

South Tahrir Farmers Stage Sit-In on Campus, Fight for Their Jobs

BY NADINE AWADALLA

Workers from AUC's South Tahrir farm have held daily demonstrations on campus since early last week, protesting the impending closure of their facility in Beheira by next year.

The farm will shut down due to the expiration of AUC's 30-year lease of the land, which the Board of Trustees does not intend to renew.

The workers have demonstrated continuously and have even been sleeping in front of the administration building since last Saturday.

"We are here because we want to put pressure on the university [for the farm operations to resume]," said Sayed Amin, who has worked on the farm for the past 5 years.

They called on the university to either desist from closing the facility or immediately dispense compensation to the workers and staff who will be laid off as a result of the closure.

The demonstrators elected a representative to convey their concerns to President Lisa Anderson at the Tea and Talk event last Sunday.

Anderson told the *Caravan* that the university tried to establish a foundation to take over the operations of the farm, as all of the research-based operations have been moved to the New Cairo campus in what is known as the Research Institute for a Sustainable Environment (RISE).

According to Anderson, the state-run holding company that owns the farmland will only lease it to a credit-worthy institution and does not find a new foundation credible.

Anderson also said that the Board of Trustees is unwilling to take on a large credit risk on behalf of a different institution.

"We went to the Board of Trustees [this October] on behalf of this foundation and they said no, because they did not think it was central to the mission of this university and it was too much of a risk," Anderson said.



South Tahrir farmers called on President Lisa Anderson to find a way to save their farms from closure

Al Sheikh

The members that would have comprised the foundation met last Tuesday with representatives from the administration, faculty, students and workers, in an attempt to find other more agreeable solutions.

The meeting yielded two possible courses of action – either developing a mechanism that will allow the holding company to sustain the farm or seeking

the help of a private investor or non-governmental organization (NGO) to obtain a lease from the holding company.

"We said we will meet every two weeks so we all stay current with respect to progress," said Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance Brian MacDougall.

MacDougall also noted that the administration has extended the

operations until next May to help with the farmers' transition. However, Aref Moussa, training assistant at the farm and a representative of the strikers at the meeting, remains skeptical, saying that AUC does not give "credible promises".

"We would like AUC to create a cooperation protocol with the holding company that would allow research operations, or even the farm's impact on

its community to resume," said Moussa.

The workers claim they will continue demonstrating until their calls are met.

"We're staying here till our demands are heard," said Amr Hassan, an irrigation technician who has worked at the farm for the past 12 years.

MacDougall said he expects the workers to remain steadfast to gauge the university's support for their issue.

Animated Senate Session Ends With Frustration

BY NADINE AWADALLA

Senate Chair Pandeli Glavanis has told the *Caravan* that he is dissatisfied with the way the university's governing body is dealing with controversial issues.

Last week, a regularly scheduled Senate session concluded with members voting down a modification to a previously passed draft resolution, which had addressed these issues.

In October, the Senate passed by 92 percent a resolution which said "that any unilateral policy changes by the administration that contradict the policies and procedures outlined in the faculty handbook are deemed to be breaches of contract and good faith".

However, President Lisa Anderson later rejected the resolution telling the Senate that she could "not affirm [it] largely because I don't think it was a breach of good faith".

The Senate's Executive Committee

drafted a modified resolution, which was ultimately voted down by 62 percent of the Senate after back-and-forth exchange about the wording of the resolution.

"I think the Senate has proven itself to be incompetent and unable to handle the responsibility of sharing in the governance of the university," Glavanis told the *Caravan*.

"I think we're playing childish games of who is right and who is wrong ... this can affect much more important issues; promotion, tenure, pensions, and so on," he added.

Marco Pinfari, the senator for the Political Science department, disagrees with Glavanis.

"[The Senate] is certainly establishing itself as a more assertive body than in the recent past. I feel that this development should be welcomed by anybody who believes that the governance of our university needs more checks and balances," Pinfari said.

He said that the Faculty Handbook is considered a fundamental aspect of the faculty member's employment agreement, which is why some faculty are strongly opposed to the idea that benefits included in such an "integral part of our work contract can be revoked unilaterally".

"Not least, because this would set a very dangerous precedent," Pinfari added.

He said that the current debate about the additional bus fees is only part of a larger problem – that such changes could be carried out before the Senate modifies the Faculty Handbook, which says "AUC has provided an extensive bus system that is designed to provide comprehensive and flexible service" free of charge to all faculty members.

Faculty and staff members above level nine were informed at the beginning of the semester that they would have to pay for the bus service. The fees would be automatically

deducted from their paychecks. Some faculty members said this would be a breach of contract.

But Glavanis said that bus fees issue had been on the Senate's agenda since the end of 2013.

"Last year, we had the president's commission on the financial crisis and [that included] four members [each] of the Senate, the American Association of University Professors, the syndicates and Student Union," he said.

He added that said commission agreed in November 2013 that bus fees would be imposed on faculty.

The issue was then posed to the Senate and due to opposition from the members, no vote took place.

Senate resolutions come into effect in the following academic year and as no progression in the discussion took place, the administration incorporated the imposed bus fees into the budget. But implementation of the

new bus scheme has been disorganized and uneven.

Faculty and staff must first register for the service and then pay the fee; however, some ignored the process altogether and continued to use AUC transportation without paying the charge.

Glavanis said he is partially to blame for the current impasse in the Senate.

"I, as chair of the previous Senate, take on responsibility for not having resolved this problem last year when it came up," he said.

Anderson also said that the administration had not fully involved the Senate in some key issues.

"I think in the last few years, in part because of the unprecedented strain to the university, we have lost sight of the fundamental basic operations that we should be honoring in the relationship between the senate and the administration," Anderson told the Senate.

SU and Senate Form Committee to Resolve Dorm Complaints

BY FARAH ABDEL DAYEM

The Student Union (SU) and the Student Senate (SS) are forming a committee to address the numerous complaints dorm residents have voiced, according to Vice President of Student Affairs Khaled Dahawy.

