

THE
INDEPENDENT
STUDENT
PUBLICATION
SINCE 1949

15.10.19
V.51 N.02

Outlook

03

NEWS

Activist, Advocate, Martyr

The Ultimely demise of a selfless idol

04

Pinktober

Breast Cancer Awareness month

06

Popping the AUB Bubble

We – as AUB students – consider ourselves the cherry on top of the Lebanese society. Most of us come from relatively high socioeconomic backgrounds and are receiving what is considered one of the best educations in the region.

09

Breast-rospective

An inspection of women's bodies in media , and the censorship that surrounds it - that's got to go.

10

Setting the Record Straight

If you have never seen a vinyl record in the flesh before, you won't need to look very far now because they're back and they're everywhere.

SENIOR EDITOR'S NOTE

Caline Pechdimaljian

Week in progress at AUB

In honor of now the second Outlook issue of the semester, I deem it only worthy of a second "Welcome to a new reboot of Outlook!". So welcome, to all returning critics and readers, both new and old.

[Read more >12](#)



Pinktober

[Article on page 04](#)

Nadine Jouni: Activist, Advocate, Martyr

The untimely demise of a selfless idol.

Suzy Beidoun | Contributing Writer

On Sunday morning, famed activist Nadine Jouni tragically passed away in a car accident which took place on the Saïda-Damour highway. The accident was a collision between a high-speeding car and Nadine's car, at approximately 5:30 AM. Nadine was on her way to Beirut, to participate in a protest against the woeful state of the Lebanese economy. The 29-year-old activist was one of the founders of the campaign 'Tol3it Rihetkon' and was also involved in numerous media campaigns for many women's rights NGOs, a notable example being Abaad. In addition, Nadine was a staunch advocate for women who have been denied the right to custody of their children, a group to which she belonged. Prior to her death, Nadine was battling for

legal guardianship of her 9-year-old son, Karam. Although rights to custody of children differ among religious sects, personal status laws limit the mother's custodial rights, but not the father's rights. Jouni was part of the Shiite community, which permits women to have custody of their child for only up to a certain age; 2-years-old for boys, and 7-years-old for girls.

In a 2017 interview with L'Orient Le Jour, the activist shared details on her daunting legal fight for custody. Jouni stated, "On the seven days of the week, I have the right to see my little Karam for a single day. It's only on that day, then, that I have to give my child, all at once, what mothers give to their children every day, day after day. I am, like the overwhelming majority of divorced women in the Shiite community, sentenced to raise my child only a few hours a week."

Moreover, following the lamentable demise of this selfless activist, thousands have taken to Twitter to acknowledge the country's

Nadine passed away before she could fulfill her goal. However, her son, who couldn't visit her when she was still present, reportedly attended her funeral for a few moments. Nevertheless, Nadine's legacy of justice persists.

On Monday night, a sit-in took place in memory of Nadine in front of a Shiite tribunal court in Beirut. "Nadine, Rest in peace. We will carry out the revolution" read one of the signs held at the sit-in.

Many public figures, including the Minister of State for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth, Violette Safadi, asserted that Jouni's death was not in vain, and will hopefully provide the impetus for a renewed discussion of reform to Lebanon's civil status laws.

us lose precious souls every day. Heart-wrenching. RIP Nadine Jouni." (@mona_fawaz).

As one Twitter user put it, "The number of human casualties in car crashes in Lebanon requires us to reconsider what we call 'accident'. Bad policy: over-reliance on cars, unregulated highways, poor road safety, no public transport make



The Youth Shall Inherit the Future; But Are They Up to the Challenge?

The past, present, and future of Lebanese youth involvement.

Mohammad El Kaaki | Junior Editor Local News

Youth involvement in Lebanon has a prolonged history, extending beyond the independence of Lebanon in 1943. The participation of the Lebanese youth in the movement to secure Lebanon's independence from the French mandate is one of a myriad of examples of the youth's profound contribution to Lebanese society.

At present, the Lebanese youth continue their legacy of participation in the country's social, economic, and political affairs, laying a foundation that has been tailored

to their vision of a brighter future. However, in spite of their commitment to this vision, the country still suffers from one of the lowest youth civic engagement and political participation rates in the world. As a matter of fact, this is a prevalent issue throughout the MENA region. To worsen matters, Lebanon has long been embroiled in political and economic turmoil, which is drastically increasing ambiguity towards the future of both the country and the region.

In the face of this uncertainty, a group of students from the American University of Beirut (AUB hereafter) have launched a new club to address this pressing matter. Aptly named 'The Young Diplomats', the mission of the club is to encourage the involvement of students in their society by hosting numerous, unique events throughout the span of the semester.

The club will also serve as a platform for students to establish connections with various individuals from key sectors and will enable students to engage in shaping policy affecting the economy, health, technology, art, and several other civic backgrounds. AUB's campus remains a hub for youth involvement and participation, an

appealing fact to those deeply concerned about the country's future welfare.

At present, the dire circumstances endured by the people of Lebanon seem to have no visible end in sight, with the efforts of the government inadequate to correct these circumstances. Unemployment rate soaring at 25% (37% for those under the age of 25), stagnant economic growth and development, and ever-increasing geo-political tensions in the region do not even begin to describe the gravity of the situation in Lebanon.

Eventually, the future generations of Lebanon will inherit these challenging circumstances and, ultimately, they would be left with no choice but to handle, and perhaps, overcome them. Whether this will be the case or not, positive youth involvement, both in the past and present, remains to exist as a glimpse of hope to a weary Lebanon.

The Iraq Protests: Offline and on the Edge

Sara Awad| Staff Writer

"It has been 16 years of corruption and injustice. We are not afraid of bullets or the death of martyrs. We will keep going and we won't back down," exclaims 43-year-old Abbas Najim, an unemployed engineer. His words portray not only his own personal tribulations, but indeed capture the essence of the nationwide protests across Iraq.

On Tuesday October 1st, groups of protesters, who had mostly organized themselves through social media, flooded the streets of Baghdad demanding change. Most notably, protesters called for and continue to demand clean water, electricity, more jobs and an end to corruption, referencing the high unemployment rates, poor security and dilapidated public services in the country, amongst a plethora of other issues.

The demonstrations quickly spread to the south and have reached across the country over the past two weeks. Yet what began as a peaceful protest was dealt with violently by security forces who used water cannons, live ammunition, bullets, and tear gas against demonstrators. Further measures against protesters were taken on Wednesday October 2nd, when the authorities blocked access to Facebook, WhatsApp and other social networking sites, in a further attempt to quell the growth of these protests. Both violent police responses and limitations on the use of Internet

remain in place at present, despite the current period of calm in the protests.

Although Iraq has seen numerous mass protests in recent times, these demonstrations differ in that they voice an anger toward the political ruling class, not an individual sect. No political group or party is leading the demonstrations, not even an opposition parliamentary grouping – there is a Shi'ite majority protesting a Shi'ite led government. Protestors are not bound to an ideology but are bound to their humanity and the respect it commands. This frustration towards the political elite was clearly evidenced on Saturday October 5th, when demonstrators set fire to the headquarters of eight political party buildings and 51 public and private institutions.

These actions are partially explained by the culmination of decades of religio-political rifts in Iraq, the frustrations of which were aptly conveyed by a young protester earlier this week in Baghdad when he exclaimed, "we've had enough — enough! They stole our futures, and now they're killing us." The people of Iraq are demanding real, political reform and such anger cannot be silenced with bullets – yet will the Iraqi government hear them?

Currently the government is containing the protests, but not responding with real, political action. Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi, the consensus candidate who promised reform and an end to

corruption in Iraq, has achieved little real political change in war-worn Iraq. He has attempted to shut down protesters by holding multiple cabinet meetings and has announced a 13-point recovery plan, whilst simultaneously violently cracking down on protesters.

