

Forum 4

Display replies in nested form

Move this discussion to ...

Add a block

Add...

**Indian Mascots**

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 10:16 AM

This forum thread is for Indian Mascots posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the various questions. 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: Indian Mascots

Sum of ratings: -

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Big or small, a problem is a problem.**

by Courtney Tullock - Monday, March 2, 2015, 11:34 AM

I am on the fence about this topic. I can see good points from both sides but I couldn't say if one or the other is right or wrong.

On the one hand, I feel that it is important to recognize how Native Americans feel about the way they are represented. The Sports Illustrated poll says 75% don't mind the team's nickname, numerous other studies say that Native Americans don't find the images or mascots offensive. At first glance it's like 'what's the problem then?' but looking at that 75%, that means 25% DO care and are offended by or apathetic to Native American portrayals. That is too big a number to ignore. Given that information I feel that Native American mascots and images should be banned unless given express permission by the tribe to use such images.

On the other hand, part of me feels that because it is Indian activists and not Native Americans in the foreground of this civil issue that maybe the activists are more concerned with making amends for mistakes made in the past but it's just stirring up negative emotions. I honestly don't think anyone means offense by using Native Americans mascots. The majority of schools, students, faculty and communities say they see their mascot as symbols of strength, pride, and perseverance.

Still, an issue is an issue no matter how small. I think if the images and mascots cause problems for students in their schools or offend anyone then there should be steps taken to resolve those problems.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



by [Derek Muniz](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 3:19 PM

I am for change of names unless given permission, as other schools have done, The Sports Illustrated so called poll of Native Americans in actuality composed mostly of "self Identified Indians". Meaning people claiming to be Native American, but have nothing to show for it. [The Redskins' Name - Catching Racism - The Daily Show - Video Clip | Comedy Central](#) this video shows a small portion of a debate between fans and Native American activist

Of course anybody can look up the word Redskin and see by definition "**Redskin**" is a slang term for [Native Americans](#) defined in current dictionaries of American English as offensive, disparaging, insulting, and taboo. (Wikipedia).

Indian scalps were for sale on the streets of New York city and London for a dollar a scalp. The store clerks who bought them from bounty hunters changed the name to redskin because the blood seeped in the skin and became red of color. They didn't like the word scalp, and decided to use skin as one would use for animal hides ie: bearskin, deerskin. and so after were no longer viewed as human beings.

Being Native American myself (Umatilla tribe, outside of Pendleton Oregon) I grew up with racism, I've been called many names. I have been to places in the states that believe Native Americans are nonexistent, and only know of them from school teams and sports. I played Cowboys and Indians as a child and played the "indian". I always lost and had my scalp taken, I stopped playing soon after.

There will always be negativity on this issue, a majority of Native Americans want the name changed. The ones who say that they don't want to change are in my view not real Native Americans.



Sum of ratings: [3 \(1\)](#)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Change the Name

by [Dalyn Stram](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 4:12 PM

I wholeheartedly respect your opinion, but I question your authority of determining who is a "real Native American" based on their adherence to your opinions.

Sum of ratings: [\(1\)](#)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Change the Name

by [Derek Muniz](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 8:47 PM

Good point, *no I don't have the authority*, it is just an opinion, and we must question everything. I grew up on a reservation, but saying so doesn't make me a "real native american" right? Their adherence just tells me they never experienced growing up like I have. But one's argument can say we all experienced the same thing, which is why I have stated self-identified, even if they do have native american blood, they have to know the past, know the atrocities that has happened to them and to never forget.

To let the name stand just says they don't know what has happened. But it should not pertain now since it happened all in past, right? Yes it does.

Instead of a poll, one should ask the people what they think, not just the figure heads of tribes.

