

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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Re: Native Americans and Mascots

by Agina Hale - Monday, March 3, 2014, 12:31 AM

I used to be on the fence about this topic (leaning ever so slightly towards leave the mascots alone), which i've pondered for a few years now-ever since it gained public awareness. I can see the validity of the opposition when (if) an opposing team uses the historical references as a way to demoralize a team with an Indian mascot. However, I believe that shows more of the ignorance of the opposing team. Also, it seems entirely possible that the door swings both ways in that regards. If you look at all the mascots across the country, there is quite the range. I'm sure that if we want to talk about political correction of every persuasion some of these nicknames/mascots would be revoked:

- the Britons - from King Philip's War to the War of 1812, an enemy from the past
- Crusaders-offensive to jews, muslims, pagans and lithuanians to name a few
- Colonials- self explanatory how this is inflammatory

- bullets (Gettysburg College)- no explanation necessary

There are a few dozen other examples of mascots or nicknames that could promote oppression or scorn because of the past. I know that there are schools named after Sherman, Jefferson Davis, Lee and Grant. These men are heroes to many, but villains to others. As we have learned, even today there exists animosity over burning of the south and reconstruction. On the other side, there is a desire to stigmatize and punish for the atrocities of slavery.

I think that with anything else, reason should be the first response. I remember talking to one of my best friends and my husband about this, who are both Native. Their opinion was like that of many, as long as it is a respectful representation then that's O.K. The Cleveland Indians would be a bad example of representation, and should be changed. In the article it was mentioned that working with the local tribes has worked. That's probably the best approach. There is nothing wrong with honoring Natives, as long as the "white guilt" doesn't go too far. Which brings me to a part of the article that I found offensive. Anne Williams wrote (even when mascots are depicted in a respectful fashion) "it impedes Indian people being seen in a real, viable, holistic way." I don't know if she realized how racist this statement is. I can't tell you how many conversations i've heard from Native people that I know who get tired of the medicine man stereotype. It puts a fuzzy bunny title, even if someone actually has ancestry of a healer. Very often that healer is a warrior as well. The grandfather of my husbands grandmother fought at Little Bighorn, he was a tribal chieftain Red Elk. Many people are proud of their warrior ancestors. Not everyone has dream catchers, wears wolf t-shirts or wants to get in touch with the peaceful spiritual people? Spend more time talking to Natives!

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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on the fence



by Courtney Reeser - Monday, March 3, 2014, 7:26 PM

I don't know how to feel about this. I feel like in america if anything is different than a white tribute Americans get offended. I mean how many native Americans respond to this issue. I also feel that is just one native American is any affected by this it should be changed.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: on the fence



by Matthew Rice - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 11:49 PM

i have to disagree with you, then again i am not very PC (Political Correct) i myself dont believe in giving special benefits to different races. now let me just say this i myself do have Indian in my blood line, and i think that with all honest this special interest tribes need to suck it up and deal with it. when i read the artical about them trying to get the name changed it completely niffed me, another one of the schools that was trying to be affected was marcola, my cousins go to school there and there also were completely out raged. talking with

some of the students from the oak ridge school, they were very disheartened. and funny enough the Indians that were in the school, didnt think that it was disrespectful, they felt honored, and pride. that there group of Indians were chosen to be a masoc.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Native Americans and Mascots

by Shane Escalera - Monday, March 3, 2014, 9:05 PM

After asking what a "Brave" was, I learned what it represented. I pictured Indians (Native Americans) fighting cowboys. It made me want to be Indian more than a cowboy. For an 8 year old boy to think this, I could think an adult might maybe get the same idea and understand. The team names referring to Indians or native Americans should stay, besides for the Washington Redskins. No explanation needed. Considering the "crusaders" could be offensive towards jews, we should bring up how the "Trojans" could be offensive towards Greeks, whether or not the Greeks won there war. Why are most white people not offended towards the name Patriots? We should also get rid of the Dallas "Cowboys". Cowboys were not so friendly in the old west. They robbed banks riding around with the guns shooting in the sky, while yelling, "YEEEE HAWWWW", while killing people. Native American symbolism in pro football, allows uneducated youth to ask questions and learn of native American History. I learned what being Brave meant thanks to the Atlanta Braves. I was told, Native Americans were brave when defending land thought to be there's. If we got rid of names referring to Native Americans, I believe it would be a huge loss for the Native American culture. Native Americans are a proud group of people. It boggles my mind knowing some want mascots referring to native American culture out of pro sports, college sports, and high school sports. Sport is the only thing in life anybody can prosper from while being proud. For the ones who hate it, they should try loving it. As an Atlanta brave fan, we can only love what native Americans have done during the growth of our nation. The last quote in the news paper article says enough, "I'm proud of being warrior". Nobody should be ashamed of having a name like "Brave" representing there race. This issue will carry on, as long as our nations capital is home to the Washington Redskins.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Mascots and their Future

by Brendan Gibbons - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 9:41 PM

