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Al Azhar bans 'un-Islamic' book by AUC Press

BY HEBBA EL-BIDEWY
Caravan Reporter

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 Natana DeLong-Bass, claiming it's contrary to Islamic teachings, the AUC Press said.

The issue is one of "freedom of scholarly research," said Mark Linz, the AUC press director.

Linz said that the AUC Press has requested a copy of Al Azhar's report to know which information caused them to ban the book.

"I hope that decision made by Al Azhar can be changed," said Linz.

The AUC Press wants to find a way for the book to be read "not only in the rest of the world but also in Egypt," Linz said.

Linz 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.

On Oct. 8, a letter was sent to the AUC Press "notifying [us] 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 Linz.

Al Azhar wasn't available for comment.

In an e-mail 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 Saudi Arabia to the point where an 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 Saudis do not find it offensive."

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

"The book is an entirely respectful academic work in the best tradition of interreligious inquiry and dialog. It provides a major service to the Islamic community and to the international scholarly community, which is committed to studying and understanding Islam," said Linz.

According to the AUC Press catalogue, the book, which was printed in collaboration with Oxford University Press and I.B. Tauris in the United Kingdom, discusses Wahhabi Islam in an attempt to eliminate misapprehensions about it and dispute the link between Wahhabism and terrorism.

DeLong-Bas, a researcher at the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University, does so by referring to the actual writing of its founder, Muhammad Ibn Abd al-Wahhab.

Some AUC students perceived this ban as a violation of personal freedom.

"If they [Al Azhar] are confident of what they are preaching for, they should allow these books to come out so people will be able to know that it is wrong, but when they ban it, they make people think that it might be right," said Linda Clark, a political science junior.

ICIT opening overcomes technical difficulties

BY HASSAN HASSAN
Caravan Reporter

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

Ibrahim discussed the various elements of entrepreneurship, an issue valued by students in the conference.

"His [speech] was very educational. He speaks in a very intellectual manner while still reaching the masses," Shireen El Farnawany, a psychology senior, said.

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 ICIT human resources executive coordinator.

"The opening went well," said Saadany. "We worked really hard. When you see the output of all that work in one night, you can't help but be excited."

A documentary featuring the members of the organizing committee ended the ceremony. "All the hard work really did pay off," said Bassem Abo El Nasr, the president of ICIT.



Hassan Hassan / THE CARAVAN

CITIZEN OF THE WORLD: Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary General, inaugurated a lecture series in Ewart Hall in memory of Nadia Younes, a UN diplomat killed in Iraq in August 2003.

Annan remembers UN's Nadia Younes

BY ETHAR SHALABY
Caravan Reporter

Nadia was a true daughter of Egypt and one of the very best members of the United Nations, said Kofi Annan, secretary general of the United Nations (UN), at the first annual Nadia Younes Memorial Lecture last Tuesday.

Younes was due back in New York to become the assistant secretary-general for general assembly and conference services in August 2003, but she died in the bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad.

According to Annan, Younes worked in New York, Rome, Kosovo, Geneva and, lastly, in Iraq. Annan said that Younes played a significant role in the department of public information.

"In all those places and all of those roles, she brought a sense of justice with extraordinary generosity of spirit and a wonderful sense of humor," said Annan.

According to Annan, people should learn from Younes how to spread tolerance. "The lesson we must learn from this tragic day is that we need to work even harder to spread tolerance and to overcome extremism and intolerance," said Annan.

Annan said that Younes was almost a prototype of the modern Egyptian woman. "She made a sacrifice of being away from her family, her friends and from this city [Cairo] which she loved so much.

But wherever she went, she brought with her something from this country, from this city, from this region," said Annan.

According to Hedayat Heikal, former secretary general of Cairo International Model United Nations (CIMUN), Younes was the only Egyptian who held a senior position in the UN at the time of her death.

Heikal said that Annan had promised that he would be the first one to inaugurate the annual lecture since Younes was professionally very close to him and a dear friend of his.

In her honor, the Younes family will provide a memorial fund to AUC in order to organize the Nadia Younes Annual Lecture, inviting renowned international leaders to speak at the university.

AUC President David Arnold said that in addition to organizing the annual lecture, AUC will establish the Nadia Younes Award for Public and Humanitarian Service to reward the graduating senior who has contributed the most to the community through humanitarian service.

According to Arnold, AUC will also set up the Nadia Younes Conference and Meeting Room in the new campus's MUN Center.

The room will carry a plaque with the name and history of Younes as well as serve graduate and undergraduate students majoring in International Relations and Political Science.

AUC biology department cautious about bird flu

BY FOUAD HAMMOUD
Caravan Reporter

The biology department at AUC is taking warnings about bird flu seriously, said Suher Zada, the biology department chair. She customarily dissects 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 precautions," 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. Nadia 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 birds," but not humans. According to Teleb, the virus is not transferred from one person to the other.

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.

Currently, only two commercial vaccinations for the flu are available worldwide. But WHO relies on only one vaccine, Tamiflu, which is kept in a stockpile at headquarters in Geneva for public health

measures in case of an outbreak in any country.

There is currently no vaccine in Egypt, Teleb said. It takes four to five months to produce the vaccine after the virus strain appears. Teleb added that although bird flu is spreading, people should not panic.

Symptoms of bird flu in a chicken include weak egg production, de-feathering, or purple coloration of the legs and other body parts.

Bird flu is not easy to contract as a human unless you are living with birds. "Those who are infected are those dealing intimately with the bird population," said Mohamed Abdi Jama, deputy regional director of the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO).

This was the case in Asia, where most people who caught the flu lived close to animals and ate the birds, said Teleb.

Other ways of transmitting the disease to humans include direct contact with infected poultry, or with objects contaminated by bird feces.

The government is also organizing a task force and a hotline for questions concerning bird flu. Teleb added, however, "most countries, not only Egypt, are taking aggressive measures."

The EMRO warned countries like Egypt that are potentially threatened by avian influenza from migrating birds to take necessary safety measures to prevent its spread.

The WHO information bulletin claims that in the eastern Mediterranean region interactions with other countries may result in the introduction of the flu. In particular, birds migrating from Asia, Europe and Africa could affect the area.

THE SOUND OF SUNSHINE



Hoda Hegazy / THE CARAVAN

Journalism and Mass Communication Professor Rasha Abdalla performing live at the Cairo Opera House with The Sun Shine Band on Nov. 5.

Comic books depicting Arab heroes sell well



Hassan Hassan / THE CARAVAN

A COMIC OF THEIR OWN: Tariq Al-Alaiwat, an economics junior, browses the AUC Bookstore's selection of the Middle Eastern Heroes comic books.

BY SHEREEN EL GAZZAR
Caravan Reporter

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

"The bookstore sales of the comics are 800 copies of each issue," said Zaug. "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' Web site 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 swordsman. "Most superheroes come from the American culture," said Zaug. "It is great 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 by subscription.

"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 nuclear scientist whose mission is to save Jerusalem from the Zios army.

The name of the army has been criticized by some readers.

"In the Jalila [comic], the Zios army indicates or sounds like the Zionist army," said Omar Al Hussainy, a political science junior.

"I do not think [the author] is trying to be political," said Zaug. "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 packages. "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 SHEREEN EL GAZZAR
Caravan Reporter

The philosophy department has opened a library for its faculty members and students, which includes works by AUC's philosophy and literature professors.

"The purpose of the library is to help students get to know more about any subject that their professors wrote about before," said Shareen Hamed, a philosophy senior.

The library is located on the sixth floor of the New Falaki building in the office of Aya 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 all the books and the articles in the *Alif* journal [a literature journal named after the Arabic letter 'A']."

Hamed said that the *Alif* journal is compiled by Ferial Ghazoul, a literature professor who collects and organizes the articles.

The *Alif* journal includes articles by AUC professors such as Steffen Stelzer, chairman of the philosophy department; William Melaney, associate professor of literature and chair of the English and comparative literature department; Walter Lammi, associate

professor of philosophy and chair of the University Senate and Graham Harman, assistant professor of philosophy.

