

# HYE SHARZHOOM

## Armenian Action

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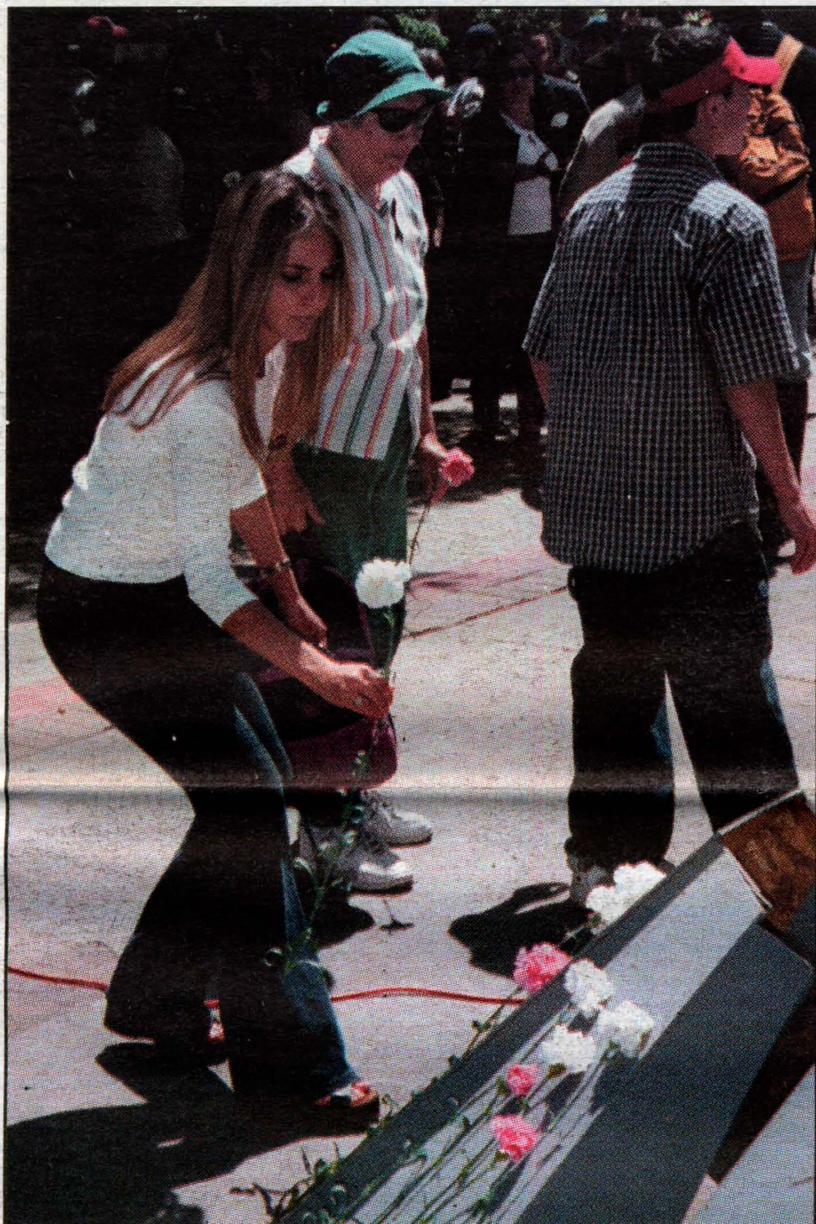
22<sup>nd</sup>  
Year

May 2001

Vol. 22, No. 4 (74)

Supplement to the Collegian

## 86th Anniversary of Armenian Genocide Commemorated



ASO member Annie Cardoux placing a flower at the Martyrs Monument.

By John Jabaghourian  
Editor

Students, faculty, and community members gathered around a model of the Armenian Martyrs Monument at California State University, Fresno's Free Speech Area, on Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, for the 86<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

"We need to raise our proud voices to give ourselves every reassurance that we will be around hundreds, even thousands, of years from now," said Fresno County Supervisor and special guest speaker, Deran Koligian.

"We've done so much and come so far that to give up in our efforts now . . . would be to dishonor those who preceded us."

On April 24, 1915, two hundred Armenian leaders were arrested and later killed by the Ottoman Turkish government. This date marks the beginning of the systematic attempt to exterminate all Armenians that resulted in the brutal slaying of two million Armenians.

"Since then [1915], Armenians have struggled to gain proper recognition of the Genocide," Michael Harutonian, Armenian Student Organization president, said as he opened the ceremony at noon.



Fresno County Supervisor Deran Koligian at Fresno State.

"Through a well-financed world-wide propaganda effort, the modern Turkish government attempts to revise history by denying the massacres took place," Koligian said.

"The evidence is irrefutable and includes many eyewitness accounts and statements from the U.S. Ambassador to Turkey at the time. Unfortunately, today's Turkish government is still persisting in their denial that the Armenian Genocide ever took place."

"As a child of Armenian immigrants, I can tell you first hand that my beloved mother witnessed the

Massacre that took the lives of three of her children. There is nothing 'alleged' about that," Koligian said.

Harutonian commended France for its lead among western nations to officially recognize the Genocide. However, the United States government, heavily influenced by the State Department's military ties with Turkey, is reluctant to use the proper description of Genocide for the horrific events from 1915-1923.

ASO vice-president, Sevag Tateosian, read the poem "We Shall Say to God" by Vahan Tekeyan to

See April 24, Page 5

## Students Ready for Armenia

Staff Report

Eighteen college students will join Armenian Students Organization advisor and Armenian Studies Program lecturer Barlow Der Mugrdchian for a three-week study tour to Armenia in June of 2001.

The group departs Fresno for a two-day stop in Paris, where they will visit the many beautiful sites, before departing for sunny Yerevan. In Armenia they will visit the many interesting and beautiful churches, monuments, and museums.

But this trip to Armenia is about people as well, and the Fresno State group will have the opportunity to meet with students from Yerevan State University, the main university in Armenia. Whether in informal discussions or in more formal exchange of ideas, the students will be able to explore and compare how life is in Armenia and in the United States.

Faculty from Yerevan State University will give talks to the students on a variety of topics, such as art, history, and current events. Faculty from the school of Business at YSU will explain the economic conditions in Armenia.

A special highlight of the trip will be the fact that it will coincide with activities celebrating the 1700th anniversary of the Proclamation of Christianity in Armenia. The group will participate in the Feast of Holy Etchmiadzin, which will be held at Holy Etchmiadzin, on June 17.

A full schedule of activities will enable the students to partake of the social life in Armenia as well as to begin to understand life in Armenia.

A complete description of the Armenian Summer study tour will be published in the October 2001 issue of *Hye Sharzhoom*.

## H. H. Karekin II Speaks at Fresno State

Staff Report



His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, is making his first Pontifical visit to the United States and Canada.

His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians paid a special visit, by invitation of the Armenian Studies Program, to the Fresno State campus, on Wednesday May 9, 2001.

He gave a lecture on "The Armenian Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" to a capacity audience of more than 150 faculty, students, and community members, in the Alice Peters Auditorium of the University Business Center. The address, given in English, expressed his Holiness' vision for the future of the Armenian Church and its role as a world-wide institution.

The talk also focused on efforts to involve the youth in the Armenian Church. His Holiness has a keen interest in the Armenian youth of the world and has made

See Catholicos, Page 7

# Letters

## Dear Editor:

Thanks for the March issue. Please keep it coming.  
Here's a gift for your good work from a very old Fresno boy, now 91.  
Shunoragal yem!



