

Prof develops new microscope

Cell surfaces illuminated

By Sandy Johnstone
Of the Emerald

Biologist O. Hayes Griffith is "putting headlights" on cells and proteins with a new microscope he has developed that uses the photoelectric effect (discovered by Albert Einstein) to illuminate the surfaces of cells.

Ten years of effort and more than \$1 million in research grants have allowed Griffith, a University professor, to develop the microscope that allows scientists to do research in cancer.

The Cancer Society, which is part of the National Institute of Health, funds his research. He is currently in the first year of a three-year renewable grant for \$200,000 per year.

"This is different from all other microscopes in the world," says Griffith. "It is not a replacement for other microscopes, but it allows us to see things we could not have seen any other way — or at least see them more easily."

Griffith says many people doubted he could succeed.

"They said if it could be done, someone would have done it," he says.

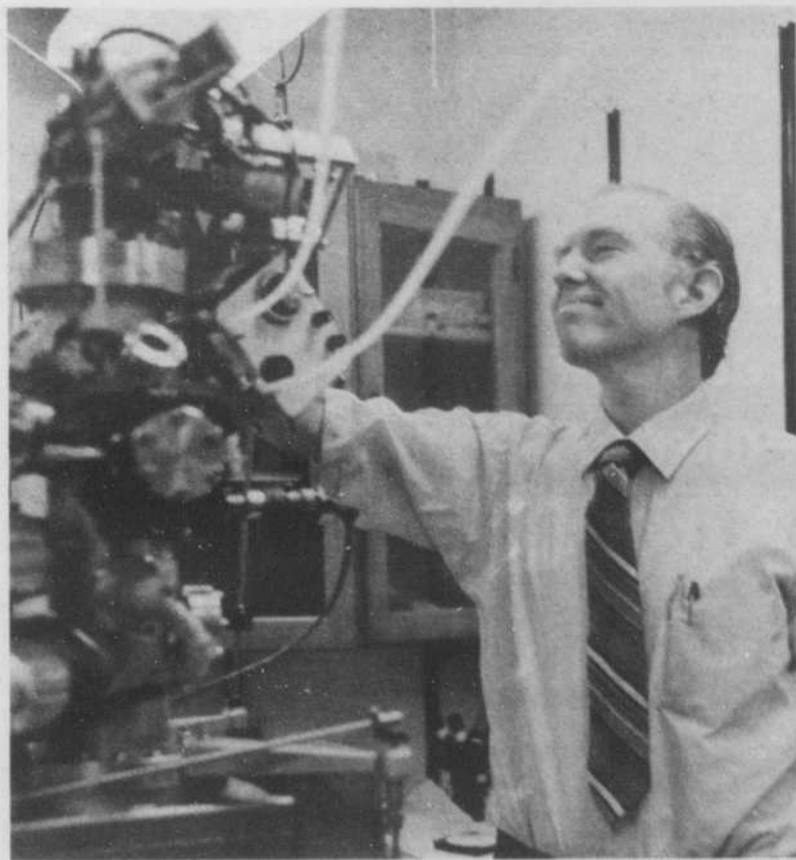
But Griffith says it's a simple idea. "It just uses space-age technology."

Not many scientists were interested in doing the work.

"Typically biologists want to be biologists, chemists want to work in chemistry and physicists want to work in physics. Here we do it all," Griffith says.

Griffith's research focuses on the difference between normal cells and cancerous cells, but most of his work is done with normal cells, he says.

Understanding how normal



Hayes Griffith

Photo by Scott Levy

cells function is necessary for determining how they become cancerous, Griffith says.

"It's like being in a desert at dusk and trying to see a car far away," he says. "You can't see it very well without headlights. Well, we're putting headlights on a protein. It's like beepers allowing us to detect it."

Griffith is enthusiastic about his work.

"It's exciting doing something related to life," he says. "We do have long periods of dry spells and then a breakthrough. Right now everything looks good, but we'll be crossing another desert soon."

When doing experiments, Griffith doesn't make a hypothesis and set out to prove it. Instead, he plans an experiment and then follows the leads

it provides.

"It's like exploring a cave. You can't see very far ahead of you and you change directions when you get new data," Griffith says.

Use of the photoelectron microscope has already gained international attention.

"This particular research is only being done here. A lot of people think everyone is doing it. But it's not being duplicated anywhere," says Griffith.

Griffith's paper was one of 15 papers (out of 600 submitted) to be read at the International Conference on Electromicroscopy.

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Voter drive termed a success

The ASUO voter registration drive was a marketing success, according to the results of a survey, says Dan Wilson, executive vice president of the Marketing Association.

About 60 percent of the 722 students who returned questionnaires said they are registered Lane County voters, says Wilson, whose association was asked by Debi Lance, ASUO vice president of state and academic affairs, to conduct the survey. Survey questionnaires were distributed in the EMU, bookstore, and dormitories for a representative survey, he says.

The high registration total is a good result considering traditionally low counts, Wilson says. Eighty percent of the re-

spondents indicated they knew about the registration drive, which shows the ASUO had a "good publicity drive," he adds.

The ASUO Political Fair was not publicized as well, Wilson says. Sixty percent of the respondents said they had easy access to information to make an intelligent vote, which was interpreted to mean they knew about the fair, he says.

The fair should have been publicized as an informational event instead of as a series of debates, which probably seemed boring and uninformative to the students, Wilson says. Huge banners that publicized the voter registration drive should have been used to

publicize the fair, he adds.

The ASUO did the best publicizing job it could with the manpower and facilities available, says Mark Cleveland, ASUO director of University and academic affairs. Students could gain information from the Emerald's coverage of the event, he adds.

Sixty-eight percent said they would vote at their polling locations on election day, he says.

But 82 percent said they would vote if transportation were provided to and from the polling location, Wilson adds.

"This difference is the reflection of apathy, in a sense," he says. "Students don't want to put in the effort to vote."



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