



California State University, Fresno  
Armenian Studies Program  
5245 N. Backer Ave. M/S PB 4  
Fresno, California 93740-8001

## Armenian Studies Program News Service

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

Fall 1999

Vol. 15 Release #71  
August 1999-December 1999

## ANC CO-HOSTS ADANA CONFERENCE

The Armenian National Committee Central California Chapter along with the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program and the C.S.U.F. Armenian Students Organization hosted a conference last week entitled, "The Armenian Massacres of Adana (1909-1999)."

The conference took place at the Alice Peters Auditorium at Fresno State University. Four speakers were introduced at the conference, each with their own respective topics.

The first speaker was Aram Arkun whose topic was "The 1909 Cilician Massacres: An Overview." Arkun is a specialist in modern Armenian history and serves as the Assistant Director of the Kirkor and Clara Zohrab Information Center. In his lecture, Arkun mentioned that the period of Young Turk rule from 1908 until the onset of World War I was full of contradictory elements for the Ottoman Armenians. The period began with great hope that the old restrictions and persecutions of Ottoman Armenians would be eliminated, but massacres in Cilicia the following year soured their enthusiasm.

Vahram Shemmashian spoke about "The 1909 Armenian Massacres in Northwest Syria." Shemmashian is currently the principal of the C. & E. Merdinaian Armenian Evangelical School in Sherman Oaks, CA. He has also served as Chairman of the Armenian Studies Department at the American Armenian International College in La Verne, CA. In his lecture, Shemmashian noted that Armenian presence in northwest Syria constituted an extension of the larger Armenian habitation in Cilicia to the north. These Syrian-Armenians lived under the jurisdiction of the Ottoman county of

Aleppo. The 1909 massacres affected four major Armenian concentrations in the region and he then went into details.

Hilmar Kaiser's topic was "The Politics of Relief in Adana and Cilicia." Kaiser is the German scholar who was banned from the Turkish archives for his work on the Armenian Genocide. He noted that the Adana Massacres killed about 30,000 people. He then talked about the aftermath of the massacre and mentioned how families were deprived of their provider and faced starvation. He also mentioned that the massacre badly damaged the economic structure and caused unemployment and further hurt the survivors.

"Adana 1909: The Turkish Argument and Genocidal Denial" was covered by Gregory Goeckjian. Goeckjian is an English professor at Portland State University. He argues that the Adana Massacre of 1909 and the Armenian Genocide of 1915 should be considered as separate events and that the distinction between "massacre" and "genocide" must be maintained.

### *Inside this issue...*

- ❖ *Update on "Man of the Year" honorees*
- ❖ *Genocide legislation signed into law*
- ❖ *Steve Samuelian elected to United Way Board*
- ❖ *Horizon Update*
- ❖ *ANC plans to meet with Dooley*
- ❖ *"ANI" Dance Ensemble coming to Fresno*



SOURCE Northeast Neighbors: Fresno, CADATE September 1999SUBJECT Armenians in Fresno Part of Extended Ed.PAGE 1 of 1

## *CUSF Extended Education begins in September*

The Division of Extended Education at California State University, Fresno, has scheduled several programs with September starting dates. They are:

■ "Russian Language: An Intensive, Practical Approach," taught by Liza Chaverdova-Cortopassi, beginning Sept. 9. The fee is \$100 non-credit, with an additional \$38 for one optional unit of credit.

■ "California North Coast Wines," with instructor Diana Burnett, beginning Sept. 14. The fee is \$90 for one unit credit, \$75 non-credit.

■ "Armenians in Fresno," taught by Barlow Der Mugrdechian, beginning Sept. 17. The fee is \$40 non-credit.

■ "A Yosemite Ranger's Travels and Stories," including field trip, with Bart Reed, beginning Sept. 17. The fee is \$90 for one unit credit, \$60 non-credit.

■ "Ancient Rock Art of the Coso Range," including field trip, with Raphael X. Reichert, Ph.D., beginning Sept. 20. The fee is \$90 for one unit credit, \$45 non-credit.

The Division of Extended Education offers continuing education courses, workshops, seminars and travel study programs, all of which are open to the public. For more information or a catalog of courses, call 278-0333.

SOURCE The California Courier; Glendale, CADATE September 2, 1999SUBJECT Armenians in Fresno Focus of Weekend Class PAGE 1 of 1

## Fresno's Armenian Community is Focus For CSUF Workshop

FRESNO - The Division of Extended Education at California State University, Fresno is offering a two--day workshop in "Armenians in Fresno." The workshop is an introduction to the more than 100 years old Armenian community of Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley.

The workshop is scheduled for Sept. 17, from 5 to 10 p.m., and Sept. 18, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., in Room 103 of the University's Social Science Building. The cost for the workshop is \$40 for non-credit.

The instructor is Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Lecturer, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, CSUF. He has also taught courses on Armenian language and culture in the Armenian Studies Program.

Addition information and registration forms are available by calling the Division of Extended Education at (559) 278-0333.

SOURCE The Collegian; Fresno, CA

DATE September 20, 1999

SUBJECT Armenian Independence Day Commemorated

PAGE 1 of 1

## Students celebrate sovereignty of Armenian Republic

By Melissa Crisp  
*The Collegian*

An Armenian Independence Day celebration will be held by the Fresno State Armenian Students Organization booth Tuesday in the free speech area.

The San Joaquin Valley boasts an Armenian population of 45,000 who will be observing the eighth anniversary of the Republic's emergence from 71 years of Soviet rule, said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, professor in

the Armenian Studies Program.

Armenia had a short-lived two-year period of autonomy after WWI before being absorbed into the Soviet block.

Today, the Republic of Armenia has a population of 3.6 million. Informational material will be available on the new Republic at the Armenian Student Organization booth.

## Valley delegates will see catholicos enthroned

The seven will travel to Armenia with an international delegation next month.

BY NZONG XIONG  
THE FRESNO BEE

At least seven people from the Central Valley will be among a group of 47 representatives nationwide to witness the enthronement of a new catholicos in Armenia next month.

The Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church of North America held a special diocesan assembly Sept. 11 in Fresno to elect its delegates. The diocese covers the western portion of the United States.

Of the 22 delegates elected from the western part of the country, five are lay-

people from Fresno, one is a priest from Fowler and one a priest from Yettam. Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian, primate of the Western Diocese, will also go.

The seven delegates are: Deacon Arra S. Avakian, Deacon Varouj Aldebarmakian, Deacon Armen Devejian, Deacon Allan Y. Jendian, Deacon Barlow Der Mugrdechian, the Rev. Kevork Arakelian and the Rev. Sahak Kaishian.

The Eastern Diocese, which oversees churches in the eastern half of the nation, will hold its election on Saturday in New York. Twenty-five delegates will be selected from that part of the country. Four hundred and fifty-one delegates will be picked worldwide.

Those delegates will vote in the election to pick the new catholicos, called the National Ecclesiastical Assembly, during the last week of October in Holy Etchmiadzin, Armenia.

Forty-seven bishops worldwide are eligible to become the catholicos, but more than likely all of them will not run, said Der Mugrdechian, a lecturer with the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno.

Der Mugrdechian did not have any ideas who the new catholicos might be.

"I think it's going to be pretty wide open," he said.

The new Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians will be consecrated and enthroned Oct. 31. He will replace Catholicos Karekin I, who died on June 29 of throat cancer.

"It's a rather exciting period," said Jendian, who is a member of the diocesan council. "It's an honor to represent our diocese. A lot of times, a person doesn't see this in their lifetime."

Jendian was also present at Catholicos Karekin's enthronement in 1995.

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FRESNO - Emmy Award-winning writer, producer and director Hank Saroyan will be the special guest at the 14th Annual Banquet of the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno. The banquet will be held Oct. 10 at the Satellite Student Union.

A wine reception will begin at 5 p.m. with dinner served at 5:45 p.m.

With 25 years of experience in the industry, Saroyan has spent the last 15 years primarily in family entertainment where he has been behind such acclaimed series as "Jim Henson's Muppet Babies," on CBS. he received an Emmy for his film adaptation of "The Parsley Garden," a short story by his late uncle, William Saroyan.

Saroyan will be speaking on "Madness in the Family? You Bet!" elaborating further on his "insider" remarks about the Saroyan clan and how they functioned. Last year, he participated in the Fresno State conference, "Saroyan at Ninety," organized by the ASP to mark the late playwright's anniversary.

Also on the program, will be the young, but much acclaimed percussionist from Los Angeles, Lynn Marie Vartan.

Tickets are \$40 per person or \$400 per table of 10. Fresno State students benefit from a price of \$15. Deadline for reservations is Oct. 1.

Reservations can be made by calling the Armenian Studies Program office at (559) 278-2669.

## The Armenian Massacres of Adana (1909-1999): A Conference The Armenian Massacres of Adana (1909-1999): A Conference

FRESNO, CA - In response to the tremendous interest and excitement generated by Hilmar Kaiser's spring 1999 lecture on "The Adana Massacres of 1909," the Armenian Studies Program has decided to organize an entire conference on the subject.

On Saturday, October 9, the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program, in conjunction with the Armenian National Committee of Central California and the CSUF Armenian Students Organization, will host a conference from 9:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. titled, "The Armenian Massacres of Adana (1909-1999)."

A rare photographic exhibition featuring never-before-seen archival scenes from Adana will be held in conjunction with the Conference.

### SUMMARY: The 1909 Cilician Massacres: An Overview

The period of Young Turk rule from 1908 until the onset of World War I was full of contradictory elements for the Ottoman Armenians. It began with great enthusiasm and hope that the old restrictions and persecutions of Ottoman Armenians would be eliminated. Massacres in April and May of 1909 in Cilicia, and their aftermath, coinciding with a coup attempt in Constantinople, soured this enthusiasm. Some twenty thousand Armenians were killed, and many more made homeless. The vacillating attitude of the Ottoman government after the massacres, and failed attempts to bring the perpetrators of crimes to justice, served to weaken Armenian confidence in the Youth Turks and the Ottoman constitution. The developments leading up to the massacres, during the so-called "honeymoon period" of Ottoman-Armenian relations, will be presented in this talk. The extent of the massacres and their causes will be discussed, as well as the attempts to cast blame on the Armenian victims after the event.

Professor Dickran Kouymjian, Chair of the Conference, will introduce the four speakers at 9:45 a.m. The Conference has been organized by Professor Kouymjian and Hilmar Kaiser.

The speakers and their respective topics are as follows:

### Aram Arkun (New York), "The 1909 Cilician Massacres: An Overview."

Aram Arkun is a specialist in modern Armenian history who serves as the Assistant Director of the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center. He has published articles and annotated translations on Ottoman and Iranian Armenian topics, as well as contemporary Armenian events, in scholarly journals, encyclopedias, and books. He is the chairman of the editorial board of the periodical *Ararat*, chairman of the Armenian Student Association Arthur H. Dadian Armenian Heritage Award committee, and member of the board of directors of the Armenian Center at Columbia University. Mr. Arkun is a Princeton University graduate (B.A.), with a master's degree in international relations (University of Pennsylvania), and a doctoral candidate in Armenian history (C.Phil.) at UCLA, for which he is completing his dissertation on the Armenians of northern Cilicia after World War I. He has taught at UCLA and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and lectured in various parts of the U.S. and Europe.

### Vahram Shemmassian (Los Angeles), "The 1909 Armenian Massacres in Northwest Syria."

Dr. Shemmassian received his Ph.D. in History from UCLA. He has taught Armenian and Middle Eastern History, as well as Western Civilization, at the Pasadena City College, UCLA, and National University (Fresno). He has also served as Chairman of the Armenian Studies Department at the American Armenian International College in La Verne, Ca. He is currently the principal of the C. & E. Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School in

Sherman Oaks, CA.

### Hilmar Kaiser (Dearborn and Florence), "The Politics of Relief in Adana and Cilicia."

Hilmar Kaiser studied history with special reference to the Ottoman Empire at the Ruhr University Bochum, in Germany, where he received his M.A. in 1992. The same year he received the university award for extraordinary academic achievements. Since 1991 he has conducted research in more than 40 archives in the Middle East (Turkey, Israel), Europe (Germany, Italy, France, Britain, Austria, Netherlands, Belgium, and Switzerland), and the U.S. In 1996 he was banned from the Turkish archives for his work on the Armenian Genocide. After having lived in Turkey from 1991 to 1992, he joined the European University Institute, in Florence, Italy, in 1993; there he will defend his dissertation on the "Socio-economic Transformation of the Cukurova, 1890-1915" next year. His publications include *Imperialism, Racism, and Development Theories: The Construction of a Dominant Paradigm on Ottoman Armenians (1997)* and, most recently, *Marsovan, 1915: The Diary of Bertha B. Morely (1999)*.

Gregory Goekjian from Portland, Oregon, "Adana 1909: The Turkish Argument and Genocidal Denial." Dr. Goekjian is a professor of English at Portland State University. He has been a visiting professor at Yerevan State University and the West Sussex Institute of Higher Education in England. He has written articles on Milton, Derrida, and genocide.

The conference will be held in the Alice Peters Auditorium, located in the University Business Center, on the Fresno State campus.

Admission is free.

Further details may be obtained by contacting the Armenian Studies Program office at (559) 278-2669.

## 14th Annual Armenian Studies Banquet Featuring Emmy Award Winning Producer/Director, Hank Saroyan

Fresno - The Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno and its Advisory Board welcome Emmy Award-Winning writer, producer and director Hank Saroyan, as their special guest at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet.

Saroyan has worked for over 25 years in the entertainment industry spending the last 15 years primarily in family entertainment where he has been behind such acclaimed series as "Jim Henson's Muppet Babies" on CBS. He received an Emmy Award for his film adaptation of the "Parsley Garden," a short story by his late uncle, William Saroyan.

Hank Saroyan is among the most acclaimed and accomplished writer producer-directors working in family entertainment in Hollywood today.

Saroyan will be speaking on "Madness in the Family? You Bet!" elaborating further his "insider" remarks about the Saroyan clan and how they functioned. Last year he was an active participant in the Fresno State conference, "Saroyan at Ninety," organized by the Armenian Studies Program to mark William Saroyan's anniversary.

Also on the program will be the young, but very much ac-

claimed, percussionist from Los Angeles, Lynn Marie Vartan.

The banquet will be held Sunday, October 10, 1999 in the Satellite Student Union on the C.S.U.F. campus. A wine reception will begin at 5 p.m. with dinner at 5:45 p.m.

Reservations may be made through the Armenian Studies Program office by phoning (559) 278-2669. Tickets cost \$40 per person or \$400 per table of 10. Fresno State students benefit from a special price of \$15.

Deadline for reservations is October 1, 1999.

For further details contact the Armenian Studies Program office at (559) 278-2669.



## CSUF's ASP Organizes Oct. 9 Conference On Turkish Massacre of Adana Armenians

FRESNO - In response to the tremendous interest and excitement generated by Hilmar Kaiser's spring 1999 lecture on "The Adana Massacres of 1909," the Armenian Studies Program has decided to organize an entire conference on the subject.

On Oct. 9, the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program, in conjunction with the Armenian National Committee of Central California and the C.S.U.F. Armenian Students Organization, will host a conference from 9:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. titled, "The Armenian Massacres of Adana (1909-1999)."

A rare photographic exhibition featuring never before seen archival scenes from Adana will be held in conjunction with the Conference.

The period of Young Turk rule from 1908 until the onset of World War I was full of contradictory elements for the Ottoman Armenians. It began with great enthusiasm and hope that the old restrictions and persecutions of Ottoman Armenians would be eliminated. Massacres in April and May of 1909 in Cilicia, and their aftermath, coinciding with a coup attempt in Constantinople, soured this enthusiasm. Some 20,000 Armenians were killed, and many more made homeless. The vacillating attitude of the Ottoman government after the massacres, and failed attempts to bring the perpetrators of crimes to justice served to weaken Armenian confidence in the Young Turks and the Ottoman constitution.

