

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HEALTH AND MEDICINE

The historic Walter Reed campus houses a fascinating repository of visual, visceral medical artifacts, many of which double as art.

On view: Ripped straight from the editorial pages, "Cartoonists Take Up Smoking" features some 55 artful jabs at cigarettes and "chronic recipients" of tobacco industry largesse. The surgeon general's report, big-money lawsuit settlements and the District's smoking ban are among issues that fired up the cartoonists' creativity. One wit's frame assured the litigation settlement "is for the children" — the lawyers' children. Another depicts Joe Camel after years of smoking: "Joe Camel: The Later Years" (left) by Signe Wilkinson ran Feb. 28, 1994, in the Philadelphia Daily News.

Some smoking-related newspaper headlines, artifacts and advertisements round out the show. Viewers of a certain age will go nostalgic over Philip Morris's 1968 Virginia Slims launch that burned the slogan "You've come a long way, baby" into the minds of the masses. A Nov. 25, 1946, Life magazine ad (a detail is pictured on the cover) claims: "More doctors smoke Camels than any other cigarette". This show is cool without a capital K.

Curator's sound bite: "Art is a way to attract visitors who never thought to visit a medical museum," says Adrienne Noe, director since 1995. "Then when they're captivated, they discover the linkages between art and healing."

Through Feb. 28. 6900 Georgia Ave. NW. Free (bring photo I.D.). 202-782-2200. www.nmhm.washingtondc.museum.

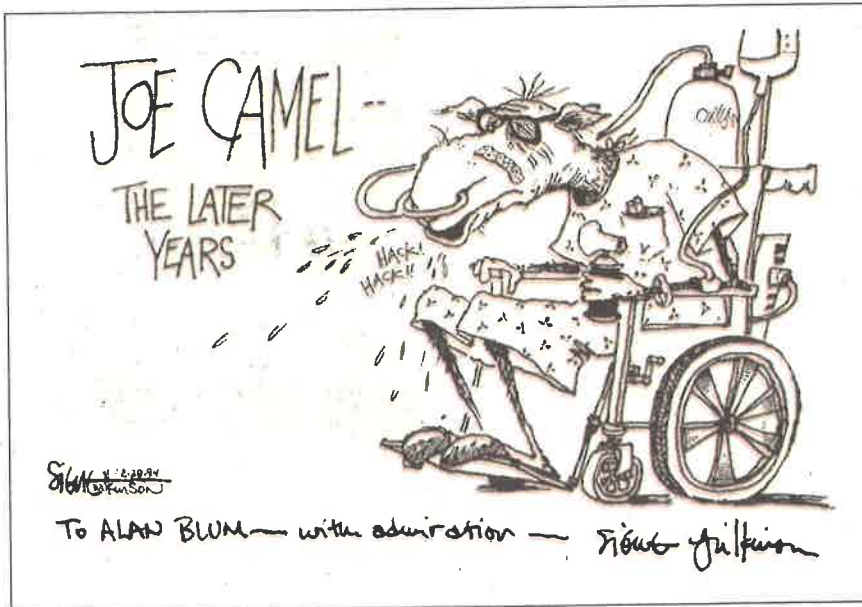
C14 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2006

This Week & Next

The District

Today

[EXHIBIT] "Cartoonists Take Up Smoking" We thought this exhibit at the National Museum of Health and Medicine was too timely not to mention here, what with us having to give it up with the smoking ban going into effect in, oh, about two days and a few hours. The show looks at reactions to tobacco-themed headlines through 55 editorial cartoons and clippings and includes anti-smoking works as well as cartoonists bemoaning Big Brotheresque policies. Free. Open daily 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Through March 31. Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Ave. NW. 202-782-2200.



"Cartoonists Take Up Smoking" at the National Museum of Health and Medicine features Signe Wilkinson's Feb. 28, 1994, editorial that ran in the Philadelphia Daily News.