

# Afro-American sues Miller for \$4.3 million

Obrie Smith, an Afro-American official at Miller Brewing Company in Wisconsin, filed a \$4.3 million lawsuit against the company claiming he was discriminated against because of his race.

The lawsuit alleges that Miller Brewing failed to promote Mr. Smith to higher executive positions, particularly the position of vice president of corporate affairs which was vacated by the retirement of Alan Easton in December 1988.

Mr. Smith, the director of marketing relations at Miller Brewing, claims in the suit that he was and is the logical candidate for that position.

Steve Forsyth, Miller Brewing's communications director, said the position vacated by Mr. Easton has not been filled.

"Miller Brewing Company stands on what it considers an outstanding record of hiring, promoting and developing minorities for management positions," said Mr. Forsyth. He said that Miller Brewing was "quite surprised" by Mr. Smith's charges since Mr. Smith has been the beneficiary of Miller Brewing's policy. Mr. Forsyth said that Mr. Smith had been promoted three times in the 10 years since he has been with the company.

"His compensation has increased from his starting salary of \$37,000 to \$113,000, plus \$38,000 in benefits," said Mr. Forsyth. "We believe all of Mr. Smith's charges are groundless, and we are confident about the outcome of this lawsuit."

Mr. Smith's suit further alleges that he had been subjected to "racial slurs, epithets, and jokes -- particularly those of Alan Easton, formerly (Mr. Smith's) immediate supervisor -- and to other racial harassment by Leonard Goldstein, Warren Dunn, Charles Schmid, George Riemer, William Howell, Thomas Shropshire, Mr. Easton, and other officers of the

defendant." The suit claims that Miller Brewing Company on various occasions had taken tasks and responsibilities from Mr. Smith and given them to other, white executives, and that Mr. Smith was denied opportunities to act as spokesman for Miller Brewing Company.

The suit further alleges that Miller Brewing Company required Mr. Smith to undergo psychological evaluation and testing as a direct result of his complaints of discriminatory treatment. Mr. Smith seeks \$1.8 million in compensatory damages and \$2.5 million in punitive damages.

## Teens at Risk program set

Charter Hospital of Winston-Salem is holding a Teens at Risk evaluation program May 15 to 19. From 3:30 to 6 p.m., parents and their children can participate in the evaluation program at no charge at the hospital, 3637 Old Vineyard Road.

The Teens at Risk session identifies risk areas, as well as healthy aspects of child and adolescent lifestyle. Interested parents can get more information by calling 1-800-441-COPE.

The program evaluation includes the following:

- psychological screening
- physical health assessment
- chemical dependency assessment
- family dynamics discussion
- educational history review
- spiritual needs assessment

• final evaluation and review

"The complex, fast-paced society we live in today is, unfortunately, especially tough for some teens," said Dr. Joe Shull, program director of the child and adolescent program of Winston-Salem. "Our young people of today, more than ever before, have pressures that weren't as pronounced even 10 or 15 years ago. The use of drugs and alcohol has become prevalent, with kids experimenting with these substances while they're pre-teens."

According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse, the average age of the first-time drug user is 12.5 years. Just as alarming are statistics from the U.S. Department of Transportation: the leading cause of death in the U.S. among youth aged 16 to 24 is alcohol-related motor vehicle accidents.



Associated Press Laser Photo

## Smuggled Goods

Jaba Letlhogonolo, collector of customs for northern Botswana, shows some of the 94 rhino horns seized from a truck travelling to neighboring South Africa. Ivory and rhino horns are smuggled into South Africa by truck and experts say the contraband is usually flown to the Far East, where the biggest markets are.

## Jacob visits city

From Page A1

need. The general practice, he said, has been for service groups to blindly create programs without any real knowledge as to whether the program will adequately fill a need.

"Year after year, organizations develop programs and services without talking to the people who are recipients of those services," said Mr. Jacob. "Through projects such as this, the Urban League is making a major contribution to its community."

