

California State University, Fresno



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM
Fresno, California 93740



HYE SHARZHOOH NEWS SERVICE

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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

Vol. 4, Release #42

November-December 1988

Battle for California Campus Waged Far From Urban Glow

By ROBERT REINHOLD

Special to The New York Times

FRESNO, Calif., Nov. 22 — Demographers say the future of California lies here in the vast and fertile Central Valley, far from the overcrowded and glamorous coastal cities. And it is therefore in places like Fresno, where the fields of cotton and raisin grapes penetrate the city limits, that the battle over where to put the next campus of the University of California has been joined.

The issue is only partly educational. For the decision about where to put the first new campus in a generation is a supremely political one that is bound up in the fast-changing economic and ethnic trends in the most populous state. The decision is one that many say will test the state's willingness to offer access to public higher education and the good life in the long-neglected rural reaches and to Hispanic residents, Southeast Asians and other members of minorities.

Since its inception 120 years ago, the nine-campus university has grown into an extraordinary educational institution, attaining international status for its research and doctoral programs while also offering high-quality undergraduate training at bargain rates on an egalitarian basis. To this day, in-state students pay no instructional tuition, only \$1,500 a year in fees.

Surge in Enrollment

But an unexpected surge in enrollment combined with growing community resistance to further growth of the existing campuses threatens to limit this historic access. And so at its meeting in Irvine on Nov. 18, the regents of the university voted to begin planning for three new campuses, the first of which would not open for a decade at the earliest, even if the State Legislature appropriates the money.

The vote was the official opening shot in a race that had really begun some time ago. From Redding in the rugged north country to Delano in the

Continued From Page 1

San Joaquin Valley, ad hoc citizen groups, chambers of commerce and local politicians have been organizing to lobby for a new campus of the prestigious university as an economic boon.

While many of these communities already have campuses of other state universities and colleges, residents say that those institutions cannot offer doctoral degrees and lack the high-prestige research programs of the University of California.

Here in Fresno, Patricia L. Falcone, chairman of the volunteer U.C. Fresno Committee, argues that equity demands a campus for this fast-growing city, which is nearly 200 miles from the nearest campus of the system and where only 3 percent of high-school graduates attend the university, as against 8 percent statewide.

Effort to Ease Pressures

At the same time, local officials in the nine cities with campuses already have recently organized into the Association of University Communities to urge the construction of new campuses to relieve pressures on their cities.

"You must either build new campuses, restrict admission to the university system or jam too many people on existing campuses," said its chairman, Dave Rosenberg.

There is room for substantial growth at only the smallest of the eight general campuses, Riverside.

That, combined with a recent surge in enrollment that is expected to quicken, has resulted in a squeeze that threatens the university's historic commitment to offer entry to the top one-eighth of the state's high school graduates, said the university's president, David P. Gardner. "We want to assure the same measure of access to coming generations we afforded to previous ones," he said.

Forecasts on Enrollment

Mr. Gardner estimates that the university's current enrollment of 160,596 graduate and undergraduate students will swell to 217,000 by the year 2005 but that existing campuses can expand only to 197,000. New campuses are needed, he argues, to accommodate the excess 20,000, and more later.

College-bound Californians are already feeling the crunch. At Berkeley, the most popular campus, Chancellor Ira M. Heyman says that only 4,000 of 23,000 applicants were accepted this year; 3,000 students with straight A's were turned away. With the campus landlocked, Berkeley plans to cut its enrollment from 31,600 to 29,450.

"Clearly there's not any room to speak of in Berkeley," he said. Similarly, local pressures and housing costs have limited expansion at other popular campuses, especially Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz and Los Angeles.

The expansion move comes against the backdrop of powerful population forces. Demographic studies estimate that California's population will grow from 27 million today to 39 million by 2020 and that it will be the first of the contiguous 48 states in which whites are a minority. Nearly a quarter of that growth is expected in the Central Valley, which is expected to have half the state's Hispanic, black and Asian population by the year 2000.

It is widely expected that the next campus will be built in the valley, possibly in Fresno. Fresno County is expected to grow from a population of 576,000 people in 1985 to 958,000 in 2020, making it larger than San Francisco today.

"The U.C. system is a system of higher learning for the whole state, not just L.A. or San Diego or Santa Barbara," said Leo S. Kolligian, a Fresno lawyer who is chairman of the Board of Regents. "We have lots of space and open air in the Valley. Where are you going to put students when cities like Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara and Davis demand no more students?"

Fresno's deputy director of planning, Stan Rys, says a campus would bring a measure of economic stability to a chronically cyclical agricultural economy. He also says the high number of minority members here would help increase their underrepresented numbers at the university.

Continued on Page 9, Column 1

Glen C. Rathwick, Superintendent of the Fresno Unified School District, says the lack of a campus makes it difficult for less affluent minority students to get educations and for his teachers to advance themselves because no local schools offer doctorates.

Divided Opinion in Fresno

But there is not unanimity here that another campus is needed. At the campus of California State University at Fresno, which has 19,120 students and 805 faculty members, there is unease. Some, like Kin-Ping Wong, dean of natural sciences, welcome the "synergy" of having a full-fledged research university nearby.

But Prof. Dickran Kouymjian, director of the Armenian Studies Program, argues that it would only be a wasteful duplication of buildings and services. He says the two schools should combine, an approach that would bring doctoral programs to Fresno.

The University of California is the top tier of a three-tier public system, which also includes 19 California State University campuses and 104 community colleges.

There is also unease among faculty members at the existing University of California campuses that resources will be drained away to build new campuses. And some remain unpersuaded by arguments that the existing campuses cannot accommodate the excess.

But pressures against growth continue to mount at those campuses. Leaders of the Santa Barbara campus say the school needs to expand beyond its enrollment of 18,250 to remain competitive academically. But they have run into intense local opposition from Mayor Sheila Lodge and William B. Wallace, a County Supervisor who represents the university area. "This community simply cannot expand anymore," Mr. Wallace said.

Barbara S. Uehling, the Chancellor at Santa Barbara, said the campus had scaled back its expansion plans as a result and expected to add no more than 2,000 students over the next 17 years. Similarly, the Chancellor at Santa Cruz, Robert B. Stevens, says a limit of 15,000 students has been accepted there to placate intense local opposition.

Political Pressure on Sites

The regents have carefully avoided saying where they would prefer to place the three new campuses, but it is widely assumed that political forces will dictate that one go to the north, one to the Central Valley and the third to the populous Southern tier near Los Angeles.

But it is by no means certain the new campuses will be built. Each is expected to cost at least \$250 million, and President Gardner says there may be problems in getting the money.

