

Bigfoot recording latest TAMU top single

More evidence claiming Bigfoot's existence has arrived at Texas A&M University, including for the first time an alleged recording of the elusive creature's sounds.

Hair samples and photographs of footprints and nests accompanied the record sent earlier this week by Alan R. Berry of Redding, Calif., to Dr. Vaughn Bryant Jr., TAMU anthropologist and botanist.

Bryant is fast becoming this area's leading analyst of Bigfoot evidence because of his past connections with such findings and his credentials as a recognized authority in prehistoric diet, pollen and fecal analyses.

The sample, photos and record join hair and fecal samples sent here in April from two separate locations in the Pacific Northwest. Those samples are still under scrutiny at

the TAMU laboratories.

Both hair samples are reportedly from Northern California and both are similar in their light coloring and appearance. But Bryant hastens to add that such a preliminary judgment is by no means valid. He plans a check comparison of the two hair samples to check for similarities and differences.

After listening to the 15-minute

recording, of which only about half actually contains Bigfoot sounds, Bryant said the utterings seemed similar to those of primates — chimps, gorillas, monkeys, etc.

Berry, now almost a fulltime Bigfoot hunter, says that Dr. William Mason, primate behaviorist at the Yerkes Primate Center at the University of California-Davis, described the sounds as "definitely

primate" and recommended more thorough analysis.

Berry claims the hair was found on a tree with large footprints in the snow nearby. Nesting areas were found in the woods and photographs taken. He explains, however, that no actual sightings or photos of the creature have been obtained from his efforts, adding to the skepticism from many corners.

He claims the recordings were made from inside a wooden shelter with a microphone and wire leading about 10 yards outside the shelter.

The explorer explains to Bryant that he sent the recordings to Syntonic Research, Inc., the same New York firm that looked at Watergate tapes.

Mike Kron, research associate there, allegedly told Berry, "In my

opinion, the sounds recorded have been spontaneous in nature and seem to have taken place at the time of the original recording."

Berry also sent the four cassette tapes to the Naval Weapons Center in California which sent them back after six months of attempted analysis with no comment.

Now the recording has turned up at TAMU, along with the photos and hair samples.

Berry explains to Bryant that the nest areas are unusual in that they were very close to the human shelter and appeared to be constructed in a way much more complex than those of bears in the area.

Of all the evidence thus received at Texas A&M, only the first hair sample from Northern California was accompanied by a reported "sighting," explains Bryant.

The fecal sample from near Tacoma, Wash., and the sounds and nests involved no actual sighting of creatures, but in each case the findings did not appear to have been made by animal life usual to the areas.

Berry says that the creatures were probably 30-50 yards away from the hidden microphone, but when recorded they sound almost on top of it, a phenomenon that at first led to skepticism on the part of Syntonic.

But Berry says the remote volume control of the unit, plus the enormously loud projection of the creatures, accounts for the apparent closeness.

