

Local/State

Roach diseases are no laughing matter

By CINDY GEE
Battalion Staff

Some people laugh off roach problems. But roaches are not just varmits that are part of the woodwork, they should be dealt with.

Roaches may live in the sewer drain outside apartments. When they seek shelter, food or water, they run across the kitchen counter, through the silverware drawer, over the plates, and into the cereal.

But these pests aren't satisfied with the simple kitchen life. They'll also find their way into desk drawers, sampling postage stamps, bookbinding glue, paper and anything else they can find.

Yes, they even like the bathroom, where water ferments. Wherever the roach walks, it may be leaving disease-causing organisms behind, said Dr. Ted Granovsky, project leader for urban pest management research at Texas A&M University.

Many cases of nausea and diarrhea could be caused by an organism that a roach brought up from the sewer, he said.

Their guts are full of various diseases that man picks up which may cause an imbalance of our bacterial load and we wind up getting sick," Granovsky said. "It's just a matter of the roach and the disease getting together and then the roach transmitting the disease from one locale to another."

Although roaches prefer dirt, filth and grime, they will also infest sanit-

ary buildings. They can enter a building in infested boxes, grocery bags, beverage cartons or furniture. They also can enter through loose-fitting doors and windows, where

electrical lines or water and steam pipes pass through walls, in fire-wood, and through sewer lines.

"Very possibly, with the lack of concern by most apartment owners

for proper pest control, the apartments that Texas A&M students live in could easily have four or five thousand roaches per apartment," Granovsky said. "It's basically the

attitude of 'Well I don't care as long as I get the rent.'"

Although roach stomping may be a good form of exercise, it is not an effective way to eliminate roaches. Roaches multiply too fast to combat on a one-to-one basis. One female German roach can have up to 35,300 offspring per year under the right conditions.

Monthly spraying also will not do the trick, Granovsky said, people have to do something about the structural aspect of the building. He suggested using steel wool to seal the cracks where pipes go into walls in the kitchen or bathroom. He said this will help to eliminate roaches migrating from one apartment to another.

A mixture of half boric acid and half powdered sugar is also an effective way to prevent roaches. The mixture should be lightly dusted around base boards, in cracks and wall voids, under refrigerators and furniture, and around pipes and tunnels. This mixture works slower than most sprays, but is more effective because it lasts longer.

Granovsky said for the extermination to be effective every apartment in the building should be sprayed at the same time.

"The roaches can smell the poison, and they'll run like hell to get out of there," he said. "After the smell goes away and the poison isn't active any longer, they'll come back and reinfest your apartment."



Girl saves mother with CPR, school training lauded

United Press International
RICHARDSON — Leslie Maack, 11, was filled with the fear that overcomes a child who thinks she may be watching her mother die, yet she acted with the poise and skill of a professional.

On Dec. 8 Leslie was awakened at 2 a.m. by her sister screaming, "Grandmother, she's not breathing!" Leslie's mother, Marilyn, had stopped breathing because of a ruptured blood vessel in her brain.

Leslie's grandmother and sister apparently didn't know what to do but Leslie employed the cardiopulmonary resuscitation techniques she had learned at school only a week before.

"When I saw her at first, I was upset," Leslie, a sixth grader, said Monday. "At first I wasn't sure what to do and then something triggered when my sister said she wasn't breathing. I remembered my CPR, checked her heartbeat and to see if she was breathing and then gave her CPR."

"I was very, very nervous but I didn't get excited." The chest massage and mouth-to-mouth breathing worked. Maack was in a coma for two weeks but is recovering now in Richardson Medical Center. Leslie's grandmother, Mrs. Claude Demerest, wanted to keep the feat secret until it appeared Maack was safe.

"When I saw my daughter on the floor, I thought she was in a faint or

had had a heart attack," Demerest said. "I had no idea what to do. If it hadn't been for that child and her coolness, her mother would be dead now."

Leslie administered CPR to her mother while her grandmother called paramedics. After five minutes of watching, her sister Annette, 23, learned the technique and took over. Leslie then called her uncle and ran next door to ask for help from the two nurses who live there.

When the ambulance arrived, Leslie was waiting outside to show them the way.

"I was amazed," Demerest said. "Leslie was sleeping so soundly,

then she was out of bed like a shot. She was so calm, cool and collected. I am very, very grateful that she learned CPR."

Demerest hopes Leslie's story will encourage other schools to add CPR training to their curriculum.

Leslie's class studied CPR for only two days. She was one of only four or five students who actually practiced the method on a dummy provided by the Red Cross.

"Leslie has a maturity beyond her age," said Linda Brian, her health teacher. "She handles adult situations very well. The other kids and her teachers are all very proud of her."

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Variety show entries taken until Friday

The MSC All-University Variety show is accepting applications until Feb. 13 in Room 216 of the Memorial Student Center.

The variety show, scheduled for April 4, is designed to showcase the best talent at Texas A&M University. A winner will be selected by a panel of qualified judges, and the

name will be placed on a plaque to be permanently displayed in the MSC. Students, faculty and staff are invited to enter the show and an entry fee of \$5.00 per act will be charged.

Categories of entertainment include music, drama and specialty. Advisors will be available to help with any problems.

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