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Cyclists to cross United States to raise money for Third World

By Gary Henley
Of the Emerald

The success of Bike-Aid '86 has encouraged the Overseas Development Network of Stanford, Calif., to establish Bike-Aid '87.

Bike-Aid is a unique nationwide project created to gather funds and public support for self-help programs in poor areas of the world.

It has become an annual cross-country bicycle ride that starts from several West Coast locations including Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and Los Angeles and includes a route from Austin, Texas, and possibly a route from Canada this year.

All groups eventually converge in Washington, D.C., then finish the trip together by pedaling to the United Nations in New York City for two days of festivities.

This year's event will begin June 17.

Bike-Aid is sponsored by the ODN (founded in 1983), a nationwide alliance of community and campus groups, and is staged with the help of volunteers.

ODN has established campus chapters at more than 40 U.S. colleges.

In 1986, Bike-Aid participants raised about \$100,000, 50 percent of that amount was matched by ODN campus chapters and given to small self-help projects in the Third World. Thirty percent goes to other non-profit organizations with the same causes. Ten percent funds students' internships in Africa and India, and 10 percent is used on ODN's American project in Appalachia.

"Fifty percent of the money raised goes to ODN, which in turn spends it on Third World countries. And starting this year, 16 percent will go to Oxfam America," said Amy Lodato, the media coordinator for Bike-Aid '87.

From the West Coast the trip is roughly 3,300 miles, with bikers traveling an average of 65 miles a day.

Individuals can raise money for the project by making donations, sponsoring a rider for four cents a mile, organizing a local Bike-Aid event, publicly

promoting Bike-Aid in local communities or actually riding with Bike-Aid for all or part of the way.

"We feel Bike-Aid was real successful last year," Lodato said. "There were about 80 bikers last year who made the entire cross-country trip.

"College students make up a large percentage of the bikers, although last year there were people ranging from ages 14 to 56 who made the trip," she said.

Lodato explained that people who make the trip do so because they believe in the causes, they're avid bicyclists or they "enjoy meeting people and making friends along the way."

This year, Bike-Aid and the Harvard-based "Cyclists Fighting Hunger" will combine their resources, experience and enthusiasm for the event.

Individuals interested in becoming involved with Bike-Aid '87 as participants, organizers or donors can write to: Bike-Aid '87, Department CN, Box 2306 Stanford, Calif., 94305, or can call (415) 725-2869.

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ment of students, she said.

"This group has an overall philosophy that is political in nature — and in no way, shape or form should they be funded by incidental fees," Munion said.

Kirk stressed incidental fee money has never been used for any of the organization's political and lobbying activities.

"OSPIRG is a single organization with two separate bank accounts. We keep fundraising money separate from incidental fee money. The money we get from fundraising is used for lobbying and sponsoring ballot measures," Kirk said, adding that the organization employs an accountant specifically for the purpose of keeping the two accounts separate.

Some concern was also raised over OSPIRG's request for \$2 a student a term a year in incidental fees. IFC member Katy Howard raised the question of uncertainty in next year's enrollment projections and how

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