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The Assyrian-Australian Youth Publication

NAKOSHA

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This is a Free Publication

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Let the Games Begin

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OPEN DAYS

During August, a few members of the Nakosha team were brave enough to face the community while conducting the presentations that made up the two Open Days.

The first Open Day was held in Melbourne on the night of the 13th August 2000. The second was held in Sydney on the afternoon of the 27th August 2000. Both events were successful as they gathered a modest crowd.

The hour long presentations were aimed at clarifying the ideas, and foundations that drive Nakosha. Many aspects were discussed, including the aims, and objectives of the publication; many of the highlights of the past two

years; the future of Nakosha, and its place within the Assyrian community.

As much as it was a project to open up to the community, and get some feedback from the readers, the Open Days were a way of self-reflection, where the team was able to understand a lot about itself, and the change that Nakosha is presenting to the community.

We thank all those who participated, and we are extending an open invitation to the whole community to increase their involvement in the publication.

The team always believes that Nakosha is a publication produced by the youth of our community, for the youth of our community.

ETHNIC MINORITIES IN ARMENIA SAY AUTHORITIES INDIFFERENT

(ZNDA-BBC) Ethnic minorities living in Armenia are experiencing serious difficulties in preserving their national language and culture. This conclusion was drawn by those taking part in a round table organized by the Union of Nationalities of Armenia, which took place at the National Academy of Sciences on July 21. The speakers pointed out that all ethnic minorities face common problems stemming from the difficult socioeconomic situation in the republic. A. Sardaryan, the chairman of the board of the Association of the Kurdish Intelligentsia, complained about the Armenian authorities' indifference to the problems of ethnic minorities and spoke negatively of their activities. He said textbooks have not been published in Kurdish for almost 20 years and that the Armenian Education Ministry has not yet reacted to a request from the Kurdish community to restore the two hours of national language and literature lessons which took place under Soviet rule in schools in Kurdish villages. Tamrazov, a representative of the 7,000-strong Assyrian diaspora, recalled the absence of representatives of the Atur Association of Assyrians and the Jewish secular community from the coordinating council under the adviser to the Armenian president. He said this was a flagrant violation of agreements reached before the congress of Armenia's ethnic minorities in the spring.

Source: Snark news agency, Yerevan; Translated from Russian.

SADDAM MAY HAVE CANCER

By Michael Theodolou and Giles Whittell for Irish Independent

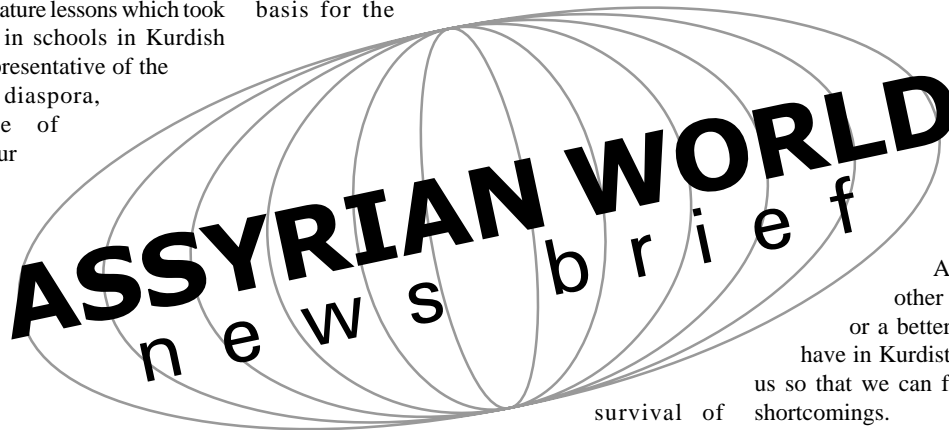
(ZNDA) Saddam Hussein of Iraq, the world's most resilient strongman, is seriously ill and is thought to have cancer, according to reports from Baghdad. Word of his deteriorating health will intensify a power struggle between his two sons and undermine the myth of invincibility that he has carefully fostered during two decades of autocratic rule. "We know Saddam is unwell and understand it may be cancer, but we don't know how bad it is or how long he can go on for," an Iraqi businessman in Jordan said. Other well-connected Iraqi travelers, who are not connected to opposition groups, have made similar claims in recent days.

