

# Laura Toler System ignores Indians

Charges against Dennis Banks and Russell Means, leaders of last year's 71-day occupation of Wounded Knee, S.D., have been dropped—and rightly so.

But the main offender in connection with the incident will never go to trial. That party is the prosecution itself—the United States government.

Newswriters and broadcasters have reported only the surface details. After an eight-month long, often disorderly trial, U.S. District Judge Fred Nichol dismissed the case last Monday, after the prosecution refused to accept a verdict from an 11-member jury.

One juror, whom the prosecution considered "the most likely to convict," had suffered a stroke and was unable to continue. Judge Nichol left open the possibility that the case may still be appealed.

But as of now, the original charges of three counts of assault, one of conspiracy, and one of theft against both of the American Indian Movement (AIM) activists have not been upheld.

Such surface information is only sufficient for the news reader or viewer who just wants to be superficially aware of what's going on. But the real crimes—those of the government—have disappeared from public view.

One count against the government is its mismanagement of the situation at Wounded Knee. The Indians merely pulled a publicity stunt to inform the public and its politicians of their plight. Symbolically, they chose the site of the U.S. Cavalry's massacre in 1890 of 300 Sioux men, women and children.

Hostages in AIM's 1973 takeover agreed with AIM's goals, went along with coercion and were treated well. One of the 300 original participants said later, "We thought the whole thing would only last a few days, and that we would be able to come and go as we pleased from the town."

However, the government sealed off the town and focused on the within-the-system crimes the Indians were committing by taking over the town. Negotiations failed again and again because the government was neither equipped nor willing to consider conditions posed by the Indians. After having been fired upon by marshals and starved into submission, the militants could only forget their demands and begin to bargain for reduced charges.

The United States did not have to consider the demands of the Indians at



Dennis Banks

Wounded Knee because its own code of law provides no easily accessible avenue for requests that its own policies be changed. However, there certainly are recognizable criminal offenses involved in the siege of a town, and the government was legally justified in militarily stifling its opposition.

The Indians were asking that Sen. Edward Kennedy lead a full-scale Senate investigation into government treatment of Indians in general and South Dakota's Ogala Sioux in particular. Not only would the Senator obviously have more pressing duties, but such an inquiry would make plain to the government the conditions under which Indians live, and would suggest that something be done about the situation.

Studies have shown that American Indians of the '70's are the poorest of the poor. Their average annual income is \$1,500, their unemployment rate nearly 40 per cent. Fifty thousand Indian families live in substandard houses. Fifty per cent of Indian schoolchildren become drop outs and the suicide rate of Indian teen-agers is 100 times that of whites.

Although the government appropriates \$8,000 annually for each Ogala family, overhead and bureaucratic waste reduces it to about \$1,900. Less than 20 per cent of the

Ogala finish high school, and only 46 per cent have jobs. Alcoholism is a significant problem on the reservation.

Many would argue at this point that Indians should leave the reservation and put out the energy to make a decent, non-dependent life for themselves. But those who can only sustain themselves with some government aid, and amidst their own non-prejudiced culture group, would have a difficult time of it on the outside. Besides, say the Indians, why give up the last bit of territory they can claim as a group.

The next demand posed by Wounded Knee occupants was that Sen. J. William Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, investigate 371 treaties allegedly signed with the Indians and broken by the U.S. government. Such a study could only reveal the territorial illegitimacy of the United States. The American Indians might at least accept payment for their lands. But the question has long been closed for a group with no affiliate party leaders, corporate bosses, or business executives to pressure for its benefit.

The Nixon Administration made some effort to aid Indians, but succeeded, for the most part, only in raising expectations for help that never came. Funding of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) was increased. There was at least an attempt to end the policy of termination, a law that allows well-meaning liberals in Congress to give any deserving Indian group its independence from all government-provided services and health care. However, Nixon also promised an Indian education program that never came. He appointed a special task force to deal with Indian grievances, and Congress appointed its own such committee as well. Neither group ever met.

