

PHYSICAL PLANT
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Department of Technical Services • Architectural and Engineering Services
Service Building Room 311 • Austin, Texas 78712 • (512) 471-3042

INT	EXT
P & T	PROJ
MAR 3 1986	
PERM	FERS
SPEC	OTHER
PHYSICAL PLANT	

February 27, 1986

TO: Files

VIA: John L. Rishling, Manager *JLR*
Architectural and Engineering Services

FROM: James G. Kelley, Architect
Architectural and Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Pest Control (CAM)
W.O. #6-4137, et al

DIR. OF PHYSICAL PLANT U.T. AUSTIN			ACTION	INFO.
TO				
A&E	ADMN	BRC		
CUST	GENL	GRDS		
KEYS	MNTC	P&S		
P&T	SAFTY	STORE		
TRNG	<i>J. DeLauri</i>			
PROVIDE 1 COPIES <i>ww</i>				
RETURN TO ME FILE				

This confirms contact on February 25, 1986, with Bob L. Davis of the Texas Health Department. When asked about potential health hazards from grackle droppings, Mr. Davis stated no concern was necessary unless long-term contact could occur with infected droppings. Mr. Davis indicated only building air intake fouling might be cause for concern.

In addition, David McKelvey was asked on the same date for his response to "high pressure water spray" mentioned in Dan Wattle's letter to Dr. Cunningham (see copy attached). David advised that by spraying roosting grackles from below, cool nights ($40^{\circ} \pm$) would cause grackles to suffer thermoregulation problems. This suffering would be expected to result in grackles seeking other roost sites, in time moving them to more acceptable roost areas. The 1% mortality rate expected from such an approach should be acceptable.

All the above was verbally communicated to Howard D. Wilson on February 25, 1986.

James
James G. Kelley

JGK:vlw

cc: Howard D. Wilson, Associate Director, Physical Plant ✓

April 15, 1987

The following is a list of methods the Grounds Maintenance section has tried, in an effort to move grackles away from the campus area:

1. Pyro technics gun: This was a starter pistol which had an attachment that shot a whistle chaser into the air. Result: The birds moved from one place to another, but returned readily.
2. Avalarm: This piece of equipment had a recording which supposedly sounded like a grackle in distress. This recording was played over a loud speaker, it was a very loud and irritating noise. Result: No effect on the birds at all.
3. Wooden clappers: These were simply two pieces of wood attached with a hinge. The boards were slapped together producing a loud noise. Result: The birds moved from one location to another at first, but they became accustomed to the noise and many of the birds would just stay where they were.
4. Crow gun: This is not actually a gun, but it does make a very loud noise that sounds much like a shot gun. Result: The birds moved from one location to another, but returned readily. This method also scared quite a few people.
5. Rubber snakes: These were blow up snakes about five feet long which were placed in the top of trees. Result: The birds did not move at all.
6. Tree trimming: Severe pruning of trees to remove the smaller branches which the birds roost on. Result: The birds still used the trees, but since there were fewer branches, they also used other trees in the same area.

The following is a list of methods tried by others none of which have had satisfactory results:

1. Chemical spraying: Expensive with limited success.
2. Water and soap spraying: Must have freezing temperatures, this also kills the birds, which is not acceptable.
3. Ultra sonic sound: This has been used successfully inside buildings, but exterior use is not effective.
4. Netting placed over trees: Successful for limited use.



DIVISION OF PHYSICAL PLANT
 THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Director of Physical Plant • P. O. Drawer 7580 • Austin, Texas 78713-7580 • (512) 471-4110

October 20, 1987

To: Dr. Jean-Pierre Cauvin, Chairman
 Department of French and Italian

Subject: YOUR LETTER OF OCTOBER 19, REGARDING GRACKLES

Thank you for taking the time to write. We have had a control program in the planning stages for a number of months. It involves a very careful and well planned thinning of the trees followed by regular spraying of the birds from below with water.

The combination of reduced shelter, or cover, and cold water has, in other parts of the country, caused the grackles enough discomfort that they moved on to other areas. That is our intention here, to cause them to leave the campus. This will be an ongoing program that will be implemented over a period of several years and then maintained on a regular basis. Until then we must ask for your patience.

As with most animal control programs, there are no quick and easy solutions. A successful control program requires determination, perseverance, and adequate financial and physical resources to continue as long as is necessary to gain control of the situation. This we intend to do.

