

A FABLE FOR MODERNS

Editor's Note: The love between a man and woman is life's most beautiful emotion. When they find it, love enables a man and a woman to unite and to build a good life, no matter who they are or how drab the circumstances under which they live. The following Fable for Moderns, although written purely for fun, emphasizes that fact of life.

soft light. "Tell me about it." "Well," replied Ethelbert, deep in thought. "The gist of it is that we're of the order of Blattidae. It says here 'cockroach, or roach, any insect of the order Blattidae. Many cockroaches are household pests, particularly those of the families Blattellidae and Pseudomopidae—hey," he asked, abruptly, "what's your last name?" "Eibelhauser," she breathed. "That's nice," said Ethelbert. "Mine's Particle." "Ethelbert Particle" sighed Miranda, mentally putting a Mrs. in front of it. "How dignified. Please, Ethelbert, it's so nice to know some one like you. Please read some more to me. You're the first—the very first—cockroach I've ever known who can read." "Hey, listen," cried Ethel-

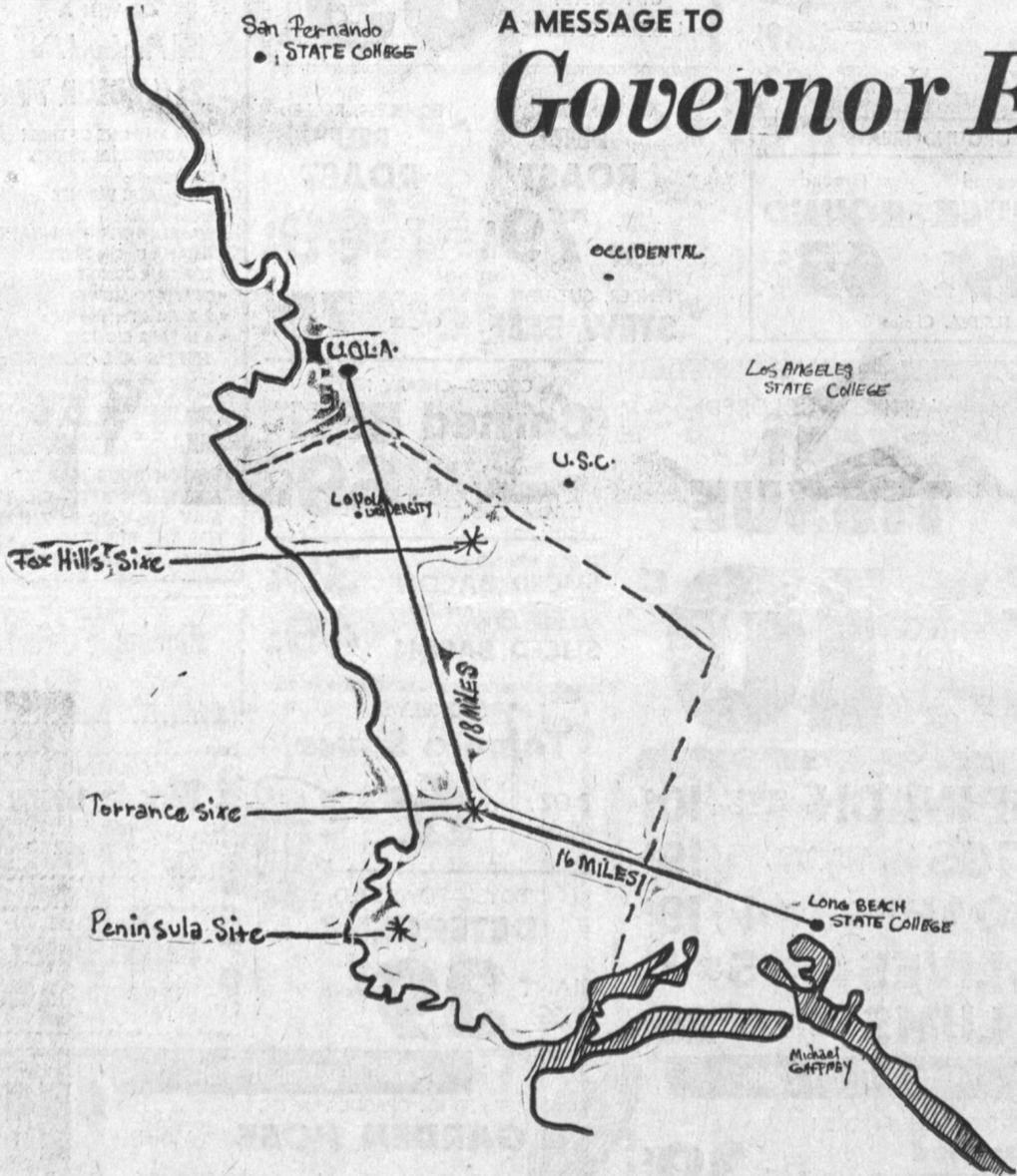
bert, his nose and eyes closer to the letters. "The roaches were among the earliest winged insect to develop, judging from their fossil remains. How about that?" "Just think," Miranda said the words slowly, and dreamily. "We're among the world's oldest families. Doesn't it just make you tingle with pride?" "Yep," said Ethelbert, and he began to read once more, tossing words over his shoulder as he raced to and fro. "The cockroaches are stout-bodied insects with long antennae, and are usually dark brown or black, though some tropical species are gaily-colored. In some species, the wings of the females are only rudimentary. Rudimentary? What does that mean?" asked Miranda. "Sort of incomplete. You know, like something that isn't completely formed," snapped Ethelbert, irritably, "and, please, don't interrupt me when I'm reading!" "Oh, Ethelbert," a soft tear welled in one of Miranda's eyes. "How can you be

