

HYE SHARZHOOM

Armenian Action

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December 1995

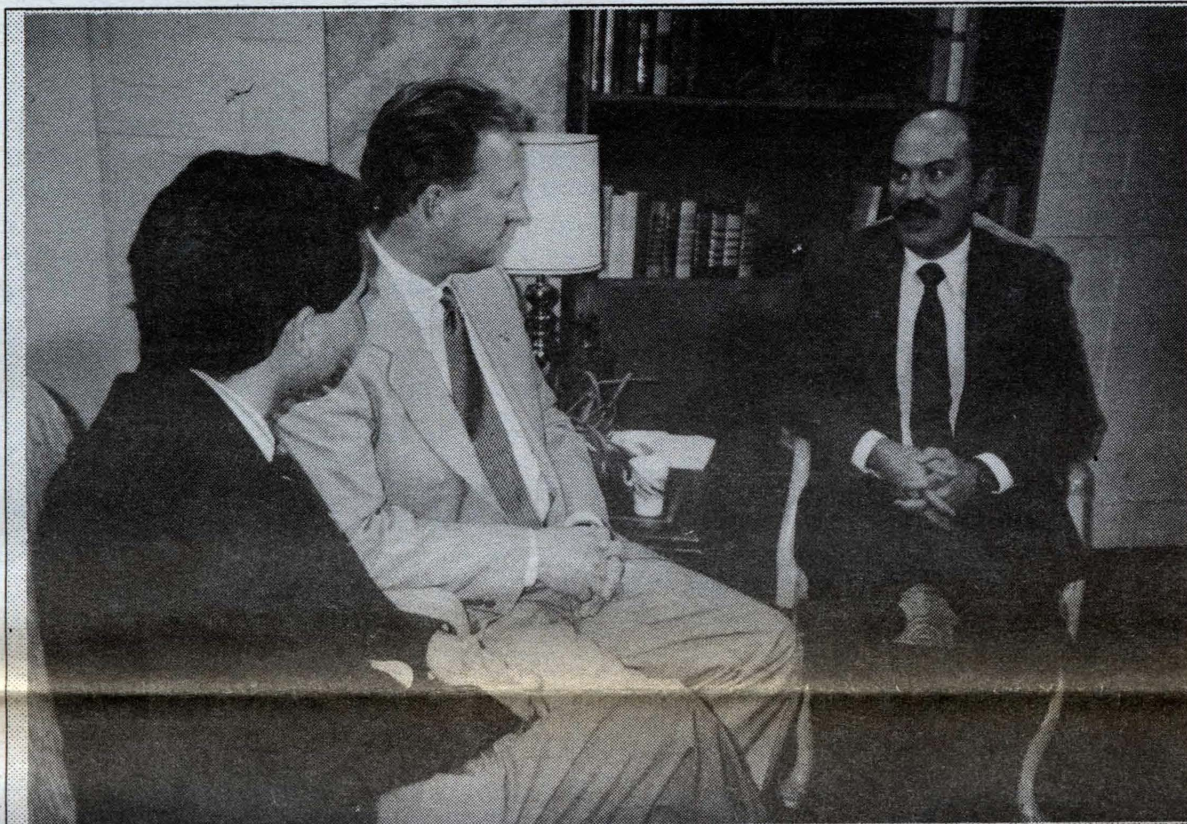
Supplement to The Collegian

hye talk, Armenian Studies Program on the Air

by Sean Clark

Moving towards greater community awareness and communication, Fresno State's Armenian Studies Program goes on the air. Premiering in December and running indefinitely *hye talk* brings local, national, and international guests to Fresno to explore issues affecting Armenians in the central valley and abroad. The show, hosted by Barlow Der Mugrdechian, seeks to discuss topics that will be of interest to both Armenians and non-Armenians. "This is to get people involved and have closer contact with the community," explains Der Mugrdechian.

hye talk began out of discussions between Der Mugrdechian and the Fresno Armenian Radio Hour host, Greg Kohayan. Produced at Fresno State's Speech Arts Television Studio in conjunction with the Academic Innovation Center Video Unit, *hye talk* will be the Armenian Studies Program's first talk show. Der Mugrdechian worked two years ago on the pilot of *Horizon* with Paul Chaderjian,



Barlow Der Mugrdechian (far right) interviews Congressman George Radanovich (center) and Steven Samuelian (far left) on the set of the Armenian Studies Program's new television community talk show, *hye talk*.

now technical advisor of this program. Working within a talk show format, the tempo and feel of each show will be allowed to evolve over the course of it's run. So far

three shows have been taped for broadcast and more are planned. "Each show is going to be developed around the guest," says Der Mugrdechian, "because each guest

is going to represent something different to the community." The first three shows were directed by

See *hye talk*, Page 8

hye talk

These are the dates and times for broadcast on Continental Cablevision Channel 4.

Premieres:

Thursday,
December 7, 8:30 p.m.
Friday,
December 8, 6:00 p.m.

Guest:

Dr. Harold H. Haak
President Emeritus,
Fresno State
Week 2

Thurs, Dec. 14, 8:30
Fri, Dec. 15, 6:00

Guest:

Congressman
George Radanovich
Republican 19th Dist.
Week 3

Thurs, Dec. 21, 8:30
Fri, Dec. 22, 6:00

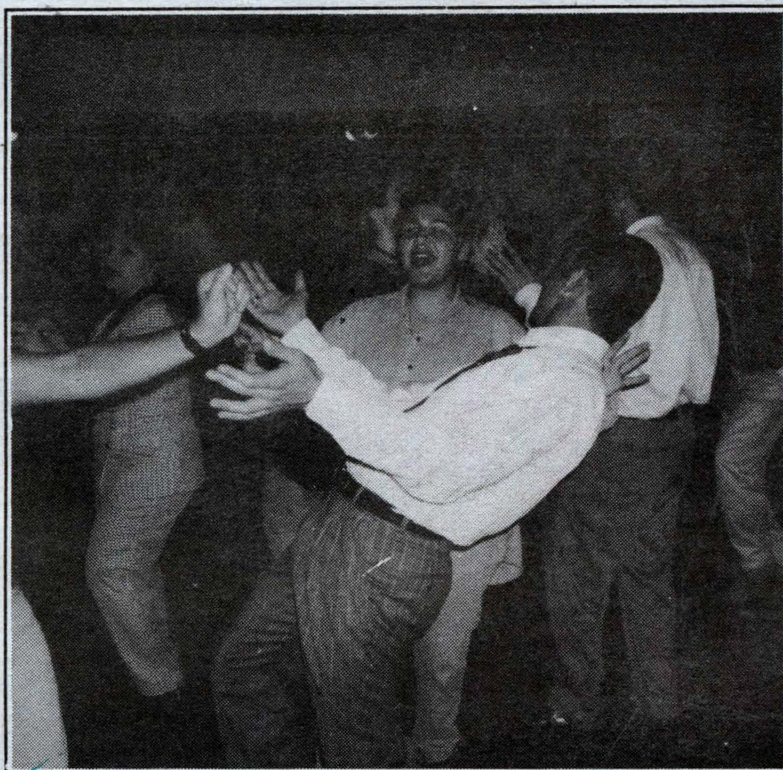
Guests:

Mr. Mark Arax and
Mr. Bill Eryisian
on *Hye Sharzhoom*

ASO '95, Dances the Night Away at Evening Formal

By Tina Attashian

The evening dance began at eight o'clock with members of ASO greeting people at the door. There was a calm and relaxed atmosphere from the beginning, people munched on the mezza and mingled with one another. Then at nine o'clock our DJ, RozieK, began the music with a set of Armenian songs. Soon after, everyone who was previously sitting down was now up on their feet dancing. As the evening progressed more people entered the restaurant making the dance floor less spacious. Daniel Semerdzhyan commented, "It was good to see students from high schools, Fresno City College, Fresno State, and even people from out of town - who travelled especially for the dance - come and have a great time. They all were able to see a glimpse of what ASO is like." Karen Karabian added, "We welcome anyone who is interested in our organization and wants to come to the events we provide. We are ready to meet new people and encourage anyone who wants



Party goes dance, dance, dance at ASO's annual formal

to join us next semester."