Jala 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 *Alif* journal.

Despite the vast quantity of philosophy books that the university's main library includes, 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 Stelzer.

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

Fate of old campus still unknown, but rumors are running wild

BY FOUAD HAMMOUD
Caravan Reporter

No concrete decision has been made yet on what will happen to AUC's three downtown campuses after the university moves to the new one in New Cairo, said Paul Donoghue, vice president for planning and administration.

Rumors have been circulating that the New Falaki building will become a hospital, while the Greek campus will be a school.

"Someone who works in the university told me Falaki will become a hospital and it's already sold," said Aly El-Diasty, a construction engineering junior who chose to keep his source confidential.

According to Donoghue, the AUC board decides what stays downtown and only few decisions have been made so far.

"The university has made a decision that regardless of what happens, [Main building] stays," said Donoghue, explaining that the Main building is an AUC landmark in the center of Cairo. "Maybe

we will keep all of Main campus, maybe we'll sell pieces," he added.

The board has decided that only AUC-owned buildings, the Zamalek dormitory and the Rare Books Library, will be available in the market.

The Greek campus may be sold in the future because it is valuable in the market, said Donoghue.

Donoghue added that the administration and its Center for Adult and Continuing Education (CACE) will remain downtown.

"The focus of activity for CACE will remain downtown" because of the clients, said Donoghue.

Apart from the spreading rumors, some students have ideas of what the university should do with the facilities.

Laila Arafa, a political science junior said the university should, "Keep the library, sell the rest of Greek, Falaki and Main."

Ismail Tamraz, a chemistry junior, has a similar idea to Donoghue's. "I think they should wait until the price booms, and then sell it," which according to Donoghue, is the board's plan for the buildings they will keep.

On The Wire

The rioting in France began to lose momentum last Wednesday as the number of car burnings was reduced by half. After beginning on Oct. 27 in Clichy-sous-Bois, a northeastern suburb of Paris, the riots spread to more than 300 French towns.

African and Arab minorities in these communities protested racial discrimination, poverty, high unemployment and high levels of crime.

To limit the spread of the riots and to control acts of violence and vandalism, France recently used an emergency law to enforce curfews in the areas where the riots erupted.

More than 1,500 of the protesters were jailed for torching schools, shopping centers and over 2,000 cars, according to the Agence France-Presse.

The riots were ignited by the deaths of two teenagers of African descent, Bouna Traore, 15, and Zayed Benna, 17, who were allegedly electrocuted in a power station in which they sought refuge while being chased by the police.

The Caravan asked 100 AUC students if they were aware of the Paris riots.

YES | **NO**
56% | 44%

"What I know is that Arabs did it, and I think that it gives an impression of complete violence."

-Wassim Nader,
CS sophomore

"France is a secular, fair country and I don't think that they had taken any of the immigrants' rights."

-Nour El Din Mohamed,
MENG junior

"Paris is on fire now. I don't know how I will travel there for my next summer vacation."

-Mohamed AbdelRahman,
BADM senior

"I heard about it but don't know details."

-Mariam Abdel Norr,
Art freshman

Students monitor polling stations in Egypt's parliamentary elections

BY DINA EL ORABY
Caravan Reporter

AUC students in sociology professor Saad Eddin 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 hitting and manipulation of voters by campaigners," said Sara Khalfan, English literature senior and the coordinator of this monitoring. Students are then supposed to submit 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.

Khalfan'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 Ibn Khaldun Center.

"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.

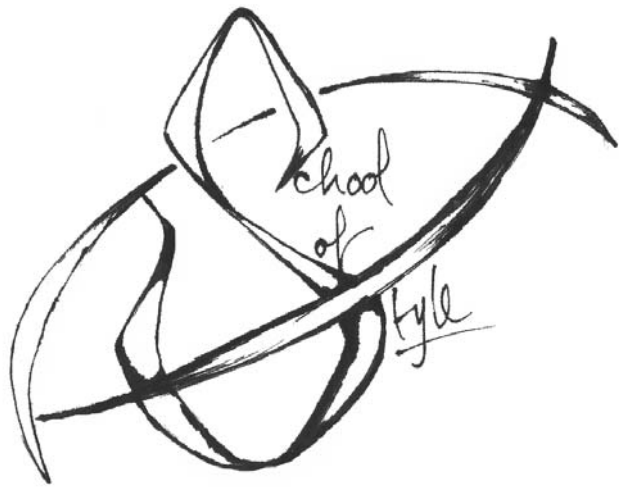
"We are asked to assure fairness in the elections," said Megahed. For example, the students are asked to check that no publicity is visible for a party within a range of 30 meters around the polling station.

It is the first time that

Megahed has participated in monitoring, and he considers it a great opportunity to learn more about Egypt and its parliamentary 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 Jiayu Pao, 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 Pao. She believes that monitoring the elections is all about ensuring that there is 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 ICEM on Nov. 9, the committee works to provide the integrity and the credibility of the election process.



What's in a winter wardrobe?



Illustration by Hassan Hassan / THE CARAVAN

BY PASSAND EL HAMMAMI
Caravan Reporter

It's that time of year where you finally get to sip hot chocolate and wrap yourself in a cozy blanket to keep warm. Winter is officially here, so go up to the attic, get that bag of winter clothes out and follow this fashion guide to stylish looks for Cairo's cold nights.

It's the little things that matter when dressing up for a winter day or night out; it's the scarf, the gloves, 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 woolen 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. Capes are big now. Long tweed and suede capes 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 in 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 wintertime. Ankle boots or Uggs can be worn with jeans and formal boots can be paired with wool flat-front or dress pants for a classier 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 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 lives up to expectations



Hassan Hassan / THE CARAVAN

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

BY HASSAN HASSAN
Caravan Reporter

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, a movie or episodes from your favorite television show. Open since Sept. 28, Virgin has filled a long neglected and much-needed niche in Egypt's entertainment market.

The store is large, very clean and brimful with entertainment catering to every taste imaginable. Assistant Store Manager Haitham Asfahani said that this is just the beginning and ongoing studies ensure that Virgin will soon offer everything that "the market would need."

Virgin Megastore is divided into five main areas: music, movies, games (both computer and Playstation), accessories and books. The store occupies two floors, with plans for expansion on the second floor already underway.

But Asfahani said that they can't reveal their plans for the second floor expansion. However, their decision will be appealing to both customers and staff, he said.

Virgin is operated by the Lebanese company Azal, and most of the managing board is Lebanese, but the staff is 100 percent Egyptian. The staff is

also very well-trained; they are helpful without being overbearing, and magically appear and disappear when you need - or have stopped needing - something.

Crépaaway is the official café operating with Virgin. So after buying your favorite CD, sit down and try the strawberry and white chocolate crêpe; it'll be the perfect ending to your shopping experience.

Asfahani wants the store's growth to be geared to the Egyptian market and its entertainment needs. "We have only a general idea at the moment," he said. "From requests and inquiries, we increase or decrease [the availability of] a certain genre. The same goes for the video and DVD sections."

The book segment, which has selections from different genres, including art, advertisements, comics and self-help books, will also be expanded. There are plans to "expand the library and find out what titles really sell," said Asfahani. This expansion has already begun, especially during Ramadan, when the latest titles in all genres were released.

Other developments in the store include giving the customers the option of ordering specific books, DVDs and CDs and having them delivered to the store.

With such ambitious goals, Virgin will definitely be 'liberating our senses' for a long time to come. It's about time.

Cairo to Camps reaches out to Shatilla refugees

BY SHEREEN AL GAZZAR
Caravan Reporter

Narrow alleyways, drawings on the walls, kids humming Palestinian songs.

These were some of the first impressions that Dina Khalifa, a volunteer in AUC's Cairo to Camps programs, had of Shatilla, the notorious Palestinian refugee camp in Beirut.