The thinning of the trees will be done professionally. It can only be done during the cold weather months to avoid damage to the trees. We will begin the first phase of the work in late November or early December. We will do one area of the campus at a time. The thinning of the trees, when done correctly, has the additional advantage of allowing more sunlight to reach the ground which improves the quality of the ground cover and smaller plants and shrubs.

In the meantime we have an active program to flush the droppings from the walks and grounds. Mr. Harrison will be inspecting your area this week and will take whatever action is necessary to remove as much of the material as possible.

Jerry V. DeCamp, Director

JVD:ww

xc: Mr. G. Charles Franklin
 Dean Robert D. King
 Mr. Jerry Harrison ←
 Mr. Howard Wilson

PHYSICAL PLANT		
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE		
RECEIVED		
OCT 20 1987		
TO	JH	_____
	JB	_____



DIVISION OF PHYSICAL PLANT
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Grounds Maintenance

P. O. Box 7776, Univ. Station • Austin, Texas 78713-7776 • (512) 471-6888

March 11, 1988

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Jerry V. DeCamp

From: John A. Burns

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John A. Burns".

Subject: COST OF CLEANING UP AFTER GRACKLES

In response to your request of a cost figure for the grackle problem, I have estimated that we will spend \$49,852.00 this year. The cost break down is as follows:

Sidewalk clean-up	1700 man hours	\$ 9,350.00
Phase I Pruning	Actual cost	\$10,502.00
Phase II Pruning	Estimated cost	\$30,000.00

If you have any further questions don't hesitate to call.

JAB/bs



DIVISION OF PHYSICAL PLANT
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

[FERBA]

Director of Physical Plant • P. O. Drawer 7580 • Austin, Texas 78713-7580 • (512) 471-4110

February 23, 1989

[*]

Dear [*]

Please believe us when we say that we are just as disgusted with the grackle droppings as you are.

We are enclosing copies of several documents listing the various efforts we have taken to drive them from campus. As you so graphically noted, we have had little success.

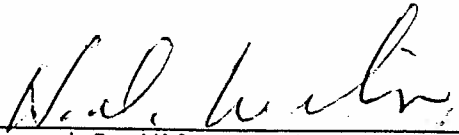
The City of Austin is a game preserve. This prohibits our doing the grackles any great bodily harm. Certain species of grackles are migratory. This brings them under federal protection.

We will investigate the use of a biodegradable cleaning agent. We are open to any and all suggestions.

Our people do make contacts with our counterparts at other colleges and universities. To date, the response has been unanimous, "we sympathize with you in that we have the exact same problem".

Thanks for your comment on the condition of the campus, save the birds.

Sincerely,


Howard D. Wilson, Director

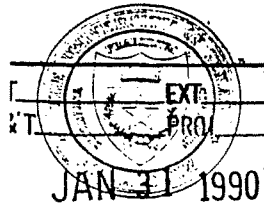
HDW:ap
Enclosure

xc: Mr. Jerry Harrison



PHYSICAL PLANT		
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE		
RECEIVED		
FEB 24 1989		
TO	JH	_____
	JB	_____

"This document contains personally identifiable information from a student's education records. It is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. § 123.2g) and may not be released without the consent of the student."



DIVISION OF PHYSICAL PLANT

APPROVED
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
University of Texas at Austin

Director of Physical Plant P. O. Drawer 7580

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR BUSINESS AFFAIRS
U. T. AUSTIN
REFER TO Howard Wilson

REC'D JAN 30 90

HANDLE TELEPHONE 787-1376 COMMENTS & RETURN 787-4110

OTHER: _____

John

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS
Reed

JAN 25 90

REFER TO _____
FOR INFO _____ FILE _____

Riv. _____ PERS _____
EC. _____ OTHER _____
PHYSICAL PLANT _____
Sharon H. Justice
Sharon H. Justice
Dean of Students

January 25, 1990

DIR. OF PHYSICAL PLANT U.T. AUSTIN			A	C	I
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A&E	ADMIN	GRG			
CUST	GEN				
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JRNG					
WILSON _____			INSHLING _____		
PROVIDE _____			COPIES _____		
RETURN TO ME _____			FILE _____		

To: Dr. Sharon H. Justice, Dean of Students

Via: Mr. Jerry DeCamp *JDC - Program has been reviewed with & approved by Mr. Frank*

From: H. D. Wilson, Director of Physical Plant *H. D. Wilson*

Subject: REQUEST TO PURCHASE SHOTGUNS

In accordance with University Policy, we write to request authorization to purchase fifteen 12 gauge shotguns. *(copy enclosed) JDC*

The proposed usage of the shotguns is to rid the campus of grackles and other related species of birds. The shotguns would be equal to New England 12 gauge Model SB1-28" modified choke barrel. When not in use they would be secured in a locked storage container. The container would be housed in the University Police Building.