What I mean by a real native american. In being one, I could say a number of things that could no less be very offensive to others. Except this, *know your heritage, don't just claim it*.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Change the Name

by [Dalyn Stram](#) - Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 11:48 PM

Maybe I'm just being naive, but I don't think a single Native American doesn't know their history within this country. It's hammered pretty hard into the cultural consciousness in this country. I believe they know the history, they just choose to view and take Indian mascots differently.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Indian Mascots

by [Benjamin Bross](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 3:19 PM

As somebody who watches sports a lot, I see this issue being brought up on a constant basis. Many websites have stopped using the full name of the Washington Redskins. While many may be okay with the name there is huge part of the Native American population that is against it. Many teams have decided to keep the name but get rid of possible offensive logos or mascots. This can be seen with the Cleveland Indians, Atlanta Braves, and Illinois Fighting Illini. Overall, I think this is a major issue that needs to be dealt with now. 25% is far too high of an ethnic groups population to ignore. If 25% of white Americans were offended by a team named the Cincinnati Crackers, there would be a better chance of the name being changed. Something needs to be done. It isn't that difficult to change your mascot, especially if it is a high school with no prior national marketing.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



The power of the offended minority

by [Dalyn Stram](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 4:10 PM

This is actually an issue that I have put a lot of thought into the last few years. I happened to write a letter to the editor of the Register Guard a couple years ago on this exact issue. First of all, there is a lot of misinformation out there on this. The term "Redskin" was actually first used by Indians/Native Americans. Its origin is not as a derogatory term. Some people may have chosen to use it that way, but that's not how the term came to be. I also happen to know many Native Americans who choose to refer to themselves as Indians, so that term itself is also not inherently derogatory. We must not let people who

choose to use those terms in derogatory ways effect the rest of us so much. And on the flip side, one person (or a minority) being offended is not just cause to change something like this. People are offended at nearly anything these days, and as a result, sometimes simply telling the truth is dangerous.

I attended a small high school in the Eugene/Springfield area, and when I played sports, we happened to play against Chemawa Indian School in Salem. This is a Native American school, but you can see that right in the title they call themselves an "Indian School". But hold on, I thought "Indian" was derogatory and offensive to Native Americans? Clearly not. And what do you think their mascot was? The "Braves" - another supposedly offensive mascot term. So is it right to only allow Indian schools to use Indian mascots, or can anybody use them - albeit responsibly? The simple fact of the matter is that just like literally any other term, some people will be offended by terms and mascots like "Indian" and "Braves", and some won't. Native Americans don't all agree on this issue. It's simply the loudest, most offended people that get their words put in the newspapers or on the news. Squeaky wheel gets the grease right? The side pushing for legislation against these mascots wants to paint the situation as definitive. As if all Native Americans find these terms offensive. But this is not the case. A small minority find these offensive. If I remember correctly, the whole origin of this problem in Oregon happened because a high school student felt offended by a high school mascot and took it to Salem. However, I do believe that any school or organization that has an ethnic mascot has a responsibility to represent themselves and that mascot well. I do think that sometimes the caricatures can go over the top, and we do need to be careful of that. But I believe high schools and professional sports teams should by all means be allowed to use ethnic mascots, as long as it is done respectfully.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Where does it end?

by [Dalyn Stram](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 4:18 PM

The other issue I take with banning such mascots is the question of where it all ends. "Fightin' Irish" is clearly a derogatory caricature, painting all Irish people as inflammable and violent, so bummer Notre Dame, Sheldon High School, etc. You can't keep your name. What about animals? We don't want to offend animal rights activists, so we'll have to ban them. What's left? Number mascots? The North Eugene #2s? New York #87? It's a slippery slope in my opinion, floating out there at the whim of anyone who gets offended at something.

I also think it's important to note that many high schools have direct permission to use Native American mascots. Roseburg High School worked with the local tribes and came up with a mascot/logo that was respectful. But then Kitzhaber and the government came in and told them they still couldn't use it. Why do they think they can do that? I don't think banning all Native American mascots is right, but I wouldn't be against requiring schools to have permission to use such mascots. I know for a fact that many Native Americans find certain mascots very respectful, and they are proud to be represented as courageous, braves, stoic, etc. I think high schools going that route wouldn't be a totally bad idea.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Offensive to a culture

by [Jose Camarillo](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 6:00 PM

