—Groundbreaking

Continued from page 1

The UDAG grant was the second grant of the sort given to Baltimore city. A similar grant was awarded for the construction of the Hyatt Hotel in the Inner Harbor.

Bur said that construction, which will be done for the most part by the St. Ambrose construction company, will be aided by Johnston Square residents, many of whom have talent in demolition, drywall and painting.

He said that construction is expected to last six to nine months, and will result in 12 units, from one to four bedrooms.

Rents will be subsidized through the Section 8 program, Bur said, so that tenants will only have to pay 25 percent of their income.

Spirits were obviously high at the ceremony, at which Housing Commissioner M. J. Brodie remembered a conversation he had had with Ralph Moore several years ago.

He said that the old school had been pointed out to him by Moore, who said, "What are you going to do about that (building)?"

Brodie said he didn't know.

It was then, Brodie said, that it was first suggested to him that the school be converted to rental units for Johnston Square residents.

It sounded like a good idea, he said, and plans got underway, despite the fact that "this project was working against terrific odds."

"It's good that this project happened when it did," Brodie said.

"There's some folks in Washington who must practice saying 'no' from the time they get up until the time they go to bed."

He said that the project needed the "yes's" it had received, and called the day "one of celebration" for the people of Johnston Square.

Harold Young, an official of HUD in Baltimore, said that the project was the only one he had ever seen to gain unanimous approval from all the departments of HUD it passed through.

"Perhaps St. Martin de Porres was looking over us," he said.

The people, too, expressed their pleasure that this first step had been made, referring to St. Martin de Porres as the "patron saint of the oppressed."

"We want more Section 8's, more public housing and fewer waiting lists," said one community resident, drawing a huge round of applause.

Edna Harris, another Johnston Square resident, also drew applause when she said, "this is the beginning of better things to come."

And Lucy Townes, beaming, said she was exhuberant.

"I'm just so pleased about today," she said. "We've just begun and there's no stopping us now!"

YOUNG PEOPLE IN JOHNSTON SQUARE may not have recreation center much longer for after school activity. City this week announced possible closings of several recreation centers due to budget problems. Shown (L-R) are Antonio Watson, Charles Byrd and Darryl Cook.

(AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz)

Black inventor Andrew J. Beard was awarded $800,000 by the U.S. in 1897 for inventing the railroad coupler.

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—Billingsley

Continued from page 1

He added that his office would not become involved if there are no indications of criminal activity, such as using school funds for personal purposes.

The allegations stem from the possible misuse of university funds that were received by the Morgan Foundation which was created in 1970, to raise money for the school.

The attorney general's office has been trying to audit the foundation's books but has been stalled in its efforts because a management letter necessary to aid in the audit would not be released.

—Slayer sought

Continued from page 1

Indiana state police confiscated two guns believed to have been used by Ellis in the shootings. The guns were taken after Ms. Mary P. Turner and her son, Joey, were taken as hostages. Ms. Turner and her son escaped in Ellis' car when he stopped at the Illinois-Indiana border for food and left the keys in the car.

Police believe Ellis and his wife were having domestic problems and their $80,000 house was up for sale. Ellis was employed at a printing company in Silver Spring, where he had worked as an apprentice pressman since 1972. He also worked as a mechanic from his home.

Prince Georges County police have described the mass slayings as "the most brutal murder in the area in 10 years." One investigating officer said the inside of the bedroom where the five victims were found looked like "a scene from The Jonestown massacre."

Mrs. Ellis and Ms. Janet Jackson attended the House of Good Shepherd High School in Baltimore County and had been friends since they graduated from school.

Mrs. Ellis had been a member of the Washington Police Department since 1970 and was promoted to sergeant in February 1980. Before moving to the second district station, she was working in the police training academy, where she was earning $22,000 a year.

The Ellises had been married 15 years and their oldest daughter was not at home at the time of the slayings.

Relatives of Mrs. Ellis refused to talk to the AFRO. Funeral services for Mrs. Ellis and her two daughters will be held today (Friday) at Isle of Patmos Church, 12th and Rhode Island Ave., at 11 a.m.

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PENN IS FOR THE PEOPLE!

ROBBERY AT SUNDAY SERVICES — Two unidentified men entered Mount Oliver Freewill Baptist Church last Sunday and took $300 from the trustees after the morning collection.

Mt. Olive Freewill church robbed during morning service

An unidentified man who entered the side entrance of Mount Olive Freewill Baptist Church last Sunday, several minutes after the special offering for the poor was collected, took nearly $300 from a trustee as officers were about to count the money.