him, and arching her back. Did you know that your eyes just sparkle when you're mad?" Ethelbert fought manfully for control. All of his hearts pounded madly. "The insects," read Ethelbert, and he stammered slightly under the tremendous force of his pent-up emotions, "consume all types of human food as well as a variety of animal and vegetable substances, even including leather, paper and bone." "I love bones," said Miranda, hungrily. "I'm a paper man, myself," said Ethelbert, haughtily, racing back and forth, reading to Miranda. "Hence, once they are established in a house, it is impossible to starve them out or get rid of them by cleaning. They can be exterminated only by the use of poison." "They wouldn't dare!" cried Miranda, aghast. "My God!" said Ethelbert, his whole body aching with horror. "They must hate us so!" "Isn't there something in there, Ethelbert," asked Miranda anxiously, "isn't there some reason for us being here? Don't we have some little teeny thing to contribute to this great life of

ours?" "No," replied Ethelbert, gravely. "There isn't. Not a little teeny thing." Suddenly, he sprang upright, snapped twenty fingers. "I've got it," he cried. "I'll call the folks at my old man's library. They'll find something." With the help of the "M" (emergency) Squad of 40,000 dedicated cockroaches called by the secret distress signal which can be heard only by cockroaches, Ethelbert managed to get the telephone from its cradle. In relays, the carefully-chosen and highly-trained men of the "M" Squad dialed the figures: one—three. Ethelbert took up his position at the transmitter, with Miranda stationed at the receiving end of the long, black instrument. "We'd like some information," said Ethelbert. "We'd like to know what cockroaches contribute to the whole, vast scheme of existence." Anxiously, the cockroaches waited. After a long period of tense silence, Miranda signalled to Ethelbert that the answer was coming. The glamour and youth of the sexy cockroach seemed to fade before the cock-

roaches' very eyes. Sternly disciplined, the men of the "M" Squad carried on with their duties and returned the telephone instrument to the cradle. Ethelbert hurriedly snatched to Miranda's side. Feeling his presence, the stricken young cockroach stirred. Her eye-lashes raised to reveal pools of hopelessness. "Miranda, what did she say?" asked anxious Ethelbert. "It's too terrible to repeat," Miranda closed her eyes again and a shudder rippled through her entire being. The fingers of her 13 hands sought and closely entwined with Ethelbert's. "Be brave, girl," he encouraged. Miranda raised slightly on three elbows. She spoke softly, the utter horror of her experience apparent in every word: "The librarian said—she said that she had searched through quite a few books on insects and"—Miranda's voice dropped to a whisper—"she can't find a one that says a good word about cockroaches." Ethelbert rubbed gently against Miranda. "Never mind," he said, softly. "I love you, Miranda, even though you are only a lowly cockroach."

A MESSAGE TO Governor Edmund Brown



It is the part of the responsibility of your leadership to make sure that the new four-year college to serve the people of the South area is located where it will best serve the future educational needs of all the people.

It is quite obvious that the Torrance site is geographically located to best serve the students in the southern portion of Los Angeles County. The map clearly indicates the mileage from the nearest colleges and the proximity of the Torrance site to the existing state colleges.

This matter should be far beyond any political maneuvering by pary big-wigs, or financial tycoons.

The people, business and industry of Torrance are almost unanimously in favor of the college coming to Torrance. We would welcome the college and its students as an integral part of our community.

THIS MESSAGE IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSMEN IN THE SOUTH COAST AREA

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