

Spring fair?

Last week's ASG sponsored Spring Fair was something less than a total success.

This is not to say that the fair was a total disaster but it did not live up to the expectations of those responsible for its inception and planning.

As we see it there were two main reasons that the fair did not make it. Only one of the reasons was preventable.

ASG should never have tried to handle the bulk of the project themselves. A project of this nature needs a total college commitment and total college involvement and while there was some help provided by some of the different departments on campus it wasn't nearly enough.

The other factor as we see it was the less than perfect weather that was present over most of the latter part of the week. It had to have discouraged some who came to the college only to see empty tents. Even though the entertainment and refreshments were moved inside, it is doubtful that many people would decide to stick around for an indoor fair.

We don't think that the fair's lack of success can be attributed to poor publicity. It was covered well by the local media and there were numerous flyers sent out as well as radio advertisements.

One of the most distressing things about this fair was the fact that this ASG sponsored event was supported in word only by too many ASG members.

If student government is going to sponsor something its members should do their share to make sure it comes off well. A handful of students should not have had to carry the whole show.

If the spring fair is to continue, some changes will have to be made.

A total college commitment in the form of funds and manpower will be crucial to future success. The next fair, if there is one, could also use a central theme of some kind.

The project was the most ambitious ever undertaken by ASG and hopefully next year it will be the most ambitious project ever undertaken by the college.

Sour sweet

The proposed ban on saccharin is patently unfair to millions of American diabetics and weight conscious persons. Granted, if a cancer danger is demonstrated from diet food and beverages containing saccharin, they should be taken off the shelves. But, at this point, there appears to be a lot of controversy and confusion as well as insufficient evidence to remove the artificial sweetener.

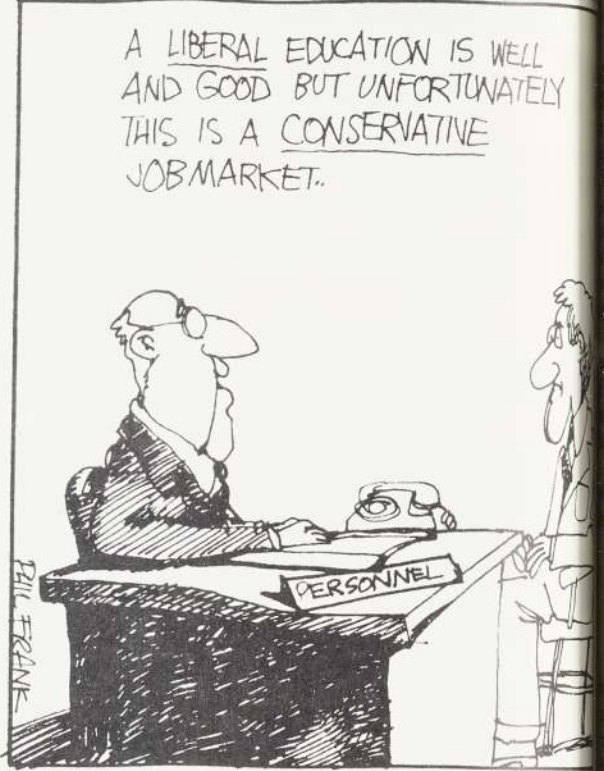
The Food and Drug Administration is basing its ban chiefly on a single unfinished Canadian test of 200 rats that were fed the human equivalent of over 1,250 twelve ounce beverages a day for a lifetime. Meanwhile, saccharin has been in use for over 80 years without a single case of human cancer attributed to it.

If people are allowed to smoke cigarettes, a known cancer producer, it seems unfair that sweetened soft drinks, candy, gum and desserts should be denied that portion of the population who for medical or weight control purposes want to control their intake of sugar. There is no substitute waiting in the wings.

We feel that a thorough scientific review should take place before the substance is banned. Senator Edward Kennedy, chairman of the Sub-committee on Health and Scientific Research, supports this suggestion. We urge those interested in fairness to write their Congressmen and ask that they too, support this proposal.

opinion

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