

State and Local

Commission will compare national, state drug abuse

By Jackie Feldman
Reporter

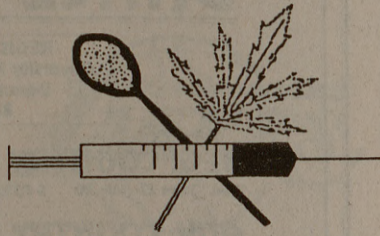
The Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse is conducting a statewide survey to compare Texas' drug and alcohol problem with the rest of the nation.

The survey is being conducted by Texas A&M's Public Policy Resources Laboratory. It received the survey contract after submitting a suitable experimental design to the commission.

However, the laboratory is just collecting the data, said Dr. James Dyer, researcher for the laboratory and the survey's principle investigator. The laboratory will send the data to the agency for analysis and interpretation after the survey is completed.

The TCADA plans to release the initial results in September, Eric Fredlund, a research analyst for TCADA, said. A complete review of the data will take six months to a year.

The study has two forms — a phone survey and a written survey. The phone survey deals with the adult population, and the written



Graphic by Susan C. Akin

survey focuses on seventh through 12th grade students.

"We choose a random phone number and then sample a member of the household according to the guidelines of the experiment's design," Fredlund said. "We want to get a cross-section of citizens; when we choose a person, we won't know if he uses alcohol or drugs."

TCADA chose 150 schools and 32 sample districts, Fredlund said, in order to get a cross-section of rural and urban areas.

The survey targets 10 classes of substances, including cigarettes, marijuana, crack and heroin.

Treatment, intervention and education is an important function of the TCADA, Fredlund said, but funds will not support these areas.

"One of the things our agency does is provide the money for drug and alcohol treatment for people who cannot afford to pay for it themselves," Fredlund said. "But we don't have enough money to provide treatment for everyone who cannot afford it. This survey's results will help us make more efficient use of our monies."

The survey will determine types of drug problems faced by different ethnic, age, gender and demographic groups. This information will enable development of prevention programs.

Surveys are conducted based on need and availability of funds. Since the last study in 1981, hospital drug-related deaths have increased.

"In 1981, the survey showed Texans below the rest of the nation in terms of experiences people have with various substances and the rate of substance use," Fredlund said. "Now Texas may be more like the rest of the nation."

Program seeks host families for students

By Barbara Jones
Reporter

An international student exchange program is trying to locate Bryan-College Station families to serve as hosts for students from abroad who will be arriving in August.

The American Scandinavian Student Exchange program will bring about 25 foreign students who will attend local schools through June.

The students participating in the program are between the ages of 15 and 18, have studied English for five years and have at least a B average.

Interested families must fill out a short application and be interviewed.

"Although it is not a requirement for the families to have children of their own, if there are children in the family they too must be present during the interview," Rebecca Olsen, a local representative, said.

The families must provide food, a bed and a quiet place for the student to study.

For additional information contact Mikael Olsen at 775-9598.

Texas ranks high in flow of illegal guns

DALLAS (AP) — Federal agents in a new investigative group that is trying to slow down violence by Jamaican drug dealers in New York say Texas is the No. 2 source of guns for the gangs.

Richard Gardner, special agent in charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms office in Dallas, said the investigators will work with other bureaus around the country to stop the gun flow from Texas, second only to Florida in weapons supplied to Jamaican drug gangs in New York.

Since mid-1986, there have been at least 1,200 guns confiscated in other cities that can be traced to purchases in the Dallas area for the gangs, Gardner said.

Texas laws allow any adult with a valid Texas driver's license to buy unlimited amounts of guns, with no background check or waiting period.

Reviewer: Van Halen album rides border of predictability

By Staci Finch
Music Reviewer

They're back! The boys of Van Halen are back with their eighth album, *OU812*. And it would be nice to say it is their best effort yet, that the veterans of hard rock 'n' roll are on the cutting edge of the music scene, but that would be bordering on a lie.

Don't get the wrong impression here. The album is good. In some places it's really good. But in most places it's a little predictable.

Take the first song of the album, "Mine All Mine." At the bridge, the keyboards take over, a familiar tactic now that Eddie has become a piano player.

But he needs a little more work. His piano playing has a sameness to it all through the album. Songs like "Feel So Good" and "A.F.U. (Naturally Wired)" have some off-heard keyboard lines that are nothing new compared to older albums.

Come on, Eddie. What happened to that hard drivin' Van Halen sound we are used to?

There are a few songs that rate the



Graphic by Taani Baier

old sound of the bad boys from L.A. A song like "Cabo Wabo" deserves lots of stars. The song is hard, drivin' with a tough rockin' sound that is expected. Obviously, this one rates lots of stars.

Lots of guitar, lots of Van Halen. The guitar for a few songs is great, the old Van Halen we have grown up with. Unfortunately, not enough Van Halen. The first single off the

album, "Black 'n' Blue and also "Sucker in a 3-Piece Suit" are straight rock 'n' roll and are good old guitar rock 'n' roll. The only problem is that it's predictable. Eddie does nothing new. The riffs are old, the phrasing the same.

However, new Van Halen fans will find a lot on this album. Actually, there is something for everyone, from old music to new. This album runs the gamut of styles, and for some, the new is as good as the old.

For others, some of the old fans are getting tired of this top 40, middle of the road sound. Where did they go — those leaders of rock 'n' roll? We lost them, somewhere between "Fair Warning" and this album. Maybe it was the addition of Sammy Hagar, maybe it was the addition of keyboards on the "1984," who knows. But whatever what it was we need them back. Van Halen was a leader of its time, and it's time for them to return. Is it Van Halen or Van Hagar? It's up to the listener.

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1.03	3,700 .37	375	600 .63		
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1.01	4,000 .34	335	600 .57		
1.01	7,000 .33	275	500 .53		
1.01	4,200 .30	335	600 .51		
.95	3,000 .24	210	400 .28		
.95	4,800 .21	165	300 .10		
.92	3,000 .22	185	400		
.92	4,000 .21	215	400		
.92	3,200 .19	165	300		
.91	6,000 .18	155	300 .90		
.90	3,000 .18	118	200 .75		
.90	3,100 .15	111	200 .58		
.89	2,600 .14	95	180 .51		
.89	1,700 .12	78	140		
.88	2,600 .10	63	120		
.83	3,000 .09	55	110		
.82	3,100 .08	48	90 2.16		
.80	2,000 .07	45	90 1.37		
.77	1,900 .06	41	80 .75		
.77	2,000 .06	41	70 .41		
.75	1,900 .04	30	60 .38		
.75	2,200 .03	14.95	30		
.74	2,800 .02	10.95	30		
.73	2,800				
.73	2,200				
.72	2,800 1.56				
.72	3,200 1.10				
.71	2,700 1.05				
.71	2,700 1.02				
.70	2,900 1.02				
.70	2,100 1.01				
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.70	1,400 .89				
.68	1,800 .82				
.64	1,800 .79				
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