

HST 202: History of United States W18 (Escobar Meta 30898 30897)

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Native American Mascots in Oregon



Forum 4

Native American Mascots in Oregon

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Native American Mascots in Oregon

by Joe Escobar - Friday, March 2, 2018, 11:19 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 which one of the questions you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Native American Mascots in Oregon

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Re: Native American Mascots in Oregon

by Jonathen Gray - Monday, March 5, 2018, 2:44 PM

There needs to be some semblance of justification as to why a particular image, name, or concept is considered unacceptable.

In the case of team names like the Redskins there are obvious reasons as to why it would be considered offensive. It is a clear indicator of race and term often used by racists and racist groups. The reason many native tribes want to be involved with education as a prerequisite for

using Native American names and imagery is because the average American is so far removed from the actual concept of Native Americans as active communities. Imagine an alternate universe where the Seattle Negroes exist. Instead of Native American head-dresses the fans dress up in black face. Instead of the numerous fans acting like they are "smoking peace pipes" and pretending to scalp the opposing team you have fans acting like they are smoking crack and pretending that they are in a drive-by shooting against the opposing team. There would be backlash, there would be anger, and there would be outrage. So why do Native Americans not receive the same outrage? Americans tend to not realize Native Americans are called redskins as a racial slur on par with "nigger" or "wetback." Do you feel that uneasiness upon reading those offensive slurs (I certainly felt it typing them) now imagine having a team named after one of those offensive slurs. That is the world Native Americans live in.

From there we move on to the less legitimate or evident claims of racism by team names. Positions like Chief or concepts like warriors or even Native American terminology like "Braves" create a more blurred line. Don't most cultures have warriors? How is a Brave considered racist? Hasn't the English language expanded and changed the term Chief? There's fire chiefs for firefighters, the Chief of Staff for the presidency, Master Chief John-117 for Halo fans. How do we connect the term with the offensiveness? The line is fairly blurred. To the point that highlighting the issue tends to be the bigger source of racial conflict. Much bigger than the originating issue.

In the opinion piece from Steve Bowers in the Register Guard he states "I grow weary of deferring to the tyranny of the minority" and at this point my eyes rolled so hard I might have detached my retinas. Lets take a step back and realize we are talking about a game and changing team names to avoid racism (real or perceived). The "minority" is not rolling T-72 tanks through football fields while the SS gathers up cheerleaders for work camps so dial back the dramatics. It is a game, a form of entertainment, and whole-heartedly unimportant in the grand scheme of things. The delicate act of race relations, however, is not a game. If it were up to me we'd replace all the team names with shapes and be done with it. There's no complaining with the Seattle Quadrilaterals or Atlanta Lemniscate. The best part is the cost of repainting logos, which Mr. Bowers cites as his concern, won't cost much with simple shapes and will save money in the future when compared to complex logos. Go U of O Rhombuses!

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Native American Mascots

by Rodrigo Santiago-Corona - Monday, March 5, 2018, 2:45 PM

Anyone who is Native American and feels connected to their tribe, no matter what their beliefs are have a right to express their diversity among their community. Native American mascots are very popular throughout the United States in schools, as well as sports teams. Many would say that these mascots are racist, and promote bullying on Native American students. The state of Oregon adopted a nonbonding recommendation that schools stop using Native mascots in 2006. Although I believe that these mascots may promote racist stereotypes, the changing of mascots would cost school districts thousands of dollars. Although the schools may have to replace logos, uniforms, monuments, and school signs

which would cost well over \$100,000. If schools fail to comply with the rules, and not change their name, they will no longer receive state founding. "The schools have five years to comply with the order or risk losing their state funding. Another seven high schools identified as the Warriors will be allowed to keep their nickname but will have to change mascots or graphics that depict Native Americans. An unknown number of elementary and middle schools also will be affected"(Bowmer, Bans). Some tribes are okay with schools keeping their mascot, as long as they provided a cultural studies to help prevent stereotypes. "The Siletz and Grande Ronde tribes pushed instead for an amendment that would allow schools to keep their mascots if they collaborated with a representative tribe on positive portrayals or integrated cultural studies to combat stereotypes" (Ryan Kost). I believe tribes should be able to address schools within their territories, and decide whether those schools can keep, or change their mascot. Exemptions should be allowed as long as the tribe gives permission for that certain schools to keep their mascot. Although not all tribes may agree on schools keeping their Native American mascots, its important that the schools respect the cultures and notion of the tribes that reside within their territories.

