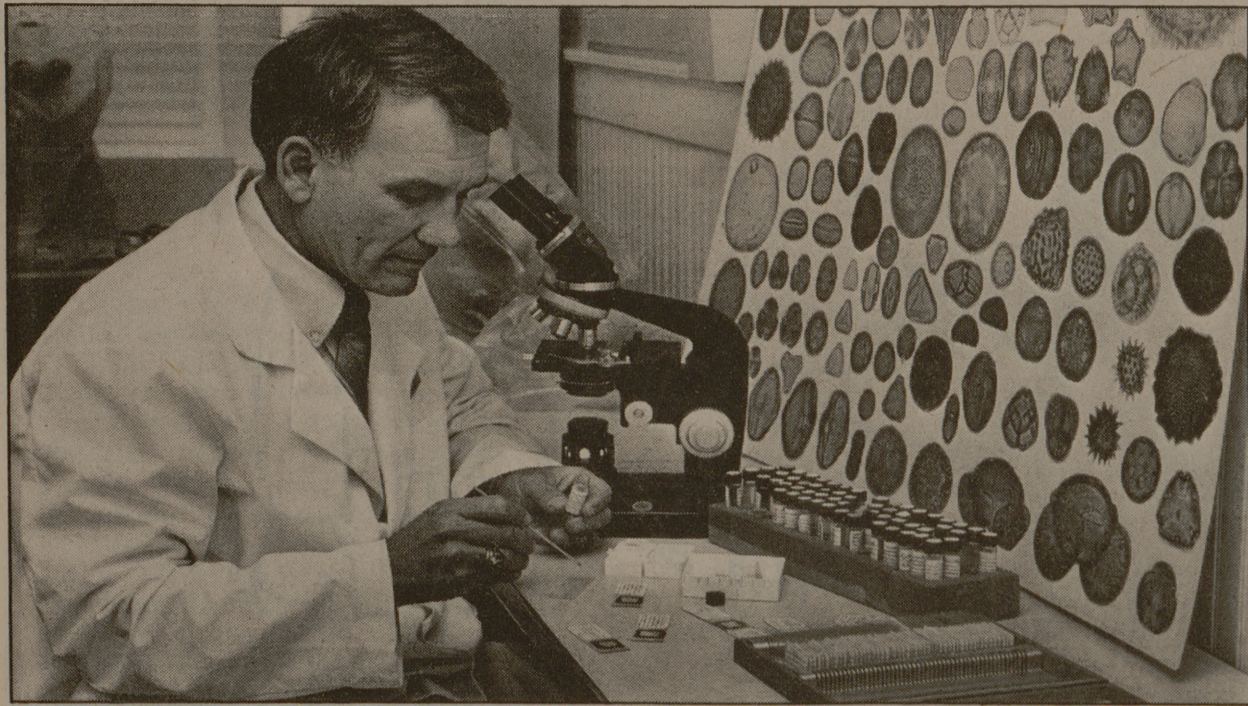


Pollen helps identify ancient man's diet

Sierra Club draws bead on Reagan



Dr. Vaughn Bryant, prepares a pollen slide. Photo by MIKE SANCHEZ

By KIM GRIFFITHS
Reporter

Pollen, the world's oldest pollutant and enemy to 1.8 million noses in America suffering from hay fever, has proved to be an important scientific tool in recreating human life and climate thousands of years ago, a Texas A&M researcher says in this month's National Geographic magazine.

Under a blazing sun in Seminole Canyon near Del Rio, Dr. Vaughn Bryant, who heads the University's Anthropology Department, was able to piece together ancient man's diet 9,000 years ago using fossilized human feces and extracting the pollen from these remains.

"They definitely were not picky eaters," Bryant said, citing a main course of packrat, mice or lizard. Cactus, beans, agave or flowers from a mesquite tree served as their "main potat," he said.

The technique calls for the pollen experts, called palynologists, to meticulously count and identify thousands of grains under a microscope.

If that sounds tedious, it is. "It's like looking through the end of a Coke bottle for hours," Bryant

said. "And if you don't wear glasses by the time you're 40, maybe you haven't been working hard enough."

But to define flora is also to define climate and so a thin slice of pollen-filled earth may represent a landscape scenario millions of years old, according to the article.