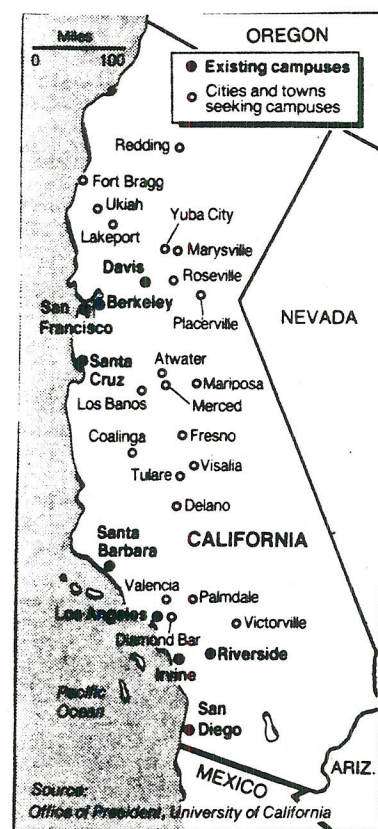
No decision on sites will be made for 18 to 24 months. Any new campus needs the approval of the California Postsecondary Education Commission and providing the money for it is up to the Legislature and the Governor. Assuming all these hurdles are cleared, the three campuses would open at one-year intervals in the academic years of 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91.

The Times Book Review,
every Sunday

Enrollment At the 9 Campuses

Estimates from the
University of California for
fall 1988.

Berkeley	31,600
Davis	21,634
Irvine	15,790
Los Angeles	35,771
Riverside	7,236
San Diego	17,365
San Francisco	3,715
Santa Barbara	18,250
Santa Cruz	9,235
TOTAL	160,596



Source:
Office of President, University of California

The New York Times/Nov. 26, 1988



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Asbarez: Glendale, CA DATE November 26, 1988
SUBJECT Prof. Der Mugrdechian to Give Lecture on PAGE 1 of 1
Soviet Armenia

Fresno lecture on students' trip to Armenia and latest reports

FRESNO—Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program will present a report on his June visit to Armenia with a group of students on Tuesday, December 6, at 7 p.m. in the Alice Peters Auditorium of the Valley Business Center.

Der Mugrdechian will present a detailed summary of the events he and his students witnessed during this historic period. The illustrated lecture will feature slides taken in the Armenian capital of Yerevan during the popular movement which some observers have called the most significant in the history of the Soviet Union.

He will discuss the most recent developments in Armenia, concentrating on the changes in every-day life since the demonstrations began in February, and prospects for the future. An open question-and-answer period will follow the formal part of the presentation.

Der Mugrdechian is a lecturer in the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF, teaching Armenian language, history, and culture and over the past years has conducted special study tours for students to such places as Jerusalem and Armenia.

The program is the second in the fall lecture series sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization and the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF. There will be a reception following the program. Free parking is available in Lot "J" east of the Valley Business Center. There is no admission charge. ☐

THE DAILY COLLEGLIAN

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1988

Professor makes hard work pay off

*Kouymjian takes Armenian studies to
new standards of academic success*

BY STEVEN LASHLEY
Staff Writer

CSUF professor Dickran Kouymjian won't admit that he is a hard man to please, but don't get the impression he is a push-over, either.

Through hard work invested in seven-day work weeks, this Armenian studies professor has come to know a higher degree of standards for success. In fact, these standards have come by way of many things, including a list of academic and social activities that would leave the average man behind, choking in the dust.

"I wouldn't call myself a perfectionist, but I guess I do have expectations that exceed the average person," Kouymjian says. "Maybe I ask too much . . . I don't know."

What this former Professor of the Year at CSUF in 1985 apparently has come to know is a fairly good understanding of the world around him. But, while Kouymjian continues to pursue his understanding of the world under a full head of steam, he says his ultimate goal may prove to be his toughest challenge yet.

"I just want to come to understand myself," he says with confidence. "After all,

isn't that what every man hopes to do?"

To understand Kouymjian and his standards for success, it is important to know a little bit about his past. In particular, it is important to discuss a one-semester assignment in the Soviet Union the professor performed in 1987 after he received a Fulbright Senior Lectureship to teach at the Armenian State University in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia.

Teaching English and Armenian classes for the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature at the institution, Kouymjian's work focused around two primary courses. The first was an English course focusing on a series of plays written by local author William Saroyan, entitled "An Armenian Trilogy." The other was a twentieth-century American literature class with a special emphasis on Armenian-American authors.

While Kouymjian says the assignment proved to be eventful for several reasons, the most significant reason was because of the distinct difference he noted between American and Armenian students.

"My students there knew more than my students here," he says. "Of course, my students here don't know much, right?"

"But while I say that, [my students in Armenia] were much less intellectually curious than my students here. They hardly ever spoke up in class and it was difficult to get them to answer up in what we would call a classroom discussion. American students who know nothing are



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Daily Collegian: Fresno, CA

DATE November 29, 1988

SUBJECT Interview with Dr. Kouymjian

PAGE 2 of 2

WORK

Continued from page 1

always ready to talk, right? This is the major difference."

But, Kouymjian is quick to point out the blame should not be placed on the American students because their knowledge level is below that of students in other countries, because the level of education in America has been below that of other countries for some time, he says.

"We are a nation that has no shyness about saying things, even if we know absolutely nothing about the subject," he adds. "We are taught to speak up, answer

and ask questions. Over there they are more reserved, perhaps because of the political system, even though that is changing a bit with [Soviet leader Mikhail] Gorbachev's *perestroika* and *glasnost*."

In addition to the difference he noted between Soviet and American students, Kouymjian also says he noticed a distinction between the teaching professions in each country.

"Teachers over there have the same value a teacher used to have 40-50 years ago," he says. "A professor is someone of dignity over there; here a professor isn't much of anything."

Perhaps it is because of Kouymjian's

concern over the level of education being taught in America that he has practically taken it upon himself to try and establish the Armenian Studies program at CSUF to what he calls "the best of its kind in the country."

He has recently been working on raising money for a future \$300,000 endowment fund that will pay an enhance salary for a department chairperson through capital raised by the interest the endowment money earns. While there are already two other similar endowment plans that have been proposed at the University, Kouymjian says he is hoping the one being raised in the Armenian Studies Department will be the first to actually name a new chairperson this spring.

Thanks to raising over \$150,000 during a fund-raising banquet earlier in the year, Kouymjian says he is hopeful to raise the remaining portion of the \$300,000 endowment before the end of this semester. But until that time, he says he is determined to keep putting in as much time as necessary into making sure the needed financial goal is reached.

"I've always been concerned—always been eager—that Armenian studies be permanently institutionalized here at Fresno State," he says. "At first I thought it could be done some other way than going out and looking for it. Then I realized there was no other way."



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter: Fresh Meadows, N.Y. DATE December 1, 1988

SUBJECT Prof. Der Mugrdechian To Talk About Armenia PAGE 1 of 1
Trip

Students at CSU Fresno Will Hear Talk on Summer Visit to Armenia

FRESNO, Calif. - Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program will present a report on his June 1988 visit to Armenia with a group of students on Tuesday, December 6, 1988, at 7:00 p.m. in the Alice Peters Auditorium of the Valley Business Center.

