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# LUS GULPONTU Hye Sharzhoom

October1991 Volume 13, No. 1

Supplement to the Daily Collegian

# Lehman travels to Armenia

Fresno Congressman visits Armenia during historic proceedings

### By Armen Aghishian Staff Writer

Richard Henry Lehman, a native of the greater Fresno area, began his congressional career in 1976 when he won election to the 31st Assembly District. In 1982 he was elected to the 18th congressional District, which includes most of the Central Valley including Fresno and Madera.

Q: Congressman, when did you go on your trip to Armenia and for how long?

I went for the independence referendum on September 21, but I was actually there from the 19th through the 22nd.

Q: What were some of the goals that you had in mind?

My primary goal was to observe the voting and to ascertain that they were indeed fair and free and that things were proceeding as planned. We also met with several Armenian political leaders such as

President Levon Der Bedrosian, and Prime Minister Manukian to discuss specifically how they plan on going foreward with the independence movement.

Q: What did you find the leaders attitudes to be with regards to the recent turn of wants?

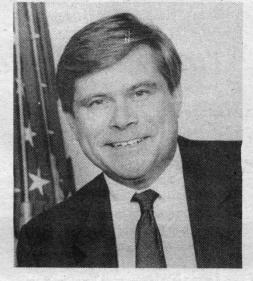
Very reasonable yet cautious. They were aware of their historic situation.

Q: What is your opinion on the results of the referendum?

I am not surprised. We should honor the results of the referendum as they have significant historic value - history has once again been changed.

Q: What did you observe the people's attitude to be regarding the referendum and the current political situation in their country?

There was much jubilation in finally getting rid of communism. However, there is much concern about their economic situation since it is directly dependent on their neighbors, Turkey and Iran. The people also seem to understand that economic ties with the rest of the world are very detrimental to their well-being. They



want to have positive relations with Turkey. But probably one of the biggest issues is the desire for self-determination for the Nagorno-Karabagh region of Azerbaijan.

Q: How do you view the emerging democratic processes in Armenia? I feel that it is the only way to be successful, as has been proven lately with the referendum and the elections. Democratic roots have taken a strong hold in Armenia.

Q: What can Armenia do to gain recognition not only in Armenia, but throughout the diaspora?

Exactly what they are doing now! And specifically by negotiating an economic agreement with Russia. Bordering countries are also quite important to their economic needs now and in the future. Complete and final independence will be ready very soon.

Q: As a politician, where do you feel the recent turn of events will lead the Armenian people?

Full independence and a democratic form of government. In addition the people are very grateful to the people of the United States for their emotional support.

Q: In closing, do you have any comments? Yes, I would like to say that I went to Armenia a pessimistic man and I left the country optimistic.

### Republic of Armenia Declared!

The Armenian Parliament unanimously voted at 6:15 p.m. on September 23 that the Republic of Armenia be declared a free and independent state by a vote of 213 to 0, confirming the results of the September 21 referendum. Following is the text of the declaration by the Parliament:

"Remaining loyal to Armenia's declaration on independence; relying on international norms of human rights and people's free self-determination; intending to establish a democratic, legal society, based on the results of the September 21, 1991, referendum on coming out of the Soviet Union; the Supreme Council of the Republic of Armenia declares the Independent State of the Republic of Armenia."



# Independence!

By Sonia Devejian Staff Writer

On September 23, 1991 at 4:00 p.m., the Supreme Council of Armenia held a special session regarding the question of Armenian Independence. As a result, the Supreme Council (Parliament) adopted a resolution declaring the Repub-

lic of Armenia an independent nation.

The concept of Independence is new for Armenians today, however, the idea of an independent republic of Armenia is not. In October of 1917, the Armenian National Council, a body set up in Tiflis, was acting as a government for the Armenian people following the political

please see Independence, page 8

# The Independent Republic of Armenia at a Glance

Population: 3,500,000 (1991 est.) Capital City: Yerevan Last Independent: May 28, 1918-November 29, 1920 Declared Independence: September 23, 1991

President: Levon Der Bedrosian, elected Oct. 16, 1991 with 83% of the voted. Serving a five year term of office.

Economy: Based on high technology, minerals, chemical manufacturing, brandy.

Religion: Christian

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# Sunday Visit

#### By Jeff Ahronian Editor

In the Ahronian household - as in almost every Armenian household - there is a certain ritual that is perpetuated every Sunday - a ritual that has endured for years. The family (all 13 of us - of course, never at the same table) gathers for a night full of noise, food/noise, old stories/noise, desert, and more noise. Sound confusing?

At approximately 5:45 p.m., as weslowly enter the house, we find Grandpa (Mr. D to those at all the coffeeshops situated from Fowler to Selma) sitting relaxed in his favorite chair either watching the news or an old cowboy movie on television. Grandma, as usual, is in the kitchen.

Hopefully, we're the first to arrive guaranteeing us atleast ten minutes of welcome silence (no noise).

Seeing Grandpa in that chair of his brings back a few vivid memories. Think-

ing back, I remember a time when I was young - a time when I thought I could do anything that I wanted to do - a time in which I was basically considered to be a brat. I remember Grandpa sitting in that chair of his and telling me about the five brothers - brothers who didn't care much about little kids or the softness of their behinds. I remember him telling me that the five brothers would come after me if I was bad (or basically if I just happened to make my sister, brother, or cousin cry). I was tempted to meet these five brothers to have it out with them face to face - but I never did.

6:15 p.m. Dinner usually consists of approximately twenty various courses and is enough food to last for atleast three different visits. A typical meal: chicken, potatoes, salad, ribs, sarma, pilaf, vegetables, bread, and plenty of garlic. Warning: too much red punch can cause stomachaches; too much garlic - bad breath.

By 6:45 p.m., everyone is through eat-

ing. By 6:59 p.m., Uncle John has planted himself on the couch, has somehow intercepted the television remote control, and has already begun watching 60 minutes.

By 7:23 p.m., the noise level has nearly reached its maximum. After years of research, I've formulated a hypothesis to why this phenomonen occurs: 1) trying to keep up with the monotony of 60 minutes and at the same time the women in the adjacent room, Uncle John raises the volume (two notches at a time) of the television, 2) as the noise level of the t.v. increases, the women begin talking louder, thus subconsciously increasing their noise level - as well as the total noise level, and 3) the baby, who never takes a nap on Sunday, begins to feel the effects. As one can easily see, it's a neverending cycle.

