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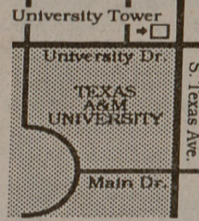
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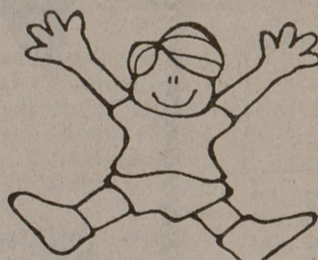
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Animal rights group accused of robbing vandalizing Texas Tech researcher's lab

LUBBOCK (AP) — A Texas Tech researcher Wednesday called the actions of an animal rights group that vandalized and destroyed equipment at his lab "senseless and ridiculous."

Five cats used in sleep research were taken from the lab of Dr. John Orem, a physiology professor, during a break-in Monday night. Documents were stolen and equipment was vandalized. University officials Wednesday placed a cost estimate of the damage at \$70,000, not including the value of the cats.

The break-in was the first in Texas by the "underground liberationist" Animal Liberation Front, according to a group called People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Infant Death Syndrome. In both disorders, breathing fails in sleep.

Texas Tech University Health Science Center researchers discovered the break-in Tuesday morning and found spray-painted messages on the walls that indicated ALF was responsible, according to a statement released Wednesday by university president Robert Lawless.

"We most sincerely urge conscientious behavior on the part of those responsible for this incident and we warn that the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center will not tolerate such incidents on our campus," Lawless said.

The animal rights groups, in a statement issued by PETA, charged that Orem uses inhumane research

methods, such as bolting the heads into steel clamps.

"This is all sensational nonsense," Orem said. "The techniques we are standard neurological procedures that are done under anesthesia. There is nothing gruesome, spicable, wasteful or barbaric about it."

"They've acted and it's a senseless and ridiculous."

Dwindling number of police officers causes delayed arrival at crime scenes

HOUSTON (AP) — The number of police officers patrolling city streets has dwindled to the point where officers sometimes get to the scene of a crime long after it is committed, some policemen said.

Less than 489 police officers patrol 600 square miles of Houston streets, neighborhoods and business districts 16 hours per day.

Days off, sick time and vacation causes that number to shrink, leaving some substations with fewer than 20 patrol officers on some shifts.

According to a June 1 report, the Houston Police Department had 1,468 patrol officers to answer initial calls for service, patrol the streets and respond to emergencies. That number is split among three shifts at more

than 10 substations and other locations.

In addition, the number of officers in Field Operations Command — which includes patrol, traffic accident and other functions — had dropped from 2,333 in November 1986 to 2,333 on May 1, 1989, the report said.

Mark Clark, president of the Houston Police Officers Association, said rising crime statistics and the increase in response time indicate the criminal element is aware of the manpower shortage.

"They (the criminals) watch television and read papers," Clark said. In addition, criminals are more prone to use violence because they realize officers have inadequate backup, he said.

so far from the participants, my gut feeling is that it has been successful," he said. "We certainly have stimulated a lot of interest and activity. The participants are interested and motivated."

Leadership

(Continued from page 3)

Texas community colleges and technical institutes that want to hire minorities. The data bank was compiled by the A&M Public Policy Resource Laboratory.

Dr. Gonzalo Garcia, coordinator of the development of the data bank, said the project's goals were divided into two parts — Year One and Year Two.

Year One was the research and development phase of the project, Garcia said. A number of surveys were conducted with the chief executive officers of the community colleges and technical institutes in Texas, trying to find out what the barriers were to minority leadership and what minorities need in order to become more effective leaders.

Year Two is the program itself, which begins at A&M with the three-

week institute and ends next summer with a similar institute.

"There is no Year Three planned under the current funding," Garcia said. "It's only a two-year grant."

"It's an effort to recruit and get more minorities in key leadership positions."

— Dr. Laverne Young, project manager

We're hoping we can get some continued funding somewhere. There's a potential for three years, but we'd have to reapply. That depends on the outcome of the program."

Garcia said the participants in the program so far have been enthusiastic about it.

"From the feedback we've gotten

we can see a major turnaround, said. "I'm referring to sexual harassment stereotypes, institutional barriers and attitude barriers on part of employers."

He said until there is a massive attitude change, the shortage of minority leaders will continue.

