# The Journal of Medical Activism

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# Sick Bedfellows: DOC shifts focus of efforts to counteract tobacco industry and its allies

Since DOC's founding in 1977, one of its fore-most objectives has been to counteract tobacco use and promotion. In contrast to traditional approaches of government health agencies and voluntary health organizations that aim to educate the public about the dangers of tobacco by means of pamphlets, posters, press releases and public service announcements, and to regulate the tobacco industry through legislation, DOC has regarded the tobacco industry as a creative and dynamic force capable of changing its identity and its ability to circumvent conventional attempts to reduce its impact on young people.

In part, as a result of the frustrations in working with overly cautious and self-interested bureaucracies, DOC realized it was imperative that strategies needed to be designed to shift the focus of attention away from the substance (eg, nicotine, tobacco), the adverse health effects (eg, lung cancer, heart disease), and the individual (the "smoker"), and onto the product (eg, Marlboro), the promotion (eg, Marlboro Grand Prix), and the promoters (eg, Philip Morris, et. al.). From its inception, DOC has focused on counteracting the tobacco industry and the way in which tobacco is promoted in society.

DOC's publications, videos, and other materials have helped inspire individual health professionals and health organizations alike around the world to become activists in their communities. Indeed, during the past five years, as the tobacco pandemic has attained the status of political correctness, traditional organizations and newcomers alike have adopted many of DOC's strategies without question, most notably satirical paid counteradvertising. Thus, focusing on the tobacco industry has become second-nature to dealing with the public health problem of tobacco use.

In maintaining its reputation as an innovative international organization working on the tobacco issue, DOC continues to challenge its allies to move beyond public health approaches. Nearly a decade ago, DOC began to focus not only on the tobacco industry, but also on

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its allies. Thus, DOC has helped expose the political connections of the tobacco industry in Congress and state legislatures, and the close ties between the tobacco industry and retail pharmacy chains.

Last year DOC called attention to pharmaceutical corporations and other health related companies that are among the leading allies of the tobacco industry. A report released by DOC to the Associated Press in December 1993 (and recycled by the *Washington Post* in January 1994) highlights the hypocrisy of such companies by revealing their long standing connections to tobacco manufacturers. The report was excerpted from an article by DOC founder, Dr. Alan Blum, published in the March 1993 issue of the journal *Tobacco Control*. (The same article revealed the use of ozone-depleting fluorocarbons in cigarette manufacturing, a finding "re-revealed" by National Public Radio a year later.)

Allies continued on page 2



#### Allies...continued from page 1

decent

The report lists ten major health-related corporations that serve the tobacco industry. CIBA-Geigy, which manufactures Habitrol (a nicotine patch which the company promotes as

an aid to stop smoking), tops the list as a supplier of pesticides used in growing tobacco. The patent holder for the nicotine patch, the Swedish conglomerate Procordia, is the parent company of Pinkerton Tobacco, the maker of Red Man, the top selling brand of chewing tobacco in the U.S.

The company acknowledged its hypocrisy. "There have been so many voices raised about the fact that we are with one hand making an aid for stopping smoking and with the other hand having tobacco industry products," said Michael Frazon of Pharmacia. "It looked bad."

3M, the manufacturer of stethoscopes, pulmonary medications, and surgical supplies also helps promote cigarettes through its top-ranked

The Journal of Medical Actitivism is a publication of Doctors Ought to Care. DOC is a coalition of health professionals and other concerned individuals helping to educate the public, especially young people, about the major preventable causes of poor health and high medical costs. Our focus is the "killer habits" with a particular emphasis on counteracting the promotion of tobacco and alcohol. DOC's professional aim is to tap the highest possible level of commitment and involvement in their communities from physicians, medical students, other health professionals, business leaders and all other citizens. DOC is unique among health organizations in being solely concerned with health promotion, and has pioneered the concept of paid advertising aimed at reducing lethal lifestyles. For more information write to:

> Doctors Ought to Care 5510 Greenbriar, Suite 235 Houston, TX 77005 (713) 798-7729

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Eric Solberg
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"Direct attacks on the tobacco industry may not be as effective as breaking the alliances that these otherwise

Alan Blum, MD DOC Founder

companies

with tobacco companies."

