—Black business

(Continued from page 1)

"From the beginning, I don't think the city was really committed to this project. It was done for cosmetic purposes to show that the city was trying to help a black business."

The announcemment of foreclosure of R and R Optical was followed this week by the city's decision to award $950,000 to a white-owned school supply firm that is being purchased from an out-of-state conglomerate.

Smith stated that he felt it was unfair to him as a black businessman not be to be given additional time to develop his firm when the city can award such a large amount to another operation.

Plans are also in the making to foreclose on another firm. The International which is an apartment complex in the Pimlico area.

One of the developers Wilbur Reich stated that the loans were behind because of several reasons.

"We were aware of the delinquency problem but it was not astronomical. But we didn't reach the peak we expected to." he said.

Reich stated that the rent projections based on the tax base and the utility rates were off which caused the financial difficulties.

The International has been scheduled for auction June 30 but Reich hopes to delay that action so that he can save the business which is also owned by Gertrude Venable, daugher of William L. "Little Willie" Adams and Theo Rodgers.

"I don't know what it's going to take to prevent it from happening but I'm going to do what I can."

The International opened two years ago on Park Heights Avenue in what used to be the Holiday Inn.

National Council to salute women

An international salute to women of achievement will be sponsored by the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., on Sunday, June 28, in Constitution Hall, 18th & D Sts., NW.

As explained by Dorothy I. Height, national president, "In furtherance of NCNW's outreach to women of the world, we are paying tribute to distinguished women from Africa, Asia and the Americas for their contributions to international understanding and development."

—South African protest

(Continued from page 1)

was not aimed specifically at Koch, but at the "city and the mayor to let them know we will not allow this type of thing to happen."

"They're not able to sneak things past us and the black community the way they think they can," he added.

During Koch's visit, which began Monday, the South African met with several high-ranking black or city officials.

He has met with Dr. Beryl Williams of Morgan State University, Mildred Meehan of the city department of Housing and Community Development, Urban Services Agency director Lenwood Ivey, Steve Kaiser of the Mayor's office of Manpower Resources, and William Mercer from the city's department of Social Services.

—Conaway, Koger trial

(Continued from page 1)

arrangement fell through amidst charges that the Conaway-Sloan duo had refused to pay Koger all that he claimed he was due.

Koger has retained J. Roberta Gill as his counsel, and she said that the case, which is filed in Superior Court may not even come to trial.

"The papers weren't served correctly," she said, "so I can't discuss the merits of the suit yet. But I don't believe the suit was justified. Legally and ethically, we're right."

Clyde Woods, editor of the Watchdog, Jieni Asha, production manager, and Carole Cannon, advertising manager of the new paper, are reportedly all named in the injunction.

The Watchdog was organized about three months ago by Woods, Cannon and Asha, and since then, Koger has appeared as a contributing writer and consultant.

The suit alleges that such activity on Koger's part is a breach of contract.

The suit asks $1 million in damages from Koger and the others, and also asks that $100,000 in alleged lost revenue be paid to the Conaway and Sloan duo.

When contacted about the nature of the suit, Conaway was mum, and Sloan refused to return an AFRO phone call.

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—R&R optical

(Continued from page 1)

The AFRO has learned Mrs. Blackwell is Smith's mother-in-law. However, Mrs. Blackwell would neither confirm or deny this and said she had no comment. Smith was not available for a comment at AFRO presstime.

According to court records the maturity date for repayment of the loan has passed and Smith has not made the payment as agreed, despite the fact that Mrs. Blackwell has fulfilled all her obligations under the agreement and made a timely demand for payment.

The loan is overdue and the defendant is in breach of the agreement, owing to no fault of Mirs. Blackwell, her suit charges.

Mrs. Blackwell, who is being represented by Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell, is asking the court to enter judgement in her favor and award her damages of $6,270, attorney's fees of $570 and grant her any other and further relief the court may deem reasonable The record further says that Smith agreed to issue shares of stock in R and R Optical Company Inc., as further consideration for an additional $5,000 Mrs. Blackwell lent Smith.

The plaintiff maintains that despite her repeated requests Smith failed to issue stock to her as agreed.

Mrs. Blackwell claims she has suffered damages for which Smith jointly and severally is liable.

Mrs. Blackwell is also asking the court to grant judgment in her favor and award her damages in the amount of $5,000 with interest from Feb. 26, 1979.