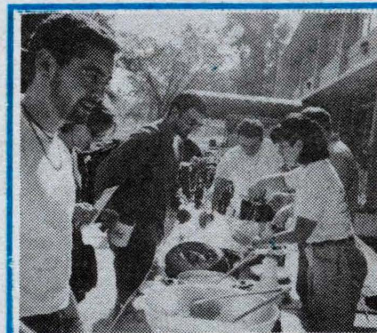
The music was a combination of all kinds of international music; Armenian, Arabic, Greek, Spanish and American music. However, it didn't seem to matter which kind of

music was being played since everyone got into the rhythm of things and were enjoying every second of it. The sounds of people's laughter and singing entangled with the music created an intense mood for

being free spirited, and those who entered the restaurant were captured by the mood and joined in with all the fun. Talking to Aznive Tchadadian she said, "After all the hard work we put into planning this dance, I let my hair down and enjoyed every second of the evening. I felt as if everyone had only one thought, and that was to have fun! All the planning was definitely worth it." Greg Tchadarian remarked, "One thing that I really liked about the dance was that there was a great variety of different people and everyone, even those who weren't Armenian, were enjoying themselves and getting into the music and dancing."

The evening was composed of meeting new people, enjoying the music, dancing all night long, and creating new memories with friends. Although the dance lasted until early hours of the morning, the time seemed to fly. The dance came to end with president Raffy Khorozian thanking RosieK for her music, and to the people who came and joined ASO in the evening's events.

People left the dance by complementing and thanking ASO for a wonderful evening. Khatchig Jingirian said "I want to thank all of you for all your hard work, your dance has been one of the best youth dances I have ever been to." ASO is happy about the results of the evening since we not only had fun, but also provided others a chance to get to know us and provide them with an evening of pure enjoyment.



Inside...

ASO Fall Recap...

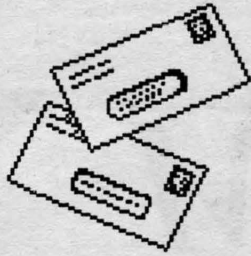
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Letters to the Editor



A special request from the director of the Armenian Specialistic School "Mesrop Mashtots"

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

We, the members of the Polish-Armenian community and the above school's teachers take the liberty to ask you for a financial support aiming to continue the activity of the school.

As you know, the situation in Armenia is critical and especially of our children - our future. Most of them - on their way of survival - are emigrants in Poland.

Our School aims to assure them learning in their native Armenian language - successor of a very old ancient culture.

The competent Polish institutions have given me their permission to open the School, but they are not able to give any special building or any financial support, being themselves in a difficult financial situation.

This is already the third month of the School's activity with 120 pupils, mainly the orphans from the zone of disastrous earthquake and refugees from our conflict zone: Nagorno Karabakh.

I, as Director of the School, appeal to you - a potential sponsor, to assure us some financial support to the following address:

Ormianska Szkola Srednia im.

Mesrop' a Mashtoc' a

Armenian High School

"Mesrop Mashtots"

in Liceum Nr 39

in No. 39 High School
ol. Lindego 2001-952
WARSZAWA, POLAND

Our telephone: 34-20-61 from 15.00 to 19.00 every day, excluding Saturdays. On Sundays from 10.00 to 17.00.

School's director's Telephone: 31-74-04, after 19.00.

Our bank account: 501044 - 6707035 in the Bank: Polska Kasa Opieki S.A. Oddzial Warszawa. Its address: Pl. Bakowy 2, 00-950 Warszawa, Poland. Fax: 26 83 39, Tlx 817818, 812421. Tel. 637 10 61 Mrs. W i e n c z y s l a w a K O L C Z Y N S K A - N E D Z A R E K is entrusted by the School within Financial matters.

Hoping to meet your sympathetic consideration of our problem - remaining in expectation for your answer.

Sincerely,
Marine Restevanian, M. Sc.

Letter to the Editor:

After reading the October issue of Hye Sharzhoom I think for the most part it is an impressive piece of work. I have only one negative comment and a few suggestions to improve what is already good about it.

The most obvious problem that I saw was with the "Armenian Assembly Summer Internships" article. The article seemed to be well written, but each time I reached the bottom of the column it was cut off.

This was frustrating to try and read, but I got the basic picture. Had I been able to read the whole article, which seemed interesting, I would have enjoyed it a lot more. It seemed to be a printing error because the whole bottom line was missing. It was a mistake I'm sure will be corrected in subsequent issues.

My favorite articles were on the Armenian cooking class, which I had thought about signing up for, and the article on the Armenian exchange students. Both of these were very interesting because the highlighted Armenian culture. I find that aspect interesting, because living in America we rarely experience the real depth of another culture.

In my opinion America itself doesn't exactly have a "culture", at least not one that stands out like other countries. The newspaper should do a more detailed story what life was like in Armenia for the exchange students. Possibly a more in depth "Day in the Life" style, so American students can compare our daily life to theirs.

This would be more relevant to us and make Armenian culture come to life for those of us who haven't been there for ourselves.

Laurie Young
Fresno State

Dear Editor:

It was so nice to receive your newspaper "Hye Sharzhoom" the other day. I am impressed by your interest in Armenian Studies, their culture, language, land, and history. I am sending you a copy of my autobiography, "My Story" to add to your list of books for research (gratis). My hope is that you will like it enough to write a resume of it in "Hye Sharzhoom", and perhaps recommend it as a gift to young Armenians for Christmas or Birthdays.

It is the story of a five year old boy from Mazera as he remembers the circumstances of the death march of 1915 so vividly, written at the age of eighty-five. The story is written in simple, easily understood language it is one of those stories that could not be told until now, showing the great sacrifices an Armenian Mother did go through, to save two of their five children from Genocide.

Some non Armenians that read "My Story" were truly amazed and wanted to know more of Armenian history and culture of your group.

Very truly yours,
Peter Aharon Goolkasian
Belmont, MA

Dear Editor,

I was very impressed after reading Hye Sharzhoom. Jennifer Peters wrote a very good article about her experience in Washington D.C. I didn't know there were organiza-

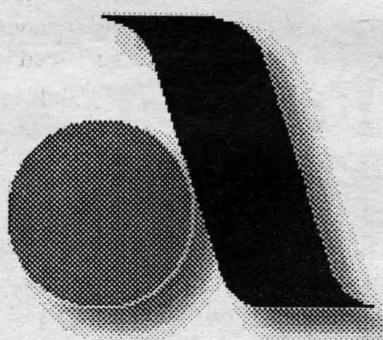
tions that allowed Armenian students to travel as part of an educational program.

I think Hye Sharzhoom really gives Armenian students a good sense of their culture. There were articles that covered everything from cooking to the Karabagh controversy. It gave me information about current issues concerning Armenia and Armenian people. It also provided me with information about opportunities that I have by being a part of the Armenian Studies Program.

One suggestion I have would be the inclusion of an opinion survey. I love reading quotes from other people about their opinions on certain topics. For example someone could have asked Armenian students around campus what they thought about the Turks coming to play Fresno State (before the game was cancelled).

It was good to print a page in Armenian because many people, that read Armenian, appreciate it. I like seeing Armenian writing even though I can't understand all of it. It gives me a chance to practice my Armenian reading skills. Also it makes the paper more "Armenianish". Overall I felt the paper nicely covered all subjects and aspects of Armenian life.

Anna Yergat
Fresno State



California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program
&

The National Association of Armenian
Studies and Research, Fresno Section

cordially invite you to a lecture

An Armenian's Reflection on American Journalism

by
Ben H. Bagdikian

Professor Emeritus of Journalism, UC Berkeley

Thursday, December 14, 1995
7:30 p.m.

Alice Peters Auditorium Rm. 191
University Business Center
Fresno State Campus

HYE SHARZHOOM ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ

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Sunday School Shaping the Future

By Jaqueline Arikian

Over the past three years, I have had the opportunity to teach a third/fourth grade Sunday School class at St. Paul Armenian Church. Teaching this class has been more than preparing lessons and showing up to church at 10 a.m. to creatively teach a class to a group of eight and nine year olds. It has been a journey, a journey down a road of cultural understanding, not only for myself, but for my students as well.

