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- NEWS
 - Local News
 - Student Life
- SPORTS
 - Football
 - Men's Basketball
 - Gymnastics
 - Soccer
 - Baseball
 - Softball
 - Tennis
 - Golf
 - Swimming & Diving
 - Cross Country
- ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
 - Art
 - Music
 - Lifestyle
 - Film
 - Literature
- OPINION
 - Politics
 - Social Issues
 - Health
 - Education
 - Environment
 - Satire
- THE U FEED
- MULTIMEDIA
- CONTACT
- RESOURCES
 - Classifieds

- Student Media
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Letter to the Editor: Tribes

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should get to decide

THE DAILY UTAH CHRONICLE on September 1, 2005 at 12:00 am

Editor:

I am writing in response to the controversy surrounding the use of the Ute nickname.

I may be wrong, but I believe that our school has made arrangements with the Ute Tribe for the use of its name.

I have also seen several reports of the Seminole Tribe making arrangements for its name to be respectfully used.

To me this should be the final word. The tribe should own its name and the NCAA should stay out of the tribe's business.

On the other hand, if a tribe is offended by a misuse of name, they should have the right to remove its endorsement of the school. Then I would support the NCAA sanctioning the offending school.

Furthermore, a close relationship between a tribe and an institute of higher learning can be a very positive thing-especially if this relationship encourages or even supports members of that tribe gaining an education.

In conclusion, I believe that the NCAA's move to sanction schools with American Indian mascots is much more offensive because it means that the NCAA supposes it knows better than the tribes themselves.

Let us instead concentrate on issues that actually affect the American Indian community, such as education.

Jared Shane Elliss

Alumnus

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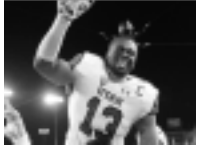
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2

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