

HST 202: History of the United States W14 (Escobar Meta 31101 31100)

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Forum 4

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Native Americans and Mascots

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 10:51 PM

This forum thread is for Native Americans and Mascots posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the questions in your posts.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post.

To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Native Americans and Mascots

Sum of ratings: -

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Redskins vs Indians

by Kenneth Green - Sunday, March 2, 2014, 3:45 PM

When it comes to the use of Native American mascots and imagery, there does seem to be quite a bit of confusion on the issue. As noted in the articles, Florida State does have written permission to use the Seminoles from the Native Tribes. It is also noted that many Native Americans consider the use of these images in promoting "Pride" in one's school as a positive notion. So the question is, do the few voices speaking out against the mascots speak for all Native Americans? The answer can only be no, since no group of people see all things the same way. A better form of protest would be for an entire group of Tribes forming an alliance to speak with one voice about the issue, such as the case with the Washington Redskins. Many Native American groups are opposed to this name because it is indeed a derogatory term. The Register-Gaurd does make an interesting point that if it offends or harms just one person, it should be banned. Yet, that person (or Activist) could speak with a louder voice if they garnered support from their own community in opposition. In regard to the State of Oregon's recent decision, there is SB 215 floating around the

Legislature that would allow schools to keep the mascots. It hasn't passed yet, but there is an effort to change the decision. I believe the State should simply adopt the NCAA rules with the exemption for school districts who obtain permission from the local tribes where their kids may go to school. It's an issue (especially in the case of the Redskins) that isn't going to go away until there is better dialogue between the Tribal Leaders and school administrators.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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In response to your posting - Re: Redskins vs Indians



by Zachary Ogborn - Monday, March 3, 2014, 10:11 PM

I would have to agree with your conclusion on this one. I feel like the State of Oregon **SHOULD** adopt the NCAA standards on this issue for all **High School** and **Junior Colleges** within our state. However, in the article provided, (*I'm unable to provide the precise citation due to a current computer issue, I'll fix that shortly*) but as I was leading to, some High Schools just don't find it an issue. I believe it was Katie Zimmermen, student body president at the time of the interview, who said "I find it an honour to be considered a Warrior." Without a large enough portion of the general public sharing their dislike of a title, sports team, or school mascot, why should they be changed? Again, I'm agreeing with what you mentioned... If there isn't a significant group, alliance of groups, or advocates for a specific Tribe behind the motion to do away with the Native American titles and stereotypes, then there won't be much momentum behind the change. However, learning about Native American 'integration' and assimilation schools does make me question why the title "Redskins" been around for so long....

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Redskins vs Indians



by Jonathon Shimmon - Thursday, March 6, 2014, 12:11 PM

I agree with you 100% on this post.. what you said about the Native tribes that consider the Florida State "Seminoles" to promote pride, is something that I would assume all tribes would see it as. As for the "Redskins" I didn't know it was derogatory. Also, you said do a few voices speak for all of the Native Americans? I think if the whole Redskins mascot thing is actually a big deal, they indeed should take a vote, that would be the simplest of ways, as long as it's not filled with fraud, as we know many votes have been in our past....

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Redskins vs Indians



by Danny Lopez - Thursday, March 6, 2014, 12:27 PM

I agree with forum about that many Native Americans mascot use in school does promote a sense of pride and respect to that certain tribe, and in a community where

that mascot has been there for a long time sure do respect it and it brings in that mascot to live with the spirit of the community. I also agree with that if the natives had a problem they can speak up as a group with your example with Washington redskins. If a community where they misuse the name then it should be banned as you mention. I do agree with your take on the recent decision on the mascots and adapt to the NCAA rules, so far what I know there hasn't been bad misuse in competitive sports with the use of native mascot.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Redskins vs Indians