Teaching an Armenian Sunday School class as a college student has been quite the experience. Not only has it been challenging to

educate my students about religion, answering their many questions, but it has been rewarding for me to see them grow spiritually and culturally.

Each week, the students learn about a Bible story which is taught in many ways; through classroom games, Bible readings, cassette tapes, workbooks, and group discussions. Fortunately, the class goes one step beyond teaching the students Biblical stories, for it covers some historical Armenian ground as well. Each Sunday, I take the students up to church for about 15-20 minutes. During the time spent there, they become educated about the traditional customs

that take place every week during the regular Sunday service. It is a joy for me to see that they have a natural curiosity about what they are seeing while in church, wanting to know more about what is going on and why. It then becomes my responsibility to explain to them the significance of what goes on in the church, and it is for this reason that I see the spark they possess, the spark for the Armenian culture.

It makes me proud to teach a group of eager students about their heritage. Not only do they learn more about themselves by regularly attending class, but they gain

See TEACHER, Page 8

Armenian Studies Program Spring '96 SCHEDULE OF COURSES

Armenian 1B- Elem Arm

1110-1200 MTWF

ArmS 10- Intro Arm Studies

1010-1100 MWF

ArmS 108B- Arm History II

0910-1000 MWF

Arm 148- Masterpcs of Arm Lit

1310-1400 MWF

Weekend Classes (Fri & Sat only)

Fri 1710-2040, Sat 0910-1700

ArmS 10- Intro Arm Studies

2/2-2/17

ArmS 123 Arm Architecture

2/23-3/9

ArmS 120- Armenia Today

3/15-3/16

ArmS 120T- Armenian Genocide

4/19-4/20

Armenian Community of Peria: 400 Years in the Making

By Jacklin Gharibian

Approximately half of the Armenian population in the world lives outside of its homeland. Armenians have created new headquarters all over the globe, forming the Armenian Diaspora which was mainly caused by the 1915 Armenian Genocide. They have built communities in Greece, France, India, Australia, Iraq, Italy, Canada and (of course) America. However, there exists an Armenian community in Iran that has survived for the past 400 years. No, I am not referring to New Julfa (Isfahan), rather to a cluster of villages, nearly 90 miles west of New Julfa, called *Peria* (Pear-e-a). "So what? Who cares? What's the point?", one may typically ask. It is easy to underestimate what an unknown group of individuals living in a remote part of the globe could achieve. However, Perians (Armenians of Peria) have not only endured living in an exile and being treated as second-class citizens, but they have survived to create a thriving Armenian community. Most importantly, Perians have been courageous enough to practice their doctrine for nearly four centuries without giving up their faith in God. To this day, they remain valourous Christians in a country of Muslim nationalists.

"Who are these people, how did they settle in Iran, and why?" To discover the answers, we have to journey back to the period of Ottoman and Persian domination of Armenia. In the early 1600's,

the Persians controlled the eastern half of Armenia; while the Ottomans ruled over western Armenia. At the time, the two empires played the power game—each trying to expand its jurisdiction over Asia Minor which included Armenia.

In 1603, Shah Abbas I of Persia launched an attack on Ottoman lands, conquered Tabriz, fought against the Turks to seize Nakhichevan, and, in 1604, he captured Yerevan. From Constantinople, Sultan Muhammad sent forces to fight against the Persians. Because of this, Shah Abbas ordered the Armenians to pack up and abandon their homes. To enforce his ruling, the Shah commanded his men to burn down the Armenian homes—this way, the Armenians would have no choice but to leave. From Armenia, they were forced to march towards Iran. On their way, the Armenians encountered another obstacle; they had to cross the Araks river—but there were no bridges available and the Persians (having learned that the Ottomans were in the surrounding area) forced the Armenians to swim across the river. Old men, women and children

jumped into the freezing waters of the Araks—only the fortunate few successfully made it to the opposite side; the rest died as their bodies floated on the waves of the Araks.

Finally, in the spring of 1605, the Armenians were transferred to Isfahan. Approximately, 25,000 families took this journey from 11 known regions in Armenia, such

transported to Peria. Peria had rich soil and a climate that favored the agriculturists. The Armenians were reminded of their homeland as they glanced over the heavenly landscape of Peria. At the time of settlement, Shah Abbas executed careful politics, as he reasonably sided with the Armenians at times of conflicting instances with the local Persians, and he even allowed

tain their cultural and religious identities. Several Armenians (of Peria) were butchered to death for refusing to become Muslims.

The population of Peria fluctuated along with the number of villages that existed. People, over time, moved away and some relocated from one village to another. In 1851, 4,949 people lived in 19 villages; by 1910 the population increased by more than 200 percent (25 villages were populated by 12,083 people). These figures from the 20th century indicate that Peria was a strong Armenian community outside of New Julfa. Interestingly enough, Peria was a segregated community; no Muslims were allowed to reside in any of the villages. At certain times, the villages of Peria survived harsh economic conditions, such as droughts, by assisting one another without depending on the Persians. Hence Peria was a self-supporting, self-governing community under the authority of the Muslims.

My 84-year-old grandmother, Vartanoush Gharibian, was born in Mealagerd, one of the villages of Peria. "In my time, things were much better...they [the Persians] didn't harass us as much as in the old days," she stated. "During Zella Sultan's time [1890's], Armenian men were forced to walk on broken glass, in mud, with their bare feet..."

My grandmother's generation was fortunate to have lived in Iran in the early 20th century; for at the



as Van, Kars, Alashkert, and Manezkert. The Persians burdened themselves with this for a very simple reason: Shah Abbas wanted to improve the agricultural economy of the Persian Empire, and the Armenians (being advanced in this field) were the best candidates to fulfill the needs of the Persians. Of those who arrived in Isfahan (New Julfa), some were

the Armenians to continue living as Christians. However, Shah Abbas believed that within time the Armenians would automatically integrate with the local Persian population and adopt the Islamic way of life. Although this scenario took place in certain Armenian communities, Perians proved to contradict the Shah's predictions, as they fought to main-

See Peria, Page 8

Fall '95 a Semester of Activities, *and its not over yet*

By Tina Attashian

ASO's semester has been filled with moments of planning, stressing, discussing, and best of all enjoying the achievements we all worked so hard to accomplish.

It all began on September 6th when we had our first meeting at Fresno State in the University Student Union. The meeting focused on electing executive offices, resulting in an executive board of both former and new members taking leadership positions. After the meeting we all went to a cafe near campus to socialize. Unanimously this developed into a part of the ASO's meeting agenda since everyone enjoyed just hanging out with one another. Two weeks later we had another meeting at the University Student Union where both members and executives had discussions on what events we wanted to include in our calendar of activities for the Fall semester.

The first month of meetings were pure planning and organizing for the rest of the semester, but it gave everyone a chance to get to know each other better and as Aznive Tchapidarian stated, "Everyone was extremely enthusiastic and excited about activities, which made everything seem more worthwhile."

On October 4th we had a pizza night at president Raffy Khorozian's house. During the meeting we passed out the calendar

to all the members and talked about upcoming events which needed people to sign up for certain responsibilities regarding activities like the Shish Kebab fund-raiser.

