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to burn on Thursday

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Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

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Bomb explodes near Colombian embassy

United Press International

BOGOTA, Colombia — A car bomb exploded Monday outside the U.S. Embassy, killing a Colombian woman and wounding five other people days after a group of U.S. diplomats left Colombia under threats tied to drug traders, witnesses and radio reports said.

No embassy personnel were hurt and there were no immediate claims of responsibility.

Initial radio reports said a book on the conditions of Colombian prisoners in the United States was found in the car.

The explosion came about a week

after more than 10 U.S. diplomats and their families moved out of the country following threats linked to the government's decision to extradite drug smugglers to face charges in the United States.

The explosion went off about 3:50 p.m. and was heard at least four blocks away at the Jesuit University. Smoke blackened the sky around the embassy, witnesses said.

The car containing the bomb had been parked in front of the embassy for several hours before the explosion, witnesses said.

Radio reports identified the dead woman as Martha Betancur, 45, who

apparently was sitting in an outside waiting area to discuss visa requirements with embassy personnel.

It was not immediately clear exactly how the woman, the mother of three children, died.

Radio reports said at least five people were wounded. Colombian authorities could not immediately confirm the casualty reports.

"As far as we know no one employed by the embassy was hurt," said a spokesman contacted by telephone inside the building after the explosion. "We heard a loud explosion. To me it sounded like thunder."

He said the blast prompted embassy workers to take refuge in protected areas of the building known as "safe havens." They were later allowed to return to their homes.

The spokesman said a joint investigation into the attack would probably be conducted by embassy security officials and Colombian police.

Initial news reports said three security cameras were scanning the outside of the embassy at the time the bomb exploded.

Police cordoned off the area to onlookers to begin searching for evidence.

On Nov. 14, President Belisario

Betancur began signing extradition papers for five Colombians being sought by the United States on charges relating to drug trafficking.

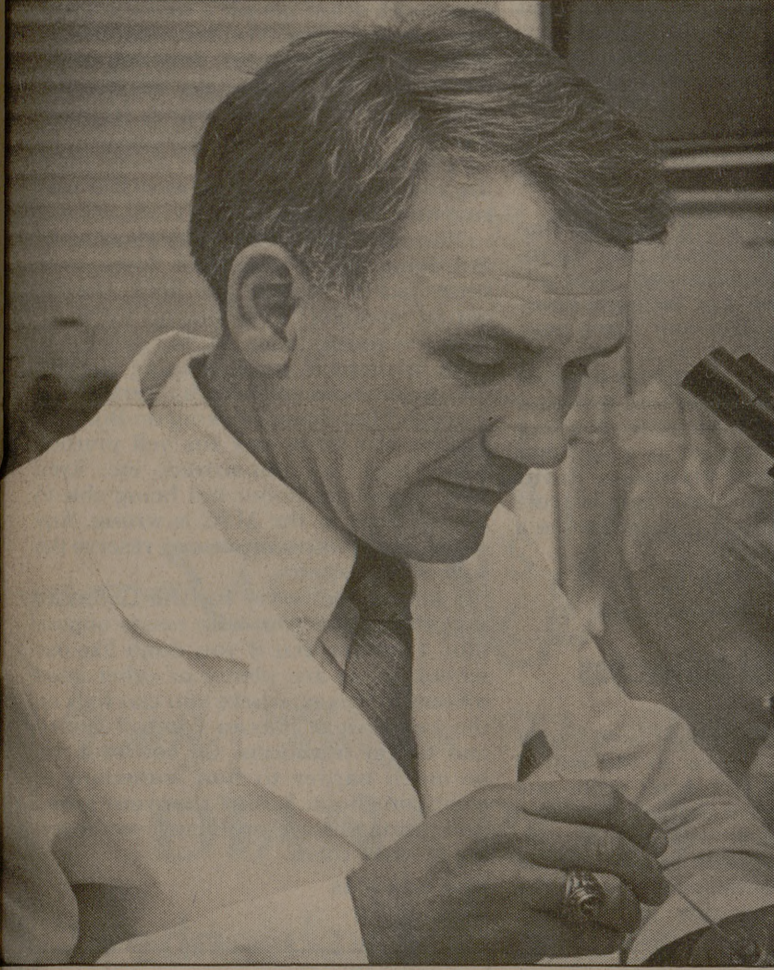
After Betancur's decision to extradite the suspected smugglers, authorities said threats were made, although it was not clear if they were made against the embassy or the diplomats themselves.

Coffee is officially Colombia's chief export but illegal drugs are believed to be an even bigger industry and have become a major economic and political factor in the South American country.

In Washington, the State Depart-

ment had no immediate comment on the blast, although earlier in the day, spokesman Alan Romberg confirmed that a "small number" of embassy staffers and dependents had left the country because of terrorism linked to the crackdown on drugs.

