

AI Week raises money and hopes

By VALERIE MATHESON

THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Prisoner of Conscience Week successfully concluded Sunday evening with music and drama.

AI had a busy week, raising \$1100.00 by hosting such events as a fun run (which raised \$743.00), an information night, movies and lectures.

An Information Night held Tuesday night hosted speakers from such organizations as Oxfam and the Red Cross Society.

Friday night's activities included a debate between four students from Queen Elizabeth High School and a "Colors of Hope" video on human rights in Argentina.

The topic of the debate was whether or not sanctions and disinvestments would have an impact on human rights in South Africa.

"The South Africans depend on foreign marketing to have a stable economy," said John LaGrand, the leader of the government side of the debate. His position was that imposing these sanctions would improve rights in South Africa.

Christine DeWolf, a member of the opposition in the debate, said the economic situation in South Africa would fall apart.

"We want to educate these people, not starve them out of their countries," says DeWolf.

The students on both sides of the debate had strong arguments, but the three judges chose the government side to be the most convincing.

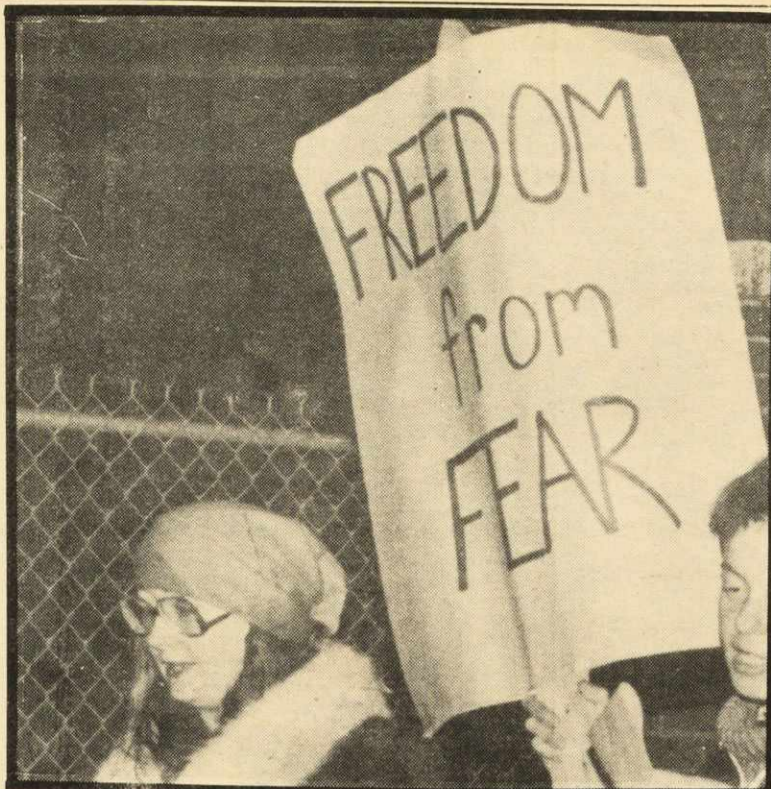
A moving one-act play, a performance by the Cooter Family, a recital by classical guitarist Doug Johnson, and a mime presentation by Christian Murray wrapped up the week's activities on Sunday night at the SUB.

The play *Anywhere but Here*, written by Sue Adams, a member of the Antigonish Chapter of AI, was set in a prison. The actors and actresses portrayed the true reality of the life some prisoners lead.

One of the mime presentations, *The Firing Squad*, by Murray, enacted the assassination of a prisoner. Murray, although humorous in his pantomiming, conveyed the agony involved in torture.

Alex Neve, treasurer of AI, said he hopes the group will be able to send 'a little something' around Christmas time to the families of the prisoners with the money raised.

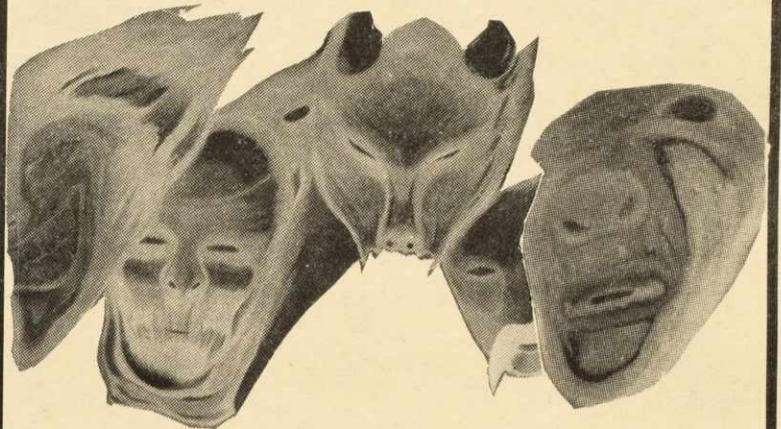
"It is overwhelming what human beings can accomplish when they pull together and this week is a prime example," said Neve.



Prisoner of Conscience Week raised the hopes and placards of Amnesty International supporters. Photo by Dal Photo.

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