The developments leading up to the massacres, during the so-called "honeymoon period" of Ottoman-Armenian relations, will be presented in the Oct. 9 talk.

Conference chair Professor Dickran Kouymjian will introduce the four speakers. The Conference has been organized by Prof. Kouymjian and Hilmar Kaiser.

The speakers and their respective topics are as follows: Aram Arkun (New York), "The 1909 Cilician Massacres: An Overview;" Vahram Shemmajian (Los Angeles), "The 1909 Armenian Massacres in Northwest Syria;" Hilmar Kaiser (Germany) studied history with special reference to the Ottoman Empire at the Ruhr-University Bochum, in Germany, where he received his M.A. in 1992. Since 1991, he has conducted research in more than 40 archives in the Middle East (Turkey, Israel), Europe (Germany, Italy, France, Britain, Austria, Netherlands, Belgium, and Switzerland), and the U.S. In 1996, he was banned from the Turkish archives for his work on the Armenian Genocide. After having lived in Turkey from 1991 to 1992, he joined the European University Institute, in Florence, Italy, in 1993.

Gregory Goekjian from Portland, Oregon, will speak on: "Adana 1909: The Turkish Argument and Genocidal Denial."

The conference will be held in the Alice Peters Auditorium, in the University Business Center, on the Fresno State campus.

Admission is free.



## Valley Delegates Will See Catholicos Enthroned

By Nzong Xiong

FRESNO, CA - At least seven people from the Central Valley will be among a group of 47 representatives nationwide to witness the enthronement of a new catholicos in Armenia this month.

The Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church of North America held a special diocesan assembly Sept. 11 in Fresno to elect its delegates. The diocese covers the western portion of the United States.

Of the 22 delegates elected from the western part of the country, five are lay people from Fresno, one is a priest from Fowler and one a priest from Yettem. Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian, Primate of the Western Diocese, will also go.

The seven delegates are: Deacon Arra S. Avakian, Deacon Varouj Aldebarmakian, Deacon Armen Devejian, Deacon Allan Y. Jendian, Deacon Barlow Der Mugerdechian, the Rev. Kevork Arakelian and the Rev. Sahak Kaishian.

The Eastern Diocese, which oversees churches in the eastern half of the nation, will hold its election on Saturday in New York. Twenty-five delegates will be selected from that part of the country. Four hundred and fifty-

one delegates will be picked worldwide.

Those delegates will vote in the election to pick the new catholicos, called the National Ecclesiastical Assembly, during the last week of October in Holy Etchmiadzin, Armenia.

Forty-seven bishops worldwide are eligible to become the catholicos, but more than likely all of them will not run, said Der Mugerdechian, a lecturer with the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno.

Der Mugerdechian did not have any ideas who the new catholicos might be.

"I think it's going to be pretty wide open," he said.

The new Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians will be consecrated and enthroned Oct. 31. He will replace Catholicos Karekin I, who died on June 29 of throat cancer.

"It's a rather exciting period," said Jendian, who is a member of the diocesan council. "It's an honor to represent our diocese. A lot of times, a person doesn't see this in their lifetime."

Jendian was also present at Catholicos Karekin's enthronement in 1995.

## Adana Conference to Be Held in Fresno

FRESNO, CA—In response to the tremendous interest generated by Hilmar Kaiser's spring 1999 lectures on the Adana massacres, the Armenian Studies Program of California State University has decided to organize an entire conference on the subject.

On October 9, the University Armenian Studies Program, in conjunction with the Armenian National Committee of Central California and the University Armenian Students Organization, will host a conference from 9:45 am to 12:45 pm entitled "The Armenian Massacres of Adana (1909-1999)." A rare photograph exhibition featuring never before seen archival scenes from Adana will be held in conjunction with the Conference.

Topics to be covered by the conference will include the period of Young Turk rule from 1908 until the onset of World War I. The period began with great enthusiasm and hope that the persecution of Ottoman Armenians would be eliminated. Massacres in April and May of 1909 in Cilicia soured this enthusiasm. Some twenty thousand Armenians were killed and many more made homeless. The vacillating attitude of the Ottoman government after the massacres and failed attempts to bring the perpetrators of crimes to justice served to weaken Armenian confidence in the Young Turks and the Ottoman constitution. The extent of the massacres and their causes will be discussed, as well as the attempts to cast blame on the Armenian victims after the event.

The speakers and their respective topics are as follows: Aram Arkun, Assistant Director of the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center, "The 1909 Cilician Massacres: An Overview;" Vahram Shemmassian, principal of the Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School, "The 1909 Armenian Massacres in Northwest Syria;" Hilmar Kaiser, European University Institute, "The Politics of Relief in Adana and Cilicia;" and Gregory Goekjian, Portland State University, "Adana 1909: The Turkish Argument and Genocidal Denial." The conference will be held in the Alice Peters Auditorium of the California State University Business Center on the Fresno campus. Admission is free. For further details contact the Armenian Studies Program office at (559) 278-2669.

# CSUF Plans Conference on the Armenian Massacres of Adana

On Saturday, October 9, the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program, in conjunction with the Armenian National Committee of Central California and the Armenian Students Organization, will host a conference from 9:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. titled, "The Armenian Massacres of Adana (1909-1999)."

A rare photographic exhibition featuring never before seen archival scenes from Adana will be held in conjunction with the conference.

Prof. Dickran Kouymjian, chair of the conference, will introduce the four speakers. The conference has been organized jointly by Professor Kouymjian and Hilmar Kaiser.

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Aram Arkun (New York), "The 1909 Cilician Massacres: An Overview." Aram Arkun is a specialist in modern Armenian history who serves as the assistant director of the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center. He has published articles and annotated translations on Ottoman and Iranian Armenian topics, as well as contemporary Armenian events, in scholarly journals, encyclopedias and books. He is the chairman of the editorial board of the periodical *Ararat*, chairman of the Armenian Student Association Arthur H. Dadian Armenian Heritage Award committee, and member of the Board of Directors of the Armenian Center at Columbia University. Arkun is a Princeton University graduate with a master's degree in international relations (University of Pennsylvania), and a doctoral candidate in Armenian history at UCLA, for which he is completing his dissertation on the Armenians of Northern Cilicia after World War I. He has taught at UCLA and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and lectured in various parts of the US and Europe.

Vahram Shemmassian (Los Angeles), "The 1909 Armenian Massacres in Northwest Syria." Dr. Shemmassian received his PhD in history see CONFERENCE, page 11

# CSUF Conference On the Armenian Massacres of Adana

CONFERENCE, fromk page 10

from UCLA. He has taught Armenian and Middle Eastern history, as well as Western Civilization at Pasadena City College, UCLA, and National University (Fresno). He has also served as chairman of the Armenian Studies Department at the American Armenian International College in La Verne. He is currently the principal of the C. & E. Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School in Sherman Oaks.

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Gregory Goekjian (Portland, Oregon), "Adana 1909: The Turkish Argument and Genocidal Denial." Dr. Goekjian is a professor of English at Portland State University. He has been a visiting professor at Yerevan State University and the West Sussex Institute of Higher Education in England. He has written articles on Milton, Derrida and genocide.

The conference will be held in the Alice Peters Auditorium, located in the University Business Center, on the Fresno State Campus.

Admission is free.

## California's Oldest Armenian Church to Celebrate Harvest Season

One of North America's preeminent Armenian scholars and one of Central California's leading vocalists will welcome the harvest season at the oldest Armenian Church in the Golden State.

Isabel Kaprielian, Ph.D. will deliver the keynote address and contralto Lorene Fletcher will offer a select medley of American Negro Spirituals at the 102 Annual Harvest Banquet of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno.

The Banquet will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, October 24, in the Church Fellowship Hall, 430 South First Street at Huntington Boulevard. The century-old event will feature traditional American Thanksgiving cuisine and reservations are \$15 per adult, \$7 per child ages 13 and under, or \$100 for a table of eight.

The keynote speaker was born in Hamilton, Ontario and entered McMaster University in her native city as the Hamilton and District Regional Scholar. After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree, Kaprielian matriculated at the University of Toronto and earned Master of Education and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Her 1984 doctoral thesis examined Armenians in Ontario before 1915.

In 1996, Kaprielian was appointed the Henry S. Khazadian Kazan Professor for Modern Armenian and Immigration History at California State University, Fresno. Benefactors Henry and the late Victoria Kazan of Juno Beach, Florida and Long Island, New York endowed the professorship to benefit the academic programs of the CSUF Department of History and Armenian Studies Program. Kaprielian's areas of concentration include the history of the Armenian Genocide, immigration to North America, and modern Armenia.

Kaprielian has researched and written extensively on the Armenian Experience in North America. Her topics of study have ranged from women survivors of the genocide to picture brides during the post-World War I period to the contributions of Armenian refugee women in the New World. Her numerous writings include Polyphony: Armenian in Ontario (1981); "Armenians in Canada," an article in An Encyclopedia of Canada's Peoples (1999); and Like our Mountains: A History of Armenians in Canada, a major work commissioned by the government of the Dominion. Kaprielian's works-in-progress include an article on Armenian intermarriage, a study of changes in the Armenian neighborhoods of New England, and a book on Armenians in the California Raisin Industry.

The Kazan Professor's numerous honors

include the Marion Porter Prize for her co-authorship of Looking Into My Sister's Eyes: An Exploration in Women's History; the University of Toronto Ivey Award; and the University of Toronto Open Doctoral Fellowship. She has earned competitive fellowships from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada as well as research grants from the California Council of the Humanities.

A native of Monterey County, vocalist Lorene Fletcher was first introduced to sacred music in the Seaside church where her father pastured. She grew up singing and playing the tambourine in various church choirs and performing with a capella ensembles, glee clubs, and choral groups at school. For more than a decade, she has performed in venues throughout the San Joaquin Valley and has also sung for private functions, weddings, and fashion shows.

In 1994, she played the role of Molly in "Joe Turner's Come and Gone," a dramatic production of the CSUF Theatre Arts Department. That same year, Fletcher appeared on the syndicated Oprah Winfrey Show in Chicago. On October 1-3 she will portray a nun in the Fresno International Grand Opera production of Puccini's La Boheme at the William Saroyan Theatre. On Saturday afternoon, October 10, Fletcher will present a Gospel Concert at Borders Book & Music in Visalia, a first for the nationwide chain.

To mark the harvest season and time of Thanksgiving, Fletcher will perform a medley of Negro Spirituals at the October 24 banquet. The Spirituals, folk hymns dating to the 18th century, symbolize the deliverance of African-Americans from slavery, their battle against tyranny and oppression, and their enduring faith in God. As early as the 1870s, Negro Spirituals became familiar to the entire American public and formal singing groups were organized at Hampton Institute, Virginia and Fisk University, Tennessee to preserve and propagate them. Marian Anderson, Roland Hayes, and other artists performed them in concerts and recorded them for posterity.

Nursery care for children age three and under will be available during the Harvest Banquet. More information about the Harvest Sunday Worship Service and Banquet may be obtained by calling Mary Lou Bagdasarlian at 559-255-6630 or fax at 559-237-6638.

Forty immigrants from Marsovan, Turkey chartered the First Armenian Presbyterian Church on July 25, 1897. The church, California's first Armenian religious institution, was enrolled in the family of

Presbyterian Churches on October 20 of that year. The boyhood church of author William Saroyan, FAPC is a member of the Presbyterian Church and the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America.

Reverend Bernard Guekguegian is the Senior Pastor and Reverend Gregory V. Haroutunian is the Associate Pastor of the Church. Elder Brian L. Melikian, Esq. is the Harvest Banquet Master of Ceremonies.

# 4UB

## ARMENIAN STUDIES

## PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CA

DATE October 3, 1999

SUBJECT Adana Conference at Fresno State

PAGE 1 of 1

Armenian Studies Program Lecture Series —  
9:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Sat., conference (free),  
"The Armenian Massacres of Adana (1909-1999): Ninety Years Later," with Aram Arkun, Vahram Shemmastian, Hilmar Kaiser and Gregory Goekjian, Alice Peters Auditorium, University Business Center; 5 p.m. next Sun., banquet, keynote speaker producer Hank Saroyan, Satellite Student Union, call for tickets. Held at California State University, Fresno. 278-2669.

SOURCE The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CA

DATE October 7,, 1999

SUBJECT Hank Saroyan Featured Speaker at ASP

PAGE 1 of 1

### **Saroyan nephew at Fresno State dinner**

Hank Saroyan, nephew of Fresno's famed author William Saroyan and an Emmy Award-winning television producer, will be the featured speaker at the annual scholarship dinner of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno.

The scholarship event is Sunday at the university's Satellite Student Union, starting with cocktails at 4:45 p.m. and dinner at 5:30. Reservations are required and should be made as soon as possible. Tickets are \$40 per person, or \$15 for Fresno State students. Details are avail-

able by calling the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.

The topic of Saroyan's talk will be "Madness in the Family - You Bet."

Also featured during the evening will be former Fresnan Lynn Marie Vartan, percussionist and teacher in Southern California. She has received a number of scholarships and honors for her musicianship, and for the past eight years has taught intermediate- and high-school-level instrumental music at Thousand Oaks High School, where her students have received recognition as among the best in the state and the country.

SOURCE The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CADATE October 7, 1999SUBJECT ASP Upcoming EventsPAGE 1 of 1

## Lectures

**Spiritual Exploration Alive**  
**lecture series**, 7 to 9 p.m.  
Fridays, Hart's Haven Bookstore,  
950 N. Van Ness Ave. Lecture by  
Rev. Sherry Wynne. Details: 264-  
2656.

**The Armenian Massacres of**  
**Adana: Ninety Years Later**,  
various lectures 9:45 a.m. to  
12:45 p.m. Saturday, Alice Peters  
Auditorium Room 191, University  
Business Center, California State  
University, Fresno. Details: 278-  
2669.

**Armenian Studies Program**  
**lecture series**, featuring  
producer Hank Saroyan, 5 p.m.  
Sunday, Satellite Student Union,  
California State University,  
Fresno. Tickets: 278-2669.



# MONUMENTAL MOVE

## Statue honoring the late author Saroyan is to be restored

By MICHAEL KRIKORIAN  
THE FRESNO BEE

"Tribute to Saroyan," the whimsical but weathered 30-foot sculpture that pays homage to Fresno's most famous author, was removed from its downtown home Wednesday and shipped to Fresno State, where it will be restored.

The multifaceted work by the late Varez Samuelian, a longtime friend of the late William Saroyan, is in a near-shambles, its paint peeling and metal rusting.

Once it's restored, city officials have expressed an interest in moving the statue to a downtown site, possibly to the Saroyan Theater, said Becky Reddehase of Community Medical Centers.

Since its dedication in 1993, the sculpture has sat on Community Medical Centers property, in a lot across R Street from the hospital. There are plans to build a parking lot on the site for the new Community Regional Medical Center.

"The [restoration project] reflects a partnership between private and public sectors to preserve part of our Valley's heritage," said J. Philip Hinton, chief executive officer for Community Medical Centers.

