

McMorran House a waste of money

Perhaps University President Paul Olum knew what he was doing when he chose his own living quarters.

When Myles Brand takes the helm of University president at the end of June, he and his family will reside in the McMorran House — a three-story hillside home near Hendricks Park worth an estimated \$300,000.

And the University has already approved \$100,000 in repairs and improvements for the stately, yet apparently decrepit, residence.

University Provost Norman Wessells, the home's most recent tenant, can attest to the bathrooms' need for some work, and the inability to close windows due to warped frames.

But immediate renovation plans for McMorran House include a new roof, a thorough cleaning, new interior paint, new furniture, new kitchen appliances, new dining room drapes, the installation of a security system, lawn repairs and other modifications.

The current list of renovations is only a partial one of what eventually will be needed. University Vice President for Administration Dan Williams said it will take several years to bring the house up to minimum standards.

This is the home Wessells believes is a "treasure" worth preserving? This is the home local real estate agent Ruby Brockett recently referred to as a "jewel"?

No. What this is, is a monumental waste of money.

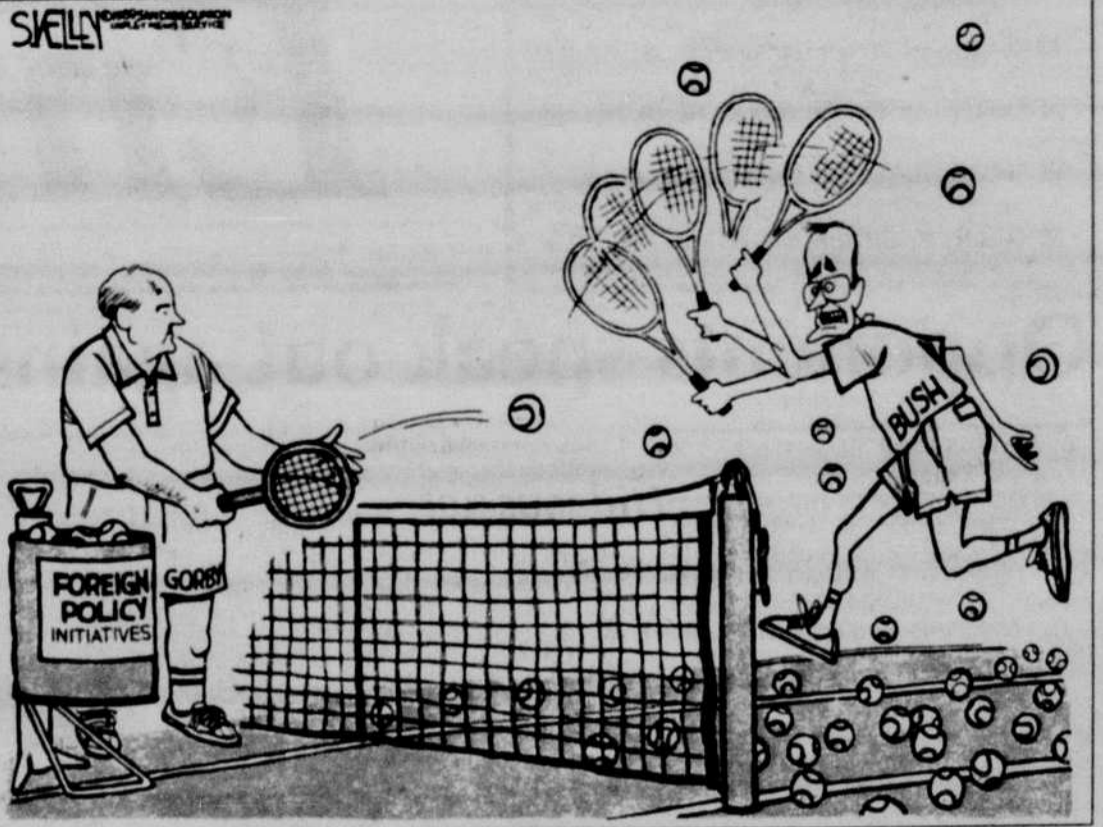
More than one-third of what the house is worth is needed to bring the house up to working order. The renovation money is coming from the University's deferred renovation fund — money specified by the state board of higher education for use in the upkeep of state facilities.

Wouldn't this money be better spent in the upkeep of Deady or Villard Halls? After all, these buildings have been considered for inclusion in a federal list of "endangered" buildings.

Wouldn't this money be better spent to increase the lighting on the University's campus?

Brand is getting a hefty salary: \$100,000 a year, a \$13,000-a-year expense account, the McMorran House and other perks. Is it completely unheard of that the Brand family not undertake some of the remodeling responsibilities themselves? Is it necessary that the Brands acquire new furniture, kitchen appliances and other such accessories? Are they not bringing anything with them?

Certainly the money could be better spent elsewhere.



Salary increases shouldn't be gender based

Six years ago, the State Board of Higher Education established a policy that the state's colleges and universities were to study their salary structures and determine if inequities exist. If inequities were found, they were to be addressed.