Sum of ratings:3 (1) 3

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How are the mascots offensive?

by Banyan Ryan - Monday, March 5, 2018, 6:19 PM

That might sound like a sarcastic question, but it's not. We hear examples from students who are in support of their mascot, such as those of Oakridge and their mascot for The Warriors, that it "evokes the best in sportsmanship - courage, respect, dignity, perseverance, discipline, integrity." But we hear very little about how these mascots speak badly of Native Americans. We hear of Indian students being offended or feeling uncomfortable because of these mascots, but we never hear precisely why. None of them are ever interviewed in any of these articles. We rarely hear from the people in support of the ban unless they're part of some organization or committee, speaking on behalf of hundreds of others.

Me personally, I do think that putting a ton of funds toward changing mascots that 75% of Native Americans aren't offended by is pretty dumb. But the majority of people could be blind to what about them is offensive and they actually SHOULD be removed. If that is the case, someone please explain to me WHY these mascots encourage bullying and stereotyping and what we should change about them. Because otherwise, I think we should put our effort to end racism elsewhere.

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Cultural Differences are Taboo

by Joseph Hassman - Monday, March 5, 2018, 7:26 PM

As I was reading through the articles on Native American team names, I saw a pattern that conforms to a lot of what's been going on in the news recently. The law enacted on Oregon schools instructs schools to get rid of their mascots and depictions of all Native Americans. This strategy seems to try to "defeat" racism by not acknowledging cultural differences. In our lifetimes, there's been a lot of this. I know I used to get criticized by my classmates for acknowledging black people exist. Obviously, at the time, they didn't know saying "black

person" wasn't inherently racist. They were dumb little kids. Of course, applying a label or derogatory term when speaking about them would be racist, but simply mentioning them would not. The problem in trying to stop acknowledging cultural differences is that they're still there, and people still notice them. In fact, many take pride in them. As Steve Bowers says, "I have a modicum of Cherokee in my blood. As kids, cowboys and Indians was a mainstay of our fun and games. Any Indian connotation was, and is, held in the greatest respect and admiration." Making the law didn't solve anyone's problems. It didn't do anything to stop the flow of racism.

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Re: My opinion on the small groups

by Jack Swisher - Monday, March 5, 2018, 7:30 PM

When a group of school board members all sat down in the 20th or even 19th century, some even 21st, I don't think they purposely chose the mascot to be an indian, or a warrior or any reference to an indian to be harmful. Honestly, indian, warrior, or seminole is pretty cool and intimidating if you ask me. Playing sports in Nevada for high school, there was one team that my school played every year and their mascot was the indians. They called their fan base the tribe and the reason for that was because the community, staff and all students were one big supporting family. It wasn't to be racist or have bad intention, or even to offend people. I understand where the other side is coming from, but it doesn't need to be eliminated if it affects one person or a small minority. Steve Bowers makes a good point when he says "our public schools have adopted indian mascots because we are racist? This is just another example of political correctness run amok." The mascot is supposed to be respected and admired, not intended to be portrayed as being racist. Native Americans like Jim Smith aren't affected by this, "it's a chance for us to talk about tradition, family and loyalty." The man who contacted Dan Forbess said, "I'm proud of my heritage, I'm proud that you continue to honor native american culture, and that you're naming your team after a teenage warrior." I believe that if one person, or a small minority is offended, they need to look at both sides of the argument. Yes, they might find it racist and offending, but that wasn't the point. They need to look at tribe members, and students who are proud and love their heritage being honored. If people are going to be offended about this, what about other mascots? What about UNLV and Ole Miss mascot, the rebels? That isn't racist? Yet there might be a small group that is offended, but the University didn't choose that mascot to offend people and that is what is needed to be realized by the individuals and small minorities.

