

Local groups recognize domestic violence

By **DAWN GARCIA**
Of the Emerald

The number of battered women seeking help at Womenspace — a local shelter for victims of domestic violence — has doubled since the summer, director Marlene Lasher told a gathering of local women's groups Saturday.

Lasher's speech was part of Lane County's observance of National Day of Unity to stop domestic violence, an event involving workers from more than 400 shelters, hotlines and lobbying groups nationwide.

The local program included a keynote address by Eugene City Council member Cynthia Wooten, a panel discussion by local shelter house workers and a film on domestic violence. Also included was a candlelighting ceremony both to remember all women who have been

victimized by domestic violence and to celebrate the unity between women working to stop this violence in Lane County.

"We've begun to support each other; the rise of shelters shows that," Wooten said, explaining that none of Oregon's 12 shelters — which serve more than 100 women and children each day — existed before 1970.

However, the rising number of shelters does not erase the fact that 50 to 60 percent of American women are beaten sometime in their lives, Lasher said.

One of the reasons such violence continues is because outsiders are not inclined to interfere in family matters, one panelist said. Such feelings legitimize wife-beating by making it part of family life.

Nevertheless, shelter houses and other women's services are facing fund-

ing problems because of federal aid cutbacks, Wooten said.

A bill recently signed into law by Gov. Vic Atiyeh may ease some of these problems; it increases marriage license fees by \$20 and earmarks the money for battered women support groups.

Pending legislation may provide even more relief. Two bills — HR 1007 and HR 1651 — would give federal support to state and local programs aimed at stopping domestic violence. They would provide funds for research and establish a national information clearinghouse.

Three other bills would expand the definition of abuse, require police to keep records of domestic violence incidents and give officers the authority to arrest violent males in these cases.

"We're idealists, organizers and fighters," Wooten said, "and we shall not rest until we've gained all our rights."



Photo by Bob Baker

Cynthia Wooten

Wilson wins position at Miami Univ.

Douglas Wilson, executive director of the University Foundation and assistant vice president for development, has been named vice president for university relations at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

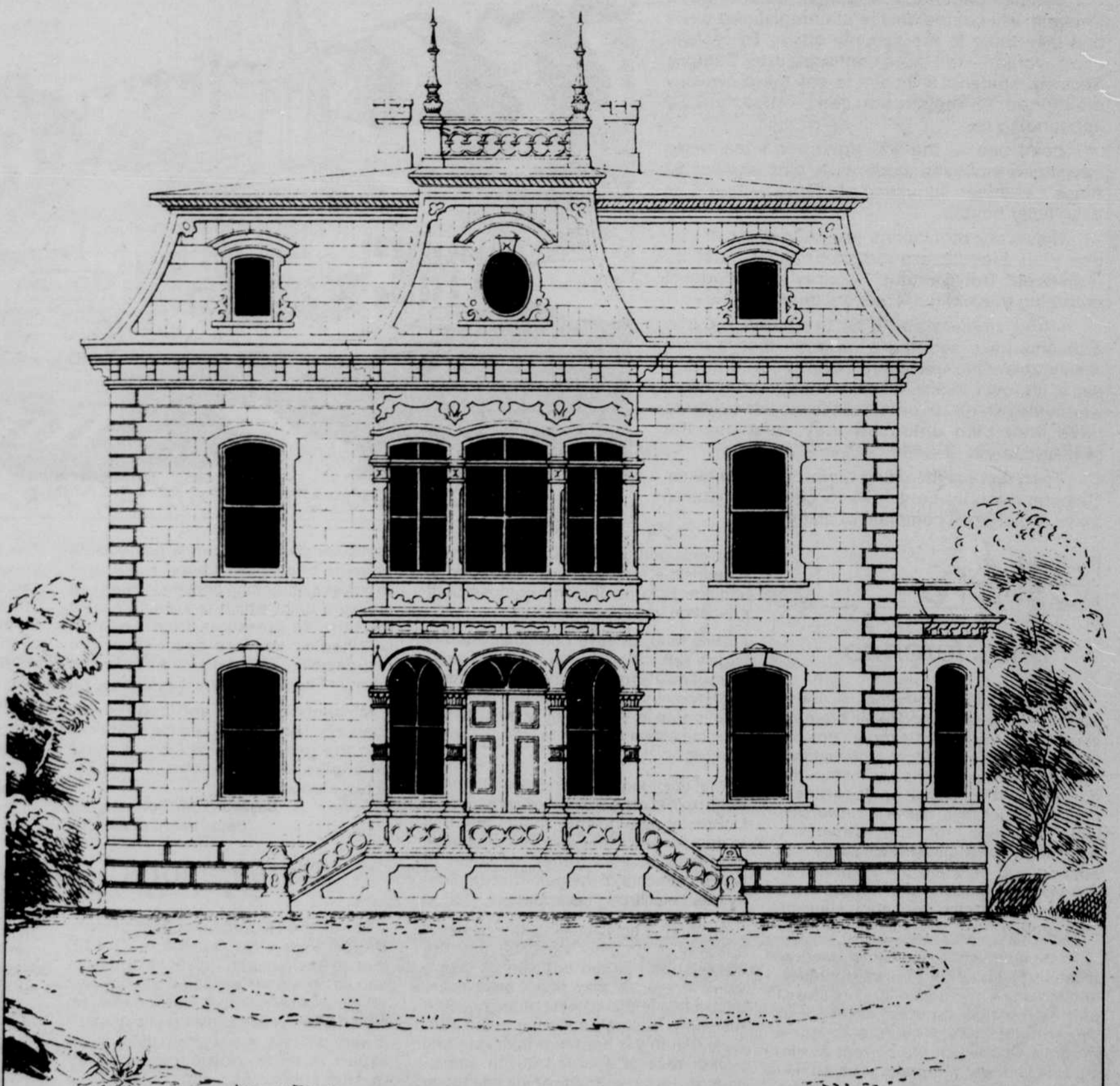
"Miami University's selection of Douglas Wilson as its new vice president is an important plus for them and a significant loss for the University," says Curtis Simic, vice president for public services at the University.

Wilson came to the University in 1979, and was promoted to assistant vice president for development this summer, having served as director of development.

Since Wilson's arrival, the number of donors to the foundation has increased from 3,700 in 1979 to more than 8,000 so far this year. The value of gifts is expected to be more than \$4 million this year, up from \$1.9 million in 1979.

"During his two years here, the advancement in operation, character and productivity of the foundation has been unprecedented," Simic says.

Wilson is an alumnus of Miami University, and served there as alumni secretary and then as director of alumni affairs from 1966 to 1979.



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