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Haytoug

Official Publication of the Armenian Youth Federation

Ապրիլ/Ապրիլ 2001

March/April 2001

ARMENIAN YOUTH

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- Clash of Mentalities
- Wrong Way
- Voices of the Youth
- Instilling a Sense of Culture

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The Official Publication of the
ARMENIAN YOUTH FEDERATION
ARF Youth Organization of Western America

For all Armenian Youth residing in Western America who
strive for the national, social and economic liberation of
the Armenian people.

The opinions expressed in the Haytoug publication is not
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tion or the Armenian Youth Federation. Haytoug encour-
ages all Armenian youth to express their thoughts and
opinion in this publication

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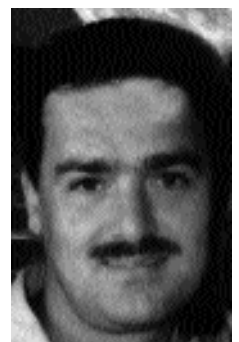


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address shown on the left or e-mailed to Haytoug@mail.com.*

*Haytoug is distributed free of charge within the community.
Financial contribution may be made to the same address.*



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editorial

The Armenian youth's sense of identity is within the larger picture of factors and obstacles of the Diaspora. The fact is that the Armenian youth has the obligation and intrinsic duty to preserve its identity and preserve the well being of its nation. Nonetheless, the shadow of Diaspora society will haunt this mission unless we (as young people) can create an isolation from the "social" aspects of an identity not of our own.

The words on the cover of this publication represent the problems and considerations we must endure each day. Being a young person is not easy, especially when we mix the necessity of identity and national struggle into the formula. A person's character is defined during the impressionable years as a youth and that is why national identity is important to realize during one's younger years.

The problem for decades has been choosing the means to preserve our identity while expanding a righteous cause into the mainstream. "Gun verses pen" and "lobbying verses armed struggle" has been the dichotomy of recent years. During these years of bickering, the Armenian youth has fell victim to its nation's irresponsibility of forgetting the means and pursuing the future. The youth must realize the larger struggle and focus on its goals.

The youth has the tremendous responsibility of making its way through problems and reaching for its identity. How do we do this? The youth has at its disposal various forms of technology and education to derive the important facts and issues concerning the Armenian cause. Nonetheless, there are Armenians that refuse to accept their national origin through apathy and denial.

The problems that challenge a young Armenian will always be present and will effect everyone, but we have to remember the passion for identity because that is our foundation for national survival. The problems of gangs, drugs, and social acceptance are issues of identity. The young person seeks attachment and approval from their peers and turns to modern norms.

The issue is the following: while seeking recognition and facing everyday problems, the youth forgets its national identity and is confused with reality. The priority of national identity and the Armenian cause is set aside for the pressures of the modern Diaspora.

The key is to remember that there is no particular way of being an Armenian and there is no secret to preserving your identity, rather it is a combination of struggle to enlighten yourself about who you really are. Whether revolution or evolution, it is your national pride and heritage that backs you during the most difficult hurdles as a young Armenians.

The Armenian Youth

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Re: ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The survivors of the Armenian Genocide are not around to continue telling their stories about death. The facts are facts Turkey still denies that the Armenian Genocide took place and that our history is a myth, better yet, they blame Armenians for massacring Turks. The facts are facts, numerous countries around the world are recognizing the Armenian Genocide. The facts are fact, we have lost the battle but it's not too late to mobilize ourselves (as a nation) and as Armenian youth and truly fight for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Currently, the recognition of the Armenian Genocide is in the hands of politicians. Politicians around the world that do not know the meaning of courage, honesty, and self-sacrifice. Politicians who have become money hungry puppets that will sell their soul and dignity. Politicians in the simplest words can be described as cowards. Cowards who lie for money and who bend the truth for fame. The blame is not to be put on the politicians. Instead, the people to blame is us - the Armenians. We are not cowards but we should be ashamed of ourselves that we have let the recognition of the Armenian Genocide reach this stage. Maybe we are more than cowards. The leaders of the Armenian nation who have let this happen are not only cowards but also puppets who seek help from others instead of having the courage to resolve their own Nation's problems. They have elected to release our cause in the hands of politicians.

If you hit a dog two or three times, that dog will not eat anything from your hand. That dog will not get near you. Yet all sides have hit us (especially politicians) but we have run back to them for help. We have come to a compromise and gone on with our lives.

Our Cause has seen courageous individuals who have given up their lives for dignity and honor. These individuals knew that the Armenian Cause is an Armenian issue and they elected not to let the dirty hand of politicians pollute our Cause. Leaders of the Armenian Nation, you should be ashamed of yourselves that you did not continue the path of these individuals. Leaders are born through courage and not deceiving the people and dishonesty.

What does our cause need? Well, it needs courage and honesty and the will to fight for a just cause. We sit back and watch these politicians work for our cause for their own benefit. Our Cause needs sacrifice, which means sacrifice of blood. Our Cause needs the motivation and activities of the 1980's. IT needs a cause for the cause, a cause that is clean, a cause that is clear in its goals, a cause that has sacrifice, a cause that every Armenian has a respect for no matter what political party they belong to. The Armenian Cause needs the "Armed Struggle." The Armenian cause needs fire, it needs strength, it needs the sacrifice of every Armenian youth, it needs the support of all Armenian organizations, and above all it needs the support of the Armenian government.

The Armenian government must pave the road and the youth will follow. The Armenian government must believe in the cause and the Armenian nation will respect them. Courage individuals will be respected, but dishonest individuals will be labeled as traitors.

We will fight for a united Armenia, we will shed blood for a united Armenia, and we will have a united Armenia.