ASSYRIAN UNIVERSAL ALLIANCE

Participation in the Sub-commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection Of Minorities Working Group on Indigenous Populations Eighteenth Session 24-28 July 2000

The Assyrian Universal Alliance ("AUA") has

been participating for years in the United Nations meetings. This participation has become more effective since AUA joined the International organisation known as the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation (UNPO). Since 1996 AUA Australian Chapter has made many representations at the meetings of the Working Group on Minorities. This year AUA participated for the first time in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. The Working Group on Indigenous populations was set up in 1982, and is a working group of the Sub-Commission on Prevention and Protection of Minorities. It is composed of five experts of the Sub-Commission, who represent the five regions of the world. This year more than 1000 participants took part in the session. The indigenous issues are varied yet they all share in the one common struggle, that of removal from their land. The relationship to land and the natural environment is very significant and unique to the indigenous peoples. This relationship is the basis for the



survival of indigenous peoples.

There is an increasing momentum in the struggle for justice and in addressing the historical issues impacting on Indigenous Peoples. AUA's representatives at the meeting of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, which took place between 24-28th July 2000, were Senator John Nimrod (Secretary General of AUA from USA), Miss Suzy David (the International legal adviser to the Secretary General) and Mr. Hermiz Shahen (AUA Secretary - Australian chapter). Suzy David and Hermiz Shahen also attended the preparatory meeting of the Indigenous Populations held on 22 and 23 July 2000 at the premises of the World Council of Churches, Geneva.

Hermiz Shahen
Secretary
Assyrian Universal Alliance - Australia

KDP LEADER DISCUSSES RIGHTS OF ASSYRIANS IN NORTHERN BET-NAHRAIN

(ZNDA: London) According to BBC Monitoring Service, Kurdistan Democratic Party leader Mas'ud Barzani addressed a public meeting in Arbil on the 54th anniversary of his party's establishment on August 16. The following are excerpts from his speech:

With confidence, strong will and great pleasure with the achievements of the tireless struggle; with great hope and a bright future, members and

supporters of our Kurdistan Democratic Party and people of Kurdistan, without any difference, are celebrating the 16th August occasion. The occasion of establishing this militant party which was established by Mustafa Barzani and his comrades...

Based on our democratic views and opinions, and under the two legitimate institutions of Kurdistan [the KDP-led Kurdistan regional government and Kurdistan National Assembly], freedom of expression, pluralism, and religious and national rights are guaranteed and preserved in the areas under the rule of the legitimate institutions. Attempts are continuously made for their development and entrenchment. In its programme, the KDP acknowledged the rights of the Turkoman, Assyrian and Chaldean brothers. It struggled for realizing them. As a result of this, our brothers are enjoying these rights and are exercising them in the best possible way. This achievement proves that the aims and objectives, stipulated by the KDP's programme and documents, which says:

Kurdistan is a centre for religious and ethnic brotherhood and tolerance, are being put into practice. This is a source of great pride. I take this opportunity to tell our Turkoman and Assyrian brothers that if, in any other place, they have more rights or a better situation than the one they have in Kurdistan, I would like them to tell us so that we can fill any gaps or remedy any shortcomings.

Source: Kurdistan Satellite TV, Salah al-Din

MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN TENSIONS RISE IN NAZARETH

(ZNDA: Vatican) According to Vatican's Zenit News Agency, Israeli police were criticized by Islamic groups for attempting to halt the unloading of construction materials in Nazareth Square, at the doorstep of the Basilica of the Annunciation, where they intend to build a mosque in memory of Shebab el Din, a descendant of Saladin. Despite the opposition of the Vatican and the local Christian community, Muslim fundamentalists were given permission by Israeli authorities to erect the mosque just a few steps from the Christian Basilica.

