

The Chant Heard Around the World

RACISM REARS ITS UGLY HEAD ONCE AGAIN AT USM

Long-time readers of USMNEWS.net have seen big news stories develop at inopportune moments, at least in terms of this website's schedule. Such was again the case on 15-Mar-2012, when the USM pep band chanted a racist slur near the end of Kansas State's nationally televised victory over the Golden Eagles in the 2012 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. With spring break and only [one news](#) cycle to work with before the weekend, USMNEWS.net [was able to](#) put out only smaller entries [dealing with this](#) latest fiasco. This report addresses the lack of detail provided heretofore.

As reported by [news media](#) around the world, [including](#) USM's *The Student Printz*, the USM pep band began a "racially charged" chant during late-game foul shots taken by KSU's Angel Rodriguez in an attempt to seal away the victory for the Wildcats. That chant – "[w]here's your green card?" – was clearly aimed at Rodriguez' heritage. Rodriguez is a freshman from Puerto Rico, and, thus, is an American citizen.



The USM pep band performs during USM-KSU NCAA Tournament game in Pittsburgh on 15-Mar-2012.

Rodriguez [told](#) media members that he heard the chant during his foul shots, and he added, "I don't pay attention to that nonsense, especially because Puerto Rico is a commonwealth, so we don't need (any) type of papers." Immediately after the game, a video of the episode [was posted to](#) YouTube. That video of the truTV broadcast has since gone viral, and now has been viewed almost 400,000 times. Since this video was posted, others have been added, each garnering thousands of views as well.



Kansas State guard Angel Rodriguez speaks to media after his team's 70-64 victory over USM in the 2012 NCAA Tourney.

As the video mentioned above was going viral, USM president Martha Saunders was compelled to issue an official apology, which came on 15-Mar-2012 in the form of [a news release](#). In it, Saunders noted that her administration "deeply regret" that the incident occurred. She also indicated that she would "take

quick and appropriate disciplinary action” against the pep band members who are responsible for engaging in the racially-charged chant. However, even Saunders’ [apology fell short](#) by misspelling the name of the target of the pep band’s racist chant. This error was not only reported by a Fox News affiliate in Kansas City, but also by CNN and other international news agencies. A corrected press release was later re-issued by Saunders.

Stay tuned to USMNEWS.net for more on this story as it develops.