

# California State University, Fresno

# CSU

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

Fresno, California 93740

## NEWS SERVICE



### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program activities as reported in local, national, and international media.

Release #17

March 1986

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE

NAASR Newsletter; Cambridge, Mass.

DATE

Winter 1985-86

SUBJECT

Barlow Der Mugrdechian named lecturer  
in Armenian Studies at CSUF

PAGE

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# NAASR Newsletter

Winter, 1985-86 (Vol. II, Nos. 3-4)

National Association for Armenian Studies and Research

CSUF. Barlow Der Mugrdechian has been named lecturer in Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno (CSUF) and is teaching the introductory and intermediate Armenian language courses this year. A graduate of CSUF, Der Mugrdechian holds an M.A. degree from UCLA and is completing work on his Ph.D. from UCLA in Modern Armenian Literature.

Coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF is Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, who teaches courses on early Armenian History, Introduction to Armenian Studies, and Life and Writing of William Saroyan. In addition, CSUF offers a series of one-unit courses (two consecutive Saturdays) on various topics that include, this year, Armenian Political Violence, the Armenian Church, Armenian Experience through Film (in the fall semester) and the Armenian Genocide and Armenians in Fresno (in the spring semester). Dr. Kouymjian directs these courses, along with guest speakers who include this year Prof. Khachig Tololyan, Professor of English at Wesleyan University; Harut Sassounian, editor of the *California Courier* newspaper; Rev. Vartan Kasparian, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Yettem; and filmmaker Dr. J. Michael Hagopian.



# ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

SOURCE

- ARCHIVE -  
NAASR Newsletter; Cambridge, Mass.

DATE

Winter 1985-86

SUBJECT

Professor Dickran Kouymjian participates  
in Armenian Festival in Amsterdam

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**AMSTERDAM.** An all-day symposium on "The Armenians in the Diaspora: Identity and Assimilation" was held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, as part of a three-day Armenian Festival on Oct. 25 to 28. The organizer was Prof. J. J. S. Weitenberg of the University of Leiden and the moderator was Dr. P. J. A. Idenburg of the Research Institute of Oppressed People. The invited scholars approached various aspects of the issue with special focus on the 3,500 Armenians now settled in Holland, most of them newcomers from Turkey. Among the participants were Prof. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, and Fr. Levon Zekian of the University of Venice and the Academy of San Lazzaro.

An original exhibition-festival poster by artist Krikor Momdjian was prominently displayed throughout the city. Performing artists included the Ensemble de Musique Arménienne of Paris, the Sipan-Gomidas Choir of Paris, and the Navasart Folk Dance Group. A dramatic recitation of the Armenian folk epic *David of Sassoun* was given by Dutch actor Peter van der Linden.

SOURCE

Abaka; Canada

SUBJECT

CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Professor  
charged with promoting terrorism

DATE

February 17, 1986

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## Turks charge Deukmejian and Fresno State University with Terrorism

Currently the Turkish media are engaged in a vigorous campaign to discredit prominent Armenians with slanderous statements. Governor George Deukmejian is the latest victim of these anti-Armenian activities which are depicted in a news story dated December 13, 1985, in the «Fresno Bee».

A mass circulation Turkish newspaper has accused Gov. Deukmejian and Fresno State University of encouraging Armenian terrorism and violence against Turks.

The article in *Hurriyet* of Istanbul, the largest daily Turkish newspaper, was reprinted in the Armenian language *Marmara*, on Sept. 30.

«California's Armenian Gov. George Deukmejian, who has almost turned his state into «Armenia,» has also now succeeded in introducing Armenian terrorism in universities, where crime is encouraged from the lectern,» the story began.

It singled out Fresno State as beginning «to teach courses which concern acts of Armenian violence.» The article named Professor Dickran Kouymjian, head of the FSU Armenian studies program.

It said Kouymjian «explains to his students the purposes of Armenian terrorist organizations such as... the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia, the Justice Commandos for the Armenian Genocide, the Armenian Revolutionary Army, etc.

«During these courses he speaks about Armenian rights and tries to justify the murder of Turkish diplomats by Armenian terrorist organizations. Those students who participate in these courses receive good grades for the winter semester at the university and succeed in securing advantages.»

The article spurred unequivocal condemnation from Deukmejian's press office as well as from Marvin Baxter of Fresno, the governor's appointments secretary, and from Kouymjian. They called the article's charges untrue and absurd.

«The article is totally false and is so outrageous that no fairminded person will believe it,» said Kevin Brett, Deukmejian's deputy press secretary. «Neither the governor nor the university support any form of terrorism and have in fact condemned all terrorism on many occasions.»

Baxter, an American of Armenian descent, said of the Turkish article, «I don't even think it is worthy of comment. It is ridiculous... It goes without saying that it is absurd.»

«If ever anybody in government stood for law and order and against terrorism it is George Deukmejian. I am disappointed that you would even give the article the respect of replying to it.»

Deukmejian has appointed several Fresno County people to major administration positions, Baxter said, including a number of Fresno Armenians. Baxter did not have the exact number.

Kouymjian knew of the article and in fact had it sent to a list of people not including *The Bee*. He said he preferred letting the Turkish article «rest» instead of

He said that news organizations get «sucked in» by Turkish charges, which are merely diversionary tactics to deflect criticism of that government's position on the Armenian massacres.

He pointed to irrefutable documentary proof of the massacres.

The article comes at a time of declining Armenian group terrorism.

«There has been, nothing this year, thank God,» Kouymjian said.

He called the claim that he attempts to justify murder of Turkish diplomats «a direct lie. I criticize violence and say it is a useless act... The ends do not justify the means because the means you use affect the ends.»

He said that any student would dispute the article's implication that his students automatically receive good grades or «advantages.»

Kouymjian traced the Turkish news article to *Hurriyet*'s correspondent in Los Angeles. He said the Turkish press monitors Armenian-language newspapers, including several in California. News of a Saturday course he taught at Fresno State was published in Armenian newspapers.

The Turkish news article apparently responded to that news but distorted the nature of the course, Kouymjian said.

The course that was condemned in the article dealt with the past 10 years of Armenian-Turkish relations «in light of the 70th anniversary of the Armenian genocide and the rise of Armenian militants,» Kouymjian said.

**JIM STEINBERG**



Gov. George Deukmejian

responding to it and unintentionally adding to any impact it might have.

«This is libel, distortion, intimidation, the worst kind of thing that can go on, the worst tradition of yellow journalism,» he said.

Kouymjian said the Turkish government, which fails to acknowledge the massacre of about 1.5 million Armenians around the time of World War I, doggedly works to distort history «and make Armenians look bad.»

## - ARCHIVE -

SOURCE

The Armenian Weekly; Watertown, Mass.

DATE

March 8, 1986

SUBJECT

CSUF Armenian Studies Professor named

CSUF Outstanding Professor

PAGE

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## Dickran Kouymjian Named CSUF Outstanding Professor

FRESNO, Calif.—Dr. Dickran K. Kouymjian, professor of ethnic studies and coordinator of Armenian Studies, has been named Outstanding Professor for 1986 at California State University, Fresno.

He will be the university's candidate for statewide honors awarded by the Board of Trustees of the California State University (CSU) system. The Board annually selects two CSU faculty members for the Outstanding Professor of the Year award.

Dr. Kouymjian was born to Armenian American parents in Romania, but grew up in Chicago and in Racine, Wisc.

only one to be personally invited as the guest of Vasken I, the Catholicos of All Armenians.

In 1979, Dr. Kouymjian was named the first American scholar to present the Distinguished Kevorkian Lectureship in Near Eastern Art and Civilization by New York University's Center for Near Eastern Studies.

Currently, the CSUF Outstanding Professor nominee is working at his home in Paris on several historical and literary publications. In addition to writing historical works on Armenian iconography and architecture

A member of the CSU, Fresno faculty since 1977, Dr. Kouymjian has devoted a great amount of time and effort in making the Armenian segment of the campus an active and positive force in the life of the university. He is the advisor to the Armenian Students Organization, one of the more active student groups on campus.