2

billboard subsidiary, National Outdoor, and actively lobbies against restrictions on tobacco advertising.

"Direct attacks on the tobacco industry may not be as effective as breaking the alliances that these otherwise decent companies have with tobacco companies," Dr. Blum points out. "We feel that this new focus will provide a strategic approach for those working to counteract tobacco use and its promotion."

"The sale of these products to manufacturers and growers of to-bacco represent only a small percent of their annual revenue," adds Blum. For example, Kimberly-Clark, which makes surgical masks and hospital supplies, derives less than two percent of its income from the sale of cigarette paper and other products for the tobacco industry. "Is it really

worth the damage to public health and their own reputation for them to continue to aid the leading cause of death and disease in our society?"

That is exactly what DOC member Theda Jessen asked on May 4, 1994 when she presented a statement directed to the Directors of Kimberly-Clark during the company's annual stockholders meeting. Ms. Jessen, who has implemented DOC programs through the Montgomery County Medical Society Alliance, is also a descendant of one of the founders of Kimberly-Clark Corporation.

A portion of DOC's report also focuses on Kodak. While building on its healthful image as a manufacturer of a variety of diagnostic medical equipment, such as mammography for breast cancer, Kodak until 1994 had been the world's leading manufacturer of cigarette filter material. "We're saving millions of lives" boasts a recent Kodak advertisement in medical journals for its mammography equipment. Kodak also manufactures machines to check the uniformity of cigarette packaging.

In addition to a list of pharmaceutical companies with direct ties to the tobacco industry, the report also focuses on familiar retail pharmacy chains, such as Eckerd and Walgreens, which not only continue to sell tobacco products, but actively promote cigarette and spitting tobacco brand names through in-store displays, direct mail, and coupons available in daily newspapers.

For a copy of the report, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to DOC at 5510 Greenbriar, Houston, Texas 77005, or for more information call (713) 798-7729.

#### Washington lobbyists represent health clients and tobacco industry

A report developed by DOC analyzes lobbyists in Washington who work for the tobacco industry and health-related organizations.

More than 600 different Washington, D.C.-based law firms, public relations specialists, and lobbying groups are hired each year by American corporations and associations to protect the legislative and regulatory interests on Capitol Hill. The activities of these representatives in behalf of their clients help shape national policy and affect public health.

The American tobacco industry is comprised of 28 companies and associations, which are represented in Washington by more than 45 lobbying or public affairs firms. These firms in turn represent more than 150 health-related companies and organizations.

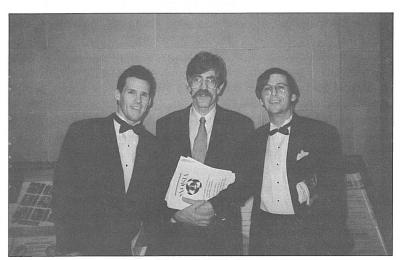
For example, two of the three clients of the lobbying firm Stanton & Associates are tobacco giant Philip Morris and the University Hospitals of Cleveland. The Association of Community Cancer Centers and the National Council of Community Hospitals are represented by Swidler & Berlin, which also represent Lorillard Tobacco Company. Gold and Liebengood, which represents Philip Morris, also looks after the interests of five medical societies, including the American College of Cardi-

ology and the College of American Pathologists. (Until 1993, Gold and Liebengood also represented the interests of the American Medical Association.)

Five of the 11 clients of Ogilvy Adams and Rinehart—another Philip Morris consultant—are health-related organizations, including the American Hospital Association and the Group Health Association (the national organization of HMO's). Among the clients of Griffin, Johnson & Associates are Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Yale-New Haven Hospital, and the Tobacco Institute.

"This helps to explain the inactivity of so many health groups and companies in countering the most preventable cause of death, disease, and high medical costs," noted Dr. Alan Blum, chairman of DOC. "Health insurers, hospitals, doctors, and drug companies have a responsibility to choose consultants and attorneys who are not also protecting the well-being of cigarette and spitting tobacco manufacturers."

