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Native American Mascots in Oregon

by Joe Escobar - Friday, March 3, 2017, 10:05 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Native American Mascots in Oregon topic.

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 American Mascots in Oregon

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by Covita Hughes - Sunday, March 5, 2017, 1:32 PM

One of the articles quotes Brenda Brainard, a member of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI) “The students despised it, across the board,” she said. “They despised it, they were embarrassed by it, they wanted it changed.”

Because I worked closely with the CTCLUSI Tribal Council as a Human Resources Professional, I was responsible for overseeing the hiring process in the Education Department and I understand why the majority of the Tribe did not share Brenda's opinion and sense of urgency.

While the historical events that took place after 1865 between white settlers and Native Americans were brutal and horrifying (text pgs 607-613) , I believe the statements of a woman with unresolved anger should not be considered to the extent of punishing schools for their choices of school mascots. There are programs in place to help heal the grief of Native American ancestors who are dealing with generational effects from that time.

It is unproductive to raise new debates and start fresh hate wars. I cannot speak for all of the 9 Oregon tribes, but I do know that it was, and still is the intent of the Confederated Tribes to live peacefully in the NOW, not dwell in hatred from past wrong doings.

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Re: Considering the Source

by Ryan Freire - Thursday, March 9, 2017, 3:49 PM

This has been my experience as well, with family that work with the tribes. It seems like a pretty solid political distraction from some of the real issues the tribes face. Primarily how little of the proceeds of the casinos make its way toward improving the life of the poorest tribe members.

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The money question

by Emily Phan - Monday, March 6, 2017, 9:54 AM

Has anyone thought of the money side of this question? Schools are a place where students are supposed to learn. Schools are always asking for more money and some schools especially small schools would find it perhaps crippling expensive to change their mascot. Think of all the remodeling that would have to happen. Walls repainted, the gym floor re-done, uniforms changed, signs remade, etc. Shouldn't the money that goes to schools be used in ways that help students learn? Using this money to change mascots isn't helping the students. It is helping politicians who can

now shout about how they have made America more tolerant, (though the politicians themselves were being intolerant of the mascot). Lastly, after mascots are changed these offence police will simply find another victim.

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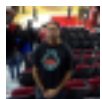


Re: The money question

by Brandon Gericke - Monday, March 6, 2017, 12:04 PM

I think that Native American children should feel comfortable and accepted when they go to a school. Regardless of whether or not changing a school mascot will cost money. Belittling Native American issues as referring to them as a Politicians talking point, does not do the subject any justice. I also do not think it is fair to belittle people who take issue with culturally offensive topics. The argument that if we change the mascots, then these "offense police" will find another victim, does not hold any water. The possibility that fixing an issue will cause another issue to materialize, is not a reason reason to quit, in my opinion.

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Re: The money question

by Jonathan Whittington - Saturday, March 11, 2017, 2:37 PM

Completely agree. While the money question certainly is a hurdle is should be one that we have to get passed. To me making kids feel welcome and safe is much more important then whatever technology they could buy. People have been learning without fancy equipment for years. Schools always talk about stopping bullying and issues like that but If some students are uncomfortable with the mascots for a legit reason then It should be changed or else the school administrators are just part of the problem themselves.

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Re: The money question

by Dawn Taylor - Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 3:17 PM

Good point, Emily. I thought of the money issue too. Since I feel that the Native American mascots are a remembrance and a glorification to this culture, my views are to keep everything like it is and fight about something else like the quality of school lunches. I think people are hypersensitive these days, and although we are making great strides in bringing cultures together and accepting one another better than we have in the past, the mascot issue doesn't seem to be an issue for most Native Americans.

If the mascots are to be changed, the government, who mistreated and pushed their way through Native lands, should pay for it. The schools shouldn't have to pay for it.

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Re: The respectful use of Native Mascots

by Brandon Gericke - Monday, March 6, 2017, 11:05 AM

Being full blood Native of the tribes Southern Ute, Shoshone, and Bannock, and having grown up on a reservation in South Dakota as well as a majority white town, I think i may have a unique perspective on when or if it is OK to use native american mascots at schools that are not primarily native american. Being mostly from a majority white town, it was very evident to me that Native culture was not respected and most of the times it was mocked.