**Hratch Mugar**  
Camarillo, CA

## Dear Hye Sharzhoom:

Please accept this donation in memory of Norma Der Mugrdechian. The new format and color photos are an impressive improvement.

Sincerely,

**Bob Der Mugrdechian**  
Clovis, CA

## Dear Editor:

Keep up the good work!

**Flo Thomasian Snyder**  
Carmel, CA

## Dear Editor:

You keep improving! Great reading.

Thank you,

**Marjorie Magarian**  
Fresno

## Dear Editor:

...A word about *Hye Sharzhoom*. It's one of the best publications around. The layout, the spacing, the size of the printing are excellent. I look forward to each issue. The articles are to the point and many of them stay on the same page.

Sincerely,

**Nevart Jerzyk**  
Tuscon, AZ

## Dear Dr. Kouymjian:

I was in the process of cleaning house after the holidays when the mailman delivered the book *They Called Me Mustafa* [received from the Armenian Studies Program]. I took a quick glance and then found I could not put the book down till I had finished it.

Thank you very much and have a happy and successful New Year.

Sincerely,

**Mrs. Armenie Najarian**  
Belmont, MA

# HYE SHARZHOOM

## ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ

### Editor

**John Jabaghourian**

### Staff

**Jack Arikian**

**Barbara Harutinian**

**Tamara Karakashian**

**Ara Mekhitarian**

**Arpik Paraghamian**

**Sevag Tateosian**

### Photographers

**John Jabaghourian**

**Barlow Der Mugrdechian**

### Advisor

**Barlow Der Mugrdechian**

Hye Sharzhoom is a supplement of The Collegian and the newspaper of the C.S.U.F. Armenian Students Organization and the Armenian Studies Program and is funded by the Associated Students. Articles may be reprinted provided Hye Sharzhoom is acknowledged. Hye Sharzhoom welcomes prose, poetry, articles and other material from its student readers. For further information concerning the newspaper or the Armenian Studies Program:

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
<b>General Education</b>				
<b>Social Sciences Area D3, for students using 2000/2001 catalog and after</b>				
<b>Division 9-Other Cultures, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before</b>				
• 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
<b>Division 7-Languages, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before</b>				
• Arm 1A Elementary Armenian	4	1100-1150	MTWF	B Der Mugrdechian
<b>Arts &amp; Humanities, Area C1 for students using 2000/2001 Catalog and after</b>				
• ArmS 20 Arts of Armenia	3	0930-1045	TTh	B Der Mugrdechian
<b>Upper Division Courses</b>				
• Arm St. 108A Arm History I	3	0900-0950	MWF	B. Der Mugrdechian
• Arm S 120T Arm in the 20 <sup>th</sup> 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.**

## Donors for Fifteenth Annual Banquet

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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.**

**Berge Bulbulian**, Fresno, for 3 books: Baldwin, O., *Six Prisons and Two Revolutions, Adventures in Trans-Caucasia and Anatolia, 1920-1921*, California: Meshag Publishing, 1944; Norehead, B. *The Armenian General Benevolent Union, Its History and Purpose*, California: Meshag Publishing, 1966; Ovena, A., *Directory of the Armenian Diaspora, Personalities and Organisations*. Lebanon: Editorial Board of Ovena, 1980. Also, several articles and archival material.

**Shiro Sasano**, Kanagawa, Japan, for a copy of his book, *Survey for Preservation on the Armenian Architecture*, Japan: Tokyo Institute of Technology, 2001.

**Alishan A. Bairamian**, Glendale, for a copy of his book, *Kiliza (Ciliza) Armenian Kilis-A Historical Survey (Low Middle Ages-1922 A. D.)*, Armenia: National Academy of Sciences, 2001

**Carl Mahakian**, Palm Desert, for several Saroyan and other books & archival materials.

**Marcus Heaster**, Surrey England, for a copy of his book, *Bible Basics A Study Manual*. England: Christadelphian Advancement Trust, 2001.

**Dr. L. G. Khacherian**, Glendale, for a copy of his book, *History of Armenian Scripture, Learning and Education with a Theoretical Survey* (in three volumes), Lebanon: Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia, 2000.  
**Aziz Gokdemir**, Arlington, VA. *William Saroyan, Odlekler cesurdur (The Courage of Cowards)*, short stories translated into Turkish by Ohannes Kiliçdaghi, photos by Ara Güler, Istanbul: Aras Publishers, 2001. First in a series of Saroyan works to be published in Turkish by the Armenian publishing group Aras.

**Harry Artinian**, Garrisonville, VA, for a copy of his book, *The Godless & The Infidels, Memoirs of a Rascal Boy During World War I*. New York: Writers Club Press, 2000.

**Garo Nigolian**, Modesto, for the book, Tourian, K., *My Memoirs*.

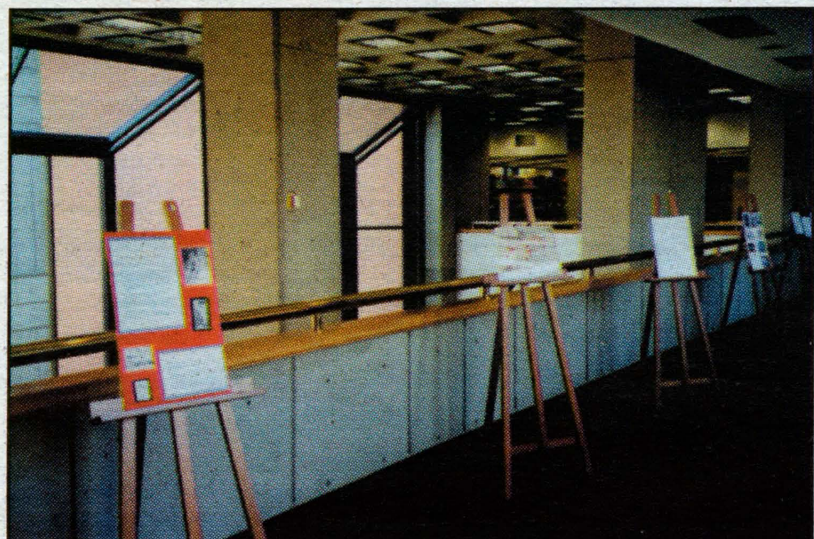
**Claude Mutaflan and Eric Van Lauwe**, for *Atlas historique de l'Arménie, Proche-Orient et Sud-Caucase du VIII<sup>ème</sup> siècle avant J.C. au XXI<sup>ème</sup> siècle*. Paris: Autrement, 2001. The splendid volume has forty maps tracing chronologically the changing boundaries of Armenia over the centuries, plus maps of high density Armenian settlements outside Armenia and 20 reproductions of the most important historical maps of Armenia.

**Lilyan Chooljian**, Fresno, for back issues of the California Courier and the Armenian Observer.

**Claudette Mekalian**, Fresno, for a collection of Armenian language books donated in memory of Melvin Chuchian and family.

**Jacqueline Desarménien**, for Tchouhadjian, Armand, *Saint Blaise, Evêque de Sébaste. Un Saint d'Arménie en Occident*, n.p., 2000, 48 pages.

## Genocide Display Vandalized in Madden Library



Display of Armenian Genocide posters in the Madden Library.

By Sevag Tateosian  
Staff Writer

Vandals repeatedly defaced a number of posters containing information about the Armenian Genocide that were on display in the Henry Madden Library the week prior to April 24, 2001.

