

HYE SHARZHOOM

Armenian Action

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November 1994

Vol. 16, No. 1 (47)

Supplement to The Collegian

Baroness honored for humanitarian aid

Barlow DerMugrdechian

Hye Sharzhoom

"Armenians are fighting for everything they believe in, for survival, for their homes, language, families, and their ancient spiritual legacy. They have fought to defend themselves with incredible courage. It is a story which should go down in the history books."

-Lady Caroline Cox

In the words of a farmer from Getashen in Karabagh who had seen his family killed and his home destroyed, "Dignity is a crown of thorns." "The people of Karabagh are wearing their crown of thorns with great dignity," according to Lady Caroline Cox, Life Peer of the House of Lords of the British Parliament. Her personal experiences in Karabagh stirred an overflow audience of students, faculty, and community members who crowded the Alice Peters Auditorium on Monday, October 3, 1994, on the CSUF campus.

Baroness Cox's talk was co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program, the School of Social Sciences, and the International Programs Office.

The evening before, the Armenian National Committee, Central Valley, honored Lady Cox with the Women of the Year award at a banquet attended by more than 400 people.

"Now is the time to exert pres-

sure on the international community to compel the Azerbaijani government to stop its military activities," said Lady Cox. She stated her concern that once an oil agreement is signed between Azerbaijan and Western oil companies there will be a petro-dollar financed final military solution in Artsakh. "Pressure must be brought to bear to stop the Azeri aggression. The primary victims of the conflict are the people of Karabagh. They need your support in every way and above all your political support to make sure their human rights are supported and that their humanitarian needs are met."

Lady Caroline Cox is a member of the House of Lords of Great Britain, and a member of numerous humanitarian and educational organizations.

"Ethnic cleansing" now so closely associated with the war in the former Yugoslavia, was first utilized in regard to the policy of Azerbaijan in Karabagh, beginning in 1991 Armenian civilians—men, women, and children were forcibly taken from their homes, which were usually destroyed.

Lady Cox first went to Armenia in May of 1991 and since then has visited Armenia and Artsakh (Karabagh) 21 times, the last time just three weeks ago.

During that three and a half years she has grown to "appreciate, admire and love the Armenians," as she abundantly made clear in



Photo By Christine Mirigian

Baroness Caroline Cox spends time answering questions and participating in discussions with members of the audience following her lecture in the Alice Peters Auditorium.

two presentations in the Fresno area.

Speaking with passion and dedication, Lady Cox described her visits to Artsakh and her twofold mission with Christian Solidarity International—humanitarian aid and human rights.

Lady Cox first became involved with the Karabagh issue in May 1991, while attending a conference of the Sakharov Institute in Moscow. All sorts of human rights violations in the Soviet Union were on the agenda, among them reports of the brutality in Karabagh where

the Soviet 4th army and Azeri Interior Ministry troops (OMON), were using tanks and helicopters against innocent villagers. Lady Cox led a delegation to assess independently what was happening.

She paid tribute to the spirit of the people of Artsakh, to their courage in the face of danger, and to the triumph of the human spirit which rises above the human degradation imposed by Azeri aggression.

In vivid detail, the Baroness painted a bleak picture of the struggle of the Armenians of

Karabagh against the brutal violence of Azeri offensives aimed at the civilian population of Karabagh.

The last offensive in April 1994, which was particularly severe, caused casualties at the rate of 50-60 per day. Azeris were resorting to aerial bombing of the capital of Stepanakert, spreading destruction at a fearsome level.

The last two years, during which Lady Cox was visiting Karabagh

See COX, Page 6

Catholicos' funeral draws thousands worldwide



Photo By Vartkes Barsam

The Very Reverend Father Sasoon Vartabed Zumrookhdian of St. Paul Armenian Apostolic Church of Fresno (center) at the funeral of Catholicos Vazken I in Yerevan, Armenia.

Barlow DerMugrdechian

Hye Sharzhoom

The spiritual head of the Armenian Church, His Holiness Vazken I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, entered his eternal rest on Thursday, August 18, 1994. Less than three weeks before his death, President Levon Ter Petrossian of the Republic of Armenia, bestowed upon the Catholicos the highest award in Armenia, naming him as a National Hero of Armenia.

His Holiness Vazken I was elected and consecrated as Catholicos of All Armenians in Etchmiadzin, Armenia, in 1955,

becoming the 130th spiritual leader of the Armenian Church, since the time of St. Gregory the Illuminator. His pontificate of more than thirty-nine years was one of the longest and most productive in the history of the Armenian Church.

Born in 1908 in Bucharest, Levon Garabed Baljian was ordained as Very Rev. Fr. Vazken Vartabed in 1943. In 1951 he was consecrated as a bishop of the Armenian Church.

The Catholicos became the most visible worldwide symbol of the Armenian people during the period of communist rule in Armenia. With his diplomatic and political skill he was able to lead the Armenian Church through a very

difficult period of Armenian history, outlasting the fall of the Soviet Union and welcoming the newly independent Republic of Armenia.

He led the movement to prepare clergy for the Armenian Church. The Catholicos was also a leader in the ecumenical movement, especially with the Eastern Orthodox churches.

The Catholicos was also a tireless traveler, visiting the many far-flung dioceses of the Armenian church, bringing his message of unity and fatherly blessings.

The Catholicos last made a spiritual visit to the United States

See VAZKEN I, Page 8

Armenian Film Festival

Nov. 1 -- "Burnt Baby" - By Paul Chaderjian

Nov. 8 -- "Paul Bowles in Morocco"

"The Art of Rufino Tamaya: The Sources of His Art" "Memories of Berlin: The Twilight of the Weimar Republic" "Los Angeles" -

By Gary Conklin (Chankalian)

Nov. 15 -- "Charles Gary: A Streetfighter in the Courtroom" - By Roxanne Bezjian

Film Festival will take place at McCane Hall, Room 221 from 6pm - 8:30 pm
Free Admission to all presentations

Letter to Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to an article in your October issue of *Hye Sharzhoom*, by Lara Simonian about the "Armenian Character." I would just like to say that I found that article very interesting. I am 29 years old and I have lived in the U.S. for about 24 years. I've read many books about our homeland. I've learned many things about our nation, military conquests and defeats. I've learned about great achievements in medicine, I've read about art and music. I've taken in all this information.

When I read Miss Simonian's article, I felt a pride about our people that's difficult to put into words. It's not shocking to me, that people who are enduring such hardships, but yet make gifts to strangers. That bracelet that Miss Simonian was given is just another testament of the character of such a noble people.

It fills my heart and makes me proud to be able to be a part of a race of people, known as Armenian. Some day I hope to go there and live among such honorable people as that little old lady.

Thank you, Miss Simonian for such a wonderful story.

Vrej Apelian
CSP-Corcoran, California

Dear Editor,

Someone should check *Hye Sharzhoom* for accuracy of dates and names. In your November 1993 issue, the article by Mr. Scott Abajian Asmar, "Armenia: Where It's Been and Where It's Going" has errors. The Arab invasion was in the 10th century A.D. The massacres of 1894-96 were ordered by Sultan Abdul Hamid. The massacres of Adana were ordered by the Young Turks, (Enver, Talaat and Jemal) in 1909.

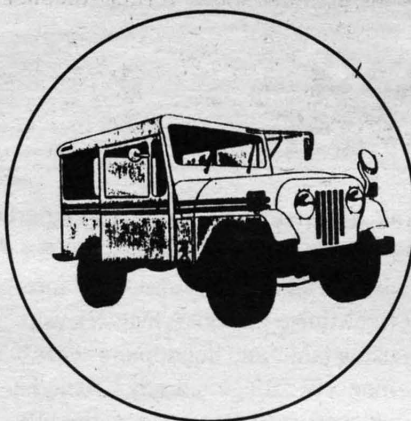
There are plenty of books and savvy Armenians in Fresno to give you the correct information.

