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Պ. Սիրվա, հիշ. 7
INTERVIEW
No. 1

In the American Armenian community, the Armenian Youth Federation is the most, if not the only, active youth organization that is under the auspices of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation. With its manifesto and constitution, the members of AYF are ready to work toward their ultimate goal of establishing a free, independent, and United Armenia. The AYF knows full well that it has an obligation of directing the Armenian youth toward working for the Armenian cause with the "Tashmaztouyoun."

The staff of the Haytoug interviewed two of our AYF senior members about their opinions on how we can reach a Free, Independent and United Armenia. The text of the interview follows.

1) In your opinion, in what ways does this organization work towards reaching that goal, and what other ways must it use to advance in this work?
UNGGER VIKEN YACOUNBIA (S. Fernando Valley). The situation of Armenians in America is such that we must center our efforts on preventing American Armenians from assimilation, rather than working for a Free, Independent and United Armenia. However, there are various political activities, such as April 24th commemorations, and educational activities going on. Political activities have begun to take the place of social ones. I think that there is little we can do in the Diaspora. We have to go and live on our lands in Turkish Armenia, perhaps so that we can put pressure on the government.

UNGGER GARO (Montebello). The work of the AYF should be to educate the American Armenians
and in a slow, but sure manner, politicize them by
strengthening political activities.

2). What can you, as a member who has taken the
oath of the AYF, do?

UNGGER VIKEN YACOUBIAN - I, as an AYF
member, believe that I must follow through on the
decisions taken by my organization. Unfortunately, I
cannot do any specific work on my own. I try to
awaken the Armenian feeling in our youth that we have
an Armenian Cause to deal with and that we cannot
solve it by ourselves.

UNGGER GARO - In the future, I am going to try
my best to use my education in working for the
Armenian cause.

3). What are the probabilities of a Free, Indepen-
dent and United Armenia, and in what ways can
we reach it?

UNGGER VIKEN YACOUBIAN - I don’t see the
possibility of a free, independent, and united
Armenia in the near future, because I think that the Armenian
spirit in our youth is still sleeping, or even dying.

UNGGER GARO - I think that there is a very strong
possibility of reaching a free, independent, and united
Armenia, but not in the near future. Armenians must
unite and go live on our Turkish Armenian lands so
that within 150 years, we will be organized culturally
and politically enough to free Armenia.

EDITOR’S NOTE — All interviews that are con-
ducted by the “Haytoug” will be printed in full, regard-
less of the agreeing or disagreeing opinions of the
staff.

OUR WORD

And so, another fiscal year has passed by and the
new one is now here. With the new year come new
executives, new bodies, renewed chapters, and “this
year I’m going to work hard in the AYF” hopeful plans.
These plans have been made over the years with
the same monotony and the same sayings that have
just become words that were never put into action.
The new fiscal year “endowed” with new bodies,
begins with promises and eagerness by which many
times a plain member is confused. But in time that
member will be as eager as the organizing bodies; he,
too, will want to do something. As time passes, the
eagerness and the willingness to do will pass with it,
and hand in hand we will wait for the coming fiscal
year. And this monotony will continue... continue...
and continue.

At this fiscal year’s threshold, the Armenian Youth
Federation Central Executive wanted to come out of
that situation. As for the first step, they announced by
representation that this fiscal year will be a reformed
year, and that the work has already begun; at least we
think that it has.

As for us AYF members, we must take respon-
sibility, we must spread the ad廓ur, and we must, by all
means, support our leaders. This year we must not only
have to plan the work, but we must correct our past
unpleasant situation. We must also renew our and their
enthusiasm without waiting until the end of the fiscal
year.

And by changing our organization, we will prepare
the Armenian Revolutionary, the future soldier of Ar-
menian Independence.
SURVEY No. 1

San Fernando Valley "Sardarabad" Senior Chapter presents: 28 members.

