

Buddy



Dr. Frank N. Stein, Adjunct Professor of Reanimation Studies at the University of Hummock-on-Smythe, pulled the drape off of his latest creation, Buddy, an eight-foot tall humanoid, and gazed at him with a mixture of pride and fear. Pride because he and his lab assistant, Igor, had successfully constructed Buddy entirely out of body parts that had been cast aside by hospitals, morgues, veterinary clinics and the local KFC. And fear because similar experiments in the not too distant past produced horrific creatures that caused widespread mayhem when they were introduced into the community. But this time, Frank thought, trying to focus on the positive, *this* time it would be different. For one thing, Buddy's brain had come from a woman who had long been a genial candy striper at the local St. Salmon's Hospital. For another, Igor had carefully eliminated all traces of testosterone from Buddy's private parts. So, no more of that unbridled machismo that was the downfall of Big Ed, Reanimation Study No. 47-B. It was time. Frank nodded to Igor, who flipped the switch on Buddy's belt from *Stop* to *Go*. With agonizing slowness, the giant took a lumbering step forward, spreading out his arms for balance. A second step followed, then a putrid blast of flatulence, followed by another step. "*Buddy!*" said Frank. "Buddy, turn around. Buddy, I want you to turn around!" But Buddy paid him no heed. Instead he took another step forward, which brought him face to face with the laboratory door. Twisting sharply to the right, his mighty arm smashed through the reinforced wooden portal. And suddenly, Buddy was outside, heading north across the commons and gathering speed. Speed was not one of Mr. Farnsworth's strong points. The school's provost was standing on the grass lost in thought as the assemblage of reconstituted body parts approached. And then he was flat on his back, with two giant footprints imprinted on his stomach and neck marking the path Buddy had taken as he continued northward. Frank, who had observed the incident from the lab door, shook his head sadly as in his mind's eye he saw the University's support for his reanimation project disappear along with Buddy.