

1. **Question:** I work in the Criss II building and generally enter the building through the back door by the loading dock. Every year some birds build nests by the door. I think they are swallows. This year is worse than ever. There are a number of nests containing babies. The birds will swoop at you when entering the building. Which is a bit disconcerting. Also there is bird poop all over the ground, door handle, etc. Third the birds have built their nests on two of the sprinkler heads. I know people have strong feelings for the birds, but at this point they may be becoming a bit of a safety concern.

Answer: *We have a few known locations on campus where swallows nest: the Criss II loading dock, the west entrance to Criss I, and the east and north sides of the Eppley Building/University College. Our options for dealing with their presence and subsequent mess are limited due to their protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. We were advised by our campus pest control contractor that we are unable to disturb the birds in any way when they are actively nesting, but may remove empty nests after November 1st. As such, the Landscape Maintenance department regularly pressure washes these areas throughout the season to remove bird droppings and other debris from surfaces beneath the nests. We have recently contracted the installation of exclusionary materials to control nesting pigeons around the BIC and Boyne areas. In the fall, we will work with our contractor to determine what exclusionary options there may be for preventing the swallows from nesting in the same locations next year. The caveat, of course, is that the birds will likely look for another nesting location nearby, and the likelihood of having the same problem, just in a new location, is high. Jessica Heller, Landscape Supervisor*

2. **Question:** Since the closure of Billy's there is not a restaurant on campus. I would like to recommend that the Faculty Commons be renamed The Commons or back to Erma's to include faculty and staff. I feel that it is extremely discriminatory and not at all One Creighton like to exclude staff. This would also boost attendance and allow for a nicer place to take visitors, candidates, etc. I would suggest not allowing students though unless escorted by faculty/staff.

Answer: *The Faculty Commons was created as a specific collaboration space to enhance interdisciplinary and other academic program opportunities. The effectiveness of the concept is still being assessed, so no changes in the usage of the space are contemplated for academic year 2015-16. A number of other campus dining options continue to be available, including the Java Jay (McGloin Hall) east of 24th Street and a new Starbucks in the Skutt Student Center this fall. Dan Burkey, Senior Vice President for Operations*

3. **Question:** While I love the spirit of the "Flame" and its quote, I question the wastefulness of the natural gas used to have this going 24/7. This was ironically unveiled at the culmination of Earth Week. Additionally, in light of the Pope's beautiful Encyclical, in which he urges all people to be conscious of our wasteful habits, couldn't we instead have a solar or wind powered flame, maybe engineered by our Energy Tech students? This would be something we could be proud, not a waste of our resources.

Answer: Next month

4. **Question:** The sprinkler system around the Boyne building has been coming on the last week or so. Is there a way to set them to run when people aren't coming and going from the building during the day? The way they are set, they spray all over the sidewalk, and at times, there is no way to get around them spraying. It would be better to run them very early in the morning, before anyone gets there, or later in eve when everyone is gone. Plus it's better for the grass during those times.

Answer: *The sprinkler system at Boyne was running on two start times for the last week or so. We occasionally do this to improve turf health when the turf is stressed due to heat or drought. The system was running once during its usual watering window, between 10pm and 7am, and a second time starting at noon. At this point the system has returned to its usual schedule and will only water during the overnight watering window. As a general rule, all campus irrigation systems are scheduled to run between the hours of 10pm and 7am, mainly to minimize water loss and disruption to campus activities. There are times when we have to run certain areas outside of this window. For example, if we are establishing sod in an area, we will run the system two to three times a day for as long as two weeks, depending on how quickly the sod establishes. During the heat of mid- to late-summer you may also see irrigation running when you arrive to campus in the morning that you don't usually see. This is due to the longer run times that are required to maintain turf health during high temperatures. In some areas this can stretch the watering window past the usual 7am end time. Healthy plants and responsible water use are goals of the Landscape management department. Please report any problems you see to the Facilities Management front desk at 402-280-2780 and we will investigate the issue. Jessica Heller, Landscape Supervisor*

5. **Questions:** Each year full-time staff and faculty are asked to pay increasing amounts for parking permits. Are the funds collected from faculty, staff (and students) the entire budget for the public safety department or do they receive a budget supplemental to these funds?

5a. Why does the cost of employee parking have to increase so much each year? There have been no improvements made, or additional spaces added, and Public Safety all but refuses to patrol and ticket vehicles that are improperly parked. Each year, those who want the safety and or convenience of parking in a lot have to pay more and more for doing so. It seems as if we are being gouged by our employer.

Answer: *Faculty/Staff permits have increased from \$328 per year in FY10/11 to \$367 in FY15/16, representing an average annual increase of \$7.80 or 2.4%. The University will continue to evaluate parking permit rates during the annual budgeting process with the objective of keeping any rate increase to a minimum amount. The parking permit fees are not designed to cover Public Safety's operating costs. The fees are only recorded in that department budget because they manage the permit process. The parking permit fees are designed to supplement the general budget to fund the maintenance, repairs, snow removal, utility and other expenses related campus parking lots and garages. Further, recent capital projects involving asphalt and concrete repairs along with the resurfacing of the 24th St. parking garage top deck are examples of projects that require additional University funding through deferred*

maintenance allocations, which are only possible when operating revenues exceed expenditures, producing resources to reinvest in programs and facilities. John Wilhelm, Vice President for Administration and Dan Burkey, Senior Vice President for Operations

6. **Question:** I thought there was supposed to be a crucifix on the wall of every classroom on Creighton campus, but several of the classrooms in Creighton Hall, the 3rd floor classrooms, do not have one.

Answer: *The University attempts to supply a crucifix to every classroom. Occasionally, following renovation or construction activity crucifixes may be misplaced or missing. This appears to be the case for the 3rd floor classrooms in Creighton Hall. Facilities Management has been contacted to install crucifixes in these classrooms over the next several weeks. Thank you for bringing attention to this situation. John Wilhelm, Vice President for Administration*

7. **Question:** Why are employees allowed to "work from home"? Are we not employed by Creighton to fulfill a job here at Creighton. Seems there are people who use this "work at home" when it is convenient to take care of children / grandchildren. People can easily abuse this and how is their time accounted for when they are "working from home"?

Answer: *Working from home or telecommuting is becoming a more common practice in organizations. By allowing employees the ability to work remotely, even for a limited amount of hours per week, can enhance work life balance. This is a national trend that can benefit organizations by decreased facility costs, increased flexibility of employee hours and schedules, and increased employee morale. At Creighton, a work from home arrangement supports our caring culture with work life balance. This arrangement is not plausible for all positions due to operational demands of the University knowing that our service to students and the Creighton community is a priority. For those individuals working from home, that arrangement has been approved by the supervisor and performance expectations have been outlined to ensure quality service to customers. Managers and employees in a telecommuting environment are encouraged to keep the lines of communication open and to modify the arrangement as needed. While working from home is not a practice fully matured at Creighton, we continue to seek workplace practices that support the needs of our diverse workforce and the University's constituents. Jeff Branstetter, Associate Vice President Human Resources*