

# ՀԱՅՅԴՈՒԿ

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARMENIAN YOUTH FEDERATION WESTERN UNITED STATES  
HAYTOUG SUMMER 2004

## ANCA ENDORSES JOHN KERRY

Ken Hachikian  
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

AYF YOUTH CORPS  
CELEBRATES 10TH  
ANNIVERSARY

AYF 2ND ANNUAL  
LITTLE ARMENIA  
CLEANUP

“Translating Loyalties,  
Transcending Borders”:  
The Armenian-American Vote  
in the 2004 Elections



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# EDITORIAL

While compiling this issue of Haytoug, the staff had the opportunity to interview the chairman of the ANCA, Ken Hachikian. During our conversation, Mr. Hachikian admitted that when the ANCA Office in Washington opened people didn't believe that the ANCA could accomplish what it does today.

People would laugh at the thought of U.S. Senators working for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide. People would laugh at the idea of a Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues. People never thought we can get as far as we have today.

This reality proves that with hard work even the impossible is possible. This reality tells us that if in 20 years we went from nothing to 136 members in the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, from nothing to 37 U.S. states recognizing the Armenian Genocide, from nothing to a California Trade Office in Yerevan, then the achievement of all our goals is not only possible but probable. But the achievement of our goals will only come with an even greater amount of work, an even greater amount of activism, and an even greater number of activists. This reality, on the other hand, shows that we still have a long road ahead.

Proper recognition of the Genocide by the U.S. Federal Government, by the international arena, and by Turkey has yet to be accomplished. The Artsakh conflict has yet to be completely resolved. The social, economic, and political well-being of our homeland has yet to be fully secured.

The youth of today have the responsibility of overcoming these and many other challenges we face. If we survived Genocide, if we gained independence from the Ottoman Empire, and if we liberated Artsakh, then we can even exceed our own expectations. Our goals are clear and the means are at our disposal. All that is left is the well-planned, effective, and efficient implementation of our responsibilities.





# Բողոք Թուրքիոյ Վարչապետին ՌԷՄ

Թուրքիոյ վարչապետ Ռեճեփ Թայիփ Էրտողանի Աթէնք այցելութեան առիթով՝ Յունաստանի Լ.Յ.Գ. Երիտասարդական Միութեան Կեդրոնական Վարչութիւնը բողոքի ֆառք կազմակերպած էր: Այցելութեան առիթով ընդունելութիւն կազմակերպուած էր Աթէնքի քաղաքապետ տիկին Տորա Պարոյեանի կողմէ Աթէնքի Բոժիա հրապարակին վրայ գտնուող քաղաքապետարանի ընդունելութեան դասական շէնքին մէջ:

Թուրքիոյ վարչապետը եւ իր շքախումբը քաղաքապետարան ժամանեցին երեկոյեան ժամը Յին: Լոն էին արդէն Երիտասարդական Միութեան անդամները, համախմբուած մեծադիր պաստառի մը շուրջ ուր յունարէն լեզուով արձանագրուած էր «Հայկական Յեղափոխութեան ճանաչում: Միակ ճանապարհը Եւրոպական Թուրքիոյ համար» ընդհանուր նշանախօսքով:

Քաղաքապետարանի շրջակայքը արտակարգ ապահովական միջոցներու տակ առնուած էր, ուր չափազանց մեծ թիւով ոստիկանական ուժեր հսկողութիւն կը կատարէին:

Աթէնքի քաղաքապետարանէն ներս մէկ ժամ տեսողութեամբ յայտագրի գործադրութեան ընթացքին տիկին Տորա Պարոյեան ներկայ գտնուող բազմաթիւ անձնատրութիւններու առջեւ, Աթէնք քաղաքի շքանշանը յանձնեց Թուրքիոյ վարչապետին:

Պարգեատրման արարողութեան ասարտին եւ հազիւ բոլոր ներկաները խմբովին դուրս կու գային քաղաքապետարանէն, ցուցարարները լոզունքներ սկսան բացականչել՝ ներկայ գտնուող բոլոր պաշտօնական անձնատրութիւններու ուշադրութիւնը գրաւելով, մանաւանդ որ փոքր գտնուող օտար զբօսաշրջիկներ եւ անցորդ Յոյն ժողովուրդը անդրադառնալով լոզունքներու իմաստին, սկսան

ծափահարել իրենց զօրակցութիւնը յայտնելով հայկական ֆարցին կապակցութեամբ:

Բացականչուող լոզունքները կը դատապարտէին Թուրքիան՝ Հայկական Յեղափոխութեան ուրացման քաղաքականութեան համար: Քաղաքապետարանի մուտքին՝ վարչապետը պահ մը կանգ առաւ, իր շուրսած ակնարկը դէպի ցուցարարները ուղղեց, առանց պաշարիներութիւնը կորսնցնելու իր կողքին գտնուող անձնատրութիւններէն բացատրութիւն խնդրեց հաւաքի էութիւնը իմանալու համար, ապա դժգոհութեան արտայայտութեամբ մը փութաց արագօրէն ինքնաշարժ մտնել:

Տեղույն վրայ ներկայ գտնուող հեյլէն պաշտօնական անձնատրութիւնները, ինչպէս նաեւ Աթէնքի ու համայն Յունաստանի արքեպիսկոպոս Խրիսթոտոլոս սրբազանը, զբօսաշրջութեան նախարար Տիմոթիոս Ավրամովոպոս, քաղաքակրթական փոխ նախարար տիկին Ֆանի Փալի-Փեթրալիս, Նոր Հանրապետութիւն կուսակցութեան գործադիր գրասենեակի նախագահ Վակէլիս Մէյմարաքիս եւ քաղաքական ու քաղաքապետական անձնատրութիւններ, բոլորը հետեւեցան դէպքին եւ լոզունքներուն:

Լեռատեսիկ կայանները որ ներկայ էին կը գտնուէին թորք վարչապետի այցելութիւնը հետափոխելու համար, յաջորդաբար փոխանցեցին հայկական հաւաքի լուրը եւս, սփռումի պահու մը կեդրոնացնելով իրենց քամերաները թորք վարչապետին վրայ երբ իր դժգոհութիւնը կը յայտնէր հայկական հաւաքին համար:



YEREVAN (ARF Press Office)--An intensive program of coursework in public relations was presented to a select group of ARF youth from Armenia and Artsakh June 4-6, at the Armenian Writers' Home, in Tsaghkadzor, Armenia.

The seminar, which took place in an atmosphere of warm camaraderie, was characterized by a comprehensive syllabus and the implementation of modern teaching methods.

Fifteen members of the ARF youth organizations of Armenia and Artsakh and the Nigol Aghbalian Student

Association attended the weekend seminar, which consisted of five courses taught by two public relations professionals.

The coursework covered an introduction to public relations, research, strategies, tactics, practical skills, and ethical standards in public relations.

Those who successfully completed the program received certificates.



# AYF Members Participate in Americas Social Forum

STAFFWRITER

Interview with AYF Western Region delegate to the Americas Social Forum, Serouj Arahamian

On July 25, three members of the Armenian Youth Federation representing the Eastern US, Western US, and South American regions of the organization participated in the first Americas Social Forum in Quito, Ecuador organized by the World Social Forum and the Hemispheric Council of the Americas. Sossi Essajanian (Boston), Christian Topakbassian (Argentina), and Serouj Arahamian (Los Angeles) took part in the week-long forum, which focused on contributing to social networking and the development of critical and diverse thought. Through its various themes, the program aimed to reflect the most crucial problems in the Americas and its interrelation with the world.

During the forum, the AYF members participated in conferences, panels, and seminars dealing with issues such as popular sovereignty, human rights, social movements, migration and human displacement, alliances and political parties, the media consensus, issues with unpayable debt, social rights, and building truth and justice. Throughout the discussions and presentations, the delegates listened to the causes, problems, and experiences of the indigenous peoples of Latin American countries including Peru, Chile, and Columbia.

### **Can you please give a brief description about the Americas Social Forum? What other organizations and groups participated?**

The Americas Social Forum (ASF) is part of the World Social Forum (WSF) process which was initiated in 2001. The WSF was initially formed as an alternative and counterweight to the World Economic Forum, which since 1971 has been annually gathering corporate leaders, politicians, and the elite of neo-liberal thinkers to discuss global issues. The purpose of the WSF is to gather groups and individuals opposed to the current form of corporate globalization and steer the world towards a more just, humane, and sustainable direction. Thus, every year, the WSF attracts thousands of activists under the slogan "Another World is Possible."

The ASF is a regional meeting of the WSF which focuses specifically on issues relevant to the Americas. This was the first time the ASF was held and it took place on July 25-30 in Quito, Ecuador. There were around 10,000 people in attendance with participants

from over 55 countries present. The vast majority of people there were from Latin America, but there were also several groups from Canada and the US.

There was a very strong presence of indigenous groups at the ASF. There were also various environmental, human rights, labor, student, youth, civil society, and anti-war groups in attendance.

### **The AYF recently took part in the Americas Social Forum. Can you please provide information about the participation level of the AYF? What was the AYF's goals at the Americas Social Forum? What did the AYF Achieve there?**

The ASF serves mainly as a forum for dialogue and discussion. It consists of numerous forums, panels, workshops, roundtables, and lectures where issues of concern for the Americas are discussed. Our goals as the AYF were to learn about the experiences of others fighting against injustice and, in turn, share our experiences and struggles with fellow forum participants. We actively participated in all of the activities of the ASF, including a march which was held in the streets of Quito to protest the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

At many of the workshops and panels we were able to ask questions, share our experiences, and explain how issues such as human rights violations and poverty have affected the Armenian people. We also put up countless posters and flyers regarding the Armenian Genocide throughout the campuses where the ASF took place. In addition, we passed out literature about the Genocide and AYF activities to the attendees.



Finally, the ASF was a major event in Latin America which received wide press coverage throughout the hemisphere. I myself was interviewed by reporters from such countries as Ecuador, Columbia, and South Africa. The two other ungers also did interviews with the press and, each time, we explained the activities of the AYF on issues of importance to the Armenian people.

**How can the AYF and the Armenian youth in general benefit from the Americas Social Forum and other such arenas?**

By just having a presence at such a world forum, we are presenting a voice for the Armenian people to organizations and activists from around the world. We can inform them about the issues important to us and seek to gain their solidarity. By building bridges with fellow participants we are gaining future allies and supporters. For instance, when we met groups from the United States at the ASF, we always mentioned the ANCA postcard campaign we are working on and asked them for their support.

Also, the issues that are being discussed at forums such as the ASF effect the entire globe, including Armenia. The way the world's economy is now run is only making the rich richer and the poor poorer. It is clear that we need alternatives to the neo-liberal policies currently being forced upon less developed countries. Forums like the ASF are leading the way and saying, "another world is possible." These forums are also standing up in defense of international law, human rights, and calling for the prosecution of crimes against humanity. It is important that the AYF participate in such forums and work with others to further strengthen social justice throughout the world.

Furthermore, by staying in tune with what is going on throughout the world, we can be more aware of effective strategies to deal with our own problems. The ASF is a good venue to share ideas and experiences with other activists.

Finally, aside from raising awareness about issues such as the Genocide, our purpose at such forums should be to expose Turkey as the rogue state that it currently is. Like the AYF, those who attend the ASF and WSF are for human rights, freedom of expression, cultural preservation, and the prosecution of crimes against humanity. We must let them know about the numerous crimes of the Turkish state and make the prosecution of such crimes part of the agenda of such forums. It is up to us to make sure the world knows about what Turkey really stands for and work on a global level to end its abuses.

Christian Topakbeshian, Serouj Arahamian, and Sossi Essajjanian.



**As someone who has represented the AYF Western Region at the IUSY World Congress and now the Americas Social Forum, what message can you give to the Armenian youth here in the Western United States?**

My message to the Armenian youth here in the Western United States would be to understand that we are living in an increasingly shrinking world. What happens in one part of the globe can and will effect what happens in another. We must begin thinking on a more global level and working with others across borders in order to be effective. Also, being in Quito and seeing the thousands of activists from Latin America, who are doing so much with so little, made me realize that we in the U.S. can be doing a lot more with all of the resources and relative freedom available to us.