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Derogatory Mascots

by Dylan Castle - Monday, March 5, 2018, 11:43 PM

Native American mascots in Oregon is presented in a racist/ derogatory manor. The name of the school isn't where this racism comes into play, it comes into play with the commercialization of Native Americans in the representation that is demeaning. A school in my opinion can be named after Native Americans if the school district approves it and the mascot

is not in any way discrediting the history of Native Americans. The preservation of history is important to remember, but making light of racism is not what a school mascot should be about.

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Re: Derogatory Mascots

by Daryn Kleynhans - Tuesday, March 6, 2018, 3:16 PM

With using that logic that commercializing something makes it "demeaning", is then racist when a company uses a black or asian actor/actress to sell/represent their product? Also, on a different note, the term "commercializing" is defined as "designed principally for financial gain; profit-oriented". All these schools that have Native themed mascots, that are public, are organizations that are not-for-profit so technically they are not making any money off the name or mascot they use since their funding comes from the government.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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School Mascots for Profit

by Dylan Castle - Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 9:43 PM

You say that commercialization is profit oriented, like schools don't make profit off of merchandise like pennants and t shirts. It might not be on a large scale but schools do make profit. It's not just the commercialization, but the historical context and the way they are represented that makes it "demeaning". There is one school in Oregon that springs to mind, their mascot is a Native American painted red-orange. This color alone is controversial, based on the historical racism that is related with Native Americans and the term "red skins".

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Is it an honor or a reminder of awful things?

by Daryn Kleynhans - Monday, March 5, 2018, 11:46 PM

From reading the articles I am on the side of it the most Native American tribes do not care about the mascots, and/or like them, they should leave them as is. Mascots are something a school or team puts forward as there symbol because it is either powerful or has an important social meaning locally. No one puts a an Indian tribal name as their mascot because they want to remember the genocide of the Natives. They are made mascots in remebererance of the greatness of these tribes. The one I do agree that should be changed is the name of the Washington Redskins. Because I can imagine the backlash if a team was named the "black skins or the white skins). Regardless of wether that name was in remembrance of the native Americans it is an insensive choice of words.

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Re: State's decision



by Jack Swisher - Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 9:17 PM

I do not agree with the state's decision. I think there were to many good reasons opposing the ban in this article. Not only opinions by natives who weren't offended, but actual raw numbers. I think Oregon should take the path that Florida State, and Central Michigan took. Florida State has permission from a seminole group in Florida and Oklahoma. Central Michigan kept their name when a tribe approved them to have the name. Because it seems to me that the tribes would be okay with it and this wouldn't need to be a problem anymore. The reason I say the tribes would be okay with it is because the confederate tribe of Siletz Indians, and the confederate tribes of Grande Ronde were disappointed with the decisions of the state. "people who have no knowledge of Indian communities" and does nothing to address "the real issues of racism." This was what Siletz tribes said. The Grande Ronde tribe said, "very disappointed that they've trampled our sovereignty and have ignored something that our tribes in Oregon have been calling for years, which is a curriculum that accurately describes." By these comments, I don't think high schools like Roseburg and Banks would have no problem getting some some approval from local tribes. These two tribes aren't worried so much about being offended, they are more concerned about the culture aspect. They even proposed an amendment. I also don't agree with the state's decision because many natives are passionate and honored to have schools representing their heritage. Polls range from 70 to 90 percent if natives not being bothered by the school's mascots.

