

Editorial

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Mall Madness

AS HBO's new miniseries "John Adams" chronicles the life of one of our Founding Fathers, it provides a great glimpse into the process of creating a nation: patriots coming together to debate, argue and, in the end, find consensus. The show is also a good reminder of something we who live here take for granted: What a sacred place Independence Mall is.

So the squabbles and apparent unholy alliances involving the National Park Service, Independence Visitor Center and tour operators recently highlighted by Daily News columnist Ronnie Polaneczky would make the founders shudder.

For nine years, the visitor center and Park Service have failed to come up with an agreement to run the center that might make the rules governing tour companies more consistent and less arbitrary. Some non-motorized tour operators are rightfully unhappy they don't get the same access to tourists as motorized tours. Further, the operator of Ride the Ducks has managed to circumvent the law that would give it only one staging area by setting up four companies.

This is a shameful state of affairs. The process and guidelines for tour operators should be fair, open and transparent - just as John Adams would have advised.