On this particular issue I must agree with Steve Bowers, the writer of the letter to the editor in the register guard. I think it is somewhat ridiculous that so much attention and money has been used on such a small issue/problem when there are much bigger problems in our public school system. I think problems such as underfunding and lack of teachers should be addressed first. I will say that it is hard for me to be personally effected by these mascots since I'm a white male and have no native american heritage in my family. So with that being said I cannot truly understand how some of these names and mascots may negatively effect some people. I would also argue that

there are plenty of other mascots that could be seen as offensive. I went to Jesuit High School in Portland and we are the Crusaders, this could be seen as extremely offensive to Jews and Muslims. Another example would be UNLV as "The Runnin' Rebels" their mascot could be seen as offensive as well. What I am trying to get at is that so many things can be seen as offensive if one really tries to see it as offensive. In my opinion I think this issue in Oregon is just covering up and taking center stage away from much larger and more important public school issues. Maybe we should focus on reducing drop out rates or students failing at math in high school.

One quote from the article that really bugged me was when James Florendo said: "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". This particular quote frustrated me because I feel like its living in the past. Yes I admit how Native Americans were treated in our founding years was absolutely horrific, but I had no say in those actions just because I am a white man doesn't mean I share those beliefs or had any part in it. I feel this generalization Mr. Florendo makes in this statement is the exact sort of stereotype that he is trying to get rid of by eliminating the mascots.

I also did some research on the bill that bans native american mascots in Oregon schools. I found that another bill cleared the house late February of 2014. In this bill some Oregon schools will be able to continue using Native American mascots "if local boards and tribes can agree to terms". I felt that this is the best way to deal with this situation. If the school can meet and talk with the tribes and get their permission and okay to use them as a mascot then it should be accepted. I will provide a link to the article about this new bill at the end of my post.

On a final note, I watched a video where the Principal of Banks High School, who are the "Braves" said that so much time, commitment and love had been given by the community to school that it would be a shame to change the name and forget about what it had stood for in their community. As a counter argument to that statement Stanford University changed from the Indians to the Cardinal in 1972 and haven't lost any support or gone downhill in anyway. The best I can say it is; its just a name/mascot there are bigger problems to deal with.

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/viewart/20140227/NEWS/302270029/Oregon-mascot-bill-heads-governor-signature>

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Anything can offend anybodyif they want to be offended



by Bart Golden - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 4:08 AM

Ok. This is a simple issue to me. The use of names of specific tribes should require the approval of that group and that group only (Florida state has permission to use the name Seminoles from that tribe). They are representing that tribe in a way at least and should get approval of their representation. That being said, names that are not proper nouns like warriors or braves or redskins are the property of nobody and if those names or stereotypes offend you that's because of your own opinion of yourself and that's your problem. As for

the name Indians I put them with group 2 and this is why, less than 25% of native people seem to have an issue with it when you use the N word every black person and most white or any other race is offended and the same is true with derogatory names for Asians or Jewish or any minority. These words are meant to offend that is their nature but Indian is not a derogatory or demeaning word and if you think it is tough, you have obviously got too little to complain about and are looking for offenses because you need to get a hobby besides self-importance. Get over it

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Anything can offend anybodyif they want to be offended



by Robert Johnson - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 5:33 PM

Ok, I get your point, and agree with part of your opinion. I agree that permission is key, in this case like most, having permission from the rightful place can eliminate problems in the future. Pretty easy to just go on, change nothing and forget about it for me too, I'm not American Indian though.

How about the Native American people, out of all of them in America, even if only a few who are offended, can that grow ? and if it did would it be a good thing ? What about American Indian youth, students even, who were raised to understand how everything was taken from their people such as, land and resources, then family and pride, until they had nothing but broken spirits left, What would you say to them ? Their people being victims of 19th century American Government, whose army went on burning Indian crops and villages as a means to destroy, (p.627 in our text).

Since I'm not Indian, I don't think I'm qualified to tell any American Indian who is offended, to just get over it, and get a hobby.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Anything can offend anybodyif they want to be offended



by Bart Golden - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 6:04 PM

Yes, the US Government and the Army /Calvary have done some horrible things to the Cherokee and the Sioux and others as well, no doubt about that, but not all Native American tribes were enemies of the government, the Pawnee for instance and others worked with the military and helped commit the atrocities against their own people. Maybe alcoholism and diseases that wiped out large groups was the white mans fault, the name Indians isn't a negative word it's a mascot. We have got to have better things to do with our energy than this

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Anything can offend anybodyif they want to be offended

by Robert Johnson - Thursday, March 6, 2014, 11:29 AM

The way I see it, the question isn't about whether any of the Indian tribes were enemies of the government or not. Your point about the Pawnee doesn't change anything for the rest of the American Indian people who were massacred. It's not a very good band-aid for those American Indians who are reminded every time they hear about the Washington Redskins. It only makes the Pawnee just as guilty as those they helped. I also tend to think more than likely, the Pawnee came out with the short end of that stick.

