

course, the people who run these articles thoroughly found that someplace buried in the text was the information that it was dangerous to experiment and that the best treatment was abstinence.

Unfortunately, a great many people just read headlines and this happened to be true of some recovering alcoholics who seeing the headlines decided to drink again. We already have proof that some alcoholics have relapsed, and I am afraid that many people will eventually ~~die due to~~ the propaganda that has been carried in the press of our country.

The Ivory Tower researchers, many of whom are sociologists or behavioral psychologists, have always considered alcoholics as second class citizens. Now they are comparing this minority group (alcoholics) to animals. Perhaps some animals and some alcoholics could be trained to drink "Normally" after having been addicted, although I doubt it. However what would this accomplish if it were possible?

The individuals most opposed to the recent publicity suggesting it is possible for alcoholics to go back to controlled drinking are made up of 3 groups. 1st, Medical Doctors and Alcoholism professionals who understand alcoholism and know that the disease is physical and that behavior patterns are a result of a physical illness. 2nd, Family, friends, and employers, of alcoholics who have been through the acute and chronic phase of the disease. And last, the men and women, who, in their day, loved to drink and received tremendous (but short lived) pleasure from doing so; and when they became addicted most of them experimented with controlled drinking, many many times before they realized that abstinence and a program like A.A. was the only solution and now they live a life of happy sobriety.

When a person is trying to control his drinking, it becomes the greatest ambition in his/her life and he/she has no time for constructive work or helping others. He is completely self-centered.

I am asking that concerned people see to it that all further research concerning the ability of alcoholics to go back to normal drinking be screened by the legitimate medical community.

An old friend of mine who had been in AA 22 years before he passed away used to tell me that he had searched the cities and towns of America to find that one alcoholic who was able to successfully return to so called social drinking. My friend always found someone who claimed they could go back to controlled drinking but, he failed to find any that were successful.

Alcoholism like Sugar Diabetes must be controlled. Alcoholism is still the 3rd major killer in this country. I feel if all the facts were known that alcoholism would and should be No. 1 ahead of heart disease and cancer.

Thank you,

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## **On alcoholism**

Editor:

You, no doubt, are aware of the recent newspaper headlines claiming that some Alcoholics can go back to the drinking of alcoholic beverages without relapsing into uncontrolled drinking. I know from my own experience in the field of alcoholism that the only successful treatment for alcoholism is total abstinence. I was quite perplexed by this type of headline. Of