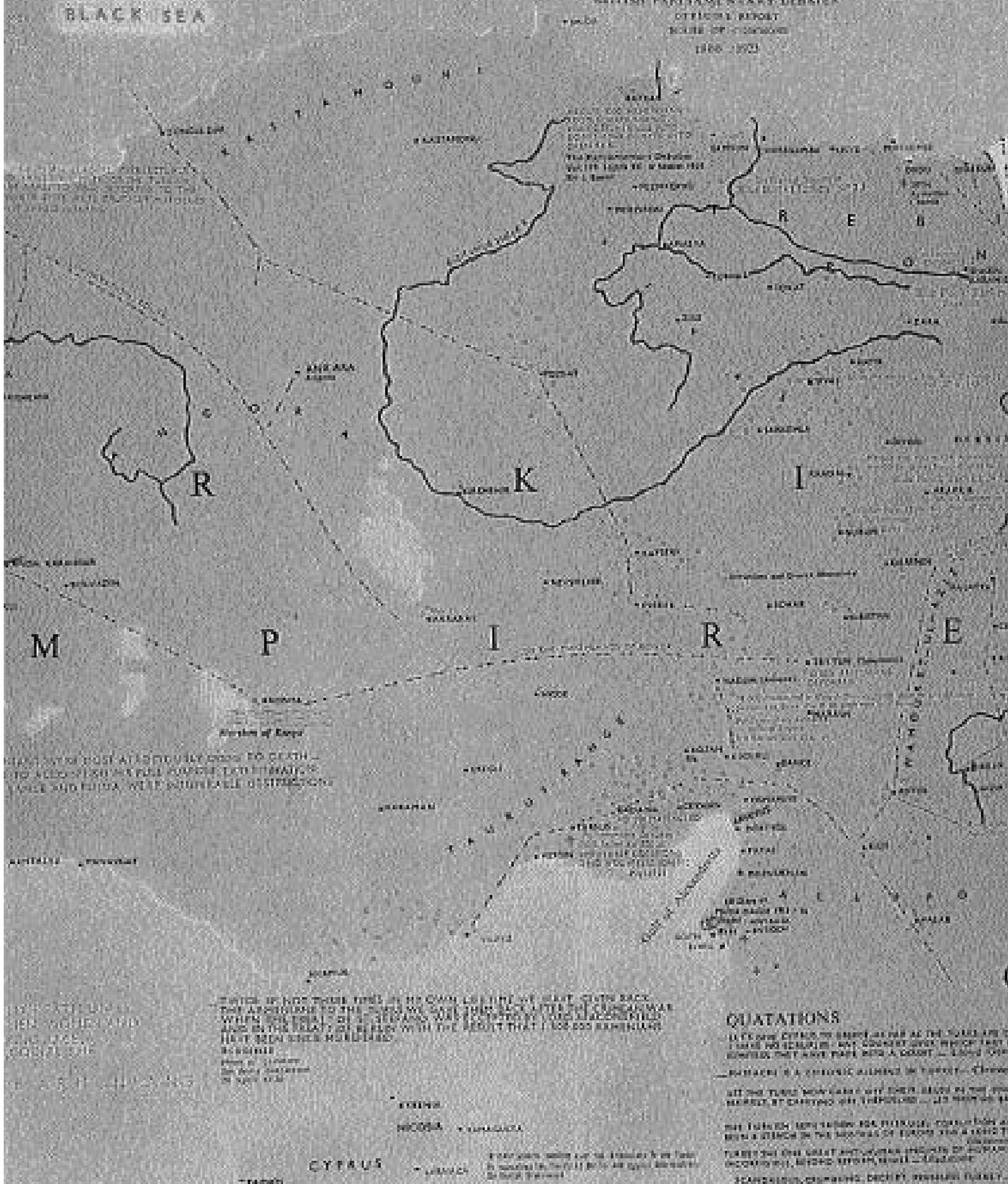


1890-1915 TURKISH MASSACRES OF ARMENIANS

THE
BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
AS INTRODUCED BY
1906-1907
THE
BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
OF LORDS REPORT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
1890-1923



THE MASSACRES OF ARMENIANS IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, 1890-1915. THE MASSACRES WERE MOST ATROCIOUSLY DONE TO DEATH TO ACCOMPANY THE FULL POWER OF THE STATE. THE MASSACRES WERE MOST ATROCIOUSLY DONE TO DEATH TO ACCOMPANY THE FULL POWER OF THE STATE.

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QUOTATIONS

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WE HAD NO OIL-FIELDS TO OFFER IN PAYMENT,
NOR GOLD TO BUY OUR FREEDOM WITH...

Հայտոյս

Հայտոյս
Հայտոյս

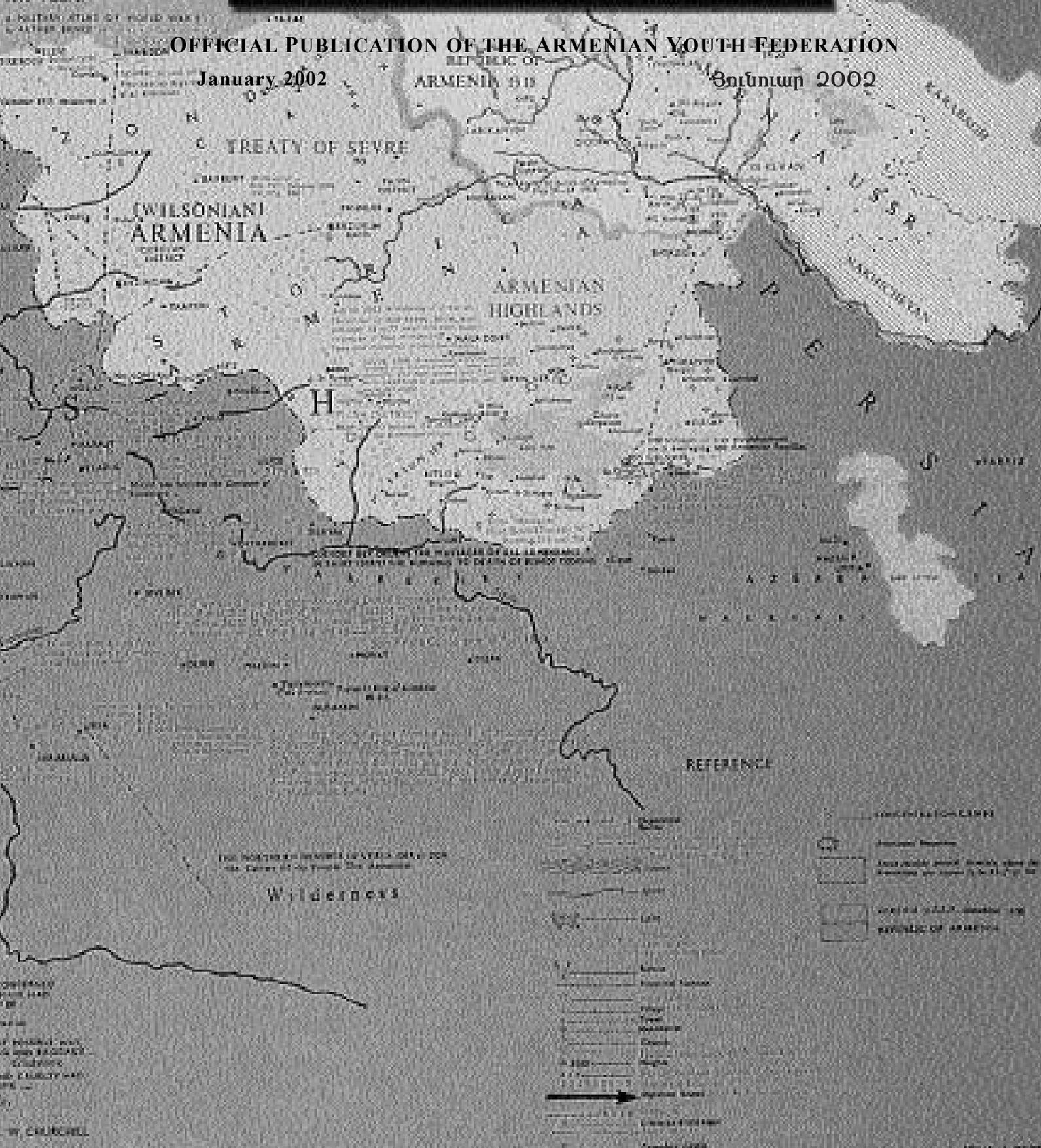
SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE PHILAS...
WENT THE TURKISH PERSECUTIONS OF THE
ARMENIANS, OVER 1,000,000 OF THEM WERE
EITHER MURDERED OR DEPORTED DURING
1915 ALONE.

