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INTERPRET LITERATURE

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No protests in football, no Trump in football

Aimee Coons
Dakota Student

Religious freedom and peaceful protest is protected under the Constitution, so why would these players get reprimanded? To kneel, to stand or to not participate are the current options for our nation's professional athletes during the national anthem. A tremendous amount of heated debate has been sparked due to this controversy. Even our fearless leader, President Trump, has weighed in on the situation by raging on Twitter, in classic fashion. Instead of word vomiting on Twitter, I would like to give my opinion in a calm and educated manner. Colin Kaepernick started his peaceful protest in 2016 and numerous professional athletes in the NFL and other organizations, have joined him. President Trump and many others claim that the protesters are kneeling out of disrespect to the flag. I do not agree with President Trump; I

Game Operations Manual: "The National Anthem must be played prior to every NFL game, and all players must be on the sideline for the National Anthem...should stand at attention, face the flag, hold helmets in their left hand and refrain from talking." In addition, the NFL's Official Playing Rules: Rule 5, Section 4, Article 8 states, "Throughout the period on game-day that a player is visible...players are prohibited from wearing, displaying or otherwise conveying personal messages..." These rules clearly prohibit all protesting currently going on.

Despite these rules there is no clearly defined reprimand. The NFL only states that players "may be fined." The nonchalance of consequences leaves large gaps of interpretation to be taken with rules and regulations. For example, what is the difference between Tim Tebow taking a knee in religious prayer on the field and Colin Kaepernick taking a knee

ee's collective bargaining agreement." This means that players must adhere to the guideline of the contract, one of which for the NFL is standing for the national anthem.

In current NFL rules, all protesters are subject to fines and reprimands. When the players put on their uniforms, they no longer just represent themselves, but they represent their team and organization. If they so choose to display personal messages, whether by prayer or protest, they are subject to reprimand, per their contract. Colin Kaepernick and fellow protesters actions are bold and gaining a tremendous amount of attention. I commend them for standing up...or should I say kneeling for something they believe in.

To form an opinion on this matter was difficult for me to do, but also important. I believe in standing up for what you believe in, but I also believe in professionalism and adhering to contracts. The protesters have broken their contracts and should be held accountable. But, the NFL needs to draw clearly defined rules and reprimands for players who have a breach in contract. Each player who has "displayed personal messages" should receive the same treatment.

It is argued that this protest is bigger than football, and that is true. Racism is not to be taken lightly. However, politics, protests and religious displays are not endorsed by the NFL. Protests need to be held off the field and President Trump needs to stay out of football.

Aimee Coons is a staff writer for Dakota Student. She can be reached at aimee.coons@ndus.edu

" Instead of word vomiting on Twitter, I would like to give my opinion in a calm and educated manner."

Aimee Coons, Staff writer

do not believe Kaepernick or the other protesters are being disrespectful. Kaepernick has stated that he kneels to show respect for the military who defend his right to protest and in protest of police brutality, racism and injustice. However, I have to disagree with the place and time of the protest. The NFL has specific rules and regulations for players, including conduct during the national anthem. The Washington Post's Cindy Boren cited the NFL's

in protest on the field? Both players have violated the rules by "displaying personal messages." fortunately, when a player signs a contract with their organization is where some of their constitutional rights stop and their contractual rights begin. According to Marc Edelman of Forbes.com "contractual free speech is an employee's right to free speech that arises from an employment agreement with a fixed term or a unionized employ-



Courtesy of Matt Dunham / AP
Players kneel on the Ravens sideline before the game in London versus the Jacksonville Jaguars. Joining the players was retired line-backer Ray Lewis, second from right.



Photo courtesy of Pixabay
Hurricane forces pile up debris on a coastal beach.