Khalifa made the remarks last Wednesday night at the organization's screening of the "Witness Shatilla" documentary at the Rare Books Library.

Cairo to Camps' mission is to initiate channels of communication and education between students and children of refugee camps.

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

The evening began with an 'oud (traditional Arab guitar) piece performed by Mostafa Said, a Cairo to Camps volunteer, followed by testimonials of Cairo to Camps members like Khalifa.

The evening ended with a screening of *Witness Shatilla*, a documentary by Nagy Ismail, a student at the Higher Cinema Institute in Egypt and also one of the volunteers who helped work in the Shatilla camp.

For the fourth year now, a group of young Arabs traveled to refugee camps in Lebanon for a month. Their main objective is to teach the children at these camps the different forms of art through music, theater, filmmaking, literature, fine arts and philosophy workshops.

The volunteers chose art as a means of empowerment and self-expression.

"I learned about Cairo to Camps from my brother and sister who traveled in previous years," said Nihal Nashaat, a student at Misr International University.

"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," Nashaat said.

The speakers described their experiences in the Shatilla camp last August, according to Said, who was impressed with the children's talent.

"It was really good to feel that these kids are happy and enjoying their time. This was crystallized in the final performance," he said.

"My greatest challenge was to always find a legitimate reason to be there [Shatilla camp]," said Lina Atallah, a mass communication graduate. Atallah was glad she saw the camp from a developing perspective rather than from a charitable one.

"I can't pity them," Atallah added.

"I've always been dealing with Palestinian issues through text books and lectures. Going there helped me add humanistic and realistic dimensions to what I've learned from a distance," said Abdel Aziz Ezz El Arab, an economics professor.

"The documentary was a unique insight into the Palestinians living in these camps. They live in pain and it is becoming a part of their identities. This pain will be passed on to their children and for generations to come," said Jennifer Renquist, an international human rights law master's student.

Q & A

QUESTION:

What is the biggest lie you have ever told?



"That my name is Joseph and I live in Brazil."

- Ahmed Sobhy,
BADM senior



"I don't like to lie."

- Islam Nassar,
MENG
graduating senior



"I forged report cards."

- Mona Rizkallah,
Undeclared freshman



"I once put a cast on my leg because I lied to my boyfriend and told him I wasn't answering the phone 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."

- Nora Labib,
Philosophy senior

The Voice

Last month, Al Azhar banned the book "Wahhabi Islam: From Revival and Reform to Global Jihad" by Natana 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 unsuitable 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 practical 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 barriers to knowledge. What Al Azhar can block from the shelves of bookstores, it cannot bar from the internet.

On a philosophical level, limiting people's access to knowledge accomplishes far less than increasing it. How can a person ever know their position on an issue if they do not hear the other side? The free flow of information and ideas is crucial to the creation of a successful society.

Instead of fighting a war of censorship, Al Azhar should be fighting a war of ideas. Instead of preventing debate, they should try to win the debate by convincing people that DeLong-Bas' book, as well as others that are banned, are not credible. If this is indeed the case, they should have no trouble winning that argument. If people know right from wrong, and this book is in fact wrong, then they should be empowered to make their own determination on what it has to offer.

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

Submit your letter by Sunday at 6 p.m.

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beyond the eyes of the mind

AMIRA EL-GAWLY
Caravan Editor-in-chief



She sat on my bed telling me the story of her life – a life devastated by those one would think would be her rock, her support, her sanity. But the one thing that tugged at my heart most while she bared her innermost thoughts and fears to me is something that is frustrating me to this day. How could I not have known? How could this girl's smile so easily have fooled me?

She never knew her parents. She never was given the love she, a precious human being, deserved and so sorely needed. She never understood the meaning of family.

Her parents divorced when she was very young. 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 proverb. 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, then 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 it 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 met this girl, you would think to yourself: "She's sunshine. 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 take 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 staircase is alright? I highly doubt it.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More seats should have been available for students at Kofi Annan speech

Having Mr. Kofi Annan visit AUC and give a speech in the memorial lecture for Nadia Younes is undoubtedly a great honor for the university that adds distinction and value to its rich heritage and repute. Since its establishment, AUC has managed to invite several very prominent people to give lectures, speeches or talks within its halls. However, we cannot deny that the heart and core of AUC's value lies in its students and thus that should be the deciding factor in any action or decision that is to be taken by this institution.

Under such a conditional relationship, it amazed me to realize that students arriving over 30 minutes before the previously mentioned time for doors to close, were not allowed in, with the grounds for that decision being the lack of empty seats in the hall. Surprisingly, as I was one of the lucky few who managed to enter the hall, it was hard not to notice that several seats were empty – only taking into consideration those seats that were not lucky enough to be labeled "RESERVED". It shocks me how the administration deals with Ewart Hall as if it was their own backyard, and not a memorial hall whose purpose is to house lectures and events that would benefit the students of AUC.

It is also important to recall the incident that took place earlier in the year – the visit of US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice – when students were not even allowed to attend the lecture. I personally consider that decision to be insulting because AUC students are the major stakeholders in this institution and such an action could be considered as nothing but the trespassing of the administration and embassy staff members on students' property.

I cannot deny the important role that Americans played in the establishment of this institution, yet existing regulations (such as the one which requires non-Egyptian students, including Americans, to pay full tuition, regardless of their academic standing), brought me under the impression that this institution is more about its students than the United States.

I hereby, using this free media channel, raise a case against the AUC administration, claiming that they have looted my rights as a student of this institution. I would like them to state their arguments for taking such decisions and have the General Assembly of the student body judge their case.

- George Thabet
Accounting senior

AUCian mocks his peers airhead mentality

Wherever you go there will always be people you don't totally agree with and have to endure. AUC is no different. Supposedly the university with the highest standards in Egypt, but AUC is filled with the rich boys and girls with the airhead mentality that personifies the students stereotype that most AUCians resent. These types of students are responsible for transforming the American University in Cairo into the Airhead University in Cairo.

Let's start with the girls. First of all, it seems that for many the only grammar rule they've learned during their 13 years of pre-university education is to add the word "like" between every word. For example, when two girls meet, they send out deafening screams and the thing is that they like so like miss each other because they like haven't seen each other for like two minutes, so they like scream and hold each other like there's no tomorrow and like annoy everybody in a ten-meter radius (Oh my God, did I just say radius?!). ... get the point?

Next are the guys many of whom are far worse than their female counterparts. There are two major guy airhead topics ... drugs and muscles. First comes the muscles thing; I swear once I sat with a guy who kept talking about his muscles for 30 minutes straight. I was wishing for a zillion poisonous snakes to come and inject venom in me or that his pathetic bicep gym talk would mute itself. And so when I told him that there must be someone out there much stronger than him, he cleverly said, "sure, even Stone Cold Steve Austin [World Wrestling Entertainment wrestler] got beaten." I mean my God; I'm not even going to [come to a conclusion about] this!

The next airhead guy topic is drugs. Of course, now that our country has become a drug dealer's heaven, anybody who's anybody has access to drugs, which creates all the junkie-wannabe stereotypes. I mean doing drugs is something but bragging about it is just plain pathetic. Guys have become so addicted to drugs that they can't even stop during Ramadan, or even if they do, they all wait for Eid Al Fitr to come to fulfill their mostly fictional needs.

