SURVIVAL News to help you cope with the '80's

Roaches: Guests who always stay for dinner

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

Roaches. Whether a person lives in the middle of the city or in fashionable and posh Ruxton, chances are he has seen more than one of the ugly little brown bugs that have gained a reputation for being able to move quicker than the speed of an average foot out to kill them. And no matter how clean a family tries to keep its home, they are apt to show up for a visit now and then.

SURVIVAL decided to do a little investigating. We found out that in this country, there are about 55 known specimen of roaches. Imported from the tropics some time ago, the bugs have maintained their like for warm, humid climates to this day, which explains why they are found in warm, moist places in our homes.

Four breeds of roaches are found most often in the United States.

ORIENTAL roaches, or waterbugs, are very large, at least one inch long, and are dark brown to black in color. They are found near water, and are more apt to stay outside although they will venture inside of homes. These are the bugs you most often see scurrying on the sidewalks during the summer months.

AMERICAN roaches are also very large, are fond of damp places or sources of water, and are found inside of homes. American roaches are able to fly.

BROWN BANDIT roaches are not quite as common as the other three types of roaches discussed here, although they, too, are able to fly. They are about one-half inch long and are brown with light-brown bands on their wings.

GERMAN roaches are the roaches most of us are most familiar with. They are small, from five-eighths to one-half inch long, and are dark brown to black in color. They are found virtually everywhere in homes.

Roaches are not selective in what they eat; they eat everything that human beings do, in addition to fabrics and garments, starch, glue and paper.

The diseases carried and transmitted by roaches are caused primarily because the bacteria which cause the disease are carried on their bodies and deposited wherever they walk around. Salmonella, the agent responsible for causing food poisoning, is a particularly prevalent germ carried by the pests, as well as other bacteria which cause diahrrea, amoebic dysentery, which is a more severe form of dysentery, tuberculosis and polio.

In addition to the bacteria which the bugs carry with them, roaches emit bacteria through their feces, which they drop on foods or surfaces. Mixed with the feces oftentimes is a brown fluid which is much like vomit which they spit out of their systems as they feed. The feces is visible to the naked eye especially in cases of heavy infestation: it resembles a dark brown, grainy substance. The fluid which is sometimes left on food, has a foul odor which comes through whenever the foods are heated up.

What can be done? Dr. Eugene Wood, entomologist at the U. of Md. at College Park, advises that families begin by making sure water is not left in sinks overnight, that dishes be washed and dried and not allowed to sit overnight, and that leaky faucets be repaired immediately. Roaches need food, water and garbage to survive.

Garbage should be bagged in plastic bags and taken out of the house before the lights are turned out. Coke bottles, beer cans and other cans should be thoroughly rinsed out before being thrown out.

Pet food should be taken up at night. Wood said that roaches like pet food, especially food which is damp. But what happens is that the same health hazards which humans face are faced by pets who eat food in which roaches have already taken part.

If a family finds a problem of roaches in the refrigerator, Wood suggests that the gasket on the refrigerator door may be bad and in need of being replaced. If the gasket is good, however, he said that roaches in the refrigerator is usually indicative of general heavy infestation. In those cases, the refrigerator should be thoroughly cleaned out and washed down and all food placed inside should be tightly covered.

Piles of papers, old paperbags under the sink or on top of the refrigerator, are perfect hiding places for roaches, and should not be kept around, Wood said. Top shelves of kitchen cabinets and linen closets should be cleaned regularly, at least once every two months.

Cracks and crevices should be filled with putty or plastic wood. The materials may be applied either with a putty knife or with a small paintbrush, whichever allows the most effective filling of the spaces.

And finally, there is the question of which sprays or pesticides one should use in trying to get rid of the pests.

"Generally, aerosol sprays are not the best agents to use," Wood said, "because they do not contain the ingredients, many times, which are most effective in killing roaches."

Those ingredients are baygon, diazinon and dursband. Wood said that many commercial sprays do not list these ingredients, or, if they do, they list them under a trade name and not the generic name. The consumer has no way of knowing what he is actually getting.

"The best assurance for consumers in buying sprays is the word "residual" on the label," he said, which means that once the product is applied, it works for a period of time before another application is needed.

If the can does not have the word "residual" on its label, it should not be purchased, he said.

The application of boric acid, available at drug stores for much less than the cost of the commercial sprays, does an effective job, but application must be made regularly, at least every two months.

SURVIVAL studied the labels of some of the most commonly-used and advertised sprays on the market and found that many of them do in fact contain the word "residual" on the label. An exception to this is a new product, "Roach Motel," which not only does not have the word on the label but does not list any ingredients.

Black Flag, "Special City Formula" and regular strength, says that baygon is an active ingredient. "Raid" products do not list any of the generic names of effective roach killers on the label, but do say "residual."

