

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Dr. Frankenstein Brady

The actions of Dr. William Brady, the State Medical Examiner, violates the public trust as Brady was discovered practicing the medieval horror — grave robbing.

Brady sold body parts and autopsy reports of deceased persons, and with funds deposited into a checking account in his name, financed parties, decorated his office and did landscaping. Ironically, Brady wrote the statute that made it legal to remove body parts for scientific research without consent from the families, thus proving that just because it's legal, it's not necessarily right.

Brady's actions reveal that he has the ethics of Dr. Frankenstein, as he used the funds to upgrade the quality of his office to benefit a few county employees. One of the list of questions to ask is, how did his personal checking account continue for a decade undetected by Multnomah County?

Brady was earning a salary to perform a public duty (overseeing the coroner's office). Here, he sold pituitary glands, sections of skin and bones of deceased persons, along with autopsy reports. He used the funds to buy coffee, Christmas trees and God knows what. In essence, Brady parties off the proceeds from the dead. Just like a pimp who exploits the flesh of the living, Brady pimped the flesh of the dead.

What Brady did was disrespectful to the families of the deceased, bureaucratically depraved and socially deplorable. But his actions will never be reported with the intensity it deserves because Brady is the darling of the local mass media.

In the June 22nd edition of Portland's only daily newspaper, the reporter called the street where the morgue is located (in the Afro-American community) decrepit, while treating Brady's improprieties with kid gloves. Well, there is nothing decrepit about the street kitty-cornered to American State Bank, nor one where Matt Dishman Community Center, St. Phillips Episcopal Church and a warehouse for the public library is located. The only thing decrepit are those editors of *The Oregonian* who allow words to surface in their newspaper that reinforce racism. Residents in Northeast Portland should not have to pay 25 cents to be insulted.

Brady got caught with his hands in the cookie jar and he should be disciplined accordingly. Just because he's one of the boys in the "Old Boy Network" should not excuse his violation

of public trust for his personal satisfaction. In this instance the actions of the State Medical Examiner was unthinkable barbaric as he pimped the dead by robbing the grave.

Ants dream movie or not

by Robert Lothian

At first, "Where the Green Ants Dream" seems like it's going to be another wacky movie from German director Werner Herzog.

But a few minutes into the film and it becomes apparent that something important is going on.

The film pits Australian aborigines trying to preserve their culture against an avaricious mining company. We soon learn that what appear to be thousands of anthills from the air are actually piles of mine tailings from uranium exploration.

One morning a group of aborigines shows up to stop the mining. An irate Anglo bulldozer operator almost covers them with dirt as they sit in the way of operations.

"What do you want?" asks the enraged racist.

"There will be no more blasting or digging here," because this is the land where the green ants dream," says a tribal elder.

Incredulous, the cat driver sputters and fumes, and stalks off muttering racial epithets. A call to headquarters

is necessary.

The rare green ant "dreams" the universe, say the aborigines, who believe that if it is disturbed the world will end.

The aborigines set up camp and prepare for a long wait. Corporate big shots fly in and attempt to bribe them without success. "What do you really want?" a young liberal geologist asks the tribal elder.

"Are you a Christian?" the elder asks him. "If a bulldozer came to your church to dig it up, what would you do?"

The corporation appeases the natives somewhat by giving them an airplane which looks like a huge green ant. One of the aborigines, who apparently learned to fly in the air force, manages to get the plane in the air. Later, aborigines from the mountains report seeing the wings of a huge green ant.

The natives persist in their blockade, and a court battle ensues which points out the absurdity of trying such a case in a white court.

The aborigines enter into evidence their most sacred object — a piece of

wood with indecipherable markings.

A native who is the last member of his tribe takes the stand. Nobody can understand him because he is the last to speak his language. Needless to say, English common law wins out.

The film is at its best showing the absurd clash of cultures: A native standing on the plane and measuring its wingspan with his spear, a circle of natives praying in the aisle of a supermarket.

The quiet, dignified aborigines stand in stark relief to the slimy, racist corporation people and the apologetic legal system.

No rhetoric here, either. Just simple, emotion-packed images — the desolation of the aborigines' habitations, the glitter of the city, the racism, the corporate-political machine. It could be South Africa, Guatemala or the Columbia River as well as Australia.

At one point, the elder tells the young geologist what native people from Australia to Arizona to the Columbia River are saying — that the white man is destroying the balance of nature and will soon disappear from the face of the earth.



Practice fire safety at all times

Some people "get away from it all" in the winter, others in the summer. And some take a vacation whenever they can fit one in. Whenever you go on vacation, whether it takes you to a hotel or motel, review fire-safety procedures with the family before you leave home and when you arrive.

Spectacular fires in hotels and motels have claimed or injured many lives in recent years. When you arrive at a hotel or motel, ask the desk clerk about fire safety features in the building: Are there smoke detectors? Does the building have built-in protection from sprinklers?

After checking into your room, locate the two exit stairways nearest it. Make sure the doors to them are unblocked and unlocked. Remember: In case of fire, never use elevators; an elevator may stop at the floor where the fire is raging.

Count the doors between your

room and the exits. This way you'll have a reference point if the corridor becomes filled with blinding smoke.

If there is a fire in your room, follow these steps:

- Get everyone out of the room immediately. Don't stop to collect bags and baggage. Close the door tightly behind you. Head for the nearest exit. Sound the fire alarm on the way to alert others. Notify the desk clerk when you reach the lobby.
- If the fire alarm sounds, act immediately. Don't take time to investigate. Follow these steps:

- Feel the door. If it is cool to the touch, open it slowly and go to the nearest exit. Take your room key in case you're forced to return to your room. If the corridor is filling up with smoke, crawl on hands and knees; cleaner air is near the floor. Remember to take your key in case your escape route becomes blocked and you have to return to your room.
- If the door is hot to the touch,

don't open it; the fire may be nearby on the other side of the door. Instead, seal all cracks around the door with wet towels. Turn off fans and air conditioners. Call the fire department and wait to be rescued. Remember to call and give your room number and the number of occupants even if you see fire trucks below. Signal at the window so they will see you.