Anthropologists studied the cliff site near Del Rio — once used as a buffalo jump — and were puzzled as to why 7,500 years had passed between major kills by Indian hunters.

Pollen extracted from within deep earth core samplings suggested to Bryant a change of climate between 10,000 and 15,000 years ago had resulted in the bison migrating into Southwest Texas for better grazing.

"With an ice cap sitting on top of Chicago, Texas was cooler and more moist then; that's clear from the pollen record," Bryant said. "But as the ice melted, forests of maple, spruce and birch gave way to the grasslands and Post Oak Savannah vegetation of Texas today."

Not only were these animals being hunted by humans, Bryant said, but they were unable to change their habits as fast as the vegetation and climate changed.

United Press International

AUSTIN — The Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club Monday criticized the Reagan administration's failure to support a bill that would have accelerated the cleanup of hazardous waste sites.

"The disturbing thing is that the Reagan administration failed to get behind this bill despite the strong partisan support it had in the House," said Byron Brewer, Sierra Club legislative chairman.

Brewer said the measure passed the House on a 323-33 vote. The bill died in the Senate when Congress adjourned last week.

But despite overwhelming support in the House, the Reagan administration declared the reauthorization bill should not be considered until next year, Brewer said.

Ken Kramer, state Capitol representative for the Sierra Club, said the failure of the bill leaves the Texas Legislature with no guidance in its consideration of hazardous waste issues in the 1984 regular session.

School buses collide 38 students injured

United Press International

LEWISVILLE — A bus driver claims faulty brakes on the vehicle caused it to crash into the rear of another school bus Monday, injuring at least 38 students, the Department of Public Safety said.

The injured students were treated at Lewisville Memorial Hospital for minor injuries, and all but one were released by late Monday, said Lewisville Independent School District spokeswoman Margaret Gurecky. The remaining student was being held for observation and was listed in good condition.

The accident occurred just before 8:30 a.m. when two LISD buses, which were transporting students from The Colony, a nearby community, to Marcus High School in Lewisville, collided on Highway 121, Gurecky said.

One bus, which had stopped in a traffic pileup, was struck in the rear

by the second bus, causing the first bus to strike a car in front of it, authorities said. No one in the car was injured, officials said.

The driver of the second bus told authorities the brakes failed on the vehicle, causing it to rear-end the first bus, said DPS officer Don Stewart. He said the DPS was investigating that claim.

Gurecky said each bus was carrying 55 ninth and 10th graders.

"We don't see any serious injuries at all," Gurecky said. "The other students were transported to Marcus and were checked by school nurses just to be sure. The ones taken to the hospital were suffering from neck injuries or whiplash, but nothing serious."

"We are investigating why and how accident occurred," Gurecky said. "At this point we don't anticipate any disciplinary action."

History professor 'provokes' students

By GLENDA MARROU
Reporter

Dr. Terry Anderson's main goal as a history professor is "to provoke, stimulate and challenge students' ideas."

"If a student comes into my class as a freshman, and leaves four years later with the same attitudes and beliefs that he came in with, then I have failed," he said.

Anderson is not the typical teacher, who lectures straight from the book for 50 minutes. Instead, he tries to provoke students to open their minds and question their views of America and the past.

"I want students to exercise their academic freedom," Anderson said. "Many students might reject my ideas, but at least I offer opposition."

And Anderson's ideas are far from conventional.

"I do not believe in the institute of marriage, I am atheist, and I do not claim any political party," he said. "I am not patriotic toward Texas A&M,

Texas, the flag or America. But I am not any different than other Americans as far as emotions and a concern for humanity."

When Anderson was 17, he enlisted in the Navy. This, he said, made a tremendous impact on his life. It was then that he learned the complexities that existed in America. He also learned how to stick up for his rights and beliefs, he said.

"If you don't learn to be aggressive and stand up to people, you will get stepped on," Anderson said. This desire for confrontation, expression and question is a direct reflection of Anderson's personality. "Now people can say they know someone who is different," he said.

The history professor also contributes a sense of humor to his success.

"You have to laugh at all the issues," he said. "If you took it seriously, you would shoot yourself."

