

"I'm sure cartoons had an important impact on my adolescent views of smoking. *Mad Magazine* had plenty of anti-smoking messages; even Wacky Packages told grade schoolers that smoking was for morons. Imagine the social good that could be unleashed if *Mad* and comic books replaced all school textbooks. *A Utopia through cartoons is within our reach!*"

KIRK ANDERSON
St. Paul, Minnesota

(Cartoon: October 1990, *Capital Times*, Madison, Wisconsin)

"In Kentucky, tobacco farmers and industry flacks have long defended tobacco because of its economic benefits to the state."

NICK ANDERSON
Louisville Courier-Journal

(Cartoon: June 12, 1994)

"It occurred to me that tobacco sponsors sporting events, which is like 'Girls Gone Wild' being used to advertise Church events. Both tobacco and porn are unhealthy...but legal in this country. So far the porn industry is not trying to sell its products on billboards near schools...except maybe in Las Vegas."

CHUCK ASAY
The Gazette, Colorado Springs

(Cartoon: June 1, 1997)

“One hundred years from now people will look back and ask,
‘What were they thinking?’”

TONY AUTH
Philadelphia Enquirer

(Cartoon: January 2, 1998)

“One of the advantages of working in a graphic medium is being able to depict something like the horror of a tracheostomy, graphically.”

REX BABIN
Sacramento Bee

“Anybody can get a cartoon killed by taking the ax to Motherhood or Apple Pie, but it takes real talent to make editors squirm over an assault on an obvious villain like Big Tobacco.”

AAEC Notebook, on the occasion of Rex Babin winning the 1998 Golden Spike Award for this cartoon, never published by the *Albany Times Union*.

“With the Surgeon General’s report on ‘Smoking and Health’ still fresh in mind, great numbers [of America’s 70 million smokers] were trying to kick the habit. They were jumpy, they were suffering, and each had a small gnawing craving just under his breastbone; but they were trying. And the whole nation seemed to be caught up with them.”

Newsweek, January 27, 1964

“Smoking-wise, the only accomplishment I can lay claim to is that I finally got my wife to give up cigarettes. We live in Minnesota, and in the winter when it gets to be 50 below, it takes a hardy or desperate person to keep smoking out on that porch.”

GENE BASSET
St. Peter, Minnesota
Scripps-Howard Newspapers, 1962-1982

“Smoking is a nasty habit, but so is scornful nagging. Neither behavior should be inflicted on those around you.”

CLAY BENNETT
Christian Science Monitor

“A funny thing happened to me one time. I had created a couple of anti-smoking cartoons, and I got a call from Dr. Luther Terry, the Surgeon General, who asked me whether I’d like to illustrate a book he was working on. He invited me to come down to the University of Pennsylvania. We discussed the project and then went over to the faculty dining room. After we finished lunch, he pulled out a pipe and smoked it! I’d quit smoking around that time because I wanted to be a role model for my two sons. Incidentally, the book deal never went through.”

JIM BERRY
West Harwich, Massachusetts

“It wrenches my heart to see the lives of people—especially young ones—shortened and ruined on the sacrificial altar of Big Tobacco’s greed and lies. Big Tobacco’s evildoers are making an ash out of themselves, while staining their Grim Reaper hands with the prolonged death and suffering of their victims.”

STEVE BENSON
Arizona Republic

(Cartoon: 1990,

“Years ago, a doctor gave a relative of mine a jar that held some of the residue that smoking had left in her lungs. That was not enough to scare her away from the habit, but it sure left an impression on me. My relative passed away shortly after that. I’ve never smoked, and I pray that my children never start.”

RANDY BISH

Tribune-Review, Pittsburgh

“My father is a retired family doctor who hates smoking and sees it as his right, and duty, to inform all who smoke that they will die. One of my best friends from childhood proved him right by dying of lung cancer at age 50.