"We can teach these people terms of leadership and development skills, make them more effective in terms of communication skills and make them develop assertiveness, but where the change needs to take place is on part of the institutions and the people who are hiring," Garcia said.

"There are little things we're doing to make the presidents and chief executive officers of these institutions more aware, but we're the ones who are going to be hiring these people," he said. "We can't take positions."

Bees

(Continued from page 3)

the few people who have severe allergic reactions to any type of bee stings, he said.

Texas Africanized Honey Bee committee was organized in April 1987. Comprised of representatives from various health and agriculture departments from around the state, the committee was formed to determine what the AHB means to the state of Texas, what needs to be done to eliminate or minimize the negative impacts of its arrival and if it is actually a threat, Thomas said.

The committee developed the Texas Africanized Honey Bee Management Plan, proposing specific recommendations for research, colony management suggestions for beekeepers, public education and public health.

"Information and education is where nearly all of our effort has gone so far," Thomas said. "We want to advise beekeepers, the general public and elected officials as to what to expect and what to do."

One of the committee's primary goals is to acquire a research laboratory.

"We need to have an ID lab," Thomas said. "We don't have any way in this state of separating between the Africanized honey bee and the do-

pected (Africanized honey bee) sample, there is one person in the U.S. that will identify it. There is only one lab that will provide that service."

The bee resulted from a honey bee breeding program in the 1950s. Dr. W.F. Kerr, a German geneticist, was trying to breed a bee capable of surviving the tropical climate of Brazil. The new strain of bees was released in 1957 to commercial beekeepers in Brazil.

"Kerr was successful," Thomas said. "He did develop some honey bees that did out-perform anything they had in Brazil. These were provided to the commercial beekeepers of Brazil and they simply overlooked the defensiveness and aggressiveness of the bees because they were better honey producers."

After its original release, the AHB continued to include excessive swarming and absconding (abandonment of the hive when threatened), lack of selectivity in choosing a nesting site and highly defensive behavior. As a wild bee, the characteristic traits it exhibits are those which best ensured its chances of survival, he said.

"Once in the wild, only the meanest bees survived," Thomas said. "The AHB of today is a much meaner bee than Kerr's bee."

It is these character traits which make the bee such a threat to the United States and the agriculture and honey industries.

"The Africanized honey bee is not a honey producer," Thomas said. "The European bee is a much better honey producer than the African bee, so there is no reason to replace the European bees, even if the African bee didn't have these aggressive traits."

A larger threat to the economy is the competition for resources the AHB will present to the domestic honey bee, and the resulting reduction in honey production and domestic honey bee population.

"If in fact the African bees get into an area, because of their tendency to swarm extensively and heavily populate an area, the resources we've depended upon for European bees to make surplus

honey will most likely be overgrazed," Thomas said, "because the African bee populates an area until the resources are totally used."

Unmanaged, the AHB can reduce honey production by 60 to 70 percent, the Texas A&M

"We need to have an ID lab. We don't have any way in this state of separating between the Africanized honey bee and the domestic honey bee."

— Dr. John G. Thomas, extension entomologist

Committee on Africanized Honey Bees said in a written report. The value of honey has ranged from \$100 to \$150 million annually in the U.S. and from \$5.3 to \$7.6 million in the state, the report said. Texas could experience losses of \$2.4 million annually if the AHB colonizes the state, the report said.

The loss in honey production also could lead to a reduction in crop pollination by the domestic honey bee, Thomas said. The estimated value of crops (vegetables, fruits and nuts) pollinated by domestic bees is \$800 million annually, he said.

"One-third of the food we eat is the direct result of pollination by honey bees," he said. "Every dollar's worth of honey that beekeeper sell, those crops requiring or benefiting as a result of honey bee pollination total \$143."

The threats to crop pollination are far greater than any threat to the honey producers, he said.

The money requested from the state would be used for education and public relations, regulatory and quarantine, and a research and identification lab.

An emergency research fund of \$100,000 granted in May to get a "head start" on testing the Rio Grande Valley, Thomas said, but the committee has not heard if their budget request has been approved.

"Information and education is where nearly all of our effort has gone so far. We want to advise beekeepers, the general public and elected officials as to what to expect and what to do."

— Dr. John G. Thomas, extension entomologist

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