

European Armenian Federation Welcomes Establishment of International Crimes Court

BRUSSELS, Belgium—The European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy (ANC of Europe) recently welcomed the establishment of the International Crimes Court (ICC) charged with the judgment of perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

"This is a victory for all defenders of human rights, who have long fought for its creation. Despite opposition from some nations, we have no doubt that the ICC will at last help break the heavy silence on the most abominable crimes of modern times," stated Hilda Tchobonian, the European Armenian Federation's Chairperson.

"We do regret that as a result of pressure from some states, including Turkey, the ICC will not have the authority to try past crimes that never benefited from international justice," Tchobonian continued. According to international experts, after the genocides of the Armenians and the Cambodians, the absence of justice by an international court served as encouragement for new crimes against humanity.

"If the international community, in the past failed in its duty to condemn those guilty of committing genocides, it can no longer afford not to assume responsibility for these crimes today. It

is up to international democratic institutions, like the Council of Europe and the European Parliament, and to democratic nations to remind countries with past criminal records of their responsibilities in terms of recognition and reparation. The work by the UN Human Rights Commission's experts with regard to the issue of impunity is very clear in this respect," she stated.

The European Armenian Federation proposed to the Convention on the Future of Europe the establishment of a European penal jurisdiction on the prevention of war crimes and

crimes against humanity which would also have responsibility of dealing with all attempts to justify or deny such criminal acts. This universal authority should have retroactive powers and should reaffirm the non-applicability of a statute of limitation to these crimes.

The Federation proposes that ratification of the ICC statutes be a condition of membership in the European Union for the new candidate states. Turkey is among the countries that have not signed the statutes of the International Crimes Court.

Council of Europe Head Praises Armenia, Urges More Action

YEREVAN (RFE/RL)—Council of Europe Secretary General Walter Schwimmer said on July 10 that Armenia is making progress towards meeting the organization's democratic standards but should do more to become a member of the European family.

Ending a two-day visit to Yerevan, he urged the Armenian authorities to abolish the death penalty, seek a solution to the Karabagh conflict, combat corruption, and ensure democratic elections. "I would say that Armenia is on the right track," Schwimmer told a news conference, speaking about the commitments assumed when Armenia joined the Council of Europe in January 2001.

Schwimmer stressed the need for the "full abolition" of capital punishment.

continued on page 12

Turkish Armenian 'Commission' Seeks to Revive Itself

WASHINGTON, DC—Members of the so-called Turkish Armenian Reconciliation Commission (TARC) started a four-day meeting in Turkey on July 10 amid uncertainty over the future of the initiative launched a year ago with US government backing, reported Radio Free Europe. The commission's activities ground to a halt in December 2001 over a proposed study on the Armenian Genocide.

TARC was widely opposed by the Armenian community worldwide, and the ARF Bureau issued declarations on July 13, 2001 and December 12, 2001 outlining its concerns [see July 14, 2001 and December 15, 2001 issues of the Armenian Weekly for the texts]. Viewing the initiative as a Turkish and US State Department ploy to undermine the campaign for international recognition of the Genocide, many Armenian parties and civic groups also criticized the commission.

The only official support for the commission came from the Washington-based Armenian Assembly of America. A few well-placed individuals, some with close ties to the Assembly, also expressed their approval.

"We still can not say for certain whether the commission will continue its activities. Things will clear up during the meeting," David

Hovannisian, a retired Armenian Foreign Ministry diplomat and one of the TARC's four Armenian members, told Radio Free Europe before leaving for Istanbul.

Hovannisian said that he was upbeat about the future of the initiative, despite the fact that it was strongly criticized by many political groups and prominent individuals in Armenia and the Diaspora. "I am quite optimistic and believe that the commission will be able to proceed," he said.

Hovannisian also noted that the Armenian and Turkish participants continue to be divided over the idea of a third-party study of the Genocide. In an article titled "TARC Genocide Study Raises Red Flags," one analyst cited the many pitfalls of proceeding with this study [see December 15, 2001 issue of the Armenian Weekly]. Most Armenian observers agree the study is unnecessary in that it would cast the Genocide as an unproven historical fact in need of substantiation.

The International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), a New York-based human rights organization, was to have conducted an analysis on the applicability of the 1948 UN Genocide Convention to the 1915 Genocide.

Despite publicly made claims that relations in the group were positive

and that they could cite positive accomplishments, the Armenian members of TARC withdrew from the group in December when the Turkish members asked the ICTJ not to go ahead with the study.

The six Turkish members insisted that they did not intend to scuttle the agreement, and that one of them had simply "directly communicated" with ICTJ without informing the Armenians involved in the group.

The four Armenian members of the group claim that progress is being held up by serious differences among the Turkish members, some of whom are opposed to any discussion on the Genocide. One of the Armenian members, Moscow-based political analyst Andranik Migranian, called for the removal of some of his Turkish counterparts last April, citing their tough position on the issue.

According to Hovannisian, the Armenian members are not insisting on changes in TARC's composition as a condition for resuming their participation in the initiative, despite being upset at public statements by some of their Turkish colleagues denying the Genocide. But he said the Armenian members are standing firm on the need to examine the events of 1915.

Some of the major criticisms di-

continued on page 13

Over 20 Injured in Anti-Armenian Pogrom

MOSCOW (RFE/RL)—More than 20 Armenians were seriously injured near Moscow when Russian mobs rampaged with impunity for several hours over the weekend, targeting anyone suspected of being Armenian. Eyewitnesses in Krasnoarmeisk, 30 miles northeast of Moscow, said scores of local youths armed with knives and sticks roamed the streets and conducted house-to-house searches as they looked for Armenians among its 27,000 residents. Those found to be Armenians were beaten up ruthlessly.

The victims complained that their desperate calls for help were left unanswered by Russian police, who stepped in only after the four-hour pogrom was over. A spokesman for the regional police department has portrayed the violence as a drunken brawl between Armenian and Russian youths, denying that it was the latest in a spate of racist attacks registered in Russia over the past year.

Reports have said that the violence was sparked by an argument at a local bar late on July 6 when a 26-year old Russian man was allegedly stabbed by Gairk Sahian, an Armenian national. Sahian, 43, was immediately arrested by police. According to eyewitness accounts, the anti-Armenian rampage was started by several dozen friends of the injured man. The crowd grew bigger as the beatings and breaks-in progressed. Neo-Nazi skinheads, responsible for similar attacks elsewhere in Russia, were said to have been among the assailants.

Artur Galstian, a native of the Armenian town of Kapan, said he was walking in the street when several dozen Russians started to beat him. "They didn't say why they are beating me," he told Radio Free Europe. "They just told me to get out of here." Another Armenian man who asked not to be named said his car was surrounded by several other vehicles before he and his friends were hauled out of it and badly beaten. "They hit us with sticks," he said.

Local Armenians said more than 20 members of their community sustained heavy injuries during the attack. Eight of them were hospitalized in a critical condition. Only two persons have been arrested in connection with the unprecedented violence, officials in Krasnoarmeisk said. The pogrom near Moscow was the most serious of recent racially motivated attacks on Armenians across Russia. The focal point of anti-Armenian sentiment has until now been the southern Krasnodar region.

Turkish Government on Verge of Collapse

ANKARA, Turkey (Reuters)—Ailing Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit met his coalition partners on July 10 as signs mounted that he might bow to pressure for early elections. But Ecevit signaled that he would resist resigning. Across Ankara through the day, government and opposition figures met in secret conclaves to chart a way out of deadlock.

Ecevit, 77, chaired a meeting of his cabinet, held for the first time since he fell ill in May. He later met the heads of his two partner parties who embraced the notion of polls. Meanwhile Ecevit's former deputy Husamettin Ozkan, the leading figure in a party mutiny, continued a round of meetings with possible allies amid growing speculation he may mount a challenge.

None of the meetings produced any solid comment on the turmoil that markets fear may halt a \$16 billion IMF loan drawn up to help Turkey out of two financial crises. Turkey is already the IMF's biggest debtor, with loans topped up after crises in November 2000 and February 2001. Its debt burden is enormous and increasing as political turmoil has forced up interest rates.

Ecevit has said nothing in public since his rightist party partners moved to recall Parliament and set a November date for elections. In comments to a newspaper, he acknowledged for the first time that he could be forced to accept early polls that would end a career that has stretched over five decades. "I think early elections would be wrong but if these circumstances forced us, we would have to comply," he told a columnist.

In Ecevit's absence due to illness, the media have been drawing up the political map of a post-Ecevit Turkey capable of pushing reforms and pressing rights legislation that might make Turkey a more amenable partner for the European Union. At stake is vital foreign investment. "All Eyes on the Two Joker Cards," read the headline in Sabah. Beneath was a picture of Economy Minister Kemal Dervis, the man who negotiated Turkey's rescue package after the devastating financial crisis, talking with Foreign Minister Ismail Cem.

More than 30 members of Ecevit's Democratic Left Party including five ministers, have resigned, upsetting the balance of power in Ecevit's coalition and raising the prospect of early elections. Cem remains in the party but has yet to make any public statement on the power struggle around Ecevit.

INSIDE...

Commentary.....2	Armenian high tech executives meet in Silicon Valley; David Nalbandian takes second at Wimbledon; Hamazkayin dance group in Detroit; Armenian Rug Society exhibit; FAAE holds meeting in Sweden	Interview.....8	Demk Radio
Political News.....3		Feature.....9	Karekin Nejdeh
ANCA Leo Sarkisian Internship Program begins in Washington		People in the News.....10	

Denying Hitler's Question

BY MIKE JOSEPH

TARC: Why Are They Still Obstinate?

BY SETO BOYADJIAN

The four Armenian members of the Turkish Armenian Reconciliation Commission (TARC) obstinately continue to hope for and insist on the revival of this spoiler entity. For that purpose, Alexander Arzumanyan, David Hovannisian, Andranik Migranian, and Van Krikorian held a meeting in Yerevan in April, and, according to one of the members, they arrived at the conclusion that they "would very much like to proceed with TARC, but that primarily depends on the Turkish side."

However, according to the same member, who was speaking on the condition of anonymity, the key obstacle for the Turkish side is the issue of the analysis of the Armenian Genocide. This issue emanated from a decision adopted in November 2001 at a TARC meeting held in New York. This decision requested that the International Center for Transitional Justice conduct "an independent third party" analysis of the applicability of the United Nations Genocide Convention to the Armenian Genocide.

In their most recent pronouncements, the Armenian spoilers seemingly first blame the Turkish side for its negative attitude, then they attribute the cessation of TARC's activities to the Turkish side, and finally they condition TARC's revival on the positive conduct of the Turkish side. Of course, this approach by the Armenian spoilers is merely a formality devoid of any substance. If the US State Department and the Turkish government have decided to revitalize TARC, then all the visible and invisible obstacles become artificial. Both the Turkish and Armenian sides will simply implement the command issued to them.

At this juncture, then, it remains to find the underlying reason for this novel approach manifested by the Armenian spoilers. Their conflicting statement and acts during the past few months indicate that the Armenian spoilers are in pursuit of two objectives—to substantiate self-justification and to secure credit as defenders of the Armenian Genocide. But they miss on both counts.

First, since the inception of TARC, self-justification has been a burning issue of concern for the Armenian members. This is very natural, because from the very beginning they were aware that their mission did not serve Armenian interests, and that they did not enjoy the acceptance of the Armenian people. Later, they came to realize the hard way that not only did these two factors cause the failure of TARC, but they also discredited its Armenian members.

And now, based on their past experience, on the one hand they represent themselves as Armenians with positive targets and constructive actions, and on the other they blame the negative position of the Turkish side. Thereupon, they tend to propagate the notion that TARC's failure was a result of the rigid stance of the Turkish side, and that the cause for that rigid stance was the issue of the analysis of the Armenian Genocide supported by the Armenian members.

These justification made in hindsight do not conform to reality. The fact of the matter is that, during TARC's five-month existence, its members were incapable of registering any progress toward the hidden objectives entrusted to them. The Armenian people strongly rejected this commission. As such, the Armenian members' after-the-fact posturing and blaming of the Turkish side are only futile attempts at self-justification.

Second, through their meeting in Yerevan and public state-

continued on page 8

The following is the text of an address delivered at the Armenian Genocide Commemoration held at the National Assembly of Wales in Cardiff on April 25, 2002. The material is based on the author's forthcoming book, The Hundred Year House.

Late last year I was invited to address a Swansea University seminar on the subject of "Questioning Hitler's Question." My subject was the question that Adolf Hitler put to his top generals on August 22, 1939: "Who after all talks nowadays of the extermination of the Armenians?"

Versions of Hitler's speech were reported to the British government by August 25, 1939, published in the New York Times on October 18, 1942, and published in the same month in a book, *What About Germany*, by Louis P. Lochner. Versions of the speech were also taken in evidence at the Nuremberg Trials.

In my lecture, I showed how the record of Hitler's outrageous speech on the eve of war was immediately leaked to the Western press by Admiral Canaris and others who later conspired to bomb Hitler; and how the speech, including that contemptuous question, was published during the war by the head of Berlin's foreign press corps, Louis Lochner, bureau chief of the Associated Press.

I showed that Hitler's purpose in making this speech was to convince his generals that genocide was part and parcel of Germany's war aims, and I showed that he explicitly re-

ferred to the Armenian Genocide to demonstrate that genocide may be committed with impunity. I showed that Hitler was right to taunt the world for forgetting the Armenian Genocide by 1939; and he knew that his generals would be impressed with his reference to the Armenian catastrophe—because the German army would have vivid personal memories of it from their war service in the Ottoman Empire just 20 years earlier.

After all, the Armenian Genocide was conducted under the cover of World War I by Germany's ally, the Ottoman Turks, and it was monitored, supported, and even led by many of the 800 German officers and 12,000 German troops stationed in Turkey, including those who became leading Nazi criminals.

It was a remarkable fact, I told my Swansea audience, that while we have no documented record of Hitler referring to the Holocaust as an accomplished deed, here was hard evidence of Hitler attesting to the earlier genocide to pave the way for the Holocaust. It was indeed a smoking gun.

But as I spoke, I noticed a graduate student, sitting in a corner of the seminar room, smiling with that fixed, waterproof kind of smile that displays scorn rather than satisfaction.

When I had finished talking and taken some questions, he finally spoke up. Everything I said was suspect, he said. I had failed to consider Turkish sources which showed that there had been no genocide, that the Armenians had been just as bad, and that all Western references to genocide

were mistakes, lies, and forgeries. I am paraphrasing, but you get the idea.

From an academic point of view, these were pretty lame assertions, which simply ignored the detailed evidence I had just presented. I had analyzed a paper by a leading Turkish denier of the Armenian Genocide, Dr. Turkkaya Ataov. Ataov is a professor of International Relations at Ankara University. His department boasts that it trains its graduates for positions in the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. So when Professor Ataov spins, we may be confident that he spins in time with the Turkish government.

His paper, "Hitler and the Armenian Question," deals with the awkward fact—for the denier—of Hitler's question. You can read it on the Web at www.mfa.gov.tr. I showed the Swansea seminar how Ataov's claim that Hitler did not ask his question, and his claim that he made only one other reference to the Armenians, are disproved by published evidence. I went on to show that Ataov's claim that Hitler's associates were completely ignorant of the Genocide is hopelessly wrong.

Hitler's most intimate knowledge of the Armenian Genocide came from Dr. Max Erwin von Scheubner Richter. Richter had been Vice-Consul in Erzurum, and Co-Commander of a joint Turko-German guerilla force. He learnt the whole apparatus of modern genocide—deception, concealment, lulling, and trapping the victims. He reported extensively on the massacres.

continued on page 14

Turkey: Where East Reluctantly Meets West

BY ERIC S. MARGOLIS

American politicians and the media keep asking, "Why can't other Muslims be more like the Turks?" In the North American view, Turks are "good Muslims": democratic, pro-Western, cooperative, and non-troublemaking.

Turkey is assuming command of the Western "protective" force in Kabul, Afghanistan propping up the regime of Hamid Karzai. Turkish intelligence works closely with the CIA and Israel's Mossad against Islamic militants. Turkey has become a close ally and major arms customer of Israel. Islam—particularly its political and social sides—is severely restricted by Turkey's militantly secular, anti-religious regime.

In return for Turkey's "strategic partnership," Washington rushed to save Turkey from financial collapse through a \$12 billion IMF loan. Turkey's shaky economy shrank nearly 10 percent last year; inflation is rampant, with one US dollar now equal to almost 1.5 million Turkish lire. The ongoing illness of Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit has further worsened the financial crisis.

On closer view, Turkey's credentials as a Western-style democracy are far from perfect. When US Vice President Dick Cheney went to Turkey to drum up support for war against Iraq, he devoted far more time meeting with the Chief of Staff of Turkey's powerful armed forces than with Prime Minister Ecevit. The real power in Turkey remains the army. Turkey is an army disguised as a nation. Behind a facade of squabbling, impotent politicians, real power in Turkey is held by the generals, who throw out prime ministers whenever they please.

Turkey's generals see themselves as keepers of the sacred flame of Kemalism, the statist political system created by Kemal Ataturk in the 1930s. Ataturk was a brilliant general who saved post-World War I Turkey from being carved up by Britain, France,

Italy, and Greece. As the father of modern Turkey he imposed a dictatorial regime that was influenced by 1930s fascism and communism.

Ataturk sought to remake Turkey into a European nation by banning the Arabic alphabet and the fez, repressing Islam, and even hanging Islamic scholars. He literally ripped out Turkey's Islamic roots and replaced them with a form of imitation Europeanism that left Turks with a persisting national identity crisis, unsure of what they really are: Easterners, Westerners, or something in between.

Turkey's armed forces perpetuate Ataturk's philosophy. Enshrined in a regal mausoleum, Ataturk has become the secular god of Turkey. Anyone daring to question Kemalism is jailed—or worse. Leaders of Turkey's moderate Islamic parties have been routinely ousted from office on phony charges and thrown in prison.