“My dad’s attitude wasn’t just a professional opinion. He says his father set a great terrible example for smoking. It’s true. I’ve heard my grandfather’s morning hacking many times. He too succumbed to smoking related cancer.

“So, it’s not surprising that I hate smoking, too. Almost as much as I hate the sanctimonious anti-second-hand-smoking politicians and lawyers who compound the suffering of the poor wheezing smokers by squeezing them with ever higher cigarette taxes and price increases due to the huge settlements they’ve extorted from the tobacco companies in litigation. Now that the settlements have become a big part of state budgets, the anti-smoking pros have become virtual partners with the tobacco companies.”

CHIP BOK

Akron Beacon Journal

(Cartoon: April 13, 1998)

BENTLEY BOYD

Daily Press, Williamsburg, Virginia

(Cartoon: July, 1997)

“My father died of lung cancer in 1977. I will never forget the sound of him laboring for every breath; I could hear it from the hallway as I approached his hospital room. I hear it every time I draw a tobacco-related cartoon.”

JOHN BRANCH

San Antonio Express-News

(Cartoon: January 25, 1998)

“The only thing more attractive than a cigarette to a nicotine addict might be a ‘bad guy’ to a cartoonist. We just have to go after them. Make that a rich, arrogant group of bad guys who lie and profit from human death and suffering (and target kids) and the target is irresistible. That’s the reason I did so many on Big Tobacco and those in Congress who helped protect them.”

STEPHEN BREEN

San Diego Union Tribune

(Cartoon: 1998, *Asbury Park Press*)

GARY BROOKINGS

Richmond Times-Dispatch

(Cartoon: March 1996)

“This cartoon was drawn in response to a crackdown on dissidents in Cuba.”

DARYL CAGLE
Slate.com

JOE CANNADAY
Richmond, Virginia

“Let me just say, as a former smoker, that putting away the ‘nicky sticks’ was one the hardest thing I’ve ever done. The Surgeon General’s report was well known by the time I picked up the habit in the mid-’70s, but regarded lightly or with outright hostility in my hometown of Lexington, Kentucky. My father, a surgeon and long-reformed smoker, warned me about tobacco’s dangers. But, hell, I was 18 years old and bullet-proof. Now 46, I’m lucky to still have my health.

“My advice to any prospective young smokers out there: Don’t.”

JOHN COLE
The Herald-Sun, Durham

“This pair of cartoons was drawn just for the show, from the perspective of a Kentucky boy who was raised in tobacco country.”

J.D. CROWE
Mobile Register

“Tennessee declined to join in on the states’ lawsuit against the tobacco companies, but was more than happy to cash in on the settlement money.”

CHARLIE DANIEL
Knoxville News-Sentinel

MATT DAVIES
Journal News, Westchester, New York

(Cartoon: 2000)

“I’m against the government constantly trying to regulate every aspect of our lives, such as smoking in bars and restaurants. However, I’m also against smokers thinking that somehow I should have to put up with the disgusting smoke from that habit if I go out for a meal or a drink.”

SEAN DELONAS

(Cartoon: 2000)

“One of my favorite stories is about cartoonist Arnold Roth. He was sitting in the smoking section of a restaurant when a guy came over to tell him that his cigarette smoke was ruining his meal. ‘Well, that’s nothing,’ Arnold said. “Wait till I start farting.”

ANDY DONATO
Toronto Sun

“I started my career in Raleigh, N.C. at the tender age of twenty-five, taking up Camel Lights a few times a day to keep company with my girlfriend of the time. In short order I was promoted to a pack-a-day habit that alternated between Camel Lights, Marlboro Reds, and Dunhills. After a few years, I tried to develop a unique style by rolling my own, favoring Three Castles brand tobacco. The pressures of a daily deadline soon forced me out of this leisurely pace and back into the arms of Reynolds and Philip Morris production methods. I moved to Scranton, Pennsylvania in 1990 and continued my long association with pre-packaged tobacco products until the first of many unsuccessful attempts to quit smoking. In order to cut down my intake, I went back to rolling my own, this time switching to a down-market brand, Drum tobacco. After a short but intense career of almost ten years, I finally went cold turkey during my wife’s first pregnancy. Quitting was one of the most difficult career moves I ever had to make and is one accomplishment of which I am most proud. Even though I’ve been smoke-free for the past seven years and have become one of those ex-smokers that occasionally nags current users about the evils of addiction to nicotine, I continue to draw editorial cartoons for the *Scranton Times*.”

