Message From the Chair
Sheila LaCroix
Addiction Research Foundation Library

As I pulled together thoughts, e-mail messages, files and overheads to create some mental and physical order in preparation for the Vancouver conference, so much was on my mind, including this overdue message for SALIS News. Well, here goes...

I should start with a rallying cry. Reading through the biographies of the SALIS Board nominees says it all about why SALIS is such a great, vibrant organization. I believe this sample is representative of our membership - so many interesting, exciting careers, so much expertise, substance abuse and otherwise, so many varied backgrounds, and so international!

Next, I'll highlight some of my goals as Chair. Of primary concern to me is supporting ongoing projects by coordinating resources and talents. Unfortunately the enthusiasm generated at the annual conference quickly dissipates when we get back to our regular, busy jobs. This is very normal. The main

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SALIS 1997 Conference

Mark your calendars for the 19th Annual SALIS Conference, October 19-23, 1997 at the Little Rock Hilton, Little Rock, Arkansas. The theme for this conference is “Information Technology: the Threshold of the 21st Century Communication.” Percy Brown of the Arkansas Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention is the chair and can be reached at 5800 W. 10th Street, Suite 907, Little Rock, AR 72204. (501) 280-4506, FAX (501) 280-4519, or e-mail: pjbrown@aristotle.net.

Membership Reminder
Sheila LaCroix
Addiction Research Foundation Library

It's almost that time again - Membership Renewal! Every year, there are some individuals who think they are members and are not, and likewise, those who are and think they're not! It's happened to the best of us. The culprits (I confess, I've been one) usually come from larger libraries. Be aware that membership privileges cannot be transferred from librarian to librarian - ie, you go to the conference, I'll run for executive office. When deciding on how many of your staff should be members, remember the benefits of full membership ($75 U.S.):

- Entitlement to vote and hold office
- Membership rate at annual conference (Associate membership also)
- Membership in the SALIS Listserv
- Subscription to SALIS News

Take time to make sure your organization is well represented and don't let that membership lapse!

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Highlights from the SALIS Executive Board Meetings

November 6-9, 1996
Waterfront Centre Hotel, Vancouver, Canada
Leigh Hallingby, SALIS Secretary

SALIS Conference Planning Manual
Lynn Shipley is putting together a SALIS conference planning manual, including time lines, templates, etc. Her aim is to have it completed at the end of 1/97.

1997 Conference

1998 Conference
Indianapolis, Indiana. Hosted by Barbara Seitz of the Indiana Prevention Resource Center.

Home Office Report
Andrea Mitchell reported since SALIS's only income is from membership dues, SALIS needs to seek funding to continue to carry out projects and programs. She was approached by Dr. Ernest Drucker of Montefiore Medical Center in New York City to do Internet training at the International Harm Reduction Conference in Paris in March 1997. She is working on a plan and budget for this program.

Membership dues were raised for 1996, and membership went from 182 in 1995 to 152 in 1996.

SALIS Directory
Andrea said that at least $6,000 of funding is needed to produce a new directory. The technology committee was resurrected to look at the idea of an electronic directory and the needs for update and enhancement of the SALIS web site. Nancy Sutherland will chair this committee and offered to create a simple directory of SALIS members for the SALIS Homepage.

Virtual Clearinghouse
Virtual Clearinghouse on Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs has been operated by the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse for the past year during the prototype phase and now seeks its own domain name. A decision was made that SALIS will pay for the domain name.

The main purpose of the clearinghouse is to make policy-oriented documents available in full-text. CCSA is looking for organizations that are willing to make a financial

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SALIS '96 Conference
Jill Austin
Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse

If you attended the Vancouver conference, I'm sure you will agree that one of the highlights was Nancy Poole's presentation on women's resources. Nancy provided an information-packed 20 minutes, and at the end, agreed to provide SALIS folks with a bibliography of the resources she described. She has done just that. I have received a "Selection of Recent Print Resources on Women and Substance Abuse," containing 28 items. If you would like a copy, it will be available very shortly from CCSA's Web site, at http://www.ccsa.ca/poole.html. For a printed copy, please contact Tracy Sutherland, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, 75 Albert Street, Suite 300, Ottawa, ON K1P 5E7.

SALIS-L Update
Nancy Sutherland
Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute

The SALIS-L listserv now has 93 subscribers -- nearly two thirds of the SALIS membership! As described in the Summer 1996 issue of SALIS News, the listserv is open to all SALIS members. Its purpose is to provide a medium for rapid exchange of professional information and assistance among SALIS members.