Der Mugrdechian will present a detailed summary of the events he and his students witnessed during this historical period. The illustrated lecture will feature slides taken in the Armenian capital of Yerevan during the popular movement which some observers have called the most significant in the history of the Soviet Union. Der Mugrdechian will discuss the most recent developments in Armenia, concentrating on the changes in every day life since

the demonstrations began in February of this year and prospects for the future. An open question and answer period will follow the formal part of the presentation.

Der Mugrdechian is a lecturer in the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF, teaching Armenian language, history, and culture over the past years has conducted special study tours for students to such places as Jerusalem and Armenia.

The program is the second in the fall lecture sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization and The Armenian Studies Program at CSUF. There will be a reception following the program. Free parking is available in Lot J east of the Valley Business Center. There is no admission charge.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Observer: Hollywood, CA

DATE November 30, 1988

SUBJECT Der Mugrdechian to Lecture on Armenia Trip
in Fresno

PAGE 1 of 1

Der Mugrdechian to Lecture on Armenia Trip in Fresno

FRESNO — Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the CSUF Fresno Armenian Studies Program will present a report on his June visit to Armenia with a group of students, on Tuesday, December 6, 1988, at 7 p.m., in the Alice Peters Auditorium of the Valley Business Center.

Der Mugrdechian will present a detailed summary of the events he and his students witnessed during this historic period. The illustrated lecture will feature slides taken in the Armenian capital of Yerevan during the popular movement which some

observers have called the most significant in the history of the Soviet Union.

Der Mugrdechian is a lecturer in the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF, teaching Armenian language, history, and culture and over the past years has conducted special study tours for students to such places as Jerusalem and Armenia.

There will be a reception following the program. Free parking is available in Lot J, east of the Valley Business Center. There is no admission charge to the lecture.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Nor Gyank: Glendale, CA

DATE December 1, 1988

SUBJECT Prof. Der Mugerdechian to Give a Lecture on
Soviet Armenia and Karabagh

PAGE 1 of 1

Armenian Trip Lecture

Barlow Der Mugerdechian of the CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program will present a report on his June 1988 visit to Armenia with a group of students on Tuesday, December 6, 1988 at 7:00 p.m. in the Alice Peters Auditorium of the Valley Business Center.

Der Mugerdechian will present a detailed summary of the events he and his students witnessed during his historic period. The illustrated lecture will feature slides taken in the Armenian capital of Yerevan during the popular movement which some observers have called the most significant in the history of the Soviet Union. Der Mugerdechian will discuss the most recent developments in Armenia, concentrating on the changes in every day life since the demonstrations began in February of this year and prospects for the future. An open question and answer period will follow the formal part of the presentation.

Der Mugerdechian is a lecturer in the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF, teaching Armenian language, history, and culture and over the past years has conducted special study tours for students to such places as Jerusalem and Armenia.

The program is the second in the fall lecture series sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization and The Armenian Studies Program at CSUF. There will be a reception following the program. Free parking is available in Lot J east of the Valley Business Center. There is no admission charge.

4U3**ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The California Courier: Glendale, CADATE December 1, 1988SUBJECT Prof. Der Mugrdechian to Speak on ArmeniaPAGE 1 of 1**The California
COURIER***"The Newspaper For All Armenians" — Published weekly since 1958***Der Mugrdechian To Speak on Armenia**

FRESNO - Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program will present a report on his June 1988 visit to Armenia with a group of students on Dec. 6, 1988 at 7 p.m. in the Alice Peters Auditorium of the Valley Business Center.

Der Mugrdechian will present a detailed summary of the events he and his students witnessed during this historic period. The illustrated lecture will feature slides taken in the Armenian capital of Yerevan during the popular movement which some observers have called the most significant in the history of the Soviet Union. Der Mugrdechian will discuss the most recent developments in Armenia, con-

centrating on the changes in every day life since the demonstrations began in February of this year and prospects for the future. An open question and answer period will follow the formal part of the presentation.

Der Mugrdechian is a lecturer in the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF, teaching Armenian language, history, and culture and over the past years has conducted special study tours for students to such places as Jerusalem and Armenia.

The program is the second in the fall lecture series sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization and The Armenian Studies Program at CSUF. A reception will follow the program.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter: Fresh Meadows, N.Y. DATE December 1, 1988

SUBJECT Dr. Kouymjian Interviewed on William Saroyan PAGE 1 of 2

Saroyan Was Is as Ornerly in Death as He Was in Life

By Robert Reinhold

FRESNO, Calif. - It has been more than seven years since William Saroyan, with his booming voice, walrus mustache and funny hats, died of a cancer that, with the same orneriness that made him spurn a Pulitzer Prize, he left untreated. It has been much longer than that since his literary reputation faded.

But Bill Saroyan, storyteller, novelist, playwright, drinker, gambler and neighbor, is not forgotten in his native Fresno, where he lived in his final days alone amid huge piles of books and newspapers in a stucco tract house. In death as in life, controversy and recrimination still swirl around Bill Saroyan as friends and acquaintances argue over how best to memorialize him and whether his will was done.

"However you judge him, he is the most famous literary figure to come out of this part of the world," said Prof. Dickran Kouymjian, a sometime confidant of the author who is director of the Armenian studies program at California State University in Fresno.

An annual Saroyan Festival is held in the city in May, with a historic walk and a story writing contest for school children. The city theater has been named for the author, the Fresno Metropolitan Museum is mounting a Saroyan exhibit in 1991 to mark the 10th anniversary of his death, and some people want to name a new freeway after him. That has struck others as a misplaced honor inasmuch as Saroyan refused to drive a car in his later years.

Born here in 1908 and raised in an orphanage, Saroyan later climbed the literary pinnacles of New York and Paris in the 30's and 40's with an impressionistic existential style that exalted kindness, compassion and a personal dignity. Among his better known works are "My Name Is Aram," "The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze" and "The Time of Your Life." Seen by critics as overly sentimental, he fell from fashion after World War II, but continued to write prodigiously, turning out 10 novels, 600 published stories, 60 plays, 11 volumes of memoirs and 200 unpublished plays in all.

Forsaking the bottle, gambling and profligacy, he spent most of the last two decades of his life in Fresno, about 150 miles southeast of San Francisco. He was known as a cantankerous and stingy but lovable man. And he shunned the fame he once craved, keeping just a small circle of friends, most of them Armenians, including Gail Sarkissian; Ruben Saroyan, a cousin; Gilbert Khachadourian, now district manager for the Social Security Administration, and Varaz Samuelian, a local artist.

"He felt comfortable with us because we made no demands on him," said Ms. Sarkissian.