OSMAN
EMPIRE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARMENIAN YOUTH FEDERATION

January 2002

Յունուար 2002



BY CARROLL

REFERENCE

- International City
- National Border
- Administrative Boundary
- Republic of Armenia
- Scale
- North Arrow



The Official Publication
of the Armenian Youth
Federation

ARF Youth Organization
of Western America



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For all Armenian Youth residing in Western America who strive for the national, social and economic liberation of the Armenian people. Haytoug is distributed free of charge within the community. Financial contribution may be made to the address below.

The opinions expressed in the Haytoug publication is not solely and necessarily opinions of the Armenian Youth Federation. Haytoug encourages all Armenian youth to express their thoughts and opinions in this publication.

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- 3 editorial
- 4 armenians in the ottoman empire
STAFFWRITER
ottoman empire timeline (1350-1918)
- 5 the westernization of turkey
STAFFWRITER
- 6 cultures intertwined
STAFFWRITER
- 7 uhrc
- 8 the truth about the tarç
NAIERY MESSERLIAN
book review: three apples fell from heaven
STAFFWRITER
- 10 fedayee spotlight: ashod yergat
STAFFWRITER
- 11 section 907 reviewed
STAFFWRITER
- 12 hampig sassounian fact sheet and action alert
- 13 open letter to steve cooley, la district attorney
- 15 letter from unger hampig
- 16 ayf olympics 2001
STAFFWRITER
- 17 hollywood chapter profile
SAKO BEDROSSIAN
youth corps or survivor, i'm confused
DIRAN JERMAKIAN
- 18 members of the armenian youth federation give back to the community
STAFFWRITER
- 19 barab paner
COMPILED BY STAFFWRITER

Editorial

Editorial

"We live in a time when our world is changing right before our eyes..." said the voice on the radio. It continued on and turned out to be a commercial for a product, whose company was cleverly triggering the heightened sense of American nationalism: a "never-before-seen" phenomenon which has emerged among the citizens of our country following the events of September 11th. But has there ever been a time in history when our world didn't change? The everyday movement of people has forced the world to change all throughout time. I think what the phrase on the radio really referred to is the shared feeling among American citizens that a new period in the political and cultural history of the United States and the world is just beginning. In truth, the events of the last few months are not a beginning to something new. They are the effect of changes that have been taking place on the world's stage of politics over many years. All of a sudden, these changes are labeled and placed "right before our eyes" through the media, since we finally physically encountered them. The political attitudes conveyed in the media are often plagued by personal interests and may offer false representations. Unfortunately these media attitudes become

the only source of knowledge for the TV viewing masses, whereas minority viewpoints go on un-represented or misrepresented. Now, more than ever, it is vital for us, the politically active Armenian-American youth, to indulge ourselves in the study of history with an unlimited scope. Let us widen our view and eagerly wander into the histories of other cultures and nations. We need to learn all aspects and all viewpoints of Armenian history, American history and world politics. It is only with a complete, all-sided understanding of world history and politics that we, as Armenian-American youth can actively participate in the advancement of the Armenian Cause: the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, the ensuring of a free and independent Karapagh as well as a politically and economically stable Armenia, and the cultivation of the Armenian culture and language within Armenia as well as the diaspora.

"It is only with a complete, all-sided understanding of world history and politics that we, as Armenian-American youth can actively participate in the advancement of the Armenian Cause..."

Visit the AYF website at
www.AYFwest.org

Armenians in the Ottoman Empire

~Staffwriter

The Ottoman Empire

1350-1918

1243	Turkish nomads settle in Asia Minor
1299-1326	Osman I
1301	Osman declares himself sultan and establishes the Ottoman Empire
1345	Seljuk Turks first cross the Bosphorus
1389	Ottomans defeat Serbs at Kosovo
1402	Tamerlane defeats Ottomans at Ankara
1451-1481	Mohammed the Conqueror
1453	Constantinople is conquered
1520-1566	Suleiman II the Magnificent
1526	Battle of Mohacs
1529	First Siege of Vienna

It is not until the 16th century that the Turks take complete control of Armenia, along with Georgia and Azerbaijan. Governors, who had bought their posts from the central Ottoman government, ruled the Armenian lands which were divided into provinces. These governors could oppress and abuse their subjects as they pleased. They also profited from the hard labor of their subjects.

In the 16th century, Sultan Mehmed II began to centralize the government and organize Constantinople's economy. Since the Armenians had a reputation for being good bankers and merchants, Mehmed moved thousands of Armenian families from Cilicia to Greater Armenia and forced them to settle in Constantinople. This way, the Armenians began to participate in international trade. The old Armenian cities began to be used as way stations, and they began to import goods from Asia and exported them to Europe.

Mehmed the conqueror granted a considerable degree of freedom to non-Muslims and made Armenians free to run their mercantile activity without much interference from the state. He also adopted the Millet system, which meant having an autonomous self-government of ethnic communities where the church leaders are allowed to run their respective communities within the framework of the Ottoman Empire.

The Millet system was designed to find a new basis of loyalty from the non-Muslims. It placed the ethnic minorities into religiously oriented groups with distinguishable features to separate them from Muslims. The non-Muslims were required to follow different dress codes. The Armenians were ordered to wear a bonnet of red, black and yellow, with violet boots and slippers. The judicial system was also different, since the Armenian community was governed by the Armenian church laws. If the church laws were inadequate for the case, Turkish laws would then be implemented. Of course under Turkish law, Armenians had no real legal protection. A Christian's testimony would never count against that of a Muslim. Under these circumstances, they had no right to bear arms and could not take part in the political life of the empire. They were under the mercy of the Ottomans, with only an illusion of freedom in their religious autonomy. Each community was allowed to establish and run its own schools, hospitals and institutions under the supervision of the Armenian Patriarchy, which was in turn under the supervision of the Ottoman Empire. Although in the cities, Armenians were the professionals and the merchants, in the villages the Armenians worked as farmers. Under this Millet system, they worked their land and paid taxes to the sultan.

The taxes that the Armenians paid were extensive and quite ridiculous at times. Farmers had to pay a land tax that constituted one-tenth of their harvest. But local authorities often arbitrarily raised the rates of the land tax without fear of punishment. The harvest could begin only in the presence of the local authority and under the rule that forbade any improvement of agricultural techniques. There was a tax called the Kharadj, a tax of humiliation, which was imposed for fifty years.

(Continued on page 11.)

the westernization of TURKEY

~Staffwriter

There is a fine imaginary line that runs through our earth and divides the East and the West. In the pre-discovery days, when our earth was thought to be flat, Europe occupied the West side and Asia occupied the East. Then the Americas were "discovered" and they became the West alongside Europe and everything beyond remained the East. In truth, our earth has always been round and the continent of the Americas have always been there. Our earth has never been flat like a map that could show where an east begins and a west ends. Yet even today, this completely arbitrary distinction exists and continues to provide a basis for identifying nations and cultures.

It is fair to say that the distinction between the two has never been equal. During the last few centuries, the West emerges as strong and civilized, whereas the East is presented as weak and in need of corrective study by the West. So the Christian West colonizes up to 85 percent of the earth's surface, deciding the fate of nations whom it regards as inferiors. Meanwhile in the Near-East, the Islamic Ottoman Empire reigns over many subject nations, who are terrorized by oppression. Therefore I find it ironic, that the government of Modern Turkey in 1923, led by Kemal Ataturk and in an effort to abolish all that their preceding Ottoman Empire stood for, turns to the Western counterparts of their predecessors to serve as models.

Having overturned the government of the Ottoman Empire, Kemal Ataturk launches a new government aimed at copying the ways of Western Empires such as the British, the French, the American. The biggest change, underlying all other reforms, is Ataturk's proposal to have a secular government and education. He wants to make religious faith a matter of individual conscience. According to Ataturk, in order to be placed in the same category as his Western partners, Turkey needs to be disassociated from Islam as a national religion.

