

BYE BYE BIRDIE

In the 25 years that Adolph Torres has worked at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), the campus sanitarian has witnessed dramatic growth in campus size, student population -- and the pigeon problem.

"Ever since I started working here in 1965, I noticed pigeons hanging around the cafeteria area at the Center for Health Sciences. As our dining facilities have expanded, so has the pigeon population," Torres said. "It seems that wherever there's food, there's pigeons."

"The pigeons are pests not only to because they roam around while you eat but because they're a source of bacterial contamination and viral disease. They are a public health hazard," he said.

With the pigeon population approximately 1,000, Torres knew something had to be done.

A pigeon control company was contracted to trap the birds. But since the problem area was the cafeteria, a place where trapping was restricted, another solution had to be found.

Torres happened upon a newspaper article describing how another location solved a similar problem.

"I visited the company and saw Terror Eyes, Bird-X, Inc., Chicago, Ill., which looks like a big yellow beach ball, 2 ft. in dia., containing 2 sets of eyes that appear to move," said Torres.

Holographic lenses set inside the eyes of the balloon resemble those of an owl, a natural predator of the pigeon. The effect

frightens pigeons away.

Terror Eyes was installed in the busy courtyard cafeteria at UCLA. Torres said that now when the birds fly over the cafeteria building, they avoid the Terror Eyes. He intends to purchase additional units for the area.

"I think we've found an effective solution to our problem here," Torres said.

CIRCLE 275 ON READER CARD



■ **Yellow ball with holographic, owl-like eyes scares pigeons from university's outdoor cafeteria .**