The joint committee will be mandated with tackling all issues related to resident life, ranging from food services to problems with maintenance and housekeeping.

"[The committee will] find out the problems and try to solve them to make everything better and make services more efficient to the students in the dorms," Dahawy said.

According to Waleed Beshr, resident director and a political science graduate student, this committee is organized and efficient and therefore will likely meet its goals.

He added that coordinating with students in a systematic manner will allow them to be more successful than in the past, when such organization was lacking.

Complaints from New Cairo dorm residents are on the rise, the *Caravan* has learned, as many say that standards and services are in decline.

SS Speaker Amr Fouad said that students are complaining about a number of issues, including a lack of variety in the food services offered after hours on campus.

"The only food outlet that operates at night is The Caf, which doesn't have a good quality of food, yet it's expensive and not everything is available," said Mohab Shalaby, a mechanical engineering senior who lives in the on-campus dorms.

"However, when the Board of Trustees came, they were served from *The Caf* food that is not even offered to the students, like steak and barbeque," Fouad added.

The *Caravan* has not been able to independently verify this claim.

Beshr said that the Residential Life



Residents have for years been complaining about dorm cleanliness and other problems

ABDEL KODOS

Office (ResLife) did, in fact, provide another food outlet last semester that only served the dorms but its operation was discontinued due to low demand.

But some residents say that quality of food – or lack thereof – is only the tip of the iceberg and that they have several other concerns.

They say that the early closure of the Sports Center Gate, more popularly referred to as the Seoudi Gate, is a great inconvenience for dorm residents returning from off-campus activities.

"The Seoudi Gate closes at 11 pm, so if we come back after that, we have to walk all the way from Pepsi Gate," said Habiba Adel, a business administration sophomore.

Fouad added that this detour will be particularly inconvenient during the winter months, when the weather will be very cold.

"If Mokhtar Shalaby, director of security, opens the Seoudi Gate, one problem will be crossed [off] of the list," Fouad says.

Mohab added it is illogical to presume that anyone other than dorm residents will return to campus at such late hours.

He therefore suggested closing the Pepsi Gate and leaving the Seoudi Gate open instead to facilitate dorm tenants' access to campus.

Mokhtar said that, although one security guard is assigned to the Seoudi Gate at night, there are too many responsibilities for one person to cover alone, such as operating the x-ray machine and the metal detector.

Students Seek More Efficient Bus Service Alternatives

BY: TAREK EL BELTAGY AND SARAH ABAZA

AUC students have launched new transportation alternatives to the service provided by the university, which has been the subject of increasing complaints since the beginning of the semester.

SU BUS SERVICE

The SU will launch its own bus service on November 16; one route to and from Nasr City will cost EGP 5.

Buses will be available every 30 minutes from 7am to 9am and every hour from 9am to 8pm. Passengers will be offered Internet connection and air conditioning.

SU Vice President Hassaballah El Kafrawi said that they partnered with *Misr El Saha* governmental company and agreed to have six meeting points starting from Ard Al Ma'ared, Nasr City and making six further stops until the drop off point at the Omar Mohsen Gate.

"It's a Class A public transport service. In coordination with the government, we, the SU, will protect the rights of the students and passengers, ensuring that the highest quality of service is provided," added El Kafrawi.

Although the initial drop off point

was set to be Americana Plaza, Road 90, which is a 15-minute walk to campus, El Kafrawi said that the SU managed to facilitate with the university that the final drop off point be the Omar Mohsen Gate.

Mina Stefanos, planning and development manager for the Office of Transportation Services, said that he is unaware of any details regarding the SU bus service and has not facilitated any plans with the SU.

"I think since the SU is the provider of such service, then the SU is fully responsible for the rendered service with all what this ensues," Stefanos added.

He said that the effect of such a service on AUC's bus facilities remains unclear since many variables factor into it, such as availability, capacity and sustainability.

Nadine Nour, integrated marketing and communication sophomore, said that she is hopeful about the SU bus service and is glad that there is an alternative to the AUC buses.

"The current bus service isn't up to [the] standards that were originally put in place [and] the new [SU] bus service plan seems to be very promising," she added.

However, Mostafa Medhat, a multimedia journalism junior, doubts the effectiveness and sustainability of the SU providing transportation to and from campus.

"I doubt that this service will be effective [as it would be] difficult to match the scope of the original bus service provided by the university," Medhat added.

Although Omar Kharma, undeclared sophomore, believes the SU bus is a good idea, he questions whether it will be implemented successfully.

Nour said that the addition of other routes would allow all community members to benefit from the service.

El Kafrawi said that such additional paths will be added in the future.

AUC CARPOOLING

To offer the community further transportation options, Amr Hesham, mechanical engineering senior, launched an AUC carpooling service at the start of the semester.

When Hesham realized that the previous carpooling Facebook group, AUC Carpooling Community, was not interactive and did not garner much student attention, he created his own AUC Carpooling group.

Hesham said that although AUC Carpooling does not substitute the bus service, it does provide students with some alternatives. "Many people who are upset due to the

"[The operation of the Seoudi Gate at night] is impossible because only three to four students come late," he added.

Beshr said that it is "fair enough" to use the Pepsi Gate, which is always open, as opposed to the Seoudi Gate, which only opened recently.

For Merna Sakr, an undeclared freshman residing in the on-campus dorms, however, the lack of cleanliness and the limited housekeeping personnel is the most frustrating issue of all.

"There is a major cleaning problem; [housekeepers] don't use detergents, they just use water," she said.

Mohamed Mostafa, petroleum engineering sophomore and a dorm tenant, explained that five housekeepers serve the five dorm units that house 50 to 60 students each.

"Basically there will be only one housekeeper working for each unit and this is not enough," he said.

Adel added that housekeepers are supposed to clean each dorm room twice a week but they often do not show up.

Beshr said that because some dorm residents do not take care of their rooms, the cleaning process is slowed down.

"Regardless [of] the number of housekeepers, the service is provided. It all depends on the time and effort that is spent by the housekeepers in each dorm," he added.

