



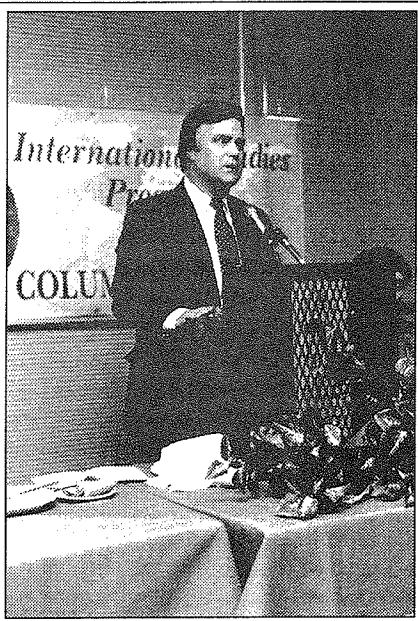
NEWSLINES

Volume I, No. 1

The Newsletter of the Georgia Committee on U.S.-Arab Relation

March 1994

U.S. - Arab Relations Topic of Lecture at Columbus College Luncheon



Dr. John Duke Anthony

"U.S. - Arab Relations in the New Era: Continuity and Change" was the topic of a lecture presented by **Dr. John Duke Anthony**, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Council on U.S. - Arab Relations at Columbus College (Columbus, GA.) His remarks were made at a luncheon attended by fifty faculty, administrators and regional businessmen.

Dr. Anthony pointed out that while the recent agreement of principles by Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin was an important first step to bringing peace and prosperity to the region, the accord left many issues unanswered, such as the status of Jerusalem.

Those attending the luncheon were welcomed by **Steve Bulter**, Chairman of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, who noted the importance of such activities to the intellectual growth and development of the community.

Dr. Anthony was introduced by **Dr. Frank Brown**, President of Columbus College, and closing remarks were made by **Dr. Raymond Gonzalez**, Professor of Political Science at Columbus College. Dr. Gonzalez thanked Dr. Anthony and the National Council for providing three Malone Fellowships to faculty members at Columbus College.

The lecture was arranged by **Rajgopal Sashti**, Director of the International Studies Program at Columbus College, in cooperation with the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, the Center for International Studies of the U.S. Department of Education, and the Department of Political Science at Columbus College.

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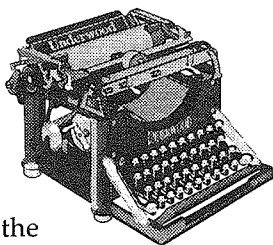
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■ Editorial Greetings

Dr. Raymond B. Gonzalez, Editor

This is my first attempt at putting together a newsletter. Although everyone at the National Council on U.S. Arab-Relations was very helpful, the task took longer than I anticipated.



I hope you will take the time to read your newsletter, and share it with your friends and colleagues. If you know of anyone who would like to receive the newsletter, send their name and address and I will be happy to add them to the mailing list.

All readers are invited to send in appropriate materials - stories or story-ideas - for future publications. I am especially interested in activities that connect, in some way, Georgia and the Arab world.

Publication plans are for two newsletters each year - one in February and another in September.

■ Enrichment Conference Held on Arab World and Islam

The Arafat-Rabin accord signed in Washington is a step in the right direction toward solving major policy disputes between Israel and the PLO, "however many serious issues remain unresolved," according to **Dr. John Duke Anthony, President and CEO of the National Council on U.S. - Arab Relations**, who delivered the keynote address at a faculty development and enrichment conference held in November at Georgia Southwestern College in Americus, GA.

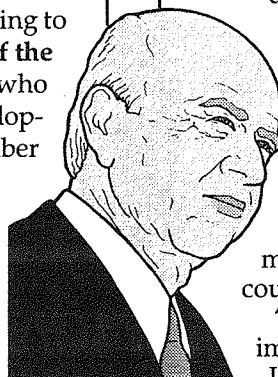
"The agreement is significant for the topics that it does not address," Dr. Anthony pointed out, "such as the status of Jerusalem and the millions of Palestinian refugees throughout the world."

"**Teaching About the Arab World and Islam**" was the focus of the one-day conference attended by approximately 65 faculty members from 11 colleges and universities in Georgia.

Dr. Anthony's presentation examined the continuity and change in American foreign policy in the Middle East in the new era following the historic agreement between Yasser Arafat, leader of the PLO, and Yitzhak Rabin, Prime Minister of Israel.