In his attempt to westernize his nation and give it a modern outlook, Ataturk also introduces many new social reforms. European hats replace the fez, which had stood as an identifying symbol of Turkish culture for many years. Women stop wearing the veil as a result of the abolishment of all religious law. All citizens take surnames and the Islamic calendar gives way to the Western Calendar.

Another very significant reform takes place in the area of language. In 1928, Ataturk decides to change the Arabic script, which has been used by Turks for a thousand years, and replace it with Latin script. Again, this is a strategic move to be able to fit in with the Western powers.

Some of Ataturk's reforms, such as equal rights for women, are on the humanistic level that need to be recognized everywhere by humans, in either whether it be in the West or the East. Yet most other reforms, which are proposed simply for the sake of Westernizing are very much politically motivated and sacrifice cultural history in the process. Why change a written language and deprive your nation's future generations of the right to explore their historical literature? Why ignore a religion that defines your nation's character for the mere fact that others might call it oriental?

(Continued on page 6.)

The Battle of Lepanto	1571
Reign of Mohammad IV- The devshirme is abolished-	1641- 1687
Reforms of the Korpulu viziers	1656- 1676
Second siege of Vienna	1683
Cultural revival under Ahmed III	1703- 1730
Selim III proclaims the "New Order"	1793
First Serbian Uprising	1804
Second Serbian Uprising	1815
Greek War of Independence	1822- 1830
Massacre of Janissaries	1826
Treaty of Adrinople	1829
The Straits Convention	1841

Culture intertwined

1853-1856	The Crimean War
1876	The Ottoman Constitution proclaimed
1878	Congress of Berlin: Serbia and Montenegro granted independence. Bulgaria is granted broad autonomy.
1908	-The Committee of Union and Progress (The Young Turks) is formed -The Ottoman Constitution is restored -Austria annexes Bosnia and Herzegovina
1912-1913	The First Balkan War
1913	The Second Balkan War
1914	The Ottoman Empire enters WWI as one of the Central Powers
1915	The Armenian Genocide
1919-1924	End of the Ottoman Empire
1919	Mustafa Kemal (Ataturk) lands at Samsun
1924	The office of caliph is abolished

~Staffwriter

It would have been impossible for the Armenians to have lived under Ottoman rule for so many years without having their culture be influenced by Turkish culture. And also the other way around.

Over the years, Turkish words and expressions found their way into the language of Western Armenians of the Ottoman Empire. The Turkish language even fully dominated in many Armenian villages. The impact of that influence still lingers today, in many instances, diasporan youth, who have not had the chance for a formal education of the Armenian language, confuse certain Turkish words for Armenian. Turkish music tunes also greatly influenced Armenian musicians and until today, those traces are apparent in the music of many Pop diasporan Armenian singers, who claim to sing purely Armenian songs.

But in the capital of the Ottoman Empire, in the great Constantinople, Armenians occupied high positions of society. In general, they had more of an opportunity to contribute to the Turkish culture than in the villages. One area of Ottoman cultural arts that Armenians have played a huge role in is the area of theater. It is not possible to study the growth of theater in the Ottoman Empire, without noticing the vast Armenian involvement.

Armenians were the owners of very famous theaters, like the Eastern Theater and the Gedigpasha Theater, and acted as pioneers in introducing modern drama to the Ottoman stage. Armenians played an active role in acting as well. Some of the most prominent theatrical companies were led by Armenians, who were committed to the arts and produced on play after another.

Due to regulations put forth by the religious laws of Islam, Muslim women were not allowed to go on stage. Therefore, all the female characters needed to be filled in by non-Muslim citizens. Armenian women, along with Syrian and Greek women, jumped at this opportunity and became well organized and sought after actresses in the Ottoman theater.

The Westernization of Turkey

Continued from page 5.

Why throw out cultural attire for the sake of copying Western style? After all, isn't a hat just a hat?

Re-organizing a country to fit the mold of a West which considered itself superior to an inferior East was not the work of a national hero as many claim Ataturk to have been. A national hero works to preserve cultural history while allowing that very culture to grow and flourish in its uniqueness.

u n i t e d U H R C h u m a n r i g h t s c o u n c i l

OVERVIEW

Genocides, massacres, terrorism, and human rights violations have scarred the world with over 50,000,000 human deaths and that number rises year after year. The denial of these crimes provides the opportunity for their repetition by future criminals. The perpetrators, those who harbor them, and those who deny genocides, massacres, and acts of human rights violations are guilty of the same crimes. As consumers and members of the business community we generate income for such governments, and inadvertently help fund such crimes. As Americans we enjoy the freedom, liberty, and justice provided to us by our nation, in turn it is our duty as Americans to do what we can in order to ensure that the rest of the world enjoys the same freedoms with which we are blessed.

MISSION STATEMENT

The United Human Rights Council (UHRC), by means of action on a grassroots level, works toward correcting the human rights violations of those governments who distort, deny, and delude their own history to disguise past and present genocides, massacres, and human rights violations. The UHRC is a collective of concerned citizens, including a diverse spectrum of members and supporters from various community-based organizations and student associations of universities and colleges. The UHRC advances its goals and raises global awareness through grassroots mobilization, boycotts, community outreach, and education.

CAMPAIGNS

The UHRC will undertake a campaign geared toward one government every five years. Each campaign will work to serve the mission of the UHRC. The Government of Turkey has one of the worst human rights records in the world today. The government of Turkey also works hard to deny its acts of genocide toward the Armenian people between 1914-1923. By denying genocide, present day Turkey is guilty of the same genocide as well. The international indifference to their continuous denial of the genocide has encouraged the Turkish government to wage massacres against the Pontos Greeks, the people of occupied Cyprus, and those of Kurdish origin that live in Turkey today. With the stance the present day government of Turkey holds it can become a threat to humanity. Thus the first campaign of the UHRC will be geared toward the government of Turkey.

Each UHRC campaign will focus on the subject government's funds generated by us Americans. Campaigns of denial organized by governments, like Turkey, cost millions of dollars annually. The UHRC will work to educate the public, worldwide, about the human rights violations these governments commit. Through boycotts and grassroots mobilization the UHRC will encourage businesses and consumers to stop conducting business that provides such governments' tax revenue.

MODE OF OPERATION

The UHRC will work to reach its goals through various phases with several steps in each phase. The first phase of each campaign will serve the mission of the UHRC on a local level. The second phase of each campaign will serve the mission of the UHRC on a statewide level, west of Mississippi River, and the final phase will expand to the rest of the United States. Each phase will encompass certain steps. The first step will build awareness and education about the subject government's human rights violations. The second step will consist of meetings with businesses that import goods, which produce tax revenue for the subject government. The meetings will educate those businesses of how they, and in turn, we, as consumers, are aiding in crimes against humanity. The meetings will further urge them to stop doing business through which tax revenue will be generated for the subject government. The third step will encourage the public to boycott all products that provide tax revenue to the subject governments. The final step in each phase will include work on a grassroots level to introduce new policies and bills in the U.S. Congress to restrict the amount of tax revenue subject governments receive on behalf of U.S. consumers, who in effect fund these crimes against humanity or the denial thereof.

If you would like more information about the United Human Rights Council, or if you would like to assist the Council, please visit www.UnitedHumanRights.org.

haytoug

the truth about the

names & faces

~Naiery Misserlian



DAVID HOVANNISSIAN



GUNDUZ AKTAN



ALEXANDER ARZOUMANIAN



VAN KRİKORIAN



OZDEM SANBERK



ILTER TURKMEN



USTUN ERGUDER



ANTRANIG MIGRANIAN

The Turkish-Armenian Reconciliation Commission (TARC) is a group comprised of ten individuals with six Turks and four Armenians. The commission comprising of senior retired diplomats from Armenia and Turkey and members of the Armenian Diaspora was officially unveiled in Geneva on July 9th after months of secret negotiations. Over the past several months this self-selected group has been meeting in private, in order to discuss Turkish-Armenia relations. Turks and Armenians met in Istanbul on September 25th, hoping to encourage a thaw in relations between the two people, who have had little contact amid hostile relations that have lasted almost a century. It was the first meeting of the so-called Turkish-Armenian Reconciliation Committee since the group's establishment in July.

