

HST 202: US History W20 (Escobar)

[Home](#) / [My courses](#) / [HST 202 W20 \(Escobar Meta 30603 30604\)](#) / [Week 10 March 8 - March 14](#) / [Forum 4](#)
/ [Native American Mascots in Oregon](#)



Search forums

Forum 4

Native American Mascots in Oregon

 [Subscribe](#)  [Settings](#) ▼

◀ [Chinese - Now & Then](#) [Professional Sports, Data, & Images](#) ▶

Display replies in nested form

Move this discussion to ...

Move



Native American Mascots in Oregon
by [Joe Escobar](#) - Friday, March 6, 2020, 6:35 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

Sum of ratings: [_](#) [Permalink](#) [Edit](#) [Delete](#) [Reply](#)



Offended That Native American Mascots Are Banned
by [Melanie Green](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2020, 10:22 AM

For this topic and my first post in it, I want to use my personal life as examples. I grew up in Marcola with the Mohawk Indians, and this topic has always offended me in a way. Our community was very devoted to our basketball team. I grew up on the court from 3 months old until now. In all the A1 schools, our gym was the best. It had a beautiful Native American head that we painted after the chief of the tribe in our community. It was our joy and pride. After the debates around this whole issue happened, I remember people being angry. We had permission from our tribe, we honored them, and we didn't want to change it. After the law was passed and we had to change our name, we also had to tear up our beautiful gym floor. Now we are the Mustangs, but many of the people in our community refuse to call it that, and still come completely dressed in their Mohawk Indian gear. This issue has always been personal to me, not just because of our school name, but also because I am part Indian. I see it as an honor because that's how I grew up. Our community was like that. I agree with the articles on how it seems kind of stupid. Yes a minority of the Native Americans find it offensive but the majority don't. Someone is always going to be offended, that's just the way of life. And if we are going to continue catering to the people who are offended, then I am offended we got rid of Native American mascots. I do think that if the community treats the tribe right, then it should be okay. It's an honor to be a school mascot. And if people think it's offensive then maybe that's the problem we should be addressing. Either getting rid of a school mascot all together, or creating it to be a more honorable status.

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



Identify as Native American?
by [Jarod Doerner](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2020, 5:23 PM

I believe that everyone who identifies as Native American, then your opinion should count. It should not matter where you live or what tribe you belong to. The debate should be if these mascots honor the traditions, cultures, and values. If these mascots do not do this, then they have no business to use these Native American icons as mascots.

James Florendo, who works at Lane Community College, “said that if Indian mascots affect even a single student in a negative way, they should go” (Anne Williams, The Register-Guard). Many of these mascots honor what they stand for — courage, respect, dignity, perseverance, discipline, integrity. Some people can be offended by anything. The question for Florendo is where do you draw the line?

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

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



Re: Identify as Native American?
by [Phoebe Fergus](#) - Saturday, March 14, 2020, 10:30 PM

Hello. As I was reading your post I noticed I felt very similar about the situation. In my opinion, I believe it should be the people who are being affected who decide whether or not to keep the mascots. If anything comes across as offensive or degrading, the mascot should be changed. However, if it is a case where the people affected feel like they are being respected and want the mascot kept, then it can be kept.

Sum of ratings:[0\(1\)](#)

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



Why care now?
by [Kerry Herring](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2020, 8:56 PM

The question is why now? Take Mohawk then Indians now Mustangs. The school has been the Indians since its establishment in the 1920's, why would you now think that the name for the mascot is demeaning to the natives? The fact that there are people that still hold on to what happened in the 1700-1800's against more notably the white man for taking the land from them against us now is frankly absurd. Americans now had no part in the forcing out of the natives back then, yet people still make us pull statues down and change mascots names because its offensive to their heritage? Tell me this is not what this country is about. It saddens me to no end to know that at some point in the future we'll have to pay royalties to the natives because our history teacher teaches about them, or they may sue because we're learning about how bad we treated them because it is emotionally damaging to their spirits. Yes we pushed them out of their lands, but that wasn't me or even people alive today. If its that easy to change the past by saying it still hurts today to think about what my ancestors went through, could it be that easy to say that to just about anything?