Because our system is constructed so as to respond only to the pressures of the powerful, there is no way to call attention to the problems of out-groups except by staging an incident such as that at Wounded Knee. But because only the surface details have been reflected in the media and considered by the government, nothing has been gained. Our legal system is not defined to accommodate such sweeping injustices as those the government commits against Indians every day. So while the bureaucrats stuff their faces and ride in limousines, Indians will continue to live in destitution on small sections of the land they once ruled.

## Reporting lacks insight

Never before had I seen a reporter at a student meeting to wear such a large "Press" card on his coat pocket. But there CB Gaines sat in the Craig Green Room for the Carolina Gay Association meeting, with this shield on his chest and another, a cassette tape recorder, covering his lap. We remarked, perhaps unkindly, that he was feeling, in an ironic reversal, the insecurity that comes from being surrounded by those of a different sexual orientation. Perhaps that could have provided him with some insight into the paranoia that afflicts gays who are starting to come out and that never leaves some of them.

But unfortunately his tape recorder served as his shield not only against sexual assault, but also against any other involvement in the complex contradiction of serious pursuit of undefined goals that characterizes the Carolina Gay Association, as well as many other local and national gay groups. Given the chance to be an investigative reporter, an essayist on an important perplexity of society, he became an operator of a machine, and he let his machine write his story for him.

"Who you are is where you're at." "That's euphonious." I assure you that other people besides faggots are capable of such vacuities. "Good luck getting out of here." Evidently this is supposed to mean something significant, but I cannot imagine what. If Gaines means that there was a pervasive threat of imminent abduction and rape, he may have accurately summarized his own feelings, but in the deadly businesslike

atmosphere of most of the meeting, fending off attackers was much less of a problem than fending off sleep.

This is the kind of "alternative" we are provided to the Electric Company. This is why we call the E.C. a "meat market," a "homosexual cafeteria" — I have personally never heard anybody say anything good about any gay bar — and yet, come Saturday night, you can find as many as a thousand of us there.

If the DTH intends to make Gaines "our" reporter, he might do better to turn off his tape recorder and talk with us to find out why this apparent paradox exists; to find out why, even in the company of men who presumably threaten them less than any other men, the women must gather into a small group by themselves; to find out why it supposedly is an act of courage to walk across the Craig lobby into the Green Room; to find out if the alternative offered by the CGA can be a positive, building and purposeful experience for gays or merely a meat market with a better atmosphere.

Gaines could have begun this investigation when we broke up into small discussion groups, but at this point I lost track of him, and I was told he left. My own discussion group was fairly interesting, but to me it would have been even more interesting to exchange observations with an "outsider." Denied this, I could have settled for such an analysis in the newspaper. Instead, I read an article written by a tape recorder.

Is the DTH so afraid of offending us

that it is going to offer us nothing in the way of comment but the liberal platitudes of its recent editorial? Perhaps the CGA will prove to be touchy about negative comments, but I am tired of being handled with kid gloves. If the DTH has the courage to take on a candidate for the Senate of the United States, surely it has nothing to fear from a bunch of queers. I for one will answer you better than Bob Morgan has. We will all certainly yell if you step on our toes, but I and many of my brothers and sisters are as tired of being smothered by inchoate good-will and useless pleasantries as we are of being assaulted with brutish slanders and uninformed hatred.

— Ron Knight

## Practical generation Students not self-centered

The word is out. *Time* magazine is now calling us the "Self-Centered Generation." Because of the recent economic downturn, tight job markets and the failure of campus activism even to perpetuate itself, students have become increasingly pragmatic. And *Time* has breathlessly capitalized on the situation.

The article in this week's "Education" section is careful to note that students have by no means come full circle to the normalcy of the 50s. It points out that "more liberal sexual mores" and widespread skepticism for political authority thankfully differentiate us from the era of milkshakes and bobbysocks. After this analysis of the situation, *Time* titled this year's crop of college students the "Self-Centered Generation" as if that were a new development, or as if something had changed.

The basic question is what *Time* is describing. Presumably, the term announces the new fundamental nature of college students across the nation. But the "Self-Centered Generation" is neither new nor fundamental criticism of today's youth.

