

June 26, 2013

No on SB 215!

Some graphic images of the Molalla High School's disrespectful, cartoonish use of an "Indian" mascot and the ways Molalla High School plays "Indian" have been submitted. Those images and the following excellent comment **explain why IT IS NOT an honor to be a mascot:**

"Yohocoma" posted on the Oregonian website:

"A mascot is not a figure of respect. A mascot represents a CAPTURED or SUBDUED entity, with their fierce essence pressed into service for the team or other entity controlling the mascot. The mascot's actions are scripted by the controller; it is brought out and paraded around in a usually cartoonish representation of the actual entity. It is a figure of ridicule as much as it is a figure of power. It's a real thing stripped down to simple pantomime.

Its reason for being is NOT respect of the thing it represents.

There are a thousand ways to show real respect for native Americans and to give them real power. Sports mascots ain't one of them.

I imagine that the tribes are trying not to make a big deal out of this rule, and probably feel somewhat embarrassed by it, because it focuses attention on racial prejudice in the most symbolic of ways, rather than in a way that invests them with actual power.

That said, I think the rule is still right. We're long overdue to end institutionalized ways of ridiculing racial groups' weaknesses. The weakness exploited with native American mascots is their domination by white power. If you don't think that domination is still real, you don't know much about the kinds of lives huge numbers of native Americans live in this country, even today."

Posted on [Two tribes call state's Native American mascot ban disappointing](#) on May 22, 2012, 10:11PM