The way I stand on the issue is that Native Americans deserve to be treated with respect like everyone else, and even if only one or a small minority of people take offense to the mascots we should ban them. Team names such as the Redskins (NFL team) are even old derogatory terms for Native Americans, and the simply shouldn't be allowed. I was baffled by the supreme court ruling on that specific name. Although not all mascots are as bad as the Redskins it still is offensive to be viewed as one of the only, if not the only,

ethnicity being portrayed as a mascot. I feel like that culture is viewed as "fitting" for a mascot because Natives can be portrayed as "wild" or "savage" like an animal. What are the best mascots? Animals. To the culture as a whole I feel like it is offensive to them to continue letting them being portrayed as mascots.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Offensive to a culture

by [Amanda Hagstrom](#) - Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 4:51 PM

I am going to disagree with your statement that native americans are the only ethnicity portrayed as a mascot. Specifically in Oregon we have:

- The "fighting Irish", an angry looking Irishman mascot at Sheldon High School
- The "Highlanders" a Scottish man dressed in full regalia mascot at North Eugene High
- The "Rebels" an American Confederate swinging his sword mascot at South Albany High School (this is even more shocking than an Indian mascot)
- The "Buckaroos" a cowboy on a bucking horse mascot at Pendleton High School
- The "Cavaliers" a an English knight or soldier mascot at Clackamas High School
- The "Vikings" a Scandinavian seafaring pirate mascot at Forest Grove High school

So you see Oregon schools have a plethora of mascots denoting various ethnicities. I just named Irish, Scottish, American, Western American, English and Scandinavian.

the most common definition of a mascot is; "a person or thing that is supposed to bring luck or that is used to symbolize a particular event or organization." (this specific definition is from google)

so according to many dictionaries using an indian as the mascot, is an attempt of using their imagery as a form of luck. I just don't see the disrespect in that at all.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Offensive to a culture

by [Maggie Van Wey-Wells](#) - Thursday, March 5, 2015, 12:16 PM

I agree with your statement. If 25% of Indians are offended by the Mascots than they should be banned. It's their culture and we shouldn't be allowed to expose it how we please. By exposing their culture we are stereotyping, which may not affect every Indian individual but those it does effect matter. It's a sensitive topic and it's important to not be insensitive about it especially if you aren't apart of their culture. Without being apart of their culture you don't really understand the true impact and every individuals feelings should be acknowledged.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Offensive to a culture

by [Courtney Tullock](#) - Friday, March 6, 2015, 10:13 AM

I couldn't agree more with you Maggie. I know very little of true Native American culture. The video clips shown in class on Thursday gave me a glimpse but everything else I know I was taught in school. I've come to realize since being in college that elementary and high school do not do History justice and they certainly don't go in depth about Native American life before and after the continental conquest. So I think that schools should be more conscientious about their mascots and realize that although they are chosen with good intentions, stereotypes are no

way to represent people.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re:Re: Offensive to a culture

by [Jenefer Heredia](#) - Friday, March 6, 2015, 12:33 PM

I totally agree with you Courtney, I also thought the videos shown in class yesterday showed the horrors of the murders committed by those trusted to "take care" of the welfare of the Indians after they were forced on reservations. But that is only a small snippet of the few massacres between Native American tribes and American government/military and I also strongly agree that education in America should show more of these videos and teach more in-depth lessons of the relationship and interactions between Americans and the natives that were originally here (both good & bad).

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Schools keep their identity

by [Kaelen Byrum](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 10:23 PM

In the state of Oregon there are currently 20 schools that are represented with some sort of Native American mascot/nickname. A majority of the schools with these names are located in an area that are "Native Lands." In my opinion I don't see anything wrong with having the mascot such as the Braves or the Indians. I see this as a sign of respect, especially if the school is located in the original territories. Since the Native American people were the first to inhabit this country and were the original settlers I find it important to keep that fact present in our society. If a school is located on Native territory, than permission should be sought out from some sort of committee made up of these native people. If they perceive the name to be disrespectful, than the name/ mascot should be changed. If they think it is fitting, respectful etc. than the school should be allowed to keep their Identity.

