

HYE SHARZHOOM

Armenian Action

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May 1997

Vol. 18, No. 4 (58)

Supplement to The Collegian

Fresno Armenian Youth Unite

By Crissi Jelladian

The Armenian Students Organization (ASO) worked actively with the AYF and Homenetmen in planning of events for April 24th Armenian Genocide Day. The Candlelight Vigil, on the evening of April 23rd and the Commemoration Rally, on April 24th were two events held on the Fresno State Campus.

On the 23rd, Armenian Youth from the community gathered at 9 PM around the fountain at Fresno State for a candlelight vigil in commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. Many television stations gathered to capture comments from the youth that joined us. Barring the strong gusts of wind, the young Armenians proceeded slowly down the path in the direction of the New Music building where pianist Vardan Mamikonian was performing. Commemorators stood solemnly awaiting the conclusion of the concert, so that Mamikonian fans could also join in our commemoration service.

Our program began at 10 PM with our first speaker, Crissi Jelladian, President of ASO. She welcomed everyone and told of the symbolism behind the Vigil. She described the Armenians on April 24th in Yerevan gathering at the Armenian Martyr's Monument to watch the eternal flame burn. They gather, just as Armenians did at Fresno State to seek justice for the injustice which took place. The eter-

nal flame symbolizes the memory of more than 1.5 million Armenians that were killed by the Ottoman Turks 82 years ago. Their memory is eternal and will never be forgotten.

The next speaker, Aznive Tchpadarian, Vice President of ASO, read an excerpt from a William Saroyan book stating his views towards the Turkish people. He shouts at the Turks challenging them to attempt to destroy Armenia, "Feed them only bread and water, burn their homes and see if they won't laugh, sing, and pray again. For when two Armenians meet anywhere in the world, see if they will not create a new Armenia." By these harsh words, he tells the stories of how Armenians suffered, however, despite their tragic experiences they continue to overcome atrocities and create "a new Armenia."

ASO closed the evening with a few words from our advisor, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, and an invitation to attend our commemoration rally for April 24th.

On Thursday, April 24, 1997, Armenians and non-Armenians throughout the community joined us for our commemoration rally. The speakers for the day expressed a variety of views that touched many. Crissi Jelladian spoke on the prejudice that Armenians experience even today within our own community. She inquired about the amount of contribution it will take



Executive members from ASO, AYF and Homenetmen that organized and led the unified events

to eliminate this prejudice against the Armenian community. She closed her speech by stating, "It is my wish for the future of the Armenian community as a whole, that we focus on our strengths and compassion and continue to enrich both the Armenian and American communities in which we are involved. One note of caution: Be aware of those who bring forth negative viewpoints with no basis and supportive of those who support us and the community in which we live."

Secondly, Professor Su Kapoor, an expert in the area of Peace and Conflict Studies mentioned the massacres and what effect an apology would have on not

only the Armenians, but on our world as a whole. Had the Turkish government 82 years ago admitted the Armenian Genocide, other holocausts could have been eliminated. The denial showed inhuman people such as Adolph Hitler that it was acceptable to massacre people. Kapoor stated, "A simple apology, an I'm sorry, could help to begin the healing process."

Our third speaker was the district director for Congressman George Radanovich, Steve Samuelian. Mr. Samuelian briefly discussed the history of the Armenian Genocide and continued to describe the unbelievable difficulties experienced when trying to pass

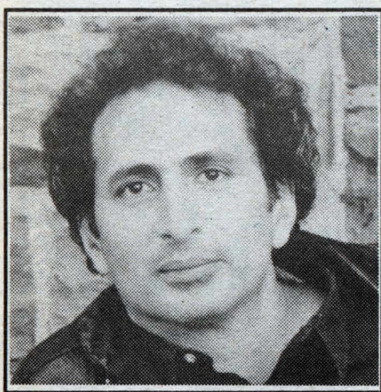
the Radanovich-Bonior amendment which removes \$3 million in economic aid to Turkey until they admit to the occurrence of the Armenian Genocide. Following the passing of this amendment in the House of Representatives, Congressman Radanovich found resistance followed by denial in the Senate. Samuelian promised that their efforts would not stop until admittance from the American and Turkish governments regarding the Armenian Genocide occurred.

Lastly, ASO advisor, Barlow Der Mugrdechian read an excerpt from a Michael Krekorian book, *Corridor*, describing an old man's memories of the atrocities. As he read excerpts, he paused to mention lists of families names that were killed in the Genocide. Fresno State student, Diana Karagozian responding to his speech stated, "He said Avedis, that was my grandfather's name, that really touched me."

The youth from the three organizations according to Mano Momjian, "helped to make each event throughout the week more successful. This year the events were different, attracting new crowds, and new participants. I feel the outcome was positive and should be continued in the future."

**I'd like to send a special thanks to Susie, Mano, Mark, Nishan, Adrine, Aznive, and Marie for all of your hard work. Great job guys!!

Author and Scholar Balakian to Visit Fresno



Peter Balakian

The Armenian Studies Program, the Armenian General Benevolent Union (Fresno Chapter) and the Fresno Art Museum present a reading by Peter Balakian from his new book *Black Dog of Fate*, on Sunday, June 1, 1997 at 3:00 PM in the Bonner Auditorium of the Fresno Art Museum. A reception and book signing will follow the reading.

Black Dog of Fate is the first major book by an American writer to explore the full arc of the Armenian Genocide and its meaning in the twentieth century. Peter Balakian, prize-winning poet, tells an intensely personal story, a classic coming of age memoir about one family's and one culture's survival against great odds. At the center of Balakian's quintessential baby-boom childhood, set in the affluent suburbs of northern New Jersey, is the dark specter of trauma his ancestors had experienced—the Turkish government's extermination of over a million Armenians in 1915. With a poet's wit and deep insight, Balakian explores the intense and often comic collision between his family's ancient Near Eastern culture and the American pop culture of the 50's and '60s.

Balakian moves with ease from childhood memory, to history, to his ancestor's lives, including an

unforgettable portrait of his grandmother, a genocide widow who survived a death march and filed a human rights suit against the Turkish government in 1919, before the modern concept of human rights had been formulated. Written with power and grace, the book unfolds like a tapestry its tale of ultimate survival.

"Balakian, a gifted poet, knows exactly how to bring the pain of the past in to the landscape of the present. Passionate and endearingly personal...an extraordinary book..." Alfred Kazin

"This will be a classic among memoirs for what it tells us about the Armenian American story, about the reclaiming of unspeakable personal and family truths, and out the emergence of a powerful, poetic voice." Robert Jay Lifton

"This is a profound and eloquent book that traces the transmutation of painful history into the

stuff of literature and moral engagement." Mary Catherine Bateson

Balakian is a leading spokesman for the Armenian-American community. He is an activist who has spearheaded numerous campaigns to raise awareness about the Armenian Genocide. In the past year Balakian's petition, "Taking a Stand Against the Turkish Government's Denial of the Armenian Genocide and Scholarly Corruption in the Academy," was an important part of the news story about the Turkish government's most recent effort to manipulate higher education in the United States. Currently he is Professor of English at Colgate University. He is the author of four books of poetry, most recently *Dyer's Thistle*, and a book about Theodore Roethke. He lives in Hamilton, New York.

