Recognition of injury pioneers

Dr Susan Baker has been awarded the American Public Health Association Award for Excellence. It is the first time that the award has gone to a person working in injury prevention. In the UK, the James Spence Medal of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has been awarded to Dr Hugh Jackson, who co-founded the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT). Fittingly, both are honorary editors of this journal and continue to be active advocates for improving the safety of children and young people.

Another member of our editorial board has also won a national honour. David Sleet has received the 1999 Mayhew Derryberry Award for outstanding contribution to health education research or theory in behavioral sciences from the American Public Health Association. The award recognizes his efforts to increase the value of theory based health education research and practice, particularly in the field of injury control.

...while another pioneer dies

John Paul Stapp, once known as the “fastest man on Earth” for his rocket sled test runs in the New Mexico desert, died in November at age 89. During the 1950s, he subjected himself to 29 rocket sled rides, proving human beings could withstand more than 40 times the force of gravity. In an unprecedented test in 1954, Stapp’s sled accelerated in 5 seconds from a standstill to 632 mph, then was brought to a stop in 1.4 seconds. The information collected provided criteria for crash protection designs for aircraft, space cabins, and ground vehicles as well as for tolerance limits for pilots in aircraft ejection seats.

North American guidelines for children’s agricultural tasks

The National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety has released the North American Guidelines for Children’s Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT), developed by a team of nearly 150 advisors from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The North American guidelines are a unique resource for parents and others to assign age appropriate tasks for children aged 7–16 who work on farms. The guidelines are based on childhood growth and development principals, agricultural practices, principles of childhood injury, and agricultural and occupational safety. Although the guidelines do not address all possible tasks in agriculture, they do address geographic variation in agriculture and many of the agricultural jobs in which young people often work. Information could be modified and applied to agricultural work in most nations. Additional information is available at http://www.nacat.org, calling the National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety at or by contacting Steve Schaefers, National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, 1000 North Oak Ave, Marshfield, WI 54449, USA (tel: +1 715 399 4999, e-mail: schaefers@mflclin.edu).

Albertan license suspension increase

Drunk drivers in Alberta who kill or injure someone will now automatically see their licenses suspended for six months, after a new law came into effect in December 1999. This provides the harshest penalty of any Canadian province. Six of 10 provinces, including Alberta, impose an automatic three month license suspension for drivers caught driving above the legal blood alcohol level (in Alberta it is 0.08), but this new law is the first to strengthen automatic penalties for injuries resulting from impaired driving.

Child safety seat check-up in Japan

Saturn Japan, a division of General Motors Japan, hosted a “Kid’s Safety Seat Check-Up” to promote awareness of the importance of proper use of child safety seats. The event, held at the Sagamihara branch of Toys ‘R Us in September and staffed by 10 Saturn Japan and retailer employees, offered car owners an opportunity to have their safety seats checked by trained technicians to ensure that they had been properly installed. Forty three seats installed in 36 cars were inspected during the event, revealing that approximately 90% of the safety seats were improperly installed. From April 2000, child safety seats will become mandatory for all passengers under 6 years of age in Japan. At present, however, child safety seat use is estimated at a mere 15%.

Middle East National Safe Kids Campaign

In October, Johnson & Johnson Middle East in conjunction with the Dubai Municipality launched the first Middle East National Safe Kids Campaign. The long term objective is to establish the campaign in Dubai and then roll it out across the Middle East. In the first three months the campaign has distributed thousands of leaflets and had display areas at the Middle East Motorshow and in the leading shopping malls in Dubai. Safe Kids Week is happening from 16-22 March 2000. Further information from Sawsan Esebaitah, campaign director (fax: +9714 359918, e-mail: david@art-design-group.com).

New CAPT office in Northern Ireland

The long battle by CAPT’s Northern Ireland Development Officer, Rosie Mercer, to establish a child safety centre in Northern Ireland has moved a step nearer. With help from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive that has provided two flats at peppercorn rents, the trust has been able to establish its own office in the province for the first time, rather than camping in other organisation’s premises. One flat will be used as offices and library while the other will become the child safety centre—when funding permits. Rosie’s new address is Child Accident Prevention Trust, 23B Mullacravey Park, Armagh BT60 4BA, UK (tel: +44 (0) 28 3752 6521, fax: +44 (0) 28 3752 6068, e-mail: rosmercer@aol.com).

