THIS WEEK IN THE GRAWOOD

Movies Jan. 25th—Cat People Jan. 26th—Looking for Mr. Goodbar

No Cover. Movies start at 8pm.

There's still time to enter the

Final Draw Date - February 20th

Long Distance Contest.

March in snow for Curtis

By DAVID OLIE

SIXTY PEOPLE BRAVED icy roads and falling snow last Sunday night to take a stand for justice.

A candlelight vigil in front of the United States consulate in Scotia Square was organized by friends and supporters of Bruce Curtis, a young man from Middleton now serving a twenty year jail term in New Jersey for aggravated manslaughter. Sunday was the eve of Curtis's twenty-first birthday.

In attendance at the vigil were members of the Curtis family, a number of senior citizens, and provincial NDP leader Alexa McDonough. The participants proceeded from the closed consulate to the Grand Parade, where protest songs were sung until the conclusion.

Organizers were pleased with the results. "People of the (Annapolis) Valley know what an injustice has been committed," says Sharyn Owens-Stevenson, chair of the Vigil Committee. Supporters of Curtis hope to make people aware of his case and gather more contributions to his defence fund.

Sunday's action was followed up Monday when Carol Curtis, sister of the jailed man, presented a letter on his behalf to officials at the consulate.

Curtis was convicted in 1982 in the case of the shooting of Rosemary Podgis of New Jersey, mother of Curtis's King's-Edgehill schoolmate Scott Franz. The shooting occured during a visit by Curtis to the Podgis home, the same night that Alfred Podgis was shot by his stepson, Franz, during a quarrel.

Franz, who testified against Curtis, is now serving a similar sentence.

Curtis supporters are disturbed by irregularities during the trial and the severity of the sentence. "The problem is the adversarial system of justice," says Jennifer Wade, a Curtis supporter. Officials were more concerned with winning and losing than finding the truth, she believes.

Supporters are also bothered by the lack of concern shown by authorities. "Very little help has come from provincial officials," says Wade. She is now preparing letters to be sent to Ron Giffin, provincial Attourney General and other legislators.

The next legal avenue for Curtis supporters is to obtain a writ of *habeas corpus*, to allow his case to be heard again in the courts. There may also be a move to have him repatriated to Canada to serve his sentence.



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