I don't think the name Indian is negative either, But the name Redskins could be seen, as being about color, which turns into a race issue. Imagine, if there was a team called the Blackskins, with a black man as their mascot, how well would that go over ? Would any black people have a good enough or understandable enough of a reason to be offended ? I think they would.

So the question is, can mascots in some cases, actually be a form of acceptable racism, like in the case of the Washington Redskins ?

Before this class I would have been in total agreement with everything in your post. But now my eyes have been opened I guess, at least enough to understand more than I did before.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Anything can offend anybodyif they want to be offended

by Agina Hale - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 10:56 PM

Agreed. I'm not either, therefore I have no right putting in my opinion. I like what the other guy said, the tribe to be used has to have approval from the tribe. Period. That should be all there is to say on the matter. Our white guilt can't take away the past.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Anything can offend anybodyif they want to be offended

by Robert Johnson - Thursday, March 6, 2014, 11:45 AM

Yeah I think permission is paramount in this topic, but its not about our white guilt taking away the past to me. It is about understanding, that is what I will take from this.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Native Americans and Mascots

by Karlie Edwards - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 8:50 AM

When I think of a school mascot, I never read too much into it. I think of a mascot as something that symbolizes that school. When I played sports in high school I would think of the mascot to jog my memory on which team we were playing. I think school mascots are something that represents your school and creates team spirit, and all of the mascots relating to Native Americans have never made me think of Native Americans in a bad light. Obviously since this issue was revealed in the Newspaper in 2010, and no measures have been taken in banning these "offensive" mascots then it didn't cause a big enough outrage.

People of all race, religion, or color I'm sure will be offended by one thing or another in their lifetime, but if we gave in to every individual that was offended by a certain term or phrase we might have to ban quit a few things and quit a few mascots, such as the Sheldon Irish. These school mascots such as the warriors, or the braves are not advertised in a derogatory way, and I think most students are aware of that. I honestly don't believe that this is a big enough issue to take action. It is an interesting topic and I would never want anyone to be offended, but I think it's safe to say that most people are not thinking of the mistreatment of Native Americans when they hear a mascots name.

As an adult, it is nice to go back to your high school and see that you were once a "warrior" and maybe you're child can be one too, if the names were changed it might take away from the school pride and community support. Therefore I think the names should be left alone.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Seminoles and Blackhawks

by Shane Lundberg - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 9:15 AM

I think that the treatment of Native Americans throughout history has advanced cultural separation. Unfortunately, the mascot issue has drawn some negative attention. To me, this seems like an attempt for "non natives" to cope with the emotional side effects of a genocidal history. I strongly believe that the Native American image has been used as a school mascot for many different reasons but it is important to understand that many Native Americans don't have a problem with these mascots. In fact, many Natives appreciate their people being cherished as a school's image. It goes without saying that American sports teams are not the best representatives for Native culture but that's besides the point. People cherish the redskins, the Seminoles and the Blackhawks sports teams none the less.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Seminoles and Blackhawks

by Shane Escalera - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 8:18 PM

m on your side. Though I do know there's a fine line with most everything. The redskins crossed it. No reason identify people by the color of there skin. Calling a native american red is much like calling a chinese person yellow, a white person white and a black person black. Weather its for good intentions or bad, the name needs to

go.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Seminoles and Blackhawks "Missing the point"



by Bart Golden - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 11:25 PM

Here is the point that seems to be forgotten every time someone gets upset, the Redskins are not identifying anyone but there own team. if you identify yourself as a redskin its not there fault your offended and as far as identifying by skin color; do we not call white people white and black people black. All this wasted energy on being mad about nothing is ridiculous. If people put half this much attention to scrutinize our government and the corporate influences , how much better this country would be. Hell, we could probably stop the Fed from ripping us off and stripping us of every last penny with there treasonous inflation causing policies. We have to (as a nation of individuals) come together and direct all this negativity in the right direction. Really!!!

