

HYE SHARZHOOM Armenian Action ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՍՄ

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Supplement to the Collegian

Britain and the Armenian Genocide

John Jabaghourian
Editor

Following the recent news of the French government's official recognition of the Armenian Genocide and the adoption of similar resolutions in other European nations, British archival historian, Ara Sarafian, visited California State University, Fresno to speak about "Britain and the Armenian Genocide" in an evening lecture on February 20.

Sarafian spoke on the British government's role in acknowledging and publicizing the Genocide while it was occurring in 1915 but their reluctance to recognize the Genocide today.

"England is both a primary witness as well as a denier," Sarafian said.

In 1916, the British Parliament published *The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire 1915-16*. Known as the British Blue Book, it was a series of regional eyewitness narratives that document the violations of human rights by the Ottoman Turkish govern-



Ara Sarafian, front row, second from left, with Armenian Students Organization members after the lecture.

ment and demonstrate a common sequence of events that uncovers the plan to exterminate Armenians within the region.

Compiled by James Bryce and Arnold Toynbee, *The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire 1915-16* was the first systematic thesis to articulate that the Armenian Genocide was planned and organized by the Ottoman Turkish

government.

However, in a position paper by the British Government establishing a Genocide and Holocaust day, the government did not want to consider genocides before 1939, only the Holocaust. Year after year there had been no mention of the Armenian Genocide during the

See Sarafian, Page 7

Kouymjian Chosen to Serve on Jury of Prestigious Scientific Prize

Just as Sweden has its Nobel Prizes and the United States its Pulitzer, Belgium has its annual Francqui Scientific Prize given to the outstanding young (under fifty) Belgian scholar. The yearly prize of some four million Belgian francs is the country's most coveted academic distinction and its most famous award of any kind. It is the only honor given personally by the King of Belgium during a special ceremony in Brussels.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of Fresno State's Armenian Studies Program, has been invited to serve on this year's selection committee. The jury is made up of internationally recognized non-Belgium scholars, who after reviewing the elaborate files of each candidate meet for two days in the Belgian capital to choose the winner out of a field of some dozen candidates. This year's jury is made up of scholars from the U.S., United Kingdom, France, Germany, the

Netherlands, Sweden, and Taiwan.

The prize is named after Emile Francqui, a banker and sometime cabinet minister of Belgium who greatly aided his countrymen during the famine conditions of WWI. Francqui was a business rival of Herbert Hoover, but later a close friend of the American President. They worked closely together in a massive Belgian relief project at the end of the First World War, which eventually became the Belgian American Educational Foundation. This in turn, together with Francqui's own funds, helped establish the Francqui Foundation in 1932. Like the Rockefeller and Carnegie Foundations in this country, the Francqui Foundation touches every sector of Belgian scientific and educational life.

In most years the prize is awarded to scholars in the physical sciences, but this year it will go to a scholar in the humanities or so-

See Kouymjian, Page 7

His Holiness Karekin II to Visit Fresno State in May



His Holiness Karekin II

His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, will be making his first Pontifical visit to Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley, May 7-10, 2001.

His visit to the United States is part of the celebration surrounding the 1700th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Christianity as the State Religion of Armenia.

By invitation of the Armenian Studies Program, His Holiness will speak to faculty and students on the Fresno State campus. Details of the speech and of the visit will be made available shortly.

His Holiness Karekin II

Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

12:00 noon

Fresno State campus

Der Mugrdechian Scholarship Endowment

Staff Report

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno and Director of the Armenian Studies Program, announced the establishment of the Norma and Bob Der Mugrdechian Armenian Studies Endowed Scholarship Fund at Fresno State.

Bob Der Mugrdechian of Clovis, California established the Scholarship Fund in memory of his late wife Norma Der Mugrdechian, who was a 1987 graduate of Fresno State and had taken courses in Armenian Studies. Mrs. Der Mugrdechian also taught the Armenian Studies Program's popular weekend Armenian cooking course, which was always a favorite among students and adults.

The fund will provide scholarships for students who have declared a major in Armenian Studies at Fresno State or who are studying in the area of Armenian Studies.

"This scholarship fund will enable students who declare a Special Major in Armenian Studies the opportunity to be recognized for



Bob Der Mugrdechian, left, with Dr. Dickran Kouymjian.

their achievements," said Dr. Kouymjian. "Generous donations such as this once again demonstrate the interest that the Armenian community has in strengthening our Program."

Norma Der Mugrdechian was the daughter of Charles and Siranouche Tavookjian, immigrants to Fresno from Tokat, Armenia. She was an active home-

maker and Sunday Church-school teacher for more than 50 years.

Bob Der Mugrdechian is the son of Anoushavan and Rakel Der Mugrdechian, who immigrated to Fresno from Van, Armenia in 1917. He has been a frequent contributor to Armenian newspapers and has been active in the AGBU and the William Saroyan Society.

ASP Annual Fund

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Armenian Studies Program

Book/Video Donations

Dr. Kouymjian and the Armenian Studies Program would like to thank the donors, authors, and publishers for the following books, periodicals, videos and archival gifts.

Dr. Stephan H. Astourian, Berkeley, for his booklet, *From Ter-Petrosian to Kocharian: Leadership Change in Armenia*, California: University of California, Berkeley, 2001.

Mr. Alichan A. Bairamian, Glendale, for copies of his two books, *The Alexandretta Sanjak Question and World Diplomacy* (1918-1939) (Yerevan, 1999) and *The Alexandretta Sanjak Question and World Diplomacy* (1936-1939) (Antelias, 1998).

Archbishop Dr. Goriun Babian, New Julfa, Isfahan, for the 2001 *Calendar of the All Savior Monastery*.

Jack & Alberta Bedoian, Sanger, for the extensive collection of Armenian records from the estate of Elissa Melkonian.