In his remarks, Dr. Anthony emphasized the importance of the Gulf States to American political and economic national interests.

"Because of the importance of the Gulf States' supply of oil and natural gas to the economic prosperity



Yitzhak Rabin

of the United States, Europe, and Japan, U.S. policy in the Middle East should be carefully and thoughtfully developed by American foreign policy makers," he noted.

Following Dr. Anthony's address, **Dr. Muhammad Siddiq, Professor of Arabic Languages and Literature** at the University of California at Berkeley, conducted a comprehensive workshop on teaching about the Arab world and Islam.

Professor Siddiq emphasized both the unifying and diversifying factors in the Arab world by examining its people, geography, and culture. His remarks on the beliefs and obligations of Islam were of special interest to the participants.

"Since one quarter of the population of the world are followers of Islam, it is important for teachers to be well informed about its historical development and contemporary impact on world events," he said.

Educators were encouraged by Siddiq to incorporate comparative analysis into their classroom instruction. He maintains that courses on the Arab world and Islam provide a means to develop students' critical thinking skills.

"By studying foreign cultures, students can re-examine their own belief system," Dr. Siddiq said. "Comparative studies can be an important tool for students to develop valid generalizations."

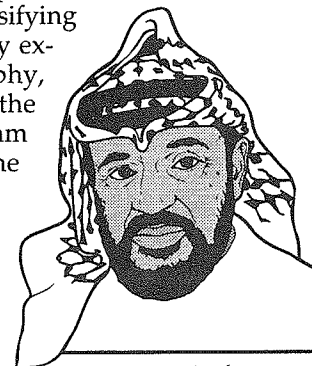
Workshop participants were provided with printed resource materials for teaching courses on The Middle East. The materials dealt with numerous aspects of Arab culture, including food, music, art, and family values.

Of special interest to many educators was the *Arab World Notebook*, edited by Audrey Shabbas and Ayad Al-Qazzas, which covered many different subject areas and contained a country profile of Arab nations.

"It was important that a conference on such an important and complex topic as Arab culture and Islam provide the participants with printed materials as resource guides for future classroom use," noted **Rajgopal Sashti, Director of the International Studies Consortium** located at Columbus College, Columbus, GA.

The all-day conference was jointly sponsored by The National Council on U.S. - Arab Relations, The Middle East Policy Council, the Regents' Global Center of the University System of Georgia, Georgia Southwestern College, the Columbus College International Studies Consortium, and the Nine College Consortium of Southeast Georgia.

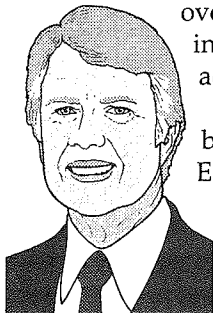
Sashti indicated that participant evaluations of the enrichment conference were very positive and he anticipated the development of future programs on the Middle East.



Yasser Arafat

Carter Overcome With Emotion

"I thought there would be an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. I wasn't sure I'd be alive to see it." Those were the words of former **President Jimmy Carter from Plains, GA**, who said he was overcome with emotion while witnessing the signing of the historic peace accord in Washington, D.C.



Jimmy Carter

Nearly 15 years ago, Carter brought President Anwar al Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel together and they reached the Camp David Agreement. This brought about the first recognition of Israel by an Arab state. Carter said that his participation in the earlier peace agreement made the recent decision by Israel to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization especially significant.

While watching the representatives of Israel and the PLO sign an agreement, Carter said, "I felt a tear. My lips trembled."

ABPA Establishes Atlanta Chapter

A group of Arab-American business and professional people in Atlanta recently established a local chapter of the **Arab-American Business and Professional Association (ABPA)** to promote trade and investment between the United States and the Middle East.

The Atlanta group became the fourth chapter of the ABPA, a non-political, non-sectarian, non-profit organization. Chapters in Washington, New York, and Chicago have approximately 1,500 members.

According to **Hisham Araim**, President and Chairman of the Board of the new local chapter, the association seeks to provide up-to-date information to members concerning economic opportunities in Arab nations.

Araim, CEO of Universal Investment and Manufacturing Company, observed that there is a great deal of investor interest in the Middle East at present. An objective of the ABPA is to provide professional guidance to companies and individuals who wish to expand or establish new businesses in Arab countries.