Turkey's Kemalist political system is designed to perpetuate the interests of the nation's US-supported ruling elite, an alliance between the military and big industrialists. Leftist critics call it the last of the 1930s totalitarian systems. Westernized urban Turks, mostly nominal Muslims, generally support the status quo and favor joining Europe. Rural Turks, larger in number but without any political power, are deeply religious, do not support Westernization, and favor a return to Turkey's Islamic roots.

The nation's largest minority, Kurds, remain a central problem for Turkey. Though the long Kurdish struggle for an independent state has been suppressed, and Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan has been imprisoned, Kurdish nationalism still remains sand in the eye of the Turkish nation. Turkey's brutal war against the Kurds was marked by serious human rights violations that earned condemnation by Europe.

Turkey's oft-criticized rights record has been the ostensible reason Eu-

rope has continued to deny Turkey admission to the EU. The true reason: Christian Europe's potent prejudice against admitting Muslim Turkey with its millions of farmers. Europe is up in arms against its Muslim immigrant population, and certainly has too many subsidized farmers.

Turkey's strategic alliance with Israel—underlined by a recent \$800 million tank deal signed with Israel during the bloody Israeli invasion of Palestinian territory—won Ankara important support in the US Congress and silenced complaints over its human rights record, but outraged the Muslim world. The Israel lobby has been running interference for Turkey in Washington and preventing the Greek and Armenian lobbies from imposing restrictions on US-Turkish relations. Good relations with Israel assures good press in the US.

President Bush's crusade against Iraq and militant Islam has put the Turks in a difficult position. Turkey has lost billions on trade with Iraq by supporting US sanctions against Baghdad. Now, the US is pressing Turkey to act as policeman against Islamic groups and deepen its anti-Islamic cooperation with Israel. A majority of Turks oppose such policies. Many Turks are calling on Ankara to embrace moderate Islam, stop acting as Washington's gendarme, forget hostile Europe, and resume Turkey's traditional close relations with the Arab Mideast.

Turks have long complained that their enormous contribution to NATO—its second largest army—has been ignored and their nation taken for granted by the West. A few Turkish intellectuals and writers risk prison by proposing to ditch Kemalism, get the army out of politics, build a genuine democracy and allow Turks to be the fierce, self-assured, and devoutly Islamic people they used once to be.

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Editor: Jason Sohigian

Armenia & Artsakh Correspondent: Onnik Krikorian

Advertising & Circulation: Shakeh Baghdassarian

Sales Manager: Lena Guebenlian

Contributors: Tom Vartabedian, Tatul Sonentz, Harut Sassounian, James H. Tashjian, C.K. Garobed, Antronig Kasbarian, Dikran Koligian, Harry Derderian, Lucine Kasbarian, Gregory H. Arabian, Joshua Tevekalian, Arsineh Khachikian, Vahé Habeshian, Gara Adonolian, Dr. Henry Theriault, George Aghajyan, Richard Giragosian, Khatchik Darghoukassian, Jirayr Beugekian, and Hasmik Dombalagian.

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Tel: (617) 926-3974

Email: ArmenianWeekly@hairenik.com

Fax: (617) 926-1750

Web: <http://www.hairenik.org>

ANCA Interns Discuss Key Community Concerns With Senators Corzine and Boxer

WASHINGTON, DC—Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) Leo Sarkisian Internship participants kicked off their six-week training program in Washington with meetings with Senator Jon Corzine (D-NJ) and Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), discussing a range of issues of concern to the Armenian-American community.

During a breakfast meeting with Senator Corzine, in-

terns discussed issues ranging from Congressional recognition of the Armenian Genocide to finding a lasting resolution to the Nagorno Karabagh conflict. New Jersey residents Armen Garabedian and Razmig Tchaghlasian updated the Senator on developments in the Armenian-American community in the state and provided highlights of recent local ANC activities. The Senator expressed his continued support



Senator Jon Corzine (D-NJ) (center) with ANCA interns (L to R) Tamar Palandjian, Noushig Karpanian, Raffi Kassabian, Armen Garabedian, Razmig Tchaghlasian, Argam DerHartunian, Viken Karapetian, and Tsoghig Margosian

for proper US recognition of the Genocide and asked in-depth questions about the current status of the Karabagh negotiations.

Tchaghlasian commented that the meeting "was a great opportunity to thank Senator Corzine for his support of Armenian-American concerns and to hear his views on issues close to the hearts of members of the New Jersey Armenian community." Garabedian concurred, not-

ing, "I look forward to working with the ANC of New Jersey upon my return to build on the close relations with Senator Corzine and other members of the New Jersey Congressional delegation."

During a meeting with Senator Boxer and her staff, the ANCA interns thanked her for her years of leadership in the House of Repre-

continued on page 12

ANC Attends Fundraiser For John Slattery



(L to R) ANC Eastern Massachusetts representative Ms. Hamesd Beujekian, Mr. Ivan Ardhdajian, Rep. John Slattery, Rep. Rachel Kaprielian, Rep. Anne M. Paulsen, and Ms. Bella Khatchadourian

WATERTOWN, MA—On Wednesday, June 26, Representatives of the Armenian National Committee (ANC) of Eastern Massachusetts attended a fundraiser for State Rep. John Slattery, candidate for Lieuten-

ant Governor of Massachusetts. The evening reception was hosted by Rep. Anne M. Paulsen of Belmont and Rep. Rachel Kaprielian of Watertown.

During the event, Rep. Slattery

had an opportunity to address the gathering on a number of important local issues, and asked the attendees to understand the difficulties the state legislature faces when passing fiscal budgets. Rep. Slattery is a long time supporter of American-Armenian issues in the state of Massachusetts and a vocal supporter of recognizing the Armenian Genocide perpetrated by the Turkish Ottoman government from 1915-1923.

Additionally, Rep. Slattery is the lead sponsor of legislation that will include in the foundation budget the multi-year funding for reducing class sizes, funding alternative education programs for disruptive students, raising teacher salaries, providing early childhood programs and full day kindergarten, and setting a fair assessment system for students.

Currently serving his third term in the State House of Representatives, Rep. Slattery previously served as a Councilor-at-Large in the city of Peabody from 1993-1994.

Caspian Pipeline Plan Draws Strong Protest

By JIM LOBE

WASHINGTON, DC (Asia Times)—Sixty-four mainly European NGOs are demanding that British Petroleum (BP) meet tough conditions on a proposed multibillion-dollar Caspian oil and gas pipeline before it receives any financing from public agencies.

Potential backers of the Baku-Ceyhan pipeline include the World Bank and national export credit agencies. BP, which leads a consortium of oil companies that includes Italy's Eni, Statoil of Norway and California-based Unocal, has said it will need hundreds of millions of dollars in what its chief executive, Sir John Browne, referred to as "free public money" to help finance the construction of the \$3 billion pipeline.

"We believe that the use of 'free public money' cannot be justifiable unless the project is able to clearly demonstrate [the] positive local and regional development impacts associated with the project over the next 30 years," the NGOs said in a June 25 letter.

The three-page letter and a longer memorandum were sent to World Bank President James Wolfensohn as

well as the directors of the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the US Export Import Bank, the US Overseas Private Investment Corp, and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

The proposed pipeline, which is to run some 1,800 kilometers from Baku, through Tbilisi and southeastern Turkey to the Mediterranean port of Ceyhan, has evoked great controversy since the idea was first put forward more than eight years ago.

Primarily for geopolitical reasons, the administration of former President Bill Clinton strongly supported construction of the pipeline—at one point offering it \$500 million in loan guarantees—as an alternative to shipping much of the oil that is believed to lie under the Caspian area via more direct and cheaper pipeline routes through Iran and Russia.

Although President George W. Bush has promoted closer ties with Russia, his administration remains a strong backer of what is now referred to as the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline as a way of diminishing the chances that any hostile power could gain a hold over Caspian oil, and depriving

Iran of a valuable source of income.

The project has been assailed not only for its redundancy given existing routes, but also because it will travel through areas that have seen considerable political and ethnic conflict over the past decade.

A final resolution of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict continues to elude US, Russian, and French mediators. The proposed pipeline at one point runs little more than 10km from their common border. In March, Washington announced that it would soon provide military aid to Azerbaijan's navy, presumably to protect its claim to a sector of the Caspian Sea also claimed by Iran.

Georgia, meanwhile, remains home to at least three ethnic insurgencies, two of which have been backed by Russia at various times. The third, in the Pankisi Gorge close to Chechnya, has become a major target of Bush's war on terror, in whose name Washington last month sent more than 100 Special Operations Forces to train Georgia's army. Finally southeastern Turkey is the traditional homeland of that country's restive Kurdish population.

continued on page 12

FROM THE ANCA DESK

ARMENIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF AMERICA
EASTERN REGION
80 BIGELOW AVE. WATERTOWN, MA 02472
TEL: (617) 923-1918 • FAX: (617) 926-5525
EMAIL: ancaer@anca.org
www.anca.org

Ask US Senators to support legislation recognizing the Armenian Genocide

As you are aware, under pressure from the Turkish government and a number of lobby groups representing the interests of the Turkish Republic, this past April President Bush again retreated from his 2000 campaign pledge to recognize the Armenian Genocide. President Bush reneged on his pledge despite having received a letter from the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues urging him to properly commemorate the Genocide which was signed by over 160 US Representatives.

Recognizing that the President appears to have no intention to honor his campaign promise, the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) has begun to look again to the US Congress to bring an end to the shameful policy of US complicity in Turkey's denial of the Armenian Genocide.

Your support for this effort is critical! What can you do?

1. Write or call your US Senators and ask him/her to support legislation recognizing the Armenian Genocide. A sample letter and a sample phone script are provided below. As always, personalize your letter or call.
2. Visit www.anca.org and send a free ANCA WebFax asking your two US Senators to support legislation recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

Who represents you in the US Senate?

If you are not sure who represents you in the US Senate, contact your local ANC, or the ANCA ER at (617) 923-1918, ancaer@anca.org, or visit us at www.anca.org and find out!

If you need additional information or have any questions, contact the ANCA ER office.

Sample Letter

The Honorable _____
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator _____:

I am writing to ask you to support the adoption of legislation properly recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

As you may know, this past April, over 160 US Representatives wrote to President Bush to share with him the importance they attach to ensuring that the historical lessons of the Armenian Genocide are properly understood and are put to work in preventing future genocides and senseless killings.

By standing up against the continued denial of this crime against humanity, you can help make sure that the genocidal horrors of the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, the genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, and elsewhere are never again committed against any people, anywhere in the world.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and for informing me of any actions that you take on this matter.

Sample Phone Script

To call your two Senators, dial the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 225-3121 and ask for your Senator. During regular business hours a receptionist will answer your call. Ask to speak to the staff member who is responsible for foreign affairs. If he/she is not available, please leave a written or voice-mail message.

Hello, my name is _____ and I am calling from [state].

I am calling to ask the Senator to support legislative initiatives to properly recognize the Armenian Genocide.

By recognizing past genocides the Senate will help prevent future genocides—against the Armenians or any other people.

We must stand up against genocide denial and act with absolute moral clarity in the fight to eradicate genocide.

Thank you for your time. I would appreciate learning of any action the Senator takes on this matter. I can be contacted at the following address: _____ Thank you.

MY TURN

HARUT SASSOUNIAN

Ecevit Rises from Deathbed to Receive American-Jewish Visitor

Last week, the Times of London, in an article headlined "The Sick Man of Europe," published a lengthy report about the serious crisis gripping Turkey as a result of Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit's illness. The 77-year old Turkish leader has been suffering from a string of illnesses for some time, but in the past two months his health has worsened to such a degree that he has been bedridden, missing important governmental meetings and functions. Yet, he has stubbornly rejected calls for his resignation. The resulting political paralysis has had a devastating effect on Turkey's collapsing economy. Although Ecevit is unable to get out of bed to rescue his government from the total chaos it is in, he jumped to his feet on July 5 to greet the visiting head of B'nai B'rith International, a prominent American-Jewish organization.

What could have compelled the old and frail Ecevit to make such a seemingly foolhardy move, further risking his health? Most probably, he did it to atone for the serious indiscretion he committed earlier this year when he brazenly accused Israel of committing genocide against the Palestinians. Despite his repeated apologies, the Israeli government and American Jews were so infuriated that Ecevit had now to crawl on his knees and personally beg for the forgiveness of the American-Jewish leader.

Despite his diminished capacity, however, Ecevit did not miss the opportunity to ask Richard Heideman, the president of B'nai B'rith International, to continue supporting Turkey against Armenian political efforts in Congress, according to the Anatolia News Agency. Mr. Heideman, during his visit to Turkey, also met with President Ahmet Necdet Sezer and various Foreign Ministry officials.

Armenian-American organizations should request a meeting with Mr. Heideman to express their serious concern at the cooperation of several American-Jewish groups with the Turkish government to counter Armenian efforts in the US Congress. The Armenian organizations should also put Mr. Heideman and other Jewish groups on notice that their continued anti-Armenian activities would antagonize Armenians worldwide, leading to an ugly rift between the two peoples!

TARC Raises Its Ugly Head Again

Despite the announced demise of the infamous Turkish Armenian Reconciliation Commission last December, there have been persistent reports that TARC is in fact very much alive thanks to the political and financial support of the US government.

In the past few months, there have been several joint Turkish-Armenian activities, including the exchange of musicians, journalists, scholars, etc. These gatherings were fully or partially subsidized by the funds provided for TARC by the State Department.

The latest news about this supposedly defunct group is that its members are planning to meet this week in the Turkish resort town of Bodrum. Despite the fact that it has been clearly proven that TARC is a ploy by Turkey and the US to undermine the Armenian efforts for recognition of the Genocide, its four Armenian members continue to be involved in this anti-Armenian activity. The temptation of an all-expenses paid trip to a Turkish resort town is probably too tempting to resist for some people.

Armenian-American organizations should demand from the US Congress to disclose:

- 1) The amount of money allocated by the US government for TARC-related activities, including any payments made to members, consultants, mediators, or moderators, as stipends, fees, lodging, travel expenses, etc.
- 2) The names of universities and other front organizations used by the US government to channel funds for TARC activities.
- 3) A detailed list of all TARC-related activities funded by the US government directly or indirectly during the past 12 months. In addition, the Armenian members of TARC should fully disclose all of their activities and agreements with Turks and the US government, and the amount of money they have raised from all sources for TARC-related activities.

Misinformation or Disinformation?

On the 4th of July, as the tragic news was being broadcast that an unknown gunman had just shot a number of people at the ticket counter of El Al Israeli Airlines at the Los Angeles International Airport, Armenians were stunned when KTTV, the Los Angeles affiliate of the Fox network, announced that the police were looking for a second suspect who had an Armenian name. After repeating this alarming "news"

continued on page 13



FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS

Foreign Aid Bureaucracy Is Out of Touch

By WILLIAM EASTERLY

The mention of a "cartel" usually strikes fear in the hearts and wallets of consumers and regulators. Though the term normally evokes images of greedy oil producers or murderous drug lords, a new, more well-intentioned cartel has emerged. Its members are the world's leading foreign aid organizations, which constitute a near monopoly relative to the powerless poor.

This state of affairs helps explain why the global foreign aid bureaucracy has run amok in recent years. Consider the steps that beleaguered government officials in low-income countries must take to receive foreign aid. Among other things, they must prepare a participatory Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper—a detailed plan for uplifting the destitute that the World Bank and IMF require before granting debt forgiveness and new loans. This document in turn must adhere to the World Bank's Comprehensive Development Framework, a 14-point checklist covering everything from lumber policy to labor practices. And the list goes on: Policymakers seeking aid dollars must also prepare a Financial Information Management System report, a Report on Observance of Standards and Codes, a Medium Term Expenditure Framework, and a Debt Sustainability Analysis for the Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative.

Meanwhile, the UN International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey, Mexico, in March produced a document that has a welcome emphasis on partnership between rich donor and poor recipient nations. But it's somewhat challenging for poor countries to carry out the 73 actions that the document recommends, including such ambitions as establishing democracy, equality between boys and girls, and peace on Earth. Visitors to the World Bank Web site will find 31 major development topics listed there, each with multiple subtopics.

It's not that aid bureaucrats are bad; in fact, many smart, hardworking, dedicated professionals toil away in the world's top aid agencies. But the perverse incentives they face explain the organizations' obtuse behavior. The international aid bureaucracy will never work properly under the conditions that make it operate like a cartel—the cartel of good intentions. Cartels thrive when customers have little opportunity to complain or to find alternative suppliers.

In the foreign aid business, poor citizens in developing countries have few chances to express their needs, yet they cannot exit the system. Meanwhile, rich nations paying the aid bills are clueless about what those customers want. NGOs can hold aid institutions to task on only a few high-visibility issues, such as conspicuous environmental destruction. Under these circumstances, even while foreign aid agencies make good-faith efforts to consult their clients, these agencies remain accountable mainly to themselves.

The typical aid agency forces governments seeking its money to work exclusively with that agency's own bureaucracy—its project appraisal and selection apparatus, its economic and social analysts, its procurement procedures, and its own interests and objectives. Each aid agency constitutes a mini-monopoly and the collection of all such monopolies forms a cartel. The foreign aid community also resembles a cartel in that the IMF, World Bank, regional development banks, European Union, UN, and bilateral aid agencies agree to "coordinate" their efforts. The customers therefore have even less opportunity to find alternative aid suppliers. And the entry of new suppliers into the foreign assistance business is difficult because large aid agencies must be sponsored either by an individual government (as in the case of national agencies, such as the US Agency for International Development) or by an international agreement (as in the case of multilateral agencies, such as the World Bank). Most NGOs are too small to make much of a difference.

Of course, cartels always display fierce jostling for

advantage and even mutual enmity among members. The difficulties of organizing parties with diverse objectives and interests and the inherent tensions in a cartel render coordination forever elusive. Doomed attempts at coordination create the worst of all worlds—no central planner exists to tell each agency what to do, nor is there any market pressure from customers to reward successful agencies and discipline unsuccessful ones.