In solidarity with Puerto Rico

Nick Sallen
Dakota Student

Hurricane Maria wreaked havoc on Puerto Rico and other U.S. Virgin Islands with high winds and massive flooding. The hurricane has left the island without power by flooding streets, damaging buildings, plummeting telecommunication

it languish from post-hurricane miseries. Washington D.C. has allowed similar emergency funds and resources for Puerto Ricans that were earlier provided to Texas and Florida in their hurricane sufferings. Criticism has been mounting over the Trump administration's response to what is being

"This is what we got last night: four pallets of water, three pallets of meals and 12 pallets of infant food — which I gave them to the people of Comerio, where people are drinking off a creek. So I am done being polite. I am done being politically correct. I am mad as hell."

Carmen Yulín Cruz , San Juan mayor

poles and knocking out power lines for the next few months. 62 civilians lost their lives, and damages are estimated to be around \$50 billion. "We are dying, and you are killing us with the inefficiency and the bureaucracy," San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz said Friday at a news conference. She highlighted donations from companies and others, including 200,000 pounds of food donated by Goya, which was more than what federal aid provided. The mayor of Puerto Rico's largest city was rebuked by President Donald Trump on Saturday after pleading for more federal assistance in the wake of Hurricane Maria. "This is what we got last night: four pallets of water, three pallets of meals and 12 pallets of infant food — which I gave them to the people of Comerio, where people are drinking off a creek," Cruz said. "So I am done being polite. I am done being politically correct. I am mad as hell."

It's time to stand with Puerto Rico and not let

called an unfolding humanitarian crisis. However, Trump hit back early Saturday, accusing Cruz of "poor leadership ability" and criticizing Puerto Rican officials. "They want everything to be done for them when it should be a community effort," Trump tweeted. "10,000 federal workers now on island doing a good job." Emergency relief is their best hope for recovery from the dangerous situation in which Hurricane Maria left them. Puerto Ricans should stay strong and united after this harsh natural catastrophe. Although they have been enabled for the emergency fund by the government, all Americans should join hands and stand with their fellow citizens left suffering on the island. It's time to help them, not to debate their economic crisis and damages they suffered from the hurricane. Houston, the gulf side of Florida , Cuba and now Puerto Rico are in disarray. It will take years, maybe even decades, to bounce back. Emergency funds are being stretched very thin.

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Night of Professional Wrestling at the Alerus

A non-wrestling fan gets his first taste of the WWE

Diane Newberry
Dakota Student

Torin Walhood never thought he would find himself at a World Wrestling Entertainment event in Grand Forks, North Dakota. In fact, he was only vaguely aware of what the WWE was when I called him on the afternoon of Friday, Sept. 29 to see if he wanted to accompany me to WWE Live at the Alerus Center that night. On our short drive there, I try to fill him in on the kind of show he would be getting. To be fair, it's a lot to absorb, and I don't blame him for failing to be prepared as we took our seats in the "WWE-ified" Alerus. Like most of the uninitiated, he has a hard time



Kyle Zimmerman / Dakota Student
Roman Reigns (left) and Braun Strowman (right) lie on the mat after crashing through a table during the last man standing match Friday night at the Alerus Center.

grasping why so many people would want to watch contests that are fixed. There's no chance, no "real competition," only spectacle and flash. I hope that by the end of the night, he'll understand that that is what makes it all so wonderful. As an occasional watcher of the WWE, I've never been to an actual event myself. The ring looks much smaller than I expected.

The first match is between Finn Balor and Bray Wyatt. Balor's entrance is fairly bland, but Wyatt has an impressive lead up. The room goes dark and audience members start waving their cell phone lights. Slowly, a looming figure holding a lantern makes his way into the ring. I've been trying to explain to Torin that most wrestlers have schticks - a backstory and a character- but he doesn't seem to fully understand the implications of this this until Wyatt's showing. I quickly fill him in on the basics of Wyatt; he is an evil Southern cult leader. This is all one really needs to know.

"I don't endorse backwards Southern cults, but I'm interested to observe a purported member," Torin said. The match isn't all that exciting. Balor defeats the bad guy, and we move quickly on to the next spectacle: the cruiserweights division. This is the first fight of the evening to introduce the idea of defending a belt. Enzo Amore (an annoying character, but very popular with the 12-year-old boy sitting in front of us) walks out with the Raw Cruiserweights Champion belt. Before the match, Amore explains in detail how his opponent will not be able to take the belt due to a technicality. Apparently, Neville "laid hands on him" in a small drama that unfolded a few days earlier, and is therefore

disqualified from winning the belt tonight. The match proceeds anyway, with Neville putting up a better fight and ultimately winning, but unable to receive the belt. It is at this moment that I realize something I probably should have realized earlier. Any belt matches (which were all but two of the night) would have to be won by the defenders. The WWE is not going to change any storylines in a show in Grand Forks that is not being broadcasted anywhere. (At the Alerus Center, wrestling is even more fake than usual.)

I decide not to share this revelation with Torin. He seems to be getting more enthusiastic, and I don't want to ruin it. The next fight is a three-way "Triple Threat" tag team match, ostensibly for the title of "Raw Tag-Team Champions." Current champions Dean Ambrose and Seth Rollins must defend their title against their main rivals, Cesaro and Sheamus, and two very forgettable wrestlers who apparently have ties with The Miz.

At first, Torin is confused by the new format. "There's like six people in there and they're all muscle-bound white dudes!" he complains, unable to keep track of what is happening. As the fight wears on, however, he becomes more engaged. "Cross the floor! Touch his hand!" he suddenly shouts from beside me. Seth Rollins seems incapacitated, dragging his body across the ring, desperately trying to tag in Ambrose after a devastating blow.

"Torin, are you actually getting into this?" I ask. "No," he says simply, never taking his eyes off the ring. During the next fight, which is particularly forgettable, I begin talking about how I wish that there was more time being spent on the mic. My favorite part of wrestling is the oratory craft of it - the bizarre, fantastic speeches that the wrestlers must give before, during and/or after matches about their prowess. Torin doesn't quite understand how important this component is, so I point out that the Rock's excellent old promos are why he was able to transcend his wrestling fame. Torin doesn't know, of course, of the Rock's origins, but is pleasantly surprised. "Oh - I would totally watch the Rock do this!" he exclaims. I nod in agreement; he's starting to get it. He's equally delighted a few minutes later when he learns where John Cena comes from.

The second half of the show is vastly improved from the first; they know how to keep their audience interested. The five-way women's match is frenetic, flashy and entertaining, and Torin gets to see his first truly great promo when the Miz gets on the mic.

"Is he trying to inspire boos or applause? I don't know what to give him!" Torin said. The final match, between Bran Strowman and Roman Reigns, is actually imbued with excitement due to the fact that there is no belt on the line, and therefore, anyone can win. Torin is confused, though, by the excited announcement by the master of ceremonies that this is a Last Man Standing match and that there are no longer any rules. "But I didn't understand the rules in the first place. How does this change the game?" he asks.

After an entertaining bout that featured the breaking of two tables and a metal staircase to the face, Reigns wins. Torin admits that he was "genuinely excited by the table." People begin to file out of the center, and as we

wait by the car, blocked in by exiting traffic, we meet Gary Kosmatka, a North Dakota native who has been following wrestling "longer than you been alive." Kosmatka reports that he's traveled as far as Fargo and Minneapolis to watch wrestling, and that they used to have local wrestling shows in Grafton, but no longer. He says that he enjoyed the show tonight, but laments the fact that "years ago, it was more realistic in a way. Now, it's not as vicious."

Although he breaks the fourth wall by talking about wrestling's realism, Kosmatka still says that he "would've said Bayley would have won the women's championship," genuinely surprised that the belt defender continued to keep the title. I'm taken aback by the comment, assuming that a seasoned fan would have come to the realization long ago that small time shows like the one in Grand Forks don't get to affect overarching WWE storylines. It's hard to tell though, with wrestling fans. I think fondly of the little



Kyle Zimmerman / Dakota Student
Professional wrestler Finn Balor surveys the crowd at the Alerus Center on Friday night during WWE Live.

boy who had been sitting in front of me that night, excitedly giving his father play-by-play coverage of the event over the phone. "The self-deceit is interesting," Torin comments as we finally drive away. Any of the magic he felt in those final moments of the show has dissipated, replaced by the old cynicism.