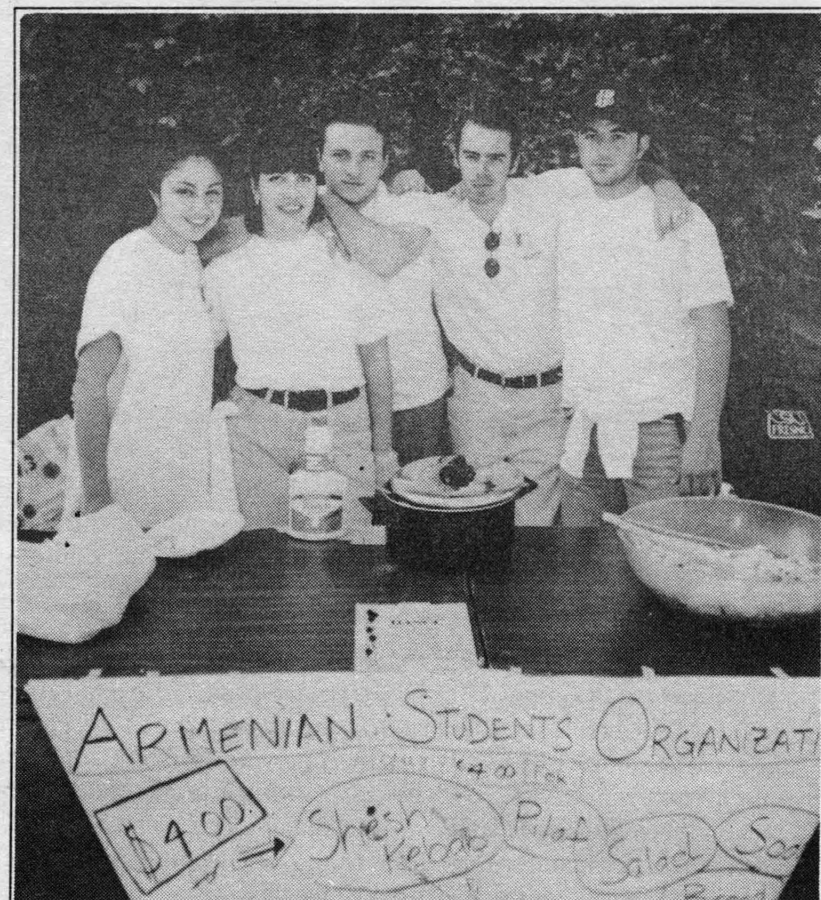
Our first November activity was playing pool at the Avalon Club on Friday 3rd of November located in the Tower District. We had two pool tables going with games, others watched, played Shuffleboard, or selected tunes from the juke box. "I had so much fun I didn't feel as if I was at an organized event but with a group of good friends," said Greg Tchapidarian about the evening.

On November 7th an ice cream social took place at Raffy's house. As we ate, we discussed details about our dance and then last minute aspects about the fund-raiser taking place the next day. The morning of the fund-raiser we got to campus early to set up our tables, put up signs and started the barbecue to provide food for buyers by ten o'clock. The sale lasted until three o'clock in the afternoon and the outcome of the activity was pleasing to everyone involved. "The hardship and planning put into the Shish Kebab fund-raiser was extremely satisfying because everyone took part in making it happen," said Raffy Khorozian, "It was a success because everyone participated, including mothers who made pilaf and other friends who aren't even in ASO." Added Daniel Semerdzhyan, "I found ASO mem-

bers were not the only the people satisfied with the outcome, both faculty and student reaction to the food was positive." Peg Hayward, coordinator of Orientation and Transition Services, commented that the food was tasty and thanked us for a satisfying lunch.

November 10th, we had our second annual dance at the Armenia Restaurant. Informally polling ASO members and executives, the dance has been overwhelmingly the favorite event of the semester. Aznive Tchapidarian reminds everyone not to forget that we have upcoming events as she said, "Up till now my favorite is the dance but I can't say what my decision will be after our cabin trip and our end of the year party." To conclude our events for the month we had an informational meeting on campus about our two night and three day cabin trip to Bass Lake (December 1st - 3rd). Everyone is ready to have fun and looking forward to the weekend trip.

For our other activities in December we've planned to have 'an open discussion' meeting led by Khatchig Jingirian. This is where a specific topic will be chosen and everyone will participate in an analytical discussion which will stimulate individuals thoughts and opinions. I am particularly looking forward to this because I believe this is a way to get members to know one another on a more intellectual and deeper level. This some-



From left to right: Tina Attashian, Aznive Tchapidarian, Daniel Semerdzhyan, Mike Pogolian, and Raffy Khorozian.

thing new and I'm interested to see the outcome of everyone's participation, especially if the topic is heated and controversial. To end ASO's Fall activities we're planning to have an end of year Christmas party. The party will conclude the semester with a time of reminiscing over shared moments, looking over our new and recent photographs in our photo album, enjoying Armenian music which always

leads to a fun time of dancing, and lastly a chance to talk about new ideas for the Spring semester.

ASO is an example of the Armenian youth who admire, love, respect, and enjoy the Armenian culture. I have found that those who get involved in ASO get a real taste of the Armenian spirit in that we are united and work together to accomplish a goal, while creating new friendships and memories.

Student Disk Jockey Playing Them His Way, Ska Style

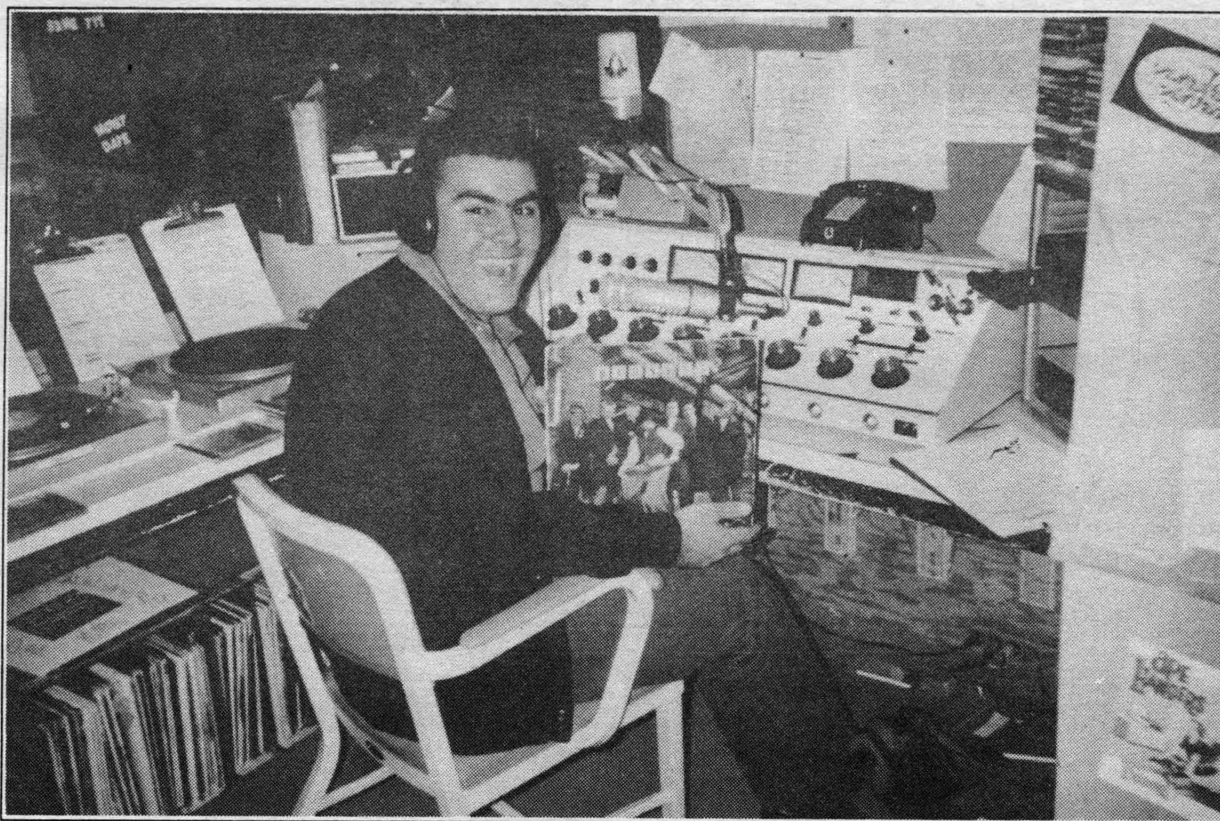
By Karen Karabian

If Greg Tchapidarian had one million dollars, he would open a recording studio, start a ska record label, produce and release promising ska bands, and re-release traditional ska music.

Greg, a.k.a. TopCat, hosts his own radio show on KFSR 90.7. He lives for "pure, from the heart, traditional" ska. Every Thursday from twelve to three, he lets loose inside the studio, not much bigger than a roomy closet, it is his ska outlet. Greg admits to sneaking in some fancy footwork during songs, and dares to groove dangerously close to the stacks of records that have become the walls.

