

Obrie Smith also speaks at colleges whenever possible. Most recently, he participated in a journalism/communications award program at his alma mater, Lincoln University.

Recognizing the void that exists between journalism classroom theory and journalistic practices, Smith, along with several colleagues from Philip Morris, Miller and Seven-Up has worked with the National Newspaper Publishers' Association in developing summer programs in which a student from a predominately Black journalism school will be awarded a faculty internship at a Black newspaper. This project will enable the student to gain valuable on-the-job experience regarding day to day operations of a newspaper.

Another scholarship program coordinated by Smith in Milwaukee is geared toward people who want to return to school but are unable because of financial constraints. Grants are allocated to two Milwaukee colleges with the stipulation that monies are to be used to help students continue their education.

In addition to his multiple duties at Miller, Obrie Smith is also a family man. His wife is Senior Sales Director for Mary Kay Cosmetics. They have a 13 year old son who is a senior in high school and a 10 year old son who is an eighth grader and is currently studying in Strasbourg, France.

When asked what he felt was the key to his success, Smith replied, "Hard work, ability to communicate well, determination, goal setting and goal achievement and a supportive wife and children."

Smith also has an interest in channeling Blacks with negative pursuits into a positive direction. To illustrate his point, he draws an analogy of Blacks who are numbers runners. "They keep all the information upstairs. Their minds function like computers. If these guys had the opportunity and the discipline they'd be some of the best mathematicians in the world."

"Look at Malcom X," he continues, "who was told he only had the mentality to be a carpenter. But he went to prison and memorized the entire dictionary. There are Black people like this all over the country." Obrie Smith believes that Blacks are incredible people with lots of energy. "It just has to be channeled in the right direction."

With positive caring Black men on today's business horizon such as Obrie Smith, maybe this elusive dream may soon become a solid reality. ■

DEWAR'S PROFILE

A thirst for living... a taste for fine Scotch.



DAVID HARDY

BORN: Plainfield, New Jersey, 1942

HOME: West New York, New Jersey

PROFESSION: Investigative/political reporter, *New York Daily News*.

RESPONSIBILITY: "To share reality with others, even though I'm mindful that reality is not always an inspiring spectacle."

STORY: "Be it a homicide, a zoning fight, a political scandal, or simply a tale of a compassionate Jersey City hot dog vendor, my job is sometimes thrilling, often onerous, occasionally perilous, but always interesting."

QUOTE: "Every human being should possess a sense of morality about society and accept personal responsibility for his or her role."

SCOTCH: Dewar's "White Label."* "On the rocks with a splash, when relaxing with my chess computer."

David Hardy



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Sickle Cell Continued from page 12

Black people will have to get themselves together and do something about this debilitating disease which affects one out of twelve Black Americans walking the streets today in terms of sickle cell trait, and one out of 500 with sickle cell anemia. If anyone has any misgivings or any hope about what the federal government is going to do in the months and years to come while the Reagan Administration is laboring over a budget, they can forget it. If anyone on the other hand thinks that corporate organizations such as General Motors, Exxon, Ford, Chrysler, AT&T or any other of the billion dollar "Fortune 500" is going to donate any sizable monies toward the eradication of this disease, please forget it.

This tells us something. It tells us that if anything even remotely connected with support for a sickle cell

organization ever comes, it will have to come from black people themselves. The sooner we realize that, the better off we will be, and that's laying it right on the line. This does not disturb me at all, this is to be expected. Weren't Black people always the last hired and the first fired? Hasn't there been an inherent racism existing in this country from time immemorial? Doesn't it still exist? It may not be obvious at all times, but it's there. It may be thwarted sometimes by the Equal Opportunity Program but underneath, underlying and basically, it's there, and few people of the other persuasion will respond to your needs when they have so many of their own who must be cared for. That's the way it is, and the sooner we realize it the better off we will be. Sickle Cell. It's in our blood to fight, but our fate is in our own hands. ■