He said that the project was especially significant because it would serve to increase awareness of a process that can gather information from various sources. Mr. Jacob also said that the league's community forum project should be instrumental in helping other organizations and groups that want to participate in a similar process.

The local community forum comes on the heels of the national league's annual assessment and publication of "The State of Black America." Mr. Jacob said that Winston-Salem's project is a good example of what use can be made of the annual national report.

"When we published the annual 'State of Black America' we hoped it would get translated to what it means at the local level," Mr. Jacob said. "When people read that report, they tend to think about big cities... that are so global in scope and problems that we can rationalize about not solving them. Winston-Salem is large enough to have some of the same problems but small enough that you can put your arms around it and solve some problems. What they've done here in Winston-Salem is to develop a blueprint that can help big cities begin to work with problems they think are unsolvable. If they can discuss the problems in small groups like they did here, then they, too, can begin to get their arms around the problems and solve them."

Mr. Jacob emphasized that although the national office's report is titled, "The State of Black America," it could just have easily been titled, "The State of America." Although many of the problems are concentrated in Afro-American communities, Jacob said that they each have far-reaching consequences that directly affect the strength of the country as a whole.

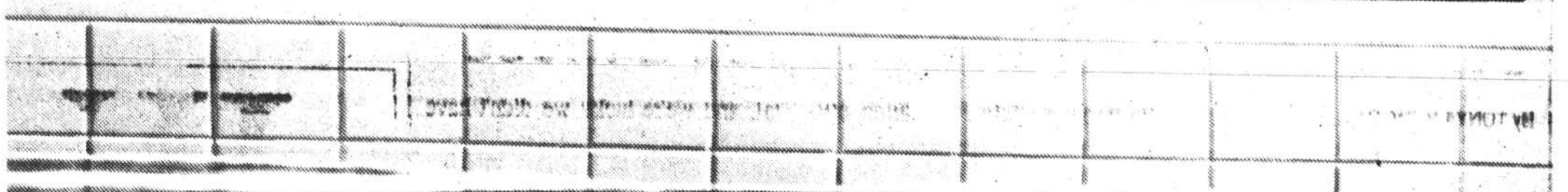
"We're not the only ones with problems. More whites, numerically, are unemployed, homeless and hungry. But we also know that it is Afro-American people in this country who are disproportionately represented in those areas and, as a result, the nation is not being all she can be," said Mr. Jacob. "America has to understand that it cannot solve its economic problems without dealing with the economic problems of Afro-Americans."

The Wednesday luncheon was held to share with community agencies and leaders the results of the eight focus group sessions. A questionnaire was distributed to a random sampling of the community to afford broad input.

Respondents identified three most pressing concerns for them as individuals: unemployment, education and medical care. They felt that the most severe problems facing the overall community were AIDS, education and drug abuse. Housing/teen-age pregnancy, child abuse and child care ranked seventh, eighth and ninth respectively (housing and teen-age pregnancy tied for seventh place).

Fifty-six of the respondents knew that the Urban League was a community service organization, and 23 percent said that they had used the league's services.

A total of 358 individuals completed questionnaires. Seventy-five percent of the respondents were Afro-American; 148 of the respondents were male and 192 were female.



17 mg. "tar", 1.2 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Cigarette Smoke Contains Carbon Monoxide.

Ebony  
Fine  
Arts

•Presents•

Caribbean &  
Afro-American  
Art Show and Sale  
Friday, May 19  
4 to 9pm  
Saturday, May 20  
10am to 5pm  
Winston Lake  
YMCA

The Winston-Salem Chronicle is published every Thursday by the Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty St. Mailing address: Post Office Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102. Phone: 722-8624. FAX: (919) 723-9173. Second-class postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.

The Winston-Salem Chronicle is a charter member of the Newsfinder service of the Associated Press and a member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations, the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the North Carolina Press Association and the North Carolina Black Publishers Association.

Subscription: \$18.52 per year, payable in advance (North Carolina sales tax included). Please add \$5.00 for out-of-town delivery. PUBLICATION USPS NO. 067910.