Child safety centre in northern England

Funding from the government’s Health Action Zone scheme has enabled a child safety centre to be set up in Gateshead. The initiative is a joint initiative of the local council and the University of Newcastle’s Department of Child Health, led by Dr Elizabeth Towner. Further information from Dr Towner, Community Child Health, 13 Walker Terrace, Gateshead NE8 1EB, UK (e-mail: e.l.towner@newcastle.ac.uk).

US 1999 child health statistics

The annual compilation of statistics relevant to child and adolescent health from USA Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Child Health USA 1999, describes population characteristics, health status, health services utilization, state specific and city data, and progress towards the HP2000 objectives. It includes information on injury and violence. Available through the web site www.nmchc.org.

CE marking of toys questioned

The November/December edition of the ANEC newsletter reports that a test of 22 different toys by the Belgian consumer organisation, Test-Achats, showed that many toys bearing the CE mark are not safe.

Sports injury research

The Australian Football League, responsible for the delivery of Australia’s leading national sport, has established a research and development board to oversee research into this sport. Because of an increasing national attention directed toward injuries to the elite players in this sport, this board has responsibility for research into both safety and performance aspects of the game. The board has a wide representation of experts including sports injury epidemiology (Dr Caroline Finch), sports biomechanics (Professor Bruce Elliot), sports medicine (DrS Hugh Seward and Peter Harcourt), and sports physiotherapy and football administration experts. This is the first national sports body to establish this sort of funding agency. The SportSafe program has been formally established by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care (or whatever it is now called) and the Australian Sports Commission to be the national body responsible for sports safety advocacy and providing sports safety policy advice. The program is being delivered through Sports Medicine Australia and Dr Caroline Finch has been appointed as the Inaugural Chair/Consultant to this program.

Leisure risk study starts

A National Lottery grant to the Child Accident Prevention Trust has allowed a study of the leisure risks of 11–14 year olds to...
begin in the English towns of Gateshead and Huddersfield. Dr Sue Grundy has been appointed to University of Newcastle staff to roll out the first phase of the study—surveys of young people in Gateshead. Further information from Dr Grundy, Community Child Health, 13 Walker Terrace, Gateshead NE8 1EB, UK (fax: +44 (0) 191 477 0370, e-mail: sue.grundy@newcastle.ac.uk).

Falls in older people
The October issue of Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit’s Injury Bulletin focuses on falls in older people. Over 60% of injuries to persons aged 65 and over attending emergency departments were associated with falls, usually from heights less than 1 m. Australia-wide, the direct cost to the health care system has been estimated at $406 million. Predispousing factors include medical conditions (stroke, arthritis, and Parkinson’s disease), use of certain medications such as sedatives and antidepressants, alcohol, particularly in males, and poor house design and lighting. Preventing falls in one of the priority areas identified in the national strategy for health improvement.

Phthalates banned in soft PVC toys
Phthalates have been temporarily banned in the European Union in toys intended to be sucked. The move, which was welcomed by consumer groups, came into force in December. When the toys are sucked, the chemicals, which are used to soften the toys, leak out and may cause various toxic effects, including cancer. The downside of the ban is that toys may now be more brittle, liable to fracture, and hence cause choking hazards. The temporary ban is expected to be made permanent, but this requires the relevant directive to be amended, and this can take two or three years.

Labor law violation fine
The US Department of Labor levied the maximum possible penalty against Tyson Foods Inc for violations of federal child labor laws that contributed to the death of an under age, 15 year old worker and the serious injury of another 15 year old. Both workers were on the job past midnight when the injuries occurred in two separate plants. Tyson, the largest poultry processor in the US, was fined $59,274 for violations of the child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. The death occurred when a 15 year old was electrocuted when he bumped into a fan while working with an unguarded metal catcher. The other teen was seriously injured both legs when he slipped and fell into an auger. The minor suffered severe nerve damage and second degree burns.

Slip resistance standard
Australia and New Zealand are revising standards on slip resistance. AS/NZS 4586:1999 Slip resistance classification of new pedestrian surface materials was published in October 1999 and the next standard in the series, slip resistance measurement of existing surfaces, is currently out for public comment (as DR 99447). An interim slip resistance handbook provides guidance to users and specifies how to classify surfaces with the full handbook published early in 2000. Standards Australia says that the new series on slip resistance represents a new paradigm in the assessment of the floor as a contributor to slips and falls. The universal coefficient of friction value of 0.4 is “out” and a classification system is “in”. The existing test methods, the pendulum and the floor friction tester are retained, with the adoption of new test methods for the assessment of profiled surfaces. The ramp test methods are based on the German standard (DIN 4834.100), with this method being used by countries in Europe to classify tiles and flooring surfaces.