8:22 p.m. My two female cousins are usually carefully scrutinizing the Macy's and Target advertisements. My brother and sister are sometimes trying to do their school homework. The baby is still crying.

The women are busy talking away. The men are trying to watch t.v. And me, well, I'm just sitting there observing the rather bewildering events going on around me (how else would I be able to write this

9:09 p.m. Everyone slowly begins getting up from the couches and leisurely moving outside to where their cars are parked. As we back out of the driveway, and Grandma waves goodbye, I see a sort of glimmer in her eye - as if she is silently saying to herself, "Whew, what a day!"

Who knows how long this ritual will continue to last - in fact, who knows why it has lasted for this long alreadly - and who knows why Armenians throughout the world usually celebrate their Sunday's together. What is known, however, is that every family needs a "Sunday Visit" to perk up their week and to maybe help bring the family just a little bit closer together - even if it means extra noise.

# Thoughts on Armenian Independence and the Future

### By Barlow Der Mugrdechian Advisor

The forty-four month period, beginning with the mass demonstrations in Yerevan of February 1988, and culminating with the presidential election of October 16, 1991, has seen Armenia transformed from a republic of the Soviet Union into an independent Republic of Armenia. Few could have forseen such an event on the eve of the rallies held in Yerevan, and fewer even, would have predicted the eventual collapse of the Soviet Union in three short years.

For the Armenian people those months were filled with a devastating earthquake, pogroms against Armenians in Azerbaijan, the continued violence aimed at the Armenians of Karabagh, and the uncertain political climate in the Soviet Union.

They was also filled with the anticipation of the impending dramatic political changes in Armenia.

It is difficult to believe that we have been witness to one of the great independence movements of the twentieth century and that we are living at a moment when the Armenian people are free again. While in the Diaspora many share a cautious approach to this new found freedom, the people of Armenia are busy building a

I like what I have heard and read about the policies of the new Republic. Armenia will have to live with its neighbors, to build economic ties where necessary and to enter into the community of nations. Armenia as a reality rather than an abstract dream, is much different than the Armenia so many sought for the past seventy-one years because of the nature of the creation of the new state.

I am certain the the Diaspora (Armenians living outside of Armenia) will never be the same. Already the assumptions

upon which organizations and lives were built have changed. The fundamental changes in Armenia will have their corresponding changes here. While vast majorities of the Armenians in Armenia are participating in elections and referenda, the Armenians here must reevaluate their participation in organizations and Armenian life in general.

Already I see that for many, a great burden has been removed, and that they feel that because Armenia is free now, that somehow they are relieved of the responsibility of staying Armenian. In fact, the responsibilities are far greater now, because the barriors of communication and travel have been lifted, and because Armenia and the Diaspora now need each other more than ever.

Some who have traveled to Armenia speak with optimism and others speak with despair. What is clear is that there is no one else now to look to, to shoulder the burden. As a free country Armenians are now responsible for the future of their country. No longer can we blame the communists, or the system, for the deficiencies of society.

The election of a directly elected President, Levon Der Bedrosian, sends an important message to the world, that now Armenia has a leader who speaks for the people of Armenia. Armenia will enter a democratic path and form institutions that will enliven democracy.

The five year term of the newly elected President will be critical in establishing the political temperment of the new nation. Armenia must be able to formulate a pragmatic policy designed to strengthen the economy as soon as possible.

The privatization of land, in particular agricultural land, is an encouraging sign for the emerging Republic and production has already increased dramatically. This has been the first successful case of decollectivization in the Soviet Union.

Tourism is a industry which can be encouraged as Armenia is a living museum of early Christianity.

Armenia now is in a struggle to achieve what is taken for granted in the United States, namely freedom and security. It is the responsibility of the United States to immediately recognize the Republic of Armenia, and by doing so assert that the struggle of the Armenian people has not been in vain.

We are at a juncture in history where if we do not take advantage of the opportunity before us, then we could lose our independence for future generations.

I am cautiously optimistic-and I salute the Armenian people for their courage.

The Armenian Students Organization would like to thank all those who contributed towards the April 24th, Armenian Genocide Commemorative Week activities held on the CSUF campus.

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Hye Sharzhoom welcomes prose, poetry, articles, manuscripts, and other material from its readers. For further information concerning the newspaper or the Armenian Studies Program, call the ASP office (209) 278-2669.

# **Campus Hye Profiles**

### How does an independent Armenia affect you?

#### Martha Vakana

Age: 19 Major: Business

"I am very glad for the Armenians because I feel that independence is one of the major things a nation should have. I can also speak from personal experience because my homeland of Cyprus is somewhat in the same situation that Armenia was experiencing."

#### **Shawntel Soojian**

Age: 18 Major: Liberal Studies

"It does not personally affect me. However, I think it is very positive for the Armenians in general and it gives Armenians a reason to be proud."

#### Matthew Markarian

Age: 19 Major: Business

"I am not directly effected by Armenia's independence but I feel that it would be great if the Armenians can remain free and prosper as a nation."

#### **Kathy Spencer**

Age: 18 Major: Business

"It doesn't directly affect me. I am very happy for Armenia and the other former Communist countries for gaining independence."

#### **Melanie Foxx**

Age: 19 Major: Speech Pathology

"I am not personally affected by the new independence of Armenia. However, everything that goes on in the world affects people from all over. I think it is important for Armenia to be independent. For so long they have been persecuted and now they can be respected as Armenians. It is time for everyone to become aware of the importance of independence."

#### Danielle Sabroe

Age: 20 Major: Liberal Studies

"It doesn't really affect me directly. I think Armenians are going to have a rough roads ahead, but in the end they will succeed as a nation. I am Armenian, but my family doesn't really discuss it that much. I think we're too Americanized."

#### Carrie Norsworthy

Age: 18 Major: Undeclared

"It does not directly effect me. But I am extremely happy for the Armenians and I think that independence is something that they needed."