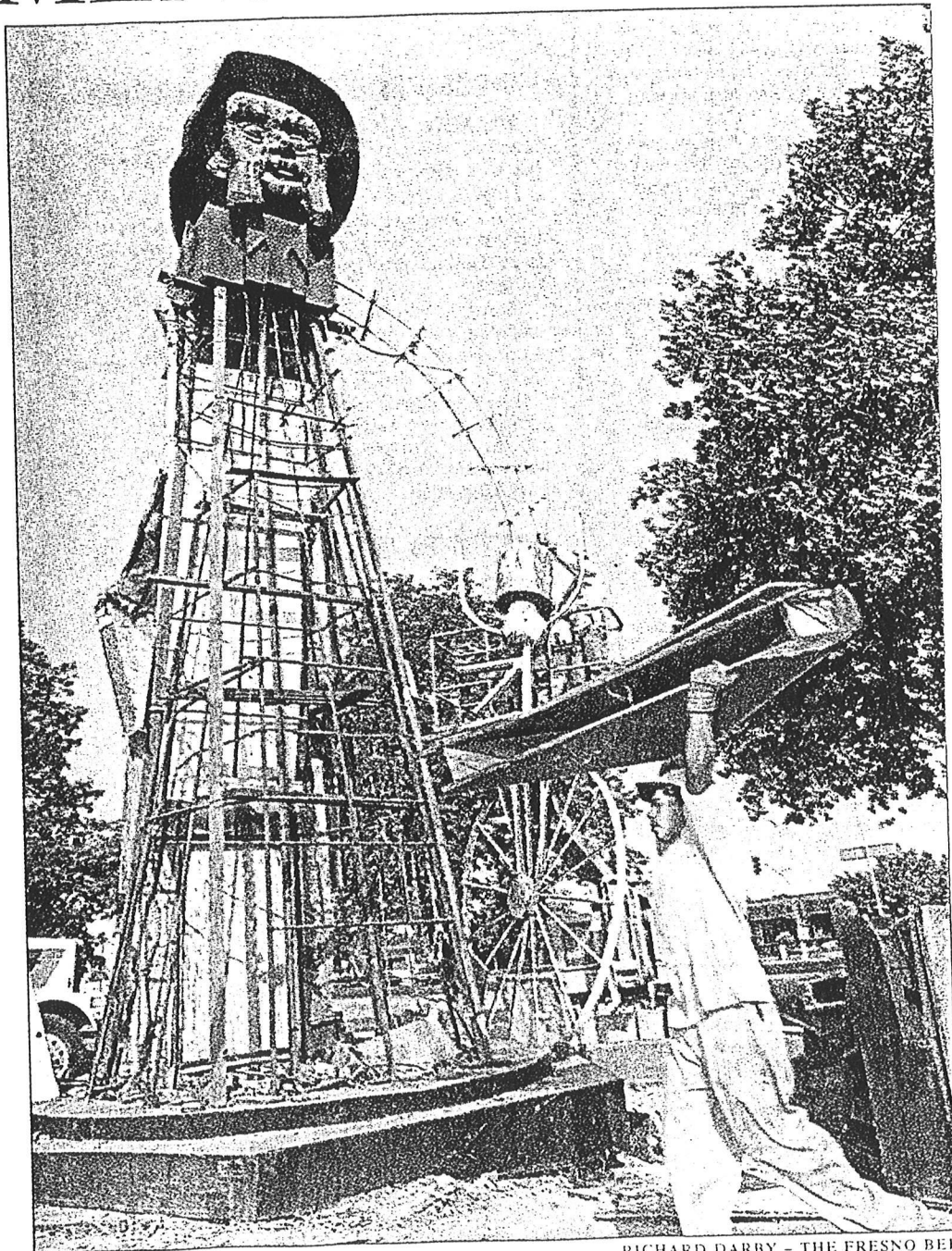
The restoration will be headed by Professor Ed Gillum of the California State University, Fresno, art department.

Dickran Kouymjian, chairman of the Armenian studies program at Fresno State and one of the coordinators of the restoration, was pleased with the project.

"The Varez Samuelian statue of William Saroyan will ... be restored to its original state," Kouymjian said.

The mostly wooden monument is a cascade of huge, multicolored books, topped with a bronze bust of Saroyan, a Pulitzer Prize winner who died in 1981.

Samuelian, who died in 1995 at age 78, was a close friend of Saroyan's. The prolific, Armenian-born artist was known for celebrating his homeland and its heroes.



RICHARD DARBY - THE FRESNO BEE

Richard Barrientez carries a section of the "Tribute to Saroyan" statue to a truck at R and Mariposa streets in Fresno Wednesday. The sculpture will be restored at Fresno State.



## Armenian conference on campus Saturday

By Melissa Brown

*The Collegian*

A series of Armenian Studies lectures begins Saturday with four authorities speaking on Armenian history, and a rare, never before seen photo exhibit will be on display.

The Armenian Studies program will host the conference, entitled "The Armenian Massacres of Adana (1909-1999)," from 9:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

The conference is being held in response to the positive feedback that Armenian Studies professor Dickran Kouymjian received after Hilmar Kaiser, an authority on Armenian history, lectured last spring on the same subject.

Kouymjian, who speaks with the exuberance of a new professor, has been teaching Armenian Studies at Fresno State for 22 years. He was impressed with Kaiser's encyclopedic knowl-

edge of Armenian history, and invited him to return for the conference.

Kaiser, who is German, became interested in Armenia while researching another project, said Kouymjian. "Here is this German [Kaiser] that these Armenians admire, and he is laying this heavy trip on them to become involved," said Kouymjian. Kaiser is very passionate about the Armenian history, Kouymjian said.

The conference is the first of a five-part Armenian Studies lecture series that will continue through the middle of November.

The conference will be held in the Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191 in the University Business Center. Admission is free. For more information, contact the Armenian Studies Program office at 278-2669.

SOURCE Armenian Mirror-Spectator; Watertown, MADATE October 9, 1999SUBJECT Hank Saroyan at Fresno StatePAGE 1 of 1

## CSUF Banquet Features Hank Saroyan

FRESNO, Calif. — The Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno and its Advisory Board welcome Emmy-Award-winning writer, producer and director Hank Saroyan as their special guest at the 14th annual banquet.

Saroyan has worked for over 25 years in the entertainment industry spending the last 15 years primarily in family entertainment where he has been behind such acclaimed series as "Jim Henson's Muppet Babies" on CBS. He received an Emmy Award for his film adaptation of "The Parsley Garden," a short story by his late uncle, William Saroyan.

Hank Saroyan is among the most acclaimed and accomplished writer-producer-directors working in family entertainment in Hollywood today.

Saroyan will be speaking on "Madness in the Family? You Bet!" elaborating further on his insider remarks about the Saroyan clan and how they functioned. Last year he was an active participant in the Fresno State conference, "Saroyan at Ninety," organized by the Armenian Studies Program to mark William Saroyan's anniversary.

Also on the program will be Los Angeles-based percussionist Lynn Marie Vartan.

The banquet will be held Sunday, Oct. 10, in the Satellite Student Union on the CSUF campus. A wine reception will begin at 5 p.m. with dinner at 5:45 p.m.

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ARMENIAN STUDIES

PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Journal; Fresno, CA

DATE October 11, 1999

SUBJECT Dr. Kouymjian to Give Lecture

PAGE 1 of 1

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**Lecture**

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"Historic Armenia Today: A Report on  
Surviving Monuments" Thursday,  
Oct. 21 — Dr. Dickran Kouymjian,  
coordinator of the Armenian Studies  
Program, lectures at 7:30 p.m. in the  
Alice Peters Auditorium of the University  
Business Center.

## Dr. Isabel Kaprielian Will Keynote FAPC's Oct. 24 Harvest Banquet

FRESNO - Isabel Kaprielian, Ph.D., will deliver the keynote address and contralto Lorene Fletcher will offer a select medley of Armenian Negro Spirituals at the 102 Annual Harvest Banquet of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno.

The banquet will be held Oct. 24 at 1 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall, 430 South First Street at Huntington Blvd. The century-old event will feature traditional American Thanksgiving cuisine. Reservations are \$15 per adult, \$7 per child ages 13 and under, or \$100 for a table of eight.

Dr. Kaprielian was born in Hamilton, Ontario and earned a B.A. from McMaster University, following which she attended the University of Toronto and earned her Master of Education and Doctor of Philosophy degree. Her 1983 doctoral thesis examined Armenians in Ontario before 1915.

In 1996, Dr. Kaprielian was appointed the Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Professor for Modern Armenian and Immigration History at California State University, Fresno. Benefactors Henry and the late Victorian Kazan of Juno Beach, Florida, and Long Island, New York endowed the professorship to benefit the academic programs of the CSUF Department of History and Armenian Studies Program. Dr. Kaprielian's areas of concentration include the history of the Armenian Genocide, immigration to North America, and mod-



*Dr. Isabel Kaprielian*

ern Armenia.

In addition to the keynote address and vocal selections, other Harvest Sunday events will include a service of worship at 11 a.m., highlighted by the dedication of the Seropian/Azhderian Bibles, copies once owned by California's pioneering Armenian families, and given to the church by their descendant, Marilyn Joyce (Madon) Mosley; a pre-banquet exhibition of harvest oils and watercolors by Rafael Atoyan; and recognition of the silent servants of the church.

Nursery care for children age three and under will be available during the banquet. For more information, call Mary Lou Bagdasarian, (559) 255-6630, or FAPC, (559) 237-6638.

## Monumental Move

### Statue honoring the late author Saroyan is to be restored

FRESNO, CA - "Tribute to Saroyan," the whimsical but weathered 30-foot sculpture that pays homage to Fresno's most famous author, was moved from its downtown home Wednesday and shipped to Fresno State, where it will be restored.

The multifaceted work by the late Varaz Samuelian, a longtime friend of the late William Saroyan, is in near shambles, its paint peeling and metal rusting.

Once it's restored, city officials have expressed an interest in moving the statue to a downtown site, possibly to the Saroyan Theater, said Becky Reddehase of Community Medical Centers.

Since its dedication in 1993, the sculpture has sat on Community Medical Centers property, in

By Michael Krikorian

a lot across R Street from the hospital. There are plans to build a parking lot on the site for the new Community Regional Medical Center.

"The [restoration project] reflects a partnership between private and public sectors to preserve part of our Valley's heritage," said Philip Hinton, chief executive officer for Community Medical Centers.

The restoration will be headed by Professor Ed Gillum of the California State University Fresno art department.

Dickran Kouymjian, chairman of the Armenian studies program at Fresno State and one of the coordinators of the

restoration, was pleased with the project.

"The Varaz Samuelian statue of William Saroyan will . . . be restored to its original state," Kouymjian said.

The mostly wooden monument is a cascade of huge, multicolored books, topped off with a bronze bust of Saroyan, a Pulitzer Prize winner who died in 1981.

Samuelian, who died in 1996 at age 78, was a close friend of Saroyan. The prolific Armenian-born artist was known for celebrating his homeland and its heroes.

SOURCE The Collegian; Fresno, CADATE October 20, 1999SUBJECT Kouymjian on Historic ArmeniaPAGE 1 of 1

## Armenian lecture looks at monuments after genocide

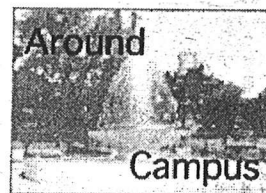
Genocide destroys an entire culture, but what happens to the buildings left after the destruction?

Thursday, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, coordinator of Armenian studies, will give a lecture entitled, "Historic Armenia Today: A Report on Surviving Monuments," at 7:30 p.m. in the Alice Peters Auditorium of the University Business Center.

"When I say 'Historic Armenia,' I mean the area now known as Turkey. Since the Armenian genocide in this area from 1915-1923, the Turks have 'De-Armenized' the place," said Kouymjian.

According to Kouymjian, the lecture will depict historical monuments, such as churches, both before the genocide occurred and at the present moment. Relevant issues include the monuments' preservation, as well as Turkish attitudes towards them, both political and societal.

*By Roy E. Giovannoni*



SOURCE California Courier; Glendale, CADATE October 21, 1999SUBJECT YSU-Fresno State Grant in BusinessPAGE 1 of 1

## **Fresno State Awarded \$104,440 Grant To Assist Yerevan State University**

FRESNO - Fresno State University has been awarded a U.S.

grant for \$104,440 to conduct a faculty development program in business and economics with Yerevan State, the University announced last week.

Fresno State professors will collaborate with their counterparts in Yerevan State University to develop curricula in the area of business and economics. Selected faculty from YSU will travel to Fresno State to engage in a series of workshops and seminars on business practices used in modern consulting. The advantages of establishing a business center at YSU modeled on the University Business Center at Fresno State will be discussed.

Project director for Fresno State is Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program, who applied for the grant, and associate Project Director Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of the ASP. Der Mugrdechian recently traveled to Armenia to strengthen the YSU-Fresno State sister-universities ties. The idea of a grant application arose out of discussions with YSU faculty.

The program has been designed to facilitate Armenian's development as a technologically advanced, democratic, and free-enterprise society.

Fresno State faculty from the Sid Craig School of Business will travel to YSU to provide a series of short, intensive courses in core areas of instruction.

SOURCE The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CADATE October 21, 1999SUBJECT Kouymjian to Lecture on Historic ArmeniaPAGE 1 of 1

## Lectures

**Historic Armenia Today: A report on surviving monuments**, 7:30 p.m. tonight, Alice Peters Auditorium, University Business Center, California State University, Fresno. Lecturer is Dickran Kouymjian, director of the CSUF Armenian Studies Program. Details: 278-2669.



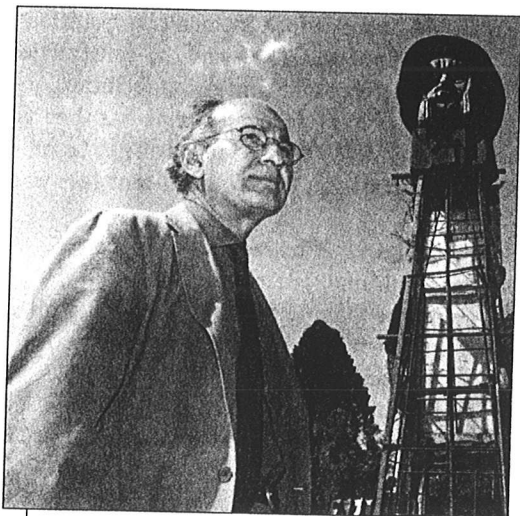
# Saroyan Statue Moved to Fresno State

By Mary Lisa Russell, University Relations

The "Tribute to William Saroyan" statue earlier this month was moved from downtown Fresno, to the Art and Design Department at California State University, Fresno, to be refurbished by art and design students under faculty supervision.

As part of a plan to save the 30-foot-tall Saroyan statue from neglect and the elements, Fresno State Armenian studies professor Dickran Kouymjian began a collaborative effort to preserve artist Varaz Samuelian's creation.

"We haven't really come up with a permanent display location yet," said Kouymjian. "I'm just thankful the statue is safe and that a firm commitment has been made to its preservation."



Watching as the crane dismantles the statue for relocation, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian is spearheading the effort for its restoration.

Kouymjian said it would have been ideal to restore the statue in its original location. Since this was not possible, Kouymjian felt it was important for the statue to be secure.

"Thanks to President John Welty, the statue of William Saroyan will be preserved on the Fresno State campus where it will be restored to its original state," said Kouymjian.

Under the direction of sculpture professor Ed Gillum, students from the Department of Art and Design at Fresno State will begin working on the statue's restoration. Kouymjian said the students will receive special Armenian studies scholarships for their efforts.

"The students will mostly be doing clean-up and refurbishing," said Gillum. Typically, students majoring in art and design work in such areas as ceramics, sculpture, painting, drawing, and a host of other disciplines. Gillum felt this would be a great opportunity for the students to build on their expertise.

"The students are not coming into this as experts, but they will learn a lot," said Gillum. "That's what we, as faculty, are supposed to be doing here - educating them above and beyond the norm, and giving them professional and educational opportunities."

Kouymjian said Gillum was a likely choice for refurbishing the statue. "He is considered an expert in his field."



Now in the care of Ed Gillum and his students, the Saroyan statue will be refurbished.