The six Turks on the commission represent hard-line views on Armenian issues within the Turkish foreign policy community. In particular, these members are in favor of aggressively denying the Armenian Genocide. The Turkish members serving on TARC include: Gunduz Aktan, Ustun Erguder, Sadi Erguvenç, Ozdem Sanberk, and Ilter Turkmen. The four Armenians members are Alexander Arzoumanian, David Hovhanissian, Van Krikorian, and Antranik Migranian.

Gunduz Aktan has held a variety of posts including Turkish Ambassador to Greece, and member of the Turkish permanent mission to the U.N. Last September, Aktan, testified before the House International Relations Subcommittee on Human Rights against passage of the Armenian Genocide Resolution (H.Res.398/596) In his testimony Aktan stated: "The Turkish people firmly believe that what happened to the Armenian people was no genocide. It was a relocation to other parts of the Ottoman Empire of only the Eastern Anatolian Armenians, away from a war zone in which they were collaborating with invading Russian armies with the aim of creating an independent state of their own in areas where they were only a minority by ethnically cleansing the majority Turks." Each of the other Turkish participants, Ustun, Sadi, Ozdem, and Ilter are closely linked to the Turkish military and have been at the forefront of Turkey's denial of the Armenian Genocide.

T turkish

A armenian

R reconciliation

C commission

The four Armenian participants are: Van Krikorian, the chairman of the Armenian Assembly of America; Alexander Arzoumanian, Armenia's former foreign minister and the current leader of the Armenian National Movement; David Hovhanissian, former Armenian President Levon Ter Petrosian's Ambassador to Syria, and; Adranik Migranian, a well-known political analyst in Moscow. Even though both the Turkish and American governments were aware of TARC, its secrecy appears to have been to keep Armenians in the dark.

The commission did not make any official statements about the Armenian Genocide. It appears that both the Armenian and Turkish participants want to set the Armenian Genocide issue aside. This is consistent with the Turkish government's goal of removing the Armenian Genocide from the political arena. For a seven-year period, from 1991 to 1998, the Armenian Assembly, apparently at the urging of former Armenian President Levon Ter Petrosian and the US State Department, took the Armenian Genocide off its political agenda. Commission member Andranik Migranian that the US State Department actively participated in the formation and operation of TARC has revealed it. The State Department's public and private assurances that it was not involved in the formation or operation of the Turkish Armenian Reconciliation Commission were dramatically called into question with the release of a Congressional report documenting that the "Department provided financial assistance to support the Commission's activities," reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

Two Turkish-Armenian Reconciliation Commission (TARC) members - Armenia's Alexander Arzoumanian and Andranik Migranian confirmed on November 30th, 2001 that TARC has asked the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) to conduct a study as to the applicability of the United Nations Genocide Convention to the Armenian Genocide of 1915. The two Armenian Commissioners called the proposed study "an important element in the initiative to reconcile the two nations." TARC members also called for lifting of visa restrictions on Armenian citizens traveling to Turkey and normalization of trade and transportation between Armenia and Turkey. Arzoumanian said that TARC's view could have an impact on official Ankara's policy. "The fact that the Turkish Commissioners are conscious of the need to normalize ties with Armenia demonstrates that there is such a mood in Turkey," he said.

Armenians in the Ottoman Empire

Continued from page 4.

It forced non-Muslim male subject, from the ages of fifteen to sixty five to pay to pay a tax for the right to live from one year to the other. There was also a tax on herds, a customs tax, a tax for exemption from the military service. Once the taxes were paid, only one third of the harvest remained to the peasant. Refusal to pay meant the loss of his land or even his life.

Another tax imposed on Armenians was the devshirme tax. Minority groups were forced to give up a son at a young age, to be owned by the state and converted to Islam.

In the 19th century the Ottoman Empire began to decline. The Armenians who had endured the hardships of oppression and taxes for many years, were now forced to pay even higher taxes. At the same time, ideas of Western liberation, such as egalitarianism, constitutionalism, nationalism and freedom of press began to pour into the empire. Armenians began to ask for reform and were soon regarded a threat to the empire. Many years of oppression had finally found voice and Armenians demanded a change in their way of life. They had no idea how cruel and inhumane that great change was going to be in the years to come.

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Book Review

three apples fell from heaven



~Staffwriter

THIS IS THE STORY
RUMOR WRITES

She writes it late at night, while you are dozing.
Rumor says things like, And so, and so
There was and
There was not

Rumor tells stories, this is the story she writes. Don't believe her, she's a liar of the first order. A mendacious tatterdemalion. A middle of the night whisperer. She follows you and circles your head like stinging bees in late summer. She is disjointed, disorderly, malapropos. She begins in the middle, she stops and starts; she is a wanderer. When you look for her you cannot see her. Rumor says: Noah is my father and Japeth is my father and Haik walked down the slopes of Mount Ararat and squatted under the cypress to build a fire with still green leaves. In 1915. or in 520 B.C., an inscription in stone of Darius I at Behistun. With breath there is always a beginning. A neonate ties on the sand, she is the founder of the nation. Rumor says, I am the founder of this nation. And so, and so

Three Apples Fell From Heaven
Micheline Aharonian Marcom

This novel begins with the myth that the stories of the Genocide are rumors that remain unrecognized through the pages of history, but remain burning in the hearts of every individual. Every individual that has survived the brutality of the Genocide tells a different story. The author, Michelin Marcom, tells the novel in brief chapters that plunge us into the lives of one character after another. These various chapters are spoken by a girl who throws herself into a well, a baby left under a tree, a whore, a soldier; a few are by Turks; some are fables; some are reports from the American consul, stationed in Kharphert, that usefully provide us with a factual account. The author leaves us to piece all the stories together to tell a tale of the heinous reality of the brutality, the loss, and the tragedy that remains unforgotten in every Armenian's life. The leaps in time, the constant flashbacks, the memories of the unspeakable events and the intermingling of the various stories, creates a dreamlike quality within the novel. But, unfortunately, the book is based in tragic facts that we are all too well aware of...

fedayee

spotlight

ASHOD YERGAT

~Staffwriter



Ashod Yergat was born in 1870 and died in the caves near the town of Arjesh. His real name was Armenag Levonian. He was born in the town of Paghesh Dzghag. He received his education at an Armenian-American school in Pazheshi. He then went on to become a teacher in Sassoon.

Yergat eventually moved to America to work as a teacher. While he was in America, he like many other young Armenians joined the ranks of the ARF. As an ARF member, Yergat worked specifically on the ARF newsletter, Hayrenik. Hayrenik became more popular with Yergat's help. Yergat yearned for his homeland, and moved back to Sassoon. As the leader of the ARF in the Sassoon region, he worked directly with Vahan and Hrayr. Together they traveled through Van and Akhlat. Yergat had the honor of attending the third annual ARF convention held in Bulgaria as the representative from Sassoon.

In 1904, Roupén was battling attacks from the Ottoman Turks and Kurds. Yergat and 35 fedayees in the Sassoon region decided to help supply Roupén with arms so they could defend themselves from Ottoman Turks and Kurdish onslaught. In May of 1904, Yergat and his men were traveling through the Arjesh region with supplies for Roupén. They were spotted when two of Yergat's men were sent out to gather food and water. Yergat and his men were attacked and were forced to retreat into the caves for cover. The will of Yergat's men was stronger than steel and their courage flourished. They had been tested many times in the previous seven months, when they had continuously helped Roupén and fended off numerous attacks. Yergat was finally surrounded: the Kurds continued to attack and gather more soldier and eventually broke through Yergat's line of defense. Only seven men survived, none of which was Ashod Yergat. Ashod Yergat died at the age of 34 knowing he had fought for what he believed in and defended his homeland.

Section 907

~Staffwriter

What is Section 907?

Simply it is a section of a bill called the Freedom Support Act which blocks financial and military aid to Azerbaijan by the US government because of its aggressions towards the region of Nagorno Karabagh. It provides safety and peace to the region, by putting a check on the Azerbaijani government to not attack the Armenians of the region.