In the article, it speaks to a point of disrespect to these people to have these school mascots. With that it raises the question of what is considered offensive. If having an Indian as a mascot is considered offensive, then what does it say about schools such as South Eugene whose mascot is the axemen? Or the Irish of Sheldon High school, would that be disrespectful to a whole nation of people? We could look at Marist Catholic High School whose mascot is a Spartan. From my previous knowledge the people of Sparta who acknowledged themselves as Spartans were polytheistic (the worship of many gods). This goes against everything the Catholic faith believes, so should this mascot be disrespectful to the Catholic people? If we cause the issue of changing all schools with a connotation of a Native American as a mascot, then we in turn cause a larger debate regarding the mascots of dozens of other schools.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



NCAA political cartoon

by [Kaelen Byrum](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 10:29 PM

The Native American is offensive, but not the "Cowboy"?



Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Schools keep their identity

by [Hannah Donner](#) - Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 11:32 AM

I agree that schools in Native Lands should be able to keep their Native American mascot or name if they have contacted the tribes around their area and they have their consent. Having said that, even if the tribes find the mascots respectful I still feel that having your mascot representing a race dehumanizes that race. I agree with Brainard, cited in the Indian Mascots article, who states that "even when mascots are depicted in a respectful fashion...it impedes Indian people being seen in a real, viable, holistic way." I believe the schools need to ensure that their students are thoroughly informed about America's suppression of the Indians and the "violence, exploitation, and broken treaties" that occurred in our history (Textbook pg. 627). In my opinion, I feel this would encourage honor and respect towards Native Americans and help resolve this issue.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Schools keep their identity

by [Amanda Hagstrom](#) - Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 5:10 PM

I am in complete agreement with everything you just said. I just posted the definition of what the term mascot means and I'll be posting it again several more times. "a person or thing that is supposed to bring good luck or that is used to symbolize a particular event or organization."

A mascot is not a sign of disrespect it. The whole meaning behind the name or logo of a mascot is an effort to bring good luck, good will, fortune and success. If the name or logo is disrespectful by misrepresentation than it should be changed. The only people who can legitimately affirm whether or not the native american terminology and symbolism is being adulterated is the native american people themselves. In this case, if there is a form of misinterpretation then it must be changed but getting rid of the mascot all together would be naive and extreme. A mascot, when it is done justice, is not racist nor can it be a bully. People are the only ones whom can turn a symbol into discrimination. So maybe the mascot isn't the problem, it's the people.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



The names should be changed

by [Aulani Aviles](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 11:10 PM

After reading and analyzing the cartoons, I can see why Native Americans would want

mascot names to be changed. When comparing the "Cleveland Indians" to the "New York Jews" and "San Francisco Chinamen" just sounds absolutely ridiculous, and I believe those types of mascot names would be offensive towards people who are that ethnicity. Especially with fans chanting inappropriate phrases, like "kill the Indians" is very disrespectful towards Native Americans. The names should be changed.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: The names should be changed

by [Nicklas Moyer](#) - Friday, March 6, 2015, 1:49 AM

I agree with you on your statement "comparing the "Cleveland Indians" to the "New York Jews" and "San Francisco Chinamen" just sounds absolutely ridiculous, and I believe those types of mascot names would be offensive towards people who are that ethnicity". That illustration did a great job of expressing how any sort of minority race can take offense of their race being displayed in a negative or offensive fashion. When people wonder why Native Americans take offense to a sport logo like the 'Cleveland Indians', they should just look at the illustration posted on the forum for answers. Could you imagine the outrage by our nation if a team like the 'New York Yankees' changed their name to "New York Jews?". I'm definitely now starting to lean towards reforms to the use of Native American symbols in sports, I think in our modern age it has become necessary.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Honor or Insult, Based on Understanding or Hostility

by [Dichen Wu](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 11:46 PM

Is the problem about Indian Mascots' use serious? It's serious because mascots are related to Indians' faith and history as they truly regard mascots as their respect and relics. On the other hand, it should be an easy topic while Indians, and Whites and the other races are all residents in the common country now from a sociological point of view. Therefore, the method to solve the problem is to judge whether those team names are flip jokes.