Salman Abu Ahmed, deputy mayor of Nazareth, and directors of the political department of the Islamic Movement, said that the Muslims of the city are losing patience and hope to begin construction without a permit. Moreover, they accuse the government authorities of delaying the necessary permits and have threaten new riots "because the Israeli government only understands the language of done deeds." For his part, Israeli Minister Matan Vilnai, warned against any unilateral action.

Although it has a Muslim and Christian majority, Nazareth is in Israeli territory. However, last November, the National Palestinian Authority, presided over by Yasser Arafat, declared its opposition to the mosque's construction.

Let the Games Begin

The Olympic games have put Australia, and in particular Sydney, in a state of extreme buzz. The place is full of people, and energy. For two young Assyrians, the experience of the Olympics taking place in their hometown has reached a new height. Nahren, and Sargon were accepted to be part of the Medal Presentation teams. For both, these are very exciting times.

Nahren, and Sargon have been involved with the Fairfield Community Arts Network (FCAN) for a number of years, so when the pamphlet asking for young people to join the presentation teams was circulating around the offices of FCAN they were some of the first to know.

Nahren Al-Jeloo was born in Kuwait. Her family migrated to Australia in 1983 when she was eight years old. Initially living in Melbourne, the family moved to Sydney, but after completing high school, Nahren returned to Melbourne to study Visual Arts for a year, then returned to Sydney yet again to complete her Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of Western Sydney. Nahren is currently completing her Honours Degree at the UWS, Nepean.

During this time Nahren had been involved in a number of projects with FCAN, including *Boghcheh*, *Thirteen Moons*, and *Border Crossing II*. Currently she is working on two major projects, the *Villawood Arts Project*, and *Imagine a Place* (a large mural for the Fairfield Public Library). Nahren has had her work, which is in Multimedia (Video/Sound installations), exhibited nationally.

Sargon Karim migrated with his family from Iraq in 1994, he was fourteen at the time. Over the past years Sargon has extended his involvement in the Assyrian community, as he is a member of the Church of East Youth Group, and TAAAS. Also for the past four years Sargon has been following his hobby of *Tea Kwan Do*, in which he holds a black belt.

Sargon has been involved in a number of the arts projects run by FCAN, including *Border Crossings*, and *Border Crossings II*, these days Sargon is still involved with the Border Crossings

Group, where he helps to develop concepts for video installations.

Sargon is currently completing a Diploma of Business at the Wetherill Park TAFE.

To be selected as part of the presentation teams, both Nahren, and Sargon had to survive a panel interview where they had to prove their abilities. They were asked if they had any performance experience, and if they had undertaken any volunteer work before hand. They were also asked to speak about themselves, and their backgrounds.

Knowing each other from a previous project, and upon receiving the opportunity to apply for the positions, Nahren, and Sargon decided to go at it together. But Sargon was the first to know of his place, with Nahren finding out two weeks later, "Sargon would call me everyday asking me if I had heard anything," said Nahren, "and when I received the results, it was a top up for a perfect day."

Sargon is part of the *Bondi* team, which will be taking part in the presentations for the Tea Kwan Do, Judo, Road Cycling, and Archery. Nahren's team, which called *Kirra*, will be part of the medal presentations for the Fencing, Athletics, and Modern Pentathlon. The presentation teams are named after beaches around Australia, and there are a total of eleven teams that will be conducting the presentations at the Sydney Olympics.

The first people that Nahren, and Sargon informed of their successful applications were their parents. "My parents didn't comprehend the magnitude of the experience till it grew near," said Sargon. He is also very thankful of Australia to have given him this opportunity. On the same point Nahren said, "I feel honoured to be picked to represent Australia."