"Such lobbyists, attorneys, and other consultants create a smokescreen in Congress by showing up one day representing a hospital and the next day a maker of cigarettes," added Eric Solberg, DOC's executive director. "They're playing both sides, and the public loses."



DOC founder, Alan Blum, MD (center), Eric Solberg (left), Jim Smith (right)

"This video is truly representative of the kind of collaborative project that we are capable of," commented DOC executive director Eric Solberg.

The film is a product of DOC's national office and the DOC program funded in California by the California Department of Health Services as part of the state-wide tobacco prevention and control effort.

#### "Medicine vs. Madison Avenue" Receives top international award

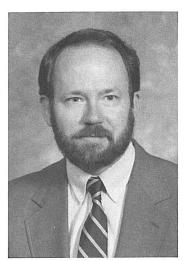
DOC's latest video, "Medicine vs. Madison Avenue," an offbeat, tour de force documentary which illustrates the political history and social acceptance of the cigarette, received highest honors at the 1994 International Health and Medical Film Festival. The film was selected as "Best in Category" in the category of community health.

The video focuses on how tobacco advertising has fostered complacency, the greatest obstacle in dealing with the tobacco pandemic, and outlines a blueprint for engaging students, teachers, health professionals, civic and business leaders in ending the most costly and devastating of all health problems.

"John Gordon and the rest of the team at Gordon Productions deserve a special thank you for putting this film together on a shoestring budget," added DOC founder Alan Blum, MD upon receiving the award during a nationally televised ceremony at the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco, California.

The video is available for \$100 from DOC's national office and is accompanied by a guidebook called *Medical Activism*, an introduction to DOC's strategies and philosophy.

# Burchard elected DOC President



Luke Burchard, MD

As new DOC President, Luke Burchard, MD brings more than 14 years of experience with DOC to his new post. Dr. Burchard has served on DOC's Board of Directors for more than a decade, established DOC in the state of Illinois in 1980, represents DOC as an integral part of the American Academy of Family Physician's annual Patient Education Conference, and has lectured and written widely about DOC's philosophy and strategies. Dr. Burchard resides in Champaign, Illinois where he is on faculty with the Department of Family Medicine at the Christie Clinic.

The two terms served by Chris Shank, MD as President for DOC were completed December 31, 1993. Dr. Shank's tenure as President represented new direction with a focus on membership and organizational development. Dr. Shank was presented with DOC's Award in Medical Activism for his outstanding service and dedication.

New officers elected to serve DOC's Board of Directors include Luke Burchard, MD (President), Paul Paulman, MD (President-Elect), Joel Dunnington, MD (Vice President), Mark Glassner, MD (Treasurer), and Audrey Paulman, MD (Secretary).

#### New staff strengthen national office

Additional staff have been hired to assist in the efforts of the national office. Erik Vidstrand, MPH, has been promoted to National Coordinator for DOC and coordinates membership maintenance and development, assists with fund-raising activities, provides technical assistance to DOC chapters and other organizations, and serves as assistant editor for DOC publications.

The national office was recently joined by Linda Langston in January 1994. As Administrative Assistant, Ms. Langston assists in the daily activities of the national office, including the processing of more than 100 requests per week, works on membership activities, and provides general support for the office.

Two archivists have joined the staff to work toward organizing the DOC Tobacco Archive and International Resource Center. Caroline Kosnik recently completed her Master's Degree in Library Science and began working on the collection in May 1994. She will be joined in September by Ellen Perlow, MLS who has extensive ex-

perience in archiving and library science. Ms. Perlow is on library faculty at Long Island University in Brooklyn, New York and will be spending a full year with DOC as part of her sabbatical from the University.

A law intern has also been added to the staff at the national office. Claire Langford, a student at the University of Houston Law Center, is focusing on health law and is also working on obtaining a Master's Degree in Public Health. Ms. Langford is assisting in preparing and organizing documents for a variety of law firms that are utilizing DOC's archival materials in cases against the tobacco industry.