He earned his B.A. degree in European History from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, a master's degree in Arab Studies at American University in Beirut, Lebanon, and a Ph.D. degree in Armenian Studies at Columbia University, New York. Dr. Kouymjian said he earned the first doctorate in Armenian Studies ever granted in the U.S.

For the past 25 years, Dr. Kouymjian has been teaching Near Eastern and Armenian history and art as well as western humanities at universities in this country and

as well as a bibliography of art and architecture, he is correcting the final proofs of three books including "Etudes Armeniennes/Armenian Studies; In Memoriam Haig Berberian," in honor of the late editor of Revue des Etudes Armeniennes; "The History of Armenia by Chazar P'arpetsi," a re-edition of the critical text from the work of the 5th century historian; and "William Saroyan, An Armenian Trilogy: Three Plays on the Armenians," a book to be published by The Press at CSUF.

The CSUF professor is noted for his concern for

abroad including Columbia University, the American University of Beirut, the American University of Cairo, the American College in Paris, Haigazian College in Beirut and CSU, Fresno.

In 1976 Professor Kouymjian was sent to the Libyan Arabic Republic by UNESCO in Paris to advise the Libyan Department of Antiquities on the cleaning, preservation and study of ancient and medieval coins. In 1978, among the 150 international scholars who participated in the Second International Symposium of Armenian Art in Yerevan, Armenian S.S.R., he was the

students and learning. One student said, "He has a vast knowledge of his subject and gives a clear and precise presentation. He is well organized and very interested in communicating his knowledge to the students." Another student described him as "the best teacher I have ever had."

Dr. Robert S. Mikell, coordinator of the Ethnic Studies Program, said Dr. Kouymjian's classroom effectiveness is rated as superior. Twice, while at the American University in Cairo, he was awarded certificates of excellence in teaching by the Student Senate.

In addition to his teaching duties and scholarly pursuits, he has served as a member of the CSUF Academic Senate and as a member of several faculty committees, including the General Education Committee.

Dr. Kouymjian is married to the former Angele Kapoian, a teacher, research scholar and author from Gentilly, France.

SOURCE

The Fresno Bee

- ARCHIVE -

DATE

March 11, 1986

SUBJECT

CSUF Armenian Studies Program and  
Library Exhibit on Genocide

PAGE

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# Genocide exhibit rejected

## FSU library says Armenian display too controversial

By IRWIN SPEIZER  
Bee staff writer

The Fresno State University library has rejected a proposed exhibit of photographs and documents on the Armenian genocide because the subject is too controversial and one-sided.

The proposed display of 20 posters recounting the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians in Turkey 70 years ago violates a policy prohibiting presentations that take a "point of view" on political or religious issues, the library ruled.

"The Turks say they didn't do it,"

said head librarian Lillie Parker. "I want to avoid any difficulty with other people who might disagree [with the exhibit]. I don't want the library to be the focus of demonstrations."

Angry Armenian students and professors denounced the library's decision as an insult to survivors of the genocide. They demanded a public apology and approval of the exhibit.

"This whole thing about 'alleged' genocide really ticks Armenians off," said FSU student Jim Malkasian, an organizer of the exhibit. "Almost all the old Fresno Arme-

nian families are survivors. If she's going to call the genocide a point of view, she'd better read a history book."

Denying the Armenian genocide exhibit because Turks would object represents "the worst kind of reasoning they could use," said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, acting coordinator of the FSU Armenian Studies Program. "That's like saying you cannot put up something on the Jewish Holocaust if the Germans deny it."

The library has never had an exhibit on the Jewish Holocaust, nor on any other 20th-century massacre

or bloody persecution, according to Parker. Among exhibits that have been approved for the contested second-floor viewing area of the library are displays on Mexican-American culture, the achievements of black women, the history of American Indians and portraits of people from the Andes Mountains.

An exhibit on the history and culture of Armenians would be appropriate for the library, but not one on the Armenian genocide, Parker said.

"It's a controversial matter and does not fit in with our guidelines," she said.

The cited policy on library exhibits states: "In order to avoid giving undue prominence to particular points of view on controversial matters, the library will not accept religious or political exhibits sponsored by or focused on the tenets of individual sects or parties."

The exhibit proposed by the FSU Armenian Students Organization consisted of 20 posters purchased from the Armenian Assembly of America in Washington, D.C., for \$50. FSU students planned to show the exhibit at the library in conjunction with the annual commemoration of the Armenian genocide on April 24.

The exhibit includes graphic photographs of Armenian bodies, reproductions of newspaper clippings about the genocide, historical information and a quote from Adolf Hitler.

The Hitler quote dates from just before the 1939 German invasion of Poland. In it, Hitler assured his troops that there would be no public outcry about atrocities that Nazis would soon commit. "After all," Hitler said, "who remembers the Armenians?"

The 20 Armenian genocide posters are now in the office of Der

Mugrdechian awaiting the outcome of the library controversy.

If the library refuses to change its position, sponsors of the exhibit plan to take their case to FSU President Harold Haak, Der Mugrdechian said.

The subject of the Armenian genocide has proven to be a thorny issue in congressional and international affairs. The Armenian lobby in Washington has been trying since 1982 to win adoption of a congressional resolution memorializing the genocide.

The latest effort collapsed last December when a memorial resolution was defeated thanks in large measure to a successful lobbying effort by the Turkish government. Several important U.S. military bases are in Turkey.

The Turkish government has consistently denied that the genocide took place.

Last year, a mass-circulation Turkish newspaper accused FSU and Gov. Deukmejian of encouraging Armenian terrorism against Turks. It specifically criticized courses taught by FSU professor Dickran Kouymjian, head of the FSU Armenian studies department.

The Turkish government also formally objected in 1978 when Armenian students placed a genocide exhibit in the library of the University of California at Berkeley.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles

DATE March 12, 1986

SUBJECT Hye Sharzhoom

PAGE 1 of 1

# THE ARMENIAN OBSERVER

FRESNO, Calif. - The latest issue of the **Hye Sharzhoom-Armenian Action**, the official newspaper of the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization, is now being distributed nationally and internationally. **Hye Sharzhoom** has a readership of over 6,000 families throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and South America as well as in Soviet Armenia and the Middle East.

Contained in this issue are several essays which address such topics as Armenian church unity and apathy among young Armenians as well as critiques of a U.S. State Department report concerning the Armenian Question. Also included is a historical account of the heroic stance of Musa Dagh.

**Hye Sharzhoom** is the only student newspaper in the United States. The paper is sent free. All interested persons can send their addresses to: Armenian Studies Program, California State University-Fresno, Fresno, Calif. 93740.

SOURCE

The Fresno Bee

- ARCHIVE -

DATE

March 13, 1986

SUBJECT

CSUF Armenian Studies Program and  
Library Exhibit on Genocide

PAGE

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# Genocide posters get FSU's OK

## Librarian reverses decision

By IRWIN SPEIZER  
Bee staff writer

The Fresno State University library, which last week rejected a proposed exhibit on the Armenian genocide as too controversial, has decided the display isn't so controversial after all.

After meeting with Armenian campus leaders Tuesday, FSU Librarian Lillie Parker reversed her position and ruled that the library would provide space in the second-floor exhibit area for a display of posters commemorating the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians in Turkey 70 years ago.

Armenian students and professors welcomed the decision. But the students said they also want a public apology from Parker, who initially ruled that the exhibit of 20 Armenian genocide posters was too one-sided.

The students sent Parker a letter demanding an apology and a promise that the library would never again try to bar an exhibit on the massacre.

"We expected her to change her mind, but not so quickly," said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, acting coordinator of the FSU Armenian Studies Program. "I think she still holds to her view that the genocide is controversial, and some of the students want an apology."

Parker was in a meeting Wednesday afternoon and did not return three telephone calls.

