

## Bryant to speak to Bigfoot group

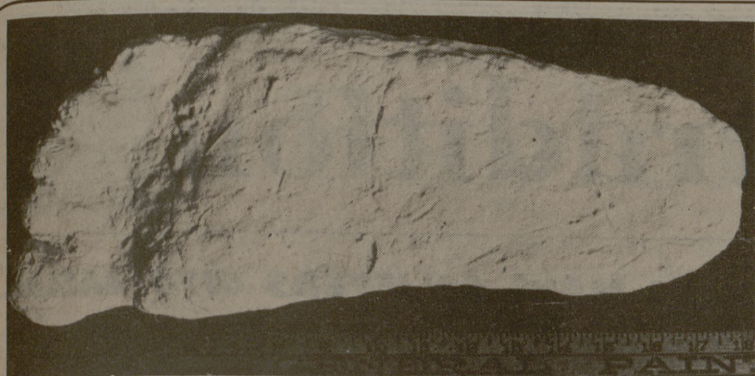
Dr. Vaughn Bryant, Texas A&M University paleobotanist, will deliver a paper next spring at the world's first international scientific conference designed to seriously study Bigfoot, also known as Sasquatch, mysterious creatures.

Bryant's paper will deal with the analysis of hair and fecal samples, alleged to be those of Sasquatch, which were sent to him from areas of sightings in the Northwest. Preliminary analyses of the samples were

generally inconclusive. However, the samples were isolated from some known types of animal hair and feces.

The "Sasquatch and Similar Phenomena Conference" is scheduled May 9-13 at the University of British Columbia.

Far from being hunters and trappers, other participants are mainly scientists and folklorists. Bryant is the only Texan so far to receive an invitation.



This 18-inch cast of what is reported to be a footprint of Bigfoot belongs to A&M paleobotanist Dr. Vaughn Bryant. He will deliver a paper to the first international scientific conference on mysterious creatures.

## 3 harmless snakes worth \$310 stolen

United Press International  
NEW ORLEANS — Officials suspect a child with a knowledge of reptiles is responsible for the theft of three non-poisonous snakes from the Audubon Park Zoo.

Debra Pearson, director of the reptile exhibit, said Monday the thief entered the building through a ventilation opening during the weekend.

"Whoever climbed in through that fan opening had to be somebody very small," she said. "A man

or a large woman couldn't have done it."

Pearson said two hognose snakes and a pallid milk snake were missing. They are worth \$310.

Zoo keepers also had to capture several boa constrictors which the intruder released from a cage. But Pearson said the culprit was smart to bypass the poisonous snakes and the zoo's 16-foot python.

"He (the python) is nervous and high strung," she said. "And he bites."

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## Campus Names

### Best 'Doc' thesis

A Texas A&M University professor has captured the \$1,000 Engineering Science Award from the Association of Environmental Engineering Professors (AEEP), it was announced Tuesday.

Dr. Bill Batchelor of the Department of Civil Engineering's environmental engineering division was given the award at the Philadelphia annual meeting of the Water Pollution Control Federation Conference for "the best doctoral thesis relevant to practice."

The thesis gives the results of laboratory studies looking at the use of sulfur to purify waste waters and is entitled "Autotrophic Denitrification Using Sulfur Electron Donors."

### Medals awarded

Decorations have been recently awarded to Texas A&M graduates in the U. S. Air Force.

Cited were Maj. James B. Odom, 1961 Texas A&M graduate of Bethany, La.; Capt. Taylor J. Huddleston, '68, Markham; Capt. Billy J. Hall, '70, Sherman; and Capt Michael R. McMurrey, '72, Dickinson.

Chief of information for the 7th Bomb Wing at Carswell AFB, Maj. Odom received the Joint Defense Commendation Medal for work at Ismir Common Defense Installation, Turkey. He was public information and protocol officer at the base.

Commendation Medals went to the other three. Huddleston was recognized for service as a weapons systems officer at MacDill AFB, Fla., where he still serves with a Tactical Air Command unit.

Hall, also at MacDill piloting the F-4 Phantom II with the 56th Tactical Fighter Wing, was cited for service with the 12th Flying Training Wing at Randolph AFB, Tex. He was Squadron 6 commander in the Corps.

McMurrey's decoration was pinned at Tinker AFB, Okla. He is a pilot with the 964th Airborne Warning and Control Squadron. The former Squadron 4 member at Texas A&M was cited for service with the 305th Air Refueling Squadron at Grissom AFB, Ind.

### Prof on rocks

Dr. Robert Unterberger, has just received a \$260,800 grant from the National Science Foundation to continue his work in "sonar probing of rocks, it was announced this week.

"This research is producing a method of 'seeing' into rock to determine what changes in rock might occur ahead of mining," explained Unterberger. "Thus, miners are warned of possible hazards to their operations such as water, a fault or a change in rock type. This method could save lives and property because miners presently mine ahead by blasting into unknown rock."

For example, British salt miners mined into an unknown borehole which as connected to a high pressure aquifer above the mine level," he said.

"As a result the only salt mine in England was almost lost by 2,000 gallons of water per minute flowing into it."

In our research we have already obtained sonar reflections in dry salt from 1250 feet away and wish to extend this breakthrough to longer ranges, better resolution and improved data interpretation," Unterberger said.

Other possible applications of the rock-sonar research, according to Unterberger, are in:

Probing salt domes (for fractures and borders) which the Federal Energy Administration is planning on for the storage of crude oil.

Finding the extent of dome flanks of salt mines to be used as possible sites for the storage of radioactive waste materials and experiments.

Obtaining knowledge of subsurface rock in locations where dams and other structures are being built.

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