

Unpleasant houseguests

Pesticide alternatives available

By STEVE REIS
Battalion Staff Writer

Cockroaches scurry into houses to feed, hiding under the cover of darkness and leave behind an unpleasant odor.

Among the most common roaches found in Texas are the American, the Smokybrown and the German cockroaches.

American roaches are usually found in heated areas, garages, barns or outbuildings. They can also be found under rubbish piles, in leaf litter or sewage systems.

The Smokybrown is a common dark brown roach found in outdoor areas. This type is what a student might see on campus at night.

The third type is the German cockroach. It is a smaller roach with two black bands behind its head. It is usually found in the kitchen.

The control of these types and others is the goal of research being conducted by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and the Department of Entomology. Dr. Gordon W. Frankie and Dr. Gary Piper are doing the research.

Frankie explained that this is the second year of a three year program being funded by the Environment Protection Agency.

The main thrust of the research is to explore new ways of controlling or managing the cockroach population in outdoor and urban areas," he said.

He also said the EPA will issue new guidelines for the usage of pesticides in 1976. The research being done is to offer an alternative to the over-use of pesticides.

Frankie stressed that the control methods are being designed for those who cannot afford professional exterminators.

Piper explained the alternatives to insecticides being studied.

Cockroach parasites, trapping techniques and the use of inorganic insecticides are being researched.

"We are studying the natural enemies of the cockroaches," Piper said. "In particular, we are looking at a cockroach egg parasite. It is a type of wasp that lives only on certain roach eggs."

The parasite drills a hole in the egg case of the roach and lays its own eggs. When the eggs hatch, they feed on the roach eggs within. After about a month, the larvae have eaten all the eggs, developed, and bored out of the egg case to find more roach eggs to parasitize.

Piper explained that after more study, these parasites may be utilized to help keep the population of roaches down to an acceptable level.

Another alternative is one that can be used by anyone with observable results, Piper said. This is trapping cockroaches.

"This is a very effective technique, both inside and out," Piper said. "It is a simple trap made from a mason jar, some petroleum jelly and a bit of chopped apple, banana peel or potato."

First, smear a thin layer of petroleum jelly on the inside mouth of the jar. Then place a piece of apple, banana or potato in the jar. After this is done, place the jar against some upright surface like the back of a refrigerator or a wall.

"The roach will be attracted by

the smell, investigate and fall into the jar. The petroleum jelly will keep it from crawling out," Piper said. "When you have a number of roaches, pour them into a bucket of hot soapy water. This will break down their wax coating and they will drown."

Piper said this method is both economical and simple to use.

The third alternative is the use of inorganic insecticides. One of these is boric acid. This is a powder that is relatively inexpensive and harmless to humans and pets. It can be obtained in most drug stores and be used many ways.

Piper said that boric acid was used for a long time until the advent of synthetics. Roaches do not recognize it as a poison and do not avoid it.

"It can be sprinkled wherever roaches might go," Piper explained. "It can be dissolved in water and used to mop floors. The poison acts

as a stomach poison, killing the roaches in about a week."

Piper warned that boric acid is harmful to plants. "It should be used only indoors and away from any plants," he said.

"But these methods are useless," Piper said, "if the homeowner does

not use good sanitation practices.

"If the homeowner doesn't clean up, he is asking for trouble. If he keeps his house in good repair, utilizes good sanitation, uses selective chemicals and tries boric acid and traps, he may be able to keep the roach population down."

Traffic changes

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"Three general conclusions can be drawn from this survey," Rose told the panel. "First a tremendous number of bicycles come from off-campus."

"Second, bicyclists are generally negligent in regard to safety rules and regulations, and third, most automobile drivers are equally negligent in regard to bicyclists and pedestrians."

Rose said he hoped for improvement both in regulation and education of cyclists and motorists.

Student Chuck Fuhs presented some early data to the panel from an urban design project he and two other students are doing under direction of panel member Jim Gardner. The project will investigate the possibility of a community bicycle plan for College Station. The panel will help correlate the on-campus part of the study, when

completed, to Texas A&M bicycle problems.

Panel members discussed an investigation in the near future into possible changes in vehicle registration fees and allocation of available parking space. The present fee policy, with parking lot costs being met by registration fees, will remain in effect as long as it continues to pay for itself.

EAC member Rose questioned the panel on recent University Police removal and confiscation of several bicycles chained to a Chemistry Building ramp for handicapped persons.

Several regulations outlaw blocking the ramps for any reason, Stover said Wednesday night. These include State law and fire ordinances requiring free access to and from public buildings; and a University regulation specifically resulting from bicycles chained to the ramps in the past.

Busts result of tips

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fine and no jail sentence.

A&M police said that most busts on campus are a result of tips given to police and not from any communication with Student Affairs. Tips come from a variety of sources, but most come from previously busted persons.

The police spokesman also said that occasional arrests are made as a result of police noticing suspicious activities on campus and then investigating.

This semester 11 students have been arrested and charged with possessing marijuana. Most have been misdemeanors.

"If the officer finds just one or two 'roaches' in a student's possession (including auto) no action is usually taken... the campus investigator said.

The jurisdiction for off-campus marijuana use is in the hands of Bryan and College Station police and not University police nor the Student Affairs Office.

