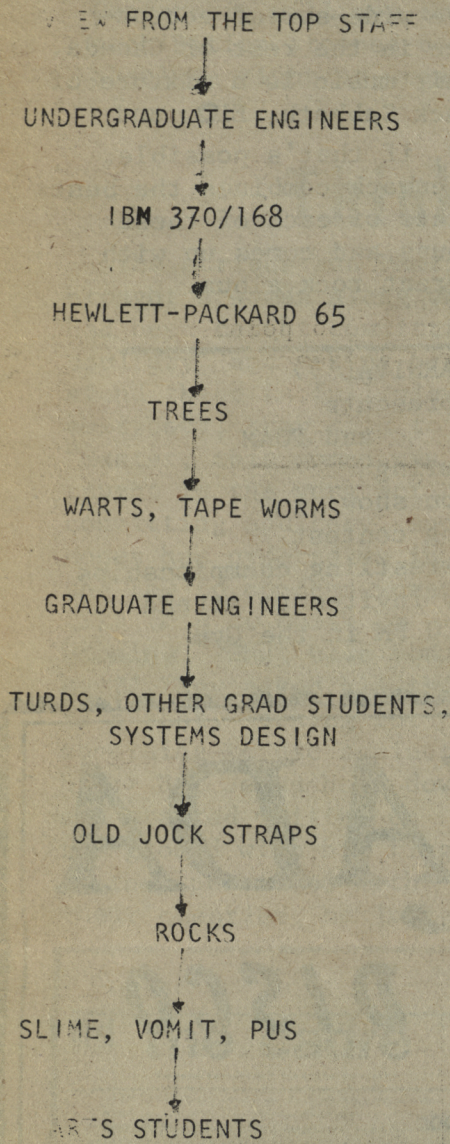


VIEW FROM THE TOP

The Engineer's Weekly



HIERARCHY OF LIFE



An Engineer was walking down the street and he met an Artsie carrying a pig. "How much did you pay for that?" he asked. The pig replied seventy-five cents.

Did you hear of the artsie who studied for five days to take a urine test?

Artsie mothers are strong and broadshouldered from raising dumbbells

There once was an artsie who lost his job as an elevator operator because he couldn't learn the route

Fear in Small Animals

"I think mice are nice, They run around the house at night And nibble things they shouldn't touch And no one seems to like them much But I think mice are nice."

The basis of my project was to study fear in small animals. In my case I chose mice.

Mice are fairly inexpensive to buy so I could get a lot of them for the project. Mice are also very small so they're not too hard to scare. They have small voices so you don't bother the neighbours when conducting the scientific parts of the project.

At first, I wanted to see if the mice got scared the same way we do, but I later branched out into other forms of fear.

My first attempts to scare mice were with hammers. By smashing a hammer very close to their little, tiny heads I got good fear results and lots of squealing. The little creatures would try to hide in the corner of the box, cringing, but all I had to do was hit the cage a couple of times and this got them scurrying about again, so I could scare them again.

A few times (12) I accidentally hit them on their heads. This was an experimental error so I had to throw out the results. It serves them right, though, for making all those squealing sounds. After this test I ran out of mice, and so I had to get some more for further tests.

Humans are scared of fire, so I thought probably

mice would be too. This theory was proved out in the second part of the project. I placed a mouse in a large tin can, and then dropped in a burning piece of paper. This also brought forth plenty of good fear, and lots more squealing. They would try to climb the side of the can, but kept slipping, then they'd try to jump, all the time squealing and being scared. Then they'd just slump down and get burned up. I guess it must have been the gases. Mice are so puny anyways.

Then I'd have to throw water on them because the smell of burning mice is really terrible. You'd have to conduct this experiment yourself to know how bad it smells. This further test used up six more mice.

I still had 14 mice left and by this time I was really getting into all the scientific stuff. But anyway my Mom found my mice and set them all free outside. So I had to finish my experiments over at a friend's house and buy 6 more mice.

The third part of the project I used electricity, because it's real scientific and they taught us a whole lot of electronics in Physics 211.

The test consists of tying their legs to an extension cord with a wire around each leg. This didn't scare the mice hardly at all, until I plugged in the cord. Did they ever jump! There wasn't any squeals, but I got that awful smell again. Some hospitals call this 'Shock Therapy' and use it as a cure, but it didn't do too much for the mice. Perhaps I should have used a

transformer. These results weren't very good because they were over too quick. So I only used up 5 mice this way and tried to come up with something slower, so as to have more time to observe the results.

For the last part, I used sharp pins and jabbed them in their cage. After the first stab, I was able to get good fear results. They would run all around trying not to get poked, sometimes squealing, sometimes not. At the start they were really quick but the more they got stabbed, the slower they got. After quite a few stabs, they would just flop over on their side, curl up and kind of shiver. I didn't really expect this because it wasn't cold out or anything, but they wouldn't squeal anymore, so I threw them away.

That was pretty much as far as I got on with the project this term because I ran out of money to buy mice with.

Next term, for a project I think I will branch out to larger animals and try to scare them. My Mom's cat just had kittens, once they get older so they can run and squeal, they should also be good subjects. Possibly I will try using chemicals, and simple gravity on them. There is also the hydraulic press in the lab.



MEETING ARTS LECTURER
GREAT SUCCESS. Dr. Ziffel, who recently lectured here to a fascinated group of artsies, advised them on the possibilities of obtaining a meatpacking

major. Several artsies interviewed later said that although the topic was above their level, they greatly appreciated this addition to their academic life.