

Human Rights Week Schedule Thursday, November 17

- 8 a.m. - 24-hour Vigil for Prisoners of Conscience**
From 8 a.m. Thursday until 8 a.m. Friday, Amnesty International will hold a letter-writing vigil in the Pit. The vigil will conclude with a procession to Franklin Street.
- 2:30 p.m. - "Salvador"**
Oliver Stone ("Platoon") directs this story of life in El Salvador and Central America with the Death Squads. Abernethy Viewing Room.
- 3:30 p.m. - Nicaraguan Situation**
Mark Cook will speak on the issues of human life and rights in Nicaragua and Central America.
- 4 p.m. - Life in South Africa**
Guma Mthobeli will speak on a personal level about the oppression of human beings in South Africa. Union 224.
- 5:30 p.m. - The Peace Corps Experience**
Dinner discussion with two Peace Corps leaders in the Y Lounge.
- 5:30 p.m. - Oxfam Break-Fast Meal**
Sponsored by the Newman Center (Newman Center) and the Hunger Action Committee (Gerrard Hall).
- 6 p.m. - Porn Awareness**
This program deals with and explores the exploitation of women and its human rights implications. 209 Hanes.
- 7:15 p.m. - The Relevance of Ineffective Protest**
Norman Porter, professor of psychology at UNC-Greensboro, will speak. Union 213.
- 8 p.m. - CIA Covert Action**
Phillip Agee, former CIA agent, will speak on the CIA's actions and consequent violations of human rights. Hamilton 100.
- 9 p.m. - "Nigger"**
An abstract play dealing with intra-racial discrimination throughout the Afro-American experience. Cabaret.

Human rights group to hold vigil

By LACY CHURCHILL
Staff Writer

Amnesty International will hold a 24-hour vigil in the Pit today in an effort to free prisoners of conscience throughout the world, said Kelly Rudin, coordinator of the event. "Prisoners of conscience are people arrested for the non-violent expression of their beliefs — political, religious or otherwise," she said. Amnesty International, which describes itself as a non-political organization, will construct a mock jail in the Pit. Amnesty members will sit in the jail throughout the 24-hour period, representing various prisoners of conscience.

The group's goals are to send out as many letters as possible, generate interest and educate the people that violations of human rights do exist, but they can be fought, Rudin said.

Amnesty believes many of the prisoners have been jailed without actually being charged, she said. Letters to government leaders in the countries that are holding the prisoners will be available for anyone to sign. The letters request an explanation for the arrests and humane treatment for the prisoners, because torture is common in some of the jails, she said.

as many people to sign the letters as possible, Rudin said. "Each signature on each letter brings a prisoner closer to being freed."

"Unfortunately, more governments are human rights abusers than not, and they range from right-wing extremists to left-wing extremists," she said.

The prisoner the Chapel Hill chapter focuses on is Nabil Ibrahim, a Syrian man who was imprisoned for being a member of an outlawed political party.

Ibrahim has been in jail for four years, but has never been formally charged with a crime. He is being held

at a Syrian military interrogation center, and because Syria has very effective methods of torture, Ibrahim's life could be in danger.

Each case Amnesty is involved in is researched very carefully to make sure there has been no use of violence by the prisoner, she said.

"We know it works," Rudin said. "It just takes constant pressure on these governments instead of throwing up our hands in despair. It just takes perseverance."

The group will walk to the post office at 8 a.m. Friday to mail the letters. Anyone who would like to walk is welcome.

Panel urges state to encourage industry

By PATRICIA BROWN
Staff Writer

The General Assembly should concentrate on pulling out-of-state industry to North Carolina, while continuing the state's "growth from within" policy, a legislative panel studying economic development said Monday.

The Legislative Research Commission's Committee on Economic Development and Recruiting, which has been meeting since January, compiled a draft report that contains more broad statements than specific recommendations.

"We reached the conclusion that we've got to both grow from within and bring industry in from out of state," said Rep. Foyle Hightower, D-Anson, co-chairman of the committee. "We can't depend entirely on someone from out of state."

The policy of growth from within encourages rural areas to develop. "This policy consists of taking the industries we have and trying to expand and develop them," said Sen. J.K. Sherron, D-Wake, co-chairman of the committee. "We feel there are a lot of opportunities here in North Carolina."

The policy, started in 1987, provides money for job creation in the 20 most distressed N.C. counties, but only 17 counties fall into this category, said Don Carrington, deputy director of the Raleigh employment commission's labor market division.

The committee wants to change the definition of "distressed" to be based only on the per-capita income of the county and eliminate the current

provision that also restricts funds to counties with unemployment rates of 7 percent or more.

"For new firms coming into the area, it may make a difference on which county they choose to go to," Carrington said.

Distressed counties would be attractive to new businesses because the policy reduces the labor costs,

bringing land costs down at the same time, he said.

The committee also discussed how to make North Carolina more physically attractive, an important factor to industries selecting a business site.

Eliminating litter should be a higher priority for the Department of Correction, which supplies inmates for the clean-up task, Hightower said.

The daily wage for inmates was set at \$1 in a 1975 bill, but a \$2 wage might give an incentive to inmates and would keep pace with inflation, he said.

Litter pick-up and improvements in highways, water, sewage and landscape were all suggested to make North Carolina more attractive to prospective industries.

Penalty

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Class discrimination is also rampant because 90 percent of the accused cannot afford lawyers, and many who can are only able to hire family lawyers who are not used to criminal trials, Ingle said. "With 103 dead bodies and 2,200 waiting to be killed, we are hard pressed to find truth and justice in the system. The death penalty is the

sordid story of political manipulation and cowardice.

"When our system of justice leads to so much injustice, it is a system which does not engender much respect," he said.

Though many Americans support the death penalty, citizens should speak out in protest and provide witness that it is wrong, he said.

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