The scenario for any person arrested on misdemeanor marijuana charges begins with the arrested subject being taken to the county jail on the fourth floor of the county courthouse in Bryan, said County Attorney Roland Searcy.

If arrested during the day he is taken before a magistrate and bail is arranged. If arrested after 5 p.m. he is taken before a magistrate and a bond for misdemeanor, usually around \$125, is set. Once a week, arraignment is held and the person may enter a plea of guilty or not guilty.

If a guilty plea is entered on a misdemeanor charge, the sentence is given immediately. If a plea of not guilty is entered, a court date is set (usually two months from the date of arraignment).

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

- CALIFORNIA CITIES HOME TOWN CLUB will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday in room 308 of the Rudder Tower.
- CIVILIAN BONFIRE COMMITTEE will meet 7 p.m. Thursday in room 410 of the Rudder Tower.
- CEPHEID VARIABLE will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday in room 601 of the Rudder Tower.
- RADIO COMMITTEE will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in room 216 - L&M of the MSC.
- WOMEN'S AWARENESS will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in room 510 of the Rudder Tower.
- OUTDOOR RECREATION will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in room 607 of the Rudder Tower.
- TEXAS CITY - LAMARQUE HOME TOWN CLUB will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in room 226 of the MSC.
- RHA INTRAMURAL MEETING will be held at 8 p.m. Thursday in room 228 of the MSC.
- TEXAS A&M JAYCEES will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in room 141 of the MSC.
- TAMU GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in room 206x of the Geosciences Building.
- TAMU HORSEMAN'S ASSOCIATION will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday in room 215 of the AI Building.
- SILVER TONGUE CLUB TOASTMASTERS will meet at 12:15 p.m. Thursday in the library of St. Mary's Catholic Church.
- TAMU VETERANS CLUB will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday in the Rudder Tower.
- STUDENTS CONCERNED FOR THE HANDICAPPED will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in room 231 of the MSC.
- SOIL & CROP SCIENCE STUDENT WIVES CLUB will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday in room 005 of the Agronomy Building.
- CHESS COMMITTEE will meet at 7 p.m. Friday in room 212 of the MSC.
- MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION will meet at 7:30 p.m. Friday in room 302 of the Rudder Tower.

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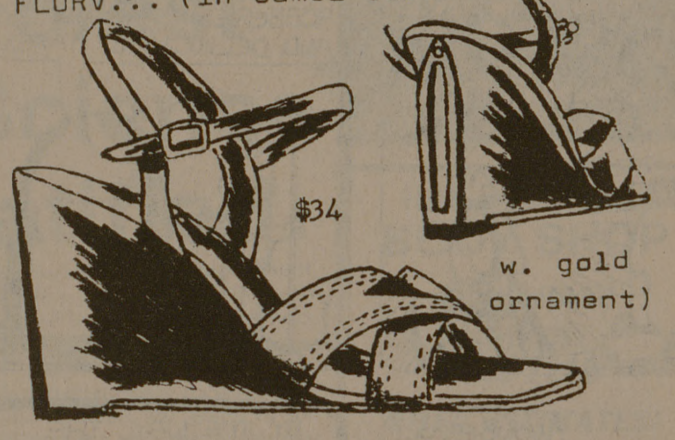
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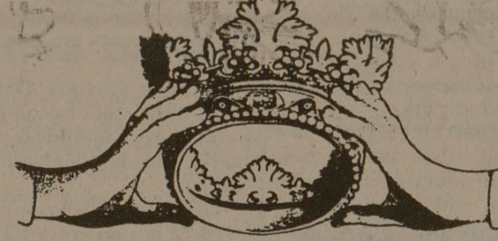
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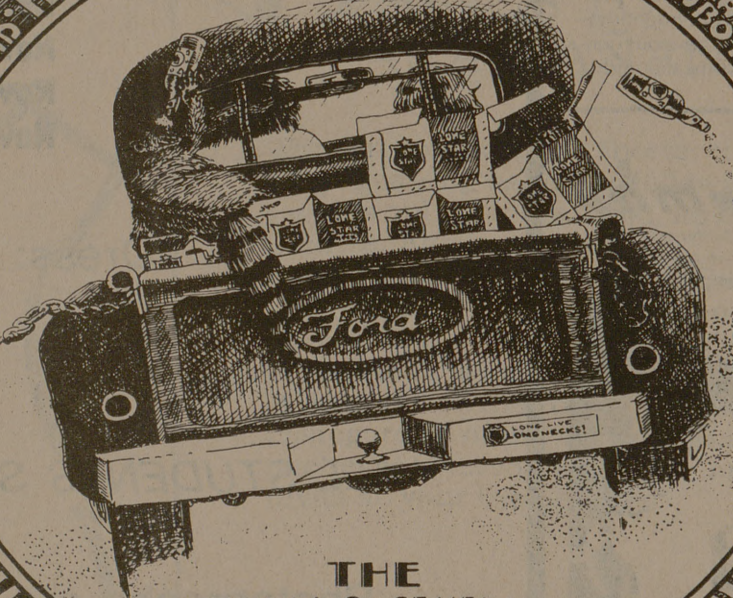
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SPECIAL GUESTS

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