Although tenants complain of the dorms' furniture being used and outdated, Beshr said that the furniture is in good shape and whatever needs fixing is attended to quickly.

Adham Sherif, SS member and a political science senior, added that the dorms are, in fact, very clean and adequately furnished.

Fouad says that residents are especially frustrated since dorm fees are increasing and yet its service is progressively dwindling.

Dorm tenants are eagerly waiting to see whether the committee, which is set to hold its first meeting in the near future, will create any positive modifications and enhance service quality.

years could greatly affect their group.

"[AUC Carpooling] could be the only option students have left. There's also the taxi option but that would be really expensive," she added.

Noureen Ahmed, multimedia journalism senior, said that although he never used AUC Carpooling, he believes that if it's reliable it could substitute the bus service.

On the other hand, not all students agree with Ahmed.

"Carpooling cannot be an actual substitute; it's a great idea but only as a backup option," said Omar Mohamed, AUC Carpooling group user and a history senior.

Aya El Serw, biology senior, said she paid the bus subscription for the entire year but still uses AUC Carpooling because it is more efficient.

However, she does not think that this means it could permanently substitute the bus service.

University administration has in previous years encouraged faculty and students to move to New Cairo in a bit to partially resolve the transportation conundrum.

As the number of people moving to New Cairo increases over the coming years congestion around AUC may yet pose an entirely different problem.

Students Stand in Solidarity With South Tahrir Farmers

BY SARAH EL SAFTY

AUC's student body joined the workers of the South Tahrir farm in a week-long protest against the farm's pending closure.

Hassaballah El Kafrawi, Student Union vice-president, said that the SU will "stick by them until [they] reach an alternative solution".

He added that their gathering has not been declared a strike yet but is rather a peaceful sit-in.

El Kafrawi said that given the fact that the farmers benefit the university, everyone should care for their situation and work to resolve it.

"All we are saying is that they are part of the AUC community [and] their work provides finances for the university," he added.

Katharine Halls, Middle East studies graduate student, said closing the farm would not be a reasonable decision.

"The university shouldn't be closing a farm that is productive and produces very important research and shouldn't be firing workers without giving them adequate compensation or finding them another job somewhere within the university," said Halls.

"This was a mistake from the beginning and the budget won't be fixed by selling the farm and laying off workers," said Efraym Refat, finance senior.

Yasmine Hashim, political science senior, said that the farmers have earned the right to keep their jobs through their many years of hard work.

"They have transformed the desert land into a thriving business which produces 50 to 60 species of crop that are not found anywhere else and also increased the production of meat. Above all that, the farmers covered their own expenses," she added.

According to Salma Shouman, political science graduating senior, the farm will be sold at auction, which means there is no guarantee that



Students join South Tahrir farmers as they press their demands to keep the facilities there open

ABDEL KODOS

farmers will be able to retain their jobs.

Hashim said that she supports the farmers since there are approximately 250 families that have been working on the farm for more than 30 years and will struggle to find new jobs if they are let go.

Students participating in the sit-in said that the administration should consider the fact that the workers built their lives around the farm and it will be difficult for them to adjust if the farm shuts down.

"If they are going to close it, they should have at least insurance, something as a replacement for their jobs," said Jihad Rajab, multimedia journalism graduating senior.

"Even if the university sells the farm, there could be an alternative solution where they find [the workers] other jobs or give them money because they can't

just get fired [when] they were depending on this," said Dina Bahaa Hussein, architectural engineering junior.

"THE UNIVERSITY SHOULDN'T BE CLOSING A FARM THAT IS PRODUCTIVE AND PRODUCES VERY IMPORTANT RESEARCH AND SHOULDN'T BE FIRING WORKERS WITHOUT GIVING THEM ADEQUATE COMPENSATION."

The SU is helping farmers voice their demands and facilitate an agreement with the administration, as well as providing them with sustenance for their sit-in, said El Kafrawi.

"We act as mediators between the farmers and the university's administration. We have also been supplying them with food and water funded by SU members," he added.

Rana Saqr, political science graduating senior, said that representatives from the student government and the workers met with the administration on Tuesday and came up with two possible solutions to the impasse.

"First, the holding company takes charge of the DDC and they get the revenues and all of that but at the same time AUC will find a protocol with it in which it takes charge of the research center so we have the researching but we'll help the workers in order that they innovate as they always do but at the same time they get paid by the holding company," said Saqr.

"The second solution is that instead of the holding company taking charge, an investor is the one that takes charge," she added.

According to Saqr, Ayman Ismail, chair of entrepreneurship, also attended the meeting on Tuesday and is currently looking for viable investors.

She said that, despite this progress, they carried on with the sit-in to continue pressuring the administration because it did not present tangible solutions, which left the students and workers under the impression that the administration was temporarily appeasing them.

Hashim added that this is not the first time students support the South Tahrir farmers in times of need.

Students have helped the farmers protest the closure before and demanded better working conditions.

Social Media: A New Weapon of Terrorism?

BY SARAH EL SAFTY

For years, Islamist jihadi groups have utilized the fact that images, audio messages and videos play an important role in psychological warfare, and have focused on creating media campaigns to increase and radicalize their followers.

However, the jihadist approach to the use of social media has changed over the years.

Nowadays, social media platforms have amplified the scope, popularity and cause of said groups' online activity.

In the past, Al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden used news such as *Al-Jazeera* to release media content created by the group.

There were also several online jihadi forums that had much fewer participants compared to its modern-day social media counterparts, such as Twitter.

According to an interview in June by the National Journal magazine with Gabriel Weimann, professor at the Department of Communication at Haifa University in Israel, 16 years ago there were only 12 terrorist websites, while today there exist more than 9,800.

Twitter has proved itself as a valuable tool to disseminate constant updates to an unlimited audience.

Terrorist groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS) have created more than a dozen official accounts on the social networking platform that are used to release messages from leadership figures, network with followers and intimidate opposing forces.

