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DEPARTMENT OF MARINE STUDIES
 THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
 Austin, Texas 78712-1162

REF ID: MAR 08 1988

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March, 1988

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 PHYSICAL PLANT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
 U.T. AUSTIN
 44059

DATE OF RETURN _____

MEMORANDUM

TO: President William H. Cunningham

FROM: Professor Carl O. Oppenheimer
 ESB 1.04

RE: Bird Problem

I do not want to burden you with another problem and I know that some effort is being made to clean the results of each night of bird droppings. However, my area of 24th St. seems to be getting worse. To understand the effort, one must walk the area as I do at 7 am and in wet weather when the streets and walks are slippery and messy and have a stench that stays with you for several hours. It is getting to a point of danger. Yesterday, on the way to the building, I was hit and my black sweater had a large white spot. It is now 7 a.m. and in 45 minutes, I must walk from the ESB to Geology to teach. The steps on the East end of ESB on 24th St. have not been cleaned for many days. On the walk, I will wade through the bird droppings wet with the morning rain.

What to do? Surely with the talent of the faculty, some solution can be found. Wash the areas with a collective device from 7 to 10 and reduce classes accordingly. The birds leave about 7:15, but the time varies with the weather and sun. Find some repellent chemical such as that used by the cherry farmers. Noise will not help. Buy trained hawks. Genetically produce sterile birds--a job for the new Institute of Molecular Biology. Let the Engineering School have a competition for a street and sidewalk cleaner to remove the material and convert it to fertilizer. Get the Dept. of Physics and Psychology to study bird behavior to find some energy source that will repel the birds. Offer a research fund on a competitive basis with \$50,000 for example, for solutions. Surely somewhere in this great University there is a solution.

6CF
 Please call for me

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| PROVIDE _____ | | COPIES _____ | | |
| RETURN TO ME _____ | | FILE _____ | | |



COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Department of Chemistry • Austin, Texas 78712-1167 • FAX (512) 471-8696

MEMORANDUM
 INT. _____ EXT. _____
 P & T _____ PROJ. _____
 JAN 17 1990
 PERM. _____ PERS. _____
 SPEC. _____ OTHER _____
 PHYSICAL PLANT

TO: Jerry Decamp
 FROM: J. Gilbert
 DATE: 01-09-90
 RE: Grackles

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|------------------------|----------|-------|
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Jerry, the above-mentioned birds have exceeded all bounds of propriety, have overstayed any reasonable limits of hospitality, and *must* be invited to vacate the campus. More particularly, they are no longer welcome to occupy the the live oaks and other trees that line the streets in the vicinity of Welch Hall! They constitute an eyesore, via their "droppings" on streets, sidewalks and vehicles, and their leavings abuse and assault the nostrils. Indeed there exists a potential hazard to humans, due to the spherical seeds these birds excrete or spit out with great abandon. These seeds replace the need for a skateboard when one is attempting to walk east on the south sidewalk of 24th Street; it is a wonder that no one has fallen and broken a leg as a result of them.

Although the previous paragraph contains a certain element of humor, I am absolutely serious about the need to address this problem. I cannot imagine the thoughts that would have passed through a visitor's mind, were he or she to have walked past Welch Hall during the Christmas break. The stench was unbelievable, to put it mildly, and the sidewalks were "knee deep" in leaves that were amply coated with excrement. One of my colleagues noted a characteristic wrinkling of the nose when he was escorting a prospective graduate student from ESB over to Welch Hall. This student was clearly put off by the odor, and who knows whether this will weigh in her decision about coming here for her further education.

What can be done--legally? For starters, I suggest that you explore the possibility of installing speakers in and around the trees. These speakers should sound off at random intervals, and possibly at different pitches. The noise presumably will disrupt their roosting behavior. It will also disturb the human population, but I think not in a major way. I believe that such a "solution" was attempted several years ago in the vicinity of the women's dormitories, but was abandoned because of complaints that the noise disturbed students attempting to study/sleep. I doubt that a comparable problem would exist in the area of an academic building such as Welch Hall.

I am told that a similar effort is being made on the River Walk in San Antonio. Perhaps you might contact the cognizant officials there to ascertain whether or not they have achieved success.

My appreciation in advance for your consideration of this problem. These birds are making our work environment a much less pleasant place to be, and their leavings are repugnant to employees and visitors alike.

Help!

xc: Boyer, Burshnick, Monti, Wilson