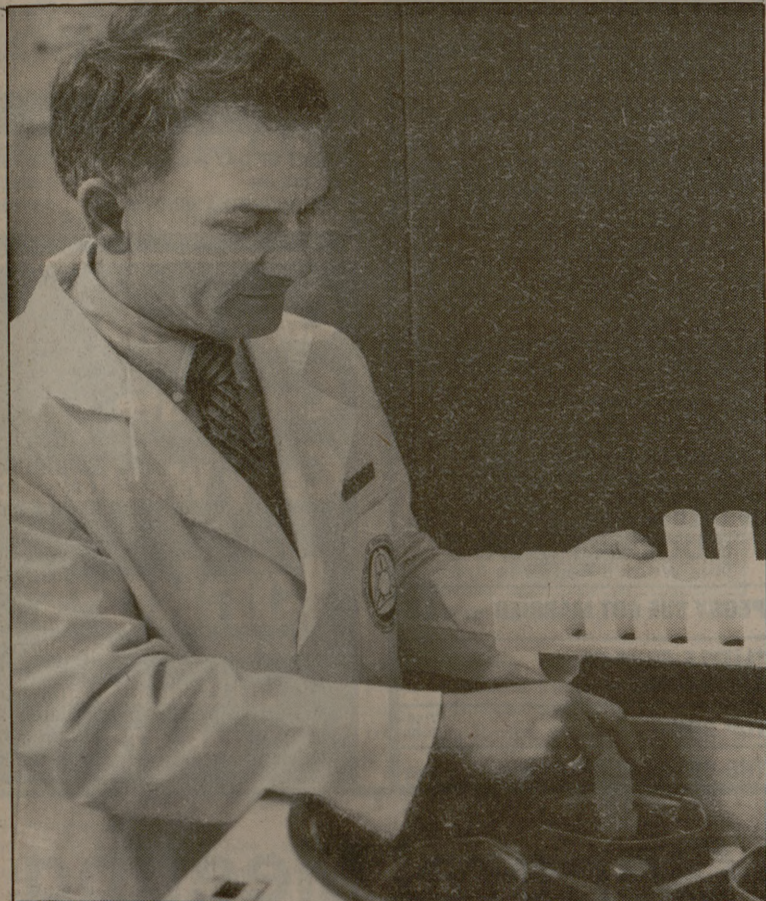


# A&M department head finds method of identifying origins of foreign honey



By Ty Walters  
Reporter

A pollen expert at Texas A&M is helping to preserve the jobs and money of U.S. honey producers by identifying foreign-made honey through a method he developed.

By studying pollen grains found in honey, Dr. Vaughn M. Bryant, professor and head of the anthropology department, has devised a method of tracing the origin of honey. He separates the pollen, examines it under a microscope, and then records the type of plant from which the grains originated. He then can tell from what areas of the country the plant can be found.

The 1985 Farm Bill created the Honey Support Program, a plan designed to provide loans for farmers and higher market prices for their honey. The program requires the produce to be domestic, but the Department of Agriculture suspects some farmers buy imported honey at a lower price, and then claim it to be their own in order to receive the higher price offered by the government buyback program, Bryant said.

By sending random samples to A&M, the USDA is able to spot the foreign honey.

Bryant, who has written a book and several journal articles on the subject of pollen, compares his findings with the information

sent by the USDA and comments on whether the honey could possibly be from the United States.

Compared to the amount of money that could be lost on imported honey, the \$50 fee is relatively low, he said, and the money is used to pay lab costs and materials.

Bryant said most of the samples are legitimate.

The government wants producers to know about this program to deter future illegal imports, he added.

Before the support program began, China and Mexico were the leading importers of honey into the United States. Though President Ronald Reagan recently extended the program through 1990, the buyback rates are expected to go down as much as 5 percent each year, according to the American Bee Journal.

Some farmers think the lowering rates might pressure others to buy the imported product to mix in with their own honey. Bryant's testing will serve to keep anyone from using foreign honey as his own.

Pollen researchers have become increasingly important to the oil industry because of their ability to find pollen in core samples to find productive drilling areas. But the field still is relatively small and unknown.

"There are only a few of us," Bryant said.

Photo by Mark Beal  
Dr. Vaughn Bryant demonstrates separation of pollen from honey.

# Atlanta wins out over Houston in bid for 1988 Democratic convention site

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats have chosen Atlanta to host the party's 1988 national convention, sources said Monday.

Democratic Party Chairman Paul Kirk is expected to announce his selection of the Georgia capital today, after talking privately with the site-

selection committee that gathered here Monday night.

Atlanta triumphed over Houston, the other Southern city considered the frontrunner among the five cities remaining in the year-long selection process, said the sources, who

spoke on the condition they not be identified.

Previously, Kirk has given no public hint of his preference among the five cities still officially in the running: Atlanta, Houston, Kansas City, Mo., New York and Washington. But Democratic officials frequently

said a convention in the South would bolster the party's sagging strength in presidential balloting in the region.

Word of Kirk's choice spread late Monday, as party insiders were informed of the decision.

Democratic party officials apparently were troubled more by Houston's unfinished convention center than by the shortage of seating in the Atlanta hall. Labor unions, always important in party decisions, also were said to be more comfortable with Atlanta's relations with its employees than with Houston's situation.

The site selection committee was wined and dined in every city by local business and political figures lured by the promise of millions of dollars in publicity and convention business.

The politicking continued until the final days. Houston sent barbecue and apple pie to the Democratic National Committee last week, while Georgians trucked in shrimp for a festive feeding.

New Orleans dropped out of the running when New Orleans Mayor Sidney Barthelemy called Kirk last week to withdraw the city's bid for the convention, national party spokesman Terry Michael said.

Although they are front-runners, Houston and Atlanta both suffer logistical and political drawbacks.

# FBI investigates disappearance of 4-month-old girl from hospital

CROSBYTON (AP) — The unexplained disappearance of a 4-month-old girl from a hospital is under investigation by sheriff's officials and the FBI, authorities said Monday.

Lynsae Lysette Quintero was last seen at the Crosbyton Clinic Hospital early in the morning of Jan. 31, Crosby County Sheriff Red Riley said. The baby had been in the hospital since Jan. 26, he said.

Riley said the investigation is at a standstill.

"This whole case has been strange from the beginning," Riley said. "Our small town doesn't know what to think about this. I'm getting frustrated because no two people have given us the same story. Everywhere we turn, we just run into another dead end."

Riley said the baby's 18-year-old mother, Carmel Julie Quintero, was sleeping in the infant's room when the incident occurred, but added that the baby was being treated in a noisy oxygen tent. Someone possibly could have taken the child without awakening the mother, he said.

"I can hardly eat or sleep," the mother said. "Food just won't stay in my stomach. Now, I'm just waiting for someone to bring me good news."

At least four FBI agents have been working on the case, Riley said.

Officials have talked with numerous friends of the family who had visited the baby, and the mother submitted a list of names to officials, the sheriff said.

FBI officials said they could not

comment on the investigation.

"At this particular time, we are not able to release anything," FBI agent Rick Harris said. "We're concerned about the child's safety and so we cannot say anything right now."

A polygraph test was administered to the mother by FBI agents, Riley said. Hospital officials also have been questioned, he said.

"We're making a lot of people mad because they think we're harassing them," Riley said.

Hospital officials declined comment.

"You will not find any employee here who will speak to you," said Suzette Luker, an employee at the hospital.

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