

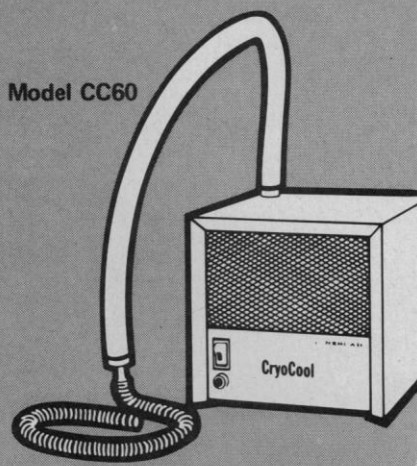
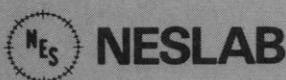
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inoculated with product water and incubated at 37°C for 48 hours. Reference to the daily log showed that air had entered on three occasions when power failure (endemic) had shut down the still, and, during one such failure, a glassblowing adjustment had been made. Although the still restarted without aid upon restoration of current, it is evident that a means for instant in-process reesterilization should now be devised.

Perhaps the most important point, as Gibbs observes, and our inquirers have emphasized, is the worldwide need for convenient sources of highest-quality water that has been exposed. Credit for ventilating the matter remains with M. S. Favero, L. A. Carson, W. W. Bond, and N. J. Petersen (5).

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## References and Notes

1. R. C. Hughes, P. C. Murau, G. Gundersen, *Anal. Chem.* **43**, 691 (1971).
2. *Saline Water Conversion Act of 1971* (PL 92-60, 92nd Congress, 1971), section 6(d).
3. Details can be supplied upon request with a stamped, self-addressed envelope.
4. C. G. Malmberg, *J. Res. Nat. Bur. Stand. Sect. A* **69**, 39 (1965).
5. M. S. Favero, L. A. Carson, W. W. Bond, N. J. Petersen, *Science* **173**, 836 (1971).
6. This work was supported by the Office of Saline Water under grants 14-30-2572 and 14-30-2964.

## The Case of Nina Strokata

At the 1973 annual meetings of the American Society for Microbiology, held during the second week of May in Miami Beach, Florida, hundreds of American microbiologists signed a petition in defense of Nina Strokata, a Ukrainian microbiologist who has been sentenced to 4 years imprisonment because of her refusal to denounce her husband, a writer. Among the signers of the petition were university department chairmen, heads of medical, industrial, and governmental laboratories, university professors, clinicians, scientists from various laboratories, and students. Also among the signers were scientists from Belgium, Canada,

France, Germany, India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, Portugal, and Sweden.

The petition was presented to the Commission of Human Rights of the United Nations on 17 May 1973. Addressed to the Honorable Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations, the petition describes the plight of Nina Strokata and states

We microbiologists are compelled to urge the government of the USSR, a signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to review the case of Nina Strokata immediately. We request that the Soviet government allow the presence of representatives of international microbiologists, journalists and the United Nations at an open trial where Nina Strokata would have a chance to defend herself according to Articles 10 and 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We urge, therefore, that the Commission of Human Rights of the United Nations demand the implementation of these rights in the case of Nina Strokata.

This petition was not sponsored by any scientific or political organization, but was initiated by a handful of microbiologists who were familiar with Nina Strokata's case. It may be of interest to all scientists, not just to microbiologists, that international cooperation among scientific groups is a fact and entails many aspects of their professional lives.

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## Postscript

B. Grzimek (Letters, 22 June, p. 1232) rightfully condemns the crew of R.V. *Searcher* for writing the ship's name on the rocks of Tagus Cove in Galápagos National Park, but their adolescent action is far from the only example of a scientific expedition's failure to respect the beauty and wildness of these islands. Scientists, although seemingly in the best position to recognize the importance and vulnerability of the Galápagos Islands, have often set a poor example of behavior there. Grzimek does not point out, however, that the *Searcher* sank to the bottom of the sea (with no loss of life) shortly after leaving her graffiti at Tagus Cove. Vessels bound for Galápagos in the future are invited to draw a moral from this tale.

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