Some internet addresses on record at the SALIS office do not appear to work -- maybe due to a change in address or handwriting that was hard to read. Also, since Prevline does not allow its members to use listservs, you must have a regular internet mail account to use SALIS-L.

If you're a SALIS member in 1996 and have an internet e-mail account but are NOT receiving e-mail messages from the SALIS-L listserv, please send your name, organization name, and e-mail address to me at adalib@u.washington.edu so that you can begin to enjoy the benefits of being able to communicate with your colleagues in SALIS.

New Officers in SALIS

Congratulations to all the new officers for SALIS 1997: Sheila LaCroix of Addiction Research Foundation (Toronto, Canada) is Chair; Barbara J. Seitz of Indiana Prevention Resource Center (Bloomington, IN) is Chair-Elect; and the Members-At-Large are George Marcelle of Social & Health Services (Los Angeles, CA), Lorna McKenzie of Centre For Education & Information on Drugs & Alcohol (Australia), Andrew W. Milwid of the Elks Drug Awareness Program (Dadeville, AL), Carla Rouge of the Institut Suisse de

(Continued on page 10)
Report on RADAR Network Steering Committee Meeting
Tucson, AZ: September 8-11, 1996
Sheila Lacroix
Addiction Research Foundation Library

I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to represent SALIS at the RADAR Network Steering Committee Meeting this past September. Although I have not yet received minutes, I will provide highlights of the meeting and a brief summary of my SALIS Organization Report to the Committee.

The meeting coincided with the 9th Annual National Prevention Network Prevention Research Conference, Today's Research: Driving Tomorrow's Programs. As a result, our agenda merged with the conference agenda and we were shuttled over to the conference hotel to attend mainly keynote addresses by Mary Dufour, Dr. Elaine Johnson, Dr. Nelba Chavez, General McCaffrey and others. Some of us found it a bit frustrating, as there were sessions we would have loved to attend, but that, of course was not the priority.

The general theme of the meeting was change, change, and more change, due to severe budget cuts and a change in leadership as a result of Dr. Johnson's pending retirement. A lot of discussion and brainstorming was done around the topics of identifying and meeting network needs and the future direction of The Network in light of the CSAP shrinking budget. CSAP will be drastically cutting back on prevention materials and Spanish materials, with the exception of special campaigns such as Girl Power and Reality Check. It will move in the direction of electronic templates for prevention issues. As distributing materials has been a major role for many of the RADAR sites, this will result in a change of focus from distributor to broker. Information technology, including internet connection and worldwide web access will become essential in this changing environment. As many SALIS members have already experienced this phenomenon, and are more used to the brokering role, I offered support and tried to emphasize the more positive side to the changes, urging members to try to play more of a partnership role. Another issue was the dismantling of the Bulletin Board System for PREVLINE, now at the NCADI web site. This will require members to negotiate for access at their workplaces where some members have experienced resistance. Some fear being cut off from the network.

On a more positive note, Sharon Crockett, our recent Chair, was elected Steering Committee Chair. She will be a

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ELISAD Meets in Oslo
Jill Austin
Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse

ELISAD, the European Association of Libraries and Information Services on Alcohol and other Drugs, held its 8th annual meeting in Oslo, Norway, November 15 and 16. I attended the meeting to represent SALIS and to present on the Virtual Clearinghouse project. The meeting was hosted by the Norwegian National Directorate for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Problems. Ove Sundby and his staff from the library did an excellent job of organizing the meeting, which was very well attended.

A full-day meeting was held on Friday, November 15th, with a half-day session on Saturday morning. The focus of the meeting was the Internet, and Internet access with full screen projection available to every presenter. The sessions included "Internet technical access," "How to implement Internet solutions," and "Concrete experiences of Web sites." There were good technical sessions on designing Web sites, and providing clients access to the Internet from a library. There was an excellent presentation by a treatment professional on "Internet as a tool for finding information on alcohol and drug problems: an end-user's experience." He provided a personal perspective on the kinds of information available for professionals, including his own very active use of databases available on the Net.

The sessions on "concrete experiences" included presentations on ALCONLINE and DACCTRIF; experiences from ISDD in the UK; search engines that are being used for specialized database applications; and experiences with Reitox-France and development of a national network on the Web. I presented on the Virtual Clearinghouse, giving a live Internet demo. On Saturday morning, I was asked to demonstrate the CCSA Web site, and Marianne van der Heyden demonstrated the ELISAD test Web site.