After Parker turned down the exhibit request last week, Mugrdechian issued an angry news release denouncing the action and suggesting that FSU would do well not to offend the Armenian community. Armenians have donated about \$100,000 to the construction of the Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business Center at FSU, Mugrdechian said.

Some of those FSU boosters called university officials to complain about the library exhibit decision, Mugrdechian said.

Mugrdechian met with Parker Tuesday and brought along the posters. Parker had made her initial ruling without having seen the proposed exhibit.

After viewing the posters and consulting with other university officials, Parker reversed her earlier decision and sent a letter of acceptance to organizers of the exhibit.

"Having reviewed the posters and having consulted with individuals whose judgment I respect, I now approve the installation of the exhibit," Parker wrote to the Armenian students organizing the exhibit.

Copies of the letter went to top university officials, including FSU President Harold Haak.

Haak was out of town Tuesday when the dispute erupted into a public controversy. By the time he returned Wednesday, he was able to assure irate callers that the matter had been resolved and the display would go on.

"I think it was settled properly," Haak said.

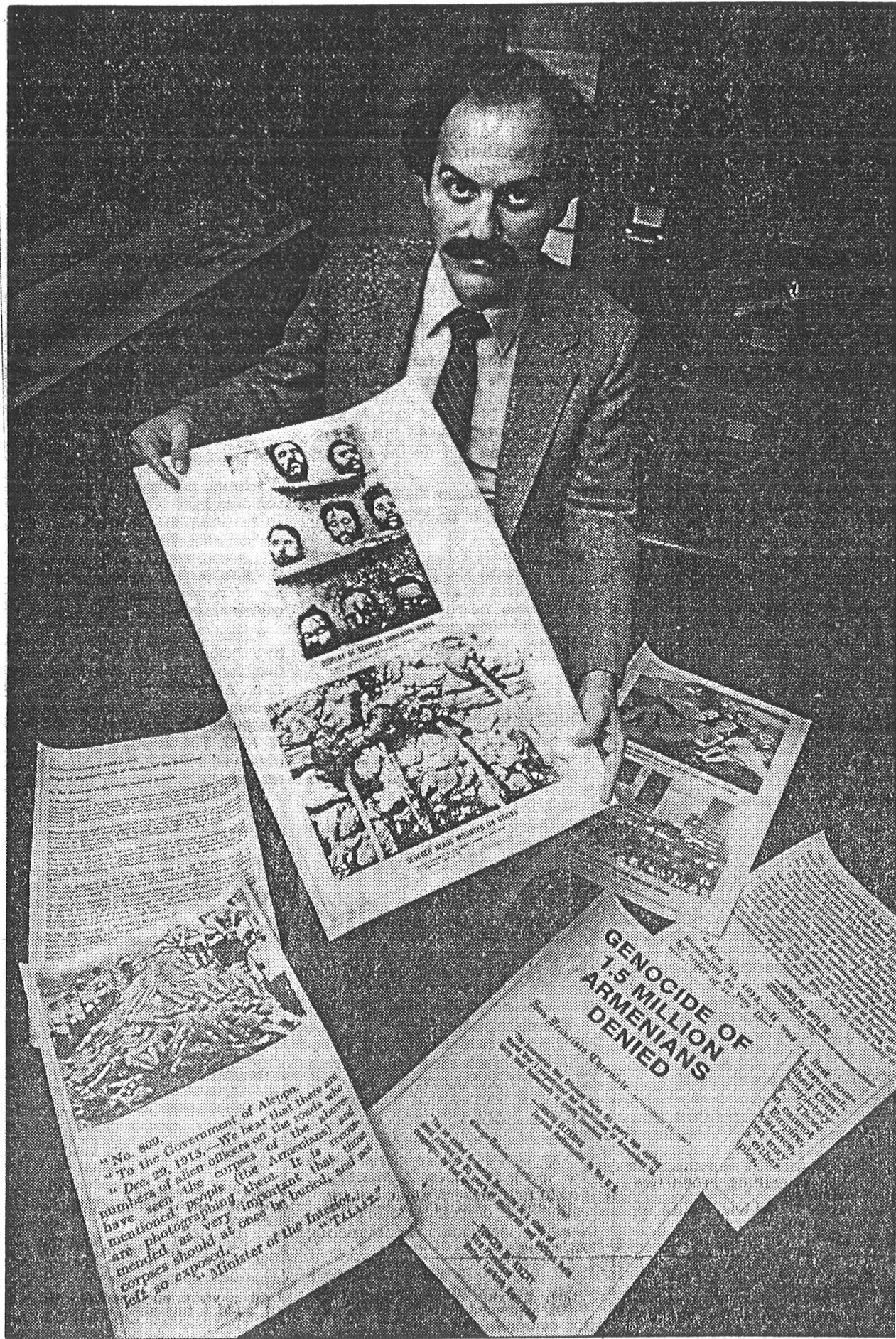
In initially rejecting the exhibit, Parker had ruled that it violated a library policy prohibiting presentations that take a point of view on political or religious issues. The Armenian genocide is denied by the Turkish government, Parker said.

Armenians blame the Turks for systematically carrying out the massacre.

While approving the exhibit, Parker cautioned that the second-floor display area may not be large enough to accommodate the entire series of posters. She said she may leave one or two posters out of the display.

Included in the series are photographs of Armenian massacre victims, copies of newspaper articles from the period, charts, and a photograph of Adolph Hitler. The display draws a parallel between the massacre of Armenians by the Turks and the Nazi atrocities under Hitler.

The exhibit is scheduled for display in the library during April in conjunction with the annual commemoration of the massacre on April 24.



Fresno Bee/Scott Anger

Barlow Der Mugrdechian holds one of the posters that will be on display at FSU library.

SOURCE

- ARCHIVE -

The California Courier; Los Angeles

DATE

March 13, 1986

SUBJECT

CSUF Armenian Studies Professor to  
publish in CSUF Press

PAGE

1 of 1

## CSU, Fresno Press Will Publish Three William Saroyan Plays

FRESNO — William Saroyan wrote about 140 plays in his final years, but kept them locked away from public view in his Fresno home and a Paris apartment.

This year, the public will get its first look at three of Saroyan's previously unpublished plays thanks to the efforts of the Fresno State University Press.

"William Saroyan, an American Trilogy: Three Plays on the Armenians" is due out in late March or early April. Its publication may be the start of a series by the FSU Press that mines a collection of 140 "lost" plays penned by Fresno's Pulitzer Prize-winning in the later years of his life.

Saroyan died in Fresno in 1981 at the age of 72. Trunkloads of his papers are now stored at the University of California, Berkeley.

FSU professor Dickran K. Kouymjian, a longtime friend of Saroyan's, edited and wrote the introduction to the trilogy of plays from the Berkeley collection. Dr. Kouymjian is currently in Paris working on several

historical and literary publications.

According to Joseph Satin, FSU Dean of Arts and Humanities and director of the FSU Press, the new Saroyan plays are highly personal stories about life in the Armenian community.

One of the plays is simply titled "Armenians." In it, the main character, appropriately named Saroyan, offers a rambling monologue on discrimination against Armenians in Fresno.

"Well, were the Armenian people in Fresno belittled and considered inferior? Yes, they were by some people, but not by everybody. Well, wasn't it actually universally established in the mind that the Armenian was something else, as the saying is? Yes, that was true, too. Well, what effect did that have on me? Well, it had little effect. I think it had a good effect. It certainly made it necessary, for me to acknowledge to myself, first, that I am who I am — an Armenian — and not somebody who does not wish to be an Armenian."

SOURCE

- ARCHIVE -

Asbarez Daily; Los Angeles

DATE

March 15, 1986

SUBJECT

CSUF Armenian Studies Program and  
Library Exhibit on Genocide

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# Asbarez

## SATURDAY EDITION

### FSU Library Officials Reject Exhibit on Genocide

**FRESNO** - A library official of California State University, Fresno, has rejected a request by the Armenian Students Organization to install an exhibit on the Armenian genocide during the month of April.