by Maisie Smith - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 4:37 PM

I couldn't agree with you more along the lines of the Redskins being derogatory. That being said, most of the Native American based school mascots are not derogatory or offensive, in the eyes of most members of that tribe. I also agree that one person cannot change the way everyone sees something. If one person were to stand out and discuss their beliefs on this issue, they by all means deserve to be heard, but it is a majority rules issue, as I believe it should be. If all of these mascots were to be changed to something that has nothing to do with Native Americans, chances are someone from a different background will find it offensive, or find a way to have it be perceived by others as offensive. All in all, there is no way to make everyone happy with the decision, therefor it does lie in the hands of the majority.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Native American Mascot Use

by Jacob Sanders - Monday, March 3, 2014, 6:52 PM

This issue is of particular interest to me because I interned for a tribal court during the summer of 2013. Every person there aside from me was Alaska Native, and they all held very firm opinions that the use of Native American mascots was wrong and offensive. Having said that, according to the article, a poll taken in 2002 showed that 75 percent of Native Americans weren't offended by the use of mascots that portrayed varying Native American groups. This is where we get to the crux of the issue: how obligated should we feel to meet the needs of the minority in a given group?

In the article, Brenda Brainard states that it's time to make a change. Even if it may not seem offensive, we're tacitly perpetuating ideas and stereotypes about Native Americans. I empathize with her position, as Native Americans have a right to be sensitive to things of this nature.

Conversely, Steve Bowers believes that if you take the idea that we should bow to the will of the few, any and every mascot will be subject to the same types of criticisms that Native American mascots are. I completely disagree. It's a false equivalency to compare Native American mascots to loggers or cavemen, as the latter groups never faced genocide or institutionalized racism that many Native Americans were subjected to.

Oregon's decision seemed to be the appropriate one, as many people simply just couldn't

care less. In the end, I would support a series of rules similar to that of the NCAA, that requires explicit permission from the tribe that is having a mascot modeled after them. Being a white person, I will never understand the sensitivity to racial discrimination that Native Americans feel. Therefore it is not my decision to make.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Native American Mascot Use

by Kenneth Green - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 6:43 PM

Amen, that "Cavemen" or "Titans" don't carry the same resonance as Native American mascots. I'm from Mapleton we were the "Sailors." The argument that a few Sailors might be offended? Your point is well taken.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Racist?

by Haden Peterson - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 1:40 AM

I remember hearing about this indian mascot dilemma a few years ago and I never saw what the big deal was. After reading these articles they kind of opened my eyes on the reality of it, but even after reading them I still didn't think this should be as big of a deal that it is. No school is intending on being racist or trying to demoralize a native american tribe by making them their mascot. They take pride in their name and mascot. Some native americans think its an honer to be in that position, to represent the schools mascot. I love how Florida State has permission to still be the Seminoles.

I can see how the crowd/fans can make an impact on this situation. Every team has rival teams and those fans can be ruthless and take it to the next level. That's where things get offensive and thats how these teams get a bad rep.

I don't like how they took all the native american names out of Oregon. Oregon is a well known home for multiple indian reservations and tribes. It's almost like they're representing those tribes, giving them credit. I just hope this doesn't become an even bigger issue and more mascot names that seem offensive have to be changed.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Racist?

by Kenneth Green - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 6:51 PM

Dude, your second paragraph, isn't that why it's an issue? I agree with 75% of Native Americans, if used as a source of Pride, Oregon is steeped in Native American History.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Racist?

by Danny Lopez - Thursday, March 6, 2014, 12:43 PM

When I saw this topic in the forum, I wouldn't think there was problems using the native mascot in schools knowing that Oregon had many tribes here, and I thought it was to show respect to that tribe in the history it had in Oregon. But after reading the article ti shire did opened my eyes in a different lens, but I still haven't heard any racial use in the mascots around coming from a High school where our rival's mascot was Eagle Indian where I never heard any misuse of the name. I don agree with your take on the topic that no school is trying to be racist, and its using it for pride for the school, and the community.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Mascots Offensive?