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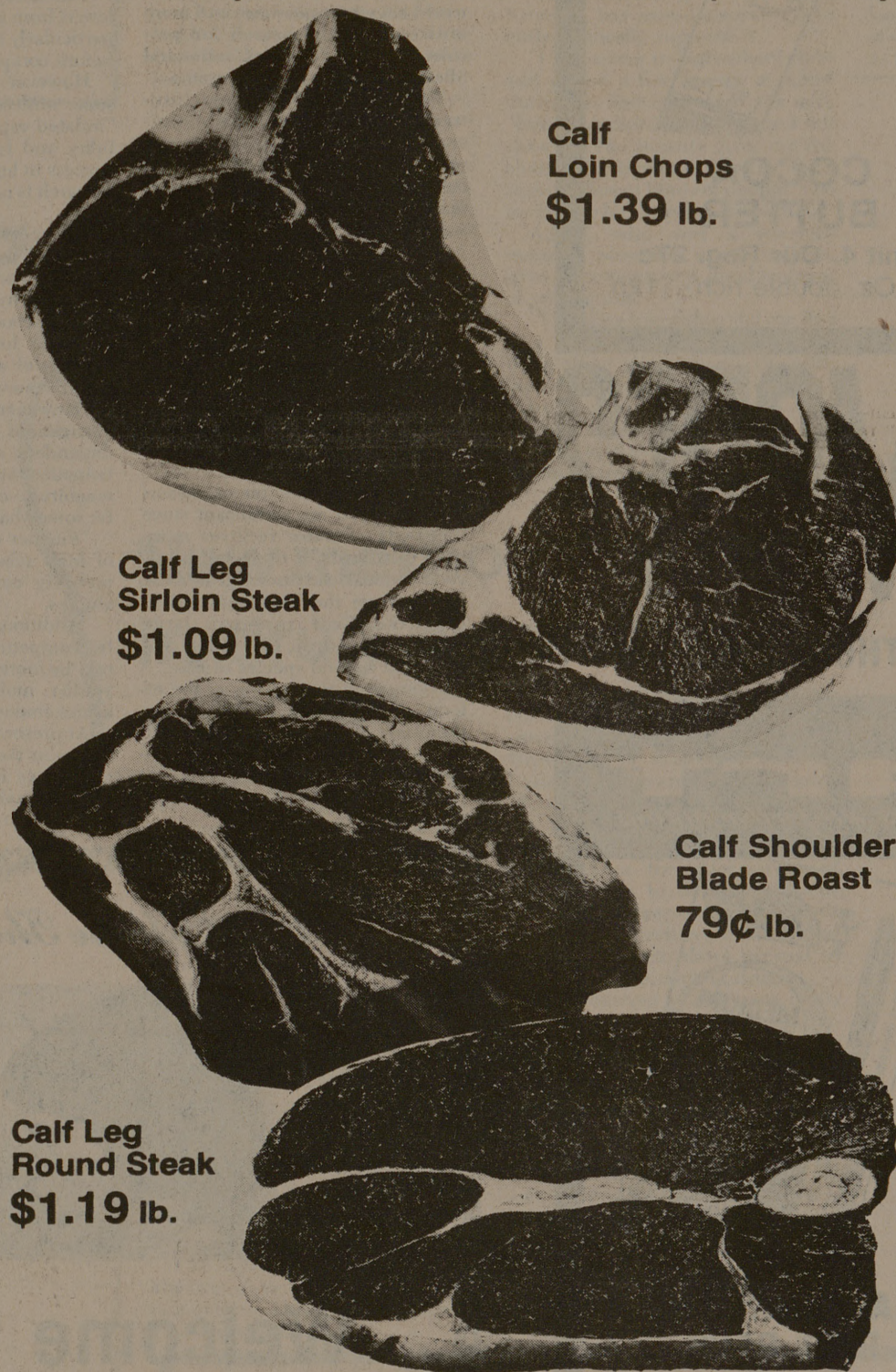
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Drug moves from leaves to laboratory

A possible cancer drug originally isolated from leaves found in Ethiopia is in the process of being produced synthetically at Texas A&M University.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare is funding the effort of a research team headed by Dr. Kenneth Harding to prove a theory he brainstormed in a two-hour period to artificially produce the antitumor agent "Vernolepin."

The material was isolated in leaves found in Ethiopia in 1965 by a group taking random extracts from plants and checking them for cancer inhibitory qualities.

To really test the drug requires huge amounts of the material that can be produced quickly, cheaply, and locally and that is where Dr. Harding steps into the picture.

"We're trying to develop a procedure for preparation of the agent in the laboratory from readily available organic chemicals," Harding said. "The project will develop simple methods for the lab preparation of the complex 'Vernolepin' molecule which can then be used in making structural variants for testing."

"My basic idea for the synthesis was developed in about two hours," he added. "Then it took about three months to document the idea and prepare specific proposals, but this year we expect to see some significant results."

Using penicillin as an analogy for synthetic production of drugs, he pointed out that it was originally developed from a soil mold. However, a more useful drug was produced by manipulating small changes in the molecule at the laboratory to improve the characteristics of the penicillin.

"This is also a goal of ours in synthesizing the Vernolepin," Harding observed.

Dinner theater tickets on sale at Rudder office

Dinner theater tickets are now on sale for the Aggie Players production, "What The Butler Saw," at Texas A&M.

The evening's entertainment is planned in the newly renovated Memorial Student Center Ballroom June 26 and 27 and July 1 and 2.

Joining efforts in the new programming venture are the Aggie Players, Memorial Student Center Summer Directorate and Food Services Department.

Tickets, at the Rudder Center ticket office, are \$5 per student; \$7, non-student. Information is available at 845-2916.

A satire on the antics of a psychiatrist and the zany clinic he operates, Joe Ortin's "What The Butler Saw" received top reviews from a 1970 Broadway run. It has been widely acclaimed as a dinner theater production since.

Buffet dinner at 6:30 p.m. leads into the 8 p.m. Aggie Players performance directed by Robert Wenck.

The production is a first at TAMU, note Wenck and Bob Barbier, MSC summer directorate president. It marks the first linkup of the TAMU student theater company and MSC.