Now as far who gets to "be indian" when it comes to discussing whether natives like or dislike the mascots, or any other native topic, I dont know. However, too often I see that people who do not have any Native blood, or have not partaken in Native culture, have to add their two cents where it does not belong. A lot of times when someone complains about something they find offensive, it is considered too "PC". I would say that if a school wants to use a Native Mascott, they should seek the council of the tribes that are in the area. If the tribes say it is OK, then it should be allowed and vice-versa.

This would also lead me to disagree with the State of Oregons recent decision, A blanket ban doesnt allow for any kind of real discussion on the topic. I do believe that if the schools shows a respect for Native American culture, then a exception should be allowed. For instance the FSU Seminoles are a great example of a school that shows respect and admiration of Seminole culture. However if a schools presents an atmosphere that does not respect the Native American culture they are representing, then the exception should be revoked.



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Re: The respectful use of Native Mascots

by Dawn Taylor - Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 3:25 PM

I agree that if a Native American Tribe says it's ok to use them as a mascot for a school, then it should be ok. There are always going to be people who are jerks and ruin things for everyone, such as someone who disrespects the culture.

The image you posted of a sign at a game that says, Get Ready to Leave in a Trail of Tears is very disrespectful, do you agree? This is a negative reference to the Native people being pushed out due to Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal Act of 1830 (text 384). I would say this is disrespectful and the kids should not have been allowed to hold it up.

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**Re: The respectful use of Native Mascots**

by Emma Allen - Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 4:52 PM

I would agree with you that the sign in that image could be very disrespectful in that it pretty much directly references the awful time of when Jackson, and then later, Van Buren, sent the Indians packing and forcing them to move from their native lands to different areas such as Ohio Michigan, etc. (text 384- 385)

I earlier said that I think that the ban is not a bad idea and just could potentially end up pleasing more people. However, it's true, it doesn't really leave room for discussion. Also, if tribes give their permission to use the mascot, then it should be okay. However, when people use those mascots disrespectfully, like this sign, I'm just not sure how that should be dealt with.

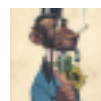
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**Re: The respectful use of Native Mascots**

by Brandon Gericke - Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 10:14 AM

I believe that when a student body refers to native american culture in a malicious manner or in a way meant to demean or hurt native americans, then they should be no longer allowed to use that culture, as well as given an opportunity to educate themselves. They should be taught why what they did was wrong, and then go from there.

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**Re: The respectful use of Native Mascots**

by Ryan Freire - Thursday, March 9, 2017, 3:54 PM

I have no real dog in the fight but i feel that if the issue is about respect for the tribe, education about it and reworking mascots to not be racist caricatures of the tribe members would go farther than a blanket ban. The ban carries a financial burden (which breeds resentment) creates its own opposition (via anti-pc police), and is an event that may well worsen, rather than soften overt racism in students going through a period of maturation that is often characterized by rebellion against being told what to do, say, or think.

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Re: The respectful use of Native Mascots



by Brandon Gericke - Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 10:11 AM

I would definitely say that the image i posted is very disrespectful and probably even malicious. It is comparing the devastation and deaths of Indians on the trail of tears to what the sports team of the sign holders will do to the native american team. This is one of many reasons that natives are hesitant to allow the use of our culture as a mascot.

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Mascots

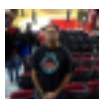
by Dawn Taylor - Monday, March 6, 2017, 6:40 PM

In the mid nineteenth century, as white man burned Indian crops and villages, killed almost all their buffalo, and pushed them into Reservations, I think we owe the Native Americans an enormous amount of respect (text 609).

As far as the mascot issue, some Natives are offended and some are not. I think about the Native Youth and how they feel as they go to school with mascots that represent their people. How does this affect them? If one youth is damaged due to derogatory insult of this Indigenous People, I think all of it should be changed.

If people aren't going to educate themselves on the history of the treatment of these people, they are only going to know what they see. If they only see a caricature of an Indian holding an axe or wearing a headpiece in a school gymnasium or while watching their favorite pro football team, it makes me wonder how they'll form their opinion or discriminate against a culture and people they are ignorant about.

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Re: Native American Mascots in Oregon

by Jonathan Whittington - Monday, March 6, 2017, 9:08 PM

This topic is very interesting to me as I grew up in a community that was actually majority native American. One of my towns high school mascot was the braves. There was only one difference in this school then most others, 99% of the student population were native American. My feeling on this are pretty simple. I just feel that if the majority of a school population and identity doesn't identify with the mascot then they shouldn't be using that name. My childhood friends always said that Chiefs or braves actually meant something special to them and it was a named they earned from elders in there culture. I think it is very disrespectful to be using terms from a certain group of people and applying them to people who don't have any relation.

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Let the Tribes Choose

by Jordan Selker - Monday, March 6, 2017, 9:28 PM

I believe that anyone with a strong connection to their Native American heritage has the right to be offended by issues concerning mascots. Like the slave issue we discussed last week, systematic racism has decreased severely since the era of our textbook, but residual effects are still very real. While I always viewed a mascot as an honorable figure, I believe it would be an overdue act of respect to please the wishes of those offended, even if they are only a small minority. It isn't possible to understand the meaning of such a mascot to a Native American unless you are equally affected. As I only have trace amounts of native blood I don't feel justified in deeming something "Not offensive enough" because I am not affected. In cases like Florida State, where the tribes have granted permission I think it is an internal affair and complaints should be heard by the leaders of said tribe. Some tribes take honor in these mascots and I believe they maintain the right to the decision, if unequivocal however, which many seem to be, I think one has the right to lobby the state.

I agree with the state's new law but wish they had accepted the amendment proposed by opposing tribes, as I think they should have the final word on this. I don't know how tribal governments operate and can't speak to their democratic process, but I would hope that tribe members would have a chance to vote on the issue.

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Re: Let the Tribes Choose

by Brandon Gericke - Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 11:36 AM

I completely agree with you. If tribes wish to allow schools to use their culture as a mascot then it should be allowed. A blanket ban does not really allow for any kind of discussion on the topic.

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Re: Native American Mascots in Oregon

by Emma Allen - Monday, March 6, 2017, 9:43 PM

I think that this is a sensitive subject. It's hard when it seems like people are so divided on who feels what way about this ban. Some tribes see these mascots as good. As Sue Shaffer, a chairwoman of the Cow Creek Band, said, they see these mascots as more of a recognition than something disrespectful. Probably specifically

because they have a good relationship with Roseburg High School. It's interesting because before reading chapter 18, I don't think I quite realized just how terribly we treated Native Americans. So now, left over pain and racism is hard to get past I think. I think that if there are people that are offended by the use of mascots, regardless of how many or how few, the ban should be in effect. Out of respect for those who don't see it fit to use native mascots. Even if there are tribes that are willing to make exceptions to these rules, I just think that it would just be better and more consistent if that was not allowed.

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How I feel about the topic

by Stanley Dietz - Monday, March 6, 2017, 10:16 PM

I decided to do this topic, because I'm sure like many of you I come from a High school that used a Native American mascot, and other Tribal symbols. I remember when this controversy came to our school, most students and teachers were unhappy that they were going to have to rebrand their school and all of their sports teams. It's difficult to determine who gets to speak for a large group of people of course there is going to be disagreements. Personally while reading the articles it seemed to me that the best solution would be to let the neighboring tribes choose whether they find the mascot offensive or not. Me personally I don't agree with the recent vote on the subject, but I absolutely don't support stereotyping or portraying the Native American community in a negative or humorous light. I had a large role in my student government at my high school similar to the student leader in the first article. We had great pride in are mascot and what it did for are community. Although I do see the other side of the argument, and I could very easily be misguided, and just plain wrong. I also thought I would include my school logo, maybe it will add to the discussion.



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Re: How I feel about the topic

by Dawn Taylor - Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 11:44 AM

This topic is very touchy because the Native People are to be respected after the horrible mistreatment we have caused them. They should absolutely give their blessing on whether or not their tribe can be represented for sports teams and

schools. I am unbiased about this topic and am not affected by either decision. It is important to show total respect for these people.

I went to Sheldon High School and our mascot was The Fighting Irish. This makes me laugh now as I think about what we've learned so far about how white men have viewed the Irish and the political cartoons we have seen that portray them as another invaluable people to the United States.

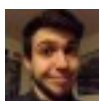
If The Sheldon Irish were to change their mascot, I guess I would feel sad about the change because of the nostalgia I feel as it was a part of my growing up, but I feel it is even more important to respect all people. If anyone were offended by it, it should be reconsidered and possibly changed.

