Kneeling In Protest – NFL UPDATE
By: Andreis Foxwell

"The issue of kneeling has nothing to do with race. It is about respect for our Country, Flag and National Anthem. NFL must respect this!” - Donald Trump.

This is one of many tweets Donald Trump made of the phenomenon of kneeling during the National Anthem, first made famous by former 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick. It’s a form of peaceful and positive protest by people who are aware of the injustice this country was built on, and those who protest the unlawful cop killings of black men and women. There have been several others who have done the same, but have been heavily criticized, such as the Pittsburgh Steelers. There are also a lot of people who agree and respect the players, especially since they aren’t breaking any rules or laws of the NFL or the United States.

Donald Trump also went on to call the players’ mothers “b***es”. While he has the right to his own opinion, many have wondered whether this was really the thing to do or way to handle the situation, especially seeing how he is supposed to be representing our country. Why did he feel so comfortable making such a statement (on a Twitter account)? Clearly, Trump displayed a lack of professionalism here. Meanwhile, mothers of NFL players like Teresa Kaepernick, the mother of the originator of these protests Colin Kaepernick, clapped back at Donald Trump over Twitter by saying, “Guess that makes me a proud b***!”

It has become incredibly controversial, since players began kneeling or staying in the locker room during the National Anthem. Some respect it some hate it and some people like President Trump even go as far to think that the players and coaches that partake in the protest should be fired. I guess it all depends on how we feel about the social issues that occur, as of late. Those who dislike the injustice of the police brutality feel as though the kneeling protest is necessary. But those who agree or don’t care about the context behind why people are protesting seem to hate the kneeling. What comes to your mind when you hear or see these topics?

VEGAS
By: Jayson Harris (aka Jay Butta)

LAS VEGAS- at first it sounded like fireworks, then the meaning of the loud, crackling noise began to spread, unevenly, through the huge crowd…

A suspect identified as Stephen Paddock was the murderer of the deadliest shooting that happened in Las Vegas on a Sunday night on October 1, 2017 killing 58 people leaving hundreds injured. Police responded around 10 pm, moments after the shooting occurred.

President trump, who plans to visit Las Vegas on Wednesday, October 4, 2017, calls the shooting an “act of pure evil.” Who in their right mind would ever think of shooting an innocent crowd of people at a concert? Only a mentally unstable person would. Everyone’s prayers go out to the families and friends of the victims who were lost or injured at this devastating event.
"The Pursuit of Happyness" Reflection  
By: Tashay Peterson

Mr. Gardner demonstrated perseverance because although he faced many struggles, trials, and tribulations, he never gave up. He kept strength and inspiration.

Mr. Gardner’s son showed respect because he struggles well along with his dad. He knew that life was rough for them, but he still loved and respected his dad, and he trusted the process.

They both represented excellence because they finally can say goodbye to the struggle. They can finally start a new life and truly live comfortably and happy!
Session 1 Highlights!
Staff Spotlight — Mr. Ameen
By: Hadiyah Brown

A: What do you got for me?

H: Why did you take this position at YouthBuild?
A: I was real good at all three. We didn’t have a lot of basketball and volleyball. I was real good at cross country, played a sport every season. I ran cross country, played a sport every season. I ran cross country, played a sport every season.

H: What were you like in high school?
A: What do you got for me?

H: If you could change anything about this country, what would it be? And Why?
A: What do you got for me?

H: What’s your greatest strength?
A: What do you got for me?

H: Do you know your heritage?
A: What do you got for me?

H: Peanut butter or chocolate?
A: What do you got for me?
H: How do you feel about cultural appropriation?
A: That’s a loaded question Hadiyah! ~laughs~
H: If you could put it in two to three sentences.
A: It frustrates me because it devalues the essence of one’s culture. After a while, it gets watered down and wherever this piece of culture started; the entity of the group, the person - it almost reshapes that identity. I grew up in the early essence of hip-hop, being forty years old, and I see what hip-hop has become now. I don’t mean just music - but culturally what hip-hop is now. And that jawn anything! (laughs) I guess that’s evolution, but it does sting a bit, especially if folks don’t honor the true essence, or [if they] retell the story in a way that’s like “What? That didn’t happen! That wasn’t the original intent!” [This is why] I always try to provide context [for] a lot of things, especially if I know about it culturally.

H: What’s your favorite color?
A: An earth tone.
H: Green? Brown?
A: A brown, a tan - something like that.

