



Black scientist heads department for Oregon Primate Center

White news media marks National Black Convention

The conclusion of the two-day National Black Convention in Gary, Indiana, marked a milestone in Black America's struggle for independence.

Contrary to the reports in the white papers, the Convention, which was held on March 10 to 12th, was probably the most significant event for blacks since the 1908 Niagara Falls meeting. It brought together 3,546 delegates representing 43 states.

The convention delegates adopted a detailed National Black Agenda. The introduction to "The Gary Declaration" states that the Black Agenda is addressed primarily to black people in America. It is our attempt to define some of the essential changes which must take place in this land as we and our children move to self-deter-

mination and true independence. It assumes that no basic change for our benefit takes place in black or white America unless we Black people organize to initiate that change. It assumes that we must have some essential agreement on overall goals, even though we may differ on many specific strategies.

Some of the items contained in the Agenda are:

A proportionate representation in both the Senate and Congress.

A guaranteed minimum income of \$6,500 for a family of four.

A call upon the Federal Bureau of Investigation to stop its surveillance of blacks and direct its efforts toward eradicating the drug traffic in the black community.

The complete Agenda, which will be refined at a later date, is based upon the fact that "The American system does not work for the masses of our people, and it cannot be made to work without radical fundamental change."

The Oregon delegation to the Convention consisted of Dr. Lee Brown, Attorney John Toran and Mrs. Azaree Lathian.

A steering committee consisting of the chairman of each state delegation and chairmen of the major black organizations was formed to assure the continuation of the Gary Convention. Dr. Brown was selected to represent Oregon on this steering committee which will meet in Washington, D.C. on March 24th.

Additional information on this historical event will appear in the next issue of the Observer.

Rapping back.....

Reaction to President Richard Nixon's trip to China was worldwide. This is what residents had to say about President Nixon's trip to the Orient . . .



TANYA BRAME

Tanya Brame . . . "I think the trip to China helped to seal a previously tremendous cultural, political and economic gap between two of the most powerful countries in the world. But I also think the diplomatic corps chosen to travel with Nixon represented and relayed more accurately the tremendous racial prejudice of the United States, than the spoken or written word ever could have."

Wayne Pew . . . "I expect that this trip will help in diplomatic relations and possibly trade, but I don't expect that it will do too much for child-care and Child Care Programs."