The AGBU, CSU Fresno
Armenian Studies Program &
Fresno Art Museum
Present
A Reading by the Author
Sunday, June 1, 1997
3:00PM
•Fresno Art Museum
Bonner Auditorium
2233 N. First St., Fresno
•Reception & Book Signing
to Follow
•Free Admission

INSIDE WE'VE GOT.....
-GRADUATING ARMENIANS
-INFO ON VARIOUS FSU
-ACTIVITIES & THE
-ARMENIAN STUDENT'S
-INVOLVEMENT
-CHANNEL ZERO
-RAISIN CONFERENCE
-REACTIONS TO THE
-GENOCIDE EVENTS
-AND LOTS MORE!!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Jacqueline Arikian's excellent article (*Hye Sharzhoom*, March 1997) entitled "Refuge Showcases Artifacts of Fresno's Armenian Heritage" contained a minor error dealing with the early Armenian settlers in Fresno.

In the second paragraph she correctly described the arrival of the Seropian Brother in 1871 and their influence in attracting other Armenians to settle in the Fresno area.

Later in the article, however, she refers to Rueben Minassian as "...the first visitor to the San Joaquin Valley, and Melkon Markarian and Stephen Shahamirian, the first Armenian settlers in the Valley..." There is no documentation to support the presence of anyone name Rueben Minassian in Fresno County. Someone who fits the description also has been referred to as "Lucky Rupe" Minassian. He is said to have spent some time in California in the 1860s in pursuit of gold, but there is no evidence he came to Fresno County. A few historians have stated Rueben Minassian was the first to buy land in Fresno County, but there is no documentation at the Fresno County of Records of such a purchase.

The first recorded deed for the purchase of property by an Armenian in Fresno County in January 1883 by Jacob (Hagop) Minasian. The next purchase was in April 1883 when Anna Minasian purchased 40 acres at the NW corner of Elm and California. That parcel was later identified as belonging to Sarkis Minasian, but there is no indication what their relationship was. It is known they were both from New York.

Sarkis Minasian rented twenty acres to the Seropian Brothers and ten acres each to Melkon Markarian and Stepan Shahamirian to develop by planting vines and trees. They were to receive half of their share of the property, but the Seropians ended up with only four acres due to a dispute. Markarian and Shahamirian had arrived in Fresno in 1882.

Berge Bulbulian
Fresno, California

Dear Dr. Kouymjian,

I enjoyed your classes and you so much and consider you one of me dearest professors, but after

reading *Hye Sharzhoom*, I realize even more how privileged I was to be one of your students!

For you and your wife I send my most sincere wishes for a happy, healthy and very prosperous New Year.

Barbara Rubin
Fresno, California

Dear Dr. Kouymjian,

A much belated... Though none the less sincere... note to thank you for our copy of Professor Barter's "Saroyan's Armenians..."! We appreciate your thoughtfulness in thinking of us. We are all most fortunate to have you in our midst! Thanks again.

Ed and Grace Zartarian
Fresno, California

Dear Editor,

I really liked the article by Dr. Dickran Koumjian about his semester in Berkeley. It was interesting to read about the differences in the university from the professors' point of view. The idea of publishing the material in the Fresno State newspaper is excellent. I find it motivating to learn how students from a prestigious university as Berkeley refer to their studies.

My attention was drawn by the article on the young talented pianist Vartan Mamikonian. I think it is important for a nation to recognize its unique countrymen. However, the article could be improved by involving Mamikonian in person. Interview with him, giving more details about his family background and the way he was brought up could be intriguing. The pianist's feelings about being an Armenian will be interesting as well.

I realize "Hye Sharzhoom" is only a college newspaper but I'd like to find in it information about the Armenian in a larger aspect. It should include the major events in Armenia, updates on the Karabagh issue, and the life of the Armenian Diaspora all over the world. That would probably be difficult considering the volume of the newspaper but it might be possible if the

information is represented as highlights.

I find stating of the different Armenian studies programs very useful. It enables Fresno State students to get familiar with the Armenian - orientated activities on campus.

Finally, I want to congratulate you on the good will and determination shown by issuing this newspaper. Good luck in the future!

Dora Djilianova
Fresno, California

Dear Editor,

I like the article in the *Hye Sharzhoom* titled, "Agricultural Exchange between Fresno and Armenia". This article shows how Fresno is trying to help out the Republic of Armenia. With the knowledge of CSU Fresno's agriculture department, the Armenia Agricultural Academy can learn an enormous amount of information about agriculture. Agriculture is a very important sector in any country.

Another article about Fresno would have been pleasing, considering this is a Fresno-based newspaper. Most of the people who receive a copy of the *Hye Sharzhoom* live in Fresno. Also, it would have been nice if there was an article about Armenian students that are currently going to CSU Fresno. There is a section on classes that will be available for the fall 1997. It would be nice if there was an article explaining the classes that are currently being taught this semester, where students could give feedback that would encourage other students to enroll in these classes.

With some minor adjustments, the *Hye Sharzhoom* can be improved and made into a worthwhile Armenian student newspaper.

Jason Ahronian
Fresno, California

ARMENIA



PORTRAITS OF SURVIVAL

Books for sale at the Armenian Studies office

For more information call the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669. Or visit our offices in the Peters Business building room 384.

Armenian Studies E-mail Network

If you currently have an e-mail account and would like to be placed on the Armenian Studies Program e-mail network, please send an e-mail message to frances_ziegler@csufresno.edu (Program Secretary)

You will receive up-to-date information on the latest activities of the Armenian Studies Program.

HYE SHARZHOOM

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REACTIONS TO THE GENOCIDE EVENTS FROM SOME STUDENTS ON CAMPUS:

"I've had at least four different people come up to me and ask me about the genocide. This year had an amazing effect on students at the campus."

- Karen Karabian-

"I didn't know anything about the genocide. It's not a topic that elementary or high schools teach, they just tell us how great America is to everyone. History doesn't have to be taught in a classroom or even in a book but as you all were here today educating people of the truth."

- Marc Essley-

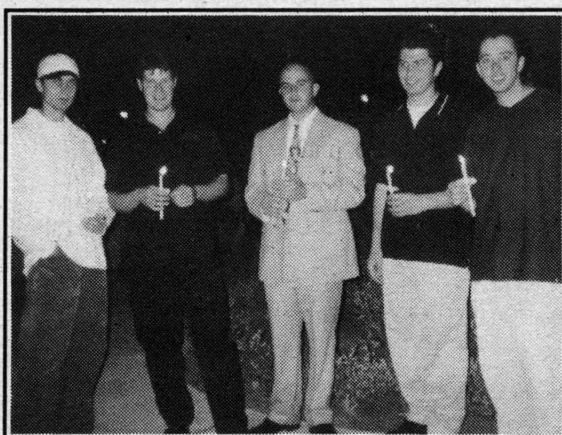
"It is good to see the support of the faculty because they can get the word out to the students."

There was a lot of faculty and non-Armenians. This is not only history but it is significant to today and to the future."

- professor Matthew Jendian-

"I never heard about the Armenians or the genocide. It is good to see you fighting and people need to recognize this event as other races are going through the same thing. It needs to stop!"

- Edgardo Pacheco -



Getting ready for the candle-light vigil



An ASO event: "COME LISTEN TO MUSIC, HAVE COFFEE (SOORJ), PAKLAVA, TALK WITH US AND LEARN ABOUT THE GENOCIDE."

Update on the Armenian Community School Volunteers

By Crissi Jelladian

In the Fall 1996 and Spring 1997 semesters, the Armenian Students Organization was invited to assist the staff at the Armenian Community School of Fresno. This school is responsible for educating children grades K-6, and will soon be expanding to the 7th grade.