# Hye Sharzhoom would love to hear your opinion about the paper. Please write to us!

### Simon the Mouse

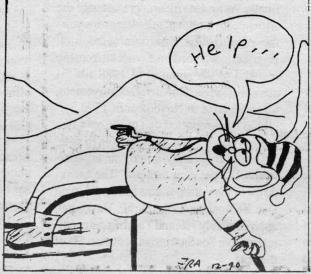












## Professor Kouymjian Completes Sabbatical With Trip to Armenia

Barlow Der Mugrdechian Advisor

With a special invitation from the Armenian Academy of Sciences, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies and Director of the Armenian Studies Program wound up a year long sabbatical leave in Erevan in the last weeks of July.

During the year Dr. Kouymjian spend most of his time in Paris completing the manuscript of two books and a number of articles while conducting research on several on going projects. One of the volumes, Warsaw Visitor and Tales from the Vienna Streets: The Last Two Plays of William Saroyan was issued by The Press at California State University, Fresno. The other book, The Arts of Armenia, will be published by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation of Lisbon, Portugal shortly.

During his leave Dr. Kouymjian read papers at international conferences in Paris, Marseille, Heidelberg, Leiden, and Bologna. He also gave a series of lectures in Armenian art at the Institute Nationale des Langues et Civilisations Orientales in Paris and was co-organizer of an international symposium on the fifth century Armenian historian, Movses Khorenatsi.

The invitation by the Armenian Academy was for research on a project sponsor by the Academy and the University of Aarhus in Denmark to produced an Album' of Armenian Palaeography. In addition to Dr. Kouy-mjian, the team of three scholars working on the volume includes Dr. Henning Lehmann, President of the University of Aarhus, himself an eminent Armenologist, and Dr. Michael Stone. Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

The Album will present a chronological series of Armenian script taken from ancient manuscripts. All periods and regions will be represented. The oldest fragments of parchment date as early as the seventh century and most fully preserved manuscripts of the ninth, tenth and eleventh centuries will be included. A more general selection will be made of scribal hands from the twelfth to the nineteenth century.

## By Jeff Ahronian

Drs. Stone and Kouymjian began preliminary selection at the largest repository of Armenian manuscripts, the Matenadaran in the Armenian capital Erevan, where 11,000 of the roughly 30,000 surviving Armenian manuscripts are kept. During the two weeks of intensive work Dr.Kouymjian photographed sample pages from some 400 manuscripts. At the same time he noted and photographed characteristics of these same manuscripts' bindings and construction for use in his continuing research on Armenian codicology, or the study of how medieval manuscripts were assembled and bound.



During his stay in Paris and Erevan, Professor Kouymjian also spoke to members of the government of the newly independent Armenian Republic, including Prime Minister Manougian, Minister of Culture Berj Zeytountsian, Economic Minister Samuel Baghdasarian, the Director of the Committee for the Preservation of Ancient Monuments, Goriun Ghafadarian. He also met with the new Rector of Erevan State University. Norayr Arakelian, and Vice-Rector Raphael Matevossian to arrange there visit to California State University Fresno later the signing fall for the official exchange accord between the two universities. Dr. Kouymjian taught at Erevan State University in 1987 as a Fulbright Senior Lecturer.

One of his former colleagues, the Academic Secretary of the Matenadaran and a renowned scholar on early Armenian and Syriac texts, Levon Ter Petrossian, is now President of Armenia. During meetings with the President, Dr. Kouymjian reports that President Ter Petrossian always spoke optimistically about the Karabagh question. In his opinion the Karabagh would now always remain Armenian and the Azerbaijani government realizes that it is only a matter of time before the region will be government autonomous by Armenians for the Armenians living there.

As to conditions in Armenia, the professor said that the shortages are as bad as reported by the press and that Armenia is suffering from the same collapse of the Soviet system and its economy as are the other republics. Unfortunately, Armenia is smaller and has fewer reserves of vital energy and food resources and things will get worse before they get better. But the Armenians are prepared with the

See Kouymjian, page 8

# Bagdasarian discusses CSU System

By Jeff Ahronian Editor

Born in Los Angeles, Marian Bagdasarian moved to Fresno when she was just six months old and grew up in the midst of the downtown Armenian community. The oldest of five children, she remembers most fondly the happy home she had. "My

mother was not an Armenian, but she was treated wonderfully," she recounts.

Bagdasarian has been involved with public education for over twenty years and serves as a Californian State University Trustee, a position appointed by the Governor that oversees the operations of the twenty campus system. For the last six years, she has been the chairperson of the education committee and a member of the

budget committee.

As of this moment, she is instrumental in establishing a committee that will encourage involvement between K-12 schools and CSU. "We need to expose students to the university. A lot of students lack motivation and desparately need role models - university students could be terrific role models."

When asked about the current budget

situation involving CSU, Bagdasarian replies that the Legislature simply does not understand the situation. "CSU is mandated to accept students who fall into the top 33 1/3%. However, funding for this many students is just not possible." As a result, she believes that we must turn to private funding to help ease the burden. "We need to educate business to the fact that it is to their advantage to support higher education because the students today will be their workers of tomorrow." Bagdasarian also belives that budget cuts should be more balanced instead of the lopsided reductions Higher Education was delivered.

When asked about the Armenian Studies Program at FSU, Bagdasarian had nothing but positive things to say and is anxious to see it expand. "I want to see it (the ASP) grow. They have got to sell it it needs to be advertised. It's a terrific program and I believe that our Armenian students should have some background to their culture." Bagdasarian went on to say that there is a lot to offer here at CSUF and that young people are not taking advantage of the situation. She urges students to make an effort to maintain their Armenian culture. "It's much easier to learn about it now than it was 40-50 years ago because there is no longer a taboo associated with it. When outsiders are exposed to our culture, they can't believe how much we have to offer."

Bagdasarian is very active within the community as well. She is a co-founder of the Armenian Community school, active in the First Armenian Presbyterian Church, a member of the Fresno Arts Center, the Metropolitian Museum, and the Fresno Philharmonic.

# Hye Profile: Marian Bagdasarian

Occupation: Educator. Born: July 5, 1929.

Children: 2 - Gary and Darlene.

The purpose of my job is: To educate children and young people.

First job: Packing raisins at Lion Packing Company when I was 13 years old.

What I enjoy most about my job: Being around young people. To teach.

I realized I wanted to be involved with education when: My fourth grade teacher, Miss Rippe at Emerson School in Fresno, was such an influence on me. I wanted to be like her.