The proposed program is for 15 individuals to fire "cracker shells" for approximately one hour on each of the ten consecutive days. The firing would commence at dusk (about 6:15 p.m.), and continue for about one hour. Each person will be in a specific zone. The shooting will start in the center of the campus. By use of two-way radios, it will gradually expand to the boundaries of the Main Campus. Each person involved will receive prior training from both the University Police Department and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. During the operations each person will wear an orange fluorescent vest for identification.

Cracker shells are a non-lethal device, either to humans or the birds. An initial charge propels the device to a spot vertically above the trees. As it detonates, it disperses a conical shower of spiraling whistles. These are very similar to any number of commercial fireworks. The birds do not tolerate noise and thus will find more peaceful roosts off campus.

The program has been reviewed and approved by the Executive Officers Committee. A campus-wide announcement will be distributed in the near future.

We have experimented for the past two weeks with a crow gun. This device uses a propane charge to develop a report similar to a shotgun. This experiment has been monitored by the University Police Department. The success achieved leads us to the expanded program. Shotguns have been selected on a cost basis. The quoted unit cost is \$80 each versus \$450 each for the crow guns.

If successful, the program will be repeated on an annual basis. Future programs will be in the fall to discourage roostings as the birds migrate back to the south. It will also be repeated as other conditions might warrant.

The current program is scheduled to start February 5, 1990.

HDW:ap

PHYSICAL PLANT
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE
RECEIVED

JH
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JAN 30 90

Sharon H. Justice
Sharon H. Justice
Dean of Students

LOCAL FUNDS
STATE FUNDS

Austin, Texas 78722

All papers and packages

PURCHASE REQUISITION/ORDER

UT-0-18661-RL

February 1, 1990

February 1, 1990

REQUISITION DATE

ORDER DATE

1-840-52-9544-7-000

U. T. CENTRAL RECEIVING

Vendor ID No.

SHIP PREPAID TO:

Stoneco, Inc.

2200 COMAL STREET

2878
35

Vendor

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78722

PO Box 765

U. T. CENTRAL VOUCHERING

Address

Trinidad CO 81082

SEND INVOICE TO:

2200 COMAL STREET

City State Zip

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78722

T. Tele. Quote 2-1-90

Vendor Ref. Phil Stonebraker (JS)

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	QTY.	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	EXTENSIC
1.	Cracker shells, 12 GA, 100 CT case For Grackle control & relocation.	48	CS	53.80	2582.40
<p>2-1/15:15. Confirmed to Donna Brown J. Dees.</p> <p>Changed Back TO W.O. 1-0-04975 2/26/90</p>					
js					

TERMS	Net	F.O.B.	Destination	DELIVERY	10 days	TOTAL	2582.4
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Req. No.	Est. Total	Date Reqd.	Amount	Acct. Title	Acct. No.
102878			2582.40	Grounds Maintenance M&E	14-8660-1050

Deliver To: DI-35 WO#0-203

Name John U.T. Anderegg Dept. Central Stores

Bldg. pp3 Room 1.208 Phone 1-1221

Mail Departmental Copies To:

Name L. H. Roark Dept. Central Stores

Bldg. pp3 Room 1.214 Phone 1-4895

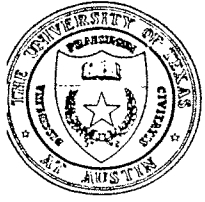
Suggested Source:
Local funds approved by Bobby Co
NOT IDENTIFIABLE ON STATE CONTRA

Advance Purchasing Approval By:

- I certify that the firms listed on the attached tabulation sheet have been contacted for bids, and replies are exactly as stated:
- Reason for award Low bid after freight evaluation SMALL BUSINESS, NON MINORITY OWNED.
- If this is an emergency purchase answer questions a and b below. If in excess of \$700 attach written bids.
 - Why emergency exists.
 - Why requirements not anticipated

The University of Texas at Austin is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

The University of Texas at Austin Purchasing Office



DIVISION OF PHYSICAL PLANT
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Director of Physical Plant • P. O. Drawer 7580 • Austin, Texas 78713-7580 • (512) 471-4110

January 19, 1990

To: Mr. Jerry DeCamp

From: H. D. Wilson

Subject: GRACKLE CONTROL

Attached is a memo from Jerry Harrison recommending a strategy to rid the campus of grackles. The recommendation is based on our success so far this week with a crow gun. One person has been working Speedway, between Gregory and 24th Street and on 24th Street, west of Speedway. This area is almost bird free.

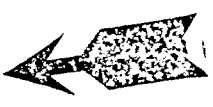
The recommendation is to mount an army of 15 people each patrolling a specified zone (the zones are indicated on an attached map). They would work in concert with one another to drive the birds beyond the campus boundaries. The new method would employ shotguns and "cracker shells." This approach has been discussed with Don Cannon who can provide three shotguns.

We will still proceed to visit people in San Antonio, Jerry Harrison is working on the setting of an appointment. We are also proceeding to install twirling strobe lights. These should be received at Stores on Tuesday.

Jerry will also have the Grounds staff clean benches, trash container lids and bollards. Much of the current odor is coming from droppings on the grass, ground cover and from leaves on the trees. The recent rains should reduce this problem by some small degree.

HDW:ap
Attachment

xc: Mr. Jerry Harrison



PHYSICAL PLANT		
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE		
RECEIVED		
JAN 22 1990		
TO	JH	LS
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PHYSICAL PLANT
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Grounds Maintenance

P. O. Box 7776, Univ. Station · Austin, Texas 78713-7776 · (512) 471-6888

January 24, 1990

MEMORANDUM

TO: Howard Wilson
FROM: Jerry Harrison *Jerry*
SUBJECT: GRACKLES

On January 15, 1990, we began a trial program to attempt to move the Grackles from the area of 24th and Speedway. We did this with the use of a crow gun (A small cannon like device which produces a loud bang by igniting a small amount of propane gas). This has been very successful to this point with the primary limitation being the small area which we can cover.

Hopefully, beginning on or about February 5, 1990, we will expand our efforts to include about 90% of the campus. Along with the crow gun we will use 15 people with single shot shotguns firing "Cracker Shells". These shells will not harm the birds but will disturb them in their attempts to settle into a roost, which will in turn encourage them to leave the campus and seek a roost somewhere else.

The individuals who will be handling the guns will receive training from UTPD and Texas Parks & Wildlife on the use of the guns and the special shells.

Individuals working in this program will be wearing fluorescent orange vests for easy identification.

DRAFT

THOMAS HARRISON
XC: *John Burns*

January 25, 1990

To: Deans, Directors, Departmental Chairmen,
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 noise maker in an effort to relocate the birds. Results in moving the birds in the area of 24th Street and Speedway have been very encouraging.

Therefore, the program is being expanded to the entire campus. It will consist of fifteen (15) people, each assigned to a specific area, firing "cracker shells" from a shot gun at five minute intervals. The shooting will start at dusk, about 6:15 p.m. and continue for approximately one hour. The program is scheduled to start on February 5, 1990 and will continue for 10 days.

The "cracker shells" will not harm the birds. They will explode above the tree with a shower of spiralling whistles. The intent is to disturb the roosting of the birds 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 wearing orange fluorescent vests for easy identification.

GRACKLE CONTROL

On Tuesday, February 13th, we began our latest campaign to remove the grackles from campus. To accomplish this we divided the campus into 15 areas with one person in each area, armed with a twelve gauge shotgun and ten 'cracker shells'. The plan was to fire above the trees as the grackles began to search for roosts. At approximately 6:30 p.m., we began firing and continued until approximately 7:10 p.m. During this time we fired 185 shells.

On Wednesday, February 14th, we continued along the same lines, firing 151 shells. We noticed that the grackles were very nervous and the numbers were reduced some from the previous night.