Thanks to Kouymjian, the Armenian Studies Program, and the university, Fresno State has acquired the majority of Samuelian's art collection. According to Kouymjian, there are hundreds of sculptures, paintings and sketches currently in storage. He said the collection needs a permanent home and needs to be properly catalogued.

Samuelian, who died in 1995, was best known for his monumental bronze statue of David of Sassoun, which resides in Fresno's Courthouse Park.

City officials have expressed an interest in providing an appropriate location for the William Saroyan statue, possibly in a high-traffic area that would showcase it when it is completely refurbished.

Sites that have been suggested are downtown near the William Saroyan Theatre or the Selland Arena.

## Saroyan statue: restoring a Fresno landmark

by Mary Lisa Russell

The familiar "Tribute to William Saroyan" statue earlier this month was moved from downtown Fresno to the Art and Design Department at Fresno State, to be refurbished by art and design students under faculty supervision.

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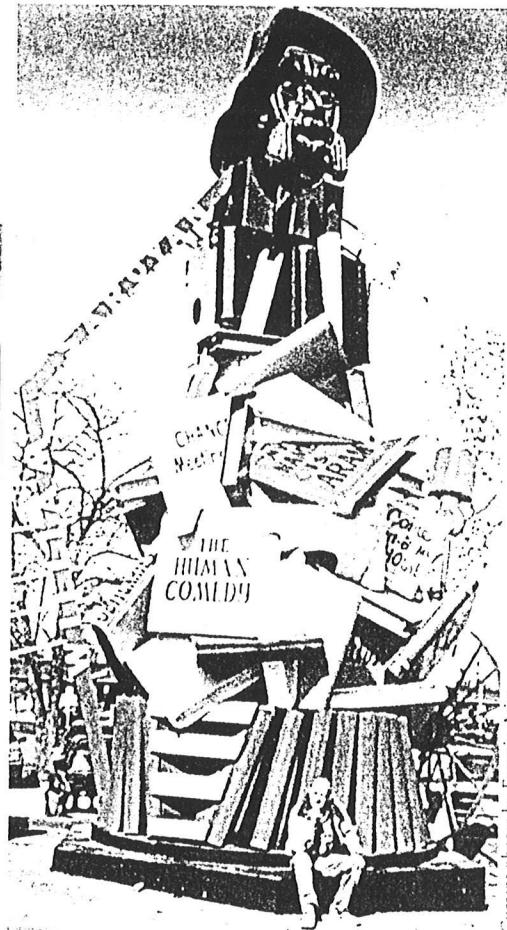
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*Clockwise from top left: Art Professor Ed Gillum stands amid the sculpture's remnants. Dr. Dickran Kouymjian (Armenian Studies), who is spearheading the effort for restoration, watched as a crane dismantled the statue. The whimsical sculpture towers over its artist, the late Varaz Samuelian.*

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*Continued on page 2*

### Saroyan statue *continued from cover*

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SOURCE The Journal; Fresno, CA DATE October 25, 1999SUBJECT Upcoming Events at Fresno State PAGE 1 of 1

### Lectures

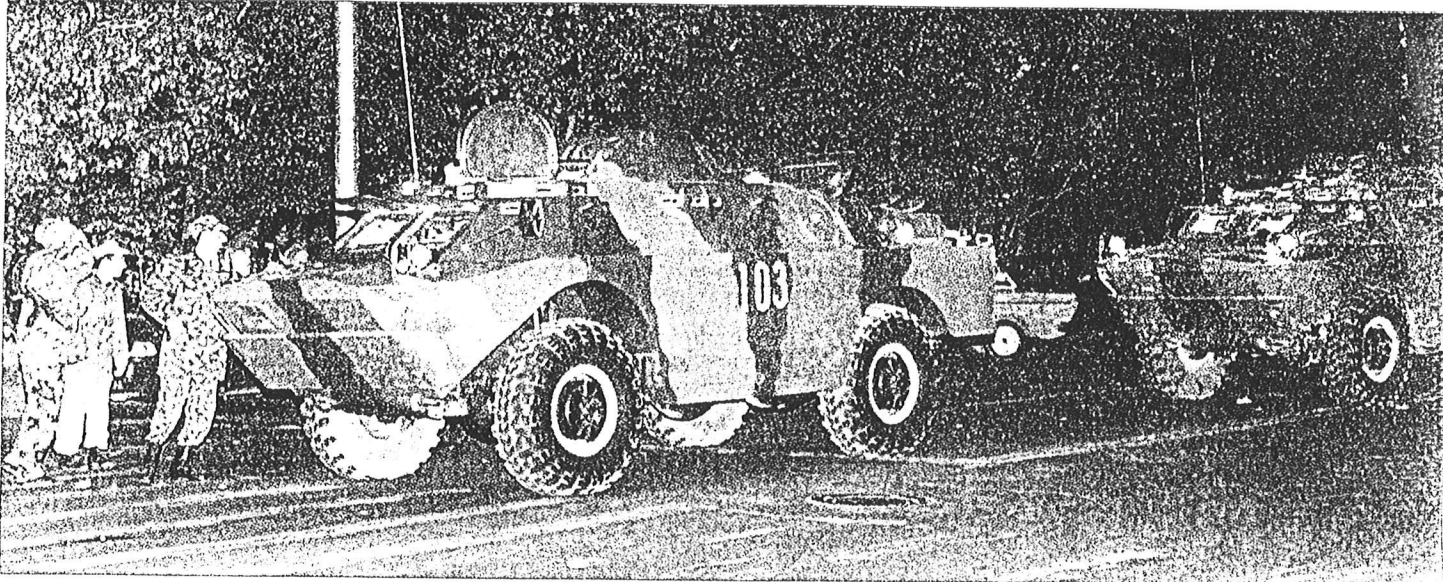
"A Unique Papyrus on Learning Greek in Late Antique Egypt" Thursday, Nov. 4 — Dr. James Clackson, Cambridge reasons that Muslim women have been increasingly returning to wearing veils. The lecture is from noon to 1 p.m. in University Center 200.

"The Election of a Catholicos: A Report" Tuesday, Nov. 16 — Barlow Der Mugerdechian, Armenian Studies Program, reports on his recent trip to Armenia to help elect the new Catholicos. The lecture will be held in Industrial Technology, room 101.

**Friends of the Madden Library** Friday, Nov. 19 — Madera High School teacher Bill Coate speaks on "From Mud Flat Cove to Gold to Statehood: California 1840-1850" at 6 p.m. in the Library. For more information, call 278-2403.

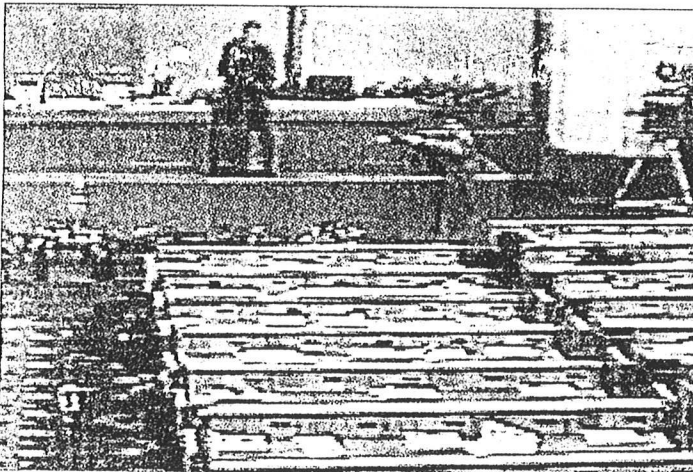
### TRIUMPH, TRAGEDY IN ARMENIA

For more coverage, see Pages A12-13; on the Web: [www.fresnobee.com](http://www.fresnobee.com)



Armored personnel carriers line up in front of the Armenian parliament building in Yerevan after the assassination Wednesday of Armenia's prime minister. MARK CROSSI — THE FRESNO BEE

# Day of joy and sadness



In this image from television, a gunman, near the podium, opens fire Wednesday in parliament in Yerevan, Armenia. Prime Minister Vazgen Sarkisian, right, was shot and killed along with seven government officials. The gunmen, at least two of them wearing overcoats and berets, charged into the meeting while members of parliament were questioning government ministers on a range of issues, including the peace process with neighboring Azerbaijan over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh.



## Armenian leaders gunned down; hostages released from parliament

By MICHAEL KRICKORIAN  
THE FRESNO BEE

**YEREVAN, Armenia** — Within a few minutes and a few miles from where the Armenian church selected its new pontiff, gunmen with automatic weapons burst into the capital's parliament Wednesday and assassinated the prime minister and seven government officials, adding a bloody chapter to the history of this embattled, ancient land.

The attackers surrendered early today, releasing dozens of hostages, after coming to terms with the nation's president, officials said.

Vazgen Sarkisian, 40, considered the most powerful politician in Armenia, was gunned down shortly after 4 p.m. (5 a.m. PDT) when four or five men armed with AK-47s calmly opened fire in a bloodbath captured live by government television cameras.

Nearly 18 hours later, the gunmen gave up their weapons and were taken by police to the Ministry of the Interior for questioning, according to the president's office.



Karekin Nersessian

The breakthrough came after President Robert Kocharian negotiated with the gunmen's leader and promised they would be given a fair trial.

There was no immediate word on the condition of the hostages, mainly lawmakers and senior officials, who had been held overnight in the parliament building.

"It's over. It's over," said Antranig Hovannessian, spokesman for the Foreign Ministry.

The shooting occurred about an hour before delegates from cities around the world, including Fresno, selected Karekin Nersessian as the next Catholicos of All Armenians. The election took place about 10 miles from the parliament at the 4th century church of Holy Etchmiadzin.

"Oh my god, I don't believe this is happening," said Shakh Karakashian.

Please see **Attack**, Page A1\*



# Attack: Gunmen claim actions start of coup

Continued from Page A1

of the delegation from Fresno. "On this day of all days. How sad."

Also confirmed dead in the attack were Parliament Speaker Karen Demirchian, Energy Minister Leonid Petrosian, Yuri Bakhshian, a senior minister, and at least three members of parliament, authorities said.

Hundreds of soldiers and dozens of armored personnel carriers ringed the government complex on Marshall Bagramian Street.

The attackers said their actions were "patriotic" and that the government had failed its people, a released hostage said.

Two hours after the shooting began, several badly shaken hostages were released and quickly whisked away.

Although the city was stunned by the shootings, there was no panic in the streets.

The public was allowed to watch the scene from across the street, and members of the media strolled in the middle of the street less than 15 feet from the gates of the compound.

Though the gunmen claimed their actions were the beginning of a coup d'etat that would topple the government, no one seemed to be taking that claim seriously.

"That this is a coup d'etat is ridiculous," said Vahe Gabrielian, press secretary for Kocharian. "This is just the act of a handful of individuals."

The gunmen, at least two of them wearing overcoats and berets, charged into the meeting while members of parliament were questioning government ministers on a range of issues, including the peace process with neighboring Azerbaijan over the disputed region of Norgano-Karabakh.

One of the gunmen, a former journalist named Nairi Hounanian, began cursing and yelling as he entered the chambers.

"These people have sucked on our blood," Hounanian said as he unleashed a torrent of death from his Automatic Kalashnikov-47 assault rifle, according to a local reporter who was covering the parliament meeting.

Throughout the night, on a street nicknamed Shish Kebab Lane, the talk was of the shootings, but the action was of eating and drinking.

The restaurants were full of people. At the bar of the city's premier hotel, it was all cognac, coffee and conversation.

However, if there was a television nearby, it was tuned to the news.

Kocharian was sped to the parliament building after he heard of the shootings and was said to be organizing the security forces. Armenian commandos, veterans from the war in Nagorno-Karabakh, were on the scene, and snipers were in position on nearby roofs.

One of the largest questions looming alongside the why of it was the how of it: How could four or five men with Kalashnikov assault rifles enter the parliament of a country that has been rocked by violence throughout its history?

One government official from the foreign ministry office, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that though Armenia has been in countless wars, this kind of violence was rare.

"We don't have this kind of shootings here," he said. "But obviously, we are going to look into how this could happen."

Russian President Boris Yeltsin canceled his vacation on the Black Sea and returned to Moscow, where he denounced the killings.

Hounanian, 34, who sources said was a rabble rouser as a student at Yerevan State University in the 1980s, is a former member of the Dashnak political party.

However, the Dashnaks, who are not in power in the Yerevan government, kicked out Hounanian because he was said to be "immoral," a source said.

Other than Hounanian, the identities of the other shooters were not known.

Armenia has been plagued by a variety of economic woes and blockades stemming from its victory over Azerbaijan in Norgano-Karabakh.

On the streets of the city, the mood ranged from tears to disdain for the fallen leadership.

"They were victims, but in some ways, it was just," said Emea Karprielian, 70, who blamed the government for the lack of jobs. But just down the street, another man was in tears. He had lost a friend when parliament member Armenag Armen-

gian was gunned down.

"He didn't have anything in his hands, and they just shot him," said Albert Movesesian, a member of the writers union.

"I can't imagine anyone being that crazy to just go in and start killing everyone," said Seda Melkonian, wife of the late, legendary Armenian army commander Monte Melkonian of Visalia, the hero of the war in Karabakh.

Local television replayed the scene in which the gunmen appear to fire randomly with the AK-47s as parliament members duck behind desks. Sources said the prime minister was the main target and was fired upon from about 6 feet away.

The shooting brought a tragic note to what had been a beautifully spiritual day in this country as Nersessian, the archbishop of the largest diocese in Armenia, was selected to lead the Armenian Apostolic Church as catholicos.

The joy of the occasion, however, turned ominous when, at the church of Holy Etchmiadzin, where only delegates and candidates were allowed inside, rumors began to circulate in the church courtyard that there had been a shooting at the parliament.

Dozens of journalists covering the election left the serene setting and rushed to the chaotic scene outside the parliament.

Sarkisian, who took office in June, was the country's former defense minister and is said to be far more powerful than the country's president. He was said to be firm on Armenia's position of Karabakh, not wanting to return any seized land to Azerbaijan.

The foreign minister of Azerbaijan, Tofik Joulfougarov, resigned Monday over what was said to be a disagreement with his country's president.

The Azerbaijan government has been under intense pressure and criticism for losing the war in the early and mid-1990s against the Armenians in Karabakh.

Many blamed the Armenian government's poor performance on having been under the influence of the Soviet's communism system for too long.

"The communism was in the government's blood for 70 years and it's going to take a generation to get it out," said Dr. Rostom Hrant Nakashian from Amman, Jordan.

The Armenian people have been rocked by unemployment rates said to soar as high as 50%. And many of those who do work are paid extremely low wages. Ella Malkhassyan, an English

schoolteacher, earns \$30 a month.

"It may be nice in the city, nice restaurant people, well-dressed, but you go outside the central city and things are very bad and the government has not been doing anything for them," said Malkhassyan. "I wish the catholicos was running the country. You go outside and take a look."

Indeed, on the outskirts of the city, away from the tree-lined avenues and sidewalk cafes, people live in grim conditions.

Less than 10 minutes from the parliament is a complex of high-rise housing projects that make the notorious Cabrini Green housing project in Chicago seem cozy.

Known as "Bangladesh" because of its desperate living conditions, it is said to be a breeding ground for people who hate the government.

A state funeral for the shooting victims is expected to be held Saturday, one day before the scheduled ceremony to install the new catholicos.

"This was supposed to be a day to celebrate, a day to rejoice," said Gohar Avakian, a hotel worker.

"Instead, it's just another day to cry."

## Valley Armenians face homeland's triumph, tragedy

Joy of a leading archbishop's election as catholicos turns to horror over assassinations.

BY JOHN G. TAYLOR  
THE FRESNO BEE

The Valley's Armenian community plunged through a helter-skelter of emotions Wednesday — joy, anxiety and dismay — as a pinnacle moment of spiritual renewal in Armenia was marred by mass political assassination.