The person who has had the most impact on my life is: My mother.

All time favorite television show: 20/20. All time favorite movie: Gone With the Wind.

Favorite food: Chinese food.

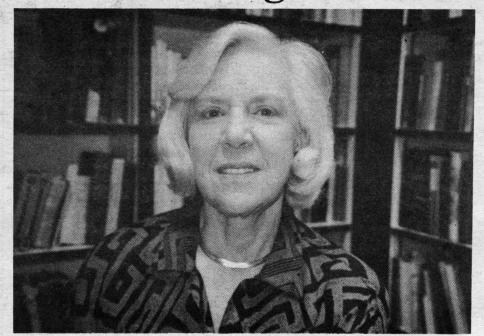
Favorite vacation spot: Cancun, Mex-

ico.

Favorite sport: Tennis.

People who make me laugh are: Great to be around.

**Biggest regret:** I wasn't able to get involved in education earlier in life.



If I could change one thing about myself, I'd: Learn to be less outspoken.

Best gift I ever gave: Life to my two children.

Best gift I ever received: My wedding ring 43 years ago.

Fondest childhood memory: Family va-

cations in the mountains at Dinkey Creek.

Favorite way to relax: Read a good book.

Biggest gripe: People who litter.

I'm most proud of: My two children.

Ten years from now, I will be: Still involved in educational issues.

# Der Bedrosian wins Presidential election

By Armen Aghishian Staff Writer

In an unprecedented free, democratic presidential election in the Republic of Armenia, incumbent parliamentary president Levon Der Bedrosian won a landslide victory on October 16. He accumulated over 83 percent of the vote. Der Bedrosian's term of office will be five years at which time another election will take place. Der Bedrosian first gained national attention as a leader of the Karabagh Committee, for which he and other members of the committee were arrested by Soviet authorities. He spent five months in prison and after his release was elected to the Armenian parliament. He had previously been involved with protests against the government while a student.

This is the first free and open election in Armenia since Armenia's independence in 1918. Observers from throughout the world were on hand to assure the legality of the voting procedures. With the recent referendum, the road to independence seems to have been paved in cement.

Of the eight original candidates, only five remained in the running on the eve of the elections. Of those dropping their candidacy, the most surprising to Armenians both in Armenia and abroad was the resignation and withdrawal of Armenia's Prime Minister Vazken Manukian, on September 23, 1991. Manukian was the first prime minister of Armenia since the fall of communism and a leader of the eleven member Karabagh Committe, which had

led Armenians in the large-scale demonstrations of 1988. The reason for his departure was reported as differences between he and the president.

Others that withdrew their candidacy were USSR Parliament Deputy and writer Zori Balayan, and the president of the Association of Armenia's trade banks Miasnik Hagopian.

The candidates who remained in the race were Supreme Council President Levon Der Bedrosian. Der Bedrosian was nominated by the Armenian National Movement. He is also a scholar of Armenian history and formerly held a research position at the Armenian State Manuscript Library (Matenadaran). Actor and ARF (Tashnag) party candidate Sos Sarkisian, Republican party leader (of Armenia) Ashot Navasartian, Karabagh Committee member and Armenia's Parliament member Rafael Kazarian - who was also formerly the vice-president of Armenia, and finally Pariur Hayrikian - president of the Alliance for National self-determination the organization that nominated him. Hayrikian, who had his Soviet citizenship revoked in the summer of 1988 for his active role in the human rights movement, was reinstated in November of 1990.

It has been reported that of the over two million people who were eligible to vote, 1.5 million actually voted, an approximately 70 per cent turnout. The breakdown of the voting was as follows: Levon Der Bedrosian, 83%; Pariur Hayrikian, approximately 7%; and Tashnag party representative Sos Sarkissian, less than 5% of the vote.

# ASP 6th Annual Banquet Special Guests to Speak

By Hye Sharzhoom Staff

The sixth annual banquet of the Armenian Studies Program at CSU Fresno will be held on Sunday, October 27, 1991 at 6:00 p.m. in the Residence Dining Hall and two special guests will appear at the Banquet.

William Saroyan's daughter Lucy Saroyan will discuss the memory of her writer father ten years after his death in Fresno. During her weekend stay she will visit the newly opened William Saroyan room at the Fresno Metropolitan Museum.

Ms. Saroyan is currently living in the San Francisco house built by Saroyan in 1940 for his mother and sister Cosette. She and her brother Aram are famous through the works of Saroyan. The novel Mama, I Love You was written especially for her and its companion work, Papa, You're Crazy for her brother.

Ms. Saroyan has spent most of her life in New York and Los Angeles working as a film and stage actress. She has been a fervant devotee of her father's work and of Saroyan as a person, often in contrast to her brother's more critical writings on the author

His Excellency Berj Zeytountsian, Minister of Culture of the newly independent Republic of Armenia, will also speak that evening.

Mr. Zeytountsian, who was born in Alexandria, Egypt in 1938 and immigrated to Soviet Armenia in 1947, has been in the United States since early September at the invitation of the International Writing Program of the University of Iowa. Prior to his

appointment in the Spring of this year as the first Minister of Culture of the freely elected Armenian government, he was for many years the Secretary of the Armenian Writers Union in Erevan.

Zeytountsian's plays and novels have made him one of the most popular modern Armenian authors. Many of his eleven books have been bestsellers in the Soviet Union and his plays are regularly presented on the Armenian stage.

The Minister's stay at the International Writing Program is sponsored by AT&T. On Thursday morning, October 24, 1991, in Los Angeles, Mr. Zeytountsian symbolically "threw the switch" on the new state of the art satellite telephone system rebuilt after the devastating earthquake of 1988. It is the most advanced telecommunication system outside the United States and will allow direct dialing from the U.S. to Armenia without having to pass through Moscow and costing no more than regular long distance calls.

The hook up on Thursday will connect Los Angeles with both Washington and Erevan in a conference call during which Minister Zeytountsian will speak with newly elected President of Armenia, Levon Der-Betrosian and U.S. officials.

Mr. Zeytountsian will arrive in Fresno on Saturday after driving through the Grapevine from Los Angeles to see the yellow umbrellas of conceptual artist Christo.

At the Sunday banquet Mr. Zeytountsian will discuss the current situation in Armenia.

