

SU drops Saltine Warrior

By Maura McEnaney

"This will be the last year of the Saltine Warrior."

Syracuse University will discontinue its use of the Saltine Warrior as a mascot at the end of the spring semester, according to Melvin C. Mounts, vice president for student affairs.

ONKWEHONWENEHA, a native American student organization, sought to change the mascot because it felt the Warrior was offensive to native American students.

Mounts made the decision prior to Christmas break following meetings with the native American group; Lambda Chi Alpha, the fraternity whose members traditionally portray the mascot; Chancellor Melvin A. Eggers; and Robert Hill, special assistant to the chancellor for affirmative action.

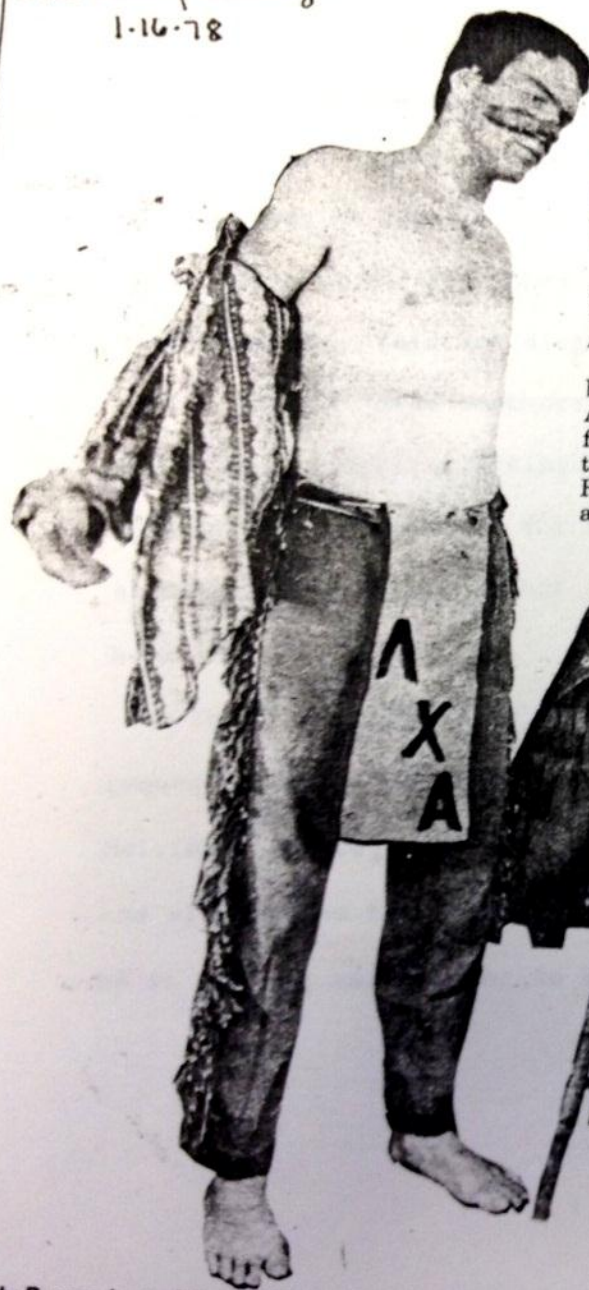
Although he said he "liked the Saltine Warrior

personally" and felt it "could have served as mascot in a dignified manner," Mounts said, "we cannot be totally insensitive to people who are misrepresented." He added that "it was made very clear" that the use of a native American as a symbol for the university was offensive to some students.

Gerry Muskrat, an SU law professor and negotiator for ONKWEHONWENEHA, said Saturday that he was unaware of the decision to discontinue the Warrior, and refused comment until after he could speak with Mounts.

The administration will work with members of Lambda Chi Alpha to select a new mascot in time for the 1978-'79 season, Mounts said.

The Saltine Warrior originated in a fictional article appearing in the October 1931 issue of Orange Peel, the campus humor magazine, and was adopted as mascot the same year.



Andy Burns, last of the Saltine Warriors, changes out of his costume for one of his final times. The

mascot will be discontinued at the end of the spring semester. (Photo by Glen Ellman)