

Brand gets passing grade for first year

The year is almost up. Now it's time to evaluate how Myles Brand has done in his first year as University president.

When he first came to campus, there were some wary observations. After all, he was stepping up from a lower post at Ohio State University. How was Brand expected to know the problems facing the University and the Oregon State System of Higher Education in general?

So far, he's coped, although he's done a better job on some issues than others.

Brand came in as a replacement to Paul Olum — one of the most popular and influential University presidents. To follow in his footsteps would be unenviable, and Brand faced a major task to escape Olum's long shadow. Sometimes he hasn't been entirely successful, and the inevitable comparisons to Olum — usually casting Brand in a negative light — are drawn.

Granted, many of the problems the University faces were here long before Brand came to town. State funding, pitifully low faculty salaries — all are constant ills to any university president. But how Brand has met each one is the question.

As far as lobbying for increased state financing of higher education, Brand has thus far not proved his mettle. Brand has been content to ax programs (witness the recent demise of the American Studies department) rather than keep the pressure on lawmakers as Olum did. With Brand facing his first legislative session next year, it is hoped he will be at the forefront of the faculty salary and financing debate.

Brand came into the president's chair advocating a new "accessibility." He would be open to student demands and questions. He would try to put some accountability back into the president's office.

Unfortunately for him, one of the first major crises of the year was a student one: The protest at the new science buildings' dedication.

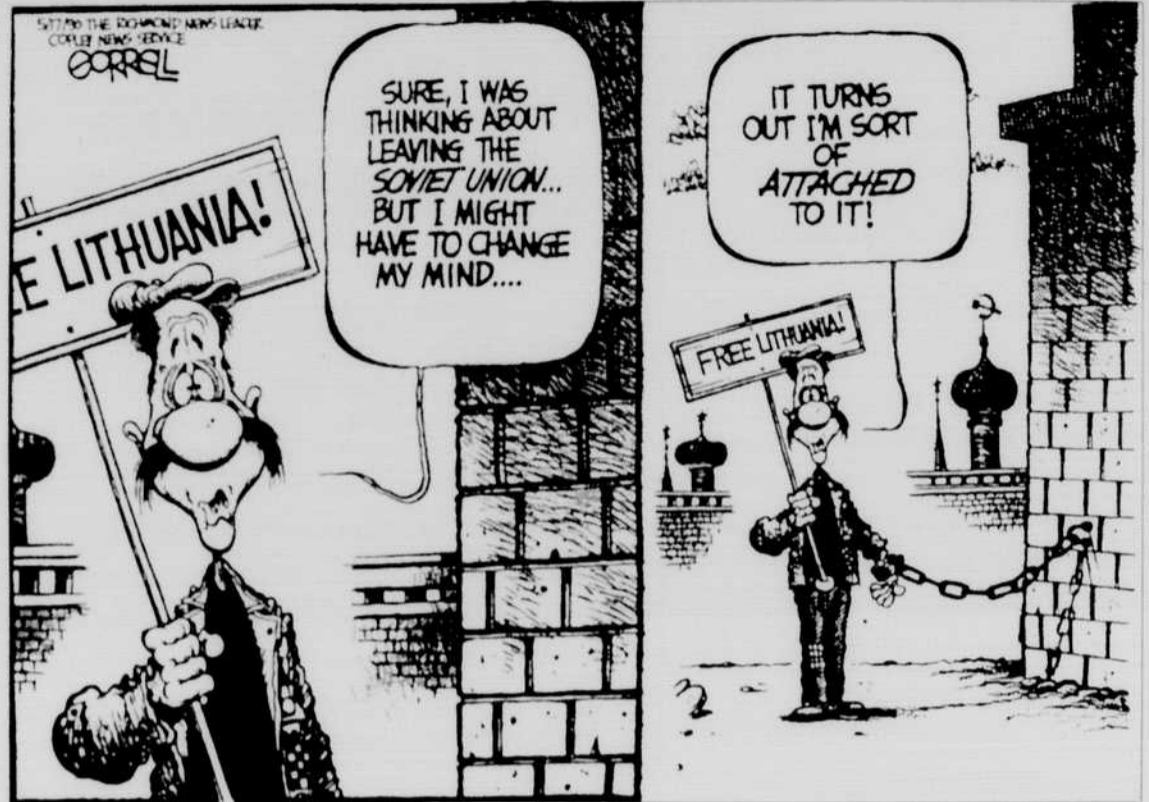
In their zeal to damage the credibility of Gov. Neil Goldschmidt and Sen. Mark Hartfield, students caught Brand in the cross fire. When Brand came out publicly against the conduct of the protesters, he lost many students' respect and was tagged immediately as a state system stooge. It was a poor start to a university president's career.

To his credit, Brand has tried to overcome that perception. He has sponsored open door sessions and public forums. These are highly commendable, but students may feel frustrated by the way Brand approaches these sessions. He is by nature a cautious man, and students bringing their immediate pressing concerns are likely to hear him offer to study the matter and delay action until later. Until he brings action to these matters, we'll have to wait to assess whether Brand's open door means that he has an open mind.

