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# Dead Animals Dot Cadet's Room

By TOM R. HARGROVE Special Writer

"Breathes there a man with

'I wish to hell I had a stuffed mongoose being strangled by a cobra!"

He never to himself hath

soul so dead

Although practically everyone, consciously or subconsciously, wishes for a complete mongoosecobra set from time to time, I comes his own. believe I am the only person at own. How this rather unique ara long, slightly unusual story. car.

Mortimor (the mongoose) and of India, where their relatives still fight like cats and dogs. However, they were destined to die near a taxidermist shop instead of in the dense Indian jungle. Somehow, the unusual set came into the possession of a wealthy Arabian gentleman with exquisite tastes in Kuwait, Saudi

An American construction official and his wife were among en by this particular gentleman one evening. Serving as a cenin silent, deadly combat.

Being not exactly accustomed bly just collect dust. to such elegance, the American lady immediately gasped at the sight, placed her hand to her mouth and turned a lovely, sickly shade of green.

"Is something wrong? Are you ill?" asked the host.

"Oh, no, of course not," she quickly replied, fervently racking

her brain to find an appropriate, up with everything-your fish but polite answer.

'The Mongoose, Cobra And Me'

lovely centerpiece!" she blurted out, momentarily forgetting the fact that she was in Saudi Arabia, in Texas, and even that statue And it's great for officer inspecwhere the custom is that if a guest compliments anything the that you dragged back from anything else in the room he's host's home it automatically be-

When the couple returned to into this house." Aggieland who has one all his their car after the party, there was Morty and Lucifer, sitting dear ol' Mother wasn't too happy ticle came to College Station is rigidly in the front seat of their

Not all people appreciate such Lucifer (the cobra) are natives elegance as exotic mongoose and cobra teams, however. Upon returning to the United States, the couple presented the set to their 20-year old daughter, who was attending college in San Francis-

When she discovered that her rum-drinking, peanut butter-eating pooch, Socrates, refused to live in the same house with the pair, she had to choose between the spoiled canine and the monthe guests at a buffet dinner giv- goose set. This was naturally quite a difficult decision, but at last she decided. She began terpiece amidst trays of hors searching for a new home for d'oeuvres and other delicacies the two. At first she decided to were Mortimor and Lucifer locked present it to a San Francisco museum where they would proba-

Then the idea hit her-what better home could this depravedlooking oddity possibly find than living with an Aggie? After locating me on a trip to Texas, it took very little persuasion to convince me this was right and yours truly returned home late one night the proud possessor of a promised mongoose and cobra.

I decided to break the news to my mother that same night. I felt sure she would be excited, but I didn't realize just how

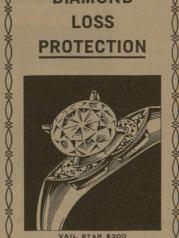
"Mother," I announced, "Guess what.? I'm finally getting us just what we've always needed." "Money!!" yelled Mom in her

sweet, tender, motherly manner. "No, no Mother, it even more wonderful than that. It's just what we really need - a mongoose being strangled by a cobra-stuffed, of course!" I quickly added.

"A x&%\*/\*% mongoose and cobra!!" screamed Mother over and over in her same lovely, gentle motherlike voice as she frantically searched for a heavy, blunt instrument.

"What in the world are you going to do with it? I've put





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Lone Stars beer caps spurs, that "I was just thinking—what a stuffed baby alligator, your goofy-looking campaign hat, stolen beer mugs from half the joints of a drunk guzzling Carta Blanca across the border. But you're not bringing any more freaks

> By now, I began to suspect that with the latest addition to our happy little home. In fact, the rest of the summer wasn't too pleasant, and I was even glad to start back to A&M this fall.

> Soon after my return to school, the mongoose and cobra arrived, adding an even more "homey" atmosphere to my already lovely room in dorm 1.

The pair received a variety of reactions, ranging from a few "wildcats" from the juniors to a puzzled what - in - the - hell does - this - place - do - to you after - two - years look on the faces of the fish.

In case you're wondering what purpose mongoose-and-cobra sets serve, well . . . it does keep strav dogs wandering up and down the dorm from entering my room. tions since the bull never sees

However, A&M is still A&M, even if you do possess a mongoose and cobra. On one inspection this fall a particularly military major, a product of West Point, entered the room, stopped, gaped and said:

"Cadet Hargrove, where on earth did you get that monstrosi-

"Rich girl friend sent it to me, Sir."

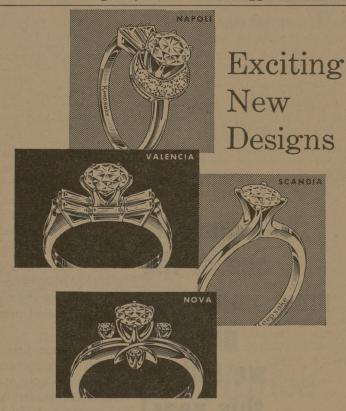
"She must have been," he muttered, running his finger across Lucifer's scaley back.

"Tell her she should have dusted it first!" he snapped as he stormed out the door.

I'm still waiting for my rams for a "dusty mongoose and cobra' to come through!



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