Attachment download.jpg

Attachment Indians.jpg

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

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



Re: Why care now?
by [Melanie Green](#) - Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 11:23 PM

Hello! I really like your questions throughout your whole post and I totally agree. It's weird how people are still offended over everything that happened over a hundred years ago. For me, I can barely hold a grudge for more than 3 hours! How can people hold a grudge for something that happened before they were born? Mind blowing. I also love your last question! It's so true. Since when did our world become a bunch of toddlers? Throwing temper tantrums until they get their way. Say I'm offended of the color blue. The way I was raised, I would be told to get over it and move on.

Sum of ratings:[0\(1\)](#)

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



My experience as an OHS student
by [Ailah Altemus](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2020, 10:51 PM

I am currently a student at Oakridge high school and I can say reading these articles does not make me proud to be a “warrior.” I know past superintendent Kourdowski, and I can confidently say in my time as a student he was most definitely out of touch with both teachers and students. As a current student, I can confirm some of the concerns about student behavior having the mascot “warrior” may warrant. It’s not uncommon to see kids do an

“Indian call” while walking down the halls, especially so when walking past the mural across from the auditorium side-entrance. This is not one of the artworks Kourdowski talks about in the first essay, however it rains similar to them, being a heroic Native American on a horse. Obviously this behavior is extremely racist and should not be allowed. However, the school seems to have more important priorities, such as dress code.

Not everyone in Oakridge is in support of using the warrior mascot. Community members such as Jason Lipe, a native American teacher/coach at Oakridge high school, and Ron Hebert, the track and cross country coach, have defied the norm. They’ve both made uniforms and apparel without the warrior’s head, much to the disgrace of superintendent Kourdowski. I know many native and non-native kids that are disgusted at the blatant racism Oakridge high school consistently allows with the warrior name and mascot. Unfortunately, Oakridge still has a very old, white demographic and I don’t see the mascot changing anytime soon.

Sum of ratings:[2 \(1\)](#)

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



Re: My experience as an OHS student
by [Eric Shoaf](#) - Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 11:16 PM

Do you think, that if the school were to crack down on the more offensive behavior, such as the Indian call, the mascot would be ok?

Sum of ratings:[0 \(1\)](#)

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



Re: My experience as an OHS student
by [Melanie Green](#) - Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 11:38 PM

Hello! I don't mean any disrespect at all when I ask this question, but I do wonder what your definition of racist is? I know this will offend a lot of people, but I don't agree with the more common definition of racism. I believe that racism happens when another person makes fun of the color of ones skin, degrades their humanity in the workplace (pay cuts, no benefits, etc) based on their race, or turns them down from opportunities based on race. I however think the whole cultural awareness thing is stupid. America has been called the "melting pot" for years. Yet it feels like we are trying to undue that. I get called out for wearing a necklace made in Brazil because I am not from Brazil therefore I am being derogatory to that country. I don't get this reasoning. And no offense at all, I don't get the reasoning behind the "Indian call" either. Maybe I'm wrong and that is used to be derogatory. I grew up on a farm where my dad would do it to call us all in for dinner when we were miles away in the woods. I don't think that racism should be defined as we can't use anything from that culture because we are not from that culture. That's like saying you aren't allowed to go to France, because you weren't born there. Again, I don't go to Oakridge, and I had a completely different experience in Marcola, so I could be incredibly wrong in what I am saying. I do think though, that people are getting too offended over minor things.

Sum of ratings:[2 \(1\)](#)

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



Re: My experience as an OHS student
by [Ailah Altemus](#) - Saturday, March 14, 2020, 9:51 PM

The definition of racist is "a person who shows or feels discrimination or prejudice against people of other races, or who believes that a particular race is superior to another." according to the Oxford Dictionary of English. This is the English definition of racist and is not subjective from person to person. What you described as racist behavior is accurate. However, there are many other behaviors that also fall under the category of racism. I personally do not take offense to the Indian call, however, I know many native Americans that do. My teacher I previously talked about, Jason Lipe, for example. The Indian call is racist because it has historically been used to mock and imitate native Americans and is not an accurate depiction of their culture. The idea that it is a part of Native American culture is false. Just because you have been normalized to it in your childhood does not take away from the harm it has caused Native American peoples.

Being culturally aware does not mean that you can’t appreciate other cultures and all they have to offer. I agree with you that you should be able to wair a necklace from Brazil. This only becomes problematic if said necklace was a sacred part of Brazilian culture, and was exploited by someone not from that culture for a profit or one’s own self-gain. Then you can understand why a person from Brazil would be offended by you wairing a necklace supporting the exploitation of their culture. However, if you were to buy a necklace from local Brazilians that supports their economy, knowing the cultural importance to the local people, this would not be cultural appropriation. It is very important to put yourself in other’s shoes when thinking about

these situations.