DENNIS DRAUGHON
Scranton Times

(Cartoon: March 25, 1996)

“Trying to place a lid on Big Tobacco is like trying to nail JELL-O to a wall. As evidenced by this cartoon, when you think you have them on the run here at home, they simply slither away to make up their losses by boosting tobacco sales to third world countries.”

PAUL FELL
Lincoln Journal Star
Nebraska Press Association

(Cartoon: 1995)

“I drew this cartoon back when the tobacco companies were whining about the size of the settlements and damage awards they were going to have to pay out. It struck me as absurd that they were complaining about their pain in the face of all the pain that smoking causes in the world. This issue is particularly close to my heart since my grandma died of lung cancer.”

MARK FIORE

San Francisco

aol.com

(Cartoon: July 17, 2000)

“My mother and my father died within a month of each other because of their inability to overcome their addiction to cigarettes. I understand, firsthand, the impact of tobacco on the lives of people.”

DAVID FITZSIMMONS

Arizona Daily Star

(Cartoon: July 23, 2000)

“I view smoking as an issue of personal health and safety. Beyond prohibiting under-age smoking, I don’t believe the federal government should much involve itself in the issue. I particularly don’t believe courts should support individuals who attempt to punish tobacco companies for their smoking-related health problems—problems resulting from their own conscious decision to gamble with an obviously risky behavior.”

BOB GORRELL

AOL News

“I may not be that keen on the idea of the government regulating smoking, but I sure like going out to a nice restaurant and not coming home smelling like a cigar.”

WALT HANDELSMAN

Newsday

(Cartoon: 2002)

VIC HARVILLE
Stephens Media Group
Little Rock, Arkansas

JOE HELLER
Green Bay Press Gazette

(Cartoon: 2000)

“From the very beginning, I had a sense that if I played my cards right, smoking could be a money-making proposition. While waiting on line at Colonial Williamsburg with a fellow sophomore of my high school class to watch the instruments of torture and punishment, he bet \$5 that I couldn’t smoke a cigarette all the way to the end. I did, and that was the end of smoking for me. I collected the \$5, which in terms of the odds, risks, and expenditures, was a pretty good career move.”

DRAPER HILL
Grosse Point, Michigan

(Cartoon: January 12, 1979, *Detroit News*)

“The villainy of the tobacco industry has been a frequent target of my cartoons. I have supported efforts by governments at the local, state and federal level to penalize the industry and to deny the tobacco merchants new customers for their addictive products. However, as in this cartoon, I find it amusing that government has also found tobacco money to be a convenient source of revenue for worthy programs, such as the 100,000 new teachers that Bill Clinton wanted to hire and pay with a cigarette tax. It seems that this kind of revenue dependence could become an unhealthy addiction.”

DAVID HORSEY
Seattle Post-Intelligencer

(Cartoon: 1998)

“Governor Bush initially opposed suing the tobacco companies but became more enthusiastic about the money when the dollar signs appeared (\$17.3 billion), after Attorney General Dan Morales got up his own posse and went after them anyway. Legal fees totaling more than \$3 billion for Morales’ buddies upset Bush, but he still welcomed the money. Morales hoped to end up in the governor’s mansion but is serving time in prison instead for fraud. Only in Texas, or maybe Comedy Central.”

ETTA HULME
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

(Cartoon: April 12, 1998)

“Growing up in a house with a smoker has never tempered my feelings about the dangers of cigarette smoking, although three of my siblings took up the habit. I just never liked the way it smelled, and no matter what room I was in, the stream of toxic gas would snake its way to me as if I were a magnet for cigarette smoke.”

