

Mice: Residents can request new room assignments

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"I don't think what they're doing is effective," she said. Ruppert did not offer any concrete alternatives.

Larimer estimated that 100 mice have been caught in the past three weeks. This includes two mice caught Wednesday night.

"I think our population of mice has really fallen," he said.

Fewer mice caught does not necessarily mean a smaller mouse population, Ruppert said. Some residents have complained about fleas in their rooms, she said, attributing that to the presence of mice.

"You can hear them in the walls," she said. "Mice are not clean. I think it's really unhealthy to have them here."

Ruppert added that she did not sleep in her room last week because she finds the thought of mice in her room repulsive. She said many residents have not slept in their rooms either.

Larimer said he does not know how many mice are left in Carson, but he believes the population is down to the same small number of mice that usually reside in the building.

Swanson's has placed traps under couches and in places residents will not have to worry about stepping on during the day, Larimer said. Housing wrote one letter to students last week urging them not to leave food on the floor and will soon send another.

Residents should report any mouse sightings to their resident assistants, housing director Mike

Eyster said.

"Students may assume that the pest control folks will be able to find the mice, but in reality they can't without help," he said.

Housing aggressively attacked the problem over winter break, Larimer said.

"We've been working very judiciously here," he said, "because we think a lot of our customers."

He said the majority of mice were found in the building's cafeteria, but none have been sighted in the cafeteria since classes began.

But Ruppert said fewer residents are eating there.

"I started to notice them when they started to dig that hole across the street," said Carson dining manager Cindy Lund.

"Fortunately, in the dining hall we got on it right away."

Dining employees have been instructed to sanitize the tables at the start of every day and report any mouse droppings they see, Lund said. She added that employees have not seen droppings since classes began this term.

The dining hall is also being more careful with their food, Lund said. It has instituted better package and storage protection with plastic tubs for food like rice.

Carson residents have the option of permanent or temporary room reassignment, said Kelly Matchett-Morris, residence life associate director. So far, he has not reassigned anybody. Residents who are interested in reassignment should talk with a resident assistant.

Rodent problem

If you suspect you have mice in your room, contact:

- The area desk
- The resident assistant on duty
- Resident Halls Facilities at 342-0724

- Do not remove mice yourself. If you need someone to pick up a trap, call Resident Halls Facilities or the floor care team at the same number.

- Do not leave food out that could attract mice, including drinks with sugar. Also, don't leave anything that a mouse could use for a nest.

- Catching and releasing mice invites mice to return.

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