There was elation: Karekin Nersessian, archbishop of the largest diocese in Armenia, was elected the catholicos of all Armenians.

But the mood swung to horror as well as fear for the safety of loved ones as a cluster of radicals mowed down Armenia's prime minister and six other top officials on the floor of the nation's parliament in Yerevan.

"It casts a sad pall over what would have been a historical event," said Berge Bulbulian, a retired Fresno farmer.

Some saw the timing as no accident.

"If I was disgruntled and wanted to make a show, I'd have chosen a moment when the most important people in the diaspora were in attendance," said Dickran Kouymjian, director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno.

At least seven Valley people — clergy and lay leaders — are in Armenia to help select the new catholicos. Arra Avakian, Dr. Varouj Altebarmakian, Armen Devejian, Allan Y. Jendian and Barlow Der Mugrdchian are all members of Fresno's St. Paul Armenian Church. Also in Armenia is the Rev. Sahag Kaishian of St. Mary Armenian Church in the southern Fresno County town of Yettem. Araxie Menendian of the Yettem church is an alternate to the convocation.

Relatives in the Valley battled limited phone service, time differences and Internet hook-ups to determine that their friends and family were apparently safe and well.

"I got an e-mail from Armen Devejian. It simply said: 'We're safe,'" said Steve Adams, a deacon at St. Paul church.

Rosemary Jendian of Fresno stayed tuned to CNN after her husband, Allan, called her from Holy Etchmiadzin, the church a few miles outside Yerevan where the delegates gathered to select the catholicos.

"He was very reassuring," she said. "But he was quite upset about what had happened."

Lena Altebarmakian said she was "absolutely relieved" when she awakened her husband by phone.

Dr. Varouj Altebarmakian, chief of the medical staff at Fresno's Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, told his wife "things were calm in the city. These people, the terrorists, were trying to get access to TV. They were trying to get the masses behind them."

There was disagreement among Valley Armenians as to whether the slayings were related directly to the religious convocation or were an outcome of unrelated political intrigues.

"People who do this kind of stuff don't care one bit what the church is up to," said Adams, whose duty Wednesday was to field media calls on behalf of St. Paul church.

"I can only speculate that this is retaliation because some faction's candidate did not get elected," said George Ouzounian, a Visalia commercial real estate broker. Ouzounian is parish council chairman of St. Mary church in Yettem.

"The church and state have been historically side by side in Armenia," he said. "Separation of church and state is something alien to them."

"This is the work of a radical faction. This is not typical of Armenia or Armenians."

The combination of the

breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, catastrophic earthquakes and the off-and-on war with neighboring Azerbaijan over the largely Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh has taxed Armenia's political, economic and spiritual mettle.

"After 70 years of Soviet rule, it has been a difficult transition into a republican democracy. The U.S. wasn't built in 10 years," said Georgia Avakian, who has been unable to reach her husband, Arra, in Armenia.

"It is the best of the 15 [former Soviet] republics. But it's a post-Soviet system," said Fresno State's Kouymjian. "Corruption is just too easy. The economic disparities between the haves and the have-nots ... supposedly precipitated this."

The Rev. Bernard Guekguezian, pastor of Fresno's First Armenian Presbyterian Church, described slain Prime Minister Vazgen Sarkisian as an ultranationalist.

"He had his own Mafia, his own militia," said Guekguezian, who spent time with Sarkisian three years ago. "He was one who took some of our evangelical leaders to jail."

He described parliament speaker Karen Demirchian, a former communist boss who was also killed, as very popular.

Discontent is rampant.

Said Guekguezian: "There is hunger. There is want. They're expecting too much from the government. They feel the government is filled with graft."

Nearly lost in Wednesday's maze of events was the election of Nersessian, who is still scheduled to be formally consecrated into church leadership in Sunday services.

Said Lena Altebarmakian: "He is a strong leader. At this time in our history, we need a strong leader. We need someone who will educate us spiritually. He will guide the country in the right direction."

## ABOUT ARMENIA

Facts about The Republic of Armenia, where gunmen assassinated the prime minister and other high-level officials Wednesday.

**GEOGRAPHY:** Armenia is a mountainous country covering 11,500 square miles in the south Caucasus region of southwest Asia. Slightly smaller than Maryland, Armenia borders Georgia, Turkey, Azerbaijan and Iran.

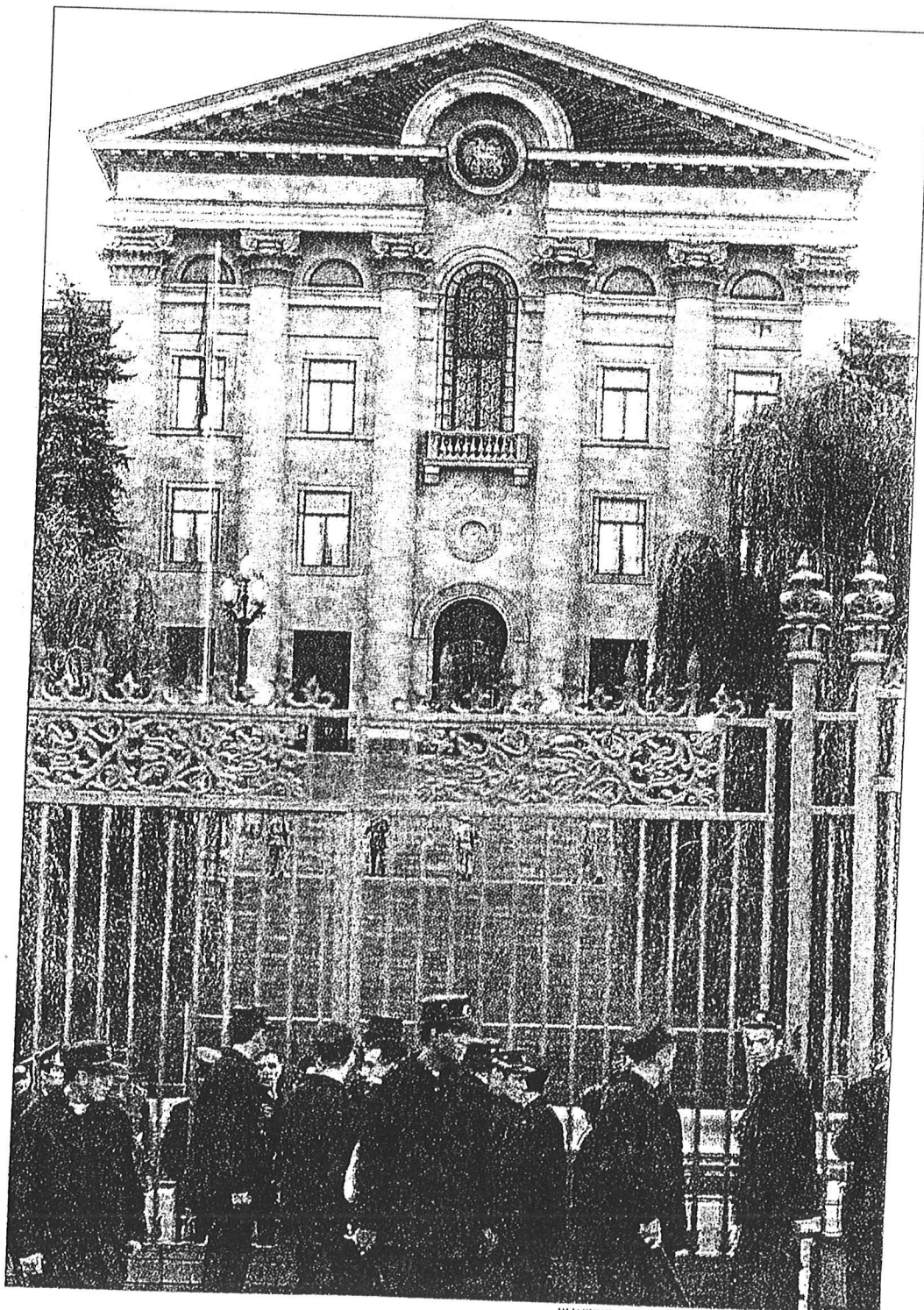
**PEOPLE:** Armenia's 3.5 million people are mostly ethnic Armenians, though the country also includes Azerbaijani, Russian and Kurdish minorities. The majority of Armenians are members of the Armenian Orthodox church.

**HISTORY:** Armenia was one of the 15 independent republics that emerged from the collapse of the Soviet Union in December 1991. Armenia fought a major war in the early 1990s with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh, a separatist enclave populated by ethnic Armenians but located inside Azerbaijan. Despite a 1994 truce, occasional skirmishes have continued over Nagorno-Karabakh, and internationally brokered talks to end the conflict have stalled.

**POLITICS:** Armenia is led by President Robert Kocharian, a nationalist and technocrat who took office after presidential elections in 1998. Kocharian appointed Vazgen Sarkisian to the No. 2 spot of premier in June after then-Prime Minister Armen Darbinian resigned.

**ECONOMY:** Armenia, a food importer, has small mineral deposits of gold and bauxite. The conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh and the breakup of the Soviet Union contributed to a severe economic decline in the early 1990s, but the government responded with an IMF-sponsored economic program that has helped spur a recovery. Many Armenians are heavily dependent on remittances from relatives abroad.

Source: Associated Press



PHOTOS BY MARK CROSSI — THE FRESNO BEE



SOURCE The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CA

DATE October 28, 1999

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

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Hundreds of police and military are stationed outside the Armenian parliament building after news spread of an assassination. The public was allowed to watch the scene from across the street.





# Catholicos elected by a large margin



PHOTOS BY MARK CROSSE - THE FRESNO BEE

Crowds of people wait outside the Holy Etchmiadzin Church while a vote is being taken to see who the next Catholicos of All Armenians will be.



Priests, deacons and visitors listen intently while the votes are being counted inside the Holy Etchmiadzin Church. When the voting is tallied, Karekin Nersessian receives 263 votes to 176 for Nerses Bozabalian. Eleven votes are tossed out as not valid. The catholicos is traditionally as important to the Armenian people as any elected political officials in the United States.

## Karekin Nersessian is voted in

BY MICHAEL KRIKORIAN  
THE FRESNO BEE

On a day when spiritual healing was desperately needed, the 132nd Catholicos of All Armenians was elected in an elaborate, ancient ritual that dates back 1,698 years.

Karekin Nersessian, the archbishop of the largest diocese in Armenia, was elected catholicos by a large margin. After Sunday, when he is consecrated, he will be known simply as the catholicos Karekin II, in deference to the man he will replace, Karekin I, who died in June.

Although overshadowed by the shooting deaths at the Armenian parliament, where gunmen killed the prime minister and several other key government officials, the election was big news here. In taxis and hotels and on the streets, people wanted to know whether Karekin Nersessian had beaten out his only competition, Nerses Bozabalian, the acting catholicos.

It was clear as the ballots were tallied that he had.

The delegation from Fresno, most of them supporters of Nersessian, confident their man would win, were planning a party as the outcome became apparent.

"I've got smoked salmon and See's candy already, and we will stop and get cognac and more food," said a jubilant Shakeh Karakashian of St. Paul Armenian Church on First Street in Fresno.

The catholicos is traditionally as important to the people as any elected political official here.

Shortly after 2 p.m., 450 delegates milled around the front of Armenia's most sacred site, the fourth century church of Holy Etchmiadzin. One by one, their names were called out and they entered the imposing cathedral.

When the voting was tallied, Nersessian received 263 votes to 176 for Bozabalian. Eleven votes were tossed out as not valid. "It's a great honor to be here," said Father Sahak Kaishian, the priest of St. Mary Armenian Church in Yettum, one of the six delegates here from the San Joaquin Valley. "Armenians all over the world look to the catholicos as a spiritual leader."

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, another delegate, said he was getting "goose bumps" as he walked toward the church.

"This is it," Mugrdechian said as he walked with fellow Fresno delegates Varoujan Aldebarmakian, Levon Karakashian, Armen Devejian and Allan Y. Jendian. "There is no other occasion that brings so many of the Armenian clergy together."

Der Mugrdechian, a lecturer at California State University, Fresno, said he was looking forward to sharing the experience with his students.

The grand ceremony in which Karekin II will be consecrated as catholicos is scheduled to go as planned Sunday at Holy Etchmiadzin, despite Wednesday's parliament shootings.

Said Veekar Vetlanjian, a cab driver who works in a rough section of Yerevan: "We need him more than ever."



Armen Devejian is one of several members of a delegation from Fresno, which is in Armenia to witness an elaborate, ancient ritual that dates back 1,698 years.



Barlow Der Mugrdechian, a lecturer at California State University, Fresno, said he was looking forward to sharing the experience with his students.

"I've got smoked salmon and See's candy already and we will stop and get cognac and more food."

— Shakeh Karakashian, of St. Paul Armenian Church in Fresno

## Armenian leader made favorable

## impression in Washington

Radanovich says Vazgen Sarkisian thanked Congress for its support.

BY MICHAEL DOYLE  
BEE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Barely one month ago, Armenian Prime Minister Vazgen Sarkisian came to Washington to thank Congress for its support.

Sarkisian, shot and killed Wednesday while speaking in the Armenian parliament, made the diplomatic rounds in late September. On Capitol Hill, that meant the hard-line nationalist and former Soviet propaganda official was praising the work of Republican and Democratic lawmakers who have aided his country for years.

"He was just showing his gratitude for the help he's gotten," said Rep. George Radanovich, R-Mariposa.

He described Sarkisian as a "very warm," stocky, black-haired man who spoke English haltingly. The two politicians had their picture taken together — a trophy for a congressman who represents a large Armenian-American population.

Radanovich, a member of the House International Relations Committee who has visited the capital

Valley's congressional delegation, has long tended to the region's politically active Armenian-American constituents.

On his first visit as prime minister, Sarkisian also met with the World Bank, State Department officials, Vice President Al Gore and members of the Armenian-American community, in addition to his country's champions in Congress.

A State Department spokesman said Sarkisian, though prompting "a lot of concern" after his election as prime minister, turned out to be a pragmatic politician who expressed high hopes for opening Armenia to greater U.S. investment.

The State Department official said Armenia hopes to join the World Trade Organization by early next year in order to increase trade and investment opportunities. The official said Sarkisian's message was greeted sympathetically by the Clinton administration.

Radanovich and other Valley lawmakers have tried many times to pass congressional resolutions calling attention to the "Armenian genocide" that took place in the dying days of the Ottoman Empire. That effort has been stymied by opposition from successive administrations and other lawmakers concerned about antagonizing Turkey — a NATO ally of the United States.



George Radanovich

Yerevan, was at a loss to guess a motive for the shooting. He said the government was considered to be at its most stable since the end of Soviet rule nearly a decade ago.

"We were surprised because this is one of the most unified governments in Armenia since 1991," he said. "It doesn't seem like it would happen in such a unified government."

President Clinton said he was saddened by the attack.

"I condemn the senseless act against individuals actively engaged in building democracy in their country," the president said in a statement.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott was in the Armenian capital Wednesday to take part in talks about Nagorno-Karabakh, the embattled Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan. Talbott left just hours before the shooting.

Later Wednesday, Radanovich, Rep. James Rogan, R-Pasadena, and others introduced a House resolution reiterating the "strong alliance" between the United States and Armenia, and deploring the prime minister's murder.

Radanovich, like the rest of the San Joaquin

More recently, Radanovich has introduced a measure calling on the United States to collect all available records on the murderous events that took place between 1915 and 1923 and to forward them to the Holocaust Memorial Museum and to the Armenian Genocide Museum in Yerevan.

The Armenian strength on Capitol Hill is reflected in the fact that more than 80 House members have signed on to the measure, which contains highly critical references to Turkey.

Sarkisian, in his recent Capitol Hill address, also had more tangible reasons for thanking his congressional allies. The most recent foreign aid bill includes roughly \$90 million for Armenia.

