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### Clyde Bellecourt at UMM

University Relations

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MORRIS (5/3/76) -- American Indian activist Clyde Bellecourt, a key participant at Wounded Knee, told a University of Minnesota, Morris audience last weekend that "Wounded Knee has ended, but a different kind of massacre is taking place against the Indian people today -- a judicial massacre."

Bellecourt, a co-founder of the American Indian Movement and now its national director, was the keynote speaker at UMM's annual "Cultural Experience Weekend."

A native of the White Earth Reservation in Northern Minnesota, Bellecourt told a Friday night gathering in Edson Auditorium that the "judicial rape continues."

Pointing to the case of Indian spiritual leader Leonard Crow Dog, Bellecourt condemned the judicial system leading to the conviction and imprisonment of such Indian leaders as Crow Dog.

Tracing the growth of AIM from July of 1968 in Minneapolis and his role in it, Bellecourt said the organization's leaders "had a feeling that Indian people were looking for social change.

"It was the first time in 200 years," he continued, "that the Indian would be free to make his own determination without outside interference."

Bellecourt said AIM's leaders were determined to put the blame for the Indians' troubles where it belonged -- on the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the educational establishment and the Christian church."

He said the American Indian Movement never "condemned Christianity," but did condemn such practices as (giving) "mismatched shoes and evening gowns to poor Indians at Christmas."

Bellecourt, promising that American Indians would have their own celebration of the nation's Bicentennial this summer, said "we are going to be present in Washington, in Philadelphia, at Mount Rushmore and all over the country this 4th of July.

"We are going to let them (the American people) know that we are the landlords of this country, that it's the end of the month and that the rent is due."

Bellecourt said he was convinced that "the struggle will continue," and that the AIM movement is "a spiritual movement that has given strength to liberation movements all over world."

Other weekend events included a dance, a picnic at which Bellecourt's brother, Vernon, spoke, the film "Man and Boy" starring Bill Cosby and a theatrical and dance presentation.