Seth Atamian, principal of the Armenian Community School, had a need for college students to work with the children in a variety of areas: counseling, academics, sports, and computer skills. Mr. Atamian stated, "Crissi Jelladian acted as the liaison between the Armenian Community School and Armenian Students Organization (ASO) to begin the program and was the first volunteer." He further stated, "We are proud to have ASO working with us. A new dimension of college students working with our elementary students has been added to this school. Our students look forward to their visits. The program has been outstanding and we look forward to it's continuance next year."

The program was so successful and fulfilling for both ages of students that five new collegians became active in the program: Mano Momjian, Tina Attashian, Candrea Balekian, Vahan Balekian, and Seema Patel. Students of the Armenian Community School were interviewed



Vahan Balekian with Armenian Community School children

by Crissi Jelladian. Comments were as follows: "I learned how to carry on better conversations and liked talking to someone closer to my age," stated Armen Khasigian. "It was nice to have someone to talk with," described Nick Antazo. "It allowed me to express my feelings to someone closer to my age," shared Dale Thompson. Lastly, Kach Savis exclaimed, "it helped me out with my math."

In the beginning, visiting the Armenian School was a

project, however, one semester later all participants involved in this program feel that it is an honor and a heart warming experience. "I feel that ASO and the contributing students benefit greatly from this program along with the children and it is my sincere wish to see the continuance of this program," said Crissi Jelladian. "To see the students progression and smiling faces creates a feeling words cannot express."

"Armenians in the Raisin Industry: 1890-1990"

by Anna Der Minasian Garza

The History Department and the Armenian Studies Program co-sponsored a symposium, *Armenians in the Raisin Industry: 1890-1990*, on April 5, 1997, in the Alice Peters Auditorium at California State University, Fresno. A satellite room with closed circuit television was opened to accommodate the overflow audience of approximately 150. Partial funding for the conference came from the Kazan Endowment at CSU, Fresno.

In opening the conference, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig & Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at CSU, Fresno and Coordinator of the ASP, referred to the "new Armenian royalty:" the Raisin King, the Fig King. He gave an account of research about Armenians in the Central Valley noting in particular, the thesis of Richard La Pierre, *The Armenian Colony in Fresno County, California: A Study in Social Psychology*. He also raised questions for consideration such as: Did Armenians engaged in farming in the San Joaquin Valley have farming experience before they came, and if not, how did they learn about agriculture?

Dr. Isabel Kaprielian, Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Professor of Modern Armenian & Immigration History, organized and coordinated the symposium. Before beginning the first session, she acknowledged all who were involved in helping with the symposium.

Berge Bulbulian, a member of the Armenian Studies Program Board at CSUF, is currently writing the history of Armenians in Fresno County. Focusing on *The Early History of Armenians in the Raisin Industry*, he pointed out that the Central Valley is the largest producer of raisins in the world and that Armenians have been a major force in this development. Bulbulian named some Armenians who were engaged in the raisin industry in the early days and indicated where some of their farms and raisin packing sheds were located. One of the earliest marketers of raisins was the Seropian family, who came to Fresno in the latter part of the 19th century. As a result of law suits with the Guggenheim family and banking discrimination by banker O. J. Woodward, the Seropian family business was destroyed. Despite the fate of the Seropians, other Armenian families entered the raisin packing industry, and are still successfully operating today. As an example, he noted Enoch Packing Co., in Del Rey, CA, which is still operated by the grandchildren of Charles Enoch, the founder.

Bryan Bedrosian, ranch manager of Bedrosian Farms, gave an account of his family's involvement in the raisin industry in his speech: *From Moush & Kharpert to Fowler, California: The Bedrosian Family Chronicle*. Because of the hardships in Armenia, his great-grandfather Krikor Yeghoyan left Kharpert for the U.S. in 1908. Other ancestors came from Moush. One of his grandfathers purchased a 100-acre grape farm in Fowler, in 1942. Through hard work and frugality, the family was able to purchase more land in 1958, then started the National Raisin Co. In 1969. Bedrosian discussed the impact of the rise and fall of the price of raisins on the family farm operations, and spoke of the involvement of his father, Ernest, in organizing the Raisin Bargaining Association in 1965.

Margaret Ohanesian, Vice President at Victor Packing, spoke about *Armenian Women in Farming and Packing*. Ohanesian stated the Armenian women and children worked both on and off the farm. Sometimes their additional incomes made the difference between losing or keeping the family farm. Often, Armenian widows continued to operate the family farm after their husband's death. Many Armenian women helped their family business by keeping the family business books, working in packinghouses and canneries, and supervising the packing operations themselves. Jesse Gary, is an example of a successful Armenian business woman, who owns and operates Gary Packing, a fancy pack dried fruit business in Del Rey, CA.

Victor Sahatdjian, President of Victor Packing, spoke of *The Sahatdjian Family History in Farming and the Raisin Industry*. Sahatdjian explained how his family immigrated to the U.S., via Mexico, and came to the Fresno area as migrant farm laborers after the Genocide. They worked for the Dole Company living in company housing. Through great sacrifice, the Sahatdjian family saved up enough to buy their first farm in 1928 just before the Depression. While some family members worked on the farm, others worked outside but contributed their salaries to keep the land. The family started Victor Packing in 1963, and for 10 years no member of the family took a wage so the business could make a profit. Today the Sahatdjian family still runs the business.

Dr. Vincent Petrucci, Professor Emeritus of Viticulture and Enology at CSUF, moderated the second session.

Matthew Jendian, a doctoral candidate spoke on, *The Farming Community and Marriage Patterns of the Armenians in Fresno County*. He stated that the early period of immigrants settled in enclaves like "Armenian Town" in Fresno. Inter-marriage in these early years was very low. As years progressed, the rate of inter-marriage increased. In 1930, 10% of the 48 marriages of Armenians were to non-Armenians, and in 1940, 15% of the 56 marriages were to non-Armenians. In 1960, 54% of 63 marriages were to non-Armenians, and in 1980, 80% of 59 marriages were to non-Armenians. Inter-marriage, he noted, was related to the fact that children of Armenian families moved to other towns and interacted

California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program

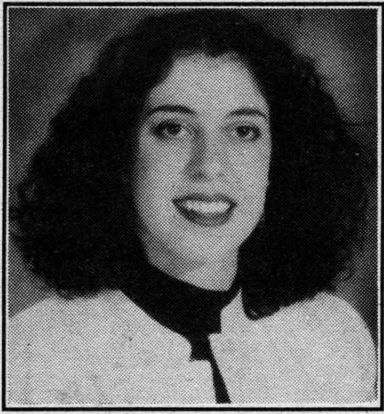
Fall 1997 Schedule of Courses

Courses	Time	Day	Instructor
General Education			
Division 9-Other Cultures			
• Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies	1010-1100	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
• Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies	1310-1400	MWF	Staff
• Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies	0945-1100	TTh	I Kaprielian
Division 7- Languages			
• Arm 1A Elementary Armenian	1110-1200	MTWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Upper Division Courses			
• Arm S 108A Arm History I	0910-1000	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
• Arm S 120T Arm. Genocide	1810-2100	Wed	I Kaprielian
• Arm S 120T Armenian Cooking	1710-2200	Fri	B Der Mugrdechian
	0910-1700	Sat	
Class meets the weekend of October 17 & 18 Materials fee of \$25			
• Arm S 120T Armenian Church	1710-2200	Fri	B Der Mugrdechian
	0910-1700	Sat	
Class meets the weekend of October 3 & 4			

All courses can be used for credit toward a minor in Armenian Studies.