Equally important, and over the opposition of the State Department, Congress has retained a provision that blocks direct U.S. aid to the government of Armenia's neighboring rival, Azerbaijan.

"Armenia is one of the highest per-capita recipients of foreign aid," a State Department official noted Wednesday, speaking on condition of anonymity. "We've always preferred not to have Congress specify where we spend the money."

■ The Associated Press contributed to this report.



## Assassination shocks local Armenian community

By John Dabkovich  
The Collegian

Wednesday's assassination of Armenian Prime Minister Vazgen Sarkisian and four other senior officials in the capital city of Yerevan, came as a shock to many in the local Armenian community.

Dickran Kouymjian, director of the Armenian Studies Program, said the bloodbath in the parliament building was totally unexpected. Of the assassins, he said, "No one feared them. No one feared anything."

He pointed out that the gun-

men gained entrance to the building by showing press passes and were given access to the prime minister with relative ease.

Arakel Arisian, ASI President and member of the Armenian Student's Organization, called the incident a tragedy and "a pretty shocking occurrence."

Dorothy Shamshoian, an Armenian American from Fresno, said she and her husband were horrified when they heard of the assassination, but were not surprised.

"We realize there are a lot of

terrorists in the world and it could happen anywhere," she said.

Although the shooting came as a shock to Kouymjian, he said he could understand the gunmen's frustrations. Kouymjian described Armenia as a country where "98 percent of the people watch 2 percent make all the money."

Reports from Armenia said the gunmen called the attack a coup, but the Armenian government called them an isolated group of terrorists.

The government is in total

control.

Kouymjian agreed with that assessment.

He has received phone calls from many people, including fellow Armenian studies instructor Barlow Der Mugerdechian who is in Armenia for the election of the new head of the Armenian Church. He described the scene as being calm and controlled.

Both Kouymjian and Arisian expressed hope that the assassinations will not cause unrest in Armenia.

"I hope the country will rally

behind the president," Kouymjian said.

Arisian was more optimistic. "I'm confident the government being a full functioning democracy, will handle it efficiently," Arisian said.

Earlier this week, the new head of the church was elected and will be consecrated on Sunday.

Kouymjian speculates the attackers were trying to send a political message and the electronic media in the country may have played a role in the timing of the attack.

## Massacre overshadows election of catholicos

BY MICHAEL KRICKORIAN  
THE FRESNO BEE

YEREVAN, Armenia — New details of the massacre in this nation's parliament surfaced Friday as the government prepared for a state funeral for the prime minister and seven others slain by nationalist gunmen.

Meanwhile, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, who was in Armenia shortly before the attack, returned Friday to offer U.S. help to cope with the tragedy.

"The search for peace in the re-



Vaskin  
Sarkisian

gion will continue," Talbott said after meeting with Armenian President Robert Kocharian.

Funerals for Prime Minister Vaskin Sarkisian, parliament Speaker Karen Demirchian and six others is scheduled for Sunday. The funerals will delay until Thursday the consecration of the new catholicos of the Armenian Apostolic Church.



Karen  
Demirchian

A delegation from the Central Valley's Armenian community took part in Wednesday's selection of Archbishop Karekin Nersessian, now known as Karekin II. The delegates were casting their ballots as the shootings erupted at the parliament building several miles away.

"It would be inappropriate to have the ceremony during the period of

mourning," said the archbishop of Germany, Karekin Bekdjian, a close friend of speaker Demirchian. "We need to wait for more tranquility.

"Right now our hearts, my heart, is full of much sorrow."

Adding more grief to tragedy, Sarkisian's mother, Anahid, died Thursday of a heart attack, a family friend said.

Nairi Hounanian, 34, a journalist for State Television, along with brother Karen, uncle Vram and three others, are charged with

Please see Massacre, Page A24

## Massacre: Prime minister's funeral set for Sunday

Continued from Page A1  
terrorism and attempting to weaken state power.

A parliament member who witnessed the incident said the gunmen were looking specifically for two men — Sarkisian and Interior Minister Souren Abrahamian.

Sarkisian was spotted quickly and riddled with bullets.

But the gunmen did not know what Abrahamian looked like and began a cold-blooded hunt for him.

"They were going around asking us, yelling, 'Where is the minister of interior?'" said the parliament member, who still fears for his life and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

In the chaos, a gallant man approached the attackers. He was Haik Nikoghosyan, the minister of health, a doctor, and he could not stand by idly as people lay bleeding and in desperate need of medical attention.

"They told him he could take the wounded out one at a time, but he had to come back in," the lawmaker said.

So Nikoghosyan began dragging the wounded along the marbled floor to safety, then returning for more. After several

trips, he saw the interior minister lying flat on his belly.

But Abrahamian was not wounded, just playing dead.

"He told them, 'This man is wounded. I need to get him out.' They said OK, and he dragged him out and he never came back," the parliament member said.

Eight people were wounded in the attack, but it was not known how many people were rescued by the doctor.

Abrahamian submitted his resignation Thursday, but Kocharian has not accepted it, presidential spokesman Vage Gabrielian said.

The assassinations have sent a shudder throughout this troubled region, from here to Baku, Istanbul and Moscow.

"The events in Yerevan may result in aggravation of tension in our uneasy region," said Bulent Ejevit, the government leader of Turkey, which aided Azerbaijan in its war against Armenia in the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Meanwhile, many of the delegates to the catholicos election were disappointed they would miss the consecration because they could not delay their flights home. They were also saddened that the election was overshadowed by violence.

"I am really disappointed it turned out

this way," said Nourbar Markarian, a Californian from La Jolla. "I was hoping for a more festive time."

Dr. Varoujan Aldebarmakian of Fresno, the chief physician at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, must go home to attend a convention in the United States.

"I had told Karekin that if he becomes catholicos I wanted to serve on the altar because it has been a lifelong dream of mine and he said, 'You got it,'" Aldebarmakian said. "But the French have a saying: C'est la vie."

Barlow Der Mugrdchian, a delegate from Fresno who also will miss the ceremony, believes Oct. 27, 1999, will go down as one of the most important dates of 20th century Armenia.

"On that one day you had the election of the holiest person of the Armenian church and the murders of virtually all the leadership of the government," said Der Mugrdchian, a lecturer of Armenian studies at Fresno State. "I could go through the rest of the semester talking about this trip."

He said the day will rank next to the genocide of 1915, the establishment of the short-lived Armenian state in 1918 and the independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

Overshadowed by the killings has been Nersessian, who took the name Karekin II in honor of his successor, Karekin I, who died of cancer in June.

The new catholicos has a warm, engaging smile, speaks several languages, including English, and is said to be a strict administrator.

A delegate from Fresno recalled the scene Wednesday afternoon when Karekin II was giving a speech inside the sacred church just minutes after being elected.

The archbishop of Canada handed him a green piece of paper. Karekin II appeared annoyed and pushed away the note. But the Canadian archbishop persisted and the new catholicos read the paper to himself. He turned pale.

"We knew it was something bad, but when he said the prime minister had been assassinated and the speaker wounded, it was, 'Oh my God,'" said Deacon Armen Devedjian of St. Paul Armenian Church. "You're already at an emotional peak, and then you hear this."

Devedjian's first thought was that gunmen also would come after the new church leader. The archbishops swarmed around Karekin and ushered him to safety 500 feet away in a secured building on the church grounds, Devedjian said.

## Ex-Soviet republics still linked by violence

Growing political polarization threatens democratic hopes.

BY JUDITH INGRAM  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW — The assassination of Armenia's prime minister during an assault on parliament this week was the latest convulsion of violence to grip the former republics of the Soviet Union as increasingly radical fringe groups take up arms.

In some republics, the violence has erupted between secular governments and religious movements.

In others, bloody conflicts have arisen between political opponents. Hopes that democracy would flourish across the former Soviet Union are threatened by growing political polarization.

Many radical groups have taken root in the economic desperation that has gripped much of the region since the Soviet collapse in 1991.

"Our fathers and grandfathers, who spared no effort and sacrificed themselves to build this country, have been doomed to a half-starved and miserable existence," Nairi Unanian, leader of the gunmen who killed Armenian Prime Minister Vazgen Sarkisian, said in a televised statement.

"Thousands of our children have no school books and shoes to go to school, our economy has been ruined, social unrest has risen to an unbearable level and there is a looming threat of losing our independence."



Armenian lawmakers leave after a meeting Friday in Yerevan with President Robert Kocharian, who urged them to elect a new speaker.

It was not clear whether Unanian and the other four gunmen who burst into the Armenian parliament Wednesday represented a wider group. But their message would resonate with many in Armenia, one of the poorest nations to emerge from the Soviet Union.

Poverty has toppled successive governments in Christian Armenia; in the Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union it has fueled militant religious movements that have challenged state authorities.

The last few months alone have seen a violent incursion by a radical Islamic group into Kyrgyzstan, which had been the most stable former Soviet republic

in Central Asia; a militant Islamic offensive in the southern Russian region of Dagestan, which drew Russia back into war with separatist Chechnya; and a series of terrorist bombings in Russian cities that killed about 300 people and were blamed on Islamic fighters from Dagestan and Chechnya.

Caucasus expert Alexander Iskandaryan said high unemployment among young people, against a background of widespread corruption, made republics such as Dagestan ripe for the spread of radical Islam.

"All of this leads to the popularity of slogans about social equality, unmasking of corrupt officials and criticism of the so-

cial mullahs, who are saluted by luxury and hypocrisy," Iskandaryan wrote in the Moscow Times this week.

Earlier this year, terrorists unleashed car bomb attacks against several government buildings in the Central Asian nation of Uzbekistan, where the secular government of President Islam Karimov has been doing its utmost to stifle what it considers a growing threat of militant Islamic fundamentalism. The government has banned political parties based on religion and prohibits the teaching of religion in schools.

Human rights advocates say that such a climate of confrontation has encouraged the growth of radical movements — especial-

ly in the Central Asian nations.

"The real problem is that the population is experiencing extremely difficult circumstances and there are very few avenues for them to address their discontent," said John Schoerlein, chairman of the Central Asian Forum of Harvard University.

The former Soviet republics are united by growing ties between politicians and criminals and easy access to weapons.

"Huge stocks of weapons have been accumulated almost everywhere and there is no way of preventing them from spreading," said Nikolai Petrov, a political analyst at the Moscow office of the Carnegie Endowment for Peace.

## Cambridge professor to speak on ancient writing

By Matthew Maroot  
*The Collegian*

The discovery and translation of an ancient Egyptian papyrus containing the oldest example of Armenian writing will be the topic of a lecture Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Alice Peters Auditorium.

Dr. James Clackson, a classics professor from Cambridge University, will present an illustrated lecture titled "An Armenian Learning Greek in Late Antique Egypt."

"Dr. Clackson will explain what papyrus is and was and how important it was to our understanding of Egyptian culture."

"This particular papyrus is the only one among the millions of fragments found which uses Armenian writing," said Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, director of the Armenian Studies Program.

The ancient papyrus, which contains Greek written in Armenian script, was originally found in Egypt more than 100 years ago. After being lost, it was re-discovered in 1993 by Kouymjian, who has worked closely with Clackson over the last three years.

Though Clackson is not a

specialist in the study of papyrus, he is the world's authority on this document, said Kouymjian.

Clackson, who has prepared a full edition and commentary on the papyrus, will present it in cultural context, demonstrating how the papyrus is related to other texts used to teach students Greek in the ancient world. Differences between the papyrus and all other educational texts will require the revision of many current ideas of ancient education, Kouymjian said.

Clackson's lecture may appeal to students from a variety of academic backgrounds. "Students of history and classics will be introduced to the complex society of sixth and seventh century Egypt on the eve of the Arab invasions. They will especially learn about education in a multilingual and multicultural setting," Kouymjian said.

The lecture is part of the Armenian Studies Program lecture series and is co-sponsored by the history department, the Classical Studies Program and the Smittcamp Family Honors College.



## Classics Scholar To Speak At Fresno State

On Thursday, Nov. 4 at 7:30 PM in the Alice Peters Auditorium, Dr. James Clackson, University Lecturer in the Faculty of Classics, Cambridge University and a Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge will present a lecture titled, "An Armenian Learning Greek in Late Antique Egypt."

The talk is part of the Armenian Studies Program Lecture Series, and is co-sponsored by the Department of History, the Classical Studies Program, the Smittcamp Family Honors College, and Armenian Studies Program.

Abstract of Lecture: In 1993 Professor Dickran Kouymjian re-discovered a papyrus which contained Greek written in Armenian script which had been found in Egypt 100 years earlier and then lost. The papyrus almost certainly contains the earliest example of Armenian handwriting. Dr. James Clackson has prepared a full edition and commentary on the papyrus and he will present the contents in their cultural context, showing how the papyrus is related to other texts used to teach students Greek in the ancient world. However, there are important differences between the papyrus and all other educational texts, and this

unique and important document requires the revision of many current ideas of ancient education.

Dr. James Clackson is a University Lecturer in the Faculty of Classics, Cambridge University and a Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge. He was awarded his BA from Cambridge University in 1988 and MA and PhD from Cambridge University in 1992. He was a Research Fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge from 1991-1995. He has lectured on and taught a wide range of subjects in Classics at both Cambridge University and London University over the last 10 years, including the History of the Greek Language, the History of the Latin Language, Comparative Indo-European Linguistics and Greek Literature. His publications include *The Linguistic Relationship between Armenian and Greek* (Oxford, 1994), a detailed philological investigation into the prehistory of the Greek and Armenian languages and their Indo-European background. He is currently preparing a book on Indo-European Linguistics for Cambridge University Press.

For more information please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.

SOURCE The Collegian; Fresno, CADATE November 15, 1999SUBJECT Der Mugrdechian to Speak on ElectionPAGE 1 of 1

## Professor to share Armenian assassination experience

Armenian studies Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian will lecture on "The Election of a Catholicos: A Report," Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in Industrial Technology Room 101.

He will recount his experience as a Western Diocese delegate during the recent Armenian parliament assassinations.

"I heard the news of the assassinations at the moment when the Catholicos was making his first address to the electors. I was shocked at the news—almost the entire leadership of the country had been assassinated," Der Mugrdechian said.

"My biggest disappointment was that the consecration of the Catholicos was delayed and that I and many other delegates missed the ceremony," Der Mugrdechian said.

Admission to the lecture is free and open to the public. For further details call 278-2669.

*By Matthew Maroot*

## Saroyan Statue Moved to Fresno State

The "tribute to William Saroyan" statue earlier this month was moved from downtown Fresno, to the Art and Design Department at California State University, Fresno, to be refurbished by art and design students under faculty supervision.

As part of a plan to save the 30 foot tall Saroyan statue from neglect and the elements, Fresno State Armenian studies professor Dickran Kouymjian began a collaborative effort to preserve artist Varaz Samuelian's creation.

"We haven't really come up with a permanent display location yet," said Kouymjian. "I'm just thankful the statue is safe and that a firm commitment has been made to its preservation."

Kouymjian said it would have been ideal to restore the statue in its original location. Since this was not possible, Kouymjian felt it was important for the statue to be secure.

"Thanks to President John Welty, the statue of William Saroyan will be preserved on the Fresno State campus where it will be restored to its original state," said Kouymjian.

Under the direction of sculpture professor Ed Gillum, students from the Department of Art and Design at Fresno State will begin working on the statue's restoration. Kouymjian said the students will receive special Armenian studies scholarships for their efforts.

"The students will mostly be doing clean-up and refurbishing," said Gillum. Typically, students majoring in art and design work in such areas as ceramics, sculpture, painting, drawing, and a host of other disciplines. Gillum felt this would be a great opportunity for the students to build on their expertise.



Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, occupant of the Haig and Isabelle Berberian Chair in Armenian Studies at CSUF.