Yet the people of Iraq are letting him know that this time, that is not good enough. Iraq has a dangerously rich history of war: from the Iran-Iraq war, the 2003 US invasion, sectarian violence, to the Islamic State. Stability has not been seen in Iraq for decades; the Iraqi youth have never seen their country without foreign or extremist intervention, or without a corrupt government, and they are therefore demanding an end to such issues alongside older generations.

Almost two weeks in, and the clashes have resulted in over 110 deaths and approximately 6,000 wounded. The people are making their statement and now it is up to the government to legitimize its pledges with action.

Protestors are not bound to an ideology but are bound to their humanity and the respect it commands.

US and Turkish Foreign Policies Leave Kurdish Fate Uncertain

Lucy Banisch| Contributing Writer

With roughly 35 million members, the Kurds are one of the largest stateless nations in the world. Originally promised their own state after the defeat of the Ottoman Empire, they were left dispersed across various West Asian countries when the borders of modern Turkey were established. Nowadays, most Kurds live in parts of Iran, Iraq, Turkey, and Syria.

To a varying extent, the desire for a certain degree of autonomy

is part of the Kurdish identity, regardless of where they reside. The latest attempt for Kurdish independence evolved in Northern Syria, in the de facto autonomous region of Rojava, which was established over the course of the Syrian Civil War and is home to various ethnic groups.

During the Civil War, the Islamic State was able to expand its influence significantly and control

large territories in Syria and Iraq by 2015. In response, various allied militias, led by Kurdish forces, aligned and unitedly fought against the terror organization. The alliance is known as the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and was backed by different allies, including, and potentially most importantly, the government of the United States of America. The coalition was able to successfully defeat the Islamic State for the most part by March 2019, but some US military forces remained in the Rojava territory.

However, on the night of Sunday, October 6th, President Donald Trump unexpectedly announced the withdrawal of US forces from Syria.

The sudden decision was preceded by a phone call between Trump and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in which Trump promised to place control over the fight against the Islamic State into Turkish hands. The call followed a period of hostility in US-Turkey relations over

the Syrian Civil War period in relation to the treatment of Kurdish militant groups. One of the most dominant Kurdish factions in the SDF, which has close ties to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and is therefore highly influential in Rojava, has been a point of conflict because the PKK has been classified as a terror organization by both Turkey and the US and, therefore, the presence of the American troops in Syria and their support for the SDF has caused antagonisms. The withdrawal of the US military can be seen as an attempt to solve this issue, but at the expense of US-Kurdish relations.

Trump's decision and the Turkish intervention could trigger a spiral of violence in the Rojava region, and most likely has severe implications in the long run. Both Erdogan's and Trump's decisions are being condemned by various members of the international community, including the United Nations. However, influential actions to ease the violence are not likely to be agreed to, nor take effect. This leaves the Kurds alone once again and their fate, uncertain.

Pinktober

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Why Pinktober?

First, what is 'Pinktober'? Pinktober is a name given to the month of October, when there is a yearly campaign for Breast Cancer awareness. This campaign aims to educate people about early cancer detections and testing, and to offer information and support to those affected.

The color pink is meant to symbolize this movement for the awareness of breast cancer, seeing as 99% of breast cancer patients are women. However, it is also important for men to have check-ups and testing—doing the self-check is one important way and knowing that the most common symptom for men is a lump behind the nipple.

There is no specific reason for this awareness campaign to occur in the month of October. This initiative has existed for over 25 years and raises money annually for this cause. This cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers among women, so take a moment to get educated about it and go to the Lebanese Breast Cancer Foundation to donate for a truly selfless cause.

Pinktober Reminds Us to Check-Up and Remain Healthy!

Breast Cancer Screening – make it a priority! The why, and the where.

Mohammad El Kaaki | Junior Local News Editor

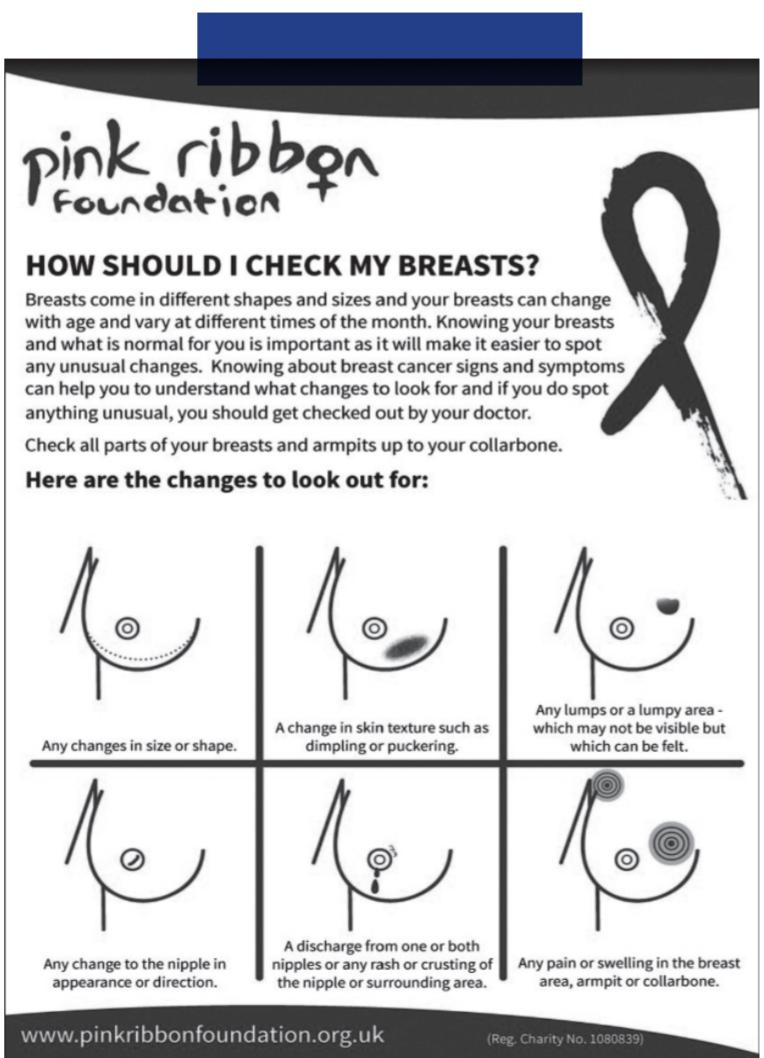
Pinktober is an important reminder to the women we love around the world about this vital part of their physical health. A study conducted in 2004 reveals that breast cancer constitutes 38.2% of all cancer cases in Lebanon, with the age-standardized incidence rate being approximately 71.0 per 100,000 capita.

And this is absolutely not a disease that is limited to older demographics! A study from 2010 showed approximately half of the breast cancer cases in Lebanon occurred in patients younger than 50 years of age. Breast screening is an effective method for detecting early symptoms of breast cancer, and a vital part of regular checkups, for women of all ages. If detected early, it is estimated that 90% of breast cancer cases are curable – meaning the significance of occasional breast screening cannot be understated.

Numerous clinics in Lebanon offer breast screening services, typically at affordable pricing.

Here are a few in Beirut: The Mamdouha El-Sayed Bobst breast unit is the first breast unit solely dedicated to assessing breast complaints in Lebanon and the Middle East. The unit is integrated into the diagnostic radiology department of the highly esteemed American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC).

There is also the Centre d'Explorations Diagnostiques et d'Imagerie Médicale (CEDIM) – serving as a leading diagnostic image provider in the region, which also provides exceptional breast screening services. Breast screening services include, but are not limited to, mammograms, ultrasounds, and other procedures such as biopsies. Mammograms should be taken annually once a woman has reached the age of 40, though if there is a history of breast cancer in a woman's family, she should discuss with



Why are women's breasts so taboo?

Society pressures women into hiding their breasts supposedly so they would be "decent". But what makes breasts so special that they should be covered up?