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 had a tremendous effect on the entire United States. It changed the way Americans behave, react, and feel, and it even changed the way Americans live. But the terrorist attacks did not only affect the United States or US citizens; it affected everyone living in the United States and everywhere where the American hegemonic power reaches. Many Armenians living in the United States reacted to the disaster as Americans. But they forgot to react to the disaster as Armenians. They did not realize that this catastrophe might have an even greater affect on the Armenian Question, or for the sake of this article, the conflict between Azerbaijan and Nagorno Karabagh and Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act of the US Congress.

The following is information extracted from press releases by the Armenian National Committee, Asbarez, and other news sources.

In an October 15th letter, Secretary of State Colin Powell called upon Congress to eliminate Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act in order to "allow the United States to provide necessary military assistance that will enable Azerbaijan to counter terrorist organizations and elements operating within its borders." Clearly the Secretary is referring to the al Qaeda terrorist network that has operated freely within Azerbaijan since the early 1990's. Joseph Bodansky, Director of the Congressional Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, has documented this terrorist connection. He has reported that, "...radical Islamic forces are expanding their infrastructure in Azerbaijan in preparation for sustained escalation...Planned terrorist activities include suicide bombers."

The Islamists basically agreed with the Azerbaijani Government of Haydar Aliyev that in exchange for a free flow of weapons, people, and ordinance through Azerbaijan they would protect the Aliyev government from being overthrown as well as providing Mujahideen fighters to undertake operations against the Armenians in Karabagh. Although

this sounds that military intervention and aid to Azerbaijan would rid the Armenians in the region from these dangerous fanatics, there is a certain and definite problem which would arise. Because the United States would have to entrust the Azerbaijani Government with the task of eliminating these terrorists, there could be no assurance as to what would be considered a terrorist for the Azerbaijani Regime. And so as Aliyev declared "they would help fight global terrorism by targeting the terrorists of Nagorno Karabagh." Which in this case are our Armenian brothers and sisters living in Karabagh. Section 907 had kept Aliyev on a tight leash, by waving it, the war, which was started in 1988 until the cease-fire, could once again mark a new beginning in 2002. Armenians of the region are in no way afraid of fighting, but this time around, when Azerbaijan is armed with high tech US weapons and backed by the mighty dollar; the independence and freedom of Karabagh could be facing a huge threat. Radio Free Eurpoe reported that Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Vilayat Quliev has said that if Azerbaijan decides to "liberate" Karabagh from "terrorists," then the international community would have no right to condemn that move as aggression.

Well the US Congress has granted the waiver authority to President George W. Bush. Despite tireless efforts by the ANC and other concerned Armenian organizations, Congress did not listen.

To date no arms have been sold or given to Azerbaijan. The US is busy with the war in Afghanistan, and Aliyev continues making public threats towards Karabagh and Armenian people living there. Only time could tell the consequences of the action taken by the US Congress. If history is any guide, Azerbaijan will use any means and opportunity that presents itself to renew what it is now being called an "anti-terrorist" war against the people of Nagorno Karabagh. We as Armenians would then have to make a choice: unite and fight, or bicker and fall. For the sake of our people, homeland, martyrs, and history, I hope that the choice is the former.

reviewed

Hampig Sassounian

Fact Sheet & Action Alert

Who is Hampig Sassounian?

- An innocent Armenian, who was sentenced to life imprisonment without parole on June 13, 1984.
- He was 19 years old in 1984 when he began serving this sentence, and is now 38 years old.

What happened?

- On January 28, 1992, in the Westwood area of L.A., the Consul General of Turkey Kemal Arian stopped at a signal light at which 2-armed men approached the vehicle and shot the Consul who died a few minutes later.
- The gunmen escaped, but some of the witnesses had positively identified Hampig as one of the gunmen.
- Hampig Sassounian was arrested at about 3 p.m. that same day near his home in Pasadena.

You want facts?

- Hampig's trial lasted 2 months, during which both the prosecution and defense presented their cases.
- Witnesses: Three witnesses to the crime testified that they could not identify Hampig as one of the gunmen. Hampig had three alibi witnesses who testified that he was in Pasadena at the time of the murder.
- Jeffrey Busch: A jailhouse informant who testified that Hampig had confessed to him, asking for his help. Busch claimed Hampig told him he was working for the Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide. Two other inmates testified that Busch had made all of this up. There were inconsistencies in Busch's statements. He later recanted (admitted to lying and took back) his statement, again stating that he was guided by the L.A. DA's office.
- Jury misconduct: The jury overheard sidebar arguments discussing evidence, which was ruled inadmissible, thus swaying their decision. Three jurors admitted to the mention of inadmissible evidence, one juror wanted a second chance.
- The issue today: After the tragic September 11 attacks on America, the L.A. District Attorney decided to retry Hampig on the special circumstance of his conviction. If the Court finds that the cause of murder in 1982 was because of national origin, then Hampig will be stripped of his option for parole. In other words, an innocent Armenian will remain incarcerated **FOR LIFE**.

What can I do, now that I know?

- Attend hearings!!! Follow the Asbarez or check www.asbarez.com for dates and times.
- Be aware of the FACTS.
- Support fundraising efforts.
- Voice your concern as an Armenian-American and write a letter to the *District Attorney, Steve Cooley* @ 210 W. Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012-3210 or email him ... lada@co.la.us



- Support unger Hampig and buy the "Free Hampig Sassounian" T-shirt.
- \$10 Each
- Send your requests and check to the address below.

Open Letter: **To Steve Cooley LA County District Attorney Regarding Hampig Sassounian's Retrial**

Dear Mr. Cooley, The Sassounian Defense Committee was formed shortly after Harry (Hampig) Sassounian's arrest almost 20 years ago. Three of the original members are still on the committee. Two joined the committee about eight years ago, and four more very recently. The composition of the committee has been diverse and has included attorneys, teachers, businessmen, housewives, and graduate students.

The purpose of the SDC has been and remains primarily the raising of funds to guarantee Hampig a fair and impartial trial through competent representation. To achieve that purpose, the SDC has at various times engaged in organizing peaceful demonstrations at the courthouse, speaking at townhall meetings in Armenian community centers, disseminating press releases appearing on local Armenian television programs, and of course, organizing large fund raising functions.

To date, the SDC raised and paid more than \$400,000.00 in attorney's fees and costs for the trial, hearings, and appeals. This sum was raised by thousands of very concerned individuals, young and old, rich and poor, at private gatherings in lieu of flowers or gifts, from Los Angeles to New York and abroad. A petition consisting of 100,000 signatures were received from former Soviet Armenia and thousands signed petitions here in Los Angeles. We also received a large number of postcards from around the world.

For the past 20 years, the SDC, and with it the community, have lived through periods of great hope and extreme disappointment. Through it all, we never wavered from our single-minded dedication to seeing Hampig's innocence vindicated. In spite of criticisms from some opponents, and tortured decisions by some cautious, and perhaps timid judges we never lost our faith in the American judicial system, and our resolve strengthened as a result of some well reasoned and courageous rulings by other judges and the US magistrates.

We cannot say the same, however, about the integrity of the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office then and now. Thanks to your decision to retry Sassounian on the special circumstance charge, the Armenian community is once more subjected to extreme periods of expectations and disappointment. It was only a few months ago that the US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the special circumstance conviction on grounds of jury misconduct. Yet, in the wake of the tragic events of September 11th, and in spite of your earlier indications that you would not retry the case, you seem to have seen fit to gain political mileage out of the prevailing mood of the country by announcing, one day later, that you would retry the special circumstance charge. And that was after the Attorney General of California had already decided to stop further proceedings and not appeal the reversal to the US Supreme Court. Turning your back on a community largely responsible for your victory will be well remembered at the polls.

Consider for a moment the gravity of your decision to spend hundreds of thousands of taxpayers money solely for the purpose of preventing Sassounian to apply for parole sometime in the future and after already 20 years in prison. What are your grounds for a retrial, Mr. Cooley? Allow us to answer it for you. But first, it is important that we mention certain crucial facts:

1. From the very beginning, two factors convinced us that Sassounian's trial was destined to be anything but fair. One was the fact that the victim was an official of the Turkish government and therefore the pressure that the Turkish government would bring to bear on the local authorities. The other was the decision to try Sassounian in State court rather than US court where logic is dictated. The reason was quite obvious: the death penalty was not available under US law, but was legal in California.

