

Church groups ask to mediate AIM demands

by Chris Harper

Chris Harper, a Daily Nebraskan copy editor, is on special assignment at Wounded Knee, S.D.

Wounded Knee, S.D.—The slender American Indian patiently tapped his fingers against the table while he cradled a telephone against his left shoulder.

Six hours 'till the evacuation deadline, he muttered.

"Hello, Congressman Conyers," he said. "This is Dennis Banks from Wounded Knee, S.D., and we need your help."

Banks, national field director for the American Indian Movement (AIM), enlisted support from Representative John Conyers, D-Mich, and other legislators to reopen stalled negotiations between AIM and the federal government.

Negotiations had been discontinued Wednesday by the U.S. Department of Justice concerning the takeover of this tourist village on Feb. 27 by about 250 American Indians, according to Ralph Erickson, special assistant to the U.S. Attorney General.

Erickson also ordered a complete evacuation of Wounded Knee by 7 p.m. (CST) Thursday.

"We remain committed to make every effort to solve this matter without bloodshed," Erickson said. "But we must also enforce the law, and we will enforce the law. The position taken by the leaders of the Indians at Wounded Knee amounts to nothing more than intolerable blackmail."

Church leaders also attempted to resurrect the negotiations.

The National Council of Churches (NCC) announced a 15-point plan four hours before the evacuation deadline. The plan was

accepted by AIM leader, and although the federal government has not endorsed the plan, an initial response was positive, according to Bishop James Armstrong of the United Methodist Churches of North Dakota and South Dakota.

The proposal would enact a cease fire indefinitely. It would be policed by the NCC and other clergymen from South Dakota, Armstrong said.

The plan also would initiate a gradual withdrawal of weapons by both federal law enforcement officials and AIM members, he added.

The NCC document also provided that churches, and the U.S. Departments of Justice and the Interior will investigate the problems of American Indians, Armstrong said.

AIM leader Russell Means said: "We are in complete support of the proposal. It puts the burden right back where it belongs—on the federal government."

Carter Camp, Oklahoma AIM coordinator, echoed Means' comments.

"The proposal can stop a major confrontation," Camp said. "A confrontation that the Indians probably would lose physically but not morally."

While AIM and church leaders worked to re-establish negotiations, Indians and federal marshals prepared militarily.

Sixteen armored personnel carriers dotted the surrounding hills while AIM members constructed bunkers.

Will the marshals attack?

"They began attacking us in 1492," Banks said. "I have faith, however, that the tactics used by both sides will result in minimum casualties."

The evacuation deadline has passed but AIM members and the federal marshals continue to wait.

Drops end soon

Tuesday is the last day UNL students can drop regular lecture classes, according to the academic services office. The deadline for dropping classes with a lab was Feb. 13.

To drop a lecture class a student must fill out a drop/add form, obtain his instructor's approval and take the form to the registration office, 103 Administration.

Exposure incident won't affect visitation

An incident last Friday night in which a young man reportedly exposed himself to two girls in a bathroom at Piper Hall shouldn't affect coed visitation hours, according to Ken Bader, vice chancellor for student affairs. One shouldn't necessarily blame it on visitation hours, he said.

"We need to increase our awareness that there are these kind of individuals," he added. He said that incidents like this occur "even under the strongest security."

The incident took place about midnight, and there is a possibility the man escaped through a door which was supposed to be locked, Bader said. Campus Security arrived about three minutes after the incident was reported, he said.

In the future, security guards will make sure that the proper doors are locked, and there will be increased surveillance of doorways, he added. He stressed the importance of residents being "doubly alert" for individuals not belonging on their floors.

Harry Canon, director of student development services, said that in the future someone was caught exposing himself, he would be referred to Ron Gierhan, discipline officer for student affairs. Gierhan then would decide on necessary disciplinary action, Canon added.

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Hillel dinner

There will be a Hillel Foundation dinner Sunday in the Nebraska Union at 5 p.m.

P.E.O. meeting

The College P.E.O. group will meet Sunday from 5-6:30 p.m. Reservations may be made by calling 489-2314.

Chemistry seminar

The Chemistry department seminar is sponsoring Frank Ullman and John Hardy tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. in Hamilton Hall 110.

Child care

Volunteers are needed to care for children whose mothers are visiting the penitentiary during weekend visitation. Training for crisis situations will be provided for both volunteers and parents along with training for activities with the children.

Ombudsman

UNL Ombudsman James Suter wants anyone who has done or is currently doing business with Pedersen Apartments Inc. to contact his office immediately. The ombudsman's office is in 110 Burnett, phone 472-3633.

Lot closing

Campus Security has announced that the temporary parking lot located between Teachers' College and Burnett Hall, site of the Love Library extension will be permanently closed next Monday March 12.