Michel Salamouni | Junior Editor



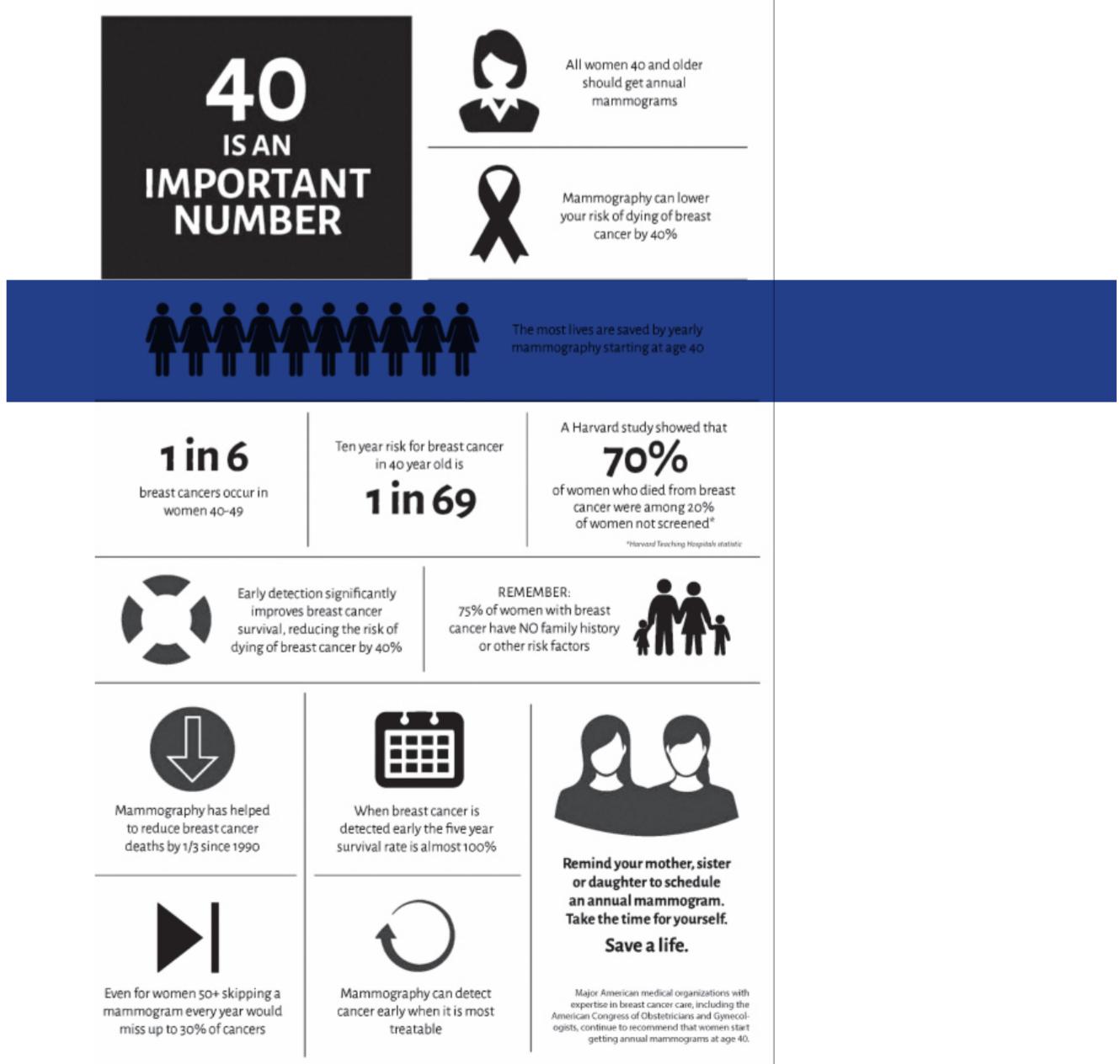
I have always questioned the pressure society weighs on girls to hide their breasts and nipples. Why is that extra article of clothing so important? Why do men get to walk on the Corniche topless, while women have to wear more than just one cloth to cover their breasts? Think about it biologically: aren't women's breasts evolutionary outcomes? Breastfeeding is the primary purpose of the female breasts to make sure food is available for a newborn; however, breasts are getting oversexualized. It is now deemed indecent for a woman to uncover her breasts – even for breastfeeding – as they are merely viewed as a source of lust and sexuality. Thus, I'm excited to inform you that men's breasts also serve this sexual goal and only that. Hence, why are men allowed to have their nipples peeking through their t-shirts? Something even more ironic is the fact that women should wear

bras. Bras' main purpose was to alleviate the weight of breasts that could cause back pain. Now, their purpose has completely deviated, making the use of bras somewhat obligatory. Something mandatory but that should also stay hidden. Women should wear their bras as discreetly as possible, adding to this vicious circle of irony and hypocrisy.

Furthermore, women should also hide their breasts to avoid harassment and unsettling glares from men. The fear of these repercussions is probably the biggest reason associated with this taboo, engraving the fact that our gender roles are messed up. Why do women have to protect themselves from men, and the latter should not try to be decent human beings? Why are we focusing on preventative ways to avoid rape rather than corrective solutions by educating men?

Pink All Year Round

By Celine Aljamil | Junior Editor



S
T
O
P
E
N
D
I
C
A
S

ON Popping the AUB Bubble ON Trading votes for free alcohol ON To vote or not to vote ON Why should we vote

■ Popping the AUB Bubble

Michel Salamouni | Junior Editor

We – as AUB students – consider ourselves the cherry on top of the Lebanese society. Most of us come from relatively high socioeconomic backgrounds and are receiving what is considered one of the best educations in the region. However, most of us are also just basking in the glory of this prestigious university and taking advantage of its achievements, simply for a good self-esteem boost. As we identify with AUB, we take pride in what has been achieved here, even though we had nothing to do with it. We are just living in that AUB bubble, prancing around with a view on the Mediterranean, as if nothing's wrong with the world, as if we're a representative sample of a finer society.

We hear quite often "LAU is not as good as AUB" nearly every day with some sort of smirk and a look of disgust. All of our memes are based on how we are the upper echelon, and how no other university can match us. AUB students are supposedly the Harvard graduates of the Middle East, which allows us to look down upon students from other colleges, namely LAU and LU. That allegedly "downward" comparison between us and other students increasingly and repeatedly promotes this bubble we live in. AUB students are made of sugar, spice, and everything nice. The campus might just as well be a floating island, detached from any sort of contact with the outside world – on the other side of Main Gate.

Moreover, a belief in a just world seems to be trending doctrine at AUB. No, not everyone can afford designer bags. No, not everyone can afford our college tuition. No, not everyone deserves what they got. No, poor people are not lazy. No, "they can just work their way up" is not a realistic solution.

Do you really think that if it was actually possible, people would just be happy with social inequality? We are being stereotyped as the "Mami w Papi" kind of kids, implying that most of us are just a bunch of spoiled brats that haven't seen most of what the world is made of. During my English class, the professor mentioned how our Beirut Downtown is no longer a melting-pot of different social groups, and one student had the audacity of saying "yeah but there's Louis Vuitton and Chanel down there to go shop at." So yeah, there's also Hermes, Rolex, and the state-of-the-art Aishti mall but aren't they the source of this problem? This a wake-up call – the same as the alarm on your brand new iPhone – to connect a bit more with the outside world, what will surely be a shocking journey.

In addition, AUB keeps promoting this illusion of democracy through the student elections and students keep falling for this mirage of hopeful change. It is common knowledge that the student representatives are not able to make any significant change due to the signature AUB bureaucracy. Any proposal they might present to the concerned office might as well just end up in a drawer or a paper shredder. The student body representatives will only be capable of achieving minor things, probably finding a solution to Nicely's Air Conditioning, but nothing more.