by Amanda Daniels - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 7:24 AM

A mascot is by definition a person, animal, or object adopted by a group as a symbolic figure especially to bring them good luck.[1] Unless a schools' mascot symbolizes something other than this I don't understand how it could ever possibly be considered offensive to anyone. I seems to me that it would only be chosen to out of respect and how could that be offensive for any group? Now if a school mascot was let's say a black man that was chained up and they called themselves The N!**rgos, there would be no doubt that, that would be in my opinion, offensive to everyone because it is an offensive term. I feel a school's mascot represents the pride and school spirit the students and teachers have for their schools. And so I really don't see the point in wasting a bunch of resources to change then. They are not meant to be rude or offensive.

[1] <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/mascot?show=0&t=1393941998>

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Mascots Offensive?

by Austin McQuaw - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 12:46 PM

I agree. In it's nature, a mascot is not offensive as it's a symbol used to positively represent a group. There are controversial and offensive terms or forms of presentation for a mascot that should be avoided. However, at it's core, any mascot is a positive symbol that a group takes pride in.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Mascots Offensive?

by Haden Peterson - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 6:18 PM

Great post. I feel like the mascots name is important to the sports teams and schools they represent. A name like The Warriors is cool because it's portraying that The Warriors are going to battle and are going to fight hard. Nowhere near offensive in my eyes. And another great point is going through all the trouble to change the name. It's just another thing that a school would have to worry about and it wouldn't be cheap!

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Mascots Offensive?

by Kenneth Green - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 6:58 PM

Again, I agree with 75% of Native Americans who feel it is a source of Pride when schools use their symbols as mascots, in a positive light. But, at certain levels we're also dealing with the "get over it" factor. And that's where the Activists show up. And they have every right to do so. NCAA Rules with written exemptions, ends the controversy.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Mascots Offensive?

by Kevin Wright - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 9:55 PM

I know that the Cleveland Indians mascot Cheif Wahoo is being phased out because people found it offensive to have him on hats and shirts. Cheif Wahoo is still going to be used but it will no longer be the offical mascot for the Cleveland Indians. They will be using a big "C" as their offical logo.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Mascots Offensive?

by Danny Lopez - Thursday, March 6, 2014, 12:36 PM

I agree with your definition on mascots, a school would never want to offend people by choosing a mascot that would do that. As your definition said a mascot is used for good luck, but I also think it stands for for pride and spirit of that school, and it brings the community together sporting that mascot in any event. Yes, I think it shows respect to that certain tribe, and no way of offended that tribe, its an honor to use that mascot for that school. With changes in the NCAA it could be put in high schools just get that permission from that tribe to use the name, so that it can stop any argument.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Human beings

by Kevin Wright - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 8:05 AM

I would agree with James Florendo. If it offends anyone than it should be changed. If this is affecting anyone it should be the Native people but this article has suggested otherwise. Since, everyone needs to live in a coheesive social enviornment we must give the people what they want and that is change. If we do change the mascot what would we change it to. The TV show Community is a show about a group of community college students making their way through college. Their college mascot is a human being. Is that the level we should take it? Every mascot is a human being so we don't offend someone.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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In For The Long Haul

by Brian Breedlove - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 4:56 PM

I hope you and James have a lot of free time on your hands. If we start changing things that are offensive to individuals in search of a "Cohesive Social Environment", well then we're...In For The Long Haul.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Anything can be offensive, but stereotypes are bad.

by Timothy Wilson-Haley - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 9:30 AM

I don't agree that if just one person is offended, then it should be eliminated. There is an infinite number of things in this world that just one person finds offensive. It would be impossible to ensure that no one gets exposed to anything offensive. However, some things that are rather common do come close to breaching common decency. I'm surprised that some people don't think the Cleveland Indians' mascot image is offensive. The alternative hats illustrate this point very well. Especially because images drive into our memories better than words, I think mascots should at least make sure to not play into stereotypes with their images.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Anything can be offensive, but stereotypes are bad.

