

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

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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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Damned if you do, Damned if you don't.

by Melissa Moser - Monday, March 3, 2014, 6:01 PM

I'm going to come right out and be honest -- I have no idea how to approach this, so I'm going to muddle a bit. I don't mean to offend anyone, and if I do, I apologize, but some things may just seem a bit blunt.

I feel that in cases like that of the Florida team, the Seminoles, the tribe itself does have the right to decide if it is or is not okay for the team to use their name. As for something more broad, like the Cleveland Indians or the Atlanta Braves, I can see where it would be difficult to find the proper authority to advise on the subject. For high school teams with names like "The Warriors", I think it's ridiculous for them to be required to change their names. There are plenty of "warriors" throughout history who weren't Native Americans. Vikings? Mongolian Hordes? The Huns?! All of them had warriors and had a big interest in conquering or raiding new areas. Where it gets touchy is the issue of the mascot, but I feel that's where the tribe closest to the team should get a say. There are people who are

honored, and there are people who are offended. A tribe's leaders are in the best position to say how they feel about the local schools using their images or names -- be it flattered or furious. If the tribes don't like the schools nearest to them using Native references, then talks should be made between a student council, the school board, and a tribal council to find an acceptable agreement.

I feel that if one person is offended, ... too bad. Sorry, I know it sounds callous, but we're all going to be individually offended by a lot of things in life and sooner or later, you have to accept that you don't win every battle. One person can change the world, but I would hope they would choose a more pertinent battle to fight. I find myself really connecting to the man from Harrisburg who wrote in about needing to wipe out the majority of mascots if we're going to be that touchy, and I generally agree, but I understand that my minuscule amount of Native heritage doesn't mean squat where sensitivity is concerned. However, is it true that utilizing a heritage for motivation in recognition of their valor can be taken as insensitive? Would it be offensive to the Scottish to know that North Eugene High School plays under the moniker of the "Highlanders"? Maybe if they're more from the lowland peat bogs, but even then, unlikely. Do the rural residents of Pleasant Hill find offense at being the "Pleasant Hill Billies"? (I lived there. We didn't. We laughed at it.) How about the football players of San Francisco being connected to the brash, uncouth, often violent and bigoted miscreants of the Gold Rush of 1849? Nope; pretty sure they don't much care, and neither do the residents. I lived there, too. Even the descendants of the miners and panners felt pretty okay about it. So, is it a matter of hyper-sensitivity? Honestly, it sort of seems like it to me.

I do feel like there is some cause for alarm, perhaps in places like Cleveland with their logo of Chief Wahoo, but I also see it as something that has essentially become a piece of history, at least in the realm of Baseball. I found an interesting article relating to this here: <http://cleveland.cbslocal.com/2014/02/28/what-if-indians-ever-retire-chief-wahoo-cleveland-fans-react/> A ways in, the author shows a twitter question that he posted regarding the team ditching Chief Wahoo, and the answers run the gamut, but there is one recurring theme -- The pressure to make everything politically correct has gotten out of hand in America, and it's starting to bruise history.

We're Americans. We're an often crass people with an often offensive history, but trying to whitewash it by changing team names isn't going to change it. I think we'll just end up with more incidences of "No one remembers what happened to our people in our history here," not just from Native tribes but from any group who we change names and logos for. Putting a stop to schools or pro-teams adopting these names and logos? Sure, but to me, changing them doesn't change history, it doesn't undo hurt, but it can create new animosity among old fans or alumni. It was a sleeping dog for years, and it should have been left to lie.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Damned if you do, Damned if you don't.



by Michelle Coming - Friday, March 7, 2014, 12:07 AM

Your title really sums it up!

I agree that the tribes closest to the teams should have the final say in whether they want said team to use their image/name/culture as a mascot. If anyone it is the tribes themselves who are most closely affected by the mascot.

If we look back any amount of time we can find a vast number of groups of people being persecuted or slaughtered for one reason or another by another. May it be the Jewish of the Holocaust by the Nazis, the Chinese in the Nanking Massacre by the Japanese in the capital of China or the Tutsi by the Hutu in Rwanda. Like you stated above 'I think we'll just end up with more incidences of "No one remembers what happened to our people in our history here," not just from Native tribes but from any group who we change names and logos for.' No one is around from that point in time and so much time has passed that the amount of offense is dwindling. Changing the mascot doesn't undo what has already been done or ease the hurt to those who's ancestors were slaughter, that's for sure!