Catholicossat Arménien De Cilicie, Antélias, for the book: Kouymjian, D., Editor, *Movses Xorenac'i et L'Historiographie Arménienne Des Origines*. Antelias: Catholicossat Arménien De Cilicie, 2001.

Diocese of the Armenian Church of Canada, Outremont, Quebec, for the booklet *Archbishop Maghakia Ormanian (1841-1918), Proceedings of a Commemorative Symposium* (19-21 November 1999).

W & E Gueleserian & Bergoudian Families, Cambridge, translated and Edited by V. Ghazarian, *The Life and Work of Coadjutor Catholicos Papken Gueleserian*. Waltham: Mayreni Publishing, 2000.

Ms. Dickie Hovsepien, San Francisco, for a set of the *Hye Endanik* magazines.

Garo Keheyian, Nicosia, for his book Garo Keheyian (text), J. C. Tordai (photographs), Philip Marsden (preface), *Yearning for the Sea. Armenia in the 1990s*, Nicosia, Cyprus: Pharos Publishers, 2000. A stunning book about Armenia's first decade of independence.

Mr. Krikor Keusseyan, Watertown, for his book, *Writings and Drawings*. Mayreni Publishing, 1998.

Mr. Georges Kiourtzian, Paris, for his book: *Recueil Des Inscriptions Grecques Chrétiennes Des Cyclades*, Paris: De Boccard, 2000.

Mr. Carl Mahakian, Palm Desert, for several copies of Saroyan books.

Mr. Peter Najarian, Berkeley, for his book, *The Great American Loneliness*, Watertown: Blue Crane Books, 1999.

Mrs. Helene Pilibosian, Watertown, for the 30 copies of *Carvings from an Heirloom and They Called Me Mustafa*.

Mr. Vatche Soghomonian, Fresno, for the video *The Architects of the Golden Bridge*.

Pascal Tchakmakian, Paris, for his book *Le Crepuscule des Anges*. France, 1984, and for the copy of his Curriculum Vitae and Resume.

Papken Topjian, Montreal Quebec, for his book, *Book Reviews*, Montréal: Armach Périodique, 2000.

Mr. Martin M. Tourigian, Drexel Hill, for a copy of his daughter's book, *JeeJee Dear*.

Professor Gabriella Uluhogian, Piazza S Giovanni, for her book *Un'Antica Mappa Dell' Armenia*. Bologna: Università di Bolgna, 2000.

Sarkis Vahaken, North Hollywood, for his book, *The Crisis*, 2000.

Donation to the Armenian Studies Endowment Fund

Dianne & Arnold Gazarian,
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In honor of Gerald Tahajian's 60th Birthday

HYE SHARZHOOM

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Editor

John Jabagchourian

Staff

Jack Arikian
Mitch De Freitas
Shelley Kutumian
Ara Mekhitarian
Vahan Papyan
Arpik Paraghamian
Sevag Tateosian

Photographer

Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Advisor

Barlow Der Mugrdechian

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Armenian Studies Program
5245 N. Backer Ave. PB4
Fresno, CA 93740-8001

Telephone (559) 278-2669 • FAX (559) 278-2129
<http://www.csufresno.edu/ArmenianStudies/>

Armenian Studies Program Faculty:

Dickran Kouymjian, *Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, Coordinator*
Barlow Der Mugrdechian, *Lecturer, ASO Advisor*
Frances C. Ziegler, *Program Administrative Assistant*

California State University, Fresno

Armenian Studies Program

Fall 2001 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
General Education				
Social Sciences Area D3, for students using 2000/2001 catalog and after Division 9-Other Cultures, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before				
• Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies	3	0800-0915	TTh	Staff
• Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies	3	1000-1050	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Division 7-Languages, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before				
• Arm 1A Elementary Armenian	4	1100-1150	MTWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Arts & Humanities, Area C1 for students using 2000/2001 Catalog and after				
• ArmS 20 Arts of Armenia	3	0930-1045	TTh	B Der Mugrdechian
Upper Division Courses				
• Arm St. 108A Arm History I	3	0900-0950	MWF	B. Der Mugrdechian
• Arm S 120T Arm in the 20 th Cen	3	1100-1215	TTh	Kazan Visiting Professor

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

Der Mugrdechian Awarded Honorary Doctorate from Yerevan State University

Staff Report

By a decision of the Yerevan State University Academic Council, Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno was awarded the Honorary Doctorate degree from Yerevan State University.

Der Mugrdechian was awarded the degree for his achievements in working with Yerevan State University and for his work in the field of Armenian Studies.

Dr. Radick Martirosian, Rector of Yerevan State University, made the special presentation to Der Mugrdechian at an awards ceremony held on January 4, 2001, in the presence of the Rector's Council composed of the administration, Deans, and faculty of Yerevan

State University.

Der Mugrdechian is a graduate of California State University, Fresno and UCLA and has been a lecturer in the Armenian Studies Program at California State University for the past sixteen years.

Der Mugrdechian first visited Armenia in 1978, but has returned frequently during the past twelve years, working on a variety of projects. In 1988 and 1990 he conducted study tours of Armenia for college students.

In the 1990s he arranged for students from Yerevan State University to study at Fresno State. Seven students participated in the program.

He is currently project director of the Newly Independent States College and University Partnership Program between the Yerevan State

University Faculty of Business and the California State University, Fresno Craig School of Business. The project is in the second year of a four-year grant funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Through the project, faculty from Yerevan State University and California State University have been conducting mutual visits. Faculty from Fresno State have visited Yerevan for two or more weeks conducting workshops and seminars in their areas of expertise.

Der Mugrdechian was instrumental in the establishment of a cooperative exchange agreement between Yerevan State University and California State University, Fresno, where relations between the two universities has expanded over the past ten years.



Barlow Der Mugrdechian, left, with Dr. Radick Martirosian, Rector of Yerevan State University.