Assistant University Librarian Stephanie Hillman labeled the exhibit a "particular point (s) of view on controversial matters" in her reply to the ASO on March 6. Hillman also cited a university policy statement which

bars exhibits "sponsored by and focused on the tenets of individual sects or parties."

"It's hard to believe that a university official could view the genocide as controversial after the Armenian Studies Program and the Armenian

Students Organization have spent so many years educating the campus community," said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, acting coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program.

"It's particularly appalling con-  
Continued on Page 7

### Fresno State Refusal....

Continued from Page 1

sidering the fact that Governor Deukmejian and the California Legislature official recognized the genocide," said Mugrdechian.

He remarked, "I find Ms. Hillman's logic especially offensive to the Armenian community and the survivors of the genocide. It's been only six short years since the ASO tangled with the Vintage Day Committee over the staging of opening ceremonies on April 24 (the same day Armenians commemorate the genocide of 1915). To see the same sort of insensitivity again after our past problems is disappointing."

Jim Malkasian, chairman of the ASO's April 24th Committee, noted another precedent to the present conflict.

"This incident unfortunately is not unique. In 1978 library officials at UC-Berkeley removed a genocide exhibit after pressure from the State Department. That exhibit was reinstated thanks in large part to the interven-

tion of then-Attorney General Deukmejian and other concerned individuals. In this case, I have to wonder if again some unseen pressure isn't being applied," Malkasian said.

ASO officials are presently seeking to reverse the library's policy.

The exhibit was prepared by the Armenian Assembly and tells the story of the Armenian genocide through contemporary photographs, documents, and historical analysis. The same exhibit has appeared at campuses throughout the country and was on display last year at the CSUF Satellite College Union. Similar exhibits have previously been installed at the CSUF Library.

The library's decision follows a recent announcement that Armenians have donated approximately \$100,000 to the construction of the CSUF Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business Center.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE

The Armenian Mirror-Spectator; Watertown

DATE March 15, 1986

SUBJECT

CSUF Armenian Studies Program and  
Leon Peters Business Building

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**The Armenian Mirror-Spectator**

## *Sahatdians Contribute \$25,000 To Peters Building At Fresno University*

The Victor Packing Co. of Madera, CA has donated \$25,000 to the Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business Center fund drive. Founders Sarkis and Haig

Armenian Studies of the California State University in Fresno, which will be housed in the new Leon S. Peters Business Building will be dedicated to Vagharsag and Makrouhi



*From the left: Haig, Victor and Sarkis Sahatdjian.*

Sahatdjan serve as treasurer and chairman of the board of directors respectively of the company, while Sarkis' son Victor is president of the company.

The library of the Center for

Sahatdjan, parents of Sarkis and Haig.

Natives of Erzerum, the Sahatdjan family survived the forced deportation from their home and reached Constantino-

ple, where Sarkis and Haig were born. Losing over 100 members on both sides of the family, the Sahatdjians were fortunate that both father and mother survived the Genocide.

The family immigrated to the U.S. in 1924, through Ellis Island, and settled in Fresno some time later working as migrant workers. Sarkis didn't have enough money to go to college, but served in the Navy and later, during World War II, in the Air Force. Following the war he returned to the family farm.

In 1963 the family went into the raisin business. Haig left his job with a bank to join the new family venture.

The Sahatdjan family has contributed generously in the past to various schools and charities.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE

The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles

DATE March 19, 1986

SUBJECT

CSUF Armenian Studies Program and  
Library Exhibit on Genocide

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# THE ARMENIAN OBSERVER

## Fresno State University Rejects Armenian Genocide Exhibit

FRESNO — A library official of California State University, Fresno, has rejected a request by the Armenian Students Organization (ASO) to install an exhibit on the Armenian genocide during the month of April.

Assistant University Librarian Stephanie Hillman labeled the exhibit a "particular point(s) of

view" in her reply to the ASO on March 6. Hillman cited a university policy statement which bars exhibits "sponsored by and focused on the tents of individual sects or parties."

The exhibit was prepared by the Armenian Assembly and tells the story of the Armenian genocide through contemporary

photographs, documents, and historical analysis. The same exhibit has appeared at campuses throughout the country and was on display last year at the CSUF Satellite College Union. Similar exhibits have previously been installed at the CSUF library.

The library's decision follows a recent announcement that Ar-

menians have donated approximately \$100,000 to the construction of the CSUF Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business Center.

"It's hard to believe that a university official could view the genocide as controversial after the Armenian Studies Program

Please Turn to Page 11

## Exhibit Rejected

Continued from Page 1

and the Armenian Students Organization have spent so many years educating the campus community," said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, acting coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program. "It's particularly appalling considering the fact that Governor Deukmejian and the California

Legislature officially recognized the genocide last year. I find Ms. Hillman's logic especially offensive to the Armenian community and the survivors of the genocide. It's been only six short years since the ASO tangled with the Vintage Days Committee over the staging of opening ceremonies on April 24 (the day Armenians commemorate the genocide of 1915). To see the same sort of

insensitivity again after our past problems is disappointing."

Jim Malkasian, chairman of the ASO's April 24th Committee, noted another precedent to the present conflict.

"This incident unfortunately is not unique. In 1978 library officials at UC-Berkeley removed a genocide exhibit after pressure from the State Department. That exhibit was reinstated thanks in large part to the intervention of

Attorney General Deukmejian and other concerned individuals. In this case I have to wonder if again some unseen pressure isn't being applied," Malkasian said.

ASO officials are presently seeking to reverse the library's policy.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE

Nor Gyank Weekly; Los Angeles

DATE

March 20, 1986

SUBJECT

CSUF Armenian Studies Program and  
Library Exhibit on Genocide

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## University Beat

### Fresno State Library Rejects Arm. Genocide Exhibit

**FRESNO**—A library official of the California State University, Fresno, has rejected a request by the Armenian Students Organization (ASO) to install an exhibit on the Armenian genocide during the month of April.

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The exhibit was prepared by the Armenian Assembly and tells the story of the Armenian genocide through contemporary photographs, documents, and historical analysis. The same exhibit has appeared at campuses throughout the country and was on display last year at the CSUF Satellite College Union. Similar exhibits have previously been installed at the CSUF library.

The library's decision follows a recent announcement that Armenians have donated approximately

\$100,000 to the construction of the CSUF Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business Center.

"It's hard to believe that a university official could view the genocide as controversial after the Armenian Studies Program and the Armenian Students Organization have spent so many years educating the campus community," said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, acting coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program. "It's particularly appalling considering the fact that Governor Deukmejian and the California Legislature officially recognized the genocide last year. I find Ms. Hillman's logic especially offensive to the Armenian community and the survivors of the genocide. It's been only six short years since the ASO tangled with the Vintage Days Committee over the staging of opening ceremonies on April 24. To see the same sort of insensitivity again after our past problems is disappointing."

Jim Malkasian, chairman of the ASO's April 24th Committee, noted another precedent to the present conflict. "This incident unfortunately is not unique. In 1978, library officials at UC-Berkeley removed a genocide exhibit after pressure from the State Department. That exhibit was reinstated thanks in large part to the intervention of Attorney General Deukmejian and other concerned individuals. In this case I have to wonder if again some unseen pressure isn't being applied," Malkasian said.

ASO officials are presently seeking to reverse the library's policy.

Ms. Hillman's letter concludes, "Should the Armenian Students Organization wish to sponsor an exhibit reflecting Armenian history or culture from a non-partisan point of view, the Library will be pleased to consider such an application."

SOURCE

- ARCHIVE -

The California Courier; Los Angeles

DATE

March 20, 1986

SUBJECT

CSUF Armenian Studies Program and  
Library Exhibit on Genocide

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# Armenian Genocide Exhibit Okayed After Rejection By Univ. Librarian

FRESNO — The Fresno State University library, which last week rejected a proposed exhibit on the Armenian Genocide as too controversial, has decided the display isn't so controversial after all.

