

Drug-related woes

Those who believe drug-abuse problems lie more in the realm of social, rather than legal, concerns probably share our dismay over recent reports on the Drug Information Center's financial difficulties.

Founded in 1972 with money from the ASUO and still affiliated with the University Health Education department, the DIC faces possible closure within months because of inadequate funding.

That's an old tune for social-aid agencies and, in these parsimonious days of the revolting taxpayer, one that's becoming as omnipresent as Muzaked Christmas jingles in shopping malls.

Closure or severe cutbacks in DIC operations, would end the innovative educational programs initiated by DIC founder and program director Mark Miller. Those programs directed toward students and community groups concentrate on the effects and potential dangers of various drugs rather than general and moralizing admonitions against dabbling in recreational chemical consumption.

The DIC staff's common-sense acknowledgement that these are difficult times to obtain public funding for the kind of program they have and their willingness to find private sources to continue their efforts merit our whole-hearted commendation. The results of DIC's program — generally a public better informed about drug (ab)use merit our support.

Unfortunately, few Emerald readers will find themselves in the position to accommodate the DIC proposal of tax-deductible donations in the \$500-\$1,000 range, although they might know of willing parents.

However, as Miller has remarked, anything will help. Persons interested in making donations or offering other assistance may contact the DIC at 1763 Moss St., 686-5411.



Parks for people

Reprinted from (Salem) Capital Journal

After a decade of seemingly fruitless debate, the National Park Service has agreed to a plan that would reduce overcrowding in Yosemite National Park.

Yosemite is one of the nation's, and California's, most spectacular parks.

The plan provides that most cars will be left at the entrance to the magnificent park in the Sierra, thereby reducing significantly the bumper-to-bumper vehicle traffic that now diminishes the pleasure of visiting Yosemite.

Shuttle buses will be used instead of private cars to transport people around the narrow valley. In addition, all of the creature comforts allowed to develop through the years — swimming pools, beauty parlors and the like — will be removed. We wonder why they ever were allowed to be constructed, and we're delighted they're on their way out.

We urge the park service to consider using a similar system as a way to reducing or eliminating traffic tangles on the road to the Oregon Caves in Southwestern Oregon.

During the summer months, visitors flock to the caves, which are located high in the mountains. Most find to their dismay that the tiny parking lot already is jammed with cars and the winding road is lined with vehicles. Engines often overheat — about as frequently as the tempers of the travelers — and all without good reason.

Shuttle buses to haul visitors to and from the caves would cool both tempers and engines and make visiting the caves a more enjoyable experience.

Likes 'old' look

Reprinted from the Medford Mail Tribune

Of all the admirable women in public life we have seen and observed over the years, Mrs. Betty Ford ranks near the top.

Her candor, her courage, her poise and grace, her essential good sense, have endeared her to us (at a distance) as they have many others.

When, recently, she decided to have a facelift, we

thought it entirely in character, as she went through with the plan even though not all of her family approved. Such cosmetic surgery is not at all unusual for a woman of her age.

The result, however, we were sorry to note, was not all that it might have been. In the process of erasing the wrinkles and sags, the skilled surgeon also removed some of the evidences of character that show so clearly on the face of a person who has lived a full and energetic life; signs of humor and suffering and loving that make the faces of older people, in so many instances, so much more interesting than the fresh, bright, but unmarked faces of youth.

Yes — she came out of the operation with a "pretty" face, but one bereft of visible marks of a full life well lived.

We certainly do not begrudge her wanting to have it done, particularly if it helps her in her courageous fight against drugs and alcohol. But we cannot avoid a sense of loss when we see pictures of that pretty face, and compare them in our mind's eye with the beautiful facial lines of a woman aging gracefully that were there before.

We are reminded of the words of Kahlil Gibran, "Beauty is eternity gazing at itself in a mirror." Perhaps it is that concept that we miss in pictures of the "new" Betty Ford.



To the Editor:

We at Gay People's Alliance are pleased with the quality of the Emerald's coverage of our program and recent coverage of events relevant to the gay community. I would, however, like to make one clarification.

The nation's gays, while deeply stricken by the death of (San Francisco Supervisor) Harvey Milk, are far from leaderless. Milk was an outstanding example to gay people everywhere (and to socially committed non-gays, for that matter), but his death leaves us determined to carry on the struggle of which he was a part. We are not immobilized.

In a society in which we are not fully accepted and in which we must continually fight to be treated fairly, each lesbian and each gay man is his or her own leader. It is the energy and action of many thousands of individuals which moves us toward our goals.

Carol Queen
Gay People's Alliance