



Amazing Animal Kingdom of BioSci

by Colin Ellis

It's a jungle up there. Located somewhere in the maze of the Biological Sciences Fortress is Bioscience Animal Services (BAS) which breeds and maintains research animals for use on campus.

Mice, rabbits, hamsters, rats, ground squirrels, quail, newts, and even ticks make their homes here. Dr. McKay, director of BAS, recently took the *Gateway* on a tour of the facilities.

"We actually keep our main breeding colonies and larger animals out at Ellerslie (Testing Station)," says McKay while unlocking a secure metal door. "Chickens, goats, deer, moose, and the like."

More doors are unlocked. We enter a room lined with a battery of cages and smelling of feathers. Quail, and lots of them. BAS raised 4248 quail last year for experimental purposes.

The next room smells like the back of a pet shop: mice. There are several rooms along a corridor, each for a particular purpose or species.

Ticks are housed in little boxes strapped to the backs of certain rabbits. Eh, what's up, Doc?



The animals are used for research or teaching. Muscular dystrophy, anorexia nervosa, thermal regulation in ground squirrels, parasites, and glaucoma are some of the areas currently under investigation.

The freshly killed mice for your biology lab also come from here.

All of the animals appear healthy and well-fed. "We have 15 trained technicians who look after their needs, and the rooms are temperature and light controlled," says McKay. There are also rooms for quarantine, surgery, and euthanasia.

Animals used in short term experiments must be disposed of afterwards. The animal is placed in a carbon dioxide chamber and then incinerated.

"They must never be allowed to suffer undue pain or stress," says McKay. The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) published an 11 point list of "Ethics of Animal Experimentation" in 1980, which recommends a "rapid production of unconsciousness" before they are killed.

The CCAC provides an animal exchange service between universities, especially for difficult to obtain animals, such as primates. The CCAC also periodically checks animal facilities.

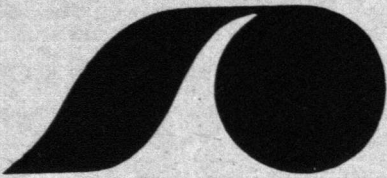
BAS obtains the animals requested by researchers and assesses proposals for experiments. Researchers must also pay for daily upkeep of their subjects.

Imagine how many rabbit pellets it would take to keep a moose happy....?

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Scholarship winners

The Rhodes Trust has announced the selection of three Rhodes Scholars from the Prairies Provinces. They are Charalee Graydon from Alberta, Thomas Patterson and Gregor Smith from Manitoba.

The Rhodes Scholarship is an award given to students who exhibit academic excellence, and outstanding athletic ability and public service activities. It is interesting to note that the Rhodes Trust was set up by Cecil Rhodes, the founding colonist of Rhodesia, known today as Zimbabwe.

Charalee Graydon is presently finishing her last year of Law School at the University of Alberta. She grew up in Coronation, Alberta, and has been very active in training, showing, and jumping horses. She is a graduate in political science from the University of Alberta, but spent one year as an exchange student at Bishop's University in Quebec. She is keenly interested in politics, literature, and art. Miss Graydon is presently chairman of Student Legal Services, the Legal Aid Clinic run by the students of the Faculty of Law at the University of Alberta. Miss Graydon will do graduate work in Law at Oxford.

Thomas Patterson is in his final year of Honours Philosophy at the University of Manitoba. Extremely active in Student Government and debating, Mr. Patterson is also a marathon runner. He intends to do graduate work in philosophy at Oxford.

Gregor Smith grew up in Winnipeg, attended Queen's University in Kingston, and is presently doing graduate work in economics at St. Andrew's University in Scotland. An outstanding student and sailor, Mr. Smith is interested in agricultural economics, which he will pursue at Oxford.

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