International Page

Commodores set to perform in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (UPI) — If the U.S. pop group "The Commodores" performs in South Africa they will risk possible blacklisting by breaking a U.N.-led cultural boycott but will pledge to be critical of apartheid.

The all-black recording group, singers of "Three Times a Lady" and other hits, is to perform seven shows starting July 7 at Sun City, a complex of hotels, casinos and theaters frequented by whites in the black homeland of Bophuthatswana, whose independence is recognized only by South Africa.

Hazel Feldman, entertainment director of the Sun International hotel chain, said The Commodores' decision was "taken only after many months of heart-searching" and that the group intended to be "making a statement from the stage."

"They intend to express their 100 percent solidarity behind the anti-apartheid movement," Feldman told independent Radio 702.

She said the contract specifies that none of the group's statements would be censored.

The Johannesburg Star quoted a statement released by The Commodores in Los Angeles acknowledging the threat of blacklisting by the anti-apartheid lobby but pledging to be vocal in its criticism of white minority rule.

Since 1981, the U.N. Center Against Apartheid has annually published a list of writers, musicians and other artists who have performed in South Africa, removing their names only after receiving a written pledge they will not perform in the country again.

"Please do not misinterpret this visit in any way," The Commodores' statement said. "We are adamantly opposed to any form of prejudice, particularly when it is inspired and ordained by a government, be it in South Africa or anywhere else in the world.

"We have enjoyed a great deal of success in our career which has given us the opportunity to influence many people. We hope that this continues and that we can act as a spokespeople for change in South Africa," the group said.

Officers held in coup attempt

KHARTOUM, Sudan (UPI) — Prime Minister Sadiq al Mahdi is promising to deal harshly with participants in a foiled coup plot, saying those involved had planned a massacre at the evening Parliament session where he was speaking.

A total of 14 senior army officers and 20 civilians were arrested after the plot was uncovered Sunday, according to newspapers and security sources. They said the scheme was hatched by supporters of deposed president Jaafar Numeiry, who was overthrown four years ago.

In a scheduled address to Parliament late Monday, Sadiq said the plotters had planned a murderous attack during the evening session, which was attended by senior members of his administration and other political leaders.

Earlier published newspaper reports said the plotters had planned to break in and arrest all those present at the session.

The Khartoum daily al-Siasa said 14 senior military officers had been arrested, including six brigadiers, two colonels, a lieutenant colonel and five majors.

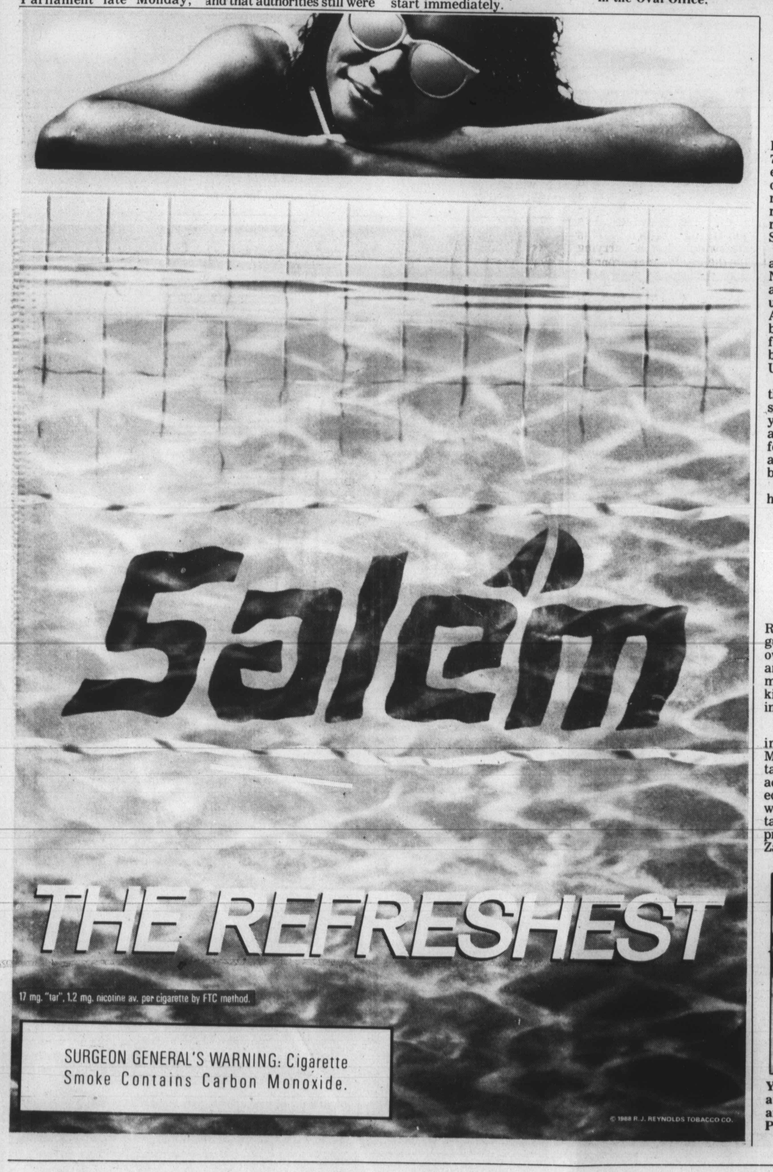
Security sources said 20 civilians also were arrested and that authorities still were seeking another 29 suspects, seven of whom were living abroad.

