



App-roach

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age, abandoned machines, test tubes, garbage and fallout shelter signs, they could live it up.

Some claim the entire University cockroach population has its ethnic roots in the cockroach room. The high-bred cockroaches may have used the University tunnels linking with the basement to found their colony.

Another theory holds the high-bred science cockroaches merely settled into the existing cockroach community, providing cultural enrichment.

Some members of the science department recognize the cockroaches' admirable qualities, and have grown to be good buddies with them. One old professor whiles away his spare time feeding the cockroaches their dogfood. Two work-study caretakers

keep the cockroaches in good health. Once a week they give the roaches a fresh supply of water and large helpings of Blue Mountain dog food. Cockroach chow.

"They like the dark," says caretaker Lynn Grilley, analyzing the cockroach psyche. "But they aren't shy." Brant Oswald fondles a large pet cockroach in his hand.

"He's kind of pretty," he observes, dusting it off.

Cockroaches have no pretensions, they have no principles, hold no ideals and crack no jokes. A cockroach could be crucified 16 times without a coffee break and come up crawling. Cockroaches have a certain mystique. Cockroach courage.

The caretakers admit cockroaches have their faults. A stench pervades the room similar to that of mildewed grain. Cock-

roach body odor. That smell follows cockroach visitors around for hours after leaving the room. A roach by any other name still smells as sweet.

Cockroaches also like going up pants legs and arms trying to hide out. Grilley has often left the room only to feel something beneath her clothes.

"Cockroaches have feet that stick," she recalls. "They're heavy. You know they are there."

Grilley and Oswald have boraxed most of the free roaches to death through little poisoned dishes of powdered milk. Only about a dozen roaches now run free.

The population inside the cages, meanwhile, has been growing rapidly. The caretakers observe they eat more and more dog food each week. They teem in the muck, waiting to become an experiment.

Cockroaches were once the life blood of the science department. At one time they were donating themselves in pieces to experiments in radiology, neurology and behaviorism. They first came to the University in 1964 at the request of radiology researcher Graham Hoyle. The original colony survived testing until 1972 when the cockroach reserve started to dwindle. A new colony had to be ordered.

These new cockroaches took exception to being shipped by mail, and when their package was opened several hundred of them ran for cover up the pants legs of four attending scientists. The scientists hopped around for some time trying to regain control over their experiment.

But cockroach use has fallen during the last two years. Beginning biology labs use about 50 roaches annually. Each spring for



Photos by Greg Gawlowski

extra credit, lab students in Biology 103 tweak the hair on a cockroach's knee.

Cockroaches selected for use are anesthetized by dry ice and ported up to the operating room to do their stuff.

Before starting the experiment, Munz clips off the cockroach's head, making it harder for the cockroach to figure out what's going on. Munz then cuts off a cockroach leg and hooks it up to an oscilloscope, which gives the equivalent of a lie detector test to the cockroach leg. When a hair on the leg is tweaked, the oscillos-

cope will register a spiked line, showing electrical nerve activity.

Munz set about trying to tweak the cockroach's knee hair. "These bifocals are useless," he said, after making several errant tweaks.

The rest of the cockroach, meanwhile, was busily crawling about looking for its head and leg. Nearby the head was earnestly trying to flag down the body with its feelers. Cockroaches have character.

"And it's dead, right?" comments Munz. "If we let it, the body would run away."

Co-op holds raffle to gain suggestions

Some lucky couple will spend two nights at the Inn at Spanish Head compliments of the University Bookstore.

That's the grand prize offered by a raffle that started today. Bookstore Manager Jim Williams says the raffle is designed to solicit suggestions for the store from the campus community.

"We want to be thinking of the future," he explains. "We are trying to improve this operation and be responsive to our membership."

Williams hopes to get ideas for additional lines of merchandise and services the bookstore might branch into. He says the contest is limited to faculty, students and

staff of the University because they comprise the cooperative's membership.

