EXCLUSIVE ROCK LEGEND BACKS SCOTS HACKER'S FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

They'll try and do what they did in Chicago...it was wrong then and it is wrong now

By BILLY SLOAN

ROCK legend Graham Nash yesterday revealed why he has joined the fight to stop Scots hacker Gary McKinnon being thrown into a US jail.

The Crosby, Stills And Nash singer has volunteered to record a new version of his 1971 hit Chicago in a bid to stop McKinnon being extradited to America for snapping on the US military.

He will join forces with Chris Martin of Coldplay, Sting and Pink Floyd’s David Gilmour on the track to highlight McKinnon’s struggle to stay in Britain.

The Blackpool-born rocker, 67, will perform the song with Crosby, Stills And Nash play live at Edinburgh Castle on July 11.

Saucers

He aims to put pressure on British politicians to prevent McKinnon, 49, being sent to the US for trial.

Nash said: “I think the US government are being heavy-handed.

“If you open the Pandora’s Box of the digital world, you’d better watch out what happens. You’ve got no control. The loophole is out of the tube and you can’t get it back in.

“You have this sort of guy sitting in his apartment in London tapping into a few web pages because he was searching for UFOs and flying saucers.

“I fear they’ll throw Gary into a US jail and we’ll never hear about him again. If we bring enough attention to the case, they have to give it up.

“It’s a preposterous situation so say *** them...I want to help Gary.”

In 2002 McKinnon - who has Asperger’s syndrome - was indicted by a US court accused of hacking into more than 90 American military security systems.

A campaign led by his mum Janis Sharp has also won the support of actors Julie Christie and former Labour mayor Boris Johnson.

Nash said: “The true essence of Chicago is that if we pay attention we can change the world.

“The song was written after a friend told me peace activists had been charged with disrupting the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

“They needed money for their defense fund. I wrote the song to help them out.

“Crosby, Stills And Nash were two men and I’m a man, put him on the stand and I played the guitar. It’s like this:

“This song is much more relevant today than when I wrote it. Isn’t that sad?”

When his band headline Edinburgh Castle, they will celebrate the 40th anniversary of their self-titled debut album.

In the 1960s Nash shot to fame with The Hollies, whose run of 22 hit singles included I’m Alive and Just One Look.

In 1968 he moved to California to join the West Coast music scene.

The first performance of Crosby, Stills And Nash took place during a party in singer Joni Mitchell’s home.

Nash said: “The event had a great energy from 40,000 kids who turned up to say love is better than war.”

Highlights of Crosby, Stills And Nash’s career include classic hits such as Love The One You’re With, Wooden Ships and Sweet Sadie Blue Eyes. They were inducted into the Rock And Roll Hall of Fame in 1997.

Nash added: “It was nice to join all my bandmates at Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Colorado last year by George Harrison.

Nash said: “I’ve got a good feeling about this because we were great. We weren’t too cruddy because we knew we had something unique.”

The group were later snapped up by US record mogul Ahmet Ertegun by his Atlantic Records label.

They played their second gig - with none Neil Young - at the Woodstock Festival in 1969, sharing a bill with The Who, Jim Hendrix and Santana.

Nash said: “The event had a great energy from 400,000 kids who turned up to say love is better than war.”

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