Armenians and the Internet

By Ara Mekhitarian
Staff Writer

Virtual Matenadaran

Address: <http://www.matenadaran.am>

Brief Summary: The Matenadaran is one of the oldest and richest museums located in Yerevan, Armenia. It holds a huge collection of 11,000 manuscripts as well as many historical Armenian books and modern documents. The Virtual Matenadaran is the only web site that shares many of its priceless holdings. The site has a "virtual vault" that allows you to navigate through thousands of different manuscripts. You have the option of either browsing through the entire gallery, or searching for specific titles that interests you. The web site also offers information on Armenian history, geography, language, and literature.

Categories: About this Site, History, Departments, The Heritage, Virtual Gallery, Virtual Vault, Research, The Donors, The Future, Links.

Contact: email: comments@matenadaran.am

Armenian Volunteer Corps

Address: <http://www.armenianvolunteer.org>

Brief Summary: The Armenian Volunteer Corps is a new organization that is looking for a group of people in the Armenian Diaspora to serve as volunteers for one year in Armenia. Through their program, volunteers will be able to go to Armenia and discover their culture, help strengthen the communication between the Diaspora and homeland Armenians, and provide service to the homeland by assisting the people and helping to build communities. The program is a one-year commitment with an option of continuing service for a second year. If you want to travel to Armenia and make a difference, visit this web site for more information.

Categories: Calling, Community, Culture, Christianity, About the AVC, What Opportunities Await You, How to Get There, Life as a Volunteer.

Contact: email: jasondemerjian@hotmail.com



2000-2001 Scholarship Recipients

The Armenian Studies Program awarded scholarships and research grants from nine different endowment or scholarship funds and research grant for a total of \$20,500. These scholarships encourage students to pursue minors in Armenian Studies and to enroll in the various course offerings. The number of applicants for Armenian scholarships has doubled for the next academic year, 2001-2002. We ask our students and our supporters to tell their friends and relatives about the Armenian Studies scholarship program and encourage them to apply for the upcoming year.

Applying has become simplified and is entirely online through the Program website at <http://www.csufresno.edu/ArmenianStudies> and the University website at <http://www.csufresno.edu>.

Alice Peters Scholarship

Armen H Postoyan, Fresno, Marketing

Nerces and Ruth Azadian Memorial Scholarship

Armen Ghanbarian, Fresno, English Literature/Comp

Yervant, Rose and Hovannes Levonian Educational Grant

Rita Aramian, Fresno, Philosophy; Dikran Chekian, Fresno, Undeclared; Mikael Halebyan, Yerevan, Armenia, Ag Business; Shushan Khalachyan, Fresno, Business Administration; Tim L. Kuckenkaker, Fresno, Pre-Law; Eric Mouradian, Fresno, Business; Vahan Papyan, Yerevan, Armenia, Ag Business; Sevag Tateosian, Fresno, Criminology; Hovig H. Torigian, Fresno, Kinesology

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The Harry and Mary Topoozian

Armenian Studies Merit Scholarship Fund

Nazik Arisian, Fresno, Business

Bertha and John Garabedian Found. Research Grants

Dikran Chekian, Fresno, Undeclared Gi Moua, Fresno, Computer Science

2001-2002 Scholarships Are Still Available

fill out an application on-line at

<http://osgdev2.its.csufresno.edu/finaidsite/>

FINAID.WSFRapp.show

You must also complete the supplemental form required for all Armenian Studies scholarships.

Agricultural Exchange Students from Armenia at Fresno State

By Arpik Paraghamian
Staff Writer

Since January 2001, Mikael Halebyan and Vahan Papyan, both juniors and long-time friends from Yerevan, Armenia, have been calling Fresno "home."

The 19-year-old Agricultural Business majors, who attend the Armenian Agriculture Academy, were selected to be part of the Armenian Student Exchange Program with California State University, Fresno, after successfully passing a formal interview and the com-

puter-based Test of English and Foreign Language.

Papyan was first to find out about the program through an announcement made by Daniel Dunn, the education manager of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Marketing Assistance Program in Armenia. The USDA MAP program supports the Academy's American-style agricultural business program and Texas A&M University provides instructors. After informing Halebyan about the opportunity, the two decided they had nothing to lose by applying to go to Fresno, but were still pessimistic about passing the interview and the TOEFL.

After two months of uncertainty, the students found out they had scored the highest and were selected to study at California State University, Fresno for the Spring 2001 semester.

So far, Halebyan and Papyan have had a positive and comfortable stay in Fresno.

"The nature of people is different here," Halebyan says, comparing how Americans and Armenians think and act. Halebyan says he is here for the education and to experience living alone and gaining independence.

For Papyan, the best thing about being in America is taking advantage of the higher education system as well as meeting new and interesting people. "The best way to study about a culture is to live in it," Papyan says.

Halebyan, who started his college career as a veterinary major before realizing business had more to offer, is interested in entrepreneurship.

Papyan wants to attend a prestigious school, such as Harvard or Purdue, and enter the Master of Business Administration program. He would then like to go on to a career as CEO in the field of international business relations as well as stocks and bonds.

Papyan says Armenia is too small a country to provide sufficient opportunity for business. Also, conditions there are government-conscious and not supportive towards new businesses.

"In Armenia, with our economic situation, it's impossible to earn as much as you want with



Mikael Halebyan



Vahan Papyan

science. The government has stopped financing scientific projects within Armenia," says Halebyan, both are taking Introduction to Armenian Studies, and are involved in the International Business Association, a social program that organizes agricultural events. At these events, those interested can meet with businessmen and get an idea of what international business is like, Papyan says.

They both have become involved in the Armenian Students Organization on campus.