## AYF To Hold 2nd Annual LITTLE ARMENIA Cleanup



### STAFFWRITER

**The AYF has begun the planning and organization of the Second Annual Little Armenia Cleanup scheduled to take place on September 25.**



The cleanup, which again is cosponsored by Los Angeles City Council Member Eric Garcetti's office, will begin at 8:30 am with an opening ceremony, including remarks by Council Member Garcetti. Volunteers for the cleanup will work to remove litter and unwanted weeds from the streets and sidewalks.



Last year's Little Armenia Cleanup attracted close to 400 volunteers who collectively cleaned up over 23,000 lbs. of trash from Little Armenia streets and sidewalks according to the Los Angeles City Sanitation Department. Last year as a part of the cleanup effort, the AYF also erected more than 35 "Welcome to Little Armenia" light-post banners on major Little Armenia streets.



The cleanup, a project of the AYF's Little Armenia Beautification Program, will include the renewal of the "Welcome to Little Armenia" banners placed on various major intersections of Little Armenia.



"It is an honor for the Armenian-American community to have an area of the City of Los Angeles named after our homeland," said Vicken Sosikian, Chairman of the AYF Western Region. "Since October of 2000 we have enjoyed this honor, and feel that we not only need to give back to Little Armenia and its residents, but also to the City of Los Angeles."



The AYF counts on the support of the Armenian community to make this community outreach event a success. Those who are interested in volunteering for the cleanup or contributing to the effort in any way should email the AYF at [AYF@AYFwest.org](mailto:AYF@AYFwest.org).







# ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY PICNIC FESTIVAL



## STAFFWRITER

The Armenian-American community of Southern California concluded this year's Armenian Independence Day celebrations with a picnic-festival held at the Holy Martyrs Ferrahian Armenian Pre-School on Monday, May 31st.

The picnic-festival officially began with the singing of the Armenian National Anthem performed by Sose Keshishian. Thereafter, singers Paul Baghdadian, Harout Hagopian, Nersik Ispirian, Joseph Krikorian, Ara Sahagian, Sako, and Hovannes Shahbazian performed cultural and patriotic songs for a crowd of over 1500.

"We are honored to provide our community a vibrant venue through which they can celebrate our first independence,"

said Shant Baboujian, director of the organizing committee. "While celebrating the victories of 1918 however, we must always continue our work to overcome the many challenges our nation faces today," explained Baboujian.

Over 25 vendors lined the picnic field where they sold artwork, ceramics, jewelry, t-shirts, clothes, and desserts. Community organizations including the Armenian Relief Society, Homenetmen, ANCA, and Pyunic were also present, disseminating organizational information to guests. The picnic concluded at 8pm with the singing of "Aruynod Trosh."



## "Nanor Krikorian" Scholarship Recipients Chosen

## STAFFWRITER

The AYF has chosen the seven recipients of the 2004 "Nanor Krikorian" Scholarship.

Over 30 scholarship applications, which were made available to all high school seniors of Armenian descent, were received. After closely reviewing all applications 11 finalists were called for interviews, of which seven were chosen to receive scholarships.

The AYF provided a total of \$3500 in scholarships to a total of seven qualified applicants. The recipients were Hovik Dermenchyan of El Camino High School, Talar Kharadjian and Marilyn Keoseyan of Granada Hills High School, Victoria Shpak and Lucinee Tovmasyan of Montebello High School, and Natalie Djabourian and Talar Gurunian of Mesrobian High School.

Each of the seven scholarship recipients have not only achieved exemplary academic goals, but have also held roles as activists in the Armenian community, while displaying com-

mendable dedication to cultural, political, and community involvement.

"The AYF prides itself in contributing to the education of the youth," said scholarship coordinator Ani Garibyan. "We are proud of the recipients and know that our investment in them will pay off with dividends to the Armenian-American community in the future."

Now in its second year, the "Nanor Krikorian" Scholarship has awarded 16 graduating high school seniors of Armenian descent a total of \$6100. The scholarship is named after a young AYF activist, Nanor Krikorian, whose life was cut short by cancer. Those interested in contributing to the expansion of the scholarship can mail donations, payable to AYF, to 104 N. Belmont St. #206 Glendale, CA 91206.

Applications for the scholarship are available at [AYFwest.org](http://AYFwest.org) and can be submitted year round.



# Questions to the **ARMENIAN REVOLUTIONARY FEDERATION**

DURING THE 2003 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN ARMENIA, THE ARF ANSWERED VARIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PARTY'S STRUCTURE, IDEOLOGY, PLATFORM, WORLDVIEW, AND ACTIVITIES. THE GENERAL ARMENIAN POPULACE WAS THE SOURCE OF THE QUESTIONS. THE AYF'S ALP IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON THE TRANSLATION OF ALL THESE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. TWO SAMPLES OF THEIR WORK IN PROGRESS COMPRISE THE CONTENT OF THIS ARTICLE.

**Has not the ARF extremely adhered to its traditions? Why does it not take steps to modernize and reform? For example, what meaning does taking an oath on a gun have today? If someone is dismissed from the ARF, can that person remain Dashnaksakan outside of ARF?**

The ARF, as it stands, is the active political party in Armenia that has a unique historical, political, and moral inheritance. If these traits were to lose their contemporary pertinence, then naturally they would hinder the party and the growth of our political lives. Fortunately, the past few years have proven that the ARF is one of Armenia's most vigorous and solid parties and that is due to the vitality of its socialist and national ideas. It is not that the ARF adheres to its traditions; rather, it continues to profess and pursue cherished goals of the Armenian people that it has been devoted to for decades and remains dedicated to today. ARF's tradition is also its historical experience that can at least be a source of knowledge when it does not apply to a certain time period. Modernization and reform occur according to the demands of the time and our lives. It is a relationship where the individual helps the public to reform and the public forces the individual to reform and modernize. Rapid advancement causes disorder and falling behind causes chaos. The individual is not a singular existence, rather it is biologically tied to the whole. The standards of value do not need to be modernized, because the issues have not yet changed. Another problem that stems from the topic of values and goals is that each party must attempt to communicate and work using modern methods. The people may judge how successful the ARF has been to that end.

With regard to taking an oath on a gun, let us remember that governments, too, have their symbolism. If, for example, soldiers parade through the streets or greet government figures it cannot be concluded that a war is forthcoming. Referring back to a party's coat of arms, oath, or slogan it becomes obvious what those that concentrate on these things want from the ARF, but those are only details that may even lose their meaning through the changing times and transform from tradition to ritual.

During times of peace, swearing on a gun is only a

ritual. However, in times of war and when the country is in danger then all will take an oath on a gun. Why do we erect statues of our heroes and depict Mt. Ararat everywhere? Symbols remind us of the past glory and motivate us to secure a bright future. Similar symbols awaken the heroism in the young generation's blood and the belief in their forefather's words and deeds. Imagine how poor our lives would be without the inspiration that is passed down to us through stories, songs, epics, and heroic battles. The ARF, whose history is part of the last one hundred years of Armenian history, traditionally passes on its knowledge that comes from its experiences and is meant for tomorrow. As

you already know, the ceremony of taking an oath on a gun happens many times in public where students, intellectuals, the elderly, and sometimes people who have nothing to do with guns take their oath. We think, and this proves it, that the said ritual has only a symbolic meaning. The ritual should be referred to with respect and no hidden meaning should be sought after. In all the capitals of the world, with different clothes and different marches, soldiers guard cemeteries, palaces, etc... What meaning

should we look for in that old-fashioned, unreformed uniform or march? No meaning can be found. But symbolism can be found... When we did not have a government or an army, those political parties and groups that swore on a gun carried in them the seeds of sovereignty. The ARF was one of those political parties.

If someone is dismissed from the party then s/he cannot remain Dashnaksakan, although many who have been dismissed gather around ARF if they continue to share the same moral standards and goals. As a matter of fact, there are many people who are not Dashnaksakan but continue to work with the party, are present at party functions, and vote according to the party's political view. However, being a Dashnaksakan means accepting certain responsibilities that cannot be forced upon others.





**Explain the difference between non-ARF and ARF officials in terms of moral character and sense of responsibility. Is the ARF minister, governor, or ordinary official responsible to the party?**

We desire that there be no difference between ARF and non-ARF officials, especially with regard to moral character and the sense of responsibility towards the work undertaken. For us, in any case, these two requirements remain primary, because we feel that an immoral man cannot become an honest official; and an irresponsible official cannot help, but rather can only harm, the projects on which s/he works. We also believe that if those individuals holding a position as an official are going to differ from one another, then they should differ only in their political preferences and viewpoints. And this shall be manifested when they hold a political post.

In terms of accountability to the party for the ARF official, it is imperative to separate party affairs from governmental work. The governmental official, realizing governmental functions, must be held accountable for his/her work by the government, and especially by its organization, collective body, and leadership. Otherwise we will repeat the mistake of the communist social order - where the party was actually realizing the functions of the executive leadership, while the true executive leadership was merely the party's tool. On the other hand, this does not mean that the party, after having sent its representative to perform governmental responsibilities, should not consider itself responsible for the way in which it is being manifested.

The ARF finds that each political party, having sent any of its members to perform governmental duties, is responsible for demanding that its representative carries out his/her work conscientiously, with devotion, and that s/he is principled and ethical. And that, first and foremost, means sincere commitment to the ideas, goals, and principles that have been announced. It means respecting law and order, placing the country and government's interests before personal gain, diligently and loyally performing the undertaken obligations, and through all that, justifying the party's faith in official.

The ARF, like any other political party, certainly cannot intervene in governmental work in order to ascertain the work of its representative. However, when discontent resounds, when the government or the people express negative attitudes toward the given official, the political party can profess its stance, expel the given person from its ranks, and apprise the public of its decisions. In spite of this, it is much more important not to announce its positions in retrospect, but that the party, approaching the situation seriously, knows whom it is sending to carry out governmental work, and that the candidate has a sense of responsibility towards the government, the work at hand, and towards the party that has trusted him/her.



# ANCA

## Capital Gateway Program

### STAFFWRITER

Interview with ANCA Capital Gateway Program Participant, Tsoghig Margossian

The ANCA Capital Gateway Program is designed to assist Armenian Americans across the U.S. to find job and internship opportunities on Capitol Hill or other government agencies in Washington, DC. The program builds on the successful 20-year old ANCA Leo Sarkisian Summer Internship Program, which has brought hundreds of youth leaders to Washington, DC to learn about the American political process and the key role Armenian Americans play in advancing issues of concern to our community.

The ANCA offers approved applicants its assistance in finding full time work or an internship on Capitol Hill, other government agencies or think tanks in Washington, DC. The ANCA also provides leads on job and internship openings and a base for candidates to conduct their search. Information on university sponsored semester-in-Washington, DC programs are also available for students. Approved candidates are assisted based on their individual needs. Graduates seeking jobs will have access to ANCA office facilities (computers, internet access, phone, fax, etc.) to conduct their job search. The ANCA offers leads and contacts to potential positions in Congressional offices. For students seeking internships, the ANCA will help secure a position prior to their arrival. If a student is participating in the program through their university, the ANCA will help ensure that all the requirements are met and that the student is established in Washington to complete the semester.

*You may contact the ANCA Capital Gateway Program Director, Arsineh Khachikian, directly at [arsineh@anca.org](mailto:arsineh@anca.org).*

### How did you hear about the Capital Gateway Program?

When I went to Washington to work as a volunteer at the ANCA office and an Intern in Congressman Schiff's office, I heard about the program. The chance to live and work in Washington was an amazing opportunity that I did not want to miss out on.

