

# 150 celebrate anti-Columbus effort

By Alan Gottlieb  
Denver Post Staff Writer

The American Indian Movement and other advocacy organizations marked the first anniversary of their successful stoppage of Denver's Columbus Day parade with a four-hour rally yesterday that was part defiance and part spiritual affirmation.

About 150 people participated in the wind-blown rally in Civic Center Park's Greek Theater. At the rally's conclusion, the group walked to the "War Trail" statue of an Indian brave in the park to plant seven aspen trees.

Local AIM co-director Glenn Morris termed the trees a "gift to the people — not the government

## Rally marks blocking of parade

— of Denver."

City landscape architects asked the group not to plant the trees yesterday, because they want to make sure they're evenly spaced and holes are dug properly. They will be planted sometime in the near future.

"Over the last few years (as AIM has fought against the reestablished Columbus Day parade) this statue has been kind of an inspiration to us, as a counterpoint to that cowboy guy over there," Morris said, pointing across a walkway to a companion statue of a cowboy. "So this year we wanted to establish a living memorial to our an-

cestors, who gave their lives in defense of this land."

The trees also symbolize "our commitment to the next seven generations, not just of Indians, but everyone," Morris said.

But spirituality wasn't the day's only order of business. AIM leaders Russell Means and Morris blasted the 40 Italian-American "fringe group members" who held a Columbus day rally on the west steps of the state Capitol on Saturday.

"They represent racism and violence," Means said. "I have nothing to say to them."

Means also had harsh words for

Gov. Roy Romer, who joined the Saturday Columbus Day event. "He comes out to speak to a fringe group of 40 people. But I just counted 130 people here, representing 50 organizations, and don't see Gov. Romer."

Organizations present included various peace and justice groups as well as black, Hispanic, and gay and lesbian advocacy groups. A lengthy series of speeches touched on themes ranging from Amendment 2 to prison reform and bar red-lining.

Most lauded last year's successful blockade of a planned Columbus Day parade by some 2,500 protesters.

Please see AIM on 3



The Denver Post / Lyn Alwels

**TAKING A STAND:** Ted Roy, left, of the American Indian Movement, stands next to AIM leader Russel Means yesterday at Civic Center Park, where groups spoke out for minorities.

## Rally celebrates stopping of parade

AIM from Page 1B

esters.

After the tree ceremony, Morris led a small group over to the Christopher Columbus statue at the north end of the park. A new plaque was recently installed on the statue, and Morris took umbrage at that.

"This statue honors one of the most notorious Indian killers in history," he said. On a large piece of poster board he had written "lies written in ink will never disguise facts written in blood."

He attached his "plaque" to the Columbus statue by wrapping two pieces of black electri-

cal tape around the pedestal. Then, almost as an afterthought, he spat on the statue and walked away.

One of his followers kicked over a wreath of flowers the Italian-American group had left there Saturday, and the group headed back to the Greek Theater for some song and dance.