"Terrorist activities in Colombia have been a concern for some time and security arrangements at our embassy have reflected that," Romberg said. "It's our view that recent developments in our continuing cooperation and cooperative efforts with the Colombian government to address problems of drug trafficking warrant particular vigilance at this time."



Dr. Vaughn Bryant

Prof explains history of kissing

By AMY BOWMAN
Reporter

Vaughn Bryant can sit and talk about prehistoric feces, pollen spores and the history of kissing just like a proud grandfather talking about his grandchildren.

Bryant is the head of the Department of Anthropology at Texas A&M University. "I find my job very stimulating because I have the opportunity to be on the forefront of some very exciting things," Bryant said. "I relish on a lot of activity. I never have five minutes without something to do, whether it's talking on the phone or preparing lecture notes for my next class or answering letters. No two days are ever the same."

Bryant sits in his office talking to a reporter from National Geographic magazine about an article on pollen in the October edition of the magazine which featured him.

His walls are covered with personal memorabilia — three diplomas from the University of Texas, pictures of his family, a Distinguished Achievement in Teaching Award that Bryant received in 1974, pictures of the Aggie bonfire and UT's illuminated tower.

He slumps down in his chair while talking about pollen to the

person on the phone. He explains himself to the reporter like an elementary school teacher explaining the next day's homework assignment to a class.

A bottle of Old Spice sits on the window sill. His desk top is nowhere to be seen. Instead, there are file folders, a glass paperweight with a honeybee preserved inside it, two pipes in an empty ashtray, pencils, paperclips, a huge ceramic coffee mug and towering piles of paper.

"My desk may not look like it, but I know where everything is," Bryant said.

There are hundreds of books lining the shelves of Bryant's office. Their titles range from "Palaeobotany" to "Trees of East Texas" to "Memoirs of Pancho Villa." There are plastic dinosaur figurines, arrowheads and a collection of miniature owls that also line the shelves.

Vaughn Bryant is fascinating. His knowledge of so many subjects coupled with his dry sense of humor make him a master storyteller who can capture the attention of an audience for hours.

However, Bryant is more than just a storyteller. He is a well-respected member of the scientific community. He is one of the few people in the world who is an ex-

pert in the study of fossilized feces, known as coprolites.

Bryant got his start in this field when he was on an archaeology dig in West Texas. He was elected to find out what was in a specimen of fossilized feces, but it wasn't until ten years later that Bryant compiled enough information on the subject.

Bryant said he really developed "an interest in crap" when he studied with Canadian scientist Eric Callen, a pioneer in the study of coprolites. After Callen died of a heart attack, Bryant was the only person known with an extensive knowledge of coprolites. He asked the Canadian government for Callen's collection of coprolites and turned them over to A&M for study.

Bryant, by studying fossilized feces, has developed a vast wealth of information on the caveman diet. After analyzing the diet of the caveman, Bryant put himself on a diet similar to that of the caveman and lost thirty pounds.

He gained endless publicity from his diet and was written about in papers from El Reno, Oklahoma to Idaho.

"Everybody's interested in diets...they're all looking for a quick and easy way to lose weight," Bryant said.

"Most Americans consume about forty-four percent of their diets in fats."

Before going on his "caveman diet," Bryant ate a typical diet high in sugar, fats and salt.

"The biggest problem I found was withdrawal from salt," Bryant said. Bryant is now a fit, healthy-looking man, graying slightly around the temples.

"No matter what I eat," Bryant said, "I never use a salt shaker."

For dinner, Bryant prepares his own food.

"My exciting portion of the day is making a big, beautiful, elaborate salad," Bryant said. "I have all the accoutrements, like lettuce, sprouts, tomatoes, carrots, cucumbers, mushrooms and all that good stuff."

Bryant takes about forty-five minutes to eat his salad while reading the paper or watching the news.

Bryant also is an expert on the history of kissing. The subject of kissing sparked his interest several years ago when he was teaching an anthropology class and a question concerning the history of kissing came up. Bryant knew nothing about the history of kissing.

"I began trying to find out if

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A&M identifies status problems

Looking for 'world university'

By Shawn Behlen
Staff Writer

Editor's Note: This is the second in a three-part series on the future of Texas A&M.

Now that University President Frank E. Vandiver has named Texas A&M as a candidate for status as a world university, the actual future of the University has come under added scrutiny.

Many agree with Vandiver's concept of a world university as an institution working on problems of fundamental importance to the world, but others have misunderstood his plans and still others view them only as a set of grandiose pipedreams. The major complaint with A&M's inclusion in the world university network seems to be that many claim A&M already has too many problems that need to be corrected. These problems, some say, must be addressed before A&M can hope to attain a higher set of goals, such as world importance.

Many of the problems facing A&M came into focus with the publication of the Target 2000 report. The Target 2000 Project was commissioned by the Texas A&M Board of Regents in July 1981 and was charged with generating recommendations that would lead to "recognized excellence for the Texas A&M University System and acknowledged preeminence for the University by the year 2000." The 250-member committee, made up of citizens autonomous from the Univer-

sity, studied the 11 parts of the System, defined major problems and, after 15 months of evaluation, proposed solutions.

