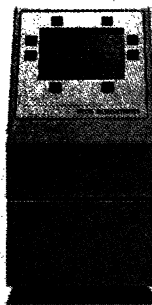


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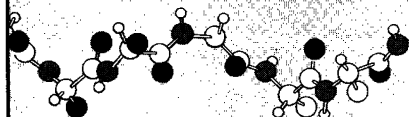
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The Russian state and the Soviet regime had and continues to have a monopoly on the production of liquor. When Gorbachev launched the anti-alcoholism campaign by cutting down the production and sale of vodka, the entire Soviet economic system was thrown out of kilter, because sales of vodka had helped to fulfill state plans for consumer goods. This is no longer possible. The production of *samogon* (not "*samogen*," as in the article) is at least in part responsible for the shortage of sugar and the rationing of it. In rural areas, a large percentage of people selling *samogon* are female, and this activity makes up, in part, for the widespread unemployment and underemployment among women in these areas.

There are many social issues involved in the problem of alcoholism in the Soviet Union. As Levin states, there is a tendency to staff organizations (even voluntary ones) with bureaucrats, which does nothing to solve the problem. On the other hand, it is a mistake to think that Soviet people have been waiting impatiently to be introduced to Alcoholics Anonymous. There is a well-established tradition of temperance among religious groups like the Baptists. Currently, some unofficial groups have also attempted to enter the temperance arena.

Literaturnaya gazeta (1) published an article devoted to the work of a Leningrad scientist, G. A. Shishko, who developed an 18- to 20-hour course of instruction for alcoholics and nicotine addicts seeking a cure. When he died in November 1986, his work was taken over by Iu. A. Sokolov and his wife. Sokolov is described as a recovering alcoholic, and the way he runs things has brought him into conflict with other older members of the group, who formed a club known as "Optimalist." There are at this point about 100 Optimalist clubs, stretching from Sakhalin (in the Soviet Far East) to the Western Ukraine. The method apparently consists of giving the client information about him or herself so that he or she can alter behavior accordingly. The article states that the media and the regime have purposely ignored the growth of this movement, which operates best as a cooperative. Supposedly, 14,000 people are begging to be included in the training offered by the Optimalist Club, but Sokolov needs a manager to develop a network, which would include associations within which the recovering alcoholic could both live and work. The first need is for a building, but the club has been denied the opportunity to take over several buildings, because they are needed for other ventures. The article concludes with a nationalist-sounding question: "What's going on here, brother Leningraders? What is dearer to us: offices and dollars, or live

Soviet souls who are being lost?"

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REFERENCES

1. A. Nikitin, *Literaturnaya Gazeta* no. 15 (5237), 12 (12 April 1989).

NIH Conflict-of-Interest Guidelines

Louis W. Sullivan, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, has scrapped the conflict of interest guidelines proposed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for recipients of federal grants, suggesting they would have a dampening effect on research (News & Comment, 12 Jan., p. 154). That may or may not be so, but why single out scientists? Are there not other players—the companies who might benefit from the results of the outpouring of taxpayer funds? I would hope that the new formulation of the guidelines would take into account some arrangement by which companies would pay into an NIH fund for the privilege of using the results of scientific research supported by all of us as a basis for their future products. This would make for a fair playing ground.

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Erratum: In the News & Comment article "Super Collider advocates tangle with cost cutters" by Mark Crawford (12 Jan., p. 152), the collision energy of the Superconducting Super Collider (SSC) was incorrectly described as being two orders of magnitude greater than that of the Tevatron. The SSC's collision energy is supposed to be 40 trillion electron volts—20 times that of the Tevatron. In addition, the \$7.2-billion cost estimate for the project is based on inflated dollars, not constant dollars, as was stated.

BACK ISSUES

This is the first week of SCIENCE coming to you from a new printer. Because of this change, we are relocating back issues of SCIENCE to a new site. There will be a delay in processing orders for back copies and in replacing missing copies during the move and while new inventory systems are put into place. We thank you for your patience during this transition and assure you that all previous copies due you will be mailed.