1) Do you believe that we will reach our supreme goal of a Free and United Armenia in the near future?
   Yes 39% No 61%

2) Since the AYF is an organization preparing its members for the ARF ranks, you, as a member of the AYF, will you join the ARF?
   Yes 39% No 50% Undecided 11%

3) Which of the means do you think will be more efficient towards reaching our goals?
   Military 0% Political 18% military & political 82%

4) Do you think if we negotiate with the Turkish government, we will reach to a agreement?
   Yes 10% No 85% Undecided 5%

5) When Armenia is Free and Independent, will you be ready to go there?
   Yes 71% No 14% Undecided 15%

COMMENTARY

Taking into consideration the present situation of the AYF, we can easily point out many mistakes that we have done and that we are still doing.

I would like to emphasize one of these mistakes: our lack of attendance from activities of our chapters.

It is a pity that we not only don’t support organizational activities, we even trample upon them with our bad attitude.

Perhaps most people will argue that they are not kept informed about organizational activities.

Or maybe people couldn’t find the time to be present at such activities.

The list of arguments and excuses is endless but just how seriously we can take them is controversial.

The results of our indifference to organizational activities are evident in the quality of the work done in the past and even our work of the present. For example, we cannot exactly be proud of our attendance to the April 24th activities of 1979.

Solution? It’s up to us.
OUR TRIBUTE TO KHACHIG KHACHIGIAN

Who was Unger Khachig Khachigian? Although not many of us had the privilege of meeting Unger Khachig, we all were aware of the fact that he was the backbone of the Armenian Youth Federation Camp of California. Those who did have the honor of knowing him held a special place in their hearts for him. For many of us, Unger Khachig was merely an encouraging voice over the telephone and always there with his support and guidance.

Although he was paralyzed from the neck down for most of his years, he was known to be a champion debater, a brilliant student, a trusted counselor, and a quiet organizer. Although handicapped, he had the respect and admiration of many prominent individuals in the Armenian community.

Unger Khachig never lay idle; he was always busy researching for various projects and was constantly initiating new ideas and plans. Perhaps Unger Khachig wasn't as well known as he deserved to be; the main reason for this being that he did not flaunt his accomplishments. He was deeply involved in American politics and was articulate in both the Armenian and English languages.

In spite of his physical misfortunes, he had a positive outlook on life and conveyed this feeling to those around him.

He inspired and guided generations of AYF ungers, sewed his beloved Kari Gorinideh, the Hai Tal Committee, and the Armenian Revolutionary Federation.

Unger Khachig taught his colleagues careful planning and the patience required to complete a project. He taught them to claim credit only when the job was done rather than when the job was announced. He taught the Armenian youth to concentrate its skills and abilities on a few important projects at a time rather than having too big of a burden on its shoulders to deal with.

He was an active member of the AYF Los Angeles Musa Dagh Senior Chapter. He was later its ARF advisor for several years.

Unger Khachig often dreamed of the existence of an AYF Camp in California. He was the one responsible for turning this dream into a reality. He was the dedicated chairman of the Camp Management Board. Not a day would pass without him thinking of new ways to improve our AYF Camp of California.

Unger Khachig Khachigian was more than a guiding uncle — he was a father to us all.

We will always suffer the loss of a great asset to our organization.

MEMORIES OF CAMP

Well, another summer has ended and along with summer, a fun-filled vacation at AYF camp!

School is again starting, and everytime we get together we talk about the happy memories that came and went with camp.

How can one resist remembering the grueling, hot sun while perfecting our volleyball skills in preparation for the "thrills of victory and agonies of defeat", against camp Kessab? The two-mile walk to rifle range which dehydrated our already dry bodies? The silly antics we had to do on our hike up the mountain road? And our unrelentless struggle to try and "hit the fox in the middle," during archery? Can one remember the time the
whole camp was at the flagpole at 7:30 a.m. sharp! Did we ever find the 'gray elephant with the yellow daisy in its mouth' at the bottom of the hill? Whatever happened to that pain-bringing 'stick' that terror into our hearts? Is it possible to forget waking up at the ungodly hour of 12:30 a.m., and being asked that unbelievable questions, 'Have you been hearing strange noises on your roof lately?' Who can't help remembering the educational discussions on terrorism?