As a result, aid organizations mindlessly duplicate services. Some analysts see this duplication as a sign of competition to satisfy the customer. True market competition should eliminate duplication: When you choose where to eat lunch, the restaurant next door usually doesn't force you to sit down for an extra meal. But things are different in the world of foreign aid, where a team from USAID produced a report on corruption in Uganda in 2001, unaware that British analysts had produced a report on the same topic six months earlier. The Tanzanian government churns out more than 2,400 reports annually for its various donors, who send some 1,000 missions each year. (Borrowing terminology from missionaries who show the locals the one true path to heaven, "missions" are visits of aid agency staff to developing countries to discuss desirable government policy.)

No wonder, then, that in the early 1990s, Tanzania was implementing 15 separate stand-alone health-sector projects funded by

15 different donors. Even small bilateral aid agencies plant their flags everywhere. Were the endless meetings worth the effort for the Senegalese government to receive \$38,957 from the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs Development Cooperation in 2001?

By forming a united front and duplicating efforts, the aid cartel is also able to diffuse blame among its various members when economic conditions in recipient countries don't improve according to plan. Should observers blame the IMF for fiscal austerity that restricts funding for worthy programs, or should they fault the World Bank for failing to preserve high-return areas from public expenditure cuts? Should bilateral aid agencies be criticized for succumbing to national and commercial interests, or should multilateral agencies be condemned for applying a "one size fits all" reform program to all countries? Like squabbling children, aid organizations find safety in numbers. From 1980-2001, the Argentine government received 33 structural adjustment loans from the IMF and World Bank, all under the watchful eye of the US Treasury. Ultimately then, is Argentina's ongoing implosion the fault of the World Bank, the IMF, or the Treasury Department? The buck stops nowhere in the world of development assistance. Each party can point fingers at the others, and bewildered observers don't know whom to blame—making each agency less accountable.

Like any good monopoly, the cartel of good intentions seeks to maximize net revenues. Indeed, if any single objective has characterized the aid community since its inception, it is an obsession with increasing the total aid money mobilized. Traditionally, aid agencies justify this goal by identifying the aid "requirements" needed to achieve a target rate of economic growth, calculating the difference between existing aid and the requirements, and then advocating an aid increase.

In 1951, the UN Group of Experts calculated how much aid poor countries needed to achieve an annual growth rate of 2 percent per capita, coming up with an amount that would equal \$20 billion in today's dollars. Similarly the economist Walt Rostow calculated in 1960 the aid increase (roughly double the aid levels at the time) that would lift Asia, Africa, and Latin America into self-sustaining growth. ("Self-sustaining" meant that aid

continued on page 14

Reprinted from Foreign Policy
July/August 2002

COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenian Evangelicals Meet With Catholicos Aram I

Led by AMAA President Andy Torigian, the Armenian Evangelical leadership in the Near East met with Catholicos Aram I at his summer residence in Bikfaya, Lebanon. The Armenian community in Lebanon and Syria, along with many of the indigenous people, are served by several joint projects that are sponsored and maintained by the Apostolate and the Evangelicals. The cooperation between the two has been of major benefit to the local and nearby countries regardless of race, religion, or political beliefs. Pictured (L to R) is Rev. Dr. John Khanjian, President of Haigazian University; Andy Torigian, President of the AMAA; His Holiness Catholicos Aram I; Rev. Megerdich Karagoezian, President of UAECNE; and Rev. Dr. Manuel M. Jinbachian, United Bible Societies.



Notes from Hairenik

BY GARO ADANALIAN

My Faith in the Future

It is not difficult to fall in love with Armenia. My love affair with our Hairenik began the moment I first boarded the plane at Zvartnots Airport during my first visit in September 2000. I remember feeling a strange sense of finally returning home after a prolonged absence. When I returned to Boston after my two-week visit, I began to seriously consider moving to Armenia.

To this day I do not understand why I love Armenia so much. For the first 10 weeks since I arrived here on April 2, I would often take a moment each day to ask myself if I really did relocate here. Although three months have gone by, I still sometimes can't believe that I'm here, living and breathing in unison with the Armenian nation.

Just over two weeks ago reality started to sink in, and I began to worry about situations in Armenia that are beyond my control as an individual human being, such as rampant governmental corruption, widespread poverty, continuing emigration, and massive unemployment. I began to question whether any of these problems, all of which are equally important to resolve for the progression of Armenian society, would ever be rectified.

Wherever I turn in this country, I cannot help but notice poverty-stricken people in desperate need. When I can I do my best to assist them, either by trying to encourage them that things will improve or by assisting them financially. But those are only short-term solutions, and as one person I can only do so much. No matter what I do to help the needy here, it is barely enough to have any impact.

As an individual I know I can make very little difference here. My intention during the last two years was to move here and assist the Armenian people and nation, indirectly or directly. All along I knew I could only do so via a collective method of input with peers and groups that share the same passion, and I still do.

But mentally preparing for such a proactive course of action and actually experiencing and struggling for it are two entirely different concepts. I found myself during the last two weeks seriously questioning my abilities and wondering if true social democracy would ever take hold and flourish in Armenia. Hyper-capitalism has already taken root in Armenia and has polarized society into two distinct groups: those that are living very comfortably or are wealthy, and those that are barely getting by or are poor. By far, the latter segment seems to be widening every day and the high unemployment rate (over 40 percent) does not seem to be dropping.

I was also unprepared to deal with homesickness. Although I have met several extraordinary people here, mostly local Armenians but many young diasporan Armenians as well, it has been difficult to develop close bonds. The prolonged absence from my family and friends as well as the occasional feeling of being isolated has also added to my despair of wondering what I could really do to help the homeland. However, no matter how much I despaired, I never once questioned whether I made the right decision to move here.

But now I have a renewed sense of urgency to continue my work here. I have revitalized my optimism and faith in the future of the Armenian nation and its people. I know that the road is long for socioeconomic and cultural recovery in Armenia—it will take many years, great manpower, and millions of dollars of investment. But it will happen. And I am privileged to be a part of that rejuvenation process.

Armenian High Tech Summit Held in Silicon Valley



High tech executives gathered to create a bridge between the high tech world of America and the budding high tech industry of Armenia

CUPERTINO, CA—Over 150 high tech executives and professionals recently gathered in Silicon Valley to hear local technology leaders discuss how to create a bridge between the high tech world of America and the budding high tech industry of Armenia. The April conference, jointly sponsored by the Armenian High Tech Council of America (AHTCA) and the Armenian Professional Soci-

ety of the San Francisco Bay Area, focused on the role that information communication technology and investment capital can play in Armenia's economic development.

Berge Ayvazian, CEO of the Yankee Group and the President of AHTCA, opened the conference with an overview of the current state of Armenia's high technology industry, highlighting some of the positive de-

velopments that have occurred in this field over the past few years. Following this overview, the attendees heard presentations on Armenia's information communications technology industry from five senior executives.

The CEOs of two Silicon Valley based public companies with substantial operations in Armenia, HPL Technologies and Virage Logic, described how they established and continue to manage their presence in Armenia. David Lepejian, CEO of HPL Technologies—a leading provider of yield-optimization software solutions to the semiconductor industry—and Adam Kaplanian, CEO of VirageLogic—a market leader in embedded memory and semiconductor intellectual property—discussed how their companies' operations in Armenia. Both emphasized the quality and dedication of Armenia's software engineers and employees.

Representing the investment capital sector were Tony Moroyan, Managing Director of D-Age VC Fund and Chairman of ViaSphere, a technol-

continued on page 12

Argentina Celebrates Nalbandian's 2nd Place

UNQUILLO, Argentina (Reuters)—Argentina was left celebrating the performance of tennis player David Nalbandian on Sunday, July 7, despite his crushing defeat by Australian Lleyton Hewitt in the Wimbledon final. Hewitt, the world number one, overwhelmed Nalbandian 6-1, 6-3, 6-2 to win his first Wimbledon title.

But after the match Nalbandian's family and friends took to the streets in a pick-up truck covered with national flags for a lap of honor in this tiny town of 15,000 inhabitants, a 10-hour drive from Buenos Aires.

"This is a dream for us, an unexpected one. Obviously, a win would have been nice but just looking at the television and seeing my son is sufficient," said Norberto Nalbandian, the player's father and a motorbike mechanic, at his modest home.

During the match, the family drank homemade wine as they huddled by a television set resting on a shelf cluttered with Nalbandian's trophies. Locals, excited by what they call "Nalbandamania," gathered outside the home to cheer him on like a soccer hero. Nearby, a local hot-dog stand had been renamed "King David" and buses dropped townspeople off at a stop next door now called "David's Corner."

The 20-year old Nalbandian was playing in his first Wimbledon tournament and had never expected such a successful run. His passage to the fi-



David Nalbandian took second in the Wimbledon final

nal delighted Argentines struggling in the country's worst ever economic crisis, which has seen five presidents since December.

"Only years ago he was practicing on the town's humble concrete court," Norberto added. There is only one court in the whole town." In front of the Nalbandians' bungalow, a homemade screen was erected for the crowds who came to join the party. Gauchos on horseback stopped to look and cars hooted as they passed the home.

A horse and cart were parked in front of makeshift screen of white cloth where images of the game were projected for the crowd. When the screen broke down the family brought

out their own television set and the party continued.

"Win or lose, he has done something unheard of," Nalbandian's father added. "It has been nice to give the people some happiness in these hard times. The pride we feel is just indescribable, an unforgettable moment for the family and town," his mother, Aldi Nalbandian, said.

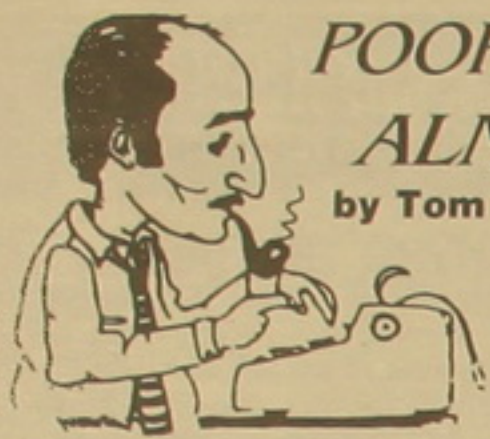
"He has been sent from God," said Jorge, a flag salesman, as he clutched a home made banner in the shape of a tennis racket. "The football team failed to come up with the goods, but David had done us proud," said local history teacher Lazarete, referring to Argentina's first-round elimination from the World Cup last month.



Tenth Anniversary of the ARS Sponsor-A-Child Orphan Program

The 10th anniversary celebration of the ARS "Sponsor-A-Child" orphans program will take place—under the high auspices and participation of President Robert Kocharian—on Wednesday, September 18, 2002, at 11:00 am, in the Karen Demirjian Sports Center of Yerevan, Armenia.

On this occasion, the ARS Central Executive Board invites the sponsors of this program to be present at this anniversary event. Those who wish to take part should get in touch with their local ARS offices for further details.



POOR TOM'S ALMANAC by Tom Vartabedian

Work and Play Routine

Work is good for you. I'm enamored by it. What bothers me, however, is the distractions on my job during any given day.

For someone who's been employed for 40 years—35 of them in the newspaper industry—I've come to one conclusion: it isn't the hours you put into your work that count.

It's the work you put into those hours. Hundreds of employees are already enjoying a four-day workweek. The trouble is it takes them five days to do it.

A day off is always nice but not at the expense of doing double the load when you return.

So, don't bother me today. I want to get a lot accomplished and I'm begging for a moratorium on disruptions.

No emails please. In the course of a day, work is halted while I get one dispatch after another over the Internet that requires me to log on and answer back. If you've got a hot news flash that can't wait another day, I'll take your call.

I'm rather good at talking on the phone and using a keyboard at the same time. On the other hand, save all other telephone calls for another day. With the dozen or so I do receive in a course of a day precious moments are lost.

I have a list of stories that require my undivided attention. Today, I don't want to hear about an eagle sighting overhead or a band of wild turkeys running amok on someone's lawn. They'll be there tomorrow, same as always.

Please postpone the daily staff meeting. I don't want to hear what anybody else has coming. As for my agenda, I'll prepare a list. No conference calls, either. I seem to have difficulty hearing three or four voices at once.

Might I ask that all correspondence be put on hold for this one day? As for the junk mail, save me the trouble of depositing it.

Since I work in a cubicle environment, please keep your telephone voice down. I don't want to eavesdrop on your conversation. I enjoy my co-workers and we work so well together, we tend to infringe upon each other's time.

On this particular day, put the dialogue aside about all the hot films, the best reads, the aches and pains, the garden that doesn't grow, and the weeds that never seem to disappear. We'll get to all these subjects another time.

The luncheon we had planned on this day will warrant one fewer guest. I'd rather use the 60 minutes in a more productive fashion. Should I get hungry around noon, a soda and snack will do just fine.

I've always had an open door policy for visitors, but today I beg for solitude. Not to be impolite, the chitchat, social calls, and scuttlebutt will get their attention tomorrow, I promise.

My family has already been forewarned. I don't want to hear about cars malfunctioning, a water pipe bursting, or a sudden invitation to dinner. Tell me when I get home instead of honing in on my business time.

If you need a bill paid or a bank payment made, you'll have to do it yourself today. I'm busy.

I might ask that all coffee pots be removed and all clocks be stripped from the walls. They tend to be the biggest distractions. Keep your newspapers and magazines to yourself. Looking at them ushers in a fair amount of inertia.

My own theory is that the office is one of the least efficient inventions of the workingman or woman since statistics show that in a typical eight-hour day, only two hours of actual work get done.

I am often called a laggard, an escapist, and a person who fritters away his time on less meaningful things. No mention is ever given to why I may have turned out this way. Nothing is ever said about how other people decide to spend my day.

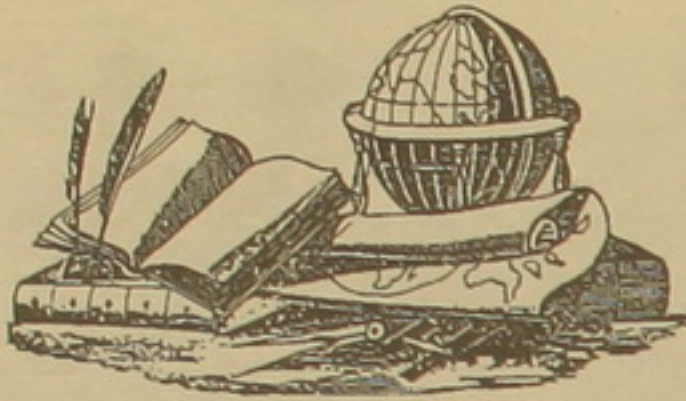
Some men I know conclude that the golf course and restaurants are the best places to get work accomplished. I see no substance in that. For my money, I would be more intent in sinking a birdie than landing a business deal, provided I could shoot golf.

What works better for me is to sit at my desk with both hands on a keyboard and exercise my mind with a "do not disturb" sign hung overhead. If I've offended you on this particular day, please forgive me.

I don't mean to be rude or unbearable, just enterprising. In the midst of all this office hubbub, a question makes me ponder. What will happen to work when the trend toward longer education meets the trend toward early retirement?

You can give me your answer tomorrow.

From Uncle Garabed's NOTEBOOK



Eternal Struggle

There is no dearth of tyranny in this world against which to fight.

Entry in an Autograph Album

Our eyes have met,
Our lips, not yet.
But, oh you kid,
I'll get you yet.

School Daze

I never let my schooling interfere with my education.

Mark Twain

Nothing Like Incentive

A well-known Armenian real estate developer has found a sure-fire way to motivate his employees. For exceptional performance, he names streets after them in his housing developments.

Old McDonald's Complaint

It's pretty hard to remain human working on a farm. You go to sleep with the chickens, get up with the roosters, work like a horse, eat like a pig, and get treated like a dog.

Local Ad

Alzheimer's center prepares for an affair to remember.

Cats and Dogs

All proponents of Armenian unity, church or otherwise, have their individual umbrellas under which they desire all the others to gather. They don't want to be seen creeping under someone else's umbrella.

Sage Advice

Cultivate solitude and quiet and a few sincere friends, rather than mob merriment, noise, and thousands of nodding acquaintances.

William Powell

What's in a Name?

Bayraktarian: Found in Turkish, Arabic, and Persian, derivation is likely Persian. Identified as a descriptive term, *bayraktar* is defined as standard-bearer.

Featherbrains

Edo: Do you know how to get down from an elephant?

Bedo: No.

Edo: You don't get down from an elephant; you get down from a duck.

COMMUNITY NEWS

'Krikor and Dertad' Receives Standing Ovation



King Dertad is crowned by the Roman emperor, in the production of "Krikor and Dertad" performed at the Sts. Vartanantz Church hall

RIDGEFIELD, NJ—A standing ovation greeted the cast and crew of "Krikor and Dertad," which was performed at the Sts. Vartanantz Church hall on Saturday, June 1, 2002. The theatrical production was held under the auspices of Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Prelate, and organized by the Nareg School of New Jersey, in cooperation with the Armenian National Education Committee (ANEC).

"Krikor and Dertad," performed by the students of the Hamasdegh Armenian School in Bethesda, MD, premiered at the Soorp Khatch Church hall in May, and was performed for a second time due to popular demand.

"Krikor and Dertad," written in Armenian by Hamasdegh School Principal Hovsep Melkonian and directed by Onnig Mutafian, depicts historical events associated with the conversion of Armenia to Christianity in 301 AD.

More than 35 student actors participated in the production, and a dedicated number of community members lent their active and creative support to the production.

They designed and executed the sets and costumes that re-created the historical context of the important events that marked the destiny of the Armenian nation.

A musical interlude borrowed from the symphonic work "The Mystery of the Holy Martyrs," by American-Armenian composer Alan Hovhanness, provided a backdrop to the dramatic action that culminated in the conversion of Armenia to Christianity and Krikor's triumphant enthronement as the first Catholicos of Christian Armenia.

The play, an hour and thirty minutes long, took the audience from the fateful events in the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire (Nicomedia) that permitted Dertad to reclaim the throne of Armenia, to his triumphant return to Vagharshabad, the erstwhile capital of his ancestors.

