

Prisoners of Conscience Week winds up

Prisoners of Conscience Week winds up on Oct. 23 after its week long observance world wide by members of Amnesty International. The theme of this year's Prisoners of Conscience Week is human rights activists who have been tortured or imprisoned for their activities. The campaign against political killings, and the Sri Lanka Action are other concerns facing Amnesty International groups around the world.

The local chapter of AI is part of the Canadian section of the worldwide independent human rights movement. Along with its francophone counterpart, Fredericton's AI branch will this year work on two cases of human rights violations.

Hannah Lane, a member of the local AI group said in an interview that her group is currently investigating the case of a man arrested in Paraguay. The group is trying to determine the reasons for his arrest and whether he is receiving humane treatment.

The second case "adopted" by Fredericton's AI group is that of Pytor Rumachik. A citizen of the USSR, Rumachik is a Baptist minister imprisoned for heading an "unregistered" congregation near Moscow. He was arrested most recently in August 1980. Rumachik has so far, spent fourteen years in strict regime labour camps for his religious beliefs.

Amnesty International was established in Britain in 1961. It acts as an international "watchdog" by investigating and reporting

human rights violations. It is a non-partisan, movement that has supporters in over 150 countries. Its three point mandate is as follows: "to secure the immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience; to ensure fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners and to abolish torture and executions.

The movement is apolitical. It receives no funds from any government in order to retain impartiality. All individual donations to the International Secretariat and each donation may not exceed five percent of its annual budget.

Hannah Lane said that AI does not necessarily support or oppose any political system or government. It believes human rights must be respected universally. AI evaluates international human rights standards by under the criteria adopted by the UN in 1948 in its Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The movement's campaign consists of sending fact-finding missions around the globe to accurately research and verify cases of human rights violations. Amnesty is then requested for victims of torture or other forms of abuse by mobilizing public opinion to put pressure on the governments to release prisoners of conscience. Letters, petitions, and telegrams of protest often flood government official's offices and foreign embassies. Ms. Lane said that the point is to warn governments that the world eyes are watching it if it mistreats a human because

of their non-violent expression of their opinions, the peaceful practice of their chosen religion, or for their colour, sex, ethnic origin or language. She said the thousands of letters that simultaneously arrive at a foreign office from AI members can "cause instant aggravation through the mail." Many of the prisoners supported by AI and later released have expressed their gratitude to the organization for its vital effort to link their case with the world.

To close Prisoners of Conscience Week, Fredericton's AI groups will feature ongoing displays at STU and the Centre Commutaire. On Oct. 23, the groups will host a reception in Rm. 203, Edmund Casey Hall, STU. Guest speakers, Inez Flemington, Dan Gleason and Maithili Wilson, will talk about AI's work in Korea, Latin America and Sri Lanka respectively. The public is invited to attend this recep-

Yearbook update

By BRENDA PAUL
Brunswickan Staff
Contrary to 1982-1983 yearbook editor Randy MacDonald's earlier statements of a month ago, the 82-83 yearbook is still not off to the printers.

"There were mistakes in everything", claims 1983-1984 advertising manager Clayton Burns. He and a few others have been up until 4:00 a.m. most nights making corrections on the copy. According to Burns there were errors in approximately 200 graduates' names and in addition, a light filter was needed to salvage some damaged photos.

When asked about MacDonald's statements that the yearbook was on its way to the printers, Burns remarked, "He lied."

On the recommendation of this year's staff, MacDonald, who is attending the University of Western Ontario should not receive honouaria.

Currently, last minute corrections are being made which means the yearbook should be to the printers by the end of the week and hopefully available to students by the end of November.

tion between 7-10 p.m. to ask questions about the group's activities this year.

In addition, AI will also have two benefit showings

of the film "1984" in Tilley Hall, Room 102, UNB on Oct. 23. Tickets for both screenings at 7 and 9 cost \$2.50.

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UNB gets new computer

UNB's computer, located in Head Hall, is in the process of being replaced. The new computer, an IBM 3081, has 4 times the computing capabilities of its predecessor, and is the most powerful computer operated by an Atlantic university.

Both the old and new computers will be in use until December, when the new computer will complete its "test" stage. Already, however, students may have noticed that terminal

access has improved and that programs are running quicker. David MacNeil, director of the Computer Centre, is confident that the long lines of students waiting for access will be non-existent by December.

The IBM 3081 is actually 2 computers. It is UNB's sixth computer, and is capable of processing 250,000 instructions per second. The computer is used by the 2 campuses of UNB, Mount Allison, UPEI and the 3 campuses of the University of Moncton.

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