The new "Roach Traps" say that they provide continuous action.

All of the sprays are about the same in price.

If you have had luck with any brand or product not mentioned here, please write us and let us know. We do not advise "Roach Motel," based on the information we learned this week, but if any reader has had good luck with the product, again, let us know.

In any case, do a survey of your home and of your sanitation practices. Stop leaving water out overnight, clean away all those newspapers you've been saving for a rainy day, and begin your holiday season free of the little brown bugs that always wear out their welcome.

BG&E, state release fuel assistance info

City residents who use fuel supplied by the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company to heat their homes will not have their services turned off this winter, a spokesperson of BG&E told SURVIVAL this week.

Rona Stokes, public information officer with the utility, said that as long as customers let BG&E know of any anticipated problems with payment of their heating bills, provisions for payment deferment will be made and there will be no cut-offs.

But for residents who heat their homes with oil, the situation is different. Independent oil companies have made no similar provisions for payment deferrals, and those customers who are unable to pay their heating bills, will stand the very real chance of having their heat turned off.

For those people, application with the Maryland State Energy Assistance program would be a wise move. The program recently received $28 million in federal funds to aid families who have exhausted all available energy assistance sources.

Unlike the BG&E plan, the Maryland Energy Assistance program is not a system of payment deferral; the costs are being absorbed by the federal government.

Stokes told SURVIVAL that applicants for payment deferrals with BG&E must supply proof of their income level, which must be within the low income guidelines as set forth by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Medicaid cards, paycheck stubs or welfare checks are acceptable, she said.

In addition to low income, families with small children or elderly members, people who are seriously ill or handicapped, will be eligible for BG&E assistance. These conditions must also be proved..

After substantiation of the claim, BG&E will work out a plan for the applicant.

The disadvantage of the BG&E system, Stokes said, is that after the official winter period of November 1 to April 1, families must pay back their heating bills in one lump sum.

Many families find that provision impossible to keep and are facing this winter with last winter's bills still to be paid.

Special arrangements will have to be made for those families, she said.

The assistance provided under the Maryland Energy Assistance program, according to a spokesperson from the Department of Human Resources, will give assistance to any person who is judged eligible for aid, but is realistically more beneficial for people who heat their homes with oil.

"I know of no similar provision made by independent oil dealers that provides for payment deferrals," he said, referring to the BG&E plan. "If a person is unable to pay his oil bill, his service is going to be turned off."

The spokesperson said that up to $300 can be granted to families who need assistance. Unlike the BG&E plan, the Maryland Energy Assistance program makes no provision for the continuation of electricity.

He added, however, that the oil companies must give proof to state officials that discontinuing to deliver oil to any family will not pose serious a health hazard to that family. The same conditions listed by BG&E as criteria for assistances — small children, elderly members or people with serious illnesses — are all considerations that the state takes into account, he said.

People interested in the Maryland Energy Assistance program should make application with any of the outreach centers of the Urban Services Agency. Although the stipulations for qualification are stiffer this year than last year, families with problems should be assured of fair judgement, the spokesperson said.

Counselors with the Urban Services Agency will begin taking applications in about two weeks, and poor families in all of the state's counties are eligible. Families will be notified by USA of their eligibility and of the monthly amount they will receive.

The state spokesperson also said that payments from the Maryland Energy Assistance program can also be used by customers of BG&E for their payments which are being deferred.

Payment through the program are made directly to the utility company and not to the customer, he said.

Black dolls

We need your help.

With the holiday season approaching, many parents will be looking for black dolls to give their young girls.

We have received several calls from irate parents who say that the stores do not carry black dolls, or if they do, the prices are much higher than they are for white dolls: Parents also complain that the black dolls on the market have removable eyes and parts which make them unacceptable and unsafe for young children.

The consumers say that toy managers tell them there are no black dolls because "mothers do not buy black dolls for their children." They also say that managers tell them that black dolls are on order, but that for some reason, the dolls never show up on the shelves.

We would like to investigate the situation and see what is really the case. Do black mothers want black dolls? Would they buy them if they were available?

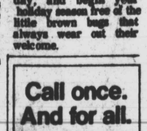
If you would like to see black dolls in the stores, please let us know, and also let us know which stores you shop in for Christmas so that we can see if those stores do in fact plan to order black dolls. By the same token, we need to know if you would not buy a black doll for your child.

Send the information on a 3x5 card to SURVIVAL, 628 N. Eutaw St. Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

As soon as we get enough information from you, we'll do a story and see what the actual situation is.

Thank you for your help.

Call once. And for all.



