

You think you know, but you have no idea: AN ELON SQUIRREL BITES BACK

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Reporter

This is the diary of an Elon Phoenix Squirrel.

Here's how it really went down.

It was a brisk, sunny Elon day when I first reached campus. I had only recently been laid off from my job with the traveling squirrel circus, and I knew I needed to find work quick.

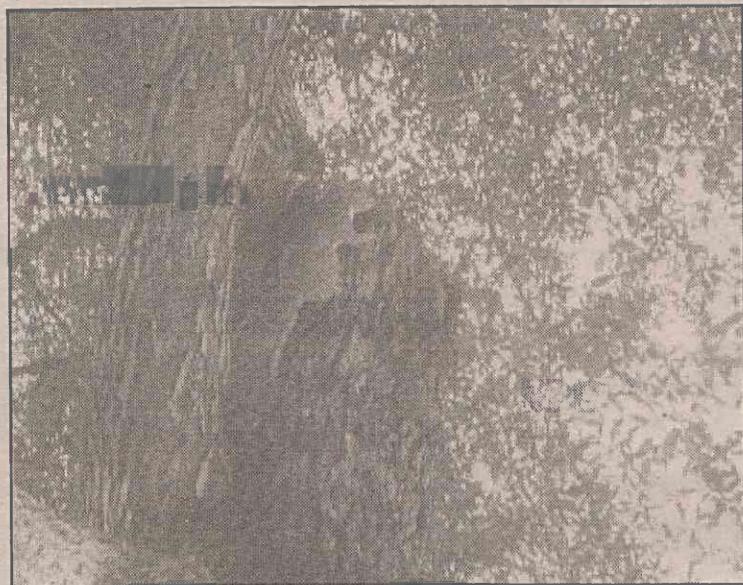
I had seen numerous Aramark advertisements on my tree travels around Burlington, and I decided to apply for a temporary job in the food service industry.

The interview did not go well. I was forced to answer various questions about my work experience as a traveling circus squirrel and was faced with a series of questions that required quick responses to situation concening food service.

The interview was overwhelmingly biased, as I was judged by my lack of experience with the food groups, excluding nuts. Needless to say, I was sent home jobless, discouraged and slightly hostile.

And so my campaign began. If Aramark employees didn't want me on their team, then I would spend the remainder of my natural squirrel life wrecking havoc on Aramark and the rest of the Elon campus.

This is a story of redemption, an ongoing battle to establish squirrels across college campuses worldwide as forces to be reckoned.



Annette Randall/Photo Editor

An Elon squirrel shares his view while hanging out in a nearby tree.

8 a.m.

I assumed my post in the branches high above the walkway extended in between Harden Dining Hall and Story Center. Only here could I prey on the students running late for their early-morning classes. Sometimes I like to scare them by jumping out of the trees and landing directly in front of them. This usually evokes fear in the pedestrians and extreme apprehension.

10:37 a.m.

It's still early in the day and I've already witnessed 12 students' near-death experiences with the Physical Plant golf carts.

Just to freak people out, I did six laps around the traffic circles. It made me dizzy, but it was worth it to see people's response.

12:04 p.m.

I had a disagreement with some of the wildlife near Harden Dining Hall. The Lake Mary Nell ducks and I haven't been getting along for quite some time now. It's not just me, though; several of my furry friends have been having issues with them as well. They're obviously jealous of our presence on campus. Things were different for them before we came; I guess they just can't handle it.

Regardless, I won the battle.

The campus may be able to drive the ducks and geese away during campus tours, but not me. I'm in it for the long haul.

3:57 p.m.

Things have been pretty slow this afternoon. I saw three people take nasty falls after tripping over the loose bricks in the walkway connecting Moseley to the western portion of campus. Just for kicks, I ran circles around them until they got up and ran away.

5:43 p.m.

A group of ornery guys from Chandler tried to lure me into a trash can today. It seems they were attempting to capture me and sell me back to the circus. I showed them. Let's just say they'll be spending a lot of time in the health center from now on. Rabies will do that to a person.

9:15 p.m.

Things are dying down on campus. It's time for me to rest up for tomorrow's day of terrorizing. I bit the ankles of almost all of the Aramark employees before they left for the evening. It may not be the most ideal form of revenge, but it suits me just fine. Paybacks are hell.

Squirrely Quotations

"Squirrels for nuts contend, and, wrong or right, For the world's empire kings ambitious fight.

What odds?--to us 'tis all the self-same thing,

A nut, a world, a squirrel, and a king."

-Charles Churchill

"Presents upon a tree equally plausibly, but (nut) Meat within, is requisite to squirrels, and to me."

-Emily Dickinson

"Him dat giv' de squir'ls de bushtails made de bobtails fu' de rabbits"

-Paul Dunbar

"If we had a keen vision of all that is ordinary in human life, it would be like hearing the grass grow or the squirrel's heart beat, and we should die of that roar which is the other side of silence."

-George Eliot

"The mountain and the squirrel had a quarrel."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

"The wildness of squirrels is an awesome wildness."

-Douglas Fairbairn

"You can't keep a squirrel on the ground."

-Mary Lasswell

"You can't find a striped squirrel in every hollow fence pole."

-Nash

"Policemen, like red squirrels, must be protected."

-Joe Orton

"Her chariot is an empty hazelnut, made by the joiner squirrel or old grub."

-William Shakespeare

"Some of you hide food around the house like a squirrel storing up nuts for the winter"

-Richard Simmons

"Like a small grey coffee pot sits the squirrel."

-Anonymous

<http://www.angelfire.com/fl/scalisti/sm.html>



Those furry things that run around campus . . .

squir ♦ rel- n. Any arboreal of the largest families Sciuridae, of rodents. Sciurus genus, referring to tree squirrels, which are found in most forested parts of the world. They have a long flexible busy tail and short muzzles. They are diurnal, feeding on seeds, nuts and leaf buds, with some insect or other animal food. A number of temperate species, while not true hibernants, store food for the winter and enter deep torpor.

squir ♦ rel ♦ ly- adj. Slang. 1. Eccentric. 2. Cunningly unforthcoming or reticent.

The American Heritage College Dictionary
The New American Desk Encyclopedia



Annette Randall/Photo Editor

While squirrels make themselves right at home on campus, they still remain skiddish, seeking shelter among the trees.