

# Local / National

Press secretary makes 'extraordinary' progress

## Brady responds to doctors' rapid questioning

WASHINGTON — Doctors are testing White House press secretary James Brady's recovery from brain surgery with a volley of questions, and they said Saturday his answers indicate he is making "extraordinary" progress.

The 40-year-old Brady, whose White House post involves answering questions from news reporters, was shot in the head during Monday's assassination attempt on President Reagan.

His injury was so critical that it was uncertain at first whether he would survive — and the television networks, in fact, reported erroneously that he had died.

Brady has been improving rapidly since surgery Monday and was moved Saturday out of intensive care to a private room. The big question has been what brain damage he may have suffered from the path of the bullet and surgery to remove it.

Saturday, Dr. Dennis O'Leary, spokesman for George Washington University Medical Center, said Brady is showing a steadily improving recognition ability. He demonstrated a "higher integrative function" — involving memory and personality — in answering rapid-fire questions put to him Saturday, O'Leary said, and was able to make slightly "more movement" physically than before.

O'Leary said Brady's brain surgeon, Robert Koblirne, asked Brady several questions in rapid fire succession Saturday in a conversation that went something like this:

Doctor: "What does your job involve?"  
Brady: "I answer questions."  
Doctor: "From whom?"  
Brady: "Anyone who asks them."  
Doctor: "What do you do?"  
Brady: "Press secretary at the White House."  
Doctor: "Who is the president?"  
Brady: "Ronald Reagan."  
Doctor: "How old is he?"

Brady: "Seventy-one."  
Reagan is 70, but O'Leary said he would give Brady a year.

O'Leary described the exchange as "very rapid conversation — quite encouraging."

Noting Brady's serious condition on Monday, he said, "It's an extraordinary case. He's making very, very good progress."

President Reagan has been given a daily update on Brady who was taken off the critical list Friday. When he heard Brady was answering questions, Reagan was quoted by O'Leary as replying, "That's great news, just great."

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## Texas A&M University withdrawal requires chapel visit and signatures

By KITTY FRALEY  
Battalion Reporter  
Students wishing to withdraw from Texas A&M University must start the withdrawal process at the All Faiths Chapel.

"It's funny to see people's reaction when they find out where my office is," said Ed Morris, administrative assistant to the director of student affairs. "I hear all kinds of jokes about the sin of withdrawing from the University."

His office is located in the Chapel because the space was available and students often need privacy, he said. "But it's just a temporary arrangement."

Since 1946, an average of 2.37 percent of the total number of students enrolled in the University have withdrawn each semester.

From September 1980 to January 1981, 747 students withdrew from Texas A&M, a decrease from 764 withdrawing from September 1979 to January 1980.

When a student wants to withdraw, he must first go to Morris' office and fill out a confidential form telling why. Filling out the form takes about an hour, Morris said.

The student next takes the form to be signed by people in several offices designated by Morris. "It doesn't matter what order the form is signed in, just as long as it is signed by the right number of people," he said.

How many people sign the form depends on the college the

student is enrolled in and other circumstances, he said. The number of required signatures is usually no less than three and no more than eight.

When the form has the required signatures, that means the student's records have been cleared in those particular departments. Not returning the form means the student is still enrolled, Morris said.

It generally takes a student from three days to two weeks to go through the signing process, he said.

If a student withdraws within the first four weeks of classes, he is eligible for fee refunds, but if he withdraws after the fourth week, no fees are refunded.

All withdrawals must be cleared through the student financial aid office. Students receiving

no financial aid then take the money back to Morris.

"If the student has any type of financial aid, I work closely with him on an individual basis," said Joyce Kutch, administrator of operations in the student financial aid office.

Each student has different reasons for withdrawing, she said, and many times scholarships must be reinstated if the student follows the proper procedures.

Loan and grant repayments may be waived under certain conditions, Kutch said, depending on the student and particular circumstances surrounding his withdrawal.

If a student is blocked from withdrawing, this problem must be cleared up, Morris said. Sometimes this consists of paying a parking ticket, taking a book to the library or paying a lab fee.

When the student returns the form with the required signatures, a notice is sent to various departments and offices indicating the student has withdrawn, Morris said.

Once the deadline has passed for receiving refunds, the time when students most frequently tend to withdraw is at midnight and right before finals, he said. Students who are thinking about withdrawing often go to Morris and discuss their feelings.

"I try to help them understand what options and alternatives they have other than withdrawing," Morris said. "I don't try to take the place of a professional counselor, just talk to them and try to help any way I can."

The withdrawal date is normally effective when the student returns the form with the proper signatures and there are no blocks or other problems.

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