by Danny Lopez - Thursday, March 6, 2014, 1:23 PM

I agree with you about if one person gets offended with the use of the mascot it shouldn't be changed, and it becomes a big deal it's because of a large group gets offende then it should be changed. I would say people are not trying to offensive with use of native mascot, and it shows pride. Also strength which many sport teams use. Along as people do use the mascot name in a bad way, I don't think it should be takien away. I would still say that they need the perssion from the natives to use the mascot to diminish those who are offended with prove that are approved by that tribe.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Anything can be offensive, but stereotypes are bad.



by Kevin Wright - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 10:24 PM

My high school mascot was a miller and I don't really have any connection to the miller. He had an axe in his hand was wearing Logging gear. My grandfather was a Logger and he went to the same high school. The mascot is a white man and I wonder if all the non white students feel like it is offensive to them.

The idea of honor in the mascot and school spirit is important to the atmosphere of the school. If the students aren't offended by their mascot and understand that they should be respected and taught the history of the mascot it is fine.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Take a deep breath...



by Brian Breedlove - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 10:26 AM

It is very interesting to me, when talking about this issue to older generations, the polar differences across the board. My neighbor Jim, a 67 year old Vietnam Vet, "Could not possibly care any less about the plight of them Redskin bastards!" I had never heard him talk like this before and I've known him for about two years. It was almost frightening; the hate I felt come out of his mouth was overwhelming. It has completely changed my view of this individual. My father wondered if we didn't have more important things for our school boards to worry about, like ranking 30th in the world in education. That statement is in direct coalition with how my entire childhood went. But not a lot of sympathy for the Native Americans either. My wife believes that if someone is truly offended about it, then that should be enough to make a change. My 14 year old daughter told me "To LEAVE her alone."

The point is that the spectrum of concern is so broad that the answer/fix is not going to be an easy one or able to be made quickly. If we're talking about specifically what offends people, then the debate will last far past our lifetimes. A zillion people are offended by a zillion different things every single day. (Yes, I know that's not a real number) I'm sure somewhere there is a descendent of Scotland unhappy about the North Eugene Highlanders and a Logger pissed-off about the South Eugene Axeman. It is literally impossible to make everyone happy.

Now, isn't the subject of Native Americans a little more sensitive due to the actions of many of our ancestors? Don't we have a responsibility to somehow "Make it up to them"? Personally, I don't buy that. I have a responsibility to teach my children about what has happened in the past and allow them the opportunity to make their own decisions about how they want to feel on a given situation. I don't feel like I can change the past, only the future. "I see it as an honor to be a Warrior." (Katie Zimmerman, Oakridge High School student body president) This seems like progress in the right direction to me!

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Take a deep breath...

by Kenneth Green - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 7:25 PM

That's a funny Post. Dude, I think I met Jim lol. Your point is taken, we all need thicker skin. (But I'm curious what your daughter thinks about Reconstruction...) rotgImao.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Take a deep breath...

by Kevin Wright - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 10:14 PM

I agree that there are better things that need to be dealt with like the quality of our teachers and facilities. I am a tribal member of the Klamath tribe and I grew up with my friends making jokes about me being native. I didn't mind the jokes because they were my friends and I know them very well.

I think the amount of de-sensatization we have aloud ourselves to endure is insane. The amount of jokes about A Chinese, Mexican, and a german walking into a bar are very offensive jokes. I've taken part in these jokes but I always have a stale after taste in my mouth after telling them. I have since eliminated these offensive jokes from my vault because I know how offensive they are.

I've heard my grandmother use derogatory terms growing up and heard my dad tell me about different slang names for different nationalities. I didn't really understand it at the time but since I've had time to grow and learn I realize how offensive we can really be without consciously knowing it.

the idea of making it up to them is not something I would want to hear. It sounds like a have ditch effort to make something right when the decision to oppress the lesser race has already been chosen. Like you said you can't change the past but you can do everything you can in the positive directions at least.