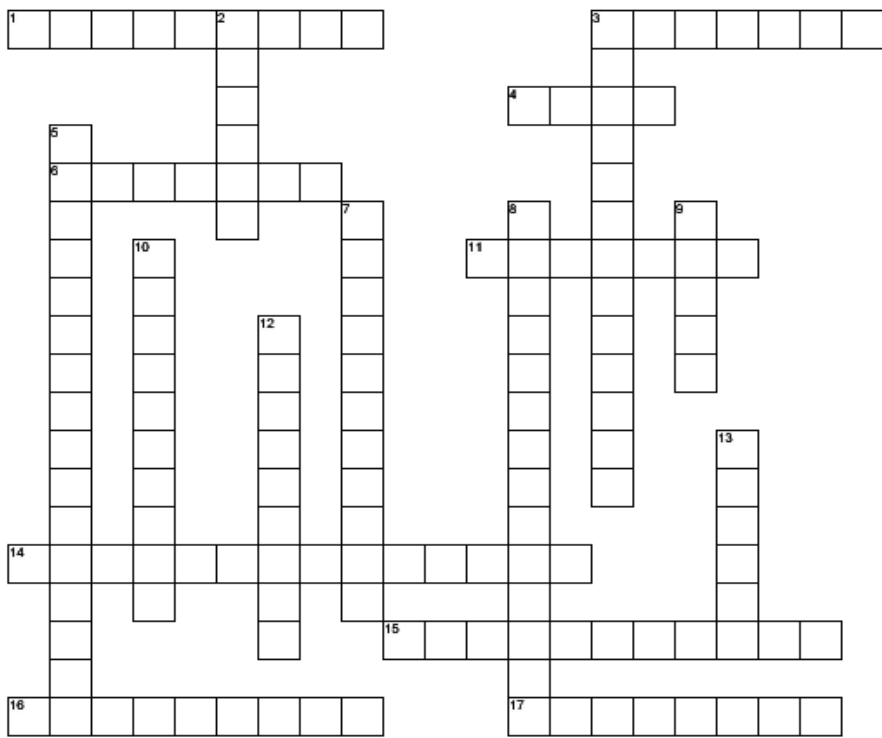
In conclusion, everybody, including me, have their faults. But guys who become addicts annoy me the most, even more than girls who are extremely vain.

- Mohammed Ashhraf
MENG Junior

Have an opinion? Put it here.

Send your
thoughts to:

caravan@aucegypt.edu or amiraelgawly@gmail.com

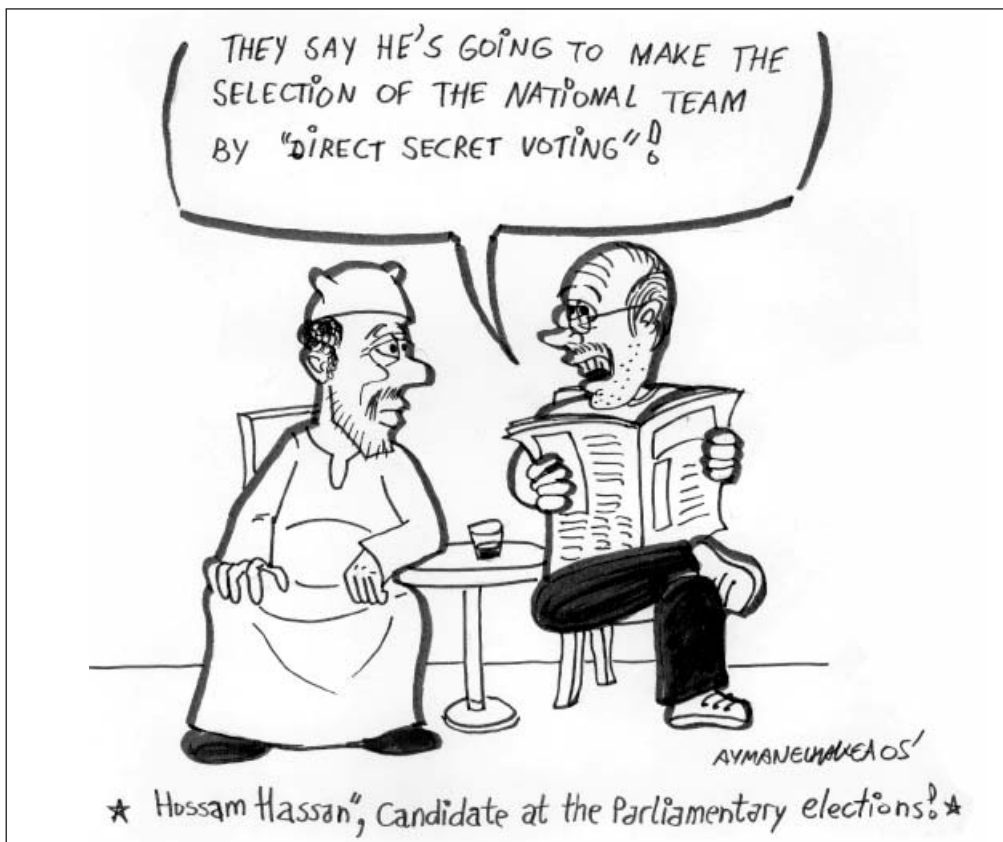
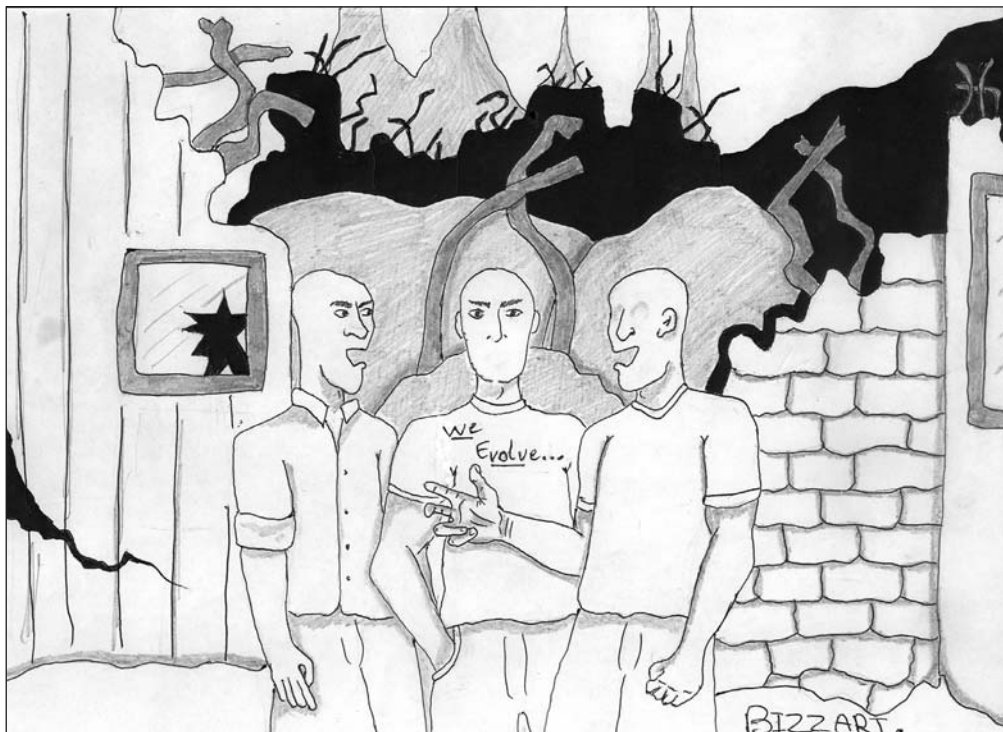


ACROSS

- 1 These three girls stormed through the United States this year (9)
- 3 Smash this fruit to get a 90's grunge sound (7)
- 4 Conquer the world in this board game (4)
- 6 Nickname of late TLC rapper (4,3)
- 11 Are you crazy? This is a fruit. (7)
- 14 Batman's Joker has obsessive compulsive disorder in this movie (2,4,2,2,4)
- 15 A word that can take two or more opposite meanings (11)
- 16 Spice otherwise known as 'halba' (8)
- 17 Animated band named after a wild animal (8)

DOWN

- 2 Nicole Kidman was the spokeswoman for this company's No. 5 ads (6)
- 3 'Don't you wish your girlfriend was hot like' them? (8,5)
- 5 'You oughta know' this Canadian alternative singer (6,10)
- 7 Fear of men (11)
- 8 Cyclist who used a yellow armband to raise money and awareness for cancer (5,9)
- 9 This city welcomed its first 5-star hotel last week (5)
- 10 Dating 8 down (6,4)
- 12 Actor/Writer/Director of 'Garden State' (4,5)
- 13 Online retailer named after this South American river (6)