This same logic of cultural appropriation can be applied to Native American mascots. You are taking an image of a Native American, that is not even accurate to the local Native's culture, and using it to represent an organization that is not part of their culture. The Indian that is used as Oakridge's mascot is a Plains Indian wairing a tribal headdress from the Colorado and Kansas area. Based on this evidence we can conclude that exploiting a Planes Indian head as a mascot for a non-native organization without any permissions; after a hundred years of broken promises and disregarded treaties is cultural appropriation, and therefore racist. This is why we should change these offensive mascots.

Sum of ratings:[2](#)(1)_ 2

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



Let them decide.

by [Eric Shoaf](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2020, 10:55 PM

When reading these articles, I noticed how the people making these decisions weren't the Native Americans themselves, it was the Oregon Board of Education. It seems counterintuitive to have the government make decisions that the Native Americans themselves should be making.

The Board's decision to just blanket ban all native mascots completely ignores the input from the majority of Native Americans who are fine with it. In my opinion, a much better idea would be to review each mascot, and review how they are portrayed. If they are portrayed in an offensive manner, the school should work with local Native American tribes to update the mascot to be less offensive.

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

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



Re: Let them decide.

by [Jarod Doerner](#) - Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 7:26 PM

Hi there,

That is a fantastic idea that you point out. It almost seems ideal to be the thing that would happen. However, the odds of that happening is very small. The Oregon Board of Education have to put the best in whatever they do the educational system for the State of Oregon. There are a bunch of reasons why they do it the way that they do. There are nine Native American tribes in Oregon, not to mention the countless of cultures from all over that now live in Oregon. It could be hard to come to an agreement from all the tribes and cultures that it could take too long. With the way they are doing it now, it could just be easier on them and cost effective. It is really sad that this is such a huge issue that we students and staff members have to deal with when our mascot changes from one thing that we've known for a long time to something entirely different.

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

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



Re: Let them decide.

by [Eric Shoaf](#) - Thursday, March 12, 2020, 10:12 PM

You make a good point about the financial side of it. I just find it frustrating and honestly somewhat racist how these white people are making decisions for the Native Americans, that the Native Americans don't want. Not only that, but a blanket ban on it is so hamfisted, it doesn't allow for any wiggle room whatsoever. The Board should at least TRY to have the Native American voice mean something in their decision, even if they can't give them complete control over how it goes down.

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

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



Mascots and cultural depictions

by [John Kowalchik](#) - Monday, March 9, 2020, 9:44 PM

Who gets to 'identify as Indian' for the purposes of this debate would be very controversial, and probably subject to more debate than the mascot issue. Does having some trace of DNA in your blood qualify you? Must you live on tribal land? Trace direct heritage back a certain number of generations? I've always found it strange when lack of a

direct personal experience/connection means you aren't allowed to have an opinion about something. Do doctors need to have cancer in order to understand what it is? Must one be Native American to have an opinion on whether a depiction is offensive? The very idea of changing something simply because one person is offended is, frankly, offensive.

Though I do think it matters what Native Americans feel about the mascots, I think the percentage is also important. Based on the articles read, it does not seem as though a majority are opposed and several have even endorsed college sport teams using their likenesses. Names like "Chiefs" or "Warriors" are not derogatory, if the schools wanted to use derogatory names they easily could have.

This is a very interesting topic, and I think the most appropriate angle to look at it is are mascots depicting Native Americans inherently racist? Are representations of a culture necessarily demeaning? What if the schools sports team was called "The Samurai's"? What about "The Spartans"? "The Trojans"? How long must a civilizations soldiers be dead for before it is appropriate to name a sports team after them? As stated in the response to the article, why would a school choose a name for itself it found degrading? You don't commonly see schools with named after things they don't hold in high regard.

There really is no reason for the government to get involved in this issue whatsoever. If the local citizens are unhappy with how they are perceived for having an offensive mascot, they will change it.

