—Richard Pryor

Continued from page 1

They said Pryor probably will be able to receive necessary skin grafts, possibly within a week, from unburned parts of his own body and noted that his most serious burns are around his chest and arms.

The doctors also insisted they never told police that Pryor had told them, when he arrived at the hospital, that the explosion that sent him running out of his house aflame had occurred while he was using ether to purify a batch of cocaine, a process called "freebasing."

Attorney David Franklin told reporters those were false "rumors" and claimed they had been spurred on by media coverage of the accident.

Franklin said Pryor told him the explosion actually occurred when the entertainer tried to light a cigarette while holding a glass of liquor. That version was close to the original report that Pryor was burned when his cigarette lighter exploded.

"He said he had a glass of rum in his hand and a cigarette," Franklin explained. "He said he was lighting a cigarette and leaning over, and it exploded."

Fire Capt. Pat McGuinness said his investigators were waiting for the doctors' permission to ask Pryor personally what caused the blast.

Police Lt. Dan Cooke, who reported the comedian's alleged remark to his doctors, said officers found no evidence of drugs or flammable liquids at his home and now "have no interest in the case."

McGuinness said arson investigators who searched Pryor's house in the Northridge section of Los Angeles found nothing except "some white sheets with scorch marks and some flash marks on the wall."

He said the probe of the incident was delayed when investigators sent to the home could not get inside because of fierce guard dogs and spanish-speaking household servants who apparently did not know who they were.

We called the house and they, the servants, wouldn't answer questions," McGuinness said. "They said they had been instructed not to let us in. If there has been a fire, it's our job to go there and investigate."

The firemen then summoned uniformed police officers who helped identify the plainclothes investigators, he said.

Actor Jim Brown, the former Cleveland Browns football player, also visited Pryor Wednesday but told reporters his friend did not tell him how the accident had occurred.

"There have been exaggerations, 20 different stories," he said. Brown said Pryor told him he was "ready to fight" for his life.

"That was a very emotional moment," he said. "It brought tears to my eyes."

Brown said the comedian's spirits are "very, very high" and said that while they were together he did not complain of any pain."

One of Pryor's physicians, Dr. Richard Grossman, said his patient is aware of the seriousness of his injuries.

"I can't lie to him. He's scared, he's frightened. I would be too."

His brother, Dr. Jack Grossman, added:

"He's really a good patient. He's a stoic, quiet, strong man."

—Snipers

Continued from page 1

After wounding Purdy, the snipers proceeded west on Maisel Street, north to Norfolk Street and south on Nevada Street toward Waterview Avenue.

Kenneth Bryant, who lives in the 2500 block of Maisel Street stated he heard four or five shots and later heard Purdy yell, "I've been shot."

Bryant told the AFRO, "I don't know of any racial problems in the area and don't think the men lived in the area."

Another Westport resident, Tyrone Rice says he "thanks God" he was in the house. "Usually, I would be walking in the house around the time of the shooting, but I have been laid off and was inside."

Rice says he was sleeping and one of the bullets from the rifle shattered the bedroom window where his children were sleeping.

No one was hurt but Rice says his children have been afraid to sleep in their room for the last two nights.

Rice says more police protection is needed in the Westport area. "They (police) never do anything until something happens," he told the AFRO.

Last week, a young black bicyclist was attacked by thugs and police made several arrests in that case. David Clark was beaten by eight whites in South Baltimore. As a result of the beating, Clark's jaw is wired and he can barely talk.

Police are still investigating the Westport shooting and no arrest had been made at AFRO presstime.

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—Cop slays man

Continued from page 1

Police report when Sheeley was told to let her arm go, he entered the apartment and closed the door. When Ms. Lewis knocked on the apartment door, Sheeley refused to open the door and police sent her to the rental office to get a key.

After entering the apartment police report Ms. Lewis went in the bedroom while they stood in the living room waiting for her.

Police report Sheeley walked out of the bedroom with Ms. Lewis and removed a loaded .45 colt automatic gun from under a pillow on the sofa. According to police Sheeley pointed the gun at the officer and Ms. Lewis and Officer Lytton retaliated by firing a shot that struck Sheely in the chest.

Officer Lytton has been placed on administrative duties while the internal investigations department conducts a routine investigation of the shooting.

Mrs. Wachana Sheely, wife of Sheely told the AFRO she and her husband had been separated for nearly three years. With tears in her eyes, Mrs. Sheely said, "We thought one day we would get back together. I had just talked to him two days ago about his son."

Funeral arrangements were not complete at AFRO presstime. In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, his parents, a brother and sisters.

Md. lottery

The winning number in the Maryland Lottery's weekly 50 - cent game was 947,743.

In the Dollar Doubler game, the winning numbers were RED - 36, White - 78 and Blue - 2. The double number was 4.

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School board OKs personnel changes

Donald Patterson

Virginia Roeder

John Gist

Juanita Lewis

Lloyd Alston

Kathleen Luchs

Anne Emery

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

The School Board approved Thursday evening several key personnel changes recommended by School Superintendent John L. Crew including promoting Walbrook Senior High principal Anne Emery to assistant superintendent in charge of public information.

