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# The Party Animal News



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## You won't believe Who became President

In 1981 I was going to be a Junior/Senior at Purdue University (hard to define because I doubled up on classes to graduate early) and I was involved in our student entomology club called Thomas Say. Scientists like entomologists were the rock stars of their time in the 1700s and 1800s. If you learn anything about Thomas Say, he was, to say the least, a little strange. When I was interviewing Harry Katz, a pioneer in my pest control field, he had a meeting with some prominent entomologists at his home in Pennsylvania in the 1960s. He stated, "We were sitting around and J.J. (J.J. Davis was the head of the Purdue Department of Entomology from 1918-1954) would drink his beer, you know he loved his beer, and would tell juicy stories about the old entomologists." I wish I was there, and I could have because Harry actually tape recorded the conversation. Unfortunately, he made the mistake of donating it to Purdue and this guaranteed that tape is in that warehouse with the Ark of the Covenant from that Indiana Jones movie.

Not digressing from the rock star theme, there are elections of student body representatives at the university. My last year at Purdue reminds me of the current presidential elections this year. As mentioned, I was focused on graduating but campus is still a place for some fun and at this time the punk rock bands became the music of choice for many. Something had to come after disco, right? Well, West Lafayette, IN, home of Purdue University, was the place of origin of a punk rock band named *Dow Jones and the Industrials* and Chris Clark, a Purdue student and one of the vocalists of the band decided to run for class President. He won.

At the time many students thought that this was the worst thing in the world for conservative Purdue University. But, the entrepreneur in me thought that this could be an opportunity for the entomology club. The Thomas Say Club had one fund raiser and that was to sell honey. I thought we could get some free publicity for our product. (Does that sound like someone today?) My idea was to pull an idea from the popular Saturday Night Live skit that John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd called the Killer Bees. I thought we could go into the student president's office as killer bees and hold him ransom and get free publicity. He was a musician, he would be cool and go along with it—right?

It never happened. Killer Bees in sombreros, a terrorist act of kidnapping and not to mention we were "forcing" animals to make honey for us so we could turn around and sell it. Today's politically correct campus would have shut this idea down faster than a Saturn V rocketing Neil Armstrong (a Purdue Grad) to the moon. The honey bees at the Purdue hive in 1980 were in decline or stress. That year they did not produce, so there was no honey to sell and my idea never came to fruition. The punk rock group broke up because of Chris Clark's presidency. I know I glanced at the band at least once when Chris did a free concert after he won.

### Pest of the Quarter:



#### Drywood Termites

**Be careful what you bring home from the store. Nowadays we are part of an international community which means pests can come from all over the world and be delivered to your front door. You might want to think twice about leaving pallets around. We have seen a pallet from a big store delivered to a home with a drywood termite infestation in it. This might not spread, but I have seen other atypical pests living on items that come from all over the world. If any item you purchase produces a dust of wood or pellets you better contact us to check it out.**

You can check out all their music on Youtube. A couple articles seem to indicate they still have a following. I am sure there is still a Thomas Say Club, but when I visited Purdue in January I am saddened to say it too has changed to a politically correct university, well at least the Entomology Department (more about that in another newsletter). One post on the internet about the punk rock band stated, "in the early 80s Purdue was a place where you could be a farmer, a nerd, a punk rocker and a politician at the same time." Times have changed.

### Bee Hive decline



Some anti pesticide groups have pointed to some pesticides as the cause of bee hive decline. These groups believe you should not let a serious crisis go to waste even though they believe in Junk Science. After many years of research the following can be found in Wikipedia. The bee hive decline causes include: infections with Varroa and Acarapis mites; malnutrition; various pathogens; genetic factors; immunodeficiencies; loss of habitat; changing beekeeping practices; or a combination of factors. Notice there were no mention of pesticides as a factor.

If you ever have a possible bug or part of a bug PLEASE save it! That will help us to identify the problem more quickly, target the correct pest and begin treatment sooner.

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# Attic Party Animals?



## A reminder of new community courses

Jordan Davis is the current co-ordinator for my classes I teach for Plano Parks & Recreation. I have been leading Firefly Classes for many years during the spring. Last summer we added a Wildlife course for the kids and have begun a new Young Entomologists series of classes for 2016. Children can still be signed up if they're interested.

The Perot Museum in Dallas had a special exhibit on bioluminescence this year that was very interesting. So, if that exhibition inspired you, or if you want to experience catching fireflies with friends and family contact me and we can set up a class. The best time of year for catching fireflies is June. The class would be open to all the community as well, once it is scheduled and placed on the website for online sign-ups.

Classes are taught at the Oak Point Park Nature Preserve where the City of Plano has just opened their newly constructed Nature & Retreat Center.



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