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Seminoles and Blackhawks



by Matthew Rice - Friday, March 7, 2014, 2:32 AM

see i disagree, becuase of the native in my blood line i do tan red, it is just part of the gentics. it is not a insult in my mind, nor is being called yellow or black or pale. then again i am not much of a person who adheres to PC (poltical Correctness). i also wanted to mention though, that i myself have not discriminated against anyone, and the fact that i have to be treated like i have is insulting, the past is the past, yes americans made mistakes, but we have grown from it, and i think silly issues like this are not important, and a giant waste of our time worrying about it

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Not worth it



by Kira Iantorno - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 9:28 AM

While I feel that in many cases this is more of an uplifting stereotype, I can understand that many people in that community would rather let go of the stereotypes altogether. The part that changed my mind the most was the cartoon of the New York Jews. That is completely out of line and if any one student feels the same way towards the Indian mascot then they should change it. Much like James Florendo stated in the article and continues with "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."

I honestly don't know why so many people fight to keep them, the amount of pain certain communities of people have gone through, should put forth the effort of picking a new

school mascot. These are silly things we think are important to fight over when they are really not. As much as I hate to say it, we are in the age of political correctness and if we are going to take notice of African Americans and Japanese and all of the horrific things that those and other ethnicities had to endure in history then we should equally respect Native Americans.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Drawing lines



by Courtney Reeser - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 7:29 PM

The issue is if one team changes the name, one team, it has drawn a line. This line shows what is ok and not. If we define a line, anyone can come out and say they are offended by a name of their people and the public will jump to their requests because if its not ok for one group its not ok for anyone. Native American names in sports is traditional. I understand its origin is racial, that is not the case in this day and age. Yes we are talking about an entire group of people. No one is using the terms, Redskins, Indians, etc. As a degrading form of verbal attack. These names are etched in history, sports organizations and fans have molded themselves in tradition of their sports franchise. Example: Washington Redskins fans developed wearing head dresses, native looking costumes. None in attempt to offend anyone but support their beloved team.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Drawing lines



by Agina Hale - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 7:58 PM

Well put! I agree with you that if there is a line drawn, that it's going to open the door. I think that a compromise would help, just making sure the cartoon image isn't a horrible stereotype. Referring to the Cleveland Indians.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Drawing lines



by Courtney Reeser - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 8:25 PM

A compromise is acceptable. I agree the images (Cleveland Indians) is rough around the edges to say the least. Think of the time period created? To completely do away with it is just as damaging to history as making it extremely racist. I guess I feel if 75% of Native Americans are ok with it why are the people it doesn't effect causing an uproar? What's next? freedom of speech, freedom of expression, as twisted as peoples views are everyone has a right to express themselves. To get so tangled in something that the majority of the people its "offending" do not care is ridiculous in my opinion.

Sum of ratings: (1)

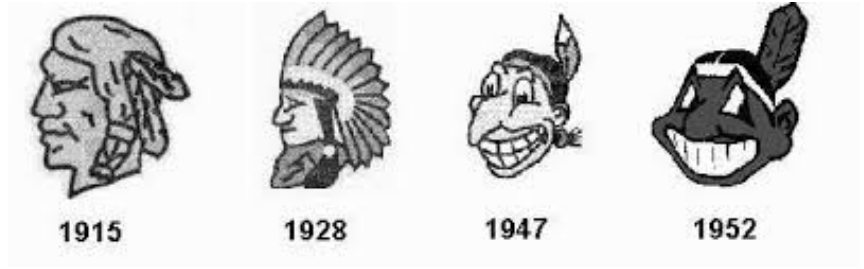
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Re: Drawing lines

by Agina Hale - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 8:39 PM

Until you realize how it's actually gotten worse over the years!



Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Drawing lines

by Courtney Reeser - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 7:40 AM

This is were the compromise comes into play. Yes it has gotten worse over a 37 yr time period were the racial views had almost zero change. We have now had 62 yrs of development in our society and I think we are ready to move on. I understand how the image is offensive. Just not for completely banning the names. As I said no fan or owner of the organizations in Todays time are trying to be intentionally rude. They are even rooting for them to win.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Drawing lines

by Agina Hale - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 4:57 PM

Yes. Compromise. I've been saying this a lot. I just think the images need to be more realistic, and less fantasy.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Drawing lines

by Dylan Ornas - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 7:42 PM

And here arises another problem with the current society we live in, very little attention is paid to realism

anymore. I say this in the sense that people dont want their favorite sports mascot to be (what we might call today) "boring and realistic". I am not saying that i agree with these people, I am just saying that seems to be the trend. I dont even believe this image to be a compromise anymore. If you look at any of a number of mascots over the years you see this trend.

Sum of ratings: (1)

0

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Re: Drawing lines



by Bart Golden - Friday, March 7, 2014, 3:10 AM

There is no doubt that the accuracy of the image is way off, I think they should be ordered to change it to a Native American walking out of a casino with a garbage can full of \$\$\$ and a bunch of senior citizens laying around like homeless people begging in the back ground. That would bring there image up to date. I wonder if anyone would be offended by that?