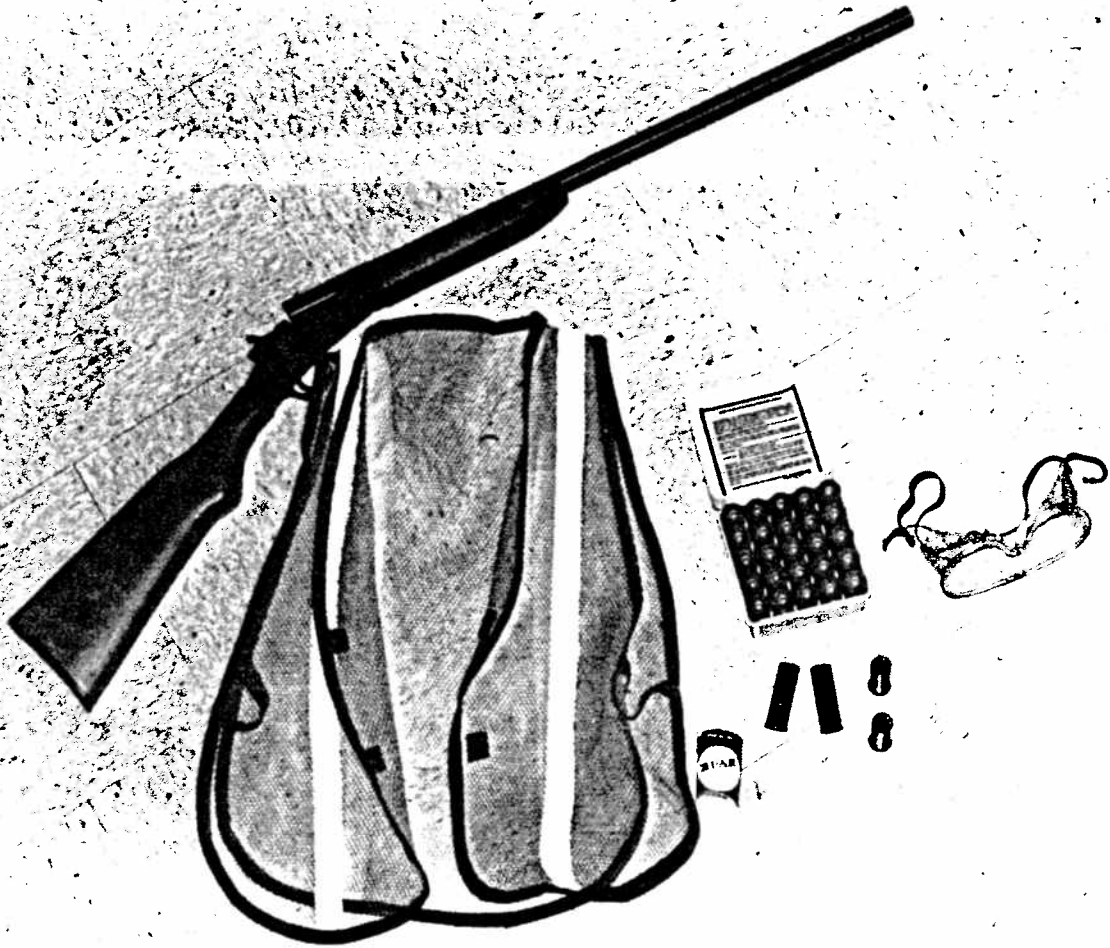
On Thursday, February 15th, we fired 88 shells, mostly in the perimeter areas, with very few birds landing in the interior of campus.

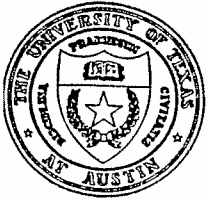
On Friday, February 16th, we varied our plan slightly, firing at the flocks as they were flying. Doing this we fired 138 shells, very few birds attempted to land. We also fired 37 shells in the area around the Governor's Mansion at their request.

On Saturday, February 17th, we only fired 20 shells on campus and seven at the Governor's Mansion. There were very few birds on campus, most were flying very high, with no apparent intention of landing.

On Sunday, February 18th, we only fired four shells and saw very few birds on or near the campus. We did some checking and found large numbers of birds along Town Lake.

On Monday, February 19th, we cut our patrol to five people and only two shots were fired. Therefore, we are suspending our nightly patrols and will make periodic checks to determine if more action is necessary at some future date.





DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Austin, Texas 78712-1098 • (512) 471-5116

INT _____	EXT _____
P & T _____	PROJ _____
MAR 22 1990	
PERM _____	PERS _____
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PHYSICAL PLANT	

22 March 1990

Mr. Howard D. Wilson, Director
Physical Plant
PPI 1.102

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Many, many thanks to all those involved in ridding the UT campus of those pesky grackles. For the first time in months we can see mockingbirds, sparrows, cedar waxwings, and other birds that had previously been driven off by the grackles. It's also once again possible to walk down the sidewalk at 24th and Speedway without holding our breath.

Please, keep up the good work.

Best regards,

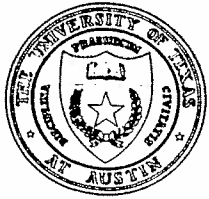
Beverly Beaty-Benadom

Beverly Beaty-Benadom
Administrative Associate

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G. BACKUS

PHYSICAL PLANT GROUNDS MAINTENANCE RECEIVED		
MAR 27 1990		
TO	JH	<i>App Filed</i>
	JAV	
	All Supv	



COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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

INT _____ EXT _____
P & T _____ PROJ _____
APR 3 1990
PERM _____ PERS _____
SPEC _____ OTHER _____
PHYSICAL PLANT

April 2, 1990

TO: Howard Wilson

FROM: Jack Gilbert

RE: Grackles

DIR. OF PHYSICAL PLANT U.T. AUSTIN			ACT.	INFO.
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TRNG				
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PROVIDE _____			COPIES _____	
RETURN TO ME _____			FILE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Although I have already offered my congratulations to you and your staff for your triumph over the grackle population, I now offer a "formal" written commendation for your victory in this war. My faculty, staff, and students are much "happier campers" since they can venture out of Welch Hall without taking their lives in their hands and it's a delight to be able to take a deep breath of fresh air, particularly after a rain storm. *GILBERT*

As I am sure you are aware, grackles are a persistent beast and I trust that your staff will keep their trigger fingers "itchy."

jgm
XC: Jerry DeCamp
Bob Sanders

PHYSICAL PLANT
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE
RECEIVED
APR 3 1990
TO UN
JB
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DIVISION OF PHYSICAL PLANT
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Director of Physical Plant • P. O. Drawer 7580 • Austin, Texas 78713-7580 • (512) 471-4110

May 11, 1990

To: Mr. Jerry DeCamp

From: H. D. Wilson

Subject: GRACKLE WARS
W.O.#0-4975

Grounds Maintenance accrued charges in the amount of \$8,019.42 in their successful armed assault on the terrible grackle hordes. They now respectfully request consideration for reparations from the seemingly grateful campus community.

A detailed breakdown is attached.

HDW:ap
Attachment

xc: Mr. Jerry Harrison

PHYSICAL PLANT GROUNDS MAINTENANCE RECEIVED MAY 11 1990		
TO	JH	_____
	JB	_____

MEMO

J. HARRIS

Date: August 27, 1990

To: Jerry DeCamp

HOWARD
WILSON

From: Joe A. Powell



Hep! Your grackles are back on the campus. I was greeted by hundreds of them flying around this a.m. I guess they are on the same time schedule as the students.

Thought you might like to alert Physical Plant *Rambos*, that is, if they did not know.

| |

PHYSICAL PLANT
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

RECEIVED

AUG 29 1990

TO

JH
JB



DIVISION OF PHYSICAL PLANT
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Director of Physical Plant • P. O. Drawer 7580 • Austin, Texas 78713-7580 • (512) 471-4110

October 19, 1990

To: Mr. G. Charles Franklin

From: H. D. Wilson

Subject: GRACKLE CONTROL

Our Grounds Maintenance staff has been monitoring the grackle population on Main Campus. They conducted a firing on September 19 and 20. A second firing is now scheduled for Monday, October 22 and Tuesday, October 23. Additional firings will be Wednesday and Thursday, if required.

In both cases, the concentration of birds is in the vicinity of 24th Street and Speedway. It extends south on Speedway to the East Mall.

HDW:ap

xc: Mr. Jerry DeCamp
Mr. Jerry Harrison

PHYSICAL PLANT		
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE		
R E C E I V E D		
OCT 19 1990		
TO	JH	_____
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