

Killer bees' buzz worse than bite

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The Print

When someone utters the term "killer bees" most everyone can affiliate it with a swarm of relentless buzzing-stinging cities, suburbs, and human flesh. One could hardly believe that a group of insects could grow so large or so potent.

But Dennis Boddy, associated professor of biology at Portland State University, firmly believes that "a bee is a bee, like a dog is a dog. There are simply different species of bees just like cats, dogs, or any other living creature."

Boddy discussed the nature of the killer bees at a seminar on Tuesday.

The acclaimed "killer bees" have stirred so much attention and prompted literature in movie works, have been mentioned by experts to likely be in the United States in 10 years. Already they've been mentioned in Caracas, Venezuela.

Currently, there are two accurate titles for the "killer bee." The PSU professor thinks the "Brazilian bee" is suitable, while others entitle them as "hybridized bees."

Whatever the case or name, the bees originally resided in Central and Southern Europe, then moved to Brazil by a Brazilian geneticist in 1965. There, the bees were to cross breed the bees with local Italian bees to produce a more desirable and productive honey bee. The "killer" bees which were originally created by cross from

European honey bees were relatively inadequate producers for the tropics. The combination was hoped to change the trend, Boddy said.

Though the combination produced the desired results, several months after their importation, 26 swarms, (highly inclined to absconding, or leaving colonies to establish new ones) escaped from the group of beehives where they were being studied. Due to their unflagging nature the bees outbred and consequently substituted the before common Brazilian bees in many areas, he said.

The African/Brazilian bees are more easily disturbed and inclined to sting due to their tropical orientation, according to Boddy.

"For our own, domesticated bees, it would require a substantial jar of their hive to promote violent behavior in them," he said. "The Brazilian beehive, however, may be very disturbed by simply the vibration of the ground."

Despite this fact, Orley Taylor of the University of Kansas, who has been studying the history of their temperament for four years, says he has heard of fewer than a dozen attacks, in all areas of South America each year. The biggest irritation has not been on the public welfare, but that of the beekeepers. Caring for the bees in the hot, tropical weather has become a bother for most, because protective clothing is essential. Additionally, the colonies have to

be established nearly 200 meters away from the regular populace, to ensure protection from sudden provoke of attack, Taylor said.

The likelihood of the bad bees ever making it to the United States is "unlikely" according to Boddy, and even if it were the case, most of their aggressive inclinations would be diminished.

As the bee moves southward, out of the tropics, and breeds with indigenous tropical bees, their aggressive characteristics are blended out naturally, says the professor. Conversely, when the bees move northward, into Mexico or warmer climates, their assaultive behavior is genetically retained.

"But it must be learned that the bees are a tropical phenomenon, and would be unable to survive in freezing, or subfreezing temperatures. Our own domesticated honey bees, can huddle up to stay warm," he said, "but only if they cross bred with North American bees would they make it here."

"Even in this instance, their overbearing disposition would be genetically blended out," he said.

Though the professor warned that persons should stay altered to the bees' northward migration, "there's little need to worry over it," he said.

So if a dark cloud is seen in the sky, say 10 years from now, and it's headed your way, don't run! It will likely turn out to be no more than an over excited smog bank.



Blood donors needed in drive

Few people would fail to be moved by the image of literally hundreds of fellow citizens queuing up to save another's life.

In late December, many watched the television coverage of shivering volunteers lining up to sub-freezing weather to donate blood after a United Airlines jet crashed near the Portland Airport.

In subsequent letters and editorial comment in the city's daily press, these individuals were described as heroes. Few would differ with the premise that they were motivated by the highest consideration and regard for others.

But who were the real heroes?

According to the American Red Cross, it takes a minimum of six hours from the time a unit of blood is drawn until it can be processed and administered to the individual in need of it. "In the attempt to resuscitate the individual who is in shock due to blood loss, it is usually the blood available within the first two hours that makes the crucial difference in saving a life," said Kevin Day, College health nurse. Day believes the

real heroes of that cold December night were those people with foresight and compassion enough to donate their blood before the disaster occurred. In large measure, the fact that so many were saved was due to those few people, Day said.

On February 12, all students, staff, and friends of Clackamas Community College will have the opportunity to make just such a gesture. The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be on campus from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Community Center. For those who have never before donated blood, information about the procedure is available through the Health Service, ext. 250.

Suggestions to be boxed

Students wishing to express an opinion to the Associated Student Government will be able to do so now, according to Julie Chitty of ASG. Suggestion boxes will be placed throughout the College for that use.

Doctor Dunlap comes to CCC

Runny nose? Sore throat? Stomach aching all over? Need to see a doctor but can't afford one? Well, your problems are solved!

The college now has a family physician on campus twice a week. Dr. Don Dunlap will be in the Health Center, Room 101, Tuesdays 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Wednesdays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. He is available to see students for free consultation, limited treatment, and prescriptions if necessary. Dr. Dunlap finished his training at the University of Kansas Osteopathic last July. He and his wife moved to Clackamas two months ago. They recently visited Oregon during the first of his summer breaks and decided then to make Clackamas their home, according to Dr. Dunlap.

Dr. Dunlap enjoys skiing, hunting, racquetball, and jogging. One of the main reasons he moved to Oregon was to be closer to the ski slopes. According to Dr. Dunlap, Kansas had little to offer skiers.

Dr. Dunlap will be opening an office in Milwaukie on February 15, 1979.

The health trailer received new lab equipment to expand their services. They are now able to do throat cultures in order to check for strep throat.

Students have already paid

all fees for this service. All examinations are free. So, as Kevin Day, school nurse, stated, "you might as well take advantage of it."



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