

Op/ED: NFL and the National Anthem foolishness from sports 4

good actions of policemen far outweigh the bad actions.

You see, someone forgot to tell NFL players and their respective union that this is the 21st Century. NFL fans work hard to afford tickets or to sit in their living rooms or man caves to watch games, letting their eyeballs give reason for advertisers to sponsor games. Vendors work hard to earn money for their families. These non-millionaires provide the multi-million dollars to pay NFL players and their owners. These fans want to enjoy their time off. If these fans were to interrupt these players' leisure time with protests to drive across the goal line some political rhetoric, all hell would break out.

These NFL players clearly have neither respect nor regard for fans, vendors, viewers or even for blacks living in the hood who got their television sets stolen by some black thugs who had more rights than an everyday hard working black citizen.

Think about it. Colin "Mod Squad" Kaepernick could have thought this out. With his influence, he could have organized a series of townhall meetings between policemen and community citizens bringing in other NFL players to form a positive network to address the issue of police brutality and to better relations between community and police.

But what does this spoiled brat do? He doesn't sit down and write out and implement an agenda as did young Freedom Riders of the 60's and a then twenty-something Martin Luther King, Jr. in the 50's. Civil rights

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protests were organized in spite of the bloodshed, extreme police brutality, police dogs, water hoses, and a corrupt judicial system. Their sincere protests resulted in the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Bill and the 1965 Voting Rights Act. But what does this spoiled brat do? He wears socks sporting police as pigs. He kneels during the National Anthem. Then many in Black Lives Matter follow him when I've never seen or heard of him marching in a Black Lives Matter protest. If he had, it went unpublicized. And believe you me with his ego and name recognition, he would have gotten ample publicity.

And another thing. I have been in many communities where African American seniors have whispered to me that they want the police there. Whispered, because they are too afraid of bullying by black elites or black leaders or black thugs, or white pseudo liberals. (Just check with

Dennis Rodman, a fine athlete, who also was bullied and threatened by these holier-than-thou trash, but still had the guts to black man-up). These seniors and other black decent citizens won't dare speak out because of PCBT—Politically Correct Black Thang.

I am wondering as so many others why NFL players cannot protest the growing black-on-black brutality in Chicago or protest bad water in Flint, or black illiteracy.

Yes, C.K. sports socks of police as pigs, and the NFL had no problem with this; yet, the NFL leadership certainly had a problem when the Dallas Cowboys wanted to honor the five policemen who were lured into traps and assassinated. I can't even begin to understand the League's logic for this or why no NFL player asked, "Why?" The NFL and their NFL stars by their action certainly have no respect for the police who protect them during game time or who put their lives and limb in danger when they come to the aid of citizens regardless of race, color, or creed.

But NFL players and their anything-goes Players union can be assured that this mess will end a whole lot quicker this year? Why? Because the bottom line is that this undefined protest is hurting the bottom line: Money, and the last I heard was that money was the basis of those multi-million dollar salaries to afford those gated communities and private bodyguards. I don't see any of them giving up their paychecks for the Cause. Yet,

they have no 'unbiased consciousness' screwing over vendors trying to pay the mortgage, rent, and utility bills. When the real Civil Rights Movement was going on, black folks pooled their money, cars, pennies and dimes for the Cause.

And back to you, NFL players, the Black community is not with you – no more than to give you perfunctory lip service because it is PCBT to do so. Look around. You don't see any black folks out in the street with raised fists or banners sticking by you. Black folks are sick and tired of you, young black millionaires, hiding behind Colin K's piggy socks and the National Anthem. They're even sick and tired of the

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NAACP marching on behalf of black millionaires when there are more pressing socio-economic problems in the Black community to solve. This once-venerable organization did not even march on bad water in Flint, or in Chicago where black-on-black murder rate is ascending to a point of making blacks extinct in the city.

But rest assured, NFL players, this will end. Common sense will come out on top. The NFL needs to expand its reach and look for those young men who won't mind standing during the National Anthem and protest on their own time. They'll respect vendors and fans in a 21st Century America where police brutality is not nearly as fatal or dominant as it was before and in the 1960s.

