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## A&M professor to be on national TV

### Anthropologist will appear on childrens' science series

By RUTH COCHRAN  
Reporter

Dr. Vaughn Bryant, professor of anthropology and biology, will be displaying his expertise on national television in the fall.

Bryant, who studies coprolites or fossilized human excrement, is filming a segment this week about nutritious eating for "3-2-1 CONTACT," a daily science and technology series for eight to 12 year olds airing on PBS.

Sometime in the fall, the series will feature one week of programs focusing on eating. Bryant will be 01702301 showcased in one of the half-hour segments.

"They want to emphasize the topic of food — to make children more aware of what they eat," Bryant said.

Bryant said he thought he was chosen to film the segment because his unusual occupation would catch the attention of children.

"They're using the novelty of studying crap," Bryant said, "to get across the importance of nutrition."

A crew from Children's Television Workshop, creator of "3-2-1 CONTACT" and "Sesame Street," arrived Sunday in San Antonio to meet with Bryant and drive to Del Rio for filming in a nearby canyon.

The producers plan to re-create a discovery of coprolites by Bryant. Bryant said they will visit several latrine sites in the canyon that are 10,000 years old.

"We have to set the archaeological background," Bryant said, "to get a better understanding of who these people were."

After setting the background, Bryant said the focus would switch to prehistoric man's diet.

"The people in these sites go back almost 10,000 years," Bryant said.

"They lived in an environment which is very similar to ours."

Because the environment has not changed much, Bryant said he will examine the types of plants prehistoric man ate including cactus, persimmon and agave, which is similar in appearance to an artichoke.

Bryant said he also will tell what kinds of animals were on prehistoric man's daily menu. Mice and lizards were a regular part of his diet because they were so easy to catch, but rabbits and deer were rarely eaten.

While at the latrine sites, the producers plan to film Bryant examining coprolite samples for size, shape, color, texture and outer coating. The inspection is to make the distinction between human and non-human feces.

The crew will then film Bryant in the Texas A&M University Anthropological Research Laboratories running coprolite analysis tests.

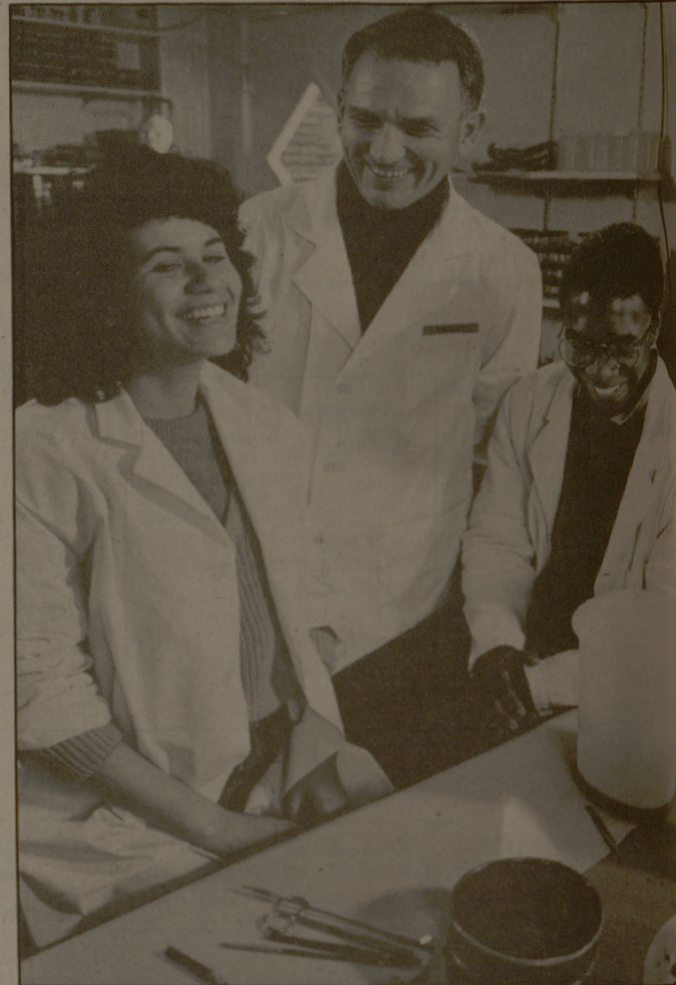
"What we'll be doing," Bryant said, "is taking them to the lab and showing them how we test these coprolites."

Bryant said he will explain how the tests prove that the coprolites are of human origin and how scientists know what prehistoric man ate. The tests will also show when they ate and how they prepared their food.

The producers especially want to show the seeds, hairs, feathers, insects and pollen grains found in coprolites. These items cannot be digested by humans so they are fossilized records of prehistoric man's diet.

After chemical analysis, components of the coprolite samples will be examined under a scanning electron microscope.

Bryant said examination with an electron microscope will show how scientists are able to identify pollen, hair, seeds and plant crystals.



A&M professor Dr. Vaughn Bryant jokes with Mary Lopez and Todd Rolle, hosts of television's "3-2-1 Contact."

Producers plan to recreate a prehistoric diet. Bryant will be filmed in an A&M dining room or cafeteria eating a lunch prepared with prehistoric recipes.

Bryant said he will be eating

steamed cactus pads, agave maybe some Sotol (similar to fish bayonet) on the side. Bryant will probably pass on the lizards.

## Siamese twins tested for separation surgery

Associated Press

EL PASO — Twin baby girls, born attached from chest to belly, remained in an intensive care nursery Wednesday while doctors tried to determine if it is possible to separate them, a hospital spokesman said.

Spokesman Gary Conwell said a sonogram performed on the day-old Siamese twins, born at Providence Memorial Hospital, indicated they share a portion of their hearts.

Doctors are conducting other tests, including CAT scans and injecting a dye into one of the twins to see how much is transmitted to the other, Conwell said. The tests are to determine the degree to which the babies share internal organs.

"(Doctors) were pretty much aware of it prior to delivery, though they didn't know how they were attached."

— Gabe Silva, Providence Memorial Hospital spokesman.

"They think there's some sharing of the heart at the atrium chamber," Conwell said.

The girls were born weighing about 6 pounds each at 7:37 a.m. MST Tuesday. They were stable and their mother was in "excellent" condition, Conwell said. The parents, an El Paso couple, have requested that their names not be released.

The twins were born by Caesarean section and it was the second pregnancy for the mother, who already has a young daughter, the spokesman said. The father is "adjusting well," he said.

It is possible to determine if a pregnant woman is carrying Siamese twins by doing an ultrasound exam

14 to 17 weeks after conception, hospital spokesman Gabe Silva said.

"They (doctors) were pretty aware of it prior to delivery, though they didn't know how they were attached," Silva said.

When tests are completed, will decide if surgery is possible if it can be done at Providence Memorial Hospital. If not, it could be performed at a major medical center elsewhere in the state, Conwell said.

During a three-hour operation involving a team of 20 doctors and nurses, Siamese twins were separated at Providence 10 days after their birth March 20, 1983.

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