

New course designed to keep students from getting bugged

By ADRIANNE G. BROWN
Collegian Science Writer

Having problems with cockroaches or with getting rid of them? A new entomology course may offer some help in dealing with these and other insect-related problems.

"Coping With The Insect World," a new two-credit course to be offered this fall, is designed to teach students how to handle problems with lice, cockroaches and termites. It will also inform students about insect management and the use of pesticides, including the harmful effects of such chemicals.

"We will make the course relevant to the real world," said Robert Snel-singer, a professor of entomology who will be teaching the course.

For example, residents of a cockroach-infested apartment often have to weigh the hazard of disease from the cockroaches against the hazards of the toxic dangers of insecticides, he said.

"We would lay one (alternative) against the other, give (the students) the knowledge and help them develop the reasoning, instead of just accepting a recommendation," Snel-singer said.

The course will use both practical and scientific approaches to under-

stand the need for insecticides and the problems of using them. This will enable students to reach their own decision, he said.

"We hope to emphasize the scientific part so they can make decisions on the practical part," he said.

C.W. Pitts, head of the Department of Entomology and instructor of the course, said "Coping With the Insect World" will also examine insect problems affecting entire communities, such as the bacillus fly which transmits the bubonic plague. The beneficial roles of insects, such as pollination and honey production, will also be taught, he added.

Although he plans to bring live insects to the class, Snel-singer says he recognizes the moral issues of exposing students to insects and subjecting them to danger and discomfort in order to make a point. For example, one teacher in Michigan filled his classroom with 5,000 mosquitos, which resulted in one of his students contracting a disease.

The rights of the student is an important concern, he added.

Pitts said he and Snel-singer will occasionally use costumes to illustrate the lectures and keep things lively. For example, during the Civil War, insects transmitted a great number of diseases and caused many

problems because of the crowded conditions within the armies. Pitts and Snel-singer will dress up as soldiers. They will discuss the problems the insects are causing and will refer to lice as "blue-bellies" and "gray-backs" — like the Confederate and Union soldiers.

"It is not going to be a theater, but it will be done on occasion, every 3-4 weeks or so," Snel-singer added.

Many myths and bad images are associated with insects and entomologists, Snel-singer said. "People have false impressions; they depict entomologists as mad scientists. In the movies, the entomologist is always the nerd."

"We felt that there was a need for people to have a greater understanding of both insects and the use of pesticides. We're tired of the image that people have," Snel-singer said. For example, "women are generally taught to think insects are yucky from childhood," he added.

"There are opportunities for many young women in entomology, but women do not enter for the same reason (they) don't have toy airplanes. Women are supposed to react in a certain way when boys throw a cockroach (down their backs)," he said.

The New York Times

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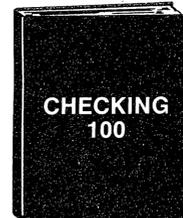
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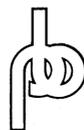
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GO graduate orientation

This is the Fall 1986 Orientation schedule for new and returning graduate students. These programs are designed to assist you in becoming familiar with University Park and the State College area. We hope that you will attend as many programs as possible. If you need more information please call us at 814-865-4211 or stop by our office at 305 Kern Building. We are here to help YOU!

The Graduate Student Association

STUDENT ACTIVITIES ORGANIZATION FAIR
Wednesday, August 27 and Thursday, August 28
10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. HUB Fishbowl

Come talk to members of the GSA and see what we have to offer you. We'll have the new *Guide to Grad Life*, the GSA Newsletter, information on our Orientation programs, applications for our group Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan and lots of other helpful and interesting material. Representatives of Penn State's 300 other student organizations will be there also.

AREA HEALTH CARE/CHILD CARE FACILITIES
Wednesday, August 27 4:30-5:30 p.m. 102 Kern

Representatives from Ritenour Health Center, the Child Development Council of Centre County, Family Health Services of State College and Bellefonte, and the Centre Community Hospital will discuss area health care facilities for individuals and families. A question and answer session will follow the discussion. Refreshments will be served.

SURVIVING PENN STATE AND STATE COLLEGE
Wednesday, August 27 7:30-9:00 p.m. 112 Kern

An informal presentation by returning Penn State grad students and members of the University staff designed to help you "survive" your first months in the area and deal with the University red tape. Questions will be answered at the end of the program. If we don't know the answer we will get one for you.

WELCOME TO PSU/WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION
Thursday, August 28 5:00-6:30 p.m. 102 Kern

Join us for a glass of wine and a chance to meet and talk with University President Bryce Jordan, the Deans and staff of the Graduate School and the Colleges, members of the Graduate Student Association, representatives of the Division of Student Services staff, and administrators from all areas of the University.

INSTRUCTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WORKSHOP
Thursday, August 28 7:00-9:00 p.m. 112 Kern

The I.D.P. is something that every teaching assistant or future teaching assistant should be aware of and utilize. Teaching is a very large responsibility. T.A.s should be concerned for quality of their teaching abilities. The I.D.P. has many programs and services to develop, improve and assess your abilities as a teacher. Come to this workshop designed to introduce you to the facilities of the Instructional Development Program.

RECREATION FESTIVAL
Tuesday, September 2 7:30-9:00 p.m. 101 Kern

The most important thing you can learn as a graduate student is when to stop studying and relax a little. Come find out what recreation opportunities exist on campus and in the community.

OUTDOOR CHILDREN'S CARTOONS
Wed., Sept. 3 8:15-9:45 p.m. Eastview Terrace

All your children are sure to enjoy the great selection of cartoons. Join us outdoors behind 516 Elm Road.

FREE OUTDOOR MOVIE—THE AFRICAN QUEEN
Thursday, September 4 9:00-11:00 p.m.
Fisher Plaza (in front of Kern)

Bring a blanket or lawn chair, some refreshments, and enjoy a great film under the stars. Rain date is Tuesday, Sept. 9.

OUTDOOR CONCERT featuring THE EARTH TONES
Saturday, September 6 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Fisher Plaza (in front of Kern)

Come sit in the sun and enjoy the music. A great way to spend a Saturday afternoon while you wait for the kickoff of the 100th season of Nittany Lion Football! Rain location: Kern Building lobby.

GSA ASSEMBLY MEETING
Tuesday, September 9 7:15 p.m. 101 Kern

All graduate students are members of the GSA Assembly and all are always welcome to attend our meetings. Delegates to the Assembly are the voting members. GSA has provided your department head with all the information regarding the duties of an Assembly delegate. The method of choosing delegates is left up to each department. If you would like to become a delegate please contact your department head.

THESIS WRITING WORKSHOP
Wednesday, September 10 3:30-4:30 p.m. 112 Kern

The Thesis Editor will explain the rules of thesis preparation, deadlines to submit material and what is expected of you when you turn in your thesis.

GSA HAPPY HOUR featuring Disk Jockey Ray Anthony
Friday, September 19 5:00-7:00 p.m. 102 Kern

GSA has a Happy Hour once each month for all grads and their guests 21 or over. There is something special at this Happy Hour, dance music! Proof of age is required at the door.