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## Super Bowl LI: Entertainment Or Protest?

Did the Super Bowl Become a Venue for a Demonstration?



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Feb 14, 2017

The Super Bowl is one of the most anticipated annual sporting events there is. Millions watch each year providing a perfect venue for corporations and businesses to advertise their products and services. However, this year had a noticeable difference. Companies like Budweiser, 84 Lumber and Airbnb have decided to subtly, or not so subtly, share a message — a message in protest of the new presidential administration.

Recap: Super Bowl LI (<http://www.powr.com/video/recap-super-bowl-li-186952>)



commercial tells the fictional story of Adolphus Busch, an immigrant who came to the U.S. to create the brand's now popular beer. Is it a poke at the stricter immigration laws or a corporation proud of one of their founders' entrepreneurial spirit? Their timing and choice of topic is certainly interesting.

Then there's the building materials company, 84 Lumber, and their emotional commercial. The end of the story, deemed too controversial to be aired, can be viewed on their website. It begins with a mother and daughter from Mexico who trek across their country, only to encounter an enormous wall. The emotional mother, realizing there was no way to climb the wall, breaks down only to have her daughter comfort her by giving her mother a handmade American flag. Only when they embrace does the mother notice light coming from around the corner of the wall. They rush to it, finding enormous doors that a construction worker built with 84's lumber. The mother and daughter swing the doors open to freedom with the message emblazoned on the screen, "The will to succeed is always welcome here." This seems like an obvious message against the Trump administration, but according to a tweet by the company (<https://twitter.com/i/moments/829168780823711744>), it is a symbolic tale of people becoming legal American citizens.

Airbnb decided not to be subtle in their message. In the ad, you see the message "We believe no matter who you are, where you're from, who you love or who you worship, we all belong. The world is more beautiful the more you accept. #weaccept," while faces of different genders and races fade in and out of the screen. On their website, the slogan "We believe in a world where anyone can belong," is emblazoned across the top of the page. They also started the Twitter campaign with various tweets on acceptance of all people. There really isn't any denying that their message is a direct protest to proposed legislation. Whether the American people accept it or not remains to be seen. But did the protest stop there?

At halftime, Lady Gaga, who is known to be controversial, put on a show like no other. Starting out with a passionate rendition of "God Bless America," she deftly weaves in the chorus of Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land," a song rife with an activist history. Woody wrote this song in sarcastic retaliation (<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/guthrie-writes-this-land-is-your-land>) of "God Bless America" that was very popular at the time. The song represents Guthrie's love of the ordinary man and his love of our country. Over the years it has become a symbol often used in protests against the rich and powerful. Did Lady Gaga choose this as a covert message? Let's look further into her performance.

When she recites part of the Pledge of Allegiance, "... one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all," drones form a light display representation of the American flag. After diving onto stage Lady Gaga sings "Born This Way," one of her own songs about acceptance, while a diverse group of dancers whirl across the stage. Even the lights that the audience had on the field were reminiscent of Lady Liberty's torch. At the end of her song "Million Reasons," she sings "...why don't you stay..." while hugging a girl of possible Middle Eastern descent.

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Could this all be a subtle protest? It would appear that her message is about unity, inclusion and acceptance of all, something she has always advocated. Interpretation is truly in the eyes of the beholder. Despite the possible messages of championing those who have been bullied, there was still entertainment to be found, and she obviously didn't offend too many viewers as Billboard Magazine reported her music sales (<http://www.billboard.com/articles/columns/chart-beat/7678178/lady-gaga-sales-surge-super-bowl-halftime-show>) increased over a whopping 1000 percent!

The evening's entertainment unfolded in a roller coaster of emotions, not just from the intense ending



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## When You Give A Girl A Dad

You give her everything



Tristen Duhon (/user/@tristenduhon)

Apr 10, 2017

They say that any male can be a father, but it takes a special person to be a dad. That dads are just the people that created the child, so to speak, but rather, dads raise their children to be the best they can be. Further, when you give a little girl a dad, you give her much more than a father; you give her the world in one man.

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**When you give a girl a dad, you give her a rock**

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Good bye sunny skies, and hello pumpkin spice!



Kelsey Thomas (/user/@kelseyathomas)

Aug 21, 2018

The sweet summer days of tanning on the beach are wrapping up. But, there's nothing to be sad about. In just one short year, that will probably fly by way too quickly, you'll be back in your beach chair and soaking up the summer sun rays. And as much as we will all miss the warm days of summer, there are plenty of things to look forward to when it comes to autumn.

If you were one of those lucky people to find a steamy summer romance this year, don't feel like you have to leave the person you've been falling for now that the season is changing. Autumn is the perfect

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