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Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Story Date: Saturday, May 22, 2010

Climbing Mt. Magazine for a cause

Story date: May 22, 2010

A group dedicated to relief efforts in Tibet will move one step closer to its goal of climbing the highest peaks in all 50 states this weekend when it tackles Mount Magazine.

John Jancik, Steve Gardiner and David Baker, members of Colorado-based 50forTibet.org's HighPoint Challenge team, have climbed Mount Rainer in Washington state — 14,409 feet; July 22, 2006 — along with summits in 46 other states since 2006. For their efforts, they ask the public to make a per-peak pledge to The Rowell Fund, established to "encourage and support the work of Tibetans communicating issues of importance to their community to a broader Tibetan or international audience." The fund does so, according to the website, by providing small grants to Tibetans who can make significant contributions to society through their pursuit of interests such as photography, film-making, writing and journalism.

It supports, in short, the estates to which the duty of holding the line on basic freedoms often falls.

Amid the assaults on universal human rights Tibetans have experienced since their country was invaded by China in 1950, support of these enterprises is more important than ever. Organizers say 100 percent of all pledges go directly to the fund; team members foot the bill for their own expenses.

In tough times, opening our wallets for yet another worthy cause grows ever more taxing, but a \$5 per-peak pledge is just \$250. \$1 per peak will cost you only \$50 — less, likely, than dinner and a movie for two.

We encourage members of our community, and those worldwide, to take a small step to support the 2,753 team members will offer this weekend as they climb Arkansas' pinnacle to fight oppression. To make a pledge, fill out the HighPoint Pledge Form on the website at 50forTibet.org. A member of the HighPoint team will contact you via e-mail or telephone to confirm your pledge. You may also send a printed or written version of the pledge form and all pledge donations to the following:

The Rowell Fund for Tibet/50 For Tibet
1825 Jefferson Place NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

All donations are tax-deductible, and will help in the organization's mission to celebrate one mountain culture while preserving another.

— The Courier

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