Sincerely,
Nishan Nercessian
Westminster, California

Dear Editor,

I really enjoy the paper. I'm not Armenian but my husband is. I really enjoyed the November issue because it had a recipe- Keufta. I liked it because it was Americanized!!! I read about the class of Norma Der Mugerdechian and would like the Yalance recipe. Is there a good Americanized Armenian recipe book? Please add recipes to your paper. Thanks.

Adrienne Chakerian
Reedley, California



Dear Friends at *Hye Sharzhoom*,

I must write to let you know how happy I am to be receiving your paper. I am of Armenian heritage from the East Coast and throughout my eighteen plus years since moving out west, have not come in contact with more than two or three Armenians in that time. I'm the type of person who might hear someone in a department store, for instance, speaking Armenian to another and I run up to that couple crying, "Hye es!? Yes hye em!! .. I've been countered with a strange look or two, but most times I feel it's like running into lost family.

Which brings me to the reason I was compelled to write. I read Stephan Bulbulian's very eloquent poem in your November issue entitled *This Mountain*. I wanted to compliment Mr. Bulbulian and let him know that it touched me. I'm in the middle of reading *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh* and so feel particularly vulnerable.

I think it's very important to pass down to our children an appreciation of our heritage. We must always remember who we are and how miraculous it is that we, by God's grace are still here as a

people! Although scattered to the ends of the earth, the ancient blood of Armenia runs through our veins. No matter what country we many find ourselves in, we are all family. We have survived, against the odds. We have the tenacity and the strength of the faith of our forefathers to attribute to that.

I am proud to call myself an Armenian and am so pleased to know that there are 30,000 or so of them in the Fresno area alone! So when I call the staff at *Hye Sharzhoom* "friends" it's because I feel a connection when I read your publications and when I see the faces in the photos, and read the last names, and let my eyes caress the shapes of our unique alphabet... I feel a tug in my soul. We are the legacy that has survived the trials of the ages. Let us not forget, let us remember.

Sincerely,
Madelaine Hairrell
Los Banos, California
P.S. May your press run, as well as our people, grow and prosper!

Dear Editor and Respected Friends,

We received with pleasure your newspaper and are hopeful that we will receive it regularly in the future. I thank you for your thoughtfulness as the paper is very interesting.

We read with interest the story in the October issue about the recent publication of Dr. Dickran Kouymjian's "The Arts of Armenia." That work is very important in making Armenians and non-Armenians aware of Armenian art.

I also received the November issue, and was very impressed by Dr. Vahagn Dadrian's article on the Genocide.

Sincerely,
Sarkis Selian - Editor, *Nor Gyank* newspaper
Bucharest, Romania

Send Letters To the Editor at:
Hye Sharzhoom
c/o Armenian Studies Program
California State University Fresno
5245 North Backer Avenue
Fresno, CA 93740-0004

Poems

Old Melancholy Eyes

By Y. Stephan Bulbulian

You see them on the streets,
in the most unlikely places.
At first, you think..
"you know them."
Stare closely at their faces,
they are of happy fortune.

Through the eyes, you make
an instant recognition,
rich with twisted scrollwork.
(They are your eyes)
and they shine, viscous,
clear and fair
on the far horizon,
dark as a plowed field,
a rain of endless grief,
a paradox of collective sorrow.

At first touch,
you feel tender fingers
of each kind of dried fruit.
Kiss each cheek, you touch
flesh like fine sandpaper,
you taste salt of many sad rivers,
Under the skin you sense
A longing for far-away soil.
You see with old melancholy eyes.

Recipe for Leaving

By Baloian

As clear as a door closing,
our silence listens
to the afternoon decompose
into grains of broken time.

We act to separate ourselves
from ourselves

without waste or necessity.
All warnings fall
like leaves into water,
and the weather makes it
impossible to hang on
in a life where dreams
live forever.

My exile stiffens
into cold shapes
held by the fingertips
of the wind.
Forgetting the way home,
your voice sings
into the open road
like a delicate thread
seeking the eye of a needle.

Armenia
By Baloian

In an endless dreamland of panic,
each tribe puts one foot in front
of the other
and remains, embracing the
darkness
with ignited eyes.

Before the dream is forgotten,
musicians uplift dancers
on the divine ground
where stars join together.

In all directions jackals pace
among the delicate wisdoms of
survival;
and where the dark repairs a
room,
breaths are knitted together,
so nothing will be
forgotten.

HYE SHARZHOOM

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Menak parov Hayastan... hello Fresno

Lisa Derian

Hye Sharzhoom

Mary Melikian and Vahagn Tonoyan of Yerevan State University were chosen by the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno to participate in the 1994-1995 Eurasia Awards Program, administered by NAFSA: Association of International Educators and funded by the United States Information Agency. The students expenses for travel and related university expenses were covered by USIA. CSU Fresno offered two full tuition waivers to the students for the year through the auspices of Dr. Peter Klassen, Director of the International Studies Program at the University. Carol Munshower of the International Students Office has been instrumental in the successful award of the grants.

Barlow Der Mugrdchian of the Armenian Studies Program is responsible for the selection of students, which is coordinated with the administration of Yerevan State University.

Mary Melikian and Vahagn Tonoyan are Fresno State's newest exchange students participating in the Yerevan State/Fresno State University exchange program. At the end of this summer, they were greeted in Armenia and brought to Fresno by Barlow Der

Mugrdchian, professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State.

Mary Melikian had never been to Fresno before, but she had been formerly acquainted with the U.S. on two prior visits. Boston was one of the places she had been, where she attended a summer computer course at Bentley College. She had also visited Los Angeles, on a trip to see her godfather.

Vahagn Tonoyan is experiencing his first trip to the United States. So far, both students are having a pleasant time and they are not having much trouble adjusting to an American lifestyle.

Mary is a 21 year old English major. She is particularly interested in translating, and has had some former experience in that field. Mary explains that the school system in Armenia teaches you Armenian, English, and Russian from the time that you enter elementary school. Because of her interest in languages, Mary has gone on to study German and Spanish. In Armenia, Mary finds little time, aside from school, to socialize with her friends. Since her classes are extremely difficult and time consuming, Mary spends most of her time studying and being with her family. She lives with her parents and her younger brother in an apartment within walking distance to the University.

Here at Fresno State, Mary lives in the dorms. She is taking an

Arts of Armenia course, Armenian Film, two upper division English classes, Spanish, and computer programming. She enjoys living in the dorms and meeting people from various backgrounds. She spends most of her free-time on campus, going for walks, playing the piano, swimming, and playing ping-pong with Vahagn. Before the exchange program, Mary and Vahagn had never met, but now they have become good friends.

Vahagn Tonoyan is a 19 year old Computer Science major. Here at Fresno State, he is taking the same Arts of Armenia class as Mary. He is also taking Armenian Film, two computer programming classes, and a mathematics course. He spends most of his time studying in the library, in the computer lab, and in the student union. In his free-time he likes to play ping-pong, pool, go swimming and spend time with Mary.

Back in Armenia, Vahagn worked as a programmer for the Department of International Relations, at Yerevan State University. He too spent the majority of his time studying, but also liked to spend time with friends planning social events, like picnics. In Armenia, Vahagn lives with his parents and two brothers in an apartment close to the University.

