

Justices Say Law on Offensive Trademarks is Unconstitutional



Portland-based Asian-American rock band The Slants

By **SAM HANANEL**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday struck down part of a law that bans offensive trademarks, ruling in favor of a Portland-based Asian-American rock band called the Slants and giving a major boost to the Washington Redskins in their separate legal fight over the team name.

The justices were unanimous in saying that the 71-year-old trademark law barring disparaging terms infringes free speech rights guaranteed in the Constitution's First Amendment.

"It offends a bedrock First Amendment principle: Speech may not be banned on the ground that it expresses ideas that offend," Justice Samuel Alito said in his opinion for the court.

Slants founder Simon Tam tried to trademark the band name in 2011, but the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office denied the request on the ground that it disparages Asians. A federal appeals court in Washington later said the law barring offensive trademarks is

unconstitutional and the Supreme Court agreed.

The Redskins made similar arguments after the trademark office ruled in 2014 that the name offends American Indians and canceled the team's trademark. That case, before a federal appeals court in Richmond, had been on hold while the Supreme Court considered the Slants case.

Tam insisted he was not trying to be offensive, but wanted to transform a derisive term into a statement of pride. The Redskins also contend their name honors American Indians, but the team has faced decades of legal challenges from Indian groups that say the name is racist.

Tam said the band was "beyond humbled and thrilled" with the ruling.

"This journey has always been much bigger than our band: it's been about the rights of all marginalized communities to determine what's best for ourselves," he said.

Despite intense public pressure to change the Redskins name, team owner Dan Snyder has refused, saying in the

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FILM REVIEW: BFFS Reunite for Raunchy 'Rough Night'

By **Kam Williams**
For The Skanner News

Jessica (Scarlett Johansson) and Peter (Paul W. Downs) are on the verge of tying the knot. But prior to walking down the aisle together, they've agreed to simultaneously throw themselves bachelor's and bachelorette's parties. But while she flies down to Miami for a swinging soiree' with a quartet of her closest college classmates, his relatively-modest plan is merely to share a refined evening of wine tasting with a few nerdy buddies.

Since Jess is also in the midst of a campaign for the state senate, she doesn't want their reunion to get so out of control as to generate the sort of negative press that might hurt her candidacy. However, she's blissfully unaware that decorum is the last thing on the mind of Alice (Jillian Bell), the girlfriend entrusted with scheduling their agenda.

Alice sees the getaway as an opportunity for the BFFs to indulge

“What ensues is a relentlessly-hilarious, ever-escalating comedy of errors

one last time in the sort of depravity they enjoyed on campus a decade ago, when they would get wasted playing beer pong on a typical Friday night. Consequently, she's prepared for a wild weekend which includes everything from cocaine to a male stripper.

Such activities might not sit well with another attendee, Frankie (Ilana Glazer). After all, she's not only a lesbian, but a repeat offender worried about violating the "three strikes" law mandating a life sentence. However, pal Pippa (Kate McKinnon), a clown returning from Australia for a good time, is up for anything, as is overstressed Blair (Zoe Kravitz) who needs to decompress from



'Rough Night'

an ugly custody battle.

The mayhem starts right in the airport terminal when Alice uncorks a bottle of champagne in celebration, only to unwittingly trigger a stampede by passengers mistaking the pop for a gunshot. Then, upon arriving at their beachfront rental house, the girlfriends are invited by naughty next-door neighbors Lea (Demi Moore) and Pietro (Ty Burrell) to participate in an orgy.

The plot thickens soon after the exotic dancer Alice hired rings the doorbell. Before he has a chance to shed all of his clothes, he accidentally hits his head and promptly passes away. Against their better judgment, Jessica and company decide to dump the body in the ocean rather than call the cops. And what ensues is a relentlessly-hilarious, ever-escalating comedy of errors.

Thus unfolds "Rough Night," a raunchy romp most reminiscent of *The Hangover* (2009), although it also has moments likely to re-

mind you of "Bridesmaids" (2011) and "Weekend at Bernie's" (1989). The movie marks the phenomenal directorial debut of Lucia Aniello, the first woman to direct an R-rated comedy since Tamra Davis made "Half Baked" in 1998 with Dave Chappelle.

Laughs galore in a bawdy bachelorette party gone from bad to worst!

Excellent ★★★★★

Rated R for crude sexuality, drug use, coarse humor, brief bloody images and pervasive profanity
Running time: 101 min.

Distributor: Columbia Pictures



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Review

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and the next thing you know she's landed in France sporting a bright orange backpack festooned with a Canadian flag. Her troubles start right off the bat, when she gets stuck in a subway turnstile thanks to that oversized valise.

The slapstick escalates further when the weight of the knapsack causes her to topple into the Seine while posing for a photo on a bridge. She has to shed the bag to survive the ordeal, and ends up separated from all her possessions, including her passport, cell phone, cash and clothes.

It is in these dire straits that Fiona crosses paths



'Lost in Paris'

with Dom (Abel), a man living in a tent pitched along the banks of the river who soon becomes hopelessly smitten with her. So, Fiona finds herself having to fend of the advances of an ardent admirer while frantically searching for her missing aunt.

The ensuing chase proves every bit as charming and sublime as it is hilarious and implausible. A disarmingly-endearing homage to the silent film era!

Excellent ★★★★★

Unrated

In French and English

with subtitles

Running time: 83 min.

Distributor: Oscilloscope Laboratories

To see a trailer for *Lost in Paris*, visit TheSkanner.com.

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