2. Sassounian was convicted of the special circumstance charge, if not of the crime of killing as such, largely as a result of a jailhouse snitch's fabricated testimony which was prepared and hand-fed by the DA's office with offers of favors that we shall allude to later. As you know, the snitch testified that while in jail, Sassounian supposedly told him that he killed the Turkish Consul because of his Turkish nationality. The prosecuting attorney described the snitch's testimony as "devastating" for the special circumstance charge. The trial judge commented that the only evidence that "proves the special circumstance...is the extra-judicial statement which is uncorroborated." And the California Court of Appeals stated that the special circumstance largely depended on the snitch's testimony. In fact, that testimony was, "virtually the only evidence the People actually succeeded in introducing which bore directly on the special circumstance issue..."

3. When the defense attorney demanded to see the jailhouse records to show that Sassounian could not have spoke to the snitch, the records had mysteriously disappeared.

4. The jury never found that Sassounian had actually used a gun.

5. Eyewitnesses differed as to whether or not Sassounian was one of the individuals involved in the killing. One even insisted that it was not Sassounian.

6. One of the jurors asked the trial judge if she could change her vote of guilty on the special circumstance issue after the verdict was returned.

7. Consider the jailhouse snitch's confessions, "in his own words and signed under penalty of perjury, to a private investigator named Sue Sarkis about his false testimony regarding his conversation with Sassounian:

a. I was unable to identify suspect Sassounian...and it was like I can't identify him, so he [Det. Enquist] just said, well this is the guy right here. I believe both the Deputy District Attorney and det. Enquist knew I never spoke with Sassounian

b. I never came into personal contact with nor had a conversation with Harry M. Sassounian thereby making it impossible for him to have 'confessed' to me.

c. I provided small bits and pieces of information given to me by another inmate.

d. The rest of the information I provided in my testimony about the "alleged" confession was, in fact, provided by Det. Enquist and Deputy District Attorney Lael Ruben.

e. ...like right before the hearing and all the (expletive) they gave me all the paperwork, all the everything and I had to go through read every (expletive) thing there was. Went through everything over, and over, and over.

f. Det. Enquist had informed me that the Armenians were very dangerous people. He informed me about the long feud which had been going on between the Turks and the Armenians since somewhere back around 1914.

g. While in custody, awaiting the trial, I was given money by Det. Enquist. He would give me \$20.00 here and there, cigarettes and other small, but very important while incarcerated, type of items.

h. When I finished my time in jail, he took me to a nightclub provided me with anywhere from \$20.00 to \$100.00 on numerous occasions: and he bought me a used blue Pinto automobile.

i. In return for my testimony, I was promised by both the Deputy District Attorney and Det. Enquist that I would be provided with protection and a change of name and relocation when the matter was over.

j. Det. Enquist promised to help me with "sentence modifications and had his brother, a Deputy District Attorney in Orange County, take care of some small matters I had pending in Orange County.

As we all know now, two months after the snitch's written confession, another district attorney investigator interviewed him in Chino prison. One month later another Deputy District Attorney drafted a 6 page declaration in which the snitch recanted his previous confession. The reasons given by the snitch? He was "high on drugs" and felt intimidated by a dark-haired woman, whom he supposedly thought was a relative of Sassounian, who had accompanied Sue Sarkis. What reasonable person can read all that and not have his intelligence insulted?

In the retrial of the special circumstance charge, the jury presumably will not consider evidence not admitted at trial, thus avoid repeating the same error that led to the reversal of the special circumstance verdict. Further, you will not call the snitch to testify as no jury will believe him now. So, returning to the question we asked above, "What are your grounds for a retrial, Mr. Cooley?" you are left with one option, and that is to point to the Armenian people and say that they hate the Turks, and Sassounian being an Armenian, could only have killed the Turkish Consul because of his Turkish nationality, thus sidestepping any other consideration or motivation. That is nothing short of ethnic profiling at its worse and an affront to the Armenian community everywhere.

The SDC believes that the course of action embarked upon by you is shocking to the sensitivities of the Armenian people. In the name of all Armenians who have steadfastly stood by Sassounian's side, we believe that the prudent and just action left is to drop this cold blooded, cruel, and insulting gamesmanship for personal political ends at the expense of justice to a young man who has spent the prime of his life in prison, based on the fabricated testimony of a jailhouse snitch.

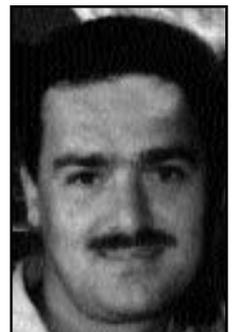
Very truly yours,

Sassounian Defense Committee

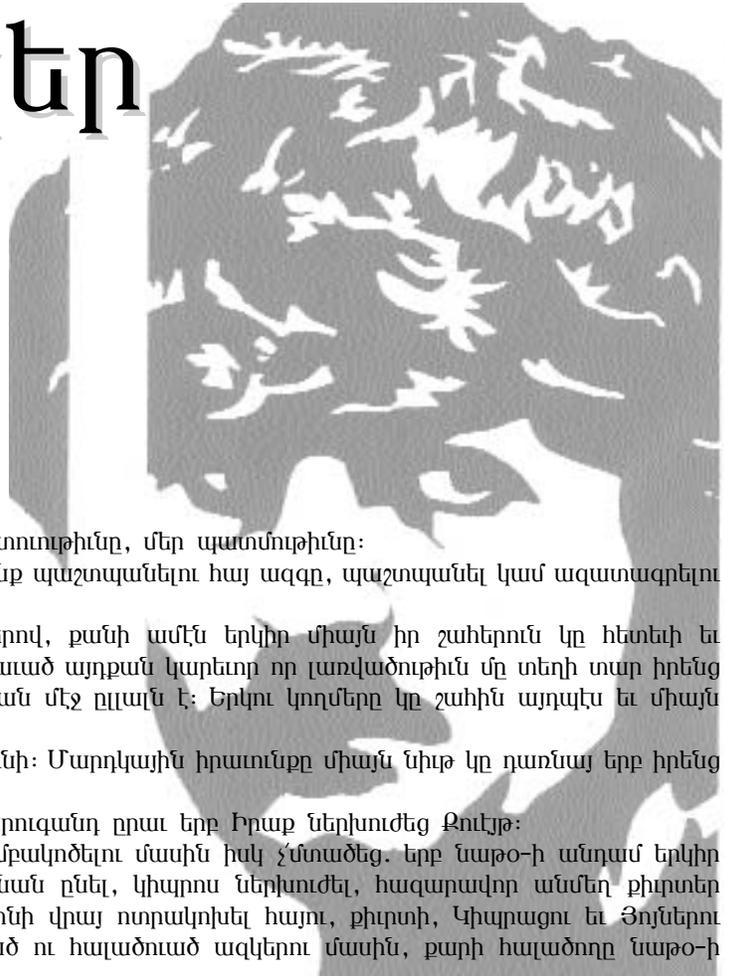


Hampig Sassounian C88440

CA State Prison-LAC D-5-232
44750 60th Street West
Lancaster, CA 93536



Նամակ Ընկեր Համբիկէն



Հայ Դատը արդար դատ մըն է:

Հայ Դատը մեր հողերն են, մեր իրաւունքները, մեր արժանաւատութիւնը, մեր պատմութիւնը:

Մենք բոլորս պարտական ենք: մեր ազգին պարտական ենք պաշտպանելու հայ ազգը, պաշտպանել կամ ազատագրելու մեր պատմական հողերը:

Աշխարհը անտարբեր գտնուած է հայ ազգի իրաւունքներով, քանի ամէն երկիր միայն իր շահերուն կը հետեւի եւ Հայաստանը կամ Հայ ժողովուրդը անոնց շահերի մէջ տեղ չի գրաւած այդքան կարեւոր որ լաւաձուտութիւն մը տեղի տար իրենց եւ Թուրքի միջեւ: Իրենց շահերը Թուրքիոյ հետ լաւ հարաբերութեան մէջ ըլլալն է: Երկու կողմերը կը շահին այդպէս եւ միայն Հայերս կ'ելլանք տոկաձողը:

Քաղաքականութիւնը խիղճ կամ արժանապատուութիւն չ'ունի: Մարդկային իրաւունքը միայն նիւթ կը դառնայ երբ իրենց համար նպաստատու է խօսիլ կամ հետապնդել այդ:

Մենք բոլորս տեսանք թէ ողջ աշխարհը ինչպէս Իրաք քարուզանդ ըրաւ երբ Իրաք ներխուժեց Բուէյթ:

Բայց երբ թուրքիա ներխուժեց կիպրոս, ոչ ոք թուրքիա ունեւորեցաւ մասին իսկ չ'մտածեց. երբ նաթօ-ի անդամ երկիր ես եւ ինչ որ կարեւոր տեղ Կը քրաւի, անոնք իրեն ուզածը կրնան ընել, կիպրոս ներխուժել, հազարավոր անմեղ քիւրտեր սպանել, հայաստանի ութցուն տոկոսը գրաւած պահել, ամէն գետնի վրայ ոտրակոխել հայու, քիւրտի, Կիպրացու եւ Յոյներու իրաւունքները եւ մնալ անպատիժ, ոչ ոք չքօսի այդ անհարգուած ու հալածուած ազգերու մասին, քարի հալածողը նաթօ-ի սիլերի Թուրքերուն ելն:

Մենք բոլորս, այսինքն Հայ, Յոյն, Կիպրացի եւ Քիւրտ պէտք է պայքարինք մեր իրաւունքներուն համար: Թուրքը ոչ մէկ իրաւունք ունի իր տմարդկային հալածանքները իր դրաձի ազգերու, պետութիւններու սահմաններէ միւս կողմ անձնիլ եւ խորհիլ, թէ այդ ազգին ոտքի չեն ելլար եւ չեն պայքարի իրենց հողերն ու արժանապատուութիւնը:

Հայ ցեղասպարութիւնէ ետք աշխարհը արեւմուտքը ինչ որ կէս կատար փորձ մը ըրաւ Թուրքերուն պատժելու, ծնաւ Սեւրի Դաշնագիրը, բայց անմիջապէս ոտքի տակ արին: Հայերը արժէք մը չ'ունին իրենց համար հակառակ անոր որ մենք իրենց համար դաշնակիցներն ենք: Փոխանակ պատժելու ցեղասպան Թուրքերուն, Արեւմուտքը անտեսեց Հայ ազգի իրաւունքները, թերեւս խորհելով թէ եթէ Հայաստանը եւ Հայու իրաւունքները իր համար կարեւոր չէ, մեզ համար, Հայերու համար եւս կարեւոր չէ, թերեւս մենք տէր չենք կանգնիր մեր իրաւունքներուն, մեր հողերուն, Արեւմուտքը թերեւս խորհեցաւ թէ Հայերը ուրիշ ազգերու պէս կ'անհետանայ, ալ չեն լսեր Հայու ձայնը, հայերէն, Հայաստան կոչուած երկրի մասին:

Բայց մենք մեռնողը չենք: Մենք ենք բացառիկ ազգ մը: Ազգ մը բարի, ստեղծագործ, ազգ մը հպարտ ու պատմական, ազգ մը որ ամէն քնով կը գոյատեւէ, կրկին ոտքի ելլալով տէր կը կանգնի իր հողին ու կը գոհուի իր արժանապատուութեան համար:

Մենք 85 տարի գոյատեւեցինք շատ մը Հայաստանէ հեռու երկիրներու մէջ: Շինեցինք եկեղեցի, դպրոցներ, բացինք ակումբներ եւ հաւագեցինք երիտասարդութիւնը եռագոյն դրոշակի շուրջ ու մէկ ձայնով պայքարեցանք Հայ Դատի համար: Աշխարհի ուշադրութիւնը դարձուցինք դէպի Հայ ցեղասպարութիւնը: Ծնունդ արաւ անկախ Հայաստանը: Պատերազմով ազատագրեցինք Արցախը: Վերածնունդ արաւ Հայ ազգը: Շատեր թերեւս կը խորհին թէ այս ազգը Տէր Զօրի մէջ իր վերջին շունչը արաւ: Չեն հաւատար թէ կը լսեն մեր մասին, մեր ձայնը, բայց հիմա լաւ գիտեն, թէ կանգ, պիտի պայքարինք ու տէր կանգնինք մեր իրաւունքներուն համար:

110 տարի է Դաշնակցութիւնը մեծ դեր կը խաղայ Հայ Դատի արդար պայքարի մէջ: Մեծ դեր խաղցած է ՀԵԴ-ն: Ես շատ հպարտ եմ որ ՀԵԴ-ի անդամ եմ եւ շատ հպարտ եմ որ ունիմ ձեզ պէս ազգնապիւր գաղափարի ընկերներ:

Վստահ եմ բոլորդ լաւ գիտէք սիրելի ընկերներ, թէ մեր գործը կէս չպիտի մնայ: Մենք պիտի հասնինք մեր արդար իրաւունքներուն:

Պէտք է շարունակենք մեր արդար պայքարը: Օրը պիտի գայ, երբ ողջ աշխարհը պիտի ձանձնայ Հայ ցեղասպարութիւնը, ողջ աշխարհը պիտի խոսի Սեւրի մասին:

Փառք ու պատիւ մեր Հայ պատանի, Հայ երիտասարդ: Վառ պահէ Հայու ոգին եւ դուն պիտի հասնիս նպատակիդ:

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AYF Olym p

~Staffwriter

The 2001 AYF Olympics were held in Orange County, CA. The event was organized by the Ashod Yergat chapter. Eleven AYF Western region chapters attended the games with over 200 participants and spectators.

The Olympics began on Friday, November 16 at the Orange County Armenian Center. Ungers participated in the games of blot, backgammon, pool, foosball and ping-pong. The competition was fierce, yet enjoyable. Ungers brandished their pool sticks and proceeded to inflict a pounding on the cue ball, granted nobody violated the laws of physics. Across the room ungers teamed up in pairs and focused on their games of blot. In another corner at the foosball tables AYF members strove to beat ARF members with years of experience. ARF came out on top, but the AYF made the games very challenging. At the backgammon tables, ungers rolled their dice, moved their piece, and hit each other's lone piece as often as possible. Cries of "shesh-besh" and "I take no prisoners" were heard. If you hadn't to be spectator eating your tacos, you couldn't help but notice the ping pong ball heading straight at your head every few minutes. The ping pong players didn't hold back and hit the balls with all their strength. All in all, Friday night was a great opportunity for new novices and badani transfers could interact, socialize, and compete with AYF ungers from different chapters.

The games continued on Saturday with the start of the basketball and volleyball tournaments. Great pride is taken by each chapter in performing well in both tournaments. Chapter unity became evident when each game began. Chapters gathered around the sidelines, cheered, and jeered. At the same time chapter t-shirts were modeled all over the gym. Some favorites included Glendale's Karekin Nshdeh and San Francisco's "Hella Frisco" t-shirts. As the tournament moved to the Huntington Beach city gym, many ungers took the time to visit the beach and play a fun and eratic game of soccer, some ungers even freely ran around bare foot. La Crescenta played tough in volleyball tournament and ended up with the gold on Sunday. In the basketball tournament, two Cinderella teams emerged, Hollywood and Torrance. They didn't hold back and started demolishing their competition. In the end, the team with the glass slipper was Torrance, much to the dismay to the Valley "Sardarabad" chapter. Nobody could stop Potorig as it stormed through the basketball tournament and emerged as champions.

The 2001 Olympics were a great success. Everyone who participated had a great time, met new AYF ungers, and enjoyed the competition. As an unger said, "If two AYF members fall in love during this weekend, the AYF has done its job." I am sure everyone, fell in love with AYF.



ics 2001.....

THE FINAL RESULTS

Basketball

1. Torrance
2. Valley
3. Hollywood

Volleyball

1. La Cresenta
2. Valley
3. Montebello

Blot

- Razmig Haroun (Glendale)
Nerses Taschjian (La Cresenta)

Backgammon

Dikran Arsalanian (Valley)

Ping Pong

Viken Der-Kaloustian (Orange County)

Pool

Serop Gharibian (Orange County)

Foosball

Boghos Kostanian (Pasadena)
Apo Mitilian (Pasadena)



Hollywood Chapter Profile

~Sako Bedrossian

Hollywood, California is home to TV, film and radio celebrities around the world. It is also where one can find a new locale called Little Armenia. In November, 2000 the city of Los Angeles presented this title to the region of Hollywood from Western Blvd. and Hollywood Blvd. to Santa Monica Blvd. and Vermont Ave., due to the dense population of Armenian American residents and business owners who live or work in that area. With the Armenian spirit and morale growing in this area the Hollywood "Musa Dagh" AYF chapter is active once again after a brief four-year hiatus. Hollywood Musa Dagh is actually one of the oldest chapters in the western region, originating in Venice Beach and then moving to Hollywood in the 1970s. The chapter hopes to become active in the community as well as uniting the Armenian youth in the area. Siamanto Maronian, a long time member of the AYF in La Cresenta and now Hollywood, was energized and excited about the

reopening. "I'm very pleased with our chapter. It is growing steadily and we have a good bunch of kids who are willing to help in any way they can."