It seems like changing the mascots is just another way to change history and erase Natives out of the books. I wonder what they would change the mascot? I like that Joe mentioned the origins of the colleges name because I had no Idea where it came from.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Getting the approval of using Native American mascots

by Danny Lopez - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 12:20 PM

This a controversial issue to discuss over the use of a Native American mascot in schools, and most natives think it's not bad using the nickname as stated in the poll from sports illustrated. The articles say that the mascots can be used as sign of respect to natives and pride in their mascots, but when comes down to rivalry games people could be yelling disrespectful things using the Native American name, and then it could be considered offensive and disrespectful to that tribe; for example, the rivalry between cowboys and redskins where lots of bad things being said at games. This could sure offend Native Americans in the use of the mascot name.

In the question asked about Indians speaking about resent on their view on mascots? I would say no, because of the many tribes that still exist would have different views on them positive or negative way. In some communities it's a sign of respect to that tribe, and they respect that mascot. But many natives didn't like the Washington Redskins using that name did offend a lot of Native Americans. I think it does matter how Native Americans view the mascots because these mascots could be native spirits that have a lot of meaning to that certain tribe, and they would want people to offend it, as stated in the Register Guard that if it offends a large amount natives then it should be banned. When I was in Hood River High school and my mascot was the eagle, and rival school was The Dalles, and their mascot was Eagle Indian. We hated each other so bad that each football game was a battle, but I never heard any offensive thing said using their mascot name in it just that hated the Dalles. I think if the native mascot name is really being respected in the community then it should stay because many people there take pride in their mascot, and if we take it off it shows disrespect to the native tribe, like how the Europeans pushed away the Native Americans from their lands. I agree with Oregon decision, but they should do what the NCAA to get that permission to use a certain name from that tribe.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Mascot Controversy



by Jonathon Shimmon - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 12:32 PM

For my entire life I have been an avid sports viewer, and player. It has surrounded me and my entire family from the first day I can remember. The first time I heard about something like this was a few months back when the controversy over the Washington Redskins name came out, I instantly thought, and still agree with, how can this offend anyone? Personally I feel like it would only make (whatever the mascot is, be it a duck, or an indian tribe) have more of a positive connotation to go along with it. If you watch sports, you know that there isn't a single team out there in which everybody dislikes. Every team has its fans, some not as avid, and some being a huge part of their life, like it is for me and my family. Now I understand that sometimes, as I definitely fall into this category, people say something along the lines of "beavers suck" like if Oregon were playing Oregon State, and that obviously apply to an indian type mascot like the Redskins, or the Florida State Seminoles. But for the majority of the United States, people do not put down the schools mascot, or make that animal, tribe or whatever the mascot may be look any worse. As that student Kate Zimmerman said "It is an honor to be a warrior". I think that is the perfect example of what mascots do for the thing they represent. They bring positivity to whatever it may be, an axeman, warrior, redskin, or seminole, ect... It seems outrageous to me that this is an argument.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Mascot Controversy



by Kenneth Green - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 8:27 PM

You're obviously an athlete and well thought about this issue. I hear you, why is this an argument? but it is. (Otherwise, Native American mascots wouldn't have been banned in Oregon.) I'm a lilly white guy, but I believe the NCAA rules with written exemptions, should be applied.

And when it comes to "Redskins" I must disagree. You can wikipedia Redskins and it's said on Wiki the support for the name among Native Americans grows to 90% of self-identified Native Americans. But I grew up with Native Americans and my best friend was Native American, if someone would have called him a "Redskin" (as little kids tend to do,) me and several other of my 'white' friends would have beaten the living *^%& out of the person who said that.

It's a derogatory term.

I just texted my childhood friend and asked him his opinion about the Washington Redskins. (We never discussed it nor knew adults considered it an issue.) But now as a adults, he says that name should be changed. Good enough for me.