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

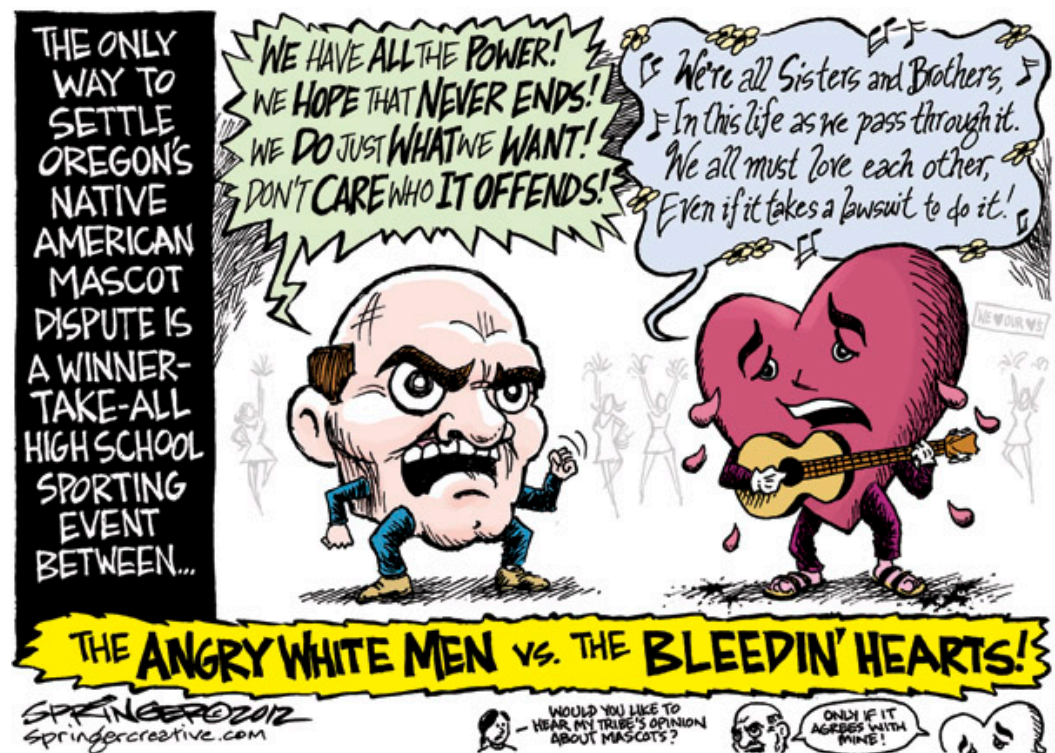
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Re: Damned if you do, Damned if you don't.

by Michelle Coming - Friday, March 7, 2014, 12:14 AM

I found a picture through Google that made me recall your post. It sums up your view (of which I agree with). "So, is it a matter of hyper-sensitivity? Honestly, it sort of seems like it to me"



Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Damned if you do, Damned if you don't.

by Melissa Moser - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 1:42 PM

Hahaha... perfect. That really does essentially sum up what I was saying.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Reaction vs Representation

by Zachary Embree - Monday, March 3, 2014, 8:43 PM

Too be clear my background on Native Americans is one class of Indian literature and whatever was in history classes over the years. So I am going to just be blunt on this issue. My view is that this was overblown and if anything needed to be changed it should have been done quickly and quietly so as to cause the least amount of trouble. I freely acknowledge that racism is a terrible thing that has deep roots in this country, and that if their is a real and feasibly fixable problem concerning race the government should step in. In the source material is one fact that I think really undermined the position of the people calling for the change, that the Indian tribes population does not care for the most part. So all of those people that are claiming this is racially offensive are not advocating for the majority of their own side. If the majority of Native Americans found this offensive I would have a different opinion on the issue, but as it stands it just rings hollow. Plus like the article pointed out their are numerous depictions of every nationality and ethnicity in ways that could be called offensive throughout athletics across the country, so they are not being singled out. For the argument that if just one person is offended, that is incredibly unrealistic. This is a community collage, their is going to be at least one person offended deeply about everything, so spending time and money to make every single student happy is frankly ridiculous. Further more the states reaction to this issue comes across as "trying to avoid appearing racist/bad press" then solving any real problems with how the state treats its Native American population.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Reaction vs Representation

by Scarlett White - Monday, March 3, 2014, 11:02 PM

I agree with you that not everyone can be satisfied, especially in a community college* where there* are multiple people that are offended but this issue is part of how the state treats its Native American population regardless of the motivation of the state.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Common ground

by Matt Blackshear - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 8:55 AM

Reading about the Native American is always a sad story. The massacres, the forced treaties, the loss of their land, it's all sad. I can see how some of todays Native Americans can be insulted by the way that their race is being portrayed.