The production, complete with an elaborate sound and lighting system, also portrays the missionary work undertaken by Krikor and his followers to evangelize the Armenian population of the eastern part of the country then under the influ-

ence of the Roman Empire. Although Krikor joined Dertad's army, his subsequent clash with the pagan king over animal sacrifices to celebrate his victories resulted in his banishment to Khor Virab.

Despite the odds, Krikor miraculously lived for over 13 years to cure the king. Dertad's terrible crime in putting Hripsime, Gayaneh, and their followers to death, had brought down on him God's retribution in the form of a sickness and physical destitution, according to the story.

The play ends with the cured King's decision to adopt Christianity, and the enthronement of Krikor Lousavoritch as the first Catholicos.

Prior to the reception hosted by the Nareg School PTA, Maro Demirjian, representing the Nareg School, congratulated the participants with bouquets of roses and wished that such endeavors would continue.

ANEC Director Gilda Kupelian commended the Hamasdegh School for their tremendous educational accomplishment. She also congratulated the school for putting on an exceptional theatrical production assisted by the staff, parents, and entire school community.

On behalf of ANEC, Ms. Kupelian presented a medal depicting the writer Yeghishe Charents to the principal. Deeply moved by the overwhelming reception, Mr. Melkonian delivered a heartfelt message of appreciation to all those who made the production a reality.

Representing Archbishop Choloyan, Rev. Fr. Khachadour Boghossian, the pastor of Sts. Vartanantz Church, presented a valuable publication on Armenian Christian Architecture to Mr. Melkonian. He also congratulated all the parties concerned and summed up the event most aptly by saying, "It was a lesson in history, it was a lesson in language, and it was a lesson in Christianity."

COMMUNITY NEWS

Hamazkayin Ani Dance Group Makes Detroit Debut

DETROIT, MI—The Hamazkayin Ani Dance Group made its Detroit debut on Saturday June 1, before an audience of over 500 at Southfield Lathrup High School, Southfield, MI. Sponsored by the Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society of Detroit, the event was held under the patronage of Mr. and Mrs. George and Shakeh Basmajian.

The Hamazkayin Ani Dance Group was established in 1974 and is under the artistic direction of Suzy Barseghian-Tarpinian and Yeghia Hasholian. In Detroit, the group performed a number of traditional and modern dances in rich costumes for an appreciative audience.

Detroit Hamazkayin Chapter Chairwoman, Hermine Manoogian, welcomed the crowd and extended her thanks and appreciation to the event's patrons, benefactors, and supporters. She promised the audience an evening of pure Armenian culture, and that is what the audience received.

The first part of the program featured Shalako, with soloist Sevan Mardirossian; Popular, with soloists Melina Minassian, Sandra Minassian, and Niree Arslanian; the sweet and comical Two Brothers, with real-life brothers Hagop and Haig Mardirossian; Shoughigi, with soloist Arpi Ovayan; and Belfry's Are Sustained Forever, with soloists Nancy Pinejian and Harout Dolmajian.

Following intermission, the pro-



gram featured They Took My Love Away, with soloist Nancy Pinejian; Ouzoun Tara, with soloists Lana Jerejian and Nancy Pinejian; the lovely Swans, with soloist Arpi Ovayan; Melody, with soloists Lana Jerejian, Ani Yalian, Taleen Kizirian, and Tina Kizirian; Remembrance, by soloist and group artistic director Suzy Barseghian-Tarpinian; and Dance of the Girls from Artsakh, by soloist Leeza Markarian. The entire dance group performed the patriotic Heroes of Artsakh for the grand finale.

In addition to Detroit, the Ani Dance Group has performed all over the US. The group made its international debut during the summer of 1999 when it was invited to perform

in Yerevan, Karabagh, and Gyumri. The group traveled to Armenia last year to perform in commemorative events planned to mark the 1700th anniversary of Christianity.

The Detroit Hamazkayin Chapter thanks the following major donors for making the performance of the Ani Dance Group possible: the ARF Detroit Azadamard Gomideh, Mr. and Mrs. Karl and Emma Sogolian, Chake Faradjian, Raffi and Terry Mousheghian, and Mr. and Mrs. Vahagn and MaryJo Agbabian. The Detroit Hamazkayin Chapter also thanks Father Daron and Yeretzeen Sosi Stepanian for generously underwriting the cost of the welcoming dinner for the entire dance group and guests.

Performance Draws International Audience to Bristol



Vartan Petrossian (second from left) with Mr. and Mrs. Jirair Hovnanian and Mr. and Mrs. Arman Kirakossian, Armenian Ambassador to the US

BRISTOL, PA—The world premiere of Vartan Petrossian's "Between Two Mountains," performed at Bristol Riverside Theatre, drew an international audience, including Armenian-American community leaders, on Thursday, June 27. "Between Two Mountains" will run through the weekend of July 12-14.

Among those attending the sold-out performance were Arman J.

Kirakossian, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the US; Louise Manoogian Simone, chairwoman of the Armenian General Benevolent Union; and Jirair Hovnanian, as well as various parish pastors and representatives of community organizations.

"The evening's atmosphere overflowed with excitement, curiosity, and discovery," said Susan Atkinson,

founding Producing Director of Bristol Theatre. "This was the birth of an extraordinarily momentous joint artistic venture between the United States and Armenia."

"Between Two Mountains" is the inaugural presentation of the recently established USA-Armenia Theatrical Exchange Project (US-ATEP). Spearheaded by Bristol Theatre, the US-ATEP advocates cultural, diplomatic, and economic ties between the US and Armenia, chiefly through theatrical collaborations.

Two film crews, one Armenian, the other American, were on hand to document the gala night of the much-anticipated "Between Two Mountains." The ensuing features, produced separately for English- and Armenian-speaking audiences, will include footage and interviews with the key American and Armenian theatre professionals who mounted the play.

Starring Vartan Petrossian, "Between Two Mountains" was written by him expressly for its US pre-

continued on page 13

Tashjian Exhibit Portrays Natural Landscapes

BY CHARLOTTE BERNEY

SANTA FE, NM—Many artists forgo the bothersome winds, insects, and curious onlookers that plague most artists working outdoors for a safe and comfortable studio. However, Richard H. Tashjian prefers working in the outdoors. His passion for plain air or on-location painting has taken him around the country and the world, traveling to sites in France, Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, and elsewhere.

Born and educated in Massachusetts, Tashjian excelled in commercial art ventures while continuing to depict nature in a harmonious style that utilizes layers of color. He is currently a resident of Santa Fe, where he has discovered a new venue to communicate his love for the natural landscape.

The opening of a major exhibit of



Richard H. Tashjian's oil painting, "Bryce Canyon, Utah," 11 x 14

recent oil and acrylic paintings mark his second major exhibit depicting the southwest mountains canyons and mesas. The exhibit opened July 12 at the Editions Gallery in Santa

Fe, and will run through July 27.

For additional information, the gallery can be reached at 1-800-828-6148 or at the Web site www.editionsfineart.com.

Armenian Rugs Society to Hold New Exhibition

BY ANNE ATANOSIAN

KENSINGTON, MD—For an exciting and informative organization, modesty has no place. Indeed, the Armenian Rug Society has gained such prominence internationally that when exhibits are announced, it is often "standing-room only."

This year, interest in the rugs and textiles of the exotic East has been stimulated by all the focus on the "Silk Road" activities and programs. Reviewers across America have written about the extraordinary journeys of caravans carrying the goods of the East to the lands of the West—from China to Italy across the Near East, through Armenia. Indeed, the Smithsonian Institute's 36th Folk Life Festival on the National Mall in Washington was titled "The Silk Road: Connecting Cultures, Creating Trust."

When the Armenian Rug Society holds its symposium, interest is always high. This unique organization has shared its cultural and communal values through a series of exhibits. This summer's program, titled "Passages: Celebrating Rites of Passage in Inscribed Armenian Rugs," will be held at the Herbst International Exhibition Hall in San Francisco from July 16 to August 18, 2002.

The Society's Bay Area Chapter is sponsoring the month-long exhibit. The historical, artistic, and technical aspects of Armenian rugs will be the special focus of a three-day symposium. The rugs are part of the Armenian psyche—the frozen memories of our people woven into knots of beauty and pain. They bring us pleasure as we look and marvel with fascination at the tales they tell—we try to decode the woven mysteries.

For additional information about this exhibit, contact the Armenian Rugs Society Bay Area Chapter, 939 N. Amphlett Blvd., San Mateo, CA 94401, or the president of the Armenian Rugs Society, James Keshishian, 4507 Stamford St., Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

Rev. Shahinian Steps Up to Teach as New Pastor

BY MARTIN LUTTRELL

WORCESTER, MA (Telegram and Gazette)—Rev. Gary R. Shahinian wants to help his neighborhood remain a viable residential area while getting his church recognized as a church for the neighborhood. Rev. Shahinian, who was installed as pastor of Park Congregational Church, was commended during a ceremony for his involvement in the neighborhood and his ability to teach after the congregation accepted him as pastor. "I'm here to help make the world a better place," Rev. Shahinian said during a reception after the ceremony. "I want to help bring justice, healing, and reconciliation to people."

A New Jersey native, Rev. Shahinian was ordained in 1995 and served as a minister at the Armenian Church of the Martyrs until moving to the Park Congregational Church. He has a doctoral degree in philosophy and has taught at Redeemer College in Ancaster, Ontario, and Dordt College in Iowa, and is currently a visiting lecturer at Worcester State College.

Among the several area clergy who spoke at the ceremony, Rev. Perry urged the congregation to offer the same love and acceptance to the new pastor as they did him. "We all have strengths," he said. "You have a pastor who can teach. Now you can reach out into the neighborhood. It takes time, but over the years it will be deeper. Treat him the way you treated me, and maybe he'll be around in 32 years." Linda Bogosian, Rev. Shahinian's wife, said she hoped the ceremony would also acknowledge the decades of service Rev. Perry gave to the church. "I want people to know that this little church on the corner has an active ministry," she said.

FAAE Holds 4th Annual Meeting in Sweden

UPPSALA, Sweden—The Forum of Armenian Associations of Europe (FAAE) held its fourth annual conference on June 21-23 in Uppsala, Sweden. The theme of the conference was "Prelude to an Armenian Renaissance," and it provided an opportunity for members of the European-Armenian Diaspora to discuss issues of common interest, and organize areas for cooperation.

Over the past year, the FAAE has brought together Armenian lawyers in the Forum of Armenian Law Professionals of Europe, and continued its work within the Armenian Business Forum of Europe. Its EU office in Brussels, Belgium has continued to lobby European institutions, and the EU office has helped Armenian associations work with European institutions, notably through a seminar on the subject in March.

This year's conference focused on education in the Diaspora, featuring a number of prominent European intellectuals, as well as community and political leaders. The conference developed a series of proposals for cooperation to assist those promoting Armenian education in the Diaspora. The conference also marked a new stage in the FAAE's consolidation and reaffirmed its mission as a vehicle for cooperation and networking. The conference included presentations by Raffi Bedikian from the Council of German-Armenians, Garabed Dakessian from the Melkonian Education Institute in Cyprus, and Murad Artin, a member of the Parliament in Sweden.

The FAAE was founded in 1998. For additional information about the FAAE, visit the Web site www.armenianforum.org.

THE WEEKLY INTERVIEW

Interview with Arman Harutyunyan of Demk Radio

By RAFFI MENESHIAN

Arman Harutyunyan is one of founders of a great new Armenian Music internet station called Demk Radio. I was drawn to the site because of the continuous stream of Armenian music that is provided to its listeners. I've been listening to the station via the Web site for over four months now and really love it. I asked Arman if he'd do an interview because I wanted to know who was behind this concept and idea. I believe that Demk Radio is a revolutionary idea in bringing Armenian music to the world free of charge. This interview was conducted via the internet earlier this year. DemkRadio can be found at www.demkradio.com.

Raffi Meneshian: Can you tell me a little about Demk Radio and how it started?

Arman Harutyunyan: Let me start by saying that Demk Radio is a group effort, and besides myself there is Tigran, who is our "English guy"—the content editor—and Varuzhan "the Code Warrior," who sometimes helps with programming and other technical matter.

We started Demk Radio in Fall 1999, two years, two months, and three days ago, to be exact. We were in high school, with nothing much to do, and Live365 (the company that carries our stream) just opened. We decided that we could create an Armenian radio station that could rival all others and the next day uploaded both our Armenian CDs to the servers, and Demk Radio began. It was known as Static Motion then because we were playing trance music in between Armenian tracks because we didn't have enough material.

The name "Demk" was derived from the slang expression of "Du demk es" (loosely translated as "You are cool"). It also goes well with our motto: "changing the face of Armenian music." To make a long story longer, the current Web site is the fourth version, with the fifth just around the corner, with many more updates and new cool features. Hopefully it will be done by summer.

RM: Can you tell me a little about yourself? Your background?

AH: I'm from Yerevan, and I moved to the US in December 1996. I lived in Los Angeles until January 2001, after which I was "forced" to move to Berkeley because of this university thing I got myself into. All members of Demk Radio are trying to combine chasing girls, drinking, writing, and programming for Demk Radio, and study somewhere in between.

RM: How have you compiled the music from which you choose to put on the "radio"? Your personal collection? Promo copies?

AH: Most, about 80 percent, of the music comes from our combined music collections, most of which we had to buy. Narek.com has been great help—they've always given us promo CDs of the artists that they promote. We have also received some promos from others, but these are rare, Armenian labels preferring to sell us a copy rather than giving us one as a gift and using that to promote their artists.

The Armenian music business model is very different from the international one, which makes it much harder for something like Demk Radio to operate successfully. It is very painful for us when people complain about the repetition of the same music and lack of selection, but with each CD costing \$16, with only 2-3 tracks we'd put on the radio, plus college tuition and no full time job, make it very hard to provide our listeners with the kind of quality service that we'd like.

RM: How does the selection process work on what song is played? What style of music is played on Demk Radio? What is excluded or preferred?

AH: We try to play all types of music, appealing to all ages and countries of origin, but that's not easy. The selection of this sort is always subjective, and we tend to play what we like to listen to. This is not to say that there aren't songs on Demk Radio that I don't hate, or Tigran or Varuzh don't hate, but we usually try to include music for all tastes.

There are, however, a few genres of

Armenian (if it can be called that) music that we stay away from, mainly hardcore rabiz and Persian/Turkish melodies with translated lyrics, and long classical compositions (because people lose interest after a while). Other than that, everything

improving. The production is top notch, as are the arrangements and instrumental works, but there is much to work on. I think we have not decided yet what to do exactly—follow the new trends, the Western music style (Grisha Agakhanyan, Hayko,

people actually listen to Demk Radio?

AH: Yes. It started out with 1-2 people a day back in 1999, and mostly our relatives and friends. Today, we have an average of 25 people at any given hour, from many different countries and speaking different languages—we've gotten emails in French and Russian.

RM: Where do you see Demk Radio in the future? Any long term plans, or is it just day by day?

AH: The future promises to be bright. In the near future, Demk Radio will have live music (as opposed to pre-shuffled as it is now), the ability for our listeners to request music through the Web site, live interviews and chats with musicians, music videos, etc.

But to make this work, we need more money more manpower, and, most importantly, more time. We hope to get Demk Radio v5.0 up by summer, and then take a break.

Who knows, one day you may hear Gor Mkhitarian playing on an actual "air" radio station KDMK? We hope for the best, and work hard in the meantime.

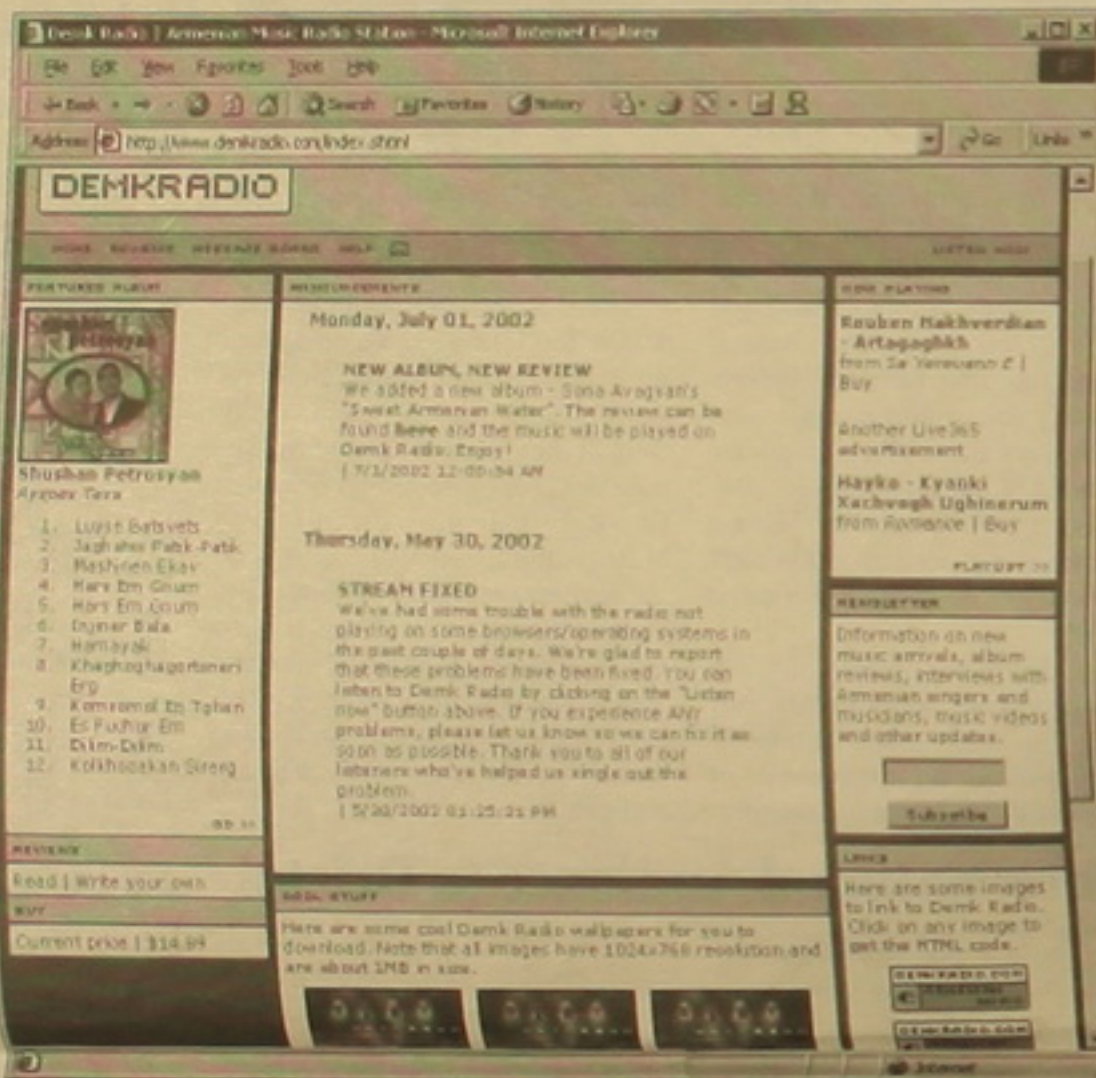
RM: What are you most proud of that Demk Radio has accomplished?