ISIS in particular has taken to live tweeting during fighting and uploading videos and pictures of beheadings along with other gruesome scenes and hashtags supporting ISIS and their acts have flooded Twitter around the world.

Users from Germany, Indonesia, Pakistan and South Africa sent their messages of support using the hashtag #AllEyesOnISIS, which came as a derivative of the online Billion Muslim Campaign to Support the Islamic State online campaign.

According to inSITE Blog on Terrorism and Extremism that is managed by terrorist expert Rita Katz, the #AllEyesOnISIS hashtag garnered more than 30,000 tweets as of June.

Debates have subsequently arisen concerning the responsibility of social media firms towards the presence of terrorist groups on their platforms.

On June 13, Twitter suspended the *Al Itisam* (The Strike) account, which had more than 50,000 followers

and served as ISIS' information authority, according to inSITE Blog.

Rasha Abdulla, associate professor at the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, said that governments often use terrorism as an excuse to control the media and the information it disseminates to the masses.

"For governments to maintain a sense of security in their country and to maintain law and order in their countries, they cannot monitor everybody's email[s] and everybody's Internet communication with the excuse of fighting terrorism – that's just not within their rights," she said.

Ramy Raouf, social media activist and blogger, said that no service provider, be it Internet, mobile or social media, should have the right to regulate content or interfere in its costumers' activity.

He added that there are many ways to eradicate thoughts and ideas but censorship shouldn't be one of them.

"Imposing censorship and giving authority to any entity to decide what is right and what is wrong is the easy solution which opens doors to compromise genuine free flow of information and content and opens doors to judge based on personal views," said Raouf.

Security agencies now argue that

ever since Edward Snowden, a computer professional who leaked classified information from the National Security Agency (NSA), revealed how the United States and its allies spy on their enemies, terrorists have been able to conceal their identities using encryption tools that were only available to the government.

However, Raouf said that encryptions should not only be available to the government and that every individual should be responsible for the way they use it.

"Encryption tools are just tools that help individuals enforce privacy in the digital domain. Misusing certain domain or tools from someone's perspective doesn't mean that that domain or tool should be banned or regulated," he added.

Robert Hannigan, head of the Government Communications

Headquarters – the British equivalent of the NSA – said in an article published in the *Financial Times* that the services of social media sites "not only host the material of violent extremism or child exploitation but are the routes for the facilitation of crime and terrorism".

"However much [social media firms] may dislike it, they have become the command-and-control networks of choice for terrorists and criminals who

find their services as transformational as the rest of us," Hannigan added.

In turn, there is impending pressure from governments on social media firms to cooperate with the restriction of terrorist groups.

Twitter's transparency reports of 2012 and 2013 stated that there has been a steady increase in government requests for content removal and copyright notices.

In the majority of cases, Twitter said that it did not comply with such requests.

Both Abdalla and Raouf agree that instead of censoring online activity, the best thing to do is nothing at all.

"We should not take any unusual or exceptional steps towards content by terrorist organizations. Online controversial content is just content going around like a cute cat photo or a video of a police officer torturing someone... Efforts to fight extremists should not include threatening free and open web [activity]," Raouf said.

Abdalla added that the world should accept technology's continuous development and find ways to stop terrorism without constricting people's freedom.

She suggested that people fight terrorism by simply not sharing or paying attention to content of a violent nature.

“Gamifying” Classrooms: A Solution for Decreasing Quality of Education

BY YASMINE ZAGHLOUL

Several students have voiced complaints about the education they receive at AUC, pushing administrators to seek alternative teaching methods.

A survey of 500 students conducted by the *Caravan* concluded that 64 percent of them are displeased with AUC's quality of education because they believe that many professors are unqualified to administer classes due to their poor teaching methods.

“Two of my classes are extremely boring because the professor just comes in, puts up a PowerPoint presentation and reads off it with a monotonous tone. I don't even listen to half of what he says because he never grabs my attention,” said Seif Shoeib, computer science junior.

Zainab Tarek, psychology graduating senior, added that she goes to one of her classes for the sole purpose of signing the attendance sheet because the professor does not add anything to their assigned readings.

In an attempt to liven the classroom, the Center for Learning and Teaching (CLT) held a workshop two weeks ago titled *Gamifying Your Classroom* where Fady Michael, visiting assistant professor at CLT and professor of Scientific Thinking and Creativity, explained to professors how to introduce games in the class to encourage student engagement and interactivity for a better learning experience.

“If you look at the goals you want to achieve in education, you'll see that games have been successful in achieving all those goals,” said Michael.

He discussed the benefit of various kinds of entertainment to the classroom environment such as puzzles, guessing games, monopoly and wheel of fortune.

He added that online games that allow students to create their own avatars are especially valuable since students are more expressive and bold when they are anonymous.

Michael recommended that professors implement a point system in their classes, where students can earn advantages when winning a

game, such as allowing them to submit a given assignment two hours late.

Faculty attendees said that the workshop made them realize how important games could be to their teaching methods and their students' learning experience.

“[The workshop was] about how to create a system, how to trigger and promote action and change the behavior of the students and make them love the content and start playing the roles themselves,” said Ahmed Raafat, mechanical engineering research assistant.

Raafat added that the workshop changed his perspective of the relationship between games, learning and the classroom environment.

Randa Effat, director of strategic projects in the Office of Strategic and International Initiatives, said that Michael practiced in his workshop what he was preaching and described the workshop as interactive, energetic and engaging.

Some AUC students believe that the gamification of their classes could possibly improve their learning experience and engagement in the course.

“Activities [encourage] the students to get more involved in the class material and will get them to know more about the course,” said Omar Kashawy, political science and communication and media arts (CMA) junior.

Others believe that while gamifying the classroom may be beneficial, it won't create a difference when the professor is not qualified academically.

“A game without a professor who is on a decent academic level that could [rise] to the level of the expectation of the students wouldn't matter much,” said Diaa Wang, economics junior.

