

Arab club to hold discussions

By Chris Hazen
Of the Emerald

The Arab Student Club is sponsoring a presentation today from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Room 167 EMU focusing on a massacre that took place at Israeli refugee camps Sabra and Shatilla in September of 1982.

Official reports indicate nearly 1,000 people were killed in the two refugee camps, while unofficial reports claim as many as 4,000 were killed during the Phalangist attack, says Hassan Al-Khatib, director of the Arab Student Club.

The Palestinians blame the massacre on the Israelis who were allegedly in charge of protecting the refugees.

"International law placed

out this responsibility, but actively facilitated the arming and provisioning of the armed militia groups which entered the camp. Israel prevented the flight of the civilian population from the camps."

The eight-hour special event includes a non-stop showing of movies, slide shows and discussions. Photographs, books and posters about the incident are also available for viewing. The presentation is free and open to the public.

The Sabra/Shatilla presentation is the first of many Arab Student Club activities scheduled for this year, Al-Khatib says.

"We'll try to present one night of Arabic movies, and we'll organize some (sports) tournaments," he says. The club will also distribute an Arab newsletter each term.

The Arab Student Club was formed a year and a half ago while the Arab Student Organization, a long-standing, national organization, was temporarily inactive. The club's objective is to create an integrated Arabian society here at the University, and in the process diffuse images of Arabs as a primitive people, he says.

Unlike the nationwide Arab Student Organization, the Arab Student Club tends to concentrate primarily on the Arabs here in Eugene, Al-Khatib says.

The club recently elected five new members to its board of directors, and Al-Khatib is optimistic about the number of students estimated to participate in the club this year.

"We have about 35 now, but last year we had 20 at the beginning of the year and it went up to 65," he says. "This year we expect 75."

To join the Arab Student Club, one must be a student, above the age of 18 and a resi-

dent of Eugene, Al-Khatib says. Students from Lane Community College are also welcome to participate.

The University is a great place for Arab students, as the college's policy regarding foreign students is very good, says last year's director who prefers to be identified as "Mohammed" because of "the situation in Saudi Arabia."

Mohammed says that "overseas, it is not that good," referring to the U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. The American government is very different from the American people, he adds, in the way they treat Arabs.

However, the Arab Student Club does not promote particular political views to its membership. Instead, the group encourages participants to read the paper and listen to the news to inform themselves about what is happening in the Middle East.

"We try and keep the club from being politicized," Al-Khatib says.



Hassan Al-Khatib

Israel under a direct, unequivocal duty to protect the civilian population in the refugee camps," states a pamphlet entitled "Sabra and Shatilla, an inquiry into the massacre."

The publication continues, "Israel not only failed to carry

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