Virtual Clearinghouse

ELISAD members at the meeting were very supportive of this project and interested in being involved with its development. We have agreed that ELISAD, along with SALIS, will endorse the site through a statement on the homepage. There will be a link to the ELISAD and SALIS Web sites from the Virtual Clearinghouse homepage, and each organization would link back to the Virtual Clearinghouse from their sites. The Virtual Clearinghouse page is located at http://www.ccsa.ca/atod/atod.htm.

Update on ELISAD

ELISAD will have their Web site up and running shortly.

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News From Canada
Denise Holmen
Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission

Cannabis Policy

The Addiction Research Foundation (ARF) in Ontario is publishing a thoughtful and thought-provoking analysis of the harms of the current Canadian policy on cannabis. Its conclusions fit well with the SALIS Conference theme, "The Social and Political Aspects of Information".

"Best Advice: Cannabis, Health and Public Policy" begins with a background history of the recently passed Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, which maintains the criminal record provisions of the previous Narcotic Control Act for simple cannabis possession. During the hearings for this legislation, the ARF, the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, the Canadian Police Association, the Canadian Foundation on Drug Policy, and the Toronto Public Health Dept. opposed this approach on the grounds that it contradicted principles of public health, harm reduction and cost-effectiveness of drug policy.

This document describes the extent of cannabis use in Canada, its adverse effects; its relation to other drug use; public health vs moral and legal bases for public policy goals; the number of Canadians who now have criminal records for cannabis possession; the costs of enforcing this provision; the effectiveness of laws as deterreants; and Canadian attitudes toward its legal status. It discusses alternative control systems, and experiences in other jurisdictions which have decriminalized cannabis possession. It concludes with a call for a more balanced social policy.

When the Senate passed the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, it recognized that all relevant issues had not been fully addressed, and called for a full review of Canadian drug policies with a view to minimizing harm. In July, the House of Commons Standing Committee On Health called for presentations on the extent of harms caused by the abuse of licit and illicit drugs, and proposals for a national demand reduction policy.

Closure of the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse?

At this critical time in Canadian drug policy, just when a strong national voice is required to advocate a balanced social policy, the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse (CCSA) is threatened. In spite of its tremendous achievements, its funding has been drastically cut, and as of April 1997 may no longer exist.

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Video ReView
Harm Reduction On Video
Gary Bell
Addiction Research Foundation Library
Toronto, Canada

The concept of harm reduction as an approach to treatment has refined over a 20 year period. Robin Room used the term "minimization" in 1974 to refer to the effectiveness that small steps can have over total eradication when treating alcohol problems. P.G. Erickson further maintains that harm reduction belongs in the public health movement where the medical effects of psychoactive drugs are well known, although he recognizes the impact this decision would have on law enforcement. These arguments are supported by the knowledge that the most popularly used psychoactive drugs are neither as dangerous nor addictive as has been supposed (Drug and Alcohol Review, 1995, #14, pp 283-285.)

The first conference on harm reduction was in Liverpool in 1990 and subsequently the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation produced DRUGS AND DRUG ABUSE in 1991 as part of its THE NATURE OF THINGS series. David Suzuki explores in this two-part program the ways in which four jurisdictions - New York, Toronto, Amsterdam and Liverpool - handle the problems of illicit drug use. In the mean time, while treatment and research specialists debate, the "grassroots" health care workers have been busy.

Recently a number of organizations that deal with "street youth" have produced their own video programs. In Toronto, Youth Link, Innercity produced STD STREET SMARTS (1989; 30 min) and STREETWISE WOMEN (1990; 15 min). Both programs are aimed at young people who survive on the streets of large cities often by working in the sex trade. No attempt is made in these programs to persuade youth not to live this way, but in the tradition of harm reduction, the videos illustrate how to clean needles and prepare injection sites, advocate the use of needle exchanges and regular health check-ups. Condom use is strongly recommended and application is explicitly demonstrated.

Again made in Toronto is the video FIT, a program "made by junkies for junkies" and produced by the Parkdale Community Health Centre. The tape points out procedures for reducing the risks of injection drug use. In a clear and down-to-earth manner, issues of needle disposal, overdoses, infections like "cotton fever" hepatitis, HIV and AIDS are discussed.

(Continues on page 8)
SALIS Conference
November 6-9, 1996
Percy Brown
Arkansas Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention

In beautiful downtown Vancouver, at the resplendent Waterfront Centre Hotel, the 18th Annual conference of the Substance Abuse Librarians and Information Specialists (SALIS) was held. This group was smaller than those of years past due to budget constraints, and the difficulty of international travel. Beyond North America, only Switzerland was represented.