The most socially replicable thing at AUB might be the campus segregation: we have the upper campus, the students living under Chem Stairs (AKA FAS students), and the lower campus engineering and business faculties.

Not only do Nicely, Fisk and Chem buildings not compare to the Oxy Complex and OSB, but our attitudes toward different topics are also at different ends of the spectrum. FAS students (mostly the social sciences and humanities majors) hold typically more liberal stances than those from STEM majors. Even with clubs for women's, LGBTQIA+, and animals' rights, and even with multiple attempts from the university to educate students on these matters, insensitive comments and acts are resonated with every passing day. The comments recently featured on the LAU daily question's segment on bisexuality, or even the kitten rescued after someone trapped it under a trash can, breaking its bones – are unacceptable. When are we supposed to pop that bubble and connect more with the world?

I guess it is time to reconnect with the world around us. Some of us are just so detached from all inequalities around us, living with our privilege, taking everything for granted. Hate speech toward outgroup members that are getting marginalized day after day by our so-called future leaders is just disappointing. This generation that should allegedly bring change and a hopeful future for our country is already failing. We are probably going to continue clutching to our privilege without batting an eye to whatever is happening outside of our beloved, gated AUB.

■ Is Trading Your Vote for Free Alcohol and Previouses a Good Deal?

Laurent Sammouri | Staff Writer

I have always wanted to read Lord of the Flies. A book portraying society through the tell-tale adventures of a flock of kids stuck on an island. Thinking about it, that's pretty much AUB: a bunch of kids living in a small-sized Lebanon, with its communities, events, political parties, and "democratic" elections. AUB will hold its annual student elections this week. What do campus elections say about our national political climate?

Campus elections are centered around two committees: the SRC committees and the USFC committees. As a lot of you already know, the election process at AUB has been very politicized, with people in yellow, red and black vests clashing with each other's to get as many votes they can. However, why are political affiliations, previouses, and alcohol the pivotal point of our votes? The essence of these committees lies in the fact that they will fight for the best interests of the student body.

AUB elections serve an even bigger purpose. College is where we can either pick up good or bad habits. Accepting to waste your vote, and consequently agreeing to suppress your opportunity to make your voice heard, creates a habit of indifference, one currently leading our nation to crisis.

Our behavior is pivotal as we can either perpetuate the same mistakes or we can cultivate a culture of responsibility. So be aware of your principles. Have critical thought. Use your vote wisely. Dare to see past the political stances. Vote for their values and their vision. If you want previouses, check out previouses.com. And if you want to get drunk, a bottle of vodka with won't cost you much.

■ To vote, or not to vote: that is the question.

Hussein El Jebbaoui | Staff Writer

Long has democracy been smiled upon by societies around the world as a "perfect" system, as a just political system, when in reality it couldn't be farther from the truth. Democracy was created in ancient Greece, however, the best among Greek philosophers actually opposed this newfound system.

Socrates was against democracy and Plato later wrote about it in his book "The Republic". Even Plato's famous simile of the cave could be read as a criticism of democracy, he believed that the politicians would start using false promises to lure the people into voting for them, that the name of the game would become demagoguery.

Demagoguery is to incite a crowd and getting their support by appealing to their prejudice instead of using rational argument. For example, consider these hypothetical elections coming up and two candidates are running: a physician and a candy shop owner. The latter will appeal the crowd through candy, even though it is not healthy. On the other hand, the physician will not be elected because people will always favor quicker and short-term positive reinforcement rather than a slower and more benefiting one. Here lies the essence of the problem. People will never have power, only the illusion of it, and – here's the secret – they don't want it. The responsibility of power is too great to bear that's why they're eager to fall in line as soon as someone takes charge. Crowds will look favorably on the candy shop owners of the world until candy makes them sick. That's when they "rise up" and elect another similar individual unsuited for power, and on and on it goes.

Supporters of democracy would claim that it's the only system that truly builds a functioning effective society, that the people would be able to differentiate between who is suited and who is not for a position of power. So I put a question to them, how can a number of individuals who have

no experience and no knowledge on this matter, decide on the most important question presented to us as a society? Would we trust children to build a bridge? No, of course not. The same goes for politics: what democracy does is favor the appealing over the suitable, and allow the ignorant to build our society. Yet, somehow we are surprised when society favors a certain group over the common citizen, who is no longer its main focus.

In addition to what was said, the individual thinks of their individual gain and not of the overall picture, not of the gain for society as a whole. They are guided by prejudice and misconceptions, and this is the root of corruption. The common citizen, or student, in fact, votes for who will benefit them at the expense of the benefit to society as a whole.

Anyone, whether citizen or student, who retrospect to their candidacy as advocates for society and the entirety of its citizens should not support such a flawed system.

■ Why should we vote? With elections around the corner, we must ask ourselves an important question: should we vote? The answer is yes.

Lamis Oweity | Staff Writer

AUB's elections mark our first experience in a voting system and can shape the way we view elections in a broader term. Think of this as a preview of what real elections are. As students, we often dismiss voting as trivial while it is a ticket to a better future. This is the process by which we choose our representatives.

A lot of people view elections in a negative light, asking why we should vote if we are going to end up with a bad representative brought forth through corrupt voting propaganda. This mentality is what we refer to as a "sterile mentality", as in it is not fruitful.

Refraining from voting means you had no say in who gets elected, thus, you are stuck with a delegate that does not represent you. I mean, how could they if you neither elected them nor agree with them? Therefore, we must always vote; even if the options are not ideal, we have a chance to choose the most likely to do the least damage.

Then, why do we vote? Voting carries complex psychology behind it. Some psychologists believe that voting is an expression of nationalism. Lanning says that "we can think of voting as an expression of the self-concept."

He further explains the example, "if I am American and Americans vote then the act of voting is an expression of who I am." Other experts believe that we vote believing that if we choose someone with a similar mentality, then that person will continue in the system to vote for people of similar mentality. This process is known as "voter's illusion".

Keep in mind that the ideal candidate does not exist: all of them are bound to make a decision or another that you do not necessarily agree with. It is your job as a voter to elect the person capable of doing good by a community.

As a matter of fact, yes, your vote matters. History shows many instances where candidates won by 1 vote difference. Although voting is optional, it is a duty. We vote so we can mold the government the way we want it to be, or how we want it to operate. We must always remember that these people are our voices, so we vote to make our voices heard. If you wish to see change in your community, then you should vote for it.

Breast-rospective

An inspection of women's bodies in media, and the censorship that surrounds it--that's got to go.

Women are beautiful creatures, and they are powerful ones. One could argue that this is the combination that has contributed to censorship of the female body. When it comes to art, for example, nothing feels more classic, or more controversial, than the female nude.

Traditionally, nude women were only portrayed in the context of mythical narratives, biblical stories, or as victims of violence. The 19th century saw a change in imagery to every day subject matter, as (male) artists sought to use the female form not as a sexual object, but to explore artistic techniques and composition. But reactions to this new approach to the female body – an approach that did not seek to disguise it behind a veil of ancient storytelling – balanced between the artistic and erotic, and as such, was subject to criticisms of taboo.

And when it comes to the female form today, it often feels as though, while the mediums and situations are different, not much has changed.

Women today are gaining voices for themselves, which has reverberating effects on how they choose, for themselves, to depict themselves personally and publicly. While this has resulted in positive movements surrounding general female empowerment and body positivity, it has also made it clear that most men (namely, the patriarchy) are not having it. They are still clutching to what they appear to view as an inherent right to decide or weigh-in on how and when a woman chooses to exist in this world – ignoring the reality that, as human beings, women should have equal rights in this world, existing with their own agency.

During Pinktober we are reminded of men's misguided claim of control through the challenges breast cancer awareness campaigns and images have in navigating the arbitrary Instagram guidelines, and its ban on the female nipple. Breasts are ok(ish) to bare, but only certain portions of them, and only in certain circumstances. Even if it is with regard to cancer awareness, and even if breasts are where, quite literally, the food that feeds humanity comes from. And for what reason, exactly? What is

it about someone else's body that brings with it an inherent reaction to control it?