The display, containing facts, pictures, and poems by notable authors such as William Saroyan and Siamanto (Adom Yarjanian), was prepared by members of the Armenian Students Organization (ASO) to educate the public about the events of the first Genocide of the twentieth century and in remem-

brance of the two million Armenians slaughtered by the Ottoman Turkish government

Just three days after the posters were set-up on the second floor bridge of the library, a few students found that someone had put yellow Post-It notes on them stating that the information was "incorrect." Also written on the notes were the addresses of pro-Turkish websites containing anti-Armenian propaganda.

The vandalism however did not stop there. Later on in the week, pictures depicting the brutal treatment of the Armenians were ripped off the posters and a caramel-like substance was found covering one of the displays.

As painful as the Genocide is for Armenians, the news that the posters had been vandalized was like throwing gas on a burning flame. These types of acts add more painful emotion to an already emotion-filled situation.

After being informed about the vandalism, members of the ASO condemned the acts and hoped that they would not continue.

When the library administration was informed about this situation, a spokesman promised that the area containing the posters would be more closely monitored but stated that the library was not responsible for anything that happened to the posters. The campus police were notified about the situation and are currently holding an investigation.



Vandalized Genocide poster.

## The Arbitrary Sword

By Tamara Karakashian  
Staff Writer

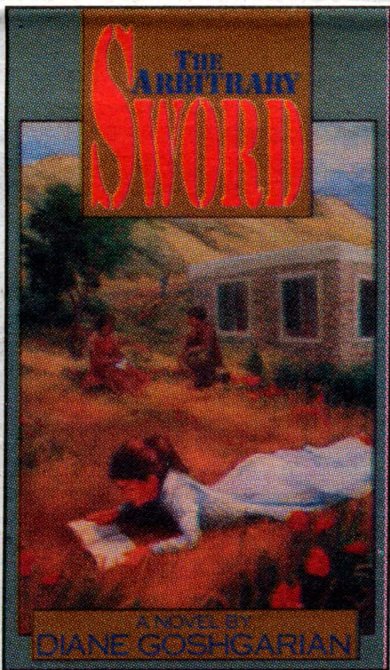
Diane Goshgarian's historic novel, *The Arbitrary Sword*, depicts Victoria Adanalian's tale of love and heartache in the beautiful countryside of Armenia. This extremely well written historical novel is the true story of Goshgarian's grandmother who struggled to survive the Armenian Genocide.

Goshgarian was the keynote speaker at the Fresno Armenian Martyrs Day Commemoration held at Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church on Tuesday evening, April 24. Goshgarian, a native of Massachusetts, shared her insight in writing her historical novel and gave a clear account of the Genocide's current place in the contemporary lives of Armenians and non-Armenians alike.

Goshgarian also appeared at College of the Sequoias in Visalia for a lecture and to teach two classes at the Festival of Books. She will also be interviewed on *Horizon* and the Armenian National Network during her week on the west coast.

Goshgarian recorded her grandmother's eyewitness accounts as remembered by family members. She also conducted research on the historical aspect of the period leading up to the Genocide.

Her book goes on to tell the story of Victoria's family and friends who were also victimized by the Ottoman Turks. The heart-tugging stories of Victoria's friends being brutally attacked and murdered gives the reader a vivid perspective of life during the Genocide.



The novel was completed in 1994. Goshgarian was excited when her literary agent was ready to publish her book; however, she soon found out that her agent was a scam artist. After years of trying to track down her manuscript with the help of the FBI and local authorities, Goshgarian eventually got back her manuscript and decided to form her own publishing company and publish her book.

Having read this wonderful novel, I highly recommend it to everyone interested in the eye-opening story of the Armenian Genocide.

The book is hard to put down and the story is one that I know many Armenians can relate to. The book was initially sold by the ACYO of St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church in Yettam. The book can be ordered though amazon.com or Barnes and Noble.

## Armenians and the Internet

By Ara Mekhitarian

### Tourism Armenia

Address: <http://www.tourismarmenia.com>

**Brief Summary:** This web site provides information for those who are interested in traveling to Armenia. Their aim is also to familiarize people with the unique historical and cultural wealth of Armenia. Tourism Armenia was first opened in April 1999 and covers information on Armenian history, main events, entertainment, services available, tours, tour operators and much more. Here one can find specials on airline tickets, various styles of accommodation, transportation, restaurants, car rental and other useful information for people who wish to make their own travel arrangements. This site is constantly updated and makes its quick and easy for potential travelers to access information that is useful to them.

**Categories:** Armenia Info, Advantages, Map of Armenia, Entertainment, Tour Operators, Accommodation, Tourist Information, Great Silk Road, Photo Gallery, Send E-Cards, Guest Book, About Us, Site Map, Contact Us.

Contact: email: [info@tourismarmenia.com](mailto:info@tourismarmenia.com)

### 1700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Address: <http://www.1700.am>

**Brief Summary:** This web site is dedicated to the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Armenia's adoption of Christianity. Here you all will find information on the celebrations that Armenia will be holding this year. The celebration officially started January 1, 2001 and will continue until the end of the year. The site offers a list of upcoming events the Armenia Church has planned and information on how you can participate. It also offers a brief history of the country's religion and a wide range of related links.

**Categories:** About Armenia, About 1700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Upcoming Events, Travel to Armenia, Other Armenian Pages.

Contact: unavailable

### 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.

## Dancing Machine Tom Bozigian Brings Art of Armenian Dance to Fresno State



ASO members and friends enjoying an evening of Armenian traditional dance.

By John Jabaghourian  
Editor

One, two, three, now kick with the left . . . then kick with the right, and just like that, students once skeptical of their Armenian dancing skills found themselves holding pinkies and dancing traditional Armenian *Shoorch* bars (line dances).

Armenian dance specialist, Tom Bozigian of Los Angeles, held an Armenian dance seminar for Fresno State students the evening of April 3, 2001.

"It was a whole lot of fun learning how to dance," student Erica Ananian said.

Bozigian set up his equipment

like a D.J. preparing for a huge dance. Behind the speakers and amplifiers were stacks of CDs, tapes, and LPs with Armenian, Arabic, and even Spanish labels.

"I was really nervous at first thinking that I, Mr. Two Left Feet, would embarrass myself in front of everyone, but Tom created a sense that everyone had the ability to do these dances, and he was right," student Adam Koligian said.