Papers were given on a number of topics. I will comment on a few of the presentations. Mr. Steinman, as he welcomed us, spoke about Alcohol, and Drug Education Service. He reminded us that information is power. It is most important that we are clear with the information that we provide because it is taken to be absolute. Everyone does not research multiple sources. Many use only one source and whatever information that source provides can become the foundation of belief and action. It is wise to inquire beyond an initial request for information in order to provide clients with their real desire.

Mr. Jan Skirrow opened our minds in the Keynote Address when he told of the government’s intent to restrict facilities to, and increase control of, those who had substance abuse problems. He reminded us of the nation's development and the contribution of Lewis and Clark. As we were all basking in the memory of the glorious days of traversing the wilderness, he told us that Lewis had been, and was, at the time of these great adventures, an alcoholic. The responsibility entrusted to him in those days would not be given in today's environment.

There are many social issues in the realm of substance abuse today that offend personal sensitivities. As purveyors of information, we can be called on to provide information that we disagree with. Our perspective should not be a part of our information delivery system.

Vince Cain, in his presentation "On Implementing Harm Reduction," talked about freedom of choice and substance abuse. In nearly every large town, there exists a group of citizens who are aware of the dangers of substance abuse, and yet continue to involve themselves. In our profession, we see this as a health problem and seek to correct it so that "good health is available for all." In a realm where we honor the principle of "freedom of choice", is it proper to involve the judiciary by making laws to guide behavior? "Can a person choose to die despite what society says?" This topic was debated furiously after the session.

George Marcelle talked about marijuana and the increase of use. In this time, when many youngsters seek to bond with their parents because much in their lives is unstable, they try the things their parents did, from fashion to drugs. Since we don't have records of anyone "dying from marijuana use", it is perceived as a safe drug. Youth are not noted for their ability or willingness to look beyond the "here and now" and so it is difficult for them to see that the known effects of marijuana use are in the future, not in the present. The studies that George shared with us indicated that parents who used marijuana, gave an overwhelming response to surveys asking if they thought it was all right for their own children to use marijuana. The response was NO.

Neil Boyd talked about social harm, culture, and mythology. His focus was "decriminalizing marijuana use". Needless to say, this topic impacts many realms. In the wake of two U.S. states (California and Arizona) making medical use of marijuana "legal", other groups have gained momentum to expand on this event. In Vancouver, shops exist where people can buy marijuana buds or seeds. In his talk, Neil referenced the economic value of marijuana use vs. the use of beer. One joint, he said could provide a "high" for 3-6 people for about $1.50. To achieve a relatively comparable "high" would take 4-5 beers with a resultant cost of about $25.00. He said that an aggressive campaign like those for tobacco use control could aid in the decriminalizing so that those who enjoyed marijuana recreationally could do so without fear of legal reprisals. This was of course, another topic debated furiously both in and out of session.

Robin Kroft talked about challenges. Information, like technology, feeds on itself she said. Balance is required because the arena of hard science makes us want to quantify, simplify, explain, and predict with accuracy. But when dealing with human behavior that is impossible. In the age of technology, through a keyboard, one can presume that they "know" a person, but with the absence of flesh and blood, body language, and the natural instincts, it is easy to fall prey.

Other topics dealt with money and how it buys information since it can focus research and policy. Money that has been generated to do positive social work can sometimes get thwarted in its proper use. Tina Miller talked about money in California earmarked for environmental issues, health promotion, and organized health. It has been diverted by the governor for other uses so that now it is in escrow and no one is getting the benefits.

Another major issue of the conference dealt with the copyright laws and the different requirements of producers of information. Some agencies want royalty each time their information is used and others want the information to be used as much as possible without financial commitments. With all being available on the Internet, much confusion abounds as to how to handle information for clients.
Book Review
Geoffrey P. Hunt
Institute for Scientific Analysis, Alameda, CA


The Community Partnership program was launched in 1990 as the “Flagship” program of the Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (later renamed the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention [CSAP]), which had been established to design programs to produce solutions to the problems created by alcohol and drug abuse. Over 250 individual Community Partnership programs were started nationwide. Their aim was to involve the coordination and collaboration of different sectors and elements of the local community to establish a “long range, comprehensive and self-sustaining” prevention effort. The basic premise of the Partnership was that meaningful, long-term reductions in alcohol and other drug (AOD) problems will be won only when the concerns, energies, and commitments of local communities are focused on this problem territory. Since then little information has been published on the development, activities or success of these programs. This is unfortunate given both the size of the overall program and the fact that the available literature on substance abuse community prevention is somewhat sparse. Therefore it was with some excitement that I received the news of this publication. The editor, in the introduction, informs us that the book is “a significant contribution to existing literature on developing community partnerships” and that it “marks the first extensive release of knowledge from the CSAP Community Partnership Demonstration Grant Program”. These are indeed important claims for the publication.

