



## **Winter in the Dorms: Squirrels Invade**

*As temperatures drop outside, the wildlife finds their way inside.*

By Emery Carangio

At the University of New England, the winter months are accompanied by freezing temperatures and multiple feet of snow. While students living on campus may have to walk to class in this harsh weather, the dorms they reside in are equipped with heating. Unfortunately, these comfortable living conditions have caught the attention of some unwelcomed visitors.

On the night of December 2nd, 2025, residents on the third floor of Champlain Hall found a squirrel roaming through the halls. Shocked and confused, the residents reached out to their Resident Advisors, known simply as RAs, for help.

Pest control was contacted, but would not be there till the following morning. In the meantime, there was still a squirrel on the loose.

The RAs jumped into action to catch and release the intruder before any damage could be done. But, only hours later, another squirrel was spotted.

Residents volunteered to help trap the animal and transport it back to the woods it came from. Afterwards, residents were warned by their RAs to stay diligent and be careful about leaving out food.

“We’re still unsure how they got in, but the belief is that they glided from a nearby branch into a vent.” Senior RA Zakary Ramos said.

Maintenance was contacted about the issue and fixed the walls the squirrels were purportedly coming in through. For a few days residents believed the issue had been solved, until the pesky critters were seen yet again when students returned to their dorms for the spring semester.

On January 20th, 2026, Ramos sent out a message alerting students that the squirrels have returned, with six sightings happening over the course of three days.

“I was hoping it wouldn’t come into my room next.” Sophomore Jocelyn Dannels said. Dannel’s room, like those of a few other residents, was listed as one with possibility of having squirrels gaining access to.

The holes found in the kitchen areas of the dorms, mainly the cabinets and drawers, were closed by facilities and the squirrel sighting cleared up.

This isn’t the first time animals have taken shelter in campus buildings. It’s common for squirrels and other small animals to climb into walls during the winter.

“When the weather gets cold the squirrels need somewhere to go and they just happened to pick Champ,” Ramos said. “But I’ve never heard of it happening as bad as the issue that we had.”