But most of all there is something we will never forget: the everlasting friendships we made, and the proud feeling, we got whenever we sang, "Haratch Nahadag" and "Mer Hairenik" together — one united group singing with such strength and hope that we can never forget the true meaning of being Armenian.

K.S.M.

A WELL PLANNED FIRST MEETING

The meeting ended with the voices of the ungers singing "Mer Hairenik" and was followed by a planned celebration party at the home of an ungeroushi All chapters had been invited to the meeting and party, but unfortunately, only members of 2 chapters attended. For those who were there, it was a very successful evening, and for those who weren't, where's the good old "AYF fraternalism?"

The Armenian Youth Federation San Fernando Valley Simon Vratsian Junior Chapter Executive started the new year in an enthusiastic and organized manner.

On the night of September 28, 1979, the new executive of the Simon Vratsian Junior Chapter held its first chapter meeting of this fiscal year. The meeting included the initiation ceremony for the new executive. As the lights of the room were dimmed, the members of the previous chapter executive with lit red, blue, and orange candles in their hands, stood facing the members of the new executive. The oaths were given by the junior advisor, and the candles were transferred to the hands of the new executive members.

STATEMENT

The 1978-79 AYF year ended with enthusiasm and spirit. Camp was a success and next summer seems just too far away for those who can't wait to be counselors and campers up at camp in 1980. Convention, almost immediately following camp, wound up the summer with a dramatic bang, as many AYFers were in Fresno making resolutions for the coming year. Yes, spirits and enthusiasm are running high.

But summer is over and school has begun. Suddenly the enthusiasm has been diverted towards another facet of our lives, — school, work, party, school, work, party...

What is to become of the convention resolutions? Actions must be taken to put them into effect. Must every year repeat itself — built-up enthusiasm followed by diminishing interest? The answer is NO.

Councils and committees for this year have been selected. AYF members should join one — not two or three — but just one committee. Too many positions will wear out an individual and the expected results from those posts will never materialize. Those not on any committees should sacrifice a hobby or enjoyable pastime in order to do some work for the AYF. If each AYFer has a position and functions well, members in general won't be overburdened with work. Also fraternal ties will be strengthened as all AYF members work together in accomplishing goals.

The point is this: much work needs to be done within the AYF. If everyone simply does a small share of the work, the results will be surprisingly good. If all the little ants carry one grain of sand and drop it in a certain spot, the pile of grain will become a mountain.

SALPY MANJIKIAN
CENTRAL PR COUNCIL

ARMSRABAK

The following "Accounts Payable" was approved:

- 1,850.00 for Arinrash Garinrak, "Arinrash Garinrak niwarmat meri",
- 100.00 for Arinrash Garinrak, "Arinrash Garinrak niwarmat meri"
- 1,000.00 for Arinrash Garinrak, "Arinrash Garinrak niwarmat meri"
- 1,200.00 for Arinrash Garinrak, "Arinrash Garinrak niwarmat meri"
- 1,000.00 for Arinrash Garinrak, "Arinrash Garinrak niwarmat meri"
- 1,000.00 for Arinrash Garinrak, "Arinrash Garinrak niwarmat meri"
- 1,000.00 for Arinrash Garinrak, "Arinrash Garinrak niwarmat meri"

ARMENIA TODAY

On July 1, 1979, the population of Soviet Armenia counted some 3 million and 55 thousand persons. The two-thirds of the population live in cities, and the
PICNIC IN PASADENA

The newly-formed Pasadena Nigil Touman Junior and Senior Chapters hosted their first function, a picnic, in Arcadia Park on a hot Sunday afternoon, (September 9, 1979).

The picnic had a typical Armenian atmosphere, with music from the Pasadena Komitas Band. Throughout the park, the aroma of delicious barbecued shish kebab floating in the air, and the red, blue, and orange Armenian national flag flying from the trees.

The crowd was not huge one — aside from the fact that there was no lack of advertisements, but it was apparently large enough to make the picnic a success.