# Local Activities

# Students gather for picnic

By Renee Topoozian Staff Writer

On Sunday, October 13, 1991 the Armenian Students Organization held a 'back to school picnic' at O'Neil Park on the CSU Fresno campus. ASO members past, present, and future were encouraged to attend the event which could become a permanent annual fixture of the ASO.

The picnic, the first official ASO activity of the new semester, was put together by the ASO executive body. Shish kebab, salad, bread, drinks, and pilaf prepared by Janice Caprelian were all part of the menu. Those who decided to stay a little longer were treated to home-made baklava.

Over fifty people attended the event.

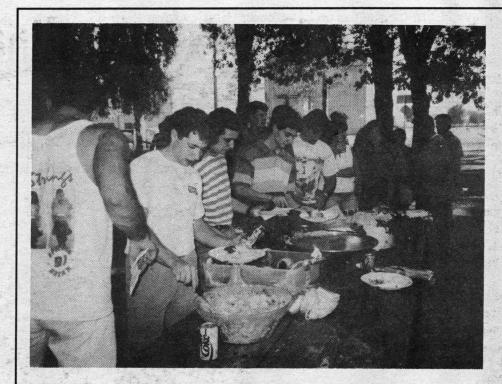
After lunch, activities were or-

ganized to provide members with a little exercise and fun. Students participated in football and volleyball. ASO president Khatchig Jingirian even led the group in an Armenian dance.

Jimmy Karagozian, a CSU Fresno alumni and'honorary' member of the ASO, challenged anyone who was present to a 'friendly' game of tavloo.

Roger Shirin, who was also in attendence, is a member who would like to see the picnic continue to happen in upcoming years. "This gives students the opportunity to meet with and talk with fellow ASO students and have a good time."

With the smell of shish kebab in the air and the sound of Armenian music in the background (combined, of course, with the constant chatter of ASO members), this first activity of the year was a definite success.



# Armenian Diaspora is topic for weekend class

• Hye Sharzhoom fact: The Armenian Diaspora now includes over 8 million people living throughout the world

By Jill Ahronian Staff Writer

On October 5, 1991, Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian taught a weekend class at CSU Fresno which explained the Armenian Diaspora and gave more insight into the Armenian community outside of the homeland.

A proper definition of the Armenian Diaspora would include all of the Armenian people who are dispersed throughout the entire world. The Armenian

nian Diaspora extends itself to the millions of Armenians who live in the various diverse areas around the world, some of which include: Jerusalem, Syria, Beirut, Poland, France, and the United States.

The Diaspora began to extend itself as early as the 11th century, but the major dispersion of the Armenian people began in the late 19th century. Immigrations of the Armenian people to America began in the late 1870's where the first Armenian communities were set up in Worcester, Massachusetts, and Fresno. By the 1890's, America had its first of more than the

eighty Armenian churches it has today.

Because a diaspora is extremely suscepttible to the outside activities of the community in which it lives, there is a fear of assimilation which can greatly alter the future of a people. Assimilation can be quite damaging in that it can result in a loss of language, a loss of the idea of a separate land with distinct political rights, a loss of cultural ideas, and even a loss of religion.

The question of "How does an Armenian continue to exist in his community outside of Armenia without losing his Armenianness?" was examined during

Professor Der Mugrdechian's lecture.

In many instances, this is a question which can only be answered by the individual. In many's opinion, it does not matter where an Armenian is living because if that individual is determined to preserve his Armenianness he can.

The Diaspora has definitely been an advantage to the Armenian people because it is responsible for the vast distribution of Armenian people across the globe. The Armenian people have made a respectable name for themselves and should be proud of a culture and heritage which has continued to prosper over the years despite Genocide and persecution.

# Cooking class offers a bountiful assortment

By Janice Caprelian Staff Writer

Students that were interested in learning how to cook Armenian food, were in the right place on September 20 and 21 - they were in enrolled in Armenian cooking 120T.

The class was supervised by Barlow Der Mugrdechian and instructed by his mother Norma Der Mugrdechian.

The class consisted of Armenian and non-Armenian students intent on getting hands on experience in preparing Armenian cuisines.

The dishes were first demonstrated by the teacher and then prepared by the class, which was split up into three groups. A total of fourteen dishes was prepared and each group was able to try the other groups' dishes to compare the taste.

Class began at 4:00 p.m. and ended at 9:30 p.m. Dinner prepared the first evening consisted of kufta, cheese borag, salad, and pilaf.



After a 'goods night sleep', class resumed at 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning. The students (already with full stoma-

ches) then prepared their lunch and dinner for the remainder of the class.

Lunch consisted of lentel kufta, sarma,

salad, chorag, and Damascus sweets.

That morning Mrs. Knar Guekgezian showed the class how to prepare her special Damascus sweets desert.

After lunch, came dinner, (unfortunetly the last meal of the class) which consisted of dolma, lahmajoon, two kinds of kadaif (one with a cream filling and one without), tabbuli, and madzoon.

Zulema Robles, a student enrolled in the class, had this to say, "We cooked so much Armenian food, I ate enough for the entire year." She also added, "The class was tiring because we stood for long periods of time cooking. I enjoyed the cooking but the onions were so bad, I never cried so much in my whole life."

The class was both educational and fun. Tania Alikian, a student at Fresno State was asked if she missed out on not taking the class and she replied, "I regret not taking the class because no Armenian man will marry me unless I know how to cook Armenian food."

# More Armenian Trivia!

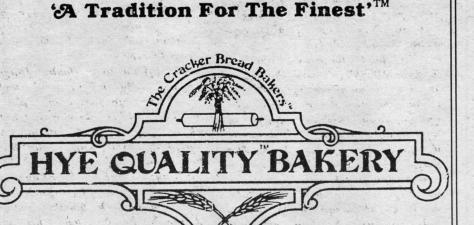
As a re-occurring feature of Hye Sharzhoom, we introduce to you more interesting and exciting bits of trivia to astound family members and friends with.

- 1. Film star who denied rumors earlier this summer that she was of Armenian descent. Her film roles have included playing opposite a 'bat' and being rescued by James Bond.
- 2. Played Carmine Ragusa on Laverne and Shirley from 1976-83. Never

received any supporting actor emmy nominations, however.

