

**Hail to the Redskins**, Approaching the Finish Line in the Culture Wars  
Nine Indians out of 10 Love Redskins as an Identity Label  
Todd Appleman, Correspondent for the Daily Wannabeillini  
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Champaign-Urbana, Illinois -- After ignoring Native Americans for over a decade, the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania boldly has entered the culture wars on their behalf.

In a new National Annenberg Election Survey conducted across the continental United States, 90 percent of all Native Americans say they favor Redskins over other ethnic identity labels.

Not even one out of every ten Native Americans is bothered by the name, according to this non-partisan and objective source.

"I'm a Native American, for God's sake," Charlton Heston told the Daily Wannabeillini from his home in Southern California. "On my wife's side, my grandson is a thirteenth generation native American -- with a capital letter on 'American'."

"We call him 'Lil' Redskin' all of the time. He absolutely loves it."

Established in 1994, the Annenberg Public Policy Center conducts and disseminates research that highlight important questions about the intersection of media, communication, and public policy.

"Our research helps to bring difficult problems such as the plight of Native Americans into focus," says Kathy Wall Jamestownson, Director and the Elizabeth Ware Packard Professor of Communication at the Annenberg School for Communication.

The Annenberg Public Policy Center conducts the National Annenberg Election Survey.

"The responses of 768 people who said they were Native Americans were collected over a very long period of polling, from October 7, 2003 through September 20, 2004," Jamestownson told the Daily Wannabeillini in a conference call from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The question that was put to them was "The professional football team in Washington calls itself the Washington Redskins. As a Native American, do you find that name offensive or doesn't it bother you?"

"Almost 700 of those 768 Native Americans told us that name doesn't bother them," says Jamestownson. "They love to be called Redskins."

"I thought more people would have had problems with the name," said Adam Clymer, political director of the National Annenberg Election Survey.

Clymer, formerly a reporter for the New York Times -- the man George W. Bush in 2000 called an 'asshole' -- says it was his idea to ask the over 65,000 Americans polled if they objected to the team name Redskins.

Karl Swanson, spokesman for the Washington Redskins, said the new poll "confirms what other surveys have consistently showed."

"Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly was correct. Linda Waggoner was wrong. We honor William 'Lone Star' Dietz and the Oglala Sioux from Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota."

The findings in the National Annenberg Election Survey support those of a poll the Peter Harris Research Group conducted for Sports Illustrated.

Asked whether they were offended by the name Redskins, almost 8 out of 10 people who self-identified as Indian in that poll said they were not.

"South Dakota Indians everywhere love to be called Redskins," Swanson says. "Like the Redskins in South Dakota, the governor of California recognizes this. Most objectively-thinking people do. Now everyone knows the Washington Redskins do not spread misinformation."

### **The end of political correctness**

The next time you walk by the Redskin House on campus, the academic home for Redskin Studies at the University of Illinois and the home-away-from-home for Redskin students, say "Hello" to the local Redskins.

Help these lonely Redskins feel welcome at the home of the most dramatic and dignified Redskin in collegiate athletics, Chief Illiniwek.

These real Redskins will love you for noticing them on their terms.

Todd Appleman is a real Cherokee Indian from Kentucky. His great-great grandmother, a Cherokee princess named Pocahontas, refused to go on the Trail of Tears. His columns about the American Indian culture appear every Friday in the Daily Wannabeillini and are archived online here: