

It is unconscionable that the Oregon Legislature is even considering bills that promote and seek to legitimize racism, harking back to the days when the Ku Klux Klan was a major political force in our state and race-based exclusionary covenants, conditions and restrictions in real estate deeds were legally enforced by our courts.

Most Oregonians by now are aware of the harm terms like "nigger" and "kike" do -- not only to those against whom such vile epithets are hurled, but to our society. I hope it is also true that most of us abhor such terms and are shocked by their use.

Idiots who claim words like "squaw," "redskin," etc., are any less toxic and unacceptable, or that calling someone of tribal heritage "chief" is any less demeaning than calling an African American man "boy" should visit a First Nations community and try them out there.

As for jerks who support using words like "Indians," "Braves," "Chiefs," "Warriors," etc., in conjunction with graphic images (including many that are cartoonish caricatures) intended to represent the descendents of people who were here before European colonization of the Americas, they ought to try substituting, in the phrase, "The Fighting *Indians*," for example, any number of other words referring to specific groups of people, after the word "Fighting;" e.g.: "Fighting *Jews*," "... *Quakers*," "... *Arabs*," "... *Albinos*," "... *Mormons*," "*Hemophiliacs*," "... *Nuns*," "etc.

Then let's hear these racists deny there would be anything insulting, demeaning, degrading or otherwise stupid, absurd and inappropriate in employing any of these terms for a sports-team name.

Better yet, let's require Truth in Mascotting. Change all the team monickers at public schools in Oregon that are based on race, creed or ethnicity to one: *The* (fill in the name of the relevant institution; *Molalla River High School*, for example,) *Bigots*.

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