Leading the civic charge to memorialize the author is Benjamin V. Amirkhanian, a retired

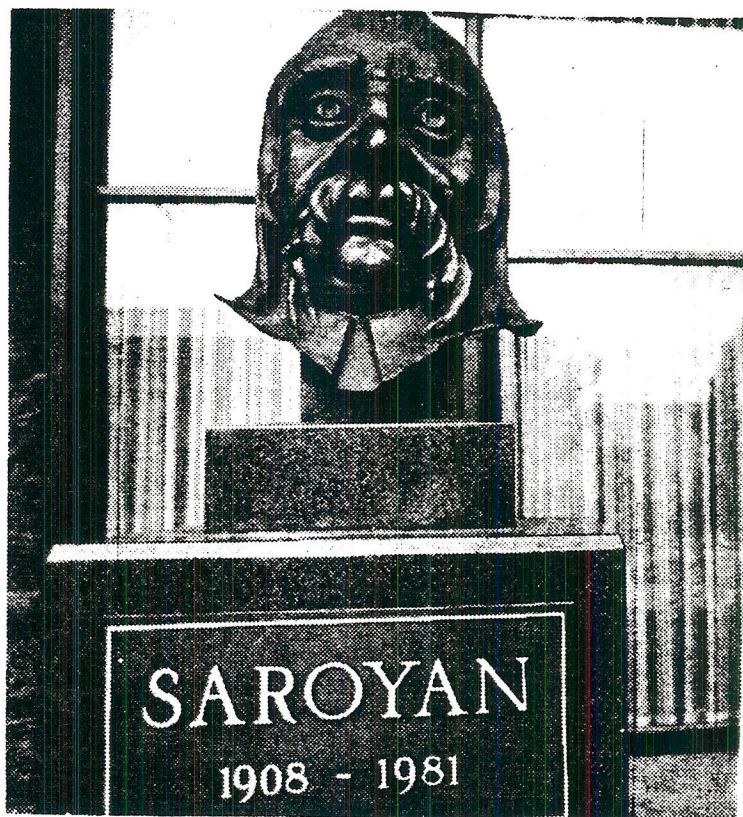
post office manager whose family paper and card shop was patronized by Saroyan. As chairman of the Saroyan Festival Committee, he has erected plaques and small billboards at sites like Saroyan's birthplace (though whether that is Saroyan's real birthplace is in dispute), his school, the home he later lived in, and his hang-out, the Fresno Library. Mr. Amirkhanian also arranged the annual historic walk.

"We are trying to establish Saroyan country, like Monterey did for Steinbeck," Mr. Amirkhanian said.

But not everyone here appreciates these efforts, particularly Saroyan's confidants. "Everyone who shook his hand in Fresno has become an expert on him," is the cynical assessment of Ruben Saroyan, the cousin, who asserted that the historic walk is a "promotional deal for businessmen - the festival committee wants to keep the name alive to bring tourists to town."

A more fitting tribute, he and Ms. Sarkissian argue, would be a stone monument in the Ararat Cemetery, an Armenian burial ground here. Half the author's ashes are in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, where he is widely read in translation, and the other half in a bronze urn on a shelf at the Chapel of the Light funeral home on the west side of Fresno, marked simply: "William Saroyan, Author and Humanitarian."

Mr. Amirkhanian is aware his efforts are controversial. "They have a right to their opinions," he said. "If they do not want to do it, his writing will stand the test of time."



This bust of Saroyan is in downtown Fresno.

At the same time, there are disputes over whether the William Saroyan Foundation in San Francisco had a right to sell the author's homes here under his will, and over whether the foundation or his son and daughter, Aram and Lucy, from whom he was estranged, deserve the royalties from his copyrights.

"I know Bill's ashes are turning over," said Mr. Khachadourian. "He did not want any of this fighting."

The New York Times
November 22, 1988



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Middle East Studies Assoc. of N. America

DATE 1988

SUBJECT Edited Works & Collections on the Middle East

PAGE 1 of 3

Edited Works & Collections on the Middle East

Tables of Contents and Author Index

1
1988



Middle East Studies Association of North America

TABLES OF CONTENTS

21

Armenian Studies / Etudes Arméniennes In Memoriam Haïg Berbérian, edited by DICKRAN KOUYMJIAN. Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon 1986. 26

CHARLES LONDONATZI, Elegy in Memory of Haïg Berbérian

GEORGES DUMÉZIL, Haïg Berbérian

ANGÈLE KAPOÏAN & DICKRAN KOUYMJIAN, Bibliography of Haïg Berbérian

HAROLD W. BAILEY, An Iranian Miscellany in Armenian

JURGIS BALTRUŠAITIS & DICKRAN KOUYMJIAN, Julfa on the Arax and Its Funerary Monuments

IRAC' M. BART'IKIAN, The Religious Diplomacy of Byzantium in Armenia during the Tenth and Eleventh Centuries

PAUL Z. BEDOUKIAN, The First King of Cilician Armenia: Levon I or Levon II?

GIANCARLO BOLOGNESI, Problèmes d'interprétation arménienne du *De Providentia* de Philo le juif

SEBASTIAN BROCK, Armenian in Syriac Script

CLAUDE CAHEN, Marco Polo en Asie Antérieure

MARIUS CANARD trans., Les familles féodales d'Arménie et leurs possessions héréditaires, d'A. Ter-Ghévondian

BABGEN L. Č'UGASZIAN, Le *Traité d'Hippiatrie* du XIII^e siècle

PAOLO CUNEO, Etude sur la topographie et l'iconographie historique de la ville de Van

YAROSLAV DACHKÉVYTCH, Les Arméniens à Kiev (de la deuxième moitié du XIII^e au XVII^e siècle

GÉRARD DÉDÉYAN, Le peuplement arménien aux frontières de la Cilicie aux IV^e-V^e siècles

SIRARPIE DER NERSESSIAN, Les portraits d'Esayi Nč'ec'i, supérieur de Glajor

CHARLES DOWSETT, Little Satana's Wedding Breakfast

ROBERT GODEL, Une concordance lexicale gréco-arménienne

ANDRÉ GRABAR, Les formes les plus originales des églises anciennes de l'Arménie et l'art de la Basse Antiquité

JOHN A. G. GREPPIN, The Development of Armenian *L* and *L'*

ERIC P. HAMP, Armenian *Yisun*

VARAZDAT M. HAROUTIOUNIAN, Les sources populaires de l'architecture monumentale laïque de l'Arménie médiévale

MOURAD HASRATIAN, Les églises à nef unique avec abside saillante dans l'Arménie paléochrétienne

ROBERT H. HEWSEN, Aspects of the Reign of Tiridates the Great

TATIANA A. IZMAILOVA, The Origin and Date of a Ritual Manuscript (No. 1159/321) in the Mekhitarist Library, Venice

