

Turkey: Not What it Seems

On the weekend of October 6,7,8, the University of Prince Edward Island had the privilege of hosting the Atlantic Region Canadian University Press (ARCUP) conference. We also had the privilege of hearing guest speaker and journalist Valerie Kilfoil describe her experiences in a foreign country.

Kilfoil spent over a year in Turkey as a journalist, and the information she brought back with her is astounding.

Turkey was Kilfoil's first experience working as a journalist in a foreign country. It was also her first experience working in an "undemocratic" country. Although Turkey claims to be democratic, it definitely is not. It is a country where the press is dominated by fear, intimidation, and torture, says Kilfoil.

According to Kilfoil, the number of journalists persecuted each year for "crimes of thought" is staggering. In the five years since the end of the military rule in 1983, more than 2000 journalists have been tried. At least forty one journalists and editors are now in prison, for articles which were written before the military coup in 1980! These articles were perfectly legal at the time they were written. Most journalists received extremely harsh sentences after being found guilty of such non-democratic charges as: communist propaganda (this denies the journalist's freedom of speech); insulting state authorities; and inciting a crime. These two charges are favorites of the Turkish government which they use to intimidate the press about any unfavorable articles against the government.

Kilfoil herself was warned by the government to be careful of what she was writing. This warning came after Kilfoil quoted a European Community Councillor as saying: "Turkey won't enter the EC (European Community) before the year 2000". At this time the government propaganda was that Turkey's application for entry would be approved by 1993. "The Councillor I quoted was also called to the foreign ministry and told off" says Kilfoil.

The absurdity of Turkish law and its justice system can also be seen by the sentence given to a journalist named Veli Yilmaz. This man was sentenced to 1986 years in prison for an article he legally wrote before the 1980 coup. Upon appealing this sentence it was reduced by 300 years. Ac-

ording to Turkish law, Yilmaz, who is 39, will serve a maximum of 36 years.

Kilfoil told a story about a journalist who she met during her stay in Turkey. "The man, 25, was picked up by police last fall while covering a rally. He was held for twelve days without being charged, and was tortured every day. In Turkey, the police can hold someone without charging them, without letting them see a lawyer, and without letting them see another person. This journalist is still working for a left-wing magazine called 'Ikibi Adoru'."

"I also know a woman journalist who was forced to watch her daughter be tortured, and a male journalist who has trouble sitting down for long periods of time because of things done to him while he was in prison." Kilfoil also mentioned two other journalists who will never be the same as a result of torture. One journalist drools and stutters while he talks, and another walks with a permanent limp.

If torture and manipulation are not enough to control the press in Turkey, the government has other ways, says Kilfoil. The government owns all of the radio and television stations and can tell them whatever it wants them to know. Interestingly enough, there is a very high illiteracy rate in Turkey, so the only means of getting the news for many people is through the television and radio.

The government also has a monopoly on both the supply of news print and its price. Although Turkey's inflation rate has ranged between 25-80 percent over the past few years, the cost of news print has risen 300 percent between 1986-88. "Opposition leaders call the rises vengeful and unnecessary. 'Helsinki Watch' reports that where the government is angered by stories, the price of newsprint can rise overnight" reports Kilfoil. Through the control of business in Turkey, the government also controls approximately 40 percent of ads placed in newspapers.

To be a good journalist in Turkey, Kilfoil says one must believe in human rights and freedom of the press, or they are in danger of becoming a mouthpiece of the government. However, to express one's beliefs by writing stories that the government does not want, one runs the risk of being forced to surrender one's basic human rights and freedom.

As Kilfoil was leaving to come

back to Canada, she was stopped by the airport police and told she could not leave because of problems with her Visa. "I can't even begin to describe the moments of panic, rage, and complete helplessness I felt. They eventually let me on the plane after taking all of my money."

Right before Kilfoil left Turkey, she wrote an article on "Freedom of the Press". She interviewed leading journalists and quoted from reports of International Human Rights Groups. "My newspaper refused to run the story because they said it would cause too many problems." Here are the first two paragraphs of the story:

"Journalists will agree that there is freedom of the press in

Turkey if you're willing to pay the price.

And the price can be high. Harassment, criminal charges, hundreds of years of prison sentences, and torture are the standard costs."

during Kilfoil's speech she added, "If the government gets wind of what I said today, I doubt if I would be welcome back. If I was in Turkey, I would most likely be imprisoned, or asked to leave the country." Kilfoil said that as a Canadian she always felt she had some protection. However, the Turkish journalists don't have any. It is their own government that persecutes them.

After hearing all of this I really wondered if I should write this article. Kilfoil said the gov-

ernment would probably just assign this article to the file they have on her. They watch newspapers all over the world, scanning for articles about them. Their eyes will probably even reach the 'GEM' here at UPEI. It sounds incredible, but it is true. I am just glad that because of Valerie Kilfoil I am able to give our readers this important information. So if any of you reading this article are planning on working as a journalist, Turkey is definitely not the place to go!! As Canadians we have rights, and we shouldn't let the Turkish government have the chance to push us around and take those rights away!

by Terri Lyn Hall

The UPEI Tutoring Service

The tutoring service of UPEI provides educational support for its university students and for individuals in the community. Vicki Johnston, part-time coordinator of this organization, had a background in Special Education teaching in Calgary for 3 years. She went back to university to receive her masters in Education and became the director of a private learning center in Halifax. Meanwhile, the director of Student Services, Jim Griffiths, expressed an interest in an organized tutoring service for PEI. Jim had been receiving calls for help from students in grades eleven and twelve, as well as calls from university students. Vicki agreed to come back and help out. She performed a feasibility study to determine whether or not the tutoring service was a real need. It was found to be in great demand. As a result, two years ago, the tutoring service was begun.

There were no real set up costs. Vicki had a lot of material including material for children with reading problems. Students coming to be tutored bring in their assignments and books and the tutors work with them from there. This reduced costs of purchasing text books for the tutors to use.

At the busiest time for tutors last year - November and February to April, there was over 150 clients with fourteen tutors. This year there are seven tutors and this number is expected to increase as enrollment increases.

When a student from the university applies for tutoring help, a conference takes place to

discover the student's strengths, weaknesses, and other abilities in the course. For students who are not attending UPEI, their school history, their strengths and weakness in the course, as well as information on physical, mental, health, family and social factors will be obtained.

The student and tutor meet before their first tutorial session to discuss the student's needs and different methods for teaching. After each session, the tutor records the student's performance and progress made during the session. For students attending UPEI, the tutoring costs are ten dollars an hour, and for non-university students, the costs are twelve-fifty an hour. Sessions are usually a hour in length. The tutoring hours are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from four to nine pm. there is a need for more math 101 and more calculus tutors at present.

To become a tutor, applicants must reach and talk with, Vicki Johnston. Each potential tutor will be interviewed, if they are suitable, they will be hired. After each session the student will let Vicki know how well they got along with their tutor.

Generally, the tutors are third or fourth year students. The tu-



tors are all highly qualified. there is a chemistry tutor who has his masters and is working at the vet college at present. There are as well a couple of tutors who have their bachelor of education. Tutors are paid seven dollars an hour.

As of this week the tutoring service has developed new programs. They are now offering a preschool computer program for four and five year olds. As well as after school computer skills program is being offered for students in grades one to three. There is also a junior and senior high school studies program.

According to Vicki "The have been excellent success rates - (it has been) extremely, extremely positive." Basically most students who complete the program will fill out a questionnaire to give the tutoring service some feedback. The tutoring service is also growing - because of a wider range of referrals. Initially referrals came only from parents of student being tutored. Now referrals are also coming from the school system and professors on campus. There have also been a lot of referrals from guidance counsellors.

By Candi Mackey