After meeting with Armenian campus leaders May 11, FSU Librarian Lillie Parker reversed her position and ruled that the library would provide space in the second-floor exhibit area for a display of posters commemorating the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians in Turkey 70 years ago.

Armenian students and professors welcomed the decision. But the students said they also want a public apology from Parker, who initially ruled that the exhibit of 20 Armenian genocide posters was too one sided.

The student sent Parker a letter demanding an apology and a promise that the library would never again try to bar an exhibit on the massacre.

"We expected her to change her mind, but not so quickly," said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, acting coordinator of the FSU

Armenian Studies Program. "I think she still holds to her view that the genocide is controversial, and some of the students want an apology."

After Parker turned down the exhibit request last week, Der Mugrdechian issued an angry news release denouncing the action and suggesting that FSU would do well not to offend the Armenian community. Armenians have donated about \$100,000 to the construction of the Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business Center at FSU,

Mugrdechian said.

Some of those FSU boosters called university officials to complain about the library exhibit decision, Mugrdechian said.

Mugrdechian met with Parker March 11 and brought along the posters. Parker had made her initial ruling without having seen the proposed exhibit.

After viewing the posters and consulting with other university officials, Parker reversed her earlier decision and sent a letter of acceptance to organizers of the exhibit.

"Having reviewed the posters and having consulted with individuals whose judgment I respect, I now approve the installation of the exhibit," Parker wrote to the Armenian students organizing the exhibit.

Copies of the letter went to top university officials, including FSU President Harold Haak.

Haak was out of town March 11 when the dispute erupted into a public controversy. By the time he returned March 12, he was able to assure irate callers that the matter had been resolved and the display would go on.

"I think it was settled properly," Haak said.

In initially rejecting the exhibit, Parker had ruled that it violated a library policy prohibiting presentations that take a point of view on political or religious issues. The Armenian genocide is denied by the Turkish government, Parker said.

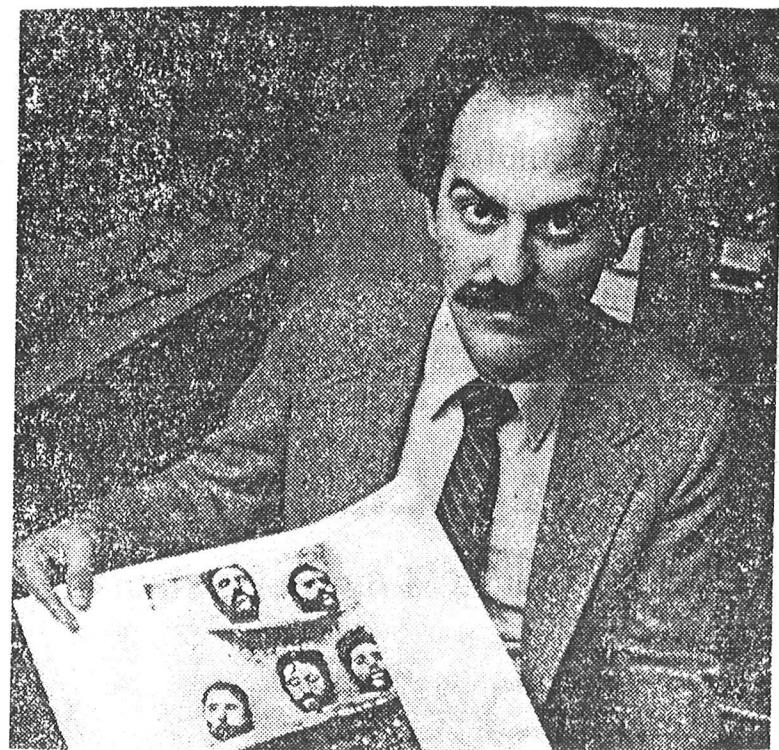
Armenians blame the Turks for systematically carrying out the massacre.

While approving the exhibit, Parker cautioned that the second floor display may not be large enough to accommodate the entire series of posters. She said she may leave one of two posters out of the display.

Included in the series are photographs of Armenian massacre victims, copies of newspaper articles from the period, charts, and a photograph of Adolph Hitler. The display draws parallel between the massacre of Armenians by the Turks and the Nazi atrocities under Hitler.

The exhibit is scheduled for display in the library during April in conjunction with the annual commemoration of the massacre on April 24. By Irwin Speizer

Fresno Bee



CONTROVERSY ENDS — Barlow Der Mugrdechian, acting coordinator of the Fresno State University Armenian Studies Program, holds one of 20 "controversial" posters recounting the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians. The photographs, which will now have permission to be exhibited at the FSU library in April, was rejected earlier last week by FSU, because the subject was "too controversial and one-sided."

—Fresno Bee Photo

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Armenian Life Weekly; Los AngelesDATE March 21, 1986SUBJECT CSUF Armenian Studies Program and  
Library Exhibit on GenocidePAGE 1 of 1

## Fresno State Library Rejects Genocide Exhibit

**Fresno, CA**—A library official of California State University, Fresno, has rejected a request by the Armenian Students Organization (ASO) to install an exhibit on the Armenian genocide during the month of April.

Assistant University Librarian Stephanie Hillman labeled the exhibit a "particular point(s) of view" in her reply to the ASO on March 6. Hillman cited a university policy statement which bars exhibits "sponsored by and focused on the tenets of individual sects or parties."

The exhibit was prepared by the Armenian Assembly and tells the story of the Armenian genocide through contemporary photographs, documents, and historical analysis. The same exhibit has appeared at campuses throughout the country and was on display last year at the CSUF Satellite College Union. Similar exhibits have previously been installed at the CSUF library.

The library's decision follows a recent announcement that Armenians have donated approximately \$100,000 to the construction of the CSUF Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business Center.

"It's hard to believe that a university official could view the genocide as controversial after the Armenian Studies Program and the Armenian Students Organization have spent so many years educating the campus community," said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, acting coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program. "It's particularly appalling considering the fact that Governor Deukmejian and the California Legislature officially recognized the genocide last year. I find Ms. Hillman's logic especially offensive to the Armenian community and the survivors of the genocide. It's been only six short years since the ASO tangled with the Vintage Days Committee over the staging of opening ceremonies on April 24 (the day Armenians commemorate the genocide of 1915). To see the same sort of insensitivity again after our past problems is disappointing."

Jim Malkasian, chairman of the ASO's April 24th Committee, noted another precedent to the present conflict.

"This incident unfortunately is not unique. In 1978 library officials at UC-Berkeley removed a genocide exhibit after pressure from the State Department. That exhibit was reinstated thanks in large part to the intervention of Attorney General Deukmejian and other concerned individuals. In this case I have to wonder if again some unseen pressure isn't being applied," Malkasian said.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Weekly; Watertown, Mass.DATE March 22, 1986SUBJECT CSUF Armenian Studies Program and  
Library Exhibit on GenocidePAGE 1 of 1

## Fresno State Library Reverses Decision on Rejection of Armenian Genocide Exhibit

FRESNO, Calif.—California State University, Fresno officials have reversed an earlier decision from a staff librarian rejecting a request by the Armenian Student Association's (ASO) to install an exhibit on the Armenian Genocide during the month of April.

Assistant University Librarian Stephanie Hillman labeled the exhibit a "particular point(s) of view" in her reply to the ASO on March 6. Hillman cited a university policy statement which bars exhibits "sponsored by and focused on the tenets of individual sects or parties."

The exhibit was prepared by the Armenian Assembly and tells the story of the Armenian Genocide through contemporary photographs, documents, and historical analysis. The same exhibit has appeared at campuses throughout the country and was on display last year at the CSUF Satellite College Union. Similar exhibits have previously been installed at the CSUF library.

The library's initial decision stunned many in the Fresno Armenian community, in light of the fact that Armenians have donated approximately \$100,000 to the construction of the CSUF Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business Center.