"The students are not coming into this as experts, but they will learn a lot," said Gillum. "That's what we, as faculty, are supposed to be doing here - educating them above and beyond the norm, and giving them professional and educational opportunities."

Kouymjian said Gillum was a likely choice for refurbishing the statue. "He is considered an expert in his field."

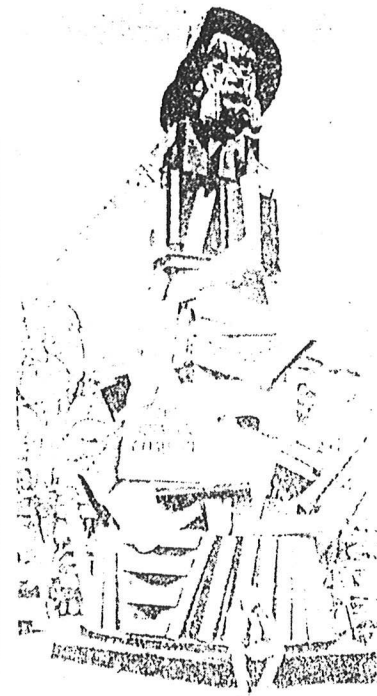
Thanks to Kouymjian, the Armenian Studies Program, and the university, Fresno State has acquired the majority of Samuelian's art collection. According to Kouymjian, there are hundreds of sculptures, paint-

ings and sketches currently in storage. He said the collection needs a permanent home and needs to be properly catalogued.

Samuelian, who died in 1955, was best known for his monumental bronze statue of David of Sassoun, which resides in Fresno's Courthouse Park.

City officials have expressed an interest in providing an appropriate location for the William Saroyan statue, possibly in a high traffic area that would showcase it when it is completely refurbished.

Sites that have been suggested are downtown near the William Saroyan Theater or the Selland Arena.



SOURCE The California Courier; Glendale, CA

DATE November 18, 19

SUBJECT Der Mugrdechian to Talk on Election

PAGE 1 of 1

## Fresno Delegate Will Discuss Election Of 132nd Catholicos

FRESNO - On Nov. 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the Industrial Technology Building, Rm. 101, at California State University, Fresno, Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Fresno State Armenian Studies Program will discuss his recent trip to Armenia.

Der Mugrdechian, one of several delegates from Fresno, participated in the election of a new Armenian church leader amidst the violence of the assassinations in the Armenian Parliament.

Der Mugrdechian will give a firsthand account of the election process and share details of his experiences being in Armenia, so close to the events that shook the country.

The lecture is sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and the Armenian Students Organization of Fresno State.

Admission is free and open to the public. Parking will be relaxed in Lots L, K and O.

For more information, call the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.

## Saroyan Statue to Be Restored at Fresno State

By Mary Lisa Russell

FRESNO – The "Tribute to William Saroyan" statue has been moved from downtown Fresno to the Art and Design Department at California State University, Fresno, to be refurbished by art and design students under faculty supervision.

As part of a plan to save the 30-foot-tall Saroyan statue from neglect and the elements, Fresno State Armenian Studies Prof. Dickran Kouymjian began a collaborative effort to preserve artist Varaz Samuelian's creation.

"We haven't really come up with a permanent display location yet," said Kouymjian. "I'm just thankful the statue is safe and that a firm commitment has been made to its preservation."

Kouymjian said it would have been ideal to restore the statue in its original location. Since this was not possible, Kouymjian said, it was important for the statue to be secure.

"Thanks to President John Welty, the statue of William Saroyan will be preserved on the Fresno State campus where it will be restored to its original state," said Kouymjian.

Under the direction of sculpture professor Ed Gillum, students from the Department of Art and Design at Fresno State will begin working on the statue's restoration. Kouymjian said the students will receive special Armenian studies scholarships for their efforts.

"The students will mostly be doing clean-up and refurbishing," said Gillum. Typically, students majoring in art and design work in such areas as ceramics, sculpture, painting, drawing, and a host of other disciplines. Gillum said this would be a great opportunity for see STATUE, page 13



The William Saroyan statue in Fresno, which to be restored at Fresno State University.

## Saroyan Statue To Be Restored At Fresno State

STATUE, from page 1  
the students to build on their expertise.

Kouymjian said Gillum was a likely choice for refurbishing the statue. "He is considered an expert in his field."

Thanks to the efforts of Kouymjian, the Armenian Studies Program, and the university, Fresno State has acquired the majority of Samuelian's art collection. According to Kouymjian, there are hundreds of sculptures, paintings and sketches currently in storage. He said the collection needs a permanent home and needs to be properly catalogued.

Samuelian, who died in 1995, was best known for his monumental bronze statue of David of Sassun, which resides in Fresno's Courthouse Park.

City officials have expressed an interest in providing an appropriate location for the William Saroyan statue, possibly in a high-traffic area that would showcase it when it is completely refurbished.

Sites that have been suggested are downtown near the William Saroyan Theatre or the Selland Arena.

## SAROYAN STATUE MOVED TO FRESNO STATE

By Mary Lisa Russell

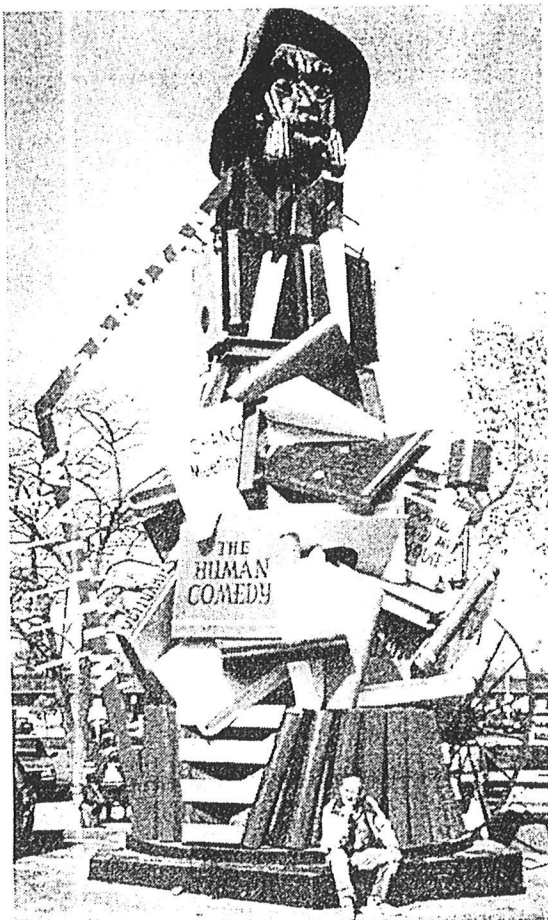
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Entrance to Varaz Modern Art Museum at 1331 "R" Street, Fresno, CA. Included therein are paintings, sculptures, books, and gifts.

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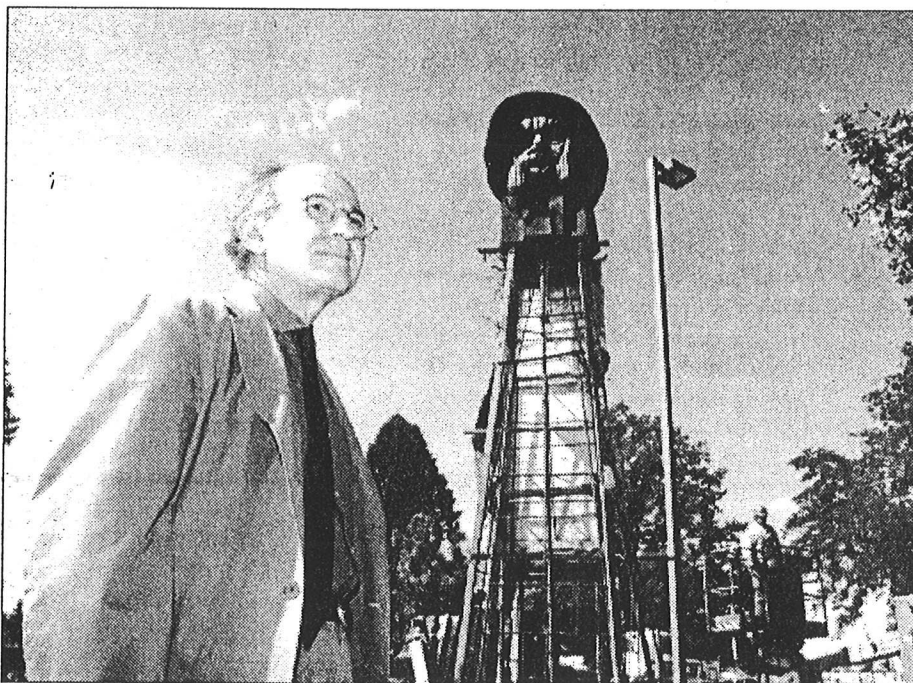


Watching as the crane dismantles the William Saroyan statue for relocation, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian is spearheading the effort for its relocation.



# Saroyan Statue: Restoring a Fresno Landmark

BY MARY LISA RUSSELL



Dr. Dickran Kouymjian looks on as workers dismantle the Saroyan statue for restoration

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Gillum felt this would be a great opportunity for the students to build

on their expertise.

"The students are not coming into this as experts, but they will learn a lot," said Gillum. "That's what we, as faculty, are supposed to be doing here—educating them above and beyond the norm, and giving them professional and educational opportunities."

Kouymjian said Gillum was a likely choice for refurbishing the statue. "He is considered an expert in his field."

Thanks to Kouymjian, the Armenian Studies Program, and the university, Fresno State has acquired the majority of Samuelian's art collection.

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Sites that have been suggested are downtown near William Saroyan Theatre or Selland Arena.

### Publications

Roland H. Brady III (Geology) and Bennie W. Troxel (Napa, Calif.) published a paper, "The Miocene Military Canyon Formation: Depocenter evolution and constraints on lateral faulting, southern Death Valley, California," in the Geological Society of America Special Paper 333 (1999). Marn J. Cha (Political Science) published an article, "Total Quality Management and Transitional Economies" in Developmental Policy Studies, Winter 1999 (vol. 5, no. 4). Robert Dundas (Geology) published the article "Quaternary records of the dire wolf, *Canis dirus*, in North and South America" in the Boreas Journal (vol. 28). Michael Gorman (Library Services) was a contributor to *Speaking Out! Voices in celebration of intellectual freedom*, ed. Ann K. Symons and Sally Gardner Reed, American Library Association, 1999. Dickran Kouymjian (Armenian Studies) had his article "La confiscation des biens et la destruction des monuments historiques comme manifestations du processus génocidaire" published in *L'Actualite de Genocide des Armeniens*, Paris, 1999. The article was published in English translation as "Confiscation and Destruction: A Manifestation of the Genocidal Process" in Armenian Forum, Autumn 1998. Tony Vang (Education and Human Development) authored the chapter "Hmong-American Students: Challenges and Opportunities" in *Asian-American Education: Prospects and Challenges*, published by Greenwood Publishing Group Inc., 1999.



SOURCE University Journal ; Fresno, CADATE November 22, 1999SUBJECT Soghomonian to Lecture at Fresno StatePAGE 1 of 1

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**Lecture**

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"Economic Development Projects (Grape Nursery and Winery) in Karabagh" Thursday, Dec. 2 — The Armenian Studies Program lecture series presents Vatche Soghomonian at 7:30 p.m. in the Alice Peters Auditorium. The lecture includes video of a bike-a-thon covering the route from Stepanakert, Karabagh, to Yerevan, Armenia.

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SOURCE University Journal; Fresno, CA DATE November 22, 1999  
SUBJECT Der Mugrdechian on Election PAGE 1 of 1

#### Der Mugrdechian participates in election of Armenian catholicos

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, professor of Armenian studies, was one of 450 international delegates who traveled to Etchmiadzin, Armenia, last month to elect the new catholicos of all Armenians, Karekin II. Der Mugrdechian, one of the delegates chosen to represent the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church in the United States, spent 10 days in Armenia in connection with the election of the church's new spiritual leader. ❖

SOURCE Armenian Mirror-Spectator; Watertown, MADATE November 27, 1999SUBJECT Soghomonian Lecture at Fresno StatePAGE 1 of 1

## ATG and ASP Host Lecture Dec. 2 at CSUF

FRESNO - The Armenian Studies Program at the California State University, Fresno will host a lecture entitled "Economic Development Projects (Grape Nursery and Winery) in Karabagh," on Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m., at the campus' Alice Peters Auditorium, Rm. 191.

The presentation will include footage from a bike-a-thon covering the route from Stepanakert to Yerevan by Fresno's Vatche Soghomonian earlier this year.

The lecture is sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization of CSUF and the Armenian Technology Group, Inc. (ATG).

Admission is free and open to the public.

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ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Armenian Mirror-Spectator; Watertown, MA

DATE November 27, 1999

SUBJECT Soghomonian Lecture at Fresno State

PAGE 1 of 1

### CSUF Program Features Karabagh Issues

FRESNO, Calif. — On Thursday, December 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Alice Peters Auditorium, at the Armenian Studies Program will host a lecture titled "Economic Development Projects (Grape Nursery and Winery) in Karabagh."

The presentation will include footage from a bike-a-thon covering the route from Stepanakert to Karabagh to Yerevan, Armenia by Vatche Soghomonian.

The lecture is co-sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization of Fresno State and the Armenian Technology Group. (ATG). Admission is free and open to the public.

## Classics Scholar Discusses Ancient Greek Papyrus Written in Armenian Script

FRESNO, Calif. — On Thursday evening, November 4, Dr. James Clackson, of Cambridge University in England, presented a lecture at California State University, Fresno, titled, "An Armenian Learning Greek in Late Antique Egypt."

In 1993 Fresno State Professor Dickran Kouymjian re-discovered a papyrus which contained Greek written in Armenian script which had been found in Egypt 100 years earlier and then lost. The papyrus almost certainly contains the earliest example of Armenian handwriting.

Dr. James Clackson has prepared a full edition and commentary on the papyrus, and he presented the contents in their cultural context, showing how the papyrus is related to other texts used to teach students Greek in the ancient world. However, there are important differences between the papyrus and all other educational texts, and this unique and important document requires the revision of many current ideas of ancient education.

Dr. James Clackson is a university lecturer in the Faculty of Classics, Cambridge University, and a fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge. He was awarded his BA in 1988 and PhD in 1992 from Cambridge University. He was a research fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge from 1991 to 1995. His publications include *The Linguistic Relationship between Armenian and Greek* (Oxford, 1994), a detailed philological investigation into the prehistory of the Greek and Armenian languages and their Indo-European background. He is currently preparing a book on Indo-European linguistics for Cambridge University Press.

The talk was part of the Armenian Studies Program Lecture Series, and co-sponsored by the History department, the Classical Studies program, the Smittcamp Family honors college, and the Armenian Studies program.