Sum of ratings: (1)

0

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Re: Drawing lines



by Agina Hale - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 3:09 PM

I don't think trolling is allowed here.

Sum of ratings: (1)

0

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Re: Drawing lines



by Rae Gardner - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 7:11 PM

While many tribes do own and operate casinos, there are just as many who do not, so your idea of an accurate image is actually inaccurate itself.

The point of the Mascot issue to me is to bring awareness of the negative impact it has on Native people when there is no proper education in place and you get things like a high school sign at a football game saying "Hey Indians prepare to leave in a trail of tears, round 2".

Negative imagery for any culture should be looked at and taken seriously.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: Drawing lines

by Dylan Ornas - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 8:51 PM

I must just interject one thing when you refer to it getting worse over time. I believe between 1947 and 1952 (the current version) you actually see an attempt to rectify the worsening image. Beginning majorly in 1945, we see a turn in American culture more towards acceptance (the civil rights movement was beginning to get on its feet, the LBGT question was beginning to become less taboo if only in the sense that there was much more openness about it). I believe this shows in the 1952 version. originally the emblems were much more realistic. As time passed there was a want to get away from the very real representation of a native American (possibly stemming from national embarrassment of the whole charade) and move to more of a caricature. This is not to say it was better. the 1947 caricature is still reminiscent of a caricature in a racist political cartoon. However the 1952 version goes more towards the realm of full caricature, as well as making a more friendly look, rather than a demeaning one.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: Not worth it

by Agina Hale - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 8:36 PM

I get what you are saying, but there really are a lot of tribes that enjoy having the representation. However, only if it isn't a negative representation. What i've run into is Native Americans who like the terminology of braves, chiefs, warriors etc because most of the time people stereotype all Native Americans as peaceful holistic people. Tribes like the Sioux (what my husband is) were peaceful, but then became defensive and known more as warriors and one of the tribes to hold out the longest. That means a lot to them. I know that it sounds terrible to us, but the fact is it's reality, that it happened and we just can't take it all away. It takes away the history, and the conversation.

There is actually a very long standing tradition in their own culture for warrior pride, which transcends to today and a large percentage in the military.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: Not worth it

by Dylan Ornas - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 7:51 PM

I don't have much to contribute to your point, I just wanted to say how much I agree with it. I feel as though very often people not of native american decent (I am not however my wife is) go straight to believing these mascots represent racism. In the end it all depends on the person viewing it and how they feel about the time referenced. For example as Agina said, many native americans appreciate the strong warrior like caricature being put forth. In fact I find it is white people in general that are most offended by this, I would assume stemming from the shame related to being the perpetrating race in the purges of the native americans.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Not worth it

by Karlle Edwards - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 11:42 PM

I strongly support this statemtent. It was said earlier that if one person is offended by the representation then it should be banned, but that brings up the question that if one person is proud of this representation then should it stay? We can't change the past. What happened happened and the only thing we can do now is embrace every individual culture and celebrate it and show it off the way it is represented today. I think that as you said most Native Americans are proud to have their name used and to show team spirit. It makes sense to me to honor these people.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Not worth it

by Robert Johnson - Friday, March 7, 2014, 1:25 PM

I agree with your point, about treating American Indians with equal respect. To me it seems like even though all races of American citizens should be equally respected, I think especially the American Indians deserve equal respect by all citizens in this country. Everything they had was taken, and their way of life was devastated, and like it or not, that's the truth according to history I do believe.

Our text book reveals some history about American Indians that really get's to me, such as p. 627, Sand Creek Massacre. And then the quote from James Florendo in our material that you have in your post, the one about genocide, that was pretty much enough for me to see it this way.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Everyone finds something to be offended about.

by Rae Gardner - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 8:48 PM

My Grandfather was 100% Osage Indian, my Grandmother 100% Irish. That being said I have always been torn on this issue. If we are going demand the changes of Native icons as mascots then we need to change the Irish ones as well. Heck any other racially "negative" mascot.

If we are going to give special consideration for one group then we need to do it across the board for all groups. Keep mascots to animals, that isn't offensive right? Well not until an animal rights group finds a way to show how it is supporting cruelty to animals. (I am being sarcastic here) The point I am making is when you open the door for one group the rest will follow suit and someone somewhere will find SOMETHING to be offended over.

Have I felt offended by mascots and the way things are portrayed? Yes. Why? It wasn't the mascot itself it was the actions being made by fans and rivals both that centered around the mascot being Native in orientation. To tell me to get over it or get a sense of humor or accept it as tradition is what I find to be the biggest issue. I feel rather than banishing the Native mascots and brushing the issue under the rug in doing so we should go back to teaching about Native history in relation to the US, and show the positives and strengths of what that mascot means. To me keeping the mascots and raising awareness is a better tool then banning them and never addressing the inequality of the Native people after that. We can't change the negative association if there is no chance given to do so.

