





3.) Caged queen



searching for DCA's

4.) Caged queen aloft, maneuvered
with Pel. line + pole



Beekeeper Jeff T. Cunningham places queen cells into a grafting bar at his Westminster West apiary. The grafting bar is placed into the hive and nutrient-rich royal jelly, a product of the hive secreted through the bees' glands, is then fed to the larvae by the worker bees. All bees receive royal jelly; however queen larvae receive it for a longer period of time.



Hives are split into mini nucleus colonies that will then be moved to another location so that the queen may mate with other bees. The queen bee mates in flight. By separating the hives, inbreeding is prevented.



Bees surround a queen bee, center, in a hive at Honeyhunter Apiaries in Westmister West. Beekeeper Jeff Cunningham has been involved in beekeeping for over 25 years.

Photos by
son R. Henske



The larvae of a queen is shown after growing inside the grafting bar.

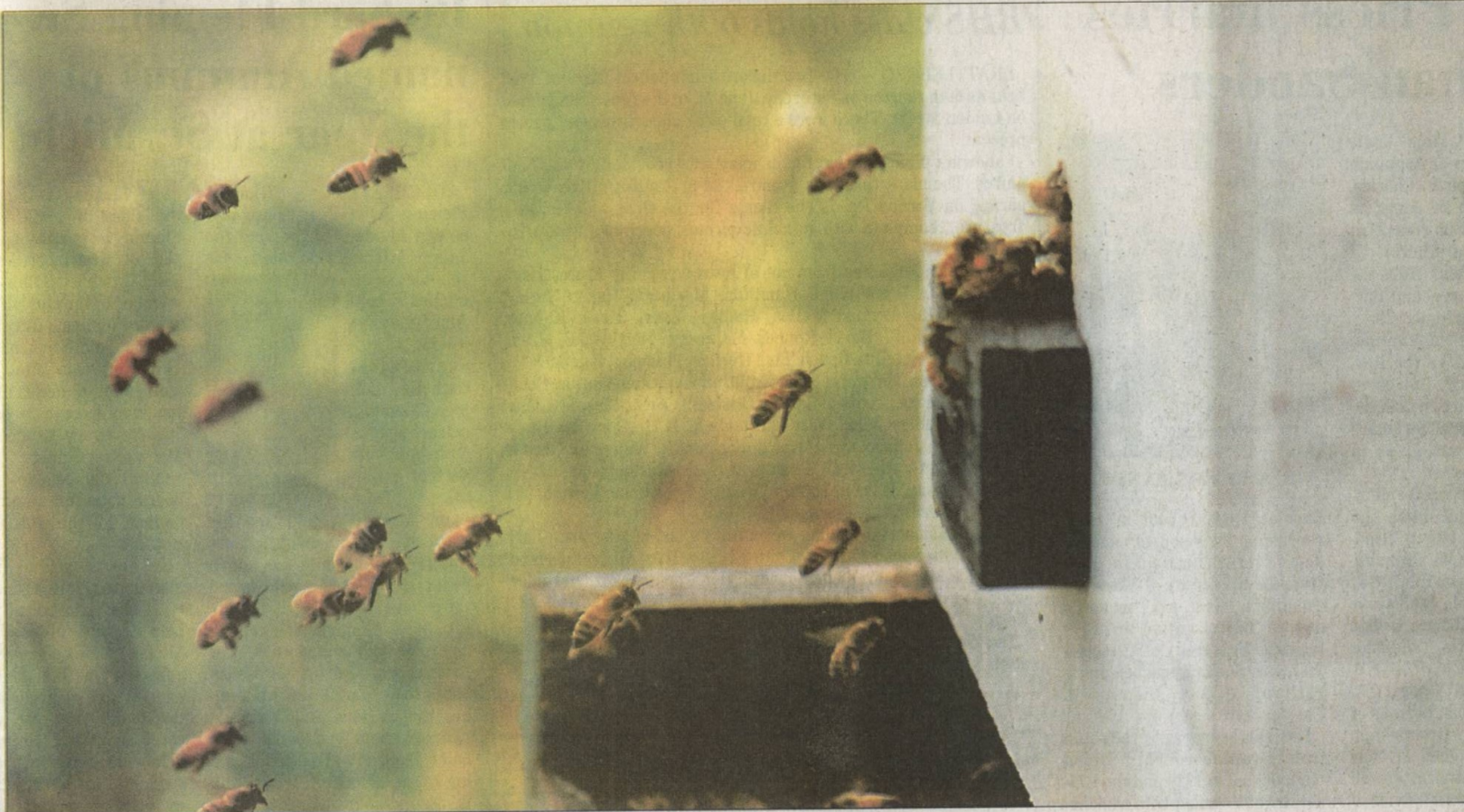


Liquid nitrogen is poured over a small area of a hive, freezing and killing it and allowing it to be examined. Through a Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Grant, Cunningham is selectively breeding bees that are resistant to the varroa destructor mites, which have killed nearly all wild bees, and are typically controlled through the use of chemicals. Cunningham hopes to eliminate the need for this chemical treatment, controlling them through selective breeding, organically.

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Bees return to the hive after leaving to forage for food. A bee may travel up to 10 miles away from the hive, though most stay within 2 to 3 miles.