Vahagn and Mary explain that being a student at Fresno State is much different then going to school

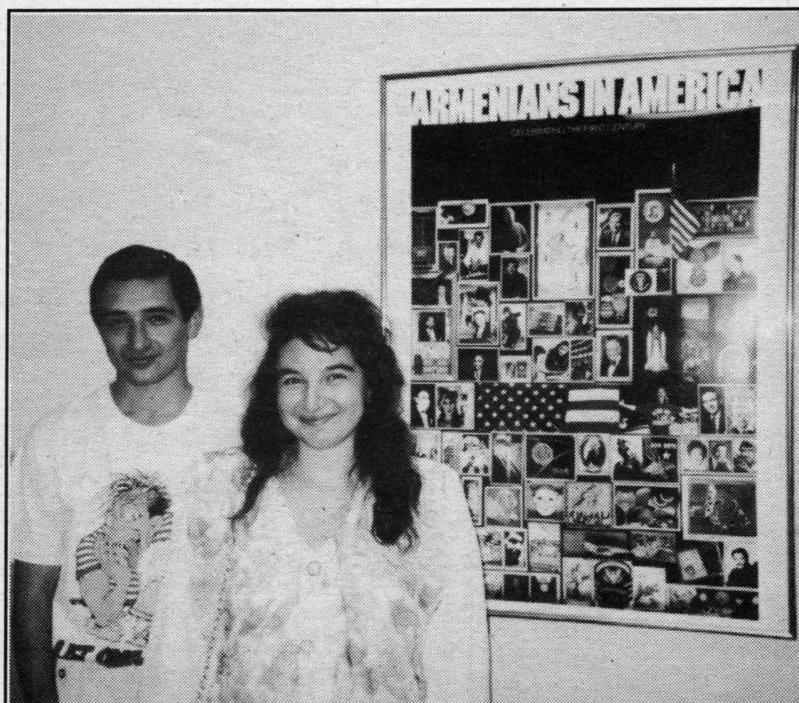


Photo By Barlow Der Mugrdchian
Vahagn Tonoyan and Mary Melikian in Armenian Studies Program office taking a break between classes.

in Armenia. In Armenia, they are constantly faced with the conditions of war and blockade. This affects the amount of materials the University can receive, and ultimately affects Vahagn and Mary. They told me of their experiences with the energy crisis, where the University was shut down for three months in the winter. They have also had to deal with having little and sometimes no electricity or heat. At Yerevan State University, Mary and Vahagn say that the classes are more difficult and taught in a much more formal manner

then the classes they are taking here. Also, they are not given as much free choice to pick their classes as we are given here at Fresno State.

Mary and Vahagn have both just joined the Armenian Students Organization and are looking forward to making some new close friends.

Although both Mary and Vahagn miss home, they are having a good time and gaining a great deal of experience and knowledge of American culture on this exchange program.

Teaching program builds bridges to homeland



Photo By George Bedirian, Special to Hye Sharzhoom
Armenian college students in Teach For Armenia program in the park.

Mark Malkasian

Hye Sharzhoom

When George Bedirian arrived in Yerevan in the winter of 1994 to take part in the Teach for Armenia program, the public relations specialist from eastern Washington found the Armenian capital to be a grim, dark city. A persistent grey overcast filled the sky and temperatures hovered around freezing. Without heat, hot water, and more than a couple hours of electricity each day, Yerevan's residents seemed shell-shocked and weary. At Yerevan State University, Bedirian's workplace for the spring semester, construction on the institution's prized new library facility had come to a halt.

Within a few weeks, however, Bedirian began to notice signs of

renewal. The brightening weather helped lighten the gloom, but there was also a stubborn sense of hope taking hold among the people. Bedirian watched Yerevan gradually come to life from the long months of hibernation. Construction workers even returned to the library, picking up where they had left off at the beginning of winter.

As the 1994-95 school year opens, hope is growing in Armenia that the republic of 3.7 million people has passed through the most difficult trials. Armenian officials are beginning to shift their attention away from short-term humanitarian relief and toward promoting the country's long-term recovery. The Teach for Armenia program — in which Bedirian and two other Americans participated during the 1993-94 academic year — is part

of that process.

Teach for Armenia

Teach for Armenia (TFA), sponsored and coordinated by the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, is grounded in the assumption that science, technology, and commerce must be the driving engines of Armenia's economic development. To help the country prosper, the program seeks to create person-to-person bridges between landlocked Armenia and the outside world. Most urgent is the need to integrate the republic into the global community of knowledge.

In cooperation with the Armenian Ministry of Higher Education and Science, the Ministry of Education and Yerevan State University, TFA places American educators and other professionals in the Armenian educational system. At the primary and secondary levels of education, the goal is to introduce American-style teaching methods and curricula into Armenia. In the republic's institutions of higher learning, TFA aims to expose students and scholars to Western research methods and techniques. In addition, the program's emphasis on improving English-language instruction offers Armenians broader access to the world-wide information revolution.

Bridges to Armenia

Bedirian, Zaroochi Der Mugrdchian, and Sosi Toomajanian, TFA's groundbreaking participants in

1993-94, encountered a society reeling from the Soviet Union's collapse and yet eager for contact with the West. Even by the standards of the former Soviet Union, Armenia's hardships have been epic. Blockaded by neighboring Azerbaijan and Turkey, industrial production has fallen six times below the levels of the 1980s. Average salaries range from \$2 to \$3 a month. And yet Armenia is a survivor. Ask Americans channeling U.S. assistance to the republic through the Peace Corps, Department of Agriculture, and other agencies and they will testify to the remarkable resilience and determination of the Armenian people. They will also affirm that those serving in Armenia come away with a deep attachment to the land and its inhabitants.

Bedirian, Der Mugrdchian, and Toomajanian each gained an insight into the Armenian character and acquired a distinct perspective on the workings of Armenia's educational system.

Bedirian, the coordinator of publications at Washington State University, served as an editor and consultant in the Office of International Relations at Yerevan State University. Der Mugrdchian, a kindergarten teacher in Fresno, California, with nineteen years of experience, taught English at Yerevan State University and a local kindergarten. Toomajanian, who is a doctoral candidate at Harvard University's school of edu-

cation, offered courses in psychology and child development, and assisted in teaching an American/English literature class, for secondary students in Yerevan.

Bedirian's talents and experience were well-matched with Yerevan State University's efforts to broaden its international outreach and restructure its graduation standards. Soon after arriving in Yerevan, Bedirian began working closely with Rafael Matevosian, vice rector of international relations, and his administrative assistant, Haroutioun Kazarian, to formulate a lengthy fund-raising proposal and revamp the university's English-language catalog. In addition, Bedirian helped develop a grant proposal to the United States Information Agency to facilitate university-level administrative reform.

Language barriers aside, Bedirian often found himself working to bridge the gulf between Western and Soviet mindsets. After seventy years of isolation from Western norms, Armenians were unfamiliar with the standards that Americans accept, Bedirian observed. In applying for grants from American institutions, for example, Bedirian had to take a firm stance to convince his Armenian colleagues that the rules set by funding organizations could be bent only so far.

"What I'm describing is a ward.



Angele Kouymjian, Charles Melkonian, Dean Peter Klassen, Baroness Caroline Cox, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Barlow DerMugrdechian, Zabelle Melkonian and Varoujan DerSimonian following lecture in Alice Peters Auditorium.

**ASP Breaks Enrollment Record
Once Again:
167 students in 8 courses**



Students from Armenian 148 course - Masterpieces of Armenian Literature - during Spring 1994 semester in front of David of Sassoon statue.



Armenian Studies Program Annual Fund 1993-1994



The Armenian Studies Program would like to thank the following generous donors to the 1993 Armenian Studies Program Annual Fund drive.

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Mr. Raffi Soghomonian
Mr. Michael Sohigian
Ms. Helen Takessian
Dr. Harold Takooshian
Mrs. Seranouch Tavookjian
Mr. Dan Terhanian
Mr. Daniel Terzian
Mr. Hrayr Terzian
Ms. Anna Tookoian
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Topoozian
Mr. Robbie John Topoozian
Ms. Joy Torigian
Mr. John David Tufenkjian
Mr. and Mrs. Haig Varoujan
Ms. Nevart Vartabedian
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Venglarcik
Mrs. Margaret Breed Williams
Ms. Debra A. Yakligian
Archie and Bettye Yeghissian
Mr. John Zerounian
Mr. Ramon Zorabedian

Speaker:

Dr. Robert W. Thomson
Calouste Gulbenkian Professor
of Armenian, Oxford University

Topic:

**“Armenian & Byzantium:
Literary and Cultural
Contacts”**

Wednesday,
November 16, 1994
at 7:30 pm

Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191
University Business Center
Free Admission
For more information call ASP:
(209) 278-2669

**Spring 1995 Armenian
Studies Program Courses**

Arm. St. 10- *Introduction to Armenian Studies*
(3 sections)
Arm. 108B- *Armenian History II*
Arm. 148- *Masterpieces of Armenian
Literature*
Arm. St. 121- *Armenian Painting*

Gifts and Books

The Armenian Studies Program and the Sahatdjian Library would like to thank the following individuals for the generous donations to the Armenian Studies Library Collection.