For those who are unfamiliar with ska, Greg can best describe it as "a get up, get off your feet, energetic rhythm" that comes from a talented mix of drums, sax, trombone, trumpet, piano, organ, guitar, and bass. Ska can be considered a combination of American Jazz and Soul. It requires a side to side swing of the arms and hips while creating the illusion of running in place.

At nineteen, Greg is a sophomore at Fresno State. He is now debating if his future path lies in medicine or mass communications. Greg's family moved to Fresno from Torrance, California. His parents moved to the United States from Lebanon, a place Greg wishes to visit soon. He has a desire to see their homeland, a place where Armenians once fled, a place



Greg Tchapidarian in Fresno State's KFSR studio with sca record by Madness

where Armenian traditions originated.

Over the radio waves Greg reaches a diverse group of listeners, loyal fans and newcomers. Greg's timeslot consists of non-mainstream progressive music for the first two hours of his show, and in the final hour—the Sound of Ska. "I get a lot of requests for old traditional ska, there is a definite listening audience."

Why KFSR? "In college radio there is freedom, I can play and say what I want. I can express who I am and what I live for."

Why ska? "The great musi-

cians of the Traditional Era (early 60's) and the Two Tone Era (late 70's) enjoyed playing for themselves. My favorite band is Hepcat because every time I see them, I appreciate them more and more. I admire how they have stuck to their roots and how much they respect the sacred tradition of ska. No one can witness any of the old bands again. It's like they take me back to the day, to the event as it must have been in the sixties."

Traditional ska attire includes a suit, preferably black and white, since ska bands emerged as a sign of unity among black and white

musicians.

Someday Greg has hopes of seeing the Skatalites and Desmond Dekker in concert, for lack of popularity can't stand in the way of good, upbeat dance music.

Two years ago the playlist for ska vanished. KFSR was without a DJ that wanted to blast ska over the air, until one student came forward. Greg now shares his passion and free time for the greater good of ska fans in Fresno. "Fresno State gave me the chance to get this music out, since there is a lack of ska concerts."

Greg admits, "being a DJ is

fun and sometimes tiring, but once my set is finished I am craving to go back in again and play songs."

Working at KFSR has given Greg the confidence and drive to pursue other commitments. He is acting Historian of the Armenian Students Organization and participates in Armenian dances and fund-raisers. "I have met so many good Armenians I never knew were out there, and I am a better person for having known them. I appreciate my Armenian culture and community much more now that I am old enough to enjoy traditional activities." Greg is grateful that he lives in an area with a campus where he can take part in numerous opportunities and at the same time share his heritage and beliefs with others.

When Greg does marry, there is no question he will have a traditional Armenian wedding, and no question that he will dance to ska at his reception.

By taking control of the air waves, Greg sends a message to all Armenians. That message is one that encourages others to get involved, explore passions, discover new dreams, and live old ones.

Greg still grasps onto the dream he has of starting a band. "I just need to better myself at the guitar and find people who have the same belief in ska that I do."

**Greg Tchapidarian's
Topcat Show
Thursdays 12:00-3:00
on KFSR 90.7 FM**

Society for Armenian Studies Annual Meeting

The Society for Armenian Studies, a professional society composed of scholars interested in Armenian Studies, is holding its 21st annual meeting as part of the Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference to be held in Washington, D.C. from December 6-10. The conference headquarters will be the Washington Hilton and Towers where all meetings and panels will be presented.

As part of the Annual conference, scholars from throughout the country and the world gather to present their latest findings. Panels are organized by region, discipline, and time period. There will be five sessions relating to Armenia and the Armenians.

On Thursday, December 7 from 3:00-5:00 pm a roundtable discussion will be held on *The Karabagh Conflict and Armenian-Azerbaijani Relations: The Quest for Regional Stability*. It is co-sponsored by the International Society for Azerbaijani Studies and the Society for Armenian Studies. Guests will include: **His Excellency Rouben Shugarian**, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia; **His Excellency Hafiz Pashayev**, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan; **David Nissman**, Washington, D.C.; **Joseph Kechichian**, Rand Corporation. Discussants are: **Tadeusz Swietochowski**, Monmouth College and **Levon Marashlian**, Glendale Community College. **Rich-**

ard G. Hovannisian of UCLA will chair the discussion.

In addition to the round table discussion four panels organized around specific Armenian themes will be presented.

The panel *Shiraz, Isfahan, Tehran-Persian or Armenian Art?* will be held from 5:30-7:30 pm on Thursday, December 7. Four panelists will present papers: *Jews and Armenian in Safavid Iran-Their Self Definitions Contracted in Images*, **Alice Taylor**, West Los Angeles College; *The New Julfa Style of Armenian Manuscript Bindings*, **Dickran Kouymjian**, California State University, Fresno; *The Armenian Church of Shiraz: An Armenian-Safavid Monument*, **Marco Brambilla**, DOMUS; and *Armenian Architects in Tehran: Persian Architecture of Early 20th Century*, **Mina Marefat**, Smithsonian Institution. The chair of the panel is **Lucy Der Manuelian** of Tufts University.

On Friday, December 8 from 8:00-10:00 am the **Society for Armenian Studies** is sponsoring a two-part panel called *The Armenian Genocide: An Eighty Year Perspective*. **Part I: Historical Dimensions** will have as its chair/discussant **Richard G. Hovannisian** of UCLA. Papers to be presented are: *Some Comments About Decision Making*, **Stepan Astourian**, UCLA; *Finishing the Genocide: Angora's Elimination of Armenian Survivors, 1920-1923*, **Levon**

Marashlian, Glendale City College; *Resistance to Genocide: The Armenian Experience, 1915-1995*, **Roger Smith**, College of William and Mary; and *The Role of Historical Memory in Interpreting Current Events in the Republic of Armenia*, **Donald Miller**, University of Southern California.

The second of the two part panel is titled *Armenian Literature and Catastrophe* and will be held from 10:30am-12:30 pm on Friday December 8. The panel, chaired by **Lorne Shirinian**, will include: *Across the Chasm: From Catastrophe to Creativity*, **Barlow Der Mugrdechian**, California State University, Fresno; *William Saroyan and the Armenian Genocide*, **David Calonne**, Siena Heights College; *Literary Response to Catastrophe*, **Rubina Peromian**, UCLA; and *Survivors Memoirs of the Armenian Genocide*, **Lorne Shirinian**, Royal Military College of Canada.

On Saturday, December 9, from 8:00-10:00 am a panel will be held on *Armenia in the Age of the Il-Khans*. Chair of the panel is **Barlow Der Mugrdechian** of California State University, Fresno. Papers include: *The Seljuk-Il-khanid Conflict and the Armenian Confraternity of Erzinka*, **S. Peter Cowe**, Columbia University; *The Reign of Hasan-Jalal-Daula, Armenian Ally of Hulagu Khan*, **Robert H. Hewsen**, Rowan College of New Jersey; *King Het'um's Alliance with*

the Mongols: A Mutually Beneficial Relationship, **Don Stark**, University of Chicago; and *The Economy of Armenia in the Il-khanid Period*, **T.A. Sinclair**, University of Cyprus. Discussant for the panel is **Dickran Kouymjian** of California State University, Fresno.

The final panel is scheduled for Saturday, December 9 from 4:00-6:00 pm is *The Armenians Community in 20th Century Iran* co-sponsored by the Society for Armenian Studies and the Society for Iranian Studies. The chair/discussant for the panel is **George Bournoutian** of Iona College. Papers include: *The Role of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation in the Iranian Constitutional Revolution*, **Houri Berberian**, UCLA; *Krikor Eghikian, The Jangalis, and the Armenians*, **Aram Arkun**, Zohrab Institute; *The Armenians of Iran and the Communist Movement in Iran*, **Cosroe Chaqueri**, Columbi University; and *The Armenian Diaspora in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 1979-1989*, **Eliz Sanasarian**, USC.

The Society for Armenian Studies business office is located at the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. For further information about the Society or the Washington meeting call 313-593-5181 or by e-mail at GOTTENBR@ca-f1.umich.edu.