Another newspaper, the al-Watan, reported the civilians arrested included the paper's editor-in-chief, Sid'ahmed Khalif, who recently conducted an interview with Numeiry at his exile home in Egypt.

Numeiry claimed in the interview, which has been published in serialized form, that he planned to return to power in Khartoum within four weeks.

The military communique Sunday said all the officers involved had been placed under arrest and "interrogation will start immediately.

PRESIDENTS MEET — President Bush met Zambia President Kenneth Kaunda recently in the Oval Office.



Namibians flying home in droves

By Kevin Jacobs

DOBRA, Namibia (UPI) — Five chartered jets brought 700 Namibians home from exile Monday on the first day of a massive U.N. airlift to repatriate more than 41,000 refugees in advance of the territory's independence from South Africa.

At the same time, authorities in northern Namibia grappled with another set of refugees — an unexpected rush of destitute Angolans who fled across the border and spoke of heavy fighting between Cuban-backed Angolan troops and U.S.-backed Unita guerrillas.

Trophimus Tujenius, seeing the piercing blue Namibian sky for the first time in 10 years, pledged to find a job as a school teacher and help his four young children adjust to a land they've never seen before.

"I'm very happy to be here," said the 40-year-old refugee who fled both the war and apartheid rule 10 years ago for neighboring Zambia. "I come from this country, this is my country and I'm going to be a teacher in Namibia again.

Most of the refugees who arrived Monday, including Tujenius, were taken to Dobra, a 90-year-old Roman Catholic mission village 13 miles north of Windhoek, one of six processing centers set up for the refugees.

Workers at Windhoek Airport raised clenched fists in tribute as the first 150 refugees crossed the tarmac for processing after the flight aboard an Air Zambia DC-10 from Lusaka.

"This is a historic day, a memorable day," said Nicolas Bwakira, chief of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees's $33 million operation in Namibia. "The international community can be proud of this success."

Zimbabwe convoy crushed; 59 killed

LISBON, Portugal (UPI) — Right - wing Mozambican guerrillas said Monday they overran five army positions and destroyed a Zimbabwean military convoy last week, killing 59 soldiers and capturing much war material.

In a statement distributed in Lisbon, rebels of the Mozambican National Resistance known by the French acronym RENAMO, acknowledged nine fatalities and 69 wounded in the June 12-17 attacks in southern Inhambane province and central Tete and Zambezia provinces.

RENAMO's report, which could not be independently confirmed, said 25 Mozambican troops and 34 soldiers from allied African countries — six Zimbabweans, nine Tanzanians and 19 Zambians — were killed in the latest attacks.

In the biggest operation, the rebels said their forces killed six soldiers, including a Zimbabwean lieutenant colonel, and destroyed all soldiers, including a Zimbabwean lieutenant colonel, and destroyed all 25 vehicles in a Zimbabwean military convoy north of Chaete Province.

