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Announcing primary goals is only the first function of effective drug abuse prevention programs. The second step is examining continuity of messages and programs.

Are programs conceptually building on each other? Is the message appropriate to the age group and level of experimentation or use? Is the message consistent with what the group is learning about other subjects, like sex? Is it consistent with human behavior?

For example, we tell four year olds, "Don't cross the

street." When they are six they learn about red lights, green lights, and walk signs. When they get a little older they learn to ignore signs and judge speed and distance of on-coming cars before crossing. And when they are teenagers they learn to jay walk (usually by watching adult examples).

Drug education should be like that.

We shouldn't overdose children with more information than they need and, on the other hand, we shouldn't expect children to change behavior when useless or non-relevant information is presented. Now is the time to begin conceptualizing and outlining goals and procedures for reaching those goals. Until this is done, we will continue to flounder, probably causing more harm than good.

It was almost three years ago that Art Linkletter's drug tragedy was front page news. What has happened since then is just as spectacular and far more newsworthy.

Recently, in his final message as President of NCCDE, he stated "I'm amazed at the tunnel vision of so many so-called drug experts, social workers and drug users... tunnel vision because they are constantly interpreting the answer to the drug problem in terms of their own experience"

He went on to say that efforts founded purely on experience tend to be narrow-minded panaceas. These are words from a man who once thought the solution to drug abuse was beefed-up law enforcement.

The revitalized Art Linkletter pointed to the confrontation between the materialism of his own generation and the idealism of the counter-culture. He spoke of tolerance and understanding and change.

Like most people in drug education, it was a heartfelt response that started Mr. Linkletter's involment. But, slowly and rationally, he channeled these emotions towards constructive activity, the most important, and yet the least tangible.



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New Marking System For Accident-Prone Locations Used in N.Y.

Computerized accident surveillance that is keyed to code-numbered reference markers placed at roadsides is, according to State Commissioner of Transportation, T. W. Parker, "a significant development in New York's highway safety program."

The system, which Commissioner Parker hopes will reduce accidents and fatalities, was explained in a report on the "State Of Our Roads" compiled by Potters Industries, Inc., makers of reflectorized glass pavement spheres.

"Up until now," says Commissioner Parker, "it has been difficult to identify high accident locations in rural areas because there were few, if any, reference points with which to tie in the accident. By installing reference markers at 1/10 mile intervals on all 14,000 miles of State highway," he continues, "we in effect have given every possible accident location a 'highway address.' Motorists, as well as police, can record the code numbers on the nearest marker in the accident report.

"The information is fed into a central computer, and when an unusually high rate of accidents is found at certain locations, we can make prompt spot improvements—signs, signals, pavement markings, surface improvements, reconstruction, or take other remedial action. More importantly," Commissioner Parker states, "the value of reference markers is not limited to accidents. They also provide accurate location identification for reporting disabled vehicles, potholes, flooding and other highway hazards which can aid in reducing accidents.

End of Tooth Decay Is Predicted in Decade

Within the next decade, tooth decay in the United States may be virtually eliminated, according to a spokesman for Canrad Precision Industries Inc., Newark, N. J. Working with the L. D. Caulk Company, Canrad-Hanovia has produced an ultra-violet light (known as the Dental Gun) which is used as an activator light in connection with a new tooth sealant.

The teeth are first cleaned and conditioned by the dentist before placement of the sealant material. After application of a liquid plastic, the material is exposed to a

harmless ultra-violet light which quickly hardens into a smooth plastic shield.

Train accidents and resulting casualties dropped sharply in 1971 for the second consecutive year, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

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