I believe having an indian mascot is good thing, if done properly. "It is the responsibility of each person to respond to others in a manner that assures mutual dignity and respect." (Anne Williams) I think Williams said it spot on right here. If your plans are to "honor" someone you should do it respectfully. However we all know that not everyone is going to

be happy about what you do. As stated in the reading materials not Native Americans are happy about the mascot situation, but a lot are. It important to teach the kids about the real history of Native Americans so they don't have a warped view like the child in the cartoon, and when going to a game to support your team to show respect to everyone and have a good time.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Common ground

by Joe Hoover - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 9:00 PM

I agree that having it done properly is the key. If it is putting the Native Americans in good light then what is the big issue with it. I don't think that any team that has used an indian as their mascot has done it in anyway to harm the Native people, but if they Native people think that it is no honoring their people then they should have to change their mascot.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Where are we going

by Connor McCabe - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 9:39 AM

The way people respond to the Native American Issue is very similar to the issue of African American racism. It might sound a little crazy at first but the way we are scared to say anything that could be interpreted as racist or not tasteful is very similar to how we react when someone uses a Native American as a mascot or other similar symbol. Both groups were treated very poorly in our nations past and it is a very sad truth but something that is also very disappointing is how people who were never there, treated that way, or who cannot even relate to it react and translate things in order to make them a bad thing. We are becoming so scared to say anything now that we simply don't and this attitude is having very negative effects on our society.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Where are we going

by Scarlett White - Sunday, March 9, 2014, 8:16 PM

You bring up an interesting point, and part of me wants to tie these two forum topics together. The fear is related in these situations, like you said, we are scared to say something because we fear there will be an issue whilst on the other hand the fear presented in the other forum topic revolves around the possible collapse of the United States. If we look at the bigger picture, these all end up conflicting with the foundations of America and the traditions. People fear change.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Native Americans represented in sports

by Samuel Tapfer - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 9:59 AM

Whether or not Americans should be able to use Indians to represent their sports teams is a touchy subject. On one hand there are people who believe that the sports teams are honoring the Native Americans, while others believe it is disgracing them. I believe that before a sports team uses a mascot depicting Indians, they need to ask the tribes that they are referring to. If everybody in the one tribe agrees that it is okay to use their specific tribe to represent the sports team then there should be zero controversy around the issue. This is true in Florida State University's example of how they went about to get the required "okay" from the tribes they wanted to represent. If there is anyone in the tribe who does not feel as though it is right to have a sports team named after their tribe then that team should either get rid of the name or not choose it in respect to the Native Americans. At the same time if anyone does not want their tribe to be represented then the sports team needs to talk to that person about why they do not want it. This way they can both give their perspective on the matter and see each others views, and maybe even change a view. Once a team has the okay from the tribe they then need to create a mascot to depict the tribe. This is where some of the tribes people need to be brought in to critique how the mascot should look.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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On the Fence

by Joe Hoover - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 10:54 AM

I had never really thought of a Native American logo or mascot to be racist or degrading I read about the problem with the Washington Redskins. I remember first hearing about this issue and thought that it was crazy that something like this would be racist or harmful. I still believe that this issue is blow out of proportion. While reading the articles I sided with the argument to not ban the Native American mascots. As I continued to read further into the article I saw a good point made that what if these mascots were made a jew or a black person. I thought this was a good point because its true if a school were called the jews it would be shut down almost immediately. I do not know where I stand on this issue because on one hand I feel that it is not racist and is not meant to be harmful to people, but on the other I am not a Native American so this topic doesn't effect me in the same way as it would with a Native American person.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: On the Fence

by Matt Blackshear - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 12:25 PM