- If smoke begins to fill the room, open the window a little at the top and bottom to circulate some fresh air. Stay low to the floor. Covering your nose and mouth with a wet cloth will help filter the smoke when you breathe.

The great number of people who stay in a hotel or motel while vacationing may never experience a fire. But fires do happen in hotels and motels. Forget your troubles during a vacation, but not fire safety behaviors. Learn Not To Burn All Through the Year.

Applications taken for '86 scholarships

The Portland Community College Foundation announces that applications are now being taken for 1985-86 scholarship awards for the 2 + 2 + 2 Cooperative Honors Program in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and Engineering.

Participants in the program complete a two-year Associate of Science degree in Engineering at Portland Community College, take upper-division courses at the University of

Portland to receive a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering, and continue at Oregon Graduate Center to receive a Master of Science and Engineering.

For acceptance in the program, students must have a 3.5 high school grade point average overall and in math and science if entering from college. Students who meet these qualifications may apply for a scholarship.

Awards are made on the basis of financial need as well as academic excellence. Fourteen freshmen and six sophomores have already been selected for awards ranging from \$430 to \$1,515. Additional awards are still available.

Students should apply to the Engineering Admission office at the Sylvania Campus, ST B-8. Application forms may be obtained from Carol Grant in that office.

Newspaper Publisher convention

by Nathaniel Scott

SEATTLE — Julian Bond, state senator from Georgia, was the keynote speaker at the National Newspaper Publishers Association's 45th Annual Convention held last week in Seattle.

The Senator's theme, for both the Black publishers conference and the press conference that followed was the Black press. He outlined the role the press has played, and the role the press must play, if Blacks are to receive justice in America.

He told the 200 or so people gathered at a noon luncheon Thursday, "I want to talk about the past and the future (because) it's important that we look back as well as forward."

To underscore his point, the Senator said, "There are more poor Black people in America today than 20 years ago."

Aside from his legislative duties, Senator Bond is also a journalist. He is one of only two Black national columnists in America. (William Raspberry is the other.) And while speaking directly to the responsibility of the Black press, he said, "In 1960 no newspaper in Atlanta, Ga., would publish news about the student movement" until the *Atlanta Inquirer*, a Black newspaper, began giving people what they deserved: an unbiased and uncensored account of what was taking place.

The student movement, Sen. Bond said, was unrest. It was part of the social change that demanded equality for Blacks; the right to vote; the right to be recognized as first-class citizens; the right to enjoy the fruits of a land where Blacks have fought and died since the Revolutionary War.

In another instance Sen. Bond remembered Dr. W. E. B. DuBois' statement: "I believe in God, Who made of one blood all the nations of the earth... but especially do I believe in the Negro (Black) race."

"While our (Black people's) general

condition in 1985 has improved, our relative condition is getting worse," Sen. Bond said. "It's a kind of hopelessness for most (Black) people."

He reminded the audience that "deeply rooted in the American consciousness is the concept that they (white America) have done too much for Black people."

He addressed the unemployment rate among Black youth, in some places as high as 50 percent, as a problem that stems from "racial" roots. And he drew attention to a paradox of grave importance.

He said we have come from a president born in Texas (Lyndon B. Johnson) who had the courage to stand up for civil rights to one (Ronald Reagan) who opposes everything. "Reagan intends to eliminate affirmative action for women and the poor," he added.

The Senator admonished the people for reinstalling "an evil empire" four years ago when Ronald Reagan was elected.

As a result of the President's policies, he said, "Thousands and thousands of Blacks are being pushed deeper and deeper into poverty. The policies of the President's administration have the same effect on the Black population as if the President went into every hospital and slit the throats of all the Black patients."

The Senator admitted to thinking about national politics but refused to be more specific. However, he did say, "All Americans face the danger of the escalation of the arms race." And he challenged the Black press, which he said is "under capitalized," to take the side of "people fighting against oppression." He added that the white media won't hire more Black journalists because "there is no Big Brother looking over their shoulders." And he warned the Black community that you can't depend on "Jesse Jackson" to do everything: Black leadership must assume its responsibility.



whatever
your
pitch...

you make your best hit with us

Make a grand slam in sales through newspaper advertising! We're your best bet as far as readership (the bigger our circulation, the larger your audience!), economics (it's the most economical way to promote business), and effectiveness (you'll get results you can bank on)! Let's discuss your advertising future soon!

PORTLAND OBSERVER
OREGON'S AWARD WINNING BLACK NEWSPAPER
288-0033

PORTLAND OBSERVER
Box 3137, Portland OR 97208
Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss
Street Apt.
CITY STATE ZIP

CLIP IT
TO START THE PORTLAND OBSERVER COMING EVERY WEEK

Hock Shop
FOR SALE:
Leather coats, \$10-\$20,
Bikes, \$15-\$60
5600 NE Union - 287-5330

JACKSON'S OWL RADIO, TV & RECORD CO.
Northwest's Largest Gospel Record & Tape Selections
Authorized Zenith
Color & V. Sales and Service
SALES & SERVICE SINCE 1952
WEBB T. JACKSON, SR., Owner
GARY A. JACKSON, Certified Technician & Service Manager
4623 N. Vancouver
Portland, OR 97217
Office: 287-2042