

## Campus Focus

**Do you think the TJC Apache mascot should be changed because it offends Native Americans?**



**Alex Sparks, 17, English/Spanish major, “No, it’s the opposite, because you’re recognizing that America has a native culture. I think that’s a positive thing.”**

**Amy Chastain, 28, history major, “No, I don’t find it offensive. While it is a stereotypical representation, it’s not one that harms anyone. In fact it brings unity and spirit.”**



**Hannah Morris, 19, drama major, “If you don’t do it correctly, then yes. It’s like calling a Scotsman an Irishman. Other than that, no.”**



**Lizzy Martin, 24, pre law major, “No, because they have given consent. The Native Americans were there first, just like the Seminoles in Florida.”**



## Indian mascots offend some but TJC plans no change

*By Sonier Elder  
Staff Writer*

Can you imagine the TJC Apaches by any other name? If the various Indian rights organizations have their way, all schools and teams would be required to change their Indian mascots. The Indian groups believe such mascots are highly offensive to the Native American Indians and constitute racism.

For years colleges across America have used Native Indian tribes as their athletic team mascots to emulate the many positive attributes of tribes that once lived here. These characteristics include bravery, unswerving commitment to their cause, strength, strong survival instincts and mindless persistence in pursuing their goals. The colleges believe these are positive images identified with American Indians that teams are proud to emulate.

BET staff writer Ed Wiley said in recent years intense protests have come from the American Indian community objecting to using their tribal names as mascots for sports teams. Especially offensive is use of the term “redskins” which they consider highly derogatory.

In an article posted on BET.com Wiley quotes Susan Harjo, “Redskins is the most derogatory name that our people can be called.” Harjo is leader of the Morning Star Institute which defends Indian rights.

The name “redskins” actually arose when a bounty was placed on

Indians by the U. S. Government. Every time a dead body was brought in, the hunter collected cash. Due to the stench of carrying dead bodies, bounty hunters simply brought only the skins and scalps. They differentiated them from the animal skins they had by calling the bloody pile “redskins.”

On the BET website it was reported that teams have been told by the National College Athletics Association that no NCAA games will be played at schools with Indian mascots. This move is supported by groups such as the United States Commission on Civil Rights and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

What will TJC do about their teams called the Apaches for many generations? Head football Coach Jaime Critchlow said he is not overly concerned about the controversy and does not anticipate a move to change the mascot anytime soon.

Critchlow said he believes the use of Indian mascots is actually a complement to the fierce, brave spirit of the American Indians. If it has to change, he said, the mascot would certainly be changed to that of some other warrior.

The few football players polled were mixed in their responses. Some said it does not matter and others, like freshman linebacker Chris Morris, believe that no race should be used as a mascot.

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