

Students hear lecture on Palestine

By SARAH ABRAHAM
Brunswickan Staff

Hadia Dajani-Shakeel, an associate professor in the department of Middle East and Islamic Studies at the University of Toronto, spoke Wednesday in the Tilley Hall Auditorium on the topic of "Palestine: The Moral Issue." The lecture, which historically examined the Middle East conflict between the Arabs and

Israeli's from the Palestinian viewpoint was sponsored by the Political Science Student's Association. Dr. Kuhn of the department of Political Science introduced Dajani-Shakeel by stating that the implications of the Middle East crisis are of interest to us all and must be taken seriously since "their war is our war and their peace is our peace."

Dajani-Shakeel opened her remarks by stating "I specifically

called my talk "Palestine: The Moral Issue" because it is a moral and political question." She continued that in the view of most Arabs, the Balfour Declaration of 1917 which promised Palestine to the Jews as a new homeland, was one of the "most unjust, immoral acts of the twentieth century."

The Palestinian Arabs, who happen to be both Christians and Muslims are wronged,"

said Dajani-Shakeel, "because they are indigeneous population whose very existence has been denied. Put in another way, supposing they were neither Muslims or Chritians, the wrong done them would still be the same."

In 1918, one year after the Declaration, "Jews owned only two percent, or 162,500 acres out of a total land area of 6,580,755 acres. By May 1948, they owned 372,925 acres of that total."

In 1947 Britain asked the United Nations to meet to decide the future of Palestine. A special session of the General Assembly recommended that Palestine be partitioned into two states, one state for the Jews and one for the Arabs. Jerusalem was to be internationalized. "The General Assembly by a majority of only one vote, recommended partition setting aside about fifty-six percent of the most fertile and developed lands for the Jewish state," claims Dajani-Shakeel.

"At the time the Jews owned less than six percent of the land... the partition scheme gave fifty percent of the (total) land to the Jewish population. . .Forty-three percent of the less productive land went (to) the Arab state."

The problems created by the unjust treatment of the indigeneous Palestinian population have persisted unto this day. Dajani-Shakeel believes that the common view of a Palestinian is either of a "refugee or a terrorist." She continued, "Violence breeds violence. If you leave anybody alone long enough they become monsters. Thank God they have not become that yet."

Dajani-Shakeel believes strongly that the common media view of the activities of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (P.L.O.) are not

impartici. "The P.L.O. is not a terrorist organization," said Dajani-Shakeel. "It is a government that takes care of education, welfare and industry." "Until the P.L.O. was formed in 1963, King Hussein of Jordan was spokeman for the Palestinians. . . The Arab League acknowledged the P.L.O. as the sole representative of the Palestinians."

P.L.O. leader Yasser Arafat is "quite moderate, said Dajani-Shakeel, "there are much more extremists. . .he (Arafat) was ready to compromise with Israel on the Reagan Plan."

Dajani-Shakeel state that she did not feel optimistic about the future resolution of the Palestinian issue because she feels the present Israeli government is "hopeless" and "inhumane". She cited cases of the bombing of villages and widespread massacres which have occurred since Israeli Prime Minister Begin has been in power. Palestinian refugees have exited for years and now number over one million. "In 1967, refugees fled or were deported to the west bank. . . some were victims of napaim bombings."

Dajani-Shakeel described a common sight today in refugee camps in which "practically ten people stay in one tent with their heads and feet sticking out to the rain." The following prayer or a Palestinian refugee child was read by Dajani-Shakeel to illustrate very human and moral side to the Palestinian refugee issue:

"Dear God,

When we lied down at night, we saw two bright stars. My brother tells me they are your eyes. Our mother says (they) are two holes in our tent.

Who is right?

Reply,

Yours

Palestinian Child."



CHRIS CHAPMAN Photo

Some people have obviously been waiting for winter for a long time. This man was seen skiing around Buchanan Field on Tuesday morning.

Neill celebrates Christmas

By WARD ANGEL
Neill House

On Thursday, December 2, the residents of Neill House, accompanied by a few Special Education students, hosted a Christmas party for the students at the Murray F. Humes Memorial School for mentally handicapped children. This is the second time the gentlemen of Neill have sponsored the party, the first time being in December, 1980.

To begin the party, the students of both the school and the university introduced themselves to each other and paired up to share the afternoon together.

The ensuing two hours kept all participants pretty active. After the introductions, everybody made ornaments and completely covered the Christmas tree with decorations. (It should be noted that the university students might consider taking lessons, from our younger friends, in the fine art of making Christmas decorations.)

Each pair of students then took some time to play together, offering all a chance to get to know their new friends a little better. Everyone then sat down to relax and en-

joy a couple of films. Actually, the students at the school wore out the hosts of the party and it was the hosts who wanted the rest. A Christmas carol sing-along followed in which everyone participated.

But what would a Christmas party be without an appearance from the old guy himself? Everyone's face lit up when Santa came into the room. Each of the children at the school then received a pre-Christmas surprise from Santa's toy bag.

The afternoon of events closed off with a lunch for the children.

You could see the happiness on each and every participant's face and it is known that the

reward of being there was indescribable.

The residents of Neill House would like to express their sincere thanks to all those who helped in making their party a success. Included in this list are the major department stores, family restaurants, clubs, individual citizens and other establishments and organizations. Without their support, there would not have been a party.

The hosts would also like to thank the staff at the Murray F. Humes School and the families of the children for allowing them to put on the party and share a couple of hours with some very special people.

Carnival coming in January

The recent snowfall should be inspiration for all you Carnival keepers to get your act together for snow sculptures, parade floats, and just getting out and having a good time. Be sure to grab lots of zzz's (and your piggybank) over the X-mas holidays 'cause Cartoon Carni '83 strikes the first full week back, that is January

12-15. Watch for a special Brunswickan issue, January 7, filled with all the details of Carni '83. Meanwhile if you have any questions regarding

the location of your snow sculpture or parade transportation, contact C.B. at 453-4912. Bye for now and good luck on exams.



THE CHESTNUT

Sunday Night
is movie night on the Big Screen TV
Tuesday Night is Ladies Night
(all night and no cover charge)
Wednesday Night is STUDENTS NIGHT
Door prizes courtesy of Salad Gardens, Antique Arms Museum plus many others.
Watch for our final student night of the year coming up this month. Door prizes every half hour. You and three friends could win a tour of Moosehead Breweries.

Playing Upstairs
Paul Webber
specializing in Country Rock