For further information or membership application, contact ABPA, 1050 Crown Pointe Parkway, Suite 400, Atlanta, GA, 30338. Tel: (404)512-0130 Fax: (404)512-0114.

Pepsi & Coca Cola Recognize Arab, Israeli Concerns

Both Pepsi and Coca Cola are making adjustments in their soft drink marketing techniques in the Middle East, according to a recent story in *The Atlanta Constitution* by Charles W. Holmes.

Politics and religion have come together in the Cola War, as they do in many aspects of life in Israel and the Arab territories it controls. At stake is a \$400 million-a-year soft drink market.

Among Jews and Palestinians, both Coke and Pepsi are very popular and competition between the two for market share is keen.

This summer a rabbinical court held that Pepsi-Cola was not kosher and then threatened the Atlanta, GA, based Coca Cola Company with a similar judgment. The dispute is not over whether the ingredients are kosher, but the advertising methods.

Cola promotions are considered wicked by some ultra-religious rabbis because, among other things, the ads display women with bare arms. "They have immoral advertising and it must be stopped. We don't want to encourage this kind of poisonous influence," **Rabbi Sternbach**, an ultra-orthodox leader in Jerusalem declared.

From its introduction in Israel a year ago, **Pepsico** has faced difficulties. Pepsico was widely criticized by the Jewish press for its late entry into Israel while selling its products to the Arab world. Coca-Cola has been bottled in Israel for 25 years.

Editorials charged that Pepsico ignored the Jewish state and adhered to an Arab-sponsored boycott of Israel. Officials from Pepsi rejected such claims.

Both soft drink manufacturers have been criticized by rabbinical courts. Pepsi was sighted for sponsoring a heavy-metal rock concert by *Guns N' Roses* on a Saturday night before the end of the Jewish sabbath. Coke came in for criticism for sponsoring programs on a rock video channel, MTV, which is shown on the sabbath.

The soft drink companies appear to be doing a better job of advertising in the Arab market of the occupied territories, where both Coke and Pepsi are readily available. **Yaghi Abu-Subhi**, a Gaza beverage distributor, pointed out that both drinks are good sellers because of their appeal as popular American drinks.

While Palestinians are buying more and more Coke and Pepsi, the most popular soft drink is a local brand named **Star Cola**, which is manufactured in Ramallah on the West Bank. Abu-Subhi says that Star Cola continues to outsell both Coke and Pepsi because it is cheaper.

Meanwhile, both Coke and Pepsi consider ways to market their products without invoking criticism from sanctioning rabbis.

Atlanta ADC Chapter Reorganized

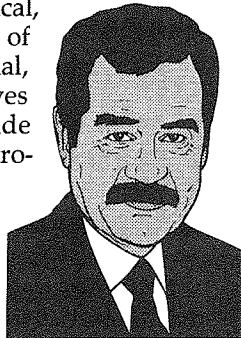
According to **Sami Jajeh**, President of the Atlanta Chapter of the **American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)**, the local chapter is being revitalized. Jajeh recently made a presentation on the Israeli expulsion of 415 Palestinians to a group of 35 people at the Pathfinders Bookstore in Atlanta. After his presentation, Jajeh was interviewed by an Atlanta Constitution reporter about renewed bombing in Iraq.

Person desiring information on ADC membership should contact the national office at (202)244-2990.

International Conference on Iraqi Aggression

The International Conference on the Effects of the Iraqi Aggression on Kuwait will be held on April 2-6, 1994, at Kuwait University. The conference will focus on the dimensions of the psychological, social and economic consequences of Iraqi aggression in the local, regional, and global context. Representatives of scientific institutions worldwide have been invited to participate. Proceedings of selected papers will be published.

For more information, please contact: **Dr. Amad Alatiqi**, Chairman, Higher Organizing Committee, International Conference on the Effects of the Iraqi Aggression on Kuwait, Kuwait University, P.O. Box 5969, Safat 13060, Kuwait. Telephone 965-4817808; fax 965-4838336.



Saddam Hussein

Middle East Proverbs

Proverbs reflect the basic wisdom of a people. Anthropologists study proverbs to gain insight to a society's values concerning such matters as education, marriage, and the family.

There are no areas of life that proverbs do not comment on. In many societies, proverbs serve as mores and norms of behavior.