Back to reading materials, we can see that the explanation about the name, "Warriors" is always courage, respect, dignity, pererverance, discipline, integrity, which are admired in general sporting spirits. Even North Douglas Superintendent Dan Forbess has to admit that he is proud that a team can be named after Native American cultural heritage. However, some opinions seem too sensitive to think objectively and impartially in this problem. Although historical trauma truly occurred to Native Americans and the white group should be responsible for it, it is still a political problem outside the daily life including normal sports. If those teams hold a respected mind towards their name, then the behavior is exactly admiring and propagating Native American culture.

In modern information society, cultural communication should not be criticized, especially when participants have a positive view. Instead of sensitivity and self-isolation, understanding is preferred.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



This is NOT appreciation. It is appropriation.

by [Jenefer Heredia](#) - Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 6:57 AM

This is a problem. "Indian" mascots are a problem.

1.) The use of these mascots are racist, harmful, and a form of [cultural appropriation](#). The word "honor" has been dropped numerous times in the article but I seriously question what exactly *is* this "honor"? Is it only honorable to be a Washington Redsk*n when the

team wins a victory? No matter the origin, the term "redsk*n" is a recognized racial slur.

2.) Then there is the argument of respectable intent with the use of these mascots. My response is regardless of intent, the **results** of these Indian mascots contribute actual harm to Native Americans and perpetuates racist images and ideas. Popular culture has shaped ideas of not only Native people but also other minority groups which are often wrong and sometimes flat-out racist.

3.) And how can we forget about the history? The genocide, the extraction, the poverty, and the prohibitions that Native tribes have and still go through. They have had their culture stripped from them by law and could only identify as either an American citizen or Native American until the 1960's (Indian Civil Rights Act & Voting Rights Act).

4) Indian mascots are literally smashing 566 federally recognized Native tribes by representing the stereotypical likeness of an Indian with feathers in their hair and war paint on their faces. It diminishes and dehumanizes Native Americans and their unique cultures. Using Indian mascots is an act of commodifying Native American culture. Buying a hat with the Redsk*ns logo or a high school sweater with a Warriors mascot is commodification. It is literally profiting off of stereotypes.

5) Native Americans are MODERN, contemporary people. So if we would want to be PC (politically correct) why aren't the Seminoles or other Indian Mascots dressed in a plain t-shirt and jeans? Why are they all depicted in this stereotypical feathers and war paint caricature? It degrades and fuels the misappropriation and ignorance of the individual cultures of native tribes in America.

Sum of ratings:3 (1) 3

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



This is NOT appreciation. It is appropriation. pt2

by [Jenefer Heredia](#) - Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 6:52 AM

Indian mascots = black face



Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



The definition of a mascot

by [Amanda Hagstrom](#) - Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 9:36 PM

There is clearly many opinions on both sides about this Native American mascot topic.

The more digging I did on the internet, the longer the spectrum of extremes became. So I want to narrow the focus of this discussion by breaking down the layers of how this topic became a debate

Are the existing Native American mascots respectful and honorable?

The schools that are purposefully denoting proper representation, historically correct imagery, and reverent symbolism of specific Native Americans tribes for their mascot are being respectful to that culture by maintaining a genuine interpretation and depiction of that culture. In short, the only way to respectfully have a any ethnic mascot is to be well-informed and conscious of the culture of the group you are promoting.

The most common definition of a mascot is that it is "a person or thing that is supposed to bring good luck or that is used to symbolize a particular event or organization." In hindsight a mascot is a symbol of success, fortune and good-will. To choose a certain culture as a symbol of these values is honorable.

If the mascot is an appropriate representation of the specific culture it is depicting, then why do people get offended by its presence?

The article indicates that the initial concerns with the mascots are "perpetuating stereotypes and symbolize institutionalized racism" which can lead to bullying and "create a hostile learning environment." If the logo is a correct representation it is not exemplifying any stereotype and there for not discriminating nor racist. If there is bullying and discrimination against a Native American mascot it is not because of the presence of the mascot it is because of people's ignorance. It is the institutions job to educate and demonstrate respect for all cultures.

