

[JL Terrell](#)

**June 14, 2020**

June 14 at 3:32 AM ·



I want to say 1968 I was working for acquaintance of my father a Az politician named Sam Mardin (I for forget the correct spelling) who owned a door manufacturer company. Three women were assaulted at gun point one of the perps was killed by an aunt who shot one off the assailants when they were trying to rape the nieces who was a teenage distracted the focusing on raping her grab the gun and shot the dude the other guy bounced after awhile. Check it, she got raped but she was not going to let her niece be raped, dude left his gun on the ground she grabbed it shot him and killed him the other guy fled.

I was working at the door plant miles and miles away from central Phoenix parks where the attacks occurred. I am waiting for my dear sweet sister who was still a Tempe High student going to ASU to pick me up because my dad were doing their thing at Phoenix College and Chandler High. For the Bills yes I was waring a Bandera because the saw dust was hard to get out my Afro. So I am sitting on this log waiting for my sister to come a long to pick me up when an officer of peace pulled up and began to question me. As I recall I followed what my parents, grandmother, uncles and aunts

said, don't answer any questions until your parents arrive. I only had grandmother, aunts and uncles in Chicago where I came from, that's how I respond to the peace officer, I am waiting for my sister, and I will not answer any of your questions until my parents are present. By the way by this time a white manger came out and told the officer I work there and had been there since 8:00 am. He leaves drives across the street parked behind some trees in a undeveloped lot my dad and his friends might buy to later subdivision. I saw him, I was think what a better summer I would have had working for Baldwin Ice Cream in Chicago African American Company. Just as my sister arrive, 5 cop cars plus the guy who called him swarm in as I am walking towards my parents white Buick Skylark which was my dear sweet sisters mode of transportation. Just like a movie they encircled but not hand guns rifles drawn get on the ground, which I did, was handcuffed and left on the pavement as my sister was first physically abused (lightly because of lightly), to keep my junk from burning I had to burn my knees and chest. Plus we don't want to burn your face. He was the scare thing my sister told these People when they showed a sketch that not him wrong race. They left me burning on the pavement until this police sergeant came and said that not the perp. No apology and by the way not one of the white people I worked with came to my aid. I did come back to work but was glad when the summer ended and never heard my parents talk about Sam.

8

Patrick Fleming, Steve Frizzell and 6 others

11 Comments

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**JL Terrell** Ralph and I have met face to face but Steve I would prefer that we have a dialogue before you use crying 🥹 Emojis

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**Steve Frizzell** I'm sorry if I offended you. I read your post and was genuinely saddened that such a thing happened to you. We didn't know each other personally, but we were a part of the same little "world" in the high school community for four years, so I feel a certain connection to everyone I was there with. I knew there was a lot of discrimination and racism in the world at that time, but I thought within the THS community that we were able to counter that. I guess I was naive, but I didn't see it at the time. I'm truly sorry for what you endured back then , and I'm really sorry that we're still having to address systemic racism toda

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**JL Terrell** **Steve Frizzell** Steve my brother thank you and I will be frank I going to talk some more S, but I want to bring us together and start talking. Guess what you know those knucklehead twins answer one of my posted and produce a picture, and I vague remember there may have been some requirement to get in the year book but apparently we met it. I vaguely remember roping Steve Cole in and not sure why I need him because back then so many requirements just to exist.

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**Steve Frizzell** **JL Terrell** Do you still live in Tempe? I get back there at least once a year. We should get together.

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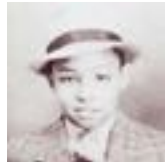
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**Bill Richardson** The "Bills"?Hide or report this  
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**JL Terrell** Bill Richardson is that a question my brother? If it is I am more than open to a intellectual dialogue in fact my brother I think when I started the African American Club at Tempe High we did have some interesting repartee. Bill my red head (your hair was red back then wasn't it) brother I am open to dialogue and I want to encourage that for our children. Bill do you have kids?Hide or report this

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**JL Terrell** This is cool some where in my text I said Bill, no last name but apparently bill knew who he is.Hide or report this

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**JL Terrell** Bill you walk through that door let's have conversation based on facts.Hide or report this

Like

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**Rosalind Duvo Bowen** Had no idea you experienced these things, JL.Hide or report this

Like

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**JL Terrell** Check with your friend Ron first should you want go done this path. Bill you are a human being so am I. When I came to Az I was just a kid like you wanted to just fit in. It was students like you that made it hard. My brother come on we got to get along to get on.

### **JL Terrell**

June 14 at 12:52 AM ·

Looking back at “Tempe High hero’s, Bill Beakley, the great wrestling talent. In my fresh year and first year of wrestling, I was not interested in the sport I was not but went out for because Dennis Powell had interest and dwayne thomas I believe his name was said straight up no black students. After practice one day in the showers Bill Beakley, said to me OUT LOUD , “Terrell no matter how hard you scrub you can’t scrub that black off”, I said why would I want too.I may have only been 13-14 but it amazed why someone would think it a bad thing to be the color that I am. I was blessed I had parents, grandparents, Uncle, Aunts that taught us to be black and proud well before the 60thies and 70thies. Just as I was saying that Sonny Stewart walked over and simple said “What did you say”, the great bill said I was just joking. My fellow Buffs you may also remember I broke the great bills leg in a challenge match. I was setting up for a single leg take down when bill used the N word, i did not intend to brake his leg but I slammed it as hard as I could into that mat. Powell was upset but I think he heard the word and I do know other team members heard it. Did you notice on sports where a coach decide if you played our not was PREDOMINATELY white.

Wrestling if you won your challenge match YOU WON, same with track. I did not intend to break his leg but I was tired of my teammates disparaging comments not just to me but all my brothers and sisters of color. Me and my older sister were angry at our parents for taking us away from not just the cultural opportunities of Chicago but black culture. At McKemy I had a female teacher actually say to me “why are you trying so hard you never going to go to college. Hey living in America.

Oh yea there was this one day at wrestling some of us were jumping rope and a group of white teammates started to take their jump ropes and “whip this African American teammate to play slave master. They tried to do the same with me and I said don’t even think about, not that I could overwhelm them I just was not going to play. Even though I know who that black student was I going to leave him with his dignity because I saw a high school union video that showed some of the buffs had not changed. I am going to call out greg burger who started the the whipping thing. I also will point out the next day after school I and the aforementioned victim of racism and I were across were still on campus when we saw greg across the street from that burger joint across from Tempe high and my brother picked and orange slit put a rock in it and through a major league toss and hit greg at the top of his back shoulder which left a welt that was visible the next day at practice. It was educational as it showed me how African Americans dealt with that kind of stuff in AZ. Now greg, bill if you are out there and want to address this accusations and have a conversation I am open.

Shout out to my brother Ralph, who not only became a “facebook friend from Tempe High but also suggested getting together to meet. My brother Ralph drove (Ralph how many miles?) to SF with his wife to have dinner and unfortunately for his wife who never lived in AZ I spent the first 25% of the dinner venting about redneck AZ, to my surprises we kept in touch I came late and bounce early to their farewell party only because logistics got messed up I wish I could have stayed longer because Ralph was the first Tempe High classmate to invited me his home. Actually there was one person who invited me over for dinner. When I broke my leg and was



walking to school on crutches I can't tell you how many of my fellow students and their parents drove pass me but don't cry for me Argentine I used to to build my upper body strength, but the right of refusal would have showed humanity. My relationship with coach Dennis Powell is mixed, 60% positive, but when bill's leg was broke he got an ambulance, when my was broke in this freak accident didn't even get Ice, I got this clear plastic temporary cast and was left up stairs in the training room on a hard table waiting over two hours until when some could call my parents to pick me up and take me to that hospital that was a 10 minute walk from Tempe High. They got my older sister on phone who had just returned from her afternoon class at ASU (while in high school at Tempe High she qualified for a program where she did day morning classes at Tempe High and afternoon classes at ASU which allowed her to get her Masters at 20 years old. Wold have been 19 because this Black Private we went to in Chicago wanted to skip her a grade, but my parents say no because that would have meant that our older brother and her would have been in the same class.) by the time she picked me up and took me to that hospital, my leg had swollen to the point that they could put any cast on and a walking cast was out of the realm of possible slowing my recuperation, my parents not only had to take off to care for me but ultimate had to pay someone to care for me because black students didn't get an ambulance that was 10 minutes away by walking.

8

You, Carol Newton, Patrick Fleming and 5 others

19 Comments

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**Comments**



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**Ralph Durham** JL. Thanks for the shout out. I knew that things were different for Blacks and LantinX students at HS. Just had no idea how different. I think most of us ran around in somewhat insular groups. Willfully blissfully ignorant of most people that weren't p...[See More](#)

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Ralph Durham replied

1 Reply



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**JL Terrell** Actually when I broke my leg I spent a season on the swim team, what was my brothers name who had polio (my mom had polio when she was caring me, it shook out better for me) he white we had a great relationship then he disappeared.Hide or report this

Like

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**JL Terrell** Bonnie and Charles Bolts well lets just say if a bunch of white people were going to beat me up? Sony Stewart, Ottis Morrison, James Healrd and more would not let it happen.Hide or report this

Like



· Reply · 4w

Ralph Durham replied

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1 Reply



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**Patrick Fleming** I'm deeply sorry for the many hardships of your life created by racism. I knew that life was hard for black kids back in my THS times, but I could only imagine how things went. I know it continues today. It's way outside of my old, white comfort zone t...[See More](#)

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**Tom Cole** Here I am in the Tempe High shirt. Can't remember if you joined later or something.

Edit or delete this



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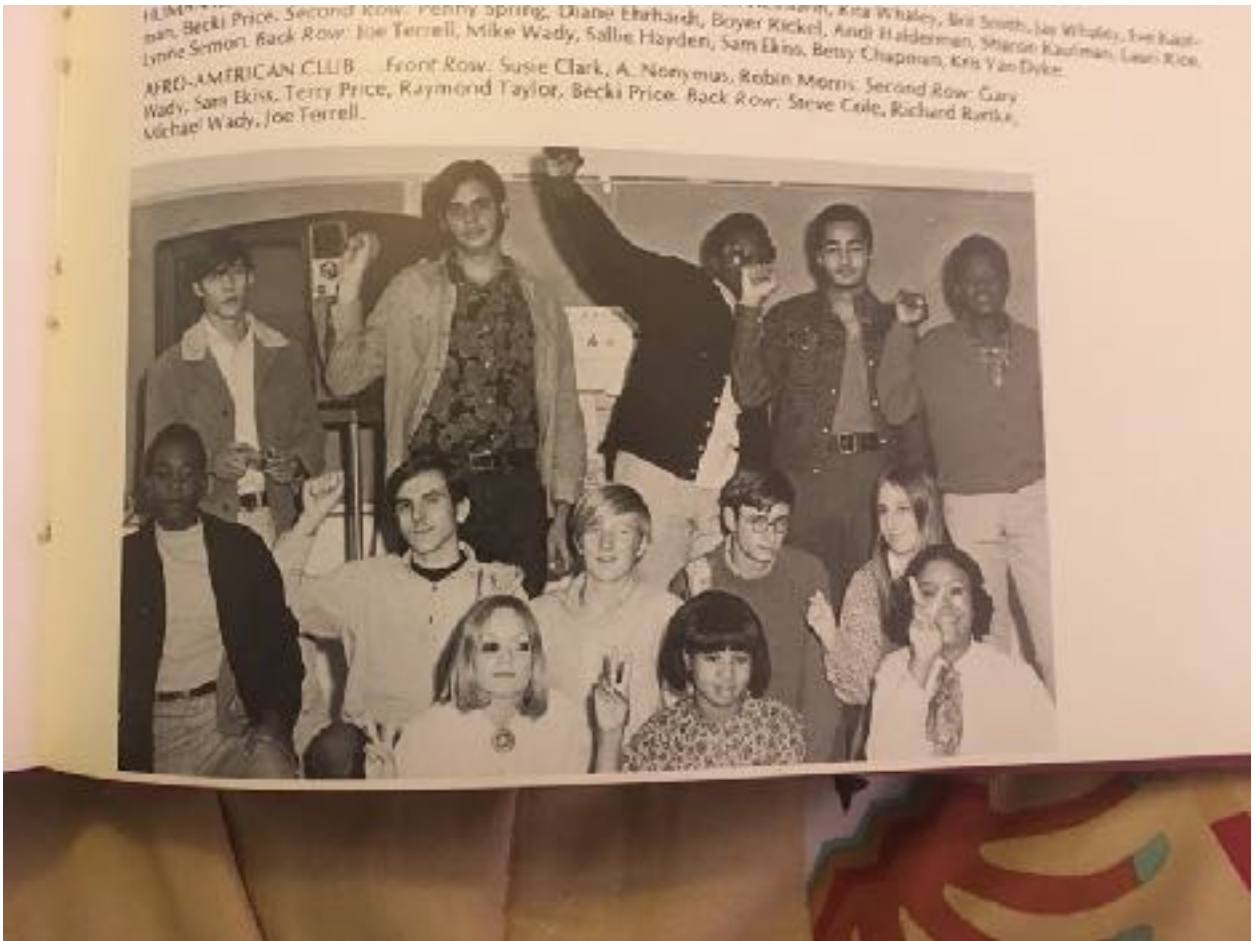


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**Tom Cole** I posted this on another of your posts about the African American Club. There's a name missing I think. The guy to the right of you.

Edit or delete this



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**Carol Newton** Sorry to hear that happened JL. People can be so cruel. It really makes me sad and hurts my heart.

- I was one of Coach Powell's "original Mat Maids." I enjoyed watching wrestling, but sooner or later, it conflicted with something else I wanted to do. Take care of yourself. Hide or report this

Like



• Reply · 3w

Tom Cole replied

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4 Replies



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**Rosalind Duvo Bowen** Again, thanks for opening up a lot of eyes. Caryl told me about some Tempe High stuff, but never knew all these horrible things happened to you. Hide or report this

Like

• Reply · 3w



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**Tom Cole** One more photo of Joe.

Edit or delete this



**VARSITY WRESTLERS** . . . Captains Ken Gray and Laszlo Szanto, Tom Montalvo, Joe Terrell, Bonnie Smith, Bill Anderson, Roger Kronberg, Tom Martinez, Second Row: Dale Parry, Gary Wady, Byron Trinidad, Tom Ditsworth, Brad Royse, Steve Miller, Steve Scow, Gary Bartrum, Front Row: Carter Poulsen, Robert Pace, Ed Bautista, Bruce Mitchell, Robert Quiroz, Doug Hawkes, Mark Lacey.

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**Tom Cole** Dits is in the picture too!

· Reply · 3w





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Write a reply...



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**Kurt Alderson** I watched Sonny do a 600 lb. leg press just as a workout. He was a phenomenon. Widmer wanted him to play football and Sonny said "No, thanks." So I heard. Hide or report this

Like

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**Michele Thompson** So sorry that happened to you. Sad that society hasn't changed in all these yrs. Hold your head high you are a black man and you Matter! If I ever offended you I apologize with my whole heart

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