Listed below are some proverbs from the Middle East which have been compiled by the **Middle East Outreach Council (MEOC)**, a non-profit organization which provides educational resources on the culture of the Middle East.

Proverbs from the Arab World

Love is blind.

Too many cooks burn the food.

We, as people, eat to live and not live to eat.

God helps his subjects so long as they help one another.

A bird in the hand is better than ten on a tree.

Send your son to the marketplace and see with whom he associates.

Proverbs from Turkey

Kind words will unlock iron doors.

Thorns and roses grow on the same tree.

One is equally indebted to one's teacher and to God.

It is easier to make a camel jump a ditch than to make a fool listen to reason.

Proverbs from Iran

Full bellies make empty skulls.

Honey is sweet, but the bee stings.

Set not the fox to watch the cheese.

If a man cheats me once, shame on him; if he cheats me twice, shame on me.

Proverbs from Israel

A dog is brave in front of his own door.

The apple is red, but inside it is full of worms.

He who has left an heir did not die.

Everything forbidden becomes desirable.

If the seller loses, the buyer gains.

Saudi Arabia Committed to Free Trade

According to **Hisham Nazer**, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources for Saudi Arabia, "Free trade is an essential element for the realization of economic development and prosperity." Saudi Arabia has become a major player in developing economic and commercial relations between the Arab world and the West.

In a recent meeting with a delegation from the National Council on U.S. - Arab Relations, **Abdallah T. Dabbagh**, Secretary - General of the Council of Saudi Chamber of Commerce pointed out that the policy of economic openness and free enterprise coupled with political stability has been a major reason for increased

trade between Saudi Arabia and the West. Dabbagh indicated that Saudi businessmen would welcome the opportunity to explore joint ventures with American businessmen.

Businessmen in **Georgia** have already been busy investing in Saudi Arabia and other Middle East countries. (See in this issue "Ice Cream for the Middle East"). In 1992, the latest year for complete data, exports from Georgia to Saudi Arabia amounted to over \$290 million. Saudi Arabia was Georgia's largest source for exports in the Middle East. Other important export markets in the Middle East for Georgia products include (in order of dollar value) Turkey, Kuwait, Oman, Israel, United Arab Emirates, and Egypt.

■ Books of Interest

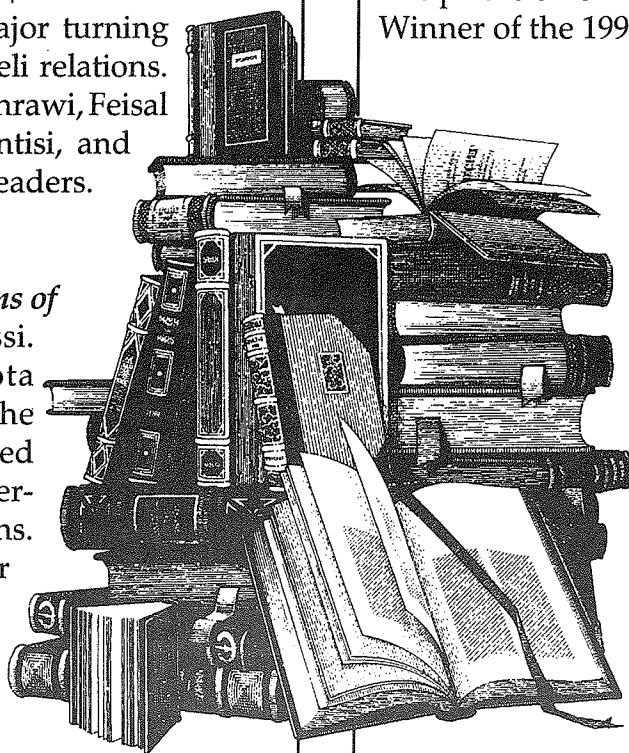
Becoming American: The Early Arab Immigrant Experience by Alixa Naff. Southern Illinois University Press. \$16.95. Focuses on pre World War II Arab immigration. Has received many excellent reviews.

Mourning in Bethlehem: Impact of the Gulf War on Palestinian Society by Patrick White. Morehouse Publishing. \$12.95. Presents a close-up view of the hardships of the Palestinian people and explains why many Palestinians supported Saddam Hussein in the Gulf War.