In psychology, this need can come from low self-esteem and/or the desire for power by domination used to artificially conflate one's sense of self. Unfortunately for those censoring women, imposing hegemonic control on a person or group of people just makes those you are trying to silence to inevitably speak louder. It seems that a more useful way of "dealing" with the female body is to let women decide what they want to do with theirs, so that it just becomes the way it should be – normal – and we can live in a world that looks back on this time in amazement regarding our archaic treatment and standards of women's bodies.



Home is Where your Face-Mask Stash is

Skincare in Lebanon is too expensive. Here's how to make your own. Inexpensive homemade skincare remedies (for everyone!)

Fatima Bazzi | Staff Writer

On your way to the store, have you ever stopped to consider that there may be alternate methods to keeping your skin clear and healthy? There is a common misconception that skincare necessitates spending an exorbitant amount of money and time on products and visiting specialists, but an effective skincare regimen does not mean having to empty your bank account. Plus, the majority of the overpriced products you buy are loaded with harsh chemicals and artificial ingredients that strip your skin of its natural balance, instead of calibrating it.

Making your own skin care products at home may sound daunting but in reality, it really isn't! Here are a few easy skincare recipes – for everyone – to try at home.

Facewash:

The ingredients are quite simple, and a few may already be in your pantry! Combine ¼ cup liquid castile soap, 2 TB distilled water, and 1 TB of your choice of almond, lavender, or jojoba oil. Castile soap is a gentle skin cleanser that removes dirt, grime, and even makeup, while the oils moisturize and soften the skin, giving it that healthy, blemish-free glow.

Scrub:

Face Mask:

When it comes to face masks, there are endless recipes for easy inexpensive options, but personally, my favorite is a basic one made from honey and yogurt. Mix one tablespoon of good quality, plain yogurt with 1 teaspoon of honey – and feel free to add a dash or two of cinnamon – mix thoroughly in a small bowl and apply it to your face for about 10 minutes. Honey has many anti-aging prospects, the yogurt tightens and brightens the skin, while the cinnamon helps blood flow.

Moisturizer:

For moisturizer you can use day and night, all you need is ¼ cup of Shea butter and 2 tablespoons of almond, jojoba, or avocado oil. Melt the ingredients

together in a bowl and make sure they're combined thoroughly. Place mixture in a jar and refrigerate. Once solid, remove, and store away from sunlight. This moisturizer works for all skin types and easily absorbs into your skin.

It is so easy to make your own skincare products. Forget buying those expensive face masks and creams at beauty stores. Make your own natural recipes. Your skin and wallet will thank you!



Bisexuality Visibility Week

A call for visibility & acceptance.

Bahia Mkhallati | Staff Writer

Ever since 1999, Bisexuality Visibility week has been celebrated during the month of September with the prime aim of strengthening the bisexual community. This celebratory week sheds light on any possible obstacles that individuals who identify as bisexual face and explores any form of discrimination that might disrupt their right to personal identity.

There are several approaches to defining the term "bisexuality". Robyn Ochs, a bisexual activist, says, "Bisexuals are people who acknowledge in themselves the potential to be attracted – romantically and/or sexually – to people of more than one sex and/or gender, not necessarily at the same time, not necessarily in the same way, and not necessarily to the same degree." Hence, even though the term "bi" technically means "two", it does not mean that bisexuals are strictly attracted to two genders and/or sexes only. Thus, one must keep in mind that a bisexual individual might also identify with more than one particular orientation like queer, fluid, and pansexual.

Over the past few decades, bisexuality has been marginalized and subjected to several stereotypes. For example, some opinions consider that being bisexual is not considered a "legitimate" sexual orientation and that the person concerned is merely "confused". These

"If we really want to make a meaningful change, what I think is most inspiring is if everybody were as outraged about equal pay or lack of investment in the women's game other than just women."

Women in Sports

Men and women in sports, and the inherent sexism that surrounds women's involvement.

Dania El Abjad | Staff Writer

On the 23rd of September, Megan Rapinoe was bestowed with the title of Best FIFA Women's Player of 2019. In her acceptance speech, Rapinoe calls on her fellow footballers to change the world, which inarguably, is very well within their capabilities. She says, "If we really want to make a meaningful change, what I think is most inspiring is [...] if everybody were as outraged about equal pay (or lack thereof) or lack of investment in the women's game other than just women."

Whether you like her character or not, the renowned United States Women's National Team's (USWNT) co-captain has been racking up trophies this year – the most prestigious of which is the quadrennial FIFA Women's World Cup.

If you've been keeping an eye out over the summer, her words could just about sound familiar. Megan and her teammates have been fighting to receive the same pay as their male counterparts on the USMNT for a few years now.

In 2015, it was revealed that the women's team was only being paid a quarter of what their male counterparts earned, despite generating \$20 million more than the men that year. In such, global recognition sparked the conversation again when they brought home the World Cup in July – their second title in a row (and fourth overall) – whereas the Men's team

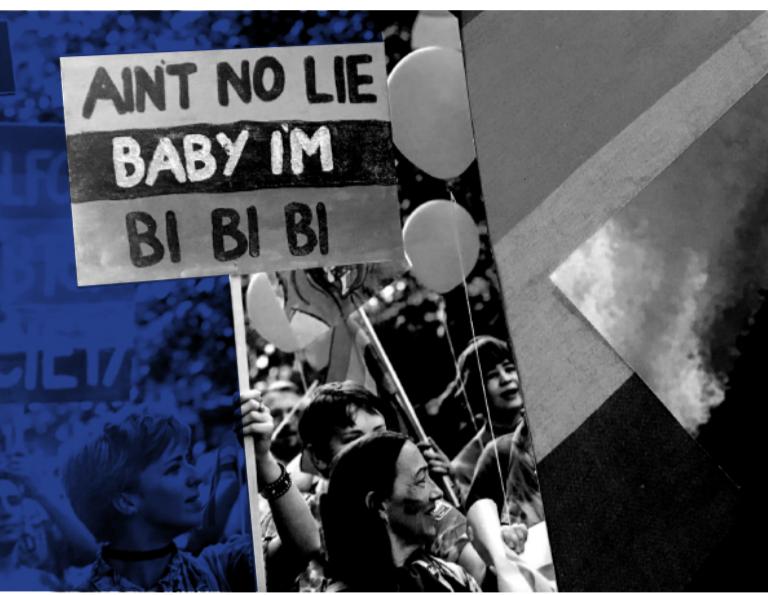
had not managed to qualify for the men's equivalent in 2018 nor have they ever even won a world cup!

Football (or soccer) is just the first in a long list of sports where women do not get paid the amount they deserve and do not get marketed as well as their male counterparts, especially in third world countries. Take a look at Lebanon, for example. How often is it that you hear of Lebanese-American WNBA player Chantelle Anderson compared to the likes of "Lebanese Tiger" Fadi El Khatib?

Moreover, on the very rare occasion that women do make an equal (or greater) amount of money in sports, it mostly occurs in individual sports, like tennis and figure skating; but even that does not come free of discrimination and scrutiny. Renowned tennis player Serena Williams and Naomi Osaka make 5th and 6th place respectively on the list of the top 10 highest-earning tennis players worldwide.

During the US Open finals in 2018, violations

were called against Williams for "verbal abuse" after Williams called the chair umpire Carlos Ramos a "thief". The 23-time Grand Slam champion was quick to point out during her match, however, that male players have said far worse and suffered no consequence. The argument between the two over code violations escalated and resulted in a penalty point and game against Williams. Media outlets called her



Peasants' Rebellion - Thawrat Alfallahin: A Window into Lebanon's Past

In feudalistic Lebanon, a community of peasant farmers can no longer bear the oppression and exploitation at the hands of the ruling class.