For more information call the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669
or visit our offices in the Peters Business Building, Room 384.

Graduates of 1997



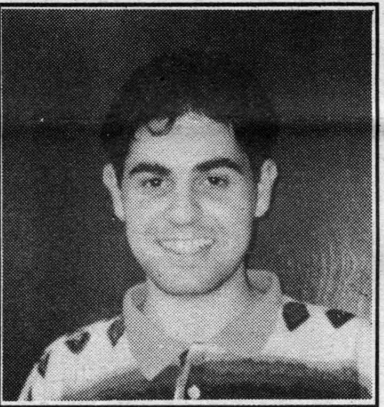
Rosemary Levon Kalpakian
BA Mass Communication and Journalism
emphasis in production

Every year at Fresno State has been memorable for Rosy, but graduation day will be the most memorable moment ever. Rosy started out as an art major, but soon changed to MCJ. After taking a single camera production class she realized that even though the class was challenging, she had found what she wanted to do in her life. The most supportive people in her life, she says are her friends and family, "Especially my father whose life and sacrifice is all the inspiration I need to stand tall and go on." After graduation, Rosy plans to keep working at KMPH Fox 26, where she currently works. In Rosy's words "I have reached the end of the tunnel, and I can soon breathe."



Corinne Ohanessian
BA Advertising

Corinne always wanted to be in advertising, but started out as an interior design major in Beirut, Lebanon. After finding out that she didn't have the patience to draw straight lines all day, she switched to advertising. After graduation, Corinne would like to find a job in an advertising agency as a copywriter. She also is planning to get a Masters in either French or photography. For Corinne the most memorable moments at Fresno State would be making friends with students from different cultures and backgrounds. "I'll take with me their stories, their joy and their pain."



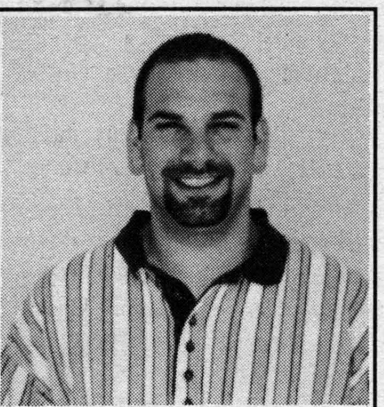
Emmanuel Ohannessian
BA Computer Science

Computers have always been Emmanuel's fascination. He decided to become a computer programmer in the ninth grade. After moving to the United States in 1991 from Lebanon, Emmanuel chose Fresno State where he would get his degree. The person who inspired Emmanuel most would be his professor Dr. Brent Auernheimer. The most memorable moment for Emmanuel was when he got his AS degree, two years after he came to Fresno State, even though English was his fourth language. He says he will miss a lot of good friends he made during his years at Fresno State.



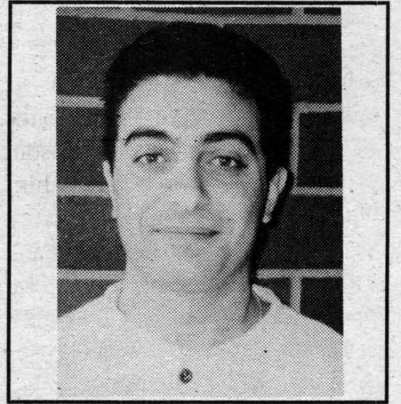
Grace Gerges
BA Liberal Studies

The most beneficial thing Grace says she learned during her time at Fresno State, is that her faith in the Lord was strengthened as it rose to new challenges. Grace would like to recognize her parents, and says, "Especially my hero, my mom-it was her strength, faith, and unconditional support that saw me through." The memorable things that Grace will leave behind, is all the friendships she made during her years at Fresno State. For now Grace has been accepted into the credential program, and is waiting to hear from the Peace Corps.



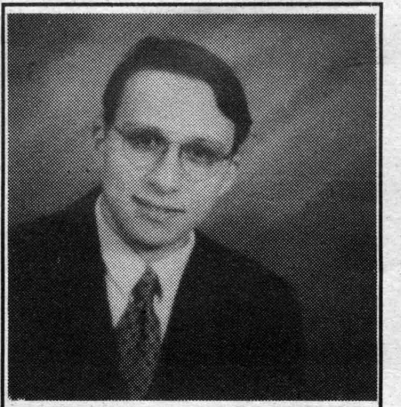
Aram Nigol Sarkissian
BA Mass Communication and Journalism
Minor Armenian Studies

Aram says, he has been fortunate in the sense that by graduation, he will have two years of work experience in his field. He currently works at KMPH Fox 26, he also has been the host of the Armenian radio show on KFSR 90.7 for 3 1/2 years. Originally a business major, Aram changed his major to MCJ, because he realized that broadcasting was something he had always wanted to do. He wanted to be the next Peter Jennings. After graduation, Aram would like to land a job back home, San Francisco. The people that Aram would like to recognize, are his close friends, Rosemary Kalpakian and Paul Chaderjian for their inspiration and support. Aram states, "One of the most beneficial things I have learned during my time at Fresno State is how to organize and make the most of my time."



Hakop Adjinian
BA Business Administration
Accounting

Ever since high school Hakop had made up his mind to major in accountancy. After completing his major, his new goal now is to pass the CPA exam. Hakop recognizes his family and friends for their continuous support, and states that the secret in overcoming the challenges in life is to be prepared and above all be disciplined. One of the most beneficial things Hakop has learned during the time at Fresno State is that hard work and dedication enables a person to overcome any obstacles in life.



Joseph I. Krajekian
BS Biology
Molecular and Cellular
Biology Option

After completing a year at Fresno City college, Joseph transferred to Fresno State, where he completed a Bachelors degree in Biology in three and a half years. After graduation Joseph is starting graduate school at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. The most challenging semester at Fresno State was when Joseph was completing 27 units while working 20 hours a week and taking scuba diving and flying lessons. Joseph wants to recognize his older brother Jack for his guidance and support. He states, "He was not only my brother, but my best friend and a role model."

DJ's of The Hye Oozh Radio Show

By Tina Attashian

As we entered the studio, we saw Aram looking through his CD's selecting his next set of songs. Then as he introduced his next song Garo and I sat down to talk to him. As we were interviewing Aram, the melody of the great music and constant ringing of the phone from listeners created an energetic atmosphere in the room.