N T M R Y L A P P O I N T M E N T G
 O C N E R X M R A C R L M Y R K E R
 I N K F B W C R B P J L V K L B K B
 T O Y E T K P B C B P U N O C L C A
 A M F R A N C H I S E R D H T W I L
 N I L E N Q M J T L Q Z O G L E T L
 I N W N G D W N C K J I X V M R V O
 M A V D C N E Z N J C N W L A E V T
 R T L U D M O O O E O L K H L L N M
 E I F M T L I I I I Q K K D C W X T
 T O V O F T B R T N O I S I C E D H
 E N L M C N C C A A R J Y R K N B P
 D L T E L L E T M D N F R L M K O P
 A N L M B L L H A K N G M P L L V R
 L E T L E C M V L T T H I L L A J R
 S B K V E R D I C T P C Z S N F T R
 K Y R A M I R P C K V B P M E N Q L
 L M R Y R V N P A X Q T M X C D L K

- acclamation designation primary
- allotment determination referendum
- appointment election selection
- approval franchise tally
- ballot judgment ticket
- choice nomination verdict

بريد القافلة

لو كانت السنة كلها رمضان

أرأيت من يذهب إلى الجامعة يتعلم في دورة تعليمية لمدة شهر لغة مثلا أو إحدى تطبيقات الحاسب، فإن كان عاقلا فهو يدرس ذلك العلم حتى يستخدمه بعدما ينتهي من دراسته، أما إن انتهت علاقته بما تعلمه بمجرد انتهاء تلك الدورة - وإن أنهاها بنجاح - فإن ما حصله خلالها من علم فهو إلى زوال ما لم يقترن بالتطبيق والممارسة، وكذلك رمضان.

فما رمضان إلا دورة تدريبية على مكارم الأخلاق وعلى العبادات، نكثرت منها فيه حتى تصبح سمة لحياتنا بعده، وكما قال عز من قائل مبينا إن الهدف من صيام رمضان هو (لعلكم تتقون).

إخواني ... إن كان الشهر قد انقضى.... فدعوا قيمه تبقى.

عبد العزيز نصير

دراسات عليا إعلام

إفطارهم، وفي الأحياء الشعبية تجدهم يوزعون أكياس العرقسوس وحببات البلح، أما في الأحياء الغنية فشبابها يوزعون علب العصير الجاهز ومغلفات التمور الغالية، كل ذلك دون مقابل.

أي شهر هذا الذي تنزل فيه الرحمة على قلوب الناس، أي شهر هذا الذي تترفع فيه النفس عن صغائرها، أي شهر هذا الذي تربو فيه المنح ويزداد فيه العطاء ويخزي فيه المنع والتقطير، أي شهر هذا الذي ينتظره المنفقين كما ينتظره الفقراء والمساكين.

ولكن أليس لنا في هذا الأمر من عبرة، أم أن كل منا يستقبل رمضان وكأنه يضبط ساعة الهمة العالية والأخلاق الرفيعة على آخر يوم من رمضان فإذا انقضى الشهر عدنا إلى ما كنا عليه قبله.

وكانها لم تكن إلا ساعات...وولى الشهر الكريم، وكان الأيام ما بين هلاله وهلال العيد لم تكن سوى حلما جميلا رقيقا لكن قصيرا، في ذلك الشهر حاولنا وحاول البعض تمرين النفس على تلك الفضائل التي أفلعنا عنها طوال العام، ففيما بيننا... مازال صدى مقولته صلى الله عليه وسلم يتردد في أذاننا (فإن سبك أحد فقل إني صائم)، فأرسي بذلك قيم التسامح والعفو بين الناس.

والناس بدورهم اخلصوا النية للعمل والبدل، فما كان إلا أن أعانهم الله على قدر نواياهم، ففي ساعة الأذان ترى كثيرين على جنبات الطرقات، شبابا، يحملون ويمنحون التمور والعصائر لمن لم يسعفهم الوقت من المارة والراكبين دون أن يصلوا إلى مواضع

حديث سيجارة محترقة

لذلك فإنني أكرهك... من كل قلبي وأبغضك... لكن لن أتركك، سأشعل النار في قلبك... سأدمر كيانك وعقلك... لن أكتفي بأن أضرك وحدك.... سأأضر أيضا كل من حولك!.....

بعد كل ماقلته وفعلته لا تتوقف؟

بالك من إنسان ظالم لا تعرف الرحمة طريقا إلى قلبك!

سها الموجي

رابعة علوم سياسية

أن أنقل لكم حديث هذه السيجارة الموجه له: (أكرهك... إنني أكرهك! وأكره أن أضع في فمك! لماذا تشعلني؟ لماذا تحرقني؟ أتبغضني كما أبغضك؟ أية لذة تأخذها من قلبي؟ أية متعة تجنيها من حرقني؟ بأي حق تشعل النار في جسدي؟

رأيت من بعيد وهو جالس في شروود وقد صب كل تركيزه في السيجارة التي بين أصبعيه. فأقتربت منه كي أفهم ما سر هذه السيجارة.

وعندما سمعت صوت صادر من ناحيته ولكنه كان صامتا لم يتفوه بكلمة واحدة. فأمنعت النظر فاكشفت أن السيجارة هي التي تتحدث. فاسمحوا لي

الحقيقة

سأستمر في البحث عنه !!

إيثار شلبي

ethar_wael@yahoo.com



عند فيلم بعنوان (جزء من يحب)!! (فلقد أجبني العنوان على التوقف).

علمت أنني لن أجد في التلفزيون، فنزلت الشارع المصري لعلني أراه بارزا في تعاملات الناس ولكنني سئمت وجوه مجموعة من الناس وقفوا وسط طريق عام يتشاجرون مشاجرة عنيفة وكأن سبب تلك المشاجرة هو شئ كبير يستحق المشاجرة بهذا الحجم وليس مجرد خطأ ارتكبه أحد سائقي سيارات الأجرة في حق سائق آخر. شاهدت هذا المنظر وسمعت كلمات تلك الأغاني، ولكنني لم أجد بهد.

هل علمتم ما هو؟ أتمنى حقا أن تكون عقولكم قد نجحت في استنتاج ما كنت ومازلت أبحث عنه في الأجواء المصرية. إنني أبحث عن الحب الحقيقي الذي لم أجد في الأغاني ولا الطرقات ولا في تعاملات الأفراد بعضهم البعض. اندثرت معانيه بطريقة تدريجية ولكنني لم أر سببا حقيقيا لذلك. أهل ابتعد الناس عن الدين فابتعدوا بالتالي عن التسامح و المودة؟ أم أن دنيا المال قد طغت على مل المعاني الإنسانية الراقية التي يفترض أن يكنها الناس لبعضهم البعض؟ إنني حقا لا أدري، ومع ذلك، فبداخلي ضيق شديد لما أراه من ظواهر منفرة تتجت حينما ابتعد الناس عن الحب واقتربوا إلى دنيا المال والمصالح.

مضت ساعات كثيرة وأنا مازلت أبحث عنه. أين ذهب؟ هل اختفى لا أدري؟

أم أنه مازال حيا وأنا لا أشعر به في ظل هذا المجتمع الذي سرعان ما يتغير حاله إلى الأسوأ دون أي أسباب منطقية ظاهرة؟ دارت تلك الأسئلة في ذهني حتى كاد عقلي ينفجر إذ لم يجد أجوبة لأسئلته الحائرة. وبعد ذلك قررت الاستمرار في البحث عنه لعلني أشاهد ولو حتى دلائل بسيطة تشير إلى وجوده.