Both Halebyan and Papyan are enjoying their time in Fresno, but it

has been hard for them to be away from their families and friends. They keep in touch by e-mail and try to phone about once a week. The students are scheduled to head back to Armenia in August, but before their departure they will participate in a paid internship during the summer.

Halebyan and Papyan say that Armenians here have been very attentive to them and they are proud of what Armenians have accomplished in the U.S. "I only hope that Armenians never forget they're Armenian," Papyan says.

"And that they try to keep their culture," Halebyan added.

Bedlam and Other Stories

a one-man dramatic performance
written and performed by

Aram Kouyoumdjian

Aram Kouyoumdjian is a co-founder of Vista Players and serves as that theater group's Artistic Director. He recently won an Elly Award as Best Director of a Drama for the Vista Players production of *Three Hotels*, a Sacramento premiere that was nominated for Best Overall Production of a Drama.

**Tuesday, April 17, 2001
7:30 PM**

**Alice Peters Auditorium
University Business Center • California State University, Fresno**

Co-sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization
and the Armenian National Committee, Fresno Chapter

*Admission is free and the public is welcome.
Please call 278-2669 for more information.*

USU Productions' Center Stage Presents

Chookasian Armenian Concert Ensemble

**March 30, 2001
7:00 PM**

Whitfield Hall • Satellite Student Union

- *Community Supporters*
\$10 and \$15 at the door
- *Fresno State Students*
\$5 and \$7 at the door

Tickets at USU Information Center • 278-2078



Another Busy Semester for the Armenian Students Organization

By Sevag Tateosian
Staff Writer

There has been an Armenian Students Organization in existence at California State University, Fresno for more than 30 years. Year after year the ASO provides students with a place to meet one another and to spend time doing fun and stress-relieving activities.

A new executive board welcomes the 2001 spring semester. The group is lead by President Michael Harutonian, an Ag. Business major, who says "This semester will be like none before. We have a strong executive that is focused to make this semester full of fun events that will make the members talk for years to come."

Alongside Harutonian, are Vice President Sevag Tateosian, Treasurer Barbara Harutinian, Secretary Talar Atarian and Sergeant at Arms Tim Kuckenbaker. These five students work hand and hand to make the club all it can be. The club meets twice a month and along with discussing up-coming events for the semester ahead, they talk

about current issues concerning Armenians.

Today, the club has more than 50 members, including two foreign exchange students that are here from Armenia studying Agriculture. Members of the club are also involved in many other activities, for example, student government at Fresno State. They also help out with the Hye Sharzhoom.

New members are always welcome. The club tries to plan events to fit around the schedule of the busiest people.

The first event that the Armenian Students Organization co-sponsored was the Ara Sarafian lecture on February 20th. Ara Sarafian, who is the co-editor of Armenian Forum and co-founder of the Gomidas Institute spoke on "Britain and the Armenian Genocide." Sarafian did an excellent job speaking and presenting Britain's point of view on the Genocide. The event was a success as almost every seat in the Alice Peter's Auditorium was full. After the lecture the members of the Armenian Students Organization accompanied him to dinner at a local restaurant.



From Left to Right: ASO executive members: Treasurer, Barbara Harutinian; Vice President, Sevag Tateosian; President, Michael Harutinian; Secretary, Talar Atarian; and Sgt. at Arms, Tim Kuckenbaker.

What has all the members of the organization excited is the up-coming "mystery trip" at the end of March. The ASO Executive is planning an over-night "mystery trip" outside of Fresno. The only

people who know the destination of this trip are the five members of the executive board and they are keeping all information about the trip top secret. Since the students have the Friday off, they will be

departing in the afternoon and returning the following day. While the students are at this "mystery" destination, they will have a full

See ASO, Page 8

Food Review-How Does Marat's Restaurant Stand up to Nana's Cooking?



By Shelley Kutumian
Staff Writer

The family owned and operated Marat's Restaurant located at the corner of Cedar and Shepherd was the subject of a Hye Sharzhoom undercover food critique that proved the restaurant to be a place to go to have a pleasant dining experience of great Armenian and Middle Eastern food.

With no previous knowledge of the service, food, or atmosphere, I went into the restaurant open-minded. Upon entering, I noticed the place was full. A small, fluted vase with sand colored marbles, green and yellow silk flowers, and a colorful plaid Easter egg sprouting out of the vase decorated the tables. Soon after sitting down I was greeted and given a menu.

My first glance at the menu was a long one. There were several different dinner plates to choose from, including kebab plates that gave you the choice of chicken, shish (beef), lula, or lamb with pilaf plus a green salad; specialty plates that included cheese borag, yalanchi, and a choice of either fries, hummus, tabouli, or a green salad. There were also kebab salad plates, light and vegetarian plates, and a variety of hot and cold sand-

wiches to choose from. The one thing that impressed me when I was looking through the menu was the different side orders they had. Someone who wanted to try a few of their specialties could easily do so without spending too much extra money.

When the waitress came to take our orders, my dining companion and I decided on the lamb kebab plate, the specialty plate with lula kebab, a side of lahmajun, and a side of dolma (cabbage).

While waiting for our drink orders to come, we listened to soft and relaxing Armenian music. It was soft enough for people to carry on a conversation without distraction but loud enough to give the room an Armenian flare.

We had to wait a few minutes before our sodas arrived, and a few more minutes before our meals were served to us. One thing we did not expect when our meals arrived was the generous servings. Both of our plates were covered and piled high with food. The specialty plate was practically enough for two, it included five to six pieces of lula kabab, three large yalanchi, a cheese borag, and a large bowl of hummus with an unlimited amount of pita

bread. One lahmajun and a good-sized cabbage dolma came as our side orders.

My companion's taste buds were tantalized with the cabbage dolma. He enjoyed the spiced flavorings of the meat wrapped in a leaf of boiled cabbage. I, on the other hand, enjoyed the lahmajun. The specialty dinner was very satisfying. The first thing I tasted was the yalanchi. I am picky about what my yalanchi tastes like and these were good, of course they can't beat my Nana's, but whose can?