Brand has done some things that are unequivocally favorable. His devotion to the principles of affirmative action are excellent, and he has gone out of his way to institute them at the University. Brand's plan to make the University better handicapped-accessible (including a wheelchair tour of the campus) has not only produced tangible results, but brought awareness to a problem that doesn't get much attention.

Still, many issues remain unaddressed. Student housing, for example, continues to be a problem, yet the University administration has done little about it. Safety around campus, lighting in particular, has been much-discussed but seen little action. As far as the Riverfront Research Park and the suspected University-sponsored toxic dumping, Brand has been strangely silent. It remains to be seen how he and the rest of his staff react to these problems.

All in all, it's been an eventful first year for Brand. He gets a passing grade. But the issues he's been silent on to date will not go away and need to be dealt with soon. Brand needs to continue to seek student support and create the image of a protector of faculty, student and University rights. Otherwise, it could be a long second year for him.



Letters

KRMA

A note of thanks to all who were involved in making the May 12-13 KRMA benefit a booming success.

On behalf of KRMA-campus radio, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the members of Campbell Club, Student Co-operative Association for the use of their house to hold this event; also to the members of More Time, Agrosoul and Wholly Guacamole for providing a relentless night of music and dancing.

Thanks also go out to the members of KRMA who donated their time and energy to helping run things (and you know who you are), the west campus neighborhood for putting up with the noise, and the hundreds of friendly, sober and well-behaved guests in attendance.

We raised enough money to begin set-up of KRMA, which should be on the air fall term, 1990.

Without the cooperation of all of the above-mentioned, this benefit would not have been possible. We hope everyone is as happy with the way things went as we are, and we hope to do it again real soon. So get ready because good KRMA is coming your way.

Gary Rosenstein
KRMA

Positive image

I was appalled by the airband performance May 14 by the Alpha Phi sorority, "A View to a Kill." I thought it exploited women.

Alpha Phi had women dressed in short, tight dresses, dancing behind a large, lighted gun scope. Then these four women danced with four other women, dressed as men. The women were slapped by the men, and treated as mere objects, not individuals. Then the main woman singer, dressed as a man, shot one of the women with a gun. The woman died.

Yes, it is true, not all of the airband performances were de-

void of violence, but this one in particular shocked me. I do not have anything against Alpha Phi, yet I do not think their airband was a positive representation for women, the University or the greek system. This type of behavior promotes exactly what myself, as a woman, am trying to absolve, violence and exploitation of women.

I believe this type of conduct desensitizes society to violence, whereas we should be sensitive to any violence directed toward anyone. As a sorority member, I hope other sorority women realize the way we allow ourselves to be portrayed (as in airband) directly represents us. Let's create a positive image we can all be proud of.

Daryn Peters
Public Relations

Slam the system

The Oregon Daily Emerald article on May 15 entitled "Frats promote unity for black students" presents an excellent opportunity for students (not just black students) to experience campus life in a greek house. But the use of the word "frats" in the headline is a gross misprint. There is an extreme difference between a frat and a fraternity.

A frat is a house of immature, little boys whose primary concern is scanning girls, drinking beer and playing with their fish tanks ("fish" — as in what Shakespeare meant by the word).

A fraternity is a greek living organization whose primary concern is a brotherhood that teaches the meaning of life while striving toward team work and good grades. We still enjoy the other things, but they are of secondary concern. It's a lot like the co-op houses, except there is a brotherhood that bonds you all together.

I hope that all of you "writers" at the Emerald can understand the difference. And yes, there are both frats and fraternities on the University campus. I also hope that any rebuttals

will be based on actual experiences. All too often people slam fraternities without really understanding the system; in other words, have you ever really given the fraternity system a fair chance?

Jay Johnson
Alpha Tau Omega
Sociology

Downgrading

The Oregon Daily Emerald article "(Terrell) Brandon cited for speeding near Portland" (ODE, May 15) is perhaps one of the best examples of senseless and tasteless journalism I have ever seen. I found it discouraging that the Emerald would give more time, effort and publication space to a traffic violation by Brandon than given to the athletic achievement of Oregon track star Stephanie Wessell on the very same page.

In no sense do I condone Brandon's actions, but I firmly believe the Emerald acted irresponsibly by publishing his misfortunes. Why should Brandon's private life, just because he is an important and prominent Oregon basketball star, be subjected to journalistic intervention on behalf of the Emerald?

If the Emerald feels the downgrading article on Brandon was appropriate, then I feel there should be weekly columns on the traffic violations by all University students. In addition, why doesn't the Emerald include parking violations.

Over my collegiate years, I have received an inordinate amount of speeding tickets, yet as Brandon indicated, I do not feel these tickets should be used to judge my personal character. The Emerald's article on Brandon will undoubtedly tarnish his appeal to many individuals in our community. Brandon and other University students' personal misfortunes should not be used as the basis for critical and downgrading Emerald articles.

Thomas Arenz
Student