Students have been, are, and are expected to be concerned primarily with their own education. The depth of campus activism was overrated during the past decade when radical leaders captured the national spotlight. The truth is that the vast majority of students (and the majority of their contemporaries, non-students) did not strike or protest. Students' self-centeredness hasn't changed.

What has changed are various underlying attitudes which were permanently altered by the unrest of the 60s. *Time* noted a number of these changes (like distrust of authority and sexual liberation) but subordinated them to superficial indications of student life like the number of hours spent in the library or the number of job interviews attended.

The reason for *Time's* confusion is the widespread change in the form of student beliefs, not their substance. Students are more practical today, but this is a more efficient application of their beliefs, not a resurgence of their egotism. At Carolina fewer classes are being cut and extra-curriculars are far less popular. Students are finally being concerned with what David Riesman saw as the "discrepancy between the America students make for themselves as students, and the America they will move into when they leave the campus." The gap is closing between the university and the real world as students better learn to translate their objectives into the established social structure.

*Time* was moving in the right direction but it labeled the wrong qualities. Society will be profoundly altered when the current generation of college students matures with different ideas on premarital sex and marijuana. We should be called the "Practical Generation" if a term must be used to separate us and our techniques from those of the 60s. Our newfound pragmatism is applied both to the underlying social mores which have changed, and to our egotism, which has not.

## Letters to the editors Frats transcend stereotype

To the editors:

An article in Tuesday's paper, "Checking out stereotypes on Fraternity Row" is yet another successful attempt by our esteemed campus newspaper to present a three column, Eric Severeid analysis promising an insight into fraternity life without saying anything at all. The article was intended "to provide these insights for prospective rushers during rush week." Naturally, one would think that the article (based on several weeks research, the authors maintain) would try to do more than skim the surface of fraternity life. Yet the whole article is mere repetition of the age-old stereotypes obviously written by two young staff writers whose in-depth reporting is as deep as a saucer.

The article capitalizes and focuses on the most sensationalistic quotes and stories imaginable (a black house-boy in every house and a beer in every hand). The article summarizes fraternity life as "concerts, mixers, intramurals, beer and other liquor." That is certainly a part of fraternity life—an important part to many members. But fraternity life goes much deeper than that; it has to or else the whole concept would have died long ago.

The single and most important aspect and distinguishing characteristic of fraternity life from other lifestyles is that it provides the opportunity for a person to live in intimate contact with other individuals who share a common bond. Now I suppose this is commonly known as brotherhood. In this respect most fraternities are typical—each professes a strong sense of unity and fellowship.

It is commonly taken for granted that a united brotherhood demands subjugation of the individual and homogeneity, and an individual to acquiesce to the rule of the majority. But the strongest and most

successful fraternities on campus put an emphasis on diversity and on what an individual can contribute to the house.

What kind of people pledge fraternities? In all honesty many of them are insecure students from small-town backgrounds who feel lost in a large university. Yet the majority of fraternity members are simply men attracted by the idea of involving themselves with others in an organization which promotes social activity and group interaction. Many guys choose fraternity life because it gives them a chance to form a close association with individuals who represent a whole spectrum of different interests and involvements.

In this respect, fraternity life is unique: scholars, athletes, men involved in student activities—and yes, those who are there just for a good time make up most of Carolina's fraternities. There is diversity within every fraternity house, and that diversity cannot help but to broaden each member's experience; each member contributes and learns from each other.

The Greek system is far from perfect; to a large degree it suffers from its past and its present. It is not the right life for every male at Carolina, but my point is this: a person interested in fraternities should see how they operate first-hand and draw his own conclusions. Don't be guided or prejudiced by the DTH's articles or even the viewpoint expressed in this letter.

For all its faults and shortcomings it is a viable alternative to dorm or apartment life. I think you will find a number of guys who are individuals and who are concerned about more things than just the date of the next party.

Bill Sittou  
Chi Phi House  
300 S. Columbia St.

(1,150 died last year) and pedestrians (10,000 were killed). Oddly enough the bicyclist's vulnerability in a conflict with an automobile can inspire irritation rather than sympathy, as a bicyclist friend of mine found out when she sought treatment at the emergency room.