We began by asking about the history of the show and learned that it began about five years ago when Rose Kalpakian approached KFSR with the idea of starting up an Armenian program. Then Aram, who has been with the show for about three and a half years, was first recruited to do the news about Armenia but now, is also a DJ for the show. He then shared with us his first experience on the air, "Since it was my first experience in doing something like this, the first day I was a wreck. I was so nervous that I was shaking sweating and mumbling. It took me a couple of

weeks to get the hang of it and now I'm just used to it"

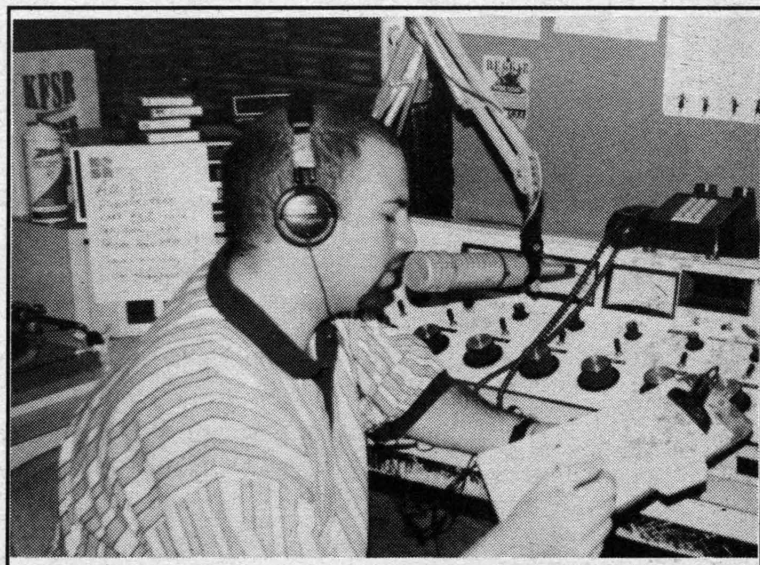
Then after getting another song ready for transition, Aram told us of their routine on Saturday mornings. He said at times there is problem with the door being locked, so they run around trying to find someone to unlock the room which makes the show begin later than it should. After they get situated, they have paper work to complete because they have all the responsibilities that take place in the room and on the air every Saturday 10:00am-12:00pm. After all that, the fun begins with creating the selection of songs, answering the phone, talking to listeners, making up a list of requests, announcing upcoming events in the Armenian community, dedicating songs, and enjoying the music.

Learning more about the program, Aram told us that the Hye Oozh show has no connection to any organization. He commented that their CD's belong to Rose so that no one can have the authority

to tell them what to play, what not to play, or even which announcements they can make on the air. He stated that the program will play any kind of music so long as it has an affiliation to an Armenian. Aram gave us an example, "If someone asked me to play a rock, rap or classical song I would so long as an Armenian had some sort of connection to it, such as, being the singer or the producer."

He also talked of how the program is not only a fun aspect of their lives but one in which added to their lives working for a radio station. Aram states, "Even though it is only campus radio, at the time it was the experience I needed to get the job at KMPH news radio." In addition he admitted that getting a thank you from people in the community is what truly makes it all worth while.

Lastly, Aram talked about the fact that both he and Rose were graduating this year and that he will miss the moments on air, talking to the listeners, and knowing



Aram in action: taking requests, talking to listeners, getting music ready and making announcements.

that he is making a difference in the lives of the 400-600 listeners in the Armenian community of Fresno. However, they are both in the pursuit of finding a committed person or persons to take over the show. Aram stresses the importance of picking the new candidate as he says, "The show is like my baby. I'm going to be very picky in choosing who is going to take over. This is not only a job filled with fun

but it requires someone who is serious in dedicating every Saturday morning to the show."

In conclusion, we end this article by thanking both Aram and Rose for dedicating their Saturdays to the lives of the Armenian community. The show is appreciated by many people in the community and we wish you all the best for your future.

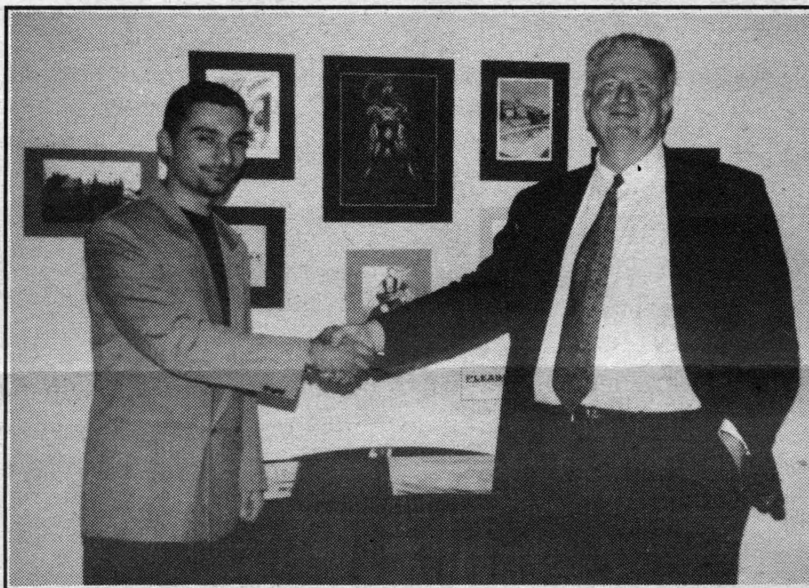
Check Him Out!

By Tina Attashian

Garo Nakashian, the cartoonist that introduced Katch Vartan II to you in previous *Hye Saharzhoom* editions, participated in an annual senior portfolio show for graphic design majors. The show took place in the Conley Art Gallery on April 15, 1997. Among thirteen other students he presented 3 years of his work in a portfolio. His portfolio included illustration work and advertising pieces which totaled 15 works of art in his presentation. Looking at his diverse set of pieces, I asked him which art work was his favorite. He replied, "I don't have a favorite piece of work because

every piece I do is done with equal amounts of dedication, enthusiasm and enjoyment."

While listening to him talk, I could hear the passion and admiration he held for his major, graphic design. He mentioned how graphic design was enjoyable but challenging, "I have to use my talents and skills to create an interest to all consumers that are presented the particular project I'm working on." He then described the field as one in which was hidden to people and explained how people generally look at a particular product and don't see the visual communication that is being sent to them. Asking him to explain what he meant, he left me with a few questions to think about, "When you pick up a magazine and read a fascinating article, is it



Mr. Shields congratulating Garo for his hard work and portfolio.

the pictures, the presentation of the title and subtitles that attracted you to read it? How about if you are picking a book to read, is it the book cover that initiates your interest to read the

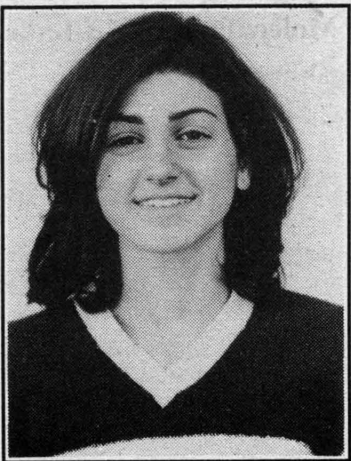
preface? Or how about when you are watching TV, have you ever seen a commercial that makes you want to leave your house and buy a product?" All these questions gave me a better understanding on

graphic design and the effects it has on it's viewers.

After grasping a better understanding of Garo's field, he then explained to me that the graphic design program is being modernized by Charles Shields, a local business owner and professor at Fresno State. He explained to me that the classes now allowed students to primarily work with computers and commented, "I like it, it makes me feel prepared to face the real world."

To conclude our discussion I found out that Garo after graduation, would like to work for an advertising firm or design studio in Fresno or the Bay Area. If you seem him around campus, stop him to check out his art work. It's capturing to the eye!

Look out for those Armenian Women!!!



Karen Karabian

Vintage Days is a yearly event at Fresno State and when it comes to campus all students, faculty and the Fresno community are ready to get involved and enjoy the activities that are provided for them.