The lula kabab was first rate. The seasonings, portion, and overall taste were tempting enough for me to go back and have it again. The meat was seasoned so the lula kabab did not taste like another ordinary piece of meat, and they were cooked just right. The hummus was a bit too tangy for my taste. The lemon was overpowering and it was missing flavor, either salt or garlic. The cheese borag made up for the hummus though. Flaky phillo dough, cheese, and butter...who could resist? The lamb kabab was just as good as the lula kabab. The lamb pieces were tender and mouth watering. Seasoned with parsley and onions, the lamb was quite tempting. The green salad was presented nicely with chopped tomatoes and covered with Marat's homemade dressing, a perfect ratio of oil and vinegar.

Even though my companion and I were stuffed, we could not leave without having dessert. We tried the Napoleon, which is Marat's family recipe. Needless to say, that was a fabulous way to top the meal. Buttery layers of puff pastry filled with a delicious sweet cream.

Our overall experience at Marat's was a good one. The portions were generous and I recommend the lula and lamb kabab, both of which were excellent. The fam-

ily atmosphere also added a special touch.

Prices for the dinner plates varied from \$6.95 to \$10.50 and the sandwiches ranged from \$4.35 to \$6.50. All orders can be dine in or carry out, and chorag, baklava, and other Armenian treats can be ordered by the dozen.

On a Nana scale of one to five (five being that the food was just as good or better than my Nana's), I give the restaurant a 3 1/2.

Marat's Restaurant, operated by Marat Oganessian, is located at 8961 N. Cedar, at the southwest corner of Cedar and Shepherd in the Vons shopping center.

The Armenian Students Organization

cordially invites Fresno State Students to an

Armenian Dance Seminar

conducted by



Tom Bozigian

internationally recognized
dance instructor
from Los Angeles

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

7:00-10:00 PM

Upstairs Cafeteria, Room 200

The evening is free for Fresno State Students.
All Fresno State students are welcome to attend.

*This program is funded, in part,
by the Associated Students at Fresno State.*

Country Reports-Karabagh

The following two reports, on Karabagh and Armenia, were submitted as part of an assignment in Barlow Der Mugrdechian's Armenian Studies 10, Introduction to Armenian Studies course.

By Mitch DeFreitas

Karabagh is a country located between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the Middle Eastern part of Asia. In this paper, I am going to present to you several news stories about what has been happening recently in Karabagh. Most of these stories have something to do with the Karabagh conflict.

The Karabagh conflict is basically a dispute between Armenia, Karabagh, and Azerbaijan over who Karabagh belongs to, Armenia or Azerbaijan? This is a major issue in Karabagh and almost all of the news articles there are somehow related to this conflict. The articles I chose to report on are from the past few weeks and they all involve things that I found interesting. They also all affect some aspect of the daily life of the citizens of Karabagh.

Recently on February 20, 2001, Karabagh celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the Karabagh movement. There was a ceremonial reception at the Nagorno Karabagh Republic National Assembly in which the movement's activists attended. The parliament speaker attended and expressed his gratitude of the president and of the NKR

authorities on the work that the movement has accomplished so far. The activists were also given souvenirs and flowers from the parliament speaker on behalf of the government.

Also on February 20, 2001, the NKR government had a meeting in Martakert that discussed two very important topics involving the growth and development of Karabagh. These two items were reported on from the head of the Martakert Regional Administration on the growth and development that occurred in 2000 and the projected growth and development for 2001. The report stated that with the assistance of humanitarian organizations and the All-Armenian Fund, the rates of construction had increased greatly in the Karabagh region. He stated that repairs were made on 508 houses and 25 medical institutions. Also, eleven communities were given a water supply and many other problems were resolved. He also stated that a water pipeline from Khachen to Martakert is slated to be finished sometime in the spring. The outlook for 2001 included development of all kinds and an improvement in social and domestic conditions for the population.

Two other news stories that I found interesting and that involved the Karabagh conflict, were the report of Azerbaijan opposition leaders calling for war against Karabagh and the need for safety programs to be implemented because of the danger of land mines.

The head of the Azerbaijan opposition party and several retired military officers called for a

new war against Karabagh. Isa Gambar, who is the chairman of the Musavat Party, stated that a war with Karabagh was the only way to solve the Karabagh conflict. Three former Azerbaijan defense ministers also stated that they were convinced that the best way to solve the conflict was through using military means, or in other words, war. The Union of Retired Officers also felt the same way. They recently told the government that they needed to send more soldiers to Turkey for training and to also increase the spending on defense in order to gain a military solution to the conflict with Karabagh.

On February 22, 2001, a major announcement was made involving the Karabagh conflict. A peace plan for the Karabagh conflict was made public in both Armenia and

Azerbaijan. It comes at a time when the movement towards solving the conflict is gaining strength. This proposal, which was written by the Minsk Group of the OSCE, provides for a common state to be created between Karabagh and Azerbaijan. Under a common state plan, Karabagh would have a loose confederation with Azerbaijan and would also have de facto independence. Karabagh would be recognized as a republic, have its own constitution, armed forces, and power to veto legislation. Even though both the Armenian and Azerbaijan presidents might not agree on this particular plan, they are said to agree on most of the basic principles of it. There is also said to be another peace plan in the works that might appear in the near future.

The new plan is said to be a revision of the current plan but details of it are still unknown. Even though this isn't a solution to the conflict, it is a major step in solving the Karabagh conflict.

These were a few of the major news stories over the past two weeks that took place in and involve Karabagh. As you can see, the Karabagh conflict is a major issue there because until it is resolved, Karabagh will not exist as its own country. Even though improvements are being made all the time and new construction continues in Karabagh, the conflict still affects all aspects of their lives. Hopefully these few stories provided you with enough information to see what is currently going on in the country of Karabagh.