From the Hye Shazhoom Staff:

Thank you for a great year! From all of us at Hye Sharzhoom have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Next year we look forward to your letters, articles, and art work. Give us your ideas, we want to share as many minds as possible to make this a total newspaper for the local and international community. As always we're looking for perspectives that are unique to life on campus and abroad with a reflection about Armenians both American and international.



Fresno State's Armenian Church class at the front entrance of St. Paul Armenian Church



In Memoriam

Varazdat Samuel Samuelian

Born
3 May 1917
Yerevan, Armenia

Died
7 November 1995
Fresno, California



Armenia Update compiled by Barlow Der Mugardechian

New Round of Peace Talks Begins in Moscow

YEREVAN (Noyan Tapan)- A new round of peace talks began in Moscow, Monday, under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The agenda of the current negotiations included a number of military and technical issues, an agreement to promote the strengthening of the cease-fire, peacekeeping operations, as well as the further development of the Minsk process.

Sources from the Armenian foreign ministry reported that the negotiations will last until Saturday, after which the OSCE Minsk Group is slated to meet to assess the progress of peace talks.

Another Minsk Group summit is scheduled at a later date with the participation of the conflicting sides.

The OSCE Minsk group is to discuss the possibilities of continuing negotiations, as well as issues related to the December 7 and 8 summit of heads of OSCE member states.

The Armenian delegation was led by deputy foreign minister Vardan Oskanian, who also met with a high-level OSCE military delegation Friday, to discuss several military and strategic issues related to the resolution of the Karabakh conflict.

The OSCE delegation, headed by Finnish general Haikka Vileni was briefed by Oskanian on the process of a peaceful resolution of the conflict, and Armenia's position at the peace talks, stated press and public affairs office of Armenia's foreign ministry.

The delegation also included high-ranking Swiss military officials, whose main objective was to assess the situation and the role Switzerland will play in the peace process when it assumes the presidency of the OSCE in 1996.

Oskanian also met, Friday, with German ambassador to the Minsk Group Frank Lambach, at which time the results of the latest peace talks were discussed and evaluated.

Karekin I to Visit North America

PASADENA-His Holiness Karekin I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, will pay an official first-visit, as the Catholicos of All Armenians, to North America from January 10 through February 13, 1996.

The itinerary for His Holiness will be as follows:

Eastern Diocese-
Jan. 10 to Jan. 24
Canadian Diocese-
Jan. 24 to Feb. 1
Western Diocese-
Feb. 1 to Feb. 13

His Eminence Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian and the Diocesan Council of the Western Diocese will be the official hosts of the Western Diocese visit, and Diocesan Council Chairperson Deacon Allan Y. Jendian will be the General Chairperson of the pontifical visit.

His Holiness plans to visit the Southern, Central and Northern

Regions of the Western Diocese. In order to plan a dignified visit for the Catholicos, the Diocesan Council will appoint Regional Chairpersons, who will be responsible for their respective regions.

Since his enthronement, April 9, His Holiness Karekin I, has made pontifical visits to the Dioceses of Armenia, Russia, Georgia, Artsakh and Romania, among others.

"We will extend the warmest welcome to our 131st Catholicos and do everything feasible to make his visit to the Western Diocese a memorable one," Primate Hovsepian.

Ter-Petrosyan Among Leaders at Rabin's Funeral

JERUSALEM (Reuter)-Armenia's President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and foreign minister Vahan Papazian headed an Armenian delegation to Jerusalem, Monday, to take part in the state burial

of slain Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was assassinated by a fellow Jew opposing his peace with Palestinians.

Soldiers and statesmen sobbed as mourners ranging from President Bill Clinton to Rabin's granddaughter praised the prime minister who died for Middle East peace.

Clinton and Israel's former foes, Jordan's King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, said the greatest memorial for Rabin would be to continue his drive to end half a century of Arab-Israeli fighting.

Medzamor Begins Generating Electricity

YEREVAN (Reuter)-The Medzamor nuclear power plant near Yerevan started generating electricity again after lying idle for over six years following a devastating 1988 earthquake, a government

spokesman said. The first block of the reactor, 15 miles southwest of Yerevan, began producing 50 megawatts of electricity a day on Sunday, the spokesman told Reuters.

But Yerevan's residents, starved of heat and light, were still receiving electricity for only about an hour a day.

The power station, with a capacity of 450 megawatts a day, would gradually increase output as winter takes hold in this Transcaucasian republic, the spokesman said.

Constructed on an earthquake fault, the Medzamor plant was undamaged by the 1988 earthquake that killed more than 25,000 people, but it was subsequently closed due to public worries about its safety.

New French Embassy Opened in Yerevan

YEREVAN (Noyan Tapan)-A solemn ceremony was held Friday to mark the opening of a new building housing the French Em-

bassy in Armenia. At present the French Embassy is located a building which formerly housed the Actors' Union located near Sundukian Theater.

The opening ceremony was attended by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, French Envoy on Europe Affairs Michele Barnier and Armenian Ambassador to France Vigen Chitechian.

Armenian Caucasus Continues To Advocate Armenian Issues

WASHINGTON-The Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues held the fifth in an ongoing series of Capitol Hill briefings last week, addressing the political and economic situation of the Republics of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh, reported the Armenian National Committee of America.

The latest briefing, held on November 9, featured Colonel Moorad Mooradian, a Ph.D candidate in international conflict resolution, on the topic of "A Perception of Armenia and What the US Congress Can Do to Assist."

The Caucus on Armenian Issues, initiated earlier this year through the joint efforts of Representatives Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and John Edward Porter (R-Ill.), is comprised of a bipartisan group of legislators dedicated to maintaining and strengthening US-Armenian relations. In a January 10 letter to their colleagues, Reps Pallone and Porter stressed that the goal of the Caucus was to create a forum where:

"... individual Members would contribute their ideas and support on how the United States can better help the Armenian people recover from the disasters of recent years and restore a sense of hope for the future. The Caucus can play an important role in promoting legislation and monitoring other developments affecting Armenians, and mobilizing support. It would also function as a clearing house for information. We intend to work very closely with the Armenian community."

During the past ten months, the Caucus has actively supported legislation calling for maintaining the ban on US assistance to Azerbaijan, continued US assistance to Armenia and reducing US economic assistance to Turkey based on its ongoing blockade of Armenia. Caucus briefings have included presentations by the Armenian Ambassador to the US, Ruben Shugarian, a diverse group of Armenian parliamentarians, and an analysis of the Armenian Parliamentary elections by representatives from the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, the National Democratic Institute, the Congressional Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Armenian American Congressional staffers and the Armenian Assembly.

Caucus Co-chairman Rep. Frank Pallone recently organized a briefing by Armenian parliamentarian and former Prime Minister Vazgen Manukian, on the subject of democracy in Armenia.

The Caucus is currently composed of 43 House members, including Representatives: Gary Ackerman (D-NY-5), Robert Andrews (D-NJ-1), Howard

See UPDATE, Page 8



of slain Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was assassinated by a fellow Jew opposing his peace with Palestinians.

Soldiers and statesmen sobbed as mourners ranging from President Bill Clinton to Rabin's granddaughter praised the prime minister who died for Middle East peace.

Clinton and Israel's former foes, Jordan's King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, said the greatest memorial for Rabin would be to continue his drive to end half a century of Arab-Israeli fighting.

In Tel Aviv, student Yigal Amir confessed in court to shooting Rabin because he was handing back land to Palestinians. His brother Hagai Amir prepared at least one of the dum-dum bullets that shattered Rabin's chest at a peace rally in Tel Aviv on Saturday, police said.

The entire Israel stood in silent tribute for two minutes when sirens that each year commemorate the Nazi Holocaust marked the start of the two-hour-long funeral on a Jerusalem hilltop. Seven soldiers fired three volleys over the grave of

spokesman said.

The first block of the reactor, 15 miles southwest of Yerevan, began producing 50 megawatts of electricity a day on Sunday, the spokesman told Reuters.

But Yerevan's residents, starved of heat and light, were still receiving electricity for only about an hour a day.

The power station, with a capacity of 450 megawatts a day, would gradually increase output as winter takes hold in this Transcaucasian republic, the spokesman said.