## Varaz Samuelian's Statue of Saroyan Moved to Fresno State

By Mary Lisa Russell

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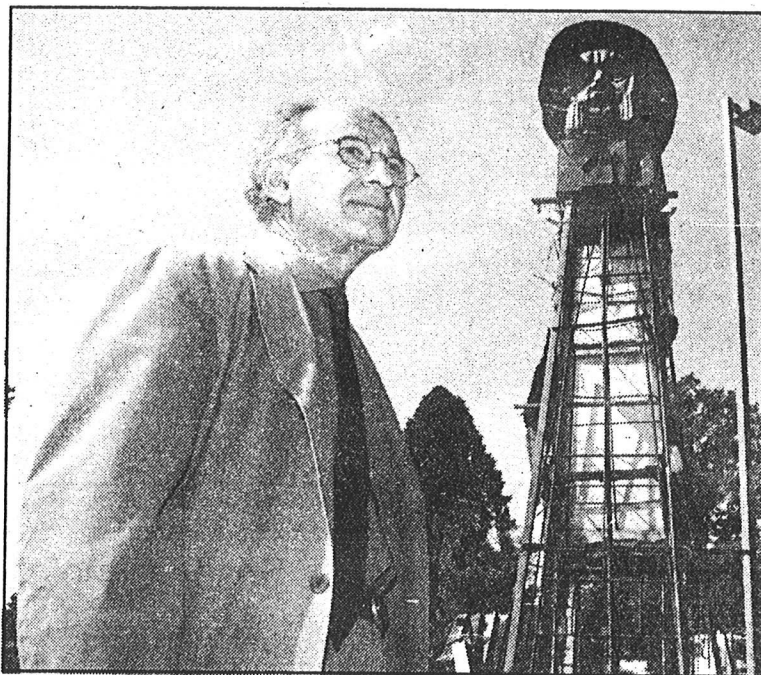
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*CSUF's Dr. Dickran Kouymjian is spearheading the effort for the restoration of Varaz Samuelian's statue in tribute to William Saroyan.*

nian studies scholarships for their efforts.

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*Bulldog Gridiron*

## Art students to restore Saroyan statue

By Matthew Maroot  
*The Collegian*

A 30-foot-tall monument to Fresno's most prolific author, rescued last month from the wrecking ball, now rests behind the Conley Art Building where it patiently awaits restoration.

This rusted configuration of twisted metal and decayed wood was once a shining tribute to the late author, playwright and Fresno native, William Saroyan. The statue titled, "Tribute to Saroyan," was created by the late Fresno artist, Varaz Samuelian. Samuelian, who was a close friend of Saroyan's, died in 1995 at age 78.

The statue, which features a stack of curiously arranged 4-foot-tall books by Saroyan beneath a large bronze sculpture of his head, previously sat on a dirt lot at R Street and Mariposa Avenue in downtown Fresno. The lot was once home to the Varaz Modern Art Museum.

Community Medical Center, which now owns the lot, planned on demolishing the statue to make way for a parking area—plans that didn't sit well with those interested in preserving the work of local

artists, including University President John Welty. "The statue represents a significant part of the cultural history of this area. It is important for the university to be committed to preserving art and culture," said Welty, whose phone call to a hospital administrator came to the rescue of a small group trying to save the statue.

That group included Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Coordinator of the Fresno State Armenian Studies Program. "Dr. Welty played a crucial role at just the right moment. He accepted without reservation that the statue come to Fresno State for restoring. He literally told university officials to simply 'Make it happen.' And it did," Kouymjian said.

Professor Ed Gillum of the Fresno State art and design department will oversee the statue's restoration which will be done mainly by advanced art students. "With luck and determination, we might see results by the end of the spring semester," Gillum said.

Funding for the restoration will come from the Office of Career Services in the form of Scholars Service Grants offered to students with at least a 3.5



*Collegian photo by Jeremy Rue*

A group of advanced art students will work to restore the William Saroyan statue. The art department hopes the statue will be completed this spring.

grade point average and demonstrated financial need. Additional funding will be provided by the Armenian Studies Program in the form of scholarships.

The statue's internal frame will be replaced to make the towering tribute more structurally sound. Most of the books around the lower section of the statue were made of plywood

and have severely deteriorated. Gillum said students will carefully measure and log the necessary information from each book on the statue before reproducing replicas from architectural foam and a durable weatherproof cement-like coating that will recreate the visual look of the originals. "We intend to borrow the visual elements of the actual titles of

Saroyan's books from original edition dust jackets to embellish the finished pieces," Gillum said.

Gillum said community interest and the capacity to provide an involved professional experience for participating students made him decide to get involved with the restoration. "In

See **STATUE**, page 7.

### STATUE

*continued from page 6.*

the end I hope the pride of accomplishment is shared by the public and that the restored piece of sculpture is placed in a suitable location," Gillum said.

At this point, those involved with the rescue and restoration of the statue are uncertain about where it will end up. "I suspect that the restored statue is going to look really terrific. Professor Gillum has a very healthy and creative approach to its restoration, and all spruced up, many will want to have it," Kouymjian said.

Kouymjian views the statue as a symbol of what was lost by the destruction of the Varaz Modern Art Museum after the artist's death. What might have

been an interesting addition to the city's cultural life was just dismissed as junky and trashy because his wonderful murals on the walls were faded and peeling away," Kouymjian said. "Any art abandoned would suffer the same fate."

Thanks to the efforts of a small group of community-minded individuals, the statue will survive for others to admire.

"The statue has different meanings to many different people, it has artistic value to this area," Welty said.

As for local appeal, Gillum said the fact that the statue commemorates one of the most important creative minds that has called Fresno home, seems to have provided the impetus to save what others have referred to as a pile of junk.

## Election of Catholicos to be Focus Of Dec. 16 Talk in St. Paul Church

FRESNO - Fresno Bee writer Michael Krikorian and Fresno Bee photographer Marl Crosse will be the featured speakers at a presentation "The Election and Consecration of His Holiness Karekin II, on Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m. in the Haig Berberian Hall of St. Paul Armenian Church.

The lecture is sponsored by the church's Parish Council.

Joining Krikorian and Cross in the presentation will be five members of St. Paul Church who were also present at the election of the Catholicos: Deacon Dr. Varoujean Aldebarmakian, Deacon Dr. Arra Avakian, Deacon Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Deacon Armen Devejian, and Deacon Allan Y. Jendian.

Videos and slides of the elec-

tion and consecration at Holy Etchmiadzin will also be shown.

Krikorian and Crosse were the only Western newsmen in Armenia at the time of the election and consecration. Their series of articles and photographs on the events in Armenia were the most extensive coverage on Armenia ever presented in the Fresno Bee. They also reported on the assassination of top government leaders in the Parliament on the same day as the election. They will share their unique insight of the elections to the audience.

The church is located at 3767 N. First Street, Fresno. Admission is free.

For more information, call St. Paul Armenian Church, (559) 226-6343.



## Fresno Lecture Explains Oldest Example Of Armenian Writing Found in Egypt

*By Arakel Arisian*

Among the many sources of ancient history, one that is often overlooked is the study of papyri or papyrology. On Nov. 4, Dr. James Clackson, a Fellow of Cambridge University, gave a lecture titled "An Armenian Learning Greek in Late Antique Egypt." at California State University Fresno. The presentation was sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program, the Classics Program, the History Department, the Smittcamp Honors College, and the Armenian Students Association.

Among the hundreds of thousands of papyrus fragments discovered during the past century, it is the only one written with Armenian letters. It was first reported by Prof. A. Carri in Paris in the 1890s. It then disappeared and as Dr. Clackson pointed out, was rediscovered at the Bibliotheque Nationale de

France in 1992 by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian who has published three preliminary studies on it.

Although Clackson has deciphered what the papyrus says, he is not certain of the identity of the person who wrote it or its purpose. Since it is written in Greek with Armenian letters, there are a limited number of possible uses of the papyrus. It was most likely used as some sort of tool to learn Greek.

Even though the exact purpose is unknown, the document does give historians some concrete facts. It shows an Armenian presence in Egypt and in the Greek world. It also has linguistic value for both the Greek and the Armenian languages. As the studies of Kouymjian have pointed out, the Armeno-Greek papyrus is also the oldest example of written Armenian in existence, predating by several centuries the earliest surviving manuscripts.

## How Can a Person be Half-Armenian?

By Hasmik Khalachyan-Canas  
Hye Sharzhoom

Can a person be only one-half Armenian? Which side would be the Armenian side, the left or the right? If the left side is the Armenian side, would that make the right arm and right the odor (non-Armenian side)? Furthermore, how can a person be one-quarter or one-third Armenian?

I don't know about you, but I have never seen one-third of a person walking down the street. As for the term odor, who thought of it? As if the world consists of Armenians and others (whatever they may be). Is a full-blooded Armenian better than a partial-blooded Armenian? Is there such a thing as a full-blooded Armenian? All these questions boil down to the question of what an Armenian is.

Some may think that if your parents are Armenian, then you are also an Armenian. I do not agree. There are many individuals who are the product of two Armenians, but do not even consider themselves Armenian. Then, what is an Armenian?

I believe that an Armenian is a person who is educated about Armenia and Armenians, a person who is active in the Armenian community (wherever he or she may live) and is involved in Armenian issues. There are many individuals who are not full-blooded Armenians, but are more educated and involved with Armenian issues than those who are full-blooded Armenians.

There is no logic in judging a

person by what their parents are because obviously that person is a separate individual from his or her parents. The issue about the location of one's birth is also not a factor in determining whether one is an Armenian or not. I, for example, was born in Yerevan, and both of my parents are Armenian, but that is not what makes me an Armenian.

An overwhelming majority of my life has been spent here in America, but I have always been surrounded by a large Armenian community. I have never lost my language and continue to speak with my family in Armenian. I have also maintained the basic Armenian culture through a variety of means such as church, music, dance, and of course, Armenian food. Being an Armenian is also a continuous learning process, not only about one's culture, but about the world because one thing affects another. There is a lot I still don't know about Armenians, but I am learning.

What about an individual who does not come from two Armenian parents? Does that make them less of an Armenian? I don't think so. I have a son that many call a half-Armenian because my husband is not an Armenian by biological definition. His father was Arabic and his mother El Salvadoran. A mathematical definition of my son would be considered 50 percent Armenia, 25 percent Arabic, and 25 percent El Salvadoran, but I do not think that is the case.

My son, Razmik, is only two and a half years-old, but he is fully immersed in three separate and

converging cultures. He is a balanced tri-lingual (Armenian, Spanish and English). He speaks with me in Armenian, to his father in Spanish, and to his American friends in English. There is no confusion in languages. Sometimes, Razmik will also translate for us if we do not understand something.

There is a terrible myth --and I emphasize myth -- that an individual must sacrifice one language for another. This is not true. There are many linguistic studies that prove that a child who is a balanced bi-lingual is more cognitively advanced than a monolingual child of the same age. There is no such thing as a limited room in the brain for languages. Razmik knows the alphabet and counts in all three languages. He is accepted and involved in all three communities. I do not think of him as less than a full Armenian, full America and full El Salvadoran. Does that make him three different people? I don't think so. Razmik is just one of many multicultural individuals like him.

I think that it is vital that we judge individuals as individuals without referring to biological or mathematical formulas for a definition of someone that is standing in front of us. An individual is an individual and that is always more than just the sum of his or her parts. A person is a whole person; they should not and cannot be divided into parts, which cannot function with each other.

Armenianness is a spirit that can be inherent within anybody without any biological explanations.

## On Hyphenated Armenians

By Hasmik Kalachyan-Canas

*Hye Sharzhoom*

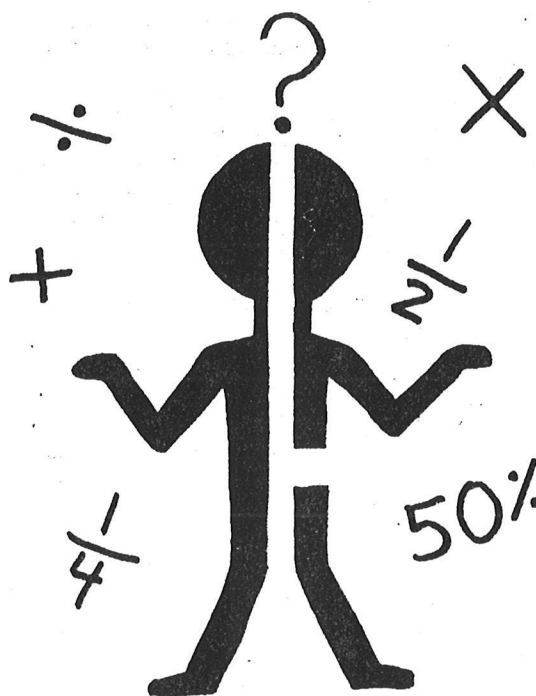
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Yerevan, Armenia, and both of my parents are Armenian, but that is not what makes me an Armenian.

Most of my life has been spent here in America, but I have always been surrounded by a large Armenian community. I have never lost my language and continue to speak with my family in Armenian. I have also maintained the basic Armenian culture through a variety of means, such as church, music, dance and of



THERE IS NO FORMULA

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I think it is vital that we judge individuals as individuals, without referring to biological or mathematical formulas for a definition. An individual is always more than just the sum of his or her parts. A person is a whole, and should

not and cannot be divided into parts which will not function without each other. Armenianness is a spirit that can be inherent within anybody without any biological explanations.

*(Hye Sharzhoom is the Armenian student newspaper at California State University, Fresno.)*

## ESSAY

# What is an Armenian?

BY HASMIK KHATCHYAN-CANAS

Can a person be only one-half Armenian? Which side would be the Armenian side; the left or the right? If the left side is the Armenian side, would that make the right arm and right leg the odar (non-Armenian) side?

Further more, how can a person be one-quarter or one-third Armenian? I don't know about you but I have never seen one-third of a person walking down the street.

As for the term odar, who thought of it? As if the world consists of Armenian and others (what ever they may be).

Is a full-blooded Armenian better than a partial-blooded Armenian? Is there such a thing as a full-blooded Armenian? All these questions boil down to the question of what an Armenian is?

Some may think that if your parents are Armenian, then you are also an Armenian, I do not agree with this statement. There are many individuals who are the product of two Armenians, but do not even themselves consider them to be Armenians.

Then what is an Armenian? I believe that an Armenian is person who is educated about Armenia and Armenians, a who is active in the Armenian community, and is involved in Armenian issues.

There are many individuals who are not full-blooded Armenians, but are more educated and involved with Armenian issues than those who are full-blooded Armenians.

There is no logic in judging a person by what their parents are because obviously that person is separate individual from his or her parents. The issue about the location of one's birth is also not a factor in determining whether one is an Armenian or not. I, for example, was born in Yerevan, Armenia, and both my parents are Armenian, but that is not what makes me an Armenian.

An overwhelming majority of my life has been spent here in America, but I have always been surrounded by a large Armenian community.

I have never lost my language and continue to speak with my family in Armenian. I have also maintained the basic Armenian culture through a variety of means such as church, music, dance, and of course, Armenian food. Being an Armenian is also a continuous learning process, not only about one's culture, but about the world because one thing affects another. There is a lot I still don't know about Armenians, but I am learning.

What about an individual who does not come from two Armenian parents? Does that make them a less of an Armenian? I don't think so. I have a son that many call a half-Armenian because my husband is not an Armenian by biological definition.

His father was Arabic and his mother is El Salvadoran. A mathematical definition of my son would be considered 50% Armenian, 25% Arabic and 25% El Salvadoran, but I do not think that is the case.

My son, Razmik, is only 2 and a half years old, but he is immersed in three separate and converging cultures. He is a balanced tri-lingual (Armenian, English, and Spanish).

He speaks with me in Armenian, to his father in Spanish, and to his American friends in English. There is no confusion in languages.

Sometimes Razmik will also translate for us if we don not understand something.

There is a terrible myth that an individual must sacrifice one language for another. This is not true.

There are many linguistic studies done that prove that a child who is a balanced bilingual is more cognitively advanced than a monolingual child of the same age.

There is no such thing as a limited amount of room in the brain for language. Razmik knows the alphabet and counts in all three languages. He is accepted and involved in all three communities.

I do not think of him as less than a full Armenian, full American, and full Salvadoran.

Does that make him three different people? I don't think so. Razmik is just one of many multicultural individuals like him.

I think that is vital that we judge individuals as individuals without referring to biological or mathematical formulas for a definition of someone that is standing in front of you.

An individual is an individual and that is always more than just the sum of his or her parts.

A person is one whole person; they should not and cannot be divided into parts, which will not function without each other. Armenianness is a spirit that can be inherent within anybody without any biological explanation.