- 3. Born Cherilyn Sarkisian, has acted in films since the late 1970's. Received an oscar for best actress in 1987. Today, her music career is on a "sonny" rebound.
- 4. Was born in Fresno with the name Krekor Ohanian and was later "discovered" on a Los Angeles beach. His work as one of America's favorite t.v. detectives of the 1970's earned him a Golden Globe Award.

### Answers to trivia on page 8



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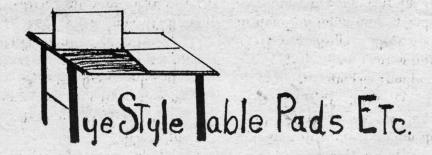
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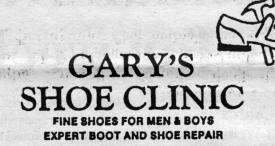
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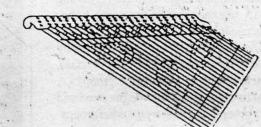
Did you know? Hye Sharžhoom is the world's only quarterly published Armenian students newspaper.



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ԽՄԲԱԳՐԱԿԱՆ

ՔԱԼԵԼ ԺՈՂՈՎՐԴԱՎԱՐՈՒԹԵԱՆ ՃԱՄԲԱՆ

Մեր բոլորին համար սովորութիւն եղած է յանախ րսել թէ [Հայաստանը դժուար կացութեան մր մէջ է»:

Այո՛, այս է հղած մեր պատմութիւնը, միշտ դժուար եւ օրհասական պայքարներ մղելով։ Ու ահա, այս բոլորին դիմաց՝ Հայաստանը իր անկախութիւնը հռչակեց, երբ հայութիւնը ջախջախիչ մեծամասնութեամբ ի նպաստ քուէարկեց տեղի ունեցած հանրաքուէի ընթացքին։ Ոչ ոք կրնայ ըսել թէ լաւ կամ գէշ է առնուած այս քայլը. միայն ժամանակը պիտի կարենայ ցոյց տալ այս։

Տեղի ունեցած այս յառաջդիմութիւնները սակայն մեզ անգործ պէտք չէ ձգեն, այլ ընդհակառակը պատրաստակամութեան մր մէջ, քննելով ներկայ կացութիւնը։

խորհրդային Միութեան արտաքին դժուարութիւնները ա՛լ աւելի ծանր վիճակ մր կու տան Հայաստանին, որ տնտեսապես ալ կապուած է Մոսկուայի։

Այս անհաստատ կացութեան դէմ դնելու համար Հայ ժողովուրդը պէտք է որ հասունութիւն ցուցաբերէ ու մնայ միացած եւ համբերող՝ չդադրելով սակայն իր իրաւունքները պաշտպանել։

Նախագահական ընտրութիւնները որ տեղի ունեցան անցհալ Չորհքշաբթի, Հոկտեմբեր 16, 1991-ին, պատմական կարեւորութիւն ունէին, որովհետեւ Ազատ Հայաստանի ընտրութիւններն էին եւ կարեւորագոյնը առաջինները, որ ժողովուրդը ուղղակիօրէն կ'ընտրէր իր նախաquhn:

Հայաստանի ապագան հայ ժողովուրդին ձեռքն է։ ժողովրդավարութեան յաղթանակով, կր յուսանք թէ Հայաստանը պիտի կարենայ դէպի առաջ քալել եւ յաջողութիւններ արձանագրել։

Ս. Թ.

### **ՔԱԼԻՖՈՐՆԻՈՑ ՀԱՑ ԳԱՂՈՒԹԸ**

Սփիւռքի հայութեան դրգադարըունիւրը այոօև կ'ապրի Ամերիկայի մէջ։ Շուրջ 350,000 հայեր համախըմբուելով Քալիֆորնիոյ մէջ, կազմած են սփիւռբի մեծագոյն գաղութներէն մին։ Հայութեան Թիւը ըզգալիօրէն բազմապատկուեցաւ 70ական եւ 80ական Թուականներուն, երբ Հայաստանեն ու ամբողջ Միջին Արեւելբէն (յատկապես Լիբանանէն) հայեր զաղթեցին Հոն, Լոս Անձելրսր դարձնելով իրենց նոր «Հայրենիք»ր։

Այս բազմամարդ քաղա*ֆին բնակչութիւնը բաղկա*ցած է գլխաւորաբար Մեջսիքացիներէ, Չինացիներէ, ձաբոնցիներէ եւ Սեւամոր ներէ։ Հայերու մեծ խումբեր կ'ապրին Կլէնտեյլ, Հոլիվուտ, Մոնթե-யுத்பு , முத்தை சயாட்டிரு, Փասատինա, Ֆրեզնօ, Սան Ֆրանսիսքօ եւ Սաքրամենի

Քաղաքը լեցուն է ազգային Հաստատութիւններով ու Մարմիններով, ինչպես՝ եկեղեցիներ, որոնց կից սրաՀները կը գործածուին որպէս հաւա*ճավայր, բրիտասարդական* 

կեդրոններ, ակումբներ, ՀՕՄԻ, ՀՄԸՄԻ, ՀԲԸՄԻ, Համազգայինի Մասնաճիւղեր, Կուսակցական Մարմիններ, եւայլն։ Մասնաспририр 2приплир 159 յանախ ուչագրութիւն կը գրաւեն Հայատառ գրու-**Երւրրբև խաղաւգրբև** ցուցատախտակներու վրայ։

Հին ժամանակներեն գաղթած Հայերու մէկ մասր գրեթե ձուլուած է, իսկ նոլ գաղթողներու պարագային, դպրոցները, դժուարութեան առջեւ կը գտնուին, որովհետեւ Թէ արեւելահայերէն եւ թե արեւմտահայերեն պէտք է ուսուցանուի։

Քալիֆորնիոյ կառավարիչն էր Ճորճ Տէօքմենեան, որ կարող քաղաքա– գէտի ու պետական մարդու Համբաւ ունէր Ամերիկայի մէջ։ Պետական դիրքերու վրայ, ներկայիս կը գրտնուին նաեւ բազմաԹիւ այլ հայեր։

Կը կարծուի Թէ Քալիֆորնիոյ Հայութեան Թիւր պիտի չարունակէ բարձրարալ, այնքար տաբը սև Հի դադրիր Միջին Արեւելքի տագնապր եւ Հայաստանի ստեղծուած անհաստատ կացութիւնը:

U. S.

# ՈՒԻԼԻԱՄ ՍԱՐՈՑԵԱՆ

Տասը տարի աշխարհի գրականասէր մարդկութիւնը ծանր կորուստ կրեց. մահացաւ Ամերիկանայ աշխարհանոչակ գրող, վիպասան եւ Թատերագիր Ուիլիամ Սարոյեան։ Իր վերջին կըտակին համաձայն աճիւնները փոխագրուեցան Հայաստան, Երեւանի Կոմիտասի այգին։

Թեեւ Սարոյեան կը գրեր անգլերէնով, ան ինքզինք կր համարէր հայ գրող, որովհետեւ այն ոգին որ զինք մղած էր գըրելու հայկականն էր։

Ուիլիամ Սարոյեան ծնած է Ֆրեզնօ 1908ին, Արեւմտեան Հայաստանէն գաղթած չքաւոր Հայ ընտանիքէ մը. մանուկ հասակէն կը կորսնցնէ հայրը՝ Պիթլիսցի Արժենակը։ Մայրը՝ Թագուհի, մեծցուցած է զինջ, մինչ մեծ մայրը իրեն տուած է հայեցի դաստիարակութիւն։

Ուիլիամ գրական ասպարէզ մտած է 1934ին գրելով իր առաջին պատմուածքները «Խիզախ Պատանին Թոչող Մարզաձողերու Վրայ», որ կը բովանդակէր 26 պատմուածք։ Այս դիրքը անմիջապէս հեղինակին բերաւ յաջողութիւն եւ ճանաչում։

Ասոր կը յաջորդե մանրավեպերու գիրքը՝ «Անունս Արաժ է», եւ այսպես կ'առնե հարիւրաւոր րոհավգարևու շաևճև՝ ձիրճ մաևձրնելով 20րդ դարու նորավէպի նորարարներէն մէկը, կենսականօրեն ու Հոգերանօրեն ճշմարտացի, լուսաւոր ու բազմաթիւ **Էջերու հեղինակ**։

1940 թուին իր «Քո Կեանքի ժամանակը» արժանացաւ Ամերիկայի Միացեալ Նահանգներու (ԱՄՆ) գրական երկու բարձրա-

գոյն մրցանակներու։ Այս բեմադրութիւնները իրենց թարմ չունչով աշխուժացուցին Broadway-ի բեմաՀարթակները եւ անցան բագմաթիւ թատրոններու բեմերով։

Երկրորդ Համաչխարհային պատերազմի ժամանակ, Ուիլիըմ Սարոյեան կը գրէ իր գլուխ գործոցը՝ «Մարդկային Կատակերգութիւն»։ Ասիկա իր առաջին վեպն էր։

1970 Թուականին լոյս կը տեսնէ ուրիչ գիրջ մը՝ «Կեանջի ու Մահուան Օրեր եւ Փախուստ ղեպի Լուսին»:

Ուիլիամ Սարոյեանի վերջին «Պատահական Հանդիպումներ», յուչագրական բնոյթ ունի։ Ասիկա ձօնագրութիւններու չարք մըն է, մանաւանդ Հայրենի նչանաւոր գրողներու նուիրուած, օրինակ՝ Վահան Թո-Թովենցի, Եղիչէ Չարենցի եւ Գուրգէն Մահարիի, որուն հետ նամակագրական կապեր ունէր։ Ձօներ նուիրած է նաեւ իր հայրենի գրչակիցներուն՝ Վահագն Դաւթեանին, Ռազմիկ Դաւոյեանին ու Սերօ Խանզատեանին։

Սարոյեան զարմանալի արագութեամբ կը գրէր․ Հրատարակեց բազմաթիւ երկեր, որոնց թիւր

1500 էն աւելի է։

Սարոյեան միջազգային համրաւ վայելող սակաւաթիւ գրողներէն մէկն է, անոր համար ալ աչխանչի ժերիկ եսնսն քրժուր բ-ին ժանգրեն կանժղարուագ բր րով։ Ան երեք անգամ այցելած է Հայաստան եւ խանդավառուած իր Հայրենիքին յաջողութիւններով։

Աշխարգագոչակ արձակագիր եւ Թատերագիր Ուիլիամ Սարոյեան մահացաւ 1981ին։

# ՏԻՊԱՐ ՀԱՅՈՒ ՄԸ ԴԵՐԸ ሀቀኮՒቡՔኮ ሆኒՋ

ինչպէս գիտենք բոլորս, հայ ժողովուրդը խափառական ժողովուրդ մը եղած է դարերէ ի վեր։ Շատեր կամաւոր կամ բռնի գաղ-Թած են Լիբանան, Սուրիա, Կիպրոս, իսկ ուրիչներ ալ հեռաւոր Ամերիկաները։ Սակայն դարեր ամբողջ, հայր դիմադրած է օտարացումի Հոսանքներուն, բարձր ու անաղարտ պահելով իր ազգային դիմագիծն ու հաւատքը։ Ագգութիւնն ու հաւատքը արդարեւ Հանդիսացան մեր մեծագոյն ազմարնբենն անժայիր հաւբևգութեան:

Իւրաքանչիւր հայ պէտք է ամեն ձիգ ի գործ դնե, որպեսզի իր հայկականութիւնը անաղարտ պահե եւ տիպար հայ մը ըլլայ։ Պէտք է միլա հայուի առնէ ան իր դէպի հայկականութեիւն ըն-Թացջին արգելք Հանդիսացող կէտերը, որոնցմէ գլխաւորները հետեւեալներն են.

