

NO MORE 'WRIGHT' THING!

aren, she
sty mem-
d of "very
is under
prisoners
not only
also sub-
ture and

tie it in that week with capital punish-
ment, because that's the same thing
that happened to Jesus," explained
Ladley, a Notre Dame theology in-
structor.

In addition, a group of Notre Dame
students traveled to Rochester early
this year to attend a lecture by Sister
Helen Prejean, CSJ, whose opposi-
tion to capital punishment is
well-known. The movie "Dead
Man Walking" was based on
her book by the same name.

Several members of Notre
Dame's Amnesty group have
also signed a pe-
tition spon-
sored by the

diocesan Consis-
tent Life Ethic of-
fice against the
death penal-
ty. The Con-
sistent Life Ethic
links together the
issues of abortion,
capital punish-
ment, war, eu-
thanasia and
poverty.

Emily Farstad, 17, admitted
that standing up for her beliefs is not
always easy. Last year, she endured
criticism for her part in a one-day

demonstration at downtown Elmira's
Wisner Park. She carried a sign
protesting a planned execution facili-
ty for inmates at Southport Correc-
tional Facility near Elmira.

"Lots of people yelled four-let-
ter words out their (car) win-
dows," Emily said.

Although Emily admit-
ted to being self-conscious
at first, she said that "you
get over it" if you believe
strongly enough in the cause.
She added that she's motivated by
the notion of speaking out for
those who have been si-
lenced.

"The people we write
(letters) for can't
ever do that,"
Emily comment-

ed.
As it turned out, local gov-
ernment officials
eventually called
off plans for the execu-
tion site she'd protested.

Additionally, Emily noted that she
was part of two Amnesty letter-
writing efforts in which she
learned that prisoners were
eventually freed.

"That was wonderful," Emily said.
"It's really worthwhile to think that

something you could do could save
someone's life."

Although Karen hasn't yet taken
part in public protests, she said she
would do so if necessary.

"I wouldn't mind it. You would do
what it takes," Karen remarked.

Unfortunately, Emily said, too many
people don't get involved in causes be-
cause they don't believe one voice will
make a difference.

"They think it really doesn't matter,"
Emily said.

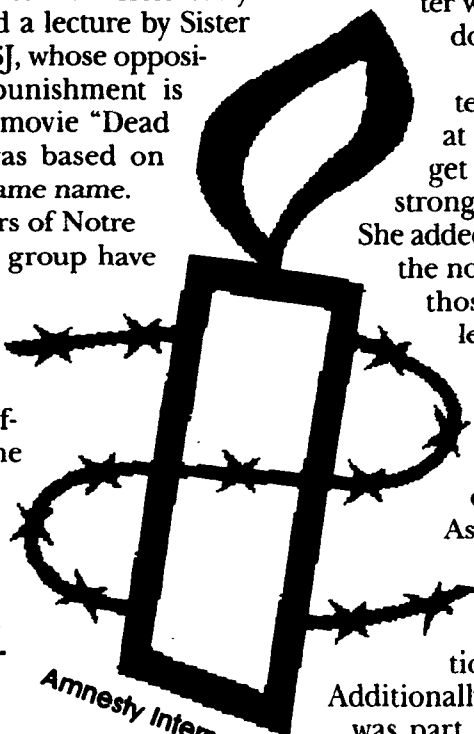
Karen said she encourages other
teens toward activism by asking them
to picture themselves as a prisoner
Amnesty is working to free.

"How would you feel if it was you?"

What if this was happening in your
country?" she said.

Karen, Cassandra and Emily — all se-
niors at Notre Dame — said they plan
to continue their activism after they
enter college. Karen, for one, said her
Amnesty work is so vital that she has-
n't even briefly considered ceasing her
involvement.

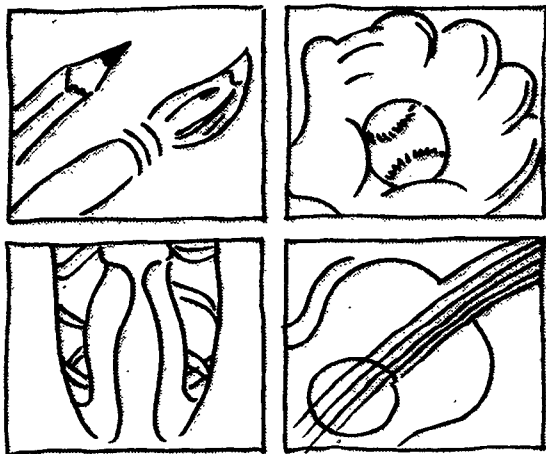
"I have to do it. I can't ignore it," she
concluded.



Amnesty International logo

Story by staff writer Mike Latona

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Upcoming Supplements

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Publication Date: October 16 - Deadline: October 2

This special supplement will address various aspects of
vocations and mission work in today's church — from the moti-
vations of young men studying for the priesthood to the efforts
of women religious mapping the future of religious life; from
the dwindling vocations statistics in the United States to the
burgeoning numbers entering religious life abroad.

PARENTING/FAMILY LIFE

Publication Date: November 28 - Deadline: November 14

Expanding on its monthly Parenting/Family Life feature, the
Courier will publish this section to offer a closer look at raising
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