

Adidas Kicks Off Campaign to Remove Native American Mascots

REBECCA ZENG
News Editor
JENNIFER FAN
Staff Writer

AHS' mascot, the Moor, was chosen during the establishment of the school and in acknowledgement of the Muslim inhabitants of Spain in the Middle Ages. However, mascots such as that of AHS and Mark Keppel, an Aztec, are controversial because they may be seen as racist with the intent of insulting certain groups. In 2002, the state legislature introduced a bill that would allow the California Board of Education to ban any public school team name, mascot or nickname that was decidedly offensive toward certain groups. The bill, called Assembly Bill 2115, did not pass.

The use of Native American mascots is not uncommon, seen in sports teams such as the Washington Redskins and Cleveland Indians, as well as in numerous American high schools. Although we are accustomed to seeing these, the usage of Native American themes and culture in mascots, logos or symbols, promote intolerance and harm to the Native American population, according to the National Congress for American Indians (NCAI). Additionally, while some teams have claimed that having a Native American mascot is meant to pay respect to the courage and integrity of a Native American group, others have pointed out the lack of mascots for other ethnicities.

"I think [Native American mascots] honor them because [the mascots] show how strong [the Native American]

are and how strong their community is," sophomore Veronica Yeung said.

However, Adidas recently announced that their company will assist high schools' transition away from them. The German company met with the White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington and spoke about their initiatives in altering the 2,000 high schools that continue to use Native American mascots. "Getting rid of Native American logos will not [change anything] because racism stereotypes are already deeply engraved in our society," senior Gary Jia said.

President Obama praised Adidas for contributing in the removal of these mascots in hopes that it will help eliminate the racism and stereotypes that many Native American students have to endure, according to

Huffington Post. Adidas plans to grant free design resources and financial assistance to schools wishing to change their mascots, so they would have no excuse not to.

"I don't think [Native American mascots are] a big issue because [while] they objectify [Native Americans, the usage of such mascots] is so common that it is already a norm. [However,] it [does] overgeneralize a whole race," senior Amy Than said.

On the other hand, some do not believe that the Adidas' actions will have any benefit on Native American students.

"I think that the Adidas campaign delivers a really good message about racial and cultural stereotypes and I feel that it really will help to end the frequency of the racist remarks," junior Alex Illingworth said.

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN

4th and 8th Grade U.S. Math Scores a Fraction of What They Used to Be

ELIAS ALMAREZ-HERRERA
JASON ZHU
Staff Writers

According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), America's fourth and eighth grade students are doing worse in math for the first time in 25 years.

First administered in 1969, the NAEP is a national representative assessment that tests students' ability in subjects such as mathematics, reading, science and writing. The NAEP is often referred to as the "nation's report card" because it is the only measure of student achievement given periodically to a sample of students around the nation. This year, the report card saw a decrease in math scores compared to the results of 2013.

The Washington Post reports that although a drop in math scores is bad, the scores are still better than they were in past years, such as in the early 1990s, so the U.S. Department of Education should not take very extreme measures to fix a "non-problem".

Many critics point fingers toward Common Core. Although NAEP was not designed to align with Common Core Standards, it measures many aspects that the standards were supposed to improve, such as the literacy and numeracy of our students.

"Common Core worsened the issue. [It requires] very experienced, well-prepared math teachers to teach K through 12th [grades]. I truly believe that the reason we are falling be-

hind is because elementary teachers are not given enough training to teach math," math teacher Debora Blais said.

In other aspects of mathematics, such as Data/Probability, the decrease of scores is particularly large, which means that the Common Core philosophy of delaying instruction in this area and many others alike might be problematic.

There are many secondary causes contributing to this drop. For example, critics are blaming demographic changes, while others are attributing it to the economy's stagnation.

"There are many contributing factors to the decrease in scores. Kids are a lot more distracted nowadays and are more dependent on technology. It

seems the more dependent we are on technology, the lazier we get and the less we think for ourselves [contributing to the decline in critical thinking]," math department head Paul Stein said.

Nevertheless, the score drop is a harsh reminder that as the world's largest nation, we are still far from the top when it comes to STEM related subjects, according to the statistics from the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development.

"The first step to solving this problem is to increase the competitiveness in students' educational success. Parents have to take more responsibility [to address] the trend [in which] their children are not pressured to strive harder." Math Olympiad President Kyleo Zhong said.

MMMB Performs in District Collaboration

DEREK WU
Staff Writer

Every year, at the end of their competi-

tion season, AHS' Mighty Moor Marching Band (MMMB) performs alongside the Mark Keppel High School and San Gabriel High School bands at the Tri-City Field Show for their last show.

This year, the 33rd annual show occurred on Nov. 18, with each school band performing its separate field show and later collaborating with one another. The band show this year was titled "The Journey: Chance of a Lifetime" and featured musical selections such as "the Barber of Seville," "Carol of the Russian Chil-



MOOR photo by SHANNON KHA

LET'S BAND TOGETHER The Mighty Moor Marching Band joins forces with San Gabriel and Mark Keppel High Schools in the finale of the 33rd annual Tri-City Field Show on Nov. 18.

dren" and "Hungarian Rhapsody."

"Wednesday's performance was the perfect end of our marching season. The per-

formance was one of our best all season and was certainly Alhambra's best Tri-City performance in recent years. I am incredibly proud of all the hard work each individual put in this season," drum major Elizabeth Juarez said.

The tri-school collaboration featured Meghan Trainor's "All About that Bass," James Brown's "Papa's Got A Brand New Bag" and Stevie Wonder's "Superstition."

In addition to the other high school bands, they also collaborated with 8th grade and AUSD Middle School Honor Band musicians, playing song such as Walk the Moon's, "Shut Up and Dance With Me."

AUSD Files Appeal Against Big T Alcoholic Permit

JACQUELYN LOI
Staff Writer

On Nov. 9, a debate occurred in City Hall about Big T Mini Market's desire to get a conditional use permit from the city to sell alcohol. Big T Mini Market is a convenience store located on Main Street and Third Street. The Planning Commission voted six to two to

allow Big T to sell packaged beer and wine on October 19. In response, the Alhambra School District filed an appeal, claiming that the store's proximity to Alhambra High School should prevent it from getting the permit.

"I think that it is better to just be safe than sorry. You never know what can happen and what high school students are capable of doing. I mean, you see students hoping the fence on Third Street and the fact that Big T is so close to that gate can cause some concerns," junior Dilagsayini Mylvaganam said.

Both the Alhambra Police Department and the Alhambra School District support

the appeal. On the contrary, the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce and employees of Big T said that they were subject to unjustified conduct because other nearby stores such as Lohas and Ohana Brewing Company are allowed to sell alcohol.

"I originally needed this permit in order to compete with stores such as

7/11 or Extra Mile. I want

to show them that I have a nicer store,

better prices and better customer service

[...] Some students

have told me that my store

doesn't need the permit in

order to do well, but they do not

see my store from 8:30

9:30 at night when the store is empty. Some

people come in just to ask if I sell beer

and I have to say that I don't and then I have to direct them to my competitors.

This is why I need the permit," Big T Mini Market owner Trent Yamauchi said.

A resolution will be reached and presented to the city council on December 14.

MOOR photo by SHANNON KHA