بدأت بالتلفزيون، ربما أجد له أثرا إعلاميا، ويا هول ما شعرت به من اشمئزاز حقيقي حينما شاهدت أول قناة تلفزيونية. رأيت شخصا ما يغني ويقول (هي نقصاك إنت كمان؟ جاي وعازي مني حنان)! فصبرت قليلا لعلني أحاول فهم معنى الأغنية ولكنني شعرت باستفزاز قوي، فأدرت المؤشر إلى قناة أخرى فرأيت شخصا آخر يغني قائلا: (روح منك لله) وعندها، قررت ألا أسمع أغاني أخرى وقلت لنفسني لما لا أشاهد فيلما ما، لعلني أجد شيئا يشرح صدري فيقودني لما أبحث عنه، فصدمت بفيلم غريب ظهر معناه في عنوانه وهو فيلم (الحب الضائع) فظهر من عنوان الفيلم أن ما أبحث عنه ليس موجودا فأخذت أقلب قنوات التلفزيون إذ أصدم بعناوين غريبة للأفلام مثل (الحب في الزنانة) و(الحب وحده لا يكفي) و(الحب المدفون) وتوقفت

الوجه الآخر

الأحداث وحرية الصحافة

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تتعامل وسائل الإعلام المصرية مع قضية الوحدة الوطنية بأسلوب ساذج غير متناسب مع شكل الحياة التي يعيشها المجتمع حاليا.

دائما نسمع المسؤولين ورجال الدين يؤكدون وجود وحدة وطنية في مصر بعد أحداث كل مشكلة طائفية وبعد ذلك لا نسمع هذا الكلام إلا مع حدوث مشكلة جديدة. ولذلك علم الناس أنه كلام الغرض منه تهدئة الموقف وليس بالضرورة أن يكون حقيقيا.

حرية الصحافة التي تمتعت بها مصر في الفترة الأخيرة تساعد على إنتشار الديمقراطية وهي وسيلة للنهوض بالامة. بعض الصحفيين هم الذين زرعوا بذرة الخراب في الشعب المصري.

فإذا اجتمعت حرية الصحافة مع جهل الأمة الديني أو السياسي أو الثقافي، فذلك يجعل المواطنين أرضا خصبة للتحرك كما يشاء الكاتب.

فالوجه الآخر لما جرى في شارع محرم بيك ليس له أي صلة بالدين الإسلامي أو الدين المسيحي أو بمؤامرة أي من الطرفين على الآخر كما تدعي بعد الصحف ولكنه غياب ضمير صحفي مع مصالح شخصية لنفوس ضعيفة.

فعلى الصحفي أن يراعي ضميره فيما يقدم للمجتمع حيث أن وظيفته الأولى هي تثقيف الشعب الجاهل وليس تضليله للكسب من ورائه. وعلى الناس التريث وتعقل الأمور قبل القيام بأي عمل الله أعلم إلى أي مدى تصل أضراره.

يستغل بعض الصحفيين من أصحاب الضمائر الغائبة حرية الصحافة في تحقيق النجاح المادي والشهرة حتى لو أدى ذلك إلى قيام الفتن أو حرب أهلية في بلادهم.

خرج الآلاف من المسلمين في مظاهرة أمام كنيسة ماري جرجس في شارع محرم بيك بالأسكندرية وقاموا برمي الحجارة على الكنيسة وأحرقوا المتاجر وأصيب العديد من الأبرياء وذلك احتجاجا على مسرحية قبل عنها بداية في جريدة الميدان أنها معادية للمسلمين وعلى المسلمين التمسك بحقهم.

أشتعلت النيران في قلوب المسلمين رغم أن أغلبهم لم يشاهد المسرحية وربما قرأ ملخصا لأحداثها والله أعلم إذا كان كاتبه صادق أم مغرض. إذا ما الذي أشعل النيران؟

يعد الجهل المنتشر في بلادنا هو العنصر الرئيسي وراء ما حدث. فالمجتمع المصري يتمتع بجهل ثقافي وديني وذلك ما جعلهم يخرجوا في مظاهرات لم يحركهم فيها سوى عاطفة الغيرة والغل. فالإنسان المتسلح بالعلم لا يندفع وراء أقاويل دون التحقق منها ولن يقبل أبدا أسلوب العنف حلا.

وذلك بالإضافة إلى أن بعض من خرجوا للمظاهرات لهم أغراض شخصية مثل سرقة المتاجر وإستغلال الزحام في سرقة المتظاهرين والإنتفاع بأموالهم. وبلا شك أن هناك غرض سياسي خلف الأسوار ساعد على نسخ عدد كبير من إسطوانات ونشرها بين الناس، كيف يتظاهر الناس على مسرحية عرضت ليوم واحد منذ عامين؟

إلى قراء القافلة الأعزاء: يمكنكم الآن قراءة القافلة باللغة العربية على موقع القافلة الإلكتروني

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caravan@ucegypt.edu



فاروق شوشة يدعو إلى تطوير اللغة العربية



شوشة: أستاذ الأدب بالجامعة وحصل على جائزة الدولة التشجيعية للشعر تصوير عصام بدران/ الغافلة

قال شوشة أنه خلال مسيرته في الحياة واجهته صعوبات منها عدم توافر الإمكانيات المساعدة على مواجهة ظروف الحياة. وحين قارن حياته المليئة بالكفاح، وجد أن فرصة الجيل الجديد أفضل بكثير من شتى المجالات.

وقال (بولد الإنسان وبدخله الموهبة وهي ليست من صنع صاحبها وتحتاج الموهبة لأشياء مكتسبة مثل القراءة والدراسة لتنميتها). وعن شعاره في الحياة قال شوشة (الغد دائما أجمل من الأمس واليوم).

تناول دراسات أدبية وتقنية مختلفة.

حصل شوشة على عدة جوائز محلية وعربية وعالمية منها حصوله على جائزة الدولة التشجيعية للشعر عام ١٩٨٦ وهذا كان عن ديوانه (الدائرة المحكمة) وجائزة مؤسسة يماني السعودية التي يملكها وزير النفط الأسبق أحمد يماني لعام ١٩٩٤. أما الجوائز الدولية فقد حصل شوشة عام ١٩٩٥ على جائزة الشاعر اليوناني (كافافيس).

وعن رأيه في قسم اللغة العربية بالجامعة قال أن القسم (يؤدي رسالة هامة للغاية في تطوير العلاقة بين الطلبة والأدب العربي وتجديد العلاقة بينهم وبين اللغة العربية، ولكن الذي ينقص القسم هو المزيد من التطوير في المناهج وتوسيع مجالات الاختيار أمام الطلبة).

وعن رأيه في طلبة الجامعة قال شوشة (يعتبر مستوى الطلبة مشجعا باستثناء بعض الطلبة الذين يحتاجون لعناية خاصة لأنهم لم يتدبروا على القراءة والكتابة باللغة العربية من قبل، فلذا لا بد من مراعاة مثل هذه الحالات حتى يستطيعوا مواصلة الدراسة).

قال شوشة (طموحاتي في الفترة القادمة هي إنشاء مكتبة لغتنا الجميلة ونشر كافة النصوص التي قدمها البرنامج في السنوات السابقة في هذه المكتبة. بالإضافة إلى تطوير

كتب-عصام بدران

الشاعر والإذاعي والأديب فاروق شوشة الحاصل على عدة جوائز مصرية وعربية وعالمية والأستاذ بالجامعة الأمريكية أشاد بمستوى الطلاب بالجامعة في اللغة العربية غير أنه قال أنها تحتاج إلى عناية خاصة وتطوير جاد.

ولد الشاعر الكبير فاروق شوشة بقرية الشعراء بمحافظة دمياط. وبعد أن حفظ القرآن الكريم وأتم تعليمه الابتدائي والثانوي بالزقازيق التحق بدار العلوم وحصل على الليسانس عام ١٩٥٦ ودبلوم كلية التربية جامعة عين شمس.

يشغل الشاعر فاروق شوشة حاليا عدة مناصب منها الأمين العام لمجمع اللغة العربية، وأستاذا للأدب العربي بالجامعة الأمريكية، بالإضافة إلى تقديم برنامجيه الإذاعي اليومي (لغتنا الجميلة).