May all the Martyrs of the GENOCIDE rest in peace,

May the memory of all those individuals who sacrificed their lives for OUR Cause live long,

I ask you to have the courage to publish this article in the Haytoug without any changes!

"There is no meaning to life except the meaning man gives his life by the unfolding of his powers."

-Erich Fromm



Send your
letters
to the
editor...



Embracing Tragedy

Talar Chahinian

During the last few days of the year 2000, as people all around prepared to welcome the holidays, news of a local tragedy quickly spread through the Armenian community and intruded on the feelings of joy, excitement and expectations that are usually awakened in each home during this season. The brutal death of a beloved teacher, Zabel Ghazelian, and her 13 year old daughter, Garineh Ghazelian, and the miraculous survival of the other two daughters, Christine and Talar, paralyzed the community at large and forced it to evaluate its values, its ignorance and ultimately its humanity.

The recovery has been difficult. The sense of shock still lingers in Alex Pilibos, the school where Zabel taught and the daughters attended. An image of two smiling faces of the mother and daughter continue to occupy their space in the rooms of Pilibos, through the memory of faculty and students. Meanwhile, aching hearts, crushed by life's deceit, extend their remaining warmth to the two living daughters. The weight of the loss of life, becomes particularly difficult to bare for the friends of Garineh, who, at their young age, are not yet ready to accept the idea of death into their immediate reality. This was apparent in the teary eyes of about 250 young Armenians, gathered in St. Mary's Armenian Church, for a memorial vigil in memory of Garineh Ghazelian. The vigil, which took place on Friday, January 26th, was organized by the Armenian Youth Federation. Like her sisters Christine and Talar, Garineh was a member of the A.R.F. Badanegan organization's Glendale chapter.

With confused glances, the young friends and acquaintances of Garineh walked into the hall of the church, ready to face the unfamiliar occasion and remember their dear friend. Their eyes screamed out their inner turmoil. Within each person present, streamed thoughts of a strong desire to deny the harsh and unfair reality, yet a newborn fear of that very reality of life itself.

The gathering crowd followed each other to the church, where their candle lighting and silent prayers were accompanied by a small church ceremony.

A small program took place in the hall, following the church ceremony. On behalf of the A.Y.F. Central Executive, I greeted the crowd and spoke of how the loss of a member of the organization resembles losing a member of a family. A consciousness of being Armenian and the willingness to live as active Armenians are the shared characteristics among members of this organization; characteristics that bring them close together as a large family. Garineh possessed these characteristics as it was demonstrated through an essay of hers that her Armenian teacher had asked me to read.

In her last essay for Armenian class, Garineh had written of her great pride in being Armenian. Her own words, full of youthful passion, rang stronger than any words uttered by any of us that night. I went on to extend A.Y.F.'s condolences to all of humanity, to Alex Pilibos, and to all of Garineh's loved ones. Sevan Kabakian, the advisor of the A.R.F. Badanegan Glendale chapter, spoke of the nature of advisor/Badanee relationship, leading up to his grief in losing a young and passionate member like Garineh. Ani Garikian also addressed the crowd on behalf of A.R.F. Central Committee, and spoke of how Garineh was a part of a much larger family, Alex Pilibos, the A.R.F. and the A.Y.F. She also said that Christine and Talar, also members of this larger family, should be assured that the family will always stand behind and support them.

During the evening, the Armenian Youth Federation openly extended its arms out to the two sisters of Garineh, Christine and Talar, who were present at the event. The speakers urged them to know that the A.R.F. and the A.Y.F., side by side, will offer them support in anything that they may need. The donations collected that night have been given to the "Zabel and Garineh Ghazelian Memorial Fund."



"Look at a stone cutter hammering away at his rock, perhaps a hundred times without as much as a crack showing in it. Yet at the hundred-and-first blow it will split in two, and I know it was not the last blow that did it, but all that had gone before."

-Jacob A. Riis

MADE IN TURKEY

Maria Hovsepian

Throughout the years we as Armenians have engaged in various Anti-Turkish propagandas, but despite our endless efforts, Turkey always finds new ways of advancing themselves against the fight for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Today, as always, Turkey has come up with a new tactic to put the Turkish name into American and Armenian consumer markets. This new tactic can simply be referred to as "Made in Turkey". What do I mean by this? Gap, Banana Republic, Old Navy, DKNY, Linens N' Things, Tommy Hilfiger and French Connection are just a few of the many brands that have turned to Turkey and Turkish factories for manufacturing their various products. This up-rise of Turkish goods is in addition to the hundreds of products that can be found in any Armenian grocery store.

Are these companies intentionally aiding Turkey? Of course not. It is much cheaper to produce products and goods outside the U.S.A. We as consumers are simply getting ripped off, but it also brings forth a much greater problem. I am not going to engage in the debate that Turkey did unjustly massacre 1.5 million Armenians throughout the years and buying these Turkish products would only support the heinous crimes committed against of our people. That I hope everyone in the world is aware of.



"One never notices what has been done; one can only see what remains to be done."

-Marie Curie

You may e-mail us at
AYFwr@earthlink.net

or

You may write to AYF at
104 N. Belmont
Suite 306
Glendale, CA 91205

We will forward your letters and e-mails to each of these stores and companies.

I will say that the money Turkey is making through the purchasing of these goods is being used for campaigning against the recognition of the Armenian Genocide. Turkey has used the funds to establish various Turkish studies chairs in Universities. Of course in lobbying against us as Armenians in Washington and across the world. The question remains, what can we do? Well it is fairly simple. Boycott these products.

Do not buy any goods that are made in Turkey and even more take an active stand against these products whether it be writing letters, publicly announcing to the employees in the stores that you as a consumer refuse to buy any goods made in Turkey, or through any other measures you can possibly think of. As stupid as it may sound each product bought from a Turkish manufacturer is harming us as Armenians. Turkey remains to be a human rights violator and each of these stores, each of these companies, engage in protecting human rights.

