

COMMUNITY



Photo by Thomas Bergstrom

A drum-and-dance fund-raiser for Somalia attracted about 150 people Aug. 14.

Group raises funds for Somalia

By Garin Gonzales
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The American Friends Service Committee put on a drum-and-dance fund-raiser for impoverished Somalia Aug. 14 at Skinner Butte Park.

The event, which lasted all day, featured many activities, such as the Marimba band Kudana and the Eugene Drum and Dance Collective. The event had a turnout of about 150 people.

Thom Williams, organizer of the fund-raiser, said the event raised money for the American Friends Relief Committee, which will in turn go toward programs in Somalia.

"The American Friends Service Committee is a Quaker organization that does different types of relief work all around the world," Williams said. "In Somalia, we are working with small farming communities, trying to work up their agriculture. Also, the AFSC helps to start orphanages, as well

as keep existing organizations running."

Williams said the AFSC chapter in Somalia consists entirely of Somalis and is a very grass-roots organization, stressing non-violence in all situations.

"The AFSC has taken a stand against the United Nations because of their strong military presence," Williams said. "The U.N. has eventually become another armed faction in a regional conflict. The U.N. has a political and military strategy that has been disastrous to Somalia."

The drum-and-dance event raised more than \$350 for Somalia, and the AFSC is hoping to raise more funds for Somalia by hosting a garage sale Sept. 10 and 11 at the Eugene chapter house of the AFSC, located at 2274 Onyx St.

For more information on donating goods to be sold at the garage sale, call Thom Williams at 686-9658.

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