

*News*  
by Jimmy Gay

Hello there! ! It has been a couple of weeks since we last discussed problems that exist in the black community. (What we can do about them, where do we go from here, how can we put it all together.) I hope that you have missed the column as much as I have missed writing it for you. You know, doing a column of this nature is like having the seven year itch - it grows on you.

Well, I still think black is beautiful and there is a way to bring us together in this community. We have tried. God knows we have tried. But at this juncture we can't stop now.

You know, about a year ago, I promoted a Men's Day program at Second Baptist Church. I invited all the new black VIPs who had moved to our city in recent years or months. They were doctors, lawyers, principals of schools, very important government employees, you name them, I invited them all. These people had not been introduced to the black community; maybe it was due to the short length of time that they had been in our community or was it because their job necessitated their living in other parts of town?? It was quite a task to get this on, but we did BABY - even though I had to threaten some of them that I would expose their unwillingness to meet the residents of the black community. But most of them did show up; to my surprise, guess who did not show up? Yes, you guessed it - the people who I had hoped to be there to meet these new people. Church people, parents who had children in school, the businessmen and women of the black community, and the everyday man and woman on the street - they were not there and I felt like crawling under one of the pews and hiding, because I had promised these VIP's that I would have a packed house to meet and greet them. However, it turned out very good. The VIPs had a chance to meet each other (which they had not done over the years.)

Speaking of meeting VIPs and new people in our city and not knowing each other, we put together a quick memorial service last Thursday for the late Judge Robert Reid. This was held simultaneously with the services that were held in Atlanta, Georgia for the Judge (as requested by his family.) It is true we had to put it together very hurriedly, but we got the news around pretty good. We put notices on Evelyn Newman's OPEN LINE which is a very popular program, other radio shows, all the newspapers, television, telephone and even tell-a-woman. But again the black community let us down. Of course, we realized that there were people who would have been there had they known sooner. Fortunately there were a faithful few - Marge Elliott, Dave Hoggart, Dr. Sisson, Dr. Crear, Judge Guy, Jesse Scott, Verla Davis, Reverend Bennett who gave the benediction, Sara Ann Knight Preddy and her husband Joe, Attorney Jim Porter, Attorney Earl White who spoke about Robert Reid as a classmate, and of course the Reverend Jesse Wesley of the Bethel Baptist Church who was the Judge's local pastor and gave a beautiful eulogy. This just about sums up the blacks whom you would know that took time out to attend - if I missed you, please forgive me. I'm sure you know by now that Judge Roger Foley spoke beautifully about Robert Reid as an attorney and a friend. Professor Anthony Thomas sang the Judge's favority hymn - "The Lord's Prayer." Bishop E. N. Webb gave an arousing prayer and of course all the city and county judges served as honorary pall bearers. As usual Bob Bailey did an outstanding job as Master of Ceremonies. Yes, it was a lovely and moving memorial service for one of three blacks who had graced the judicial bench in the state of

Nevada and who was one of the first five blacks to pass the Nevada Bar; a man who just two weeks ago stormed to his feet at the monthly NAACP meeting and utterly begged for unity in our black community. With three fourths of the 800 seat capacity chapel filled, we were outnumbered three to one with his white friends and counterparts. Would you believe that many of the judges recessed their courtrooms to attend the services! And there were many lawyers who left their busy offices to show their last respects - but there were many of you who could not take a few moments of your time to honor the memory of one who tried so hard to make this a model community for black people.

It was after the services that a few of our leaders had a chance to meet each other. Bishop E. N. Webb, the only black bishop in our state, had the chance to meet one of our leading black attorneys, Earl White who has been practicing for fourteen years in our city; and the Bishop had never heard the name Jim Porter who is also another black attorney of several years. Where do we lay the fault? Why shouldn't the only black bishop in our state know the important and leading doctors and lawyers?? It's a lack of togetherness, BABY, that's the answer.

This is just one example of not knowing our community and the people who live in it. For instance, how many of you know that we have three black female physicians in our city? Did you know Dr. Fred Bullwer? He has the only brainscan machine in the county and has been in our midst for over six years. Have you ever heard the name Shed Elliott? Well he is black and a very important man with the U. S. Department of Energy. Did you know that we have some 8-10 black PH.D.s in our community? And do you know that we have blacks in hotel and casino employment who are making upwards to \$60,000 per year? Some 12-14 black males and females hold positions as principals of our local schools, and if you don't have children in those particular schools I'm sure you never heard of them. Is it because most of them have no line of communication with the black community, or is it because the black community is not being informed

through, the news media or by word of mouth?

The one thing I'd like to remind you of is that it doesn't make any difference how much money we have, the position we hold, or where we live - we are still black. And believe me, there are still a few of those people who feel that the KKK and the Nazi Party are still great organizations because they believe the black man does not deserve to be a first class citizen. Just remember, if there is a cross burned on your front lawn or a racial problem arises it will be your black brother who will come to your rescue (and don't forget it.) It happened to Judge Moon - it could happen to you, too.

Yours truly presented the gold, life NAACP membership pin to Sid Hudson, the recipient of the City of Hope Man of the Year awards banquet at the Hilton Hotel Sunday night.

(Why can't we think TOGETHERNESS in 1978?) Remember, TOGETHER WE ARE STRONG.

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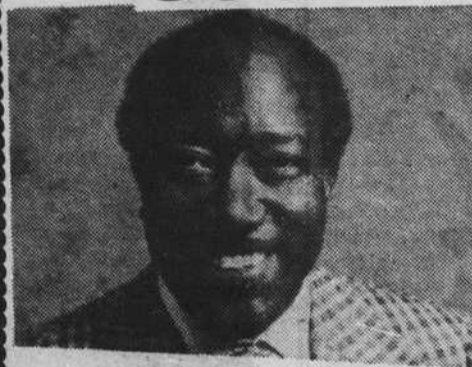
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