The committee presented four reports. Three of the reports addressed the findings of the three task forces and the System Report contained overriding ideas applicable to the whole System.

One controversial piece of advice from the System Report dealt with the role of University administrators, specifically regents.

"There have been instances in the past when some Board members of the Texas A&M University System have become operationally involved in decisions being made by the administration," the committee wrote. "The net impact of each of these role departures has been unfortunate."

Target 2000 Director Robert Shutes says one outcome of regential interference is a lack of continuity in administration.

"One of the things they (the committee) felt very strongly about was that there has been far too much turnover in the top leadership of the University and the System," he says. "When you look at the turnover from Earl Rudder to Jack Williams to Jarvis Miller, then a year of interim with Charles Samson, and then Frank Vandiver, and that's all since 1970, you see what I mean."

"The committee said to the board, 'If you want Texas A&M to become a great institution, one of the things you've got to do is quit this. The

board has got to quit trying to maneuver things. Let an administrator do what he is supposed to do and get out of his way.'"

Another controversial recommendation of the committee concerned proposed improvements in the System's research thrust.

"The committee took a look at the kind of research that was going on and they said, 'Look, folks. What you're doing in the way of research is mostly not research at all. It's not basic research. What research going on is applied research that you're paid for to solve a specific problem, not to pursue truth to wherever it leads,'" Shutes says. "They said, 'If you want to become a great university, you better re-think the way you approach basic research.'"

This is a point Vandiver stresses strongly in his world university concept, and Associate Provost for Research Duwayne Anderson says the impact of this section of the report can already be seen.

The System Report also looks at the role of Texas A&M on the national and international levels and shows the difference between A&M's role now and the role Vandiver hopes it will play as a world university.

"They (the committee) said that if Texas A&M is to become a great university it has to be more visible nationally and internationally," Shutes says. "They looked at the way in which Texas A&M is rated or ranked for its academic programs

and pointed out that we hit the top 20 or 50 very rarely.

"The image of Texas A&M has to be more than just a place where Jackie Sherrill coaches or as the football team or as the Corps of Cadets. That is, something bigger than a stereotype. The committee felt that was very important."

The committee also stressed in its report the importance of Texas A&M's gaining additional resources.

"We need to develop major endowments for Texas A&M and some kind of endowment for the other parts of the System," Shutes says. "That should be done in a very careful and organized way."

"That's still not as far a long as it should be, although a study has been done by some outside consultants on fundraising for Texas A&M and we're talking about five to six hundred million dollar endowments to do the things we want to do."

Money was also a factor in the report's policy on personnel recruitment and retention.

"Every time the board meets, there's some new talk about endowed chairs because of this," Shutes says. "George Mitchell (Target 2000 chairman) was pounding on the table month after month after month saying, 'Look at this report from the University of Texas saying they have 60 endowed chairs. What do we have? Three. They're using Available Fund dollars as matching

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China says ships from U.S. allowed to dock in harbors

United Press International

PEKING — China has decided to allow U.S. warships to dock at Chinese ports for the first time in more than three decades, an official newspaper said Monday.

U.S. diplomatic sources confirmed that the two sides were discussing a possible port call as early as next year but said no specific date had been set.

"American warships will be allowed to visit China's ports if they are on ceremonial call and the request is made through diplomatic procedures," Communist Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang was quoted as saying in the official China Daily, an English language newspaper.

Western diplomats said a U.S. port call would be symbolic of the improvement in relations between the two countries.

In a meeting with Japanese and Chinese businessmen on Sunday, the newspaper said Hu ruled out any military alliance with the United States but indicated a U.S. Navy port call could soon take place.

"This is the first time that I know of that they (China) have publicly stated their willingness for a port call," a U.S. diplomat said. "It's been under discussion for some time, but I'm not aware of any specific date or place."

He said an agreement in principle for a U.S. port call was reached during Navy Secretary John Lehman's nine-day visit to China in August. Asked if Hu's comment could be taken as an invitation, the diplomat said, "I guess you could read it that way."

Asked about reports that a U.S. port call could take place early in 1985, the diplomat said, "Nothing is planned for the first 30 days of the year."

"This will be handled during diplomatic consultations both in Washington and here," he said. "There has been some discussion about timing, but I don't think they have reached agreement yet."

There have been no port calls by U.S. warships to China in more than 30 years.

More than 20 vessels from France, Britain, Canada, Australia and other Western nations, however, have docked at Shanghai in recent years.

A 13-member Chinese Navy delegation headed by Adm. Chen Youming is on a 30-day visit to the United States. Officials said the Chen group wanted to discuss surface ship modernization and the upgrading of the Chinese fleet, but could also touch on the issue of a U.S. port call.