

Roaches hit the racetrack at Bug Bash

BUGS from page 1

When termites are put on the paper they will ignore the Bic and the generic pen line and will gravitate toward and then walk along the PaperMate trail.

The PaperMate ink contains a chemical similar to one termites use to mark their trails, Higley said.

Other stations in the program include a presentation on Nebraska insects, a butterfly tagging event and an edible bug booth featuring chocolate-covered insects.

Another perennial favorite of the Bug Bash has been the colorful roach races. In the roach racing stadium, small American cockroaches demonstrate their speed in a large, oval arena. A larger, slower species, the Madagascar hissing cockroach, receives cheers while pulling small toy carts along a track.

At the center of the roach racing area, former cockroach champions look on.

Fred Baxendale, a UNL entomology professor, points to the yellow infield bleachers where rows of dead roaches are literally pinned to their seats, watching the events.

On Saturday, the final day of the Bug Bash, Baxendale encouraged the younger spectators to cheer in the upcoming race for either "Herbie" or "Speedy."

A young boy in the audience remarked that he cheered for Speedy last year.

"Oh," said Baxendale, "this is Speedy number three."

"What happened to Speedy number one?" replied the boy.

"Well," said Baxendale with a pause, "he ... retired."



Fred Baxendale, UNL professor of entomology, assists in the Bug Bash roach races held last week at the Folsom Children's Zoo. American cockroaches raced around the oval track while rows of former racers, now dead, filled the infield bleachers.

Bar-goers to get a treat from NU directions, LPD

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Lincoln police officers will take to the streets tonight. But instead of carrying guns and night sticks, the officers will be toting red plastic cups.

The officers are teaming up with members of the NU Directions coalition to pass out the cups full of free soda at Centennial Mall to students en route to the bars.

Officers will also be serving up buffalo wings to bar-goers during the event, which runs from 9:30 to 11 p.m.

The purpose of the event is to encourage students to use spac-

ers - or breaks between drinks - during their nights out at the bars, said Tom Workman of NU Directions.

Twenty downtown bars are also participating in the event. Students with the red cups will be able to fill up with free soda at any of the bars throughout the night.

The cups will also contain labels with tips on how to slow alcohol absorption, such as taking breaks in between drinks and eating high-fat foods.

The project is a cooperative effort between the Lincoln Police Department, NU Directions and downtown bar owners, Workman said.



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