



Dennis Banks

Photo by Perry Gaskill

Indian leader Dennis Banks seeks 'meaningful change'

By BILL LUTZ
Of the Emerald

"The utmost good faith should always be observed toward the Indians. Their land and property shall never be taken from them without their consent. And in their property, rights, and liberty they shall never be invaded or disturbed."

First Congressional Policy Statement on the Indian Nations.

"It's pretty good when we can arrive after 200 years and a Black man and a white man are fighting, finally, to save an Indian from death. We can go forward on that kind of spirit and look for some real meaningful change in this country," said Dennis Banks in the EMU ballroom Thursday afternoon.

Banks, co-founder of the American Indian Movement, spoke to a crowd of about 1,000. His appearance was sponsored by the Native American Student Union, the Student Bar Association, and the EMU Cultural Forum.

He spoke of his fight against extradition to South Dakota, where he faces imprisonment and, he claimed, probable death at the hands of prison guards. He also spoke of his return to the spiritual tradition of his people. He said he was in the process of leaving skid-row and becoming a fighter for the rights of Indians.

The appeal to Governor Straub to deny the extradition to South Dakota and grant Banks sanctuary in Oregon is based on three points, said Banks.

- The direct and indirect threats against his life.
 - The unfairness of his trial in South Dakota.
- Two judicial opinions stated that AIM leaders and Indians in general could not receive a fair trial in South Dakota.

- The eighth ammendment, which states that no human being should receive cruel or unusual punishment.

Banks' supporters announced the formation of a defense committee in Eugene.

But as Banks pointed out, "this travesty of justice" goes back to 1973. Right before the Wounded Knee occupation, he says he was trapped with others, including a state attorney in a tear-gassed hallway in the Custer, South Dakota courthouse. He

said they broke windows in order to reach breathable air.

Two years later, federal charges stemming from the Wounded Knee occupation were dropped due to governmental misconduct, both at Wounded Knee and during the trials. As a last attempt to stop AIM, said Banks, the State of South Dakota brought him and Russel Means, another AIM leader, to trial on 11 counts stemming from the incident two years earlier at the Custer courthouse.

Means' case was dismissed after 107 prospective jurors were dropped after stating they believed Means was guilty before hearing the evidence in the case.

Banks finally went to trial after 321 jurors were dropped. The evidence, said Banks, consisted of 35 witnesses who could not identify him as having committed a crime at the Custer courthouse. The 36th witness, a state policeman, show a small wrist-watch band calendar, which he said was dented by Banks when he struck him on the wrist with a stick.

Defense witnesses refused to testify after the first witness was arrested for perjury by South Dakota Attorney General William Janklow while on the stand. The witness was never formally charged.

Banks also told of affidavits given him by his attorneys in the courthouse case. The first was a statement by attorney Danny Jackson which stated that he had been threatened by Janklow. The second was an affidavit by attorney John Gridley in which he testifies hearing Janklow say that the only way to solve the Indian problem and the AIM problem is to shoot it.

Banks was convicted of riot with a deadly weapon and assault with intent to kill.

Banks told of another affidavit from a prison guard who stated that "guards at the penitentiary had said AIM leaders' lives were not worth 20 minutes inside the prison."

Banks says, "I feared for my life, so I didn't report to the South Dakota State penitentiary. I reported to California instead."

At a press conference after his talk Banks said he couldn't discuss federal charges which he faces in Oregon, but he believes the case will never go to trial.

Banks also spoke of his search to realize the

(Continued on Page 8)

McCall considers move to Colorado agency job

PORTLAND (AP) — Former Oregon Gov. Tom McCall confirmed Thursday that he is considering moving to Colorado to work for an educational grant funding agency that distributes money to colleges.

McCall, currently a columnist and television newscaster for KATU in Portland, said Thursday the move has been under consideration for quite some time. He declined to say which agency he was considering but said he might reach a decision this month.

McCall said Thursday he is stopping his column because it is too much work when added to other things he has to do.

Instead of the column, he said, he will write a bimonthly column for *American Heritage* magazine.

The magazine will publish about 750 words each issue by McCall on "The Third Century."

McCall said *American Heritage* will pay more than his newspaper columns, and will require less time.

He produces four television shows and six radio shows a week. "There just isn't enough of me to go around," said McCall, 63.

Southern Comfort®

tastes delicious
right out of the bottle!

that's why it
makes Mixed
Drinks taste
so much
better!

great with:
Cola • Bitter Lemon
Tonic • orange juice
Squirt... even milk



You know it's got to be good... when it's made with

Southern Comfort®

SOUTHERN COMFORT CORPORATION, 100 PROOF LIQUEUR, ST. LOUIS, MO. 63132

THIS WEEK AT

DUFFY'S

13 & Alder

FRIDAY 4:00 Pitcher Sale

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

9:00-2:00

75¢ cover

FOX &

WEASEL

SUNDAY Pool Tournament

sign up with bartender. first 16