I'm interested to hear what your Native American friends think about the Washington Redskins.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Mascot Controversy



by Jonathon Shimmon - Thursday, March 6, 2014, 12:06 PM

I grew up in Hawaii, and actually had no idea that "Redskin" was a derogatory term. None of my friends consider themselves Native Americans (that I know of), and so I honestly have no answer for your question. But what I do know is that through watching so many sporting events, the Washington Redskins from time to time, there was never a time in which the announcers, or even fans in the crowd (which would be more likely) were discriminating to the Redskins, because they were called the "Redskins". In the world of sports, I do not think it can be labeled as a derogatory term, because it simply isn't used in a derogatory way.

But growing up on a rock in the middle of the pacific probably forces me to have a sheltered view on all of it. However, the NCAA team we have here are called the University of Hawaii Warriors. And the Hawaiians are honestly there biggest fans. I have never heard of a local hawaiian person complaining about the mascot. The mascot is actually a massive samoan/hawaiian/tongan (not quite sure what he is) warrior, with face paint and everything. He's called "vili" if i recall correctly, and it seems to me the crowd gets more fired up when he's on the field doing his thing then the players themselves. (Considering how bad UH sports has been in the past.)

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Native American Mascots

by Joseph Foley - Friday, March 7, 2014, 7:04 PM

I'm a big sports fan myself, and I have listened to this issue be debated over talk radio many times. I also have two Native American friends I grew up with.

In regard to the Redskins, it is hard for me to find any good in that name. I asked my two life long Native American friends how they felt about the term. They both said that they don't lose sleep over it, but it is certainly not a positive way to address any Native American. If someone were to refer to either one of them in that way, they would take extreme offense to it.

I like your example of being kids, and that if someone referred to one of your friends as a Redskin, they would get the s@#\$ kicked out of them. We group up with the same mentality. With just that being said, I would have to say it is certainly not a healthy term.

The portion of the article interviewing Mr. Florendo that Professor Escobar posted, sums up my thoughts perfectly. "James Florendo, a member of the Warm Springs tribe and coordinator of Native American programs at **Lane Community College**, said that if Indian mascots affect even a single student in a negative way, they should go. Some of the discomfort many American Indians feel for mascots stems from "historical trauma," he added. "If your people have been the victims of genocide, it's real hard to listen to anyone on the other side saying anything about respecting you," he said." **(SYMBOLIC DEBATE | An effort to get schools to drop Indian mascots has not advanced By Anne Williams, The Register-Guard, Sunday, Jan 31, 2010)**

If 100% of Native Americans felt like the mascot names were positive, I would support them, but that does not seem to be the case. I'm not sure that it is fair to let white Americans be the decider on this topic. Studying what Native Americans were subjected to, has made me feel even stronger about this. In regard to making things right, we did so much damage that is not even possible to make things right. Any request to make amends would not be too much to ask if you consider the damage done.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Mascots/ articles

by Joseph Foley - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 3:47 PM

I was able to look at this issue in further detail last night, and have a longer conversation with one of my long time Native American friends.

He recommended a couple of articles for me to read. Both are from The Huffington Post. It focuses on the lack of improvement in education for Native Americans, and how there have been drastic improvements in educational scores for both the African American and Latino communities. The article also briefly touches on the mascot issue.

Near the last half of the Huffington Post article it mentions, "He also noted the harmful effects of Native American school mascots. Despite rising opposition, a number of high schools still have them-- not to mention the controversial name of the NFL's Redskins. "Schools that have Native mascots reflect stereotypes that are harmful and negative," said Biddle. "That's negative reinforcement of their values." (found @http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/15/native-american-achievement-gap_n_3762687.html) I continue to find groups that are absolutely apposed to Native American mascots.

