

Tamuri Richardson

On May 15, 2018, I was physically assaulted at Napa Valley College in the parking lot, I was coming back from lunch with my then 11 year old daughter who was in Independent Study and we pulled into the parking lot to finish our lunch and get ready to attend my 1:30pm Humanities class in the Art Bldg.

As I pulled up I notice 2 women in the parking lot being berated, screamed at and disrespected by a man that was clearly over 6'0 feet tall a towering image to both women, who could not have been over 5'3" each. I observed because I was not sure if this was in fact a domestic issue and I would not insert myself into that, but after a short while it was obvious that none of the parties knew each other, within minutes while he was screaming at the ladies and telling them to look at him when he speaks to them and take off their shades when he addresses them, he started turning visibly red and started shaking immensely, now mind you several men at this point have walked past us and none have said a word to intervene or assist on their behalf.

I told my daughter at that time, that if you see something and can make a difference then that is what you always do. At that point I got out of my car, NEVER looked at the man, but I encouraged the women to get in their car and drive off before it escalated to something violent, I told them ignore him and get in your car and drive away, but unbeknownst to me at the time, they couldn't he was blocking their every move and they could go nowhere.

We exchanged a few more words and I told him to get in his car and drive away. It appeared that he was tired and leaving, I checked on the ladies to make sure that they were okay and payed no more attention to the man. So both I and my daughter headed off to our class from the parking lot and as we got closer in view of the building, I noticed that he was standing at the door of the building with the door wide open, I had no idea he was a student at the college, but he was. There were 2 entry doors and he was standing at the left one, as I walked up he started screaming, "I wasn't talking to you Bitch and you keep your fucking mouth shut, unless I tell you to talk". I told him to "go to Hell" and told my daughter lets walk through the other door and he was screaming and calling me Bitches and saying Fuck you and everything else under the sun, as I grabbed the door handle to the right door, he let go of the left door and started walking behind me screaming and yelling and before I knew it, he kicked me in my back so hard it pushed me and my daughter into the building. No one helped me or came to my aide during the physical altercation, the police came and took reports, did not arrest him. The man stated I attacked him, even though there were 4 witness that I didn't know state that they saw the altercation and I had never touched him, he lied and wanted me arrested to cover his ass, the report was sent to the District Attorneys office and to this day, they refuse to prosecute him.

I like a number of negatives, 1st I am a Black American, 2nd I am a woman, 3rd I have the audacity to love, respect and honor myself. The DAs office has done what this country perpetuates time and time again, is that people of color and women have no value. The school never called me to check on me I had to go crying to the Presidents office demanding answers as to why my school wouldn't check to see if Im okay, what message are you sending to women and people of color on this campus? who does this kind of behavior and does it only matter when it's a women in your family?

I learned that day the importance of women really sticking together, I stuck up for 2 white women that I didn't know, and as he thought it was okay to demean and belittle them, he thought he could take it a step further, because we have no value. I asked the school about what they were going to do about him and they told me he had rights, I forgot for a moment that this is America and white men in this country have all the rights, really the only rights. This is a behavior that we have to stop in this behavior, that we have to stop in this country, we have to stop asking people to respect us and we have to demand it, we have to call them out on it and hold them accountable for allowing this type of behavior to go on and to try to attempt to make us believe this is status quo. Men who disrespect women, hate their mothers, because WOMEN make strong men, productive men, loving men. People who are sympathetic to this type of behavior have to be taught that if you stand on the wrong side of the law, on the wrong side of history, that you in fact are complicit and we will hold you accountable.

This isnt about feminism, as I am not a feminist, this isnt about girl power as I am no longer a girl, this is about a mutual respect, a level playing field and Im tired of asking for my right to be treated with respect and asking you to be kind to me, and pacify me with your condescension. Im taking me back, Im taking back everything that was taken and stripped from me as not only a woman, but a woman of color and no longer will I ask your permission to do the right thing, Im going to hold you accountable that you WILL do the right thing and make you understand that women have now become the stewards of consequences and repercussions for those that don't follow the lay of the land , YOU WILL ANSWER TO US and wished you had done different at the end.