Ask yourselves and these companies: how can these human rights protectors engage in a business venture with a human rights violator? Is this not hypocrisy? I leave that answer to you. We are the only ones who can make the difference so I urge each and every one of you to educate the world and let these companies and stores know that they are supporting murderers and rapists.

The Armenian youth's obligation is to stand for the rights of its nation, and supporting Turkish products would destroy the dignity of that just cause. Through collective power, the entire world will recognize the Turkish crimes against Armenians as a Genocide.

Wrong Way

"Mistakes
are
part
of
the
dues
one
pays
for
a
full
life."
"

-Sophia
Loren

Shooshig Avakian

Someone once said that he really wanted to go to Hayasdan, to the point where his everyday life seemed like a total waste of time as long as he was so far from his homeland. He said..."It's not just to see Hayasdan, it's to live with my people, to walk down the street full of Armenians..." Well, now that I'm in Hayasdan, I often think about what he said. As I was sitting in a tramway on my way to "work", I happened to look straight ahead out of the front window, and there it was. I just felt this huge smile from on my face and I felt my heart skip a beat and something did a flip in my stomach. I wanted to turn to the woman sitting next to me, or the man in front of me and say, "Oh my God! LOOOOK...it's Ararat!!!" , but just when I turned around, I noticed them looking at me...their stares said "Who is this weirdo?". I never felt so alone in my life. Did I really have anything in common with any of the people in that bus, or anyone walking the streets of Armenia? I felt cheated. How come they didn't appreciate this enormous treasure...and why did it mean so much to me?

Then on another occasion, I happened to be on a different tramway, and having taken the wrong one going in the wrong direction, I had an opportunity to speak to the driver. He was an Engineer, who is now a driver from about 7 in the morning until the very late hours of the evening. He asked me a very simple yet complex question. "Why is it that Armenians born outside Armenia are so interested in Armenia, and are so excited to be here? How come they feel a connection with the land ...when those who have been living here for decades would take the first available flight out of here without even thinking twice or even looking back?" I didn't have an answer...I don't think he expected one either.

I realized that this man was one of the very few people who had not left, who had not abandoned, who was disgusted by those so ready to leave their homeland. At the end of my ride in his van, he wished me luck and said with a smile, "Sometimes you have to get lost, so that you will learn which is the right way". I felt like I owed him more than the 100 drams I handed him, but I paid my fare and thanked him. Now, I think back to what he said and although he may have been talking about my little "excursion" or "tour" of Yerevan that morning, his comment had a deeper meaning for me.

Right now, our country is lost. We have the rules and regulations...yet we have no one to enforce them - and if any are enforced, they are just the ones that benefit all the wrong people. The people of Armenia have lost hope. They don't believe in the system or their leaders, and they feel helpless and frustrated. Some give up...and that explains the apparent decline in the population of our nation, but then others decide to "stick it out" and that explains the honking horns in the city. So our country and its leaders are apparently lost.

"It's not just to see Hayasdan, it's to live with my people, to walk down the street full of Armenians...". The day will come when all Armenians, no matter where they were born or brought up, will be able to live with one another and embrace our commonality and differences. And then, when I look out the window and see Ararat - the incredible mountain that our forefathers have fought to keep over and over- standing there behind the buildings of Yerevan, I'll be able to turn around and say to the person seated next to me, "Look...it's Ararat!!!", and instead of receiving a blank apathetic stare, that person will smile and say with the same enthusiasm, "Isn't it beautiful?".



beginning steps of identity

Karekin Zorian

It is somewhat of a "law" in nature to begin the process of discipline of individuals at a young age. It is vital to instill certain standards regarding different aspects of one's life, such as religion and culture. If done properly, the internalization and development of those standards can greatly benefit the individual. A significant part of every-one's life is his or her national identity; therefore, it is essential to establish a conscious awareness regarding it. Just as all other factors of one's identity, this too must be taken into account during one's vulnerable developmental stage.

The Badanegan organization of the ARF is one such factor, just as a parent, that can greatly influence a child's mind in relation to his cultural identity. The organization, targeted specifically for youth ranging from the age of nine to sixteen, instills a sense of belonging among its members. It spurs activism, which in turn aids the young mind to identify with the cultural aspect of his life. Through the use of educationals, community service, and other such activities, the child is introduced to his ethnic background and eventually his own self. As every experience in one's life leads to realizations (in accord to the individual's interpretation of the experience), the Badanegan organization is an ideal source for a constant exposure to cultural identity. Ultimately, the organization enhances a child's understanding of an unavoidable part of her-culture!

The Badanegan organization of the ARF provides its educational experiences throughout many cities. With eight chapters dispersed west of the Mississippi, the organization extends its influence upon many communities. It provides an opportunity of interaction for people sharing the same cultural background to come together. The young mind must be guided to avoid a passive behavior toward his cultural identity, and an organized effort to this identity is fundamental. The ideal means to fulfill this task is by taking advantage of the experiences provided by the Badanegan organization of the ARF, because it has the established methods and idea to continue striving as one nation.

To join the ARF Badanegan organization please call (818) 507-1933.

"Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them."

-Lady Bird
Johnson

The Pressure Is On: Turkish Tactics of Denying the Armenian Genocide

Staff Writer

Turkey has generated a new form of terrorism by threatening any nation or country that admits the Armenian Genocide by cutting off "diplomatic relations." Interestingly, it is not bothering European countries that Turkey has posed economic and political sanctions caused by government recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Hey Turkey, the pressure is on, isn't it? Whether European countries are using the Armenian Genocide to keep Turkey out of the European Union is a secondary issue. The primary question is seeking justice for the Armenian Genocide. France is a modern example with all sections of its governments admitting that Turkey performed one of the greatest crimes against humanity. The pressure is closing in on the Turkish government because Turkish relations are not worth denying history.

