

# Amnesty International pleased with student concern

by Nancy Ross

There are countless children who have become victims of State persecution. Children throughout the world are being murdered, tortured, imprisoned, and are suffering many other violations of their rights, says Cori Douma, a member of Halifax's Amnesty International (AI) group. This has happened to these children because of their own or their parents' political ideology, race or religion.

This past week AI had a booth set up in the main floor of the SUB, providing students with information about AI's philosophy and the causes they fight for. The United Nations has declared this the year of the child and AI accordingly put special emphasis on the atrocities committed to children of prisoners of conscience.

'Prisoners of conscience' are those men and women who have been imprisoned anywhere for their beliefs, colour, ethnic origin or religion, provided they have neither used nor advocated violence. AI works for the release of these prisoners.

Local AI members were



pleased by students' interest in their booth. "Perhaps students are becoming interested in social issues and international concerns like they were in the 'sixties", said Douma.

With more than 200,000 members in 111 countries, AI has worked to protest and restore the human rights of prisoners of conscience and other persecuted individuals

since its founding in 1961. Commonly each local AI group has three individual prisoners of conscience assigned to it and works to secure their freedom from oppression. Halifax's AI group, for example, has helped free several Chilean prisoners, a teacher from the Philippines and an Indonesian businessman; as well as working on special campaigns in Argentina and in

several African countries.

At present they are working on behalf of a Peruvian Trade Unionist, a Moroccan teacher sentenced to 32 years imprisonment and they are trying to obtain the release of prisoners in an Indonesian prison camp who have been detained since 1965 without charge or trial.

In 1977 AI received the Nobel Peace Prize.

AI is independent of any government, political faction, ideology or religious creed.

Regular organization-wide urgent action campaigns are conducted by AI in the form of mass letter writing and pub-

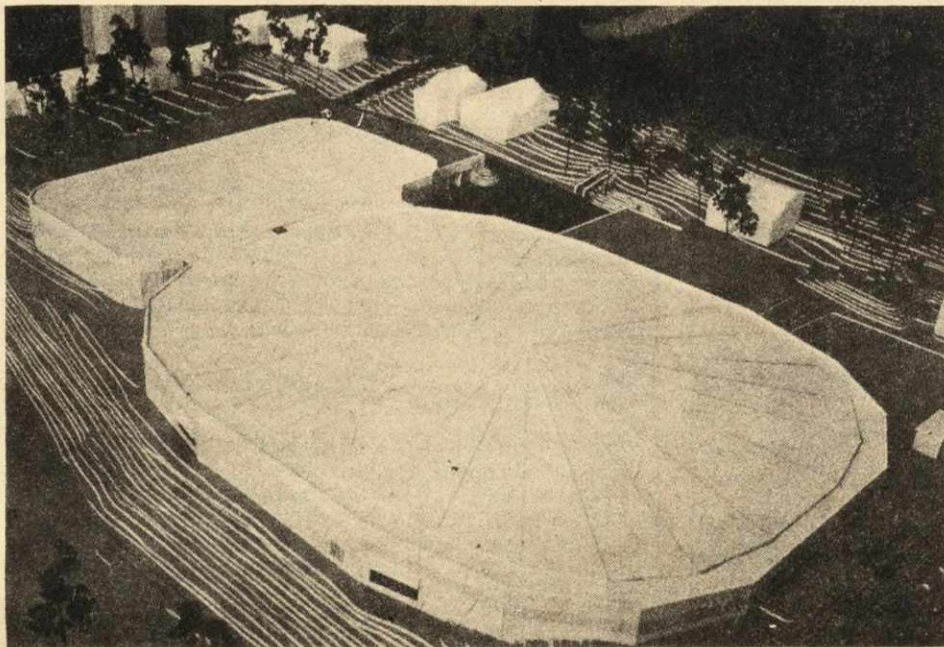
licity on behalf of individual prisoners whose cases are particularly critical due to a sudden deterioration of health, an imminent threat of torture, execution and other such situations where immediate action is necessary.

In co-operation with the Spanish Department, AI will show a film on Guatemala called 'My country occupied' on Friday, November 2, 12:30 p.m. at the McMechan Room, Killam Library.

Douma said their next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 19, in the SUB at 8:00 p.m.

## Aid for new rink

# Government Stalling



A model of the Dalplex with a proposal for a new rink.

Dal Photo / Grandy

by Tom Regan

Not enough insurance money and no decision by the provincial government on the amount of aid to be given to Dalhousie are the main reasons why no work has begun on a new hockey rink for Dalhousie, said Dick Matthews, president of the Dalhousie Student Union and Henry Hicks, president of Dalhousie University.

Derek Burton, advisor on higher education to the provincial government and the man responsible for making sure provincial funds reach Nova Scotian universities, says no request for funding has reached him yet.

"The decision is now out of the hands of the campus,"

said Matthews. "It's totally up to cabinet. The one million dollars insurance money is nowhere near enough. We are going to need at least one and a half million dollars and there has been no sign yet that cabinet is prepared to make a decision."

Matthews hoped to get a commitment for aid from the provincial government when he meets with Terry Donahue, Minister of Education in two week's time.

Dr. Hicks said government aid is necessary because the university hopes to build a rink that is a considerable improvement over the old one.

"We'd like to build a rink with an international size ice surface," said Hicks. "If we

build it next to Dalplex then we'd like to give it an air supported roof but there has been no decision on where the new rink is going to be situated. I'm very unhappy at the delay. The government restraint policy may account for the delay but I'd like to see them decided very soon."

However, Derek Burton said it could still be a while before the money arrives. "As far as I know, the university hasn't asked for any money," said Burton. "Usually I hear about these things right away but perhaps the minister (Donahue) and the premier are still talking it over. As it stands right now, I don't know anything about it."

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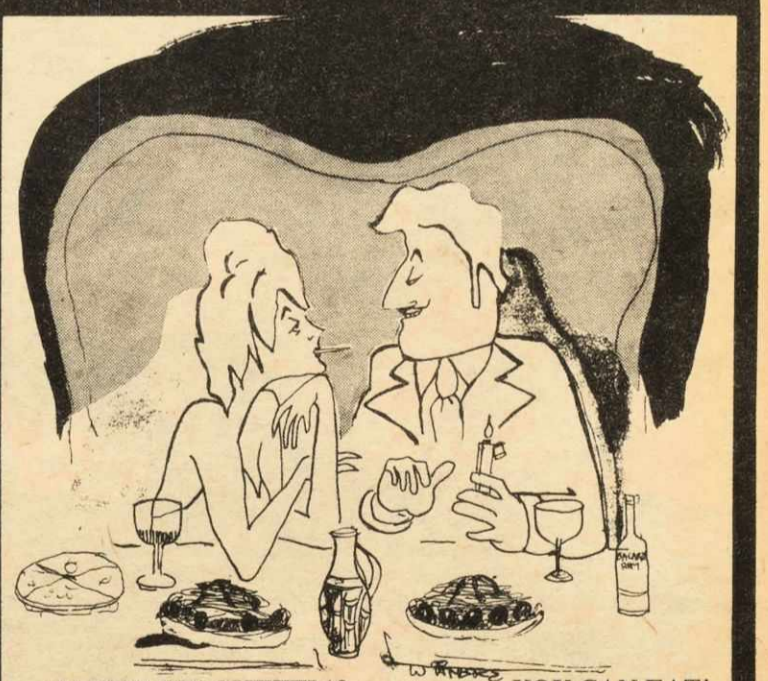
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