WAYNE PEW

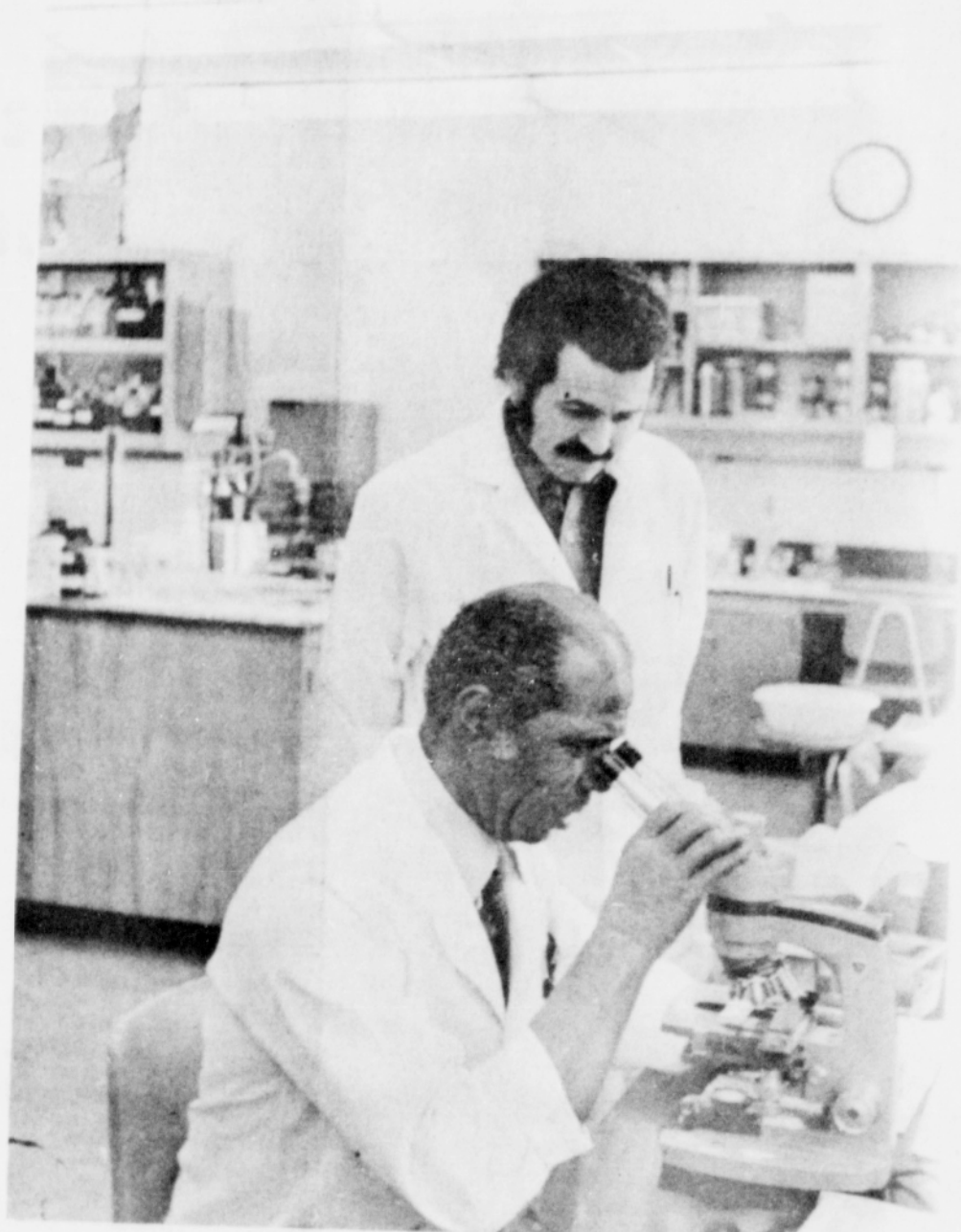


Clifford J. Cambell, Jr. . . "It was a fine political gesture which was guaranteed to raise the President's popularity in an election year. It was also a recognition of the worth and sovereignty of a nation whose ideology is much different than ours. However, as a black man, it makes me much prouder to reflect that blacks were invited to come to China in preceding years, but Mr. Kissinger had to sneak in to ask if our President could visit."



Vicki Magnusen . . . "With Red China's recent entry into the U. N. and the election year at hand, Nixon's choice of timing for a visit could not have been more advantageous. I also feel the touring party could have been more representative of the people of the U.S. The trip as a whole was quite enlightening as to the cultural and physical aspects of the country and I hope further communications can be exchanged to better relations, but I really feel this trip was a personal political move on Nixon's behalf rather than an honest good-will exchange."

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Warren Robinson is the Department Head of Histology for the Oregon Primate Center, located on a 250-acre campus near Beaverton. Mr. Robinson has been with the Center since it opened in 1961.

The Oregon Regional Primate Research Center is the first of its kind and is one of seven regional centers in the nation. Each of the centers has a primary focus. In the Oregon Center, human reproductive physiology and development was chosen as the most important area to pursue and the Center is committed to studying all phases of reproductive biology. Scientists at the center also work in other areas such as cardiovascular disease, cancer and the physical bases for behavior.

One of the most fascinating studies is based on the administration of drugs to pregnant monkeys that induce variations in the development of the anatomy and the behavior of the offspring. Surgical skills have been developed to remove the fetus from the body of the mother, study it, and return it to the womb to go to term. The details of changes of hormonal balance, anatomy, and behavior that accompany sexual cycles in males and females are studied.

Research is done with Primates - monkeys and apes - because they most nearly resemble human beings. Fifty investigations are currently being conducted and all are related to reproduction or to heart and cancer research.

The Center is staffed by 45 full-time scientists from all over the world. Supporting them are 160 research-

sociates, assistants and other personnel. The Center has 1600 sub-human Primates of 29 species.

Mr. Robinson is in charge of the Department of Histology, which does research on body tissue.

Before joining the Primate Center, Mr. Robinson was Department Head of Histology at St. Vincent Hospital for 14 years. Prior to that, he held the same position at Emanuel Hospital for two years.

Mr. Robinson attended Lehigh College and received his bachelors degree from Texas Southern University. He then studied at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D. C. He came to Portland to attend the University of Oregon Medical School, but when he applied he found that preference was given to residents of the Northwest and he could not be admitted for two years. He turned to the field of research, where he has remained.

