There was more to Preakness than controversy

Okay now, lemme see what I'm gonna do

A do-it-myselfer

Squatters' rights for the early birds

A little man spoiled the day

By Mark Gail and Sam Lacy

Angel Cordero Jr. is a tiny man. He is five feet tall and weighs 114 pounds. By normal standards, he is a midget build.

But this little person jockeyed the 105th Preakness into utter chaos at Pimlico last Saturday. His riding performance aboard the controversial winner, Codex, brought forth a universal cry of foul for interference with Kentucky Derby winner Genuine Risk.

At the end of an ideal racing day, everyone — even owners of the victorious colt — felt Cordero had ruined the event.

Before then, the variables of human interest were recorded by the AFRO camera.

Backgammon (in the infield) anyone?

Controversial rider Cordero and tainted winning horse Codex

'Hey, AFRO, take our picture, we're all legit'

Some folks liked what they watched, others didn't

Mark Gail's camera wasn't the only one on Pimlico scene

'Hey, AFRO! hold still a minute, willya?'

BLACK TELETHON!

Help our colleges, help our students!

Superstars on tube for UNCF Saturday p.m.

See column 4

A WORD FROM THE GREATEST — Retired heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali whispers words of wisdom to Singer Lou Rawls during taping of the "Lou Rawls Parade of Stars" special for the benefit of the United Negro College Fund to be seen 8 p.m. Saturday, May 31, on WMAR - TV, Channel 2.

White mob viciously attacks trio in Hampden

Lynch fury on a hot night

See column one

Baltimore Afro-American

WE ARE NOW IN OUR 88TH YEAR

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Computer bandit pleads guilty

Where is $½ million she stole?

Social Security worker refuses to tell where money is, faces 530 year-prison term

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

Mrs. Janet Elizabeth Bartee Blair, 29-year-old Social Security worker at Woodlawn headquarters, pleaded guilty in federal court Tuesday to 21 counts of causing false treasury checks to be made and 21 counts of aiding and abetting in the forgery and passing of forged treasury checks totaling over one half million dollars.

Mrs. Blair, in her position as a benefit authorizer with Social Security was charged by prosecutors with submitting false claimants. She refused to reveal to her attorney and prosecutors what she did with the $500,000 she stole from Social Security.

Federal investigators state they have not recovered any of the missing funds. Assistant U. S. Attorney David Queen was prepared for a long trial Tuesday morning in Federal Court before Judge Herbert F. Murray when at trial time, 10 a.m. Mrs. Blair changed her plea from not guilty to guilty, a move that left the prosecutors in a mild state of shock.

Ready to testify against Mrs. Blair were 26 government witnesses including Secret Service agents, bank employees from other states and Social Security administrators.

Despite her sudden last minute plea of guilty, Mrs. Blair refused to divulge what she had done with the half-million in stolen money.

The slim defendant was dressed in a burgundy dress and burgundy shoes. She stood beside her attorney Herbert Singleton facing Judge Murray, while he asked her several questions concerning her guilty plea.

Clutching a blue cigarette case in her left hand, Mrs. Blair told the court softly, "I feel nervous."

Judge Blair asked the defendant, "Do you in fact admit you are guilty Mrs. Blair, to all 42 counts?"

"Yes," said Mrs. Blair.

Judge Blair told the defendant, "There are 42 counts in the indictment and the possible maximum sentence for all counts is a fine of $136,000 and up to 530 years in prison.

Continued on page 2

Motorists lured into ambush by Hampden cyclist

By James M. Abraham

Three Baltimore men were attacked by a gang of white youths early Saturday morning in the predominantly white community of Hampden.

According to one of the three men attacked, Charlie Wyche, 47, the three men "were set up."

"We were coming through Huntington Street near 33rd Street at about one o'clock Saturday morning," said Wyche.

"A guy in a bicycle stopped in front of us and wouldn't move. When we asked him to get out of the way he started cursing us. When we got out of the car, all these guys came out of nowhere, and started jumping on us."

According to Dennis Hill, police spokesman, there were about 18 white youths in the mob that attacked the black men. He said that they were armed with a shotgun, pieces of wood, and baseball bats.

"They jumped on me," said Wyche, "and started kicking and beating me. The only thing I could do was roll up in a ball."

Wyche said that he sustained a broken arm in the altercation, and that he has difficulty climbing the stairs as a result of the beating.

The two other men attacked were James Montague and James Bradsher.

According to Bradsher, who was driving, only a last-second maneuver saved the three.

Continued on page 2

FINALLY!!! — Jubilant Morgan State University graduates show relation at last Sunday's commencement program held at the Civic Center. The happy grads shown here are Kevin Powell, Charlotte Armstead and Denise Weems.

AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewcyz

'We need black colleges,' keynoter tells Morgan grads

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

"We need black colleges to provide a comfortable environment for black students who are neglected or isolated at white institutions.

"If the Jews need Brandeis and Yeshiva and if the Catholics need Holy Cross and Notre Dame, then the blacks need Morgan and Morehouse."

