

Attention All Whiners
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Once upon a time, our national pastime was baseball. But somewhere along the way, we decided to replace our love of that great and subtle game with a concerted effort to become full time whiners and complainers. Forget that 30 years ago we assigned seats on the plane at the airport with little lettered stickers. Now we are deeply annoyed because seat 12D was requested, and only 11D was available last night as I reserved my seat from the comfort of my study while drinking a Coors and munching on take-out Chinese food. When a non stop flight from Washington to San Francisco is delayed an hour, all I hear is complaining about how screwed up the airline is - because the six hour trip took seven hours. You know the trip that 70 years ago took four days - the one that 150 years ago took three months.

Never in the history of the world has any society, country, or group had the opportunities, luxuries, goods, services, or standard of living that we enjoy today in the United States. Yet somehow, we take all of this for granted, and instead of being thankful for what we have, instead of being grateful to those who worked, and gave all to achieve our success and our freedoms, we whine and complain that our 27" television is too small and our three year old car is practically ready for the junkyard. We rename our public arenas after corporations, instead of honoring those to whom we owe a debt of faith and remembrance. In a rapidly changing world, we have lost our way and forgotten who we are and where we came from.

So the next time you suffer a significant hardship, something like a luke-warm latte, suck it up and remember what's really important - to enjoy and appreciate what we have for the short time that we are here.