SUPPLEMENT TRADE GROUP PUSHES FOR RECOGNITION OF NONDIETITIAN “NUTRITIONISTS”
The Council for Responsible Nutrition, a major trade association of supplement sellers, has been attempting to get the American Public Health Association to endorse its position against state laws restricting dietetic licensure to Registered Dietitians or equivalent training. Backing the CRN position are “nutritionists” known to favor prescribing supplements to clients. CRN’s president, J.B. Cordero, cited promotion of a APHA position paper on nutritionist licensure as a “targeted activity” during 1988. That year, Annette Dickinson, a CRN representative, fought hard to have CRN’s favored statement accepted by the Food and Nutrition Section of APHA without success. It was voted down 11-3. Dickinson is now attempting to introduce the CRN-favored statement as a resolution submitted by an individual member. Apparently, CRN places a high priority on getting APHA backing for its anti-RD-or-equivalent nutritionist statement. CRN obviously has a strong self-interest in legitimizing nutritionists who will push supplements. Its tenacity in trying to obtain APHA endorsement reveals how far pill promoters will go in their marketing efforts. APHA-NCAHF members need to inform themselves on this matter and do what they can to prevent APHA from being used to further the CRN agenda.

USING EXISTING CHANNELS FOR EDUCATION
Dr. Wallace Sampson, Coordinator of NCAHF’s Task Force on Consumer Activism, offers suggestions about how members can educate others about health fraud, misinformation and quackery. The following can be done to reach your local communities: letters to the editor, regular column for shopper’s newspapers, book reviews, presentations before local service clubs or senior citizen groups, newspaper interviews, publish local newsletters, put on a course through adult education channels offered through, local schools or parks and recreation departments. Many of these are easier to arrange if you have a title such as a NCAHF Area Network Coordinator or chapter president. Those who are professionals can ask that a sectional meeting on health fraud be included at conventions, AAAS meetings, or local professional (eg, medical, dental, dietetic, nursing, attorneys, insurance groups) society meetings. Sampson emphasizes how much easier it is to plug into existing channels of education and communication than it is to take on the burden of organizing and promoting special events of our own.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS UPDATE
We pointed to NCAHF’s increased financial needs in the last Bulletin Board. To bring members up to date we report that in the first four months of 1990, NCAHF is operating at about a $2,000 loss, projecting a $6,000 loss for the year. This is slightly better than the comparable period for 1989 which showed a $3,000 loss. Last year the deficit was greatly helped by members who responded to a plea for midsummer contributions. NCAHF ended year with only a $1,200 loss. We again appeal for more to become supporting members or for tax-deductible contributions.

FOX COUNTY, WISCONSIN, DIETITIANS COMBAT NUTRITION QUACKERY
The Fox County Dietitians established a Committee Against Health Fraud in 1989. Their goals include making local dietitians aware about quackery that is going on in their area through a simple newsletter, responding to newspaper articles that promote “alternative health care,” making a video on nutrition quackery that can be shown for public meetings of business groups, auxiliaries, women’s clubs, church groups, and so forth. A university student has taken on the production of the video as a project for her telecommunications training. They are also working on plans to present a nationally-known speaker on health fraud at a jointly sponsored meeting of local professional societies. In 1988, the local mental health center successfully sponsored a six-hour continuing education program, by NCAHF President William Jarvis, on quackery for a variety of health professionals. That program laid the groundwork for subsequent efforts in the area.

FDA SEEKS CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVES
FDA’s Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA) is recruiting candidates to serve as consumer representatives on FDA’s public advisory committees. Committee members advise the Agency on scientific and medical issues relating to drug products, biological and blood products, medical devices, radiological products, veterinary medicine, and toxicological research. Consumer representatives are needed on each advisory committee to focus on the consumer perspective relating to the issues under consideration. Although the OCA would like to receive nominations by June 1, it noted that they would accept nominations at any time. Write or call Catherine Beck or Phyllis Weller (HFE-40), FDA Office of Consumer Affairs, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857; 301/443-5006.
ARTICLES FOR ACTIVISTS
Activists will find the following articles of value for self education or consumer information. These are more specialized than those that appear in the newsletter.