My friend referred me to another Huffington Post article that touches on a story of an Idaho school dropping the Redskin mascot. Near the top of the article there was a summary that rang true to what I believe, "Students need to be taught to see people beyond the color of their skin," said Woolstenhulm, who was a student at the school. "They need to get to know who people are without using nicknames or assumptions based on outward appearances." (found @http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/06/12/teton-redskins-logo_n_3430496.html) This makes sense to me, and I'm still having a really hard time finding anything that has a positive spin on the use of the term Redskin.

My Native American friend brought up some other good points. He mentioned that many Native American groups do not have the same access to large scale media that professional sports team or even school boards have. When they reference that most Native Americans don't mind the use of the mascots, what are they basing that on?

He again said that he certainly does not lose sleep over the issue, but that he does not know one person in his family or tribe that take pride in mascot names like Redskin or Warriors. In fact, they typically find it at

mildly offensive, or ignorant at the very least. I asked him if he could see how this was a way to honor Native Americans, in a proud sense, or even a compliment? He laughed at me, and suggested I think more about American's history with Native Americans.

The more I learn about our history and our treatment of Native Americans, the harder it is for me to justify the use of Native American mascots.

Sum of ratings:3 (1) Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Mascot Controversy

by Maisie Smith - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 1:17 PM

I agree with you that this is an issue that seems to be ridiculous to even have to vote on, but even though some people may not find these mascots offensive, others do. I think a big part of the controversy is that most teams use an animal as their mascot, while these other schools are using people, particularly a minority, as their mascot. I look at it as bringing positive attention to that particular tribe and giving them recognition, but that's not how a large majority of people look at it. Some people find the mascots rude and offensive not only because of other teams bashing them, but also because of the picture or symbol associated with said mascot.

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Honorary or Offensive?

by Anthony Consolo - Thursday, March 6, 2014, 9:01 PM

I personally would have to say that, after reading this and several other texts on the issue, teams should not have to change their name if it has to do with Native Americans. Would a team really name their sports teams after someone if they weren't fond of them? I would guess that by naming sports teams after a certain group of people, the teams are honoring the group of people--or in this case, the Native Americans. However, if a team was to propose the name "Redskins" today, it most likely wouldn't pass. With how conservative high schools, colleges, and professional franchises are today, the term "Redskin" would most likely be considered offensive if it were to be proposed today. For example, the Washington Redskins pro football franchise was founded in 1932--82 years! Obviously the social acceptability of terms referring to race have changed since then, so when you put the naming of the team into context, I'm sure it would have been dealt with much differently than it would be today. I think this also applies to high school and college mascots. If someone resented a group of Native Americans, I can guarantee that they would not want to name their mascot after them. This is just a way to honor Native Americans that, more often than not, were the original inhabitants of the area where the school or team is currently located.

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You Gotta Pick Your Battles..In Life

by Amanda Daniels - Friday, March 7, 2014, 3:41 AM

I just want to say that I definitely hear both sides of this argument and I do get that some people might be offended if they wanted to be because let's face it anyone we can find something offensive in just about any situation, if that's what we are looking for. I do feel that there are much more important, relevant, as well as current issues concerning the Native Americans that are not being addressed at all.

One of those current issues that should really be offending to the Native Americans should be the fact that their own tribes keep building all these casinos on their reservations where they live. Can you guess, who as a whole, has the biggest problems with gambling addiction? The Indians who live on or by these reservation. Shocking right? They really should focus their efforts and energy towards that issue. I would think it would be way more offensive for their own people not caring about what the casinos are doing to their society as a whole. If anyone is that interested here is a link that give stats on a study that was done on this very problem. Much more relevant issue if you ask me. All I'm saying is you gotta pick your battles and sometimes there are bigger battles worth fighting.