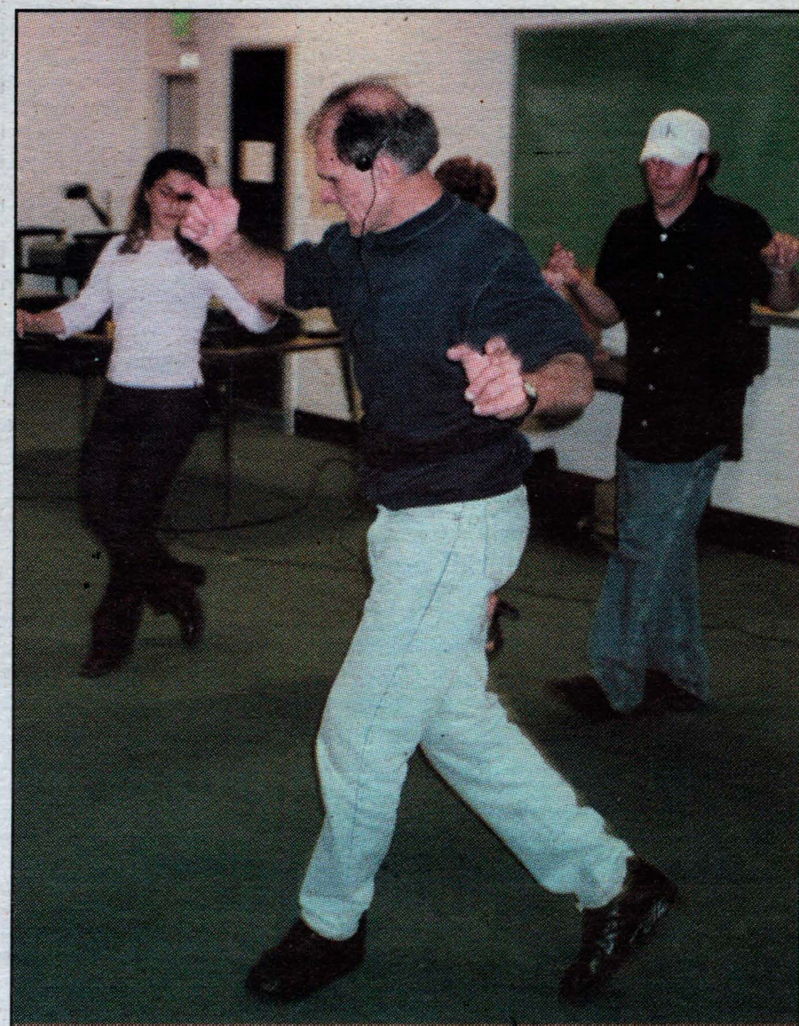
Bozigian first got all 25 students lined up in a large circle in the center of the room and then began to demonstrate the easiest of the steps, the *Yerek-meg* (three-one). The students picked that one up fairly easy; however, as the night progressed he would teach new

steps, each a little more difficult than the previous. The dances included, the *Sayat Nova*, the *Tsatkel* (hop), *Hing-meg* (five-one), *Tamzara*, *Miserloo*, and even some Salsa dancing.

While most students were taking frequent breaks, Bozigian was moving non-stop for three hours. Bozigian was very lively and energetic when he taught, often telling stories of how each dance step was created or his experiences of teaching the same steps to others.

By the end of the evening it was hard not to find a smiling face in the room, not to mention a sore muscle or two.

Bozigian has been dancing all his life. He has devoted his career



Tom Bozigian

to the preservation, performance, and instruction of original, pre-1915, Armenian song and dance, and has traveled to Armenia on a yearly basis to continue his research with various institutions and dance specialists. In addition to original Armenian dances, Bozigian also specializes in new Armenian folk dance.

Teaching Armenian dance has led Bozigian on regular tours in the U. S. as well as to the Orient and Europe.

This event was sponsored by the ASO with funding from the Associated Students.

Bozigian returned to Fresno State on May 4 and 5 for another dance seminar open to the public.

## Aram Kouyoumdjian Performs Solo Dramas



Aram Kouyoumdjian

By Arpik Paraghamian  
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, April 17, 2001 Fresno State's Armenian Students Organization and the Armenian National Committee of Central California proudly welcomed Aram Kouyoumdjian to campus to perform two one-man plays he had written.

As nearly 80 people looked on, Kouyoumdjian dove into his

first performance, "Bedlam." In this piece, Kouyoumdjian was reciting prose, envying a surfer, comparing bedlam to paradise and questioning how things would have been if Eve had not chosen the apple.

"I thought it was really interesting how he [Kouyoumdjian] was relating the human experience to so many things and making such smooth transitions," Raquel Tarpin, 19, said.

A highlight from "Bedlam" was when Kouyoumdjian beat his fist at the air as he acted like a worker in an assembly line. "We are running out of time doing what we are told," he said as part of his sequence.

The second performance, entitled, "Protest" was based on an actual event Kouyoumdjian had attended, a demonstration against Turkish denials of the Armenian Genocide at the Turkish Consulate in Los Angeles.

"What do we want?"

"Justice!"

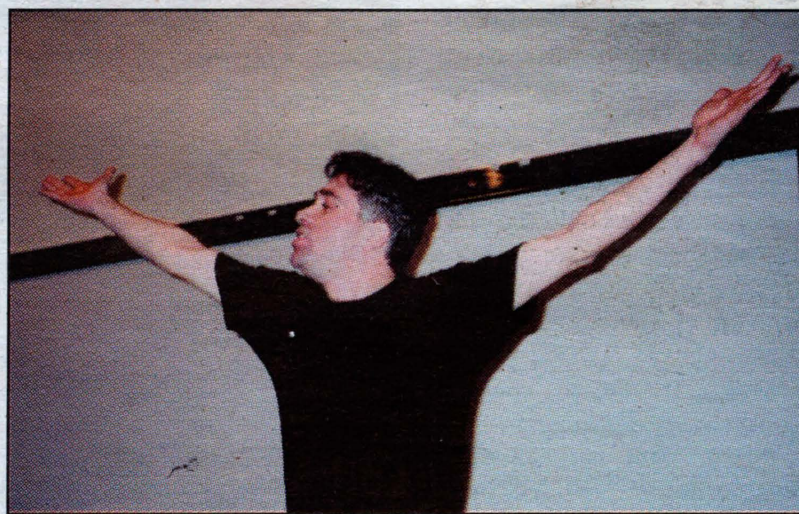
"When do we want it?"

"Now!" Kouyoumdjian ranted, while beating a black box before he went on describing the events that took place the day of the demonstrations. Kouyoumdjian kept the audience intrigued by jumping back and forth between the reality of being arrested for protesting and the dream of meeting the ancient Armenian goddess, Anahid.

Kouyoumdjian closed this piece singing the same patriotic song he had sung with his friends the day they stood up for justice.

Although Kouyoumdjian brought up some serious topics Armenians could relate to, such as the importance of marrying within their people and recalling the Armenian Genocide, he lightened up the atmosphere by integrating humor throughout both performances.

Kouyoumdjian also does public speaking events but says "Per-



forming is a more engaging way to present my work."

Kouyoumdjian has been performing his solo acts for six years in numerous venues in the LA area as well as Sacramento, San Francisco, and now Fresno. "Bedlam" first premiered in Southern California back in 1996. "Protest" premiered one year ago at the Downey Museum of Art in Southern California.

A recent recipient of the Elly Award for Best Director of a Drama for the Vista Players production of Jon Baitz's "Three Hotels," Kouyoumdjian is also enjoying the current run of his production of

"The Substance Fire" at the Actor's Theatre of Sacramento.

As active as he is in all areas of theater, Kouyoumdjian said he enjoys directing the best. "It is a more complete approach . . . you get to create a whole world on a tiny scale."

Kouyoumdjian, who is the co-founder and artistic director of Sacramento's Vista Players, also manages to juggle a career as an attorney in the Sacramento area.

"It's great to see more and more people come out to support and enjoy the events we help bring to Fresno State," ASO Vice President, Sevag Tateosian said.

**Hye Sharzhoom needs  
writers and photographers.  
These are paid positions open to all students.  
Contact the Armenian Studies Program  
for more information  
at 278-2669**



Fresno State basketball head coach Jerry Tarkanian, right, and ASO member Ara Mekhitarian.

#### APRIL 24, Cont. from Page 1

the audience of 200.

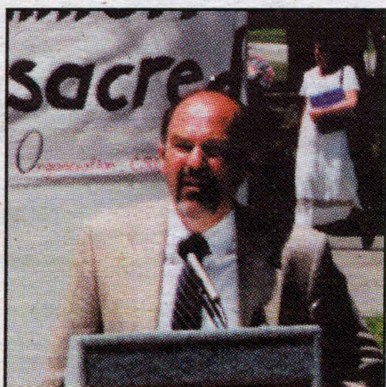
He was followed by Armen Postoyan who recited the poem "To The Armenian Nation" also by Tekeyan.