22

EDITED WORKS & COLLECTIONS

- 26 HOVHANNES KHALPAKHTCHIAN, Le tombeau des Zak'arides à Sanahin: Ensemble commémoratif original de l'Arménie du Moyen Age
- MACHIEL KIEL, Reflections on the Supposed Armeno-Serbian Cultural Relations in the Middle Ages
- SOUREN E. KOLANDJIAN, The Tenth Century Armenian Historian Uxtanēs: Was He Bishop of Sebastia or Edessa
- DICKRAN KOUYMJIAN, Chinese Elements in Armenian Miniature Painting in the Mongol Period
- CHARLES DE LAMBERTERIE, Arménien *barjraberj* "très haut"
- HENNING J. LEHMANN, Severian of Gabala: Fragments of the Aucher Collection in Galata MS 54
- LOUIS LELOIR, Lettre apocryphe du pseudo-Denys l'Aréopagite à Timothée
- FREDRIK OTTO LINDEMAN, Remarques sur l'étymologie de l'aorist *eki* en arménien ancien
- JEAN-PIERRE MAHÉ, Types flexionnels et groupes sémantiques en arménien oriental contemporain
- TIRAN MARUT'YAN, Banak: Six Projects for Its Reconstruction
- OTTO F. A. MEINARDUS, Spanish Parallels to an Armenian Eucharistic Theme
- MARTIROs MINASSIAN, Formation du participe en *-eal* en arménien ancien
- PAROUYR M. MOURADYAN, Les principes de la classification des livres en Arménie médiévale
- KHACHATOUR A. MUSHEGHIAN, Monetary Circulation in Eleventh Century Armenia: Shaddādid Coinage from Dvin
- VREJ NERSESSIAN & RICHARD PANKHURST, The Visit to Eighteenth Century Ethiopia of the Armenian Jeweller Yohannēs T'ovmačian
- BERNARD OUTTIER, Bibliographie arménienne de la revue *Xristjanskiy Vostok*
- ANAHIT PÉRIKHANIAN, Sur arménien *buzand*
- ANDRZEJ PISOWICZ, Quelques remarques sur le développement des sonores en arménien ancien
- CHARLES RENOUX, David K'obayrec'i ou Hésychius de Jérusalem dans la Chaîne sur *Job* de Jean Vanakan?
- JEAN RICHARD, La lettre du Connétable Smbat et les rapports entre Chrétiens et Mongols au milieu du XIII^e siècle
- W. H. RUDT DE COLLENBORG, Les *Bullae* et *Litterae* adressées par les papes d'Avignon à l'Arménie cilicienne, 1305-1375 (d'après les Registres de l'Archivio Segreto Vaticano)
- C. L. SANSPEUR, Lazar P'arpec'i, *Histoire des Arméniens* (Livre I §12, p. 19, l. 12-Livre I § 16, p. 28, l. 13). Nouvelle édition critique
- EUGENIUSZ SLUSZKIEWICZ, Notice sur un parallèle de folklore arméno-indien
- ARAM TER-GHÉVONDIAN, L'Arménie et la conquête arabe



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The California Courier: Glendale, CA

DATE December 8, 1988

SUBJECT William Saroyan's Legacy is a Subject of
Dispute

PAGE 1 of 2

Saroyan's Legacy Subject of Dispute

By Robert Reinhold
The New York Times

FRESNO - It has been more than eight years since William Saroyan, with his booming voice, walrus mustache and funny hats, died of a cancer that, with the same orneriness that made him spurn a Pulitzer Prize, he left untreated. It has been much longer than that since his literary reputation faded.

But Bill Saroyan, storyteller, novelist, playwright, drinker, gambler and neighbor, is not forgotten in his native Fresno, where he lived his final days alone amid huge piles of books and newspapers in a stucco tract house. In death as in life, con-

Continued on Page 7

Continued from Page 1

troversy and recrimination still swirl around Bill Saroyan as friends and acquaintances argue over how best to memorialize him and whether his will was done.

"However you judge him, he is the most famous literary figure to come out of this part of the world," said Prof. Dickran Kouymjian, a sometime confidant of the author who is director of the Armenian studies program at California State University in Fresno.

An annual Saroyan Festival is held in the city in May, with a historic walk and a story writing contest for schoolchildren. The city theater has been named for the author, the Fresno Metropolitan Museum is mounting a Saroyan exhibit in 1991 to mark

the 10th anniversary of his death, and some people want to name a new freeway after him. That has struck others as a misplaced honor inasmuch as Saroyan refused to drive a car in his later years.

Born here in 1908 and raised in an orphanage, Saroyan later climbed the literary pinnacles of New York and Paris in the 30's and 40's with an impressionistic existential style that exalted kindness, compassion and a personal dignity. Seen by critics as overly sentimental, he fell from fashion after World War II, but continued to write prodigiously, turning out 10 novels, 600 published stories, 60 plays, 11 volumes of memoirs and 200 unpublished plays in all.

Forsaking the bottle, gambling and profligacy, he spent most of the last two decades of his life in Fresno, about 150 miles southeast of San Francisco. He was known as a cantankerous and stingy but lovable man. And he shunned the fame he once craved, keeping just a small circle of friends, most of them Armenians, including Gail Sarkissian; Ruben Saroyan, a cousin; Gilbert Khachadourian, now district manager for the Soviet Security Administration, and Varaz Samuelian, a local artist.

"He felt comfortable with us because we made no demands on him," said Ms. Sarkissian.

Leading the civic charge to memorialize the author is Benjamin V. Amirkhanian, a retired post office manager whose family paper and card shop was patronized by Saroyan. As chairman of the Saroyan Festival Committee he has erected plaques and small billboards at sites like Saroyan's birthplace (though whether that is Saroyan's real birthplace is in dispute), his school, the home he later lived in, and his hangout, the Fresno Library. Amirkhanian also arranges the annual historic walk.

"We are trying to establish Saroyan country, like Monterey did for Steinbeck," Amirkhanian said.

But not everyone here appreciates these efforts, particularly Saroyan's confidants. "Everyone who shook his hand in Fresno has become an expert on him," is the cynical assessment of Ruben Saroyan, the cousin, who asserted that the historic walk is a "promotional deal for businessmen — the festival committee wants to keep the name alive to bring tourists to town."

A more fitting tribute, he and Ms. Sarkissian argue, would be a stone monument in the Ararat Cemetery, an Armenian burial ground here. Half the author's ashes are in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, where he is widely read in translation, and the other half in a bronze urn on a shelf at the Chapel of the Light funeral home on the west side of Fresno, marked simply: "William Saroyan, Author and Humanitarian."

Amirkhanian is aware his efforts are controversial. "They have a right to their opinions," he said. "If they do not want to do it, his writing will stand the test of time."

At the same time, there are disputes over whether the William Saroyan Foundation in San Francisco had a right to sell the author's home here under his will, and over whether the foundation or his son and daughter, Aram and Lucy, from whom he was estranged, deserve the royalties from his copyrights.

"I know Bill's ashes are turning over," said Khachadourian. "He did not want any of this fighting."



