

Resolution: Pirate Dialogue

- Whereas: mascots have the potential to act as significant institutional symbols in the anchoring of ideals and aspirations into the daily consciousness of students and the culture as a college,
- Whereas: images and institutional symbols that are inspiring and aspirational have power to explicitly encourage similar striving in its collective campus culture,
- Whereas: as an open-access educational institution, MJC holds a great deal of symbolic capital (Harrits) within the community and has an ethical responsibility in its messaging to the public to support and convey a positive sense of belonging and purpose,
- Whereas: staff, students, administration, and faculty are all stakeholders in the images and symbols that represent an institution and us as professionals,
- Whereas: faculty are stakeholders in the symbolic capital of an institution, there is precedence for the involvement of shared governance bodies, such as Academic Senate, in the use of such symbols in other colleges in the state, such as CSU, East Bay and DeAnza Community College, where changes and discussions over mascot use have occurred,
- Whereas: the pirate image is a contradiction to more positive ideals and has a tendency to reflect back violence, aggression, misogyny, and a history of human trafficking (see images #1-8),
- Whereas: the pirate image counteracts and does nothing to symbolically support the mission of the college, which stresses "...the development of intellect, creativity, character, and abilities that shape students into thoughtful, culturally aware, engaged citizens,"
- Whereas: recent decisions not to use the pirate image in promotion for upcoming college events organized by faculty brings into question the appropriateness of its use in general (see image #3),
- Whereas: the centennial anniversary invites an opportunity to introduce a new institutional image consonant with its mission and character and make a statement to the community that conveys the college's commitment to diversity,
- Be It Resolved: that the Academic Senate represent faculty concerns and professional interests around this institutional use of symbolic capital and begin developing a formalized process potentially including but not limited to focus groups, a survey, and/or formation of a committee that invites the participation of students, staff, administration, and faculty to collectively consider and discuss the possibility of a change to the college's mascot or symbol of the pirate.

Reference:

Harrits, Gitte. "Political Power as Symbolic Capital and Symbolic Violence." *Journal of Political Power*. 01 August 2011.

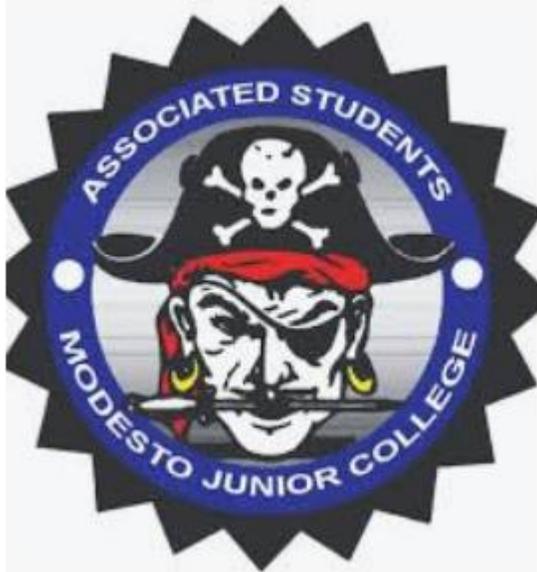


Image #1



Image #2



AFRICAN AMERICAN
EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Image #3

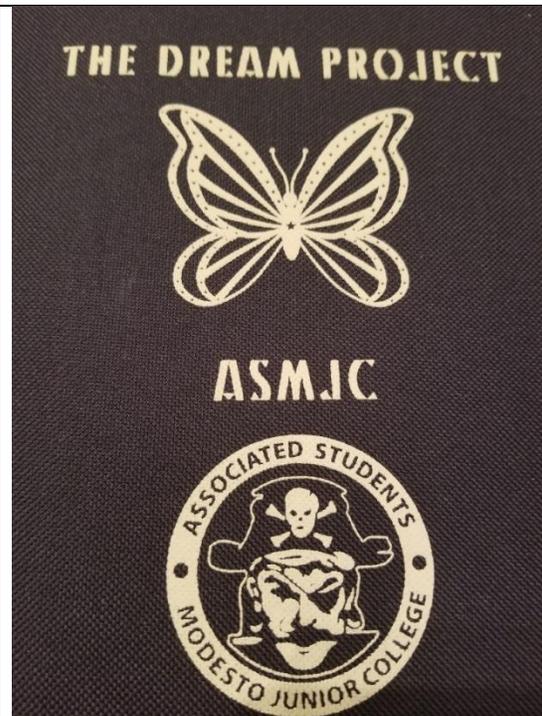


Image #4



Image #5

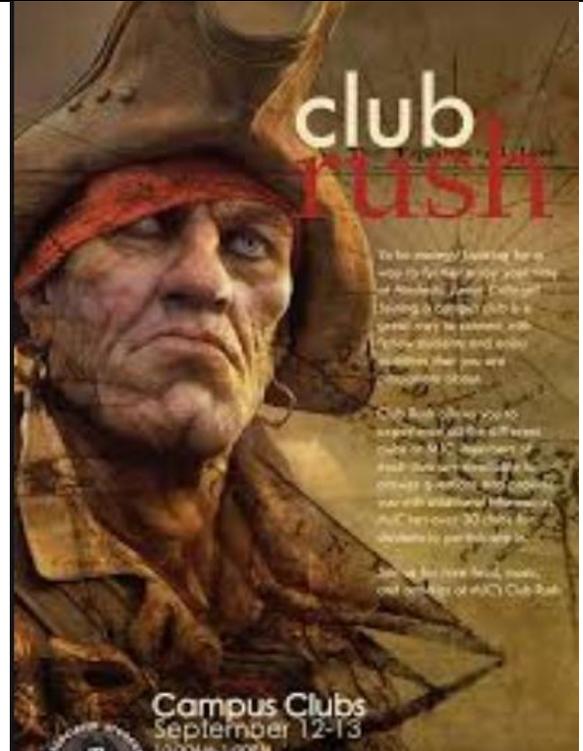


Image #6



Image #7

