

Cyprus minister blasts Turks

By Josh Lefkowitz

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Depicting the travesties that have incurred in Cypriot culture, the Cyprus minister of education and culture cried out for international action against the actions of the Turkish government.

Claire Angelidou spoke at Center Hall at the Busch Campus Center Wednesday.

Angelidou began by discussing what she claims has been the cultural destruction of Cyprus since 1974. This destruction has resulted from the Turkish invasion and genocide which occurred in '74, Angelidou said.

Elena Maroulleti, host of AKTINA FM, a bilingual Greek-American radio magazine show, promotes the preservation of Cypriot culture. "Cyprus has its own history and culture and we should not forget that," she said.

Cypriot culture is closely linked to the Greek world. Also, it has a strong Greek Orthodox heritage. With the Turkish invasion, many Greek churches were stripped of their icons, robbed and transformed into police stations, stables and mosques. Several cemeteries were also desecrated, Angelidou said.

The evidence of this destruction is well documented, she added.

Angelidou showed slides depicting the ruins incurred since 1974 in Cyprus.

She said the international community must become sensitized to the problems that have arisen in Cyprus since the invasion. She wants to force Turkey to give due respect to the monuments and architecture of Cyprus. She asserted that everyone has an interest in Cypriot culture. Because of this interest, everyone has a responsi-

bility in preserving it.

Maroulleti claims that Turkish propaganda has rewritten the true history of the invasion. Upon returning to her birthplace in Famagusta, Cyprus, a girl informed her of a Turkish monument. The monument was erected in memory of Turkish soldiers that had died upon entering Famagusta.

According to Maroulleti, no such violence ever occurred.

Angelidou cited an article printed in the October 1995 edition of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, where Turkey, through academic endowments, tries to promote professors in major universities to portray its view of history.

In 1990, Turkey's Ambassador to the United States said that the deaths of the Armenians was a result of a civil war initiated by Armenian Nationalists.