This leads to the next question of, if people are offended than what do we do?

If a symbol such as a mascot is provoking discrimination, bullying and racism, the answer is not to remove the symbol but to face the inappropriate behavior head on by leadership and corrective action. The institutions with ethnic mascots experiencing demeaning acts against that culture or group should recognize that eliminating the symbol will not rid of discriminatory acts it will only be an attempt to suppress an already existing prejudice. The best device to eradicate prejudices is to address them in full by educating the oppressors of the group they are oppressing and to expose the unjust experiences of that particular minority group. In short a mascot is not a hostile bully nor a racist ignorant, it is the people that are. Removal of a mascot doesn't remove hostility nor discrimination.

Only education and leadership can demonstrate a communities expectations for respect and honor of other cultures, minority groups and in this case Native Americans. Without setting expectations for our youth ignorant behavior such as bullying and racism are the results.

These mascots can be an excuse for a community to manifest a learning experience about their history, culture and above all the hardships that lead up to present day.

I say the removal of a mascot solve bullying, racism nor ignorance. A logo can be adjusted to not have offensive characteristics, it doesn't need to be removed. The nickname of a mascot should be interpreted in a respectful fashion in order to be bring it honor. "Indians," "Braves," "Cheifs" and "Warriors" all have honorable meaning behind them so I don't believe these names should be changed either.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: The definition of a mascot

by [Aulani Aviles](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 9:51 PM

You make very good statements here, I completely agree with what you're saying. Specifically on the subject regarding the fact the people aren't informed about their school's mascot. I believe this is one of the main issues. When I was in high school we were called The Indians. The issue with that is the fact that we were never informed on what the mascot represented. From what I understood, all it was known for was to represent our school and our sports teams while students chant "Go Indians!" This is wrong because when you compare it to a sports team being named, "The Cleveland Asians" and "The Cleveland Africans," that would be considered racism. So why would it be okay for a team to be called "The Indians?" I don't believe it's right when a school mascot uses a Native American name and are not aware of what that name truly

stands for. In addition, I believe this is what might lead to students and spectators yelling inappropriate phrases. If people were more aware, then maybe he or she might be more respectful of the situation.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Offensive Mascots?

by [Sarah Wood](#) - Thursday, March 5, 2015, 11:39 AM

When I was first reading the article I thought that if these mascots were offending people, even a small minority, they should just change them. However, as I was further reading the issue and thinking about it I began to think about the many issues with changing the mascots. For schools to change their mascots would take a very large amount of money. They would need to change their signs, uniforms, gym floors, and everything else that had their mascot on it. I also wonder if the Oregon schools that had to change their mascot within five years were given another option if they couldn't afford to change everything with their mascot or were given some extra funding for this if they couldn't afford it.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Offensive Mascots?

by [Jenefer Heredia](#) - Thursday, March 5, 2015, 12:29 PM

I see what you're saying Sarah but my perspective on this situation is another way. It's understandable that changing a school's mascot would be extremely costly especially if they're a well-known school. However, if one could understand the offense that people may take at Indian mascots (even Native Americans themselves) if should be at least considered or a discussion topic for the school board to change/remove the mascot in question.

PLUS I see it as if the school did change their Indian mascot it would create a better reputation for the school itself and may even gain considerable popularity, donations, or just in general be seen as a recognized school that is involved and listens to the concerns of its community.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Offensive Mascots?

by [Sarah Wood](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 11:31 PM

I agree with you that if people are being offended by a certain mascot that it should definitely be discussed! However, I think that there are many different things that need to be taken into consideration before jumping into changing the mascot. How many people are offended by the mascot? How much will it cost? How will the money to change it be raised? Is there a way to change the representation of the mascot without actually changing the mascot?

