

## KEEPING OTC IN THE PHARMACY

If I wanted to go grocery or shopping I'd go to a grocery store, and for toys, I'd go to a toy store and for furniture, a furniture store. And so on. So why would I accept to buy drug any place other than a drugstore? But to boost consumer convenience, officials are considering allowing non-prescription over-the-counter (OTC), drugs to be sold in the supermarkets. Pharmacist, naturally, are bitterly opposed. In part, they dislike the loss of income that such a change would entail especially, since the OTC trade is a large part of their business; but they are even more concerned about the bad effects it would have on the easy accessibility of drugs. Even under the current, tightly controlled situation, Korean drug abuse is a growing problem. People should not develop the attitude that pills are recreational like eating candy, or a casual cure-all for every ailment; rather they need to realize that pharmaceuticals have highly specific purposes and are best dispensed by highly- trained professionals.

### Vocabularies:

**pharmacist** -a person trained in pharmacy; a druggist

**boost**- to assist in further development or progress

**dispensed**- to deal out in parts or portions; distribute

**entail**- a predetermined order of succession, as to an estate or to an office

**recreational**- engaged in as a past time

### Questions for Discussion:

- 1) Do you think OTC drugs should be made available in supermarkets?
- 2) Do you think pharmacies are more worried about social abuses or their own sales? Why?
- 3) If a medicine is made for solving ordinary problems, like a cold or a diet, and does not require a prescription, doesn't this imply that it is at least relatively safe and does not need much policing?