ASO advisor Barlow Der Mugrdechian was the last speaker for the event.

"We are here today for many reasons; one is to hold a day of respect in memory of those Armenians who died in the century's first Genocide. We are here to bring the attention of all of humanity to this crime, because the Armenian



Armen Postoyan

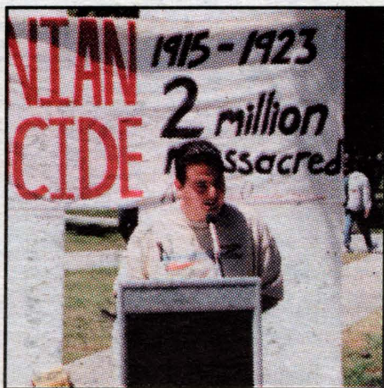


ASO Advisor Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Genocide was a crime against humanity. We are here also to remind students and faculty of the importance of this day. We will never forget what happened, and we will make sure that it never happens again..."

"We will never forget what happened [The Armenian Genocide], and we will make sure that it never happens again..."

Barlow Der Mugrdechian



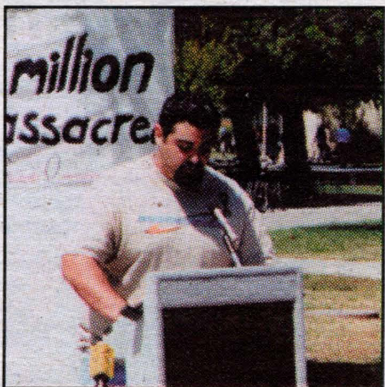
ASO Vice-President Sevag Tateosian

At the end of the event, members of the ASO passed out white and pink carnations to the assembled crowd. Everyone lined up with flowers in hand and slowly walked towards the monument in a procession and placed the flowers at the base of the structure built by the students three years ago. This follows a tradition that is done in Armenia every April 24, a tradition, which the ASO has now adopted.

Somber music played by Jim and Edward Karagozian filled the air as the crowd reflected upon their ancestors, many kneeling down and making the sign of the cross as they approached the monument.

Many members of the community commented on the appropriateness of the ceremony organized by the Armenian Students Organization.

The Armenian Students Organization and Armenian Studies Program have continually commemorated the Genocide on campus on April 24 for more than twenty-five years.



ASO President Michael Harutinian

### We Shall Say to God

By Vahan Tekeyan

*Should it happen we do not endure  
This uneven fight and drained  
Of strength and agonized  
We fall on death's ground, not to rise  
And the great crime ends  
With the last Armenian eyes  
Closing without seeing a victorious day,  
Let us swear that when we find  
God in his paradise offering comfort  
To make amends for our pain,  
Let us swear that we will refuse  
Saying No, send us to hell again.  
We choose hell. You made us know it well.  
Keep your paradise for the Turk.*

(1917)

(translated by Diana Der Hovanessian and Marzbed Margossian, from *Sacred Wrath: The Selected Poems of Vahan Tekeyan*)



Jim Karagozian, right, playing the *kanon*, with his brother Edward Karagozian, left, playing the *dumbeg*.

### \$10 Million Life Insurance Settlement for Heirs of Genocide Victims

By John Jabaghourian  
Editor

New York Life Insurance Co. agreed to pay \$10 million to settle a lawsuit over unpaid policies made by heirs of Armenians killed in the Genocide 86 years ago.

The company, which had a European office in the early 20th century, sold about 3,300 life insurance policies to Armenians in the Ottoman Empire prior to 1915. Archives show that about 2,200 of those policies have not been paid.

These policies, which will be paid at ten times the face value, are estimated to total at least \$7 million. The company will also give \$3 million to Armenian civic organizations.

As part of the settlement announced on April 11, New York Life will publish a list of names of the families who purchased life insurance during that time. The list is expected to be published in a national advertising program towards the end of the year with instructions for potential beneficiaries.

"We think this is a very fair and equitable solution to a long-standing issue rooted in a terrible incident that occurred in the Ottoman Empire," New York Life vice-president, Bill Werfelman said.

The suit was filed in Los Angeles by Martin Marootian who contended that he was the beneficiary of one of the policies. A suit of this type was made possible after a 2000 bill signed into law by Governor Grey Davis made it possible for Armenian-American California residents to sue insurance companies over unpaid policies in California courts.

New York Life initially argued that European courts should preside over such issue. California however, contains the largest population of Armenians outside of Armenia, and such a case would attract more attention in the United States.

"I think I can speak for the clients and say it was important that New York Life recognize the existence of these claims that were not paid," lead attorney for the plaintiffs Brian Kabateck, who is half-Armenian, said.

New York Life does not refer to the "Armenian Genocide" in their statement about the agreement, referring instead to "widespread deaths" and "massacre." Kabateck said that he would insist that a final settlement use that term.

A federal judge must still approve of the settlement and its execution. The decision is expected in a few weeks.

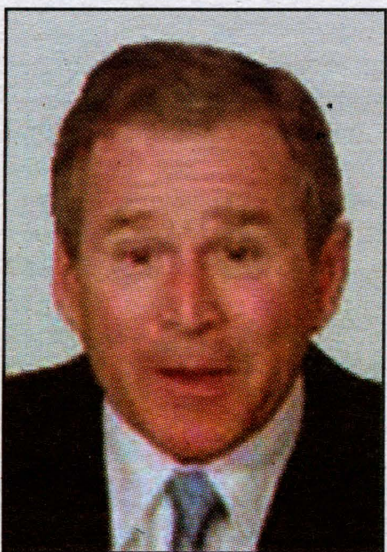
### President Bush Breaks Campaign Promise By Avoiding the Word Genocide

President Bush failed to characterize as genocide the Armenian Genocide of 1915 in his official statement issued on the occasion of the 86th anniversary of the Genocide.

In his signed statement, the President said, "Today marks the commemoration of one of the great tragedies of history: the forced exile and annihilation of approximately 1.5 million Armenians in the closing years of the Ottoman Empire. These infamous killings darkened the 20th century and continue to haunt us to this day."

By so characterizing the Genocide, without using the word genocide, President Bush broke a campaign promise.

Over one hundred Members of Congress co-signed a letter urging the President to honor the commitment he made to Armenian-Americans during the presidential



President George W. Bush

campaign. The letter asked President Bush to "acknowledge this brutal episode in human history and describe it for what it was - a genocide."

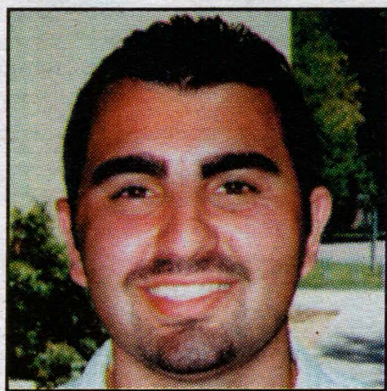
Members of both the US Sen-

ate and House of Representatives commemorated the Armenian Genocide by participating in a series of Special Order speeches following Tuesday's legislative business.

Senators Russ Feingold (D-WI), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Tim Johnson (D-SD), Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Carl Levin (D-MI) and Jack Reed (D-RI) made statements, with others expected to follow suit. The Co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, Representatives Joe Knollenberg (R-MI) and Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), organized the Special Order speeches in the US House of Representatives and invited their colleagues to join the annual bipartisan event.

In Fresno, reaction to the President's speech ranged from disappointment to outrage that he had broken his promise.

