

Art train gains steam despite funding problems

By JUDITH BERNE

Preparations for Michigan Arttrain's May 19-27 West Bloomfield stop are going full steam ahead despite some earlier possibilities of derailment.

"It's go, go, go," said an ever-ebullient Mel Rykus. The Orchard Lake activist is primarily responsible for Arttrain's second visit to the area. The first was to celebrate the nation's Bicentennial in 1976.

There have been a host of obstacles on the track for the coming visit of the museum on wheels, which houses a revolving collection of outstanding art

presented in specially designed and renovated railroad cars.

Organizational problems, behind schedule publicity and insufficient fund raising efforts were reported by Rykus just two weeks ago.

But recently launched fundraising and cost cutting efforts are succeeding. Publicity is getting out. And the committee has received support from several community groups.

A major expense was cut in half when Michigan Arttrain agreed to supply a generator, reducing the local bill.

Tour guides are lined up, but additional volunteers to man the train and

about \$1,000 in contributions are still needed.

Rykus is now optimistic they will come forth.

ARTTRAIN'S VISIT is jointly sponsored by the West Bloomfield Council for the Arts and the Lakes Area Arts Council.

The train will be lodged on railroad tracks on the Orchard Lake St. Mary's campus.

Rykus applauds both groups efforts, but said lack of communication between them worked against the project initially.

Former Arttrain Co-Chairperson Sal

ly Pierce resigned earlier this year when the lack of communication, poor community response and internal politics became more than she could manage.

"It should be a community effort," she said. "It can't be just 15-20 people."

Madalyn Rosen, chairperson of the West Bloomfield arts council, marvels at the hard core group "still hanging in there."

"The emphasis has been on the obstacles rather than the actual event," Mrs. Rosen said. "The people who managed to stay in despite everything that happened will make it come off."

She calls Rykus "not a chairman but

a driving force. He creates activity. He makes things happen."

POLITICS ARE part and parcel of community service work, says Mrs. Rosen who has been involved in township action all her 15 years as a West Bloomfield resident.

"When I do a community service, I don't pay any attention to politics," she said. "I'm looking at the goal."

"There are personality clashes. May-be community projects have to rise above personality clashes. West Bloomfield has a lot of this to contend with."

Tickets for a \$25 per couple champagne reception from 8-10 p.m. Friday,

May 18 are available at the Drake House Community Center, West Bloomfield Township Hall and Orchard Lake City Hall.

The reception is set for the Galleria, on the grounds of St. Mary's College. Patrons will preview the art exhibit the evening before the train opens to the public.

Volunteers or those who wish to perform in the train's studio car (mimes, poets, instrumentalists, etc.) are invited to call Barb Rykus at 682-7255.

Financial contributions from individuals, businesses and community groups are welcome.

Area student named to Mortar Board

John Creighton of Farmington Hills was initiated into Mortar Board, a national honorary society for excellence in scholarship, leadership and community service.

Creighton was one of 29 students attending Central Michigan University to be honored with induction into the society. Creighton is in his junior year at CMU.

To be considered for the Mortar Board, a student must have earned at least a 3.0 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) and demonstrated strong leadership qualities, along with serving in a variety of volunteer capacities.

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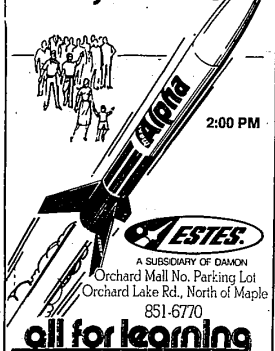
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