

LETTERS

Gracias...

On Tuesday, June 26th, Bill and Judy Lasswell and Kevin McKiernan were detained by Mexican officials at one of the 40 plus Guatemalan refugee camps on the southern border of Mexico. They were detained for photographing the refugees as the government was relocating them to a new camp. Bill and Judy were released, but Kevin, a free-lance photographer, was arrested and apparently transported to Mexico City to be returned to the U.S.

Bill is the District Attorney of Douglass County and for years both he and Judy have raised money for the Guatemalan refugees. They've made several trips to southern Mexico to visit the refugee camps. In addition, Bill was an official U.S. observer of the recent El Salvador elections and is now traveling to Guatemala to unofficially observe the national elections. They are scheduled to return to the U.S. in mid-July.

Much of what is happening in Guatemala is not being covered by the news media. There are over 100,000 refugees in the Mexican camps and a large percent of these people are children.

They are in need of food, medicine, medical supplies, clothing and tools. But the refugees that have not yet been able to cross the border into Mexico are truly desperate. They have been forced to leave the land they have farmed for hundreds of years and are hiding and struggling for survival in the highland forests. Why are these Indians being forced from their land? How can we help? How is the U.S. government involved?

Come hear Bill and Judy at 7:30 on July 18 at the First Christian Church, 1166 Oak. This event is sponsored by Eugene's Guatemalan Refugee Alliance (GRACIAS). We will also show slides of Guatemala and hear from Olive Bowers about her recent trip to Guatemala. The event is free, but donations are needed to continue sending food and medical supplies to the camp. See you there... and... gracias.

—Pam Fitzpatrick

Letters to the Editor must be typewritten and of no more than 250 words. Send to: What's Happening Letters, P.O. Box 259, Eugene, OR 97440.



Oregon Country Faire

The Oregon Country Faire, Oregon's finest and oldest arts and crafts festival, will be held July 13, 14 & 15 at its traditional site 13 miles west of Eugene. The fair provides a showcase for regional crafts people to display hand-

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