This year, Anderson was awarded a Distinguished Teaching Award by the Association of Former Students.

He attributes the recognition to his challenging ideas and his interest in getting students to think.

"Most professors are afraid to be different," he said. "They lecture directly from the book, they do not offer any differing views and they do not allow students to openly express themselves."

"I do not operate that way. I encourage different ideas, and nothing is considered sacred."

Anderson considers himself a demanding teacher and a tough grader.

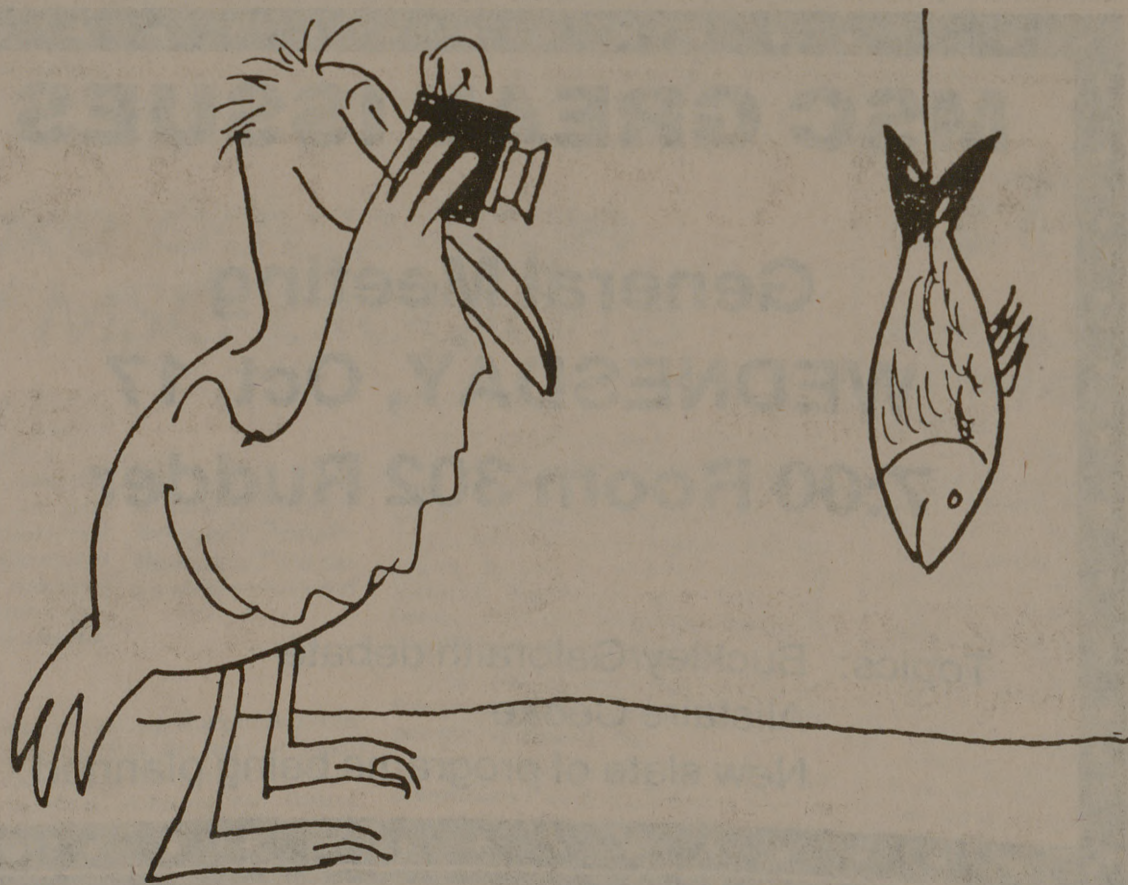
"That's the beauty of the system," he said. "My students might complain about my tests, but when it comes down to it, they'll go to work. They learn a lot about history."

Anderson is also the oral historian for the state of Texas. He collects manuscripts from legislators, politicians, farmers and other figures. He interviews people across the state on the development of topics such as



Dr. Terry Anderson

engineering, veterinary medicine and the military. He then develops an oral history of the subject. Anderson hopes that one day a Humanities Research Institute will house all this information on campus.



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