



Mayank Dhugana/Index
Associate professor of English Alanna Preussner keeps careful track of the wasps in her Baldwin Hall office Wednesday afternoon.

Wasps find temporary home in Baldwin Hall

BY CAITLIN DEAN
Assistant News Editor

Lately, Alanna Preussner keeps a can of wasp spray in her office.

Preussner, an associate professor of English, said she started noticing wasps in her second-floor Baldwin office a couple of weeks ago. Preussner and her two office neighbors have spotted a few of the insects flying around, but mostly have seen the wasps crawling inside the light fixtures in their offices, she said. Faculty members have seen wasps in Baldwin in the past, but the problem is much worse than normal this year, she said.

"I guess this is the season when they come inside from outdoors, and so we figured, well, this is just the usual thing," she said. "But then there began to be more and more of them."

Preussner said she has been taking precautions like her can of powerful wasp spray to avoid the insects because she is allergic to their stings.

"When the lights are turned on, they sort of get active, so I borrowed my husband's lamp . . . because I was sitting here in the dark, so as not to wake up the bugs," she said.

Preussner said the insects haven't been any more of a problem in classrooms or other parts of Baldwin Hall as far as she has heard.

"It seems to be pretty much localized," she said. "It doesn't take much space for one of these things to get inside, as I know from home. So maybe there's a crack in the masonry, or some flaw in the weather stripping around the window or something or other that's helping them get inside. There just seem to be a lot of them."

Physical Plant workers have cleaned out the wasps and tried to kill them a few times already, Preussner said, but so far the attempts have been unsuccessful.

Karl Schneider, Physical Plant Director, said plant workers have searched for nests without finding any, and have also been spraying live wasps when they receive complaints. He said the Physical Plant has also tried to figure out where the wasps are entering the building.

"The most effective way to get rid of them is [if] they have nests somewhere, to just destroy the nest, but we haven't found any, and we haven't found where they're getting in," Schneider said.

At this point, the only other thing the Physical Plant can think of to do is to check the exterior of Baldwin for the wasps' point of entrance.

"We've been hoping to have a little dryer period to get a man lift up outside on that side of the building," Schneider said. "[We'll] do a little bit more closer checking to see if we can find any gaps in the building's exterior to find out where they're coming in."

Mike Arduser, natural history biologist for the Missouri Department of Conservation, said he thinks the insects in Baldwin Hall might be paper wasps. He said that Missouri has seven or eight types of native paper wasps, although a new paper wasp has been

introduced from Europe or Asia and established itself in the St. Louis area in the last eight to nine years. Those wasps are not currently known to be in this part of the state, he said.

Wasps look for sheltered places in nature to spend the winter, and this sometimes extends to buildings, Arduser said.

"Those wasps are pretty much stuck inside now, and there's no food mostly," he said. "And they won't go into hibernation because it's too warm, so they'll just buzz around until they run out of fuel or energy and die, or until somebody smashes them."

Because the wasps have primarily congregated in the lights, Arduser said he thinks the point of entry is likely related to the building's electrical wiring. Another possibility is that a nest is hidden somewhere between the walls or above the lights. As fall and winter approach, nests stop functioning, leaving worker wasps to disperse on their own, he said.

Arduser said he has had several calls over the last four to six weeks regarding problems similar to this, although they were all from home owners and did not involve large buildings.

"It's not uncommon," Arduser said. "And it's a hard thing to prevent, because again, these [wasps], they're very good at getting into logs or anything. They just find an access point and get in, and it's tough to prevent that."

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Mike Arduser
Biologist for the Missouri Department of Conservation

Water pipe leak creates sidewalk roadblock

BY JULIE WILLIAMS
Editor in Chief

More of an eyesore than a headache, a mound of dirt roped off with caution tape appeared in the middle of campus Wednesday.

System trades supervisor Bob Techau said a damaged water line about six inches in diameter lies below the mud hole.

"It developed a crack probably

just from fatigue or ground stress," Techau said. "It was under the sidewalk, and we had to dig up and put a repair clamp over it and cover it up."

Techau said the pipe that runs between Pickler Memorial Library and Baldwin Hall broke at about 11 p.m. Tuesday. Plumbing crews arrived and worked through the night to fix the leak.

"It was a split in the pipe," he said

of the problem. "... You can't say something particular happened exactly — just stress over time."

Techau said the clamp used to fix the cracked pipe cost about \$300, but that it will last as long as the pipe.

"That's kind of a permanent fix," Techau said. "Normally a pipe doesn't do that but once in a long time."

The dirt and mud will remain on the Quad for now, as Techau said the area will have to dry out considerably

before a new sidewalk can be poured and the University's grounds crew can put finishing touches around the area.

"It will take a while for it to get back to normal," Techau said, noting the cold and wet weather.

Techau said Pickler Memorial Library, Missouri Hall and Ophelia Parrish were the only buildings that could have been affected by the pipe break — Baldwin Hall feeds from a different pipe system.

Missouri Hall director Zac Burden said one of his staff members alerted him early Wednesday morning to some areas of low water pressure in the residence hall, but that by 10 a.m. everything was back to normal.

"When I got up to . . . take a look at things, everything was up and running," Burden said.

No water outages were reported in Pickler.

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For Rent: Two-bedroom house for rent. Great location. 1416 S. First St. \$400/month. Stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer included. Call 217-737-5589 or e-mail dmlmuck78@msn.com

For Rent

For Rent: Vista Heights. One- and two-bedroom units still available. Call Kellie Nigh at 665-9224 or 626-3914

For Rent: Property Concepts LLC now renting for 2009 school year. Studios, 1,2,3,5 bedrooms available. Apartments starting at \$300 with heat, water, trash, electric, cable TV, wireless internet paid. 3 blocks from campus. On site laundry. 24 hour maintenance. Pet friendly units available. 660-627-1400, or www.kirksvilleapartments.com

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Wanted: Seeking sublesser, January to May 2009. Really close to campus. Really cheap. One-bedroom. Convenient parking in back. 309 E. Pierce Apt 3. For more information call 636-861-1569

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Wanted: Girls to model bridal and prom attire for bridal expo and private bridal showings. 660-665-3779

Wanted: Spring sublesser needed. Rent \$216/month, three-bedroom house, abundant storage, campus walking distance, two female housemates. Large bedroom with two closets. Washer/dryer. Contact Nicki at 636-734-9791 or nrm458@truman.edu

Wanted: Experienced bartenders needed for evening hours Wed.-Sat. Applications available after 5:00 p.m. at Main Street Bulldog 120 S. Main Kirksville

Wanted: Two females looking for third roommate to fill the master bedroom for the spring semester in a 3 bedroom, 1 bath house on 601 S. 4th street (behind West Campus Suites). Rent is \$216 a month + utilities (around \$50 for internet/cable and electricity). Water and trash included. Please contact Kimberly at 660.216.9766. or Andrea at 314.750.7881 if you are interested!

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous: ATTENTION SKATE BOARDERS: Blade Boards by Transport. New, in box. Close out price! \$49.95. 665-9135

Miscellaneous: New coin laundry in town. 1003 W. Michigan. New machines. Cheapest rates in own. Air-conditioned, surveillance cameras on site. Nice, clean setting. Stop by!

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