Safe Kids Week 2000 in Canada
Safe Kids Week 2000 in Canada will focus on playground safety. The week features a national media campaign and local activities by many community partners across the country. Recent data from the Canadian Institute for Health Information showed that more than 2000 children are hospitalized for falls from playgrounds each year. There is widespread activity on playground safety in Canada since the publication of national standards for playspaces and equipment by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA). The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association in collaboration with the national media campaign on playground safety. For details on these activities contact Safe Kids Canada, 180 Dundas Street West, Suite 2105, Toronto, ON M5G 1Z8, Canada (tel: +1 416 813 7288, fax: +1 416 813 4986, e-mail: amy.zierler@sickkids.on.ca, www.safekids canada.ca) or Canadian Parks and Recreation Association at www.activeliving.ca/ activeliving/cpra.html; and CSA at www.csainternational.org.

Safe roadside dining
Transport and health authorities in the state of South Australia have developed a draft guideline for protection of outdoor diners from wayward vehicles. Recommendations are based on findings from crash tests conducted on innovative barrier systems which are specially suited to urban applications. These barrier systems are also appropriate for pedestrian protection in situations other than dining. Comments on the draft guideline are invited. For more information contact Dr Ron Somers, South Australian Health Commission (e-mail: somers.ronald@health.sa.gov.au).

A safer journey to school
The UK Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions and the Department of Health worked with pressure group Transport 2000 to identify practical ways of reducing car use and to ensure that policy and initiatives affecting school travel are integrated across the fields of transport, health, and education. This publication is intended to act as a guide to school travel plans for parents, teachers, and governors. It gives schools the tools they need by identifying existing good practice and providing advice on preparing school travel plans. In layman’s language it is an attractive and informative book giving advice on involving parents and including children through classroom work. Examples of “walking buses” and “safer routes to school” projects highlight some simple measures that are effective in improving safety of school travel. The comprehensive guide is available free of charge from DfEE Publications, PO Box 5050, Annelsey, Nottingham NG15 0DJ, UK.

New school travel publications
These two publications are practical manuals for preparing a school travel strategy and implementing individual school travel plans. The guides are intended primarily for local authority officials in transport, education, and planning who need to prepare strategies and plans to reduce private vehicle travel, particularly for journeys to and from school. They will also be a valuable tool for teachers and governors who wish to tackle transport problems faced by their school. Strategies and plans gives a step by step guide to successful preparation and delivery of travel strategy. The case studies from which the information was drawn involve initiatives designed to encourage greater travel on foot, by bicycle, and by public transport. Useful aspects to the report are the inclusion of a summary of current policy affecting school travel and a comprehensive list of sources of information and advice on transport issues. A separate volume, Case study report, gives detailed reports on the 30 case studies which encompass rural, urban, and inner city schools. Each case study gives a background to the problems, school travel initiatives, local authority initiatives and implementation and funding of the travel strategy. Both volumes are available free of charge from DETR Free Literature, PO Box 236, Wetherby LS23 7NB, UK (fax: 0870 122 6237). When ordering quote the product number: Strategies and plans 99ASC 0240A; Case study report 99ASC 0240B.

Bus safety
An Associated Press report by Glen Johnson describes the US National Safety Board (NSB) decision not to recommend seat belts in school buses, arguing in part that belts can increase injuries. Instead of belts, other safety measures were proposed. Although for some readers this may seem, in the current jargon, a no-brainer, I have a hunch NSB may be right. I also think money for bus safety is better spent on monitors who will escort children to safety, especially if children are left to cross in front of buses. I may be way off base, of course, so readers are invited to join in the debate. If we get some sharply opposing views, we will consider publishing them in the currently dormant Opinion/Dissent columns.

New playground equipment found to be substandard
A recent survey of new playground equipment has uncovered the use by a number of Australian manufacturers of undersized steel components. The present Australian standard for playground equipment, AS1924, Part 2, specifies that steel posts should have a minimum wall thickness of 3.3 mm (for sealed hollow sections) or 5.0 mm (for other sections). LATCH announced in US
The US version of the ISOFIX system of attaching forward-facing child restraints in cars and other light passenger vehicles has
been given a popular name to make it easily understood by the public. An ad hoc group of child restraint manufacturers, motor vehicle manufacturers, and child passenger safety advocates has agreed to call it the LATCH system, an acronym for “lower anchors and tethers for children”. LATCH system components will be phased in over the next three years. Almost all model year 2000 passenger cars are equipped with attachment hardware for the top tethers. All US passenger cars, pickup trucks, vans and sport utility vehicles built after 1 September 2000 must have the top tether attachment hardware. A few model year 2000 passenger cars also have lower anchors for child safety seats. The first child safety seats that use the LATCH system became available to consumers in February 2000 and all child safety seats and passenger vehicles manufactured after September 2002 must be equipped with the LATCH system. According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the LATCH system is expected to prevent up to 50 deaths and 3000 injuries to children each year. Fisher Price have a restraint on the market with the LATCH system and Ford have announced that their 2000 model Windstars will have the anchorage system.

