

Holiday marked in myriad ways

Activities range from fasting to feasting

By Fawn Germer

Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

While most Coloradans were feasting, a group of more than 50 people sat huddled on the west steps of the capitol, fasting.

Yesterday's Fast for Spiritual Freedom, sponsored by the Colorado chapter of the American Indi-

The event attracted about 200 people throughout the day. Many were American Indians, but the fast also attracted Anglos, blacks and Hispanics.

AIM Colorado chairman Glenn Morris said the group wanted to attract people of every race to promote a greater understanding of people.

"Thanksgiving is ironic to us because, according to the popular legend, the Indians saved the Pilgrims from starvation," he said.

"In return, just about everything we had was taken from us. So now, the American public engages in this gluttonous, excessive behavior on this day, when it would be a much better idea to give up a little and reflect on what we've done."

While they fasted, 40 teenagers and youngsters from the Denver Children's Home were Thanksgiving guests of the Hyatt Regency in the Denver Technological Center. It was the traditional spread, plus a few extras like hot dogs and hamburgers.

The hotel's brass helped serve the meal and clean up after the youths, who stay at the children's home because of family troubles.

"It gives us some warm fuzzies," said Syd Sexton, director of catering. "We get out of here at 2 o'clock and go home to our families. This is a really good way to start the day."

"We get more out of it than the kids do," said hotel general manager David Beecham. "This is our way of thanking the community."

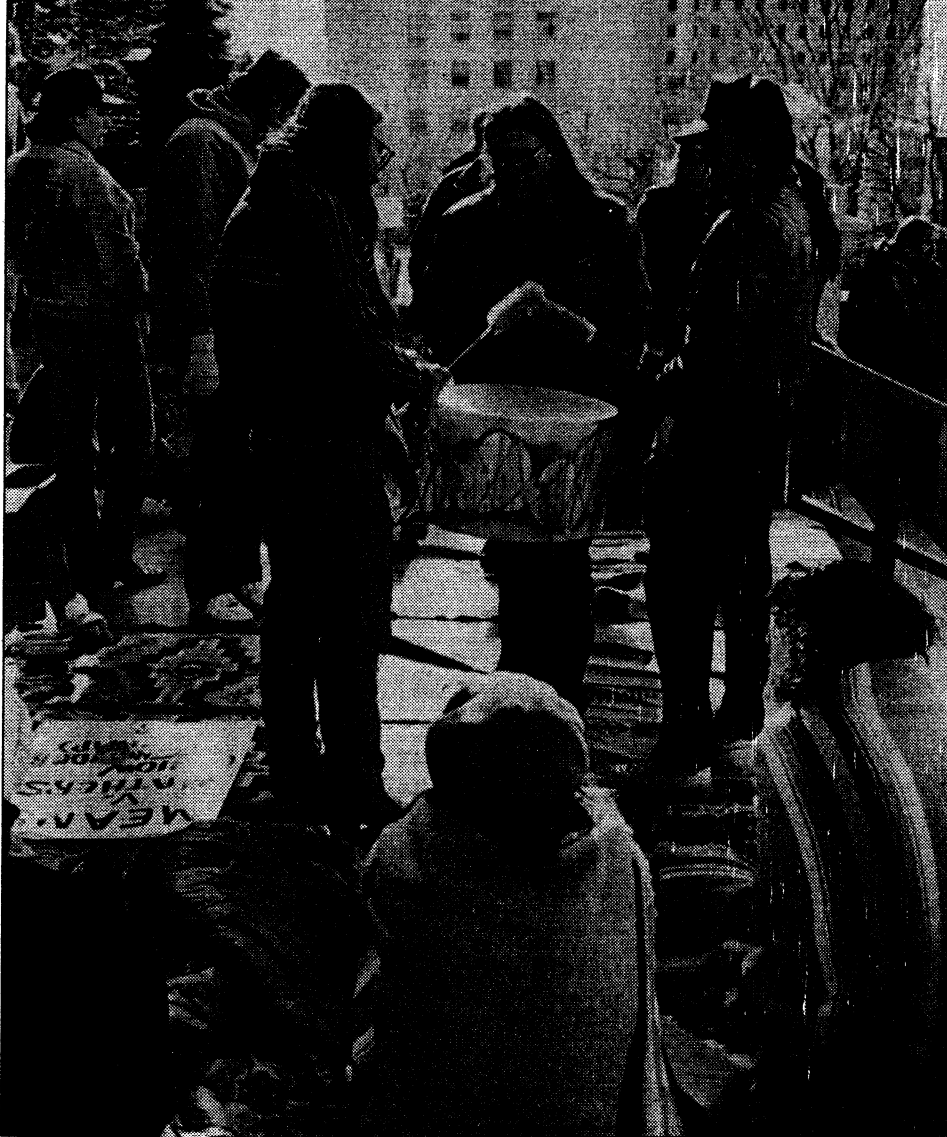
“Thanksgiving is ironic to us because, according to the popular legend, the Indians saved the Pilgrims from starvation. In return, just about everything we had was taken from us.”

Glen Morris

American Indian Movement

an Movement, was one of dozens of Thanksgiving events held for the homeless, the poor and others.

"We are here because our people are being denied spiritual freedom," said Frank Dillon Charging Alone. "And we are here because we are thankful that in spite of everything, we are surviving. Our language has survived, and our culture has survived."



Frank Murray/Rocky Mountain News

Frank Dillon, left, Glenn Morris, center, and Delmar Stevens chant ceremonial songs at the Fast for Spiritual Freedom, sponsored by the Colorado chapter of the American Indian Movement.