

Wexler building

## There's no reason to tear it down

**Re:** "Want to save a building? Buy it," Bruce Bonafede, Aug. 5.

Bonafede's smug letter, which suggests that local preservationists "buy" the Palm Springs High School Administration building, shows he is ignorant of our organization's considerable community advocacy on this topic.

As a public edifice, the administration building is owned by the people and we have consistently argued that the proposed demolition plans are wasteful and unnecessary. This sturdy structure, which happens to be architecturally and historically important, should be repurposed to meet the school's needs. To do otherwise is a waste of taxpayer money. Our organization even had a local architect develop detailed plans to show the school how they could repurpose the building.

Secondly, while Bonafede postures about property rights he conveniently fails to mention property obligations. Most reasonable people agree that owners of historic buildings have a civic obligation to be good stewards of those buildings. Casually throwing such buildings away is not only bad for the planet but bad for the community.

Finally, as a practical matter, bad property owners are too common and preservationists too few. Preservationists can only point out to property owners the wastefulness and absurdity of destroying what can never be replaced.

— Ron Marshall, president,  
*Palm Springs Preservation Foundation*