

9/18/2018

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Air Date: 18 September 2018
Title: National Anthem Protests

This is Dianne Daniels for Brookings Harbor Voices.

The start of football season again raises the issue of players taking a knee during the national anthem to protest police brutality towards minorities, unequal rights, and general dislike for the US, evidently believing this to be the proper time, place, and audience to exercise their 1st amendment rights.

When people, most notably, President Trump, expressed their disagreement with the appropriateness of the time, place and manner of such protests, the players said the President and those who disagree were being divisive. But it's a no brainer: the players started it. They certainly should've known that millions of people were likely to object to hijacking the longstanding tradition of singing the national anthem before sporting events. No matter which side you're on, the national anthem unites us. Their action divides us.

Most people don't want a dose of politics or social issues with their sports, restaurant meals, plays, concerts, and other entertainment venues. We're there for fun, entertainment and to escape from issues. I certainly don't expect to pay to hear opinions on issues of the day at such places.

Further, President Trump asked players to identify victims of inappropriate treatment by police, saying he'd have their cases investigated as he did with the woman he recently pardoned for an inappropriately long sentence. When the President met with religious and community leaders to discuss problems and solutions for inner city minority communities, a minister who attended was derided by the black and liberal communities including advocating his congregants abandon his church. Evidently, being anti-Trump is more important.

Disrespecting the national anthem is disrespecting America and those who serve it. Alienating and insulting a huge segment of your customers isn't good business.

Thank you for listening. And have nice day on the Wild Rivers Coast.