The Pasadena Nigil Touman Junior and Senior Chapters hosted their first function, a picnic, in Arcadia Park on a hot Sunday afternoon, (September 9, 1979).

Some see things as they are, and ask why?
I dream of things that never were, and ask why not?

ROBERT KENNEDY
EXECUTIVE WORKSHOP: OVERALL WELL DONE

During the weekend of September 22-23, 1979, the newly-elected Central Executive of the Armenian Youth Federation of Western America hosted its first activity of the year: an Executive workshop at the AYF Camp in Big Pines, California.

The purpose of the Workshop was to train the new chapter executive members for their positions for this fiscal year. The various training sessions consisted of the chapter Presidents and Vice Presidents learning the mechanics of running a meeting, the Treasurers learning how to keep books and accounts in order, the Corresponding secretaries learning to write official letters and keep organized files, and the recording secretaries learning how to take minutes correctly and keep the membership count accurate. Also present were all of the Central Council chairpersons or their representatives to announce and discuss the plans of each Council for the upcoming months. By the decision of the Central Executive, attendance to the workshop was restricted to only chapter executive members, juniors advisors, and Council chairpersons.

The weekend began on Friday evening and ended on Sunday afternoon. Those present were entertained on Saturday night by the music of a band of AYF members. Armenian dancing was followed by the traditional singing of our Armenian revolutionary songs. Spirits were sang and clapped with the beat of the drums.

Overall, the opinion of the members who attended was that the workshop, as Central Executive's last activity, was well organized and carried out except for one or two points. It seems that although the future plans of the Central Councils and the Chapter Executives were heard and discussed by everyone, no one heard the future plans of the most important executive body: those of the Central Executive. And maybe some people were wondering if perhaps this important knowledge should not have been restricted to the executive members only...

FRESNO AYF ELECTS NEW EXECUTIVE

Fresno - Cor Htm.

On Wednesday, September 19, the Fresno AYF concluded its 1978-79 fiscal year and ushered in the new fiscal year by electing its new executive.

During the past year the Fresno AYF planned and executed various activities, including an Armenian Film Festival, The Annual Hanut, an alumni reunion, a camp benefit, and the year ending Labor Day Convention. In addition to these activities, the chapter participated in various organizational weekends like conferences, olympics, Kef Weekends, and the AYF National Olympics in New York.

Next year promises to be even better with plans already in the works for the 47th Annual Hanut, a second alumni reunion, and the sending of a Fresno AYF Team to Detroit for the 47th AYF National Olympics.

During the meeting, certificates of Appreciation were presented to seven members for their dedication, devotion, and efforts throughout the year. They are as follows: Alyce Khazianian, Robby Antayan, Linda Abrahamian, Diane Bouloutian, Anna Safarian, Rose Mgrdichian, and Advisor Guren Safarian.

As the lights were dimmed, candles were passed from the old to the new executive, oaths were given and a new executive was officially initiated. The new executive is as follows:

President Rose Mgrdichian
VP Raffi Zanontan
Treasurer Shahi Htian
Corr. Sec. Linca Abrahamian
Rec. Sec. Hygo Ohanesian

This new executive has undertaken the job of keeping up the proud tradition of the AYF and is looking forward to a successful and fruitful year.

EDITOR'S NOTE — THE "Haytoug" staff congratulates the new executive and wishes success in its future activities.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Montebello "Vahan Cardashian" Srs. & Jrs.
— Play in the near future entitled "The Life and Times of Vahan Cardashian".

Valley & Glendale Srs. Joint
— Halloween Costume Dance.
  Nov. 3, 1979, in the Immaculate Heart College.

Pasadena Srs.
— Lecture to be held in the Pasadena Armenian Center. Topic: "Who Is Upstairs" by author Vahsen Madenlian.
— A quiz Bowl open to all AYF members.
  Nov. 15, 1979, Garabedian Hall.

This issue of the "Haytoug" is sponsored by an unknown from "Shant" Gonideh.