# May 2001 Graduates with ASP Minors



**Jack Arikian**

## **Jack Arikian** Business-Marketing

I plan to begin working at JP Marketing, a full-service advertising agency after our trip to Armenia.

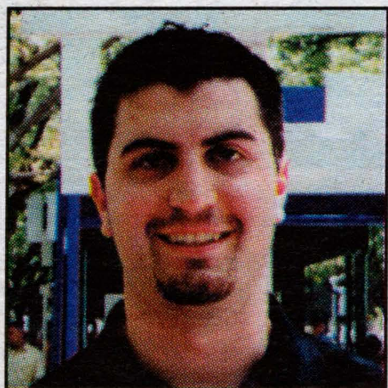
ASP has given me the opportunity to build relationships with other Armenian students. The program has effectively united college students through their teachings.

I will most miss the relationships that I have developed with students and professors.

I would like to thank the Armenian Studies Program for counseling me and assisting me with my studies. The Armenian Studies Program has helped me achieve my personal goals I established 4 years ago when I enrolled at Fresno State.

## **Arakel Arisian** Business Administration/ Finance

Upon graduation I will travel to Armenia for three weeks and then I will get married on August 11, 2001 to Talin Mekhitarian. I plan to work in a business related field for one to two years. After gaining work experience I will pursue a graduate degree in business.



**Arakel Arisian**

The ASP has given me knowledge in a variety of topics including art, architecture, history, literature, and painting. These courses have given me a more well-rounded education.

My favorite Armenian Studies course was Armenian Art because it was a relatively new topic for me and combined different aspects of Armenian Art and Culture.

The thing that I will miss most is spending time with my fellow Armenian students during breaks and lunch at the ASO booth or in-front of Carl's Jr.



**Nazik Arisian**

## **Nazik A. Arisian** Business-Human Resource Management

After graduation, I will study for the GMAT and take it in the next few months. I will then enroll in the Craig School of Business in the Spring of 2002. After obtaining a Masters, I want to teach at the Community College level or try to find a position as a lecturer at Fresno City College.

Courses in Armenian Studies have allowed me to appreciate history (in general), literature, art, and humanity.

I enjoyed all of the Armenian classes but I particularly enjoyed the literature classes. Armenian literature is so rich, even when it is translated into English. I also enjoyed the Arts of Armenia and the Armenian Manuscript classes. Dr. Kouymjian is a wonderful professor with so much knowledge to impart. Professor Der Mugrdechian also has shown me that the Armenian culture is rich with religious and intellectual background through our church liturgy and literature.

I enjoyed presenting my paper on the people of Musa Dagh (*40 days of Musa Dagh*). My comparison of the novel and the actual events of the time was unique and is something that I can pursue and research more in depth in the future. I am really going to miss taking Armenian classes. I wish Fresno State had a Masters Program in Armenian Studies. I would be enrolled in it for sure.

In the beginning I used to refer to myself as a "reborn Armenian." Even though I grew up in an Armenian environment, I did not know much regarding Armenian culture. Taking the required classes to minor in Armenian was one of the better experiences I got at Fresno State. The process opened my eyes to so many issues. I feel more complete as an Armenian and as an American after taking the classes. I am much more knowledgeable in Armenian issues now. I feel like I can intelligently discuss with other Armenians and non-Armenians about Armenian issues and history.

## **John Jabaghourian** Psychology

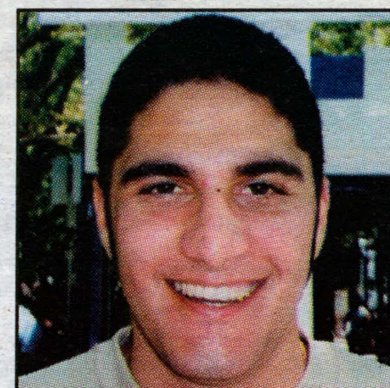
After graduation and the trip to Armenia, I will begin the doctoral program in education and child and adolescent development at the University of California, Santa Barbara. I plan to become a university professor and researcher in cognitive development and learning. Who knows, I may come back to teach at Fresno State and perhaps relieve Barlow Der Mugrdechian of his *Hye Sharzhoom* advisor duties.

In taking Armenian Studies courses, I had the opportunity to learn the importance of cultural diversity. It has given me a more detailed explanation of how culture shapes people's lives and behaviors, not just of Armenian culture but all cultures.

My favorite Armenian Studies course was Arts of Armenia because there were a bunch of us friends in there and we got into a number of long discussions with Dr. Kouymjian about architecture, manuscript illuminations, and ceramics that never seemed to end. It was a lot of fun trying to stump Dr. Kouymjian's expertise with hundreds of questions. Safe to say we were never successful.

My most memorable experience was the week Prof. Der Mugrdechian and I were experimenting to put together the first full-color issue of the *Hye Sharzhoom* and of any student paper for that matter. We had to figure out a new way to do the layout and properly tone pictures. We had no idea if the paper was going to come out right. The day of publishing, I went to one of the on-campus newsstands, closed my eyes, and grabbed a paper. When I opened my eyes I was exhilarated to find out that the risk we took paid off. I hope you would agree.

I would like to thank first and foremost my parents, Jerry and Aroos Jabaghourian, for the unconditional support they gave me through school and continue to give me in my future endeavors. I also want to thank my brothers, Garo and Ara, who always looked out for me and for being my true role models. Lastly, I want to thank all my friends for making the last four years a lot of fun.



**John Jabaghourian**

## **Talin A. Mekhitarian** Business Administration/Marketing

Following graduation, I will be traveling to Armenia to visit my homeland with members of the Armenian Students Organization. Upon returning from my trip, I plan to obtain a marketing position in the fashion industry while finalizing preparations for my wedding on August 11, 2001. Eventually, I would like to return to school to acquire a Masters degree in Business.

As I look back and remember all of the Armenian Studies courses I was enrolled in, I realized how much they helped me to better understand how I am as a person of Armenian descent. The courses have given me a strong foundation in a broad range of subjects and have opened my eyes to new ideas and perspectives.

My favorite Armenian Studies course was Armenian Literature because I really enjoyed reading and learning about Armenian poems and fables. It was a very interesting and informative course.

My most memorable experience was the Armenian Students Organization Convention we sponsored at Fresno State in Fall 1998. I met a lot of new people and was able to discuss issues relevant to the young Armenians.

## **Ara Nakashian** Advertising

After graduation, I plan to get into the fashion industry and eventually advertise my own clothing line.

I learned a lot in my courses, especially the Armenian history courses, which discuss our origins. I would recommend these courses to anybody.

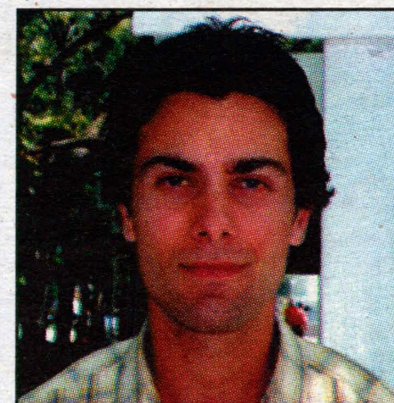
My favorite Armenian Studies course was Armenian Painting. I'm into art, and this class gave me a better understanding of the Arts of Armenian and Armenian Christian Art.

I surely won't miss the exams and term papers, but I will miss hanging out at lunchtime with my friends and deciding if we should go to our next class or not.