TIM JACKSON
Chicago Defender
Creative License Studio

(Cartoon: 2004)

“I really want to comment on this cartoon, but after consulting with my lawyer, I decline.”

KEVIN KALLAUGHER
Baltimore Sun

(Cartoon: July 20, 2000)

“While the federal government can step in to issue health warnings and advertising guidelines for the tobacco industry, it cannot dictate fads. So, unfortunately, smoking is on the rise among American youth.”

MIKE KEEFE
Denver Post

(Cartoon: 1997)

“I try to point out the obvious things people tend to forget. I let the cartoon speak for itself. If I have to explain, I haven’t done my job.”

JIM LANGE
Daily Oklahoman

(Cartoon: April 12, 1991)

“We would never intentionally expose our children to plague, but we’ve taught them to smoke cigarettes. Now we’re spending literally billions of dollars trying to undo the harm, but a walk across any college campus or a visit to the back fence of any school yard shows precisely how effective our efforts have been.”

JIM LARRICK
Columbus Dispatch

(Cartoon: 1998)

“John Fischetti and I had lunch at Ricardo’s one day, not long after his coronary bypass—that was his first warning about cigarettes. Ricardo’s is one flight of stairs below Michigan Avenue and when we came out of the restaurant I saw John pause. ‘What’s wrong?’ I asked. ‘My doctor tells me having sex is like going up a flight of stairs,’ he said, ‘and I’m trying to decide.’”

DICK LOCHER
Chicago Tribune

(Cartoon: 1994)

MIKE LUCKOVICH
Atlanta Constitution

(Cartoon: 2000)

This cartoon shows both the Prime Minister and the Finance minister of Canada stroking and nourishing the tobacco cow as it is being milked for its precious revenues. Meanwhile, it’s the Health Minister of the day whose role is to brand the great money maker as dangerous to the health of Canadians.

GRAHAM MACKAY
Hamilton Spectator, Ontario

(Cartoon: November 24, 1999)

“By the time this cartoon was drawn, the dangers of smoking were very well documented, and common knowledge to everyone. So the fact that a tobacco company would actually target a product to young women in their child-bearing years was just too ridiculously outrageous to let pass.”

JIMMY MARGULIES
The Record, New Jersey

(Cartoon: 1990, *Houston Post*)

“Cigarette smokers inhale, but tobacco execs suck.”

GARY MARKSTEIN
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

(Cartoon: 2001)

“I come from a long line of smokers and drinkers, and, not surprisingly, most of my role models were smokers. Naturally, when I was young, I thought cigarettes would be a big part of my life. Surprisingly, it didn’t turn out that way.

“My entire smoking career spanned only three short weeks in the 6th grade when I tried to smoke one very strong pack of Gauloises I had smuggled out of the corner store in my best friend’s neighborhood of Brussels. We’d hang out at the bumper cars after school and practice puffing like Jean-Paul Belmondo, or like Lucky Luke (who could roll a cigarette with no hands!) or, at least, like my big brothers. As cool as I was, I never inhaled without scorching the back of my throat, and I was never tempted by the allure of demon nicotine again.

“Not until 11th grade, that is, when I first saw Humphrey Bogart light up the silver screen in ‘Casablanca’. About an hour before I learned that ‘the problems of three little people don’t amount to a hill of beans in this crazy world.’ I had resolved to copy Bogey’s style whenever I had my first cigarette as an adult. I even practiced holding a cigarette with three fingers, just like Bogey, but I never did smoke like him. I never even bought a pack of cigarettes. I’d have to look elsewhere for the perfect affectation to convey my newfound world-weary cynicism. Why? I’d done the math, and the cost to my meager pocketbook—hundreds if not thousands of dollars a year to support my habit—seemed too high a price to pay for the meager benefit to my image.

