

MOVIE

on the

IT'S THE

Karen Kieffer has a message for other teens who aren't sure if they want to involve themselves in activist movements:

Even a little bit of your time can help save people's lives.

"It takes three minutes to write a letter, sign your name, put it in an envelope,

school.

Amnesty International, an international human-rights group, seeks justice for prisoners in foreign countries who have been jailed for peacefully expressing their political

lope and put a stamp on it. Thirty-two cents and three minutes is really no price for another person's life," said Karen, 17. "Life is much more important than that."

Karen and many of her fellow students at Elmira Notre Dame High School have taken on such causes as unjust imprisonment and capital punishment. Much of their activist efforts have taken place through their Amnesty International chapter at the high

Ambassador Kun Woo Park
Embassy of the Republic of Korea
2450 Massachusetts Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

September 24, 1997

Your Excellency:

As concerns about national security, however valid they may be, must not be used as a pretext for violating anyone's basic human rights. I urge you to persuade your government to review the case of novelist Kim Ha-ki, sentenced in February 1997 to 3 1/2 years imprisonment after an unauthorized visit to North Korea.

It appears that he is being punished for past political activities and for his writings. I hope that international recognized rights to freedom of expression and association soon will be secured for all citizens of the Republic of Korea, and that Kim Ha-ki will be released immediately and unconditionally.

Sincerely,
Karen E. Kieffer

leased.

According to Karen, she and other Amnesty members have learned of "very sad" conditions under which these prisoners live. Many are not only jailed, but are also subjected to torture and even murder.

One prisoner has stuck in the memory of Notre Dame's Cassandra Foster, 17. She vividly recalled a photo of a woman who had been jailed in South America for her political beliefs.

"Both her arms were in a sling, she had been beaten so badly," Cassandra said.

Cassandra said

that U.S. citizens might not fully appreciate their First Amendment privilege — freedom of speech — until learning of these horrifying injustices in other countries.

"A lot of Americans make the mistake of taking our basic rights for granted. We assume that everyone has them," Cassandra remarked.

According to Pat Ladley, Amnesty International moderator at Notre Dame, her students make activism a focal point all year long.

"It's a lot of work, but the kids who are involved really feel it's worthwhile," Ladley said.

For instance, the group holds a "Jamnesty" benefit concert each fall and also holds a special publicity and letter-writing campaign during Holy Week.

"We oppose the death penalty. We

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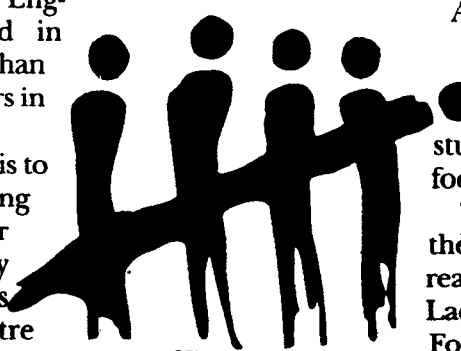
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and/or religious beliefs. Amnesty also denounces the death penalty, and torture and cruel treatment of prisoners in the United States as well as other countries. The group, based in London, England, was founded in 1961 and has more than one million members in 162 countries.

Karen's chief role is to serve as letter-writing coordinator for her 40-member Amnesty group. The letters are written by Notre Dame students to government officials in an effort to get prisoners re-



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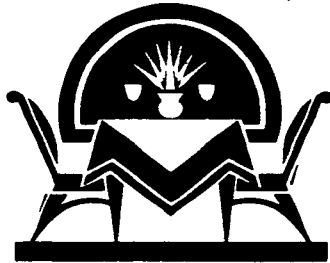


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