Isabella Maria Daou | Staff Writer

Peasants' Rebellion (Thawrat Alfallahin) is a Lebanese series based on the true historical events of an uprising led by Tanios Shahin against the Ottoman Empire in Mount Lebanon. Directed by Philippe Asmar and written by Claudia Marchalian, it features a prominent cast of Lebanese actors, including Wesam Hanna, Ward El Kal, Sara Abi Kanaan, Aimée Sayah, Bassem Moughnie and Carlos Azar. It is the first Lebanese series on Netflix and its 61 episodes were finalized in 2018.

The story unfolds with the growing prospect of revolution; as the peasants mobilize and find a collective voice, the ruling family is on the verge of collapse. Initially, the rich and poor inhabit different worlds, demarcated by the palace walls, but the lines begin to blur with the ensuing revelations of secret affairs and betrayals. The rifts within the ruling family are exacerbated as some tend towards sympathy and want to concede power to the peasants, while others exert domineering cruelty to ensure their continued subjugation.

The leader of the rebellion, Nawras (Wesam Hanna) is modelled after the historical figure Tanios Shahin, whose campaign sought to reclaim the term 'ahlai'

Peasants' Rebellion is unwavering in its portrayal of the peoples' hope, fear, love, and hatred; it recalls a history of Lebanon, deeply rooted in the desire for freedom.

Setting the Record Straight

Mona Emamizadeh | Staff Writer

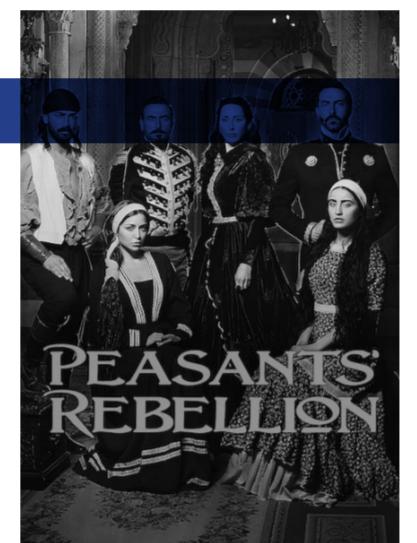
A lot of you may have seen vinyl records up close due to that one close or distant elderly relative who has a box full of them. However, if you have never seen a vinyl record in the flesh before, you won't need to look very far now because they're back and they're everywhere.

Other than the modern "Virgin Megastore" down in Beirut Souks that sells more recently released and manufactured vinyl records, there are other stores around Beirut that hold the most treasured of vintage records. As so, the AUB community doesn't have to walk very far to find Chico Records, located in Hamra.

"One of the strongest collections of Middle Eastern records in the world, Chico Records has been in business since 1964, surviving the country's brutal Civil War and seismic regional unrest to become a destination for local and international collectors alike," is how "The Vinyl Factory", the world's foremost vinyl enterprise, describes the store.

One walks into a store that is much like the records it sells...a bit rough looking with a vintage and aesthetically pleasing twist. Rows and rows of records can be found, all protected in their plastic covers: from Arabic, pop, rock, jazz, swing, and after an in depth search, even Portuguese! The store is also equipped with functional record players, along with

or commoner, from passive, dormant and dehumanized to an active, unified and mobilized group, able to represent itself. Nawras recruits rebels for his cause through charismatic appeals, awakening people to the possibility of land ownership and the right to a dignified life. While the ruling family lives in extravagant opulence, everyone else endures abject poverty, compounded by excessive taxes, food shortages, systematic abuse and humiliation. Anyone suspected of disloyalty is imprisoned or sentenced to death by hanging.



Sidewalk: Open Up, Open Mic

Bahia Mkhallati | Contributing Writer

"I would have never imagined myself performing in front of people on a stage like that... I left with a different mentality," says Rayan Sammak, a regular Sidewalk performer and team member recounting his first performance at Sidewalk Beirut.

Sidewalk is a weekly open mic initiative, founded by Maysan Nasser in the fall of 2017, where one's thoughts, feelings, opinions, and talents can be shared amongst a diverse group of individuals. Be it through poetry, storytelling, comedy, music, or drama—people are gathered to form a platform that hosts creativity and freedom of expression.

From Beirut to Jbeil, Sidon, Batroun, and Tripoli, Sidewalk has effectively entered the cultural scene and might even expand to more areas in Lebanon and abroad in the future. At each open mic, rounds are divided into two: one round of various performances followed by a second round that presents a different featured artist. Sammak, also known as his stage name Find Muck, has been performing in Sidewalk Beirut for the last two years. After being approached by Nasser herself, he was inspired to share his passion for rap with others. "Sidewalk is a beautiful community. As a forum, it accepts people's imagination and originality without limitations, hence providing comfort for those who feel censored by the Lebanese society", mentions Sammak. In addition

to that, he stresses on the welcoming and safe space that Sidewalk delivers, regardless of a person's gender, race, ethnicity, or religion.

However, Sidewalk has witnessed a few controversial incidents that overstepped the freedom of others. Since sensitive topics such as sexual orientation and politics might be discussed during open mic, the line between freedom of speech and disrespect hardens where both the performers and the audience must be careful with the possibility of insulting others. "Performances tend to be raw and honest. Our audience consists of individuals with distinctive backgrounds and identities. When you're in that room and the session has started, there is only space for respect without any prejudices," reassures Sammak.

All the more, oftentimes, members of the audience might speak up during the middle of a performance if they feel offended by the words or actions of a performer. When asked how Sidewalk as a group deals with such incidents, Sammak explains that the host would address the matter on the spot and call out the act, ensuring the secure and liberal atmosphere that Sidewalk aims to provide.

Evidently, Sidewalk can be considered a space that allows personal growth. Concentrating on artistic freedom, individuals are able to introspect within themselves and communicate with people. "I have a friend who changed so much after performing at



open mic. The way he talks to people, views things, approaches life, and deals with problems has completely transformed for the better," adds Sammak.

Catch Sidewalk Beirut, filled with artistry and liberty every Wednesday, 8:00 pm at Riwaq in Geitawi!

"Sidewalk is a beautiful community. As a forum, it accepts people's imagination and originality without limitations, hence providing comfort for those who feel censored by the Lebanese society"

The Joker: Movie Review

Nour El Kaddour | Contributing Writer

Tod Phillips' "Joker" is undoubtedly one of the most anticipated films of the year. Although greatly debated before its release, Tod Phillips and Joaquin Phoenix do successfully create an incredibly deep, dark, and dramatic origin story that bodes justice to the anticipation. The storyline introduces the Joker as a person, Arthur Fleck, who endures experiences of pain and agony that shape him to become the DC universe's most iconic supervillain, one that characteristically commits crime and evil just for the sake of it. It reflects reality's harshness and brutality so perfectly, yet it does not stray too much from Gotham city and the intricate world of DC.

Given a 9/10 on IMDB and a 68% on Rotten Tomatoes, this movie obviously sparked mixed emotions. Much of this difference in interpretation comes from a raw depiction of a complex character which is commonly viewed and known as a villain who is made into a victim of society. Through interludes of body movement characterized by contorting, dancing, and the striking show of Pseudobulbar affect (PBA) – a neurological condition that is characterized by episodes of sudden uncontrollable and inappropriate laughing or crying – the Joker's psychologically disturbing persona is brought forth.

"Joker" is not your average superhero-supervillain movie, but a psychological exploration of a dark character and tracing back the steps that made him cross the line of sanity. The film recognizes the minorities in socio-economic classes through the depiction Arthur Fleck. Fleck unintentionally represents them as he embarks on his journey of seeking himself, fulfilling his dream of becoming a stand-up comedian, and completely embracing his mental state and the dark temptations to have his revenge on the elites of society and all who have wronged him. The intense emotion that the film conveys is like no film has ever dared to express before, as it is raw and ugly. Unlike a character from a comic book, the feelings that surround Phoenix's character are unapologetically equal parts raw and intense. The film is depicted so powerful, even too powerful for a select audience who aren't ready for a film as dark and overwhelmingly honest as "Joker".