Entry forms are available on the main floor of the bookstore. Williams says if a person does not include a written suggestion on the form, the entry will not be eligible for a prize.

Besides the grand prize of the weekend at the coast, other prizes are one \$25 gift certificate, two \$10 certificates and three \$5 certificates.

The contest will end Friday at 4 p.m. Winners will be determined by a random drawing and their names will be posted at the bookstore.

WE HAVE TWO SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE LOCALLY

WE HAVE TWO SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE for technical majors (computer science, math, physics, chemistry, and architecture). Recipients will be selected on a competitive basis by a board of officers here at the U of O. Also over 4,000 scholarships are available on a competitive basis nationwide.

OUR U OF O DETACHMENT HAS AVAILABLE QUOTAS in all career fields that must be filled by March 31st...pilots, navigators, missile, scientific, and administrative management officers. Students awarded pilot quotas will go to AF Pilot Training upon graduation and commissioning.

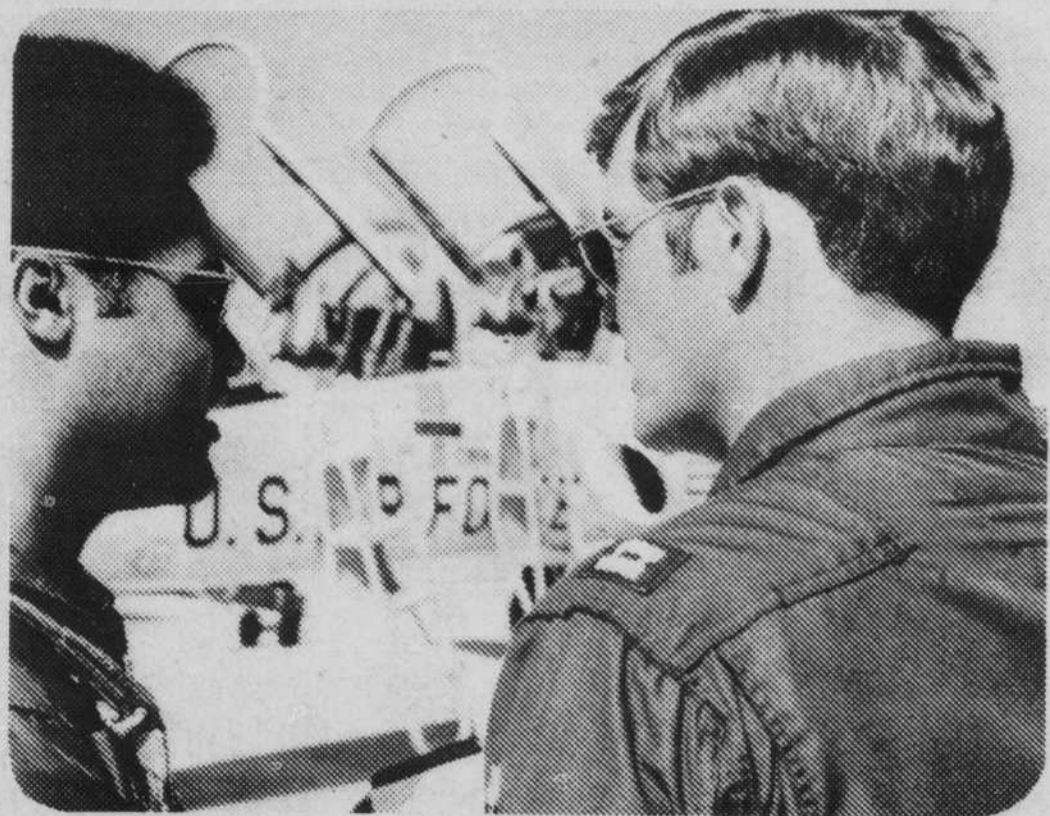
Our deadlines for filing career field quotas and awarding scholarships is March 31st.

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