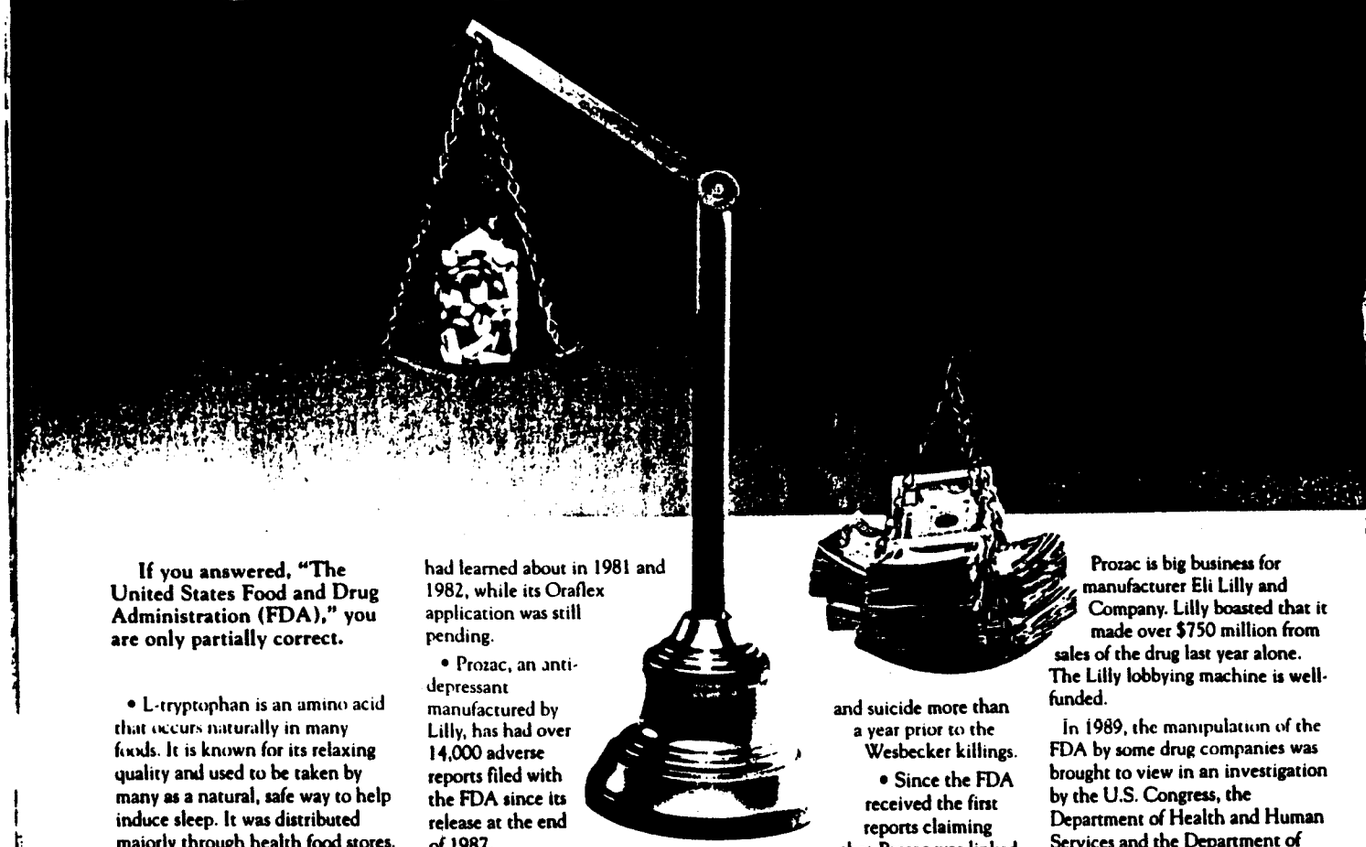
Who controls what foods and drugs the public may consume?