"It's hard to believe that a university official could view the genocide as controversial after the Armenian Studies

Program and the Armenian Students Organization have spent so many years educating the campus community," said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, acting coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program. "It's particularly appalling considering the fact that Governor Deukmejian and the California Legislature officially recognized the genocide last year.

Jim Malkasian, chairman of the Armenian Student Organization's April 24th Committee, noted another precedent to the present conflict.

"This incident unfortunately is not unique. In 1978 Library officials at UC-Berkeley removed a genocide exhibit after pressure from the State Department. That exhibit was reinstated thanks in large part to the intervention of Attorney General Deukmejian and other concerned individuals. In this case I have to wonder if again some unseen pressure isn't being applied," Malkasian said.

ASO officials were successful in seeking a reversal two days after Hillman's decision was made public, by bringing their complaints to the proper officials.

The Turkish lobby has recently sent letters to California education officials asking them not to get involved in the Genocide "controversy."

## *Fresno State University Library Rejects Armenian Genocide Exhibit*

A library official of California State University, Fresno, has rejected a request by the Armenian Students Organization (ASO) to install an exhibit on the Armenian Genocide during April 1986.

Assistant University Librarian Stephanie Hillman labeled the exhibit a "particular point(s) of view" in her reply to the ASO on March 6. Hillman cited a University policy statement which bars exhibits "sponsored by and focused on the tenets of individual sects or parties."

The exhibit was prepared by the Armenian Assembly and tells the story of the Armenian Genocide through contemporary photographs, documents, and historical analysis. The same exhibit has appeared at campuses throughout the country and was on display last year at the CSUF Satellite College Union. Similar exhibits have previously been installed at the CSUF library.

The library's decision follows a recent announcement that Armenians have donated approximately \$100,000 to the construction of the CSUF Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business Center.

"It's hard to believe that a University official could view the Genocide as controversial after the Armenian Studies Program and the Armenian Students Organization have spent so many years educating the campus community," said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, acting coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program. "It's particularly appalling considering the fact that Governor Deukmejian and the California Legislature officially recognized the Genocide last year. I find Ms. Hillman's logic especially offensive to the Armenian community and the survivors of the Genocide. It's been only six short years since the

ASO tangled with the Vintage Days Committee over the staging of opening ceremonies on April 24. To see the same sort of insensitivity again after our past problems is disappointing."

Jim Malkasian, chairman of the ASO's April 24th Committee, noted another precedent to the present conflict. "This incident unfortunately is not unique, he said. "In 1978 library officials at UC-Berkeley removed a Genocide exhibit after pressure from the State Department. That exhibit was reinstated thanks in large part to the intervention of then Attorney General Deukmejian and other concerned individuals. In this case I have to wonder if again some unseen pressure isn't being applied."

Below is Stephanie Hillman's reply, and the University policy statement cited by her.

Dear Mr. Malkasian,

This replies to your application of 27 February to install an exhibit entitled "Armenian Genocide" in the Library.

Please refer to the enclosed copy of the Library's policy statement governing exhibits. Section A.3 explains the restrictions that exist against the acceptance of exhibits that focus on particular points of view on controversial matters. In view of these restrictions it is necessary for us to deny your application. Should the Armenian Studies Organization wish to sponsor an exhibit reflecting Armenian history or culture from a nonpartisan point of view, the Library will be pleased to consider such an application.

Yours sincerely,  
(Miss) Stephanie Hillman  
Assistant University Librarian

### *LIBRARY EXHIBITS*

#### *A. POLICY*

##### *1. Exhibit space*

*The following areas located on the Library's Second Floor, North, are available for exhibits sponsored by University groups:*

*Wall area at the head of the stairs; All area in the reading area adjacent to the Stack passageway; Exhibit case in the hallway adjacent to the stairs.*

*Any one or all three areas may be used for an exhibit. All other areas are reserved for the use of the Library.*

##### *2. Qualification for exhibit space*

*Exhibits may be sponsored by a department of instruction or by a recognized campus organization. Each exhibit must incorporate a statement which names the sponsoring group or department.*

##### *3. Content*

*The content of exhibits must reflect the academic interests and the positive aims of the Library and the University community.*

*In order to avoid giving undue prominence to particular points of view on controversial matters, the Library will not accept religious or political exhibits sponsored by and focused on the tenets of individual sects or parties. This is not, however, intended to exclude all reference to religion or politics; exhibits which portray movements or events from a nonpartisan, historical point of view, or which make incidental use of religious or political symbolism in connection with an ecumenical or nonpartisan event or observance will be considered.*

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Mirror-Spectator

DATE March 22, 1986

SUBJECT CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program  
and Library Exhibit on Genocide

PAGE 2 of 2

**EDITORIAL****STILL WAITING**

*Item:* An assistant librarian at the California State University-Fresno, recently rejected a request by the Armenian Students Organization to install an exhibit on the Armenian Genocide. She cited the University Library's policy statement barring "exhibits that focus on particular points of view on controversial matters." Section 3 of the policy statement reads: "In order to avoid giving undue prominence to particular points of view on controversial matters, the Library will not accept religious or political exhibits sponsored by and focused on the tenets of individual sects or parties."

*Item:* A United Press International correspondent sits down and writes an article on the ancient city of Dikranagerd (Diyarbakir), giving in detail its history, without mentioning even for once the Armenians or the founder of the city, King Dikran the Great. He writes: "Hurrians, Mitanis, Assyrians, Medes and other ancient conquerors invaded the bastioned city. They were replaced by Parthians, Macedonians, Byzantines, Arabs, Kurds and — at last — Turks." For Thomas C. Goltz, Armenians do not exist. This is not a matter of ignorance, since he uses a wealth of historical facts and dates in his article on the city. We have reproduced the article (page 4) and used pictures from our files to illustrate the fact that gradually and intentionally the history of the Armenians is being distorted, and our very existence on this earth denied.

*Item:* The Political Committee of the Council of Europe has been debating the Armenian Genocide for more than two years now. After significant pressure from the Turkish Government and others, the Flemish delegate Vandenölbruk was forced to include in his report the supposed and alleged violation of Armenians' human rights in Iran, Lebanon, Syria and Soviet Armenia... The report

was concerned primarily with the massacres of Armenians in 1915-1923, and dealt with the possibility of a reconciliation between Armenians and Turks, contingent upon acknowledgement of the Crime and subsequent and appropriate reparations by the Turks. The report did not address itself to the present or to alleged violations of human rights. Thus, by this sinister maneuver, the Turks and their European allies were able to blunt Vandemölbruk's main thrust, and, at the same time, to antagonize the governments of Lebanon, Syria and Iran by picturing the Armenians living in these countries as disloyal and untrustworthy.

*Item:* Last week the State of Georgia pardoned Leo M. Frank of a murder he had not committed but for which he had been sentenced to life in prison, and subsequently lynched to death by a mob. Nothing unusual, one might think. Except for the fact that the lynching occurred in 1915, that is, seventy-one years ago... Through the years Leo Frank's case was pursued by Jewish groups, and through persistence and hard work justice was done — even belatedly — to an innocent man.

*Item:* On February 28 Turgut Ozal's Government tabled a resolution in the Turkish Parliament in Ankara, that would commute, if passed, all death sentences to 30 years' imprisonment. In the same way, life sentences would be reduced to 20 years in prison, 5-year sentences to 2 years and 3 days, and so on. Will Armenians be able to take advantage of the new law in order to press for the release of Father Manuel Yergatian, or to have his sentence reduced?

These are some of the problems facing us today.

Apparently we are at a crossroad, and the time has come for us to sit and re-evaluate our achievements, our defeats, and the way we plan our strategy. We are dealing with the Government of Turkey, which, with the help of its vast diplomatic, political and financial resources has embarked on a wild campaign of coercion, distortion and denial. And it is succeeding.

How can we react to this onslaught?

The only answer is, of course, to plan, organize and coordinate our actions, and not just sit and wait for something to happen. Thus far we have been reacting to events. Let's put our act together and take the initiative.

Can we wait longer?