The Middle East Population Puzzle by Abdel R. Omran and Farzaneh Roudi. Population Reference Bureau. \$7.00. Examines labor and refugee movements. Also looks at urbanization, family planning, and education.

The New Palestinians: The Emerging Generation of Leaders by John and Janet Wallach. Prime Publishing. \$22.95. Analyzes the intifada as a major turning point in Palestinian - Israeli relations. Contains profiles of Dr. Ashrawi, Feisal Husseini, Abdul Aziz Rantisi, and many young, outspoken leaders.

The Forgotten Queens of Islam by Fatima Mernissi. University of Minnesota Press. \$24.95. Explores the reigns of 16 women who ruled in the Islamic world as governors, sultanas, and queens. Considered to be a major contribution to women's history in the Middle East.



■ Videos of Interest

Journey to the Occupied Lands by Michael Ambrosino. Public Broadcasting System. \$49.95. (1-800-344-3375). Produced by *Frontline*. Examines the complexities of Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

Understanding Islam by Episcopal Radio-TV. Morehouse Publishing. \$49.95. (1-800-877-0012). Shot in Jerusalem and other locations. Explores the Islamic religious tradition.

Introduction to the Arab World by AMIDEAST. \$49.95. (202-785-0022). Looks at both the diversity and unity of the Arab world and examines the cultural traditions and interests of its people. Includes guidebook. Winner of a Bronze Apple Award at the 1989 National Educational Film and Video Festival.

Islam in America by The Christian Science Monitor Video Production. AMIDEAST \$29.95 (202-785-0022). Gives an overview of the five pillars of Islam. Excellent for high school. Winner of the 1992 CINE Gold Eagle Award.

Rivers of Fire by Landmark Films. Deals with the conflict in the Middle East over a valuable natural resource-water. Reviews the controversy over the damming of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers and the conflicting claims over water by Israel, Jordan, Syria, and the Palestinians. A good illustration of the environment and international politics.

Saudi Arabi & Qatar Host U.S. Educators

Educators involved in Middle East studies and out-reach activities took part in a two-week study-tour to The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar last spring.

The program was offered by the National Council on U.S. - Arab Relations and was escorted by its president, **Dr. John Duke Anthony**. The purpose of the visit was to acquaint the educators with the cultural, political, and economic environment in the Gulf region.

"There is no substitute for face-to-face experiences as a method of learning about foreign cultures," said **Dr. Raymond B. Gonzalez** from the Political Science Department at Columbus College and a member of the tour group.

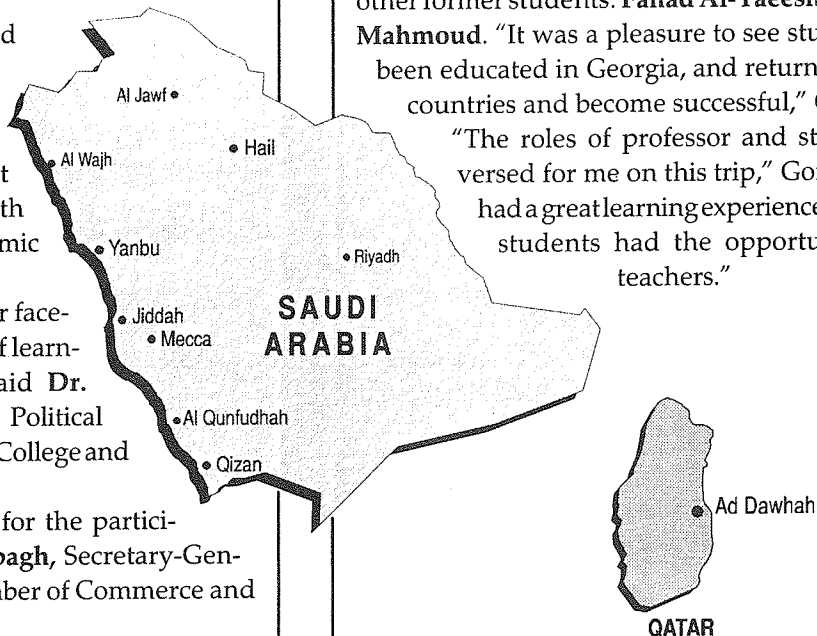
The Saudi Arabian host for the participants was **Mr. Abdallah T. Dabbagh**, Secretary-General of the Council of Saudi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The study group visited the industrial city of Jubail where they were escorted by **Mr. Mohammed Al-Harbi**, Publication and Information Specialist who is an alumnus of Columbus College in Georgia.