Հայ ծնողքի մր աւագ պարտականութերւնը պէտք է ըլլայ իր զաւակներուն սորվեցնել հայ լեզուն, հայոց պատմութիւնը եւ կրոնն ու հայ եկեղեցւոյ պատմունիւնը։ Սակայն այս նիւներու

դասաւանդման առընթեր անհրրաժեշտ է մանուկին տալ հայեցի դաստիարակութիւն։ Արդարեւ, հայկականութեան մթնոլորտի մր մէջ տրուած դաստիարակութիւնը **հատաքա**շրո անրակ ինթում անուսրաստել վայուայ հայ մարդը։ Երբ հայեցի կ՚ըսենք, պայմանաrulurmգ քբրճ հПաև ատր մաnտիարակութեամբ միայն, այլ նաեւ միութենական աշխատանքի մասնակցութեան դաստիարակիչ մ թնոլորտով, ուր հայ պատանին ու երիտասարդը կը Թրծուի ազգային ոգիով:

Ուրեմն, երբ հայ մր կ'ուզե աիպար դեր ստանձնել, ան պէտք է վերոյիչեալ դաստիարակիչ Թելադրութիւնները իրագործէ, եւ այն ատեն ան վստաՀօրէն կը գտնե իր իսկական ուղին, հայկականութիւն բուրող, ազգային ոգի ներչնչող միջավայրի մը մէջ։ Վերոյիչեալ դաստիարակութեամբ դբրճ ակակ իևրարճ առհատարբն հայ անհատը սփիւռջեան իր վիճակին մէջ։ Միւս ազգերու կողջին, Հայ անհատը պիտի կրնայ ին անժայիր ժովունիւրն հաւբև-

### Armenian Studies Scholarships for 1992-1993

The following special scholarships are available for students enrolled in Armenian Studies courses or pursuing a minor in Armenian Studies. They are made possible through the Charles K. Pategian & Pansy Pategian Zlokovich Scholarship and the Yervant, Rose, and Hovannes Levonian Educational Grant at California State University, Fresno.

Armenian Art-\$200.00 grants (up to 10 annually)

Students who enroll in Armenian art courses, Armenian 121 or Armenian 123, are eligible for a \$200.00 grant.

Armenian Language-\$300.00 grants (up to 15 annually)

Students who enroll for a year of Armenian language are eligible for \$300.00 grants, renewable upon enrollment in a second year of language.

Armenian Literature-\$200.00 grants (up to 10 annually)

Students who enroll in Armenian 148 or Armenian 45 are eligible for \$200.00 orants

Armenian Studies-\$200.00 grants (up to 25 annually)

Students who demonstrate an interest in Armenian Studies, bu taking Armenian Studies 10, are eligible for \$200.00 grants.

Armenian History-\$200.00 grants (up to 10 annually)

Students who enroll in Armenian History courses (History 108A or 108B) are eligible for \$200.00 grants.

Armenian Studies Minor-\$200.00-\$800.00 grants

The minor in Armenian Studies consists of 24 units of study (consult the catalog for your year).

Students having completed 6 units of Armenian Studies courses are eligible for a \$200.00 grant.

Students having completed 12 units toward the Armenian Studies Minor are eligible for a \$400.00 grant, renewable for students who continue their studies.

Students having completed 17 or more units of Armenian Studies courses are eligible for a \$800.00 grant for the completion of the Minor.

In addition to general scholarships for students with interest in Armenian Studies\* the following special grants are now available:

A research fellowship, with the successful applicant receiving a one year, full tuition scholarship plus \$1000.00 for working on projects associated with Armenian Studies 190 (Independent Studies).

\*All students, Armenian or non-Armenian, are eligible.

Scholarship applications are accepted November 1, 1991 through February 1, 1992 for the 1992-1993 academic year.

# ASP Spring 1992 Courses

Armenian Studies 10- MWF 1010-1100 (3 units) TTH 0945-1100

A multi-media introduction to the Armenians of the San Joaquin Valley Slides and videos will be used.

### Armenian Studies 45-TTh 1245-1400 (3 units)

The life and writing of William Saroyan will be explored from the perspective of the writer himself.

### Armenian 111-1310-1400 (3 units)

Advanced Armenian conversation. Open to students who have had beginning Armenian language.

### **Armenian 1B-MTWF 1110-1200 (4 units)**

Intermediate Armenian. The second semester of beginning Armenian language. Practice of conversation and writing skills.

### Armenian 148-TTh1410-1525 (3 units)

Masterpieces of Armenian Literature.

Explore the great works of Armenian authors in English translation. Excerpts of poetry and prose will be read and analyzed.

### AS 120T- Armenian-American Writers (1 unit) February 21, 22, 1992

The works of modern Armenian American authors will be examined. Special guest lecturers will present their views.

AS 121- Armenian Art (3 units)

March 6,7; March 13, 14; March 20, 21

Armenian art will be explored throughout the ages.

### History 108B- MWF 1410-1500 (3 units)

Modern Armenian History will be surveyed in this fast paced class.

#### Kouymjian, from page 3

determination they have got since taking the destiny of the country into their own hands two years ago. There is again a future for the country and that knowledge revitalizes the will of a suffering population.

In Fresno its back to work as usual, trying to keep ahead of teaching and administrative responsibilities while sorting out the accumulated research data of the past year. "It's good to be back,"

he said, "teaching is as important as research and besides it allows you a chance to pass on what you have learned." He predicts an sharp increase in direct relations with the Armenian Republic, witnessed already by the appearance later this month of Berj Zeytountsian, Minister of Culture on the CSUF campus and the visit of Erevan University officials at the end of November.

### Independence, from page 1

collapse of the Trancaucasian government. However, it was not until the evening of May 29, 1918, that a decision was finally made on the declaration of independence. As the declaration of 1991 was made after other Soviet provinces declared independence, so was the situation in 1918, where Georgia and Azerbaijan had already proclaimed independence. The Armenian National Council which had declared the independence of Armenia chose the new state's first prime minister: Hovannes Kachazhuni, who formed his five man

cabinet in June of 1918.

In 1991 the President of the new republic of Armenia is being elected by the people, not appointed by a council.

Armenia's declaration now adds the total of independent Soviet provinces to an even dozen. More than 99% of voters endorsed a free Armenia in the referendum. This action taken by the Parliament greatly accelerated Armenia's bid for nationhood, a process that would have normally taken 5 years under the Soviet constitution.

### Answers to trivia questions from page 8

- 1. Kim Basinger
- 3. Cher
- 2. Eddie Mekka
- 4. Mike Connors

# HYE SHARZHOOM NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Hye Sharzhoom is the official newspaper of the Armenian Studies Program and the Armenian Students Organization of California State University, Fresno. It is sent, without charge, to thousands of Armenians throughout the world. Though there is no subscription fee, we urge readers to support our efforts with donations of any amount. This request has assumed a special importance because of increased production and mailing costs.

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