



What's the Problem?



STRANGE MASCOTS

College is a time of personal growth, new friendships, and of course, epic parties. The best way to represent all that excitement is with a fun mascot! These costumed creatures fire up the crowd at football games, walk around campus during orientation days, and bring an unbridled level of pride to any school. Of course, for every Notre Dame Leprechaun and Florida Gator, there are a few bad college mascots on the list.

The Stanford Tree – Stanford University



Stanford is located in Palo Alto, California, a place that is known for their beautiful redwoods. That explains why the school band, not the school, went with this guy as their mascot. The band is pretty serious about their tree. Every year, there's a formal tryout to see who has what it takes to sport the costume. Stanford won't be yelling "timber" on this mascot anytime soon, but he still often makes the list of the worst mascots in America.

WuShock – Wichita State

Sorry Dorothy, it looks like we are in Kansas this time around. You can tell by the giant stalk of wheat hyping up the crowd at Wichita State. WuShock, or Wu for short, is inspired by *shocking*, aka harvesting wheat – a popular pastime in Kansas. It doesn't sound like much fun, but WuShock was cool enough to be the target of one of Jimmy Fallon's jokes on "The Tonight Show" so there you go.



Sammy the Slug – UC Santa Cruz



It could be an alien, it could be a rejected Teletubby, but this is Sammy the Slug – a banana slug that's been UC Santa Cruz's mascot since 1996. Sammy is slimy, slow, and ugly, but he still has a special place in the hearts of all the students. In fact, they voted in a poll for him to replace the sea lion that used to be their mascot.

Fighting Okra – Delta State University

The Fighting Okra can easily be considered for a list of ugly college mascots. He's the face of Delta State, and like a lunar eclipse, he only appears at random times around campus. The Okra was conceived in 1987 at a basketball game. Students thought their original mascot wasn't tough enough and wanted something "mean and green" to represent them. An edible vegetable that is great in casseroles was the obvious choice.



Fighting Pickle – University of NC School of the Arts



The University of North Carolina School of the Arts doesn't have any sports teams. Their pickle mascot instead came fresh out of the jar as the result of a campus-wide contest in 1972. The student body wanted a mascot to represent their artistic endeavors, which is why the Fighting Pickle carries a paint brush and wears a sweet piano tutu. It should come as no surprise that a student, Dina Perez, is the one who dreamed up this design.

Speedy the Geoduck – Evergreen State College

Geoducks are super weird, slimy creatures that are commonly found in the northwest United States. That explains why this creature serves as Evergreen State College's mascot. Speedy has thankfully gotten a makeover to look more like a turtle in recent years, but the damage has already been done. He's repeatedly made worst mascots lists from big names like *Time Magazine*, *Fox Sports*, and *The Huffington Post*.



Kernel Cobb – Concordia College



Laugh if you will, but Kernel Cobb has over 1,000 followers on Twitter and is a source of pride for the students at Concordia College. That means a corn mascot has more social media friends than you, probably. The Kernel started off as a friendly, approachable guy, but over time something must have *popped*. In 2006, he transformed into this ferocious beast and there's nothing corny about him.

Artie the Artichoke – Scottsdale Community College

A personified artichoke has been Scottsdale Community College's official mascot since 1972. Disgruntled students originally voted on him as their mascot as a joke since they were mad about more of the budget going toward sports than academics. They thought their school deserved a super lame mascot. However, since then this smiling vegetable has become a lovable part of campus and a favorite among fans. He's even been photographed with NFLer Patrick Peterson of the Arizona Cardinals.



Big Red – Western Kentucky University



Big Red isn't a wad of bubblegum. He's the brainchild of creator Ralph Carey, a former student who didn't want anything too stereotypical to represent Western Kentucky University. As the story goes, he drew a red blob on a piece of paper, brought it to the school's president, and it was thought of as brilliant. Since then, Big Red has been "The Spirit of the Western" and a huge hit with the students.

Battling Bishop – Ohio Wesleyan



“Battling” and “bishop” are very unusual words to pair together, but that’s been the nickname of Ohio Wesleyan’s teams since 1925. Their mascot, meanwhile, received a makeover in 2010 where he went from having “a jovial grin” to sporting “a more determined expression.” The end result is a man that’s significantly less huggable. Why so serious, Mr. Bishop?

Blue Blob – Xavier University

If Grover from *The Muppets* let himself go, he’d end up as Blue Blob – the lovable mascot of Xavier University. This big fella replaced a sword-wielding musketeer who was terrifying to children. Now he’s kind of a big deal and a superstar. He’s even had a starring role in two *SportsCenter* commercials!



Weezy the Boll Weevil – The University of Arkansas at Monticello



The boll weevil is a real creature that feeds on flowers. Weezy, on the other hand feeds off the crowd’s energy as he stands on the sidelines at football games. Tryouts are held every time someone new is needed to dress as Weezy or his gal pal, Blossom. It’s worth the audition, though, as the student receives scholarship money in exchange. *Unbollienable!*

Mortamer “The Eutectic” McPestle – St. Louis College of Pharmacy



Leave it to pharmacy students to name their mascot after the process of two solids coming together to form a liquid. The furry yellow guy in the lab coat has no connection to his name’s meaning, but he’s always courtside at home basketball and volleyball games. He even has a song! *Be a Eutectic! Smack it down, reflect it! Our scary pharmaceutical troll will smash you in his mortar bowl.*

Temoc – University of Texas at Dallas

Temoc is what happens when a ninja turtle and Heat Miser from those holiday TV specials have a baby. The bizarre mascot was created in 1998 by an alumnus named Aaron Aryanpur. He’s supposed to be the living embodiment of a comet, which makes sense. “Temoc” is “comet” spelled backward.