It is not the present government's fault that the Genocide occurred, however they are blameworthy of not facing the consequences of history. The tactics are simple and mundane: the Turkish government is using a "bargaining chip" with each country that attempts to recognize the Genocide. For the United States, it is the military geo-political positioning and for European countries it seems to be economic.

When a country has no further defenses, it turns to desperate measures of embargos and threats against political ties. The government of Turkey is guilty of these tactics as seen during the U.S. House of Representative's votes several months ago and the present threats against France. The Turkish government has not realized that civilization has taken its course and the larger crime of denial will not be tolerated by the world.

The pressure continues as Armenians across the world will continue to seek the recognition of the Armenian Genocide. Hey Turkey, the pressure is on, isn't it?

"There is no such thing as a great talent without great will-power."

-Balzac

CLASH OF MENTALITIES

Siamanto Maronian

Since we live in a different time frame than our parents do the things we deal with and experiences are different, very different. We come from a beautiful culture that has a history unlike any other. Our mentalities are more or less narrow minded. What I mean by that is our parents don't understand us as well as they should, because their expectations and mentality is old school. It's not wrong, but old school. The only way they would really understand us is to walk in our shoes, but you know that's not going to happen. So what else are they going to do except, assume things, go nuts, and yell at us? But what they are really saying is *ov,atrov;ivn ure ,ad wdancavor panyr gan a,qarhin me*]. Unfortunately our response is to yell, get pissed, grab the keys, and leave without looking back, which takes you back to the same problem. Imagine if the roles were switched; we would be acting the exact same way, no questions asked. What we don't understand is that the only people that have our back through good and bad times are our parents. Of course we say I have my friends, but watch how they will disappear. When the shit hits the fan, our parents are the ones that will help us recover and get back on our feet which will of course be followed by *g-iv yv patrto* but that is all included in the package.

What we should realize is if we begin to be open with our parents, tell them what's up with us, they will not jump the gun and attack us. They will listen to us, ask us questions, and slowly understand why sometimes we do the things we do. Don't get me wrong. We won't be off the hook. We will still get yelled at and punished (that's when our culture kicks in), but at least they will know what's going on instead of assuming things and restricting us for no reason. I just began opening up and actually talking to my parents. In a 3 year span I slowly let them into my life day by day. I would sit with them, tell them how my day went, what I thought about life, future, friends, school, stupid shit, and you know what I found out that they are pretty cool. They have also done stupid shit, made mistakes, and learned from them. All they want to do is pass their knowledge, from experience, on to you so when you are in a situation you will make a wise decision.

Guys I want you to realize that I'm only 23 years old. I have had my share of good and bad experiences. There is still a lot I don't know and will go through and learn from. The topics I will be writing about though are facts about life and things every young person will go through. Nobody told me what was right or wrong, but that was because I did not allow anybody in, especially my parents. I'm not trying to tell you what is right or wrong because that decision is up to you. The only thing I'm trying to do is tell you what's out there so you will be aware of it and make a wiser decision when the time comes to deal with it. This is one of 3 articles I will be writing in the Haytoug. It's probably going to piss some people off, but it needs to be said, not locked away and ignored because that will only make things worse.

"Too many people over-value what they are not and undervalue what they are."

-Malcolm Forbes

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haytoug

IT WASN'T ME

"Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great."

-Mark Twain

Raffi Sosikian

What causes the majority of the youth of the first Christian nation to go astray? Everyone I asked had a differing opinion. Some faithful parents said, "It's the clubs and the drugs." Teenagers said it is the materialism of the world. A youth pastor answered that it is the lack of ability of Christian leaders to lay a solid foundation of faith for the youth. So who is to blame for the moral decay?

Why should the Armenian youth be involved with Christianity to begin with? Why should we care?

The Armenian people have believed in God since 301 AD. We are the first Christian nation. We have fought wars. Conquered, and been conquered. We have experienced a genocide resulting in the murders of one and a half million Christian Armenians caused by our belief in a very real God. All of these wars, pain, suffering, and genocide must have stood for something. Certainly millions of our forefathers could not have been wrong about God! In fact, they were not wrong at all. As Christians, we believe in an afterlife and an eternity for the soul consisting of absolute bliss. We believe when Christ returns, the dead will rise again. We will live forever! These are Christian principles. The bible says to die, for a practicing Christian, is to gain! Think about that for a moment!

They tried to destroy us, and failed. They strove to wipe the Christianity from us, and failed once again. They said we would never have a country and were proven wrong! They said Armenia will never be free, praise is unto God, and she is free indeed!

However, are we as individuals free? Are we free from sin or does sin have a strong foothold in our hearts and minds? Do we seek God or worldly pleasures? Do we carry out the will of God or the devil's will by doing evil?

The truth is that WE, both you and I are to blame for the moral decay among the Armenian youth. Each of us must be held accountable for our actions. If no one else is watching, God from Heaven is looking down and He sees ALL of our

deeds. On the day of judgement we will be held accountable for everything we said and did on earth. That day is not too far away. The world will not go on forever. Each moment that passes, the day of Christ's return gets closer. If He came back today, would you be ready to meet Him?

As for the current status of the majority of our youth, they are as far from God as East is from West! Most of the youth could care less about what the bible says. Abortion, sex, drugs, pornography, and drunkenness is accepted.

If you want to know why the youth is far away from God, then look no further than yourself. What have we done to contribute to God's causes? What have we done about the poor, the orphans, the widows, the handicapped, the lost souls that are searching for answers or the sinner? We have certainly contributed to Armenian causes and to our selfish causes, but what have you and I done to foster God's causes?

This life can be so beautiful. It can be so peaceful and the answers will be so clear, if and only if, we approach our God, through our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ and humble ourselves before Him asking for forgiveness of our sins, and accepting the Lord as our God, our savior from sin. When each of us cleans up our own backyard we can sit back and watch how God will use each of us to help one another in achieving every one of our goals.

How many prayers have you said asking God for favors? How many nights have you spent searching for answers? God's plan is for the Armenian youth to live up to their proud heritage and their proud culture. We have so much to be proud of and to be thankful for. My brothers and sisters in Armenian villages have no heat, no running water, no real plumbing, yet I complain when my computer acts up. Shame on me for not realizing all the blessings that God has granted me. Do you realize all the blessings that God has poured out onto you?

Voices of the youth

The Haytoug Publication encourages young Armenians to express their opinion regarding any issues pertaining to the Armenian community.

Open Letter to Haytoug

Ho, Ho, Ho Dance: Profit against Immorality

There is an annual tradition that is more solid and profitable than any other event by the AYF. It is properly labeled as the "Ho, Ho, Ho Dance" because it is on December 25th of each year, however, it carries a further definition as the event flyer suggested one time.

The intent of this huge party is unclear. I assume the financial rewards are excellent but it has defined the character of the AYF and Armenian youth in a bad light. The Ho, Ho, Ho Dance has become a forum of immorality, which unfortunately takes place twenty yards from a church. However this dance attracts more Armenian youth than all the AYF programs combined. The question is why. Should the AYF continue this form of activity (considering the thousands of dollars that can be used to enhance the Armenian cause)?

This is a moral dilemma: The purpose of the AYF is to bring young Armenians together in a social setting if necessary. However, the ultimate purpose is the political struggle for a free, independent and united Armenia.

The specific instances at the yearly dance are not important. Rather, the AYF should be concerned with the fact that younger Armenians gladly attend this "party" as opposed to demonstrations for the Armenian Genocide. There is no real sign that the dance has been organized by an Armenian social and political organization. Armenian music is not nearly sufficient and there is no form of political or cultural awareness during or after the dance.

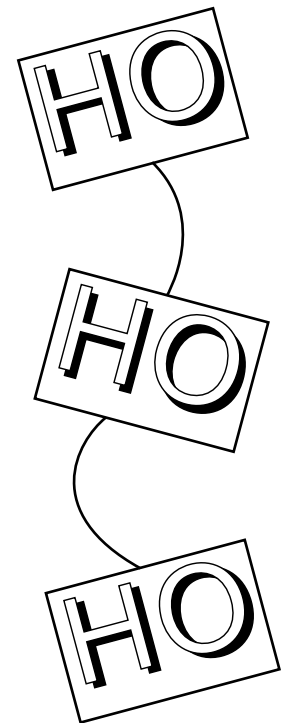
On the other hand, financial resources are essential to the mechanisms of the AYF. The Ho, Ho, Ho dance generates the capital to help further our cause. It seems that the reason the Armenian youth are attending and paying an admission fee is the very reason of the immorality. The Armenian youth wants to be exposed to short skirts and high levels of testosterone. If the AYF altered the image of the dance, it would cause lesser turnouts and fewer dollars the AYF can spend on a Genocide Vigil, youth camps, political lobbying, and events commemorating Armed Struggle.

I can provide no answer to this dilemma. However, I can only hope that a protest commemorating 1.5 million martyrs or a recognition of a national hero (H.M.) would produce numbers similar to the infamous Ho, Ho, Ho Dance!

Sincerely,
Former AYF Member

"By asking for the impossible,
we obtain the best possible"

-Italian Proverb



Dance

Critic's Corner

"This is not a dress rehearsal, this is IT."
Tom Cunningham



"Hokis: Volume Meg"

Taline Gulesserian

Admit it...you've heard about Hokis and you've listened to their CD. Don't worry, you have nothing to hide. There are plenty of people like you out there, including myself.

To be honest, when I first found out about my assignment of reviewing "Hokis: Volume Meg", I was hesitant. I did not know what to expect. Armenian lyrics to an "odar" musical background? No way! However, I was in for a surprise. It turns out our friends from the UK are very innovative and entertaining.

"Hokis: Volume Meg" is a unique blend of Armenian and English lyrics set to various background beats, such as hip-hop, dance, and pop. From "Overprotective Dad", a humorous tune with catchy lyrics dealing with how Armenian ladies act nowadays to "Inche Butjarad", a mellow song of a couple trying hard not to drift apart, the CD covers almost every musical genre. Personally, I believe the CD breaks through all barriers, and it even updates a few old-school favorites along the way. Think "Karun Eh" is only for your parents? Not anymore, because Hokis found a way to update the classic into a heavily hip-hop influenced tune so that you are not embarrassed to sing it out loud, at the top of your lungs, while driving in LA traffic. But, that might only be me...

Finally, the CD ends on a serious and touching note with "Genocide", a song dedicated to the 1915 tragedy. The somber tune tells the story of today's Armenian generation and how it has to uphold its history against the unknowing and bias general population.

Now, the question on everyone's mind...How does this CD fit into today's Armenian youth? It is simple, and it could be answered by listening to "Bare' Aghjig", which is a perfect mix of old and new beats. The whole CD is a similar mix. Therefore, the answer is "Yes!" This CD does belong to the Armenian youth, who are themselves a mix of old, Armenian culture and modern, American lifestyle. Should you purchase the CD? Definitely. Support these young Armenians who are not afraid to display their Armenian pride and who do not deny their culture in order to make a quick buck.