Mena Mostafa, accounting junior, said that the focus should be on raising the quality of professors before seeking to enhance their teaching strategies.

CLT works to promote a stimulating learning environment through efficient teaching methods, use of advanced technology and engagement in outreach activities.

Five Must-Read Books in AUC's Library



The AUC library houses a number of literary treasures ARAVANI

BY MARY ARAVANI

Although the AUC library is not lacking in the number of students who enter its premises daily, it holds wonders amid its stacks that have hardly had any human contact.

These wonders are books of many shapes and sizes that have been collecting dust particles rather than student fingerprints.

It is perhaps true given the fast-paced world we currently live in and all the work one must do throughout the semester that students can't seem to find the time to devote themselves to a good book. However, it would be a shame to let the library's advantages go to waste.

The *Caravan* has compiled a list of five must-read timeless classics that can be found within the library.

1. *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee:

To Kill a Mockingbird is an immensely popular novel published in 1960. The novel mainly deals with issues of racial injustice in a fictional town in Alabama during the 1930s. The story revolves around a compassionate 6-year-old, Scout Finch, and her family.

Memorable quote: “You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view ... Until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it.”

2. *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy:

This powerful piece of literature was published in 1997 and is Roy's only novel. The plot deals with a number of issues ranging from those of a political nature to those of a romantic nature and revolves around the lives of fraternal twins Esthappen and Rahel. The novel is set in India and the time shifts back and forth between the late 1960s and the early 1990s.

Memorable quote: “And the air was full of Thoughts and Things to Say. But at times like these, only the Small Things are ever said. Big Things lurk unsaid inside.”

3. *Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel García Márquez:

Published in the 1980s, this gem of a book by Nobel Prize-winning Spanish author García Márquez is essentially a love story. The novel revolves around the lives of its two main characters,

Florentino Ariza and Fermina Daza, who fall in love in their youth and then again many years later in their old age.

Memorable quote: “He was still too young to know that the heart's memory eliminates the bad and magnifies the good and that thanks to this artifice we manage to endure the burden of the past.”

4. *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare:

It wouldn't seem right not to have something by Shakespeare included and although there are countless Shakespeare plays that should be read, *Hamlet* is probably one of his most famous tragedies. While there are a number of film adaptations for this particular play – which was written somewhere between the late 16th and early 17th century – there is nothing quite like reading the play itself. The plot deals with Hamlet, the Prince of Denmark, who tries to unravel the mystery behind his father's murder after being confronted by his ghost.

Memorable quote: “This above all: to thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man.”

5. *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel:

Published in 2001, this novel is relatively recent and has an even more recent Oscar-winning movie adaptation in 2012. Although it would be a lot easier to just watch the film adaptation, rest assured there is nothing quite like the experience of reading this beautifully written novel. The story deals with an Indian boy, Piscine Molitor “Pi” Patel, who, after a shipwreck, is lost at sea for 227 days with a tiger called Richard Parker. The novel is a spiritual journey that tackles the ideas of God, religion, truth and friendship.

Memorable quote: “I must say a word about fear. It is life's only true opponent. Only fear can defeat life. It is a clever, treacherous adversary, how well I know... You must fight hard to shine the light of words upon it. Because if you don't, if your fear becomes a wordless darkness that you avoid, perhaps even manage to forget, you open yourself to further attacks of fear because you never truly fought the opponent who defeated you.”

And there's a lot more where that came from.

Enactus AUC Holds Football Tournament for Visually Impaired

BY SARAH ABAZA

Enactus AUC held a football tournament in coordination with the Blind Football Egyptian initiative (BFE) last Saturday to raise funds and awareness for visually impaired people.

BFE introduced the idea of blind football in Egypt six months ago when its founders, Ali Abou El Nasr, Hesham Marzouk and Abdallah Emad decided to support the visually impaired and provide them with the opportunity to play and compete in professional football.

“These people are marginalized in Egypt and they are not given their fair rights ... We want to give these people their human right of enjoying their sports life,” said Marzouk.

Enactus AUC coordinated with BFE to hold a small tournament with two teams of blind and visually impaired players.

“We need to help them through gathering donations so they can play professionally and have their careers go on,” said Omar Samir, Enactus Organizing Committee Head and a construction engineering junior.



The event was an overall success despite some hurdles ABDEL KODOS

“They're just as good as anyone else; they can do anything that they want to do and they can do it [as] well as anyone else,” said Abou El Nasr.

The blind and visually impaired players are trained to carefully listen to where the ball is going by focusing on the sound the ball

bearing emits whenever it is kicked.

They wear blindfolds so that the visually impaired do not have any advantage over the blind and also so that all the players can channel their focus towards their hearing sense.

They coordinate their organization throughout the field by shouting

“voy” whenever a player is running towards the ball, so as to avoid any collisions and accidental bumps.

They are informed of the field's parameters before any game in order to have a mental image of their surrounding.

Specialized field borders are also placed in order to avoid players straying off the field.

Although coaches were directing the players during the game, the competitors seemed to barely need it due to their skillful maneuvering of the ball.

Marzouk said that the competition has had significantly positive physical, emotional and psychological outcomes for the players.

“It makes a great difference to them and makes them more enthusiastic when they find people caring about them, when they feel they are part of the community,” added Marzouk.

Mostafa Abdel Rahman, a blind football player, said that this is a dream come true.

“The event was great, I could hear people cheering and that really made me feel like I was a

celebrity footballer,” he added.

However, Marzouk was dissatisfied with the organization of the event, which he said did not adequately accommodate the players' needs.

“Enactus couldn't organize the event well and we organized everything at the last minute. They were supposedly organizing a football tournament for blind people and logically this would require specific accommodations,” he said.

Samir added that the university did not have the required equipment to set up the tournament for the blind football players, which Enactus communicated to BFE.

Despite this miscommunication and BFE's dissatisfaction with the organization of the tournament, Samir believes the event was an overall success.

“A lot of media channels came to cover the event and they raised the awareness that BFE needed,” he said.

