Look Away, Look Away: A Case Study on Ole Miss Disregarding a Controversial Mascot

Michelle Kenny, Kansas State University

Controversial mascots are slowly being removed from high schools, colleges, and professional sports teams. In 2005, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) began a movement to eradicate adverse and offensive racial/ethnic/national origin mascots and team names. The removal has not been an easy process, nor is it one that is accepted by all. Fourteen years ago, The University of Mississippi removed Colonel Rebel as their mascot, and just recently named their second mascot after the Colonel Rebel's removal. This poster presentation will cover the history of Colonel Rebel, the removal of Confederate iconography, and the continual fight against preserving tradition and recognizing racism.