Our world is slowly seeing change in the prejudices our forefathers have passed down to us. It makes me almost laugh at the ignorance and intolerance of the people we read about in these history books, but I also have to remember that it was a much different time back then. I'm sure that in a few years, our kids are going to look back at how we lived and thought and view it as very different than how it is for them. I hope we keep moving forward in tolerance and acceptance of all people in this country.



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On the issue of Mascots

by Matthew Molinari - Monday, March 6, 2017, 10:38 PM

As a general rule, I oppose blanket solutions for such nuanced issues, and this is no exception. The decision to ban all mascots in the image of Native Americans is too broad and simple of a solution for such a complex problem. The fact that there are Native American tribes that resist this decision is telling of it's lack of inclusivity of different ideas and opinions. The tribes that Ryan Kost mention's in his article, the

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde, disagree with the ban because they felt that they had a better solution. Their solution was to work with the schools in question, and attempt to build a better curriculum that better represents and teaches Native American history and culture. This would be to actively combat the perceived racist or insensitive stereotypes embedded in the mascots and logos. The dismissal of this option shows the lack of forward planning required to effectively solve the problem, as a blanket ban seems to be putting a band aid on a gunshot wound. It serves to make people feel better, while not addressing the underlying and fundamental problems in our society that perpetuate the issue. I agree with the option put forth by the two previously specified tribes, in the sense that the best solution to this issue, is not an all encompassing ban, but should be left to be a more local matter decided by those personally affected in each case. This allows people to be represented how they wish to be represented.

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Personal Native View

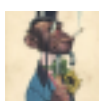
by Dawn Taylor - Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 11:33 AM

Years ago, my aunt recommended that I watch a TED Talk by a man who has photographed and become like family with a Lakota Tribe in South Dakota. His name is Aaron Huey and he describes the mistreatment of Native Americans from a different point of view than our history textbooks can. This Lakota Tribe of Sioux Indians has come to trust Aaron. They welcome him, come to trust him, and they build a relationship. They share with him the broken promises to their people from greedy white men they refer to as Washitchu-The one who takes the best part of the meat for himself.

I didn't understand this TED Talk when I first watched it a few years back as I do now. Our textbook gives a horrible view of the mistreatment of these indigenous people and the greed of white men. This TED Talk gives a good picture of the consequences.



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Shuffling deck chairs on the Titanic re: native american mascots

by Ryan Freire - Thursday, March 9, 2017, 3:13 PM

I view these sorts of things as the distraction from the real issues facing a marginalized community. An issue of style over substance as it were. Many Native Americans face real problems of education and high school graduation rates, alcohol and drug abuse on reservations, kidnapping into prostitution of their young women, and crippling poverty and unemployment.

The removal of these mascots is an easy target in comparison to addressing the issues facing many native communities. I suspect that this is a big reason 75% of natives surveyed simply don't care one way or another, they have bigger issues in their lives demanding their attention, and have the feeling (as i do) that changing these things will not bring one kidnapped daughter back, put one addict into rehab, provide one decent job, or help one teenager graduate. Its an easy target for 'slacktivism' where you can be angry online and institute a minor change without being too personally inconvenienced.

Moreover, I think that the push for a ban, rather than reworking these mascots to treat their subject matter with respect has a better chance of creating your own opposition to fight against. The world nowadays is absolutely full of people eager to leap into the offensive vs "too PC" cultural fight. I think pushing to rework the (pretty obviously racist) caricatures into more respectful imagery and some education into the culture your school chooses to represent as its mascot would have accomplished more in the long run. People take pride in their school and mascot, reworking it to an image of respect rather than humor and mockery would have taken longer but I think would have done more for the communities represented than an outright ban did.

From a strict constitutional perspective, I'm not entirely sure its a consitutionally legal move. People tend to love to talk about how we already have restrictions on speech. This is true, technically, but its often applied in conversation in a far more broad spectrum than the court cases which provided those restrictions. "Fighting Words" is very very narrowly interpreted. The most used phrase, "You can't yell fire in a crowded theater", is my personal favorite as most of the time it seems people using it don't understand that it came from an absolutely horrific court case where a man was jailed under the Espionage Act of 1917 and Sedition Act of 1919 for printing flyers encouraging others to resist conscription during WW1, Schenck vs U.S. That particular case shows the kind of unintended consequences which can occur when violations of basic rights are given exceptions.

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