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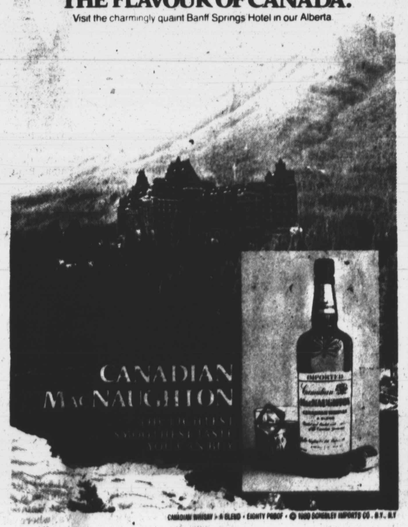

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BALTIMORE BAPTIST MINISTERS CONFERENCE MEMBERS (L to R) REV. DRS. Nathaniel Higgs, Southern Baptist; Oberlin Perry, associate pastor, Leadenhall Baptist; E. W. Williams, First Baptist, Fairfield; Howard Queen, Pleasant Hope Baptist; Lewis Campbell, Long's Memorial Baptist; B. L. Matthews, pastor emeritus, Union Baptist; the new president of Virginia Seminary and College, Benjamin W. Roberson who is also pastor of Richmond, Virginia's 4,000-member Cedar Street Memorial Baptist Church of God; A. J. Payne, retired, who was pastor of Enon Baptist over 50 years; W. L. Clayton, VSC acting president who was succeeded by Dr. Roberson; A. C. D. Vaughn, chairman of the board of trustees of VSC; Harold Dobson, co-pastor of St. Marks Institutional Baptist; Dr. Roberson; W. H. Thompson, Whitestone Baptist and national and Baltimore Fund campaign chairman; Marcus Wood, Providence Baptist, Baltimore.

RYALES PHOTO

Baltimore hails new president of Virginia Seminary and College

Noted Institution founded 1886 sets inauguration, celebration Dec. 3-4 at Lynchburg, Va. campus

RYALES PHOTO
DR. ROBERSON, the newly elected president of Virginia Seminary and College is greeted by his forerunner, Acting President Dr. W. L. Clayton of Baltimore.

Dr. Benjamin W. Robertson Sr., the 47-year - old pastor of the 4,000 - member Cedar Street Memorial Baptist Church of Richmond, Va., has been named president of the Virginia Seminary and College at Lynchburg, Va.

The state accredited institution of higher education was founded in May, 1886 during the 19th annual session of the Virginia Baptist State Convention. The cornerstone of the first permanent building was laid in July, 1888.

Dr. Robertson, pastor of the Richmond church 25 years, is a noted scholar and clergyman. On Oct. 19 he led his congregation, the largest in the state, to the new $1.25 million church which takes up an entire block in Richmond.

On Dec. 2 he will journey to Lynchburg to become installed as the ninth president of the Seminary and College. He will deliver the inaugural address during ceremonies at the Lynchburg Holiday Inn. The banquet and program will take place in the ballroom at 7 p.m.

1,000 Expected

Some 1,000 dignitaries, alumni, friends and students are expected to attend the affair including Virginia Governor John Dalton, the Lynchburg Vice - Mayor T. W. Thornhill and an integrated group of presidents and officials of six Virginia colleges.

Dr. Alfred C. D. Vaughn of Baltimore, the chairman of the college board of trustees will preside. Among others on the banquet program is Dr. R. A. Laws of Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.

The two - day festivities continue through Dec. 3 which is Hayes - Allen Day, founders day, with more and more alumni and friends arriving at Lynchburg from across the nation.

THREE HONORARY DEGREES

Rev. Vernon L. Dobson, pastor of Baltimore's Union Baptist Church and president of the Baltimore Baptist Ministers Conference of over 75 ministers, will deliver the address.

Dr. Robertson will bestow three honorary degrees.

Rev. Dobson, a Howard University bachelor of science graduate in history and psychology and Master of divinity from the Howard U School of Religion, will receive the doctor of divinity degree.

Baltimore AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers City Editor Elizabeth Murphy Oliver, a bachelor of arts graduate in languages from Fisk University and the recipient of a master's degree from Indiana University, will receive the doctor of literature degree. Member of Pi Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, she recently represented the AFRO on an extended tour of the Middle East along with editors of seven other leading U.S. newspapers.

Also receiving the doctor of divinity degree is Rev. Nathaniel Baldwin, the distinguished civic and church leader of South Boston, Va.

HISTORIC OCCASION

The 1 p.m. ceremonies will be in Humbles Hall on the college campus at Garfield Avenue and DeWitt Street. The historic old building was designed by a black architect and built by black men.

Rev. C. W. Wright, pastor of First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va. and Dr. J. Beecher Hicks Jr., Metropolitan Baptist Church, Washington, D.C., are among those on the program. The new president, Dr. Robertson, will preside.