### What internship or job opportunity did you get from the Capital Gateway Program?

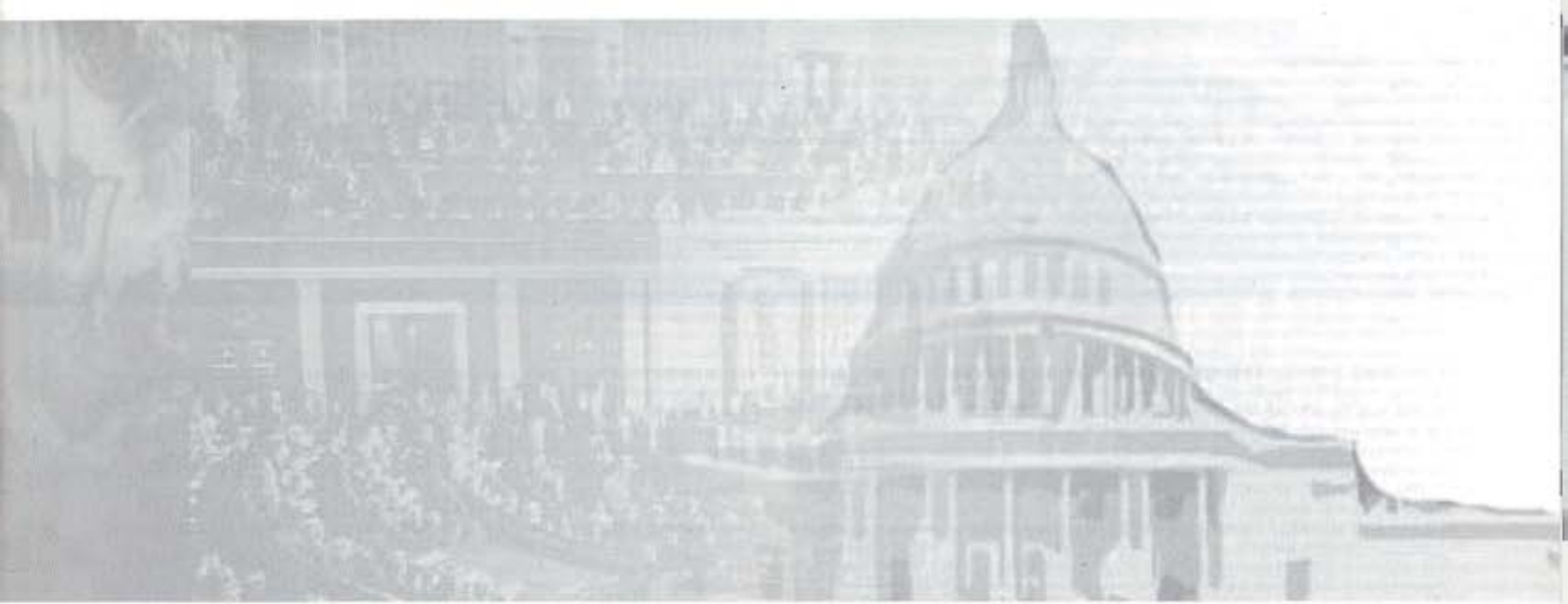
Thanks to support provided by the ANCA office, including the use of their resources, and their help in reviewing and improving my resume, I was able to get a job as a Staff Assistant in Congressman Bob Filner's (Democrat from San Diego) DC office. As a Staff Assistant, my job included many administrative duties, like giving tours of the Capitol to constituents, but I was also the Congressman's policy assistant on Armenian issues. Whenever the Congressman made any decision regarding Armenia, and for that matter Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, or the Kurds I did all the research and I made policy recommendations, none of which he disagreed with.

### How has the Capital Gateway Program helped you in your personal career goals?

Because the Capital Gateway Program helped me get my first job in Congressman Filner's office, my view of the job market has broadened over a hundred times! There are so many opportunities that are made available after working for a member of congress. I now work for the American Civil Liberties Union as a Legislative Assistant, and the only reason I was able to get this new job was because I was the only "Hill" staffer that applied. I got the job over people with law degrees and other valuable

Armenian National Committee Of America

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experiences just because I had worked for a member of Congress; and without the Capital Gateway Program, there's no way I would have had the necessary resources I needed to get my first job with Congressman Filner.

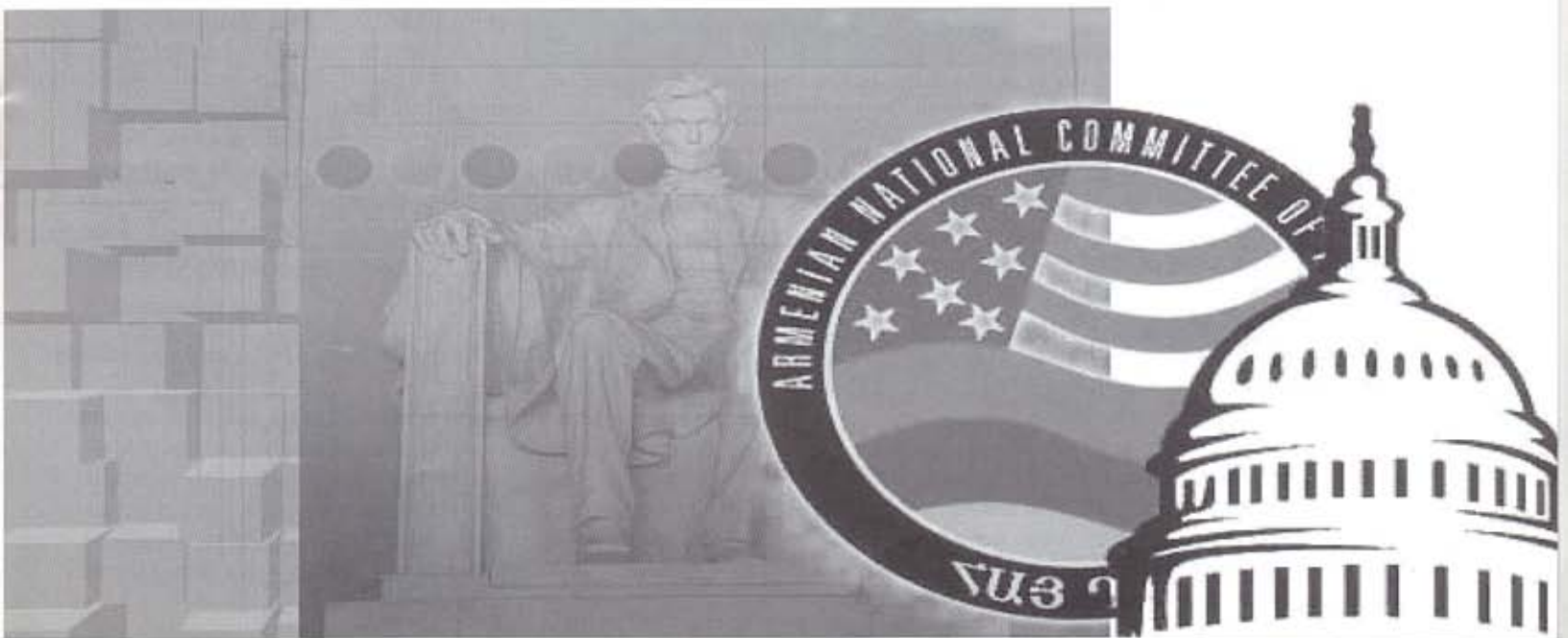
**How do you think the Capital Gateway Program helps the Armenian Cause?**

The Capital Gateway Program helps the Armenian cause in a way that is immeasurable. By working on Capitol Hill as a Staff Assistant, I was given the opportunity to advise the Congressman on what he should do on Armenian issues. The more Armenians we have working on the Hill and advising members of Congress on Armenian issues, the more powerful the Armenians will become. Members of Congress want to represent their constituents' concerns to the best of their abilities without going against something they morally believe in. They also cannot be experts on every issue, and what I mean by every issue is that members of Congress have to deal with health, environment, civil rights, foreign affairs, military, transportation and a thousand

other things. The staff they hire are people they trust whose job is to give the Congressman/woman all the necessary information on any given topic and to advise them of what they do. Having Armenians in those positions would have an enormous impact on the way Armenian issues are dealt with in Congress.

**What message do you have for Armenian youth interested in politics?**

Any Armenian youth who is even remotely interested in politics should consider this program. Without throwing yourself directly into something like this program, you will never know how many doors can be opened. Once you participate in this program and get your first cool job, the job opportunities get more and more exciting and interesting.





# interview with

"...I would urge and encourage our youth to get involved. Get involved in those areas that are of interest to you..."

## STAFFWRITER

### **Can you please tell us a little about yourself? Your educational and professional background and experience? Your organizational experience and background?**

I went to public schools in Boston, then graduated from Harvard College with a Bachelors degree in Economics with honors in 1971. I graduated from Harvard Business School with the highest honors in 1973. I worked for the Boston Consulting Group from 1973-1982 working in the field of corporate strategy for Fortune 500 companies. Since then, I have been the president of various businesses, some I started, others which were owned by others, and one I bought. I joined the AYF in 1965, was elected to the CE in 1967 at the age of 17, served 4 years, the last as chairman. I joined the ARF in 1967, have served on the executive of my gomideh several times and served on the CC from 1983-1987. I have served on several special committees appointed by the CC and have attended many regional conventions. I was appointed chairman of the ANCA in May 2001.

### **What are some of the top priorities for the ANCA right now?**

Well, this is an election year, and we become heavily involved in local, state, national, and presidential politics. At any given local level, the local ANCA's will make endorsements and actively work for candidates. At the state level the same thing will occur for gubernatorial races or other state-wide races: we endorse various congressional candidates and we actively work for them. We hold fundraisers for them as well as having grassroots volunteers working their campaigns to assist in their re-election. This year we have chosen, as we have in the past, to endorse a presidential candidate whom we believe will be most supportive of issues of concern to Armenian-Americans. As you probably know the ANCA has endorsed Senator John Kerry from Massachusetts, and we are working very diligently, in a number of ways, to promote his candidacy particularly in states that are so-called toss-up or hotly contested states, of which there are 17 or 18. In many of those states there are significant Armenian populations such as Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Nevada to name a couple. In such states the race will literally be decided by a few points and the active involvement and participation of Armenians could make a significant difference on that outcome.

We also, in terms of present day priorities, have been working very actively on something called the "Schiff Amendment." This is an amendment that Congressman Adam Schiff (who represents a congressional district in Southern California that encompasses among other areas Glendale) introduced to the

appropriations bill for foreign operations which includes foreign aid. The short version of the amendment was that it prohibited the government of Turkey from using any funds that it receives from the US to lobby against recognition of the Armenian Genocide. This amendment was proposed on the floor of the House of Representatives and was unanimously passed by voice vote. Now the amendment goes to what's called a Conference Committee to reconcile the bill with the version that the Senate will pass. The Senate has not yet passed it, so we are working hard to get the Senate version to include this amendment and for the version that comes out of the Conference Committee to reflect this. The Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert, has indicated that he opposes the amendment and has asked the House Conferees to oppose it as well. We know some of the conferees have indicated to us that they will support it, but it's still an uphill struggle.

The Genocide Resolutions in the House of Representatives and the Senate are also a priority. However, in each chamber, the leadership in the house, the Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert, and the Majority Leader, Tom Delay, have refused to allow a vote on the House Resolution and in the Senate Majority Leader, Senator Frist from Tennessee, has also refused to allow a vote. In each case, they are, in my view, afraid to allow a vote because they know it will pass. Just as the Schiff Amendment passed overwhelmingly, I am certain that in the House of Representatives an overwhelming majority will pass the Genocide Resolution. In the Senate I am also positive that it would readily pass. We already have 40 senators who have co-sponsored the bill and we have a number of others who either will come aboard shortly or who have indicated that in the event that there is a vote, they would vote with us. Unfortunately, the leadership won't allow a vote, and frankly it's one of the reasons why we cannot support President Bush in his re-election bid, because both leaders of the House and Senate indicate that they are not allowing a vote at the request of the administration.



**ANCA chairman Ken Hachikian with Senator John Kerry and Theresa Heinz Kerry**

### **How do you see the future of both ANCA and our efforts in the US generally?**

When the ANC office was opened 20 years ago, if you would have asked if what we are now accomplishing was possible, people would have laughed at us. For one thing Armenia wasn't independent at that time; to many people it seemed but a dream and an unnecessary effort that there was an advocacy or lobbying office in Washington. Twenty years later, I think

# KEN HACHIKIAN

"...what I would tell our youth is that do not for a moment think the actions of one or a few do not have an impact."