This is why I partly agree with Joseph on his blog about Native American Mascots that they should have to go get permission from the tribe that they are borrowing the culture from. The biggest impact it will have on anyone is the Native Americans, so why not ask them for their permission to use an indian/warrior as a mascot. If they find it acceptable its a good way to integrate Native Americans with American civilization.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: On the Fence

by Louis Gambee - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 12:25 PM

I agree with you. I think this issue is definitely blown out of proportion. What bothers me the most is how people are so quick to claim an indian mascot as being racist when it clearly is meant to symbolize something else. These mascots are meant to represent indians in a good way that honors their past, rather than being a symbol of the racism that indians felt during our country's early days.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: On the Fence

by Melissa Moser - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 3:54 PM

I agree that, generally, it would be hard to use another race as an example in the same light as the Native Americans for mascots. As someone with family killed in the Holocaust, I would be honored to see a team named after the tenacious Jewish individuals who fought back in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of 1943. Those who orchestrated and participated in the riots knew they were going to die, but they weren't going down without taking some of the Nazis down with them. They faced certain death and raged on instead of cowering -- to me, that's pretty brave, and embodies the qualities we look for in mascots. However, what would you call such a group? There aren't really any terms for those who fought back other than "Jews", and that is unfortunately still used as a derogatory term. I shudder when I hear people say that they got "jewed" out of something, but I've learned to deal with it. "Braves" and "warriors" don't have negative connotations, but are instead terms of respect. I think it's a matter of how the terms are used and by whom more than which terms in particular are used. Another example would be the racist term frequently used in rap and hip-hop that those of us who are white have been taught is a huge faux pas. While my uttering the shameful N-word would be seen as a terrible display of bigotry, black rap and hiphop artists use it as though it had no history at all. These words only have negative or positive power if we give it to them.

As to the use of the words, I stand by the argument that if we could just get an opinion from Natives and find what the majority decision would be, that would steer us in the right direction. Using a white state legislature to pass a bill against the use of Native American imagery is like using the opinions of dogs to make decisions for the pleasure of cats.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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When do you speak up?  



by Kylie Stiglbauer - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 12:44 PM

I found it somewhat difficult to reply to this particular forum due to my stance on the issue. When I read the article and thought about how I felt on the issue, I found myself not truly siding with one side. Reading about the fact that some Native Americans were deeply offended by the use of these types of mascots made me upset. I felt sadness for them over the fact that they had voiced their opinion, yet were seeing no results. At the same time, there were others who were not offended and had no issue with these mascots, some even seeing it as a way of remembrance. With sides so vastly different, I found myself in the middle as far as what side I sided with. I then decided to put myself in their shoes. I imagined having a sports team or school use mess a mascot. At first the idea seems great, you are the inspiration and face for an organization that brings joy or pride to many people. If the organization did a good job of displaying who I truly am to the public then I would not find myself offended at this. On the other hand, if this organization had turned me into a stereotype, and wasn't representing me fully of who I am, I would not be happy. I feel like this is one of the main issues in this debate. when you turn a culture into a stereotype and display it to the public, you are not only hurting the individual, but also the people's chances of ever breaking that stereotype.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: When do you speak up?

by Joe Hoover - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 8:56 PM

Having sides with very different stances on this subject is what makes it hard because if they leave the mascots or have to remove them you will have unhappy people. I think a great way to do it like the Florida football did. They asked the permission of the tribe in their area and the tribe that they were representing. I personally do not think that this is a huge deal and it is getting blown out of proportion, but I am not a Native so I feel that I don't really have a say in what happens or doesn't happen.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: When do you speak up?

by Kylie Stiglbauer - Sunday, March 9, 2014, 3:20 PM

I agree with what you have to say on this issue. Many times issues are blown out of proportion, especially social ones, but it is hard to determine when that line is crossed. You never know how a person is going to react to something. Some people take issues such as this one more personally while others do not seem to mind. It is hard to be the voice for an entire group when it is almost guaranteed that not everyone will agree with you.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Majority Rule



by Louis Gambee - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 3:44 PM

After reading these articles and chapter 18 from our textbook, I had trouble taking a side in regards to the indian mascot issue. Anne Williams provides the common arguments to both sides of the issue. She states that those who advocated for change claim that indian mascots "perpetuate stereotypes - negative and positive - and symbolize institutionalized racism", while those who have no problem with indian mascots, as Williams article discusses claim that they honor their people and give them a sense of recognition.