Gail Sarkissian at the bust of William Saroyan in Fresno, Calif., where a debate is under way on how he should be memorialized.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Daily Collegian: Fresno, CA

DATE December 9, 1988

SUBJECT Local Drive to Aid Soviet Armenian Earth-
quake Victims

PAGE 1 of 1

Quake aftermath unites Armenians

Local drive to aid Soviet disaster victims

In the aftermath of the earthquake which leveled the Soviet Armenian area of Caucasus and killed approximately 100,000 people Thursday, Fresno Armenians are both collecting funds for aid and attempting to meet the demands of catastrophe.

"It's as though their family has been killed," said professor Dickran Kouymjian, head of the CSUF Armenian Studies department. Kouymjian added that many Fresno Armenians have relatives who live in the stricken area. "There's not many of us left from the genocide anyhow.

"The news doesn't come fast enough to satisfy our need to know what is happening," Kouymjian said of the wait for broadcast information on the quake. He added that the estimated reports of about 100,000 dead represents about 3.5 percent of the world's Armenians.

Local Armenian community leaders will meet for lunch tomorrow at Arthur's Restaurant in Selma, according to Kouymjian. Any planned action would be discussed there.

Students from the CSUF Armenian Studies department will man a Free Speech Area booth tomorrow and dispense information on helping disaster victims, Kouymjian said.

The Red Cross has sent \$50,000 in aid

to the stricken area so that much-needed medicine can be bought. Also, according to Kouymjian, blankets and tents are being gathered at church "depots."

According to the Associated Press, a scientist at the seismic station in Yerevan, the Armenian capitol, said he visited the disaster area and estimated the death toll probably would run into the thousands (estimates have already run in near 100,000).

In comparison, the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 killed 506 people, according to the 1987 almanac.

The quake, centered near the Soviet-Turkish border, caused extensive damage in east Turkey.

Kouymjian criticized the U.S. government for apparently not coming to the aid of the earthquake victims.

While claiming to be aware of U.S. media coverage, Kouymjian suggested the U.S. government has done less than its share. "No planes have gone, nothing has been sent."

He added that concerned parties should "contact elected representatives to make sure the needs are met with international means. It's not the hundreds of thousands we can collect, but the millions in money that we can give."



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Hye Sharzhoom News Service: Fresno, CA

DATE December 9, 1988

SUBJECT Advertisement To Collect Aid for Armenians
In Soviet Armenia

PAGE 1 of 1

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

THE 100,000 ARMENIANS KILLED IN THE DEADLIEST EARTHQUAKE OF THIS CENTURY CAN'T BE HELPED

**BUT THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF HOMELESS
REFUGEES NEED YOUR HELP DESPERATELY.**

IN ADDITION TO THE SICK, WOUNDED AND HOMELESS VICTIMS OF THE QUAKE,
100,000 REFUGEES FLEEING TURKISH PERSECUTION IN AZERBAIJAN HAVE SOUGHT
SHELTER AND PROTECTION IN ARMENIA IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS.

THESE HELPLESS ARMENIANS URGENTLY NEED YOUR AID.

Please send your donations to the Armenian Studies Program, CSUF
or mail them directly to:

American Red Cross
International Disaster Relief
P.O. Box 37243
Washington, D.C. 20013

Make checks payable to Armenian Earthquake Relief

Egypt as seen by Armenians

Armenians have traveled to and settled in every country of the world, and Egypt is no exception. Anthony and Cleopatra in the first century B.C. treacherously captured the Armenian king Artavasd and his wife and carried them off to Alexandria where they were eventually killed. In the early Christian centuries Armenians passed through the land of their pilgrimage to Jerusalem and left abundant graffiti along the route, especially in the Sinai. The Armenian Church has always kept close ties with the church of Egypt; today, it still remains in communion with the national or Coptic Church. Major Armenian settlements were later established around the new Islamic capital of Cairo, then called Fustat, shortly after the Arab conquest of the 7th century. Since then Armenians have nurtured a permanent colony there.

A new French book, *L'Égypte vue par des Arméniens* [Egypt as Seen by Armenians], by Angele Kapoian-Kouymjian introduces the history of the Armenians in the land of the Nile while presenting in translation the recorded impressions of Egypt by three famous Armenians of the past. They are the Catholicos Gregory II Pahlavouni, called the Martyrophile (Vkeyaser), who visited Egypt in the 11th century; Hetum the Historian, a member of the ruling dynasty of the kings of Cilician Armenia, who early in the 14th century devoted a part of his famous *Fleur des histories de la terre d'Orient* to Egypt; and Simeon of Poland, a scribe and minor Armenian cleric, who visited Cairo during his extensive travels during the first half of the 17th century and left a colorful, frank, and fascinating account of



the country.

These texts represented the major descriptions of Egypt found in Armenian sources. Other minor citations are discussed in Ms. Kapoian-Kouymjian's introduction. Each text is presented in its entirety in French translation with elaborate notes and commentaries. The three authors are introduced to the reader by a detailed biography and critical assessment preceding each of their individual accounts.

The large-format book contains a preface by the distinguished Egyptologist, Jean Leclant, Professor of the College de France and Permanent Secretary of the French Academy of Inscriptions and Belles-Lettres. The volume also contains a complete bibliography for the study of the history of Armenians in Egypt and indexes of personal names, geographical locations, historic monuments, and foreign terms. At the back of the book there are eight plates presenting rare photographs of Armenian art executed in medieval Egypt, manuscript miniatures from



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Asbarez: Glendale, CA

DATE December 10, 1988

SUBJECT Angele Kapoian-Kouymjian's New Book:
"Egypt As Seen By Armenians"

PAGE 2 of 2

copies of Hetum's work preserved in the Bibliotheque Nationale of Paris, and other documents relating to the study.

Angele Kapoian-Kouymjian is a tenured faculty member of the College Jules Romain in Paris. Her teaching speciality is French language and literature; her field of research is Armenian and Near Eastern history and art. Her first book, a large folio volume entitled "The Splendor of Egypt." A commentary on Napoleon Bonaparte's Expedition (1798-1801) and the Description de l'Egypte," Caravan Books, Delmar, N.Y., was written together with her husband Dickran Kouymjian. She has also published articles in *Ararat*, *Aramco World Magazine*, and *Bazmavep*.

The new book, *Egypt as Seen by Armenians*, is a result of many years of research in libraries in Cairo, Beirut, and Paris. The original idea was suggested by Serge Sauneron, the late Director of the French Archaeological Institute of Cairo. Much of Ms. Kapoian-Kouymjian's work was carried out at the French Institute in Cairo during a research grant accorded her in the early 1980's.

This richly documented work is intended for the general public as well as the scholar. Its engaging contents show not only how fascinated Armenians were with Egypt, but also how in the 11th and 19th centuries Armenians virtually ruled the land.

