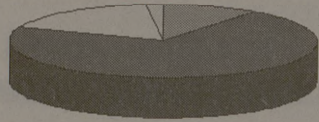


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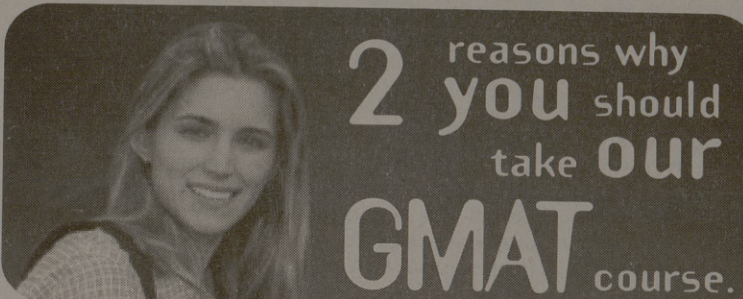
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## Pest control lucrative due to killer bees

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — The buzz of killer bees is sounding more like "ka-ching" to pest control companies in South Texas.

The increased Africanized bee activity in the Rio Grande Valley, along with the hype that accompanied their arrival a few years ago and continued publicity over attacks, have been a boon to bee killers.

In Brownsville alone, at least 10 people a day call an exterminator about a bee problem. About nine out of 10 calls are about killer bees, Santana Lucio, owner of Lucio's Pest Control, said.

"European bees just fly around you. The African ones try to kill, surround you and chase you back to the truck," Lucio said. "When we're done, our gloves are full of stingers."

News reports of African bees injuring people or killing pets help the exterminators' business.

"When it's on TV that someone got stung 100 times or about dogs getting killed by bees, they get more concerned about the honey hives," Gracie Waldhilm of Pest Com Inc said.

To kill the aggressive bees, exterminators spray the hives with a soap and water mixture or a stronger insecticide, depending on the number of bees and their resilience.

The exterminators put themselves at risk when they take on the killer bees. Although the Africanized bees' sting is not more lethal than other bees', the insects are known to strike in swarms and pursue victims over greater distances.

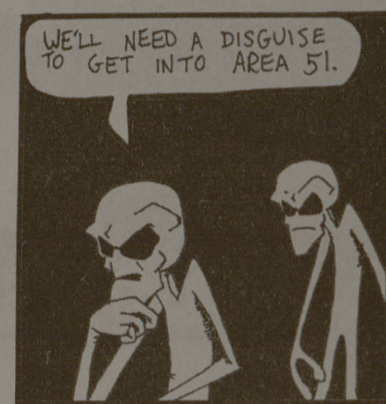
"It's a job and we'll do it. But, to be honest, there's been too many (calls), and they're very dangerous," Lucio said. "One time, the African bees got under the veil of one of the sprayers and they almost killed him."

In fact, the heavy protective gear sprayers wear, which includes openings for gloves and a face mask, is not always enough to protect them from an attack.

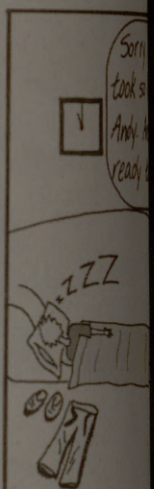
"You can still feel a strong stinging sensation where the bees are stinging you," Beto Tijerina, an exterminator with Lara's Pest Control, said.

Exterminators often work after dark when the bees have settled down and won't be as quick to attack in a group.

## The Greys



## Andy in Aggieland



## Educational funding

Marine studies program for high school students may shut down

GALVESTON, Texas (AP) — A program that educates high school dropouts in marine fields and helps them eventually earn a diploma could be gone by summer's end unless Congress approves a funding increase.

The Seaborne Conservation Corps, based at Texas A&M University at Galveston, allows students to live aboard a training ship donated by the Navy while attending classes that lead to a GED.

In 1994, the first year the program was active, Seaborne received \$2.8 million from the Department of Defense to cover startup costs and operating expenses.

Since then, funding has dropped each year, bottoming out at \$100,000 this year.

The program needs at least \$1.4 million annually to feed, house, clothe and provide courses for the students involved, Rhonda Gregg, Seaborne community partnerships and development director, said.

For Seaborne to survive, Congress must expand another Department of Defense dropout program and allow Texas to partake in that program's funding.

"Everything is riding on the

Department of Defense Seaborne director Al Medeiros told The Galveston County Daily News.

Seaborne has enjoyed support from local residents and elected officials such as Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, who championed the Senate bill to acquire additional funding for the program.

"(Seaborne) is one of the worthwhile projects on the island," said Galveston resident and Seaborne supporter Vogelwohl. "They have worked to save the lives of many young men and women."

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