

Posted by [REDACTED]@ 2008-08-14 15:00:38

Tags: lore, critters

Mood: cheerful

(U) Critter Lore Updated!

(U//~~FOUO~~) Here's an update on the bat situation at FANX III; you might also be interested in this recent critter tale added to the original post!

DATE: 13 June 2008

TO: All Occupants of FANX III

SUBJECT: (U) Notification Concerning Bats in FANX III

(U//~~FOUO~~) This is notification to all occupants of FANX III of actions initiated by Occupational Health, Environmental and Safety Services (OHESS) and the Logistics Installations and Facilities Office concerning the discovery of bats above the ceiling on the 7th floor. All the remaining floors in the building have been inspected and showed no signs of habitation.

(U//~~FOUO~~) Bats typically roost in attics, chimneys and under siding and window shutters. In our case, they are roosting in the space between the building's brick veneer and the block wall. Steps have been taken to schedule an extensive cleaning of the area above the 7th floor ceiling. The work will be conducted after hours and we will notify you of the schedule in advance.

(U//~~FOUO~~) Because bats have such a positive influence on our ecosystem, it is against the law in Maryland to kill a bat, or to exclude them from their roosting areas between the months of April through August. OHESS and Facilities are seeking guidance from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources on handling the eviction of the bats and preventing their return.

(U//~~FOUO~~) A very small percentage of bats may carry rabies. In Maryland, only 1% of the bats brought in for testing actually test positive for rabies. This is less than the positive results for rabbits and cattle in Maryland. Bat guano (as well as bird droppings) can carry Histoplasmosis, a common soil fungus. However, it takes a significant accumulation (approximately 2 years worth) before the level of the fungus is hazardous to humans. As long as humans avoid contact with the bats and their guano, there is little chance of contamination. We will ensure that all necessary precautions are taken including extensive cleaning of the area above the 7th floor ceiling and that the situation is monitored closely over the summer.

1288 [REDACTED]@ 2008-08-14 15:50:45

(U) Hey! Nice use of lj-cut!! (As [REDACTED] and I look on with that "we're so proud!" look on our faces! ;-))

1289 re 1288 [REDACTED]@ 2008-08-14 15:53:27

(U) ;) I used to be quite a UNIX shell programming whiz but haven't had to do that kind of thing in a loooooooooong time. Sometimes all that HTML markup stuff gets me down because it feels like using WordPerfect back in the 80s.;)

1290 re 1289 [REDACTED]@ 2008-08-14 15:55:52

like using WordPerfect back in the 80s. ;)

(U) And 90's even. I remember my freshman-year roommate in college (Sept 1994ish) using non-WYSIWYG WordPerfect on his 486. He was doing tables and all sorts of stuff that just made me shudder. Then I learned LaTeX. (Unfortunately, I've forgotten pretty much all of it....)

1291 [REDACTED]@ 2008-08-14 17:50:05

(U) "Go S3"

(U) To add to critter lore, we have a meekrat as a TD. At least, I think that's a meekrat.

1292 re 1291 [REDACTED]@ 2008-08-14 17:51:34

(U) Yeah, I saw that the other day. Isn't going to help me recognize him in the hallway! :)

1293 re 1291 [REDACTED]@ 2008-08-14 17:52:52

(U) It's "meerkat". (Pronounced "mere cat", not "meek rat".)

1294 re 1291 [REDACTED]@ 2008-08-14 17:58:41

(U) Timon! Is that you?!

1295 [REDACTED]@ 2008-08-15 13:33:37

Critter tale

(U) Then there's this tale (apocryphal?) I heard when I EO'd at NSA. In those ancient days new hires went through a training period at what was previously a hospital site on Ft. Meade. The place was a real environmental paradise--hot in the summer, cold in the winter, creaky floors, etc. The story goes that one very hot summer day the ceiling in one of the classrooms collapsed and a family of squirrels descended onto the desks of several students.

1297 re 1295 [REDACTED]@ 2008-08-18 13:37:19

Re: Critter tale

(U) Yikes! It would be nice to find someone to verify that. Perhaps the Phoenix Society should start a "critter corner" in their newsletter? (only half-serious about that)

1312 [REDACTED]@ 2008-08-21 10:43:44

Pigeons in the Workplace

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

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(U) In the mid 1990s, I worked in the computer support center off of the NSOC. Somehow, a bunch of pigeons crawled through a hole in the roof into the attic, then managed to get through the drop ceiling into our work center. We had a wild morning chasing 3 pigeons around the large open area until we were able to catch them and turn them loose outside.

(U) It's really hard to catch a pigeon!

1313 re 1312 [REDACTED] @ 2008-08-21 10:44:58

Re: Pigeons in the Workplace

(U) [REDACTED] that does not sound like a fun day. Thanks for the story!