As I sat in the theatre and immersed myself in the film, it was depressing to hear the audience laugh hysterically at all the wrong moments. The message that the misunderstood underdogs of society rise above the elites flies right over some viewers' heads. Some of the audience condescends the film's message for promoting violence, overlooking the way society chews these outcasts up and spits them back out into the streets without a shred of morality, letting them

rot away with no chance of success and access to medication and social services. This project, as a whole, is truly a masterpiece, and it is a shame how audiences still blindly and passively accept how our equivalents of Thomas Wayne and Murray Franklin ridicule and abuse the underdogs of society.



Outlook team**Chairperson**
Dean Talal Nizameddin**Editor in Chief**
Hayat Abdallah**Senior Editor**
Caline Pechdimaljian**Junior Editors**
Maeve Lane
Mohammad Al Kaaki
Michel SalamouniAya Sawaya
Sarah Moritz
Grace Mouannes

Celine Aljamil

Proofreaders
Dania El Abdad
Raghad El Ghali**Contributing Writers**Sara Awad
Fatima BazziBahia Mkhallati
Dania El Abdad

Lamis Oweity

Hussein El Jebbawi

Laurent Sammouri

Isabella Maria Daou

Mona Emamizadeh

Suzy Beidoun

Nour El Kaddour

Lucy Banisch

Graphic Designers

Alissa Zibara

Sara Kadi

Myriam San

EDITOR'S NOTE | Hayat Abdallah

Our issue this week is centered around a plethora of things: Breast cancer awareness, revolutions, and Elections. It is our civil duty to vote, one the only aspects we participate in as active citizens—you can read about that more acutely in the Opinions section.

The Opinions section has articles that dissect voting in AUB, why and why not—and give an insight into students' struggles to identify themselves as part of a bigger community and not a sheltered society. It is, with our Pinktober section, the pillar of this issue.

We decided to stray from a personality of the week to a theme of the week to honor Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In the English section, we placed miniature educating articles and illustrations, and in the Arabic section we have an interview with an AUBMC Doctor. This interview delves into more detail and medical terminology and can be read after the Pinktober spread.

A final note, after you have read this issue, soaked in the quiet pride of civil disobedience, learned more about Breast Cancer, and contemplated the question of voting: remember to think. Think carefully about health, carefully about our country and university, and subsequently, carefully about voting.

SENIOR EDITOR'S NOTE | Caline Pechdimaljian
Week in progress at AUB

In honor of now the second Outlook issue of the semester, I deem it only worthy of a second "Welcome to a new reboot of Outlook!". So welcome, to all returning critics and readers, both new and old.

I find myself in quite a rut as I write this as this week's issue is a juxtaposition of two themes of evidently varying importance. I decided to keep this short and brief trying to get my point across as clearly as I can. I now find myself as Senior Editor in liberty of touching on a broader base with readers, even if this entails brief commentatorship, uncharacteristic to my usual breakdown of the myriad topics that keep my brain busy and my mouth sharp.

I'd first like to address the eventful week at AUB ahead, saving my more important commentary on Pinktober for later. This week's issue is admittedly an anticipatory one in light of approaching elections and the respective "fest" that comes along with the yearly event. We selectively themed this issue's Opinions section on the elections, racking our writers' brains to sit down and bring to paper the reasons why they have or haven't voted in the past. I can now say that I'll most definitely have my upcoming letter address my unfiltered thoughts on the elections debacle, which officially would mark a year into my experience writing for Outlook. Until this, I will refrain from commenting on the matter as I see no point in repeating or contradicting myself next week.

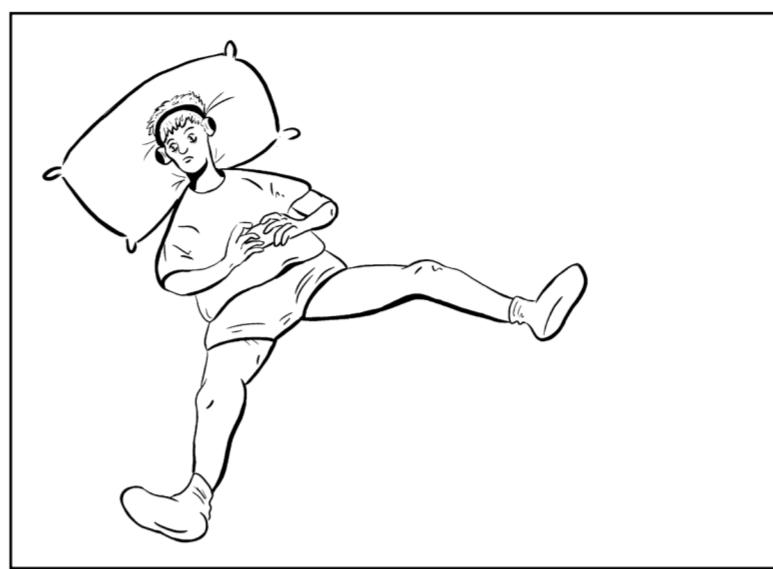
I, however, will pose substantially greater interest and attention on the Pinktober feature. If you've been following my writings since last semester, by a very slim pinpoint of chance, you might as well know how I've long been a staunch feminist advocating for a women's reclaiming of her body, femininity, and all that comes with it. October seems to be, in most part, the few exceptions where a female's breasts are talked of with no sexual reference to them, as it should be. For many, it takes a malignancy to address female anatomy without the baseline reference to tame any of its "sexual underline". Relishing this opportunity with a shaking head, I wanted to reference this interlude to the Pinktober Feature of this week's issue where we wanted to curate a selection of articles that address a select relevant topics for the Pinktober month and breast cancer awareness cause. One thing I could bring into this that hasn't been featured, and one that I know many women can resonate with, is living in the underlying fear of the breast cancer gene that many of us carry, and have to live in precaution of. I had the unfortunate experience, as many do, to have select members of my mother's side of the family have a run-in with breast cancer. As we grow older, relatively speaking, it grows more difficult to ignore that urgent reminder that we need to place extra precaution to the ghost of possibility that one day, we might even find ourselves catching a lump in our breast. Growing up, it was difficult not to overhear the recurring theme of the women in my family debating a double mastectomy, and it was definitely not easy pretending there was "nothing to worry about" during screening processes. I haven't found a way for me to tell you there's a wait out of this, the genes are there and science doesn't lie. However, there is something to be said about being vocal to your health practitioners and your gynecologist. Don't overlook your concerns over fear, and make sure to instruct yourself to get your breasts and ovaries checked. You will certainly have to build these habits from an early onset. There is no age restriction and

there is certainly no shame in all this. Be mindful of your body and stay in tune with yourself, as it is your body, and you have full control over the decisions you make when it comes to your breasts, your ovaries, and every inch of your being. I bid salute to the women, and I bid salute to our free bodies that carry us through.