“Ten years later when there was a bill to ban smoking in New York bars and restaurants, I listened to all the ridiculous arguments about the ineluctable union of cigarettes and liquor, but I could never see the smokers’ point of view. In my mind, however, there was still the ineluctable union of cigarettes and Bogart. And yet, when I tried to picture Rick in his gin joint, hunched over a bottle, with no ashtray in sight, uttering those immortal words, all that came to mind was this cartoon. And that’s when I knew, finally, without a doubt, I would never be a smoker.”

R.J. MATSON
New York Observer

(Cartoon: February 17, 1995)

GLENN MC COY
Belleville News-Democrat
Universal Press Syndicate

“I started smoking cigarettes in 1956, when I was playing...uh...Little League. I quit in 1971 as an anniversary present to my wife. Cold turkey. No patch, no gum, no nothin’. Big Tobacco’s landed in well-publicized and much deserved trouble several years later so what remains troubling is why more smokers can’t quit—and why kids start. Don’t they see the retirees in the supermarket, their noses tethered to oxygen canisters? But then kids, besides being blind, are bullet proof. OK, full disclosure: I still puff on an occasional cigar—but so did George Burns, and he hit 100.”

TIM MENEES
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

(Cartoon: September 5, 1998)

ALAN BLUM
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

DOUG MINKLER
Berkeley, California

(Parody: 1988)

In 1979 Dade County, Florida held the nation's first local referendum on an anti-smoking ordinance to require separate non-smoking sections in restaurants. To *Miami Herald* editorial cartoonist JIM MORIN, this was a case of misplaced priorities: Outdoor environmental pollution posed a far greater risk to health than transient exposure to cigarette smoke.

The tobacco industry spent over \$1 million in mass media advertising (a national record for a county referendum) to oppose the measure. Proponents spent \$5000. More than 192,000 voters went to the polls. The ordinance was defeated by 820 votes.

TERRY MOSHER ("AISLIN")

Montreal Gazette

(Cartoon: 1996)

JACK OHMAN

Oregonian

(Cartoon: 1994)

PAT OLIPHANT

Universal Press Syndicate

"SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: *Viewing Cartoons About Smoking Causes Introspection, Deliberation, Persuasion, And May Complicate Pregnancy.*"

JEFF PARKER

Florida Today

"The dirty secret of the tobacco wars is that states need cigarette companies for their tax revenue. As health entitlement costs escalated out of control in the 1980's, state politicians—rather than leveling with taxpayers and cutting programs—went out and found a scapegoat. Make that 'scapecamel.' Joe Camel, that is. States sued to cover their Medicaid costs—and now are addicted to the tobacco settlement windfall."

"Thus the cartoon. Its message is as relevant today as seven years ago. Having absorbed the tobacco settlement money, states like my Michigan are once again scrambling to find new revenue to mop up red ink. This year's solution? An increase in cigarette taxes to \$2 a pack."

"If folks ever quit smoking, how will we balance the budget?"

HENRY PAYNE

Detroit News

(Cartoon: February 6, 1997)

“Taste is in the mouth of the beholder.”

ROY PETERSON
Vancouver Sun

(Cartoon: March 24, 2000)

JOEL PETT
Lexington Herald-Leader

(Cartoon: September 25, 2002)

“I fall squarely and proudly into the stereotype ‘ex-smokers are the worst.’ I smoked two packs a day for ten years and kept in mind how revolting it could be to others. As a consequence, I have no tolerance whatsoever for indoor smoking in public places.”

DAN PIRARO
Bizarro
New York, NY

(Cartoon: March 22, 2000)

“After much public criticism, the RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company finally relented and decided to abandon the Joe Camel advertising campaign, which had attempted to convince young people that smoking cigarettes was cool. Now Joe Camel was cool for an entirely different reason.”