She will assume the position July 1. Her successor at the West baltumore schoolmas not yet been named. Dr. Crew stated that positions within the public information office will be vacated and included in Dr. Emery's duties, saving the system at least $20,000.

Crew also stated that the changes will save the school system money although he did not reveal the exact amount.

Dr. Virginia Roeder was appointed deputy superintendent of public instruction, making her the highest ranking female in the school system.

She is taking the position vacated by Dr. John Gist who resigned after serving four years to take a position with the Peace Corps.

Dr. Crew said Dr. Roeder fills the need for "someone who knows the system, has competence in many areas and is skilled at human relations."

Northwestern High School Pincipal Kathleen Luchs will become the new regional assistant for the Northwest region, replacing Samuel Sharrow who is retiring.

Other personnel changes include Donald Patterson, Greenspring Junior High principal who will assume the position of assistant superintendent for adult and community education which was held by Lloyd Alston who will replace Dr. Roeder as assistant superintendent in charge of vocational education.

Juanita Lewis, administrative assistant to the superintendent has been promoted to executive assistant and Thelma Cox, regional superintendent assigned to the Central Office has been changed to assistant superintendent for intergovernmental and community relations.

These changes come at a time when the president of the Board of School Commissioners, Mark K. Joseph announced his resignation. Joseph, who has been president of the board since 1976 said he is leaving for personal reasons. His term expires in December and he says he felt it would be better to leave before the new school year begins.

June 16 may be day of decision at MSU

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

The Morgan State University Board of Regents is scheduled to meet Monday, June 16 in a closed-door session and is expected to reach a decision on the fate of Dr. Andrew Billingsley, university president.

During the meeting, set for 6 p.m., the board will review the evaluation reports prepared on Billingsley's performance as a university administrator.

He has been criticized by members of the faculty as well as regent board members and community leaders for ineffectively managing the institution.

The reports, the contents of which have not yet been made public, were prepared by the board's evaluation committee and a team of national consultants.

Assistant Attorney General Mary Humphries advised the board last week to withhold the contents of the reports because they might contain libelous statements.

This "keeping under wraps" of the reports has led many involved in the controversy to believe that Billingsley received bad marks in the evaluations. But sources have stated that the report while not in Billingsley's favor does not include any recommendations to fire the president who will conclude his fifth year at Morgan at the end of June.

It has not been determined when the board will publicly announce its decision on Billingsley's fate but board members including outgoing chairman, G. James Fleming, have stated that a decision should be announced before the new school term begins in September.

David Johnson, who will assume the role of chairman July 1, said he expects the matter to be resolved one way or the other by the time he becomes chairman.

Several key positions will be vacant by July which are filled by the president. Wright Lassiter, vice president of budget and fiscal management, is leaving to take a position at another college and Clayton Stansbury, vice president for student affairs, resigned last week.

This along with a million dollar deficit hanging over Morgan's head, it is the prevailing sentiment on campus, requires the attention of a president who has support from the entire faculty and campus. The Faculty-Senate made its opposition of Billingsley clearly known when it voted in April to ask the president to resign. This action came after the group took a vote of no-confidence last December.

—Tenant angry

Continued from page 1

The caved-in floor is not the only problem at 717 E. Preston. The floor in the second story bathroom is buckling and threatens to cave in and the front door is flimsy, Mrs. Wardrick said.

An inspector from the city Department of Housing and Community Development came out last week and verbally told Mrs. Wardrick about code violations.

But when the AFRO called HCD June 12, an employee said there are no recorded violations on file for the Preston Street address.

Shortly after Mrs. Wardrick moved in one year ago, she was told by another inspector at that time that no improvements had been made between tenants.

She contacted Colson and he said necessary repairs would be made.

"I thought he would fix up the house but he ain't done nothing," Mrs. Wardrick said.

She said her landlord also told her not to let inspectors into the house and to avoid workers from the St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center, a grassroots tenants' organization.

After her husband was injured, Colson came out to the house, Mrs. Wardrick said.

"He said we were playing a game, trying to get money out of him. I don't care if I don't have nothing, why would someone fall into a hole in the floor?

"I'm not about to hurt myself just for money, not when I have food for my children, and the bills are paid, I'm satisfied;" she said.

Mrs. Wardrick contacted an attorney with Legal Aid who told the AFRO Colson said his tenant would not allow workmen into the house to make repairs.

Lawrence Shavers, with Legal Aid, said depending on the conditions at 717 E. Preston, which he had not yet visited when contacted by the AFRO, he may try to hold the rent in escrow and take the matter to court.

When the AFRO called Colson's office and stated the purpose of the call, his secretary said he was unavailable.

CHILD SEX ABUSE UP IN COUNTY

There were 160 reports of sexual abuse of children in Baltimore County during the first five months of 1980, compared to 25 during the same period of 1979, Assistant State's Attorney Dana Levitz said this week.

Levitz attributed the increase to heightened public awareness that has led to better reporting of cases of suspected child sexual abuse.

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