If you answered, "The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)," you are only partially correct.

• L-tryptophan is an amino acid that occurs naturally in many foods. It is known for its relaxing quality and used to be taken by many as a natural, safe way to help induce sleep. It was distributed majorly through health food stores.

• In November 1989, the FDA recalled all products in which L-tryptophan is the sole or major component from the market, after researchers linked its use to two deaths.

• Despite proof obtained in October 1990, that the deaths were caused by contaminated materials used in the production of a particular batch of L-tryptophan – not the substance itself – L-tryptophan remains banned to this day.

• In May 1982, Eli Lilly and Company began marketing a new arthritis drug, Oraflex, after FDA approval.

• Ten weeks later it was withdrawn from the market, following reports from the British government that it had received more than 3,500 adverse reaction reports, including 61 deaths.

• In August 1985, Lilly pled guilty to criminal charges for withholding from the FDA information concerning deaths and illnesses related to Oraflex that it had learned about in 1981 and 1982, while its Oraflex application was still pending.

• Prozac, an anti-depressant manufactured by Lilly, has had over 14,000 adverse reports filed with the FDA since its release at the end of 1987.

• These adverse reactions include delirium, hallucinations, convulsions, violent hostility and aggression, psychosis and attempted suicide.

• The Citizens Commission on Human Rights, founded by the Church of Scientology, a reform organization campaigning for the rights of mental patients since 1969, had received over 100 reports that claim violent incidents of murder and suicide in connection with the ingestion of Prozac.

• On September 14, 1989, Joseph Wesbecker opened fire on workers in the Standard Gravure Building in Louisville, Kentucky. Eight were killed and twelve others were wounded – then Wesbecker killed himself. He had a "therapeutic" level of Prozac in his blood at the time of his rampage.

• Documents released under the Freedom of Information Act show that Lilly officials were in possession of data linking Prozac with hostility, aggression, violence and suicide more than a year prior to the Wesbecker killings.

• Since the FDA received the first reports claiming that Prozac was linked to violence and suicide 2 years ago, almost 50 lawsuits have been filed against Eli Lilly for harm suffered as a result of Prozac usage.

• Prozac is still being widely promoted and sold by Eli Lilly despite evidence of the harm caused to its users and innocent bystanders.

• Even with mounting evidence that Prozac can and does drive its victims intensely suicidal, Dr. Paul Leber, head of FDA's neuro-pharmacological drug products division, was unconcerned and stated in a TIME article that the FDA would not be alarmed "Even if we got several hundred reports involving suicide and Prozac."

Why does the FDA condemn a natural substance proven to be harmless and at the same time allow a drug with over 14,000 adverse reactions and more than 100 deaths reported to be sold unabated?

The facts speak for themselves:

Prozac is big business for manufacturer Eli Lilly and Company. Lilly boasted that it made over $750 million from sales of the drug last year alone. The Lilly lobbying machine is well-funded.

In 1989, the manipulation of the FDA by some drug companies was brought to view in an investigation by the U.S. Congress, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice. That probe found that FDA officials received payoffs from private drug firms for rushing through drug approvals that were based on false or incomplete data.

Although Lilly was not implicated in the criminal case, Congress continued to review drug firm practices.

During that investigation, Eli Lilly and Company was singled out along with three other drug firms which were found to have "critical flaws" in their manufacturing procedures, and were reporting false or incomplete information in their reports to the FDA.

Congressman John Dingell (D-Mich.), Chairman of a House Energy and Commerce Sub-committee investigating this issue referred to Eli Lilly's quality control procedures as "callous and cavalier business practices."

With the FDA's corruption in conjunction with Eli Lilly's manipulation and foul play, it is no wonder Prozac remains on the market.

Look for the special advertising supplement on TIME magazine appearing June 14 in USA Today.

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For more information on Eli Lilly call the Citizens Commission on Human Rights 1-800-869-2247