"It's great to see the national office growing and attracting such talented people," commented executive director, Eric Solberg during DOC's Mid-Year Meeting of the Board of Directors. "Our ability to provide assistance, materials, and training has doubled in just the last few months, and I plan to continue to work toward further growth and development within the organization."

# DOC Board of Directors Seeks Medical Student and Resident to Serve

DOC is seeking nominations for two individuals to serve on the Board of Directors (Medical Student Representative and Resident Representative). Candidates must be members of DOC and be willing to serve one full year on the Board.

Nominations should include background information (name, address, phone number, medical school or residency program, etc.), information about the candidates health promotion and medical activism activities (both on and off campus), information about activities within DOC and other organizations (eg, AMSA, AMA), and a statement supporting the nominee as a good candidate for DOC's Board of Directors.

Nominations must be received by August 31, 1994. Please submit candidates to the attention of the Nominating Committee, DOC, 5510 Greenbriar, Suite 235, Houston, Texas 77005. Nominations may also be submitted by FAX to (713) 798-7775. For additional information, contact Eric Solberg at (713) 798-7768.

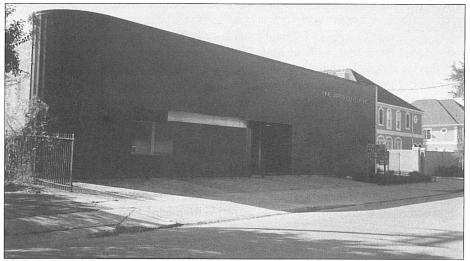
#### DOC Archive receives first major grant

The DOC Tobacco Archive and International Resource Center was awarded a grant from the Texas Department of Health through a cooperative effort with the Texas Office on Smoking and Health. The grant, which covers an eight month period, has enabled DOC to hire a part-time archivist to work on the collection.

The Archive comprises a vast collection of materials in print, audio, video, and other media documenting the history of tobacco use and the influence of tobacco advertising on society. Alan Blum, MD, founder of DOC, began collecting materials on the subject of tobacco in the early 1960s. Through his own personal effort and expense, as well as that of a small group of colleagues throughout the world, he has brought together what is probably the largest and most comprehensive compilation of its kind anywhere.

The collection, which fills nearly 3,000 cubic feet, consists of selected newspapers, magazines, trade journals, annual reports and other documents from major tobacco companies, advertisements, in-store promotional displays, posters and signs, audio cassettes, videotapes, photographs, slides, toys, and other ephemera, which demonstrate the role of tobacco in popular culture around the world. Political and legislative activities of the tobacco industry are documented by transcripts of hearings and other government documents. Medical journals, conference proceedings, reports, internal memos, and memoirs provide extensive information on the strategies used by the tobacco industry and its allies in response to the scientific indictment of tobacco by the World Health Organization as the single most preventable cause of death and disease.

The Archive is a rich and unique resource for the medical community, government and voluntary health agencies, and scholars and researchers in fields such as history, anthropology, ethics, law, journalism, sociology, business, psychology, and advertising. Scholars in history who have examined the collection have called it "a significant contribution to the understanding of several aspects of contemporary culture" and "an invaluable resource" which "make possible the kind of research that would otherwise be practically impossible." Former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, MD has described the Archive as "a national treasure" and has offered his personal support for the permanent establishment of the Archive. In 1992, Dr. Koop donated his work on



Possible future home of DOC Archive...with your help!

#### **AAFP Awards Grant**

The American Academy of Family Physicians has awarded three years of support to DOC to assist in membership development and help build DOC's infrastructure. The Board of the Academy voted to provide funds to match DOC's membership revenue up to \$30,000 a year through 1996.

"This support comes at a crucial time for DOC as we focus on membership recruitment and maintenance," said Eric Solberg, executive director for DOC. "The Academy has been one of the sole supporting organizations for DOC throughout the years. Their continued support has provided the foundation for DOC to grow."

the tobacco issue.

"Today, access to the Archive is limited, especially for the scholarly community at large," explained DOC executive director, Eric Solberg. "Our goal is to preserve and make this collection available to researchers and the public alike. The support from the Texas Department of Health is one initial step in realizing this goal."