Indeed, inequities were found, they have been addressed, and the result is that pay equity policies adopted by higher education officials have made a difference for female faculty members.

The study of higher education salaries, completed at the direction of the 1987 Legislature, found many idiosyncrasies. Among them is that the state should have a policy that promotion in rank should always reflect a salary increase.

This is one of the recommendations to be given to the House Education Committee. Others include continuing to emphasize merit pay increases as opposed to across-the-board increases, and withholding across-the-board salary increases to faculty members lacking in satisfactory performance.

The study also found that female faculty members in state colleges and universities

earn less than their male counterparts — a gap that is narrowing. The salary gap also had more to do with the fact that women make up a higher proportion of the lower faculty ranks on campuses. This has, however, changed in the last 10 years.

From bottom to top, faculty are ranked as instructors, assistant professors, associate professors and full professors. Women make up 48 percent of the instructors, 39 percent of the assistant professors, 21 percent of the associate professors and 9 percent of the full professors. Ten years ago, 44 percent of the instructors were women, 26 percent were assistant professors, 13 percent were associate professors and 7 percent were full professors.

Now that higher education officials are aware of the discrepancies, and the study has been done, concrete steps can be taken to assure equal pay for equal work. Higher education officials will meet with legislators today to recommend ways to further narrow the salary gender gap. Legislators should listen, approve the plans, and close the gap completely.

Letters

Offensive ad

To the editor:

I found the photograph in the advertisement for Club Arena (ODE, May 12) to be very offensive. The advertisement, which shows a man who is obviously naked being restrained by three (male?) hands, is endorsing violence and pornography.

Would the Emerald consider printing a woman in a similar position? I think not. This photograph is inappropriate for a university newspaper.

Marnie Baxter
Rhetoric and communication

Nasty artifact

The kinds of strategies that individuals and groups agree and act upon, whether by voicing a clear consensus or by saying nothing at all, are revealing. Issues come and go, but how people behave remains behind like a nasty artifact.

What the recent student elections, as testimony to one level of civilization, left behind are

death threats, physical assault, vicious propaganda, rumors of unlikely guests in even more unlikely places, and of course, righteous indignation, outright lies and flat denial.

When measured against the sort of issues that students must really face on a day-to-day basis, it seems incredible that time and energy (and apparently a lot of both) went into planning and carrying out these strategies. Even more insulting is that these tactics are not only stupidly homophobic and sexist, they are cruel and cowardly.

These actions can in no way be justified as the necessary results of the political process, and it is disturbing to read the attempts to pass them off as such. Rather, they are a specific form of terrorism — a fact that may be too harsh for many to grasp — and symptomatic of an extremely unhealthy political process.

What does silence in this case imply — apathy, fear, confusion, complicity? Hardly a platform that any candidate would run openly on, yet one we are stuck with, a timely re-

minder of the brutal reality behind all the "kinder, gentler" rhetoric.

Barbara L. Turrill
Anthropology/ethnic studies

Statement

To the editor:

Regarding the editorial on vandalism (ODE, May 9), please explain to us what your "proper forums" are for lesbians and gays? A class in the regular curriculum? The Emerald? A sorority or fraternity meeting? Have you taken a lavender look at the safe channels for gays and lesbians on this campus?

Besides, graffiti is a political statement, not a discussion forum. There are people on this campus who would like to believe that we don't exist. They can no longer ignore this fact; after all, would you write graffiti regarding gay rights?

Although it may not be sanctioned by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance, we applaud the brave crusaders who let this campus know we exist.

We don't think the Universi-

ty community can get more distanced from lesbian and gay issues. Are you or any other groups on campus doing more than supporting gay rights? Perhaps you are planning a rally for the rights of gays? Were you even at our rally, holding a sign or a hand, making a speech? Where is your support? What is your support?

As to the stated hypocrisy of not signing one's name to graffiti, where was your byline?

Teresa Reeves
Laurel Sharp
and 16 co-signers
Eugene

Staid affair

L.A. Times reporter David Shaw's May 10 lecture on "Honesty and Arrogance" contained little honesty and an abundance of arrogance. Shaw was introduced as a hard-hitting critic of the media, but the soft message of his canned speech was that reporters shouldn't, and usually don't, lie.

The only thing hard-hitting

about this Ruhl Lecture was a question posed by an audience member. He noted that Shaw had spoken only about the honesty of reporters and said nothing about the honesty of the media establishment, which is owned by big business (including major defense contractors). Why, he asked, hasn't our "free," "honest," "responsible" press (all words Shaw used to describe the press of today) jumped on the story about millions of U.S. tax dollars being used to subsidize civilian torture in El Salvador? Here Shaw exposed the height of his own arrogance by dismissing the question as propaganda.

Earlier, Shaw revealed the depths of his dishonesty when he pronounced today's press as "three times more responsible" than the press of yesteryear. But what can we expect of a "media critic" who draws a paycheck from a bastion of the mainstream press?

The Ruhl Lecture series is a staid affair that shouldn't be taken too seriously, I suppose.

Bill Lynch
Research assistant
Tuesday, May 23, 1989