The book was published by the Singer-Polignac Foundation of Paris as part of its continuing effort to introduce unusual yet serious studies to a general audience. It is modestly priced at 110 French francs (about \$18) and can be purchased from Armenian booksellers in the United States such as NAASR in Boston, the Diocese and Prelacy Bookstores in New York, and Abril and the Sardarabad Bookstores in Los Angeles area. It can also be ordered from Samuelian's Orientalist Bookstore, 51 Rue Monsieur-le-Prince, 75007 Paris, or directly from the Fondation Singer-Polignac, 43 Avenue Georges-Mandel, 75116, Paris, France. ☐

SOURCE The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA

DATE December 10, 1988

SUBJECT Armenians Unite to Help in Earthquake Tragedy

PAGE 1 of 2

Armenians unite to help

Fresno churches to gather aid

By JOE ROSATO
Bee staff writer

While workers in Soviet Armenia continued to dig through piles of concrete and twisted metal, Armenians 9,000 miles away in the San Joaquin Valley were announcing plans to collect and send money and goods to victims of the devastating earthquake.

In addition, at 3 p.m. Sunday they will hold a memorial service at the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church, 3673 N. First St. Clergy from all Armenian churches in the valley are scheduled to participate.

Wednesday's quake devastated two cities and wiped out an entire town in the southern Soviet republic. It

Armenians

Continued from Page A1

may have killed 100,000 people and left another 300,000 homeless, according to wire service reports.

The Fresno area, with an estimated 40,000 Armenians, is home to the largest concentration of Armenians outside of Armenia and Southern California.

The emotion of what happened thousands of miles away was felt Friday in the St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church. The picturesque Fowler church, built in 1910, was the scene of a news conference to announce local relief efforts.

The Rev. Vartan Kasparian of St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church in Yettem said valley Armenian churches will be used as drop-off points for any funds or materials that people might wish to donate.

Kasparian said the Armenian community was stunned and shocked at the events but, "We can't remain in mourning forever. We must take positive action . . . We all have friends or relatives there."

“We can't remain in mourning forever. We must take positive action . . . We all have friends or relatives there.”

— The Rev. Vartan Kasparian

In addition to financial contributions, clothing, blankets and medical supplies are especially needed because it is winter in the area, Kasparian said.

The Rev. Roger Minassian of the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church in Fresno told reporters, "This is more than just an Armenian tragedy, but a human tragedy."

For the Rev. Harry Missirlian, who was at Pilgrim for 27 years before his retirement eight years ago, the earthquake touched home. His older sister, Jessica Gevrikian, and her family live in Leninakan, Armenia's second-largest city.

The earthquake destroyed two-thirds of Leninakan, which has a population of 250,000, according to news reports.

He has been unable to contact her, Missirlian told reporters.

Dickran Kouymjian, director of the Armenian Studies program at Fresno State University, said earlier that the disaster was "the greatest natural calamity of the century."

Kouymjian, who visited the area some time ago, said the disaster was compounded by the thousands of Armenian refugees who fled to the area from Soviet Azerbaijan since the beginning of the month after attacks by Azerbaijanis.

The California Courier, a weekly newspaper which bills itself as "the newspaper for all Armenians," reported that more than 100,000 refugees fled the region after attacks by Azerbaijanis in which hundreds were killed and injured.

Fresnan doubtful of Soviet aid motives

Dickran Kouymjian, director of Armenian studies at Fresno State University, said Sunday he feared that measures taken by the Soviet Union to aid earthquake victims were really an attempt to strip Armenians from their homeland.

Kouymjian, who has been monitoring news accounts and receiving information from colleagues in Paris, said Americans should "read between the lines" to determine the intentions of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"Is he really helping Armenian quake victims," Kouymjian said, or is Gorbachev "pushing his secret agenda" to exterminate the race?

Kouymjian complained of:

- The possibility of Armenian orphans being taken to Moscow, instead of allowing them to be placed in the care of Armenian families.

"Armenians can take care of their own children," he said, adding there are plenty of families in the central San Joaquin Valley willing to adopt an Armenian child.

- Private planes chartered by Armenian relief agencies not being allowed to land in Soviet Armenia.

- The Soviet army not preventing harassment of Armenians by Islamic fundamentalists in Baku, Azerbaijan.

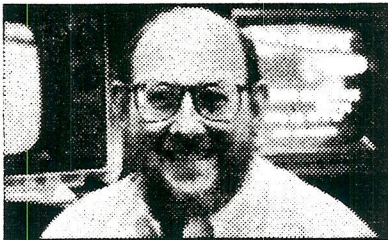
Kouymjian said Soviet troops were placed in Baku to maintain order, but were being withdrawn to help with relief efforts. Meantime, the fundamentalists allegedly have been slaughtering Armenians, Kouymjian said.

- The arrest of five members of the Karabakh committee, which is seeking to unify the disputed region with the rest of Soviet Armenia.

"People in Yerevan are outraged and could be ready to revolt," Kouymjian said. "Armenians are desperate because the Soviets are clamping down tighter and tighter until [Soviet Armenians] are destroyed."

The FSU professor said Armenians can handle the earthquake disaster because Armenians have dealt with a genocide and displacement from their homeland.

Remarks concerning Armenian situation draw fire



Lanny Larson
Broadcast beat

Every once in awhile I hear something on radio or TV that really angers me.

Last week, it was Dickran Kouymjian on the radio saying he was misquoted by The Fresno Bee in an article that appeared Dec. 12.

The news story said Kouymjian questioned whether Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev might have ulterior motives in earthquake relief efforts in Armenia.

Kouymjian was quoted as saying Gorbachev's "secret agenda" included separating orphaned quake victims from other Armenians; siding with Azerbaijanis against Armenians in their long-standing, recently violent dispute; and not allowing privately funded Armenian relief material to reach quake victims.

There is little question that those opinions were much on Kouymjian's mind Dec. 11. That day, Kouymjian telephoned a Bee editor to discuss the themes about which he was quoted.

Later that same day, he made identical remarks to two Bee reporters at separate times.

Besides them, Kouymjian reportedly brought his information before valley Armenian community leaders prior to an ecumenical memorial service for quake victims.

The remarks are consistent with others Kouymjian has made in public on the issue of Armenian nationalism.

Yet the day after the article appeared, there was Kouymjian on KMJ telling the world (or at least the several thousand people who listen to the station's talk shows) that he was surprised when he read the newspaper story.

The quotes, he said, bore little resemblance to what he'd told The Bee. He condescendingly said it was probably just a problem of translating something from English into English.

Yes, said Kouymjian, he really should write to The Bee and correct the record. But with final exams going on, he was just too busy to do so, he said.

Kouymjian, who is director of Armenian studies at Fresno State University, certainly could have been short on time; finals were under way the day of his radio remarks and his department was about to announce an endowed faculty chair that he may fill.

But if he didn't have time to write a letter, how could he spare time for an hour's chat on the radio?