Other activities of the day include gathering of graduates of classes of former years and various other alumni sessions.

Dr. Robertson was elected Oct. 7 in ceremonies at Macedonia Baptist Church Baltimore, where the acting president of the seminary Dr. W. L. Clayton is pastor.

TRUSTEES

Dr. Vaughn, chairman of the board of trustees presided.

Among trustees present were Rev. Drs. Harold A. Carter, W. H. Thompson, Eddie R. Wilson, Leroy Fitts, Matthew Silver, all of Baltimore; A. L. Hill, Washington, D.C., Noel Taylor, mayor of Roanoke; Elijah Hall, City Councilman, Charlottesville, Va.; Dr. John Foster, member of the Norfolk, Va. school board; Dr. C. J. Freeman, Portsmouth, Va.; Dr. R.A. Laws, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Dr. O. B. J. Bursion, Brookiyn; Dr. William D. Tyree is treasurer.

Also, on the board are Mrs. Madelyn Phelps, Forrest, Va., secretary, is president of the Women's Convention of Virginia; Mrs. Georgia Meadows, president of the Women's Auxiliary of the Valley Baptist Convention, Roanoke, Va., and Dr. DeHaven Vaughn, Jacksonville, N.C.

Rev. Milton Foster is director of the Extension School in Blackstone, Va.

Dr. Wilson is Baltimore's extension director.

Colston Lewis, Richmond, Va., a former U.S. Commissioner, is the corporate attorney. Dr. Hill is president of Virginia Baptist State Convention.

Dr. Robertson who has scores of distinguished citations from 1948 to the present, has excelled as a national church, civic and educational administrator. He was awarded the coveted medallion of the city of Richmond presented by Mayor Henry L. Marsh for his outstanding leadership. Only three Richmonders have won the honor.

The Beta Gamma Lambda Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity granted him its Superior Service Award.

Virginia Seminary and College has had eight presidents four of whom were graduates of the college, namely Drs. R. C. Woods, W. H. R. Powell, Vernon Johns and M.C. Allen.

Dr. Johns was dean of the Baptist Center in Baltimore and preceded Dr. Martin L. King Jr. at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. He was nominated for president of Howard University.

RYALES PHOTO
THE NEW PRESIDENT, DR. ROBERSON receives the Baltimore check, the contribution to Virginia Seminary and College from Dr. W. A. Thompson, Whitestone Baptist, the national and local chairman of the fund raising drive.

WOMEN MINISTERS of the Baltimore Conference, Revs. Minnie Robinson, Mt. Lebanon; Lidia Starks, Fellowship Temple Baptist and Florence Johnson, Southern Friendship Baptist.

RYALES PHOTO
DR. TROY BRADLEY, member of the Maryland General Assembly and first layman to receive an honorary doctorate from the college; Dr. Roberson and Dr. Leroy Fitts, first vice president of the Baltimore Baptist Ministers Conference.

DR. VERNON L. DOBSON who will receive the Virginia Seminary and College honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity Dec. 3 is congratulated by the new president Dr. Roberson and Board Chairman Dr. A. C. D. Vaughn.

MORE BALTIMORE BAPTIST MINISTERS CONFERENCE MEMBERS who greeted Dr. Roberson are (L to R) Rev. Drs. Dockery Thompson, Friendship Baptist, Turner Station; Frank Dickson, associate, Union Temple Baptist; William Calhoun, president Progressive State Baptist Convention and Trinity Baptist Pastor; Dr. Roberson; James Wise, First Emmanuel Temple Baptist; John Robinson, Abyssinian Baptist; William Rivers, New Bethlehem Baptist;

AT THE AFRO — Dr. Roberson, the new Virginia Seminary and College president is greeted by (left panel) Board President John H. Murphy III (second right) Rev. Drs. George A. Crowley Jr., pastor of Grace Memorial Baptist and Rev. Dr. Alfred C. D. Vaughn, chairman of the board of trustees of Virginia Seminary and College. RIGHT PANEL — Drs. Crawley and Vaughn escort Dr. Roberson to meet AFRO Editorial Vice President Raymond H. Boone (second left) longtime acquaintance of the newly elected college official. Dr. Roberson is also pastor of the 4,000 member Cedar Street Memorial Baptist Church of God, Richmond, Va. where Mr. Boone was formerly editor of the Richmond AFRO.

RYALES PHOTO
Walter E. Paige, Faith Baptist; James Ball, Timothy Baptist; Montague Brackett, Central Baptist and William Johnson, Union Baptist, Turner Station.

DR. ROBERSON, DR. VAUGHN and Dr. Crawley are shown with AFRO Board Chairman John B. Murphy III and AFRO City Editor Elizabeth M. Oliver who will receive the Doctor of Literature degree at the Lynchburg institution on Dec. 3.

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