- **Florence Artenian** of Fresno has donated a small collection of Armenian maps.
- **Nazeli Bagdasarian** of Racine, Wisconsin has donated seven books on or by Ara Baliozian to the Henry Madden Library, CSUF in the memory of her parents Anna and Hovsep Bagdasarian. The titles include an English translation of Gostan Zarian's *The Island and a Man*, L. Terzian's appreciation of Baliozian entitled *Perseverance*, and Baliozian's own writings: *The Armenian Genocide and the West*, *The Greek Poetess*, *Intimate Talk*, *Armenian Wisdom*, and *That Promising Reality*. Ms. Bagdasarian once worked in the Madden Library.
- **Berge Bulbulian** of Fresno has donated a complete set of *AIM Magazine*, from its inception, to the Henry Madden Library and has donated a two year gift subscription for 1994-1995.
- **Barbara Koulakjian** of Alexandria Virginia donated items relating to the early history of Armenian films in America including a copy of the program for the legendary film *The Harem Master* of 1922 or 1923. Her father, the famous Armenian film director, actor and singer, Setrak Vartian, was among the cast as was her mother Ankin Sarafian and her aunt Armen Sarafian.
- **Carl Mahakian** of Palm Springs, California has once again made a generous and valuable donation of a large collection of Armenian pamphlets, clippings and miscellaneous documents pertaining to Armenian life. The material also included Mr. Mahakian's own card index of Armenian publications. One of the most ardent collectors of Armenian books, Mahakian spent most of his creative life in the movie industry and Hollywood and before that in

the U.S. Marines. The Armenian Studies Program thanks him and wishes him good health.

- **Baruyl Mouradian**, Director of the Center for Byzantine and Armenian Studies of the Armenian Academy of Sciences, donated the collected essays of Garegin Hovsepian (1867-1952) entitled *Materials and Studies for the History of Armenian Art*, vol. I (Erevan, 1983), 351 pages with 94 plates; vol. II (Erevan, 1988), 363 pages with 136 pls. The volumes bring together the penetrating and pioneering studies on Armenian art by the great scholar and former Catholicos of Great House of Cilicia.
- **Sharon Toroyan Esguerra** of Fresno has donated an interesting and rare book in Armenian, *Levon Esajanian, Daniel Varoujan, His Life and His Works*, Constantinople, 1919, 93 pages.

UPDATE

By Hye Sharzhoom Staff

Dr. Arnold Gazarian was re-elected to a second term as Chairman of the Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies Advisory Board at a meeting held on Monday, September 19, 1994. The Advisory Board holds monthly meetings on the university campus to discuss questions related to the Armenian Studies Program and the Kalfayan Center.

The Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies Advisory Board was founded in 1989 and serves a three-fold purpose:

1) To consult and coordinate with the Director of the Center for Armenian Studies and the Coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program with respect to the improvement and development of the Center and the Program,

2) To promote and enhance the image of the Center for Armenian Studies and the Armenian Studies Program which it houses, and

3) To provide a liaison between the community and the Center and its Armenian Studies Program.

Mrs. Arlene Srabian was elected as Vice-Chairman and Mr. Berge Bulbulian was chosen as Secretary/Treasurer.

Members of the Board, appointed by CSU Fresno President Dr. John Welty, for terms of three years are: Mrs. Marian Bagdasarian, Mr. Larry Balakian, Mr. Bryan Bedrosian, Mr. Richard Darmanian, Dr. Harry Harris, Mr. Sarkis

Kalfayan, Dr. Arthur Margosian, Mrs. Penny Mirigian-Emerzian, Mr. Charles Mugerdechian, Mr. Archie Nahigian, Mrs. Alice Peters, and Mr. Victor Sahatdjian.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies and Director of the Center for Armenian Studies reported on the activities of the Armenian Studies Program.

Enrollment continues to increase in Armenian Studies courses and in the current Fall semester has reached another all-time high with 167 students in 7 different Armenian Studies courses.

The Ninth annual banquet of the Armenian Studies Program is being organized under the co-chairmanship of Arlene Srabian and Larry Balakian.

Professor Kouymjian also reported on the Fall Lecture Series of the Armenian Studies Program which will include the following guests: Armen Babakhanian of Yerevan (presenting the inaugural concert of the Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concert Series), Barlow Der Mugerdechian of the Armenian Studies Program (lecturing on Karabagh and Armenia), Lady Caroline Cox of the British

Parliament (speaking on humanitarian aid and human rights in Karabagh), and Lucina Agbabian-Hubbard of Los Angeles (on Armenian music).

Dr. Gurgen Melikian, Dean of the School of Oriental Studies of Yerevan State University, who was in Fresno on special business for the university, gave a report on the 75th anniversary celebration of Yerevan State University, which is to be held on October 6-12 of this year.

The Center for Armenian Studies Advisory Board is organizing a special reception for CSU Fresno President Dr. John Welty and for Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Alex Gonzalez on October 6, 1994, to be held at the home of Board Chairman Dr. Arnold Gazarian.

Barlow Der Mugerdechian of the Armenian Studies Program reported on the exchange program between CSU Fresno and Yerevan State University. In the continuation of a program which began two years ago, two students, Mary Melikian, an English major, and Vahagn Tonoyan, a computer major, are at CSU Fresno for the academic year 1994-1995.

Armenian Studies Scholarships/Grants for the 1994-1995 Academic Year

Thirty-two students were awarded Armenian Studies scholarships and grants for the 1994-1995 academic year at California State University, Fresno. The recipients are all students of CSUF and are required to enroll in Armenian Studies courses as part of their awards. The Armenian Studies Program Scholarship Committee, headed by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenia Studies at CSUF, announced the awards. Scholarship and grant recipients will be honored at the 9th Annual Banquet of the Armenian Studies Program.

Fund Source: Yervant, Rose, and Hovannes Levonian Educational Grant

Eliz Adjinian, Fresno, Business Adm., Sr.; **Lisa Derian**, Fresno, Industrial Arts, Sr.; **Nina Momjian**, Northridge, CA, Speech Communications & Journalism, Sr.; **Garo Nakashian**, Fresno, Graphic Design, Freshman; **Alisa D. Penir**, Clovis, Music & Teaching Vocal, Sophomore; **Aram Nigol Sarkissian**, St. Helena, CA, Business, Jr.; **Vahagn Tonoyan**, Yerevan, Armenia, Computer Science, Jr.; **Mary Melikian**, Yerevan, Armenia, English, Sr.; **Harout H. Zekian**, Fresno, Legal Envir. of Business, Sr.

Fund Source: Charles K. Pategian and Pansy Pategian Zlokovich Scholarships

Jason Ahronian, Fresno, Ag. Business, Freshman.; **Maria Amirkhanian**, Yerevan, Armenia, Music, Freshman; **Jacqueline Arikian**, Fresno, Psychology, Freshman; **Tina Attashian**, Fresno, Mathematics, Sophomore.; **Jeff Avedesian**, Kingsburg, Accountancy, Freshman; **David L. Emerzian**, Fresno, Accounting, Freshman.; **Christopher Goobian**, Fresno, Business, Jr.; **Susie Kalinian**, Fresno, Biology & Pre-Med., Sr.; **Gina Y. Kandarian**, Fowler, Political Science, Sr.; **Karen R. Karabian**, Fresno, Business Adm., Freshman; **Taline Kilaghbian**, Glendale, CA, Chemistry, Sr.; **Joseph Krajekian**, Beirut, Lebanon, Biology, Jr.; **Suzanne M. Manoogian**, Sanger, Business, Jr.; **Denise L. McCroskey**, Fowler, Psychology, Sophomore.; **Julie Momjian**, Fresno, Philosophy & Pre-law, Sr.; **Melissa M. Ouzounian**, Fresno, Communicative Disorders Jr.; **Jennifer L. Peters**, Fresno, Business, Sophomore; **Stephanie Peters**, Fowler, Liberal Studies, Jr.; **Marine Pogolian**, Fresno, Bus. Relief Insur. Mgt. Jr.; **Abel Sekepyan**, Fresno, Biology, Fr.; **Lena Arpie Vartanian**, Fresno, Undeclared, Freshman.

