

Graphic by Tom Ettel

Political prisoners aided

By STEWART WRIGHT
Of the Emerald

Anton Tewa is serving an eight-year jail sentence for circulating a declaration of independence.

Tewa is an Indonesian "prisoner of conscience" adopted by the Eugene chapter of Amnesty International, an organization devoted to freeing people like him throughout the world.

Eileen Malloy, an AI member from Berkeley, Calif., talked to a group of prospective members Sunday night. She listed three "mandates" which AI works toward: freeing prisoners of conscience, working for speedy trials for all prisoners, and working for the end of torture and the death penalty.

The organization works both by assigning a group to work for a particular prisoner's release, and by "country campaigns" — programs that attempt to exert pressure on a country as a whole. The adoption groups work by showering the government involved with letters and telegrams while aiding and encouraging the prisoner and his family.

"The country campaigns are used only when it isn't feasible to adopt particular prisoners," Malloy said.

The AI group also maintains an Urgent Action Network. Members of this network don't work in groups, but agree to send telegrams and letters on behalf of those in immediate danger of death, or those who are being tortured or are in urgent need of medical care.

The AI volunteers are not assigned to prisoners in their own country, a policy consistent with the group's effort to remain nonpartisan and nonpolitical, Malloy said. She said it was reassuring that criticism of AI has come from both ends of the political spectrum and has always been general rather than concerned with specific cases.

The AI group chooses its cases after extensive research based on information from people inside the country involved, and on information from travelers through the country.

For more information, call David Claussenius, a coordinator for the Eugene group, at 344-8118.

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CLOSED TUESDAYS

Group solicits bill opposition

By DAVID STEINMAN
Of the Emerald

A proposed U.S. Senate Bill would subject nuclear power protestors to federal felonies and make it illegal to distribute material opposed to a war in which the United States is engaged, says Frank Wilkinson, executive director of the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation.

"The United States will take an incalculably long step toward a police state if U.S. Senate Bill 1722 is passed," Wilkinson says. "Every religious group in the nation has gone on record against S.B. 1722. The American Civil Liberties Union is against the bill. The AFL-CIO has condemned the bill, and Chief Justice Warren Burger declared its enactment would

lead to anarchy in the criminal code."

Wilkinson, in Eugene as part of a nationwide speaking tour that will next take him to Portland as well as Washington, California, Utah and other Western states, says he is concerned the bill will destroy the Bill of Rights.

The 700-page-long S.B. 1722 would make federal criminal acts of the following:

- Distributing written material opposed to a war in which the United States is engaged.
- Picketing in front of an induction center, urging draftees to burn their draft cards and counseling a conscientious objector not to register for the draft.
- Obstructing a government function, such as protesting in front of a nuclear power plant, would now be a federal offense, instead of simple trespassing.
- Urging obstruction of a federal building would fall under the new crime of solicitation — even if the demonstration never occurred, or if it took place without obstruction.
- Publishing documents like the Pentagon Papers would be subject to prosecution under the re-enactment of the 1917 Espionage Act and the 1950 Subversive Activities Control Board Act.
- Striking for wage increases

by labor unions would be restricted through anti-riot, extortion and blackmail sections of the bill.

And the bill would increase federal jurisdiction over state laws governing robbery, arson and theft — denying state judges discretion in sentencing convicted persons to an appropriate punishment. The bill could increase prison time served up to 92 percent.

"Kennedy introduced S.B. 1722 as a matter of political expediency," Wilkinson says. "He was afraid that without the support of Southern senators, he would not be elected chair of the Judiciary Committee. Kennedy's support of S.B. 1437 and now S.B. 1722 is to build fences with the ultra-right-wing conservatives. Kennedy knows he already has a strong liberal following. Now he wants conservative support.

"Oregonians should write to Sens. Packwood and Hatfield. If Packwood and Hatfield receive only 10 letters from people opposed to the bill, they might not think too much of it, but if they receive 1,000 letters opposed to S.B. 1722, they'll vote against the bill."

Packwood and Hatfield can be reached by mail if letters are addressed with the senator's name, U.S. Senate, Washington D.C.

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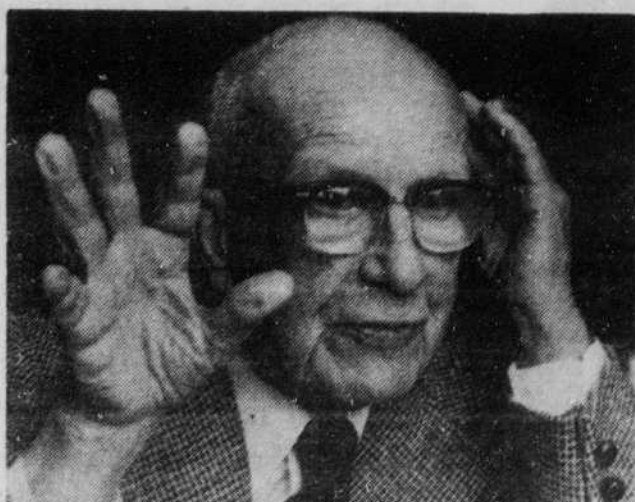
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