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Oregon Bans Indian related Mascots

by [Maggie Van Wey-Wells](#) - Thursday, March 5, 2015, 7:47 PM

It's not a surprise to me that Oregon sided with the activists opinion on the issue when it came to the decision to ban Native American related mascots. Oregonians tend to be sensitive and understanding when it comes to these kind of issues being a more liberal state. The creation of these mascots was in the mid 20th century a time when racism and discrimination was a prominent problem in our society. These mascots come from a terrible time and to continue to hang on to them is almost like not moving on with the

times. In modern day its important to make up for our cruelty in the past, to become aware and educated about institutional racism and stereotyping. By eliminating controversial issues such as ones like these we are protecting individuals from prejudice attitudes and discrimination.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Indian Mascot Controversy

by [Nicklas Moyer](#) - Friday, March 6, 2015, 1:36 AM

This topic is a tough topic for me honestly because personally I find the use of native american terms and images for sport teams as something that is not racist, but at the same time I have a bias view on it because I'm not Native American. It makes since and is totally understandable from the perspective of Native Americans to take offense, especially considering the all the things our nation as caused on their race throughout history.

I believe that the best suited solution to this issue would be to follow the platform of Florida State. With the approval from tribe representatives, FSU is following a system that, in my opinion, is the best way to get approval for the use of native mascots and terms. Even then though this might not bring an absolute resolution, the minority who still take offense would probably still feel offended even with the approval from tribe representatives, and in this nation no minority should be excluded from their opinions or rights.

I'm truly in a position where I can't find a right answer to properly appease everyone that is attached to this issue, I personally love the use of Native American terms and symbols (my own high school was called "The Chiefs/Maidens") but I also can understand the resentment from the side of Native Americans. It will be really interesting as time goes on too see how this issue is handled.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Indian Mascots

by [Alexander Stimson](#) - Friday, March 6, 2015, 10:26 PM

As someone who attended and played sports at a high school with "Indians" as its team name, this certainly hits close to home. I understand the sentiment of Steve Bowers in his letter to the editor. I took a great amount of pride wearing the black and red of our high school, and the sports culture at our school really perpetuated that. Even at the time I was attending, there was some scrutiny already developing over the name, but we at the school never game much thought to it. We were the "Indians". We always had been. We had a long and well founded history being the "Indians". So the idea that we would have to change that almost seemed laughable.

This is obviously a sensitive subject - talking about race and ethnicity often is. As a result, we often tend to overthink issues like this. For example, the statement regarding, "if one person dislikes this, should it be banned?" Well, of course not. That's a completely illogical way to handle things. Issues like this should be addressed from a rational and well thought out manner. One or two people don't influence the rebranding of such a large entity. However, there becomes a large support behind changing a team name/logo/mascot, large enough to where there is clearly a public divide on the issue, then I strongly believe that the team name/logo/mascot should be changed/outlaws, and I widely believe that should be the case with most team names/logos/mascots representing Native Americans (with the exception that they have been granted permission by a specific tribal authority, such as the Seminoles with Florida State University.

Now more than ever, a massive amount of public support is behind changing names like the Redskins and logos like that of the Cleveland Indians. Any rationale person would realize that in this instance, with how much of a public outcry that already exists,

changing a team's Native American team name/logo/mascot would be the logical moral decision - and normally, it would be good business, too. However, in a sports industry that is largely influenced by merchandise and branding, asking teams to rebrand, and therefore completely reface their entire franchise (equipment, merchandise, facilities, and so on), the choice for sports owners is simple: don't change a thing. Because despite the public outcry, as long as people are buying tickets and jerseys, they have no reason to change - and perhaps that's the only way that could lead to true change.

