

Corking result for French wine

Paris In a country where wine is drunk like water, the government is contemplating reclassifying the drink as a 'natural food' instead of alcohol.

French winemakers say sales of their national drink have been falling for years, thanks in part to a strict 1991 law on alcohol advertising and anti-drinking campaigns run by the government. They describe the situation as a 'crisis' and say that wine, as an important part of France's culture and history, ought to be given a helping hand.

Their complaints appear to have had an effect. Later this month, Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin will be presented with draft legislation proposing the reclassification. If passed, this will alleviate the heavy advertising restrictions.



The move has been welcomed by many. But Ivan Oelrich, who directs the Federation of American Scientist's Strategic Security Project, says it does not go far enough. "The US still has approximately ten times the number of warheads it needs," he says.

Sandia boss knew I was innocent, says worker

San Diego Sandia National Laboratories is being sued by an employee who claims she was made a scapegoat for security lapses, and that her career and reputation have been ruined in the process.

The New Mexico nuclear weapons lab

came under congressional scrutiny in early 2003 after whistle-blowers reported problems with security, such as napping guards and disappearing master keys. An external review committee claimed that Patricia Gingrich contributed to one such lapse — by helping to destroy evidence of an inappropriate romantic liaison. Gingrich says she was later demoted to a job with an \$11,000 drop in salary.

Gingrich's lawsuit, filed on 19 May, claims that lab president Paul Robinson knew the review's accusations to be false, but reprimanded her publicly in order to persuade Congress that steps were being taken to improve security. The lab has declined to comment on the case.

Correction

A News item in the 3 June issue of *Nature* (429, 490; 2004) erroneously states that Hanyang University Hospital's Institutional Review Board (IRB) was in violation of Korean Food and Drug Administration guidelines. The article says that the guidelines require IRBs to include more than one layperson. In fact they only require one, which this IRB had appointed. The error in the text was made by a Seoul-based translation company that *Nature* paid to translate the document. *Nature* asked the translator to verify the passage prior to publication, but the mistake was overlooked. We apologize for the error. ■

US plans extensive cut to nuclear weapons stockpile

Washington The US government has announced plans for a significant cut in its stockpile of nuclear weapons between now and the end of 2012.

The plan is outlined in a report sent to Congress on 1 June by the National Nuclear Security Administration, which oversees the nation's nuclear stockpile. The report's details are classified, but Linton Brooks, the agency's administrator, says that the stockpile will be cut "almost in half". Currently, the United States is thought to have about 10,000 weapons.