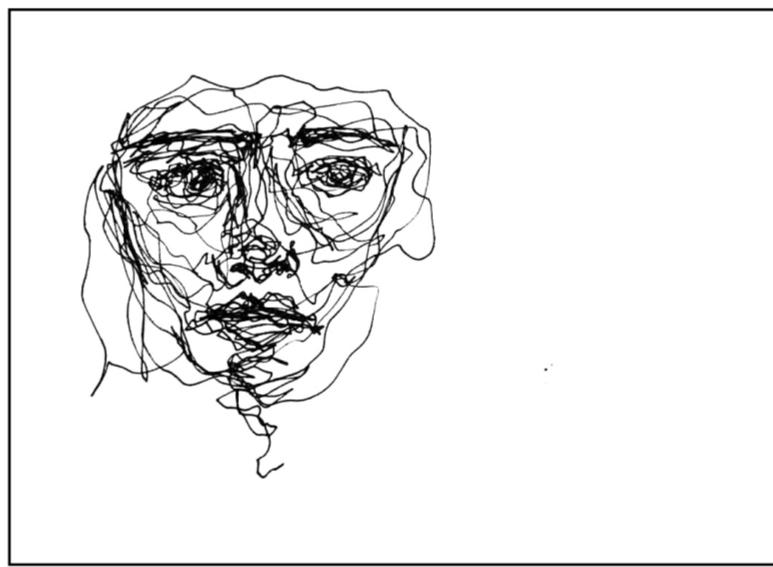
Create & share with us to get the chance to be featured in the next issue

Students' Works

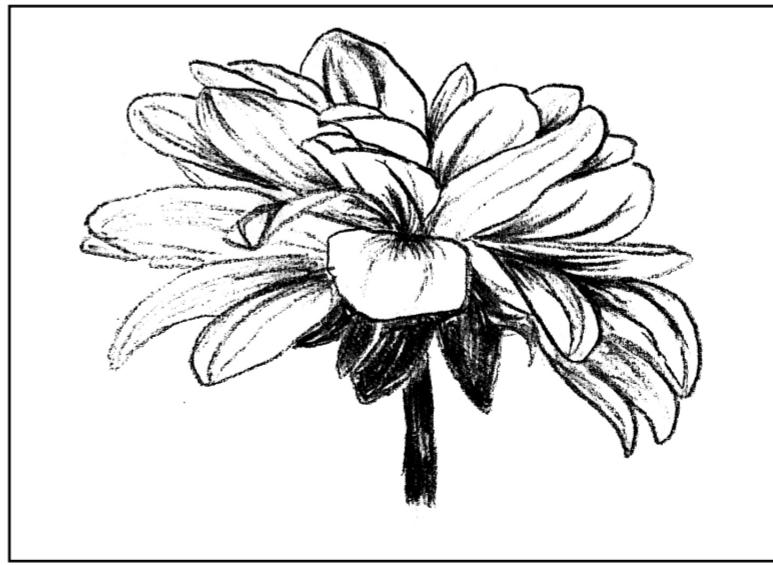
Amal Ghamlooch - Graphic Design



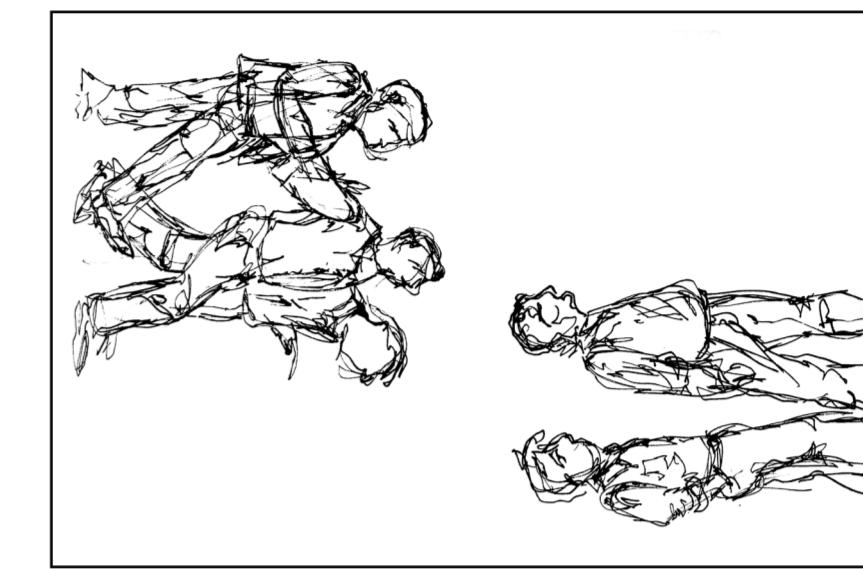
Alissa Zibara - Graphic Design



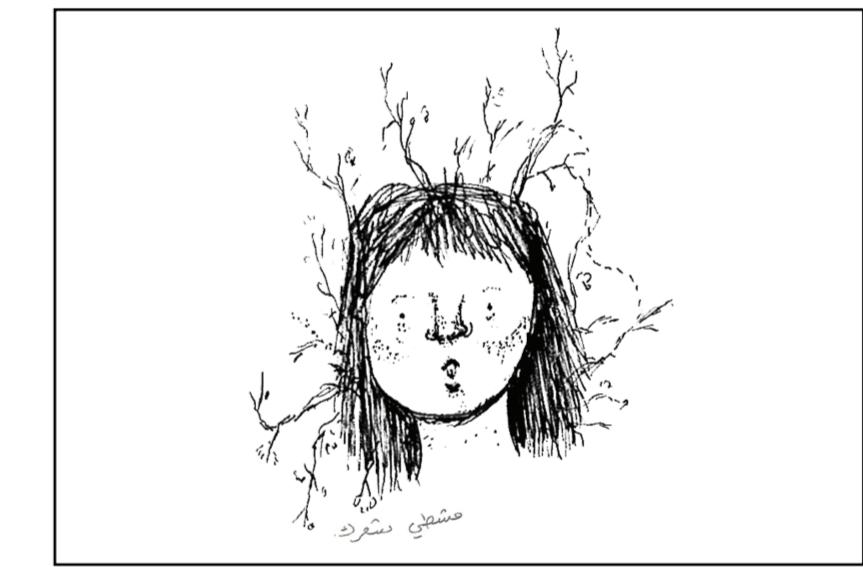
Mira Darazi - Graphic Design



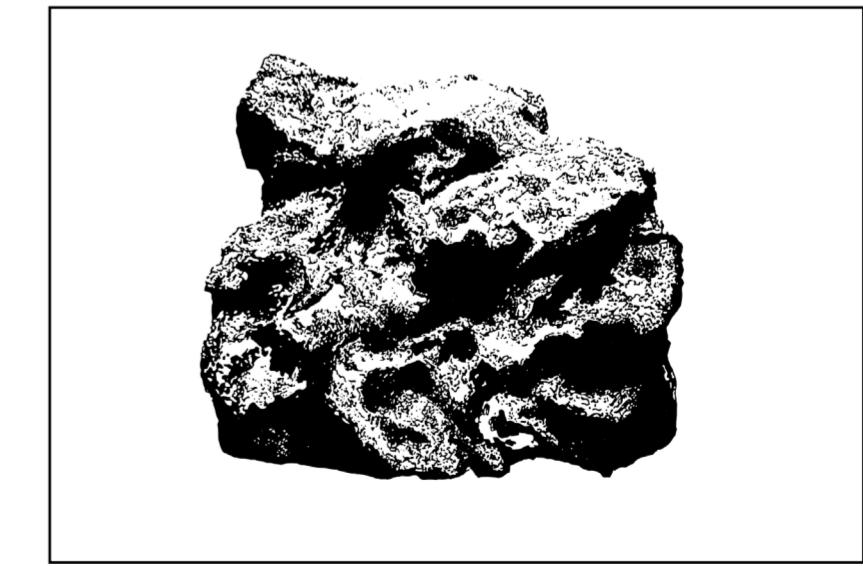
Myriam Saniour - Graphic Design



Ghalia Khalili - Graphic Design



Hadi Ezzeddine - Graphic Design



Disclaimer Outlook is a weekly publication of the American University of Beirut (AUB) and represents the voice of the student body. It is an independent, non-affiliated publication that favors no ethnic, religious or political group. All columns, articles and reports are the property of Outlook and do not necessarily represent the views of Outlook or the AUB community. Outlook welcomes all contributions. Authors are asked to please include their full name, major, ranking and contact information for verification. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any way, shape or form without the written consent of Outlook and/or higher authorities. Outlook reserves the right to edit all material.