The publication is divided into two sections - Specific Models and Case Studies. The former examines, according to the editor, “a specific model or models which can be used to design the local approach to community building and organizing”. The issues discussed include the challenges of Public Benefit Organizations, for example networking, multicultural considerations and the administrator as evaluator; community collaborative problem solving using a stakeholder based strategy; and a systems approach for building community coalitions. In the latter section four individual Community Partnership case studies - the Salt Lake Valley (Utah) Drug Abuse Prevention Coalition; the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Community Partnership; the Ozarks Fighting Back Partnership (Missouri); and finally the Region Nine Community Drug Prevention Project (Minnesota) - are discussed. Although the case studies provide more specific detail about individual projects, all the chapters on Specific

What’s New in Reference Sources
Andrea Mitchell
Alcohol Research Group & CSR, Inc.


According to the introduction written by Dwight Heath of Brown University, the AAA authorized the establishment of the Task Force on Alcohol and Drugs in 1989. Members of this group have served in a variety of roles to advise on issues of alcohol and other drugs, giving an anthropological perspective.

There are over 100 persons listed giving address, phone, fax, and e-mail; major geographic or cultural areas of expertise; and special skills. Copies are available from: Timothy Jablonski, American Anthropological Association, 4350 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 640, Arlington, VA 22203-1620. (703) 528-1902 X 3028.


The annual directory created from the (NDATUS) National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Utilization Survey, (new name this year: Uniform Facility Data Set), which lists by state, then city, alcohol and other drug treatment and prevention service agencies. NOTE: As mentioned early February on the SALIS-L, this directory is searchable via the NCADI web site.


According to the preface, “drug abuse (in Nigeria) as a social problem came to the attention of psychiatrists and social scientists in the late 1950’s. But it wasn’t until the early 1960’s that the first studies on the problem were published.”

This annotated bibliography draws together the alcohol, tobacco, and other drug literature from 1964 onward. “Other drugs” here includes six references on caffeine, along with barbiturates, anabolic steroids, cannabis, cocaine, hallucinogens, heroin, inhalants, LSD, methaqualone, opiates, and prescription drugs. Organized (Continued on page 9)

(Continued on page 7)
From the Editor
Andrea Mitchell
Alcohol Research Group

It was not my intention to begin the year with another double issue of News, but it was fated. On the day that I returned from the SALIS conference, I was taken to the emergency room of a local hospital and diagnosed with an impacted kidney stone. It took "old fashioned surgery" to remove, and I was the worse for ware for more than a month. The News contributors and staff decided it would make more sense to just combine the Fall and Winter issues. So here it is!

For those of you fortunate enough to have attended the SALIS conference, I think many would agree it was one of SALIS's best. For those who were not there, there are several pieces in this issue which will update you on happenings and decisions. Jill Austin, conference chair, and her team are to be congratulated.

Percy Brown will host the 1997 Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, and is eager to hear from anyone who is interested in assisting. The theme highlights technology's role in information and communications. See the front page of News for his contact information.

One of the issues which was raised at this years meeting was, how do we get SALIS members to get involved with the organizational activities? SALIS has a Technology committee, chaired by Nancy Sutherland, which is aiming to update SALIS's Web page. The Education and Outreach Committee is currently in need of a chair. One of the objectives of this committee is to identify conferences where SALIS may exhibit and/or provide training. You may have other ideas. The Newsletter is always in need of writers, ideas for new columns, cartoons, etc. This is a new year and time to get involved with an organization that really needs your efforts.

Biblioholism: The Literary Addiction

There is a great little poster for sale which was offered at the ALA meetings. It is called Biblioholism: The Literary Addiction. Biblioholism is defined at the bottom of the colorful illustration as: the habitual longing to purchase, read, store, admire and consume books in excess. Sound like anyone you know? May be purchased for $7.00 including shipping & handling from Fulcrum Publishing 1-800 992-2908. Note: This is the poster which was used to market the book by Tom Raabe with the same title. 1991 was the published date. $8.95 paperback.

Member News

Margy Chan has left Addiction Research Foundation and is working in Hong Kong. She can be reached at mchan@renet.org. Her address, phone, and fax will be listed in the next issue of SALIS News.

Debbie Monkman has also left the Addiction Research Foundation and is now working in Vancouver. She can be reached at dmonkman@bcnhs.bc.ca.