BRUCE PLANTE
Chattanooga Times Free Press

(Cartoon: February 26, 1994)

DWANE POWELL
Raleigh News and Observer

(Cartoon: 1997)

“John Fischetti was a great cartoonist and force of nature. He shared with me a lifetime of wisdom and newspaper cartooning insight during the last four years of his life. He knocked on doors for me, took me out to lunch and even pushed work my way. John was my cheerleader and mentor.

“Twenty summers ago I was in Santa Fe, New Mexico, living every young cartoonist’s dream. I was having dinner (one of the best chicken ‘n’ margarita dinners ever) with one of cartooning’s gods, Bill Mauldin. Our wives were tucking in our children for the night. This left me alone with my idol to talk about my friend Fischetti, who had passed away five years before.

“Bill shared with me a phone call he’d had with John as his health worsened. Fischetti told Mauldin, ‘Bill, I’m really going to quit smoking. I’m *really* going to do it this time.’ Bill said he’d never forget that call in part because of the desperation in John’s voice and because Bill remembered to himself that this new attempt to quit was too little, too late.”

“And people ask me where I get my inspiration...”

MILT PRIGGE

www.miltpriggee.com

Spokane, Washington

(Cartoon: March 25, 1988, *Spokesman Review/Spokane Chronicle*)

TED RALL

New York, New York

Universal Press Syndicate

(Cartoon: May 28, 1998)

“‘It’s for the children.’ That’s what the attorney’s-general hid behind to make themselves sound noble. It’s really a money-generating machine for lawyer. What public policy value these lawyers have is beyond me.”

“Smoking is a horrible thing. I hate it. My grandma died from it. But unless we’re heading for Prohibition, I don’t get the end-game.”

MIKE RITTER

Tribune Newspapers

Phoenix, Arizona

(Cartoon: 1998)

“My relationship with tobacco began when I was a child. No, I didn’t start smoking at six. My father happens to be a physician specializing in pulmonary medicine. He enlisted me to draw cartoons of people smoking or hooked up to lung machines. During one creative period I even drew Snoopy with a bronchoscope coming out of his giant beagle nose. My first paying job in cartooning consisted of a series of colored drawings about the hazards of smoking to illustrate a hospital study. As you can see, it has continued to be a topic of interest to me.”

ROB ROGERS

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

(Cartoon: November 25, 1998)

“By the late 1970s I was drawing cartoons for the *Durham Morning Herald* in the heart of the North Carolina tobacco belt. The editorial page editor at the time was what you might call an anti-anti-smoking activist, whose favorite target was what he considered the self-righteous fanaticism of Jimmy Carter’s Health Education and Welfare Secretary, Joseph Califano. Not sharing that opinion, I focused on other aspects of the same general subject: the absurdities of tobacco advertising, the precarious state of tobacco farmers, and, especially, the decline and ultimate disappearance of what had once been Durham’s largest industry: cigarette manufacturing. I never had any strong desire to draw cartoons about the dangers of smoking *per se*; that point of view was so obvious it didn’t need belaboring.

“I drew this cartoon in February 2000 when Duke University in Durham was cracking down on student drinking. The seated figure is American Tobacco Company founder Washington Duke, whose son James B. Duke endowed the University. The elder Duke’s likeness sits in that very pose on campus, though the real statue’s chair is not made of cigarette packs.”

V. CULLUM ROGERS

Independent Weekly, Durham

“Smoking is one part of a great symbiotic occurrence. The indigenous peoples of the Western hemisphere and we European immigrants involved each other in our mutual pursuits of happiness. They gave us tobacco, we gave them smallpox, and we all lived happily...though not as long as we might have.”

ARNOLD ROTH
New York, NY

(Cartoon: “The Embattled Smoker,” March 7, 1994, *TIME*)

STEVE SACK
Minneapolis Star-Tribune

“The vast worldwide organizations that supply other addictive substances must be envious of the global clout, reach and marketing flexibility the cigarette *narçotraficantes* enjoy. If your adult market starts drying up, you can go after kids; if that starts drying up, you start selling `em overseas. It’s the best racket yet.”