Bishop Leo K. Ceaser, pastor of Mount Olive at Fremont Avenue and Saratoga Street told the AFRO, "Things are getting so bad today that people can't even go to church."

Bishop Ceaser stated that he did not know the money had been taken until he had started preaching his sermon and a trustee told him what had happened.

According to the Bishop, plates are passed for the collection just before he preaches his sermon and the trustees count the money in a back room. "Usually the doors are locked but someone forgot to lock the door last Sunday," said Bishop Ceaser.

One man was seen seated on a bench outside the church while the other man was inside. Bishop Ceaser said no one was hurt but according to a trustee at the church, the Bishop believes the man might have had a gun because he kept one hand in his pocket.

Police report no arrest had been made at AFRO presstime: Mount Olive Freewill has 1,000 members and is a very active church in West Baltimore.

The Bishop says he does not like the idea of having security guards standing in the back of his church during Sunday services but he is considering having a guard stand outside his church on Sundays after the collection has been taken.

"The man that had everything but the right thing" was his theme for last Sunday's sermon and Bishop Ceaser said he believes the man who entered his church "did not have the right thing and the right thing was Christ." Members were not told about the robbery until services were over.

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Preakness balloon race set despite early difficulties

The 1981 Preakness Balloon race lifts off tomorrow, Saturday, at 8 a.m. from the Mansion House lawn at Druid Hill Park.

More than 15 six-story high hot air balloons will float gracefully over the city toward the Chesapeake Bay and land on the Eastern Shore.

The balloon race, which begins at 7:30 a.m. when pilots begin to unfurl and inflate their balloons, kicks off a week of activities leading up the Preakness race Saturday, May 16.

This year's race will be a "hare and hounds" style race with one balloon designated as the hare and the remaining balloons acting as hounds who must chase the hare. The balloon to land closest to the hare is the winner of the race.

Jim Schiller, recognized as one of the area's top competitive pilots, will man the hare balloon which is the world's largest paint can.

The paint can balloon, belonging to the Porter Paint Company, is a Cameron balloon of 86,000 cubic feet. AFRO reporter Portia Badham will be flying in the paint can balloon.

The winner of the race will receive an award during a presentation at Hunt Valley Inn, which is the headquarters for the race, at 6 p.m. on Saturday.

The air was almost let out of the balloon race when a lawsuit was filed two weeks ago to stop the scheduled race. The suit was filed in U.S. District Court by Robert Waligunda, the head of Balloon Enterprises Inc., the firm that has put on the race every year since it began in 1973.

This year, however, Aerial Attractions Inc. was selected to hold the race and Waligunda sued, saying the promotions firm cheated him out of a contract.

But in an agreement reached May 5, Waligunda dropped the portion of the suit that would have stopped the race, on condition that profits from the race be held in escrow until the court decides whom the money should go to.

"It's not in anybody's interest to cancel the race. Everybody would lose," he said.

Basically, the hot air balloon is a giant nylon envelope with an average capacity of almost 60,000 cubic feet. Open at the bottom, it is filled with air, heated to approximately 100 degrees higher than the temperature of the air outside by means of one or more propane gas burners.

The hot air simply lifts the balloon.

Percy Julian, a Black chemist, in 1935 developed physostigmine, a drug for treatment of glaucoma.

Druid Y to hold summer camp

The Druid Hill YMCA, located in the 1600 block of Druid Hill Avenue, will hold a summer camp beginning June 22.

"Camp To-Gather" will offer professionally operated day camp programs for community children, all ages, and all levels of talent and interest.

The camp will offer three levels of activity:

1. Day camp, which will offer daily swimming lessons exercise, basic gymnastics, creative crafts, field trips, nature study, music and cook-outs.

2. Sports camp will offer general sports activities involving basketball, softball, soccer, baseball, volleyball, flag football and track.

3. Arts camp will offer either a performing or visual arts concentration for participants, including dance, drama, music, drawing, painting and weaving.

Except for the opening one-week June 22 program, all Camp To-Gather sessions are for two weeks through September 4.

Scholarships and financial assistance will be available for families in need. Fees for 2-week sessions are $45 for the day camp for privilege YMCA members, $50 for Basic Y members and $55 for non-Y members.

Discounts will be provided for all registrations received by May 10.

For more information and details, call 728-1600.

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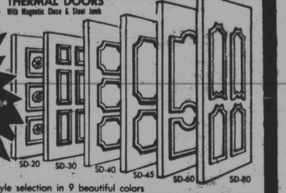

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