

COMMENTARY / CULTURE

“Black Donald Trump!” C’mon Vernon, really?



Vernon Jones and I are both African American. The only other thing we have in common that I’m aware of is that we are both graduates of HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) colleges 80 miles apart in North Carolina. But it is on those two facts that our similarities end. Period, I must add!



career.

According to a 2021 examination of Jones’ record by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Jones has a long history of problematic behavior toward women, repeatedly accused of threatening, intimidating and harassing women in his personal and professional lives over three decades. In 1989, three years before his election to the state legislature, Jones was arrested on a charge of pointing a pistol at a woman in her home. Criminal charges were dismissed, and Jones was ordered to attend anger management classes instead.

Now before his latest headlines-grabbing antic, Jones was courageous – or maybe foolish – enough to debate attorney Marc Lamont Hill on critical race theory on national TV not long ago. It didn’t go well. Here’s Vernon’s juvenile responses to legitimate questions.

Hill: Welcome. Now please define CRT for our audience.

Jones: Why don’t you define it?

Hill: I’m a lawyer, so of course I know how it is defined. But we’re interested in how you define it.

Jones: I know what it is. It must stop from being taught in our schools.

Hill: So you are unwilling to define a concept that you are against sir?

Jones: I don’t have to because I know what it is.

Hill: (Disbelief) Okay, let’s go to a commercial.

Here’s his latest headline:

Vernon Jones angrily stormed out of an event in Jackson County after a tirade expressing frustration over the speaking order. “I came here because



I’m a fighter,” Jones said, “but I’m not going to be subjected to parlor tricks. We were told I’m going second,” Jones insisted.

Jones changed his party affiliation to Republican at a now infamous pro-Trump event in Washington, DC, on January 6, 2021, just before the former president’s supporters attacked the U.S. Capitol.

“Donald Trump has just begun. I’m a part of his team, and we’re going to take back this country,” Jones said at the rally.

But joining a list of other Trump supporters, our self-proclaimed “fighter” Vernon Jones slipped out of town when the “take back this country” insurrection started a few blocks away, disappearing from public eye. Until recently that is.

In early February this year, after a “ring kissing” trip to Mar-a-Lago, Jones boldly proclaimed himself “The Black Donald Trump” - yes, you read that right - before announcing that he was foregoing a run to become Georgia’s next governor and would run for Congress instead.

“I am proud to have President Trump’s endorsement, confidence and support as I seek to represent the people of Georgia’s 10th Congressional District,” he said. After receiving his endorsement Jones tweeted that he plans to file articles of impeachment

against President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris if he is elected.

“On Day One in Congress, I’ll file Articles of Impeachment against Joe Biden and Kamala Harris for betrayal of public trust,” Jones tweeted. “Then I’ll cast my vote for President Trump to be Speaker.”

Okay folks, ready yourselves for the next headline garnered by “the Black Donald Trump.” Like those dandelions in my front lawn, they’re certain to be back. In what way? Well, Vernon being the chameleon that he is, it depends on which way the wind is blowing and his proximity of the nearest TV camera.

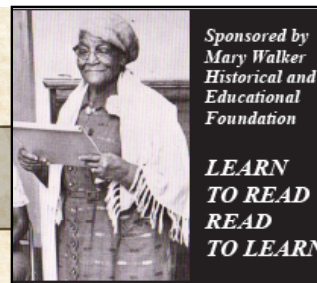
PS: In putting the final touches on this one, I reached out for comments from graduates of Jones’ alma mater, North Carolina Central University. Tellingly, they all declined to comment in depth; one with a few choice expletives and another a word prefixed with the term “Uncle.”

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This Week in African American History

Autherine Lucy Foster 1929-2022

A Critical Figure In The Civil Rights Movement, Dies At 92



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Her desire for a second undergraduate degree was cut short after just three days when a mob of racists assaulted her with food, rocks, and other items when she attempted to enter the University of Alabama.

Autherine Lucy Foster, who earned a bachelor’s degree in English from historically Black Miles College in 1952, and whose legal battle with the University of Alabama concluded two years after the landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision, has died at 92.

A critical, but sometimes overlooked figure in the civil rights movement, Foster’s case became the first to challenge the Brown ruling that allowed federal judges to implement the historic decision.

In 1992, Foster recalled her experience in a New York Times interview.

“It felt somewhat like you were not really a human being. But had it not been for some at the university, my life might not have been spared at all,” Foster said.

“I did expect to find isolation. I thought I could survive that. But I did not expect it to go as far as it did. There were students behind me saying, ‘Let’s kill her! Let’s kill her!’”

Foster visited Tuscaloosa a week before her death, cutting the ribbon on the newly named College of Education building, where she took refuge from the racist mob.

Previously known as Bibb Graves Hall, the university’s building adopted a new name called Au-

therine Lucy Hall.

“My staff was proud to celebrate the courage and sacrifice of Dr. Autherine Lucy Foster by presenting her with a Congressional Record,” Alabama Democratic Rep. Terri Sewell stated.

“The naming of the University of Alabama’s Autherine Lucy Hall will stand as a powerful reminder of her sacrifice in the name of justice and equity for all.”

Foster “was the embodiment of courage,” said Rep. Chris England, D-Tuscaloosa, who chairs the organization.

“As the first Black student to attend the University of Alabama, her trailblazing determination paved the way for a more inclusive and equitable higher education system in Alabama. Her life was a testament to the power of compassion and grace in the face of unyielding adversity. We are all made better by her example.”

Many others tweeted and offered statements of condolences. Foster’s family asked for privacy, but they did release a statement about the trailblazer.

“She was known, honored, and respected around the world after she broke the color barrier at the University of Alabama,” her daughter Chrystal Foster said in a statement.

“She passed away at home, surrounded by family. We are deeply saddened, yet we realize she left a proud legacy.”



Top: In 1956, Autherine Lucy became the first Black student to enroll in the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa in its 136-year history.

Bottom: Autherine Lucy Foster, seen here speaking at the unveiling of a campus historical marker in her honor in 2017. Lucy Foster was the first African American to attend The University of Alabama. She received an honorary doctoral degree from The University of Alabama in 2019.