H: Did you choose to go bald or did it come?
A: It came! My hair started to thin in my late twenties, early thirties. I remember having this conversation with Ms. Zuri in here! I was like “Zuri, I gotta cut it!” and she was like “Ak - just cut it! It’s gonna look okay underneath there. The beard alright - it’s gonna look alright!” (laughs) My mother’s father was bald. Male pattern baldness is a gene that goes through your mother. But my grandfather had a George Jefferson jawn, and I wasn’t about to be about that life (laughs). But yeah, it was thinning really bad - it had a little rooftop jawn going. I couldn’t brush it forward no more, [so I] cut it was thinning really bad be about that life my grandfather had a George that goes through your mother. But male pattern baldness is a gene (laughs)

H: How would you describe the color red to a blind man?
A: Woooow! Um, my association with red has a lot to do with heart, passion, love. So, I would use words like: when do you feel your most energetic? When I think of red, I think of blood pumping through veins; I think of heart and love. When are you most excited? When your blood boils. It’s a thin line. You could be excited, or you could be angry.

H: Are you more of a hunter or gatherer?
A: These are really good questions Hadiyah... Hm. I don’t know. Some things, when I see them, I go after them. Once I get locked in on something, I’m gonna go get it. Nothing is going to get in the way, nobody will know what I’m going after - Imma just go get it. There’s also a part of me that’s very much a gatherer. Before I hunt, I try to gather. I have to get all the relevant information, gather all the facts, and then once I get that locked in (claps hands) I’m gonna go get it. So, it’s not either/or. To me, it’s both. You can’t be a good hunter if you don’t gather.

H: Do you sing in the shower?
A: Nahhh. Naaah. I sing in the car, with the music on!

H: If you could shape-shift into any animal, what would it be?
Why?
A: Shape-shift...
H: Like, you could turn it on and off.
A: We did this quiz in a meeting that I was in before, and it said I was a lion.
H: ~laughs~
A: I don’t really like animals, for real.
H: What? How do you not like animals!!
A: I don’t really know! It’s just never been my thing! Listen - I’d trade the shade, animals, pets - all for the asphalt in a street corner any day.

H: What’s your favorite season?
A: I like Summer. I like the sun. I like being hot, I like being outside, I like the sun not going down until nine o’clock. Summertime.

H: What’s your favorite color?
A: An earth tone.
H: Green? Brown?
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H: What do you think about when you’re alone in your car?
A: I think about a lot of things. I think about myself, first. Why I think the way I think, why I make the decisions I make. I think about the people I interacted with and encountered that day and why they did some of the things they did...this really internal reflection of who I was that day. I’m really self-reflective. I started doing it on purpose many years ago, and it’s become a routine. Subconsciously, it just happens. I [also] think about the world a lot and why [some] things happen. [For example], why does man do evil things to hurt others? I think about spirituality; what a lot of people’s different organized religions are - certainly for me, I remember Allah a lot. But, outside of a standard context or [outside] of what everyone thinks a higher or spiritual being is.

H: Frozen yogurt or ice cream?
A: Ice cream. Not even close.
H: ~laughs~

H: What is one question you hate answering?
A: You know it’s crazy because I do this to everyone else, but “what’s wrong with you?” I hate that. I try not to answer it.
H: In what context?
A: Like, if someone sees me down. I don’t like that question. Nothing gotta be wrong, you know what I’m saying? I could just be in the zone. I think I try to ask people [instead] is what are you thinking? What’s on your mind?

H: What’s the longest you’ve been without sleep?
A: Maybe eighteen, twenty hours. My eldest daughter was sick when she was first born. There were some times I was coming back from coaching a basketball game and going right to CHOP. I’d look at the clock and be like - damn, I’ve been up since like four-thirty and now it’s two o’clock the next morning. That kinda time.

H: Have you ever lied about a day off?
A: Absolutely.
H: Alright, so what’s the craziest?
A: I don’t know if I’ve [ever] made up anything crazy. Here’s how I pose it to you - it’s hard to go to a workplace and tell [them] mentally I don’t got it today. We’re used to [a] day off being something physical, or I gotta be sick. Early on in my career, that just wasn’t a thing. I think what jobs are starting to realize now, especially in social services and education, is that sometimes people are just mentally burned out. But that was a taboo thing. You couldn’t say that! Self-care and mental health! You gotta get up and go to work.
You had to make up a reason why. And for the really good supervisors, they didn’t really care. They could just sense that you were off. But that always put me in an awkward position - mentally I am drained, that this work took a toll on me last night and I don’t got it. I never made up no wild story though (laughs). No Kevin Hart deerbra jawn! (laughs) I can’t lie that deep. That takes too much energy to make up something crazy like that. But yeah, you get the standard “I don’t feel good.”