Recently, the Musa Dagh chapter keenly attended the 2001 Western Region AYF Olympics, one of their first opportunities to meet and intermingle with members from other chapters. The chapter was thrilled with the results of their basketball team that placed third in the tournament. "The refs were against us the whole time" claims Siamanto in regards to Musa Dagh's loss to Torrance Potorig. "Its alright though, because even though we lost on the court we won in the eyes of our fellow members from other chapters" added Siamanto. The chapter is welcoming all members to its first Kebab night on Saturday, January 19, 2002 at the Hollywood Armenian Center at the corner of Lexington and Vermont Ave. The event will involve food, folks and fun (slogan compliments of MacDonald's).

MUSA DAGH
AYF
HOLLYWOOD
CHAPTER
17
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YOUTH CORPS OR SURVIVOR

I'M CONFUSED

~Diran Jermakian

It's really a great idea, take a bunch of strangers, put them on a plane and send them to a small village in Karabagh to live together for five weeks. To spice it up even more, have a weekly vote to kick out a person from the house until there is only one survivor. Besides the greatest ratings EVER for Armenian Cable Television, it would also be a serious experience for all eleven participants, even if the winner doesn't receive a million dollar payout. After reading the account of the 2001 Youth Corps trip, you can decide for yourself.

The contestants from Los Angeles would have to endure a 24-hour flight just to reach Yerevan, Armenia (this would include an extended stopover in Amsterdam because Armenian Airlines failed to pay for its fuel). At the Zvartnotz Airport in Armenia, they would meet the two contestants from Sydney, Australia, who had arrived slightly earlier, following a 30-hour flight. Upon assembling of the group, they were escorted into a van headed straight for Ashan (the village in Arstakh where they would stay for the duration). The

10-hour ride was designed to tire each individual, so much so that once they arrive at their destination they would hardly have the energy to lift their bags to their cots on the second floor of the school (their sleeping quarters for the duration).

The following morning, the participants woke up to the sounds of chickens, cows, and donkeys. They had a modest breakfast of one hard-boiled egg, bread, butter, and tea; little did they know that this would be the basic breakfast for the rest of their stay in Artsakh. Work would begin immediately after breakfast; the stronger participants hauled bags of cement, displaced white bricks called "kubicks," and mixed cement. The weak would sit in the shade and talk to the local children who were oh so ready to love the newcomers.

Work was done on the town's kindergarten. A wall was torn down to make room for new bathrooms. The bathrooms were to have indoor plumbing and tile. The outside of the kindergarten was completely

repainted; the perimeter fence was extended and raised. The basement was cleared out and its floor was leveled as well.

By the last week, only three of the original eleven were able to work. Of course, by this time the school had been transformed. The students returning for school in September were going to be pleasantly surprised.

The kindergarten wasn't the only thing that was transformed. First was the participants heightened sense of appreciation for the struggle to free Artsakh. Next was the participant's newfound appreciation for each other as Armenians. Then there was the extreme weight loss experienced by each person; with the Artsakh diet you can lose up to half a pound a day.

Even though there was no million-dollar prize for those who did survive the trip, it was a million-dollar experience. The Youth Corps experience is not as grueling as has been portrayed in this article. Participants are free to work when they feel up to the task; rarely is anyone ill. Everyone came home with all their original body parts and memories to last a lifetime. NEVER have I had more fun in my life; it is by far, the best thing I have been a part of in my lifetime. Thank you to all those who helped make it great.



Visit www.ayfwest.org and click on Youth Corps for next summer's trip.

Members of the Armenian Youth Federation Give Back to the Community

Members of
~Staffwriter

This past Thanksgiving Day was a particularly special one for the member of the AYF Pasadena "Nigol Touman" chapter. The members had the opportunity to gather at the Pasadena Central Park and distribute meals to the less fortunate in the community.

The Union Station Foundation organized the service, which attracted over one thousand volunteers and homeless. The Foundation offers programs and services designed to meet community needs for the Greater Pasadena area and western San Gabriel Valley.

The chapter members were assigned a table to distribute a traditional Thanksgiving meal (which included turkey, mashed potatoes, salad, fruit, and

dessert) to a thousand plus homeless community members.

"It was the first time the "Nigol Touman" chapter members have participated in such an event," said Lysa Aposhian, a member of the chapter, "we were encouraged by the unity created by such a memorable experience and have vowed to make giving back to the community an annual tradition."

The meal distribution provided the AYF members with an opportunity to give back to their community. Furthermore, it allowed the organizers of the event to gain a better understanding of the Armenian Youth Federation and the good will of its members.

Barab Paner

Barab Paner

~Compiled by Staffwriter

MiNd BoGgLiNg QuEsTiOnS

1. You are a bus driver. At the first stop, 6 people get on. At the second stop, 12 people get on. At the third stop, 3 people get off, and at the last stop, everyone gets off. The question is: What color are the bus drivers eyes?
2. What is it that when you take away the whole, you still have some left over?
3. Pronounced as one letter but written with three, two different letters there are and two only in me. I'm double, I'm single I'm black, blue, and gray. I'm read from both ends and the same either way.
4. Problems in the elevator: A person lives on the tenth floor of a building. Every day he takes the elevator to go down to the ground floor to go out. When he returns he takes the elevator to the seventh floor and walks up the stairs to reach his apartment on the tenth floor. Only on rainy days does he take the elevator to the tenth floor. He hates the stairs, so why does he do it?
5. A woman had two sons who were born on the same hour of the same day of the same year. But they were not twins. How could this be so?
6. What six letter word in the English language contains ten other words without rearranging any of its letters?
7. What unusual property do the words FLOUR, TERN, and THIRSTY have in common?
8. I am one simple word, but I mean different things. One of my meanings prompts forceful swings. The other of meaning may have curve, like the first, but only one meaning can help quench a thirst. One meaning will often bring cheers, and either of them could hold a few beers.
9. I live above a star, and have eleven neighbors. PRS (& sometimes Q) are my initials. Who am I?
10. It cannot be seen, cannot be felt, cannot be heard, cannot be smelt, it lies behind stars and under hills, and it fills in empty holes. What is it?
11. Voiceless it cries, toothless it bites. What is it?

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FuN fAcTs

Camels have three sets of eyelids.

Dark circles around the eyes are not caused by lack of sleep. The skin on the face is made pale by lack of sleep, so the area around the eyes is made to look dark by contrast.

Each schoolchild in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, gets two hours of ski lessons per week as part of the regular curriculum.

Eat a carrot a day to help prevent cancer.

February is the most popular month for watching television.

The figure of King Kong seen in the original movie of the same name was actually a model 18 inches high.

Difficult to imagine...but human skulls have been used throughout history as drinking cups.

Why is bubble gum pink? The color of the first successful bubble gum was pink because it was the only color the inventor had left. The color "stuck" and today bubble gum is still predominantly pink.

Can you really remove gum from your hair with peanut butter? It has been proven that if you knead a small amount of peanut butter between your fingers and the gum, the gum will disperse enough so you can remove it.

People have lived in the world for millions of years. Today, 5.9 billion people live on the earth.



1. You are the bus driver. What color are your eyes? 2. Wholesome 3. Eye 4. He is a child who cannot yet reach higher than the 7th button, however on rainy days he can push the button with his umbrella. 5. They were two of a set of triplets. 6. "Spared", the other ten words are spa, spar, spare, pa, par, pare, pared, are, re, and red. 7. Take out one letter and they each spell a number. 8. Pitcher 9. The number "7" on a telephone 10. Darkness 11. The Wind