This CD may seem awkward at first, especially since some lyrics just sound as if they have been directly translated from English. Despite this little setback, at the end, you cannot help but sing the tunes even after you have stopped listening to the CD. On a final note, the biggest skeptic to this CD, who shall remain nameless (you know who you are), could not help but laugh and sing along as she listened to the CD on the way to school. In the mean time, keep your eyes peeled and your ears open for more from this talented group.



Public Services Committee Launches "Outreach Program"

Haytoug Staff Writer

La Crescenta - As a part of its ongoing efforts to provide the homeless in the community with a higher quality of life, the Armenian Youth Federation Crescenta Valley "Zartonk" chapter's Public Services Committee has launched its community-wide "Outreach Program" to provide homeless individuals in the community the necessities they need to fight the cold weather and hunger.

"As members of a Public Services Committee we see ourselves as Public Servants who seek to provide our community and its residence a higher quality of life, to achieve that goal we have begun by launching the 'Outreach Program' and working to help those who are homeless," said Armenian Youth Federation Crescenta Valley "Zartonk" chapter Public Services Committee chairperson Sarene Yacoubian. "Our first mission has been to directly provide free and immediate help to the homeless by providing small packages to help them fight the cold and hunger."

The "Zartonk" chapter "outreach program" will provide assistance to the homeless at no charge. The program depends on both financial and material donations from community members to continue its operation. By providing blankets and unused toothbrushes to non-perishable foods and unused clothing the "outreach Program" plans to be of direct and free assistance to the homeless by providing them means to lead a healthy and productive life.

The essential donations to deliver the first load of "Outreach Program" have been collected and will be distributed to homeless individuals.

Material donations may be brought to 2633 Honolulu Ave. Montrose, CA 91020. Financial donations for the "Outreach Program" may be sent to P.O. Box 8311 La Crescenta, CA 91224; checks may be made payable to A.Y.F. "Zartonk" chapter "Outreach Program."

"A candle loses nothing of its light when lighting another"
-Khalil Gibran

The Boys Club

Talar Aslanian

The AYF Manifesto...presumably the most sacred piece of literature for AYF members. It outlines our directives and defines our goals. Within the manifesto, one reads words such as "we" or "all AYF members." Such words encompass both males and females. However, is this merely idealistic for it seems to me that in our present AYF culture, both males and females are not regarded to in a similar manner. Here are some relevant examples: The majority of AYF chapter presidents are males, whereas females predominantly hold the position of secretary. At a given event, males are called upon to "supervise" or "control." An outspoken male is revered and paid much attention to, whereas a female with clear views who intends to express those views is regarded to as someone who merely speaks too much or has little knowledge of what she is speaking about. Throughout our lives as AYF members, we have undergone numerous educationals about our historic and current freedom fighters. These include Serop Aghpyoor, Antranig, Kevork Chavoosh, Vartan Pakhshian, and Pegor to name a few. However, if one were asked to name at least three female fedayees, could he actually do so, without mentioning the name of Sose Mayrig? The Centralized Executive, a highly important body, includes a majority of males and instances where in a given fiscal year, eight out of the nine Central Executive members are males, and though there is one female on the body, her position is secretary. One has to also keep in mind, however, that these examples are not exhaustive. What do such examples imply? Simply, that AYF is a boys club. Personally, this is an extremely concerning matter. In my opinion, AYF members need to take a step back and reassess this current atmosphere. Concepts such as equality and fairness must be incorporated into our lives as AYF members and embedded into this institution. Female AYF members need no longer to feel neglected or overlooked. AYF must certainly do much more than it has to give female members more opportunities, obligations, and rights for the vast qualities we gain in AYF, such as leadership, need not be instilled only in the male members, but the female ones as well.



Sose Vartanian
(Sose Mayrig)
1868-1953

To the editors of Glendale News Press:

This letter is regarding a response to Mr. Carney's extremely hateful and ignorant letter regarding the Armenian Genocide issue. I never knew that in this day and age, such ignorance still existed. Needless to say, I was totally shocked when I read this racist letter. Worse yet, how can a newspaper print such ignorance?

Mr. Carney:

There are a few points that need to be immediately cleared up. First of all, Armenians do not think they own Glendale. Thus, such a small minded and insulting comment need not be said Mr. Carney. There is absolutely no point in making such a narrow-minded remark. Furthermore, by saying such a thing, you are insulting yourself Mr. Carney. Let me explain. You claim Armenians believe they rule Glendale. Yet, you claim you know when it is okay for the American flag to go halfway down. Who is talking about ownership now? Secondly, if a war to break out right now, I could honestly say that most Armenians would not be buying tickets left and right. If a handful were to do so, however, don't you think other racial and ethnic groups would do the same? Since when is one group less fearful than the other Mr. Carney? Better yet, why don't you ask the oldest living U.S. Marine, an Armenian may I add, how he served this country...

Thirdly, what is this hateful and bigoted talk you say about something that happened in another country? The U.S. prides itself on how it is a melting pot, open for opportunity to all people and places. Furthermore, the U.S. government prides itself on being involved in most current world affairs, i.e. the Middle East, the former Yugoslavia, the Gulf, and the Far East. Therefore, why would it not get involved in this Mr. Carney? Have you caught up in your nightly news? Do you not recognize the thousands of American troops dispersed all over the world? If so, then there is another contradiction I have caught you in...Next, please Mr. Carney, save your whole "Don't come to this country trying to change things" speech. Let me guess, you believe you are not a child of immigrants right?

Are your parents Native American? If not, then sorry to inform you, but you are indeed a child of immigrants Mr. Carney. Therefore, please consider yourself one of us "immigrants." And I am almost positive, that your ancestors have tried to make a change at one point or another.

