times have you seen a brown model in a magazine ad?"

The Scarborough Civic Centre celebrated the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on Friday, March 19 at an event sponsored by the Scarborough Youth Council and the City of Toronto East Community and Race Relations Committee.

Though the day was celebrated early, its *raison d'être* was not lost on the participants.

"March 21 is an important day in our history," says planning committee member Nafisha Budhwani, eighteen.

On March 21, 1960, the Sharpeville massacre occurred in South Africa. Sixty-nine black protestors were killed by police during a peaceful rally against apartheid.

The United Nations declared March 21 as the special day in memory of those who died.

"We should be proud that Canada was the first country to organize an official national campaign," says Reza Kajbaf, eighteen, another committee member.

Hedy Fry, secretary of state for multiculturalism and the status of women, launched the 1999 campaign during South African President Nelson Mandela's visit to Canada in September, 1998.

"The mission was to get young people involved and also to empower them to help us, as a society, eliminate racism," Fry says.

Racism is a barrier to social progress, as it "traps us as individuals, [preventing us from realizing] our potential in the long run." ◆