Pigeons saved; administration has no designs on local feathered flock

By STEPHEN FOX
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Contrary to perennial rumors, the Rice University administration has not been killing pigeons.

According to James Burling, Director of Buildings and Grounds, the University has listened to proposals for riddance of the pigeons but has never acted on any of them.

As one source pointed out, however, extermination proposals have consistently received severe opposition from the SPCA.

For years the pigeons have annoyed victims who happened to live near their roosts. Every morning the raucous cooing, scratching, pecking, and wing flapping traditionally accompanies a six o'clock breakfast.

Among other things, pigeons are messy. Their droppings and eggs create some discomfort to the unprotected pedestrian. They have a unique way of clogging storm drains so as to create additional worries during rainy weather.

The insects they bring in are often so thick that, as one upperclassman remarked, "They give a sure sign of the proper time to change bed linens." And the woodwork around their domicile seldom remains unaffected by termites.

It now appears that some form of riddance is necessary. Extermination appears to be the best answer. The big question really is: should the pigeons be exterminated or should they be left alone and the roaches exterminated? Which will it be, big birds or big bugs.