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

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



Indian Mascots right or wrong?
by [Patryce Miller](#) - Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 11:10 PM

I think only Indians (people how has native american blood and/or their culture) can be identify as Indian. People who are not that can speak about whether or not Indians resent the mascots if they have a friend or knows some one that is an Indian that dislike it or doesn't care about it. Yes if they are disrespecting or have mal-intents then it can be a concern. If it not either of those things then it doesn't. But Steve Bowers has a point about "political correctness [running] amok"(article Letters in the Editor’s Mailbag). He has Indian blood in him and he went to a school with an Indian mascot and he doesn't have a problem with it. He points other mascots that could be consider racist to the other side basically saying that they offend people to like that. He end saying he is tired of those "extreme, inconsequential position" people make. And I am too enough of this political correctness stuff. If you have a problem calling something when you want to be called something else find tell them that, but leave things like mascots a lone. They are not harming any one if anything they just did it because the like the name.

Sum of ratings:[2 \(1\)](#)

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



Why Did The White's Make This Decision?
by [Melanie Green](#) - Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 11:48 PM

I want to ask this one question. Why did the white man make the decision of whether or not schools could have Native Americans as their mascot? 75% of the Native Americans were okay with the mascots. That is a majority! So why then, did the white man come along and say all Native Americans are offended. Why are they deciding how the Natives feel? Why do they get to make it public that Natives are supposedly offended? I believe that that is racist. The white man taking control of the politics to determine something that has to do with a race. That is taking away the opportunity for the Native Americans to be represented in schools.

Out of curiosity, while I was reading the articles, I decided to ask my mom what she thought about it. Her answer made me a little sad. She said it felt like the white man was trying to erase the Native Americans. First the mascots go and then what? Historical areas like the trail of tears? If the Native Americans can't be represented by schools now, will their history be taught in schools in 20 years?

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

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



Re: Why Did The White's Make This Decision?
by [Kerry Herring](#) - Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 5:30 PM

I think you are on the right track. We (not us) think that we can erase and create our own vision of what the truth really was. This is the sad truth that with more time that passes the truth is easily lost in translation. Play the game with our class and have one person tell someone one thing and have them pass it through the whole

class one by one and at the very end the last person would say something that was so off of what was said at first. That is the way history is most cases. They're trying to erase the horrible things that the Americans have done by getting rid of the evidence that the Native Americans existed. We have to figure a way to stop all this covering of what the sad truth is, even if it paints Americans as the enemy or as the problem.

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

1

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



Re: Why Did The White's Make This Decision?
by [John Kowalchik](#) - Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 9:32 PM

While I follow most of what you are saying in your reply Kerry, I really do not think that the reason they want to stop using the mascots is to purge the historical record of the existence of native Americans. They are, perhaps, trying to eliminate the persistence of the use of words, images and stereotypes they find offensive. Which I suppose is a way of whitewashing history. I'm not really familiar with efforts that have been made to deny the existence of native Americans and was hoping you could expand on that? I totally agree that it is inherently racist to prohibit the use of images that depict a certain ethnic group. Nobody seems to have a problem with 'the fighting irish' or 'the spartans' but somehow 'the chiefs' is intolerable. It's always been strange to me when people get offended on someone else's behalf. I'm not sure about the relevance of the skin color of the people making the decisions of what's inappropriate or not. I really don't think this decision would be viewed differently by us if a multiracial committee came to the same conclusion.

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

1

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



Re: Why Did The White's Make This Decision?
by [Kerry Herring](#) - Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 11:11 PM

My reply would have been better if i said that this was an attempt to cover up the misfortune of what had happened to Native americans based on a couple of things. One was that when i was in school, they taught us about the oregon trail, well come to find out that was really a positive side to Manifest Destiny which housed the horrid trail of tears associated with that. My school taught us that Native Americans attack the settlers that we're traveling not the other way around. Nothing was taught to me about the carnage of what Americans did to the Natives. Another fact is that depending on where you lived they taught you different things. Im sure that within the reservations they are not teaching the kids that americans were being killed by the Native savages. The wounds they feel are deep and are forever apart of there culture. When they tell a story they always give honor to those who died before them and they give honor to their ancestors before telling you of what is happening now to them. Like the slaves and slavery being the reason that the civil war took place. Massachusetts teaching curriculum for history has the word slavery 104 times and Louisiana has it 12 times. There's a link between demographics and the truth or lack there of. If the federal government chooses to cut out all memories of what really happened then something that truthfully happened could be forgotten through generations of knowing only what the government wants you to know. If say the committee that makes this decision was Native Americans would this even be a topic of discussion? I think because of the facts, that many many Native Americans were surveyed and 90% said that they had no issue with the mascots being a part of Native American culture that we should not be debating this topic.