YOUNG COMMUNISTS? — A group of children, tied together at the wrists to prevent them from wandering into the streets, are led for a walk past the Communist party headquarters in Peking on June 20.

Gorham receives Du Burns award

Lucille Gorham, director of Citizens for Fair Housing and advocate for residents of the East Baltimore community known as "Middle East," was presented recently with the first Clarence "Du" Burns Award for Community Service from the Johns Hopkins Health System.

"Hopkins is delighted with the selection of Lucille Gorham, who has shown not only extraordinary leadership in her own Middle East neighborhood but also devotion to many other worthy causes throughout Baltimore," said Robert M. Heyssel, MD., president of the Johns Hopkins Health System and The Johns Hopkins Hospital. "She is a strong advocate for those in need and has set standards for effective community leadership over more than two decades."

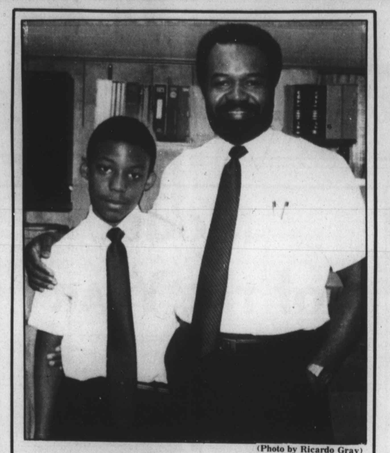
Gorham received a citation and $1,000 during the ceremonies.

The "Du" Burns prize, instituted in recognition of the long relationship between the former mayor and Baltimore City Councilman and Johns Hopkins, is awarded to the East Baltimore individual (or group) that has contributed most to the quality of life in the area during the preceding year.

Individual winners are asked to select an organization to receive the prize in their name. Trustees of the Hopkins Health System personally contributed the $17,000 to endow the prize.

Gorham, who was born on a farm in Halifax, N.C., in 1939, has lived in the East Baltimore neighborhood for nearly half a century. Her commitment to saving the neighborhood from the wrecking balls of urban renewal and to rebuilding it with decent housing for low-income blacks has become legendary.

"From that day forward, Lucille could be found walking the neighborhood, meeting downtown, meeting in various city offices, meeting in private offices of lawyers and architects in an effort to revitalize and reshape the East Baltimore community," says State Delegate Clarence Davis. "The Middle East project . . . is a testament to (her) persistence."



(Photo by Ricardo Gray)

Self-made businessman Benjamin T. Brooks, Sr., is this year's winner of the AFRO-AMERICAN greatest dad contest. "Even though my dad can be strict, he is not afraid to show us affection with hugs and kisses, I know he loves us," wrote proud son Benjamin Brooks, Jr. President and CEO of his own professional service, Benjamin, Sr. is a shining example of an Afro-American father. Father and son received five tickets to attend last Sunday's Orioles game.

Elks to convene in Baltimore

The Improved Benevolent and Protective order of Elks of the world will hold its 90th annual Grand Lodge Convention in the city of Baltimore, August 4 thru August 11, 1989.

The Elks expect to bring more than 25,000 delegates, family members, relatives and friends to Baltimore. This will be the Elks First National Convention in Baltimore in 51 years, having last met here in 1938.

The Grand Exalted Ruler, The Honorable Donald P. Wilson, is a native of Baltimore, and is proud to have this 90th Annual Convention in his home town. The Grand Daughter Ruler is Mrs. Jean C. W. Smith of Philadelphia, PA.

Local Convention Chairman is Brother Elmer N. Handy of Baltimore, co-chair person is Daughter Jean Rogers.

The Host Lodges and Temples are: East Baltimore Lodge #1043, Monument Lodge #3, Pride of Baltimore Lodge #713, W. Sampson Brooks Lodge #981, Spirit of Chesapeake Lodge #1107, Greater Southern Temple #30, F.E.W. Harper Temple #429, W. Sampson Brooks Temple #682, Zorah Elliot Temple #717 and Spirit of Chesapeake Temple #761.

City sign contest ends June 30

High school art classes, graphic artists, advertising agencies, retirees, housewives, business owners and nearly anyone living or working in Baltimore with a clever "Welcome to Baltimore City" idea are all eligible to enter Baltimore City's Entryway Sign Contest.