Diane Newberry is the news editor for Dakota Student. She can be reached at diane.newberry@und.edu

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Moose on the loose

Manitoba Moose host Iowa Wild at the Ralph Engelstad Arena

Photos by Nick Nelson / Dakota Student

The Manitoba Moose and the Iowa Wild faced off Friday night at the Ralph Engelstad Arena. The Moose came back from a 2-1 deficit in the third period to defeat the Wild 3-2.

Kyle Kinnamon
Dakota Student

On Friday Sept. 29, 2017, the Manitoba Moose played their annual preseason game against the Iowa Wild at the one-of-a-kind Ralph Engelstad Arena. For many fans, this is just another preseason game, but for the players this is an important game for their future in hockey. The Moose and the Wild rosters are filled with current American Hockey League, East Coast Hockey League,

many different Canadian junior leagues and recently graduated college hockey players. For those who are not current AHL players, these preseason games are an evaluation of how they can adjust to the more demanding, physical and strategic style of play. This especially for the former college hockey players.

College hockey historically has been the less popular route for many hockey players looking to advance their hockey careers. Recently there has been a shift in

the culture, and more young players are looking to go the college route to develop their game and strength instead of playing many years of junior hockey.

For current Manitoba Moose and former Michigan State player Mason Appleton, the choice to go to college was simple.

“For me, I came into college still needing to build my body, put on strength and speed,” Appleton said. “I was only there (Michigan State) for two years, but I felt it (college hockey) helped my game, and make me

ready for the pro level.”

The development of the player in college hockey can be instrumental to a player’s success in their careers. Friday’s game was a prime example of what these former college hockey players can contribute.

Both goals for the Iowa Wild were scored by former Notre Dame player Mario Lucia. One of those goals was assisted by former Quinnipiac player Sam Anas, who played for Quinnipiac in the 2016 National Championship game against the Uni-

versity of North Dakota.

As for the Manitoba Moose, the game-winning goal was scored by former Lake Superior State University forward Buddy Robinson. Former Miami University player Cameron Schilling assisted on the game tying and game-winning goal.

Former college hockey players lit up the scoreboard on Friday night, but many contributed in the areas of the game that go unseen to many fans. Moose player Mason Appleton created countless turnovers in the neutral zone and played a physical game with his 6’2” 201-pound frame. While Appleton stayed off the score sheet in his first game, he was happy with his play in his first AHL game.

When asked about his adaptation to the AHL style of play compared to college hockey, Appleton felt it was natural.

“The strength of the players and structure of the game,” Appleton said. “College hockey I see as more run-and-gun style of play, and I think this (AHL) is a much more structured and simple style of play. Which I like to play.”

Friday’s game was exactly what Appleton meant. Simple and structured. Both the

Wild and Moose were playing a chess game with one another. Each waited for the other to make a mistake, so they could capitalize on those mistakes. As the game progressed, so did the mistakes, especially in the second period.

The second period was filled with penalties. The Wild scored their only goal of the period on the power play. Neither team could capitalize on any other power play. That shows the strength of each penalty kill.

While there were plenty of opportunities from penalties as the intensity of physical aspect of the game ramped up, each team stuck to their game and structure, especially the former college players.

Only time will tell how these players’ careers will pan out, and if choosing the college route was worth it for those few who did. If Friday night was an indication of the future of these players, then the college route was definitely worth it.

Kyle Kinnamon is a sports writer for Dakota Student. He can be reached at kyle.kinnamon@und.edu



Iowa Wild right winger Gerald Mayhew (#20) evades Manitoba Moose defenders Friday night at the Ralph Engelstad Arena.

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