

# House repairs anger students



ELLENSBURG, Wash. (AP) — A plan to spend \$240,000 to renovate the home of Central Washington University President Ivory Nelson has outraged students facing program cuts and tuition increases.

The CWU trustees voted May 14 to upgrade the state-owned house.

Student Aaron Reardon said Tuesday he is more angry about that decision than about department cuts.

Reardon, a political science major, organized a protest march from the Samuelson Student Union to the president's house on Tuesday night.

"We see that some repairs need to be made for normal maintenance. That's apparent," said political science student Kip Anderson.

"However, the part I can't understand is that if students and parents were asked to make sacrifices because of a tight budget, then Ivory Nelson should be able to lead by making a sacrifice, too."

Nelson is required by his contract to live in the house, which he shares with his wife and a daughter, who is a student at CWU.

"It's not my property to make sacrifices," he said.

The project's funding is from the university's capital budget, of which 11 percent is from student tuition.

Board chair Susan Gould said renovation of the president's home and adjacent reception area was long overdue.

Nelson said he had made no decisions on what to remodel or add to the house.

The original house was built in 1947 at a cost of \$46,800.

In 1968, about \$95,000 was spent to add 1,876 square feet to the home and a 983-square-foot reception center.

In 1991, the reception kitchen, one of two in the house, was remodeled at a cost of \$67,326.

In 1992, an independent firm appraised the value of the 5,251-square-foot residence — 2,843 square feet is the president's living area and the rest in the reception area — at \$316,000.

This year, \$30,000 was already budgeted to remodel the residence kitchen, master bedroom and bathroom.

The \$240,000 students were objecting to is a separate cost.

It includes \$93,000 to air condition the four-bedroom house and reception area; \$34,100 to replace the roof; about \$5,500 for

landscaping work; and nearly \$15,000 to replace the deck, according to a memo by Courtney Jones, Central's vice president for business and financial affairs.

The remaining funds will be spent on carpeting, a chandelier and a shower door for one of the 4 and one-half bathrooms.

Shawn Christie, a vice president of the Associated Students, said three presidents have lived in the house before Nelson and none had air conditioning.

"There's no air conditioning in the dorms, and I have no air conditioning in my apartment, either," Christie said.

**'There's no air conditioning in the dorms, and I have no air conditioning in my apartment, either.'**

— Shawn Christie,  
CWU Associated Students  
vice president

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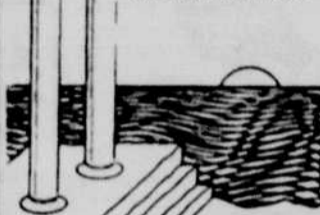
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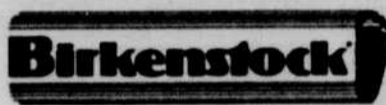
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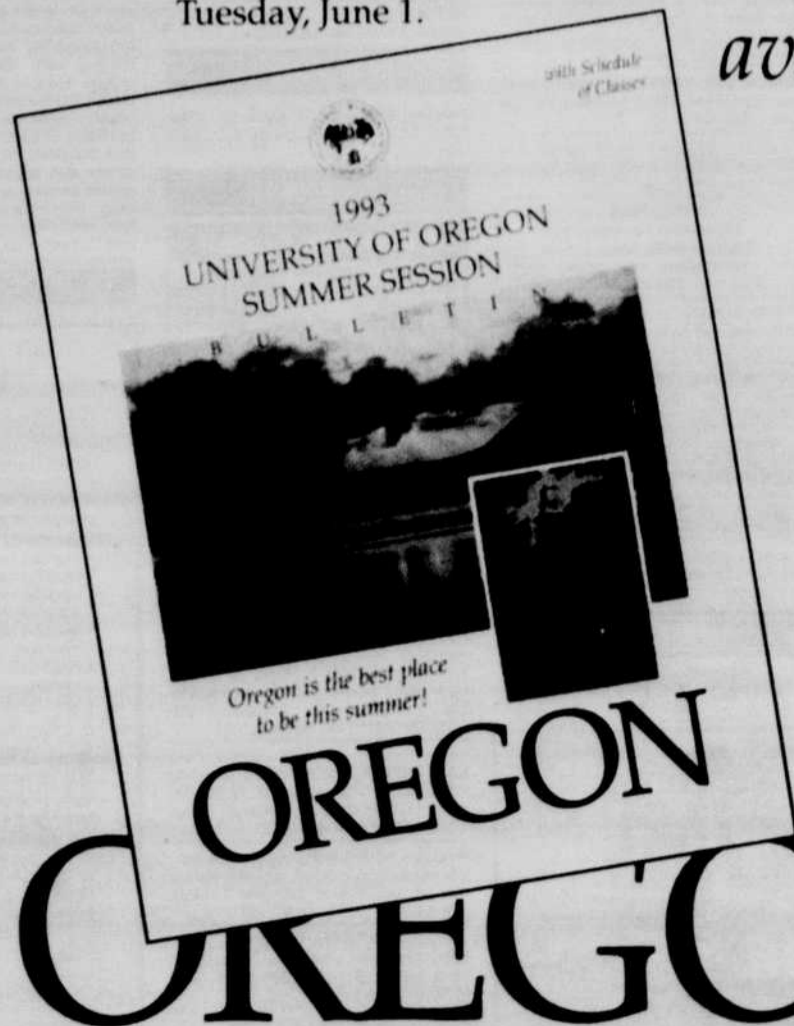
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