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SDSU
San Diego State University

Center for Community Economic Development
College of Business Administration
San Diego State University
5250 Campanile Drive
San Diego CA 92182-1960
TEL: 619-594-6437
FAX: 619-594-0716

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Bob,

This is the videotape that you might consider using at the November CLUB meeting. It is approximately 10 minutes long. I had intended to use the topic *"Are African Americans Too Quick on the Trigger to "Cry" Racism?"* at some future meeting, but you might want to use it at the next meeting.

I would like to share with you an incident that happened to me yesterday evening that relates to this videotape.

I was attending a meeting yesterday evening downtown at a company's office. Joe Outlaw and I, along with our business partner who is white, were meeting with representatives of the company. After our meeting ended, Joe, our partner and I received permission to continue to use the office to discuss some business items. When we ended our meeting and tried to leave the building, we found ourselves locked in. This was approximately 7:30 p.m. Our partner seemed to know the building and thought he knew how to get out, so he said let's take the elevator up to the 3rd floor. We got off the elevator and began walking through a large open room with the lights out and every desk piled up with architectural drawings, maps and other materials.

As Joe and I walked through this big, unlit room trailing behind our partner who had gotten a considerable distance ahead of us, the lights suddenly came on, which startled me. I yelled back to Joe, "I'm glad we got a white guy with us or we would be in serious trouble!" The three of us had a big laugh and my yell was heard by one of the company's employees who had met with us earlier. She got her key and we took the elevator down and she unlocked the door for us.

I share this story with you because I had an "eerie" feeling while walking through that big unlit room with all those drawings and other materials and supplies lying around. I was waiting for a security guard to pop us and yell, "Hey, what are you doing here?" Who knows what would have transpired after that? After all, I didn't have a tie on.

The memories that I have deeply recessed in my brain from my own personal experiences, and the stories I have heard from others throughout my life, along with the tone of today's world, all came rushing back in my head while walking through that big, empty unlit room with the desktops covered with what I perceived to be valuables.

The laughing broke my tension and anxiety but the fear of what will happen to me because of my dark skin color constantly lingers inside me, and probably inside many others with dark skin.

My story relates to the contents of the videotape and hopefully both will help whites understand why blacks give strong consideration to racism as the cause, when evaluating the situation where they feel victimized by an act from a white person.

Thanks for your listening ear.

Sincerely,

Hal

Hal Brown

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