



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Office of the Dean • West Mall Office Building 201 • Austin, Texas 78712-1105

October 21, 1987

Mr. G. Charles Franklin
Vice President for Business Affairs
MAI 102

Dear Charlie:

I have a solution to the grackle problem.

It's very simple. It would not only solve the problem, it would raise money for the University, and it would do a great deal, I think, for the general image of the University. The solution is this.

A lot of people in Texas like to hunt. I like to shoot doves, ducks, geese, quail, and other things that fly. I have never shot a grackle, but I think I could learn to like it. Why doesn't the University sell grackle permits for \$25 a person? To keep them simple, they could be used only on a given Saturday evening during the Fall semester when there isn't a game in town. Everybody who has bought a grackle permit could come out here with his own shotgun and his own shells, furnished, of course, at his own expense, and shoot all the grackles he wants to.

What do you think? The only person I know in the central administration who would automatically warm to the idea is Vice President Livingston, who also likes to shoot things that fly. I certainly belong in that category. The last time I took Tom Hatfield hunting, he couldn't hit anything, but he still might want to buy a grackle permit. I see only pluses in this plan.

How do you feel about it? Do you think that President Cunningham would be interested in pursuing the idea? I can see ways of improving the thing. You could have a prize for the most grackles killed. If you're worried about safety, you could have everybody shoot nothing bigger than a 20 gauge. The dean who shoots the highest number of grackles would be given a suitable prize, say, three unexcused absences from the University Council during the next academic year. The possibilities are endless.

I think it's a great idea, and I'm sure that the administration is going to want to adopt it. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,



Robert D. King
Dean

RDK/bg

xc: Gerhard Fonken
William Livingston
Shirley Bird Perry
Ronald Brown
Edwin Sharpe



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Vice President for Business Affairs
P. O. Box 8179 • Austin, Texas 78713-8179 • (512) 471-1422

October 23, 1987

Dean Robert D. King
College of Liberal Arts
West Mall Office Building 201

Dear Bob:

I simply don't know how to express the depth of my appreciation for the creative and ingenious solutions that you have outlined for solving the grackle problem. Yes, I am a wing shooter! Yes, The University can raise unlimited funds by selling on-campus shooting permits! Yes, Bill Livingston is a crack pot (I mean shot)! Of course, the deans have killer instincts and would participate aggressively (after extensive debate) in such a program!

While I am distressed that so much energy has been expended on this problem without success -- when all along these ready solutions were staring us in the face -- I promise you we will adopt your proposal without delay and capitalize on it. We will even enhance it!

For example, we will award bonus points for shooting out windows. That way, we won't have to clean windows in the future (another cost saving measure). In addition to grackles, we will include squirrels -- fur game -- to gain broader interest. We will include pigeons; this no doubt will be of interest to the "meat-on-the-table" hunters. As you said, the possibilities are endless. Shoot, we might even include big game -- stray dogs and cats!

With reference to prizes, there is no way we could offer anything better than three excused absences from the University Council -- unless, of course, we were to offer four! A close contender might be an excused absence from the new-faculty boat ride, but unquestionably the University Council is the clear favorite.

If you have other thoughts, please call me immediately.

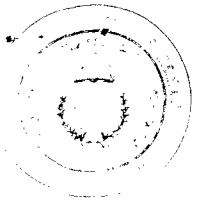
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. Charles Franklin".

G. Charles Franklin
Vice President for Business Affairs

GCF:dac

xc: Gerhard Fonken
William Livingston
Shirley Bird Perry
Ronald Brown
Edwin Sharpe



VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

P. O. Box 7699 • Austin, Texas 78713-7699 • (512) 471-1133

Office of the Dean
College of Liberal Arts

November 5, 1987

REC'D NOV 06 1987

Vice President G. Charles Franklin
Dean Robert D. King
Campus

Dear Colleagues:

You are criminal brutes, advocating violation of the laws of The United States of American and the Austin City Council. I am alarmed, dismayed, embarrassed and mortified. Not to mention micturated.

The City of Austin is a wild life sanctuary by both Federal and Municipal decree. The shooting of all wild life is forbidden in the city limits, which means that grackles are entitled to the same protection as freshman males and full professors of English. You would no more consider the explosive destruction of a grackle than you would a freshman or a professor. Would you?

I should underscore that sanctuary applies only within the city limits of Austin, which explains why the fraternities, ever mindful of the law, prefer to commit hazing in rural settings.

But I always say that it does no good to criticize if I can't come up with a positive recommendation. The grackles are, after all, a genuine problem on this campus. They are noisy and deprive students in linguistics classes of much-needed sleep. They are untidy. They are ugly. Is there a way of eliminating the problem?

Indeed there is. I propose that we net the cunning little creatures and band them with a number. Banding, of course, is nothing new in avian circles, but the inspirational part of my proposal is that the numbers would be Physical Plant Work Order numbers. Once banded, the newly enumerated work orders would be neatly stacked and delivered to the Service Building. They then would vanish in the mysteriously sanitary, non-violent and untraceable way of all their predecessors. No more grackle cackles. No more smears on F99 Duesenbergs and Porsches. No ugliness.

And no jail.

Sincerely,

Ronald M. Brown
Vice President for Student Affairs

Office of the Dean
Grackles



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Vice President for Business Affairs
P. O. Box 8179 • Austin, Texas 78713-8179 • (512) 471-1422

February 1, 1990

TO: Deans, Directors, Departmental Chairman, Project Directors
and Other Administrative Officials (Main Campus)

SUBJECT: Grackle Control


As most of you are aware, the grackle population on the main campus is resulting in intolerable conditions. For the past two weeks, Grounds Maintenance personnel have been experimenting with a propane powered noise maker in an effort to relocate the birds. The results in moving the birds away from the area of 24th Street and Speedway have been very encouraging.

Therefore, the program is being expanded to include the entire campus. It will consist of fifteen people, each assigned to a specific area, firing noise making "cracker shells" from a shotgun at five minute intervals. The noise making will start at dusk, about 6:15 p. m., and continue for approximately one hour. The program is scheduled to start on Monday, February 12, 1990, and will continue for 10 consecutive evenings.

There will be no risk to people or property. The cracker shells will not harm the birds. They will explode above the trees with a shower of spiraling whistles. The intent is to disturb the birds during their roosting period so they will seek a more peaceful location off campus.

The personnel involved will receive training from both the University Police Department and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. They will be supervised at all times and will be wearing orange fluorescent vests for easy identification.

Please give this notice the widest possible distribution throughout your organization. It is important that as many people as possible be informed. The program will be noisy but only for a one hour period each day.


G. Charles Franklin
Vice President for Business Affairs

GCF:bam