Constructed on an earthquake fault, the Medzamor plant was undamaged by the 1988 earthquake that killed more than 25,000 people, but it was subsequently closed due to public worries about its safety.

The government, facing a crisis due to chronic electricity shortages, in 1993 decreed in re-opening.

New French Embassy Opened in Yerevan

YEREVAN (Noyan Tapan)-A solemn ceremony was held Friday to mark the opening of a new building housing the French Em-

the Karabakh conflict: maintenance of territorial integrity, security guarantees for Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh and support for efforts being made by the parties seeking a political solution and French preparedness to promote deployment of peace-keeping forces.

Barnier said that he expects Armenia will be granted special status to attend meetings of the European Council.

Barnier said that France supports rapprochement between Armenia and European structures and intends to defend Armenia's interests on this issue.

Noting that he was the first French official to visit Armenia since Jacques Chirac's inauguration, Barnier said that it was more than a coincidence that a French governmental official, responsible for problems concerning Europe, had been charged to visit Armenia.

Barnier underlined the importance of developing bilateral cultural and scientific ties. He said that France would render its assistance to Armenia in teaching French at Armenian schools. He also announced that a special children's

\$15,000 Awarded in Armenian Scholarships

Press Release

Once again California State University, Fresno and its Armenian Studies Program awarded more than \$15,000 in scholarships to students enrolled in Armenian Studies courses.

Twenty-nine students were awarded Armenian Studies scholarships and grants for the 1995-1996 academic year. The recipients are all students of Fresno State 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 Armenian Studies, announced the awards. Scholarship and grant recipients were introduced at the 10th Annual Banquet of the Armenian Studies Program held in October.

Fund Source:

Yervant, Rose, and Hovannes Levonian Educational Grant

Candrea Balekian, Fresno, Physical Therapy, Junior; **Anush Chubarian**, Yerevan, Spanish, Junior; **Aram Gevorkian**, Yerevan, Computer Science, Junior; **Garo Nakashian**, Fresno, Graphic Design, Junior; **Tsovinar Petrossian**, Yerevan, English, Junior; **Mkrtich Pogolian**, Fresno, Senior; **Marine Pogolian**, Fresno, Risk Management & Insurance, Senior; **Greg Tchapanian**, Fresno, Biology, Freshman; **Viktoria Yerkanyan**, Fresno, Business Administration, Junior.

Fund Source:

Charles K. Pategian and Pansy Pategian Zlovich Scholarships
Hakop Adjinian, Fresno, Business

Administration, Senior; **Jason Ahronian**, Fresno, Agricultural Business, Sophomore; **Jacqueline Arikian**, Fresno, Psychology, Sophomore; **Tina Attashian**, Fresno, Mathematics, Junior; **David L. Emerzian**, Fresno, Accounting, Sophomore; **Siran Eryasian**, Fresno, Geography, Graduate; **Jacklin Gharibian**, Fresno, Biological Sciences, Freshman; **Christopher Goobian**, Fresno, Business Admin., Senior; **Ara R. Jabaghourian**, Fresno, Philosophy & Economics, Senior; **Susie Kalinian**, Fresno, Biology, Senior; **Karen R. Karabian**, Fresno, Business Mass Communications, Sophomore; **Joseph Krajekian**, Beirut, Lebanon, Biology, Junior; **Denise L. McCroskey**, Fowler, Psychology, Junior; **Manuel Momjian**, Fresno,

Undeclared, Sophomore; **Melissa M. Ouzounian**, Fresno, Communicative Disorders, Senior; **Jennifer L. Peters**, Fresno, Business Admin., Junior; **Laura Peters**, Fowler, Liberal Studies, Freshman; **Stephanie Peters**, Fowler, Liberal Studies, Senior; **Ali Peyvandi**, Fresno, Junior, Biology; **Arlen Soghomonians**, Fresno, Molecular Biology, Senior.

Fund Source:

Nerces and Ruth Azadian Memorial Scholarship

Katherine Becker, Fresno, History, Junior.

In addition the following students received special Armenian Studies research grants for supervised work under the direction of Dr. Kouymjian: **Joseph Krajekian**, **Emmanuel Ohannessian**, **Sean Clark**, **Aram Gevorkian**, and **Ali Peyvandi**.

Applications for scholarships and grants for the 1996-1997 academic year are now available through the office of grants and scholarships. New and continuing students at Fresno State are eligible for the awards. The deadline for applications is February 1, 1996. For further information or applications contact: Scholarship Office, CSU, Fresno, Joyal Administration Building, Room 219, Fresno, CA 93740-0064 Phone: (209) 278-6572

Hye Sharzhoom 96

join us!

Peria, from p.2

time, the Turks were calculating the "crime of the century". In 1915, Vartanoush was four years old. She had no idea that Armenian children, her age, were being massacred by the Turks in the very same regions that her ancestors were once forced to abandon. It is tragic to think that "what if" the Armenians were not forced to march towards Persia, nearly three centuries before the Genocide. "What would have happened then?" Although this question is too vague and controversial; it does, further, explain how the faith of the Armenians partly depended upon the command of Muslim dictators (Shah Abbas, Talaat Pasha, etc.).

Reports about the Genocide reached Peria, "Armenians [from the Ottoman Empire] escaped and came to Peria...they told us everything," said Vartanoush. The Armenian Genocide was committed by the Turks, why didn't the Persians murder the Armenians in Persia (since they did not cooperate with the notion of becoming Muslims)? There are several reasons: first, the Persians did not have an "Armenian Question" to solve; second, the circumstances of the two Armenian centers (Armenia and Peria/New Julfa) were totally different because each was under the authority of two distinct governments. Most importantly, the Armenians in Peria (and New Julfa) were considered to be assets for Persia—they were valued and respected for advancing the economy of the country. Thus, killing the Armenians would be similar to

throwing away gold (a treasured resource). "Armenians worked well...we earned respect from the Persians...so, we knew that we were superior," explained Vartanoush.

Perians, over the four centuries, developed a unique community. Thus, when examining their history one would be foolish not to pay a closer attention to their culture. "What did these people do on a daily basis, how did they make a living?" The majority of the Perians (possibly 95 percent) were agriculturists. Those who were wealthy enough to own land employed other Armenians (and

clothing items, shoes, school supplies, etc. A few of the Perians, perhaps five percent, made their living as carpenters, musicians (Sazandar), stone-carvers, fabric-makers, tailors, and shoe-makers.

To organize the farm in an efficient manner, Perians had large families. For instance, my fraternal grandfather shared the tasks of the farm with his two brothers and their large families. Thus, three families, a total of 20-25 people, lived as one larger family. They shared their wealth (land, cattle, etc.) among one another without there begin a dispute about the

met at their own wedding, because their families had pre-arranged their marriage. My grandmother married at the age of 19. "My uncle knew Haroutoun [her future husband], and he knew that he was a good family-man...so, I had to marry him, and it really didn't matter," she said. One must realize that life in Peria was methodical and simple. People only demanded to have a secure life and all else was a secondary matter.

"You have to look back seven generations from each side of the family to see if the girl or the boy came from a good family...you ask friends and relatives to find out," Vartanoush explained. Researching the past generations of a given family was conducted before the blessing of the marriage, because it was necessary to make certain that the two families were not related. This system functioned perfectly, because

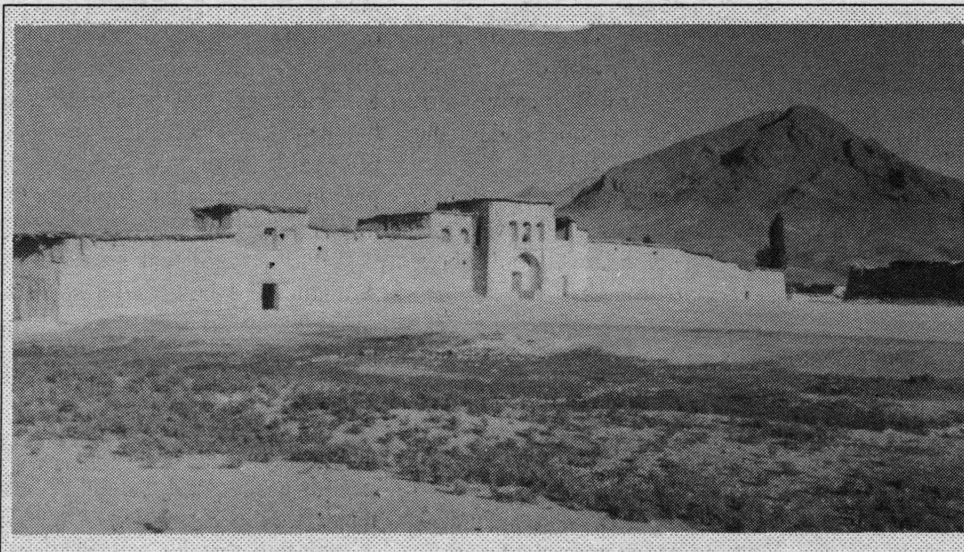
they were no lonely singles walking about the villages searching for love, the divorce rate tended to remain near zero percent, and no one complained.