Fund Source: Nerces and Ruth Azadian Memorial Scholarship

Ara R. Jabaghourian, Fresno, Philosophy & Economics, Jr.; **Lara Simonian**, Fresno, English, Jr.



Armen Babakhanian performed before a standing room only audience at the inaugural concert of the Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concerts series on September 22 at the Wahlberg Concert Hall on the CSUF campus. Babakhanian's concert was co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and

Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Organization of Fresno. A native of Yerevan, Babakhanian has been a recent prize winner in several of the world's prestigious international piano competitions, including the Van Cliburn, the Dublin, the Gina Bachauer, and the William Kappell. Babakhanian studied at the

Tchaikovsky Special Music School and Yerevan Conservatory of Music, where he studied with Anahit Bogdanian for a decade. Babakhanian was featured in the award winning documentary of the Ninth Van Cliburn Competition, *A Life in Music*, which aired nationwide on PBS stations.

TEACH, from p. 3

ference in perception and orientation," Bedirian said. "Armenians simply had attitudes and ways of doing things that were different from those of Americans."

Der Mugrdechian also helped to break down the barriers of the past. In teaching English at Yerevan State University, Der Mugrdechian worked with students who were accustomed to classroom dictation drills and textbooks that depicted life in Britain during the 1940s.

Along with incorporating recent articles from newspapers and magazines into her curriculum, Der Mugrdechian involved her students in real-world role play settings and introduced new techniques to broaden their vocabulary.

"They were very pleased that they could talk freely without being constantly corrected," Der Mugrdechian explained, "and that they could write in their journals without having their books returned all marked up."

Toomajian's contributions were more at a personal level. Teaching a psychology class to teenagers, Toomajian became a sounding board for the feelings and aspirations of her students. "I think they appreciated feeling free to question, to express their feelings, and hearing my fresh point of view as an American," Toomajian said.

Hope for the future

The people also implanted, almost inexplicably, a sense of hope among the TFA participants. Der Mugrdechian sees a light at the end of the tunnel for Armenia, even if it is not yet apparent to the people of the republic. In the meantime, those beyond Armenia's borders have a role to play in guiding the country forward.

"When Armenians see people from abroad working there for \$2 a month, it's very uplifting for their morale. They see that there are people who care about them. Anyone who comes is very, very important," emphasized Der Mugrdechian.

"I saw many things," Bedirian later reflected, "that led me to believe that whatever is decent and worthy in Armenia will be preserved — an incorrigible sense of humor and generosity among the people for one — and for another a cultural heritage that refuses to die."

For more information

Those interested in participating in the TFA program should contact Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program, California State University, Fresno, Fresno, California, 93740-0004. Applications for the Fall 1995 and Spring 1996 semesters are now being accepted. Call 209-278-2669 for an information packet.

COX, from p. 1

every other month, was especially destructive. Beginning in January of 1992, the Azeris announced that GRAD missiles would be used against the civilian population. Up to 400 missiles a day rained upon Stepanakert, with each missile capable of destroying an apartment building.

Supplies had been totally cut off to the city. Armenians waited up to five hours a day in the freezing cold to get two buckets of water. Though living in dark and cold cellars they kept up their spirits by performing plays.

Where was the United Nations and the world community when 40% of Artsakh was overrun? Where was the condemnation of Azeri aggression? Asked the defiant speaker who admits that three and half years ago she would not have known where to find Karabagh.

Lady Cox outlined five major themes concerning her humanitarian and human rights work:

- 1) Azerbaijan as the primary aggressor in the war,
- 2) challenges involved in providing humanitarian aid to Karabagh,
- 3) brief chronology of events in the area,
- 4) the way ahead,
- 5) tribute to the people of Karabagh.

Her frequent visits to Karabagh have moved her and Christian Solidarity International from complete impartiality to advocacy on the part of the Armenians of Karabagh.

The evidence points to an asymmetry of aggression in the conflict. There is incontrovertible

proof that Azerbaijan is a primary aggressor for five reasons.

a) The brutal deportation efforts attempting to force out Armenians out of Karabagh.

b) An asymmetry of violence of human rights. Azerbaijan has blockaded both Armenia and Karabagh, assisted by Turkey. Armenia and Karabagh are for the most part cut off from the rest of the world.

c) The Azeris were the first to use weapons of indiscriminate terror against a civilian population.

d) Only Azerbaijan has utilized aerial bombing, with cluster bombs that cause multiple injuries to civilians.

e) Only Azeris uses ground to air missiles designed to detonate at a height calculated to cause maximum damage, and to which children and civilians are especially vulnerable.

These five points caused Christian Solidarity International (CSI) to consider Armenians as primary victims. CSI tries to assist and to be a voice for people who are victims of aggression.

Many of the major aid organizations will not and cannot for political reasons enter Karabagh due to the fact the region is not recognized as an independent country and the government of Azerbaijan refuses to allow assistance to reach Karabagh. The civilians of Karabagh have suffered terribly through bombing.

Faced with the challenge of not being able to turn to an established organization Lady Cox contacted CSI to help. Within two weeks of her initial visit to Karabagh she found and acquired many tons

Karabagh's legacy explored in new book



By Barlow Der Mugrdechian

A HISTORY OF QARABAGH: An Annotated Translation of Mirza Jamal Javanshir Qarabaghi's *Tarikh-e Qarabagh* by George A. Bournoutian. Costa Mesa, CA: Mazda Publishers, 1994. 157 pp. 5 maps.

This handsomely bound and produced book sheds new light on an issue, the Armenian-Azerbaijani dispute over the historical claim to Karabagh, which is much in the news.

Since the dissolution of the former Soviet Union in 1991 and even earlier, beginning in 1988, the question as to the eventual political fate of Karabagh has turned into a full scale war of aggression waged by Azerbaijan against the Armenians of Karabagh. Six years of warfare, including the targeting of civilian populations by aircraft have not been able to suppress the spirit of the Armenians.

The academic debate, while waged with weapons different than guns and planes, has become increasingly contentious in the past few years. The Azerbaijani government attempt to distort the history of the Karabagh region has reached new heights under the leadership of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences. That is why the work by George Bournoutian is so valuable, not only to scholars but also to the general public.

George A. Bournoutian, a scholar and teacher with a firm grasp of Armenian, Persian,

Russian, and Turkish, has previously focused his attention on Armenia under Persian rule, especially in the eighteenth to nineteenth centuries (cf. *The Khanate of Erevan under Qajar Rule, 1795-1828*).

The volume under review examines a primary source for the history of Karabagh during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Most of the primary sources on the history of Karabagh for the period are in Persian. The earliest work is one by Mirza Jamal Javanshir Qarabaghi, which Bournoutian has translated, and added material to, to make the current volume.

Mirza Jamal (1774-1853) was the scion of the well-known Javanshir family, hereditary rulers in an area which encompasses today's Karabagh. During his lifetime, Mirza Jamal was an eye-witness to most of the major political changes which occurred in the region of Karabagh. He spent most of his life in official service, as a provincial secretary whereby he had access to most of the correspondence between neighboring empires.

Mirza Jamal's history is undated, but internal evidence suggests it was written between 1840-1844. Bournoutian uses the 1877/1878 version of the manuscript, (there are perhaps three variant manuscript versions), and details the authenticity of the manuscript.