Both Nahren, and Sargon are very excited about the experience that they are having. They could not express their excitement in any words that could be quoted. Many will join in congratulating them on their achievement, and extend the warmest wishes that the experience will be as exciting as it is promising to be. ■

Sennacherib Warda

I finally did it. It took me two and a half years, but I finally made it to Sydney. You just cannot underestimate the efforts involved in such a journey (not that it was made on horse back or anything as such), the amount of time I had there, and the amount of things to do, and people to meet, were in many forms disproportional.

The two primary reasons for my visit to good old Sydney, were to attend the Assyrian Australian Academic Society's (TAAAS) annual ball, and to conduct a presentation at Nakosha's Open Day. Both events were successful, and I would like to thank TAAAS for inviting the team to the ball, and for their assistance in organizing the Open Day.

I did get to meet a few other people during my visit, including a few members of FCAN, who were very helpful in suggesting a number of ideas that will help us add an edge to this publication.

The two Open Days went quite well; our aim was to present Nakosha to the community. We wanted to explain the foundations that it is built on, and its outlook on the future. We also wanted to get some feedback from the community. I believe that we achieved what we set out to do, and more. As much as the open days were a way to inform people of Nakosha, it was a time for us to get a better understanding of the work, and direction of this publication.

A thought that was thrown at me during my mini-holiday was that Nakosha was getting a bit too serious, and it was losing its youthful feel, that it has become famous for. What shocked me was that the suggestion was correct. We have become serious, and we do need to back off a bit. I apologies for boring anybody out there, I am hoping that in the next couple of months we will get back on track, and find our youthfulness again.

It is a late issue this month, we have been busy with the Open Days which took much of our time in preparation. We also had two men out with the flew, and another overseas. So we are lucky that we did get this issue out.

In last month's issue we reported on how two young Assyrians, Nahren, and Sargon were given the opportunity to participate in presentation ceremonies at the 2000 Olympics. This month we have included an interview with the pair. This particular story is one of great interest, because in this scenario we are viewing cultural integration in action. Two Assyrian youth, representing Australia on an international level. If there are any social analysts out there please tell us what it means, we would love to know.

I hope that this issue is bit more youth-friendly. Enjoy! ■

Sennacherib Warda

editor's note

Assyrian Relief Fund

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The St. Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School

"This will be the first school established in the modern history of the Assyrian nation outside our traditional homelands..."

The foundation stone was laid for the first Assyrian school outside of the Middle East on Sunday 20th August 2000. The St. Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School is due to open with the start of the 2002 school year. It will be a great moment in our modern history, and a great step towards re-establishing the foundations of our culture, and our identity.

In December 1996, a committee was set up by Mar Mellis Zaia to carry out a study into the feasibility of establishing an Assyrian Primary School. The verdict was for the affirmative, and the idea of the school reached the drawing board. Mr. Donald Maseh designed the building which will contain; fourteen class rooms, an administration block to house the staff, a library that would include a reading room, a canteen, and indoor assembly hall which would also cater for physical education activities, a playground, and a car parking area.

The school will be a fully operational primary school by the year 2007. For its first school year it will begin with two kindergarten classes, thereafter two classes will be introduced each succeeding year. Upon reaching capacity, the school will consist of fourteen classes, two for each level. The number of students is expected to reach a total of 364 students.

The curriculum of the school will be fully accredited by the New South Wales Board of School Studies. It will include the usual subjects taught at any other schools, which include English, Mathematics, Science and technology, etc. It will also include subjects in relation to Assyrians. These include Assyrian language studies, and studies into the Assyrian culture, and heritage.

A major aspect of the curriculum is that between the year levels two and six, the students will be taught Assyrian history, Assyrian Fairy tales, and poems, and

Assyrian celebrations and cultural aspects. This will offer a place for the Assyrian culture to be nurtured, and maintained. It will be a place where the culture is taught, and practised.

So what would this school mean for future for Assyrian individuals?

Firstly, all the due credits need to be given to

the Assyrian Church of the East for undertaking this project. It is a great effort, but one with many pluses.