Zoryan Institute Map 1988

Armenia

By Vahan Papyan

The Republic of Armenia is one of three internationally recognized states (Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia) in Transcaucasia, the southernmost area of the former USSR. It is 11,620 square miles in area, slightly larger than the state of Maryland. It has a population of about 3.3 million (with an additional 400,000 Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan and Karabagh), of whom over 93% are Armenian, 1.5% Russian, 1.7% Kurdish, 3.5% Assyrian, Greek, and other. Armenia, accordingly, is the most ethnically homogenous state of all the former republics of the Soviet Union.

On Sept 21, 1991, Armenia held a referendum on independence and 94.05% of all eligible voters voted for it. Two days later, the Armenian Parliament declared the independence of Armenia from the USSR.

The first free presidential election was held in Armenia on October 16, 1991. Levon Ter Petrosian was elected president with over 80% of the vote, demonstrating his wide acceptance.

President George Bush recognized Armenia on December 25, 1991. Former Secretary of State James Baker visited Armenia on



February 11, 1992, and the U.S. State Department established an embassy in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia.

Over 120 countries have recognized Armenia as an independent state, and over 70 countries have established direct diplomatic relations with Armenia. Armenia is also a member of the United Nations and the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE, formerly the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe).

The United States has sent a substantial amount of aid to Armenia and is currently actively engaged in encouraging and developing manufacturing and trade there.

On January 4, 1992, Armenia began radical free-market economic reforms. President Bush and President Clinton fully supported and encouraged Armenia on its road to a free economy and the practice of democracy.

The recently formed Armenia-U.S. Economic Task Force, created to coordinate and improve the effi-

ciency of U.S. economic assistance to the country, convenes its first meeting in Yerevan. Delegations led by Armenian Finance and Economy Minister Levon Barkhudarian and U.S. State Department coordinator William Taylor review plans for improving the investment climate in Armenia and discuss the need for liberalizing the country's tax and customs regulations.

Armenia is the only former Soviet republic that is governed by a democratically elected leader who had no ties to the Communist Party in the past. Armenia was the first former Soviet republic to privatize agriculture and continues to privatize small businesses and state-run enterprises, providing opportunities for local and foreign investors.

Independent Armenia, however, received a harsh legacy. The earthquake of 1988 had a devastating effect on the national economy. The conflict over Nagorno Karabagh also affected the economic priorities of Armenia. Furthermore, the subsequent blockade and energy crisis added to the hardships Armenians had lived through during recent years.

All this, of course, had negative impact on the main economic indicators. It is enough to mention that in a few years following 1989,

the gross domestic product decreased by more than 40%, the volume of foreign trade fell dramatically.

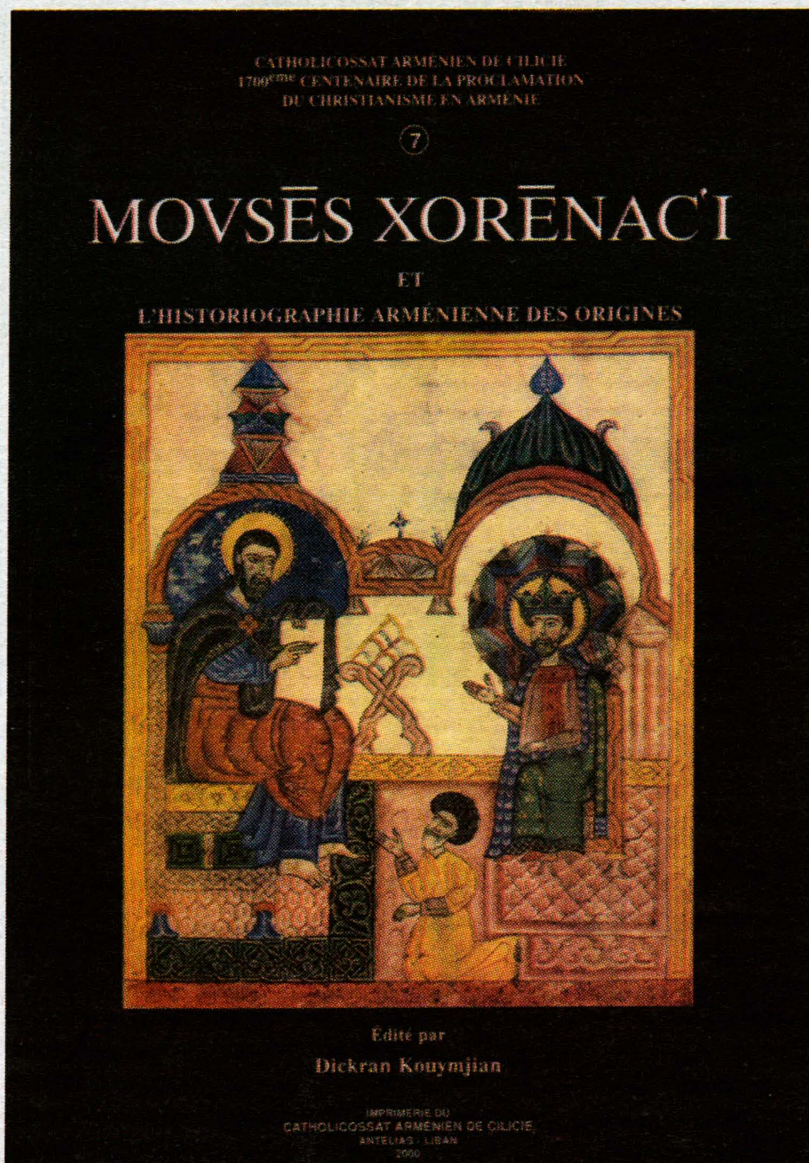
This was probably the reason why in 1993 Armenia adopted the policy of economic stabilization that is closely linked with the introduction of national currency in the same year.