Sum of ratings:[2\(1\)](#)

2

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



Re: Why Did The White's Make This Decision?
by [Melanie Green](#) - Thursday, March 12, 2020, 12:29 PM

I agree with both of you. While I don't think that the government is intentionally doing it, I do think they are trying to cover some things up by doing little things like this. Like when a sibling hits another sibling, they comfort them and tell them "oh you can slap me back but don't tell mom". It kind of feels like that's whats happening. We'll take away anything "offensive" and then you can go back home and stop bringing up why its offensive, or why its not. We don't want people to know your history. No one ever teaches Native American History before we got here. They have stories too. What did they do before we got here?

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

1

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



Re: Why Did The White's Make This Decision?
by [John Kowalchik](#) - Thursday, March 12, 2020, 4:07 PM

That is a fantastic question (history of peoples in the Americas pre-Europeans) and one that I would find very interesting to learn about. I'm not sure how much of a physical record there really is for alot of it as, to the best of my knowledge, native American tribes didn't typically have complex written language like books. Sadly I fear it would therefore likely be a very fragmented history told by whomever survived the various wars in the millenia before Europe interjected itself in the Americas. Told and retold over again over the generations, and eventually perhaps treated as legends? All in all a great question! I wonder if people would still be able to be racist if our written history somehow went back all the way to the time of the earliest humans, before there was such variation in the physical appearance of humans that led to there even BEING 'races'?

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



Re: Why Did The White's Make This Decision?
by [Melanie Green](#) - Saturday, March 14, 2020, 2:21 PM

That is true. I don't think Indians had a written language until we came here. Most of their history is oral stories, which at this point is probably very twisted. You bring up a good question at the end. I often think about that as well!

Sum of ratings:[0 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#) [Show parent](#) [Edit](#) [Split](#) [Delete](#) [Reply](#)



minority vs majority
by [Patryce Miller](#) - Thursday, March 12, 2020, 11:39 PM

If only a small percentage is offended by it then I think that it should by looked at but not banned. We have to first why they are offended by it. If it because the school treated them like a joke then go ahead and change. but if the respecting them and the minority just don't want it to be a mascot then it is a no for me. We shouldn't ban stuff for every one if it is respecting them just some one doesn't like it. I will have to ask why does that person dislike it? If every one else is find with it then what is the problem? Fix it but don't ban it for every one because of one person. Steve Bowers said, "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" (article LETTERS IN THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG). Should we wrong him too by banning it just because of one. He also called these minority Indians "tyranny of the minority." Isn't that what our founding fathers of this nation wanted to get a way from? Plus why should we punish everyone when only a few have a problem? Like I said before look at why those people have a problem with it and fix it. If it is disrespectful change it to respectful. but if nothing is disrespectful then **leave it be**.

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



Mascots and the controversy
by [Phoebe Fergus](#) - Thursday, March 12, 2020, 11:47 PM

The Native American Mascot topic was something that was very interesting to read about. I did not realize how much of a controversial topic this was, mostly because I didn't know that schools had mascots like those. In the letter to the editor, Steve Bowers comments on the mascots that have been lost due to similar laws regarding the subject. I attended South Eugene High School and graduated before they changed the name of the mascot from "Axemen" to "Axe". This particular change, I felt, was a waste of money. Some students did not like the name "Axemen" because they did not feel that it was inclusive to all genders. I was not taking the name "Axeman" at face value. I felt that it was inclusive to everyone and just meant that we were Axemen, and that it was a bit silly to be offended by the "men" part of the name. For Native American Mascots, I feel that the people who should be able to determine if the mascot stays or goes, should be the people who are being depicted. I don't feel it fair that if one person, who is not of Indian descent, is offended by a school mascot, taxpayers should have to change it. If many people are offended or upset with the mascot of a school, then I feel that changing them should be taken into consideration, and done. But I do not feel that one person being offended by it, unless they are the ones being depicted, should force this change.

Sum of ratings:[2 \(1\)](#)

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



Re: Mascots and the controversy
by [Ryan Peel](#) - Saturday, March 14, 2020, 8:50 PM

If we're going to go with this viewpoint, then I don't have much I'm afraid. I went to Walterville school, which our mascot was the Wildcats, I also went to Maple Elementary, and the mascot there was the Dragons... So, I didn't have much in this area, I also went to Thurston High School and our mascot there was the Colts. I don't have much to say here because none of the schools I went to had a mascot that could've been considered offensive to Native Americans. I was also very interested to read about this issue. What I knew was that it could have become a problem, if these were to be considered offensive to someone. No duh, right? None of the mascots I knew of were offensive. So, I really didn't know this was such a problem. I do agree that the problem in question, the Native Americans should be the one to decide whether or not this is a problem or is offensive. Not the general residency of the state. Not like with the Washington Redskins issues with 90% of the Native Americans not really caring or don't find it offensive. Does this make sense at all?

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

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

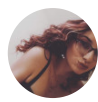


What's the big issue here?
by [Ryan Peel](#) - Friday, March 13, 2020, 6:57 PM

So, I was reading the article, and I see what the problem is. It's a back-and-forth argument about whether or not to keep Native American Mascots for Oregon schools. So far, also according to the article, there hasn't been a clear answer on the subject, there hasn't been a clear "yes" or "no" answer to this question. But, there are some cities in western Oregon, Oakridge, Reedsport, and Drain (Northern Douglas in the article), that apparently stand to lose "time-honored" mascots. Why would something no short of insulting be so "time-honored?" It doesn't make much sense to keep that if it's perceived as such. So, why keep something deemed to be offensive? Granted, most Native Americans don't see it as offensive. In the case of the Cow Creek band, the chairwoman said that the tribe saw it as recognition. So, maybe it's not all bad. It's still pretty confusing. Some like it, some don't. So, I guess the question is still unanswered.

Sum of ratings:[2 \(1\)](#)

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



Re: What's the big issue here?
by [Melanie Green](#) - Saturday, March 14, 2020, 2:25 PM

Hello! I agree, the question has not been answered, and I don't think it ever will be. I think the key thing people have to look at, is "who is deeming it as offensive". Not really so much "is it offensive".

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

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

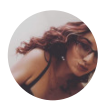


The importance of Mascots
by [Cynara Onyemordi](#) - Friday, March 13, 2020, 10:22 PM

I believe this is a good decision made by Oregon because although it seems small and insignificant, it shows that Oregon is attempting to make an effort to show they care about native Peoples. Although people may feel as though mascots are a way of honoring the Native Americans, I would disagree because on one hand, mascots can be used to honor a people group, but there is a chance that it can also be a way to simplify the heritage of Indigenous peoples and hide it under the guise of respect. It may seem odd that I believe this because two native groups already gave their approval. It should make sense then that if a people group gives the approval to do something regarding their heritage then it must be ok right? I would have to say no, just because Native Americans don't mind that their names are being used doesn't mean that it is not harmful words. If these mascot names are not changed then young people who know little about the Native American peoples will be raised to see them as nothing more than mascots for their local high schools. The Natives are so much more than that and using them as marketing is not only wrong but disappointing and sad.

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

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



Re: The importance of Mascots
by [Melanie Green](#) - Saturday, March 14, 2020, 2:30 PM

Hello! So if people were to better educate the kids on the Native Americans, would you be okay with the mascots?

Also I mean no disrespect at all when I say this, but when you say that just because the Native Americans say its okay doesn't make it okay, who is saying it's not okay? Isn't that racist? Taking away their opportunity to have a say in something like this? I also wonder what "harmful words" you are talking about.

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

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



Re: Majority and Minority

by [Caleb Willis](#) - Friday, March 13, 2020, 11:43 PM

I suppose those who have Indian heritage, whether or not they participate in their tribes, for the purposes of speaking about whether or not Indians resent mascots. Taking into consideration the majority of American Indians' view on mascots is important. Apparently, in a 2002 poll, 75% of Native Americans had no problem with the team's nickname. This is an overwhelming majority. However, the minority matters too, as in that other 25%. Their opinions on the issue undeniably matter as well. There is a problem when taking into consideration the minority, and that is if a single person is affected, how will the issue be resolved? It's quite complicated, because in cases where 25% of a population, which is a grand number, their opinions matter, and so does the one single person. However, I don't think that a big decision should be made based on one person being offended. When a majority agrees, either the decision/legislation goes through or it doesn't, and in the case of one person being offended, the decision/ruling is simply in the hands of the majority.

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

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



Re: Majority and Minority

by [John Kowalchik](#) - Saturday, March 14, 2020, 4:28 PM

I was wondering what your thoughts were on whether or not this is the kind of thing we want our legislators deciding for us? Do we really want our elected officials taking votes on what words or images should be banned? It personally concerns me anytime the state feels the need to censor us, but especially so when the offensiveness of the content in question is so disputed.

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

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