At the Mid-Year meeting of DOC's Board of Directors, held on May 14, 1994, the Board approved a preliminary two-year development plan for the Archive. Several contributors have expressed interest in providing funding and other assistance for the Archive, which will help to make the collection more easily accessible.

"The Archive will continue to grow, develop, and remain useful only as long as it is supported and properly preserved," added Solberg.

Individuals and others interested in supporting the Archive should contact DOC's national office at (713) 798-7729.

## DOC TALKS: News from around the country and globe

Ask and you shall receive. Nebraska DOC had DOC founder Dr. Alan Blum to speak at a recent meeting for medical students, residents, and faculty at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (thanks to Glaxo, Inc. for helping to sponsor the event). They have also been ordering a bunch of Barfboro Barfing Team Gear. Could it be they're planning a Barf Fest in the near future? Neighbor Denver DOC hosted a Tar Wars Summit for 35 states last November and is going strong with its new national office in Maine (1-800-TAR-WARS). Dr. Brent Blue of Wyoming DOC recently hosted Dr. Blum when he was asked to speak at the Wyoming Academy of Family Physicians annual meeting.

Way out west...DOC of the Bay Susan Smith and Jim Smith (no relation) were on hand for the 1994 International Health and Medical Film Festival in San Francisco to receive the prestigious "Freddie" award. Jim, who is no longer with DOC, flew in from Texas but will be returning to the San Francisco area for a new career. Down in earthquake country, Dr. Gary Kodel counteracted the Long Beach Grand Prix which was held on April 15-17 with a "Barf on Marlboro" billboard and a housecall at the event. On top of that Dr. Kodel has formalized one of DOC's newest chapters, North LA DOC, located in the Mojave desert. Behind the "Orange Curtain" (as they call it in LA), Dr. Jim Nethery and Phillip Falcetti are getting ready to start a chapter somewhere near Disneyland. Should be a popular attraction.

Congratulations to Dr. Joe Karpicz who was just granted chapter status at the University of Massachusetts as Central Mass DOC. Massachusetts became involved in the tobacco pandemic dating as far back as 1629 when, at the urging of King James I, Governor Winthrop banned tobacco sales and public smoking. Toledo DOC got some help from hockey great Gordie Howe recently as one of the judges for the regional poster contest. Son, Dr. Murray Howe and his contingent of 106

physicians have visited over 7,000 5th graders in northwest Ohio. Dr. Linda Boyd is gathering members for New Jersey DOC and MCG DOC, (Augusta, Georgia), one of DOC's oldest chapters, just had a successful turnout for their Emphysema Slims Tennis Tournament which was held in May. Downeast DOC (Bangor, Maine) has been awarded a grant to give Joe Camel a hard time. A BIG THANKS to Delaware DOC for their donation to the national office. They have been involved with the local DARE program which now uses DOC materials as part of their curricula. This year marks the tenth year of the DEL DOC SuperHealth 2000 project with the cooperation of Governor Carper at the unveiling of the winning billboard from their poster contest.

On the global front, new DOC Board Member Ric Loya returned from his annual pilgrimage to **Guam** and planted a seed for a chapter there. The **Cayman Islands** is in the process of gathering members after a May visit by the Barfboro Barfing Team. And DOC Member Scott Thompson has been teaching in **Poland** for the last year and has become familiar with the customs officials as they inspect Barfboro posters and other items for his classes.

For information on locating a chapter nearest you or starting a chapter, please contact Erik Vidstrand at (713) 798-7729.

#### New Benefits to Members

New perks have been added to the growing list of benefits for DOC members. Among the additions are free trial subscriptions to *Bottom Line* and *Health Confidential*, published by Boardroom Reports, Inc. (New York, New York). Boardroom President and CEO, Martin Edelston, a long-time DOC supporter, is providing the free subscriptions to new and renewing DOC members.