I think it does matter how Natives all over the US view this issue. With any group you will have a mix of all three sides. For, against, and the undecided/inbetween.

I am also of the opinion that if there is one person affected by this then there must be others. It just might be there is one vocal person where the others are to afraid to come forward.

Even a small minority in disagreement with the mascots just need to be heard. I think an open dialogue where their grievances can be heard and a compromise on both sides is the best solution.

We have a precedence set by Florida that something positive can come out of discussion and compromise, we just need our education system to follow suit.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Everyone finds something to be offended about.

by Agina Hale - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 5:02 PM

Yes, Courtney was just saying that a few threads above this. That if a line is drawn, then everyone else will take offense in one way or another.

I've been saying that just the images should be modified. Having said that, I do understand some of the conversation that comes out of a horrible representation. It

creates dialog. However, I showed pictures where the picture got worse during the 40's than it ever was during the 1910 era.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Who Gets Feel American Indian About This ?



by Robert Johnson - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 3:48 PM

Before this forum, and these questions about American Indian mascots, I had only heard of this controversial issue, but never really got into it any deeper than the surface. Never thinking about it to much, because it didn't seem to affect me one way or the other. I personally never thought the many various American Indian mascots were disrespectful, dishonorable or degrading to American Indians, much less a form of acceptable racism.

I could have more easily been in agreement with many posts in this forum that say its no big deal, before reading the editors letter, and the other material we have been supplied with by our instructor. Then again I'm not American Indian and my people were not victims of genocide either.

Many American Indians, apparently take no offense to Indian mascots, but official's like Brenda Brainard and LCC's James Florendo (in editors letter) have me looking deeper than the surface.

Now being split on this issue, to me some important questions here are, did a logger choose to be a logger ?, or a packer choose to be a packer ? Did they have a choice, or were they born that way like it was their race? Are Indian Mascots about race ? If only few American Indian people are offended, does that matter ?

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Who Gets Feel American Indian About This ?



by Agina Hale - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 10:51 PM

After reading all of the information, and talking to Natives. I think it's best left up to them. Also, I pay attention to who is an "expert" or has something to say. Everyone has a bias, or an agenda in the media. The article quotes Brainard who has worked with Natives in the area for years, made the statement that they should be allowed to be viewed in a real, viable and holistic way. That statement impedes Natives from being seen as anything other than holistic healers with a peacepipe. It doesn't seem like she understands how varied the tribes can be. Fluffy stereotypes, are still that. Stereotypes. Many tribes are proud of their warrior culture, even now.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Native Americans and Mascots



by kazu Inaba - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 6:42 PM

Since I came to America, I have been curious about that why Cleveland Indians was named Indians and Washington Redskins was named Redskins, but I have not thought that it is for positive way or negative way.

After I saw the the article which is "More Mascot facts," I feel that it is weird even if they are naming it positive way because people probably could understand for a lot of way. Especially for native American people, most of them feel that is kind of offensive. In my opinion, they should change the name if it is possible.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Native Americans and Mascots

by Robert Johnson - Thursday, March 6, 2014, 5:19 PM

Yes, like if only the willing American Indian citizens of America, were to vote on whether the team name Redskins and their mascot for example are offensive or not.

If even only 1% of them found it to be offensive, or an accepted form of racism against them an their people, then Perhaps the Washington Redskins should consider a change. Whether they like it or not, take the reference of color to race out of their name, unless of course they got permission in the beginning.

Oh I think it would be possible, if they wanted to do so, they could. I share your opinion.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Native Americans and Mascots

by Brian Davis - Friday, March 7, 2014, 3:06 PM

Where do you draw the line? If people in the US couldn't do anything that only 1% of people found offensive then what could you do? I'm offended by people swearing during a conversation and I bet 1% of the population is as well. Lets ban swearing. I'm offended by rap music's portrayal of women, let's ban that.

I'm offended by black comedians who make fun of white people, let's ban them from speaking negatively about white people. OR I could just not support them with my money which I don't. There are a lot of people who like the things I find offensive and that's okay, it's their prerogative. This country is getting too sensitive and it's ridiculous. Where do you draw the line and who gets to make that decision?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Schools adopting cultural mascots

by Amanda Hough - Friday, March 7, 2014, 8:27 PM

Amen! Everyone is entitled to their opinion. And yes, this particular issue

may go a bit deeper than that, BUT at the end of the day that's the basic idea behind this, just as you are stating. And isn't that what America is all about?! Being free and that includes the freedom to your opinion and what you chose to believe in/support. Also, we all come from somewhere, have some background, none of us are perfect, but the fact that we can proudly represent the people and cultures we've all derived from, I think it sends more of a positive message.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Native Americans and Mascots

by Brendan Gibbons - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 9:54 PM

I just wanted to say that I totally agree with you here. It is truly becoming ridiculous how sensitive the country is getting. I am not saying people should not listen to each other and hear people out but life is not perfect. Just because someone does not agree with something does not mean that particular subject should just be banned. If everything was banned that 1% of people disliked then there would be no individualism everyone would slowly be forced to become the same and homogeneous.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Native Americans and Mascots

by Karlie Edwards - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 11:04 PM

I strongly agree with this. This whole issue is based on that small minorities opinions. I believe if you don't like something or agree with it then stay away from it, or don't support it.