Armenia is not rich in natural resources. However, the management of the available resources has been extremely inefficient since the energy sector was neither transparent nor predictable and lacked efficient management strategy.

The government is ready to withdraw from the management of the energy sector. By providing the natural mines to investors on a long-term lease (with subsequent ownership rights) and maintaining the regulatory function, the government will establish one requirement, i.e. consistent increase of export of the goods produced from the natural resources.

Armenians have a behest from their ancestors: to create an independent Armenian state, build and produce, and embellish the Armenian House - free, modern, democratic. They are obliged to have enough willpower to overcome the current difficulties, and jointly take the road of reforms. The reward will not be late to come.

Prof. Dickran Kouymjian's Latest Book



Moses of Khoren and Armenian Historiography from Its Beginnings

A volume of scholarly essays devoted to the father of Armenian history, Movses of Khoren, is the latest contribution to Armenian studies by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig & Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at CSUF. Traditionally, Movses Khorenats'i is considered a fifth century author, part of Armenia's golden age, though some scholars, mostly in the west, attribute his *History of the Armenians* from its very beginnings to a later century.

The new book entitled *Moïse de Khorène et l'historiographie arménienne des origines*, [Moses of Khoren and Armenian Historiography from Its Beginnings] was released by the publishing house of the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia in Antelias, Lebanon. The work was published under auspices of His Holiness Catholicos Aram I and is volume 7 in the series of publication to commemorate the 1700th anniversary

of the conversion of Armenia to Christianity

The ten essays in the book were originally papers given at a conference on Movses with the same title, organized by Prof. Kouymjian in Paris in January 1991 under auspices of the Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (INALCO) and the Ecole pratique des haute études (EPHE).

The essays are by the world's foremost authorities on Movses including the late Gagik Sarkissian of the Armenian Academy of Sciences, Marc Nishanian, Columbia University, Robert Thomson, Oxford University, Dickran Kouymjian, CSU Fresno, Jean-Pierre Mahé, EPHE Paris, Bernard Outtier, CNRS and the University of Geneva, Jean-Michel Thierry, EPHE Paris, Krikor Beledian, INALCO and the University of Lyon, Levon Zekian, University of Venice, and Giusto Traina of the University of Lecce, Italy.

Kouymjian, Cont. from Page 1

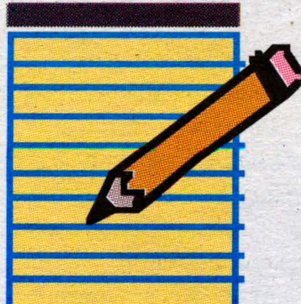
cial sciences. The field of candidates reads like a Who's Who of Belgian intellectuals and scholars. Kouymjian was taken aback by his nomination to the jury, though he has several colleagues in Belgium and has given lectures at the Catholic University in Louvain-la-Neuve. Kouymjian says he was surprised by the honor of serving, but absolutely delighted by it.

King Albert II will give the award on Saturday April 21 following a banquet for the jury and the candidates the evening before. Interestingly, all proceedings and documents for the Francqui Prize are in English rather than French or Flemish, the official languages of Belgium.

Hye Sharzhoom needs writers and photographers. These are paid positions open to all students.

Contact the Armenian Studies Program for more information.

278-2669



Sarafian, Cont. from Page 1

Genocide and Holocaust day activities.

Sarafian said that attitudes are changing and the push for recognizing the Genocide in Britain has been generally successful. Recently during a government-sponsored Holocaust and Genocide day, Sarafian said that the BBC made a public acknowledgement of the Armenian Genocide, which can be considered as de facto recognition.

Movement is also being made with the re-release of *The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire 1915-16* at the House of Lords last December. Sarafian is editor of the republished edition, which is an uncensored version of the original released in 1916. This edition reveals the names of those reporting the injustices occurring in the Ottoman Empire during 1915-1916. The names were not mentioned in the original to protect those who were still in the area and were published separately as a key for officials only.

The release of the book is not without opposition. Many of the Turkish immigrants in England have petitioned to prohibit the re-release. Sarafian pointed out that there are only about 15 thousand Armenians living in England among 200 thousand Turkish people plus 2 million

Muslims. Sarafian said that the Armenians in England cannot win a letter writing campaign and must focus their efforts on intellectual arguments and documented evidence that exists. The release of the Blue Book demonstrates these efforts. All information provided in the Blue Book is cataloged and can be traced to the original source predominantly located in the United States National Archives.

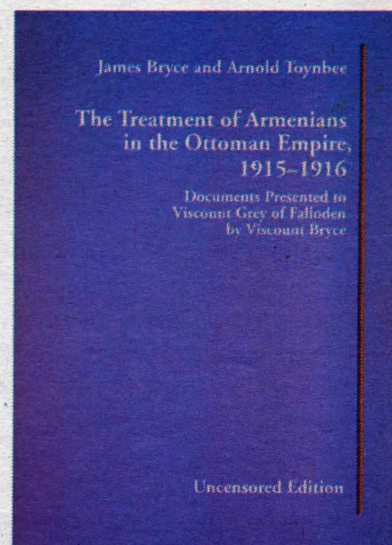
Sarafian is currently editor of Gomidas Institute Books and co-editor of Armenian Forum: A Journal of Contemporary Affairs. He has extensive experience doing research in the archives of Armenia, London, Athens, Boston, the U.S. National Archives, and the Prime Ministry Archives of Istanbul.