Stats and study done on Native Americans and Casinos on reservation

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Changing the mascots

by Bryan Sanders - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 1:01 AM

The whole deal of changing the mascots is simply a moot point. Polls have shown most Native Americans don't care that certain teams use mascots that imitate them. Also, people forget that freedom of speech and expression do apply here. Just because someone's speech or expression is perceived as offensive doesn't necessarily warrant banning said speech. It's not physically harming someone or preventing another from expressing their own views.

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Mascots and Racism

by Maisie Smith - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 1:05 PM

After reading all of the materials given to us, I would have to disagree with people who think that the name of the mascots feed into racism. Having friends who were affected by this decision, I know how much people care about their mascots. Not only is it a mascot, but it's traditions that have been carried out for many years. I believe that if so many people, including Native Americans, don't find these mascots discriminating, then neither should people not of Native American descent. I do believe that the Native Americans from the particular area of the school should have a say in whether or not they find the mascot

offensive, but if the majority of them don't think it is, it's a majority rules issue. That being said, one person cannot make this decision that will affect the entire community. This issue should be resolved, but I don't think that the decision should come solely from the committee. I don't necessarily agree with Oregon's decision. While I respect it, many of the articles said that the local Native American tribes had no problem with the mascots, and they are the ones whose opinions we are most concerned with, so why is it that even though the majority of them don't have an opinion on the issue, the mascots are still banned?

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Why they're banned



by Bryan Sanders - Sunday, March 9, 2014, 10:43 PM

The best answer I can say is political correctness. These mascots are believed by some to be offensive, so efforts are made to ban them unless they're deemed acceptable by people other than you or me. Whether offensive or not, the constitution states freedom of speech and freedom of expression cannot be abridged. This is what these people in essence are doing.

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Exploitation of Native Americans



by Tamara Gould - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 10:19 PM

As someone who is not into sports and never had a Indian themed mascot, I don't understand why this is an issue. If it has been found to be offensive to even twenty-five percent of Native Americans then the mascots should be removed. I can't even begin to wrap my mind around what it would be like to be a part of their history and hold tribal heritage, so who am I to dismiss the feelings of those who feel it is demeaning to their race and culture?

I feel the cartoon that is in the added section of the forum "More Mascot Facts," of the Cleveland Indians along with added races, puts a clear picture to the stereotypes that can be engrained into society by degrading an entire culture and heritage in this way. When race and/or culture are involved, the image that is represented by a school or University needs to be thought through very carefully.

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Native American schools



by Austin McQuaw - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 11:22 PM

Remembering back to high school, I competed in sports against the Chemawa Braves.

This school has a student body of, I believe, an entirely Native American population. Their mascot, the Braves, represented their culture and history. For them, it was most definitely something they showed honor. Before our basketball games, they replaced the national anthem with some sort of tribal music. It was very foreign to me, but I suppose it was pretty neat to experience. "If Indian mascots affect even a single student in a negative way, they should go." I think that it's ridiculous that James Florendo said this. Many good things are capable of affecting people in a way perceived as negative. To take away good things because of being overly-politically-correct would be pretty damaging to a lot of culture. In my opinion what is right wins over what is fair. I do believe that it's important to exercise respect towards others and those that a mascot may represent. These mascots tend to be used with positive intentions and represent something to follow after.

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Re: Native American schools

by Anthony Consolo - Sunday, March 9, 2014, 3:30 PM

I like your thoughts here and would have to completely agree. If they were to ban native american names all together, communities like the one you mentioned would suffer the inability to exercise their native culture. Not to mention most school use native american terms in an honorary way. I still have yet to see a class that I am in want to challenge schools and make them change their mascots. Every post I have seen has seemed to say the same thing--we don't see the problem. If there are roughly 40 people from one class that seem to agree that there is no problem, I don't think there are many more in a larger group of people. Although, I have not seen many native americans in my classes in which we have discussed this issue...

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Re: Native American schools

by Austin McQuaw - Sunday, March 9, 2014, 7:59 PM

I agree that having the Native American perspective would be very useful. It would be bad for us to act like we know it all without even considering an Indian perspective.

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