Mr. Robinson has also held a part time position of Assistant Veterinarian with the Oregon State Racing Commission for 27 years. He is responsible for the enforcement of Oregon laws at the horse and dog race tracks. The winning animals are given blood and urine tests following each race to determine whether drugs have been administered. Mr. Robinson supervises this procedure and is responsible for submitting evidence of infractions of the law.

Mr. Robinson has been at Portland Meadows since it was rebuilt in 1948. He knows of no black jockeys who have ridden in Portland, but there are black owners and trainers who race their animals here. A large percent of the patrons of racing are black.

Mr. Robinson's wife, Alyce, is a resource teacher at the Portland Residential Manpower Center. She is coordinator for Sickle Cell Anemia testing at the center, where all incoming black students will be tested.

The Robinsons have two sons. Robbie is working on his Master's degree in Secondary Education. Jim earned his BA last year and plans to enter the University of Oregon School of Law this fall.

American Civil Liberties Union announces suits

The American Civil Liberties Union announced that it would file suits to challenge provisions in the City Charters of Ashland and Pendleton that require candidates for city office to be property owners.

Charles F. Pinnell, Paul Miller and William G. Cower were all rejected as candidates for Mayor and City Council of Ashland solely because they are not property owners. Mr. David B. Mitzimberg's attempt to file as a candidate for City Council of Pendleton was also frustrated on the same grounds.

According to Charles Davis, Chairman of the Oregon affiliate of ACLU, such provisions have been held unconstitutional as a violation of the equal protection and privileges and immunities clauses of the U.S. Constitution. Davis said, "We were amazed to discover that such archaic, medieval provisions existed in Oregon - there is certainly no justification for them in a democracy."

The ACLU will be asking the courts to order the municipalities to permit the persons previously rejected as candidates to file for the offices they seek.

Warren Robinson, Department Head of Histology at the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center, examines cancer cells from

the kidney of a Rhesus monkey. Above, conferring with Robinson is his laboratory assistant, Helmy Hawash, from Egypt.

Black Mayor speaks at OCE

In a discussion with a group of students last Thursday Warren Widener, mayor of Berkeley, California, discussed his ideas on the operation of city governments and some of his observations on the effects of his new policies.

Widener is a black in his early thirties who represents an interesting switch in the operation of city governments. He is a graduate of University of California's Bolt Hall Law School, having done undergraduate work at Berkeley. Before taking over the position of mayor, Widener served on the Berkeley City Council for two years.

Talking about his campaign the mayor stated, "The main issue was one of change." In the race for the mayor seat were eight candidates, two blacks and six whites in a population that was 70 per cent

white. This was the first of the ideas of change and the second might be that the two blacks took a majority of the votes. Talking about the outcome Widener said, "I only won over the other black by 49 votes. . . it wasn't a landslide victory."

The actual biggest change discussed by Widener was in the manner and contents of the proposed budgets that the city was to work with. Speaking against the city manager form of city government he said that the council use to just accept the budget as proposed by the city manager.

For this year the Berkeley City Council scrutinized the budget proposal for four or five months before passing the budget at the last possible minute. Widener said that he and the council were working on a precedence set up by the

governor of California of economizing the budget. To start off with a ten per cent cut was made in the 4.5 million dollar budget proposal. One interesting cut was the elimination of riot equipment from the police department budget. This was done with the feeling that it wouldn't be needed because the new administration would be more open to the needs of people that were previously turning to riots to be heard.

Budgets also served another purpose in the operation of city government. Widener stated that at the time he became Mayor there were only four blacks in the police department of the city. When the police chief was questioned about this the chief said that they couldn't find any minorities that were interested in the job. The mayor didn't quite accept

this explanation because he couldn't understand not being able to find a minority person willing to take a job that required minimum pre-training and started at \$13,000 a year.

So when the budgets came out for the next year and the salary increases were listed the police department was given a five per cent increase and the garbage collectors received seven and a half per cent increase. Widener felt that the police department got the point because at last count the number of minorities in the police department had increased by 100 per cent to eight men.

One interesting aspect of the election that Widener was involved in was the participation of students in the campaign. He stated that an overwhelming (Please see page 8 col 4)



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