WOOSTER



Billy Graham's visit — what did it prove?

Post-mortem by Samuel Banks, page 5

Heroin: big business, big politics!

G. James Fleming raises some tough questions about narcotics - page 4

WE ARE NOW IN OUR 89TH YEAR

89th Year No. 90

BALTIMORE, MD. JUNE 20, 1981

LATE CITY EDITION

35 CENTS

City Hall caught hosting S. African big shot

A high ranking South African government official received a rude reception Wednesday during a quiet visit to Baltimore. Lodewyk Koch; the Chief Director of the Eastern Cape Administration Board, which oversees the social, housing and employment policies of black

Organization and the Coalition in Support of the Liberation

Struggles of Southern Africa Wednesday when he appeared at City Hall to meet with a coun-More than t 20 protesters paraded outside City Hall, waiting for Koch to appear for his 11:00 o'clock appointment Councilman Clarence "Du"

South Africans, was met by

pickets from the Welfare Rights

By James M. Abraham

AFRO Staff Writer

Burns, D - 2. Koch, apparently warned by City Hall officials, used the back stairs to gain access to Burn's claimed Robert Cheeks, head of office, only to discover that Burns was not present.

Several reporters also tracked Koch to Burns' office, where he appeared ill at ease when questioned.

by apartheid administrator

Coalition protests visit

"I am not here as representative of the government," he asserted repeatedly, "but as a private citizen. I'm here Black in a personal capacity.'

A reporter asked him if the material he gathered during his actors visit would be used in his administrative duties once he retunred to South Africa. "Please stop pressuring me,"

he responded, as his face flushed. Meanwhile, the the picketing continued outside. Although the South African had been scheduled to meet with members of the Welfare Rights Organization, members of that group led the picketers, and claimed that they would not allow the meeting to take place.

"The visit is an instance of the arrogance of (mayor) Schaefer and the ignorance of Clarence "D" Burns, his chief lackey,"

He said that the demonstration

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Boycott victory

of festival

By James M. Abraham AFRO Staff Writer

The failure of International Theater Festival organizers to include blacks in the planning of the affair has apparently backfired, and resulted in the cancellation of one of the major features of the festival.

"Waiting For Godot", a Samuel Beckett play which was scheduled to be performed by the University of South Africa's Baxter Theater, was cancelled after the two stars of the show, Winston Ntshona and John Kani, deferred to pressure from the black community and withdrew from the produc-

The two stated on a blackhosted talk show Sundayythat they did not wish to oppose the struggles of local black groups. The choice of the internationally-known Baxter Theater by the planners of the festival drew ire from black community leaders, already enraged by their exclusion from the initial planning of the affair.

that two

(Continued on Page 29)

City wants loan money back

Black owned optical firm, luxury apartment may have to close

By Portia E. Badham AFRO Staff Writer

visited Mayor Schaefer.

The owner of the country's first black-owned eyewear manufacturing plant plans to

week that the loan has been declared in default and the city is moving to foreclose. "I'm not going to let them take

this," said Smith who opened his plant in West Baltimore a little over a year ago. "There's been one obstacle after another and I don't think the city has been fair.' The loan to the optical firm was

made through a quasi-public development bank formed by the city which has made more than \$100 million in loans. Smith's

manufactures basic eyewear and glasses, safety manufacuting frames last fall and was awarded a contract with the Department of Defense.

PROTESTORS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA picketed City Hall this week while South African official

Smith stated that Baltimore

Economic Development Company (BEDCO) did cash projections for the firm but did not take into total consideration the company's

(Photo by Roman Hankewycz)

working capital status.

Roland Smith, owner of R and R Optical which received a \$200,000 R& Roptical boss sued by mom-in-law

By Pam Widgeon AFRO Staff Writer

Roland R. Smith, president of R and R Optical Company Inc., the financially troubled Northwest Baltimore eyeglass and safety goggle manufacturing firm, i being sued by Mrs. Janet Blackwell according to court records filed in Circuit Court. Court ree rds state Mrs. Black-

well lent Smith \$10,700 on Feb. 29. 1979 and the money was to be repaid in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

The agreement provided for \$5,700 to be repaid at the rate of five percent interest per annum over a period of 24 months and the loan therefore was due on Feb. 28,

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City Council notebook

Council passes resolution cutting ties with S. Africa

By Sue Williams AFRO-Staff Writer

The City Council voted this week to adopt a resolution that officially condemns all ties with the Republic of South Africa "until apartheid has been eliminated."

Councilmen Norman Reeves, (D-5th) and Kweisi Mfume (D-4th), was the culmination of a long series of bitter debates by Council members on the role the municipal government should play in foreign affairs.

Those arguments came to a head last week, when Mfume, enraged over the presence of a South African theater group here, asked the Council to pass a resolution banning its performance.

Council members rejected the

bill, apparently confused over the role they should play in foreign and international affairs.

But Monday's resolution was passed with relatively little

debate, save that of 1st. district Councilman, Donald Hammen, and Mimi DiPietro.

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Conaway, Koger in publishing war

By James M. Abraham AFRO Staff Writer

Publisher Earl Koger Sr. former owner of Good News, is being sued for breach of contract by Del. Frank Conaway, D-40, and attorney David Sloan, present coowners of the paper.

The owners of a new paper, the Watchdog, are also being sued by the Conaway-Sloan duo. A request

for an injunction prohibiting the operation of the business has been

"I just can't understand this," said Koger, who sold the paper to Conaway and Sloan several months ago. In the original deal, Koger was to be retained as publisher-emeritus, but that

Continued on page 2

work because we had people to train," said Smith who pointed out that most of his 30 employees are people from the black community who for the first time were exposed to training in an area they had never worked in before.

"We had people working here that were contributing to the economic development of the community and creating a tax base," Smith stated.

representatives from another optical distributor came to his plant last week before the foreclosure was announced. examine equipment and the plant. "Now that I've set up the plant

said

and gotten it established, they want to take it away," he said.

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GENTRIFICATION SLOWED IN S. BALTIMORE Sharp-Leadenhall survives white invasion attempts



SHARP LEADENHALL DISTRICT - of of mix of various income levels. city were responsible for getting and, say residents, "the city won't buildings such as these built in take this land from us." area, beating out urbanization

(Photo by Mark Gail) attempts by state, city. Area boasts

By Sue Williams AFRO Staff Writer

The residents of Sharp-Leadenhall would probably laugh at the suggestion that gentrification - or the take-over of low-income housing by well-to-do whites — does not exist.

In the late 1960s, literally hundreds of black tenants were uprooted from their homes to make way for a new interstate highway that had been planned and budgeted for by the state and federal governments, and, later, for a new and emerging elite neighborhood that would contain housing only for the most welltodo families of Baltimore-or neighboring counties and cities, including Washington, D.C.

According to Mildred Moon, director of the Sharp-Leadenhall PAC group, many of the families were moved from what is now known as Otterbein (she estimates that about 500 families were displaced), and hundreds more from the Franklin-Mulberry corridor.

Mildred Moon herself was

relocated. "I can remember the day just like it happened yesterday," she recounted slowly. "A man came to my door and said, 'Good evening. I'm from the city. We're going to take your house."

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