



**Kakwirakeron**

By **MOLLY JUDGE**

"The United States is a land of freedom where people can be what they want to be. Our people here in the U.S. and Canada can be anything they want, except an Indian. We have a right to our own area of land and to our own nationality."

Kakwirakeron, a representative of the new Ganienkeh Nation, spoke to a group of seminarians at St. Bernard's, Monday, Oct. 28, during a discussion in which students donated \$25 to help the Indians establish themselves in their re-claimed land.

Kakwirakeron, along with five other Indians, spoke to organizations and churches in the Rochester area last week. The Indians are attempting to gain support and gather materials and money to aid members of Ganienkeh in surviving the winter before they can maintain self-sufficiency.

Ganienkeh is currently 612 acres of state-owned land in the Eagle Bay area of the Adirondacks.

The Indians, primarily Mohawks, claim that a 1797 treaty that ceded the land to New York is invalid. Chief Joseph Brant was not authorized by the Mohawks to make the treaty, they say.

According to Tekarontake, one of the speakers at the seminary, the Indians should be able to reclaim 800 million acres of mountain land in New York and Vermont. Tekarontake is a member of the Mohawk Wolf Clan who moved from Canada to the Adirondack site.

### Church Praised For Schools

**Kingston, Jamaica (RNS)** — The Jamaican minister of education has declared that no institution or government has done so much for the Jamaican community as the Roman Catholic Church.

Opening an exhibition on "The Church's Involvement in Education" at a parish library, Howard Cooke said that the Church had played a great role in education, particularly in the construction of schools.

"At times when many schools have broken down financially and the Ministry of Education has been particularly slow in giving grants," he said, "the Church has always stepped in to offer help, which shows that people who think that education is solely the business of the government are wrong."

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# Eagle Bay Indians Tell Their Story At Seminary

The state Environmental Conservation Department has issued an injunction saying the Indian occupation of the former girls' camp is illegal.

"We were pushed onto reservations because we are so outnumbered. Just look at any map. You can't sharpen a lead pencil narrow enough to pinpoint where a reservation is," Kakwirakeron said. He mentioned that the Mohawks chose the Adirondacks as the site for the Nation because the resort area is unpolluted and not owned by private citizens.

According to the Ganienkeh Manifesto, the document of the Nation: "Ganienkeh shall be the home of the traditional Red man. Here, according to rights accorded everyone else in the world, the red man shall exercise his proven government and society according to his culture, customs and traditions. According to the rights of the human, he has the right to operate his state with no interference from any foreign nation or government."

"Ganienkeh will be a separate nation from the U.S. and Canada where all Indians can gather together and revert back to the traditional ways," Tekarontake said. "So far we have the support of 32 foreign nations. And Holland has recently opened the doors for us in the United Nations. We intend to apply to the U.N. to achieve recognition as a free and separate nation."

"After all the U.S. government owes us this land. They restored Okinawa to Japan didn't they?" he asked.

The manifesto also states that: "The Indian State of Ganienkeh shall be a money-less state. The requirement is enough land to grow food for all, enough grazing land for beef cattle or buffalo and enough timberland for building

materials; and people who are ready to work towards success."

The Ganienkeh spokesmen expressed their desire for a peaceful existence with nature and their hope that violence would not be a part of their effort in keeping the land they re-claimed last May.

But violence actually did occur later that same Monday in Ganienkeh when gun shots wounded a 9-year-old Geneva girl and a 22-year-old man who were driving by the Indian camp in separate cars. The Indians say people in passing cars have previously fired upon women and children. The Indians said that they shot at the cars with hunting rifles in order to protect themselves. The Nation members expressed their sympathy but blamed the darkness.

Tekarontake refused to specify the number of Indians living in Ganienkeh but he did say that a school had recently opened to educate the children living there. According to Tekarontake, the school has employed certified Indian teachers to teach basic studies and Indians familiar with traditions to teach Indian ways and languages.

"We are not here to cry about our lost land, but we are here to seek support from people who want people to regain their human rights and dignity," Kakwirakeron said.

The Indians are soliciting donations of money, staple food items such as sugar, potatoes and flour, tools for farming, making maple syrup and chain saws, clothing, blankets, and medical supplies to enable them to survive the winter.

Donations may be sent to the Ganienkeh Camp, American Indian Community House, 40 35th St., New York, N.Y. 10016.

### CROSS-COUNTRY RACE

Cross-country enthusiasts are invited to run the Mendon Ponds course on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 30, in a prize competition the Monroe County recreation division calls a Turkey Trot. Age limits are 13 and 20, and runners will be grouped according to age. Contestants must register by Nov. 20 with Jonathan Arm, 375 Westfall Rd., Rochester 14620.

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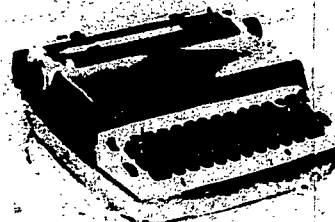
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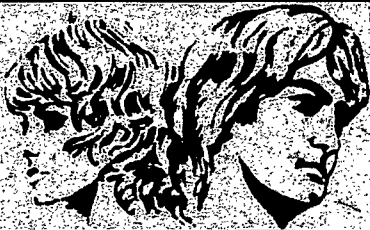
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