If people had your small-minded attitude, then this country would not be the "melting pot" it is considered today. What's next Mr. Carney...shall the U.S. not allow anyone from any country any longer? Lastly, you claim your uncle died for this country. Well Mr. Carney, have you ever heard of Veteran's Day? I believe your uncle is saluted

that way, so please, have a kind heart and allow one day for the 1.5 million innocent victims of the Armenian Genocide...they did give their lives for their country. Furthermore, why don't you go check out the statistics for the number of Armenian policemen and military men in this country? I bet that you will be shocked to see that many Armenian-Americans risk their lives for the U.S. every day.

In conclusion Mr. Carney, what's to say that you should not be punished for a hate crime? Your words are like going out and beating up a minority simply for who they are. What's to say that you will not turn violent one day? If you use such harsh words, then I am afraid of what you will use next. Please, do all of us a favor, and take care of your anger. Try to respect others and open your mind a little more. I guarantee that sick feeling in the pit of your stomach will leave once you lose your ignorance. In the meantime, walk down the streets of Glendale, and go into one of the shops, and see the eyes of the owners, and dare to tell me that you do not see a story within those eyes. Thank you very much.

-TALINE GULESSERIAN

"A man wrapped up
in himself is a
very small
bundle."

-Benjamin Franklin

Hye em yes

I remember way back when...back when I was not so strong mentally, in my heart and in all aspects of my life, ranging from school to A.Y.F. I did not know who I was, or why I was here. I still do not think anyone can answer these questions about themselves, but one has to try. So I tried, and tried, and tried again. But there was no answer to these questions. Then I simply gave up. What I did not realize at the time was what I had inside.

This all happened a long time ago, in high school. I was lost among the lambs, walking down the halls, saying "what's up" to my friends, and the only question on my mind was, "where are we gonna go drink tonight." I was a good kid; I just did not know what I was doing. It all started when I met this guy named Terrance. Terrance smoked a lot of pot. A LOT. After that it was all over. To fill the void that I called my life I started to smoke pot too. At first I would only smoke with Terrence, but then I began to smoke by myself. Not long after that my Armenian friends started smoking too. I did not care; it filled the void pretty good (or so I thought). Next thing I know I am on all sorts of drugs, from pot to shrooms, from acid to ecstasy, what ever I could get my hands on. But I was happy and that mattered to me more than anything else, not even when my own mother would ask me why my eyes were red again with a look on her face as if to say, "you think I'm stupid or something?" She knew and so did my father. I guess they thought it was a phase because they really never said anything. My life began to revolve around these drugs that I so loved to do. Then all of a sudden I found myself dropping out of high

school. "Why?" I thought. I was happy, everything was fine, but that was all in my mind. Everything was not fine. My life was getting more and more screwed up with every day that passed. Who was I? The question still lingered on in the back of my mind, but never surfaced, probably because of all the drugs floating around in my head at the time. I had no worries; I also had no brain cells. Now I was completely lost and this time I could not just pick up my bong and make it a quick fix. My life came to a slow but steady stop. A dead end job, no high school diploma, what was I going to do now...great, now there is another question, another complication. By now I had stopped going to A.Y.F. and had stopped hanging out with my Armenian brothers on a regular basis. The Armenian in me was drowning. That is when I felt this burning inside me that I had not felt for years now. Who was I... I was an Armenian soldier. Why was I here...to do what I could for my country. READ THE A.Y.F. MANIFESTO!! Right there on page one, there it was, the answers to all my questions.

I had forgotten. Forgotten what I was. Forgotten what my great-grandparents went through for me to be sitting here typing this article right now. They did not go through all that for me to be here on magic mushrooms seeing colors. Do not get me wrong it was fun while it lasted, but it was so stupid of me. I am not here to tell you that drugs are bad. Rather, I am here to tell you that we are Armenian, and not just Armenian... We are Tashnagtzagans. If there is any doubt in your mind about who you are and why you are here... Here is your answer.

"Hye em yes,
Hye em yes,
Sarsapetzek eem tserkess,
Hayasdane azadokgh,
Katch Vartaneen torn em yes."
REMEMBER??

Youth Corps 2001



This is a chance of a lifetime. If you have ever wanted to make a tangible change in your homeland and at the same time experience a life changing trip, then you are the perfect candidate for taking part in the Youth Corps program. You can spend approximately five weeks in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh supplying the manpower to villages where residents are attempting to rebuild their lives. What you have seen in pictures you can now see in person. Places like Sardarabad, Etchmiadzin, Karni, Keghart, Khor Virab, Mt. Ararat and other sights of historical and cultural significance.

Take the challenge, come and experience your homeland the way it should be experienced. Don't just visit your homeland, LIVE IT! All that is needed is the will to help.



For more information you may contact the Youth Corps Committee at 818.507.1933, or email ayfyc@aol.com or by writing to AYF Youth Corps, 104 N. Belmont Suite 306, Glendale CA 91206.



Ovr Eink777 Ovr Hasank

Wicen S0sigyan

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LAND

Staff Writer

It seems real only when you walk on it.

IF you die for it, you will realize its sweetness.

The philosophical aspects of land Land.

The oldest tradition of struggle and pondering.

Territory and marking.

This is our space and our right.

Land.

Land from its very origin gives its occupiers the need to be conquered by them.

Only to walk on?

Probably not because they have died for it.

Land.

Whether through rushing or pausing, it is our right.

Land and its development: try it on.

To be less than it is a privilege

Land.

To be more than it is a denial.

You are us and we are you.

We can use it and enjoy it.

Land.