BEN SARGENT
Austin American-Statesman

(Cartoon: 1998)

MIKE SMITH
Las Vegas Sun

(Cartoon: 1998)

“Now if we could only cut back on the second-hand smoke and mirrors from Congress.”

JEFF STAHLER
Cincinnati Post

(Cartoon: December 29, 1997, *Newsweek*)

WAYNE STAYSKAL
Tampa Tribune

(Cartoon: 1997, *Tampa Tribune*)

(Cartoon: “He resembles you...” 1981, *Chicago Tribune*)

(Cartoon: *Medical Journal of Australia*, March 5, 1983)

“I grew up in the blacklands of Central Texas, where if you weren’t a wimp or a dweeb you knew how to Bogart that cigarette. I knew all the tricks. I could light a match with my teeth, my thumbnail, or my zipper. I could French inhale, I could hold a whole cigarette lit-end first inside my mouth, I could fling a butt 30 yards with one disdainful flick of the finger. I was cool. I was a dope. A decade or so later, I got so mad at myself for what smoking was doing to me I quit cold. Carried a pack around in my pocket for days, but every time I reached for it, the wave of revulsion that washed over me stopped me from lighting up. After three weeks I threw the pack away, and that was that. My only revenge is to hammer away at the evil varmints who put all that Marlboro Country nonsense in my dumb teenage brain in the first place.”

ED STEIN
Rocky Mountain News

(Cartoon: 1996)

“I worked really hard on this cartoon.”

PETER STEINER
Washington Times

(Cartoon: 1998)

“Even though I would do more cartoons criticizing the tobacco companies and their ties to Congress, I’ve decided I’m quite against all this legislating smoking in public, like banning it in bars (as in New York City). Either ban tobacco altogether or stop this nonsense.”

ANN TELNAES
Washington, DC
King Features Syndicate
Six Chix

(Cartoon: January 23, 2003).

“This cartoon was drawn in response to health studies that linked smoking to illness. I was struck by the fact that it has taken decades to publicly acknowledge what everyone has known for years: smoking kills. I’m amazed that the tobacco companies continued to deny a link for decades, long after the health hazards of smoking were well known. I’m even more amazed that they got away with their absurd denials and that Congress bought into this deadly public ruse. It’s a textbook example of how money distorts our political process. In this case, the distortion had deadly results.”

MIKE THOMPSON
Detroit Free Press

(Cartoon: 1997)

TOM TOLES
Washington Post

(Cartoon: 2001 *Buffalo News*)

“I’m a non-smoker but also libertarian/conservative, so although I’ve been critical of smoking I’ve also criticized the government’s more heavy-handed efforts to marginalize smokers. This particular cartoon attacks the government’s two-faced approach of condemning smoking’s effects while busily collecting taxes from it (to say nothing of subsidizing tobacco-growing).”

JOHN TREVER

Albuquerque Journal

“The reason for the wheezin’ is money. Our government is addicted to tobacco taxes and can’t break the habit. Usually it would ban any substance that is making people sick. Ah, but not at the expense of the goose that coughs up profits. It will be protected as long as it produces golden eggs.”

GARY VARVEL

Indianapolis Star

(Cartoon: 2000)

“This cartoon shows not only that I’ve been in this racket a long time, but also that things can actually change. When I go to schools now to talk about my cartoons, it’s hard to show this one because kids don’t know who Joe Camel is any more.”

SIGNE WILKINSON

Philadelphia Daily News

(Cartoon: July 17, 2000)

“It’s not about the stupid old plant to me. It’s about the insanity of advertising and marketing, the evil genius of Joe Camel. Just imagine what could be accomplished by shifting the billions the billions of bucks we spend pushing cigarettes to a campaign for a ‘Robbie-get-off-my-lard-ass-and-get-some-damn-exercise-Racoon’ or a ‘Skinny Eddie-ditch-the-junk-food-Squirrel.’”

MATT WUERKER

Portland, Oregon