While both of these sides have solid arguments, I believe that if there indeed is a majority disconnect between indian activists and the Native American population on this issue then I don't think that these activists ought to try and speak on behalf of the Native American population that they are representing. If there is only a small minority of an indian nation that disapproves of a certain mascot compared to a majority of those same people who see it as an honor to be represented in such a way or have no problem with it at all, then I think that the majority of these people ought to have the right to make a decision for themselves. In regards to the selective use of certain American indians voices to invalidate the critiques of American mascots, I think that this is fair if these voices are truly indicative of the majority belief of these people. While I do find it important to hear out the minority's opinion, I feel that it is only fair to go along with the majority, since it best represents the feelings of the entire people. I think that the recent decision by the Oregon is unfair because they made a decision without reaching out to those who are most affected by this issue.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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All for the Mascot



by Cameron Holliday - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 4:42 PM

I am truly interested in this topic because 25 minutes from my hometown there is a neighboring Indian Reservation. Also, I am currently roommates with a member of that specific tribe. The tribes name is The Confederated Tribes of Siletz and their mascot is in the Warrior. I have grown up with a lot of the kids who are members of the tribe. We all played sports together our entire lives and a handful of kids even moved to Newport to play sports and go to school. As I write this I am sitting in the home of another Tribe member and the cousin to my roommate. What I am trying to get at is that I know these people and their families and I am knowledgable about how they feel on this matter. I have never heard any tribe member speak out about being offended that their mascot was a Warrior. They have shown nothing but pride for their heritage and where they are from. The mascot symbolizes heroism and strength. They are known as people who never give up and fight and live for their family and tribe. All of my friends have tattoos, shirts, sweatshirts, paintings, or pictures of an Indian Chief in a head dress or a Warrior symbol across the chest. They see no racism or hate in their mascot. Only love and pride. When my friends heard about the debate to ban Native American mascots through high schools they were angered. they said things like

"What are we supposed to be called? The Siletz Salmon?"

All of them would or sure agree with Katie Zimmerman that they are proud to be Warriors.

I also agree with Steve Bowers on the issue that even if you were to change the name because one person feels uncomfortable you can have that issue with almost every single mascot you choose. I believe any argument on those grounds are entirely irrelevant.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: All for the Mascot

by Zachary Embree - Friday, March 7, 2014, 11:01 PM

You have provided I think the clearest example I have seen so far. In truth I think many people cannot grasp what this problem really means because concerns a culture that they have no real insight too. It seems it is easier to pin down what is considered racist when it involves a known subgroup within our culture, for example African Americans or Asian, as we know what is offensive too these people. If anything before any changes are made someone needs too compile a accurate consensus of Indian opinions on this issue, because their opinion is the only one that really matters on the how offensive this issue is.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: All for the Mascot

by Cameron Holliday - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 9:43 PM

Yeah I mean I just think it's so different when you actually know people who the topic affects. i am really clpse with a lot of the natives from around the area and I mentioned this topic to them and they were even giving me insight on how the elders felt and how even now they don't find any issue with the warrior mascots. I can see how it is a controversy though because their people did go through something worse than what the Jews experienced in Germany. At least numbers wise. I understand both sides but I am primarily siding with my Native American friends who are all for the Mascots.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: All for the Mascot

by Joe Hoover - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 8:50 PM

This is awesome that you have an actual insight to see how Natives think. I think I would have the same feelings as your friend thinking of it as having love and pride in your culture if I was Native American. Having courage and being a warrior was a great way to get respect as a Native, this showed everyone that you were brave and would fight for your tribe.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Team nicknames and mascots



by Erik Long - Thursday, March 6, 2014, 10:25 PM

In the Indian Mascots article we read, there is a paragraph saying that the mascots perpetuate and symbolize institutionalized racism. I agree that it perpetuates the legacy and history of that given mascot, but not all of the mascot names are giving Native Americans a bad name. For example the Florida State Seminoles have been given permission and are exempt from any ban of using the nickname, that permission was given to them directly from the Seminole tribes in both Florida and Oklahoma. They would not give permission if they did not feel that the University was honoring their tribe.

Athletic Organization would not be using these names if they felt that it was not a tribute to these Indian tribes. They use these nicknames and originally picked these names like warriors or Braves for intimidation. Teams do not pick these names to humiliate or embarrass Native Americans but rather to honor and show pride towards them. ESPN did a poll of Native Americans who were offended by these nicknames and only 25% reported that they were. Some people argue that if just one person is offended by the names than they should go, but what about the people who feel a sense of pride with these names? I think there are plenty of Native Americans out there that are honored to have these big name teams named after them.