Coming in Spring issue of NEWS:

A list of all 1997 SALIS members

Toxibase on the WEB

ETOH on the WEB
commitment to the Virtual Clearinghouse so that someone can be hired part-time to get organizations to provide their policy papers.

**Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse**

A motion was passed to send a letter from SALIS to the Standing Committee on Health and the Ministry of Health of Canada about continuing the existence of the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, which will officially close at the end of March 1997, unless new funding is found.

**Board Communication**

It was agreed that the SALIS Chair will put up a quarterly report about the major Board decisions and activities. This report will become available to the entire membership via the SALIS listserv and/or newsletter.

**Executive Director**

A motion was passed that the manager of SALIS Home, currently Andrea Mitchell, have the title of executive director. Andrea will be working on getting funding to do training at the International Harm Reduction Conference in Paris in March 1997.

**ELISAD (European Librarians & Information Specialists on Alcohol and Drugs)**

There is a need to talk to ELISAD about collaboration in general and about the possibility of a joint meeting in particular. In 1997, their meeting will be in Italy in September.

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**Online News**

The journal *Tobacco Control* will be selectively indexed in Medline and Index Medicus, beginning with volume 5, 1996. It becomes the first journal devoted to the subject of tobacco and health to be approved for indexing in the National Library of Medicine’s major medical indexes.

**ETOH on the WWW**

**ETOH:** The Alcohol Science Bibliographic Database, is now available for searching via the WWW. For assistance on how to search, the Quick Guide to Searching is available at the website and can easily be printed for handy reference purposes. Remember that it also helps to have an AOD Thesaurus. You can go to ETOH from the NIAAA website: http://www.niaaa.nih.gov or you may go directly to the site with http://ethoven.niaaa.nih.gov.

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**ELISAD Meets in Oslo Continues...**

The organization is updating its directory this year, and will make the members' directory available on its Web site. SALIS and ELISAD are looking at the possibility of creating a joint directory that will be a comprehensive listing of ATOD organizations around the world.

Another point of discussion was the possibility of a joint activity at the Harm Reduction Conference being held in Paris this coming March. This may involve Internet training, or possibly a joint presentation on information resources. The ELISAD elections were held at the business meeting on the final day. Marianne van der Heyden will take over as Chair, and Thomas Rouault becomes Past-Chair. Next years’ meeting will be held in Turin, Italy.

**A Note of Thanks**

I would like to express my thanks to SALIS and ELISAD for jointly funding my trip to Oslo. It was a great experience for me, and wonderful to finally meet people I knew only from letters and e-mail. I hope that SALIS and ELISAD can continue to grow and find ways to work together to promote both organizations. It is critical that the information community take a lead in using the Internet to disseminate information on alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, and SALIS and ELISAD are in an excellent position to do this.

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**Video ReView Continues...**

The Santa Cruz Needle Exchange video HARD HITS: DRUG USE AND THE EXPERIENCE OF YOUTH (1993; 23 min) not only presents the issues of drug use, but also the life experiences of youth. Young people discuss life on the streets and the early introduction to illicit drugs, sometimes from within their own families. They also present their attitudes about life and their hopes for the future. Also presented is a criticism of AIDS prevention programs that concentrated exclusively on the use of condoms.

Back in Toronto, the Addiction Research Foundation helped a group of youth produce their own video as a kind of survival guide to the streets. CYPHR - Concerned Youth Promoting Harm Reduction - (available soon) does not simply teach how to "do drugs safely," as the "harm" of their lifestyle concern much more than drug use. Dramatizations, animation and discussions suggest how to deal with financial, social, physical and mental harms. Concrete advice is given on pooling resources, using food banks and shelters, budgeting money and learning basic self-defense. Though the sensibility of these harm reduction videos go against traditional approaches to illicit drug use, they are intended to be one of the small steps to aid a very specific high risk audience live more safely with the hope for change in the future.

**ALSO:** See Government Videos on page...
Models refer to particular projects. Those referred to include the Yakima County Substance Abuse Coalition in Washington State, the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Coalition on Alcohol and Drug Problems and the Drug-Free Rockford Community Partnership in Rockford Illinois.

