

Local group to protest removal

Native Americans fight for land

By Christopher Blair
Emerald News Editor

A Eugene support group will gather in front of the Federal Building this morning to protest the removal of Native Americans from their lands in Big Mountain, Ariz.

The Big Mountain Support Group of Eugene will present its demands to halt the relocation to Tom Coffin, assistant U.S. attorney, said Alan Stein, a member of the group.

The protest will take place in conjunction with similar gatherings in 25 other states, Stein said, adding that the scheduled meeting with Coffin will be peaceful.

The removal was begun in 1974 after passage of the Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act, which was designed to end a dispute between Hopis and Navajos in the area.

The government began taking the residents' sheep from the land and kept them from re-

pairing their dwellings in an attempt to coerce them into leaving. Stein said, calling the forced exodus nothing less than genocide.

The formal complaint will be a request to block the removal of 16,000 Navajos and 100 Hopis from their lands, citing the Genocide Convention Implementation Act, which was

Stein cited the effects of the move on the Navajos and Hopis, such as alcoholism, chronic depression and suicide.

Making the matter worse are what Stein said are the real reasons for the removal, namely the area's rich deposit of coal, which will be shipped to power plants around the Southwest and southern California.

"This is a call to conscience," Stein said. "By par-

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— Alan Stein

signed in 1987 by former President Ronald Reagan.

"These are indigenous people," Stein said. "They are shepherders and they raise corn. They are being forcibly moved into white towns. They have never dealt with money, and they have to perform their ceremonies on the land."

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The gathering will be at 11 a.m. at the Federal Building, 211 E. Seventh Ave. Guest speakers, drumming and music will be featured, along with the formal presentation to Coffin.

Pedal for Peace '89 raises funds

By Paul Halvorson
Emerald Contributor

Pedal For Peace '89, a 26 mile bike-a-thon designed to raise funds for use in Central America and to raise Eugene's awareness of U.S. involvement in Central America, will get wheeling Saturday at 10 a.m. in Skinner's Butte Park.

The loop-course will go to Armitage Park and along McKenzie View Drive before returning to Skinner Butte.

The cycling fundraiser, sponsored by the Eugene-based Committee in Solidarity with Central American People, is expected to draw 250 riders and pledges amounting to \$10,000, said Sarah Lawton, a coordinator of the event.

The collected funds will be disbursed to three Central American aid foundations: Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala, which funds grass roots groups; New El Salvador Today, a material aid foundation; and Quest for Peace, where CISCAP's money will go for medical supplies in Nicaragua, Lawton said.

"Eugene's a biking town," she said. "This is a chance for people to have fun and make a statement ... that they disapprove of Bush's policy (on Central America)."

It is necessary for events like Pedal For Peace '89 to occur because they raise needed money for poor people in Central America, said Tracey May, CISCAP's media representative for the bike-a-thon.

"Pedal For Peace is a great way to publicize problems (on Central America) and how U.S. policy is contributing to those," May said.

She cited U.S. aid to the government in El

Salvador as an example.

CISCAP will have information booths with include facts on the U.S.'s involvement in Central America at Skinner's Butte Park, May said.

Some riders have collected up to \$300 in pledges for Pedal For Peace '89.

"One hundred, 200, 300 dollars in Central America goes a long, long way," May said.

In El Salvador, NEST will put the money toward building a health clinic, and in Guatemala NISGUA will use the funds for teaching peasants the basics of sanitation and nutrition, she said.

The first Pedal For Peace was in 1986 and brought in \$4,000; in 1987, the bike-a-thon collected \$6,000. Last year CISCAP, in conjunction with the University of Oregon/University of El Salvador Sister Project, held a walk-a-thon, "Steps to Freedom," which brought out 300 people and \$8,000 in funds, said Sara Lawton.

"So many people wanted to do Pedal For Peace again that we went back to it," she said.

Interested people can still sign up to ride in, or volunteer for, Pedal For Peace '89 by contacting CISCAP at 485-8633.

Though the course is 26 miles, riders can opt for shorter distances; support vehicles will pick up riders at any stage of the course, if necessary. And stationed along the course will be two rest stops with food and beverages.


All riders collecting \$50 in pledges will receive a t-shirt; \$100 nets them a t-shirt and sweatshirt, and qualifies them for the free bike drawing. The higher the pledge total, the higher the chances for the bike.

"It's a clean event, not a car," Nancye May said, "Come out and ride."




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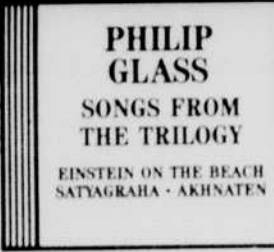
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