**Sub****ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740**- ARCHIVE -****SOURCE**The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles**DATE**

March 26, 1986

**SUBJECT**CSUF Armenian Studies Program to  
feature Armenian Genocide class**PAGE**

1 of 1

# THE ARMENIAN OBSERVER

## **Armenian Genocide Course will be Offered at CSUF**

FRESNO — The Armenian Genocide is the second of two one credit Saturday classes offered by the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, in the Spring 1986 semester.

The class will meet April 12 and April 19, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with an hour for lunch, in Social Science 104 on the CSUF campus.

The course will focus on documentation with special emphasis on oral histories, both with use of videos and with

discussions with survivors. There will be guest speakers.

Program Acting Coordinator Barlow Der Mugrdechian will be directing the class in the discussions and analyses, with emphasis on the deliberations of the European Parliament and the Peoples Tribunal verdicts.

Enrollment for the course, Armenian 102T is open to all. The fee is \$54.00 for the one credit course. Call 294-2669 or 294-2524.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter; New York DATE March 27, 1986  
SUBJECT CSUF Armenian Studies Program and PAGE 1 of 2  
Library Exhibit on Genocide

## Fresno State Library Turns Down This Year's Genocide Exhibit

FRESNO, Calif.- Citing a policy statement which restricts exhibits "sponsored by and focused on the tenets of individual sects and parties," the Library of California State University here has turned down a request by the Armenian Students' Organization (ASO) to install an exhibit on the Armenian genocide during the month of April.

Assistant University Librarian Stephanie Hillman labeled the exhibit requested by the Armenian students' group as falling within the description of those exhibits which promote a "particular point of view" in her reply to the request. Ms. Hillman pointed out that should the students' group be willing to sponsor an exhibit reflecting Armenian history or culture from a non-partisan point of view, the Library would have no objection to it.

The exhibit was prepared by the Armenian Assembly and tells the story of the Armenian genocide through contemporary photographs, documents and historical analysis. The same exhibit has appeared at campuses throughout the country and was on display last year at the California State University at Fresno (CSUF) Satellite College Union. Similar exhibits have previously been installed at the CSUF library.

The library's decision follows a recent announcement that Armenians have donated approximately \$100,000 to the construction of the CSUF Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business Center.

"It is hard to believe that a uni-

versity official could view the genocide as controversial after the Armenian Studies Program and the Armenian Students' Organization have spent so many years educating the campus community," said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, acting coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program. "It is particularly appalling considering the fact that Gov. Deukmejian and the California Legislature officially recognized the genocide last year. I find Ms. Hillman's logic especially offensive to the Armenian community and the survivors of the genocide. It's been only six short years since the ASO tangled with the Vintage Days Committee over the staging of opening ceremonies on April 24, the day Armenians commemorate the massacres of 1915. To see the same sort of insensitivity again after our past problems is disappointing."

Jim Malkasian, chairman of the Armenian Students' Organization's April 24th Committee, noted another precedent in the conflict. "This incident unfortunately is not unique. In 1978 library officials at UC-Berkeley removed a genocide exhibit after pressure from the State Department. That exhibit was allowed to continue thanks in large part to the intervention of Attorney General Deukmejian and other concerned individuals. In this case I have to wonder if again some unseen pressure isn't being applied," Malkasian noted.

The student group is presently seeking to reverse the library's policy.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter; New YorkDATE March 27, 1986SUBJECT CSUFS Armenian Studies Program co-  
sponsores poetry readingPAGE 2 of 2

## Poets Peter Balakian and James Baloian Visit Fresno for Poetry Reading March 9

FRESNO, Calif. - Peter Balakian and James C. Baloian, poets, appeared in Fresno at a poetry reading held on Sunday evening, March 9, 1986, in the Lyles Theater of the Metropolitan Museum. The reading was co-sponsored by the CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program, the Armenian Student Organization, and the Metropolitan Museum and was held in conjunction with the unique exhibit "Weavers, Merchants and Kings: The Inscribed Rugs of Armenia" in its only California showing.

A large audience of Fresno poetry lovers attended the 7:30 p.m. reading and were greeted with a literary tour de force. Both Baloian and Balakian dazzled and entertained the captivated audience with poems taken from already published works and original poems from work yet to be published. . . .

James Baloian, a native of Fresno, began the evening with a series of powerful poems whose words evoked images of an Armenian grandfather driven from his homeland to exile in America (*The Armenian*). A humorous look at Armenian family life was seen in *Armenian Wedding*, redolent with the scent of garlic.

Peter Balakian, a native of New Jersey, and presently a lecturer in English literature at Colgate University in New York, followed Balakian to center stage and read from a recent collection of his poems entitled *Sad Days of Light*. These poems have the central theme of Armenian life, and the delighted audience submerged itself in the rich tapestry of color and emotion. The *History of Armenia* embodied this series of poems evoking memories of Armenia, the Genocide, and the disrup-

tion of a way of life.

The evening was a fascinating foray into the literary world, exhibiting the talents of two outstanding young poets whose words will long be remembered in Fresno. . . .

**SUB**

**ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM**

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Nor Gyank Weekly; Los Angeles

DATE March 27, 1986

SUBJECT CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program  
to feature Armenian Genocide class

PAGE 1 of 1



**Fresno**

**Genocide Class Featured  
In April**

**FRESNO**—“The Armenian Genocide” is the second of two one-credit Saturday classes offered by the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno in the Spring 1986 semester. The class will meet April 12 and April 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (with an hour for lunch) in social Science 104 on the CSU, Fresno campus.

The course will focus on documentation with special emphasis on oral histories, both with use of videos and with discussions with survivors. Guest speakers will focus on the reasons and the effects of Genocide on the Armenian people.

Armenian Studies Program Acting Coordinator Barlow Der Mugrdechian will be directing the class in the discussions and analysis. Recent developments in international politics and the deliberations of the European Parliament and the Paris Peoples Tribunal will be examined.

Enrollment for the Armenian Studies course, Armenian 120T is open to all. To sign up contact the Armenian Studies Program (294-2669) or the University Division of Extended Education (294-2524). The fee for those not currently enrolled in the university is \$54.00, for the one-credit course.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE

Armenian Life Weekly; Los Angeles

DATE

March 28, 1986

SUBJECT

Professor Dickran Kouymjian named  
CSU Fresno Outstanding Professor

PAGE 1 of 2

## Dickran Kouymjian Named CSUF Outstanding Professor

**Fresno, CA**—Dr. Dickran K. Kouymjian, professor of ethnic studies and coordinator of Armenian Studies, has been named Outstanding Professor for 1986 at California State University, Fresno.

He will be the university's candidate for statewide honors awarded by the Board of Trustees of the California State University system. The Board annually selects two CSU faculty members for the Outstanding Professor of the Year award.

Dr. Kouymjian was born to Armenian American parents in Romania, but grew up in Chicago and in Racine, Wisc. He earned a B.A. degree in European cultural history from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, a master's degree in Arab Studies at American University in Beirut, Lebanon, and a Ph.D. degree in Armenian Studies at Columbia University, New York. Dr. Kouymjian said he earned the first doctorate in Armenian Studies ever granted in the U.S.

For the past 25 years, Dr. Kouymjian has been teaching Near Eastern and Armenian history and art as well as western humanities at universities in this country and abroad including Columbia University, the American University of Beirut, the American University in Cairo, the American College in Paris, Haigazian College in Beirut and CSU, Fresno.

In 1976 Professor Kouymjian was sent to the Libyan Arabic Republic by UNESCO in Paris to advise the Libyan Department of Antiquities on the cleaning, preservation and study of ancient and medieval coins. In 1978, among the 150 international scholars who participated in the Second International Symposium of Armenian Art in Yerevan, Armenian S.S.R., he was the only one to be personally invited as the guest of Vasken I, the Catholicos of All Armenians.

In 1979, Dr. Kouymjian was named the first American scholar to present the Distinguished Kevorkian Lectureship in Near Eastern Art and Civilization by New York University's Center for Near Eastern Studies.

