The Signal
11.09.2005

Insects bug the Business Building

By Alex Seise

The Business Building has recently been affected by a bug infestation. The invading insects, including wasps and mosquitoes, have been interrupting classes and causing problems for many users of the facility.

The wasps are approximately one inch long and are of a dark brown color with areas of black coloration.

Several dead wasps and mosquitoes were found on the second story windowsills of both Business Building stairwells. Others were observed entering the building through thin spaces between the gutters on both the northwest and southeast facades.

Other insects were observed in the immediate area. A centipede was located in the basement of the building. Dozens of ladybugs were seen swarming along the northwest exterior. Near one entrance, a colony of ants covered a discarded piece of food.

Inside many classrooms within the building, fliers advising that all windows be closed at the end of all evening classes have been posted.

"At the end of all evening classes, please remember to shut all windows!! We are having a major 'bug' situation!!" the posters, issued by the School of Business, read.

"With warm, sultry evenings, the windows are open and mosquitoes can enter the building," Joyce Jammer, a member of the office support team in the School of Business, said. "The only reason that's been happening is because the windows were left open and we don't have screens here."

The Business Building opened in 2000.

Though it includes many modern technologies and conveniences, the windows within the building were installed without screens. When warm weather affects the College and the windows are opened for fresh air, insects are able to enter the rooms.

"I found class to be very uncomfortable when the weather was warm because we had to keep the windows closed due to the bug problem," Christine Beaver, junior elementary education / psychology major, said.

Kelsey Glaser, freshman finance major, found the presence of the insects to be less noticeable. "I didn't

know what type of bug it was, so I figured it was just ants," she said. "I haven't seen any (bugs) in my classrooms. It's practically winter now so I'm not that worried. And the Business Building is very clean." Jammer agreed and insisted that there is no need for alarm. "So far, everything is OK," she said.

Building Services had not been notified of the problem as of Nov. 1.

Shannon McNellis, a member of the office support team in the Administrative and Environmental Services department, had not been previously aware of the pest problems within the Business Building. "Reports of this nature are generally called in to (the Building Services extension), and I am generally the one who answers the phone," she said.

McNellis said that in the case of residential and academic facilities experiencing infestation problems, a pest control company is quickly notified.

Building Services' Web site says that a state certified pest control company performs the actual pest removals and that residence halls are serviced twice each week during the fall and spring semesters.

Academic and administrative buildings are serviced only when pest complaints are received.

The entire campus undergoes a full inspection once each year.

McNellis and her colleagues determined that a vertical, tubular nest-like structure discovered on the southeast exterior of the building was not associated with the problematic wasps.

Instead, it was identified as a dirt dauber.

Dirt daubers are mud nests built by certain species of wasps with sections for eggs and prey, and McNellis' colleagues said that they are harmless.

These species of wasps do not normally enter interior spaces to create their nests.

Beaver offered an alternative solution to future instances requiring pest control.

"I think money should be invested for screens," she said.