## CHAIRMAN OF THE ANCA



everybody understands the wisdom of opening that office, building our grassroots effort, and everybody can see the benefits. Ten or twenty years down the road. I would actually put that question in challenge back at our youth. I don't consider myself an old man, but in 10 or 20 years the leadership of these activities will, out of necessity, come out of the ranks of our youth and I for one am optimistic that leaders will step forward and that they will not only just pick up the ball, but they will advance it aggressively and even better than we have done. The success in that, frankly, does not come from our existence in Washington or from having strong staff and leaders in Washington (although that is obviously of some help). What really matters in advancing our cause is our ability to have grassroots support, organization, and strength. Armenians represent one half of one percent of the population of the US. Yet, out of the entire House of Representatives (where there are 435 members), only 131 belong to the Armenian Caucus. That is 30% of the entire Congress. That's a very significant achievement, but it in fact is a reflection of our grassroots support. What I would hope and anticipate is that 131 grows to 150, 60, 70 whatever, in that within a relatively short period of time we have a majority of the House be part of the Armenian Caucus. Should that occur, and I do really believe it is within reach, we would obviously have a stronger hand to advance our agenda. Anytime you have an administration that is working against you, and a State Department, and a Defense Department working against you, 30% of Congress isn't enough. So, our future is dependant upon the leadership that comes out of our younger ranks. I am optimistic that they will continue to be successful. Interestingly, 10 years ago one of the key things that we rely upon today would not have been forecast and I think will become increasingly important in the future is the role of technology. We email our activists, we communicate on a regular basis using the internet, and I believe that it will become an increasingly important mechanism in order to effectively and efficiently organize and communicate our perspectives on issues of concern to us.

**Given the fact that you have been where we are right now, as in, you have been an AYF member, you have served on Central Executive, and now you serve as the chairman of the ANCA, what message do you have for our members and the Armenian youth in general?**

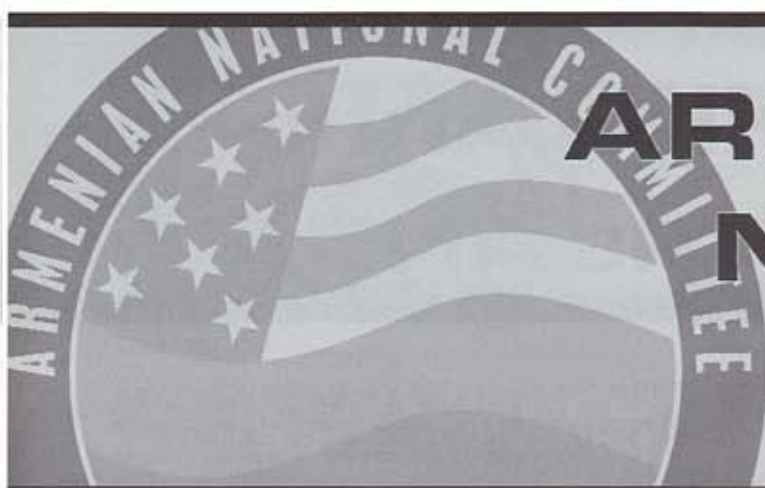
Well, what I would tell our youth is that do not for a moment think the actions of one or a few do not have an impact. First of all, that is literally not true. The actions of one or few can have a very significant impact. But beyond that, it is in my view a moral copout to say "I am just one, and I can't have an impact." Quite the opposite, an effective leader, whether it is a local or state or national level can have a significant impact. And I would urge and encourage our youth to get involved. Get involved in those areas that are of interest to you, if it's on issues

of Genocide, get involved there. If it's on issues of economic well-being and prosperity with Armenia, get involved there. We have a wide array of arenas; we have opportunities in Washington for people to do summer internships; and we have opportunities in our Capital Gateway Program for people to get placed in Washington jobs. What I would tell our youth is that it is remarkably easy to have an impact. You simply need to be interested and that they have a moral responsibility both to themselves and their ancestors to pick up the ball, stay involved, and to make a difference. And truly, you can make a difference.

**Presidential candidates have recognized the Genocide during their campaigns, but when they get elected to president, things change. What assurances do we have with Senator Kerry?**

Well first of all we have no assurances, let's not kid ourselves. We try every way we can to commit somebody to these positions both in writing and orally and in as many statements that they would issue as possible. So one way is to create a track record; the longer and the more extensive a track record is the more difficult it is for someone to back away from that.

In the case of Senator Kerry, what I am hopeful about is that he comes from a state MA where there is an extensive Armenian community and he has a personal connection to Armenian constituents, he personally knows Armenians and is familiar with the issues. When I first met him a couple months ago the very first thing he said to me when I introduced myself as the chairman of the ANCA, was I was there in 1990 voting with Bob Dole on the Genocide Resolution in the US Senate. He instantly said that; he didn't have an aid whisper that in his ear; he didn't know I was next in line to talk to him. So I would say he clearly has an awareness and familiarity with our issues that Clinton didn't have. I am not deluding myself; the people, who are in the midlevels of the State Department, will be in the midlevels of the State Department again and we're going to have to fight those battles. We hope to have a president who will stick to his word and if I were to predict I guess my prediction is he will, but of course he will be under a lot of pressure. If you read the press you can see the Turkish newspapers are very upset about Kerry's candidacy and (even though they have issues with Bush around Iraq) are actually, because of Kerry's positions, supporting Bush. So our Turkish observers are concerned about Kerry's election and hopefully that's a good sign.



# ARMENIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

In a move expected to impact electoral outcomes in key presidential election swing states this November, the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA), the nation's grassroots Armenian-American organization, announced its endorsement of the Kerry-Edwards ticket.



"For Armenian-Americans, the clear choice is John Kerry," said ANCA Chairman Ken Hachikian. "Senator Kerry has been a friend of the Armenian-American community for over twenty years, with a proven track record of fighting hard for issues of concern to Armenian-Americans across the nation. He faces an incumbent, President Bush, whose record on Armenian issues has grown progressively more disappointing throughout his tenure in the White House, beginning with

his broken campaign pledge to recognize the Armenian Genocide, including his Administration's attempt to end military aid parity between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and up until this week, with his Administration's strident attacks on legislation recognizing the Armenian Genocide."

John Kerry welcomed the ANCA endorsement, stating that, "John Edwards and I would like to thank the ANCA for its endorsement. We are looking forward to working with all Armenian-Americans to create a stronger America, more respected in the world."

"We call upon Armenian-Americans to compare the respective records of Senator Kerry and President Bush, to weigh the importance of their ballot for the future of U.S.-Armenian relations, and to cast their vote for the Kerry-Edwards ticket on November 2nd," added Hachikian.

The ANCA endorsement follows closely in the wake of the Bush Administration's forceful attack on the Schiff Amendment, a provision adopted last week by the U.S. House that prevents Turkey from using U.S. foreign aid to lobby against the Genocide Resolution. Armenian-Americans, particularly those in key swing states such as Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Florida, are positioned to play a decisive role in what looks, by all accounts, to be a hotly contested election.

#### **ANCA's Outreach to the White House and Republican Leaders**

The ANCA has, on several occasions over the past four years, specifically asked for a meeting between President Bush and the Armenian-American community leadership. These formal requests, which never received a response, were supported by a series of ANCA and community-wide letters outlining the views and disappointments of Armenian -

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# ENDORSES JOHN KERRY FOR PRESIDENT

Americans on specific issues, ranging from the Armenian Genocide to foreign aid policy.

In April of this year, the ANCA sent detailed letters to the Chairman of the Bush-Cheney campaign, Marc Racicot, and the Congressional Republican leadership voicing disappointment over the Bush Administration's record on Armenian issues, and expressing frustration with the lack of responsiveness by the White House to the concerns of the Armenian-American community. The ANCA's concerns were grouped, in this letter, into three broad categories: 1) unfulfilled commitments, 2) opposition to community concerns, and 3) failure to prioritize Armenian issues.

The Senate and House letters, addressed to House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN), highlighted the powerful leadership demonstrated by a great many Republicans on Armenian issues, notably by Armenian Caucus Co-Chairman Joe Knollenberg (R-MI), Genocide Resolution author George Radanovich (R-CA), and Senators such as Mitch McConnell (R-KY), John Ensign (R-NV), George Allen (R-VA), Elizabeth Dole (R-NC), and many others. These letters included more than a dozen specific recommendations by the ANCA about how the Congressional leadership could encourage the White House to improve its standing among Armenian-American voters. Neither the President nor his campaign responded to the ANCA's appeal for their intervention to help establish a constructive dialogue

between the Administration and the Armenian-American community.

## ANCA Supports Endorsement by Calling for Greater Grassroots Activism

Along with its Presidential endorsement, the ANCA reminded Armenian-Americans that their ability to impact policy-level decision-making depends, first and foremost, on the continued expansion of advocacy efforts at all levels of government. The ANCA's detailed congressional endorsements, which will be announced later this year, will represent an important element of this process by providing Armenian-American voters with the information they need to solidify the strong support our community enjoys in Congress.

"The challenge before the Armenian-American community, as in years past, remains growing our activism and strengthening our voice in the public policy debates and within the foreign policy community," said Hachikian. "We call upon Armenian-Americans to meet this challenge by increasing our engagement with the Executive Branch and providing the strongest possible support for our friends in the U.S. House and Senate on November 2nd and throughout the 109th Congress."



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get involved.



# BUSH & KERRY

## setting the record straight



ARMENIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF AMERICA

### The Kerry Record

During his long tenure in the US House and Senate, Senator Kerry has consistently been a leading advocate of issues of concern to Armenian-Americans. As a U.S. Senator, Kerry has forcefully fought for U.S. recognition of the Armenian Genocide, and is currently a cosponsor of the Genocide Resolution, S.Res.164. In 1990, Senator Kerry voted on the Senate floor for Senator Bob Dole's (R-KS) Genocide Resolution.

The Massachusetts Senator has been a vocal and effective champion of stronger U.S.-Armenia relations and has consistently backed legislative initiative to increase aid and expand trade with Armenia. He is currently a cosponsor of legislation, S.1557, which would grant Armenia permanent normal trade relations status.

Senator Kerry has spearheaded a number of initiatives to lift the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades. In 1991, he was the lead sponsor of legislation, which was later enacted as Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, restricting U.S. aid to the government of Azerbaijan until its blockades of Armenia and Mountainous Karabagh are lifted. He also worked for the adoption of the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act, which called for US aid to Turkey to be cut off unless Turkey lifted its blockade of Armenia. As recently as this January, Senator Kerry formally called on President Bush to press the visiting Prime Minister of Turkey to lift his nation's illegal blockade of Armenia.

### The Bush Record

The full text of the Armenian-American Presidential Report Card on the Administration of George W. Bush is provided below:

#### Broken campaign pledge to recognize the Armenian Genocide

Almost immediately after taking office, President Bush abandoned his campaign pledge to recognize the Armenian Genocide. This promise, which he made in February of 2000 as Texas Governor, was widely distributed among Armenian Americans prior to the hotly contested Michigan primary. It read, in part, as follows:

*"The twentieth century was marred by wars of unimaginable brutality, mass murder and genocide. History records that the Armenians were the first people of the last century to have endured these cruelties. The Armenians were subjected to a genocidal campaign that defies comprehension and commands all decent people to remember and acknowledge the facts and lessons of an awful crime in a century of bloody crimes against humanity. If elected President, I would ensure that our nation properly recognizes the tragic suffering of the Armenian people."*

Rather than honor this promise, the President has, in his annual April 24th statements, used evasive and euphemistic terminology to avoid describing Ottoman Turkey's systematic and deliberate destruction of the Armenian people by its proper name - the Armenian Genocide.

#### Opposition to the Congressional Genocide Resolution

The Bush Administration is actively blocking the adoption of the Genocide Resolution in both the House and Senate. This legislation (S.Res.164 and H.Res.193) specifically cites the Armenian Genocide and formally commemorates the 15th anniversary of United States implementation of the U.N. Genocide Convention. The Genocide Resolution is supported by a broad based coalition of over one hundred organizations, including American Values, the NAACP, National Council of Churches, Sons of Italy, International Campaign for Tibet, National Council of La Raza, and the Union of Orthodox Rabbis.

As recently as July 16th of this year, the Bush Administration reiterated its opposition to legislation recognizing the Armenian Genocide. In response the adoption by the U.S. House of the Schiff Amendment, which blocks Turkey from using U.S. aid to lobby against the Genocide Resolution, the Administration pressed Congressional leaders to prevent the enactment of any provision recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

#### Failure to condemn Turkey's denial of the Armenian Genocide

The Bush Administration has failed to condemn Turkey's recent escalation of its campaign to deny the Armenian Genocide. Notably, the Administration has remained silent in the face of the decree issued in April of 2003 by Turkey's Education Minister, Huseyin Celik, requiring that all students in Turkey's schools be instructed in the denial of the Armenian Genocide.