Al-Harbi was pleased to provide the delegation with information on industrialization in The Kingdom. "The Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu welcomes the opportunity to inform visitors, especially those associated with the National Council, about the industrial complex at Jubail and its future plans for development," he said.

The agenda for the American educators included meeting with fellow professors and administrators at King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah, and King Saud University in Riyadh. Both university visits included tours of campus facilities, and the exchange of viewpoints on higher education.

While in Qatar, the delegation was hosted by **Dr. Abdallah Al-Kobaisi**, President of the University of Qatar. The study tour in Qatar gave the Fellows from the National Council opportunities to visit many impressive museums, the Doha Racing and Equestrian Club, traditional markets, and a wildlife preserve, and to go sailing in the Gulf on an Arabian dhou (a traditional wooden seafaring vessel).



In meetings at the University of Qatar, deans and faculty members discussed many higher education topics including the possibility of setting up student- and faculty-exchange programs.

While on the study-tour, Gonzalez met with several alumni from Columbus College. In addition to meeting Mohammed Al-Harbi in Jubail, he saw two other former students: **Fahad Al-Yaesh** and **Khalid Al-Mahmoud**. "It was a pleasure to see students who had been educated in Georgia, and returned to their own countries and become successful," Gonzalez said.

"The roles of professor and student were reversed for me on this trip," Gonzalez noted. "I had a great learning experience, and my former students had the opportunity to be the teachers."

Ft. Benning MPs Join Egyptians For Training

Soldiers from Ft. Benning's (Columbus, GA) 988th Military Police Company participated in a joint training exercise in Egypt last November and December. The American soldiers joined Egyptian soldiers in **Exercise Bright Star 94** - a U.S. Central Command-conducted joint combined ground, air, amphibious and special operations exercise.

"It was a lot of hard work, but it was also a lot of fun," said Sgt. Rachael Ridenour. She noted that U.S. soldiers were involved in working in customs, providing security at the Port of Alexandria, and escorting military convoys near Cairo.

The joint exercises took place over a three-week period. All 120 participating American soldiers were returned to Ft. Benning by Christmas. Most returned by air to the Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport; a few returned with equipment by ship to the port at Jacksonville, FL.

Model Leagues of Arab States Scheduled at Colleges

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations has announced its 1994 schedule for eight regional and one national Model Arab Leagues.

The national model will be held in Washington D.C. at Georgetown University on March 9-12, 1994. **The Southeast regional model will be held in Savannah, GA, at Savannah State College on April 7-9, 1994.**

For more than a decade, the Model League of Arab States has offered college students an excellent opportunity to learn about the socio-economic and political issues facing Arab world leaders. Students represent different member states and attempt to solve problems and reach consensus on diplomatic issues.

The Model League of Arab States provides students a "real-life" educational experience outside of the classroom. The interactive nature of role playing stimulates understanding and creativity, and promotes the development of speaking and leadership skills.

Educators, likewise, benefit from having their students participate in a Model League of Arab States. Faculty Advisors have the opportunity to attend briefings by outstanding specialists in Arab studies. In formal and informal settings, faculty members are able to exchange information such as bibliographies, course syllabi, and ideas on methodologies for teaching about the Arab world.

For more information about the Model League of Arab States, interested persons may contact **Dr. Raymond B. Gonzalez**, State Director, Georgia Committee on U.S.-Arab Relations (706-568-2057) or **Jane DeLay**, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations (202-293-0801).

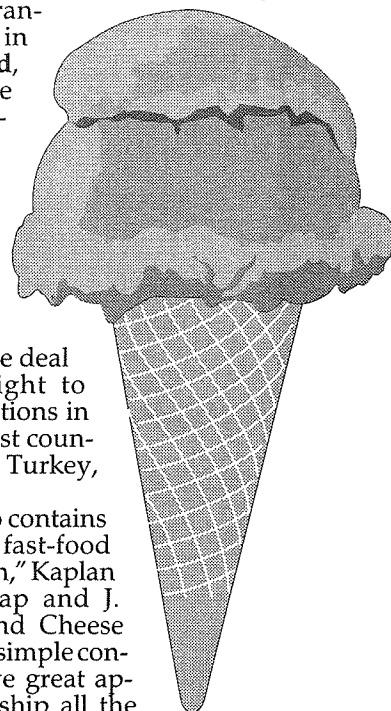
Georgia Ice Cream for the Middle East

Gorin's Homeade Ice Cream Inc., a chain of ice cream and sandwich shops with a home office based in Atlanta, recently announced a major expansion into at least six Middle East countries.

