

Robert Mendel:

Steve, Wiley- I hope you are well in these times. I'd like to know if you want to help me with this nascent idea: I want to encourage Northwestern into resisting any plan to capitulate to the Trump administration via this heartfelt effort of mine to try and trade on the sentimentality of the theater alums in our facebook group by mounting a fundraising campaign to renovate Shanley Hall. It's a fun project, and probably overdue, actually.

What I'm doing: I'm conversing with Alumni Relations on 9/4 about my "legacy planning" giving plans for earmarking my donations to independent student theater, since that's where my fondest memories at NU lie.

I'm simply asking if a Shanley Renovation might be raised to priority status by the University, especially if I can start fundraising to our friends (but also to our politically outspoken student theater alums Stephen Colbert and Seth Meyers! - that's the subterfuge part.

I'm not suggesting that I know them, but I'm sure the university will start putting 2+2 together when they see this: <https://mendel.locations.org/artsalliance> - and realize that more Brand Destruction might come their way if they capitulate in a humiliating way and get public blowback from

these celebrity voices and the press.

They may have already decided to settle, but haven't announced it yet, so this moment is pivotal, I believe.

I have no interest in reaching out to the celebrities and am not suggesting to them that I would, but I'd like to imply that they might be interested in participating in the "renovate Shanley" campaign. Once I get a formal reply, positive or negative, about the "renovate shanley" idea, I plan on stepping up the game and suggesting openly again to them that if they were to do something positive like this that embodies the ideals of artistic expression (the essential art form of student theater), freedom of expression, etc., they'd benefit by Jointly announcing their resistance to capitulation (or unveil whatever their creative and hopefully not humiliating settlement plan is) and at the same time launching a fundraising campaign with the student theater alums to renovate and re-name Shanley. Perhaps one of our rich celebrity alums would really step up and fund the lion's share of construction, who knows!.

If it WEREN'T for the fact that Colbert and Meyers weren't already so outspoken, I wouldn't believe this idea might be hot enough to make them fear adverse consequences to settling with Trump in

the wrong way, but I think I might be on to something. After the call, and after getting a formal reply from the university, either positive or negative, I'd like to remind the university that influential alums and the press might take an interest. Perhaps I'm kidding myself, but I need to do something, so I've chosen this. I'm envisioning posting something like "after a succinct inquiry about renovating Shanley Hall with student theater alumni taking part in the fundraising, I got this reply (show the reply), THIS is the reply I was hoping for...: and then there would be a satirical letter à la "A MODEST PROPOSAL" ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A\\_Modest\\_Proposal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Modest_Proposal)) wherein I write in the University's voice and make them seem super agreeable, colloquial, as they agree with me that announcing their resistance to capitulation is coupled with my "renovate Shanley" and promote freedom of expression, artistic expression, DEI re-enforcement, etc. I'd share that screed and these links - <https://mendel.locations.org/artsalliance> - (which will grow and be added to shortly) with them privately to give them a chance to react. I've already written this to the alumni officer I'm speaking to on 9/4, since I want to appear sincere, but plant some seeds.: <https://mendel.locations.org/content/>

[ArtsAlliance/Renovate%20Shanley%20Hall%20-%20Letter%20of%20Inquiry%20from%20NU%20Alum%20Robert%20Mendel/  
Robert%20Mendel%27s%20email%20to%20alumni%20relations.pdf](https://mendel.locations.org/content/ArtsAlliance/Renovate%20Shanley%20Hall%20-%20Letter%20of%20Inquiry%20from%20NU%20Alum%20Robert%20Mendel/Robert%20Mendel%27s%20email%20to%20alumni%20relations.pdf)

And my original letter suggesting this idea:

[https://mendel.locations.org/content/ArtsAlliance/Renovate%20Shanley%20Hall%20-%20Letter%20of%20Inquiry%20from%20NU%20Alum%20Robert%20Mendel/  
Renovate%20Shanley%20Hall%3F%20-%20Letter%20of%20Inquiry%20from%20NU%20Alum%20Robert%20Mendel.pdf](https://mendel.locations.org/content/ArtsAlliance/Renovate%20Shanley%20Hall%20-%20Letter%20of%20Inquiry%20from%20NU%20Alum%20Robert%20Mendel/Renovate%20Shanley%20Hall%3F%20-%20Letter%20of%20Inquiry%20from%20NU%20Alum%20Robert%20Mendel.pdf)

Steve Rogers:

I am not sure what to think.

Although I don't like capitulating to Trump in anything, I think if universities can strike deals to make payments that are spread out over long period of time and that go for a specific thing that may be under funded, like trade schools, it may make sense to do so in order to save on ongoing research projects.

Perhaps naïvely, it seems to me that if we ever get a sane administration again, the universities can sue to end the extortion.

I am worried about the cessation in research and the layoffs at universities.

We need to focus on the next elections because they may be our last.

Robert Mendel:

This is a very helpful outlook for me. I'm too poor not to be discouraged from giving to a "renovate shanley hall" campaign to excite student theater kids when so much \$ is being dumped on settlements, lawsuits, and the like.

This helps me look past all that .... a little.

But 'capitulation to Trump' needs to be an impression that NU needs to AVOID leaving on all of us: society and alums. Not healthy.

How to get them to agree to NUs terms and maintain some dignity will be a tall order. After all, Harvard is suing them, so why shouldn't NU stand up and Reclaim the old nickname, "The Harvard of the Midwest!"

Steve Rogers:

I agree.

I am curious that no one has talked about the potential. Success were universities to sue subsequent administrations to get the extorted

money back