AH: It's actual existence for the past two years is an accomplishment by itself! The next best thing is getting emails from grateful listeners who have no other source for Armenian music but Demk. People in LA are blessed with the abundance of Armenian music shops and record studios, probably even more than in Armenia itself. But for the rest of the world, we are a very unique, and often the only, source. Try finding Parseghian records in Zimbabwe.

RM: What is your favorite Armenian CD?

AH: This is a very provocative question. I can say that I've been listening to a lot of Alla Levonyan, Michael Poghosian, and Gor Mkhitarian lately, but I don't have a single favorite CD. Maybe Shushan's next will be it?

Raffi Meneshian is the owner and president of the music label Pomegranate Music, www.pomegranatemusic.com.



goes, more or less.

Demk Radio is, or at least tries to be, the music for the youth and the middle aged. So the style is geared to appeal the younger audience, with more upbeat, contemporary compositions. However, we always add classical compositions and "our parent's" kind of music that we think everyone will enjoy.

RM: What is your opinion on the quality of music today that is coming from Armenia, and Los Angeles? Is there a difference?

AH: Armenian music today reminds me much of the Armenian Republic. It's a time of re-construction, and search for a new face. This is especially evident in music from Armenia, where younger artists try to imitate Western (American and European) styles. I used the word "imitate" on purpose, because they don't have a unique face, a unique sound, so many of these compositions sound the same.

With the exception of few artists, most Armenian artists are still trying to find their niche. As every creative process goes, there are sometimes very unique and interesting works, but these are, sadly, exceptions.

As far as music in LA, there is no easy answer. Each wave of immigrants brought their tastes and preferences with them, but the interesting thing is that these don't change over time. Someone who came to the US in the late 1980s tends to listen to the music from that period, or music that sounds like it. New artists with a unique style have a hard time getting their voice heard in Los Angeles, unless they imitate—that word again—the more established and well-known musicians. Much is being done to change this, such as the Armenian Music Awards and some interesting Armenian television shows—Project Z, for example—and I am sure that in the near future things will change for the better.

In both cases, the quality of music is

Sako), stay with the old (Nune), or try to combine both (Ara Gevorgian, Alla Levonyan, etc).

There is that split, and so the quality of music has to be judged accordingly. It is foolish for someone to compare Rouben Hakhverdian with Hokis—these are different people trying to do different things, and to put them on the same line and measure by the same ruler is just childish. Besides, "Jashakin enker chka"—there's no accounting for tastes—what I may find to be fresh, innovative, and interesting, someone else will consider boring, rebellious, and stupid. Such is the world of art.

RM: Are you aware of how many

TARC...

continued from page 2

ments, the Armenian members are also toiling to secure credit for themselves as defenders of the Armenian Genocide. In substantiation for this attempt, they underscore the premise that while they are in support of an analysis of the Armenian Genocide, the Turkish side is in opposition. But this contradiction in itself is a fabricated gimmick, because it is obvious that the Turkish side, and for that matter any Turkish side, will a priori oppose any analysis of the Armenian Genocide, unless it has beforehand obtained the assurance that such analysis will yield a pro-Turkish conclusion.

But beyond the opposition of the Turkish side, the artificial essence of this matter rests in the consent of the Armenian members for an analysis of the Armenian Genocide in connection with the UN Genocide Convention. The Armenian members, who happen to be former diplomats, political analysts, and lawyers, are amply knowledgeable in international law. They do not need special courses in legal education to learn that the provisions of the UN Genocide Convention are applicable to the case of the Armenian Genocide.

The UN General Assembly Genocide Resolution 95(1) of December 11, 1946 and the Genocide Convention of December 9, 1948, recognize the Armenian Genocide as the type of crime the United Nations intended to prevent. The 1985 report of the UN Commission on Human Rights, titled "Study of the Question of the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide," invokes the Armenian massacres as an example of genocide. The Armenian Genocide meets all the elements of the crime of genocide as defined by the UN.

The provisions of the UN Genocide Convention are also enforceable retroactively. They are applicable to any crime of genocide, irrespective of the time of its commission. Furthermore, the November 26, 1968 UN Convention on the Non-Applicability of the Statutory Limitation on War Crimes Against Humanity eliminated any time bar on the crime of genocide.

It is not possible to convince the public with fabricated and artificial issues, that the Armenian members of TARC can still be helpful to Armenians. It is sad that they still don't get it, yet it is farcical that they still remain obstinate not to get it.

This article was originally published in the April 13, 2002 issue of Asbarez.

The Return of the General

BY BAVEL ANANIAN

Ed. note: Karekin Nejdeh (1886-1955) was one of the most influential figures in the history of the Armenian Diaspora. His role was instrumental in the establishment of the AYF-YOARF and in other activities, especially in the Eastern Region of the United States. This year marks the 116th anniversary of Karekin Nejdeh's birth, marked by Armenians in the Diaspora and in Armenia.

This article is the second in an occasional series on Karekin Nejdeh that will be featured in the Armenian Weekly, in order to introduce this national hero to new generations and to permit older members of the community to remember this influential personality. The first article, "The Lion of Zanzegour: Karekin Nejdeh" written by James Mandalian in 1958, was reprinted in the September 15, 2001 issue of the Armenian Weekly.

The following article was written by Bavel Ananian, who was one of the personalities that played a key role in transporting the remains of Karekin Nejdeh secretly to Armenia from Vladimir, Russia. The transportation and the reburial of Nejdeh in Armenia was undertaken by a group of Armenian intellectuals many years before the fall of the Soviet Union. The tone of Ananian's writing is enough proof of the influence Nejdeh had, and still has, on so many Armenians. It was translated from the original Armenian by the staff of the Armenian Weekly.

On December 21, 1955, Karekin Nejdeh died in the Vladimir prison, near Moscow, after enduring the atrocities of the Soviet prison system for 11 years. He was apprehended in November 2, 1944 and sentenced to 25 years imprisonment. The 69-year old national and political activist left this world to join, as he used to call them, the "divine dead," who "belong the least to themselves and to their parties, and belong wholly to their nation and their history."

On October 7, 1989, a very small group of seven to eight intellectuals realized the final wish of the General, to deliver his remains to Khouzdoup, the mountains he loved. This wish was expressed by Nejdeh back in 1920 in a letter-will he addressed to the Armenian nation. He wrote: "If you find me killed, bury my remains on the highest peak of Khouzdoup, from where I can see Gaban and Kenuaz and Koghtan and Keghatsor. Meanwhile, don't stop looking at Khouzdoup. The more you look at it, the more you watch this proud peak covered with black clouds, the faster will come salvation. Let God and my love be with you..."

The wish of the General was realized by "a group of fools" in 1983. They had decided to "kidnap" him and return him secretly to the homeland that Nejdeh referred to as the "paternal corner."

Bavel Ananian, the husband of Nejdeh's granddaughter Kohar, undertook an assignment worthy of the fedayees and transported his remains to Armenia. Until the realization of the General's wish, the front yard of the Sbidagavor church in Vayk became a second resting place for him. From there he was transported to Khouzdoup, but strangely enough, without Bavel, who at that time was in Nagorno Karabagh.

This is the story how the remains of Nejdeh were repatriated. It is Bavel Ananian's prayer-confession-story.

...

In 1982, a group of nationalists under the leadership of Kourken Armaghanian asked me to go to Vladimir, where Nejdeh was buried according to the information the group had. The only document was a picture from the book of Devedjian, the former president of the Government of Mountainous Armenia. Devedjian describes the harsh years he spent together with Nejdeh in prison and gives valuable information about the last days of the General's life. He had also published a photo of Nejdeh's grave. Using my look of an amicable and law-abiding person (I was managing the propaganda department of military production in the Soviet years) and my advanced knowledge of Russian, I was supposed to locate the grave. The probability of success was practically zero, but nevertheless I went. I only recently understood that what was driving me to accept such a dangerous undertaking was my hatred of the Soviet regime.

I started my search in Vladimir's archives department. According to the photo, Nejdeh was buried in 1955, but the documents of 1953-1955 were missing from Vladimir's archives. My search had ended before even starting. Noticing my sad expression, the employees at the ar-

chives department approached me and asked to see the documents I had about my "grandfather" (that's how I had presented the hero) who had passed away in their city. I pulled out from my pocket the only document I had, a photocopied picture of the grave. On it you could see the upper part of the wooden hedge surrounding the grave and a piece of cardboard with the inscription "Der Haroutiunian Karekin, son of Yeghishe, 1886-1955" and the word "Nejdeh" on the lower left corner. That was all.

The employees started to laugh and then stopped when they saw the expression on my face. Suddenly a "guardian angel" approached me. His name was Henrich and like all guardian angels, I didn't get his family name. He approached and asked me a strange question: "Are you Laddish?" I don't know why his question confused me. I couldn't understand why he thought I was a Laddish. He asked me whether he could be of any assistance. I told him in a few words why I was there. Following Soviet habits, he asked me whether I had any documents. When I showed him the only "document" I had, he looked at me with compassion and asked me to remember any details. What could I remember?

Suddenly I remembered that at Kourken's cottage the old men said that Nejdeh was buried near a church, which was built close to the famous central jail dedicated to the "very dangerous crimi-



nals." I started to laugh, mentioning the jail and the church standing side by side, but Henrich's face was enlightened. "Oh! That's our historical graveyard."

Without Henrich we could have never located the cemetery. We rushed there. On the way I was thinking that this may create trouble for him. When I started talking to him about my worries he comforted me with a smile and said: "Don't



worry, we are not living in 1937 anymore." But the Soviet Union was being ruled by Andropov, the ex-head of the KGB. Henrich told me that his father was also shot by a firing squad in 1937. We became friends.

When we went through the gates of the cemetery, I started shivering. We divided the cemetery into two sections and started looking for Nejdeh's grave. As soon as Henrich left me alone I felt as if the innumerable victims of the tyrants attacked me. On the left rose the wall of the central prison adorned with barbed wire, the symbol of our slavery.

I was wandering between the snow-covered graves. From time to time I was trying to force myself to do what I was there for, compare the graves with the photo I had with me. But I was sure that this would lead me nowhere. Suddenly two elderly women appeared in front of me. They were rushing to get somewhere. I started following them until I found myself in front of a marvelous church. The white and blue church was so beautiful that it resembled something described in fairy tales. But then the elderly women were no longer there.

I went into the church with some hesitation. I was ashamed of my faithlessness. I was under the impression that the church was full of human-angels with tears in their eyes. Not wanting to disturb them, I took two candles and lit them, then started examining the walls of the church and the pictures of the saints. I can't describe what happened next. The

wind pushed open one of the windows and the picture of a child covered an entire wall in front of me. He was looking at me from far away. It was Jesus. And I begged him to help me, because nobody else could.

I was moved by everything that was happening around me. I felt tears in my eyes. I stood at the entrance of the church, wiped my eyes, and started walking towards the graveyard again, when I felt as if something made me stop and look to the right. There was the wooden hedge. I took the picture out of my pocket and started comparing it with the real grave. Everything was the same except that there was no sign on it. There were no signs on the adjacent graves either. I later understood that the sign was put there only when the photo was taken.

Henrich approached me. He was amazed to see me sitting by this unknown grave. He looked at the photo and affirmed the similarity. But this alone was not enough to conclude my search. I don't know why I wanted Henrich to leave me alone, but he did on his own. I laid my hand on the grave and called out: "Nejdeh, brother, answer me, are you here?" I inexplicably felt that the answer to my mysterious question was in my hand. The feeling under my hand was like a positive reply to my question.

I was pale white when I got out of the cemetery. Henrich was disturbed by my look and he asked me about what happened. Like the victorious King David, I replied "He is here..."

After that we had a feast at Henrich's home. His wife was unable to determine whether I was sane or mad...

Kourken Armaghanian was waiting for me in Yerevan. I told him that I had located the grave. He started looking at me doubtfully and I was unable to tell him what I had encountered.

In August 1983, I was assigned the task of repatriating Nejdeh's remains. To make a long story short, I went to Vladimir and the first thing I did was to seek the help of the young lad in the photo. He helped me...

I started digging the grave in daylight. I easily located the bones and the skull, which seemed as if it was cast in gold. A wide forehead and immense eyes. Witnesses remember this beautiful Man, who possessed a magical charm and whose fatherland was not just a space on this planet. He was a fugitive and a wanderer like all our Fathers.

Nejdeh was buried by a brigade of half-mad thieves, who had nothing in common with him. A hole in the frozen ground and, "God gave and God took away."

This is how geniuses and heroes are buried on our planet. Your glorious name is returned to you. Your cemetery will become a sanctuary for all Armenians. Your nation's other "uprooted" children are being returned too. Your souls are finally on their way to eternity. We are approaching the times you were dreaming of by stating that, "A new bible will be written for our nation, the Bible of the Braves."

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



George Beylerian

NEW YORK (New York Times)—The material world can be fragile and fleeting, and few people appreciate this as profoundly as **George Beylerian**. In his airy offices on West 25th Street, Mr. Beylerian faced a fresh reminder of this transient state of affairs. Formica, he said, had just filed for bankruptcy protection. Mr. Beylerian, 66, wore a gray knit shirt and sweater, a striped tie, and oval glasses that gave him the air of a hipster on holiday. The Formica news hung like a cloud of rue. Some people collect baseball cards or gossip about royal families. Mr. Beylerian collects and obsesses over materials.

As he spoke, he looked out on neatly arranged samples of 3,000 substances, each with its own stories. He rubbed his hands across the smooth walls of his office. These surfaces, too, bore a story of material affection and regret. The paneling was a new composite made from the waste fibers of sugar cane stalks. It was cheap, handsome, and easy on the environment—a product with a future. "Then the man went out of business," Mr. Beylerian said. "If I knew," he said, "I could have brokered an adoption."

In 1997, after a career in retail and design, he started what he calls his "petting zoo for new materials" as a resource for architects and designers. For a price, they could run their fingers through the latest slimes, gels, resins, foams, holographic films, and laminates that only an obsessive like him would collect. He called it Material ConneXion. As his library of odd materials grew, he hoped the interaction of technology, art, and commerce would spark new design ideas. He also hoped it would yield a business model.

Laura Bohn, a designer who has tapped Mr. Beylerian's expertise for more than a decade, said before him, designers had to sort through bins of industrial samples on Canal Street. Mr. Beylerian has built a roster of about 700 members, who pay from \$500 to more than \$10,000 a year to use the library and consult with the staff. The company does not test the materials or take a commission on successful matches. Each month, an outside jury evaluates materials for inclusion. The latest approvals include a plastic sheeting made with recycled coffee grounds. The showroom runs on equal parts technology and schmooze, a reflection of Mr. Beylerian.

He was born in Alexandria, Egypt, the son of a merchant family, and moved to New York in 1957, after the Egyptian government nationalized businesses. In the 1970s and 1980s, working for the Italian firm Kartell and for his own boutique, he became a crusader for high-quality plastic furnishings in the US. While working as creative director for a division of the furniture maker Steelcase, he helped organize a 1990 exhibition at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum called "Mondo Materialis," a coming-out party for such materials as neoprene sheeting and electrochromatic glass that could change color throughout the day.

"It was a moral mission," said Ben Lloyd, a designer and former editor of Metropolitan Home magazine. "George believed he was doing something better

for society, making things with new materials in a timely shape."

Mr. Beylerian and members of his staff were recovering from visits from Nike and BMW, both interested in materials developed for uses other than in sneakers or cars. "There's a lot of technology transfer," said Harvard Graduate School of Design professor Toshiko Mori, citing materials developed for use in weapons, boats, and space exploration that found their ultimate use in housewares or toys. Such technologies might not make it to domestic use, or profitability, without the nudge of Mr. Beylerian. "He's really promoting misuse of materials," she said. "And he's such a visual person, everything goes through his editing process. He gives us a palette."

Mr. Beylerian plans to take the security theme to the International Milan Furniture Fair. He asked designers to name five products they associated with safety. One suggested cages for Washington politicians, with breathing tubes in case global warming raises sea level over their heads. It was the sort of prankish misuse Mr. Beylerian appreciates. Like many obsessives, Mr. Beylerian spends a good part of his time in genial grumble about his obsession. "I'm burnt out every day," he said. Between complaints, he talked excitedly about plans to expand to Europe, Detroit, and beyond.

ATLANTA, GA (TBS)—TBS Superstation is teaming with Columbia TriStar Television, producer of Ripley's Believe It or Not! to launch a new prime time series based on the hip, irreverent bestseller *The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook*. TBS ordered 22 episodes of the one-hour series, titled *Worst-Case Scenario*, from TriStar which, with **Craig Piligian**, acquired the highly sought-after rights to the property from Chronicle Books.

