



# Sho-Pai News

Sho Pai News  
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## "Rally For Respect"

BOISE, ID- On March 9, 2001 a "Rally for Respect" was held on the steps of the Capitol Building in Boise, Idaho. The rally was held to express opinions of the Native American women present and other supporters of different races who thought the word "Squaw" should be removed from places in Idaho. The rally came about shortly after the House Legislation Affairs Committee rejected the proposal to remove the word from Idaho Place names.

This word to many women, namely Native American women is disrespectful and insulting. The rally had supporters from the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, the Nez Perce Tribe, The Women of Color Alliance, a founding member of the Black History Museum, a Presbyterian Minister, a former migrant worker among the group of supporters.

Supporters stood outside and held signs such as "Respect for all people in Idaho, out with Squaw, in with respect," "Remove All "Squaw" names in Idaho," "Disrespectful and Unecessary word "Squaw."

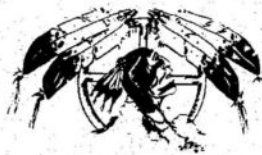
After the rally, the group moved its way up to Governor Dirk Kempthorne's office, but were quickly moved back out into the hallway, until Governor Kempthorne came out of a meeting. Supporters out of the group had asked Gov. Kempthorne to support this issue, but he said he needed more historical documentation that proved the word "Squaw" derogatory

and the proof would have to be given to their respective Representatives.

Many women spoke their mind about this issue. Rally organizer, Louise E. Dixey from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes commented that the legislators need diversity training and the governor should appoint native women to commissions.

Councilwoman, Reynaulda Taylor, of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes was there to support her sisters. Taylor said, "Show women respect, that's all we are asking."

See Page 3 "Proposal to Banish "Squaw" Rejected"



Montana, Maine, Oklahoma and Minnesota already have made moves to remove the word. Governor d'Alene Tribe Chairman Arnie Stensgar said he was surprised Idaho did not follow their example.

"The Indian tribes are going to look at the state of Idaho really hard and wonder where our leadership is headed in terms of diversity," he said.

Indian leaders say the word is a vulgar racial or sexual insult. In Iroquois, it is derived from a word for female genitalia.

*"Show women respect, that is all that we are asking"*



*Shoshone-Paiute Tribal member, Eleanor Little-Prior shows her support*

The word appears on more than 1,000 geographic features nationwide, primarily in the West and Midwest, including 93 in Idaho, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The Idaho resolution would have created a committee of state and Indian leaders to propose new names for the landmarks. The U.S. Board of Geographic Names would have had to approve the changes.

Supporters said passage of the resolution would show Idaho's opposition to bigotry. The state spends \$100,000 a year trying to counter perceptions that it tolerates racism, primarily because the white supremacist group Aryan Nations is based there.

"Here's a chance to undo

some of that perception. Instead we reinforced it," Republican Sen. Moon Wheeler said. "It was worth a million dollars of good publicity if we would have done that. As it is, it's a disaster."

Some opponents said residents would have been left out of the renaming process and that changing the names could be expensive. GOP Rep. Twila Hornbeck said changing the names would also threaten Idaho's heritage.

"Our history books are being rewritten to be politically correct. Our dictionaries are being rewritten to be politically correct, and I find this offensive," Hornbeck said. "I really find it offensive for people to come and tell me what my language means."