BFE founders hope that in the near future they can set up an Egyptian Blind Football Federation, a Blind Football League and organize six more teams in addition to their existing two.

Modern Art Exhibit Reflects Society's Dark Humor



To some, modern art has become a new form of storytelling

ABDEL KODOS

BY KARIM ABDEL KODOS

Advertising creative and artist Tarek Montasser returned to the art scene after a year-long hiatus with his second modern art exhibition, "It's Not Funny," at Al Masar Gallery for Contemporary Art in Zamalek.

Montasser, an AUC alumnus, displayed nearly 90 watercolor paintings of clowns to express the dark humor that has long existed, endured and emerged in every Egyptian spirit.

He said that he started working on this project in 2013, which he described

as the toughest and most beautiful of years for the Egyptian people as a whole, and for himself in particular.

"I witnessed people at their ugliest and at their most noble," he said.

According to Montasser, Egypt faced several challenges in 2013, but did not succumb to the pressure of these challenges.

He said that this conflict corresponded to a large extent with his personal life, leading to his realization that it is still possible to hope and dream.

With this realization, Montasser was inspired to begin working on this project,

although he was initially unsure of the outcome.

"I worked as if I were talking to myself. I started with no clear intentions, predefined ideas or composition. I just followed the nib, as it wandered almost of its own volition, listening to the sound of steel and copper scratch and wound the watercolor paper's rough surface," he said.

Kareem Shamala, one of the attendees, said that the exhibition touched him and that he felt a connection to the paintings on display.

"I loved the exhibition. The simplicity

of the paintings touches the soul to make us recognize how complicated and contradicted our lives are," Shamala said.

Montasser told the *Caravan* that fine arts are the "Formula One" of visual culture, as they provide him with the freedom to express whatever he wishes through his paintings.

"Painting is something that is not expressible by words but comes even before verbal expression," Montasser said.

He added that artists serve as a medium through which society and reality are expressed and that his

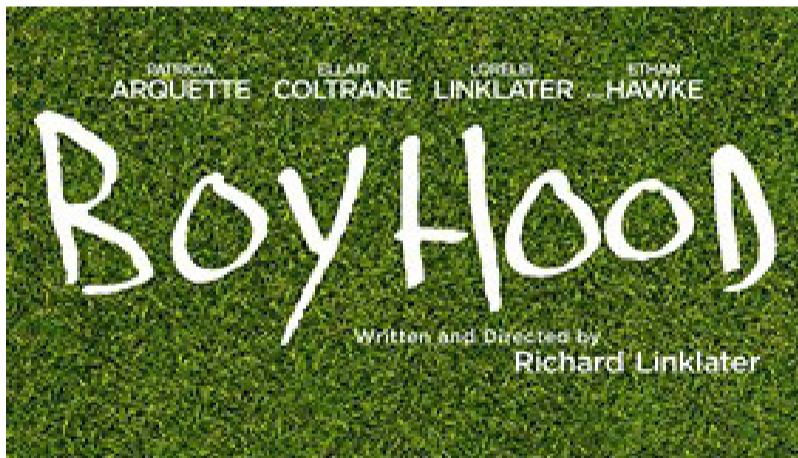
exhibition gives viewers insight into the Egyptian subconscious.

On the other hand, Montasser thinks that modern art surpassed the idea of storytelling and that stories nowadays are almost lost art.

The dissociation between fine arts and society formed the stimulus behind his inspired approach to create an exhibition which successfully repositions paintings as stories and artists their tellers.

"No sadness exceeds that of he who lives for the merriment of others, his sadness is his own and everyone else's," said Montasser.

'Boyhood': A Nostalgic Look Through Life



The film has been met with critical success since its release

BY MARY ARAVANI

Boyhood, an intimately shot film following a young boy as he matures from a seven-year-old with a round face to an 18-year-old with a stubby chin, effortlessly guides the audience through the protagonist's transformation over a period of 12 years.

Director Richard Linklater, who has other films like *Dazed and Confused*, *Before Sunrise* and *School of Rock* under his belt, is known for his rather realistic take on films by choosing to leave in what other directors would most likely cut out, ranging from lengthy conversations to awkward silences.

Linklater created a particularly noteworthy film by using the same cast for 12 consecutive years and filming for just a few days each year from 2002 until 2014, making the protagonist's transformation entirely real.

At first glance, *Boyhood* may seem to be lacking substance and a concrete plot. In reality, however, the film oozes substance and is deeply insightful. Rather than appealing to audiences through entertainment, *Boyhood* manages to

appeal to audiences at a deeper level.

Its smooth transitions through the significant changes the protagonist, Mason Jr., undergoes and the all too real dialogue along the way speak volumes about "the little things" in life.

The cast, with Ellar Coltrane starring as Mason Jr., Ethan Hawke as Mason's father, Patricia Arquette as Mason's mother and Lorelai Linklater – the director's daughter – as Mason's sister, all gave stellar performances.

Arquette is spot on as the single, hardworking mother who strives to care for her children but has a series of distasteful relationships with men.

Hawke manages to charm audiences with his portrayal of Mason Sr., the father figure who – although not consistently in his children's lives – knows all the right things to say and is a loving father nonetheless.

Lorelai's portrayal of the older sister, Samantha, facilitates in reminiscing about those teenage angst years. Meanwhile, Coltrane as Mason Jr. creates an eerily relatable atmosphere throughout the film.

What is most special about the film,

however, is how relatable it is to audiences in the same age range as Mason Jr. and Samantha. For those currently studying in universities, watching this film is like watching little moments from their own lives.

With each new stage in Mason Jr.'s life, physical changes are noticeable. Also evident are the little details marking a certain significance of each novel year. Towards the beginning of the film, for example, a young Samantha is seen annoying her brother by singing Britney Spears' hit song *Oops I Did it Again*, which was released in the early 2000s. Later on, the Nintendo Wii makes its way on screen. And later still, the 2008 Obama/McCain presidential election needles its way into the plotline.

Not only does Linklater make use of whatever's trendy in terms of events and products each year but he also does so in terms of the music chosen for the soundtrack, which gives the film an air of nostalgia.

As the film progresses, so does the background music, setting a familiar tone to each year and sequence. Coldplay's *Yellow*, released in 2000, sets the mood as it briefly plays parallel to Mason Jr.'s dream-like state in the film's opening sequence, while Gotye's smash hit *Somebody That I Used to Know*, which was released in 2011, subtly plays in the background during a scene in which Mason Jr. is a high school senior.

It is without a doubt that Linklater's far-fetched idea managed to hit a home run with audiences worldwide. It's films like these that make one realize that it's not the big budget or special effects that make a film worthwhile; rather it's about giving the audience something they can relate to – giving them truth.

As *Boyhood* compiles 12 years into 165 short minutes, Richard effectively delivers the message that life is fleeting and it's all about "the little things".

Arabic Language Faces Threats

BY SALMA KADRY

Although it is the fifth most widely spoken language in the world and the language of the Qur'an, there are people who feel that the future of Arabic is threatened.

Hala Abdel Wahab, a senior instructor of Arabic Language, said it's the popularity is dwindling among Egypt's younger generations, largely because parents often prioritize teaching their children foreign languages.

"The parents consider Arabic as a non-prestigious language that belongs to the low class; if a person is good at Arabic, then [they think] that means that he doesn't know foreign languages and that implies that he is poorly educated," Abdel Wahab said.

ONLY THE SPEAKERS OF ARABIC LANGUAGE CAN PROTECT IT

She added that, even when parents push their children to learn Arabic, the children face challenges in the educational system that make learning the language undesirable.

"We find that the teachers at school are very traditional and old-fashioned and the curriculum is bad and dull," she said.

According to Abdel Wahab, there has been a significant shift in educational curricula to focus on teaching the English language.

"In my opinion, [AUC] is an English [speaking] institute but at the end of the day it's in Cairo, so that must weigh a lot and if you looked around at the AUC campus, not even one single sign is in Arabic," she said.

She added that focusing solely on English is not a sustainable practice in a country whose official language is Arabic.

"You will find that a lot of companies are complaining that AUC graduates are not able to write an email or work-related report in Arabic, especially people who are working in foreign affairs or any governmental institutions, which affects the reputation of AUC," Abdel Wahab said.

Fatma Said, an applied linguistics researcher at Birkbeck University of London, said on her blog that, although there is much debate over the future of Arabic, it is futile.

"So far ... there is much talk – 'Arabic is in danger,' or 'Oh no Arabic is not in danger,' by the time these two opinions agree, what will the status of Arabic be?" she wrote in a blog post.

Said added that the language's future is jeopardized because of Arabic speakers and it is their responsibility to secure its future.

"The fault is not with the Arabic language, rather it is with the speakers of Arabic language," she wrote.

"[There is] nobody except of course the speakers of Arabic language who could protect it."

She added that there are various ways in which Arabic speakers can protect the language whether it is through schooling, publishing original Arabic texts or modifying the cultural ideologies at large.

Abdel Wahab also said that educational institutions like AUC, along with parents and social media, can play a significant role in protecting and reviving Egypt's mother tongue, which will only happen when there is a collective realization of its importance.

"People will only shift their attention to Arabic when they perceive it as a need, that if they lacked it, they will lose and miss opportunities," she said.

Your Actions Earn You Respect



When I first joined the university in 2011, I had the sense that the administration, security guards, faculty and staff treated the students as if they were irresponsible high school kids and this annoyed me a bit.

I used to always criticize this "relationship" and thought it was unfair.

At this age, one would presume that we – the student body – would be treated like adults.

Fast-forward to the beginning of this semester: Students were surprised to find new parking rules on banners and signs loudly and undiplomatically declaring "No Parking, not 5 minutes, not 30 seconds, not at all!"

This was surpassed by the eloquently phrased "Don't even THINK of parking here."

This is offensive. In fact, it's downright disrespectful. What adds insult to injury is the fact that these two signs, prominently displayed outside the Bus and Pepsi Gate, are utterly ignored.

Insult responding to insult – how apt.

I started to think about this quite a bit and realized the only reason why we are being dealt with this way is because we, as students, gave the powers that be the capacity to flagrantly display such behavior.

I live on campus so I certainly get to see several things that many

AUCians may not have even heard of. Simple rules are being broken just because ... well, just because.

I am not saying that every AUCian flagrantly disobeys the simplest of codes but it remains that many do.

One of the rules would be the smoking rule. I see many AUCians smoking in classrooms after hours.

I also see them smoke in the Food Court and in the toilets right next to the "no smoking" signs.

Why? Is this the hip and trendy thing to do?

Another thing that caught my attention is how some people park on the sidewalks just to be close to the gates, more specifically Pepsi Gate.

Or students who refuse to park at Gate One because it is too far from their classes and therefore their alternative is to break campus traffic laws.

Add to the scofflaw display the students who refuse to pay parking fees or refuse to show their IDs when entering the university.

These scofflaws justify this behavior – in useless arguments with the security guards – by declaring that they are seniors and have paid tuition throughout their four years.

This gross manifestation of entitlement is not only infantile, but revealing of the manners and conduct of the future generation of leaders, businessmen and women, industrialists and thinkers in Egypt.

But AUCians do excel in something – their unwavering imagination to conjure up the most ridiculous host of lies and excuses to miss class, midterms and assignments.

Self-respect is a necessary element if you want to earn the respect of others.

It occurs to me that the only reason why the administration, security guards, faculty and staff treat us this way is because some of us really

deserve it. I know that this opinion piece would disappoint a lot of the students including some of my own friends but unfortunately it is the truth.

Before asking for our rights as students or our rights to be respected, some of us should really rethink a lot of things that they do and start giving these people reasons to trust us or treat us as adults. As I said in many of my writings, we are supposed to be the best-educated people in the country, why do we act otherwise?

