said there are two messages he wants to convey through the performances. The first is that the performances take a lot of effort and the second is to showcase their talent, which they are using to help their community.

Loudy Selim, the vice-president of the club, said the club members started preparing for the performance over the winter break, adding that all the "HODD" dancers have a dancing background. Members suggested ideas for the dances as friends more than as members of the same dancing group. Shoukry said, "I think they've grown since their last event. They are energetic and original with a new flavor. They are always the right ones. I know this because I'm their number-one fan," said Ikram Abdi, a biology sophomore.

"I like the creativity and the richness of the dances," said Tom Curly, a student coordinator. "They are contagious: they make you want to go and like them, they are like stress relievers," said Nemesse El Helw, a business administration senior.

"When I perform, I tell a story. I bring something that my life, my vivid moments are those on stage," said Shoukry, adding that he takes the performances and dance techniques that he and his group gain experience from the concerts.

The club was founded in Spring 2005 after Shoukry thought of organizing a hip-hop dance concert at AUC. He suggested the idea to Dalaa Eissa, the head of the Office of the Cultural Activities, and encouraged it.

The idea of establishing the HODD club followed the concert, as the idea was new and unique, said Mahmoud El Banna. They came up with the name after he had done many performances at high school, he added. "I think they've grown since their last event. They are energetic and original with a new flavor. They are always the right ones. I know this because I'm their number-one fan," said Ikram Abdi, a biology sophomore.

EVENMENT CONTINUED FROM 1
"It is like a game where you try to collect as many cards as possible; you will never give them up unless you are tired of the game," said Mahmoud El Banna, the club's vice president.

"The government is using the emergency law to give enough room for the president to hand his authori- ties, and this gives real challenges that Egyptians have to face," said Houdaiby.

Some students blamed the government for not being able to control the attacks in the first place, even after the law was imposed under the emergency law.

"We are living in an invasion of privacy and it is the government's fault for not being able to prevent [the bombings] from the start," said the business administration senior.

Students also argued that the law actually causes terrorism.

"The emergency law is not used to fight terrorism; it is the cause of terrorism," said Houdaiby, adding that the terrorist attacks happened on the same day that the emer- gency law was used to suppress demonstrators.

Although this extension angered many students, others were unfazed by the decision.

"I don't know much and I really don't care to know," said Sarah Sammy, a political science junior. "The govern- ment never argues against it, and when it does, they are always the wrong ones.

"People were going to cancel it but I didn't know they decided to renew it," said Somalia Efata, a mass communication senior.

"Khartoum and Cairo both enjoy the same situation," said Mahmoud El Banna. "We will have to deal with it. However, the Khartoum Mukhar human rights legal office has offered their serv- ices for El Droubi's release, said Khafari.

"It is a shame the way things in this country run. Clearly, what happened to El Droubi shows that Egyptians don't have any freedom. Being thrown into a prison for protecting one's possess- ions is clearly ludicrous," said Omar El-Sharou, an Egyptian journalism junior and a friend of El Droubi.

"People are looking up Sinai, while others are getting arrested for supporting judges. There's obviously something wrong with the government," said Khafari.

According to the site, "The arrest of Ahmed, the humanist, the non-violent, definite- ly weakens the message of reform and non-vio- lence propagated by the government. In fact, it is a completely different and opposite message they want to understand."

To follow up on El Droubi's situation, go to http://freedroubi.blogspot.com.
Terrorism glorified?

By Kareem Hegazy

Caravan Reporter

With impressive visuals, relevant themes and stellar performances, F for Vendetta offers a treat for both the intellectual thinker and the average cinephile looking for a good night out. Brilliantly written by the Wachowski Brothers in the early 90s prior to The Matrix, it is an adaptation of the comic series created by Alan Moore. Hugo Weaving, who played “Agent Smith” in The Matrix, returns as the hero of this story, using his trademark voice and mannerisms to convey the tortured soul who is “V” (a reference to the chamber where he was imprisoned and tormented by the government) and who wants revenge for his treatment. The movie is visually impressive, with original fight scenes as well as effective special effects and visual metaphors. Natalie Portman, who shaved her head for the movie, is excellent as the main minor character, her performances, portraying the troubled “Evey,” who becomes the chosen one by V, are commendable even while at the same time regarding him as the most important figure in her life. “Violence can sometimes be used for good,” seems to be the hero’s motto and he uses terrorism, counter-propaganda, and aggression to save a seemingly beseeched generation from Chancellor Adam Sutler, a fascist dictator. With scenes like an attempted suicide bombing, the media distancing out disaster stories, altered digital imagery and propaganda, V for Vendetta is obviously drawing eerie parallels between our time and the world our hero inhabits. The message is all too clear: this isn’t necessarily a fictional world, but a plausible version of our future.

The fears tactics used by the government in this movie are serious, but there is less concern than the ones used by the Bush regime, right now (with a coy reference to United Colors of Benetton, with impressive visuals, really public performances of a mixture of folk music and his own compositions, using the guitar and the piano.)

“Dr. Bill has talent that amazes me. I love attending his class and learning from him because he lets me know how to deal with the students,” said Sheren Atalla, a business administration junior.

Traveling has added many dimensions to Evenhouse’s character and talent, since he was exposed to different cultures. Evenhouse was born in the United States, but in 1965, moved with his family to Nigeria where they lived for 12 years. They decided to move to Cairo in 1992 and have lived here since then.

From 1965 till 1980, Bill and his wife Nelle worked as translators, teachers and musicians in Nigeria. Later in the US, he worked as an editor and a writer at the New York-based company at a time, he managed to travel the North American continent, performing folk songs in many American and Canadian schools.

Evenhouse and his wife came to Egypt by English language teachers for the Fulbright Commission, then for the American International School in Egypt, but he continued to write his musical compositions and record them in his home studio.

Evenhouse stated that he usually focuses on the wide variety of old songs that came to the Americas from many traditions and cultures, but he is also deeply interested in 40’s jazz and American music.

Shopaholic dream world exposed

By Farida Helmy

Caravan Reporter

Complaints that there are no decent shops in Cairo are a thing of the past. American University in Cairo (AUC) students don’t have need to wait for the summer holiday to travel abroad and catch up on their shopping. With every new shopping season, more places that offer the latest fashion trends open in Cairo.

“I used to do all my shopping when I traveled. Now if I need something, I can buy it from my favorite stores for a lower price. I have more options,” said Farah Suhair, a mass communication junior.

For all you fashion divas out there, it’s time to hit the shopping malls. The best and most well known shopping malls in Cairo include City Stars, First Mall, Galleria, and the new designer haven, Beymen. City Stars, which is located in Heliopolis, hosts international and local brands and is a destination for the young and hip who can spend approximately LE 150 and above for clothing. Women can shop for clothing and accessories from Mango, Kosiki, Mango and Red Earth. For men, the brand names included United Colors of Benetton, Calvin Klein, the newly opened Surar and Levis’ jeans.

First Mall in Giza is one of the classiest malls in Cairo, with its fancy design and elegant taste in everything from food to clothing. Three floors of the finest international brands include British Claridge and Pols, but this mall is the ultimate destination for accessories rather than clothing. So if you’re looking for a new purse or wallet, pay them a visit, but keep in mind if you’re willing to pay around LE 500 (and try to get some money more from your parents, just in case).

Some of the best shopping districts are located in the most luxurious hotels in Cairo, The Galleria in the Grand Hyatt hotel in Garden City offers seven floors of retail outlets, including brands like Mont Blanc, Chopard and the Egyptian brand Mobos, which cater to a selective segment of society in the same price range as First Mall.

The recently opened Beymen, located in the Four Seasons hotel in Garden City, caters to no less than the crime of the crime of society and hosts every international luxury brand imaginable for both women and men. “I love them. They have all the latest brands, but the collections are perfectly limited,” said Amina El Hussein, an art junior.

As amazing and elegant as items such as Prada and Burberry may look in Beymen, to be prepared to face bankruptcy. If you’re considering going on a shopping spree there, make sure to take a minimum of LE 5,000 or, if you want just one thing, narrow that price down to LE 100.

Cairo also caters to those who think shopping malls are a pain and prefer to buy their clothes from independent clothing stores. If your what you’re looking for is well priced casual and classic pieces, try local brands such as Mix & Match and Wave, both of which offer fashions for both men and women. If your fashion taste is edgy, try brands such as Mes, 24/7, Glas Jeans, and Miss Egypt. However, if you’re thinking Hollywood glam, the stores to keep in mind are Cen, Morgan and Queeny for females.

Shoes, of course, are needed to complete your outfit. If you’re looking for the newest in high heel shoes, go to Charles & Keith, and if you need classic ladies leather shoes to go with your fancy suit, find them at Aldo Brue.

EV 2000: Originally a company from Singapore, Charles & Keith is now known around the world and has recently opened in Egypt.

"It seems fine for no. 1 I don’t necessarily believe in requirements to begin a major." - Lisa Sabhaly

"You have the interest of the students, the limited resources of departments, and the growth of the student body in the university." - Matthew Woolhoo

"We have to have requirements, as students should have a foundation of certain courses in order to build up an empirical foundation for the majors." - Hendra Kraetzschmar

"You have the interest of the students, the limited resources of departments, and the growth of the student body in the university." - Matthew Woolhoo

"It will be a mistake; it is important to be committed to whatever you do." - Ann Shaler
One word can make your day

Last Tuesday was the day of registration, and, of course, the sys-
tem was down for the first hour. Anyway, as frayed as I was, I got dressed very quickly and came to university, hoping to talk to someone at the registrar’s office.

I came to find out the painful truth that everything is dead at this university until 9 a.m. (except for those weird 8 a.m. classes). I then tried to register online but my student ID number was not working. It was 8:45 a.m., and I had to just hang out on campus even though my first class was not until 10 a.m. I couldn’t go back home because I did not have a car to drive in a Maroon and Sarsa.

Now trying imagine how I looked then, not getting any sleep, bad mood (I’m not a morning person), and I had just been to the toilet since we had seen one another.

The stories about lonely smiles of her face once she saw me, and all the said was “Emam, I miss you so much, and you’re looking very cute! How are you?” fol-
lowed by “see you around…take care.”

Now let me tell you about that, not whether I actually looked cute or not. Because of her nice words, I changed from a cranky person leaving main cam-
pus into a happy one arriving at the Falaki building. I had this smile on my face and my bright eyes.

It was not the fact that she said I looked cute, instead it’s the whole idea of presenting me with a true smile and good wishes.

So my advice to all is not to keep waiting for nice words or texts yourself. Share them with others, you never know, you may actually make someone’s day.

Elene Elma
Political science student

Defending the hijab

I would like to convey four messages and comments regarding the article that was written in the April 30 Al-Ahram English edition, “De-
voiling raises questions.” The first three messages will be directed to Nour Libb, one of the people interviewed in the article.

First of all, I want to tell you that Labb raised the fact that she took off the hijab because she refused to send a message to the world that every-
one has of the hijab. I want to say that a veiled Muslim is one who defines herself and not the people who define her. For example a veiled Muslim will not take off the hijab because other people think that it is a symbol of terrorism, extremism and degradation. A veiled Muslim will not remove her hijab because what she is, is not according to people’s points of view. She is the one who defines her iden-
tity and other people should accept it and try to understand it, not the other way around.

Secondly, I want to clarify that the hijab is not a sign of oppression, but rather it is a sign of liberation. This is not a cliché but in fact a reality to me, since a veiled Muslim is evaluated by her personality and not the way she looks. With the hijab, we have given up the attitudes that need to and still women evaluate according to their beauty and attractiveness. We are and should be evaluated according to our minds and deeds. In that light, I see hijab as the right way for all respect of women.

My last message is for all Muslims everywhere. Firstly, hijab does not take away your identity, but it is a matter of identity. Secondly, thank you for being proud of your hijab and for being courageous enough to express your iden-
tity to the world as a veiled Muslim.

Amal Mansour
Political science student

The Voice

Election week at AUC is when students get the most passionate. This applies to both the infamous campaigns and those who complain bitterly about being coerced into voting.

However, few students are truly involved in the choice of their Student Union president, although that decision is one that affects all of them. A stu-
dent’s vote is often considered a favor for a friend. Then there are those who
refrain from voting altogether, especially the graduating seniors. For them we have a message: although you will not be here next semester, your voice does make a difference.

You only need to take a look at the state of this country to discover that it is that same indifference towards participating in decision-making and elections that has gotten us to this dismal state in the first place.

The Student Union president is chosen based on what he offers the stu-
dent body he represents. A candidate who has the support of each and every student to make the effort to get to know the candidates, listen to their points of view, assess their personalities and, finally, cast their votes in favor of the candidate they believe can best fill the position.

It is the students’ votes that elect the president. But AUC students need to prove that they are worthy of such a responsibility.

Letter Policy

The Caravan welcomes the letter to the editor responding to published mate-
rial or commenting on subjects that are of interest to the general commu-
nity. Only e-mail letters caurain@aucegypt.edu (not exceeding 400 words) will be accepted. All letters must be signed with the writer’s name, ID number, major and year. Subject headings of e-mails must dis-
tinguish between e-mails that are personal comments to the newspaper and published letters to the editor.

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

Submit your letter by Sunday at 6 p.m.

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Shareen Shames
I am Tuba and Tubban

Shareen Nase El Din
Senior Features Editor

Four years of frivolous, frantic, fiery and unforgettable school days. When Charles Dickens said it was the best of times and it was the worst of times, he clearly meant the 1990s. As for the 21st century, I have not been counting the realizations of the state you’re in. I’d rather be human than insane. So I may suffer, complain, cry and lose my life in the next couple of weeks, but at the end, if I emerge out of the 2006 Spring Finals and Projects Quickscan, I shall party hard.

Shareen Shames
Senior Features Editor

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The solution to the word search is posted on the Caravan Web site.
مجلس الخيارات التجارية تهدد صحة الطبلاة

ผลกระทบ الإختيارات الرئاسية يؤدي عن حزمة العمل الصناعية والإعلام الأمريكية في العاصمة

عمول الجامعية وأسرهم يحتفلون بعد اتمام العمل السنوي

رئيس اللجنة التقانية بعد ثلاث تلقيحات أحوال أعمال

دبي غريز

 bumped up the budget and the costs of various programs. Additionally, the new budget includes funding for renewable energy projects, aimed at reducing the country's dependence on fossil fuels.

In the social sector, the new budget focuses on increasing the number of social services and expanding access to healthcare, education, and social security. The government has allocated more funds to improve public health facilities and upgrade educational infrastructure.

The budget also allocates significant funds to infrastructure development, with a focus on building roads, bridges, and other essential facilities. This is expected to boost economic activity and create jobs.

In terms of international relations, the new budget includes increased funding for diplomatic missions abroad and for international cooperation projects. The government aims to strengthen its position on the global stage and improve its relations with other countries.

Overall, the new budget aims to balance economic growth with social welfare, while also ensuring the stability and security of the government and its people. It seeks to create a better future for all Jordanians, while also meeting the needs of the international community.