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 ...nd INDEPENDENT, Waldorf, Md., Wednesday, October 24, 1990

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 ...ners.

Multiple Sclerosis Society 'UGLY' bartender contest



St. Charles
Diane Edge
Correspondent
 843-8627

The restored 1819 Port Tobacco Courthouse is open for tours on the weekends from noon to 4 p.m. Also open is the 1720 Catslide House.

There is an admission fee. For directions or information, call 934-4313.
 The Southern Maryland Ski Club meets the third Thursday of each month through April. Membership includes ski shop discounts at some of the local shops. Several ski trips are planned. Non-ski activities include whitewater rafting, bike trips and crab feasts. All are welcome and encourage to call for details after 5 p.m. at 932-1525.

Priorities identified at library conference

Delegates to the Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services are asking Gov. William Donald Schaefer to support better school libraries, services to the institutionalized, preservation of historical documents, marketing strategies and a re-examination of the state funding formula for public libraries.

The 202 delegates, both lay and professional from across the state, identified these as the top priorities for the future of Maryland libraries at the conference, Sept. 23-25 in Towson. In the process they debated nearly 300 issue statements submitted by citizens on the role of all types of libraries in promoting democracy, literacy and economic development in the state.

Delegates also elected 16 people to represent state interests at the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services, set for July 9-13.

Delegates wanting to improve school libraries pushed their issue to the forefront, garnering the most votes among the 51 draft res-

olutions presented on the conference's final day. The top solution called for state funding to bring school library collections and staffing up to established standards by 1995. In materials alone, school libraries in Maryland are 33 percent below guidelines set in 1986.

"Every Maryland school student deserves access to a quality school library," said delegate Irene Hildebrandt, a media specialist with Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

Delegates also agreed that the 22,000 people living in state institutions have been shut out of the information mainstream. They called for increased funding and adequate support staff for libraries in state institutions to better meet the information needs of residents.

So that recorded heritage is not lost, delegates requested that the governor appoint a task force within a year to develop a statewide preservation plan for newspapers, local records and other historical documents.

Citizens and workgroup dis-

cussions at the conference convinced delegates that the state's libraries are doing a poor job of informing citizens about their services. To correct this situation, they called for all libraries to develop marketing strategies to promote library and information services available locally and statewide.

Delegates were particularly concerned that citizens with economic, language or educational limitations find out about library services that could help them. They also asked that special attention be paid to reaching the physically challenged, the emotionally and mentally impaired, the business and industry sector, government and community leaders, children and youth, senior citizens and the institutionalized.

While funding was part of the discussion on many of the issues, only one of the top five resolutions addressed funding directly. Delegates called for the governor to appoint a task force within a year to evaluate the current state aid formula for Maryland's 24 public library systems.

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