

To the Editor:

Your articles on Mexico (front page and editorial, Feb. 23) focus on the drug problem as simply one of persistent supply and "how difficult it will be to stem the flow of drugs from abroad," as your editorial states. This does a disservice by advancing the simplistic Reagan-Bush "war on drugs." You would better serve readers by reminding us that without demand there is no supply.

BILL PALM

Cheyenne, Wyo., Feb. 25, 1997



To the Editor:

President Clinton is launching a \$16 billion campaign to combat the use of drugs, intended particularly to reverse rising drug use among children (news article, Feb. 26).

In the past decade, a major advance in understanding substance abuse is its high association with psychiatric disorders, particularly depression, post-traumatic stress and bipolar disorders.

Perhaps the campaign should tell teen-agers to "just say no" to mental illness?

LISA M. NAJAVITS

Brookline, Mass., Feb. 26, 1997

The writer is a psychologist at Harvard Medical School.

The White Hotel?

To the Editor:

I applaud your decision to print the White House list of overnight guests ("A Night at the White House: Friends, Officials, the Famous and the Generous," news article, Feb. 26). Excuse my ignorance, but since when did the White House become the National Hotel? I side with the President, believing that this political fund-raising mess is mostly partisan politics-as-usual. But why should Forrest Gump (a.k.a. Tom Hanks) be staying at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue?

NICK PACHETTI

New York, Feb. 26, 1997