And if he was so concerned about making sure his reputation wasn't besmirched, why did Kouymjian "correct" the record on KMJ, which reaches only a tiny fraction of the number of valley residents who subscribed to The Bee and may have read his remarks?

Talk-show host Ray Appleton should have asked whether Kouymjian had some "secret agenda" in disowning his printed comments on radio.

Is it possible that Kouymjian's remarks were criticized by people who thought them divisive in the face of efforts by various Armenian factions to pull together to help quake victims?

When it became clear that help from all over the world was being welcomed by the Soviets, did Kouymjian have second thoughts about what he'd said?

Did Kouymjian have new information from monitoring Soviet broadcasts and

from his sources in Paris that made his reported remarks outdated?

In the short time I listened, Appleton seemed more intent on letting Kouymjian bash The Bee, than asking any questions. He even alluded to Kouymjian having a low opinion of news media.

So I wasn't nearly as mad at Kouymjian for trying to disassociate himself from possible reputation-damaging remarks as I was at Appleton.

Talk-show hosts should hold their guests' feet to the fire, rather than leave that exclusively to callers who may or may not ask the right questions.

A lack of questioning gives listeners an impression that a guest's remarks are truthful and indisputable . . . and accepted as fact by the host and, by extension, the station.

Lanny Larson is a Bee columnist. His column appears regularly on the Television page.

Professor offers reasons for Armenian anger, suspicion

On Dec. 12, The Bee carried an article in which I was quoted extensively on the grave conditions in Armenia after the earthquake of Dec. 7. My remarks to a Bee reporter were focused on Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Armenia and his unmeasured and careless statements at a press conference upon his return to Moscow from Yerevan.

I tried to explain why Armenians were outraged by Gorbachev's visit despite the pain and suffering they were experiencing collectively. The earthquake struck in the context of 10 months of unrest and demonstrations in Armenia. Few Western journalists have understood well the undercurrents of this movement; they have been too willing as a group to repeat a number of cliches foisted upon the world mostly by Tass and other Soviet media. Thus, the report in The Bee on several occasions either misquoted me or mixed the context of my statements.

I never said nor intended to say, nor hinted at, nor believed that the Soviets are trying to exterminate the Armenians. I did say that the Turks in 1915-1923 carried out the first genocide of modern time and almost succeeded in annihilating the Armenian race. I did say that today, 1988, the Azerbaijani Turks are behaving exactly as their Ottoman Turkish cousins did 75 years ago. And I did say that First Secretary Gorbachev during his visit to Armenia did have political as well as humanitarian motives.

For the past 10 months Armenia has been led by a form of "popular democracy" never before seen in the Soviet Union or perhaps anywhere since 5th-century Athens. This movement, known as the Karabakh Movement, began with a renewal of demands by the Armenian people for the reattachment to their Soviet Republic of the ancient Armenian area of Artzakh, known more popularly as the Mountainous Karabakh. This autonomous region was taken from Armenia in 1923 by Stalin and placed in the neighboring Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, populated by Azeri Turks, except for the Old Armenian colony numbering some 500,000.

The demand for reintegration into Armenia was made by the parliaments and the Communist parties of both the autonomous region of the Karabakh and the Soviet Armenian Republic by a unanimous vote in strict conformity to the Soviet Constitution.

The Supreme Soviet in Moscow rejected this vote. Armenians continued demonstrations and general strikes in both Yerevan, the capital of the Armenian Republic, and Stepanakert, the capital of the Karabakh. Since these demonstrations were denounced by the Kremlin, the local Armenian Community Party apparatus also denounced these demonstrations, but the people defied their leaders and continued to gather in the centers of these cities by the tens of thousands, then the hundreds of thousands, and finally a million souls. The Karabakh Movement represents all the people of the country. All of Armenia was and is sympathetic to it and its demands.

The movement is coordinated by a small committee of 11 members. This Karabakh Committee has long ago been declared illegal, but it continues to meet openly and publicly with total support of the populace. Gorbachev has on several occasions called the members of the committee opportunists and extremists trying to take advantage of unrest in the country. The truth is that the Karabakh Committee is putting perestroika to its most exacting test. It is demanding "restructuring" along legal lines and through the will of the people.

When Gorbachev arrived in Yerevan to coordinate relief efforts, the first thing that happened was that five members of the 11-man Karabakh Committee were arrested. Tass reported the next day that they were sentenced to 30 days in prison for troublemaking. Armenians were outraged that under the confusion and terror of the calamity that struck them, the leader of the Kremlin would carry out a political agenda while on a mission of sympathy and support. Everywhere Gorbachev went, including the sites most devastated by the quake, Armenians in their pain yelled at him about his Karabakh policy and demanded to know why he had not come to Armenia during the past 10 months of unrest.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE

The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA

DATE December 20, 1988

SUBJECT

Dr. Kouymjian's Views of the Earthquake

PAGE 2 of 2

The first secretary on his part lost his temper and could not accept, after the praise and adulation following his triumphant New York trip, that his own citizens could be critical of him. He burst out in in-temperate words, saying that he had never seen people as immoral as the Armenians, discussing politics during a moment when tens of thousands of their brothers had died.

No leader of the stature and intelligence of Gorbachev, the head of one of the two major powers on earth, can permit himself to get angry at his own citizens and at the people of an entire republic of Soviet Union. Everyone has learned enough about human nature to know that when a party is confronted by a disaster that comes without explanation or reason, that injured party becomes angry and enraged at everything. In such circumstances of grief, the afflicted party will curse himself, his neighbor, even God. For a leader of people to get angry at the anger of his people is unacceptable.

What Gorbachev might have done when he arrived in Armenia was to lift the curfew and military rule that he imposed on Armenia earlier in November, freeing up several divisions of Soviet troops in Yerevan for immediate reassignment to the disaster area 50 miles away. These troops were not mobilized for the quake. Stopping military occupation of Yerevan would allow the citizens of Armenia themselves to coordinate relief activities from the capital of their country, using all the infrastructure of the Armenian government and all the power and energy of the Karagakh Committee. Instead he had members of the committee arrested and troops sent against the crowds which immediately formed to protest these arrests.

As for Gorbachev's avowed purpose of directing and coordinating earthquake relief, though his pain at seeing the suffering and devastation was genuine, his ability to get action in providing shelter for those who survived seems hampered or non-existing. What person could read in the newspaper or see on television in the same day reports that tons of blankets, food, and medicine lie piled up at airports while Armenian survivors freeze to death in Leninakan and Spitak and not be outraged like the Armenians were and are?

It seems to me that Gorbachev and the Kremlin talked as if their primary concern was the suffering of the victims of a natural disaster, but acted as though their preoccupation was to suppress a Karabakh Movement which gave them more *perestroika* than they wanted or are prepared to handle.

DICKRAN KOUYMIJIAN,
Director, Armenian Studies
Program, CSUF.

Fresno.