Source evaluations for Indian Mascots topic

Shakely’s piece is from a major newspaper, but is clearly an opinion column, not a news report. It includes a personal perspective, but no other indication of his knowledge base. It is useful to represent some of the points that are made against Indian mascots and gives some examples of problematic ones, but the information should ideally be corroborated with other sources. According to Wikipedia, Shakely has served as president or chair of a number of non-profit organizations including the California Community Foundation and the Center for Philanthropy and Public Policy at the University of Southern California, and he wrote a historical novel set in Indian Territory during the Civil War. From this, it seems that he is a well-informed person, with an interest in the history of Native Americans.

Hyman’s piece is also an opinion column. There is no indication of the nature of his expertise, but there is a good amount of specific information, suggesting he is well-informed. He has a website, which lists his experience, including military service, political work, and extensive work as a television commentator. He is likely to be a generally well-informed person, but without any particular expertise. The American Spectator is a conservative publication: its website states that it “educates the public on new ideas, concepts and policies that favor the principles of economic freedom, individual liberty, limited government, and traditional American values. . . . and serves as an outlet for a host of both young and established conservative writers and thinkers.” It’s likely that this piece was written with a conservative audience in mind, and so assuming the readers will agree with his views. It is a good representative of this viewpoint, but can’t be treated as authoritative.