In his introduction, Bournoutian carefully details the three other Persian primary sources for the period in question, and discusses their relationship and usefulness compared with Mirza Jamal's history. Chronicles of the history of the shahs of Iran from the seventeenth to the nineteenth cen-

turies are also adequately discussed to give a fuller picture of the available resources for study. Arab and Persian geographers are also cited as sources for the study of the region.

Bournoutian also outlines the Armenian presence in Karabagh from the second century to the present, in a clear and convincing manner.

The body of the text, divided into seven chapters, is Mirza Jamal's account of the history of the region. It is followed by a bibliography, index, and then a facsimile copy of the text (in Persian) used in the translation.

The five maps at the beginning of the text are extremely useful in situating and familiarizing the reader to the general area. Specific area maps of Karabagh in the late eighteenth century are particularly useful.

In the continuing academic debate, this volume is a welcome objective addition. Since it comes from an eyewitness source, the history speaks for itself in demonstrating the ancient Armenian presence on the land. Bournoutian's careful attention to detail in the introduction adds necessary explanatory material.

For the general reader, the work answers many questions about the history of Karabagh. For specialists, the book provides meaningful material. For all those who care to enter the waters muddled by official Azerbaijani distortion and falsification, this work is essential reading.

Հայկական Էջ

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ՀԱՄԱՐ

Գրեց Վահագն Տոնոյան

Արմեն Բաբախանյանի անունը շատ-շատերիմ է հայտնի Հայաստանում, սակայն մշակութային հարուստ ավանդույթներ ունեցող ֆրեզկոյա-հայերին բախտ չէր վիճակվել մոտիկից ճանաչելու հայ տաղանդաշատ դաշնակահարին։

Այդ անջրպետը վերացնելու նպատակով Ֆրեզկոյի Կալիֆորնիայի պետական համալսարանի Հայկական Ուսումնական Ծրագիրը եւ Համագործակցության կրթական-մշակութային միության Ֆրեզկոյի մասնաճյուղը սեպտեմբերի 22-ին կազմակերպեցին երիտասարդ կոմպոզիտորի համերգը համալսարանի մենախմբիկների դահլիճում։

Համերգն անցավ մեծ հաջողությամբ։ Լեւի-լեցուն

դահլիճը մեծ հետաքրքրությամբ էր հետեւում Բախի, Պրոկոֆեի, Օռլանդի, Բաբախանյանի ստեղծագործությունները վարպետորեն կատարող դաշնակահարին։ Այդ օրը ֆրեզկոյահայերը մեծ հպարտություն ապրեցին։ Չէ որ իրենց հայրենակիցը իր փայլուն ելույթով ապշեցրեց բոլորին։ Արմեն Բաբախանյանը մեկ անգամ եւս ապացուցեց, որ հայկական արվեստը մի նոր վերածնունդ է ապրում, եւ որ այն դեռ իր խոսքը պիտի ասի աշխարհի արվեստասեր հասարակայնությանը։

Համերգից հետո կազմակերպվել էր հյուրասիրություն, որն էլ եզրափակեց այս հիմնադրամիջոցառումը։

Գրեց Մերի Մելիքյան

Ինձ համար շատ անսպասելի էր, երբ հայտնեցին, որ հողված պետք է ներկայացնեմ "Հայ Ծարժում" թերթին։ Ես, իհարկե, սկսեցի մտքերս ի մի բերել։ Ոչ մի կերպ չէի կողմնադրվում, թե ինչի վրա հիմնված կլինի նյութս։ Քանի որ Երեւանի պետական համալսարանի ուսանողուհի եմ, կմախքնորեի հակիրճ տեղեկություն տալ պետական համալսարանի ուսման համակարգի, ինչպես նաեւ մեթոդների վերաբերյալ։

Համալսարանը ունի 18 ֆակուլտետ, որտեղ տարեցտարի ավելանում է ուսանողության թիվը։ Օրջանավարտները լիովին մասնագիտացած գտնում են իրենց կյանքի ուղին։ Այս 18 ֆակուլտետների մեջ ընդգրկված է նախապատրաստական ֆակուլտետ, որը նախատեսված է արտասահմանյան քաղաքացիների համար։ Պետական համալսարանի ուսման համակարգը հիմնված է համապարփակ սկզբունքների վրա։ Առարկաները ընտրովի չեն, անցնում են այն, ինչ պահանջվում է։ Բոլոր ֆակուլտետներում անխտիր անցնում են անգլերեն լեզուն, որը եթե ոչ երկրորդ, ապա երրորդ լեզուն է՝ հայերենից եւ ռուսերենից հետո։ Ուսման համակարգը հինգ տարի է, կամ 10 կիսամյակ։ Նախալերքին տարվա ուսանողներին 1 ամսով ուղարկում են դպրոցներ՝ իրենց մասնագիտությամբ զբաղվելու։

Ես ինքս ռոմանագերմանական ֆակուլտետի անգլերեն բաժանմունքի վերջին տարվա ուսանողուհի եմ։ Դեռ 5 ամիս առաջ ես էլ փորձառություն ձեռք բերեցի, 3 շաբաթ դպրոցում ուսուցանելուց (թեեւ չեմ պատրաստվում ուսուցչուհի դառնալ)։ Բացի անգլերեն բաժանմունքից, կա նաեւ գերմաներեն եւ ֆրանսերեն բաժանմունք։ 5 տարվա ընթացքում այս ֆակուլտետների ուսանող-ուսանողուհիները ստանում են համապատասխան լրացուցիչ գիտելիքներ։ Լրացուցիչ առարկաներ անցնելու հնարավորությունը պակասում է, բայց արագացված դասընթացներ կան, որոնք համալսարանի ուսման համակարգից դուրս են մնում։ Ուստի բոլորը մեծ կարեւորություն են տալիս սահմանափակ քանակությամբ անցնող առարկաներին, որոնցից շատերը այնքան էլ նվաճելի հույսեր չեն տալիս։ Բայց ինչ խոսք որ բոլորն էլ ընդունակ են դրանց մեջ խորանալու հարցում։ Մեր ֆակուլտետի ուսանող-ուսանողուհիները մասնագիտանում են լեզուների

հիման վրա։ Իմ երկրորդ օտար լեզուն գերմաներենն է, որը ցանկություն չունեի ուսումնասիրելու։ Բացի լեզուներից, ուսումնասիրում ենք նաեւ բարդ առարկաներ, որոնք ոչ միշտ, բայց հաճախ խճողում են առաջացնում - փիլիսոփայություն, հոգեբանություն, մանկավարժություն, տնտեսագիտություն, գեղագիտություն, քաղաքագիտություն, տրամաբանություն։ Կան նաեւ լեզվի եւ գրականությանը վերաբերող առարկաներ, որոնք ուսումնասիրում ենք օտար լեզվով - տեսական քերականություն, արտասահմանյան գրականություն, տեխնիկական թարգմանություն, տեսական հնչյունաբանություն, անգլերեն լեզվի պատմություն, բառագիտություն, ռոմանագերմանական բանասիրության ներածություն, տնային ընթերցանություն (ժամանակակից գրականություն)։ Այս առարկաների կողքին պետք է լրացնել ռուսերենը, ռուս գրականությունը, ինչպես նաեւ լատիներենը, որը միայն երկու կիսամյակի համար է նախատեսված։ Յուրաքանչյուր կիսամյակ ավարտվում է բանավոր քննություններով։

Ինչպես վերը նշվեց, անգլերեն բաժանմունքի ուսանողուհի եմ։ Ընդգրկված եմ թարգմանական խմբի մեջ, որը երկու տարի է ինչ բացվել է։ Կատարում ենք պոեզիայի եւ արձակի գրավոր թարգմանություններ։ Ինչպես գիտեք Հայաստանը ծանր ժամանակներ է ապրում։ Եվ դա շատ մեծ ազդեցություն ունեցավ ուսման համակարգի վրա։ Եթե մինչեւ այդ քիչ թվով հավաքություններ էին կազմակերպվում, ապա հիմա դա համարյա անհնարին է դարձել։ Եթե 25 օր արձակուրդ էինք ունենում Երեւանի տոների առթիվ, ապա վառելիք եւ էլեկտրականություն չլինելու պատճառով դասերը հետաձգվում են մինչեւ 3 ամսով։ Կառավարությունը հնարավորություն չի ընձեռում ուսանողների համար, որոնք 3 ամսից հետո չեն կարողանում վերադառնալ իրենց ուսման ծրագրերին։ Ձմռանը հնարավոր չէ մտնել համալսարանի շենքերից գոնե մեկը, քանի որ մեկ տակ ապակիներ են, որոնց մի մասը կտրված է եւ անհնար է դառնում վերաբերվել 2 ժամ նստել։

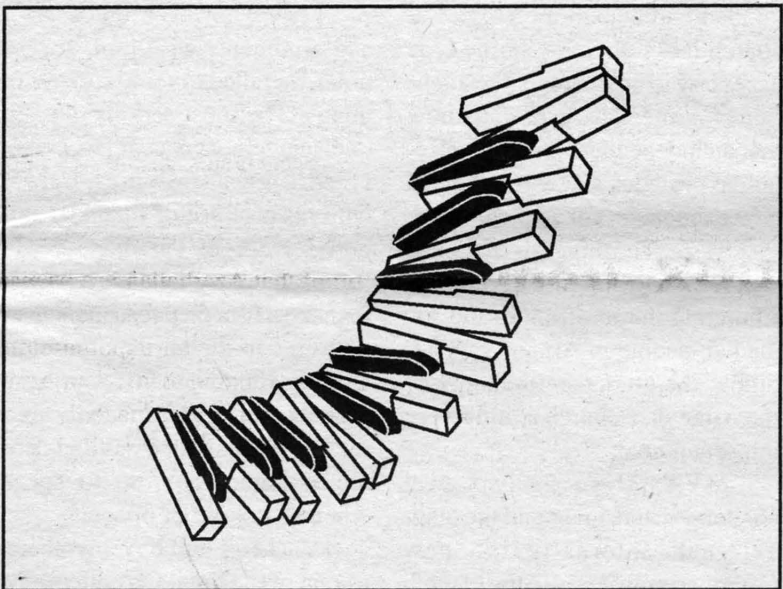
Բայց կարգավորվում է վիճակը, քանի որ լուր ստացանք Հայաստանի ատոմակայանը բացելու վերաբերյալ, թեեւ միայն մեկ բլոկն է աշխատելու։ Բայց

դա, ասում են, պետք է տրվի միայն ծանր արդյունաբերությանը։ Կարծում եմ մեզ էլ ինչ որ մաս կհատկացվի, քանի որ ուսումն էլ ազգը վերապրելու կարելու միջոցներից մեկն է։ Առանց ուսման ազգը երբեք չի կարող զարգացում ապրի։ Ահա թե ինչու, դեռ հին ժամանակներից Հայաստանում բացվեցին վարժարաններ եւ համալսարաններ, որտեղ իրենց արժանի ուսումն են ստացել հանրահայտ գրողները, գիտնականները, փիլիսոփաները եւ այլն։

Կցանկանալի մի փոքր էլ գրել իմ այստեղ ժամանելու մասին։ Դեռ երկու տարի առաջ Բոստոնում եղա։ Այստեղ համակարգիչային ամառային կուրսեր ընտրեցի։ Մեկ եւ կես ամիս ուսանեցի Բենթլի քոլեջում, որը դարձավ իմ ամենահարազատ տեղը։ Վկա եղա քոլեջի անցուդարձին, ուսյալների եւ պրոֆեսորների արտակարգ վերաբերմունքին։ Չմոռանամ նշել, որ Բենթլի քոլեջում հայկական կենտրոն կար՝ Գրեմո Ադամյան անունով։ Վերադարձա Հայաստան եւ ցանկություններս ավելի բռնկվեցին։ Զգտում էի ուսումնա շարունակել Ամերիկայի Միացյալ Նահանգներում։ Եւ ահա Ֆրեզկոյի պետական համալսարանի Հայկական Ուսումնական Ծրագրի դեկավարների՝ Տիգրան Գույումջյանի եւ Պարույր Տեր-Մկրտիչյանի շնորհիվ եւ Ֆրեզկո ժամանեցի՝ 1 տարով ուսումնա շարունակելու։ Հիմա կրճակվեմ համալսարանի հանրակացարանում։ Մասնագիտությունս անգլերեն է եւ գրականություն կուսումնասիրեմ։

Արդեն առիթ եմ ունեցել հանդիպել հայերին եւ՝ համալսարանի տարածքում եւ՝ եկեղեցում։ Ինչպես երեսուրդ է, այստեղ մեծացած հայերը պահպանում են դարերից եկող անգլային ավանդույթները եւ տոները, եւ դա մեզ շատ է ուրախացնում։ Ֆրեզկոյահայ համայնքը առաջին իսկ հայացքից տպավորիչ թվաց։ Բայց հայ երիտասարդության հետ ծանոթանալու դեռ շատ առիթ չեմ ունեցել։

Հողվածս ավարտելուց առաջ կուզենայի մեկ անգամ եւս շնորհակալություն հայտնել Հայկական Ուսումնական Ծրագրի ներկայացուցիչներին, որոնք ինձ այդ մեծ անակնկալ հնարավորությունը տվեցին ժամանել ԱՄՆ՝ ուսման նպատակով։ Կուզենայի հաջողություն մաղթել բոլորին եւ հատկապես հողվածս ընթերցողներին։



Նոր գաղափարներ

Գրեց Վահագն Տոնոյան

Մեկ տարի առաջ մտքովս անգամ չէր անցնում, որ ինձ երբեմիցե բախտ կվիճակվի ուսումնա շարունակել Միացյալ Նահանգներում։ Սակայն դոկտոր Տիգրան Գույումջյանի եւ պրոֆեսոր Պարույր Տեր-Մկրտիչյանի ջանքերով ինձ եզակի հնարավորություն ընձեռվեց ուսանելու Ֆրեզկոյի համալսարանում։ Դրա համար իմ խորին շնորհակալությունն եմ ուզում հայտնել նրանց։

Նախ, մի քանի խոսք իմ մասին։ Երեւանի պետական համալսարանի երրորդ կուրսի ուսանող եմ։ Սովորում եմ մաթեմատիկական կիբերնետիկայի եւ հետազոտումների ավտոմատացման ֆակուլտետում, որն ընդամենը չորս տարվա պատմություն ունի։ Այն հիմնվել է Հայաստանում մաթեմատիկայի դպրոցի լավագույն ներկայացուցիչներից մեկի՝ կիրառական մաթեմատիկայի ֆակուլտետի հիման վրա։ Մասնագիտացել եմ մաթեմատիկա եւ ծրագրավորում առարկաների մեջ։ Ուսանել եմ նաեւ անգլերեն եւ ռուսերեն լեզուներ, մշակույթի, հայ ժողովրդի պատմություն, փիլիսոփայություն եւ 20-րդ դարի քաղաքական պատմություն։

Ֆրեզկոյի համալսարանում մասնագիտանալու եմ ծրագրավորման մեջ։ Ընտրել եմ նաեւ մաթեմատիկայի եւ հայերենի երկու դասընթացներ։

Չնայած դեռ երկու ամիս էլ չկա ինչ գտնվում եմ Ֆրեզկոյում, սակայն արդեն զգում եմ հայ համայնքի ակնհայտ աջակցությունը։ Արդեն ձեռք եմ բերել շատ ծանոթներ ֆրեզկոյահայերի շրջանում, որոնք իրենց հոգատար վերաբերմունքով ուղղակի հաճելիորեն զարմացնում են ինձ։ Այս առումով նորից ուզում եմ շեշտել դոկտոր Տիգրան Գույումջյանին եւ պրոֆեսոր Պարույր Տեր-Մկրտիչյանին, որոնք օժանդակում են մեզ ամեն հարցում։

Սակայն այս ամենի հետ մեկտեղ գիտեմ նաեւ, որ ինձ վրա դրված է մի ծանր պարտականություն։ Բոսախաբ չանել նրանց վստահությունը։ Ուստի ուժերիս ներածին չափով կաշխատեմ բարձր պահել հայի անունը եւ կջանամ ստանալ հնարավորին չափ առավել գիտելիքներ, որպեսզի վերադառնալով հայրենիք՝ գիտելիքներս ներդնեմ Հայաստանում զարգացման լայն թափ ստացող ծրագրավորման ասպարեզում։

Կարդացե՛ք Հայ Ծարժում

VAZKEN I, from p.1

in 1987.