Piligian, who is co-executive producer of CBS's *Survivor* and *Survivor: The Australian Outback*, will serve as executive producer. *Worst-Case Scenario* will make its premiere this year on TBS. "We had multiple offers from broadcast and cable networks for the series, due to huge, broad-based popularity of the book and Craig's proven track record," said TriStar president of programming and production Russ Krasnoff. *The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook* tackles the world's most extreme situations in which people could find themselves, from jumping off a burning roof to winning a wrestling bout with an alligator.

Piligian has launched and successfully run seven reality series on broadcast, cable, and syndication television. In addition to co-executive producing the *Survivor* series, he is also creator and executive producer of the Discovery Channel's *CIA Files* and senior producer of the syndicated series *Real Stories of the Highway Patrol*. Piligian is represented by Pure Arts Management.

WASHINGTON, DC (Washington Post)—President Bush has rewarded his most successful campaign contributors with ambassadorships, appointments, and personal perks. And for good reason—if campaign finance legislation becomes law, he will reap even more benefit from them in 2004. The group is the Pioneers, the early supporters of Bush's presidential campaign who each agreed to raise \$100,000, with many of them far surpassing that. They started the fundraising momentum that eventually brought the Bush campaign about \$113 million, the record for a campaign.

Rewarding big contributors, known as donor maintenance, is practiced by all presidents and in statehouses throughout the nation, but Bush has a special challenge. After raising more money than any politician in history, he has more people to keep happy with Pioneers at the top of

the pyramid. The new Bush administration did not lose sight of the Pioneers, 212 of whom were publicly identified by the campaign, with 66 from Texas. Nineteen were granted ambassadorships, including the plums of France, Switzerland, Spain, and Portugal, as well as the European Union headquarters in Brussels. Two were appointed to the Cabinet. Several were nominated for senior administration jobs, and a number had the chance to benefit their companies by serving on the transition advisory teams that helped staff the departments responsible for their industries.

Pioneer Matt Fong, a former California state treasurer, was named Undersecretary of the Army but later withdrew. Another Pioneer was named to the board of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and several were invited for last year's Kennedy Center reception. During the holiday season, the White House was closed to the public, but not to Pioneers. Several Pioneers and their spouses were ushered in for small parties with the President and First Lady Laura Bush.

"This White House has so many claimants who did something very tangible that it puts intense pressure on the government," said John C. Green, director of the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron, who has studied



John Baronian

the Pioneers. Green and others expect the cross-pollination between Bush's financial and governmental efforts to increase, since Bush's strategists see a new urgency to keeping Pioneers energized. Pioneers' money was raised in \$1,000 increments, the limit for a single donation to a federal campaign.

"If the soft-money door is slammed shut, the Pioneers become the model for the future as far as using bundled contributions to get past absolute limits," said Andrew A. Wheat, research director of Texans for Public Justice, a nonprofit group that pushed for the release of the names of Pioneers. Besides personal touches such as parties and photo opportunities, several Pioneers are now on the federal payroll. The Cabinet members are Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao and Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge. **Joseph H. Bogosian**, a vice president for McGuire Woods Consulting and a Pioneer from Arlington, became the administration's highest-ranking Armenian-American when he was named a deputy assistant commerce secretary.

WARWICK, RI—During the closing banquet of the National Representative Assembly of the Armenian Apostolic Church of the Eastern United States, which was held on May 10, in Warwick, Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Prelate, presented the Man of the Year Award to **John Baronian**.

The award was presented to Mr. Baronian in recognition of his service to higher education and to the Armenian-American community. The Spirit of Armenia Award was also given to Rep. James R. Langevin (D-RI), for his active and dedicated support of the Armenian-American community.

Knight of Cilicia awards were presented to **Dr. Vahagn Taschdjian**, **Garbis Garbooshian**, and John

Baronian on behalf of the His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia.

Two new categories of recognition were introduced—the Youth Leadership Award, and the Prelacy Medallion. Youth awards were presented to **Tamar Palandjian** and **Harout Khatchadourian**, and the Prelacy Medallion was presented to **Souren Mouradjian**.

WASHINGTON, DC (New York Times)—Only in the Immigration and Naturalization Service could the task of streamlining the agency fall to an official recently named to be "assistant deputy executive associate commissioner for immigration services." The title aptly symbolizes the hapless agency's problems. The disclosure that the INS mailed out visa extensions for two of the dead Sept. 11 hijackers renewed calls to abolish the INS and split up its functions. But many immigration experts say that what the US needs isn't an amalgam of smaller agencies.

They envision a cabinet-level agency of immigration affairs, able to track foreigners electronically from the moment they apply for a visa to the day they leave the US or become citizens. This new agency would consolidate tasks currently assigned to many different agencies. "It would be a whole migration affairs agency that would be responsible for what's ultimately an international process with distinct domestic features," said Frank Sharry, executive director of the National Immigration Forum, an immigrant advocacy group.

Mr. Sharry, a liberal, is joined by conservatives like **Mark Krikorian**, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, which has advocated restrictions on immigration. In this case, Mr. Krikorian said, bigger government could be better. "The consular offices overseas, for instance, are America's other border patrol," Mr. Krikorian said. "Properly screening visitors before they get here is far more effective than chasing around after people once we let them in."

The way the US handles foreigners almost guarantees failure. Only after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, for example, did INS inspectors at airports and border crossings gain access to the State Department's consular database, which can help prevent foreigners with altered visas from slipping into the country illegally. The structure of the INS also works against it. Its 33 district directors run their regions, often ignoring orders from headquarters in Washington. The INS still has computers that don't talk to each other, and when the new commissioner of immigration and naturalization, James W. Ziglar, arrived on the job, he was shocked to learn that paperwork typically sat around for weeks before it was processed.

Of course, creating a vast new Washington bureaucracy is highly unlikely. Other federal agencies will certainly resist losing parts of their portfolio and budgets. Any plan to reshape the INS will ultimately require Congressional approval, and Congress seems to be leaning toward abolishing the INS. Rep. Tom Tancredo, a Colorado Republican who heads the Congressional Immigration Reform Caucus, says the US should freeze the number of legal immigrants allowed into the country each year at 300,000, down from nearly one million, to allow the new agency to reduce backlogs.

FRESNO, CA (Sacramento Bee)—The California raisin is in trouble. Actually, the raisin is doing fine. The farmers who grow it are not. Raisin people are used to boom and bust. They've been booming and busting since the dried grape first rose to agricultural prominence in the 1920s. But the latest down cycle has all the looks of a permanent slide. Although 40 percent of the world's raisins are still grown within 30 miles of Fresno, that dominance is increasingly fragile. It's held together by a government-backed cartel that protected farmers from competing against each other but in doing so has left them open to world competition.

The California product is losing ground to Turkey, Australia, and South America. And while the raisin is life to 5,000 grow-

ers, it's also the last resort for grape ranchers who can't find anything else to do with their fruit. So as the market for grapes in juice concentrate and wine declines, more grapes end up dried. That will be good news for consumers if the dropping price ever reaches the grocery shelf. For now it's killing the farmer.

"We're all dying," says **Richard Garabedian**, a Fowler grower and chairman of the Raisin Administrative Committee. "This is the worst time since the Great Depression."

The immediate problem stems from a bumper crop in 2000 that far exceeded worldwide demand. When supply outstrips demand, the farmers put the excess in reserve and are paid up-front only for the amount of the remaining "free tonnage" that they ship. This diversion of raisins from market is meant to stabilize prices, but last year that didn't work. This year, with another huge crop, everyone's expecting the worst.

And their solution, when times get tough, is to do what they have been doing since the 1930s: limit supply to drive up the price or keep it from falling. When diverting the crop to reserves isn't enough, the industry resorts to more drastic measures. This month growers will be yanking out vines on as many as 8,000 acres.

In other industries—say, electricity—we'd throw producers in jail if we caught them colluding to reduce supply in order to boost prices. But in raisins, like much of agriculture, this is a way of life, embraced if not encouraged by the government. The federal marketing orders that control industry affairs date from the 1930s, when farms across the country were threatened with bankruptcy and Americans decided that the way to save them was to stabilize prices.

Garabedian is concerned that growers who are paid this year to pull their vines might take out their older, lower-yielding plants and replace them with higher-yielding varieties that can be picked mechanically. Garabedian has argued for a three-year moratorium on new plantings.

BOSTON, MA (Boston Globe)—The trappings of power are nowhere evident in the offices of **Mitchell Garabedian**, where the elevator opens onto a tired carpet that shares space with cardboard boxes and piled newspapers. Nor is Garabedian an outwardly imposing figure. When he walks through downtown Boston, cab drivers and homeless people greet him by name—more than a few were clients as he was building his practice. "Not one of your more well-known trial lawyers," in the words of one prominent attorney. Until now.

There isn't a lawyer in town handling a more explosive case than the nationally publicized child-molestation lawsuits that Garabedian spearheaded against former priest John J. Geoghan and the Archdiocese of Boston. As the case snowballed into allegations that scores of other priests also committed sexual abuse against children, the church has been shaken, and Cardinal Bernard Law was thrust into a crisis.

It was a crisis that also defined Mitchell Garabedian. For eight years, he was consumed by cases involving priests alleged to have sexually abused children. "I'm still amazed at what I've found out," said Garabedian, 50, during an interview.

The trail began in 1994 when a woman walked into Garabedian's office and asked: "Will you listen to my three children?" The tale was one of alleged sexual abuse by a trusted priest. As word spread that the attorney was willing to take on these cases, other victims told their stories. He estimates that he and another member of his firm have spent thousands of hours on the litigation.

Before he undertook the litigation, Garabedian viewed the Catholic church as "a substantially fine institution." Even now, he acknowledges that the church "does a lot of good things." In the beginning, there were some phone calls from Catholics angry at Garabedian, but those dwindled. However, his outspokenness drew harsh criticism from the attorney for the Archdiocese, who wrote a letter to the

archdiocesan newspaper accusing Garabedian of "inappropriate and unfair use of the media."

Garabedian's firm worked on the understanding that he will receive nothing up front, but one-third of the money from any settlement. Garabedian grew vehement when asked about the perception by some



Mitchell Garabedian

that when attorneys sue large institutions like the Catholic Church, the primary motive is financial. "Come to work with me for a week, just one week," he said. "See the hours involved, the emotions involved. This is tragedy."

The second of three children, Garabedian grew up on a 375-acre farm in Methuen, MA, owned by his parents, Marsoob and Juyard Garabedian, who were known as Martin and Violet. His family was active in the Armenian Apostolic Church in Lawrence, MA. Garabedian helped with farm chores, riding with his father to deliver the vegetables to markets in Boston and Connecticut.

Garabedian was the first member of his family to attend college. After graduating from Methuen's Tenney High School in 1969, Garabedian enrolled at Boston University, and the "farm kid" fell in love with the city. After BU, he earned a master's degree in political science from Northeastern University but his career path was far from settled. He worked as a cab driver for a year. Finally resolved to be a lawyer, he applied to the New England School of Law. Garabedian said he feels "very fortunate when I compare my childhood with the childhood of these [victims]." That feeling was part of what made him take on the cases.

MEDFORD, MA—The Tufts University Alumni Association recently honored **Albert S. Hovannesian**, a resident of Winchester, MA, with its annual Distinguished Service Award. The Distinguished Service Award is given each year to several graduates of the University for outstanding accomplishments in profession, community, and service to Tufts. It is the highest honor an individual can receive from the association.

Born in Boston and educated in Watertown schools, Albert Hovannesian entered Tufts on an accelerated program, working his way through the first two years as a night shift machinist. He entered the military service and finished his last two years of school under the GI Bill. After graduating in 1946, he was a project engineer at Raytheon, where he worked on a secret air force contract. In 1950, Albert started work at Gabriel Laboratories and was made chief engineer at age 28.

In 1956, Albert founded his own company, the Diamond Antenna and Microwave Corp., in Lowell, MA, which specialized in custom designed radar antennas and related components. He sold the company and retired in 1995. Mr. Hovannesian was an active member of Rep. Edward Markey's Small Business Committee for four years and has also been a member of several professional and small business societies. He was the president of the Winchester Rotary Club and is the director of the National Contract Managers Association. Additionally, he has established four scholarships at Tufts University and one at Bentley College.

NEW YORK—**Vartan Gregorian**, president of the Carnegie Corporation of

New York, was recently given the Founder's Award for Cultural Leadership from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in recognition of his "exemplary service to history." The Historical Society of Pennsylvania fosters human understanding and community advancement in Pennsylvania and throughout the nation. The society documents, preserves, and shares the histories and cultures of the nation's diverse communities. The award recognizes those who are leaders in promoting history through scholarship, documentation, art, preservation of buildings and communities, public history, philanthropy, or through leadership of institutions that preserve, interpret, and promote the traditions and values of our society.

In presenting the award, Society Councilor Barbara L. Greenfield said that Gregorian has brought his perspective as an historian to the leadership of three of this nation's most respected institutions. "From teaching history at several universities, including Philadelphia's own University of Pennsylvania, you ascended to the leadership of three of this nation's most distinguished institutions. Under your guidance, the neglected New York Public Library reclaimed its place as the nation's premier public library system, attracting renewed city funding and significant private support. As president of Brown, you tripled the University's endowment, increased the library holdings 50 percent, added eleven new departments, and hired 270 new faculty. Since 1997, as president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, you have worked to promote the contemporary interpretation of Andrew Carnegie's vision in education, international peace and security, international development, and democracy. You have been a strong, consistent, and insightful force in confronting the changing nature of education in the information age."

Gregorian said he was deeply honored by the award, especially since it recog-



Vartan Gregorian

nized the importance of history. "To know history is to know yourself, others, the work of God and all Creation," he said.

In addition to Gregorian, Founder's Awards were given to James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress; Charles L. Blockson, collector and curator of Temple University's Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection; and Bette Bao Lord, author on modern China and human rights advocate. The Carnegie Corporation of New York was created by Andrew Carnegie in 1911 to promote "the advancement and diffusion of knowledge and understanding." The Corporation's capitol fund, originally donated at a value of about \$135 million, has a market value of around \$1.7 billion. The Corporation awards grants totaling approximately \$75 million a year in education, international peace and security, international development, and strengthening US democracy.

BELMONT, MA (Boston Phoenix)—The center-entrance colonial on a side street in Belmont was an unlikely setting for an Armenian feast. The wrong address? But before I got my raincoat off, I heard a familiar tumult in the kitchen. Much chopping and whirring, garlic frying in olive oil, and many people talking at once in a very small space. I greeted our hostess, **Audrey Kalajian**, and squeezed past the milk crates stacked with food to find pro-

fessional chefs Ana Sortun from Oleana, Ruth-Anne Adams from Casablanca, **Marc Orfaly** from Pigalle, and baker **Vicki Lee Boyajian** in the kitchen, all ecstatic to be cooking an Armenian menu under the tutelage of Armenian ethnobotanist and herbal-tea importer **Armen Mehrabian**. This was an Armenian-cooking class for chefs, punctuated by a seven-course meal.

Sortun had cooked last year with Mehrabian at Oleana and was entranced by his knowledge of spices and herbs. "He's a genius," she said. "Nobody on the planet knows what he knows about these herbs and these flavors." Under Mehrabian's gaze, Sortun was chopping lemons for a broccoli salad with tarragon oil, tossing green beans with artemisia oil, and taking alternating sips of white wine and nips of vodka with absinthe.

Orfaly brought a marinated lamb loin, crusted with his own concoction of zaatar, an Armenian spice rub with a tang that made me feel like taking a belly-dancing class or hopping the next plane to Yerevan. He also brought his Armenian mother, Linda, who made her special grape leaves.

Nearly everyone was a Barsamian, Boyajian, Mooradian, or a Kalajian, and they were all trading family recipes for kofta and lehmeyun. By the time most everyone had become soused, the food was ready. Our hostess, Audrey, had somehow re-arranged her house to suit a major feast. When the barbecue, a delicious pork-chop khorovadz with blackberry sauce, was brought around, we were stupefied with food and drink.

The conversation started to get raucous and political. Who knew that Israel, formerly sympathetic to recognition of the Armenian Genocide, was now muting its support because Turkey is too important an ally? Among Armenians, I came to understand, food and politics flow seamlessly.

This was Mehrabian's second visit to Boston. He came last year from his home in Yerevan to conduct tea seminars for restaurants in conjunction with **Mark Mooradian** of MEM Tea Imports. Mooradian is the man single-handedly transforming your standard cup of hot water with teabag into a full-fledged tea course, complete with tea sommeliers at many of the region's best restaurants and cafe's. He is one of perhaps five loose-tea dealers in the country. "Boston's tea palate is the most sophisticated in the country," he said. "More people here than anywhere else are choosing to drink fine loose teas. Armen's herbal teas are among my most popular teas—especially his wild-mint, sevan, linden, and ani blend."

The Armenian teas are ancient blends of herbs, flowers, barks, and spices (lots of oregano) that have been part of the Armenian food culture for 2,500 years. These blends are prized for their taste, flavor, and digestive qualities. The recipes are passed from generation to generation. The caffeine-free teas are wild-harvested in Armenia by more than 450 villagers, making Mehrabian one of the largest employers in Yerevan.

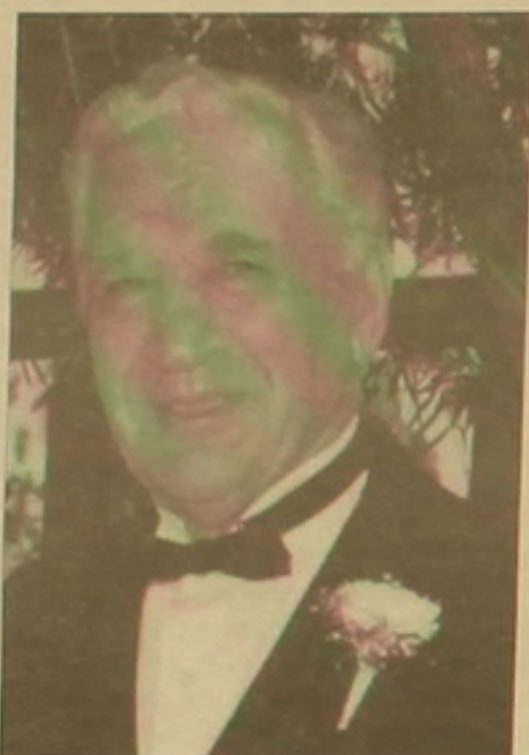
Mooradian makes sure that each tea's performance is maximized by running training seminars for wait staff. Mooradian now has 160 restaurants, cafe's, and lounges selling his premium teas.