Currently, the CSUF Outstanding Professor nominee is working at his home in Paris on several historical and literary publications. In addition to writing historical works on Armenian iconography and architecture as well as a bibliography of art and architecture, he is correcting the final proofs of three books

including "Etudes Armeniennes/Armenian Studies; In Memoriam Haig Berberian," in honor of the late editor of Revue des Etudes Armeniennes; "The History of Armenia by Chazar P'arpetsi," a re-edition of the critical text from the work of the 5th century historian; and

"William Saroyan, An Armenian Trilogy: Three Plays on the Armenians," a book to be published by The Press at CSUF.

The CSUF professor is noted for his concern for students and learning. One student said, "He has a vast knowledge of his subject and gives a very clear and precise presentation. He is well organized and very interested in communicating his knowledge to the students." Another student described him as "the best teacher I have ever had."

Dr. Robert S. Mikell, coordinator of the Ethnic Studies Program, said Dr. Kouymjian's classroom effectiveness is rated as superior. Twice, while at the American University in Cairo, he was awarded certificates of excellence in teaching by the Students Senate.

A member of the CSU, Fresno faculty since 1977, Dr. Kouymjian has devoted a great amount of time and effort in making the Armenian segment of the campus an active and positive force in the life of the university. He is the advisor to the Armenian Students Organization, one of the more active student groups on campus.

In addition to his teaching duties and scholarly pursuits, he has served as a member of the CSUF Academic Senate and as a member of several faculty committees, including the General Education Committee.

Dr. Kouymjian is married to the former Angele Kapoian, a teacher, research scholar and author from Gentilly, France. ■

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Armenian Life Weekly; Los Angeles

DATE March 28, 1986

SUBJECT CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program  
and Library Exhibit on Genocide

PAGE 2 of 2

## Armenian Genocide Exhibit Okayed After Rejection By Univ. Librarian

**Fresno, CA**— The Fresno State University library, which last week rejected a proposed exhibit on the Armenian Genocide as too controversial, has decided the display isn't so controversial after all.

After meeting with Armenian campus leaders March 11, FSU Librarian Lillie Parker reversed her position and ruled that the library would provide space in the second-floor exhibit area for a display of posters commemorating the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians in Turkey 70 years ago.

Armenian students and professors welcomed the decision. But the students said they also want a public apology from Parker, who initially ruled that the exhibit of 20 Armenian genocide posters was too one sided.

The student sent Parker a letter demanding an apology and a promise that the library would never again try to bar an exhibit on the massacre.

"We expected her to change her mind, but not so quickly," said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, acting

coordinator of the FSU Armenian Studies Program. "I think she still holds to her view that the genocide is controversial, and some of the students want an apology."

After Parker turned down the exhibit request last week, Der Mugrdechian issued an angry news release denouncing the action and suggesting that FSU would do well not to offend the Armenian community. Armenians have donated about \$100,000 to the construction of the Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business Center at FSU, Mugrdechian said.

Some of those FSU boosters called university officials to complain about the library exhibit decision, Mugrdechian said.

Mugrdechian met with Parker March 11 and brought along the posters. Parker had made her initial ruling without having seen the proposed exhibit.

After viewing the posters and consulting with other university officials, Parker reversed her earlier decision and sent a letter of acceptance to organizers of the

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE

The Armenian Weekly; Watertown, Mass.

DATE

March 29, 1986

SUBJECT

CSUF Armenian Studies Program

co-sponsors Ensemble tour

PAGE

1 of 1

## Ensemble de Musique Armenienne To Tour U.S. this Spring

The internationally acclaimed Ensemble de Musique Arménienne will make its third U.S. tour this spring, performing for university and community audiences in cities across the country. The Paris-based musicians, known for their interpretation of the songs of the great Armenian court troubadour Sayat Nova, also perform a diverse repertoire of Armenian folk music that reflects the breadth of modal, poetic, and dialect structures in traditional Armenian music. Critics in Europe and the United States have praised them for the purity and intensity of their musicianship, and for their dedication

to research and promotion of traditional Armenian music.

The four members of the Ensemble come from different parts of the Armenian diaspora: Rouben Haroutunian, *tar* and vocals, was born in Iran; Aram Kerovpyan, *qanoun*, was born in Turkey; Virginia Pattie, vocals was born in the U.S.; and Edmond Zartarian, percussion, was born in Soviet Armenia. Mr. Kerovpyan and Ms. Pattie recently appeared in Arby Ovanessian's film "How My Mother's Embroidered Apron Unfolds in My Life," for which Kerovpyan was also musical director.

The 1986 tour will open in

New York, with a performance at Columbia University on April 11. The Ensemble will also perform in Ann Arbor, Detroit, Boston, Providence, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Fresno and elsewhere. In addition to concerts held in the Armenian community, the Ensemble will perform for university audiences at UCLA, the University of Michigan, California State University of Fresno, Columbia University and Northeastern University. Mr. Kerovpyan, a musicologist, is also scheduled to lecture with a special audiovisual presentation on the history and theory of Armenian music.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Asbarez Daily; Los AngelesDATE March 29, 1986SUBJECT CSUF Armenian Studies Program and  
Library Exhibit on GenocidePAGE 1 of 1

# Asbarez

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## SATURDAY EDITION

### Genocide Exhibit Reinstated by FSU Library After Protests

**FRESNO**- The Fresno State University Library, which two weeks ago rejected a proposed exhibit on the Armenian genocide as too controversial, decided late last week that the display isn't so controversial after all.

After meeting with Armenian campus leaders, FSU Librarian Lillie Parker reversed her position and ruled that the library would provide space in the second-floor exhibit area for a display of posters commemorating the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians in Turkey 70 years ago.

Armenian students and professors welcomed the decision. But the

students said they also want a public apology from Parker, who initially ruled that the exhibit of 20 Armenian genocide posters was too one-sided.

The students sent Parker a letter demanding an apology and a promise that the library would never again try to bar an exhibit on the massacre.

"We expected her to change her mind, but not so quickly," said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, acting coordinator of the FSU Armenian Studies Program. "I think she still holds to her view that the genocide is controversial, and some of the students want an apology."

After Parker turned down the exhibit request, Mugrdechian issued an angry news release denouncing the action and suggesting the FSU would do well not to offend the Armenian community. Armenians have donated about \$100,000 to the construction of the Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business Center at FSU, Mugrdechian said.

Some of those FSU boosters called university officials to complain about the library exhibit decision.

Mugrdechian met with Parker and brought along the posters. Parker had made her initial ruling without having seen the proposed exhibit.

After viewing the posters and consulting with the university officials, Parker reversed her earlier decision

Continued on Page 11

### Exhibit Reinstated

Continued from Page 1

and sent a letter of acceptance to organizers of the exhibit.

"Having reviewed the posters and having consulted with individuals whose judgment I respect, I now approve the installation of the exhibit," Parker wrote to the Armenian students organizing the exhibit.

Copies of the letter went to top university officials, including FSU President Harold Haak.

Haak was out of town when the dispute erupted into a public con-

troversy. By the time he returned, he was able to assure irate callers that the matter had been resolved and the display would go on.

"I think it was settled properly," Haak said.

In initially rejecting the exhibit, Parker had ruled that it violated a library policy prohibiting presentations that take a point of view on political or religious issues. The Armenian genocide is denied by the Turkish government, Parker said. Armenians blame the Turks for systematically carrying out the massacre.

While approving the exhibit, Parker

cautioned that the second-floor display area may not be large enough to accommodate the entire series of posters. She said she may leave one or two posters out of the display.

Included in the series are photographs of Armenian massacre victims, copies of newspaper articles from the period charts, and a photograph of Adolf Hitler. The display draws a parallel between the massacre of Armenians by the Turks and the Nazi atrocities under Hitler.

The exhibit is scheduled for display in the library during April in conjunction with the annual commemoration of the massacre on April 24.

*The Fresno Bee*