1. Czajka-Narins D and Parham E. "Fear of fat: attitudes toward obesity," Nutrition Today, pp.26-32, 1990. A most insightful article on the factors underlying what we see happening in the field of weight loss. Few areas prone to quackery are more resistant to reform than weight loss. With serious reform efforts are now underway. This article is a primer for anyone who must deal with this perplexing field.

2. Herbert V. "Megavitamins, Food Fads, and Quack Nutrition in Health Promotion: Myths and Risks," in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in the Elderly, edited by Chernoff and Lipschitz, Raven Press, Ltd., NY, 1988. A comprehensive tome that describes good nutrition (4-basic food groups and U.S. Dietary Guidelines) and then presents straightforward information on: the Pritikin Program, abuses of epidemiology, foods vs. pills, health claims in food labeling & advertising, the 1985 RDAs, fiber and colon cancer, cholesterol and heart disease, calcium supplementation, life extension, and iron supplementation.

3. Honig W. "Science's Miss Lonelyhearts," Sciences, May-June, pp.24-27, 1984. A rare, wonderful account by the editor of what happened when a journal was formed for publishing speculative science articles for those writers who can't get their work published in peer-reviewed journals (a common complaint of quacks).


5. Monaco G. "Weird medicine doesn't work wonders," Cope, 289. A brief, but substantive account of how to deal with people who inquire about the value of a questionable cancer treatment. Provides information on Ms. Monaco's evaluative database on questionable cancer remedies, Emprise, Inc.


7. Sloan A, et al. "Consumer attitudes toward additives," Cereal Foods World, 31:523-532, 1986. A penetrating analysis of consumer attitudes toward additives and what food advertisers should do about these. Specific additives that have received bad publicity are given special attention. Most interesting is the "believability ratings" of information sources regarding whether a food is "safe" or "not safe." The AMA and personal physicians rate tops. The authors are with McCall's and Good Housekeeping.

MORE ON LIBRARIES AND CENSORSHIP
Illinois member Kurt Youngmann describes his experience confronting a community librarian who had set up a display of Adele Davis books for National Nutrition Week. After hearing both Youngmann's anti-censorship feelings and concerns about the lack of validity of the Davis books, the librarian became very upset and justified her choice on the basis of her own personal belief in Ms. Davis' works. Youngmann says, not knowing what to do, he dropped the matter at that point. He now asks, what else could he have done? NCAHF's answer: There is documented evidence on the lack of reliability of, and harm caused by, Davis' books. A letter specifying the flaws and dangers of the Adele Davis books, and pointing out the responsibility that a librarian--in this case a public employee as well--has to provide accurate information must supersede one's personal beliefs. Copies of the letter, with notation at the bottom, should be sent to the librarian's superiors and other socially responsible individuals in the community (e.g., public health department, medical society, dietetic association, superintendent of schools).

CITIZEN SUES SCHOOL BOARD
Christofer Trey heard a program that presented what he thought was medical misinformation on WDT-AM, a radio station operated by the Detroit Board of Education. Trey requested nine tapes of the broadcasts through the Michigan Freedom of Information Act. The Board of Education turned over only five broadcasts, and stalled on supplying the remainder. Trey sued, representing himself in court, and won a judgment of $500 and costs. (Detroit News, 10/27/89). Although the nature of the medical misinformation did not appear in the article, the case may be instructive for quackbusters who are attacking broadcast media abuse.

FDA OFFERS HEALTH FRAUD TEACHING KIT
A health fraud teaching kit that includes a dozen 35 mm slides, a user's guide, lesson plans on weight loss scams, arthritis quackery, critiquing quack ads, fact and myths of vitamins, and quackery which targets teens is available without charge from the FDA. Write: Jeffery A. Nesbit, Associate Commissioner for Public Affairs, U.S. Food & drug Administration, HFI-40, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

SUMMER SCHEDULE
Drs. Renner and Lowell will serve as primary contact people July 10 through August 24. Dr. Jarvis will be in Canada July 16 to August 21. He may be reached at 604/837-2593. He doesn't mind being called, but this is a private home in the bush and his availability is somewhat limited (9-11 am PDT, M-F offers best chance).

Please send items of possible interest to NCAHF members for The Bulletin Board or to readers of the NCAHF Newsletter to: P.O. Box 1276, Loma Linda, CA 92354. Complete references are needed.