First of all I want to thank God for giving me health and success; without him I would not have made it here. Second, I want to thank my parents, Jack and Margaret, for raising me correctly and pointing me into the right direction. I don't know where I would be without their love and education. Another very important person I want to thank is my brother Garo, he opened up the path in life and I followed. He taught me a lot in school and in life, I'm lucky to have such a family.



**Talin Mekhitarian**



**Ara Nakashian**

# Congratulations Graduates!

## 2nd Annual Armenian Festival Brings Attention to New Directors

By Barbara Harutian  
Staff Writer

Films by four young Armenian directors played the big screen at the Alice Peters Auditorium during the 2nd Annual Armenian Film Festival presented by the Armenian Students Organization as part of the Diversity Awareness Program of the University Student Union, on April 20, 2001.

Despite the rainy weather, a large crowd of people came and enjoyed an evening watching films with a wide range of themes.

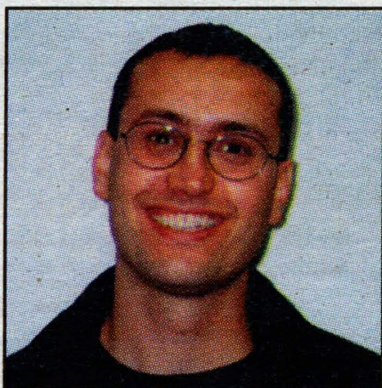
The evening started at 7:30 p.m. with a film titled *Gyumri-Armenia* by Maria Hacopian Scott. This 20-minute docudrama of post-earthquake Armenia depicted the hardships that the residents of Gyumri struggle through in their daily lives trying to survive the cold winter snow. Two local reporters speak with those begging in the streets and enter the rundown homes of fami-

lies who try to decide whether they should spend their money on bread or firewood. This film embodied much emotion that channeled through to the audience.

*Morning Execution*, a 10-minute film about a woman who takes revenge on a German soldier who killed her lover, was the second film presented at the festival. Directed by Edwin Avanness, *Morning Execution* took place in France during World War II. This highly serious and suspenseful film was

with his fear of interacting with one particular woman. The psychiatrist teaches his client basic skills to help him get over his fears and suggests the client try them out at a party that evening. It turns out that the psychiatrist was also at the party

and while in a drunken mess, creates a situation that further strengthens his client's anxieties. *Stream of Social Intercourse* was Minassian's senior project and it has won six major awards in vari-



Serj Minassians

very entertaining to the last bang.

The third film was titled *Stream of Social Intercourse* by Serj Minassian. *Stream of Social Intercourse* was a film about a young man with social anxiety disorder and his psychiatrist. Throughout the film there are comical incidents where the young man

deals with his problems of interacting with other people, specifically

ous film festivals around the country.

The last films of the evening, *Pennywise* and *Regret*, were directed by Sarkis Tarkhanian. The film *Pennywise* is about the exploration of a man's struggle with himself. This film, which had no dialogue, was visually entertaining. The music that went along with the film added an intense touch.

The film *Regret* was short but very thought-provoking and serious. It was about a character who learns horrible news and commits suicide. At the end of the film, the audience let out a huge gasp when

they found out that the horrible news was that the character was HIV positive.

Audience members had the opportunity to ask the directors questions after each movie was screened.

With such great films being shown, the evening came to an end at around 9:30 p.m. Those who attended the 2nd Annual Armenian Film Festival agreed that the films presented were absolutely spectacular and very entertaining.

Talar Atarian, Secretary of the Armenian Students Organization and coordinator of the Film Festival, worked extremely hard in bringing a group of highly talented filmmakers to Fresno State for the evening festival.

Although Maria Hacopian Scott was unable to attend, Talar Atarian read Scott's remarks about the film. Scott was born in Iran and has studied in London and the United States.

Edwin Avanness received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in film production at the University of Cali-

fornia, Santa Cruz and a Master of Arts Degree from Northwestern University's Radio-TV-Film Program. Avanness has been an active executive board member of Arpa Foundation for Film, Music, and Arts since 1988, and also a committee member of AFFMA International Film Festival.

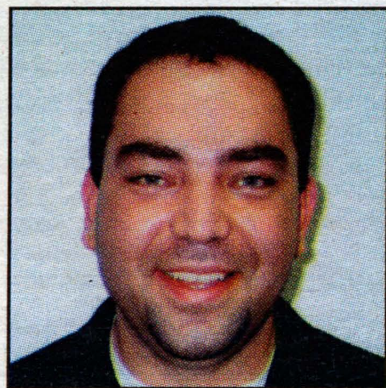
Serj Minassian was born in Tehran, Iran and moved with his family to the United States in 1979. He attended California State Uni-

versity, Northridge where he was completing his BA in Electrical engineering. During this time, he was also taking some film courses and later decided to change his major to film production.

Sarkis Tarkhanian was born in Lebanon and was raised in Fresno. He is currently attending the University of California, Santa Cruz where he is majoring in Film and Digital Media. He is now a senior and is planning on attending either USC or UCLA for graduate work.



Sarkis Tarkhanian



Edwin Avanness

### Financial Aid Directory for Students of Armenian Descent



[www.aaainc.org](http://www.aaainc.org)

Armenian Assembly of America

#### CATHOLICOS, Cont. from Page 1

special efforts to meet with them while on his pastoral visits.

The Fresno State appearance marked the only visit to a college campus by His Holiness, who was making his first Pontifical visit to the United States and Canada since his election as Catholicos in October of 1999.

Several years earlier, then Archbishop Karekin Nersissian had made a private visit to the Armenian Studies Program, where he met with Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies and Barlow Der Mugrdchian of the Armenian Studies Program. They had discussed issues concerning the Armenian Church in general.

His Holiness was in the San Joaquin Valley from May 7-10, celebrating Divine Liturgy at St. Paul Armenian Church on Monday, May 7. He also visited local valley parishes, the Armenian Community School, and the California Armenian Home.

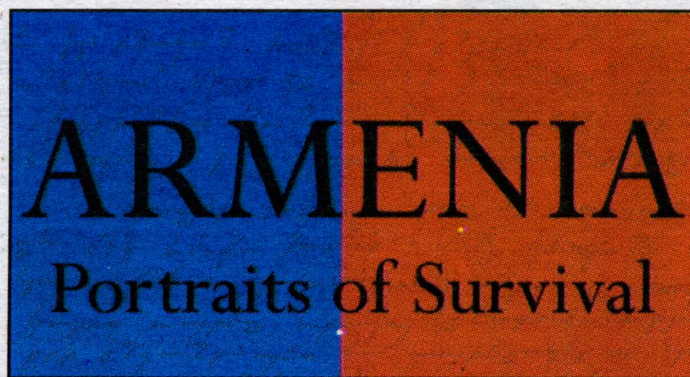
His Holiness Karekin II was accompanied by Archbishop Vatché Hovsepian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Canadian Diocese of the Armenian Church and Bishop Navasard Ktshoyan, Patriarchal Vicar of the Araratian Diocese in Armenia. Fr. Arshen Ayvazian, pastor of the St. Paul Armenian Church in Fresno accompanied the Catholicos as interpreter.

His Holiness Karekin II was born in 1951 in the village of Voskehat in Armenia. He graduated from the Theological Seminary of the Monastery of Holy Etchmiadzin in 1971. In 1972 he was ordained a celibate priest by His Holiness Vazken I.

On October 23, 1983 he was ordained a bishop in the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin and in 1992 he was raised to the rank of Archbishop.

He was elected as 132nd Catholicos of All Armenians on October 27, 1999.

