

# FERRAHIAN HIGHLIGHTS

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## MR. MARTINIAN: THE MAN BEHIND THE SUIT

BY: LINDA SIRKEDZHYAN

Ferrahian would like to welcome on of the newest members of our faculty and Ferrahian family, Mr. Raffi Anthony Martinian.

Martinian is an English teacher and has a passion for English Literature and strives to teach all Ferrahian students the essentials of writing and reading comprehension.

Mr. Martinian received his college education at UCLA, and is currently working on obtaining his Master's Degree.

"I have a passion for

helping kids succeed, as well as knowing that I've prepared these students for the future, and that is what inspires me to keep on teaching these children," says Mr. Martinian.

Martinian says he was influenced by his own high school English teacher, who taught him the main components of the English language.

He is a role model to many of his students, and he also has a couple role models himself, one being John



Owen, as well as many other famous writers.

Mr. Martinian has set some goals he'd like to achieve in the course of his life, one of *Martinian on p. 2*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

GENERAL ELECTIONS	2
BURBANK FESTIVAL	2
DARE VS.	2
GIRLS SOCCER	3

## BURBANK COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

BY: TALAR KOSSAKIAN

More than 500 residents of the ever-growing Armenian Community of Burbank gathered at Robert E. Gross Park for the First Annual Burbank Armenian Community Festival. The purpose of this

festival was to bring the community together for a fun filled, relaxing Sunday afternoon.

Visitors enjoyed Armenian kebab and listened to a Davoul Zourna performance by

Armen Stepanyan and Henrik Avoyan. Children played on the jungle gym, and some even got their faces painted. The children were also entertained by famous *Continued on p. 4*

## BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE GENERAL ELECTION

BY: MEGHRIE DEMIRJIAN



On Election Day, while most people were off casting their votes, I was behind the scenes making it all happen. I worked as a volunteer poll-worker in the auditorium of Darby Elementary School. It was a historic day and an experience that I will never forget.

The day began at 6 a.m., transforming a barren

room into a perfectly organized and functioning polling site. This year voting would be much easier with the aid of a new machine, the *InkaVote Plus*, which checks each ballot for blank areas or over-votes. By 7a.m., over a hundred people of various age groups, races, and religions lined up behind the doors to have their voices heard. It was my responsi-

bility as the assigned ballot clerk to insert each ballot into the InkaVote machine to check for any mistakes. If there was ever a mistake, the machine would print out a receipt describing the mistake on the ballot, and we would return the ballot to the voter. The voter would then have the opportunity to go back and fill any blank options, start *Continued on p. 3*

## MARTINIAN

*Continued from 1*

which includes finishing his own book, and focusing on teaching. Yes, he is an English teacher but outside of school, Mr. Martinian plays basketball with a church league, plays the drums, and has a black belt in Tai Kwan Do.

“I have no regrets whatsoever in any decision I’ve ever made in my life, because every choice I make, may it be positive or negative, was meant to happen sooner or later. Everything happens for a reason, and nothing can change that,” states Mr. Martinian when asked about

his view on his own life. Mr. Martinian, is a very talented individual and he always strives for success. He works hard in whatever he does, no matter what it is.

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## HALLOWEEN AT BIG FERRAHIAN

BY: LILY JAMGOTCHIAN



Witches, ghouls, goblins, and vampires, ah, the spirit of Halloween. And just like the rest of America, Ferrahian High School celebrated the holiday with the works - costume contest,

crepes, dunk tank, and a moon bounce. The student counsel, in charge of the festivities, had done a marvelous job by incorporating games and activities for the students. As the last tickets were sold, the last fish were

given away, and the last helpless child was soaked from head to foot, the Halloween celebration was called to an end. No worries...we know we’re in for the same treat next year.

# LG DARE VS. IPHONE

By: Michael Tashchyan

Nowadays people are debating over which candidate to pick for president. However, another debate is occurring amongst technology fanatics. It involves having to decide over two similar and yet totally different phones; the Apple iPhone and the LG Dare.

The LG Dare, exclusive to Verizon Wireless, and the Apple iPhone, exclusive to AT&T, both feature a fully integrated camera and video capture, but according to VZW.com, the Dare has a 3.2 megapixel camera, while the iPhone is capable of only 2.0 megapixels.

A feature that the phones share is that they are both touch screen phones. All applications on the phone can be accessed using the touch screen. For example, the QWERTY keyboard is available and typing is done by



tapping the letters on the screen.

The iPhone has something called the "App Store" which allows the user to download a wide variety of applications, from financing tools to racing games. Dare applications are limited to those provided by the Verizon Wireless VCAST network.

Another advantage of the iPhone is that it is also an iPod at the same time. You can store all the music, videos, and photos, on the iPhone just like on a normal iPod. The Dare is also an MP3 player, yet the iPhone is superior in this aspect.

According to their respective websites, the Dare outshines the iPhone on battery life level. This is most likely due to the fact that the iPhone is capable of running over half a dozen applications at once.

Both phones are available on the market right now. The Dare can be purchased from Verizon for about \$250 and the iPhone from Apple is about \$200.

Overall, both are great phones, but the iPhone has a clear advantage because of all the applications it can hold and be used for at the same time.

"AN ADVANTAGE OF THE IPHONE IS THAT IT IS ALSO AN IPOD AT THE SAME TIME."

## ELECTION

*Continued from 2*  
 over with a new ballot, or choose to overwrite their ballot. I met a great deal of interesting people, including past pollworkers who shared their experiences and offered some great advice.

When things began to slow down, around an hour before closing, my fellow pollworkers allowed me the opportunity to enter a

booth and cast my vote. Of course I had to use a sample ballot which was immediately labeled "void," but I was too excited to care.

The worst part of the night was having to count every single ballot, making sure that the sum was equal to the one indicated by the InkaVote. The fourteen-hour-long workday passed by surprisingly quickly, and I would do it again a hun-

dred times over if I were ever given the chance to.

The best part of the night was knowing that I had made a difference. When handing out the "I voted" stickers and thanking the people for voting, almost every single one of them thanked me for volunteering. It is a great feeling knowing that my hard



## FESTIVAL

### Continued from p. 1



U.S. Congressman Adam Schiff

Armenian singer, Maggie. Visitors walked among booths, set up by local business owners, that sold various goods.

Present at the event were special guests; Congressman Adam Schiff, Assembly Member Paul Krekorian, Burbank Police Sergeant Matthew Ferguson, Burbank Fire Chief Tracy Pansini, Vice Consul of the Republic of Armenia Sahak Sargsyan, Burbank School Board member Debbie Kukta,

and Rev. Father Gomidass Torossian, representing the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America.

Krekorian made sure to emphasize on the importance of young Armenian-Americans getting involved in their communities, when addressing those attending. He stressed on the benefits of volunteering in the community. "When one dedicates hours of work, they gain experience and at the same

time help others," he said.

The success of this event could be credited to the ARS Burbank "Araz" Chapter, AYF Burbank "Varak" Chapter, and the Burbank ANCA .

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Thank You!