The State Department's 2003 human rights report on Turkey uses the historically inaccurate and highly offensive phrase "alleged genocide" to mischaracterize the Armenian Genocide. In addition, despite repeated protests, the Bush Administration's State Department continues to host a website on Armenian history that fails to make even a single mention of the Genocide. (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5275.htm>)

#### The Waiver of Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act

The Bush Administration, in 2001, aggressively pressured Congress into granting the President the authority to waive Section 907, a provision of law that bars aid to the government of Azerbaijan until it lifts its blockades of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh. President Bush has subsequently used this authority to provide direct aid, including military assistance, to the government of Azerbaijan, despite their continued violation of the provisions of this law.

### Reduction in aid to Armenia

In the face of the devastating, multi-billion dollar impact of the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades on the Armenian economy, President Bush has, in each of the past three years, proposed to Congress that humanitarian and developmental aid to Armenia be reduced.

### Abandonment of the Military Aid Parity Agreement

The Bush Administration abandoned its November 2001 agreement with Congress and the Armenian American community to maintain even levels of military aid to Armenia and Azerbaijan. Instead, the Administration, in its fiscal year 2005 foreign aid bill, proposes sending four times more Foreign Military Financing to Azerbaijan (\$8 million) than to Armenia (\$2 million). This action tilts the military balance in favor of Azerbaijan, rewards Azerbaijan's increasingly violent threats of renewed aggression, and undermines the role of the U.S. as an impartial mediator of the Nagorno Karabagh talks.

### Mistaken Listing of Armenia as a Terrorist Country

The Bush Administration, through Attorney General John Ashcroft, sought, unsuccessfully, in December of 2002 to place Armenia on an Immigration and Naturalization Service watch list for terrorist countries. This obvious error was reversed only after a nation-wide protest campaign. Neither the White House nor the Department of Justice has apologized for the offense caused by this mistake.



### Neglect of U.S.-Armenia relations

While the Bush Administration has maintained a formal dialogue with Armenia on economic issues through the bi-annual meetings of the U.S.-Armenia Task Force, it has, as a matter of substance, failed to take any meaningful action to materially promote U.S.-Armenia economic ties. Specifically, the Administration has not provided leadership on legislation, spearheaded by Congressional Republicans and currently before Congress, to grant Armenia permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) status. Nor has the Administration initiated any steps toward the negotiation of a Tax Treaty, Social Security Agreement, Trade and Investment Framework Agreement, or other bilateral agreements to foster increased U.S.-Armenia commercial relations.

The President neither visited Armenia nor has he invited the President of Armenia to visit the United States.

### Failure to maintain a balanced policy on Nagorno Karabagh

The Bush Administration, to its credit, took an early initiative to help resolve the Nagorno Karabagh issue in the form of the Key West summit meeting in 2001 between Secretary of State Powell and the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan. After Azerbaijan's failure to honor its Key West commitments, however, the

Administration failed to hold Azerbaijan accountable for unilaterally stalling the Nagorno Karabagh peace process.

### Increased grants, loans and military transfers to Turkey

The Bush Administration has effectively abandoned America's responsibility to link aid, loans, and arms transfers to Turkey's adherence to basic standards for human rights and international conduct. The most notable example was the \$8 billion loan package provided to Turkey in 2003 despite Turkey's refusal to allow U.S. forces to open a northern front during the war in Iraq.

### Taxpayer financing of the Baku-Ceyhan bypass of Armenia

The Bush Administration is supporting American taxpayer subsidies for the politically motivated Baku-Ceyhan pipeline route that, at the insistence of Turkey and Azerbaijan, bypasses Armenia.

### Refusal to pressure Turkey and Azerbaijan to end their blockades



The Bush Administration has not forcefully condemned the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades as clear violations of international law, nor, outside of occasional public statements, has it taken any meaningful steps to pressure the Turkish or Azerbaijani governments to end their illegal border closures.

### Lobbying for Turkish membership in the European Union

The Bush Administration has aggressively pressured European governments to accept Turkey into the European Union, despite Turkey's consistent failure to meet European conditions for membership, on issues ranging

from the blockade of Armenia and the Armenian Genocide to the occupation of Cyprus and human rights.

### Down-grading relations with the Armenian-American community

Breaking with the tradition of the last several Administrations, the Bush White House failed to reach out in any meaningful way to our nation's one and a half million citizens of Armenian heritage. While the State Department, Pentagon and National Security Council maintained their long-standing, policy-level dialogue with the Armenian-American community leadership, the White House itself essentially neglected Armenian-Americans as a political constituency. Perhaps the most telling example of this is that, during the course of the past three years, despite repeated requests, the President did not hold any community-wide meetings with the leadership of the Armenian-American community, nor did his Secretary of State or National Security Advisor.

### Armenian-American appointments

To the Administration's credit, the President appointed Joe Bogosian to an important Deputy Assistant Secretary position at the Commerce Department, John Jamian to a key maritime position in the Department of Transportation, and Samuel Der-Yeghiayan as a Federal Judge in the Northern District of Illinois.



# ANCA "LEO

# SARKISSIAN" Summer Internship

## STAFFWRITER

The ANCA Leo Sarkissian Summer Internship Program places interns in the Armenian National Committee of America national office in Washington, DC. The program is open to college and university students at least 18 years of age who are US residents. During the eight-week Leo Sarkissian Summer Internship, which begins in late June, interns are involved in a wide variety of projects determined in part by their own interests and goals. Participation in the program entails working on specific ANCA projects, conducting research, attending press conferences, writing reports, participating in open lecture forums, and meeting with Members of Congress and other administration officials. Lecture topics range from discussion of Armenian foreign policy issues to hands-on seminars geared toward developing key communication and writing skills. The internship appointments are full-time positions. Interns are provided housing and a nominal stipend. Over the past 20 years hundreds of Armenian youth have taken part in the Leo Sarkissian Summer Internship. For more information on the program, visit [www.anca.org](http://www.anca.org).

Nine interns participated in the 2004 Leo Sarkissian Internship: Ani Garibyan, Garen Kirakosian, Seepan Paseghian, and Shant Taslakian from the West Coast; Tamar Kanarian and Michael Toumayan from the East Coast; Hagop Mkysartinian and Aris Spenjian from Canada, and Shogher Merdjanian from France.

### INTERVIEW WITH 2004 LEO SARKISSIAN INTERN SHIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANT ANI GARIBYAN

#### **Please give a little background about yourself.**

My name is Ani Garibyan. I was born in Armenia and have a twin sister who is 3 minutes older than me. I lived in Estonia and went to pre-school there. I moved to the US with my family in 1988 at the age of 5. I graduated from Glendale High School and currently attend UCLA majoring in History and Political Science. My goal is to graduate and get into graduate school for history with a concentration in Russian History. Afterwards I'd like to either work on the Hill or as a lobbyist. I've been a badanteer for 6 years and an AYF member for 6 years now. I have volunteered for the ANC since I was 16, volunteering at campaigns including Rafi Manougian and co-managing Greg Krikorian's campaign. I've also been a part of the ANC TV for 3 years as a journalist and editor.

#### **After being in the political headquarters of the world (Washington DC) for two months, how important do you think the involvement of Armenian-Americans is in the American political system?**

It's more important than I thought. The more Armenians there are working in politics, such as staff members for congressional offices or lobbyists, the more voices we have.

If you work for a congressman or a senator, they get to know you. They get to know what an Armenian is and what their issues are. Once you are in for about a year, you get to tell your stories to people, and talk about legislators with other staff members in the office, and sometimes with the legislators themselves.

Also, you get to have the inside look on what goes on and if the ANC should know about it. We need to slowly move up from a staff-member position to a Legislative Correspondent or Chief of Staff (there is one by the way) or to a Foreign Relation's Director. That's how we can really influence legislation. What we gain is the trust of the legislators by working for them and becoming friends with them. We need as many friends as possible. The best friends we can have right now are legislators.

That's how we can really influence legislation. What we gain is the trust of the legislators by working for them and becoming friends with them. We need as many friends as possible. The best friend we can have right now are legislators.

#### **Do you have a message for your peers?**

Move to states with smaller Armenian populations. Be as active as possible. Intern for the ANC! It is the most exciting internship you will ever have. Every person that sends a webfax to a congressional office, the offices think that there are 25 others who are concerned about the same issue. Every call they get, they think 30 more are concerned. Every time a person visits a congressional office that means 100 others are concerned about the issues. One person does make a difference. It's true; it really is. Stay active; even though sometimes you feel worn out, you have to stay involved. We are all obligated to do so for our ancestors. They all survived for us. If it weren't for them, we wouldn't be alive today. Our activism can help them finally rest in peace. We are really getting closer to our goal, and one day, the US and Turkish governments will recognize the Genocide. It is going to happen, we just need to stay involved and not give up.

Be proud of your race and culture and stand up for it, always, especially in politics today. I can't stress enough the importance of involvement. Also, consider working on the Hill; it's exciting and you get things done for your people and homeland. Without the Diaspora and young people like us, Armenia will not survive, nor will the Genocide be recognized.

INTERVIEW WITH 2004 LEO SARKISSIAN INTERN  
SHIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANT SEEPAN PARSEGHIAN

**Please give a little background about yourself.**

I graduated from Holy Martyrs Armenian High School in June 2003. I currently attend Stanford University where I will be a sophomore this year. I am double majoring in Political Science and Economics. I was a badanee in the ARF Glendale Badanegan chapter for six years, and have been an AYF member for two years. I have taken part in the April 24th protests at the Turkish consulate, but have devoted much of my energy to the Stanford Armenian Students Association. I participated in the Fast for Armenia campaign that our ASA launched and look to continue that effort this coming year as president. I worked closely with Roxanne Makasdjian of the ANCA-SF chapter when publishing an Op-ed piece on the Armenian Genocide, and when I published a feature article on the Turkish denial of the Armenian Genocide in the Stanford Journal of Human Rights. My short-term goals include sustaining a high GPA, seeing success as the Associated Students of Stanford University Appropriations Chair, making the Stanford ASA productive for the Armenian community, and continuing my Stanford research grant on ethnic conflict in the Transcaucasus. For the long-term, I hope to become a Rhodes Scholar, and then move on to the American Foreign Service, and have a high position in the US State Department.

**Tell us about the circumstances of the internship.**

In a week we would be working in the office daily from 9:30 until about 8 pm on average. The first, a group project, I worked on with Tamar Kanarian of Boston. Our job was to compile a list of US-based organizations who would be possible members of a coalition, which would sign a letter to Speaker Hastert and Majority Leader Frist requesting the leaders to bring H.Res.193 and S. Res.164 to the floor for a congressional vote. We then contacted these organizations and ended up with more than 120 coalition supporters. My second project was to help former Capital Gateway intern George Kivork, who is now an ethnic outreach director for the Kerry/Edwards campaign, to organize a steering committee of influential Armenian-Americans who would voice the issues of the Armenian-American community to the Kerry team. This effort met great success as we received positive responses from 55 individuals willing to participate.

**How did you benefit as an ANCA intern?**

The Leo Sarkissian Internship satisfied my desires of working in Washington as an Armenian. The internship coordinator, Arsineh Khachikian, organized the program in a very professional and structured manner, allowing me to understand the functions of the Armenian National Committee of America. Through this understanding, I learned how vital time management, mutual respect, and dedication are in running the efficient advocacy machine that defines the ANCA.

The staff, led by Executive Director Aram Hamparian, became role models through their work ethic. Laboring into the late hours of the night, they showed me that the Armenian Cause is not only fought from 9-5, five days a week. Rather, the issues affecting the Armenian-American community comprised their set of virtues - the driving force behind their late hours and selfless service to Armenian-American grassroots efforts. When, for example, demonstrations against the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan were organized, the staff urged us to participate. Initially, I did not comprehend the reasons behind demonstrating instead of focusing on our ANCA projects. However, I eventually realized that the cause for which the ANCA advocates does not extend merely to the Armenian people, but is rather universal in its foundation and purpose. I was comforted by this lesson because I was happy to know that I could go back to my university, which has scarce Armenian enrollment, to advocate Armenian issues and know that I am benefiting the entire institution.