ORCHARD LAKE, MI—Local businessman and entrepreneur **Edgar Hagopian** received the 2002 Outstanding Employer Award on behalf of his company, Hagopian World of Rugs, from the Oakland County Business Finance Corporation and the Oakland County Development Corporation. The award is given in recognition of outstanding job retention and creation. The award was presented at the annual awards dinner on Wednesday, June 5, at Pine Lake Country Club.

Mr. Hagopian was accompanied by his daughter, **Suzanne Hagopian**, Executive Vice President of Hagopian World of Rugs. Mr. Hagopian's "Hagopian Family of Companies," which includes the Original Hagopian Cleaning Services, has been in the metro Detroit area since 1939.

A Tribute to Mardiros Caprielian From His Son Edward C. Caprielian, PhD

Mardiros Caprielian was born in Palu, Turkey on January 22, 1908. In 1915, at the age of seven, his mother, Bagdad, with great sadness, took steps to ensure her son would escape the dangers of the Armenian Genocide and be allowed to live life as an Armenian. With the help of friends and relatives, he found refuge in an orphanage near Beirut, Lebanon, separated from his mother for the rest of his life. At the orphanage, his cousin, Donig Donigian, joined him. Together they developed a deep and profound friendship based on mutual admiration, respect, and love that never ended.



In 1922, he left Lebanon and resided with relatives in Marseilles, France. In 1928, he came to the United States; and, at the age of 20, he met, for the first time, his father, Bedros Caprielian. His father had arrived in the United States in 1907, before his son was born, to earn money to send to his family.

To use the title of a deeply moving book on millions of courageous Armenians written by his cousin and beloved friend, Souren A. Papazian, Mardiros continued on his, "Odyssey Of A Survivor."

He and his father owned and operated grocery stores in New York for over 40 years. Mardiros married Alice Bozian in 1939. They raised two sons, Edward and Martin, Jr., in Manhattan. Alice worked at Macy's Department Store in downtown New York for 42 years before and after their marriage. She also spent many evenings helping her husband in the grocery store.

In 1967, he sold his grocery store and worked at Macy's in the specialty foods section for 20 years. He was well liked and respected by his co-workers, supervisors, and customers.

In 1995, Mardiros and Alice moved to Manhattan Beach, California and lived in their own apartment very close to his son, Edward and his family. Mardiros died on June 19, 2002. He was 94-years old. He leaves behind memories of a joy for life. His wife will remember the deep love they shared during their marriage of 63 years. His family, relatives, and friends will miss him for the warmth, caring, and laughter he gave to all of us.

The American poet, e.e. cummings, wrote, "To be nobody-but-yourself in a world which is doing its best, night and day, to make you everybody else—means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight, and never stop fighting."

Mardiros Caprielian lived a life being nobody but himself.

Interns...

continued from page 3

representatives and now in the Senate on Armenian-American concerns. They also expressed hope that her close relationship with the Armenian-American community in California would continue to expand as she works to attain Congressional recognition of the Genocide and secure US aid to Armenia and Karabagh.

"Armenian-Americans, in California and throughout America, value Senator Boxer's outspoken leadership on the full range of Armenian-American concerns—particularly Congressional recognition of the Armenian Genocide—throughout her years in public service," said California native, Viken Karapetian. "We look for-

ward to educating our community about her strong record of friendship with her Armenian-American constituents."

Now in its 18th year, the ANCA Leo Sarkisian Internship Program is an intensive six-week program in the nation's capital, geared to train youth leaders in promoting Armenian-American concerns in their local communities.

Interns carry out a range of projects including participation in the ANCA Election 2002 Candidate Outreach campaign, an ongoing initiative to reach out to Congressional candidates across the US in an effort to educate them on Armenian-American concerns. The program also includes an in-depth lecture series on issues facing Armenia and Karabagh as well as hands on workshops to build activism skills.

Pipeline...

continued from page 3

"This pipeline would militarize a corridor running from the Caspian to the Mediterranean," said Kerim Yildiz of the London-based Kurdish Human Rights Project, one of the letter's signers. "This could threaten the fragile ceasefire in the Kurdish region through which the pipeline will pass."

But the security risk is only one of a series of concerns raised by the NGOs, some of which took part in a visit to villages along the pipeline route in Azerbaijan and Georgia this month. "We are concerned that the pipeline will bring few benefits to poorer people and could exacerbate tensions in the region," said the groups, which are led by Friends of the Earth (FoE) International.

The NGO delegation, which included representatives from the US, Italy, Britain, Ukraine, and Georgia, found that the local people were concerned about their future in light of BP's plans. "The two biggest issues for the local people are getting jobs and energy from the project," said Carol Welch, deputy director of programs for the US branch of FoE. "BP has informed [them] that the project is going forward, but they've provided little or no information about its plans and impact. They are skeptical that [they] will see any benefit."

"Some people will lose their entire livelihoods because of the project, and it is likely that the companies' promises to bring jobs and local development will not be met,"

said Petre Holobil of CEE BankWatch in Prague. "Local people lack basic energy supplies, but the oil and gas from the Caspian will be piped straight to Western markets. Local communities will be bypassed."

The groups, which also include Novib of the Netherlands, Italy's Campaign to Reform the World Bank, and Germany's Urgewald, are demanding that more information about the project be made available to the local people who should be fully consulted and provided with assurances that they will be supplied affordable sources of energy before the project is approved.

The groups also express great concern over possible corruption surrounding the project and revenues earned by it, particularly since Azeri President Heydar Aliyev has been given sole power to approve expenditures from a recently created Azeri Oil Fund. Any financial support from external public agencies should be strictly conditioned on putting in place credible oversight mechanisms guaranteeing transparency in the Fund's operations, the letter says.

Financing agencies should also assess the project's impact on climate change, said FoE International's Kate Hampton, who pointed out that the oil transported along the pipeline will contribute 185 million tons of carbon-dioxide emissions once burned. "If public money is used for this pipeline, we will all be subsidizing dirty energy, both here and elsewhere," Welch said the letter marks the beginning of a broader campaign that will enlist other international NGOs, such as Greenpeace.

High Tech...

continued from page 5

ogy park in Yerevan, and Roger Strauch, Chairman of the RodaGroup, a hands-on investment firm in Berkeley, CA. Moroyan described how his firm was leveraging its experience incubating companies in Silicon Valley to build Viasphere—the first commercial incubator in Armenia—while Strauch identified some of the critical questions that Armenian start-up companies would need to address in order to raise venture capital in the U.S.

Brian Bogosian, President and CEO of Visto Corporation—one of hundreds of US-based companies exploring software development opportunities overseas—discussed the value of offshore development to his company and identified some of the factors his company would consider when assessing opportunities in Armenia.

Following the panel discussion, Joe Simitian, a California State Assemblyman from San Mateo and Santa Clara, described

California's High-Tech Trade Initiative with Armenia. Assemblymen Simitian discussed how Armenian-Americans living in California could educate California companies about business opportunities in Armenia.

The meeting was closed by Razmik Abnous, Chief Architect and VP at Documentum, and Dork Alahydoian, Product Manager at LookSmart. They outlined several initiatives the attendees and other Armenian-Americans could get involved with to develop Armenia's high tech industry. They also discussed some of the projects that AHTCA is focusing on in 2002, including AHTCA's Business Plan Competition, the development of an Armenian IT Web Portal, and AHTCA's collaboration with IESC/Geek Corps.

The AHTCA is a non-profit organization formed to promote and support the creation and development of technology based businesses in Armenia. Now in its 20th year, the APS promotes the advancement of education by providing annual scholarships to Armenian university students in the US and Armenia.

Council of Europe...

continued from front page

ishment. The issue was discussed during Schwimmer's meeting with the leadership of the Armenian Parliament. Most of them voted for a special clause stipulating that individuals convicted of serious crimes can be sentenced to death, which was primarily directed against the October 27, 1999 gunmen. Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian said the Armenian government does not approve of the Parliament's stance on the issue.

Schwimmer also said that the freedom and fairness of the approaching elections will be "crucial for the democratic future of the country," adding that the organization

will closely monitor the polls. Schwimmer further urged the authorities to fight against rampant corruption, reflecting Western concerns about the problem.

Turning to Karabagh, Schwimmer cited the example of Western European nations that have laid to rest centuries-old conflicts to build the world's most prosperous political and economic grouping. He said a speedy resolution of the Karabagh dispute is the main "precondition for regional cooperation" in the South Caucasus. "Borders should not be as important as they have been in the past," he said, pointing to the European Union's successful experience with inter-state integration. Oskanian reaffirmed Armenia's readiness to engage in joint economic projects with Azerbaijan.



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Or 30% of Your Monthly Income

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—Social Security

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MID ATLANTIC

JULY 20, 2002 • BANQUET, SPONSORED BY ARS OF EASTERN USA BOARD OF REGIONAL DIRECTORS. Under the auspices of His Grace Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, organized by the New Jersey ARS 'Agnouni,' 'Bergen County,' 'Shakeh,' and 'Spitak' Chapters. Featuring Arthur Apkarian and Band, begins 7:30 pm at the Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel, 2 Meadowlands Plaza, East Rutherford, NJ. Donation \$60. For reservations and information, call Zevart Balekjian (201) 265-1416.

AUGUST 18, 2002 • BLESSING OF THE GRAPES AND ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC. Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church, Ridgefield, NJ. More details to follow.

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 2, 2002 • AYF-YOARF SENIOR OLYMPICS IN PHILADELPHIA. For reservations at the Radisson headquarters hotel or the Scanticon in the Radisson complex, call 1-888-267-1500. For the Sheraton Park Ridge hotel, call 1-800-325-3535. Refer to the AYF Olympics when calling to ensure booking at the appropriate rate. Stay tuned to the Armenian Weekly and www.ayf.org for continuing updates.

Friday, August 30: Alumni Dance featuring the George Mgrdichian Ensemble (Sheraton) and AYF Dance featuring Harout Pamboukjian and his band (Radisson).

Saturday, August 31: Dance featuring the Aravod Ensemble and the Michael Gostanian Ensemble (Radisson).

Sunday, September 1: Olympic Grand Ball featuring the Fabulous Vosbikian Band (Radisson).

SEPTEMBER 15, 2002 • 2ND ANNUAL FOOD FESTIVAL. At Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church, 461 Bergen Blvd., Ridgefield, NJ.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2002 • HOMENETMEN EASTERN REGION 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. Dinner Dance, organized by Homenetmen of New Jersey, featuring Karnig Sarkissian from

California, Seto Baghdassarian from Lebanon, and Paul Tutunjian from Canada. At Assyrian Orthodox Church, 644 Paramus Rd, Paramus, NJ. For tickets or information call Zareh Haroutunian (917) 509-9848 or visit www.homenetmen.com. Donation is \$75.00.

OCTOBER 5, 2002 • CASINO NIGHT. An evening of fun and prizes. Blackjack, Craps, Roulette, Poker, and more. Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church, Ridgefield, NJ. More details to follow.

NOVEMBER 1-3, 2002 • ANNUAL BAZAAR. Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church, Ridgefield, NJ.

NOVEMBER 30, 2002 • KITCHEN RENOVATION DINNER. Celebrate the culmination of the year's efforts and finish the renovation of our kitchen. Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church, Ridgefield, NJ. More details to follow.

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Commission...

continued from front page

ected toward the group have been its secretive nature and the absence of any reference to the Genocide issue in the commission's July 9, 2001 "terms of reference." Active behind-the-scenes attempts to salvage the reconciliation effort for the past six months had made little headway thus far.

Still, one US official familiar with the process insisted that the December statement by the Armenian members "neither suspended nor ended TARC's work." One of the ways of reviving TARC being considered by the involved parties is to expand its membership to make it more balanced. The Turkish side consists of seasoned diplomats well versed in negotiating and Genocide denial, while the Armenians side comprises four individuals who lack both the necessary experience and the support of the Armenian community.

Most Armenian observers have further argued that Hovannisian, Migranian, and former foreign minister Alexander Arzoumanian, as well as then-chairman of the Armenian Assembly of America Van Krikorian, lack a mandate to make such far-reaching decisions on behalf of Armenians

worldwide.

Although members claim that the commission was composed of people "working in an individual capacity," Armenian criticism has largely been directed toward the Armenian Assembly of America because of its official support for and endorsement of the group.

Apparently in anticipation of TARC's revival, Krikorian has since been replaced as Assembly chairman, ostensibly to limit further damage to the image of the Armenian Assembly.

The idea to expand the group is backed by David Phillips, the US scholar and State Department adviser who moderated the commission's meetings. Phillips visited Armenia and Turkey in the spring to gauge public opinion in both countries. Based on the reaction he received from the Armenian Parliament, the ARF, and elsewhere in Armenia, observers widely believed at the time that any further discussion of reviving TARC would end.

Hovannisian, meanwhile, claimed that TARC has registered major achievements over the past year, according to Radio Free Europe. He said that the recent direct diplomatic contacts between Turkey and Armenia were made possible by the work of the commission.

Bristol...

continued from page 7

miere. It was directed by Edward Keith Baker, Artistic Director of Bristol Riverside Theatre, and co-produced with the Vartan Petrossian Cultural-Benevolent Fund.

"Through laughter and tears, Vartan explores a slew of cultural differences and similarities," Baker commented. "He could be considered something of an illusionist. He draws the audience into what appear to be random sketches, including imitations of such world-famous singers as Louis Armstrong, Ray Charles, and Elvis Presley. And yet each sketch is a delicate, intricately woven thread, until, seemingly

out of nowhere, a veritable tapestry appears."

"Vartan unifies the show as he wishes to unify the world through understanding," Atkinson said. "Throughout the play we become acquainted with several characters borne of his psyche. We see what on the surface seems to be their bare necessity, but Vartan goes on to peel the layers off each character, each culture, and breaks it down to one unifying necessity connecting all human beings: to simply be understood. The critics to this day cannot distinctly define Vartan's artistic genre: American Show, French Cabaret, French cafe theatre, one-man show, humorous soliloquies, musical imitations, political sarcasm, singing, dancing; all these are present in his newest work."

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MY TURN...

continued from page 4

a number of times during a two hour period, the KTTV reporter then started referring to "the second suspect" as "an Armenian." Later, at a press conference held by law enforcement officials, the police clarified that there was no Armenian suspect. In fact, there never was a second suspect!

Several hours later, the police reported that the lone gunman, who was shot dead, was an Egyptian named

Hesham Mohamed Hadayet. KTTV never issued an explanation, let alone an apology to the Armenian community. By wrongly linking the Armenian name to such an act of terror, KTTV and its police sources committed a serious injustice to the reputation of all Armenians. Armenian-American leaders should meet with KTTV, Fox News Channel, and the Los Angeles Police Department to find out why they issued such a false report, thereby defaming an entire community which had nothing to do with this murderous attack!

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Hitler...

continued from page 2

In his last report to Berlin, he declared: "The Armenians of Turkey for all practical purposes have been exterminated."

Scheubner Richter joined the Nazi party a few years later, after attending a gathering addressed by Hitler. He now called for a ruthless and relentless campaign to cleanse Germany of aliens, and Hitler made him general manager of the party's military wing, the SA.

Scheubner Richter may have been a fascist and a racist, but he was also a clear-thinking strategist. He wrote: "The nationalist revolution must not precede the acquisition of political power; rather, control over the nation's police constitutes the prerequisite for the nationalist revolution."

Six weeks after he wrote this, Scheubner Richter's warning was brought home in the most forceful way to Hitler. On November 9, 1923, a column of several thousands Nazis marched to the Bavarian War Ministry—the first steps of a march to Berlin and seizing power.

Hitler had vacillated for a day, uncertain whether this was the time and the way to challenge the state. He was marching silently at the head of the column, supported by Ludendorff and Scheubner Richter. He took Scheubner Richter's arm, an uncharacteristic gesture of seeking support. At the Odeonsplatz they came up against a police cordon beside the Bavarian War Memorial. A shot rang out, followed by an exchange of fire. Scheubner Richter was the first to fall dead, pulling Hitler down, and wrenching his arm out of joint.

Hitler later had the flag that had headed the march soaked in the blood of the 14

Nazis killed at Odeonsplatz. He made the annual commemoration of the march the central image of Nazi sacrifice. But of the 14 dead, Hitler said: "All are replaceable, but for one—Scheubner Richter."

Ten years later, Hitler achieved the control of the state that Scheubner Richter had warned was the prerequisite for his revolution. By then, no doubt Hitler had thought carefully about all that his irreplaceable colleague had to say about getting away with genocide.

So, far from Hitler and his aides being completely ignorant of the fate of the Armenians, they could not have been more steeped in it. Thus when the voice of denial was raised in a seminar room on a university campus on the western fringes of Europe, I felt many reactions. As an academic challenge, it was a non-starter. As evidence of the determination with which Turkey pursues its policy of denial into the furthest corners of the world, it was startling. But as a personal challenge, it was troubling.

Because my point of view, though deeply respecting evidence and truth, is not academic, but personal. It has been barely a year since I discovered the truth of that genocide. As a researcher of the Holocaust and the son of a refugee survivor, the impact could not have been greater.

Having worked for a decade to uncover the truth of how my mother and her family lost their home in Leipzig, and how her whole family lost their lives in the Soviet Union at the hands of one of the bloodiest SS murderers; having encountered the Nazi who plundered my mother's house, and the Nazis who continue to shelter my family's killers in today's Germany, it has still taken me all these years to appreciate the significance of the 20th century's first genocide. And having discovered it, I can no longer

shake it off. Twenty-five years before the Nazi Holocaust, the Turks had already done it all. Nothing was new.