John Zinn has noticed that bicyclist's eyes protrude, which he ascribes to psychosociophysiological hypoxigenation. Protruding eyes are more likely an evolutionary response to the ever-present danger of being cut in front of or pushed aside by automobiles, and the more mundane hazards of sewer grates and parking lot gravel runoff.

Psychosociophysiological hypoxigenation, on the other hand, is more widespread than Mr. Zinn is apparently aware. A study reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* several weeks ago found levels of carbon monoxide (CO) higher than the EPA safe maximums in over 40 per cent of a nationwide sample of blood donors. The biggest source are the automobiles into which so many pedestrians retreat after their stroll through the Mall parking lot.

Since bicyclists are more directly exposed to automobile exhaust than either pedestrians or motorists, and since they breathe at a greater rate; we can expect them to have much higher CO concentrations. For the same reasons, they also get more than their fair share of lead, sulfur-dioxide and other pollutants. How ironic that the driver who pollutes the least must breathe the most. How ironic also that a society that consumes such a great amount of deodorants and perfumes thinks so little about the odor caused by its transportation.

As an example of the apparent official attitude, Chapel Hill Town Manager Chet Kendzior was reported in Thursday's *Chapel Hill Newspaper* as considering removing onstreet parking from downtown Franklin Street to improve the flow of traffic. Was he thinking about bicycle lanes? According to the report, bicycles weren't even mentioned.

Five months ago a group of residents of my apartment complex sent a proposal to Mayor Howard Lee (with copies to Chet Kendzior and each of the alderpersons) for bicycle lanes on downtown Chapel Hill streets and on the route from Carrboro. Neither the Mayor nor the Town Manager nor any of the alderpersons (with the exception of Alice Welsh) responded. Perhaps some day all the bicyclists will drive into downtown in automobiles so that Town officials can see that the only reason there is any traffic flow is that so many students and other residents ride bicycles.

Mr. Zinn deserves his safety and comfort on the sidewalks. We deserve ours on the streets and bikeways.

Vic Schoenbach  
P.O. Box 488  
Carrboro

## Cheerleaders offensive, vulgar

To the editors:

Our head cheerleaders proved themselves to be obnoxious, disorganized, repulsive, rasping, corny, offensive, vulgar, ridiculous, trite and nauseating. Most important, through their uncanny combination of these traits, they stifled the fans' potential enthusiasm.

The Heels need the fans and their enthusiastic support.

