



Although some people enjoy feeding campus squirrels, science teacher Ken Schindeldecker warns they may bite.

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Nobody counts

By Stephanie Holland
Emerald Contributor

If you want to know how many squirrels are living at the University you'll have to count them yourself.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife doesn't know their population, and neither the University biology department nor the physical plant is in charge of caring for them.

According to Jina LaMear, biology department curriculum secretary, there is no one in the department who specializes in squirrels.

"Our regular faculty deal mostly at the cellular and molecular level. There aren't many who deal with the whole animal," she said.

Tim King, University landscape maintenance superintendent, said physical plant maintenance workers are not responsible for counting, feeding, protecting or controlling the population of furry rodents.

However, if a squirrel causes a problem or is in need of care, the physical plant provides assistance.

"If we find one that's dead we dispose of it. If we find one that's

area director, said he has not had any problems with squirrels trespassing in dormitory rooms, although sometimes he sees them on building ledges.

So, if the University doesn't watch out for the small, black-eyed creatures, who does?

Several employees at the Susan Campbell building have strong attachments to the squirrels. Wilma Foster and Pat Wignes, both secretaries for the State Board of Higher Education, have been feeding their squirrels for about five years.

"First we started feeding the little brown ones and then the little gray ones came. We have several flocks of little birds, too," Wignes said.

"We go to the store periodically to stock up on black seeds," she said.

Bob Halvorsen, computer acquisition services director, used to hand-feed his pet squirrel, Bucky, until it was attacked and killed by an unleashed dog a few years ago.

Halvorsen was furious that the dog's owner allowed his pet to run free and wrote a letter to the Emerald "admonishing students who bring dogs on campus who aren't

'First we started feeding the little brown ones and then the little gray ones came.'

—Pat Wignes

sick we usually try to get it to someone in biology. If one gets into a building we have a live trap to capture and release it," King said.

But problems with squirrels are not common, King said. "I've been here five years and never had any problem with a squirrel."

Larry Spencer, Walton complex

on leashes."

"They (dogs) don't have any business here," he said.

Bucky visited Halvorsen's third floor office regularly. "If I had my window closed he'd bang on it 'til I opened it and fed him," Halvorsen said.

Sheila Johns, administrative assistant for the Office of Institution-



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