Hannah Langford

Journal #2- Response to *Reel Injun*

One thing I found interesting about the film *Reel Injun* was how the stereotypes for Native Americans always changed. For example, in the 1920’s, the Indian was portrayed as a stoic hero. It was a simplification and romantification of their culture. In the 1930’s, with the Great Depression going on, the Indians were portrayed as savages. Then in the 1960’s they were portrayed as free spirits. I’m sure that *some* Native Americans were accurately portrayed, but of course not all are the same. I feel that is the point most omitted throughout history how, like everyone, we are all different.

After watching this film, I realized how my idea of what a Native American is is probably incorrect because I only see them as one type. Just like *Reel Injun* stated, my perspective on Indians is most likely based off of what is going on in the media and how they portray it. This is an inaccurate way to think about other cultures because the media portrays them how they want to and usually only through one lens. For example, whites are never portrayed in the media as always fat and stupid people, so why should it be any different for other cultures? Native Americans shouldn’t be *just* stoic or *just* free spirited; each person should be perceived as different from the next, because that’s what they are.