This will end. The NFL will expand its franchise to other nations. Any fool can see that it's putting down yards for this goal. Young men from Africa and Eastern Europe who are hungry and talented would give their eyeteeth for these opportunities. In fact, the NFL should implement an outreach program that will recruit potential young players now living in the hood or in the Appalachian hills or rural areas or even in suburbs. The NFL also needs to focus on athletes at Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) where the NFL initially got its talent (Jerry Rice is a hard-working example of that HBCU talent).

The handful of NFL players who get it (but who continue to kowtow to peer pressure) will be looking long term for ways to be owners or part owners of an NFL franchise. Those non-thinking cowardly NFL players (black dandelions) who follow C.K. will be out the door, not because they were thrown out but because they reveled in their own stupidity of not realizing that as

athletes their careers by nature are not long, and it will be just a matter of time before their twenties kick them into their 30's (with that in between time of not knowing when or if an injury will occur), then it's game over. Trust you me, this haphazard movement will go the way of any faddish footnote movement.

The owners will wait you out and continue their little PR campaign (i.e. latest policy of giving you a choice of either standing for the National Anthem or hiding out in the locker room). The owners will continue to give funds to some of your worthy causes to appease your stupidity (and it is stupidity by any other name), to make you feel vindicated, like you won something at Vanity Fair, to make you feel like a MAN.

I could only feel bemused disgust when cameras panned across the faces of those kneeling NFL players who held the blank expression that they didn't know what the hell was going on.

This will end, because in the middle of the night when a black thug breaks into a black person's house, steals his stuff or beats his brains, or rapes his wife or daughter, who ya gonna call? You can bet your black ass that it won't be the Ghostbusters, the NFL players, the NFL owners, Colin "Mod Squad" Kaepernick, the NAACP or Black Lives Matter for that matter.

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NFL partners with Howard University See sports page 3

NFL policy statement on National Anthem ... from sports page 1

tion among many that thousands of NFL players were unpatriotic. This is not and was never the case.

This season, all league and team personnel shall stand and show respect for the flag and the Anthem. Personnel who choose not to stand for the Anthem may stay in the locker room until after the Anthem has been performed.

We believe today's decision will keep our focus on the game and the extraordinary athletes who play it—and on our fans who enjoy it.

POLICY STATEMENT

The 32 member clubs of the National Football League have reaffirmed their strong commitment to work alongside our players to strengthen our communities and advance social justice. The unique platform that we have

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created is unprecedented in its scope, and will provide extraordinary resources in support of programs to promote positive social change in our communities.

The membership also strongly believes that:

All team and league personnel on the field shall stand and show respect for the flag and the Anthem.

The Game Operations Manual will be revised to remove the re-

quirement that all players be on the field for the Anthem.

Personnel who choose not to stand for the Anthem may stay in the locker room or in a similar location off the field until after the Anthem has been performed. A club will be fined by the League if its personnel are on the field and do not stand and show respect for the flag and the Anthem.

Each club may develop its own work rules, consistent with the above principles, regarding its personnel who do not stand and show respect for the flag and the Anthem.

The Commissioner will impose appropriate discipline on league personnel who do not stand and show respect for the flag and the Anthem.

NAACP statement on NFL policy; Critical of 'gag' order on protesting police brutality

May 23, 2018 (BALTIMORE)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the nation's premier civil rights organization issued the following statement regarding the National Football League (NFL) owners decision to ban kneeling on the field by players as symbolic protests against the unfair treatment of African-Americans.

"Protest is an American tradition; by protesting we work to hold our country accountable to its highest ideals. Instead of coming together to address an issue disproportionately plaguing the African-American, The NFL owners have chosen to bury their heads and silence players. Players cannot disconnect from the aggression African-Americans

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face every day. Just a few weeks ago, an NFL player was stopped by police and accused of being a gang member. Others including Michael Bennett have experienced dangerous and threatening experiences at the hands of po-

lice. "The issue of police brutality remains a pressing issue when 408 people have been killed by police this year. Black men are almost three times more likely to be killed by the use of deadly force than White men. Despite the annual killing of approximately 1,000 people by police, in a 12-year period, only 28 police officers were convicted of murder or manslaughter for an on-duty killing.

"The NAACP supports and commends the athletes in the NFL, NBA, and WNBA who refuse to stay quiet and just play ball - they stand strong with all people who continue to fight for social justice."

Quarterback Tom Brady talks about legacy and longevity on OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network ... See sports page 3