Blaming the victim?

Parents of a 5 year old child killed on a bicycle in Edmonton, Alberta were charged with criminal negligence for failing to provide adequate supervision. Although the news stories indicated that these parents were neglectful in the past, and no doubt on this occasion, it was surprising to me that none of the stories I read made any mention of the behaviour of driver of the car that killed the child.

$90,000 fines for faulty bicycles

The Australian Federal Court recently imposed a $60,000 fine on a retailer for supplying children’s bicycles that failed to comply with the mandatory consumer product safety standard for pedal bicycles. The importer was also fined $30,000. It was alleged that the BMX-style bicycles were not fitted with two brakes (they were only fitted with a back pedal brake), a bell, and wheel reflectors nor supplied with a manual for their use and maintenance, as required by the standard. Further the bicycles, which were styled to look like off-road bicycles, did not carry the required warning that they were not designed for off-road use or for stunt riding. It was also alleged that the drive chain, seat adjustment clamps, and handlebar assembly of one of the bicycles that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) had tested failed to comply with the performance requirements of the standard. A representative of ACCC said that “a recall is a second best outcome. The preferred outcome is for non-complying goods never to be supplied”.

Major decline in 16 year old driver casualties

Recent data showed a 31% decline in casualties among 16 year old drivers in Nova Scotia, Canada since the introduction of graduated drivers licensing in 1994. A report from the Traffic Injury Research Foundation showed a 34% decline when rates in 1995 were compared with 1993 and a 48% decline when rates for 1996 were compared with the pre-law period.

Feasibility of expanding NEISS to monitor non-fatal injuries

Researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the US Consumer Product Safety Commission recently assessed whether the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) could be expanded to provide nationally representative data on all non-fatal injuries treated in US emergency departments. Currently the NEISS is used to monitor only consumer product related injuries treated in emergency departments in the US. All persons receiving first time treatment for an injury were monitored during a three month period of 1997 at a representative sample of 21 NEISS hospital emergency departments. To evaluate the data collection effort, a sensitivity study was conducted at six of the hospitals. The results of the pilot demonstrated that national estimates of emergency department treated non-fatal injury by all types and external causes could be generated by the expansion of NEISS. Ongoing surveillance of non-fatal injuries would be valuable for prioritizing national prevention efforts, especially for injuries which are severe but not often fatal. Such a system would also allow for identification of high risk groups, monitoring of trends, and evaluation of prevention programs. Further information from Kyran Quilan at the CDC, kqas@cdc.gov.

New standard for folding cots

A new Australian/New Zealand standard Folding cots—Safety requirements (AS/NZS 2195:1999) has been published. The standard supersedes a 1978 outmoded document for folding portable cots. The impetus for change came from a number of unsafe incidents and a small number of deaths associated with partial collapse of a cot and the formation of lethal V-shaped entrapment hazards. The standard is based on the European Standard (EN 716–1996, Children’s cots and folding cots for domestic use, Part 1: Safety Requirements; Part 2: Test Methods). The standard specifically includes safety measures to overcome what were identified as hazards associated with folding cots: the difficulty in determining whether the locking devices are effectively engaged; the need to prevent the formation of V-shaped head entrapments; and the need to prevent the formation of head entrapment hazards between the flexible sides of the cot and the mattress.

Acting head of NHTSA named

Rosalyn Millman has been named acting administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, following the departure of Dr Ric Martinez. Ms Millman is a transportation economist.

Gift of safety

Ellen Webster, a nurse from Chinchook, Alberta, sent a description of an innovative project to address car safety. This community partnership project seems a good model, but although Ms Webster included some evaluation elements (for example a program impact statement showing an increase in number of inquiries and number of referrals, as well as a paragraph about program evaluation) it is difficult to find any evidence of effectiveness. This is not intended to criticize this clearly well intentioned effort—one that is entirely typical of many such initiatives across the globe. In fact, the criticism that seems justified is that we researchers have still failed to provide a quick, cheap, easy, yet reasonably convincing template guiding how such programs should be evaluated.

Lighters update

Things continue to move on the cigarette lighter front. The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) announced the recall of 2.4 million lighters whose child resistant mechanisms failed to meet the requirements of the Consumer Product Safety Act. Young children could ignite the lighters, presenting fire and burn hazards. Additionally, the lighters remained on after consumers had used them, which also presents fire and burn hazards. A further 22,300 novelty and disposable cigarette lighters, manufactured in China, resembling a BMW toy car with flashing lights, a keychain, a Coke soda bottle, a Budweiser beer can with flashing lights, a fire extinguisher, and a telephone pager with flashing lights belt clip have been recalled.

In December, the CPSC voted unanimously to issue a federal safety standard for so-called multipurpose lighters, used to light charcoal and gas grills, pilot lights, camping stoves, candles, and similar objects. The new standard will require lighters to be child resistant. The new standard is intended to reduce the risk of injury and death associated with fires started by children under age 5 playing with multipurpose lighters. Since 1998, CPSC has identified 237 fires reportedly started by children under age 5 playing with multipurpose lighters. These fires resulted in 45 deaths, including 28 deaths of children under 5 years old. Since these are only the number of incidents reported to CPSC, they are considered to be a conservative indication of the true extent of the problem.

The European Union is ready to put a CEN standard for the child resistance of cigarette lighters in place, mirroring the US standard. The ISO standard covering some aspects of lighter safety is being amended but will still not cover child resistance.

Unequal injury

A new Australian study has added to the body of knowledge that links child injury to social disadvantage. Jesuit Social Services, through the Ignatius Centre for Social Research, has published a study (August 1999) by Professor Tony Vinson called Unequal in Life: the distribution of social disadvantage. Jesuit Social Services, through a partnership project seems a good model, but although Ms Webster included some evaluation elements (for example a program impact statement showing an increase in number of inquiries and number of referrals, as well as a paragraph about program evaluation) it is difficult to find any evidence of effectiveness. This is not intended to criticize this clearly well intentioned effort—one that is entirely typical of many such initiatives across the globe. In fact, the criticism that seems justified is that we researchers have still failed to provide a quick, cheap, easy, yet reasonably convincing template guiding how such programs should be evaluated.

News and notes
While the picture shown by the data was not uniform the report develops a single score for each locality and names it a disadvantage factor. One of the reports conclusion is that “a serious effort to increase life opportunities . . . cannot ignore such evidence of persistent, long-term inequalities. It cannot be assumed that social initiatives taken at the state or national level, can override extreme degrees of local cumulative disadvantage”.

Clinton and injury
President Clinton has had his ups and downs recently with respect to injury related matters. In October, 1999 he addressed the American Academy of Pediatrics about child health and did not touch on injuries once! However, he did pledge that he would make the passage of “common sense” gun laws a top priority in November, calling on the US Congress to build on the success of the Brady Law. The Vice President also spoke on gun control in November, announcing the selection of 10 communities to form a national SafeCities Network committed to reducing gun violence. Under the initiative, the 10 communities will share successful strategies, work with federal law enforcement and other agencies, and have access to experts in gun violence reduction. Partners will share lessons learned via a SafeCities web site. The initiative will also give national recognition to successful communities.

Canadian injury data on CHIRPP’s web site
The first issue of Canadian Injury Data includes information based on Statistics Canada death data (1997) and on Canadian Institute for Health Information hospitalization data (fiscal year 1996–97). It is available in PDF format at www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpb/bclcd/chirp/injury.html. The compilers of the report would like to know what you think of Canadian Injury Data. You can e-mail them at CHIRPPNews@hc-sc.gc.ca.

Strangulation hazards
Three CPSC recalls relate to strangulation hazards. They cover draw cords in children’s clothing (twice), beds, and basketball nets. In addition, the CPSC commissioners have, at long last, issued a federal standard for bunk beds to reduce strangulation hazards—by a majority vote! Despite there being a voluntary standard since 1992, the long history of non-compliance necessitated the standard, according to CPSC Chairman Ann Brown.

Safer online shopping initiative
Reflecting the fact that unsafe products can be sold through any medium, the CPSC has announced that it will monitor the internet for possibly dangerous and illegal consumer products. CPSC has already found dangerous products being sold online, including flammable children’s sleepwear, prescription drugs without child resistant packaging, children’s jackets with drawstrings that pose a strangulation hazard, mini-hammocks without spreader bars that pose a strangulation hazard, and cigarette lighters without child resistant mechanisms.