In cases such as my high school alma mater, I wish they would change the name. While the outcry against the school's "Indians" name still remains somewhat muted in comparison to other teams/schools, it has never ceased. As time passes, it makes me more and more uneasy. It makes me uncomfortable knowing that some people, irregardless their specific affiliation or relationship to this issue, I don't like saying "I played for the Indians", and I think the mere fact that it makes me uncomfortable saying that shows that a problem exists.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



The state's recent decision

by [Aulani Aviles](#) - Friday, March 6, 2015, 11:20 PM

I'm not quite sure if I agree with the state of Oregon's most recent decision. I believe that if a community comes to a consensus regarding changing the name or not, that's how it should be decided. Like in the article, it stated that "some communities believe the nicknames are a source of pride," which is evident that the community didn't mind if they had a Native mascot. Also, in the article Banks High School mentioned that they like having their mascot name, the Braves, for good and respectful reasons. I understand that it becomes a problem when people are stating disrespectful phrases and when there are situations where people might be offended. I believe that when people take offense to this situation, the mascot should be changed.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Conflict under Entertainment

by [Dichen Wu](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 4:43 AM

The school teams' names reminds me of a feature of the country today, entertainment-oriented society. Whatever the original intention of teams' owners had earlier, the essence of the teams' operation were always based on industrialized entertainment, including teams' names. Thus, to name a sports team after Indian Mascots is to aim at an entertainment's effect among the audience. Only is the problem whether entertainment can be accepted for either side.

Obviously, the white men holding mainstream opinions consider little about such entertainment's atmosphere because most of them are used to enjoying this light environment. They are glad to regard all factors like history, minorities and so on, as entertainment's signs. By chance, Indian mascots are also similar factors that shall bring amazing entertainment' effect among fans. You will feel that a name about Indian is cool except you are familiar with the history and relate the name to certain trauma.

The groups of Indians may be people who can do it. Compared to other people, they remember more historical tragedy that happened to their ancestors and are more sensitive to inappropriate words about their culture. For example, they cannot bear their Indians' feature expressed in entertainment as common people enjoy. The combination of traditional culture's characteristics and modern entertainment aesthetics are not suitable while some of Indians are still vigilant about white men's idea and hold high respect for their custom. When two sides are unable to achieve an agreement on Indians' cultural entertainment, the conflict inevitably shows up.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Pride

by [Ryan Helmericks](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 7:01 PM

There has been a lot of talk about the naming of sports teams and high schools when it comes to Indians. I believe that there shouldn't really be an argument about this subject. Teams with these names and schools with these names picked them because of the pride and power that is shown through the Indians. They are a beautiful culture so a lot of history and fighting spirit. Racism was never talked about when the names were picked and I do not think it should be talked about now. It doesn't have to do with the reasoning behind the name and if I was an Indian I would be proud to see my culture looked at and celebrated as a powerful nation.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Pride

by [Sarah Wood](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 11:05 PM

I found your post interesting because I had a similar thought when reading the article, but I think that whether or not I'd be proud of a mascot that represented my ancestors is how they're being represented. For example: my ancestors were mostly German. If I see Germans being represented as strong I'll feel proud, but if I see them being shown as emotionless or drunks I'd feel offended. I also think that to use an Indian as a mascot without offending anyone you would need to understand the Indian culture before trying to represent them in anyway, which I don't know how much research was done before creating the mascots, but just a thought.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Society,NFL and children

by [Kaelen Byrum](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2015, 12:07 AM

I found this article to be very fitting with this topic. We have been dealing with this issue on a very large scale that includes the NFL and the use of the Washington Redskins mascot.

<http://www.si.com/nfl/2014/10/02/washington-redskins-nickname-change>

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



The minority still matters

by [Aulani Aviles](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2015, 12:51 AM

I believe it does matter how most American Indians view the mascots. Just like it would matter if it were Chinese or Africans in that position. I believe it should be up to them to decide if a mascot name should be changed or not. If a community of Native Americans are taking offense to this situation, shouldn't there be a change? Even if the group of people are the minority, it should still be taken under strong consideration and the mascot name should be changed. Although, I still don't see a problem when a community of Native Americans do not take offense and believe it is okay for the school to have a mascot that represents them. With that being said, I don't think a school should spend the time and money to change all of their logos and gym floors for something that is not considered an issue.

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

 [Moodle Docs for this page](#)

[HST 202 W15 \(Escobar Meta 31045 31046\)](#)

[LCC Home](#) | [LCC Student Help](#) | [LCC Faculty Help](#) | [Faculty Moodle Training](#) |

© Copyright 2012 Lane Community College, All Rights Reserved