

**What are the real problems with Macalester's selection of Ted Turner as an honorary degree recipient?**

1. Ted Turner has refused for over 20 year to change the racist name of his baseball team, the Atlanta Braves, despite innumerable petitions by the Native American community.
2. Macalester ignored long-standing protests by the Twin Cities Native American community against Ted Turner when selecting him to receive an honorary degree for humanitarianism. We are not an island. Our school must be held accountable to the surrounding community for its actions.

**What's the point to all this protesting? It's honoring the Indians...**

"Would you paint your face black, wear an Afro wig and prance around the football field trying to imitate your perceptions of Black people? Of course not! That would be insulting to Blacks so why is it okay to do it to Indians?"

--Tim Giago (Lakota)  
Editor-in-chief, "The Lakota Times"

**How do mascots of Native Americans harm Indian people?**

"As a group of professional mental health providers, we are in agreement that using images of American Indians as mascots...is damaging to the self-identity, self-concept and self-esteem of our people"

--American Indian Mental Health Association of Minnesota  
"The issue of the Indian mascot has affected the perceptions of both Native Americans and non-natives toward to image of Native American people, as well as leaving emotional and psychological scars in those parents and students involved in the continuous struggle of unlearning Indian stereotypes"

--Cornel Pewewardy (Comanche-Kiowa)  
Principal, American Indian Magnet School, St. Paul, MN

**Is this just some liberal "bandwagon" for Macalester students to jump on for a few weeks, while it is "cool"?**

Combating racism has been an increasingly important issue on campus this year ever since the racist epithets were written on an African American student's door in the fall. Many different student and administrative organizations have been working to increase the campus dialogue on racism, while offering many events to learn about distinct cultures. While the specific issue of Ted Turner's refusal to change the racist name of the Atlanta Braves just recently became directly relevant to Macalester's campus, various national organizations, such as the American Indian Movement and the National Coalition Against Racism in Sports, have been fighting this issue for over 25 years. Macalester's efforts to combat racism do not just represent a "bandwagon," rather the involvement in a continuous struggle to better our society and each other.

**The issue of racism in sports and derogatory mascots does not revolve around Ted Turner.**

He represents a symptom of a larger problem. Yet, Ted Turner has the power to help change the way Native American peoples are viewed by the majority of the United States. As a member of the board of the Atlanta chapter of the NAACP and of the Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Change, Mr. Turner has no excuse not to understand the negative influence of racism in America, including derogatory stereotypes and treatment of Native Americans. Despite his involvement with institutions such as the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian, his continued refusal to change the name of the Atlanta Braves is the equivalent to a slap in the face for the Native American community. Named the most powerful sports personality in the US by *The Sporting News* in 1994, Ted Turner clearly wields plenty of influence. Because of the widespread popularity of the Atlanta Braves and the "tomahawk chop," every time the baseball team plays, tens of thousands (if not more) of Americans take for granted the idea that ridiculing Native American peoples is acceptable. Such incorporation of racist ideas into the national psyche only serves to further the oppression of Native American peoples that began in 1492.

**What kinds of responses has Ted Turner given to the request that he change the**



**name of the Atlanta Braves and that he stop supporting the "tomahawk chop"?**

Ted Turner has refused to change the name of the Atlanta Braves.

"Ted Turner and his wife, actress Jane Fonda, agreed to quit doing the chop, saying they meant no disrespect for anyone. But Fonda, who had previously demonstrated with Indians protesting on other issues, was caught by the cameras doing a modified chop during tense moments in the games [1995 World Series]. Since then, the chop and its accompanying chant have been on full-bore in Atlanta."

--Star Tribune, October 21, 1995

**What major media and entertainment enterprises does Ted Turner own?**

**television:**

Turner Broadcasting Systems (TBS)  
Cable News Network (CNN)  
Headline News  
Satellite New Channel  
Turner Network Television (TNT)  
World Championship Wrestling Inc.  
Turner Classic Movies (TCM)

**radio:**

CNN Radio

**film:**

MGM/UA Entertainment Co. (1985-1986)  
--as part of previous deal, sold UA back to majority stockholder Kirk Kerkorian for \$500-600 million; also sold part of MGM/UA to Lorimar for \$190 million  
Turner Entertainment Company (handles what Turner still owns of MGM/UA)  
New Line Cinema  
Castle Rock Entertainment  
Turner Pictures

**other:**

Omni International, renamed CNN center, (complex including two 14-story office buildings, a hotel and connecting atrium)  
Organized the Goodwill Games: sponsored first games in Moscow in 1986  
Atlanta Braves baseball team  
Atlanta Hawks basketball team  
Attempted takeover of CBS for \$5.4 billion; move blocked by network  
Merged Turner Entertainment with Time Warner and is now vice-chairman of Time Warner

**What major charitable contributions has Ted Turner made?**

1990--Established a foundation which gives \$7 million a year to some 300 environmental and population-related groups.  
1994--Pledged \$75 million award to education, with one third going to his alma mater Brown University, and other monies going to preparatory schools The Citadel (his son's school) in Charleston, SC and the McCallie School in Chattanooga, TN  
1997--Announce \$1 billion charitable gift to benefit United Nations agencies