These words from commencement speaker Dr. Hugh M. Gloster, president of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga. since 1967, brought a resounding round of applause at the 113th commencement of Morgan State University.

Gloster echoed the very feelings expressed by students and faculty who vigorously fought earlier this year to preserve Morgan as a predominantly black institution and prevent its merger with the University of Maryland.

The graduation was held at the Baltimore Civic Center May 25 and more than 1,000 students received undergraduate and graduate degrees.

During his address, Gloster who received an honorary doctor of human letters degree, told the graduates, "If you are a swinger trying to have a good time, remember that pleasures first delight and then destroy.

(Continued on Page 6)

Hughes signs credit hike bill

Gov. Harry Hughes signed into law on Tuesday Senate Bill 92, increasing the credit interest rate to 18 percent on all consumer credit and charge accounts. This controversial bill will become law in July.

On May 23, Hughes held a veto hearing at which both opponents and proponents of the bill made last minute efforts to convince the governor to either sign or veto SB 92.

Delegates Steven Sklar and Troy Brailey were the only people present at the hearing to testify against it. In his testimony to the governor Brailey reminded Hughes of a letter he sent to him in April asking for his veto of the bill because of the extremely negative effect it would have on the poor throughout the state.

Brailey said "that poor people rely on credit from month to month and the working poor need credit as well to get the necessities, these people must have credit".

"In my community I believe this is the most controversial bill [illegible] in a long time", Brailey said as he concluded his testimony asking that the governor veto SB 92.

Continued on page 7

Tension high at Park Heights agency, invader terrorizes office

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

Tension in Park Heights was high Thursday, May 22. Thye Hawkins, a former community organizer for the Park Heights Community Corporation, had filed an appeal protesting her dismissal, and a vote on whether or not to re-instate her was expected from the board of directors of PHCC.

Inside the meeting office of the PHCC, and along the 2700 block of Cold Spring Lane, where the offices are located, a spirit of restlessness prevailed.

Small knots of PHCC staffers, members of the board of directors and community residents huddled in separate groups to plan strategy for the upcoming meeting.

Rumours had been circulating throughout the day that a vote of no-confidence in the board of directors was expected to be introduced by staffers disgruntled with the personnel policies of the board, which had fired Ms. Hawkins and a host of other workers.

James Howard Young, president of the board of directors, was asked if he predicted any trouble.

"What kind of trouble are you talking about?" Young asked quizzically. "I don't expect any trouble."

But the board was expected to uphold the firing of Ms. Hawkins, and residents were preparing for the worse.

Shortly after the exchange, Young moved inside the meeting room, and asked the newest members, Emmet Edwards, Mary Scott and Joyce Chatmon-McKoy, to join him outside. It was later disclosed that he had met with the three to inform them that, as new board members, they were not eligible to vote in the hearing.

His reminder to the members proved to have serious consequences before the night was out.

After most of the residents had entered the room, and Young and the board members had taken their seats behind a T-shaped table in the front of the room Young announced that there would be no hearing because a quorum of board members was not present.

(Continued on Page 14)

Hurry, send, your entry in today!

3 weeks to AFRO dad of year awards

The AFRO-AMERICAN Father of the Year contest is underway. Fathers are just as important as mothers. They can inspire, give strength, courage and wisdom and to honor them the Baltimore AFRO is sponsoring a contest and an awards ceremony at which the winners — AFRO Father of the Year - 1980 and runners-up will be selected.

This is the latest AFRO contest. On May 10, an AFRO Mother of the Year was selected and awarded, with runners-up.

Winners will receive many prizes. Among them will be clothing, personal grooming services, gift certificates for dinner out on the town and many other goodies.

So hurry. Get your entry in. Write your letter stating why your father or the father figure in your life should receive this honor.

He could be a biological father, foster father, step-father, relative, friend or adopted father. Whoever he is, he is one who cherishes his child or children and is willing to make all types of sacrifices for their good.

Continued on page 2

Telethon for Negro College Fund airs here Saturday, May 31

Tobie Marsh

"A mind is a terrible thing to waste" is the theme of the United Negro College Fund.

That theme is destined to be heard repeatedly Saturday, May 31, in the Maryland community from 8 to 11 p.m.

That's the day of the three-hour "Lou Rawls Parade of Stars" Telethon, sponsored by WMAR-TV, Channel 2, for the benefit of the 41 colleges and universities served by the United Negro College Fund.

The "Parade of Stars" special is hosted by Lou Rawls and Ed McMahon, the cheerful sidekick of Johnny Carson. Other stars include:

Sammy Davis Jr., Glen Campbell, Bill Cosby, Joey Travolta, Lola Falana, Mary McGregor, Mahammad Ali, Norm Crosby, Charlie Pride, Paul Williams, The Mills Brothers, Lou Brock, George Duke, Willie Tyler and Lester, and The Treniers.

In the local live segments of the telethon, prominent Marylanders will join on-air hosts — Tobie Marsh, Tom Sweeney, and Kirk Anderson — to urge viewers to call in pledges.

Continued on page 2

MAY