

Lellyo

1324 Spring Avenue
Rosedale, MD 21237

June 2, 1983

Dr. Matthew Meselson
Professor of Natural Science
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Dr. Meselson:

I read with interest the enclosed article in our evening newspaper yesterday.

Our neighborhood is currently being plagued by one individual who keeps up to 22 hives of honeybees on his property. During the spring months, or actually any and every day which the temperature reaches 60 degrees or more, the bees make their cleansing flights defecating on my car, house, laundry, etc.

We have tried unsuccessfully to have the health department consider the excessive amount of bee feces a health hazard. Currently, we are in the process of working with our County Council to have a law passed which will limit the number of hives allowable on residential property. Each of the neighbors in our area have approximately 1/4 to 1/3 acre lots.

We have been told that bee feces is not a health hazard; but, I would guess that bee feces from approximately would itself constitute a health hazard only because of the high concentration. Several of the neighbors, including myself, are parents of toddlers. We are naturally concerned about bee stings, but are also concerned about the children placing toys which contain feces in their mouths.

After reading the article in the NEWS AMERICAN yesterday, my concern is stirred again. The bees are "normal" honeybees, inspected regularly by the state agency and found to be in good condition.

The feces left on our homes and cars is quite difficult to remove. Several of the neighbors have wondered whether there may be something in bee feces which would tend to pit or in some other way, mar or harm the paint on our cars.

I would be very interested in your opinion and advice in our situation and look forward to a reply.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Joseph Lellyo
1324 Spring Avenue
Rosedale, MD 21237

cc: Peter S. Ashton
Dr. Thomas Seeley