Consequently, altogether seven individual Community Partnership programs are examined and the reader might have expected some insightful material on the development of these varied Partnerships, and the obstacles they encountered. Unfortunately little sociological insight is forthcoming. Although descriptive information is provided which tells us which organizations were involved, the organizational structure of the programs and their relationships with other similar organizations, only in a few cases, for example, chapter five and seven, is there any discussion of the problems that can arise from the introduction of federal funding at a local level. Unlike such studies as Robert Haveman (1977), and Greenstone and Peterson (1973) on the War on Poverty which analyze the inevitable conflicts and unintended consequences that arise from the introduction of federally directed social policy reform, the accounts provided in this compendium ignore such issues. Moreover, studies of social policy programs require some connection to the wider social, political and economic context. Such a context is sadly missing from any of these accounts. At no time in the book do the authors ask any of the following questions: Why did a federal agency targeting the prevention of substance abuse problems become established in the late 1980's? What was the connection between the Reagan/Bush political era, the Drug War and a prevention program called the Community Partnership designed to bring together both private and public agencies and health services and the criminal justice system? Instead, the authors, like many of their colleagues in the alcohol and drug fields, discuss the Partnership program in a complete social, political and economic vacuum.

Even if we concede that such macro questions may be too complex to examine in this publication, we should nevertheless expect the authors to examine some of the more interesting sociological questions at the local level. For example, what are the possible contradictory consequences of a federal funding designed to encourage collaboration at a time of increasing local government fiscal restrictions? What are the consequences of a federal funding, which combines the necessary requirements of financial accountability, with an ideological rhetoric espousing "grassroots empowerment"?

We are informed that these projects are about "empowering communities at a grassroots level" and yet nowhere is there any socio-economic or social class analysis of the key participants. Therefore it is impossible to assess the extent to which the program is successful in encouraging the disenfranchised to become involved. These and many other vitally important social policy questions are ignored by the authors of this collection. Instead the reader is merely provided with a series of cursory and superficial reports, all of which use the obligatory Community Partnership jargon of empowerment, collaboration, cultural competency, multi-cultural skills, conflict management, building consensus, and paradigm shift, while failing to examine or consider the social consequences or impacts of these federally inspired social programs within the local community.

Additional Reading:


powerful voice for continuing support for substance abuse prevention at the local level, at a time when it seems that prevention is not a high priority in some states.

It was interesting to listen to the reports from the Regional State Centres and the Specialty Centres. Briefly, I reported SALIS current projects and activities, such as the development of our listserv and web site, our involvement with the Virtual Clearinghouse and the Vancouver Conference. I also emphasized our ongoing training and dissemination role for both SALIS members and the broader addictions community, including Internet training at IC4A as well as training on web mounted ETOH and the Alcohol and Other Drug Thesaurus at the SALIS Conference. I can provide a copy of my report to anyone interested. I believe the reports will be included in the RADAR Steering Committee Meeting minutes.
(Message From the Chair Continues...) 

reason for this, I believe, is that there is not always enough time to break down projects into smaller tasks that can be assigned, and in the past, there has been little opportunity to communicate between meetings, other than through SALIS News. I think the SALIS listserv and e-mail with its capability of group mailings will really be a benefit this coming year, as now we can communicate more readily and frequently. Key ongoing projects are:

1. Some form of directory, with a new edition of our print directory as the ultimate goal, but in the interim, perhaps a membership directory for our web site.

2. Further development of our web site, which I think is key to increasing awareness of SALIS and what we have to offer, and an essential tool for our training mandate which Andrea Mitchell has been leading.

Another goal is to do some bridging of the technology "haves" and "have nots". At the RADAR Steering Committee Meeting last September, I was alarmed to learn that there is still a resistance to internet technology among some agencies and government departments that is not always financial. We must offer support and give a clear message that this technology is an essential tool in our jobs as information specialists and that more and more documents, in particular public documents, are being published primarily in electronic format.

A third goal is to foster the advocacy role SALIS can play on behalf of its members. We should be advocating for the continuation of substance abuse specific resource centres and information services. Our services were established for reasons that seem to have been forgotten: to meet needs that weren't being met. We are efficient and add value which translates into money saved and better informed decision making. We know this. To this end, I am planning letter writing in support of the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse for which funding will not continue beyond March 1997. Letters will be sent by SALIS and by CSAIN (Canadian Substance Abuse Information Network), the latter handled by Denise Holmen the Canadian SIG Chair.

I will try to keep you all up-to-date via the SALIS Listserv. If you are not on e-mail, please contact me and perhaps we can set you up with a twin to ensure important information gets to you, in particular relating to Wants, Duplicates and Discards concerning collection development. I look forward to working with you!

I can be reached at, tel: (416) 595-6601, fax: (416) 595-6982, e-mail: slacroix@arf.org.

(News From Canada Continues...) 

The Standing Committee on Health is scheduled to make its report three months after Canada's Drug Strategy sunsets and the Centre closes its doors. Health programming developed under the Drug Strategy is being merged with many other health and social issues under the label of population health. Priority and funding for alcohol and drug programs are unclear, but severe cutback are indicated.