One of the most fascinating institutions in Peria, beyond the Apostolic churches, was the Armenian school. Although, it is not to be compared to the formal educational system of today; it, nevertheless, represents the concepts that the Perians valued. The first school

in Peria was founded sometime between 1630-1640. This was only 25-35 years after the time that they had actually settled in Iran. Until 1896, students were only taught religion—they studied the Bible and the interpretations of the Divine Liturgy. This, of course, served the purpose of preserving their Christianity. For the first time, in 1896, (in the village of Khogan) English, Persian, math, and music were added to the curriculum. In the 1937-38 academic year, there were 23 schools in Peria with 63 educators and 2056 pupil. This was one of the greatest achievements of the isolated community.

Today, Peria has disappeared; most of its inhabitants live in New Julfa, some traveled to Europe and America, only a dozen Armenians still live in Peria as agriculturists. Peria is now occupied by Muslims—the simple, stable, society changed dramatically. Perians, who live in New Julfa, are integrated with the Persians. Today, there are rumors of a record number of Armenians marrying Muslims and adopting the Islamic way of life, but those who do are a small minority (maybe 1 in a 1000). Now, it is up to the upcoming generations to comprehend the importance of preserving and enhancing their cultural traditions.

Perians are a minority among Armenians, but they represent the foundation of all Armenians—a strong, nationalistic group of independent-minded individuals who have survived to claim the pride of their rich heritage. It was not faith that preserved them, it was *they* who preserved their faith.



sometimes Persians) to cultivate such crops as wheat, barley, grain, potatoes, beans, and grapes. Being farmers, they also raised farm animals. A wealthy family owned perhaps 500 acres of land and 100 sheep. In other words, money was not considered to be wealth. Many farmers, traveled to New Julfa to trade their harvested crops for commodities that they could not produce with their own resources which included, sugar, certain

responsibilities of a given family member. This domestic life was typical of other families as well.

Marriage is an interesting topic for the Perians. From one generation to the next, they followed ancient disciplines and rituals with very little change. Because labor was an essential part of the agricultural economy, adolescents married to produce labor by creating a family. In some instances, the bride and the groom

hye talk, from p. 1

Candace Egan, assisted by Felix Contreras and students of Fresno State

The first broadcast will highlight President Emeritus of Fresno State, Dr. Harold H. Haak, remarking on his recent trip to Armenian Universities. The interview is an exchange of both educational issues and conditions in Armenia. Der Mugrdechian has also recently visited Armenia, and this allows him a unique perspective to open up the interview with more introspective questions about contemporary issues.

Being part of the Armenian Studies Program in Fresno is beneficial also. In the second show, featuring Republican Congressman George Radanovich, Der Mugrdechian's university and community background gave him an advantage to approach topics from a Fresno Armenian standpoint. This

gave him insight to the questions of Armenian Nationalism and local concerns of American Armenians.

The third show taped so far shows student involvement in the Armenian community. Der Mugrdechian brings back two Fresno State alumni to talk about the creation and continuation of this publication, Hye Sharzhoom. Now in its seventeenth year of publication, the three share the circumstances of this student newspaper and its growth within the community.

What is next for future shows? "I prepare an interview according to who I am talking with," illustrates Der Mugrdechian, "and open it up from there. I think this will be the best way to have the freedom to talk about what matters to Armenians and the community." *hye talk* hopes to be at the center of opportunity to bring in influential visitors, and to reach out to the central valley and beyond.

TEACHER, from p. 3

and possess a treasured knowledge that they can pass down to their children and grandchildren. I enjoy spending time with and educating them about our history. And to my surprise, they have educated me by giving me insight on who I am as an Armenian.

Throughout these three years, I have seen the growth and development of Armenian culture within

today's youth. It is evident when I look into their glowing eyes and realize that they have a spark which lies within their souls, a spark to learn more about their motherland, their history, and themselves. And I, myself, begin to glow when I see that the next generation of Armenians have that ignited spark within them, for it will soon become their responsibility and honor to keep the Armenian culture alive in the United States.

UPDATE, from p. 3

Berman (D-Calif.-26), Peter Blute (R-Mass.-3), David Bonior (D-Mich.-10), George Brown (D-Calif.-42), Jerry Costello (D-Ill.-12), Christopher Cox (R-Calif.-47), Calvin Dooley (D-Calif.-20), Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.-14), Barney Frank (D-Mass.-4), Bob Franks (R-NJ-7), Elton Gallegly (R-Calif.-23), Sam Gejdensen (D-Conn.-2), Benjamin Gilman (R-NY-20), Martin Hoke (R-Ohio-10), Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio-9), Sue Kelly (R-NY-19), Joseph Kennedy (D-Mass.-8), Patrick Kennedy (D-RI-1), John LaFalce (D-NY-29), Sander Levin (D-Mich.-12), Nita Lowey (D-NY-18), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY-14), Thomas Manton (D-NY-7), Edward Markey (D-Mass.-7), Michael McNulty (D-NY-21), Martin Meehan (D-Mass.-5), Carlos Moorhead (R-Calif.-27), James Moran (D-Va.-8), Frank Pallone (D-NJ-6), John Porter (R-Ill.-10), George Radanovich (R-Calif.-19), Jack Reed (D-RI-2), Marge Roukema (R-NJ-5), Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-Calif.-33), H. James Saxton (R-NJ-3), Charles Schumer (D-NY-9), William Thomas (R-Calif.-21), Esteban Torres (D-Calif.-34), Robert Torricelli (D-NJ-9), Peter Visclosky (D-Ind.-1), and Lynn Woolsey (D-Calif.-6).

Oskanian Says Lachin To Remain Under Armenian Control

YEREVAN (Noyan Tapan)-In an interview to "Azg" daily Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia Vardan Oskanian stated that Armenia considers the Lachin corridor to be the main guarantee of security for Nagorno Karabakh.

"Our stand is that Lachin will not be returned and will remain under Armenia's control," he was

quoted as stating.

Azeri officials continued to demand that the historically Armenian Lachin region be awarded to Azerbaijan, saying that only after such an action would they begin negotiating the status issue.

Oskanian said mediators proposed several options for Lachin's status, ranging from the absurd to the logical.

According to a majority of those proposals, Lachin should remain under Armenian control and would also be demilitarized. No peace-keeping forces would be deployed therein and only observers would be dispatched to the conflict zone.

Oskanian also expressed his opinion that countries previously displaying readiness to dispatch peace-keeping forces to the conflict zone, may lose interest in the peace process altogether, seeing no tangible progress on the settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

The Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister stressed that the fact that "these countries also have other interests (besides the settlement of the conflict) raises anxiety. They are trying to use this as a pretext to speed up the peace process and attain success [for their own interests]."

Power Supply Schedule For The Population

YEREVAN ("Hayastani Hanrapetutyun" daily)

The press service of the Republic of Armenia Ministry of Energy reported that a new schedule of power supply to the population has been established on 15 November, according to which power will be supplied for two hours in the morning, and three hours in the evening.

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Armenian National
Committee of Fresno

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comments to
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Visit the Armenian Studies Program on the Internet.

Still under construction, but promises to be a location of information and resource for the future.

<http://www.csufresno.edu/ArmenianStudies/>

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