Mark Kaplan, Gorin's President, negotiated the company's largest franchise deal of \$100,000 in fees with **Faisal Joward**, the owner of a large chain of Bahrain supermarkets. The agreement gives Joward the franchise rights for Gorin's in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman. In addition, the deal gives Joward the right to subfranchise, with options in eight other Middle East countries including Egypt, Turkey, Iraq, and Iran.

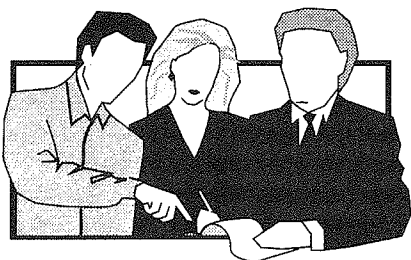
"The deal also contains rights to two other fast-food chains owned by Gorin," Kaplan said. "Our Gyro-Wrap and J. Brenner's Chicken and Cheese Steaks restaurants are simple concepts and should have great appeal. Gorin plans to ship all the ingredients for their items to the Middle East."

Some of Gorin's competitors, such as Baskin-Robbins and Dairy Queen, already have Middle East franchises. Presently, Gorin has 33 locations in four states in the U.S., with most of its shops in the Atlanta area.



SERMEISS Spring Meeting Set At Georgia Southern

The 1994 spring meeting of **The Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar (SERMEISS)** will be held at Georgia Southern University March 18-20. SERMEISS was founded in 1977 to provide scholars and teachers an opportunity to meet regularly with colleagues to share research findings and teaching concerns. The organization has consciously designed its programs to encourage interaction between teachers interested in the Middle East and Islam.

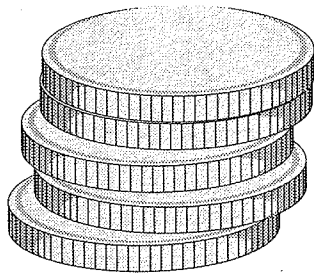


Dr. John Parcels, Department of English and Philosophy at Georgia Southern University, points out that this year's spring sessions will feature presentations on a wide variety of topics on the Middle East such as Islamic law and the Gulf War. A Saturday evening session will be devoted to viewing and critiquing three recently released films on the Torah, the Tarter Crusaders, and Rites. Parcels notes that the session will conclude on Sunday with a round-table discussion of current events in the Middle East which will be led by **Lew Ware** (Maxwell AFB). To join or request further information on SERMEISS please contact **John Parcels**, Dept. of English and Philosophy, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA 30460-8023 or call (912) 681-5909.

Take the Middle East Coin Quiz

See how many Middle East countries you can correctly match with their coin denominations.
Hint: Some of the denominations are old and no longer minted. Good luck!

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. Algeria | A. Adli Altin |
| 2. Egypt | B. Kran |
| 3. Iran | C. Budju |
| 4. Israel | D. Burbe |
| 5. Kuwait | E. Jedid |
| 6. Oman | F. Imadi Riyal |
| 7. Saudi Arabia | G. Agorot |
| 8. Tunisia | H. Baiza |
| 9. Turkey | I. Girsh |
| 10. Yeman | J. Saidi Riyal |



ANSWERS: 1-C, 2-E, 3-B, 4-G, 5-H, 6-J, 7-I, 8-D, 9-A, 10-F.

Start a Kerr Scholars Program

The Malcolm H. Kerr High School Scholars Program in Arab and Islamic Studies is designed to give high school juniors the opportunity to discover Arab and Islamic society in a culturally and intellectually challenging atmosphere. Students no longer just talk about Arab foreign and domestic policy, they meet the people who set it. Cities and sites of cultural and historical significance to the Arab countries and Islam are explored in a hands on fashion not available from ant classroom.

For information on how to start a Malcolm H. Kerr Program in your community please contact:

National Council on U.S. - Arab Relations

1735 Eye Street, NW

Suite 515

Washington, DC 20006

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MARCH 1994

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