Huge baby car seat recall in US
Over 750 000 car seats are being recalled for repair by Chicago company, Kolcraft. When used as an infant carrier, the seat’s handle can unexpectedly move from the intended carrying position, causing the seat to suddenly rotate. When this happens, the infant can fall to the ground and suffer serious injuries. There have been more than 3000 reports of handle related problems, the majority of which report that the handle of the infant car seat/carrier unexpectedly moved from the intended use position, resulting in 42 injuries to infants. The injuries range from a skull fracture and concussions to cuts, scrapes, and bruises.

Jan Shield moves on
Jan Shield, formerly Splinters & Fragments compiler, has left the Royal Children’s Hospital Safety Centre, Melbourne, to take up a position as policy operations manager at the Victims Referral and Assistance Service (VRAS) in the Victorian Department of Justice. VRAS has responsibility for providing victims of crime with initial support via a telephone advisory service staffed by victims’ support officers. Victims are then referred to psychologists, social workers, grief counselors, or assistance programs which provide counseling, emotional and/or material support to victims of crime. One of Jan’s principal responsibilities is to implement the findings of a recent independent evaluation of the service. Jan can be contacted at Jan.Shield@justice.vic.gov.au.

Call for ban on trampolines
A new study is calling for a ban on backyard trampolines after researchers discovered the number of injuries to children using these devices has doubled during a recent six year period. The study, published in the journal Pediatrics, showed that almost 250 000 trampoline related injuries were treated in hospital emergency departments in the US between 1990 and 1995 and that the annual number of injuries grew from 29 600 to 58 400 per year during that period. Gary Smith, director of emergency medicine at Children’s Hospital of Columbus, Ohio, and assistant professor of pediatrics at Ohio State University, said injuries on these devices have reached epidemic proportions and that the sale of backyard trampolines should be immediately stopped.

US child car deaths fall
Deaths of young children in car crashes in the US have dropped about 12% in two years. The government credits the enforcement of laws on buckling up children. In 1998, some 575 children age 4 or younger died in auto crashes, down from 656 children in 1996. Also from 1996–98, the use of child seats for toddlers jumped from 60% to 87%.

TRL safety work reported
The December 1999 issue of TRL News, the quarterly publication from the Transport Research Laboratory, contains a number of items on safety, ranging from skidding to pelvic modelling. A free copy of the newsletter can be obtained through the TRL web site on www.trl.co.uk.

Canada and UK injury curriculum projects in progress
A project aimed at developing a Canadian injury prevention and control curriculum is getting underway at the Alberta Centre for Injury Control and Prevention and Plan It Safe! Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario. The three year project is developing and testing a flexible modular curriculum for adults. The project is being funded by Health Canada. Further information from ACICR, University of Alberta, 4075 EDC, 8308, 114 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2V2 (fax: +1 780 492 7154, e-mail: acicr@ualberta.ca).

A similar project is in progress in the UK, centred on the Department of Child Health at the University of Newcastle of Tyne in collaboration with the Child Accident Prevention Trust, with Department of Health funding. The training course under development will be capable of delivery as a short residential or distance learning package. Further information from Dr Elizabeth Towner, Community Child Health, 13 Walker Terrace, Gateshead NE8 1EB, UK (e-mail: e.l.m.towner@newcastle.ac.uk).

Product recall information
You may have noticed that product recalls, especially in the US, are regularly reported in these columns. It is easy to cover US recalls as the CPSC has an electronic mailing list for its press releases. I have found for other similar services in the UK, albeit not via automatic mailings. The Institute of Trading Standards Administration web site, www.tradingstandards.gov.uk, and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents site, www.rospa.org.uk, lists recalls. If there are other similar sites in the wide world, please let Mike Hayes know at mh@capt.demon.co.uk and I will publish the information.

Contributors to these News and Notes include: Anara Guard, Susan Mackenzie, Rosie Mercier, Barry Pleas, Karen Quinan, Steve Schaefer, Ian Scott, Deborah Stewart, Kathy Weber, and Amy Zierler. Michael Hayes has edited the contributions. Items for the June 2000 issue should be sent to Michael Hayes at the Child Accident Prevention Trust, 18-20 Farrington Lane, London EC1R 3HA, UK (fax: +44 20 7608 3674, e-mail: mh@capt.demon.co.uk) by 1 June 2000.