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JAMEEL P028

OUR NEXT ISSUE WILL BE
AVAILABLE ONLINE ON
NOVEMBER 23

THE NEXT PRINT ISSUE
OF THE CARAVAN WILL BE
AVAILABLE ON DECEMBER 7

Static Egypt Criticizes Progressing Saudi



SALMA EL SAEED
SENIOR ENGLISH EDITOR

When people in Egypt tell women under the age of 30 to wear modest clothes, minimize the amount of makeup they put on and not go out at night, it's usually (frustrating) advice to prevent them from being the target of sexual harassment.

In Saudi Arabia, however, these are not suggestions; they are the conditions women must meet to drive without a male guardian and, if not met, they will be subject to legal repercussions.

Around a week ago, the Saudi Shura Council allegedly recommended easing a country-wide ban on women driving and allowing them to drive at certain times during the day as long as they get permission from their father or husband and dress modestly.

I find it mind-numbingly frustrating that, in this day and age, women are still being restricted to such a huge extent. I'm not quite sure what a woman's choice of makeup and clothing has to

do with something like driving and I certainly do not think it's logical for a woman to require permission from a male – sometimes from her own son – to move around on her own.

Nevertheless, I have to admit that, if this actually goes into effect, it would be a huge step for Saudi Arabia.

We have to keep in mind that Saudi Arabia follows Shari'a law virtually word for word and is terrified of changing the status quo. Simply discussing altering some of the rules that Islam stipulates, no matter how overdue some might think it is, shows immense progress towards equality.

I also think it's important to recognize the fact that, believe it or not, there are some Saudi women who don't want to be given the right to drive around themselves.

They genuinely believe that driving will expose them to the ills of society – such as sexual harassment – even though outsiders might recognize this reasoning as excuses provided by the Saudi government to disallow major societal changes from taking place.

The bottom line is that, no matter how much we might want to "help" the Saudi society "move forward," we need to bear in mind that there are fundamental cultural differences affecting our perception of the situation as a whole.

There are certain ideologies that are far too deeply rooted in a society to be easily overturned, regardless of how much we want to egg on the process of change.

The View From Abroad



OLA NOURELDIN
ENGLISH MANAGING EDITOR

The United Nations Human Rights Periodic Review (UNPR) took place last week in Geneva to assess the condition of liberties and freedoms in Egypt.

Nearly 125 member countries had concerns about Egypt's human rights record, especially in the last four years, and made 300 recommendations to the government to improve its performance in this regard.

Iraq, a country debilitated by war, daily bombings, Islamic State terrorism and sectarian strife, received 229 recommendations.

Ironically, before the January 25, 2011 revolution, Egypt received 165 recommendations.

UNPR concerns and recommendations focused on the protest law and detainee rights.

"We are deeply concerned with steps taken by Egypt that have resulted in violations of freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association, deprived thousands of Egyptians of fair trial guarantees and undermined civil society's role in the country," said Keith Harper, the US representative to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Harper directly pinpointed the civil problems plaguing Egypt ever since the 2011 Revolution.

Hisham Badr, Egypt's deputy foreign minister for human rights, replied to the criticism by saying that "Egypt urges for the remarks at the review to be based on correct and accurate information, because some of them appear to be dealing with conditions in a country other than the Egypt in which we live."

Mohammed Khalaf, Cairo's general prosecution representative in the delegation that went to Geneva, maintains that there is no prisoner in Egypt who is detained because of expression-related charges.

"All of those arrested are being detained for breaking other criminal laws."

Meanwhile, back in Egypt, police interrogated the editor-in-chief of the French newspaper *Le Monde*, Alain Gresh

after he was allegedly overheard talking politics in a coffee shop. An irate woman who was eavesdropping informed police of his flagrant, lawless behavior.

The police nonchalantly seized his passport and detained him for 90 minutes along with an Egyptian reporter and a student.

Perhaps that is what prompts Britain and other European countries to address what they say is the decreasing space for civil society to operate.

In Geneva, seven Egyptian human rights groups were noticeably absent; they had said they wouldn't be part of any delegation participating in the UN Human Rights Council's sessions, fearing a ripple effect back home.

They said that they were operating in "an environment hostile to the work of NGOs" in Egypt.

But Egypt's representatives negated their point and said that non-governmental organizations and civil society are operating normally and that they are out of the government's control.

At the end of the session, Ibrahim El-Heneidy, Egypt's minister of Transitional Justice, said that the recommendations of the member countries "will be taken into consideration".

He also said in a public statement after the meeting, that he was very satisfied with the review, which he insisted Egypt had "passed" with great success, "even if this test tackled a very exceptional period in Egypt's history".

If Egypt "passed" the UNPR, then yes, it is definitely "dealing with conditions in a country other than the Egypt in which we live".

Back at AUC, students who support Abd El Rahman Boghdady and Abdallah Ghandour are hopeful that their colleagues will be released from their year-long stay prison.

Their arrest came less than a month after the then-newly enacted protest law, which prohibited "unsanctioned gatherings" of 10 people or more.

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CARRYING THE VOICE OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO COMMUNITY

MARAM SHALABY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OLA NOURELDIN ENGLISH MANAGING EDITOR NADA GABR ARABIC MANAGING EDITOR SALMA EL SAEED SENIOR ENGLISH EDITOR NADA ISMAIL NEWS EDITOR SALMA ABDALLAH ARABIC EDITOR PASSANT ELGAYYAR ASSIGNMENT EDITOR BOSAYNA FAHIM COPY EDITOR HUDA RAMZY ONLINE EDITOR SUHYLA ALSHEIKH PHOTO EDITOR NADA SELIM VIDEO EDITOR LUCIANA ANTONIOUS LAYOUT MANAGER MENNATALLAH MOUSA AND SAMYA EL KHODARY LAYOUT EDITORS MARIAM MOHSEN ASSISTANT TO FACULTY ADVISOR FIRAS AL ATRAQCHI MANAGING DIRECTOR AND FACULTY ADVISOR RASHA ALLAM ARABIC ADVISOR MAHER EL MELIGY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT