



SOCIAL ACTION RECIPIENTS—The Las Vegas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta cited five women at its 4th annual Social Action Luncheon for notable contributions in our com-

munity. Shown are (L-R): Mattie Miller, Delta member presenting awards; Jean Ford, assemblywoman of district 15; Debra Todd, vice-president of the student body at Las Vegas High; Patricia Van Betten, co-founder and President of the Consumer's League; and Jamie Walker, who accepted the award for her mother, Eleanor E. Walker, president of the local N.A.A.C.P. chapter.

Black women, white women, black men and all minorities comprise a unique group in our society and it is vital that they coalesce in "breaking new ground" to solve the problems that still exist in our country.

This was the thrust of the address by Bernice Moten at the 4th annual Social Action Luncheon of the Las Vegas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. whose theme was "Women Breaking New Ground."

The Clark County Board of Trustees member also emphasized the defects in our educational system, the power of economic control, and the need for political participation. Mrs. Moten challenged the women to get involved in these areas and bring about the necessary changes in our community.

Preceding her address, five Las Vegas women were presented Social Action Awards for their contributions in "breaking new ground" in their fields of endeavor. The recipients were Patricia Van Betten, co-founder and president of the Consumer's League and a representative on the national committee dealing with poison prevention; Jean Ford, assemblywoman of district 15; Shirley McDaniel, director of Doolittle Center and innovator of new programs for West Side youth; Debra Todd, vice-president of the Student Body at Las Vegas High and "Miss Boulevard Mall;" and Eleanor E. Walker, president of the local N.A.A.C.P. chapter.



Alice Key

The weak have ever been the prey and pawns of the strong. The slightest evidence of weakness in the struggle for everyday existence is deadly to those so exposed. A show of weakness on the part of an individual is dangerous to him, but a show of weakness on the part of a community is dangerous to everyone.

A few years ago, the Black community of Las Vegas was a strong community united in a common effort toward community development, achievement and recognition. Any threat to the well-being of the Black community, at large or to individual citizens, was met with a united front of common resistance, and if need be, a common flexing of muscle.

For whatever the reasons may be, the Black community is no longer united by its common problems and common goals. The loss of that unity has resulted, inevitably, in the loss of community respect and power. The door has been opened to those who are ever alert to seize opportunity to prey upon the weak and to make pawns of residents of the Black community.

When the community was strong, it would be unthinkable that Black business and professional leaders in the community would be subjected to the kind of harassment and persecution which has taken place in recent months. When the community was strong, politicians would never have dared to write off the Black vote as unimportant and meaningless as they do now. For even though many politicians need not be concerned about the vote outside his or her district in city, county, and assemblymatic races, it must be remembered that most politicians are ambitious and ambition will lead them, eventually, to seek office where every vote in the state must be courted for victory.

The Black community is too large a community to be written off by anyone. In Las Vegas, Blacks are numerous enough to make their numbers felt, numerous enough to insist upon the community's own self-determination, numerous enough to resist the efforts of those hell bent on diminishing the power of the Black community by silencing the voices of those who believe in Black self-determination.

Togetherness is the keynote. Differences of opinion may exist, differences of political and religious affinity may exist, but differences on what is best for a Black community is impossible. All that is needed is a look at what has been happening to members of this community and to be reminded that once the door is open to infringement upon the rights of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness of one individual in the community, no one in that community is safe.

Involvement is the answer. Personal involvement in community and political activities is an absolute must for all Black residents of Las Vegas. Choose a group with which to become involved, and through that group, relate to other groups in the community insuring a common goal is being met by all facets of the Black community. It is important to the progress and the best interests of the community that every group in it shares like interests in common goals for the community. The VOICE newspaper will be glad to print a calendar of community group activities, and would be even more delighted to assist in the staging of a public forum for the varied community organization and those individuals desirous of establishing a group to meet for discussion of present problems and future goals.

The importance of political involvement cannot be overstressed. If the Black community expects to obtain real representation through next year's state and national elections, it must present a unified political bloc. The time to organize a political front for the '74 election is now, and it must start at the grass roots level. The Black community must develop its own leadership through its own ranks. It must be organized to insure that it is, indeed, the voice of the people who speak for the people in the Black community.

The community would do well to apply the (see KEY, page 5)

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