

# MAILBOX

## LIFTING WEIGHTS AND SPIRITS

Dear Ms. Marcum,

My name is Tayshaun Porter. I am 9 years old. I was born in Dunn, North Carolina. Now I live in Newport News.

You impressed me by lifting 220 pounds. That's why I am writing to you. Whoa! I wish I can lift 220 pounds. I bet I can cause I have confidence in myself.

Do you have any suggestions how I can be a better football player and stronger person? Any ideas you would have I'd love to hear.

Thank you for your time.

TAYSHAUN PORTER  
Newport News, Va.

[Editor's Note: See story in Winter 2009 issue.]

## SEGREGATION REMEMBERED

To the Editor:

Congratulations to Tom Lipscomb '61 for his excellent article in the Winter 2009 *Alumni Magazine* about the Ku Klux Klan flagpole and the visit to the College by former Arkansas Congressman Brooks Hays and the pro-segregation demonstrators who greeted him.

I remember those days very well. In the

years of segregation, blacks and whites could not eat together in any local restaurant. Each public place had four restrooms, "Black Men," "Black Women," "White Men" and "White Women." The Williamsburg Theater on Duke of Gloucester Street did not have a balcony, so a segregated section was created by roping off several aisles for the use of black patrons. Blacks not only did not attend the College as students, but were not welcome as speakers.

In my junior year, as an officer of a group called the Political Science Club, I and several of my fellow members decided that it was time for a change. We invited the distinguished president of Hampton Institute — the black college down the road — to address our group. Dr. Alonzo Moron came to Williamsburg; we managed to take him to the dinner at the Williamsburg Inn (his light complexion helped). His address was academic and non-controversial. The result: our group was thrown off campus and I was called to the president's office.

At this time, I had already been writing a column in the *Flat Hat* each week and was recognized as something of a conservative.

The president said: "I am surprised at you. I thought you were a conservative." I replied that racism was not one of the things I wanted to conserve. We had our next meeting at the Methodist Church.

Fortunately, the days of segregation are long past. By the time my daughter Alexandra '99 and my son Burke '04 entered the College, there was hardly anyone on campus who could remember those days. To young people, it is almost unbelievable that our society could have been organized on such a basis. (An article of mine detailing some of these events appeared in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* of March 20, 1983.)

Again, congratulations on Tom Lipscomb's article.

ALLAN C. BROWNFIELD '61, B.C.L. '64  
Alexandria, Va.

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*We welcome letters from our readers and reserve the right to edit them. Brevity is encouraged. Please send correspondence to Melissa V. Pinard, Editor, William and Mary Alumni Magazine, P.O. Box 2100, Williamsburg, VA 23187 or e-mail [alumni.magazine@wm.edu](mailto:alumni.magazine@wm.edu).*

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