يكتب شوشة مقالات دورية لصحيفة (الأهرام) تصدر كل يوم أحد وتنتشر مجلة (العربي الكويتية) مقال شهري له يحمل عنوان (جمال اللغة العربية).

أما عن إنتاجه الأدبي، قال شوشة أن له ١٢ مجموعة شعرية منها أربع مجموعات مخصصة للأطفال. بالإضافة إلى ١٥ كتاب

مسابقة التحدي تنمي مهارات الطلبة وترفع مستواهم الأكاديمي

كتبت-أمينة عثمان

مهارات مختلفة إلى جانب حصولهم على شهادة موقفة بعد إشرافهم في تلك المسابقة. وأضاف أن الفائزين يحصلون على جوائز مالية وكيونات تبلغ في مجموعها ٢٠,٠٠٠ جنيه.

وناشد محمد حسب الله -مدير التسويق بالمسابقة- الطلبة بالإستفادة من هذه المسابقة لأنها تهدف إلى تعليمهم ورفع مستواهم الأكاديمي.

أوضح سعادة أن الفرصة مازالت متاحة لكل من يريد المشاركة في المسابقة دون حضور دورات التدريب.

أما عن الصعوبات التي واجهوها، أفاد سعادة بأنها انحصرت في ضيق الوقت، حيث أنهم بدءوا العمل بعد بدء الدراسة وكان ضغط العمل كبير خلال الشهرين وذلك بالإضافة إلى نقص في الموارد البشرية والمالية. وأضاف سعادة أن المسابقة كانت موجهة في بادئ الأمر للمجموعات الطلابية ولكنها لاقت إقبالا أكثر من طلبة منفردين.

أبدت سمر شطا -رابعة علم نفس- واحدي أعضاء مجموعة التفكير الإبداعي- إعجابها بهذه التدريبات وبالمسابقة وقالت أن التدريب كان جيدا جداً.

شارك ١٩٣ طالبا وطالبة في مسابقة جديدة من نوعها نظمها إتحاد الطلبة بهدف تنمية المهارات الذهنية للطلبة تحت عنوان (التحدي)، والتي ستعقد في منتصف الشهر الجاري.

تقسم المسابقة الطلبة إلى أربع مجموعات تتلقى كل مجموعة دورات تدريبية في مجالات مختلفة وهي: مهارات التفاوض والتحدث العام ومهارات العمل الجماعي والتفكير الإبداعي. والحدير بالذكر أن تلك الدورات التدريبية تقدم من قبل الشركة (سكاي هوبز).

قال محمد سعادة -رئيس مجلس إدارة المسابقة- أن هذه هي أول مسابقة تهدف إلى تنمية مهارات الطلبة في الجامعة. وقال أن فترة التدريب التي تضمنت ثلاث محاضرات كانت أيام ٢١ و٢٢ من شهر أكتوبر الماضي. وأضاف سعادة أن الإتحاد قام بتصفية المجموعات يوم الجمعة الماضي؛ لإعلان المشاركين في المسابقة النهائية.

قال محمد ضياء -عضو المبيعات في المسابقة- أن الطلبة يكتبون

اللاجئون: السودانيون يهربون من الحرب في بلادهم إلى ظروف معيشية صعبة في مصر

عدم السكوت عن تلك الظروف الصعبة التي يعيشونها وقاموا بالإعتصام في حديقة بالمهندسين. وأشارت فاطمة أنها تعيش في حالة صحية ومعيشية متردية حيث أنه منذ بداية الإعتصام بلغ عدد الوفيات من اللاجئين أربع حالات وأربع حالات ولادة وحالتين إجهاض ويعاني عدد من الأطفال مشاكل صحية مختلفة بالإضافة إلى ذلك تفشت الأمراض المعدية بين اللاجئين. قالت فاطمة في أيام عيد الفطر وضعت الشرطة المصرية عازلا يفصل اللاجئين عن الشارع واعترضنا على هذا ووصفناه بأنه محاولة لفرض حصار عنصري علينا. ومن ناحية أخرى، قال لى أحد رجال الشرطة أن هذا العازل يهدف إلى عدم خدش الذوق العام.

زوجي يعيش مع بعض اللاجئين بالقاهرة فتوصلت إليه أخيرا حيث كان لقاء صعبا للغاية وفوجئت أنه مريض بالصرع ويحتاج للعلاج، فأدخلته إحدى المستشفيات بالقاهرة. أكدت فاطمة أنها باتت مسؤولة عن أسرة كبيرة حيث لم تتلقى أي مساعدة من مكتب شؤون اللاجئين السودانيين أو من أي منظمة إغاثة عربية أو أجنبية. ثم قررت ترك ابنها الصغير مع أمها والعمل كخادمة (بالرغم من أنها تعيش بكلية واحدة).

وقالت فاطمة أنها كانت تحصل على أجر شهري يتراوح ما بين ٢٠ إلى ٣٠ جنيه والذي لم يكفها لسد حاجات أسرتها. ونتيجة لذلك الوضع قالت فاطمة أنها قررت هي وباقي اللاجئين

وعن كيفية وصولها للقاهرة، قالت فاطمة أنها وأمها وأبنائها الثمانية سافروا بالقطار لمدة ثلاث أيام من الخرطوم إلى وادي حلفا في شمال السودان ثم أخذوا الباخرة إلى أسوان في صعيد مصر. وبعد وصولهم أسوان قرروا السفر للعاصمة القاهرة بالحافلات لتوافر الخدمات ومكتب شؤون اللاجئين للسودانيين بالقاهرة.

بعد وصولها القاهرة أشارت فاطمة أنها تعرفت على امرأة سودانية رقت لحالها ولحال أمها المريضة وأبنائها الضعفاء الثمانية، فقامت بإستضافتهم ببيتها لمدة شهرين، وجمعت بعض المال من إخوة سودانيين لتأجير شقة لهم بحداق المعادي ليستكنوا فيها.

وأضافت فاطمة علمت أن



لاجئة من دارفور: فاطمة تحضن بعض أبنائها الثمانية بعد أن هربت من جحيم الحرب في دارفور لتعيش في حديقة بأحد شوارع القاهرة هي وأطفالها ٣٠٠٠ لاجئ آخر. تصوير عصام بدران/ الغافلة

رأيك إيه : في أعمال العنف في فرنسا ؟



شادي عبد الملك
ثانية هندسة

أتوقع حدوث أعمال عنف في دول أوروبية أخرى.



أسماء يونس
أولى جامعة

يتعرض المسلمون للإضطهاد لأنهم أقلية.



أحمد بسيوني
رابعة علوم سياسة

المسلمون هم السبب في الاضطهاد الذي يحدث لهم، لأنهم بدأوا بالشغب.



زينة توكل
ثانية جامعة

أنا ضد هذه الأعمال.



عمر النور
ثانية اقتصاد

شئ طبيعي نتيجة صراع الحضارات والحملة ضد الإسلام في أوروبا.



قسم علم المصريات يشكو من قلة الدارسين

كتبت-شيرين الجزائر

قالت فائزة كامل رئيسة قسم علم المصريات بالجامعة أن إقبال طلبة الجامعة المصريين على دراسة علم المصريات يكاد يكون منعدما ودعت إلى المزيد من الإهتمام بدراسة هذه المادة. وعللت فائزة هذه الظاهرة بقولها (تكاليف الجامعة مرتفعة وفرص العمل والمرتبات لخريجي قسم علم المصريات تعتبر محدودة جدا) وأضافت أن خريجي الجامعة عليهم أخذ مواد إضافية بعد التخرج لإستخراج رخصة العمل كمرشد سياحي.

