

Willie Urges Thoughtful Use of Saltine Warrior By University Departments and Student Groups

Charles V. Willie, vice president for student affairs, sent letters last week to several University departments and organizations, urging them to review their use of Indians as symbols in University-sponsored events.

Letters were sent to the band department, the athletic department, the publications office, Student Association, the cheerleaders and other units.

Willie explained that his action was prompted by an article in the Wall Street Journal of Jan. 27 which reported that the American Indian Center of Cleveland had sued the local baseball

team for \$9 million in damages. The newspaper reported: "The target was the Cleveland Indians' symbol, a grinning, toothy Indian . . ." It quoted Russell Means, director of the Indian center and himself an Oglala Sioux, as saying: "That Indian looks like a damn fool, like a clown, and we resent being portrayed

as either savages or clowns."

The staff of the activities and organizations section of the student affairs office urged Willie to "alert various people within the University to the increased sensitivity of American Indians." His letter encouraged University units to review "the use of Indians as symbols" and to take preventive action which "may redound to the dignity and well-being of all." He noted in his letter that "the Syracuse University football team informally has sometimes been called the Saltine Warriors."