Now, I think if schools are not going to be able to have a "racist mascot", there should be no exceptions. While I don't think its a big deal, but I think if one school doesn't get to have a mascot then I don't think anyone should.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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The two tribes who stood against the wrong

by Clifford Burwell - Friday, March 9, 2018, 9:07 PM

After reading the various articles involving the different sides and opinions regarding removing Native American mascots In Oregon and across the country and even so far as to influence the NFL. From what I have read and learned regarding the history of the Native Americans in chapter 18 of our assigned history textbook, the removal of theses mascots on the grounds of them being offensive to Native Americans is an issue to brought to the different tribes and representatives of the multiple Native American Nations. For individuals who have little to no connection to such matters should stay out of it. Leave the decision to the tribes who have the right to be offended. Just because an individual is offended doesn't make them right. In this Oregon case of removing mascots, there are two tribes that disagreed. The Confederate Tribes of Grand Ronde and Confederate Tribes of Siletz Indians, were the two tribes who disagreed and looked to the mascots as a sense of pride and a chance to educate the schools on their heritage and history. I also have personal experience with this issue, my wife attended Enterprise High School in Enterprise, Oregon and their mascot was originally named "Savages" and then was subsequently changed to the Outlaws. I would leave you with this, if something isn't broke don't fix it.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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Schools Getting Rid of Indian Related Mascots

by McKenna Wilson - Saturday, March 10, 2018, 11:16 PM

After reading the article about schools having to get rid of their school mascots if they were Indian, Chief or Braves was interesting that they went through with this ban. Some people were offended by the way the teams and mascots were portraying Native Americans. I 100% agree on banning this if people cannot be respectful of one's culture. In the article, one even said that keeping the mascots "could be detrimental to Native students and encourage a certain amount of racism" (Brenda Frank). I think it was a good thing to get rid of these teams name if it was offending people. I also am curious about those who were in favor for the team names. I wonder if the tribes that were okay with the names can understand why things happened the way they did by removing the mascots having to do with Native Americans. It might have been disappointing to them.

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Re: Native American Mascots in Oregon

by Cody Simon - Saturday, March 10, 2018, 11:18 PM

In the instance of deciding who gets to decide on whether or not a native mascot is considered offensive should lie within the general population of all people the tribe considers a part of the native population. The majority is all that should be taken into consideration when it comes to deciding on if said mascot is considered offensive. A small minority should have no say the majority's opinion should always be in utmost consideration. One person should not be able to be the reason for change the world should agree that it takes a majority and if one person is offended then they truthfully need to re evaluate and understand why the majority isn't. legislative involvement should decide based simply of a majority vote of tribal considered natives. No i don't not agree because again it comes simply down to a majority vote plus if most don't find it offensive and it is expensive to change why change it?The tribes have a right to be upset because they feel pride in having a mascot that helps promote remembrance of natives history. No exceptions should be allowed a majority vote should always take priority, that is if when the vote lies within natives hands.

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Re: Ban on Native American Mascots

by Adrianna Rios Chinchilla-Ordoñez - Saturday, March 10, 2018, 11:26 PM

First off, no race should be used for a school mascot, just like wearing a poncho and a mustache shouldn't be worn as a Halloween costume. I see it as inappropriate and should be banned from being a school's mascot, even if mascots are used for a school's positive representation. I do see the positive side of allowing Indians to be a school's mascot, for the purpose of pride, or positive enforcement through the school's events. If they are going to ban Native American mascots, there should be no exceptions because having exceptions enforces unfairness. I agree that these school mascots weren't given to cause controversy because a

mascot is to symbolize a positive view towards a group, but that shouldn't be done with any racial groups to avoid issues like these. Even if those from Roseburg or Oakridge see no problem with having the mascots, there's always going to be people who think differently. To me, using a certain race for a school's mascot is like imposing a religion onto others because it's as if keeping the Native American culture is their form of expressing their pride, when there are other cultures around and all should be respected. Historically, yes they should be represented and honored with school's being named after important individuals, but not as far as being a mascot. All in all, due to respect no race should be a school's mascot to keep away any negativity.

With the Register Guard article, if it affects a single student, I don't see it as an issue. I see it inappropriate if a mascot is dressed in feathers (as mentioned in one of the articles) and so forth even if they aren't trying to be racist, but I guess as a non-white I may see it differently? I do see it as disrespectful, but I also get stuck in the middle a little because I see the pride and reason for wanting this for a school's mascot. Maybe as I read more forums, I can lean more to one side.

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2

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