If we want

There is truth in land

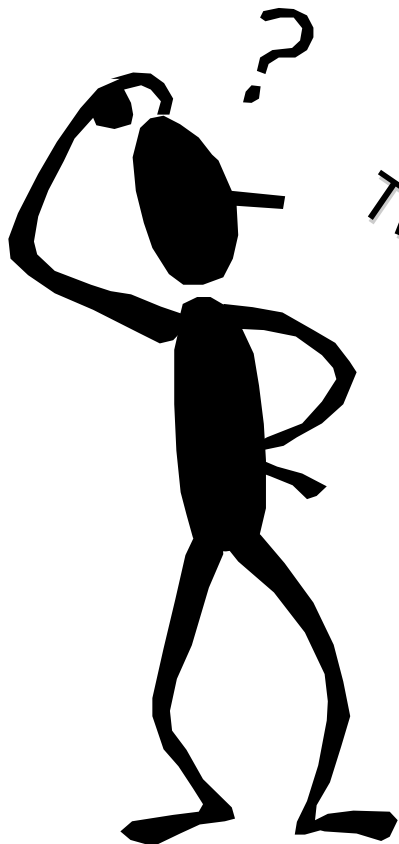
You can't take it

Land.

"To keep a lamp burning, we have to keep putting oil in it."

-Mother Theresa

17
haytoug



TRIVA QUESTIONS

- ◆ What has an average life expectancy of 10 days?
- ◆ What lasts for 32 miles then you throw it away?
- ◆ What costs more in today's money--the ship or the Titanic movie?
- ◆ What is the body's largest organ?
- ◆ Why are the keys on your computer's keyboard not arranged in alphabetical order?
- ◆ Why do doors in homes open outward as they do in all public buildings?
- ◆ Is it true that animals are colorblind?

ANSWERS ON THE NEXT PAGE.

ARMENIAN HALL OF FAME

James
Bagian, M.D. is an American
Astronaut.

◆
Louis Hagopian came up with the slogans "Army. Be all you
can be." and "Diamonds are forever."

◆
Alek Keshishian directed Madonna's *Truth or Dare* and *With Honors*.

◆
David Shakarian, a businessman, is the founder of GNC (General Nutrition
Center).

◆
Harry Tatosian is an inventor who came up with the sugar shell ice
cream cones.

◆
Howard Kazanjian produced *Return of the Jedi*
and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

"Either do not attempt at all,
or go through with it."

-Ovid

Did

Know

YOU

???

- ◆The Bible is the most shoplifted book in the United States.
- ◆The United States National Anthem is the only anthem in the world that doesn't have the name of the country in it.
- ◆Butterflies taste with their feet.
- ◆Elephants are the only animals that can't jump.
- ◆Starfish don't have brains.
- ◆An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- ◆Coca-cola was originally green.
- ◆The flea can jump 350 times its body length. It's like a human jumping the length of a football field.
- ◆On average, people fear spiders more than they do death.
- ◆Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying.
- ◆Research indicates that mosquitoes are attracted to people who have recently eaten bananas.
- ◆You are born with 300 bones but only have 206 after reaching adulthood.
- ◆Weatherman Willard Scott was the first original Ronald McDonald.
- ◆Ben and Jerry's send the waste from making ice cream to local pig farms to use as feed. Pigs love the stuff, except for one flavor: Mint Oreo.
- ◆Walt Disney is frozen.
- ◆Walt Disney had wooden teeth.
- ◆In the Disney hit 'The Lion King', there is a scene where a grown Simba sees his deceased father, Mufasa, in the clouds. If you take this scene in a slow motion frame rate, the word 'sex' can be plainly seen written in the clouds.
- ◆Roy and Roy Hinckley. The only time these names are mentioned is in the initial episode when the castaways are shipwrecked and listed as missing on a radio dispatch/news report.

Their names are also mentioned in the first Gilligan's Island reunion film.

- ◆The character names of the Skipper and the Professor are, respectively, Jonas Grumby .
- ◆If you started at the number one and spelled out each number, you would get all the way to one thousand before the letter 'a' appeared.
- ◆The average person presses the snooze button on their alarm clock 3 times each morning.
- ◆The average person will eat 35,000 cookies in their lifetime!
- ◆By the time you hit middle age you will have walked three times around the earth.
- ◆In the movie Grease, when Frenchy is in the diner telling the waitress her problems, the waitress goes to turn off the lights and doesn't even get close to the light switch yet the light still goes off.
- ◆In Jurassic Park the roar of the T-Rex came from mixing the noises of a crocodile, a lion, a tiger and a baby elephant.
- ◆The original Tin Man in Wizard of OZ almost died. The make-up that they used caused him to get deathly sick. They had to call in a second actor and change the make-up.
- ◆The movie "10 things I Hate About You" is based on the Shakespeare play The Taming of the Shrew.
- ◆In the movie 'Psycho', when the main character walks in the building, the man outside the window is Alfred Hitchcock, the movie's director.
- ◆Actor Keanu Reeves was born in Lebanon.
- ◆In the movie Anaconda, to save money, the directors used the scene of a boat going past a waterfall and back, using the same shot. This can be seen very easily.

▼SOLUTIONS▼

1. Taste buds 2. Pencil 3. The movie. The approximate cost to make the movie was \$200 million, while it would cost about \$123 million in today's dollars to build the ship 4. Skin 5. The first machines in the 19th century did go from A to Z. But this stymied good typists because the most frequently used keys were contiguous. When typists struck, say, the "T" and "H" keys in rapid succession, the spokes carrying those letters often jammed. The solution: separate these and other often used keys. 6. Because in case of danger, as in fire, people have to be able to open the door and pour through the doorway quickly and in great numbers. If the doors opened inward, people might pile up at the exit as everyone pushed to get through instead of allowing space for the door to be opened. Doors are open inward in homes because they sometimes have to be removed from the hinges in order to allow furniture to be moved in. If the hinges were on the outside, burglars would be able to remove them. 7. No. Birds, for instance, have a marked ability to distinguish colors. They need it to spot food, such as berries, on the ground.

Barab Paner

