



Sara Ali, an undeclared freshman, and Tara Nikzi, a freshman majoring in international studies, sign a petition in favor of economic sanctions against Burma.

Boycott: Company buys teak wood

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Clinton's executive order by limiting the city's right to do business or engage in contracts with any company with Burmese business ties.

Although Shaw said he felt the meeting with Case went well, he has not received confirmation on an additional meeting date.

According to Case, she and other city officials have not yet had a chance to pore over the specifics and the future implications of such an agreement. However, she said she will pass the draft to the city's administrative director Warren Wong for further review as soon as the initial evaluation is done. But she said if the agreement seems feasible, it eventually would require a City Council vote to change the existing code for city contracting.

But Shaw said if he does not get any further cooperation from Case, he will go to the council with a drafted plan and a petition

with approximately 100 signatures from University students and other Eugene residents.

Shaw said he and other students are also in the process of organizing a postcard campaign to urge the city to consider a selective purchasing agreement, and he said he is attempting to get City Council member Bobby Lee to sponsor the bill.

But as of Dec. 3, Lee said he had not had time to look into the matter because of the flurry of recent council action.

"I think [the petition] is the kind of thing Eugene citizens would want," Shaw said. "It should give us a sense of pride that we're joined in an international civic movement."

Shaw said Portland is attempting to enact a similar selective purchasing agreement, and 15 cities, one county and one state already have similar agreements of their own. These include San Francisco, California's Alameda County

and Massachusetts.

Some of the ethical questions surrounding Burma involve the government forcing the enslaved Karen to log and destroy the Burmese rain forest, which is home to the endangered teak tree. Shaw said a Eugene company uses teak wood from the Burmese rain forest.

The Eugene company with ties to Burma is the U.S.-based Scan/Design Furniture Company, which sells Danish furniture constructed from the wood of Burmese teak trees.

Scan/Design manager Brian Pedersen said the company does not use teak wood mined from the endangered rain forest, and it only buys wood from sustainable forests, pointing to an Oct. 1990 statement from the Danish Timber Trade Federation stating that the harvest of Burmese teak is limited to trees meeting national minimum girth limits.

"That's a flat-out lie," Shaw said.

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