Individuality and standing up for things you disagree with or agree with is what makes life exciting. If we were all the same and never took risks or did something that might not make every single person happy the world would be a very boring place. Everyone is still allowed to speak their mind, and we should consider each individuals opinion with respect and an open mind, but on this particular issue, the majority of people agreed that it shouldn't be banned.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Native Americans and Mascots

by Robert Johnson - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 10:40 PM

To clarify and update here, the 1% was just a number I threw out there myself, and only represents my own opinion at the time posted. 1 in 100 people, which has changed. I'm going with .001%, again just my opinion,

based on nothing else.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Native Americans and Mascots

by kazu Inaba - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 9:22 PM

I like your opinion a lot. We definitely consider the minority people's opinion. Even though just 1% of them feel offensive, we should not do that like "they are just a 1% of people so we don't need to consider about it" because it is part of the racism. people probably better think about it more seriously in my opinion if they didn't get permission as you said. That's one of the ways to solve this problems.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Where Do You Draw The Line

by Brian Davis - Friday, March 7, 2014, 2:55 PM

I'm going to speak on the Washington Redskins issue. First of all, there is an owner of the team, no affiliation to a government agency (i.e. public school), so if Dan Snyder (the owner) wants to keep the name he has every right to do so. People seem to be losing that fact in the news articles I have read on the subject. If people want to boycott the team and all of their memorabilia that is their right as well, they can do that. They can petition the owner all they want to, the NFL can come out and say they don't want this team in their league if they are going to be named as such. But none of that will happen except for the petition part because it's all about the mighty dollar.

I have spoken with several Native American's on the issue and every one of them has said they aren't offended by it. The Oneida Nation is clearly offended as they are the ones heading up the petition for a name change. However, there have been several tribes that have come out and said they aren't offended. Who's right and who's wrong? There are a lot of people who's theory on banning offensive things is, "if one person finds it offensive it's offensive," (unless of course you're Christian and offended, then your opinion doesn't matter apparently). Fair enough, but where do you draw the line? It can get out of hand very quickly, and me being a person who practices the art of sarcasm and irony frequently can make it so easily. So where do you draw the line? Who get's to make the ultimate decision on what is offensive and what isn't? This could get into a whole philosophical ethics debate, what's good for most is good for all and so on. In the case of the Washington Redskins the owner gets the final say and he has made his point quite clear. In the case of a public school it would be more open to pressure from the outside. I personally think all of the money the Oneida Nation is spending to get this name changed would be better spent helping out the poverty, alcoholism and general poor quality of life that plagues our nation's reservations but they can spend their money however they want, they just need to remember that Dan Snyder can do the same.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Where Do You Draw The Line? With the Washington Redskins



by Robert Johnson - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 10:08 PM

The Washington Redskins are just a team, and since the team has an owner then that team is only an item, and items change all the time. People who own them make those changes, and sometimes whether they want or not, especially rich men like Dan Snyder who have so much to lose.

If and when the Washington Redskins ever have to suck it up, and give it up, I will be happy for American Indians.

If ever a paper petition to sign, more than likely I would. Until then buying redskin stuff, I don't think I should. changing their name is fine, because the Washington Redskins crossed the line.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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How About the Numbers



by Robert Johnson - Friday, March 7, 2014, 6:26 PM

We can read from our material that the overwhelming majority of American Indians are not bothered by teams using them for mascots, or team names. But about how many is that ? Is there a number, and does the size of that number matter ?

From our material we also know that according to a Sports Illustrated poll back in 2002 for example, a whopping 75% was that number. While wondering how bias this poll could have been, I woe at the remaining 25%. This means 1 out of 4 American Indians (of their choice) in their little poll, were offended by it.

So now I ask, is that overwhelming enough to actually look any 1 in the 4 American Indian people/citizens in the eye, and say that it don't matter any more, to suck it up and get over it! ?

But to say the least, history learned in class suggests that the American Indians have sucked it up for century's now, So now can we tell those few, the 1 in 4 who cant get over it, to do anyway, even when they are reminded every time they hear the name Redskins ? I actually think it possibly could be a form of acceptable racism, just my opinion there. Does the common " get over it " attitude show history is repeating itself About American Indians ? If so I will not be part of that.