H: Morning or night?
A: Night!
H: Why?
A: Because I like the night. I think I just always enjoyed the night, and everything that happens and is associated with the night.
H: ~laughs~
A: Good and bad Hadiyah! Don’t judge me, but good and bad!

H: What is something you always wanted? Did you get it yet?
A: No lie - I wanted to be just like my dad. And, I got that.
H: What did your dad do?
A: He did this kind of work. Community work, working with young people. I used to go to work with him. That’s how I grew up. It ain’t a physical thing, but I remind myself of that all the time. Everybody loved him – the neighborhood loved him, young people loved him, his peers loved him. He just had a way about him when he was doing his thing.
H: I think you got it. Cause that sounds like you.
A: (laughs) Thank you Hadiyah.

Name:

YouthBuild Puzzle

Complete the crossword below

Once you finish the puzzle – rip it out and hand it over to Mr. Ant/Ms. Hiba for some CANDY!!!!!!
I am ME
I cannot be anybody else but me.
5’11 TEN toes DOWN!!! African American QUEEN
don’t let my clothes identify me!
I am me! No I do not wish to be any lighter
Nor do I wish to be any darker
I am me! Who are you to tell me how to be me! ?
I am me! I look in the mirror and what do I see,
No One else but me.
SO DON’T TELL ME WHO YOU WANT ME TO BE
OR HOW YOU WANT ME TO BE
I’M ALREADY WHO I WANT TO BE
AND THIS IS SIMPLY ME.

I am me.

-Tee
(Taryn Cantyre)
Have you ever
Lost Your life
In the middle
Of the day?

Have you ever
Coughed to the right
To cough the sickness away?

I've gone astray
More than
The stray cats with blue tats
Black maps and red straps
With hazmats and a hoodie

Stuff like that
Where's your bike at?
Not a bully.

You should push 'em
But pull 'em
To the other side of rose color glasses.

I'm glad.
I stopped the fight
I was avid.

Wipe my tears with scott
Like Travis
I might need a mop
Monosyllabic
If you have a dream
Go grab it.

Have you ever
Ran from a cop
So they won't
Send me to my celly
I just need peanut butter, peace,
broccoli, and celery

Look my peers in their eyes
Then ask them
If they love me
If I hate somebody now
Then later they'll be above me.

I come from Philly
Where the money is philly
Like George Washington.

Have you ever seen Compton,
Hollywood and moccasins?
Imma have to wash them then.

Have you ever seen
Edgar Allen Poe rap violent sin?
Naw never seen that jawn.
Imma have to watch him then.

Have you ever
Been to Motown
To see the black singer
Break the violin.

I have.
No young man try again.
Like an old head in
Philadelphia, Mississippi
Im almost done,
I know, I know
I hope that you going to miss me.

----------------------------------------------------

By: Ms. Taylor

Land of the free
Home of the brave

Free from what exactly?
Ain't shit free in a country of stolen land, gentrification and white supremacy.
Because correct me if I'm wrong
But that heavy percent of non whites in correction facilities wont agree
Triggered by a system designed against POC
No access to the same resources as the white man who arrests them
Encouraged to fight for your rights
What rights?
The ones that could cost you your life .. can we get a moment of silence.
Deep breath.

White pages, black text, white content.
The lack of diversity in history that was taught to me
Did not represent who I am.
Names and faces of essential black and brown leaders, where were they?
Stories of Malcolm and MLK wasn’t enough.
Where's the freedom in a child that’s not educated on where they come from?

And the home of the brave,
Patriotic courage?
But when I kneel for what I believe in,
in a country made at the hands of my ancestors,
I am dehumanized and encaged.
When I speak my rights,
I am shot down.
When I hold my fist in the air against the systemic fucks that run this country,
The land of oppressed,
That didn't come free,
I am no longer free, no longer a well-being.

My rights stripped from me with police brutality and white supremacy

Where free means white privilege
And brave means that I stand during my national anthem
Where defiant means I take a knee as a sign of unity, a statement
Against that embarrassment of a president
Against police brutality and racism
Against injustice for the list of names
Against so many other things I can say
A list too long to hold in one breath.
This is a call for unity before you kill me,
Too
Cause this is not my land
You are not so brave

There’s fear in your eyes on the other end of that barrel

Stop
Don't shoot
I can't breathe

Stop
Don't stand
Take a knee

"The police and policies, patrol philosophies of control
A cruel hand taking hold,
We let go to free them
So we could free us"