Many companies offer loans by mail or phone. Send $2.50 for their list. Sunnywatts, 819 East Fayette Street, Suite 119, Baltimore, MD. 21202

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Oasis on a seedy block

Food for stomach, spirit

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

"Africa is beautiful, but I have to do what I can for Baltimore," said Kibwe Bey. "If I had no place to go, no place to sit down, I would feel neglected. I would feel that no one had prepared a place for me."

But Kibwe Bey has no need to worry, for he has prepared a place for himself and a growing group of Baltimoreans interested in natural foods.

De Soup De Salad Cafe is located in the 500 block of Howard St., on a corner across from a girlie bar and up the street from a bus terminal. Despite the disparate elements drawn to those locations, the cafe is a downtown oasis amidst the winos, cruisng gays and other assorted characters who frequent the area.

Bey started the shop almost two years ago, on the site of an abandoned pizza parlor, and since then his clientele has rapidly grown.

The shop sells fruit, fish, juices breads and soups and salads, and also distributes — via wall hangings, plants and books — a steady diet of peace.

"We have books, plants, pictures, anything that deals with the whole consciousness," said Bey. He said that some people in the city never leave their community, and the materials in his shop are designed to make people aware of the spiritual and physical world around them.

As Bey speaks, one constantly hears familiar Biblical references made. He quotes heavily from the Bible, but has also been influenced by "glorify the master. We believe in service to God, so that's what we do."

Bey began his career as a food merchant four years ago. At the time, he was an academic counselor for a college preparatory firm, District Search for Talent. But, upon hearing that his alma mater, Coppin State College, had been forced to shut down its cafeteria, he decided to quit his $15,000 a year job to sell fruit and sandwiches to students near the school.

"I just quit my job and went out there to sell fruit," he said. "I knew they, (Coppin) was in trouble, so I served them the way I would like to be served."

Following a month's stint at Coppin, Bey decided to get into the merchandising business full - time.

He moved to a location in the 500 block of Howard St. 2 years ago, and presently sells his wares and food

He moved to a location in the 500 block of Howard St. 2 years ago, and moved to the former pizza parlor more than a year ago.

The cafe attracts a wide range of customers, from white - coated doctors to "rockers" in dreadlocks. Bey says that whites supply the bulk of his business, but that he would like to move to the black community.

He said that one of his first shops, located in the 2000 block of Edmondson Ave., failed soon after opening because of a lack of understanding on the part of blacks in the community.

"Whites understand what I'm doing, they like what I'm doing," he explained. "I started on Edmondson Ave., but people laughed at us — they thought we were jokes."

But he says that he plans on moving back to the black community when he feels he is economically ready to survive the move.

Bey is active in the community however. He has sponsored several concerts, which he describes as "family gatherings," the most recent being the Bob Marley Memorial Festival held at Wyman Park last Sunday. He says that he plans on promoting such festivals throughout the city in the summer to come.

Obviously, Bey is a successful businessman. But how does he reconcile his economic success with his spiritual leanings?

Simple. "Religion is love and work," he says.

SMILING MERCHANT — Kibwe Bey offers food for the mind and body at his Howard St. cafe. AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz

CLOTEL, published in London in 1853, was the first published novel written by an American Black, William Wells Brown.

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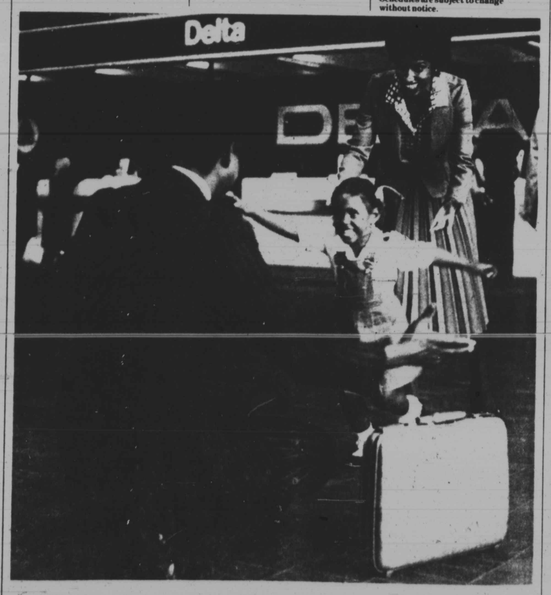

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