DOC has joined the world of telecommunications to provide another membership benefit through a long distance affinity program. PhoneDOC is a discount long distance telephone program that can save DOC members and friends up to 40% on long distance telephone bills if presently using AT&T, MCI or Sprint. At the same time, PhoneDOC will contribute 5% of the total collected long distance telephone bills to DOC's national office.

"After looking at different programs to offer our members, we developed PhoneDOC with the Long Distance Network because of the quality of service and the incredible savings," said Eric Solberg, DOC's executive director. "The best thing about this program is that everybody wins. Our members receive huge savings and help DOC at the same time through contributions to the national office."

DOC members are also eligible for DOC's Gold MasterCard through MBNA America, a corporation serving over 250 medical associations. The Gold MasterCard offers DOC members the opportunity to request preferred MasterCard cards at lower annual fees and interest rates, higher lines of credit, and numerous features not otherwise available from other card issuers.

For more information, contact the national office at (713) 798-7729.

#### T Shirts





#### **Bumper Stickers**





#### Poster



#### **DOC Health Promotion Materials Order Form**

<u>Posters (</u> \$5.00 each)		Slide Presentations, Videos and Educational Programs			
How to Spot a Nerd		Video: Medicine vs. Madison Avenue			100.00
Smoke for Smell		Video: Sui-Genocide: The Killing of Minority Groups			80.00
They'll Really Know You're Smoking	g		acco Industry		
Barfboro Chunks		Video: Cigarettes and Sports: Striking Out Against Tobacc			
Virginia Slime		Video: Mc Smoke the Tobacco King and Nikki Teen			100.00
NewCorpse				eir Victims and curriculum guide	
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T-Shirts (\$15.00 each) PLEASE CIRCLE SIZE  Barfboro LG XL		Tobacco slide presentation and script (1992)			80.00
	LG XL LG XL			de presentation and script	80.00 80.00
Emphysema Slims	LG XL		Nutrition slide presentation and script		
Mr. Camel's Cartoon CigarettesThrow Tobacco Out of Sports	LG XL	Family Dyr	Family Dynamics slide presentation and script		
mon resucce out of opens	20 7.2	Other Items			
Stickers Stickers		Obituary Cards from physicians			4.00 per 100
Zoo Breath (2 1/4" circle) .05 each		Throw Tobacco Out of Sports Cardboard Boomerang			.25 each
Love, DOC (5/8 by 5/8 ")	.01 each	Throw Tobacco Out of Sports bookcover			.25 each
Out of Order (1 1/2 by 2") .05 each		Barfboro barf bags (lunch bags)			.20 each
Smoking Eats (2 1/2 by 2 1/2") .10 each		Barboro lapel pin			6.00 each
Magazine Sticker (4 by 2") .10 each		·			100.00/set
	2.00 each	(Fits most		,	
Don't Drink and Barf bumpersticker			,		
Dead Man Chew bumpersticker 2	2.00 each				
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Pro Health Products \$		Postage & Handling		Due to the large numb	nor of
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#### When more doctors smoked Camels...

DOC's traveling exhibit, "When more doctors smoked camels: Health claims in cigarette advertising," was developed by the DOC Tobacco Archive and International Resource Center in 1988. The exhibit first appeared in conjunction with the first American Medical Association conference on tobacco and health at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Since then, it has traveled to several medical schools, universities, and medical meetings throughout the country.

For information about reserving the exhibit, please contact Erik Vidstrand at (713) 798-7729.



Doctor,
be your own
judge...
try this
simple test
With to many claims
made in cigarette advertising, you, Doctor, no doubt prefer

Take a PHILIP MORRIS and any other eigarette

1. Light up either one first, Take a puffaget a good mouthful of make-and al-o-w-ly let the smake come directly through your ruse.

2. Now, do exactly the same thing with the other eigarette.
Notice that PHILLY MORRIS is default; less initiating, default, mile

PHILIP MORRIS
Philip Morris & Co. Led., Inc., 100 Park Avenue, New York 17, N. Y

Cigarette advertisements were found in medical journals until the mid 1980s.

## **DOC**

cordially invites you to

The Boston Tar Party

Thursday, September 22, 1994 to be held at the Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum Boston, Massachusetts

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