One of the main problems that we face in our community today is the clash of cultures that our youth experience. They spend the first half of their day at school, in a totally different environment to that they have to deal with during the second half of the day. It is a big issue that we have been overlooking for many years.

Another issue that our youth face, is the confusion over their true identity. With identity being a very difficult concept to define, and comprehend, many young Assyrians are left bewildered when the subject arises.

I believe that the school will be able to smooth out these issues, and many others that prove to be troublesome to the younger generations of our community. It will allow a common ground for many people of the same background, and same age to meet, and be able to deal with their problems collectively.

Another big plus in such a project is the preservation of the Assyrian culture, and language. These two aspects of our lives are in many ways valuable. They are part



of human history, they helped shape up today's world. So the same way an ancient Mesopotamian piece of clay with some inscriptions on it is worth millions of dollars, so is the language, and culture we practice. Being in many ways metaphysical, language, and culture are priceless.

The concept of the St. Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School holds many promises that the community hopes will be delivered. It will produce a totally different generation from those who migrated to Australia, and from those Assyrians born here. It will be a turning point in the history of Assyrians in the West. ■

Sennacherib Warda

Cartoon on Life

How many times a month do you visit a nightclub, disco, or a bar, and why?



►► Maybe once - not even!
I can't really find the time as I am busy with my HSC. Any free time I get I just spend with my

cousins and my friends chilling out. That's all I have time for. But when I finish the HSC - then it's a different story!!!

M/24/ Toronto

►► I go out to clubs between 2 to 3 times a month. The reason I go to clubs is because of my Assyrian friends. If we all get together and go to the club, then I usually go.

M/25/Sweden, Södertälje

►► 2 times, all my friend from my job go over to the nightclub, and I have a lot of Assyrian who are owners of nightclubs. Thank you

F/22/Sydney

►► Once a month or every two months....do not go to too many nightclubs any more unless invited to a party at a club e.g birthday, I go to more bars because after

work or on weekends that is where everyone meets up besides cafes and restaurants.....

F/19/ Melbourne

►► The answer is easy, once a blue moon. Why? Cause we are Assyrians, and we have Assyrian parents, it's that simple.

M/17/ Sydney

TUTORIALS

Being such a nice bunch at the AYG, we have gotten together a few University qualified tutors who will be available every Sunday to assist you with your studies. The tutors can help with classes, study techniques, time management, and other academic needs.

They will be held every Sunday from 6-8pm, at the Coburg Library (Rear Meeting Room) Cnr. Victoria and Lousia St., Coburg

The tutorials are organised for Semester 4, starting from Sunday, 8th October, 2000 to Sunday 10th December, 2000

ملف لغوي

كلمة لغوية

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| گەوونووتو | gawonootho | communism | گەوانایوتا | gawanayota |
| هه‌وودو | hooyodo | union | هه‌وودا | khooyada |
| هه‌فولھونا | folhono | labour | هه‌فولھانا | polkhana |
| هه‌سورونو | so'rono | function | هه‌سورانا | so'rana |
| هه‌سوفرووتو | sofrootho | literature | هه‌سوپروتا | saprota |
| مەکتەو | maktwo | office | مەکتەوا | makta-wa |
| رەشیونو | reshyono | bribe | رەشیانا | reshyana |
| هه‌فەو | fawdo | error | هه‌فەو | pawda |
| هه‌بووگورو | booqoro | enquiry | هه‌بووگارا | booqara |
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The Assyrian Youth Group of Victoria is a non-political, non-religious and non-profit organisation. It seeks to promote the Assyrian culture, history and language, as well as the Assyrian name and community, bringing it to the world stage.

AYGV

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Paul's HAIR Port



LADIES & MEN

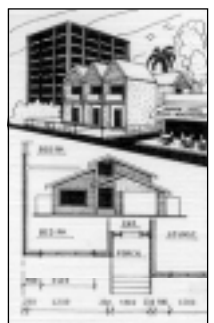
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