The deadline for entries is June 30, 1989 at 4:30 p.m. — individuals, groups and firms in Baltimore City may enter.

Sponsored by the City of Baltimore, Giant Food, Inc., Crown Central Petroleum, and the Automobile Association of Maryland, the contest is part of the City's ongoing Baltimore Boulevards Program which is working toward beautifying the City's major boulevards.

No registration fee is required, and only one entry per applicant will be accepted. The actual entries should be two dimensional drawings no larger than 11" x 14". A general outline listing size, materials and other details will be helpful.

Designs should emphasize both a positive image and highlight the character of Baltimore. When fabricated in final form, the sign must be visible to both motorists and pedestrians.

For an entry form and contest requirements for the Baltimore City Entryway Sign Contest, please call Naomi Benyowitz at 396-3532 or write her at the Department of Housing and Community Development, 417 E. Fayette Street, Room 1301, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.

Photo by Ricardo Gray

GREAT HUMANITARIAN — Mrs. Frances Hooks warmly congratulates husband, Benjamin Hooks. Dr. Hooks, NAACP executive director, was recently honored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews during their 60th annual humanitarian award's dinner.

New employment hours

A new campaign to encourage job seekers to fill job openings through the Maryland Job Service is underway, according to Charles O. Middlebrooks, assistant secretary of employment and training of the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development (DEED).

Taking advantage of this seasonal opportunity this year, local offices of the Maryland Job Service around the state have planned a variety of events and activities to promote the state's job-filling efforts. This statewide effort is carrying the theme "We make connections that work."

"In our capacity as a broker in a job-seekers market, we look forward to making connections with employers and job seekers that work in this busy time," said Paulette Hall, executive director of DEED's Office of Employment Service.

During June, some Job Service offices will extend their hours of operation. Many offices have scheduled evening "call-up" campaigns as well as special Saturday hours.

The office in northwest Baltimore will remain open until 5 p.m. rather than 4 p.m. to take calls from job-seekers and employers alike. The Crisfield/Princess Anne office will stay open until 6 p.m. on Wednesdays.

New BMA trustees appointed

Thirteen new trustees have been elected to the Baltimore Museum of Art board.

They are: Janet Dunn, a long-time Museum volunteer who has most recently served as Co-Chair of the Sales & Rental Gallery; Robert Hillman, an attorney with Whiteford, Taylor, Preston, Trimble & Johnson, active in civic affairs;

Dr. Richard Hunter, Superintendent of Pubic Instruction, Baltimore City Public Schools; Richard Kozich, managing partner of Ernst and Whinney, certified public accounts;

Yvonne K. Lansey, president, Ideal Savings & Loan Association; the Hon. Kweisi Mfume, member of the U.S. House of Representatives;

J. Jefferson Miller, II, retired Director, Maryland Historical Society; Fredye Murphy, president, Maryland Art Place;

Edward Rice, founder and Chairman of Ritz Camera Centers; Thomas Schweitzer, II, partner, Alex. Brown and Sons;

Dennis J. Shaughnessy, president of CRI International; the Hon. Edgar Silver, retired judge, Circuit Court of Baltimore, and,

The Hon. Stuart O. Simms, State's Attorney, Baltimore City.

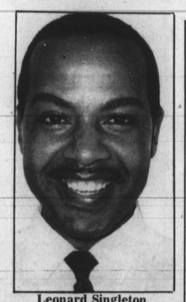
Eight current trustees were reelected to serve a second three-year term. They are Donald V. Borst, Clara Ward Haines, Jack C. Merriman, Jack Moseley, Dr. Steven Muller, Charles W. Newhall, III, Osborne A. Payne, and Carl W. Struever.

Health department cites Singleton

Leonard Singleton has been named "Employee-of-the-Month" for June by the Baltimore City Health Department.

Singleton is employed as an Environmental Sanitarian with the Bureau of Food Control and has been employed with the Health Department for three years. He makes inspections of Baltimore City food establishments to assure that conditions are both sanitary and safe.

Singleton is being recognized for his voluntary efforts to develop a series of training sessions designed to prepare other Environmental Sanitarians for their required certification examination.



Leonard Singleton

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