



Follow The Leader

As the act of kneeling becomes mainstream, let's not forget the man who lost much because of it.



Murjani Rawls

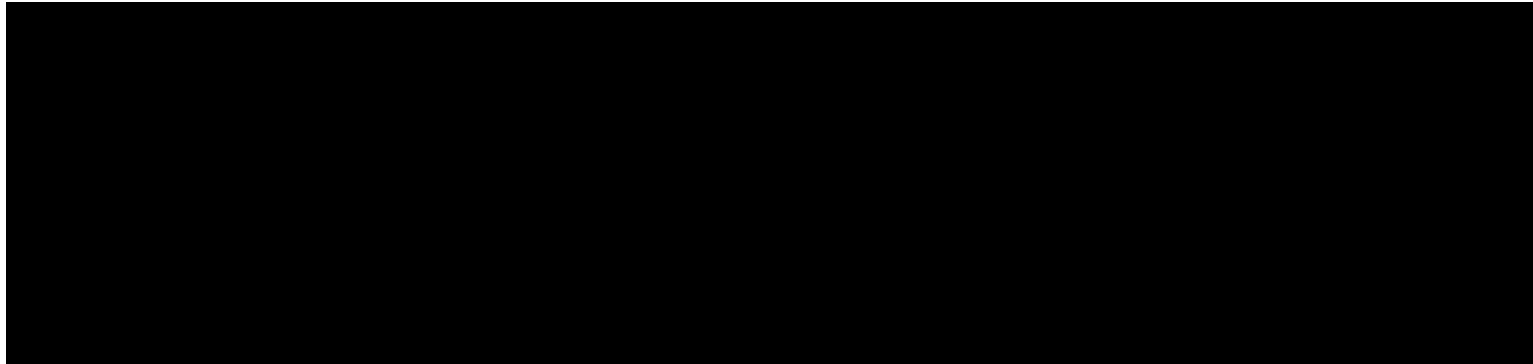
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Many have taken to the streets trying to convince the world that black lives matter. Former San Francisco 49ers Quarterback Colin Kaepernick started his protest during the playing of the National Anthem in 2016 highlighting injustices of police brutality. Afterward, he met with former Green Beret Nate Boyer and reached a compromise. That's where the kneeling during the national anthem started - a fact which is often ignored. This is why the [initial comments](#) from New Orleans Saints QB Drew Brees struck me as out of touch. I'm sure many others have shared his views on displays during the National Anthem.

If a former Green Beret can agree on not only the method of protest, but why the protest is occurring - it has to be that people are choosing to be willful ignorance. In football, the quarterback is looked upon as the leader of the team. It's a shame that Kaepernick, a man who took a stand to show the plights of people is gridlocked out of a profession that he's well qualified to do. At least, that's what I envision a leader to be. A person who does the right thing even in the angry gazes of many.





1. Isn't it a little morbid to be kneeling for over eight minutes to show solidarity in the memory of how a man got killed? Why does it take a hard instance of black death for people to finally see the light?

1. When did kneeling become the new thing that the 'cool kids' did? Over four years ago it was frowned upon. Now it's like 'planking' which is missing the point yet again.

Pioneers who go over the hill first have the most arrows in their backs. While it seems like the NFL and the world is starting to come around - the fact still remains. Colin Kaepernick has not had a job in the NFL since the 2017 league year resumed on March 9th. During his continued mission of philanthropy, it's met by silence from NFL authority figures and has been called a 'son a bitch.' It's easy for Roger Goodell to come out and make a statement to say that the NFL was wrong and that they are listening. Where are the voices of the owners? That's who we want to hear from the most. Will Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones [retract his statement](#) that any players disrespecting the flag won't play? For a league that has had many problems with things like domestic violence, why does the NFL continue to be adamant to keep the door shut on a figure like Colin Kaepernick?

Are we finally at the point where we talk about the causes of racism other than the symbol we upheld that have a different meaning to everyone? For a country that totes the rolls of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness - we do a bad job at ensuring everybody has it. that we need to cultivate a society in which everyone can thrive so that demonstrations such as this are not needed.



#BlackoutTuesday is over. The work needs to continue.

Now that #BlackoutTuesday is finished, the work needed to dismantle racism has only begun.

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