If these Native American nicknames are such a problem than we better get rid of nicknames like Irish because it might offend Irish people or nicknames like Yankee because it might offend American people.

Native American Nicknames in sports is not a problem nicknames are meant to honor things or a group of people. You would not name your kid after someone you don't like.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Re: Team nicknames and mascots



by Linh Tran - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 5:05 PM

I agree with you that mascots are honor and pride rather than hatred and racism. Mascots can create opportunities for people to learn and understand about the specific tribes. No team or school would humiliate or offend their own mascots in any mean. That is just non-sense. As you said, I don't think that the name such as Braves or Warriors or Indians should be forced for changes since they are too generalized to be claimed to cause that much irritations of the majority of Native Americans.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: Team nicknames and mascots



by Sophia Swanson - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 9:02 PM

I wasn't sure on where I stood on the stance until I read your post. I completely agree with your last statement that "you wouldn't name your kid after someone you don't

like". I also agree that if there were more than 50% of people that found it offensive than it should change. And that no matter what the topic is there's always going to be one person that is offended, but that doesn't mean you should change it because of that one person. If every thing was changed because of one person being offended, imagine what kind of laws would be changed and implemented.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Good or Bad Intentions?

by Michelle Coming - Thursday, March 6, 2014, 11:41 PM

In the article from the Registered Guard Brenda Brainard, an American Indian Educator, is quoted saying "I don't believe there were bad intentions at the start... But hanging on to it? That kind of feels like bad intentions." I agree with Brenda that the choosing of the American Indian themed mascots started with bad intentions, however I disagree that hanging on to them is a sign of bad intentions. A mascot to me seems to be a sign of pride and school spirit, something to be proud of, not an insult to a specific culture. But that is, after all just my opinion. My outlook on the whole situation is similar to that of Steve Bowers who wrote in to the Registered Guard in response to their Indian Mascot article. He gives many other mascots representing groups of people that could be taken as "racist" but aren't, he makes a good point there. In reference to the debate of the Native American mascots he says "That is just another example of political correctness run amok." and I agree.

I think that If the members of these Indian tribes were truly offended they would have come to that agreement and made their feelings known, and if the offended group is large enough affirmative action should be taken, whether by taking away the mascot completely or tweaking it to come to a compromise. From what I've read in these articles many of the tribes seem to either not take offense or can't come to an agreement on the situation. As Steve says "What truly offends me is that as a taxpayer, I am funding these individuals who represent an extreme, inconsequential position. I grow weary of deferring to the tyranny of the minority." and again, I am inclined to agree.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Good or Bad Intentions?

by Melissa Moser - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 2:36 PM

I agree with your stance here, especially in your citing Steve Bowers' comment about tax dollars funding tyranny of the minority. If there was legitimately a majority percentage of Natives speaking out against their heritage being used as a mascot, then by all means, I'd say we should do something about it. But there's not; as was mentioned in a previous post on this forum, some Natives even find the idea of changing a team name or mascot more offensive. After the transgressions of the United States Government during the time of the Reservation Policy, I can understand the idea of "recognition" or positive or negative intention by whites being taken as undesirable by Native Americans for a long time. However, it's been over 100 years, and the Native Americans aren't the ones complaining.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Oregon Recent Bill of Indian Mascots

by Linh Tran - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 4:55 PM

Personally, I see Indian mascots representing schools as an honor rather than hatred to Native American. Though speaking from a personal point of view and not from a Native American's, no matter how that situation is, I would be likely to be proud of and honor the mascot of the school which I attend. Furthermore, the mascot can motivate students to understand more about the specific characters that representing their schools. For example, I wouldn't have known anything about the Vikings until I attend my high school and started to learn more about my school mascot - the Vikings; I was pretty much proud of it. Among the controversy presented, a very recent Oregon bill is waiting for governor's signature to become law, particularly on the debate of Indian mascots in Oregon high schools. According to the bill, some elementary, middle and high school can continue to use their Native American mascots of the local boards and tribes can agree to terms. This bill is claimed to be not about allowing schools to keep the images on their gym floors or helmets but about "sitting down and building a relationship in their community." I found this a very interesting point that goes against a decades-long movement away from American Indian mascots that caused nation-wide universities change their mascots to "non-Native American." This might seem to be a good way to solve the problem, but then a series of problems are likely to raise consequently: Where to find the tribes? Who should we talk to to get permission? How to deal with controversy of opinions within the tribes? Should we take a vote? How to make sure to get the majority votes of the tribes? Again, the controversy never ends. I'm looking forward to see what will happen in the future with the bill and Indian mascots.