This year involvement of the radio station Star 101, the reggae music of Dub Nation, Fox 26 and their Kids Club Crew, rides including the Ferris Wheel and many Fresno State organizations which set up food and game booths all participated in the

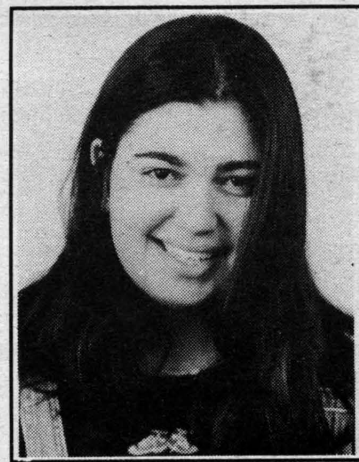
craze of Vintage Days. Whilst walking on campus the crafts, music, games and food left you with no other choice but to take part in the fun and be happy. The schedule for April 17th - 20th left you breathless with the variety of events that were offered, a few of the following listed were some of the events that took place on campus: Beach Jam- a wild air guitar contest between clubs, residence halls, and Greeks; Casino Night- an evening featuring live bands, a DJ, gaming tables with handfuls of play money and spectacular prize giveaways; Boomtown Carnival- a massive playground attraction which includes activities like a giant Bounce House; Jungle- an after hours dance with DJ's spinning the best in hip-hop and house music; Crafts Faire- over 250 vendors bringing their hand crafted items to campus and lots more.

Behind all this amazing festivity, are two Armenian

women. The directors of Vintage Days 1997 were Karen Karabian and Jackie Arikian. These women over-saw and guided a committee of 12 coordinators, coordinated weekly Vintage Days meetings, created posters and flyers, wrote press releases and radio spots, scheduled meetings with local businesses for co-sponsorship and lastly supervised over twelve events within the four day festival. Talking to Karen, she described Vintage Days as, "A 96-hour extravaganza that unites the campus and community. Students have fun in the sun- they enjoy the hottest concerts, comedians, and student entertainment."

Wanting to know more about why they chose to take part in such a responsibility Jackie explained, "It is a good feeling to know that I was able to give to my community and my university, particularly since they have impacted my life in an amazing way." Then Karen

added, "I got involved because it was an outlet for my creativity. It was a once-in-a-life-time experience to shape student activities at Fresno State. I had a position of power and I loved it!" Lastly, questioning them on what they had learned for their participation Jackie replied, "My involvement with Vintage Days as Event Director gave me the opportunity to learn more about myself as well as the opportunity to learn about leadership skills." Karen said, "It had taught me that there is never enough time to do everything you want to do, and that teamwork and a solid commitment to each other can turn a disaster into a spectacular success. But, I guess the most important lesson I learned was that I can just as easily hurt someone as I can help them. My attitude and my actions, positive and negative, were far more influential than I



Jackie Arikian

realized."

Vintage Days is a spectacular event that is a part of Fresno State's character. Karen Karabian and Jackie Arikian are two fun loving and good-hearted women on campus that like to take charge and provide all students, faculty and the Fresno community a time to laugh and enjoy life. You both did an amazing job and created a lot of happiness for others around you.

by Tina Attashian

Author Introduces New Book-Zero Coupon

By Jacqueline Arikian

On March 10th, on the campus of California State University, Fresno, Professor Michael Krekorian of UCRiverside made his way to the front of a crowded classroom filled with eager students.

A bearded man dressed in jeans and a sports coat, he seated himself on top of the desk in the front of the room and began to read an excerpt from his latest prize winning novel, *Channel Zero*.

The futuristic book, which loosely involves the struggle of an advertising executive named Zero Coupon, was essentially inspired through the world around him.

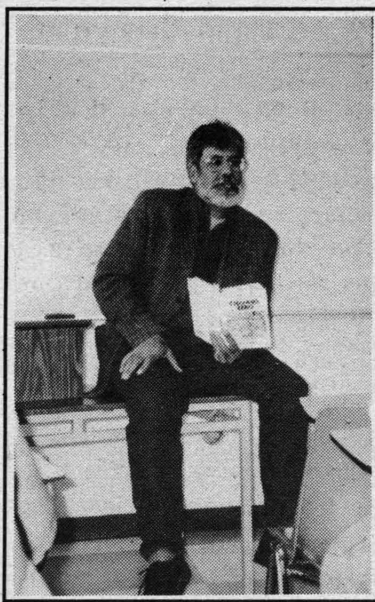
Through his observations of television and popular media slogans, Krekorian was able to create a storyline which metaphori-

cally described the coming destruction of the world. This somewhat pessimistic portrayal is a sign of what we are currently amidst and the dismal nature which it causes.

The current work of this post-modern writer is not very story oriented, rather, it is a cross between fiction and poetry.

In a unique fashion, Krekorian created a story in a poetic manner and achieved a stylistic unity which was immediately apparent through the tone in his voice as he read the words of his thought provoking creation.

"Free is a word described by laws and regulations," he said. And as those words seeped out of his lips, his audience couldn't help but contemplate the truth in all he had to say, in all he had formulated through his careful societal obser-



Michael Krekorian

ventions.

Mesmerized by his in-

sight, the listeners were eager to hear the words which he had to offer, words which simply flowed over the reader due to its loose sense of tone and attitude.

Krekorian struggled to create a novel who's style carried on the work. However, the difficulty of this task lied in the fact that the work essentially depended on the style due to the lack of narration.

With or without narration, certain aspects of *Channel Zero* were reflective of the message in Orwell's *1984*, a grim novel on the dismal future of America.

Providing insight on the overseen fact that infomercials place more emphasis on the presentation of a product rather than the importance of the product, Krekorian presented a parallel to

the constant control of Orwell's Big Brother.

Further illustrating this point, Krekorian discussed the latest technological advance of credit cards. To most people, the abolition of money in replacement for credit cards is an added convenience to life. Realistically however, it is the theft of privacy, where one's records and transactions are exposed to the world.

Despite Krekorian's internal struggle in creating this novel and its parallel to *1984*, it is evident that his futuristic message is loud and clear, perhaps a bit too loud and clear for those of us who heard the deafening whispers of the words which trickled out of his mouth on that Monday afternoon.

Mamikonian Concert Review



Vardan Mamikonian, second from right, with Dr. Andreas Werz, director of the Keyboard Concert, far right, and Dr. and Mrs. Dickran Kouymjian on the left.

By Steven E. Gilbert

Professor of Music

CSU Fresno

(Reprinted from the Fresno Bee)

The final installment of this year's Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concerts at Fresno State, jointly sponsored by the university's Armenian Studies Program and the Hamazkayin Armenian Cultural and Educational Society, had the added significance of coinciding with the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. It featured Vardan Mamikonian, a remarkable pianist born 26 years ago in Yerevan, Armenia, who now lives in Paris.

At the center of the program were the complete "Gaspard de la Nuit" of Ravel and an entire opus of Chopin etudes. Neither is an everyday occurrence; the quality of the performance was even rarer. The Ravel, fiendish in subject matter as well as pianistic difficulty, communicated an eerie excitement-suppressed fistfuls of notes in "Ondine," the sinister, evenly repeated gallows motif in "Le Gibet," and the wicked scamperings of "Scarbo."

Chopin's second set of 12 etudes, Op. 25, includes several that are often played singly, perhaps as encores, but it takes a certain command and concentration

to play the whole dozen in succession.

Each was executed brilliantly, with control and bravura in all the right, respective places. The performance was marred only by insistent rounds of applause from half the audience, which kept missing the cue from the other half that the place for ovation was at the end of the set.

