



The DeAtley/Budweiser Camaro, with Ribbs at the wheel, races toward the Rose Cup Race finish line at Portland International Raceway. (Photo: Pat Willard)

Willie T. Ribbs: Winner

by Chad Dehman

Mr. Willie T. Ribbs, the roaring young lion, won the Rose Cup Race at Portland International Raceway last Sunday.

Ribbs is the first black to ever win the Trans Am series and it was his first entrance. Not only did Willy "T" win the race, he also owns the track record of 1:10.65.

The race was full of excitement. There were two yellow flags near the end that made the race close. Otherwise Mr. T. would have won by half a lap in his DeAtley prepared Camaro.

Willy T. shared some personal comments to this writer that illustrated his spirit and experience that should be shared with the public.

Observer:

How did you get into Trans Am and Formula car racing?

Willy T.:

I am the only black driver on the circuit today. My father was into racing and so it was a natural for me. The first part of my career, my father helped me both spiritually and economically due to the tremendous amounts of capital I needed to get started in racing.

Observer:

Was it hard to get started in the U.S.?

Willy T.:

Yes, I couldn't find sponsorships and I only raced once or twice a year. Then I went to Europe and developed my aggressive style of driving and was received well as a racer.

Observer:

What is needed to be an effective racer?

Willy T.:

First it takes training, natural talent and experience. I put a big "E" on experience. Secondly, you



Willie T. Ribbs, winner of the Rose Cup Race. (Photo: Pat Willard)

need a good team of technicians and a good sponsor. Each car we have on our team represents one million dollars.

I want to be the best and win the Indy. I want black people to become more involved in motor car racing and to be proud of my accomplishments.

Mr. Ribbs, twenty-seven years young and from San Jose, California, impressed me with two things. One, determination and two, his self respect. It's a message that young and old can prosper by. I guess the old adage "You can make it if you try," is true.

Huh, Willy!!

Poosum tosser gets 10 days

Lonnie Edward Hooker, a 20-year-old Gladstone man accused nearly two years ago of throwing a dead possum on a black man's barbecue grill, was finally sentenced to ten days in Clackamas County Jail, fined \$200 and then placed on probation. The possum-tossing incident occurred shortly after Portland Police Bureau officers had allegedly placed dead possums in front of a black-owned restaurant in Portland.

Hoover got a lecture on racial discrimination from Clackamas County District Judge Terry Gebolys as he received his sentencing on the third-degree criminal mischief charge. Hoover had entered a guilty plea on the charge. He threw a dead possum onto the grill at Walter's Mississippi-Style Barbeque Stand at Southeast 82nd Avenue and King Road.

The trial of Hooker took two years to reach a conclusion for a number of reasons. Plea negotiations, failures to appear and continuances accounted for the unusual delay according to Gebolys. The District Attorney also requested that Hoover obtain automobile insurance and a driver's license prior to sentencing which also contributed to the delay.

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Conference addresses conflict

Eleanor Holmes Norton, the first woman to chair the U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission, will speak at the "Equity in the '80s Conference" to be held at Lewis and Clark

College in Portland on June 16th and 17th. Ms. Norton was appointed in 1977 by President Jimmy Carter and served until 1981. As chairperson she administered Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the Equal Pay Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act and Section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Currently a professor of law at Georgetown Law Center in Washington, D.C., she is the author of "Sex Discrimination and the Law: Causes and Remedies" and is writing a book on the development and impact of affirmative action remedies.

Alvin W. Washington, Vice President and Associate Regional Manager of the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Oregon, will also address the conference.

A graduate of Lincoln University, Washington holds an M.S. in Administration from George Washington University and an M.S. in Physiological Chemistry for Ohio State. He has been in his present position since most of 1981 and previously was a Health Plan Manager, an Administrative Director, and held various assignments in the medical field and was a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Air Force (technical information, intelligence).

Representing the Reagan admin-

istration will be Asst. U.S. Attorney General J. Paul McGrath, who is in charge of the Civil Division in the U.S. Attorney General's Office.

The conference on "The High Cost of Intergroup Conflict" will begin with registration at 8:00 a.m. The conference fee of \$60 includes two lunches.

Commission studies library

A fifteen member commission will study redesigning Multnomah County's library system. A blue-ribbon panel, suggested by Commissioner Arnold Biskar, will deliver a plan for an improved system by Christmas.

The commission will have a County Commissioner as its chairman and will include the mayor of Gresham, the superintendent of the Portland Public Schools, members of the Portland City Council, the Friends of the Library, the Library Association Board and the library union, two representatives of higher education and six public members.

The panel will examine the contract under which the County pays the library's costs and the Library Association governs the library system. Among the questions to be addressed are ownership of the library assets, the appointment of directors, commitment for extended financing and possible private financing methods.



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