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WE SUPPORT STEVE SCHMUNK & PAUL BARTEL

for IFC

Paul Bartel's and Steve Schmunk's experience in the ASUO has shown their ability to perform the duties of the IFC. Their objective and open-minded approach to budgeting are vital to the IFC. Steve and Paul consider the students as consumers in education. They want to see innovation in programs, strengthened student committees like the EMU Board and SUAB. They want greater openness in the ASUO. Please vote for them Wednesday and Thursday.

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'Second Generation' Empathy key part of aid group

By HEATHER McCLENAGHAN
Of the Emerald

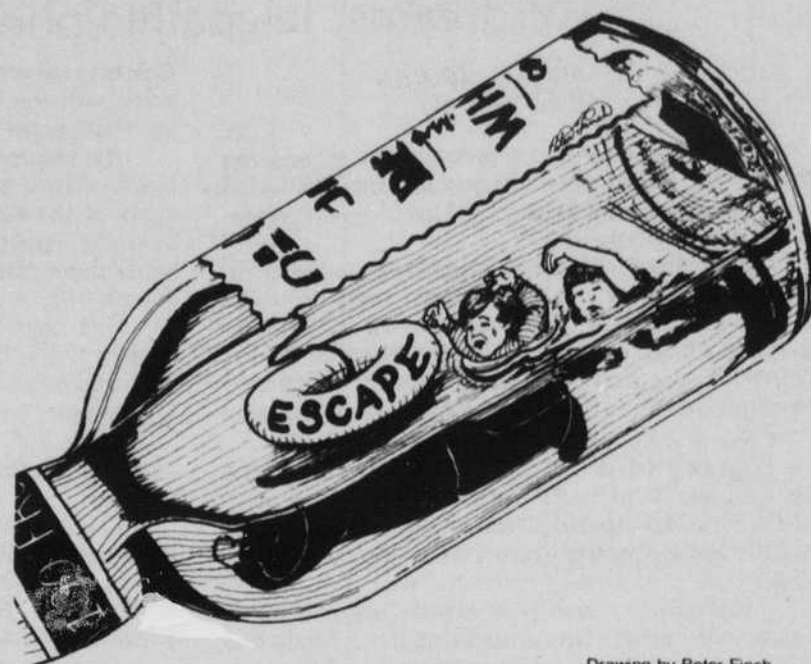
We hear it all the time until we don't even bother to listen: alcoholism is a disease, alcoholism can affect any social class, any sex... on and on. By now most Americans are aware of problems faced by alcoholics.

But while their parents wallow in media overdose, the children of alcoholics drown in a sea of neglect and isolation.

Second Generation is a University ESCAPE program created by children of alcoholics to reach and assist other offspring of problem drinkers.

"For many people, this is the first time they've made an active attempt to express how they feel about their experience. It's the first time they've been able to examine what it was like to grow up in an alcoholic home," explains John Turner, Second Generation facilitator.

Second Generation was organized last winter term. Its originators believe it is the first organization of its kind run solely by and for children of alcoholics. Second Generation operates one group for Eugene high school students and one group for the University community.



Drawing by Peter Finch

the trust you find in a group of people who have had your experiences. Even six years after leaving home I found these fears and problems I had about alcoholic parents were still with me. It wasn't until I started dealing with my feelings of guilt and shame that I felt completed."

Second Generation allows chil-

mean what can they say, 'yeah, I know what you mean. My mother was a Brownie leader and I never got any privacy?'"

Second Generation doesn't advise its members to counsel their parents about their drinking habits. Nor does the group pressure high school students to leave home when the going gets tough.

"We don't encourage them to say 'okay Mom, I want you to go to AA'. We concentrate on the child and not the parent. We encourage the person to work out his or her own feelings of guilt or inadequacy," says Turner.

According to Coffey, people who come to Second Generation find the experience very liberating.

"When new people come to us they guard themselves a lot," she says. "It is very hard to say you are the child of an alcoholic. Often people don't realize that being the child of an alcoholic is no reflection on their lives. It is not a reflection on your life that your parents are living the life they do. As a child you have no choice. But as an adult it is very important to have a moment in your life when you can end all your bad feelings and just stop and understand."

People interested in the program can contact Second Generation through the ESCAPE office, 327 EMU. All information is confidential. Second Generation's only requirement is members must be children of alcoholics.

'We concentrate on the child and not the parent'

The groups work through various topics dealing with guilt, awareness, sensitivity and self-actualization. Communication skills are practiced in small group settings, but the facilitators emphasize Second Generation is not an encounter group.

"We feel ashamed," says Judy Coffey, Second Generation coordinator. "We have all these unexpressed feelings that we're somehow tarnished. We feel that if people know we're from an alcoholic home they will label us or discount us. When we share our common fears and feelings with others, we begin to overcome our problems."

"Communication with others is very important," says Turner. "You really need the support and

dren of alcoholics a chance to find empathy — a feeling many of them can never find with friends whose parents are not alcoholics.

"We have had very hard times telling our friends about problems with alcoholic parents at home," says Turner. "Just the problem we face not being able to ask friends over to our homes is hard. You know you can't ever ask anybody to spend the night because you don't know what might happen."

"Other people want to understand, but they can't," Coffey explains. "All they can do is say how sorry they are. You know they are trying to be giving and loving, but they make you feel like you would put some terrible burden on them if they knew the whole story. I

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Deadline nears for balloting in ASUO election

Nearly 500 students voted in the ASUO general election Wednesday. Polling wraps up today for Incidental Fee Committee, Student-University Affairs Board and EMU Board positions. Voting booths around campus will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Plastic photo I.D. and a certificate of registration are required for ballot-ing.

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