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Re: Oregon Recent Bill of Indian Mascots

by Joe Hoover - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 8:12 PM

I think you make a great point that it provides students with Native American symbols as their mascot to learn more about the culture. When students learn more about what actually happened to Native Americans, and if they think that it is a slap in the face to Native Americans then they can try to change their schools mascot.

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Re: Oregon Recent Bill of Indian Mascots

by Matt Blackshear - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 10:19 PM

Agreed, further education to the mascot is a good way to positively honor the Native Americans. Like the cartoon on the second page of information we do not want students having a warped or "tunneled" vision on what Indian is. A student body formation for students with Native American mascots could be assembled. Present

day Native Americans could come and speak on their history and encourage the students to give accurate representation of their culture. In turn would eliminate the problems that U.S. Commission on civil rights had with false portrayals of Native Americans.

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Re: Native Americans and Mascots

by Sophia Swanson - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 8:53 PM

I think that like most people it was hard for me to have an opinion on this matter because I'm not Indian so I don't know if I would be offended by it or not. I think that to use the "Africans" as a way to look at the "Braves" as an offensive thing is a little extreme. I feel like it should be up to the children at the school that have Indian culture and roots to decide if they're comfortable with it or not. It's a hard topic to make a final opinion on because each stance on it seems to be justified.

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Re: No Win Situation

by Marcus Mcphaul - Sunday, March 9, 2014, 3:42 PM

Almost everything we do in America today can be looked as offensive or racist in some way, this is because most things in America were started or created by people with a completely different mind set than we have today when it comes to racism. I believe the reason that some Native Americans are trying to get rid of these current mascots is because they know the negative stories and origins of the people who created these mascots. On the other hand you have Americans that have grown very attached to the mascots because they represent something completely different, they don't really associate the mascots with the people that created them, instead the mascots stand for whatever characteristics that the school associates with them such as respect, integrity, or some other quality they want their students to possess. Some may say that out of respect for the Native Americans we should just change the mascots and move on with life, but others will argue that changing something as little as changing the school mascot will dramatically alter the schools history in a way that at some in the future the students will no longer have a knowledge of the schools decorated past. So either way they handle this someone will not be happy, especially with the split in opinions even among Native American tribes where some see the mascots as positive recognition such as the Cow Creek Band, which makes the decision that much harder to make. In my opinion we should just leave the mascots as they are and instead of focusing on the negative past that they stem from we should focus on the positive message they bring to schools now.

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Native American Mascots vs. First Nations Mascots

by Scarlett White - Sunday, March 9, 2014, 8:10 PM

This topic is very interesting to me, I come from Vancouver, BC where we have an abundance of aboriginal tribes and although most people view Canadian's as the peaceful ones, we did have a time in our past where we too mistreated the First Nations. Today, many people embrace and encourage the learning and studying of the tribes. One school's mascot is the totem poles. Not a name of a tribe, but a huge part of the aboriginal culture. I have not heard of any issues from tribes about this. In relation to the 75 percent of Native American's that do not have a problem with the use of their tribes as mascots, the problem seems to be more apparent. Whether that is because the history that has occurred was much more violent and traumatic or because the Native American's cease to care about the sports issue all together doesn't change the 25 percent that are not. Most things in the American society are based "majority" vote. But I believe this issue is sensitive, and majority vote is not the best way to handle it. "Honoring" is a very apparent cop out, how many fans are really thinking about the Native American's during a sports game? My guess would probably be a few. I am all for honoring and learning, and that can be done, but I do not believe that is what is going on. A part of me leans towards completely eliminating it, simply because there are thousands of other mascots that could be used for these schools and that way there is no more controversy. Yet, memories flood people's minds, and the legacy would be broken. It is a tough subject, but if people are going to say they are "honoring" the Native Americans they should actually be doing that. Instead these mascots portray one way of Indians, and children especially susceptible to this, as shown in the cartoon. I completely agree with Oregon's decision to ban Native American mascots. The active community involvement that the First Nations in Canada-I have come to learn-is much different than in the United States. Maybe it is because the images and mascots we see are very similarity to reality or because our education provides a wide range of knowledge on the topic. I am not in anyway trying to say that American's "don't care," it is just that because of past circumstances, it makes it extremely hard to satisfy both parties involved.

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