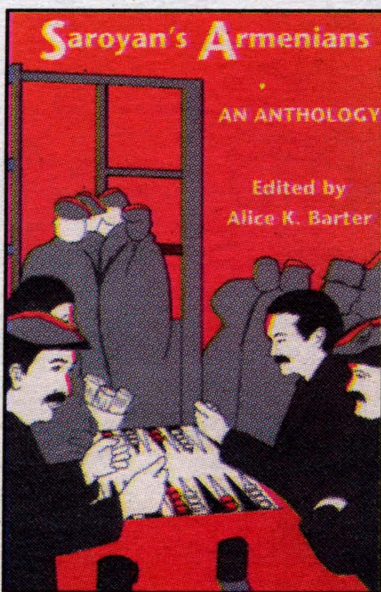
## Books Available Through the Armenian Studies Program



Armenia: Portraits of Survival

Photographs by Jerry Berndt  
Introduction by Donal E. Miller

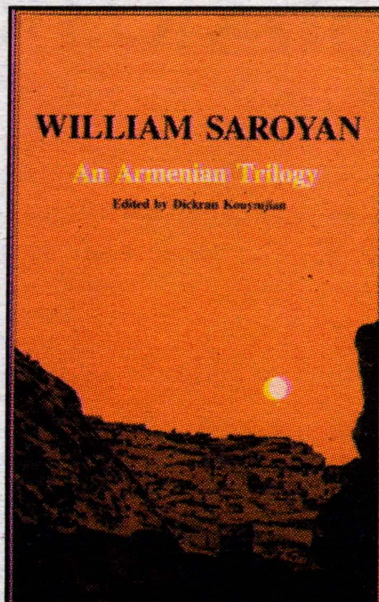
\$15.00



Saroyan's Armenians:  
An Anthology

Edited by Alice K. Barter

\$15.00



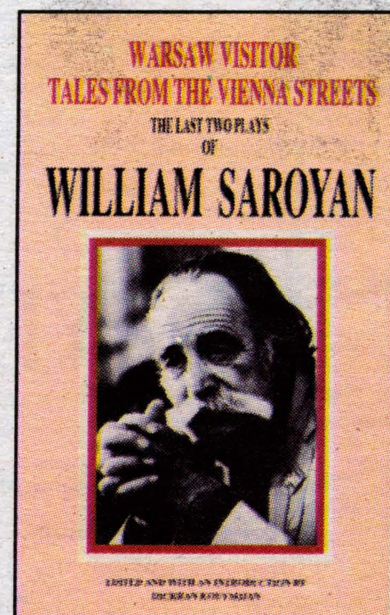
William Saroyan:

An Armenian Trilogy

Edited by Dickran Kouymjian

\$21.95 Hard Cover

\$12.95 Soft cover



Warsaw Visitor: Tales  
from the Vienna Streets  
-The Last Two Plays of  
William Saroyan

Edited and with an Introduction  
by Dickran Kouymjian

\$23.95 Hard Cover

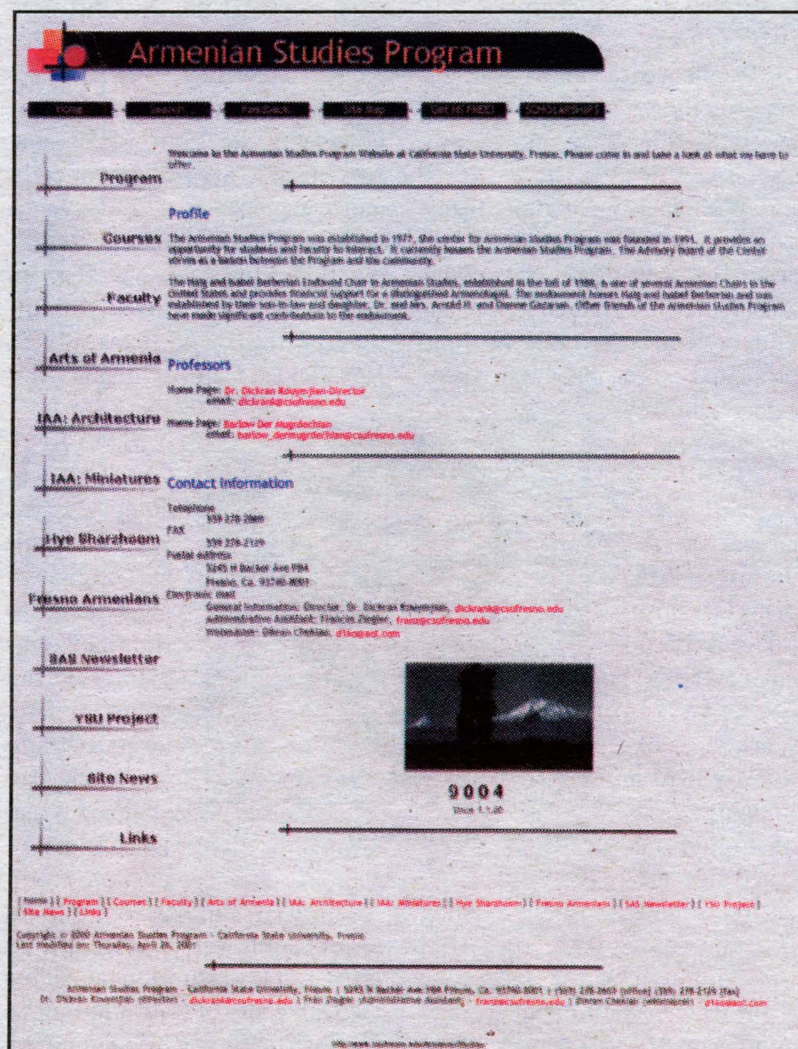
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Fresno, CA 93740-8001

## Armenian Studies Program Web Site www.csufresno.edu/Armenian Studies/



Armenians from throughout the San Joaquin Valley gathered at Fresno State to honor the memory of the victims of the 1915 Armenian genocide. This annual event draws wide support from the campus community as well as from the community at large. A model of the Armenian Martyrs Monument is the gathering point for the annual commemoration.

Hye Sharzhoom  
would like to hear your  
comments.  
Please write.

## 15th Annual Banquet-Evening at the Lake

By Barlow Der Mugrdechian  
Hye Sharzhoom Advisor

The Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno held its 15th Anniversary Banquet on Sunday, May 6, 2001. The festive event, "An Evening on the Lake with William Saroyan," attracted more than 175 community friends and students who enjoyed a delicious meal and an excellent program at the spacious home of Dr. Jane Kardashian and Vatche Soghomonian, overlooking Millerton Lake.

Fresno photographer Paul Kalinian's film, "William Saroyan," a documentary on the life of the Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, was shown. The film is winner of six international film festival awards, including a Gold award for best documentary.



William Saroyan

California State Senator Chuck Poochigian ably handled the duties of Master of Ceremonies during the banquet, while Steve Samuelian expressed greetings on behalf of Congressman George Radanovich.

Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program introduced the 2000-2001 student

scholarship recipients, an outstanding group of students, who have been involved in the Armenian Students Organization, taking Armenian Studies courses, and working on the Hye Sharzhoom newspaper. This year six students will graduate having earned the Minor in Armenian Studies.

Cherie Chooljian sang and entertained guests on the piano. Ms. Chooljian has recorded Jazz and Latin CDs and has performed in the Boston area and, for the last ten years, in San Francisco.

Special thanks to Dr. Jane Kardashian and Vatche Soghomonian for undertaking the sponsorship of the expenses of the banquet and for hosting the banquet at their home.

Catering was provided by Yerevan Restaurant (formerly Burger Time restaurant), managed by Sam and Armen Zograban.

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