

## Comments for the VMI Board of Visitors Meeting

May 2-4, 2024

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Over the past few years, I have written kind and respectful letters to the VMI Board of Visitors, Alumni Association, staff members and my current class agent. I have yet to get a response from anyone, which I find incredibly disrespectful.

Never in my life did I expect to see such division among the alumni at VMI. We have members of classes, many good friends, who are no longer speaking to each other. We have people who work together where the relationship has been damaged due to the chaos at VMI. We have a board and staff who are horrible at communication including listening to the concerns of alumni. When General Wins did respond to alumni in October 2022, he resorted to name calling. I can't help but believe that I am not the only one who feels that way. In fact, I know I am not.

The Alumni Association has banned three members of my class and yet in VMI ranks you have alumni who have committed actual crimes. I'm curious how the Alumni Association discerns who is an alumnus in good standing and who is not. But there's more.

Some months ago, I wrote to some of you about a speaker named Kimberly Dark, who I believe was invited by our former Diversity Officer Jamica Love to speak to cadets in October 2022. I'm curious if any of you did any homework on Kimberly Dark. I would never bring in a speaker to speak to any team that I had not properly vetted.

A quick glance of her website should seriously challenge the wisdom of bringing her to VMI to speak to cadets and staff. Or maybe you disagree?

She is the author of a book called, "The Daddies." As a father of four, Daddy is one of my favorite titles. An Amazon review of the book reveals, "This allegory about patriarchy unfolds as a kinky lesbian Daddy/girl love story."

The review on her own website is just as bad, "Using hybrid narrative, magical realism and pop-culture analysis, *THE DADDIES* offers a dark love letter to masculinity told as a lesbian leather-Daddy love story."

On her website you'll also find articles she has written. Here's an excerpt from her article, "Makeout Lessons."

No. Look, I'm thinky as fuck, but no. Making out, *to me* (that was the question, right?) is about physical, erotic connection with one or more people. In my case, just one. (I'm too easily distracted by multi-tasking.) Making out is supposed to be hot. It's supposed to flood the basement and get one ready for more sex, because it actually is already sort of sex. It's the sex that happens after the kissing and hand-holding and eye-gazing, but before the sex-sex. That is actually what making out is to me. And it's pretty damned important.

Whoever brought her in or defends the decision today is not a serious person. Does her material raise the bar for "...a crowd of honorable youths pressing up the hill of science with noble emulation...?"

According to the superintendent's letter to alumni dated October 18, 2022, alumni who raised concerns about the decision to bring her in are "a group of unhappy alumni who want to stoke the worst fears and sow seeds of discord about the training and education of students here." It seems General Wins can read the minds of others knowing that they want to "stoke the worst fears and sow seeds of discord.."

And how does General Wins describe Kimberly Dark, the author of, "The Daddies" and "Makeout Lessons"? He calls her "A national level speaker, who tackles tough topics with masterful storytelling and blends a pithy sense of humor."

He calls a woman who writes an "allegory about patriarchy (that) unfolds as a kinky lesbian Daddy/girl love story" "a masterful storyteller"? General Wins is not a serious person.

And now I recently learned that faculty and staff are required to attend training by Raven Solomon. For anyone to say that DEI does not exist at VMI, they are either uninformed or lying. I challenge you to go to her website. It's bathed in DEI.

She also defends Dr. Claudine Gay, the former president at Harvard who was fired for plagiarism. When I was at VMI that was an honor code violation. What is Solomon's response? She calls Gay's termination "persecution and harassment." Even people on the left know she was guilty of plagiarism. For her to say that Gay's termination was "persecution and harassment" shows me that she is not a serious person either and is driven by the narrative that keeps her in business. You must have an oppressor and the oppressed. That's the language of DEI.

On her website she states, "There has never been a time in the history of the United States of America wherein Black people and people of color were not persecuted, villainized, and slighted through efforts of social inequities."

That is the language of a divisive grifter. It's people like her who have put the final nail in the coffin of Martin Luther King's "Dream" of judging others by the content of their character and not the color of their skin. People like Raven Solomon must keep slavery and racism alive to keep their job.

Why do I believe this? Consider this from her website:

*My question is this – when, exactly, did Black people stop suffering from racism and anti-Blackness?*

- *Was it when Abraham Lincoln wrote the Emancipation Proclamation? Don't be silly.*
- *Was it when the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed? Certainly not.*
- *Was it when Barack Obama was elected president? That argument is just tired, at this point.*

Even her answers to her own questions show arrogance and disrespect. When DEI proponents speak, they never acknowledge the amazing corrections that have taken place from the founding of our great nation. She mocks the three she listed above.

In my years after graduation, I have travelled to many countries across the globe and the United States is without a doubt the least racist and most self-correcting country I have seen.

I have worked with orphans in Russia, gypsies in Romania and Hungary, refugees in Greece, the poor in Moldova, Mexico and Guatemala, those without clean water and electricity in Africa and more. Walking through customs back in America and seeing the American flag on the wall always filled my heart with gratitude for this great nation.

If what DEI proponents say is true, people should be fleeing "from" our country, not fleeing "to" it. Our porous borders should answer that question.

DEI training is being discontinued in many businesses because they are waking up to the problems of equity over meritocracy. You should know that meritocracy is necessary for civilization to function.

General Wins talks much about our sports teams, so he obviously knows that meritocracy is necessary for success in sports. In sports the best players play regardless of skin color or gender. All can try out which is equality of opportunity, but not all will play because there is no equality of outcome.

DEI creates a victim mentality that divides teams...including colleges. And to have a victim, someone must have "privilege."

And, of course, Solomon's website even gets political, admonishing the governor of Florida. With DEI proponents, it's never diversity of thought. It always goes back to skin color and gender.

You brought in a divisive person to conduct mandatory training. Brilliant move when you already have huge problems in the alumni ranks. I'll be checking my e-mail for another letter from General Wins about "an unhappy group of alumni sowing seeds of discord." If you can see division in the VMI ranks, you really need to examine who is really sowing the seeds of discord. I would submit to you that the trainings of Dark and Solomon do not align with the powerful words on the parapet. And that gives evidence that VMI has lost its way.

I wonder if there are board members and staff who don't like what is happening and are saying nothing. It is past time for them to stand up and speak.

The sad part of all the divisive problems we find at VMI is that they are self-inflicted.