There is the same demonizing of a minority group as the enemy of the nation. These people are in our way they are our misfortune. There is the same apparatus of state-run genocide: the deception, the pretexts, the concealments, the lulling and trapping of the victim people; the same round-up and instant execution of the most effective leaders and intellectuals who might lead resistance—the first on April 24, 1915; there is the same huge plunder to accompany the murder; there are the same mass shootings with the victims forced to dig their own graves; the same lie that the mass deportations are for resettlement; there are the same death marches; there are the same concentration camps whose only product is death.

Responsible for implementing the Genocide, the Turks had their own SS—the Special Organization, and there was even a "Turkish Wannsee Conference," a secret gathering of 75 top leaders in Istanbul on February 26, 1915 to finalize the operational plan for the solution to the Armenian Question—a plan which achieved the destruction of over 1.5 million Armenians.

Therefore, when a smiling postgraduate student at a Welsh university announces that all this is just lies and forgeries, he might as well have been denying the Holocaust. But he has come to the wrong place to deny genocide. Britain may these days, for reasons of state, flinch from challenging Turkey's denial, but Wales and Welsh politicians have long been concerned with the truth of these matters.

It was in 1914 that a Welsh MP, Aneurin Williams, warned our Foreign Office of a "great fear of a massacre" in Turkey. Williams pursued his campaign to reveal the

truth in parliament and the press, through World War I and beyond.

His pressure must have contributed, in February 1916, to the British government commissioning and publishing a monumental Parliamentary Blue Book, *The Treatment of the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, 1915-1916*, to investigate the Genocide and document it in detail from primary sources. Its co-authors were James Bryce and Arnold Toynbee, the eminent British historian.

This book, the first record of the first genocide of the 20th century, was presented to Wales' First Minister Rhodri Morgan at a ceremony just a year ago on April 24, 2001. His gesture of acceptance signalled that Wales is further along the road to truth than Westminster.

And then there was the Welsh politician who, in 1939, admitted Britain's role in the power politics that betrayed the Armenians to their fate in World War I. Writing his memoirs, David Lloyd George recalled that the Armenians had been guaranteed Russian protection, but Britain opposed the presence of Russian troops in eastern Turkey as a threat to colonial interests in India: "The Russians were forced to withdraw; the wretched Armenians were once more placed under the heel of their old masters. The action of the British government led inevitably to the terrible massacres and, worst of all, to the holocausts of 1915. By these atrocities, almost unparalleled in the black record of Turkish misrule, the Armenian population was reduced in numbers by well over a million."

What of that use of the word holocaust in, of all years, 1939? In the year in which Adolf Hitler asked, "Who after all talks nowadays of the extermination of the Armenians?"

Foreign Aid...

continued from page 4

would no longer be necessary 10 to 15 years after the increase.) Despite the looming expiration of the 15-year aid window, then World Bank President Robert McNamara called for a doubling of aid in 1973. The call for doubling was repeated at the World Bank in its 1990 World Development Report. Not to be outdone, current World Bank President James Wolfensohn is now advocating a doubling of aid.

The cartel's efforts have succeeded. Total assistance flows to developing countries have doubled several times since the early days of large-scale foreign aid. (Meanwhile, the World Bank's staff increased from 657 people in 1959 to some 10,000 today.) In fact, if all foreign aid given since 1950 had been invested in US Treasury bills, the cumulative assets of poor countries by 2001 from foreign aid alone would have amounted to \$2.3 trillion. This aid may have helped achieve such important accomplishments as lower infant mortality and rising literacy throughout the developing world. The growth outcome in most aid recipients, however, has been extremely disappointing. For example, on average, aid-intensive African nations saw growth decline despite constant increases in aid as a percentage of their income.

Aid agencies always claim that their main goal is to reduce the number of poor people in the world, with poverty defined as an annual income below \$365. To this end, the World Bank's 2002 aid accounting estimates that an extra \$1 billion in overseas development assistance would lift more than 284,000 people out of poverty. If these figures are correct, however, then the additional annual aid spending per person lifted out of poverty (whose annual income is less than \$365) comes to \$3,521. Of course, aid agencies don't follow their own logic to this absurd conclusion—common sense says that aid should help everyone and not just target those who can stagger across the minimum poverty threshold. Regrettably this claim for aid's effect on poverty has more to do with the aid bureaucracy's desperate need for good publicity than with sound economics.

To the extent that anyone monitors the performance of global aid agencies, it is the politicians and the public in rich nations.

Aid agencies strive to produce outputs that these audiences can easily observe, even if such outputs provide low economic returns for recipients. Conversely, aid bureaucrats don't try as hard to produce less visible, high-return outputs. This emphasis on visibility results in shiny showcase projects, countless international meetings and summits, glossy reports for public consumption, and the proliferation of strategy papers. Few are concerned about whether the showcase projects endure beyond the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

And then there are the frameworks. In 1999, World Bank President James Wolfensohn unveiled his Comprehensive Development Framework, a checklist of 14 items, each with multiple subitems. The framework covers clean government, property rights, finance, social safety nets, education, health, water, the environment, the arts, roads, cities, the countryside, microcredit, tax policy, and motherhood. (Somehow, macroeconomic policy was omitted.) Perhaps this framework explains why the World Bank says management has simultaneously "refocused and broadened the development agenda." Yet even Wolfensohn seems relatively restrained compared with the framework being readied for the forthcoming UN World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in August, where 185 "action recommendations"—covering everything from efficient use of cow dung to harmonized labeling of chemicals—await unsuspecting delegates.

Of course, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the real 800-pound gorilla of foreign aid frameworks. The representatives of planet Earth agreed on these goals at yet another UN conference in September 2000. The MDGs call for the simultaneous achievement of multiple targets by 2015, involving poverty, hunger, infant and maternal mortality, primary education, clean water, contraceptive use, HIV/AIDS, gender equality, the environment, and an ill-defined "partnership for development." These are all worthy causes, of course, yet would the real development customers necessarily choose to spend their scarce resources to attain these particular objectives under this particular timetable? Greater effort should be devoted to goals with low costs and high benefits, and less to goals where the costs are prohibitive relative to the benefits. Officials in recipient countries and the foreign aid

agency's own workers gradually go insane trying to keep up with proliferating objectives—each of which is deemed Priority Number One.

Pity the poor aid bureaucracy that must maintain support for foreign assistance while bad news is breaking out everywhere. Aid agencies have thus perfected the art of smoothing over unpleasant realities with diplomatic language. A war is deemed a "conflict-related reallocation of resources." Countries run by homicidal warlords like those in Liberia or Somalia are "low-income countries under stress." Nations where presidents loot the treasury experience "governance issues." The meaning of other aid community jargon, like "investment climate," remains elusive.

Another spin technique is to answer criticism by acknowledging that, "Indeed, we aid agencies used to make that mistake, but now we have corrected it." This defense is hard to refute, since it is more difficult to evaluate the present than the past. Among the most popular concepts the aid community has recently discovered is "selectivity"—the principle that aid will only work in countries with good economic policies and efficient, squeaky-clean institutions. However, a recent survey revealed no difference in government ratings on democracy, public service delivery, rule of law, and corruption between those countries that received IMF and World Bank reform loans in 2001 and those that did not. Perhaps the foreign aid community applies the selectivity principle a bit selectively.

How can the cartel of good intentions be reformed so that foreign aid might actually reach and benefit the world's poor? Clearly a good dose of humility is in order, considering all the bright ideas that have failed. Moreover, those of us in the aid industry should not be so arrogant to think we are the determinants of whether low-income countries develop—poor nations must accomplish that mainly on their own. Still, if aid is to have some effect, the aid community cannot remain stuck in a bureaucratic rut. Perhaps using market mechanisms for foreign aid is a better approach. While bureaucratic cartels supply too many goods for which there is little demand and too few goods for which there is much demand, markets are about matching supply and demand.

One option is to break the link between

aid money and the obligatory use of a particular agency's bureaucracy. Foreign assistance agencies could put part of their resources into a common pool devoted to helping countries with acceptably pro-development governments. Governments would compete for the "pro-development" seal of approval, but donors should compete, too. Recipient nations could take the funds and work with any agency they choose. This scenario would minimize duplication and foster competition among aid agencies.

Another market-oriented step would be to issue vouchers to poor individuals or communities, who could exchange them for development services at any agency, NGO, or domestic government agency. These service providers would in turn redeem the vouchers for cash out of the common pool. Aid agencies would be forced to compete to attract aid vouchers for their budgets. Most important, vouchers would provide real market power to the impoverished customers to express their true needs and desires.

Bureaucratic cartels probably last longer than private cartels, but they need not last forever. President George W. Bush's proposed Millennium Challenge Account (under which, "countries that live by these three broad standards—ruling justly, investing in their people, and encouraging economic freedom—will receive more aid from America") and the accompanying increase in US aid will challenge the IMF and World Bank's near monopoly over reform-related lending.

Within the World Bank, a recent paper suggested experimenting with "output-based aid" in which assistance would compensate service providers only when services are actually delivered to the poor. Here again, private firms, NGOs, and government agencies could compete to serve as providers.

Now that rich countries again seem interested in foreign aid, pressure is growing to reform a global aid bureaucracy that is increasingly out of touch. The high-income countries that finance aid should subject the cartel of good intentions to the bracing wind of competition, markets, and accountability. Donors and recipients alike should not put up with \$3,521 in aid to reduce the poverty head count by one, 185-point development frameworks, or an alphabet soup of bureaucratic fads. The poor deserve better.



* * *

Freedom is not a choice,
Neither is death.
Oppression has never been an option.
We don't have the ability
To choose sins that seem to
Find their way toward our people.
We, as Armenians,
Attacked by demon figures
In the shadows.
With one purpose
To destroy,
Control, even enslave.
Our individuality masked
By an indivisible stampede of
Nations,
Eager to crush.
Our past still lingers,
Our hearts still leak with tears.
We will never beg for forgiveness,
For we have not sinned.

By Anoush Essajanian, Age 14
Greater Boston 'Nejdeh' Chapter

Kulegian's 20 Ks Sets New Watertown Record

By JOSH BELLINI

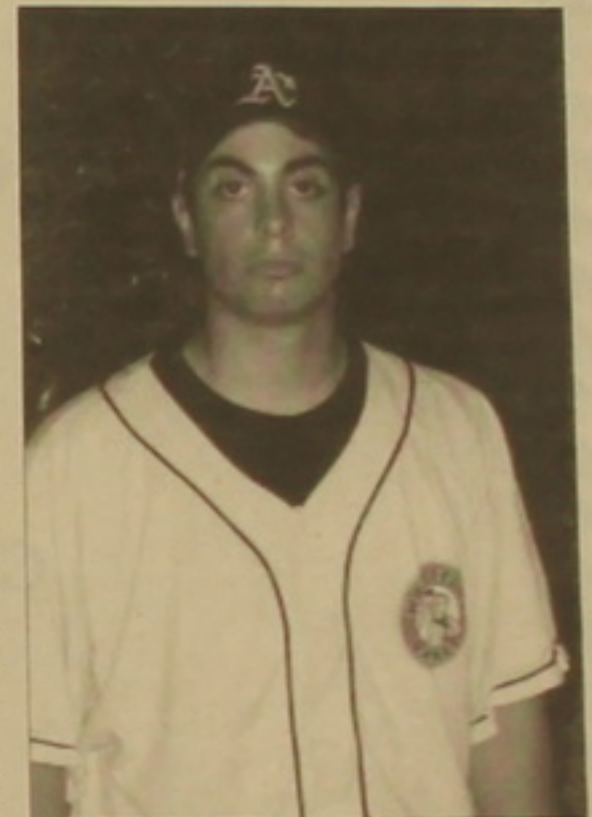
WATERTOWN, MA (Watertown Tab and Press)—On Wednesday, June 5, a milestone in Watertown baseball annals was realized at Victory Field. Pitching for his Babe Ruth Athletics team, freshman hurler John Kulegian struck out 20 batters in a seven-inning complete game victory...In other words, all but one out was achieved by the K.

In a bizarre game which the As won by a 7-6 score, the winners had only one hit—a third-inning single by Mike Hayek—while the losing Marlins had four hits, three of them by Watertown High School second baseman Jonathan Coughlin. Four of Kulegian's five walks crossed the plate.

Kulegian struck out the side in every inning but the third, when a near passed ball resulted in catcher Jeff Nash throwing out the Marlin second baseman at the plate. Johnny K was the man applying the tag on that play as well.

According to coaches and spectators who've been around the league during the past 20 years, the previous strikeout record had been 19.

Ed. note: Kulegian also holds the Watertown Little League strikeout record—16 strikeouts in a six-inning game—set three years ago. John is a member of the Greater Boston 'Nejdeh' AYF Junior Chapter.



John Kulegian

Who Am I?

By HAROUT AKMAKJIAN, AGE 14
CHICAGO 'ARARAT' JUNIOR CHAPTER

A person's name is something that must be liked by the person possessing it. After all, it will be their name for their whole life. Names describe a lot about people and where they are from and how they act. Names give people a sense of uniqueness for they know that their name is one of a kind. Some people have the same first name, and others the same last name, but in the end those people still know that their name describes them and them only. Names are things that no one pays any attention to even though they should. Names are with us for our whole life and people should start to recognize their names more and feel proud about where their names are from.

My name gives me a sense of pride that only lives within me. Because my name is so unique, it keeps me reminded of my roots and my background. An Armenian fire burns within my soul. This flame represents my pride for being an Armenian and how much my name shows my heritage. My name adds to that fire of pride every time I am reminded of who I am. My name is Harout James Akmakjian, and I am so proud about every letter in it.

My first name, Harout, is from my grandfather. I was his first grandson and he said it would be a great honor for his first grandson to be named after him. My grandfather was in the military for 10 years in Aman, Jordan, and I consider it a great gift to be named after him. He was the finest mechanic the whole army had ever had. He would fix cars that belonged to royalty and was requested by the richest merchants in all the land.

He and I have been very close lately. I admire him for what he did for his family, and I have just realized how much effort he put into keeping his family alive. He came to America from Jordan when my father was only three years old. My grandpa had only 20 American dollars to

his name. He worked for 20 hours a day for \$2 an hour for seven days a week. He made all his children go to school and college and stressed the importance of education. Both my father and his brother got into college with an academic scholarship due to their outstanding achievements they had earned in high school. My father was a valedictorian and graduated high school in only three years.

My grandfather's name is very special because he and I were both named after an Armenian Saint named Soup Haroutuin. Every year on our "name day" we spend the evening together. Now that I have matured, I realize how much we have in common and I adore his wisdom and respectfulness. Even more so, my grandfather's name is one that shows people how hard Armenians work in order to survive.

Armenians have been through so much, and I am so excited to share my name with my grandfather. His name reminds me of how much Armenians go through. He is a perfect example of an Armenian who worked hard for his fortunes. His morals and beliefs are all ones that I aspire and respect. His wisdom is so great that it allows myself to hope for the better things in life. By being an Armenian, my hopes and ambitions are ones that I am able to reach for. Being identified as hard working and diligent is something to admire and respect. My last name is an Armenian name. My family and I are 100 percent Armenian. We come from a line of very proud family members who consider themselves lucky for being Armenian.

Usually, all Armenians have last names that end in "ian." The first part of our last name means bread. Akmak means baker in Turkish, a group of people similar to the Armenians. When the Armenian people were massacred during World War I, they would document everything they had done and they would use nicknames for their victims. My father's family background during that time were all bakers, and when they were helplessly killed, the Turkish soldiers wrote them down as "Akmakjians" or bakers.

Because of the massacre by the Turks, all Armenians have general terms of Turkish in their last names. This also gave Hitler a guideline on how to brutally kill the Jewish people during the Holocaust of World War II. Not many people know about the Armenian Genocide because only 1,500,000 Armenians out of 3,000,000 were left in the world after the government and the Turkish soldiers were done with their demoralized killings. My last name is very special to me and I will never forget the history of it.

My last name is very unique in the sense that no one will have the same last name as me. My name represents my heritage and I am very proud of my family background. Being 100 percent Armenian is very unlikely to many people in the world today and it certainly feels good to stand out. It makes me proud to think of what my background went through. Also, no one outside of Armenian or Turkish heritage can pronounce it correctly the first five times they say it.

The pride I take when I think of my people being willing to die for their country is indescribable. No one can ever take

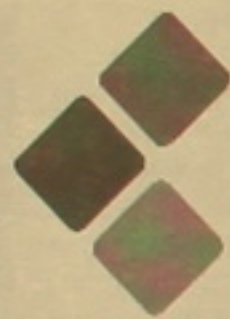
that feeling away from me, and at the same time, it makes me unique in a way where not many people have a true history about their name like I do.

What is very irritating about my last name is that no one can pronounce it or tell what kind of name it is. I can't begin to tell you how many times people have said, "Ak...mok...gee...ean? Is that Italian or something?" But what really bugs me is when I reply with, "No, it's Armenian," and that person will say, "What's that?" When I was younger, I wanted an easy name which everyone would know. I remember in fourth grade when I told my teacher that I legally changed my last name to Jordan. I figured everyone knew Michael Jordan, so it would be popular, but now that I have matured, I like my real last name.

Though people display lack of knowledge about my last name, the meaning behind it makes me feel good, so whenever someone irritates me or hassles me with my last name, I just tell myself to feel proud. Now, to think that I wanted to change my name, I must have been crazy. My name is so important to me and I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world. Having a name like mine is something that I enjoy thinking about because no one else will be able to share this certain pride with me.

One positive influence that my last name has had on my life is that it always gives people something to remember me by. I have heard so many stories about people who make fun of others because of their name being spelled or pronounced a certain or different way. People can make fun of the word Akmakjian, but they really won't know much about it, therefore it won't affect me emotionally.

My name hasn't had a negative influence on my life yet, and I don't think that it ever will. I know that my name is the best in the business, and nothing will change that feeling.



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