The fans need two new head cheerleaders.  
Bill Fairbanks  
307 Morrison

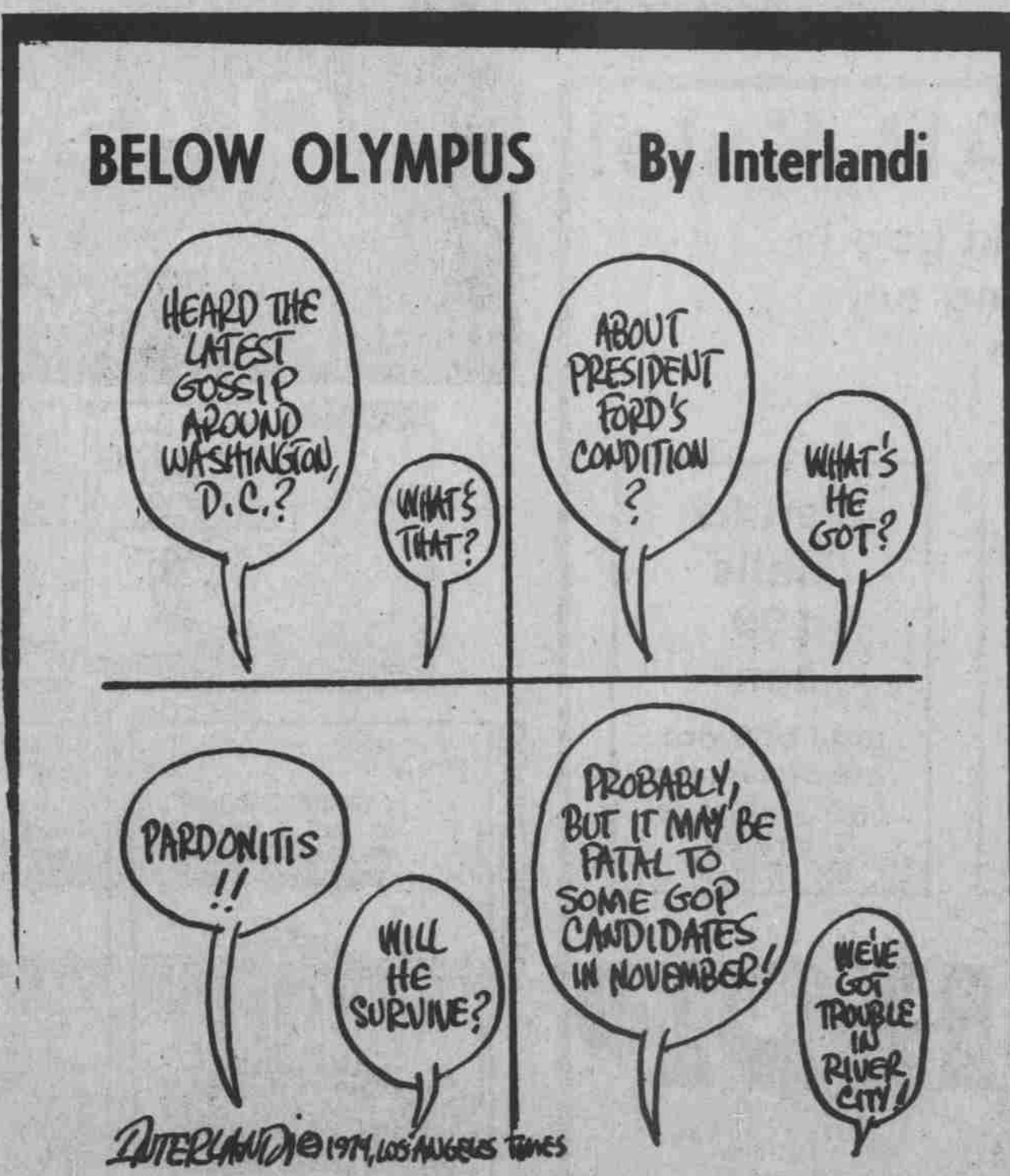
## Autos endanger town's cyclists

To the editors:

I would like to reply to John Zinn's column in the September 20 DTH. Though myself a bicyclist, I will readily admit that bicyclists do not always ride responsibly and considerately. Nor would I disagree that an unsafely operated bicycle is a hazard to pedestrians, bicyclists and even motorists. In fact, at the end of the last century, many saw the two-wheelers speeding past pedestrians and horse-drawn carriages as a public menace. The campus and downtown sidewalks particularly should maintain the primacy of the pedestrian—bicycles should observe a five or eight m.p.h. speed limit on walkways, and perhaps no bicycling should be permitted on crowded walkways during change of classes.

But there is another side to the matter. When people feel they are unfairly dealt with and not accorded reasonable privileges, they are less motivated to act responsibly and considerately. A bicyclist speeding down a sidewalk does no one a favor. But everyone who adopts a bicycle instead of an automobile is doing all of us a big favor—she or he is avoiding pollution, saving energy, reducing traffic, and keeping Chapel Hill a cleaner, quieter, and more pleasant place to live. Yet neither the Town of Chapel Hill nor the University has done much to protect, assist or appreciate bicyclists.

The danger that bicycles constitute to pedestrians is vastly outweighed by the danger from motor vehicles to bicyclists



## The Daily Tar Heel

Jim Cooper, Greg Turosak  
Editors

Kevin McCarthy, Managing Editor  
Barbara Holtzman, Associate Editor  
Gary Fulton, Associate Editor  
Joel Brinkley, News Editor  
Harriet Sugar, Features Editor  
Elliott Warnock, Sports Editor  
Martha Stevens, Head Photographer