

HST 202: History of United States W19 (Escobar)

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Native American Mascots in Oregon
by [Joe Escobar](#) - Friday, March 1, 2019, 9:09 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, something that describes the questions you are addressing.
Do NOT simply leave it RE: Native American Mascots in Oregon

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Who Decides?
by [Amanda Francis](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 3:38 PM

There’s no doubt that the treatment of Native Americans by white men throughout the history of the United States has been violent, cruel, and inhumane. Today, we are still trying to right the wrong doings of our ancestors in many ways even including mascots. In regard to the Native American mascots for schools and sports teams, one question is, “Does it matter how most American Indians view the mascots?” I think 100% yes. I agree with the mascot advisory committee in the Register Guard article that says, “‘It is not the privilege of any group to determine what makes another group feel devalued or stereotyped,’ wrote the committee, whose members included American Indian students and educator representatives from various education groups, including the Oregon School Activities Association. ‘It is the responsibility of each person to respond to others in a manner that assures mutual dignity and respect.’” The difficulty of the issue is when two native groups disagree. What one person is offended by might be empowering representation to another, but it’s up to the Native American groups to decide. It is not my place as a white person with no known Indian heritage to decide what is offensive or empowering to another group of people.

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Re: Who Decides?
by [Brayden Lane](#) - Friday, March 8, 2019, 6:38 PM

I couldn't agree more, as someone who is white with no Indian heritage or background me and others shouldn't decide on behalf of native American's to keep or get rid of Indian mascots. I also think you picked a very good quote from the register guard that I fully agree with, and that we should respect any decision made my the native American culture when it comes to the mascot question. One question I have is I agree with your thought it shouldn't be up to us to decide what happens to these mascots but native American's themselves, but how do

you feel the should decide? do you believe that if only one person is offended by the mascot it should be banned? or if its a vote by native American's associated with a tribe close to a particular school and majority of the votes wins? Some native American speakers believe if just one person is offended by the mascot it should be banned, I don't necessarily agree with that but what are your thoughts on it? I'm curious to hear your feedback and any other students as well.

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Re: Who Decides?
by [Amanda Francis](#) - Saturday, March 9, 2019, 9:32 PM

Unfortunately, I don't think the idea of "one person being offended so now the mascot has to be removed" idea is very practical. I would love to live in a world where everyone feels properly represented and not offended, but that's just pretty unrealistic. In a situation like this, and most situations, I think majority rules. It should be up to the local tribes or Native American students or whomever is involved in cultural relations to vote on the subject and come to an agreement.

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The decision to keep or get rid of mascots.
by [Brayden Lane](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 10:19 PM

Does it matter how most American Indians view mascots? I believe one hundred percent it matters how most American Indians View mascots. I believe this because its not up to board members or people who have no cultural attachments to Indians. As it should be up to only American Indians on if it is appropriate or not to use these different types of names or mascots. I also disagree with the statement in the register guard given by James Florendo and don't think just because one person finds it offensive that it should be changed. If we were to do that for everything in life we would have to change almost everything but knowing nothing will ever be perfect. I believe it shouldn't be based on one persons opinion if others maybe even prefer it. I believe this issue should be resolved by leaving it to local tribes or the tribes the mascot or school is based upon and allowing them to vote or create a council to whether they should keep it or not. It may not be based on the actual name or mascot itself but the way the school uses it that why it should be a decision made by local tribes. I don't believe the state should take it into their own hands to decide, as talked about in the articles two tribes were disappointed with the decision made. The key factor here I believe is that two whole tribes were disappointed not two humans. Overall I believe its not up to the state or everybody or just one person, but it is up to the tribes themselves to decide whether to keep the name or mascot.

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Real Racism
by [Pablo Carrasco](#) - Friday, March 8, 2019, 4:39 PM

The debate of the Native American mascots has been a long going issue. This is actually the first time I heard that Oregon has banned the use of Native American mascots. In Eugene we had a dispute on South Eugene use "Axemen" due to being gender specific. Now the question is, who has the rights to be offended? And if someone is offended do we make changes? I am not a Native American, so I never had a say in this topic, but being Mexican I can see how some uses of your culture can be offensive. Don Kordosky a superintendent of Oak Ridge High School states that the "warrior" is done respect and pride. Also stating that even Native American students are supportive of the "warrior pride" the school displays. This is kind of my issue, anybody can find something offensive, and we can't be so trigger happy because of it. If that's the case I can callout San Diego State Aztecs and say that's offensive just because its Mexican culture. The issue with Native American discrimination is much deeper than a mascot. Yes some these Mascots are pretty offensive (Cleveland Braves is pretty racist), but a part of me feels that this not tackling the real issues. We have local tribes in support of the mascots stating "it's like being recognized". My favorite suggestion was that of Grande Ronde and Siletz Tribes. Let the local tribes work with the schools. Educate the students of oregon tribes. let the community understand what the school is representing. Education and exposure fights racism not banning a mascot just because its "Indian".

