

Dalhousie club of Amnesty International

By JOHN HUSTINEN and DAVID OLIE

THE HALIFAX CHAPTER of Amnesty International currently 140 members strong, is planning to expand its operations, including a move into local high schools and university campuses.

Amnesty International is an independent, grassroots organization with an enviable record of helping preserve basic human rights around the world.

With an active support and membership of over 500,000 people in over 160 countries, it has proven effective throughout its 24 year history. It has national sections made up of networks of groups and individuals in 43 countries.

A total of 5,073 people jailed for non-violent expression of their beliefs were adopted by AI in 1983. In the same year 1,744 prisoners were released and 1,339 new cases were taken up.

AI goes to battle against

brutality and achieves its victories armed with nothing more than pens and paper. The main activity of its members is letter-writing, both to their adopted prisoners and to the regimes that oppress them.

Free-thinking citizens seeking non-violent change are persecuted systematically by their own governments in over half the countries of the world. The fight to fair trials, to not be executed outside the law, and to not be tortured are all under attack—worldwide.

AI is devoted to telling the truth in these matters, and to giving the victims some shred of hope. The organization's integrity and scrupulously verified information have gained it respect around the world. AI was awarded the Nobel Prize for

Peace in 1977.

Even Canada has come under investigation and criticism from AI. It has worked on behalf of victims of the 1970 War Measures Act, protested conditions in Canadian penitentiaries, and is leading the fight against reinstatement of the death penalty. A principle of AI is that no member is allowed any responsibility for action against abuses in their own country.

In 1984, AI launched a two year, worldwide Campaign Against Torture. In conjunction with this the Canadian section has begun a National Campaign Against Torture in 1985. Of special concern are cases of systematic torture during interrogations (electric shocks, severe beatings and mock executions), harsh prison

conditions, the involvement of doctors in the process of torture, and punishments such as floggings and amputations decreed by law. This 20th century phenomenon outdoes, by the sheer quantity of its victims and sophistication of techniques, the barbarism of other centuries.

AI feels that people with the benefits of university education have a special obligation, an obligation to translate their knowledge and idealism into practical action in aid of those less fortunate. AI offers a chance to make a difference in a cruel and harsh world. Get involved; the lives of innocent people depend on it.

An organizational meeting for interested students is scheduled for Jan. 31, in room 301 of the SUB, at 8 p.m.

WANTED



EDITOR(S)

THE GAZETTE

Once again, *The Gazette* is beginning its annual search for an editor, co-editors, or editorial collective for the 1985-86 publishing year.

Required talents include an ability to pass on writing skills, knowledge of copy editing, an understanding of layout and design, an ability to work well with people, a willingness to be responsible for the content and quality of a weekly newspaper, an ability to handle budgets, and an understanding of the functions and philosophy of the student press.

Nominations will be open until February 8 at 5 pm. All resumes should be dropped off at *The Gazette* offices, room 312, third floor, SUB.

Wednesday Nights

MEET THE BAND NIGHTS

This Week:

"AURA"

A new band featuring the former lead singer from 'Lighthouse' and the former bass player from Gino Vinelli's band.

IN THE GRAWOOD LOUNGE

DAL FILM FUN 84/85

Eraserhead
&
Clockwork Orange



8:00 pm
Wed., Jan. 30th
McInnes Room, SUB