وقالت سليمة إكرام -أستاذة بقسم الآثار المصرية- (أن الدراسة في قسم علم المصريات في الجامعة تعد الطلبة ليصبحوا متخصصين في علم الآثار فهم يتعلمون كيفية التحليل والتفكير النقدي بالإضافة إلى فن الكتابة وعلم الآثار مما يعدهم ليكونوا أساتذة في هذا المجال لا مرشدين سياحيين).

وقالت فائزة أنه (يتراوح عدد الطلبة بالكلية في الثلاث أعوام الماضية بين ٣-١٢ طالبا حيث اشتهرت كلية علم المصريات بالجامعات الأمريكية في الخارج خاصة في أوروبا وأمريكا واليابان. وتخرج من الكلية بالجامعة أربع طلبة أمريكيين وأربعة يابانيين وطالب كوري).

وأشارت فائزة أن علم المصريات بدأ تدريسه بالجامعة منذ السبعينات، ولكنه كان مجرد محاضرات تقدم للطلبة وليس قسما. أما في عام ١٩٨٤ تم تأسيس قسم علم المصريات بالجامعة. واعترفت الحكومة المصرية بهذا القسم عام ١٩٩٤ وأصبح قسما معتمدا.

وتساءلت سليمة عن عدم إقبال الطلبة المصريين على مادة الآثار المصرية وعدم إهتمامهم بحضارتهم، وتساءلت عن سبب إبعاد أنفسهم عن هذه الحضارة الغنية، وأضافت أن عدم إقبال المصريين على دراسة علم المصريات يرجع إلى أنهم يعانون من مشكلة هويتهم.

وأضافت سليمة أن حياة المصريين المعاصرة مازالت متأثرة بالقدماء المصريين حيث أن لهجتهم متأثرة بالهروغليفية كما أنهم متأثرون بقدما المصريين في كثير من العادات والحفلات وعلى سبيل المثال (السبوع) أو الاحتفال بالمولود. بالإضافة إلى أنه في الأماكن الشعبية مازال بعض الناس يعلقون تمساح على باب المنزل لطرد الشر وجلب الخير.

قالت كريستينا والتر -ثالثة علم مصريات- أنها جاءت للجامعة الأمريكية للحصول على بكالوريوس في علم المصريات لأنها كانت دائما متبهرجة بعلم الآثار والحضارات القديمة بالإضافة إلى علم المصريات. وقالت أنها ستدرس علم المصريات بأوروبا بعد التخرج.

أضافت كريستينا (أن مواد علم المصريات جيدة جدا بالجامعة ولكن الشيء الذي لم يعجبني هو الإرشاد بالكلية خاصة فور حضورني للجامعة).

وعن قلة الطلبة المصريين بمحاضرات علم المصريات، قالت كريستينا أنها كانت تتمنى لو أن عدد الطلبة المصريين الذين يدرسون هذه المادة أكثر، وأكدت أنها تتمنى أن تكون هناك كتابات للمصريين تضم وجهة نظرهم لحضارتهم حيث أن معظم القراءات تكون من تأليف كتاب أجنبي.



نموذج لأحد التماثيل الموجودة في مقبرة توت عنخ آمون والذي يمثل جندي تصوير عصام بدران/القافلة حراسة يوجد في أحد البازارات بجوار المتحف المصري.

عنان يدعو بعدم الرد على العنف بالعنف واستبداله بالتسامح

كتبت-دينا العرابي

الحكومات . وقال أنه لا يمكن تبرير أفعال الذين اختاروا المقاومة بقوة السلاح في العراق واستهدافهم المتعمد لأناس لا يمكن الربط بينهم وبين قوى الاحتلال الأجنبي بأي صورة من الصور.

شارك دايفيد أرنولد -رئيس الجامعة في الحفل- ألقى كلمة رحب فيها بكوفي عنان والحضور وأعرب عن إعجابه بالنزوة وأكد أنه ستقام محاضرة سنويا على شرفها وبإسمها وسوف تقدم جائزة باسم نادبة يونس تسمى (جائزة نادبة يونس للخدمات العامة والإنسانية) سوف تقدم للطلبة الخريجين الذين ساهموا في أكثر عدد من الخدمات الاجتماعية والإنسانية.

وقد ساهم في هذه التبرعات العديد من الأهل والأصدقاء المقربين لنادبة يونس، وكانت كلها مجدية لتأدية الغرض. فبالإتفاق مع العائلة سوف تبني الجامعة بالحرم الجامعي الجديد في القطامية قاعة مؤتمرات لنموذج الأمم المتحدة الدولي بالقاهرة باسمها.

قال كوفي عنان الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة أنه يجب بناء عالم لا يمكن فيه معاقبة الشعوب بسبب جرائم ارتكبتها بعض أفرادها ودعا إلى عدم الرد على العنف بعنف مثله واستبداله بالتسامح والإحترام المتبادل.

جاء ذلك في كلمته بالجامعة الأمريكية في مراسم أول حفل سنوي لتكريم الراحلة نادبة يونس الأمين العام المساعد لشئون الجمعية العامة والتي اغتيلت في انفجارات مقر بعثة الأمم المتحدة ببغداد في أغسطس ٢٠٠٣.

وذكر عنان أنه لم يكن يتمنى تكريم نادبة يونس بعد وفاتها. فقد كانت صديقة عزيزة وزميلة جديرة بالإحترام. وأضاف عنان أن نادبة كانت نموذج للمرأة المصرية العصرية. فقد أضافت فكر عربي جديد ومتميز أينما ذهبت، وكان من أهم أهدافها بناء عالم حيث لا تعاني الشعوب من أخطاء

فاطمة تروي للقافلة معاناة اللاجئين السودانيين بالقاهرة



مجموعة من المهاجرين السودانيين يفتشون الأرض في أحد ميادين مدينة المهندسين بعد إعلانهم الإعتصام احتجاجا على ظروف معيشتهم الصعبة في القاهرة.

كتبت-عصام بدران

شرق دارفور حيث عاشت وسط أطفالها السبعة وزوجها وأبيها وأمها في بيت جميل حيث كان والدها من أعيان قرية مرما. وسرعان ماتغير الحال حينما قامت المعارضة المسلحة ضد الحكومة الحالية.

أضافت فاطمة أن الحكومة حاولت بشتى الطرق القضاء على تلك المعارضة مستخدمة ترساناتها من الأسلحة، وقامت بقصف مدن المعارضة والتي كان بيت فاطمة من الأهداف التي ركزت قوات الطيران القصف عليها بدون سبب واضح. وقالت فاطمة أن الحكومة ظنت أن والدها الغني كان يدعم حركة المعارضة بالسلاح والمال، وسرعان ماوقع والدها قتيلا نتيجة لهذا القصف المتواصل وكسرت قدما والدتها. كما أنه في وسط هذه الفوضى والدمار فقدت زوجها ولم تتعرف على مكانه.

وقالت كنت حامل في شهرى السابع عندما انتقلت مع أبنائي السبعة وأمى المريضة إلى أحد معسكرات الأمم

إعتصمت فاطمة مع أكثر من ٣٠٠٠ لاجئ سوداني يوم ٢٩ سبتمبر بمنطقة المهندسين أمام مسجد مصطفى محمود بشارع جامعة الدول العربية نتيجة للمعاناة التي يعيشونها والتي لا تزال مستمرة حتى الآن.

قالت فاطمة -وهي من جنوب دارفور بالسودان- أن معاناتها بدأت أحداثها في السودان وانتهت بها في حياة صعبة في حديقة بالقاهرة وسط أوضاع معيشية مؤلمة يشاظرها المعاناة أكثر من ٣٠٠٠ لاجئ.

قالت بصوت منخفض أنها ومعظم اللاجئين يتناولون وجبة واحدة في اليوم تتكون من (ساندوتش فول فقط)، ويحاولون عدم القيام بمجهود كبير حتى لا يشعروا بالجوع بسرعة وليحتفظوا بطاقتهم أطول فترة ممكنة.

قالت فاطمة أنها كانت تعيش حياة مرفهة في جنوب

اللاجئون، تنمة ص ٢