Hye Sharzhoom asked three prominent Armenian leaders in the San Joaquin Valley for their opinions on the impact of the death of Catholicos Vazken I.

Interviewed were: Very Rev. Fr. Sasoon Vartabed Zumrookhdian, Pastor of St. Paul Armenian Church (SVZ); Very Rev. Fr. Muron Aznikian, Dean of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church (MVA); and Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at CSU Fresno (DK).

***Hye Sharzhoom:* What was your first reaction to hearing of the death of His Holiness?**

SVZ: Although expecting the

news, I was filled with sadness. I always remember the days I spent in the seminary and the way he would interact with students.

MVA: The Armenian people in general and the Armenian Church in particular have lost a great spiritual leader. He was a wise leader whose experience and wisdom will be missed.

DK: I hoped that he had not suffered too much in those last days of pain.

***Hye Sharzhoom:* What do you feel were his greatest accomplishments as Catholicos?**

SVZ: I think I will remember him as person who did chiefly two things: renovate physically the Armenian Church, as in the case of

Etchmiadzin, which is primarily his work, and also his ability for spiritual renewal. He also initiated contacts with other churches even in the difficult communist period.

MVA: The Vehapar was elected Catholicos (1955) in difficult times during the communist period. He always found a way to keep the Armenian Church moving forward; by turning the seminary into a religious center and leading a period of spiritual revival. He will be remembered for his leadership in building and renovation.

DK: He provided a steady leadership in a most graceful way. He became a recognizable icon for the Armenian church. Vazken Vehapar also refurbished Etchmiadzin and made of it a splendid church center; he made it the Armenian Vatican.

***Hye Sharzhoom:* What impact will his death have on the Armenian Church?**

DK: Not much except a scramble for power. How wise he would have been to have appointed in his life time a Locum Tenens, the person he thought most capable of taking over. The transition would have been very smooth.

SVZ: The Armenians are at a sensitive time in the history of the Armenian people. It is a time when Armenian independence is solidifying. He was instrumental in the defense of the Armenian Church against sects. We all will miss him as person who enjoyed the respect of all Armenians of all backgrounds, of all religious and political persuasions.

MVA: Through the life he led, he was an example to the new generations. During his reign he had been able to focus the Armenian people on the Church, to crystallize the meaning of the Church for the people. He will be missed greatly.

***Hye Sharzhoom:* What impact will there be on the process Church unity, especially in the United States?**

MVA: The division is a consequence of problems which occurred many years ago. I see a period of indecisiveness but I am still optimistic. I hope that the next Catholicos will continue the unity process.

SVZ: I think the Vehapar was at the forefront and was the initiator of the unity process by his example. He wanted people to follow his example. I think that even though he did not witness unity in his lifetime, it was a major goal for him. Of course his loss leaves the Armenian Church without leadership at the head, which will delay unity.

DK: I cannot imagine his death would have any effect on church unity. It is clear that vested interests on both sides of the church unity question are not anxious to see a change in the status quo in utter defiance of the will of most Armenians. The election of Catholicos Karekin (Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia) as Catholicos of All Armenians in Etchmiadzin might help church unity, but that too is no longer certain.

***Hye Sharzhoom:* What will be the main challenge facing a newly elected Catholicos?**

DK: The same challenges that faced Vazken I. At some point the Armenian church must take responsibility for the Armenian faithful that still have some interest in Christianity. He must find ways to prepare more educated and less singled minded and stubborn clergy. The church lacks direction of the type necessary to compete for the attention of Armenians, especially now that an independent Armenian Republic provides a new focus and a new excitement for Armenians.

SVZ: The biggest challenge will be to bring the Armenian Church to the forefront of the Armenian people in Armenia. In addition, the attainment of unity of the Armenian Church is still a very important goal.

MVA: There are two great challenges, one inner and the other external. Internally the new Catholicos must revise the Church constitution to strengthen the Church, for inner strength. The other challenge is to spread the faith of Christ in Armenia, just as was done in the time of King Trdat and St. Gregory. There must be positive education of the people, so that people will freely choose the

Christian faith.

***Hye Sharzhoom:* What are some of your personal feelings and memories of the Catholicos and about the future?**

SVZ: I would always remember him as a caring person, with great intelligence and depth of knowledge. He was an objective person. The election of a new Catholicos will be historic because it will be held in a free and independent Armenia, free of influence of government and political parties. The Catholicos will be elected by a truly representative assembly representing the entire world.

MVA: When I was in Armenia and Karabagh the last time, I had the opportunity to meet with His Holiness. He greeted me warmly, with openness and fatherly feelings at Etchmiadzin. His message to me and others was to always keep the name of the Armenian Church high. He was a man who was humble in his authority. Catholicos Vazken I was a great Church leader.

DK: Vazken Vehapar was always dignified and hospitable. No matter how many people he had to see on any day or occasion he always made you feel that your visit was important to him.

I have, however, on occasion had arguments with him; several times we failed to see eye to eye on things. The most serious moment of disagreement was in 1987 when I tried to prevail on him to go ahead with his promise of financial support for Sergei Paradjanov, who had been invited by the Catholicos to make a film on the Armenian art treasures in the various museums of Holy Etchmiadzin. A truly regrettable incident, especially since the Catholicos had so willingly protected Paradjanov, so to speak, when he got out of prison.

Vazken I will be remembered as one of the great Catholicoses of the church. It is hard to imagine how the church is going to find another Catholicos of his caliber. Whoever is elected will be measured for years to come against Vazken I.

COX, from p.6

of medical supplies, transporting them from England to Karabagh.

Among Lady Cox's and CSI's projects in Karabagh is establishing a rehabilitation center for Armenian amputees.

One of the major questions she posed was how to get the international organizations to take humanitarian aid to those areas of the world where minorities, religious and political, are being discriminated against by sovereign countries.

Armenia, still suffering from a Turkish-Azeri blockade, faces an appalling situation. Armenia is unique in the nations of the world by the constellation of problems facing the country. Ten per cent of the population are refugees (300,000 people) and thirty per cent of the population (500,000 people) are still homeless from the earthquake of 1988. Most of the country is down to two hours of electricity a day for heat or light. Three potatoes for ten people for one day is the diet in "water tank village" where the homeless live at the edge of Yerevan.

Lady Cox has developed a profound admiration for the people of Karabagh through meeting individuals such as the senior nurse from Maragha, northeastern Karabagh, whom she met in April

1992. Azerbaijan had just overrun the village with tanks and armored personnel carriers. The heads of 45 villagers were sawed off in sight of the rest of the village. Every home was set on fire.

Lady Cox arrived twenty-four hours after the massacre and saw "the face of hell." She met the senior nurse who had earlier seen her son's head sawed off. They embraced and wept.

What message would the nurse like to give to the world? With incredible dignity, she rose above her personal anguish and with great composure said, "I want to say thank you. I have seen how the medicine you have brought has saved many lives and eased much suffering. I want to say thank you to those who have not forgotten us in these dark and difficult days."

"What a triumph of the human spirit," she commented.

Another incident was about a boy of twelve who was carrying water home in the winter. It took five hours to wait in line in sub-zero temperature under bombing for the water. He was going down the stairs to the basement of his home when he slipped on the ice and spilled the precious two buckets of water. Instead of being angry he made a joke and went out again to wait in line for another five hours.

Such is the courage of the children of Karabagh.

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