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Re: Real Racism
by [Amanda Francis](#) - Friday, March 8, 2019, 9:40 PM

Pablo,

I think you're right about education and exposure vs. just banning all together. It's important to teach people why things are considered racist and offensive instead of just removing and not having a discussion about it. What do we learn from that? I can understand why Native Americans find some of these mascots offensive when they are depicted in a way that is overly violent, for example, the University of North Dakota "Fighting Sioux" mascot. "Trigger-happy members of the Seventh Cavalry-Custer's old regiment-opened fire on Sioux men, women, and children at Wounded Knee in the Pine Ridge Reservation, killing 146 Indians, including 44 women and 18 children. Twenty-five soldiers also died. For many, the massacre at Wounded Knee symbolized the death of 19th-century Plains Indian culture" (textbook 611). I don't know if the "Fighting Sioux" mascot is referring to this, but I can imagine how insulting it must feel to have a massacre of this magnitude happen to your tribe and have it be reduced to a violent caricature for a sports team. People need to be educated about history and culture. Maybe if people actually knew the history of the massacres and mistreatment of Native Americans, they would have a different opinion about mascots. Perhaps given all of the information, they would think it's even more important for Native Americans to be represented and empowered by school mascots. Either way, education and exposure is crucial.

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Re: Real Racism
by [Pablo Carrasco](#) - Saturday, March 9, 2019, 10:55 AM

Thank you for taking the time to respond! I was really worried coming off insensitive to the subject matter. Like I said in my previous statement I am not Native American, so I have my own biases. That being said there is definitely some mascots that need to be removed. It's not a black and white issue. This topic has a lot of history behind it as we learned within the last couple of classes.

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Re: Real Racism
by [Michael Krobatsch](#) - Saturday, March 9, 2019, 8:15 PM

I was also amazed by the bane that Oregon passed. I also agree that in this day and age we have to be careful or we might offend someone. And when you said, it is much deeper than a mascot, that is a great point and I wish you would have expanded on it more. We should respect the Native Americans and truly educate not only our schools of history but also ourselves. Good job on clearly explaining how you see this controversial subject.

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Mascots in Oregon
by [Michael Krobatsch](#) - Friday, March 8, 2019, 11:39 PM

From what I have read, the Native Americans did not really care about the mascots. As long as the mascots were respectful the Indians seemed like they did not have a major issue with it. Of course, it matters to the Native Americans on the view of the mascots, because those were their ancestors and they are part of that legacy. The mascots shown were symbols of power, strength, bravery, and courage, which everyone should look up to and see as role models. Then we arrive at a major controversy on how if just one person or a small minority of people get offended then what happens? It is impossible to please everyone and in this day and age, it is difficult to not offend people. As I said before, some of the Native Americans were not offended by the issue and even wanted to incorporate amendments in their areas, which did not come about. After the State of Oregon's decision was made, I think each tribe should have had the opportunity to bring an amendment and to work with their community. In conclusion, it is ok to have a mascot if we show respect towards the Native Americans, know the history behind that particular mascot, and the consent of each Native tribe.

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Re: Native American Mascots in Oregon

by [Mitchell Bell](#) - Saturday, March 9, 2019, 8:47 PM

Oregon Mascots

While I was in high school we had a team in our league that was the warriors there logo was an Indian chief in a tribal head dress. I personally think that it is not offensive and it preserves the Indian history lets face it people are not choosing and Indian as a mascot to embarrass Indian culture they are choosing it because they believe the warrior shows great courage and is a strong figure of what they view their students as. Now I see why people might take it the wrong way but I strongly the views of a small group shouldn't effect this because if we take away the all the Indian names we are just removing history from our youth. Young kids tend to like Indians and how there courage is portrayed and there culture so I believe that should not be banned in any way. At the end of the day schools are named after Indians references because they view them as a strong and important figure that sets a good example for kids.

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My thoughts on Native American imagery in schools

by [Arthur Vander Hoff](#) - Saturday, March 9, 2019, 11:25 PM

I feel like I'm more on the side that says the schools should be able to keep the Native American imagery and names if they work with the local tribe(s) to provide some sort of education, like one tribes suggested. I do think that something needed to change though. If a student thinks that doing a stereotypical Native American dance while dressed in buckskin and fake feathers was okay, then there's some racism going on, even if that wasn't the intention of the depictions at all. I'm sure they didn't mean to do it to offend anyone though, which is why I think studies on Native American culture would be a good thing. It certainly is interesting that the charter school of the Siletz isn't exempt from the ban.

I don't think I have any Native American blood, nor have I attended any school with Native American imagery or names, so I'm not really affected by this issue. I can, however, imagine how hard it would be to have to change traditions that have lasted for years and years. I don't think that a small minority of people should be able to speak for the majority. If most of the local tribes are okay with the use of Native American imagery and names in schools, then I think that they should be allowed.

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