So maybe the 1 in 4 or the 25% are tired of sucking it up, who could blame them. Brought to our attention in class was also the fact that, having/exercising right's is different than those same right's being enforced.

I say yes, only a few matters here, we are talking about people after all.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: How About the Numbers

by Brian Davis - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 5:29 PM

All I'm saying is that you have to be consistent or else you become a hypocrite. If you believe a certain number, you have given several, of people offended is enough to enact change then you must believe that across the board no matter the issue or the people. If 25% is enough to change something then if 25% of the people think rap music is offensive then it should be outlawed. Be consistent.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: How About the Numbers

by Robert Johnson - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 9:32 PM

I think your comparing apples to oranges there, rap music is hardly the same thing as a people and their culture, and a comparison of the two, considering the differences, only brings a weak argument. For example, liking or disliking things like rap music are choices that all people make, they don't get to choose what people they come from. So its about people here, not music, or cussing, tattoo's or anything else but people, The American Indians and their feelings and cultures specifically.

I would not call looking at issues from all sides being inconsistent, I call that not blindly making a call or judgement, because every thing across the board is not the same.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Schools adopting cultural mascots

by Amanda Hough - Friday, March 7, 2014, 8:21 PM

I find it very interesting that the Native American program coordinator at LCC, Florendo, believes that if only ONE student is offended in any way that a mascot or team nickname is of Native representation, that it should be immediately removed. That is his opinion, and we are all entitled to one, but every other tribe spokesman/woman interviewed in these articles seemed to have quite a different outlook. Florendo makes a very solid argument regarding genocide, but as also stated in Williams' article, cultural names have been adopted by schools and sports teams for over 60 years. Along with everything, and everyone else in society, things change and part of life is moving on from the past. The way most students, race/ethnicity aside, including myself, and all the interviewed natives in the articles given seem to view the recognition as a positive thing, as well as very honorable. Honestly while reading "Indian mascots not demeaning" I found myself almost laughing because it made me so happy. The point about degrading any other mascot or team name, such as the lumberjacks, is a very good point and I agree 100 percent.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Splitting hairs and a historical embarrassment

by Dylan Ornas - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 8:42 PM

Racism is a very interesting thing. Since the beginning of time we have seen it cause wars, genocide and unmeasurable chaos. In the grand scale of history however, there are near an equal number of conflicts and atrocities based not solely on race. We see what we would colloquially call "white people" fighting people of the same color skin or even of the same empire or country. I believe that much of the controversy in the US surrounding racial issues stem from the regret and embarrassment surrounding acts that the country has permitted in the past. I believe that this applies to almost all nations insecurities, it doesn't necessarily have to be racial. An obvious example is the genocide of the Jews in WWII by Hitler. It is still a sore subject 69 years later, almost all people involved have been dead for many years now. However the stigma still hangs over the German people.

This transitions awkwardly to the mascot debate in the US. The ethnic mascot debate is a very hot topic in the united states right now. I find it interesting however that nearly all of this controversy is based around the native American mascots. There are many non native American related ethnic mascots in professional sports at the moment. Such as the Irish base Celtics, or the Fighting Irish. Others include the New York Nicks, referring to early Dutch settlers of New York. There is very little controversy surrounding these teams, and yet all the native American mascot teams are under fire nearly constantly. I sincerely believe that the high interest in such matters by white Americans tend to stem from disgust and embarrassment stemming from the acts of our forefathers.

This brings me back to my main point. I believe that most Americans who oppose ethnic (especially native American based) mascots tend to be white Americans. This is supported by Nick DeWitt in his article at bleacherreport.com. Although he is obviously against native American mascots, he goes to point out that "Studies by many different independent sources have shown that the overwhelming majority of Native Americans do not find these images and mascots offensive". I posted on a later thread concerning this. If a majority are not offended, and in fact many find the mainly warrior based names to be honorable. Why must we keep this heated debate going?

I must finish with a small disclaimer; DeWitt pushes for the need to have consent from a tribe before using its name. I totally agree with this. A tribes name is its legacy and they have every right to keep it to themselves. I just cannot agree on the constant uproar regarding more generic native American mascots.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Support for Oregon's Decision

by James Price - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 9:04 PM

After giving this some thought, I find myself supporting Oregon's decision to ban Native American mascots in schools. I was influenced by Tom Ball's statement that "Native American mascots are a form of oppression that contributes to isolation among Native Americans and its social consequences" (USA Today Article). I also feel like if the situation

was reversed and the schools had names like the "Crackers" or the "Hillbillies," with mascots representing these stereotypes, I would want them to be changed.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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