Sarafian has edited a series on United States Official Documents on the Armenian Genocide, and the recently published *Days of Tragedy: Personal Experiences in Harpoot 1915-1917*. He has also participated in many conferences: "The Famine of 1880-1881 and the Civic Response in Van," at the Conference on Van-Vasporagan at UCLA; "The Conversion of Armenian Women and Children," at the International Conference on Genocide, Religion, and Modernity at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington D.C.;

and "The Testimony of Ambassador Morgenthau on the Armenian Genocide: the Morgenthau Diaries 1913-1916," at the Armenian Genocide: Political and Historical Controversies Conference at Drew University.

The lecture was co-sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization and Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State.

The program was funded, in part, by the Associated Students at Fresno State.



The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, 1915-1916. By Viscount Bryce. The Uncensored Edition. Republished by the Gomidas Institute.

Society for Armenian Studies Holds Elections

Staff Report

The Society for Armenian Studies announced the results of recently held elections and the new Executive Council includes Fresno State's very own Barlow Der Mugrdchian, President; Peter Cowe, Vice President; Levon Chorbajian, Treasurer; Hourri Berberian, Secretary; along with council members-without-portfolio Robert Hews, Richard Hovannisian, and Dickran Kouymjian. Dennis Papazian, as last year's President, will serve a one year term as an ex-officio member of the Executive Council.

Outgoing members of the Executive Council are George Bournoutian, Dennis Papazian, and James Russell.

In November of 2001, the Society will be holding its annual

meeting in San Francisco in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association. The Society is planning several panels on a variety of Armenian-related topics.

The Society of Armenian Studies is composed of scholars, students and patrons of Armenian Studies. Although its membership is international, the overwhelming majority of members are based in the United States and Canada.

The Secretariat of the Society is now at the California State University, Fresno, Armenian Studies Program, 5245 N. Backer Ave. PB4, Fresno, CA 93740-8001.

The Society for Armenian Studies was founded in 1974 and is dedicated to the development of Armenian Studies as an academic discipline.

The aims of the Society for

Armenian Studies are to promote the study of Armenian culture and society, including history, language, literature, art, and social, political, and economic questions, to facilitate the exchange of scholarly information pertaining to Armenian studies around the world, and to sponsor panels and conferences on Armenian studies.

The programs of the Society include publication of a *Newsletter* (three times a year) on the Society's activities and on current research on Armenia, publication of *The Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies* (annually), encouragement, sponsorship and publication of research on all facets of Armenian culture and society, and such other activities as the SAS Executive Council may from time to time determine.

1700th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Christianity as the State Religion of Armenia

By Barlow Der Mugrdchian
Advisor

It was a cold and snowy New Year's Eve in Etchmiadzin as the 1700th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Christianity as the State Religion of Armenia was ushered in with great ceremony.

His Holiness Karekin II and Robert Kocharian, President of the Republic of Armenia, joined in spreading the light of the Christian nation from Khor Virab to Etchmiadzin and then on to all of the Dioceses of the world.

Activities are being planned throughout the world to mark this important anniversary in the life of the Armenian people.



Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, sixth from left, Primate of the Diocese of Canada and Executive Director of the Holy Etchmiadzin 1700th Anniversary Committee meeting with the San Joaquin Valley committee of the Western Diocese of the Armenian church in January 2001.

Armenian Studies Minor at Fresno State

By Jack Arikian
Staff Writer

Armenian culture dates back centuries, but little is mentioned in historical textbooks. Fresno State prides itself in being one of the very few campuses nationwide that has an Armenian Studies Program.

Since its inception, the Fresno State program has provided a unique opportunity for college students to enlighten themselves about Armenian language and history and for most, to learn about their own ancestry. The Armenian Studies Program provides students with historical information unavailable elsewhere. It offers an array of courses covering art, literature, language as well as history. Courses also cover topics such as Genocide, Armenian architecture, miniature painting, William Saroyan, and Armenian film.

Students have the oppor-

tunity to earn a minor in Armenian by completing 24-26 units of such classes. The minor in Armenian Studies not only affords an excellent opportunity to gain an academic background on one of the important Middle Eastern minority groups in America, but prepares students for administrative positions in an ever increasing number of Armenian cultural, social, and benevolent organizations.

Furthermore, the Armenian Studies Program offers a generous number of scholarships every year to students who take courses or plan to minor in Armenian Studies.

Students who take courses and minor in Armenian studies have the special opportunity to access information about Armenian culture that is often difficult to locate. The Armenian Studies Program acts as a center of Armenian information in Fresno through its regular lecture series where well-known

scholars in Armenian and Middle Eastern Studies are invited to the University to discuss current events and other relevant topics.

The Program encourages students with a minor to enter Armenian cultural or social fields, or continue studies with graduate work in Armenian doctoral programs. Simply stated, the necessity to spread the history of the Armenians is tremendous and the program would like as many of its graduates to be able to spread the knowledge they have gained.

The faculty at Fresno State, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian and Barlow Der Mugrdchian understand the importance of the course content they offer for the intellectual well being of the students and community and do a tremendous job communicating this. They have developed a comprehensive program to provide students with the skills to foster a life-long interest in Armenian culture.



ASO members after a recent meeting.

ASO, Cont. from Page 4

Armenian shish-kebab dinner and dance to Armenian music. The trip promises excitement, fun, and friendship for all who attend. A similar trip was done three years ago and the students loved it.

Throughout the course of the semester the club will be involved in many different events

that are going to be both on and off the campus. To conclude a great semester many of the members will be taking part in a trip to Armenia that will be taking place in June. On June first the students will be leaving for Paris where they will stay two nights. From Paris they will be going to Yerevan, Armenia and will be there for seventeen days

touring the country first hand.

As you can see the members of the Organization will have their hands full with all the fun events that will be taking place this semester. If you would like more information on the club or any of the events taking place feel free to contact the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

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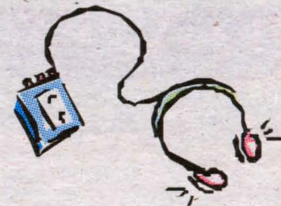
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