

## Bradley University Searches for a New Mascot

By Liz Thompson

**PEORIA** – For years, Bradley University has only used a nickname to represent the school, but there is now a search to possibly change this.

Bradley University has been without a physical mascot for some time and just used the term Braves. This was in accordance with the NCAA, when they were enforcing a ban from postseason play if the use of Native American images continued.

According to a news release put out by the NCAA in August 2005, the NCAA adopted a new policy that prohibited colleges and universities from “displaying hostile and abusive racial/ethnic/national origin mascots, nicknames or imagery at any of the 88 NCAA championships.”

Bradley was allowed to keep the nickname Braves but no longer used the images or had a physical mascot.

Recently a survey was sent out to students and faculty asking for their opinions on a possible mascot or name change. This survey gave options such as the lions, the eagles or the gargoyles and they also allowed people to fill in their own suggestions.

“People want to feel like they’re heard, and that is a part of it. To get everybody’s voice is just part of the process. Not everyone is going to have the same opinion but you want to get as many people as possible,” said Associate Vice President for Marketing Susan Andrews.

“I would like to see us have a mascot,” said sophomore social work major, Jirmiah Leverette. “Most other schools do have a mascot and when you go to the games here, you see the cheerleaders but it would be peppier for us to have a mascot.”

Most colleges use a mascot along with cheerleaders to help boost the energy in the crowd at sporting events.

“If it is the right mascot that people embrace, it is something that can create a certain atmosphere or spirit,” said Andrews.

As for the survey, according to Andrews details from the results should be released in the next couple of days.