In addition to meeting numerous politicians on the Hill like Congressman Adam Schiff, and top-level foreign servicemen such as Ambassador Steven Mann, I relished the internship's lecture series. This series, which invited prominent Armenians in American government to lecture the nine interns, afforded me an intellectual joyride at least twice a week. From Mr. Vahan Zanyan, CEO and President of PFC Energy, to Mr. Dean Shahinian, counsel on the Senate Banking Committee, I learned a great deal from many different perspectives - all of which piece together to form Washington, DC. More importantly, having these successful Armenians speak to us on an intimate level energized my own efforts to make a difference in both the Armenian and American communities.

Although the internship had great staff leadership, fruitful programming, and an inviting East Coast Armenian community, I was most impressed and captivated by my fellow interns. They added a fresh and dynamic dimension to the Washington internship, and raised the program to a spectacular and unforgettable level.

I had the privilege to work with this diverse group, to listen to their amazing contributions to their local Armenian community, and to learn from their experiences and hardships in life. As the youngest intern of the nine-member group, I enjoyed absorbing their mature advice and guidance that they were more than happy to give me at any time. They motivated me with their accomplishments and showed me how one person's dedication can go such a long and influential way. Coming from the West and East Coast, Canada, and France, each intern brought new ideas and novel points of view to the ANCA conference table, making our collective work productive and groundbreaking.





# Translating Loyalties, Transcending Borders:

Talar Chahinian-Mahroukian

On November 2, 2004, Americans will go to the poles to exercise the most powerful right they have as citizens, and elect the next president of the United States. Newspapers, magazines and radio and television programs have begun covering the debate around the 2004 presidential election as their front-page news or top story, for the public desperately hungers for material to base an opinion on. Between watching clips of the speeches given at the Democratic National Convention, campaign ads or SNL skits imitating Kerry or Bush, individuals are developing judgments, which will ultimately affect their vote.

As the date fast approaches, both candidates have focused their efforts on winning over minority groups, which may cause a crucial shift in their respective state's vote. Armenian-Americans are not one of these target minority groups for the majority of them live in large cities, found in states that will probably vote Democrat. But what will the Armenian-American vote be in the 2004 elections? Or is it even possible for a hybrid diasporan community like the Armenians in the United States to have a block vote?

The Armenian communities dispersed throughout the United States are extremely diverse in class, ideology and cultural background. Aside from being influenced by the local experiences and politics of their respective cities and states, Armenian-Americans also have distinct loyalties and inclinations as a result of the cultural background within which they grew up prior to their migration to the U.S. Not all Armenians share a common history of arrival to the United States; therefore, they also cannot share a common political outlook. In an essay titled "The Armenians in America", Robert Mirak summarizes the pattern of Armenian immigration to the Americas in general. He writes, "The Armenian communities in North and South America are products of the cataclysmic events that uprooted the Armenian populations of the Middle East: first, in the turbulent period from the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878 to the 1920's; and then, in the upheavals in Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iran, and Soviet Armenia in the twenty-five years after 1965." Hence, Armenians in the U.S. each have an individual relationship to the notion of "Homeland", which varies for each case in both time and space. Many Armenian-Americans have never

lived in Armenia, and although they consider it a national homeland, they have much more tangible and nostalgic attachments to countries in the Middle-East. Others are many generations removed from Armenia, and have long detached themselves from politics of the Caucasus. Still others, who had lived under Soviet regime for many years, find it extremely difficult to adjust to the capitalist ways of life in the U.S. It is impossible to extract a single Armenian-American vote out of the hybrid community of Armenians in the United States. But multiple votes expressing the diverse voices should definitely be expected in the 2004 elections. Although Armenian immigrants continue to arrive, they are no longer in huge numbers. The immigrants who arrived during the influx of migration in the 1970's and 80's have now settled in their new home, and most of them have also gained their citizenship.

With the confused passivity of the early years of arrival long gone, the later Armenian immigrants now recognize the United States as a permanent home and are willing to participate more actively in the political arena. Their future and the future of their children are of the utmost importance, and they will take proactive steps to ensure its success. Remarking on an exile's impossibility to imagine a future at the early stages of displacement, in an essay called "The Cold that Never Comes" Tununa Mercado writes:



"Time spent in exile has a trajectory like a great sweeping brushstroke, it has a broad open rhythm, its curves are like the ocean waves far from the coasts where there are no breakers and where they blend into the horizon; time takes place in the far beyond, in some other place, it is heard in the silence of the night, but it is brushed aside, one prefers not to perceive it because one assumes that the banishment will end, that it has all been some kind of parenthesis unrelated to the future."

Most Armenian-Americans in the United States have emerged out of the parenthesis. Time now moves forward towards a future full of possibilities. It is that promise of the future and the possibility of bringing about change that prompts citizens to vote. For Armenian-Americans, the issues to consider prior to that vote are multifold.

Since the about one million Armenians living in the



# The Armenian-American Vote in the 2004 Election

U.S. form the largest Armenian community outside of Armenia, they continuously attract more immigrants who are in need of a new home. Therefore, for both the new and the old arrivals immigrant issues are important in evaluating a presidential candidate's policies. Being the largest Armenian community in the diaspora also heightens the community's significance in relation to Armenia and its welfare. As the Republic of Armenia relies on its diasporan counterpart for moral and financial support, Armenian-Americans in turn invest interest in ensuring the United States' just treatment of Armenia's regional politics. The politics of Transcaucasia, then, and a candidate's proposed foreign policy in that regard, concern the Armenian-American voter. But reigning over all other Armenian related issues is the candidate's position on the Armenian Genocide. The catastrophic event of 1915 defines most diasporan Armenians' exilic condition. It is an issue not easily compromised, for it lacks accountability. Armenians of the diaspora have for many years been denied recognition of the trauma that was inflicted on them and their ancestors by the Ottoman government. For many diasporan Armenian communities, this very denial has been the fuel forcing them to actively participate in the politics of their host country and call for recognition. The Armenian communities of many countries such as Lebanon, France and Canada have triumphed to this end. Unfortunately, the home of the largest Armenian diasporan community has yet to demonstrate its alliance with justice: the just recognition of a past trauma, which aimed at systematically eliminating a group of people. For now, any notion of justice has been sacrificed for the sake of American interest in Turkey and Azerbaijan. Undiscouraged by the empty promises of many past politicians, and inspired by the few who have represented the Armenian voice in Congress, Armenian-Americans consider a candidate's position on the Armenian Genocide as a decisive factor in their selection.

Based on the examination of these and other issues facing the Republic of Armenia and the Armenian communities in the United States, grass-roots organizations such as the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) offer their endorsements of candidates running for local or national offices in order to provide the Armenian public with some guidance. The ANCA endorsement of a candidate, in this case the endorsement of John Kerry for President, expresses the outcome of the organization's evaluation of both candidates. It is basically a statement claiming that one candidate is more promising in being sympathetic to issues concerning Armenians in the United

States than another. It is then up to the citizen to use this information alongside other ideological inclinations in selecting the candidate to vote for. Yet there are times when the candidate that best represents the voice of Armenians conflicts with the personal political ideology of the voting citizen. It is then that the individual faces the difficult task of balancing out the inclinations based on loyalties to more than one nation, economic situation and social values. In his essay "Reflections on Exile", Edward Said reflects on the notion of having multiple loyalties when he writes:

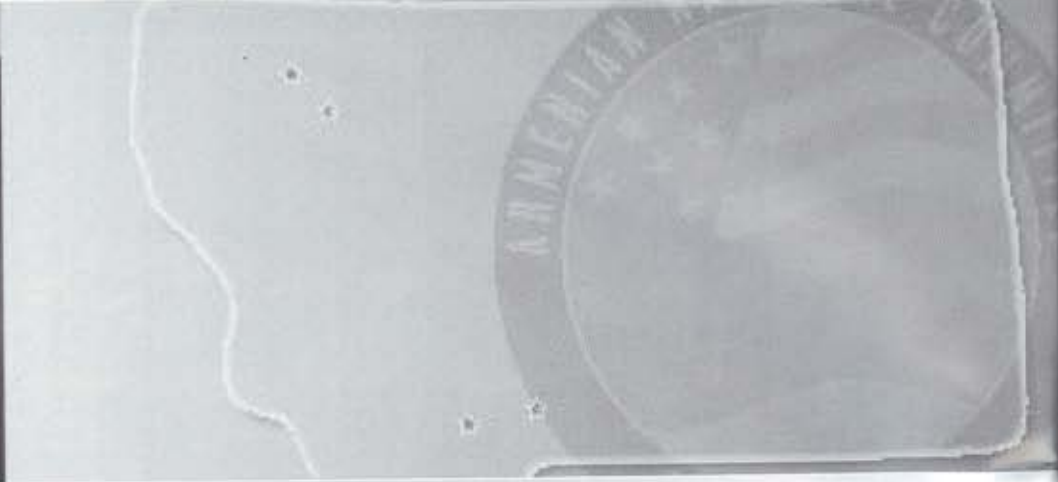
"Most people are principally aware of one culture, one setting, one home; exiles are aware of at least two, and this plurality of vision gives rise to an awareness of simultaneous dimensions, an awareness that- to borrow a phrase from music- is contrapuntal. For an exile, habits of life, expression or activity in the new environment inevitably occur against the memory of these things in another environment. Thus both the new and the old environments are vivid, actual, occurring together contrapuntally."

For the diasporan Armenian in the U.S., things often occur against the memory or the imagined memory of more than one past environment. As a result, diasporan Armenians are constantly aware of issues that concern people outside of their national boundaries. To expect the Armenians in America to have a block vote is to strip the Armenian communities of their rich hybrid composition. What can be expected is that the votes of Armenian-Americans will be well informed and encompass a consideration for people living outside of the United States. The Armenian-American voter will need to translate his or her loyalty to Armenia and other nations and balance it with his or her concerns as an American, thus transcending borders and expressing a more human voice.

i. Mirak, Robert. "The Armenians in America". *The Armenian People*. Ed. Richard Hovannisian. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997. 389

ii. Mercado, Tenuna. "The Cold that Never Comes". In *A State of Memory*. Trans. Peter Kahn. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2001. 19

iii. Said, Edward. *Reflections on Exile*. Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2000. 366



## Montana Senator Co-sponsors Genocide Resolution

From Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper

Montana Senator Conrad Burns (R-MT) agreed this week to cosponsor the Genocide Resolution, S.Res.164, bringing the number of US Senators supporting this human rights measure to forty, reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

"I am proud to join with 39 of my Senate colleagues in support of S.Res.164," said Senator Burns in a statement to the ANCA. "This legislation stresses the importance of remembering and learning the lessons of past crimes against humanity, including the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, and the Cambodian and Rwandan genocides, in an effort to stop future atrocities. Silence in the face of genocide only encourages those who would commit such atrocities in the future--a legacy which we cannot afford to pass on to our children."

"Armenian Americans, in Montana and across the United States, join in thanking Senator Burns for his principled stand in defense of the fundamental right of all people to live free from the terrors of genocide," said ANCA-Western Region Executive Director Ardashes Kassakhian, who traveled to Montana in late July to meet with members of the state's Congressional delegation, along with local community activist Yedvart Tchakerian. "We have been very encouraged, in recent months, by the increasing effectiveness of our grassroots outreach in the Northern Plain states, with Senators from Montana and both North and South Dakota supporting the Genocide Resolution, and the governors of Idaho, Nebraska, and Montana issuing proclamations commemorating the Armenian Genocide."

The Genocide Resolution marks the 15th anniversary of the US implementation of the Genocide Convention and reaffirms the commitment of the American people to this landmark treaty.

It specifically cites the importance of applying the lessons of past genocides in order to make the world safe from future genocides. Senators John Ensign (R-NV) and Jon Corzine (D-NJ) introduced this measure in June of last year. Its companion measure in the US House, H.Res.193, led by Representatives George Radanovich (R-CA), Adam Schiff (D-CA), and Congressional Armenian Caucus Co-Chairs Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Joe Knollenberg (R-MI), was adopted unanimously by the House Judiciary Committee last May and currently has 111 cosponsors. On July 15th, the US House passed an amendment, authored by Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA), which prohibited the government of Turkey from using US foreign aid dollars to lobby against the Genocide Resolution.

Support for the Genocide Resolution has been widespread outside of Congress as well, with a diverse coalition of over 100 ethnic, religious, civil and human rights organizations calling for its passage, including American Values, National Organization of Women, Sons of Italy, NAACP, Union of Orthodox

Rabbis, and the National Council of La Raza.





# NEW YORK LIFE

"As lawyers and descendants of victims of the genocide, we were able to bring to court a lawsuit that brings some recognition of the genocide"

## \$20 MILLION SETTLEMENT FOR ARMENIANS

From *Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper*

A judge Friday formally approved a \$20 million settlement in a class action lawsuit between New York Life Insurance Co. and the descendants of Armenians killed nearly 90 years ago in the Turkish Ottoman Empire.

The landmark legal agreement approved by US District Court Judge Christina A. Snyder is believed to be the first ever in connection to the Armenian genocide.

Snyder granted preliminary approval for the unpaid death benefits earlier this year.

"As lawyers and descendants of victims of the genocide, we were able to bring to court a lawsuit that brings some recognition of the genocide," said attorney Brian S. Kabateck, who, like co-counsel Mark Geragos, is Armenian-American.

One of the plaintiffs, 89-year-old Martin Marootian, will receive \$250,000 stemming from his efforts to bring about the lawsuit. His mother first sought benefits in 1923 for Marootian's uncle, who bought a policy in 1910 and was killed in 1915.

"What it really is an insurance case and not an Armenian genocide case, but the two are interwoven together," Marootian said Friday.

New York Life sold about 8,000 policies in the Ottoman Empire beginning in the 1880s, with less than half of those bought by Armenians. It stopped selling insurance there in 1915.

Many of the policies languished because remaining heirs could not be found, the firm said. The company has located about one-third of the policyholders' descendants to pay benefits.

About \$11 million will be set aside for potential claims by heirs of some 2,400 policyholders, \$3 million will go to Armenian charities and the rest will pay attorneys' fees and administrative costs.

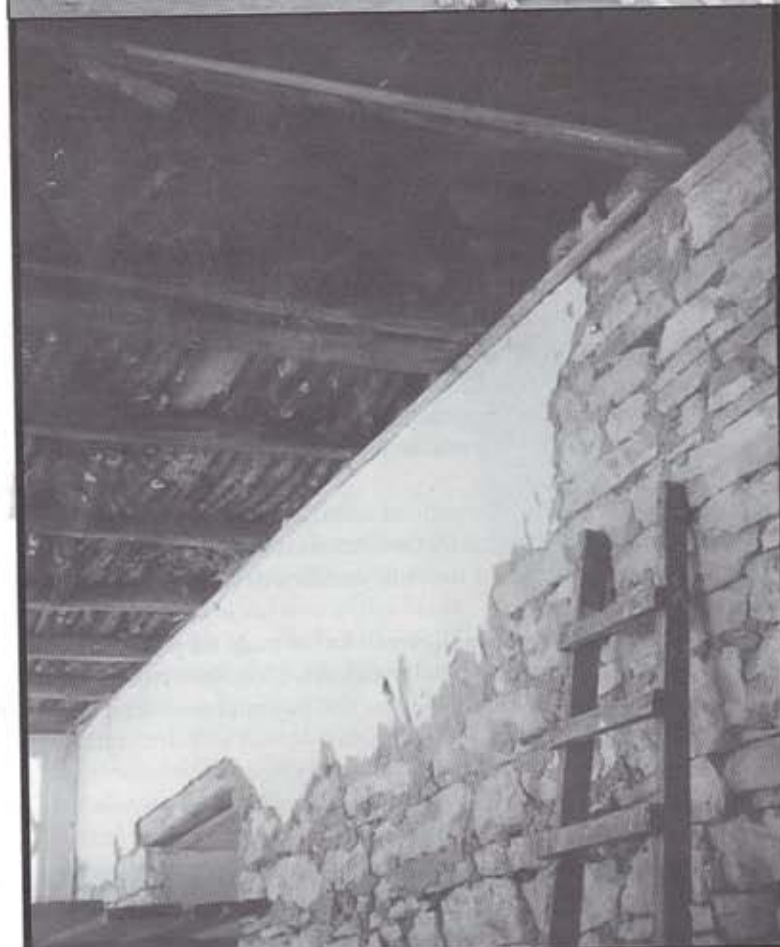
[www.unitedhumanrights.org](http://www.unitedhumanrights.org)

FIGHT THE MACHINE

# YOUTH

## The

In 1988 the people of  
liberation of Karabagh  
activity had began. B  
Diaspora Armenians



# CORPS

## Journey Home

Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh began protesting for the from the hands of Azerbaijan. In less than a year guerilla warfare 1991 a full-scale war was being fought. The war united the leading them to raise millions of dollars annually to support the struggle.



Since 1988, the AYF had an active role in support efforts for Karabagh. Through several large-scale fundraisers, educationals, protests, and demonstrations the AYF internalized the struggle for a free homeland. In mid-March of 1994 while talks for a ceasefire were being held, the AYF was in the war-torn villages of Karabagh looking at the possibilities of providing direct assistance to our homeland. After three months of hard work, hours of planning, and days of communication, the AYF had structured the Youth Corps program. During the summer of 1994 the first group of AYF Youth Corps participants headed to Armenia to assist in the reconstruction efforts. Since then, every summer a group of 10-20 youth head to our homeland to partake in and contribute to the AYF Youth Corps experience.





# «Դէպի Երկիր»ի Գաղափարապաշտը

Ռազմիկ Հարուն

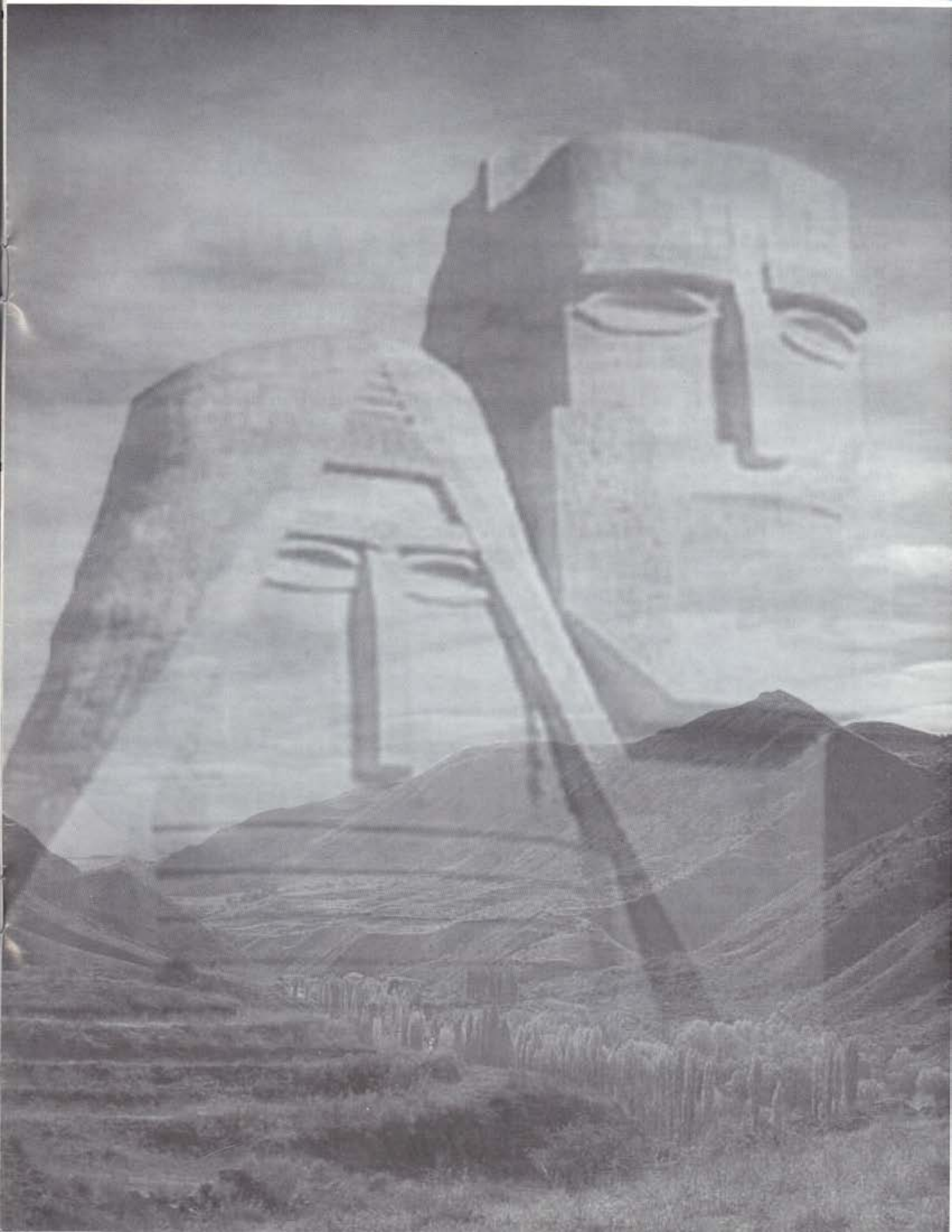
Հազուագիտ են այն անհատները որոնք իրենց սեփական կեանքի օրինակով կը դաստիարակեն եւ կը ներշնչեն մեզ: Իրենց ազնի խելակներուն կառչած՝ այս անձերը անցողական հանդիպներու խորքը թափանցելով կ'ըմբռնեն անոնց ունայնութիւնը եւ կեանքի արագընթաց հոսանքին մէջ չեն կորսուիր անձնական շահ հետապնդելով այլ՝ իմացականութիւնը ունին իրենց համակ կարողութիւնները տրամադրելու արդարութեան իրագործման եւ հաւաքականութեան շահին ի խնդիր:

Հայ Յեղափոխական Դաշնակցութեան ֆիտայական փաղանքի անդամ Մհեր Զուլհանեանին կեանքը, թէեւ կարճատեւ, անժխտելիօրէն կը պատշաճի վերի տողերու նկարագրութեան: Մհեր ծնած է Պէյրութ, Լիբանան 1967-ի Նոյեմբերի 8-ին: Սակայն ան իր նախնական ուսումը կը ստանայ Սուրիոյ մայրաքաղաք Տամասկոսի մէջ: Երբ Մհեր 11 տարեկան կ'ըլլայ, ընտանիքով կը վերադառնայ Պէյրութ՝ հայկական Պուրճ Համուտ թաղամասը: Անմիջապէս կ'անդամակցի շրջանի Հ.Յ.Դ. պատանեկան միութեան: Վեց տարի յետոյ Հ.Յ.Դ. Լիբանանի Երիտասարդական Միութեան «Րաֆֆի» մասնաճիւղի անդամ կ'ըլլայ: Այս ատեն Մհերը վարչական եւ այլ բազմաթիւ պատասխանատու պաշտօններ կը ստանձնէ, միշտ պատենէի վրայ մնալով՝ լիբանանախայութեան ինքնապաշտպանութեան ամէնէն դժուարին պայմաններուն մէջ: 1990-ին կը դառնայ Հ.Յ.Դ.-ի անդամ: 1992-ի վերջերուն Դաշնակցութեան «Դէպի Երկիր» կարգախօսին հնազանդ՝ նորապսակ Մհերն ու իր կինը կը տեղափոխուին Հայաստան: Յաջորդ տարուան Օգոստոսի 26-ին, Մհերն երեք ընկերներով կը նահատակուի Մարտունի շրջանի ճակատային դիրքերը շրջելու ատեն երբ ական մը կը պայթի իր ինքնաշարժին տակ: Իր հետ կը գոհուի Հ.Յ.Դ. Արցախի Կեդրոնական Կոմիտէի անդամ Մերուժան Մոսիեան:

Դաշնակցութեան հնոցին մէջ հասակ նետած Մհերը կը տպաւորուի կուսակցութեան վեհիմաստ

գաղափարախօսութեամբ եւ կը կուսակցական դաշնակցականի վայել բարձր ու մաքուր բարոյականութեամբ: Այդ պատճառով ան անհրաժեշտ կը նկատուի նոր սերունդին դաստիարակութիւնը ու կը ստանձնէ պատանհներու վարիչ պաշտօնը որմէ ոչ միայն համեստութիւն, կարգապահութիւն եւ ազգային գիտակցութիւն կը սորվեցնէ, այլ անձնական շփումներու միջոցաւ սեր, միութիւն եւ քաջութիւն կը ներշնչէ: Միշտ հետաքրքրուած իր պատանհներով՝ Մհերը յաճախ կ'ուզէ գիտնալ անոնց նիշերուն եւ կարդացած գիրքերուն մասին: Ան մանկութիւնէն ի վեր սեր ցուցաբերած է համակարգիչներու հանդէպ եւ բնագիտութեան պսակաւոր է: Ուսումի նկատմամբ ունեցած ծարաւութեան համար ան իր ընկերներուն կողմէ մտաւորական կոչումին կ'արժանանայ: Սակայն Մհեր ոչ միայն ընդունակ էր այլ կրնար իր գիտելիքները գործադրել: Օրինակ՝ ան թնդանօթներու համազարկութեան համակարգչային ծրագիր մշակած էր որ օգտագործուեցաւ Արցախեան ազատամարտին մէջ:

Ծրագիրը Արցախ անցաւ, սակայն ոչ առանց իր հնարագէտ ստեղծիչին: «Դէպի Երկիր» կարգախօսը Մհերին համար պարզ լօզունքային արտայայտութիւն չէր: Ան շատոնց սկսած էր ինքզինքը հոգեպէս պատրաստել հայրենիք մեկնելու եւ այդտեղ գործելու, որովհետեւ Հայաստանի բարեւաման եւ վերելքին սատար կանգնելու առաքելութիւնը, ըստ Մհերին, դաշնակցականի պարտականութիւնն էր: Ամուր հաւատք ունէր ազատագրական պայքարի էութեան հանդէպ եւ անոր արդար յաղթանակին: Մհերը իր սերունդին համար Դաշնակցութեան գաղափարներուն եւ գործերուն միաձուլուածութիւնը հաստատեց կատարեալ կուսակցականի տպաւորութիւնը թողնելով: Անոր կարողականութիւնը յայտնի էր եւ յաւելեալ կը ծաղկեր եթէ կեանքը վաղա՛հաս վերջ չգտներ: Ի՛ր օրինակով առաջնորդուինք, որովհետեւ այդպէս իրեն ոչ միայն քիչատակած ու յարգած կ'ըլլանք այլ անթերի նկարագիր կերտելու ճամբայէն չենք շեղիր:





**STAFFWRITER**

Interview with Hollywood "Soghomon Tehlirian" chapter advisor, Siamanto Maronian

**What prompted you to take on the role of advisor to the Hollywood "Soghomon Tehlirian" A.R.F. Badanegan Chapter?**

Well, after the revival of the Hollywood A. Y. F. it became clear to me that my work in this organization and in the Armenian community would be to work for and with the youth. Since I felt this way, I remembered my days as an A.R.F. Badanee and all the things that I learned and used throughout my years. I felt that it was my responsibility to pass on the knowledge I had acquired, as a youth, from my advisors. I just know this is my duty and I'm determined to relay the old school mentality to the new generation, in a newer and more modern way.

**What are some of the things the Hollywood chapter does?**

Well basically we have weekly 2 hour meetings, let me just walk you through one of our meetings.

First, we open the meeting with "Harach Nahadag;" second, we take role; third, we read and evaluate the last meeting's minutes, then they are archived; fourth, we have a "ten minute ticker," during which a new unger brings an article and explains /discusses it. After that we split into committees. Our chapter consists of two committees, social/fundraising, and educational/Hai Tad. After these meetings we have committee reports. Usually we have either a social event, i.e. practicing or learning heghapoghagan songs, or we'll have an educational. Afterwards we have announcements and unforeseen, and finally we close our meeting, with our anthem "Mshag Panvor." We basically do everything from attending Dodger games to attending centralized educationals.

**It's clear that ARF Badanegan members help the Armenian communities and the Armenian cause, but do the members benefit or learn anything?**

Besides learning the standard operating procedures of the

A.R. F. Badanegan, they also learn teamwork, leadership, respect, and friendship both in and outside of the organization. Furthermore, they learn the importance of family values, as well as historical facts about our people and organization. All these things will hopefully better prepare them, as they become A.Y. F. members.

**You were in Artsakh for six months recently, can you tell us about your experiences there with the Badanegan?**

In Artsakh, the A.R.F. Badanees only have school, home, and in their spare time the organization. To them the cause is a part of their everyday life. They don't have the luxuries that the Badanees here do, such as the different types of entertainment. So they focus all their energy on everything that is related to the cause.

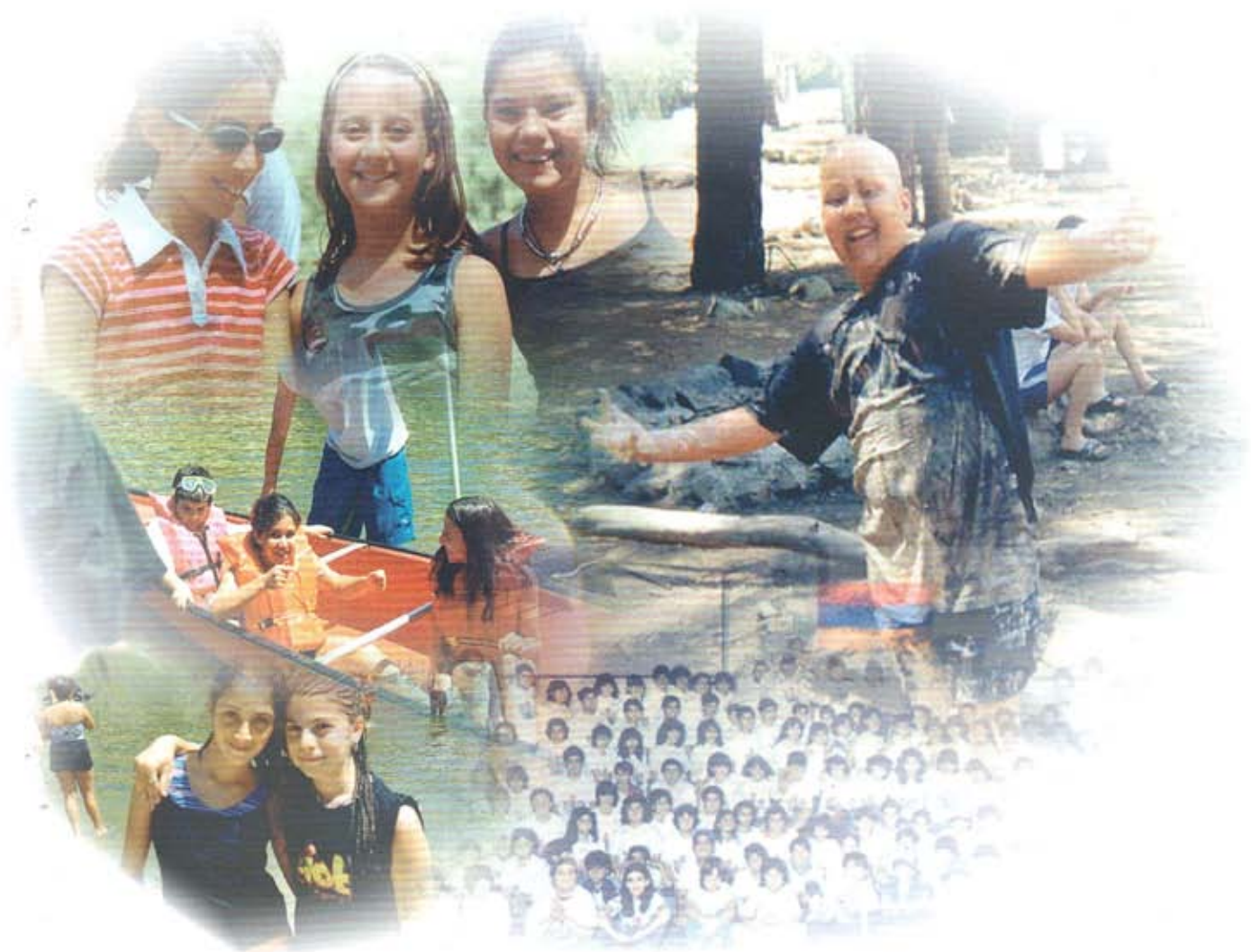




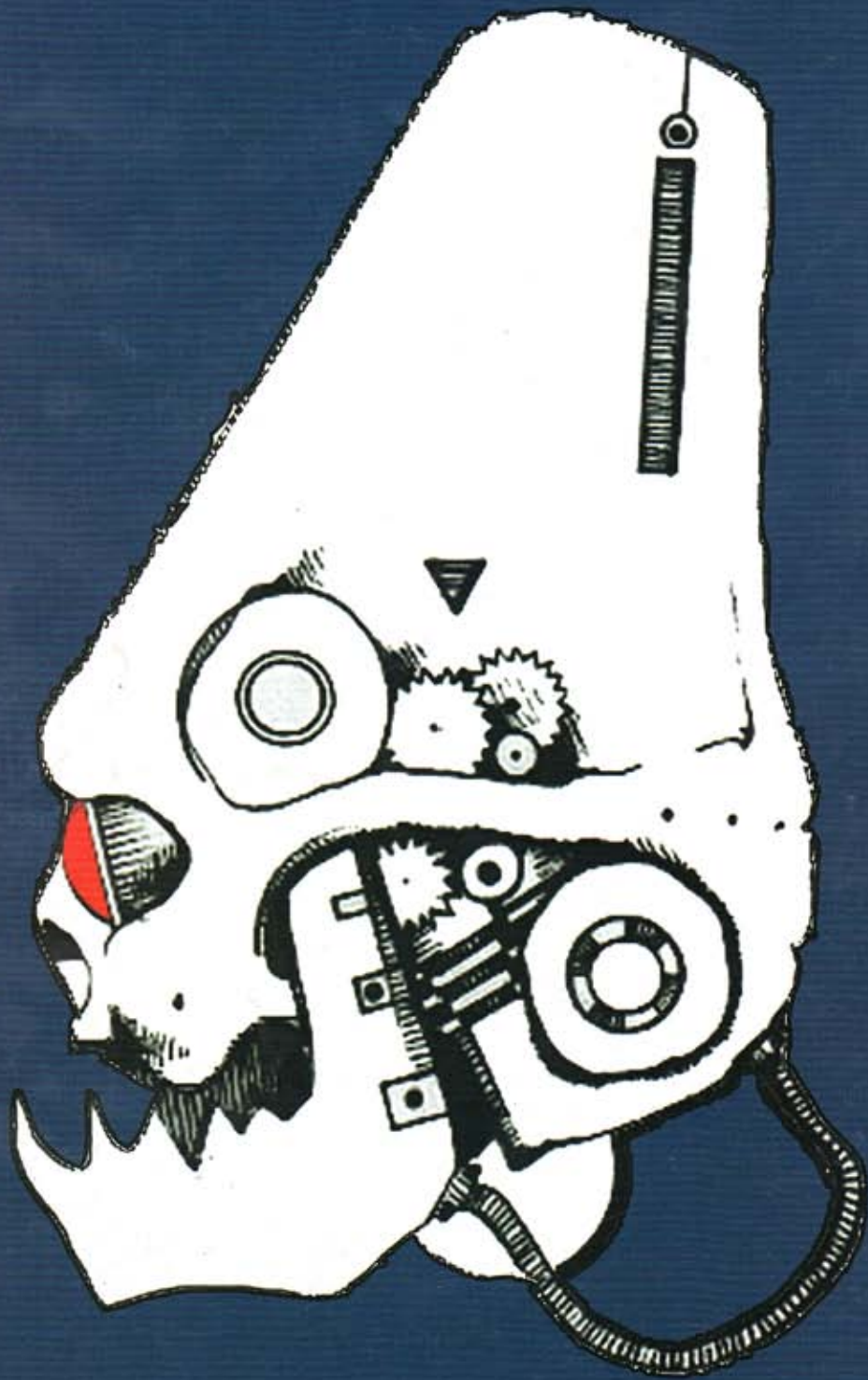
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