The full text of the CCSA presentation to the Standing Committee on Health is available on their Web site: http://www.ccsa.ca. This document details all the outstanding substance abuse issues that the CCSA is currently handling. It is a testimony to the necessity of the Centre's continuing existence.

At the SALIS conference, the Canadian SIG discussed ways substance abuse information specialists can advocate for the CCSA, and its National Clearinghouse on Substance Abuse. Their national database of Canadian substance abuse publications, their treatment centre and EAP directories, fetal alcohol syndrome clearinghouse, Canadian Profile, full text of workplace drug testing issues and other policy documents are vital to Canadian substance abuse information provision. We will be contacting all CSAIN members with a plan to support the continued existence of the CCSA and Clearinghouse.

Problem Gambling Discussion Group

The CCSA has created a new listserv to support information exchange among those interested in addressing problem gambling through research, prevention, treatment and policy development. To join the list, send an e-mail message to list@ccsa.ca and in the body of the message type (in lower-case letters): join prob_gambl.

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(New Officers Continues...) 

Prophylaxie de l'Alcoolisme (Switzerland), and Nancy Sutherland of Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute (Seattle, WA).

Tom Colthurst of UCSD continues as treasurer; Andrea Mitchell as SALIS News Editor; Leigh Hallingby of Lindesmith Center continues as Secretary; Sheila Lacroix of Addiction Research Foundation continues as Canadian SIG Chair; R.P. Kumar of B.B. Dikshit Library continues as South East SIG Chair; and Sharon Crockett of Tennessee Alcohol and Drug Association continues as Multi-Cultural SIG.
New Books


Government Documents / Fugitive Literature

Bellenir, Karen (Ed.). *Substance Abuse SourceBook: Basic Health-related Information about the Abuse of Legal and Illegal Substances Such as Alcohol, Tobacco, Prescription Drugs, Marijuana, Cocaine, and Heroin; and Including Facts about Substance Abuse Prevention Strategies, Intervention Methods, Treatment and Recovery Programs, and a Section Addressing the Special Problems Related to Substance Abuse During Pregnancy.* Detroit, MI: Omnigraphics Inc., 1996. 573 pp.


[Proposition 215, the Medical Marijuana Initiative]. Santa Monica, CA: Californians for Medical Rights, [1996]. 13 Pieces in Folder; 28 Cm.

(Video ReView Continues..)

Government Videos: The following videos are available from AADAC (Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission) 1-800-280-9616:

Are You Concerned About a Co-worker’s Gambling? (Brochures, 50 for $10).

Exploring the Gambling Experience: Video and Client Handbooks. (For counselors to use with clients, video $99; 10 client handbooks $15).

Healing Circle Video. (Shows the importance of spirituality in native recovery from problem gambling, $50).

Problem Gambling: Community Presentation Kit. (A community awareness tool, $10).


Periodical News

Alcohol, Health, and Research World, American Journal on Addictions and Tobacco Control have all been accepted for indexing by the National Library of Medicine. Alcologia from Italy was turned down in a third attempt. Perhaps SALIS librarians should continue to write in support of the various AOD journals which are still not being indexed.

The Malta Messenger (Methadone as a legitimate treatment alternative) is a newsletter which has only recently come to my attention, although it has been around for approximately 4 years with current issue vol. 4, no. 2 summer/fall 1996. Malta is a non-profit organization founded in Sacramento, California in 1992 comprised of methadone patients, their friends, and families. Working for quality treatment, expanded flexibility, greater public understanding, and acceptance of methadone treatment are the group’s major objectives. Since 1992, Malta chapters have been created in eight California locations, Oregon, Nebraska, Texas, and Michigan. Current issue contains short pieces on harm reduction, hepatitis C, SSI, a consumers’ platform, and patient poetry. Malta, PO Box 1716, Marysville, CA 95901. (916) 742-0637; E-mail: malta4u@pjs.net

NIAAA Monographs

All SALIS Full members should have received the following new NIAAA Monographs. If you are a SALIS Full Member and have not received these, please contact the SALIS Home Office (see back page for contact information).

No. 31 Alcohol and the Cardiovascular System.
No. 32 Women and Alcohol: Issues for Prevention Research
“Information Technology: The Threshold of the 21st Century Communication”

Conference Host: Percy Brown (Arkansas Bureau of Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention)
(501) 280-4506  FAX: (501) 280-4519  E-mail: pbrown@mail.doh.state.ar.us

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