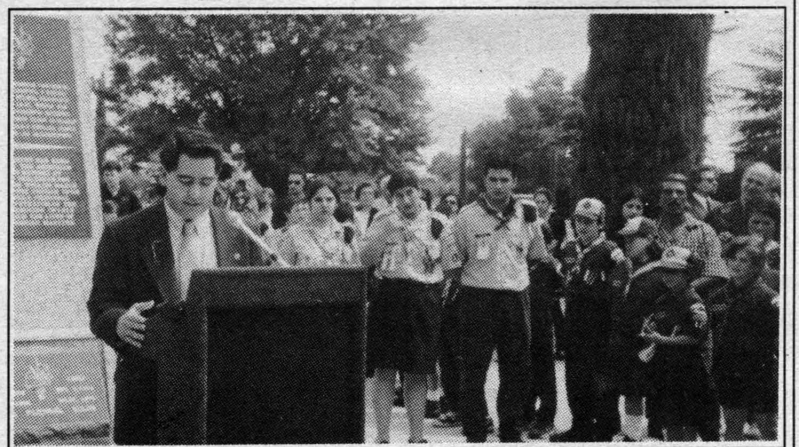
That there was, and a standing one, even though Mamikonian had another piece to play. This, the "Andante Spianato and Grand Polonaise," also by Chopin, was a perfect built-in encore, just as Debussy's "Estampes" provided the perfect prelude.

More on April 24th

By Aznive Tchapidarian

AHA- these are the call letters for the Armenian Youth groups that came together for the first time this year to commemorate the 82nd Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. AHA stands for Armenian Students Organization, Homenetmen, and Armenian Youth Federation.

To start the week-long commemoration activities, a play and poetry reading were performed on Saturday, April 19, 1997 at the Hagopian Center. About 6:30 the program started with the youngest of the Homenetmen scouts reciting a poem "Argadz Irak" (Sad Lantern) by Daniel Varoujan. It was music to my ears listening to the scouts recite in Armenian, in sync with one another. It was beautifully done. After the poem, the teenage scouts of the Homenetmen, re-enacted a narrated play by Siamanto, the narrators of the play were various members of the AHA. The Scouts re-enacted the atrocities that occurred during the Genocide, to the women, children and men. Of course the re-enactment could never measure up to the real brutality that occurred. Crissi Jelladian read a few lines from a William Saroyan short, "The Armenian and The Armenian," which relayed the message that Armenians will never die, for anyone who tries to destroy us or our culture will only make us, the Armenians, stronger. We will unite together to live



Steve Samuelian giving his speech at Ararat Cemetery

long and prosperous lives.

After all the hard work that every one placed in this event, we ended the evening by having a bon-fire in remembrance of the 1,500,000 Armenians who were murdered and massacred. With the strong winds, and the amazing sunset behind the bon-fire I felt as though the spirits of the departed were with us and giving us their blessing, to continually fight for justice and remember their lives.

Ararat Cemetery, was the site of the second commemoration event, which took place on Sunday April 20, 1997.

It was 10:00 o'clock and it felt as though the temperature was already over a hundred degrees. The sun, attacking our black, matching tee-shirts, was draining our energy, but we were working vigorously to prepare for the event. This was the most important event, because it was held at the memorial site for the Armenian Genocide, Ararat

Massis Cemetery.

The various Armenian Youth Organizations arrived early in the morning to start to set up for the days events, by cutting carnations and tying ribbons to be distributed to the people. Various members of the youth groups spoke in terms of what this day meant to them and how it felt to be an American Armenian, first generation or second generation. We have a culture and religion that is our tie.

Steve Samuelian stated that "we need to remember and educate the public of the Genocide." Mr. Samuelian stated "In 1991, only six years ago, a genocide was attempted again in Karabagh. They knocked on your door and if they found out that you were Armenian, they killed you on the spot. WE need to remember this day and educate the public, so that this type of violence does not occur again, not just for the Armenian people but for man kind.

RAISIN, continued from page 3

with other cultures. Interestingly, the intermarriage rate dropped in 1990 to 68% of 63 marriages; this decline was due to an influx of Armenian immigrants in the 1980s. Jendian found that the American born children of Armenian born parents are three times more likely to marry non-Armenians than American born children of non-Armenian born parents.

Vaughn Koligian, Chief Executive Officer of the Raisin Bargaining Association (RBA), gave a speech on *The History & Role of the Raisin Bargaining Association*. Koligian stated that California produces 75% of the world's dark raisins and 45% of the world dried fruit. He explained how it became necessary to organize a collective bargaining association to restore order to the sale of raisins by farmers. The Raisin Bargaining Association was established according to terms of the Capper-Volsted Act (1922) which allowed farmers to unite to form a bargaining association. Led by Ernest Bedrosian, the RBA was set up in 1965, but at first, many growers were reluctant to sign with the RBA. Today the RBA is a nonprofit organization with 2,000 raisin farmers in the San Joaquin Valley.

Dr. Victor Davis Hanson, Professor of Classics at CSU Fresno discussed, *Armenian Agrarians as seen by non-Armenians*. Dr. Hanson began by saying that no one had done more for the raisin industry than the Armenians, except for Mexican-Americans. He referred to hard work as the foundation of successful farming, at least in the past. In discussing discrimination against Armenians in the Central Valley, Hanson raised the issue of envy. He also noted that Armenians sometimes expanded their farming operations to include agribusiness and this often ran counter to the North European Protestant agrarian work ethic.

During the question and answer period which followed each session the debate was lively. In her concluding remarks, Dr. Kaprielian suggested avenues for research and collaboration. "Aside from the need to examine more fully the Armenian experience in Fresno, we must also study the relationship between Armenians and other groups." She said, "For instance, we should work on the Mexican Armenian connection, not only with respect to employer/employee relations, but also with respect to the role Mexico played in the immigration of Armenians to California." Dr. Warren Gade, Chairman of History at CSUF, thanked the audience for attending, and in closing the proceedings commented on how well the symposium had been received.

In an interview following the symposium, Dr. Kaprielian spoke on the possibility of publishing the proceedings. She expressed the need to collect photographs, diaries, old accounts, books, advertisements, letters, and other memorabilia to be included in such a publication.

Gifts and Books

Elizabeth Koojoolian for a several boxes of Armenian books and periodicals.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program, would like to thank the authors and publishers for the following books and periodicals:

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Հայ Ժողովրդի Մեծ Ողբերգությունը

Գրեց Լիլիթ Սարգսյան

XIX դարի ամբողջ երկրորդ հիսնամյակը եւ XX դարի առաջին երկու տասնամյակները հայ ժողովրդի արեւմտյան հատվածի պատմության ամենաողակերգական ժամանակաշրջանն են եղել: Այդ ընթացքում մշակվեց եւ իրագործվեց արեւմտահայերի ֆիզիկական բնաջնջումը: Իրենց ամբողջ մերկությանը բացահայտվեցին նաեւ եվրոպական խոշոր տերությունների դիվանագիտության խարդավամքները հայկական հարցում: Անըմբժնելի եւ բանականությանն անհարիր է, թե թուրքական բարբարոսները ինչպես կարող էին քաղաքակիրթ մարդկության աչքի ածջել մի ամբողջ ժողովուրդ ըսպանդի ենթարկել

եւ մնալ անպատիժ: Այս հարցը այսօր էլ հուզում է ոչ միայն հայերին այլ համաշխարհային հասարակական կարծիքը:

1915թ. Ապրիլի 24-ին թուրքերը ձեռնամուխ եղան վաղուց ի վեր մշակված հայերի ցեղասպանության իրենց ոճի գործ քաղաքականության իրագործմանը: Արեւմտյան Հայաստանում նրանք գազանային շարունակում ոչնչացրին ավելի քան մեկ եւ կես միլիոն հայերի, ավերեցին բոլոր հայկական դպրոցներն ու եկեղեցիները, ոչնչացրին հազարավոր պատմական. ձեռագրեր, ճարտարապետական հուշարձաններ, վաժեցին քաղաքներ, գյուղեր: Դա սպանդ էր:

Թուրքերը մեծ զգուշությամբ պատրաստվեցին իրենց ծրագրերը: Առաջին հերթին պիտի

կոտորվին օսմանյան բանակի մեջ զինվորացած հարյուր հազար հայեր: Ապա՝ կայսրության սահմանների մեջ գտնվող հայ հավաքականության ղեկավարները պիտի ձերբակալվեին եւ լծությամբ դատապարտվեին: Վերջապես՝ մնացյալ հայերը դուրս պիտի բերվեին իրենց տներից եւ տարագրվին դեպի անապատները, որպեսզի այնտեղ մեծնեին ծառավի, արեւահարության կամ անոթության պատճառով:

Ապրելու համար մեծնելու պատրաստ հայերի ինքնապաշտպանական մարտեր, Վանում, Ծապին-Գարահիսարում, Ուրֆայում, Այնթափում, Մուսադաղում, Հաճնում, Տարնում, Մուշում եւ այլ վայրերում չկարողացան կանխել անկանխելին: Ապրիլի 24-ի սեւ կիրակին արեւմտա-

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Professor Kouymjian Participates in Three May Conferences

The Center for Near Eastern Studies of the University of California, Los Angeles sponsored a special colloquium entitled "Renegotiating Identity in Terms of the Other: Armeno-Islamic Interchange in Anatolia during the Second Half of the Thirteenth Century," on Friday May 2, 1997 on the UCLA campus. Following a UCLA tradition, Dr. Peter Cowe, Visiting Associate Professor of Armenian Studies in the Department of Near East Languages, invited one other specialist, Prof. Dickran Kouymjian, to consider in depth the role of Armenians in Asia Minor after the Mongol invasion. The two papers were prepared in advance and distributed to faculty and graduate students for study. The focus of the conference was on the writers Yovhannes and Konstantine Erzinkats'i and their relationship and assimilation of trends in Islamic culture.

The first paper entitled "Urban Brotherhoods in the Thirteenth Century and the Canons of Yovhannes Erzinkats'i" was presented by invited guest Dr. Kouymjian, Haig & Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies and Director of the Armenian Studies Program, California State University, Fresno. He discussed in detail the Constitution written by Yovhannes Erzinkats'i in 1280 for the Armenian Brotherhood of Erzinjan and its relation to similar Islamic fraternal organizations.

The second paper "Poetic Renewal as Indicator of Societal Redefinition" was given by Dr. Peter Cowe, who considered the poetics of the both

Konstantine and Yovhannes and their interchange with Islamic culture.

Prof. Leslie Pierce, Visiting Professor of Ottoman History at UCLA, was the chair and discussant of the Colloquium. She emphasized how important it was to make available this rich Armenian source material to specialists of medieval Islamic history and literature because it presented a fascinating insider's view of what urban life was like in the transition period after the Mongol conquest and before the rise of the Ottomans.

A lively discussion ensued around a number of questions related to early Armenian-Mongol, Armenian-Islamic and Armenian-Turkic relations in the pre-Ottoman period. Topics ranged from the preservation of minority cultural monuments, in this case Armenian, to statistics on population and demography. Both Profs. Cowe and Kouymjian spoke about the influence of literary and historical conventions from the Islamic world on Armenian intellectuals. Dr. Kouymjian explained that the cultural borrowings which took place in both directions illustrates how vibrant Armenian culture was in those years. "Armenians were players in the game," he said, "sometimes minor, sometimes major, but always present. It was only 1915 and the Genocide

which took them out of the great cultural exchanges in Asia Minor, to the apparent loss of Anatolian culture which is poorer now than ever before."

Professor Kouymjian will participate in two other conferences in May. On Saturday, May 10th he will present a paper entitled "Who Reads Saroyan Today" at a conference on "William Saroyan and Contemporary Scholarship," sponsored by the Stanford University Libraries. The conference, which begins at 10 AM and continues into the afternoon, is part of a celebration of the consolidation of the William Saroyan Literary Collection at Stanford University. It is open to the public.

The following weekend, May 17-18, he will participate at the special conference "Armenian Van/Vasurakan" organized by Prof. Richard Hovannisian at UCLA. On Saturday, May 17 he will give a paper entitled "Van under Mongol-Turkmen Domination," and on the following day, Sunday May 18, he has been invited to give an illustrated lecture on "Pictorial Memories of Armenian Van." The UCLA Van Conference will be held from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM on Saturday and 1:30 to 5:30 PM on Sunday in 1200 Rolfe Hall. It is free and open to the public.

The Fresno Art Museum

• **Reuben Nakian: Sculpture**
A Centennial Survey

• **Sam Tchakalian: Paintings**

May 16 -Through August 17, 1997

Opening Reception
Thursday, May 22, 1997
5:00-7:00 PM

The Public is Invited-Free Admission

Fresno Art Museum
2233 N. First St. • Fresno, California

The Reuben Nakian: A Centennial Survey exhibit will see the Museum examining the work of one of the most original and innovative sculptors of this Century. During his career, Nakian was recognized with a Whitney Fellowship, a Guggenheim Grant, and Ford Foundation recognition. His United States representation at the San Paulo (1961) and Venice (1968) biennials, his retrospectives in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and at the Museum of Modern Art in New York along with installation and purchases of major works are the measure of his importance as one of the links to the great art-making traditions of past centuries.

Even though Nakian studied sketching, clay sculpture and red French-chalk drawing at Art Students League, Independent Art School and Beaux Arts Academy between 1912 and 1915, his background, like that of his friends Arshille Gorky, Willem de Kooning and Franz Kline, was much like a Renaissance apprenticeship rather than the typical art school training. He studied in studios where artists made a living (with Manship and Manship's chief assistant Lachasie). The metamorphosis from craftsman into artist was a slow one though Nakian accepted early on the idea that sculpture is concerned with the great myths and that art is permeated with history.

Nakian's work in this centennial survey will be represented by examples of clay and bronze, drawings on paper and clay as well as small terra-cotta figures and examples of printmaking.

Sam Tchakalian: A Fifteen Year Survey will feature this San Francisco painter who is known for his large scale work which reveals both an expressionist approach and an emphasis on the paintings surface, which could be interpreted as a kind of sculptural relief.

Tchakalian has been an influential teacher since the early 1960s at the San Francisco Art Institute. Trained at San Francisco State College as a teacher, he returned to earn a MFA though his earlier studies were completed in psychology. Born in 1929 in Shanghai, China, his interests extend to that of the Eastern viewpoint, however, many of Tchakalian's works present a "place-of-meeting" between the East and the West.

As mentioned earlier, the Museum will use these two exhibitions as a catalyst to involve the large number of citizens in our community of Armenian decent. We are planning an Armenian Cultural Day at the Museum that will feature music, dance, food, traditional costumes, and discussions about Armenian heritage.

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