

OPINIONS

Smoking children have made up minds



KERI ANDREWS
Commentary

New evidence has been uncovered proving that cigarettes really have been marketed toward kids. Ya don't say? Most smokers begin their habit before the legal smoking age of 18.

After 18, the percentage of people who choose to begin smoking rapidly declines. It seems only obvious for companies to target those most likely to use their product, doesn't it?

Ah, but we reach a moral dilemma. On the one hand, cigarette companies want to make as much money as they can.

On the other hand, the most profitable group to sell their product to is not of legal age.

Why is it illegal to sell cigarettes to those who are under 18?

Let's stop for a moment and think. Most kids start smoking before age 18, the number who begin smoking after eighteen decreases dramatically... could it be that

people gain more sense as they get older?

This would mean that cigarettes are being targeted to the young and impressionable.

Another possibility is that kids smoke because it is illegal for them, much like the drinking problem among people under 21.

It's more fun, more cool, and makes you more rebellious if it's illegal.

Once one reaches legal age, it's not as much fun anymore. By that time, however, smokers are usually already addicted. That would mean that cigarette companies are selling a superficial image to kids who have a longing to fit in.

Juveniles may be responsible enough to smoke before they reach age 18.

Perhaps they know what they want; they know their paths in life.

They have made rational decisions to become smokers.

The reason in this case why most people generally do not start smoking after age 18 is simple.

By that time, they've already decided whether or not they want to be smokers.

This would mean that cigarette ads are a crucial part of this logical decision process. Cigarette companies play a vital part in forming the child's identity as they grow toward

adulthood.

All is well and good for a while. Kids begin smoking, get hooked, carry on their adult lives as smokers.

Everyone is happy, confident, and care-free.

Then problems start to arise.

The smokers are dying off! How did this happen?

How were they to know that inhaling smoke on a regular basis could give them lung cancer?

It's the damdest thing.

Surviving smokers begin to get nervous.

Some of them even go so far as to quit this habit that has been a part of their lives for years.

Uh-oh.

Profits are declining.

Must recruit more smokers!

Let's stick some sunglasses on a camel and show him doing cool things.

Yeah, the kids will like that.

But wait!

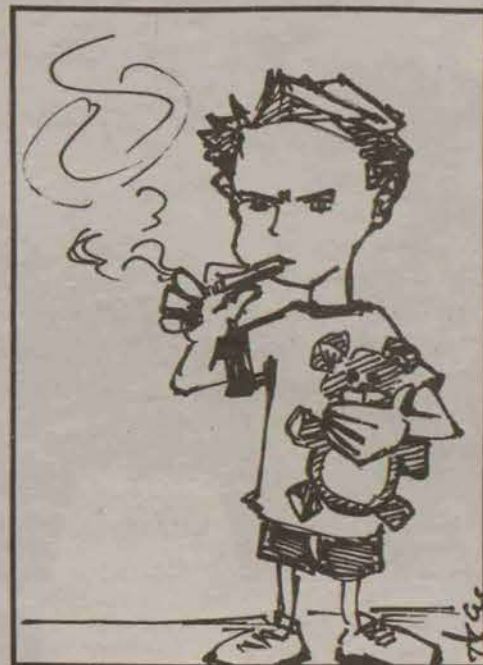
Kids aren't legal until age 18.

Yeah, right. Like that'll stop them from trying to be cool like that camel who gets the chicks and plays pool.

They may not be able to buy the cigarettes themselves, but what are older siblings for?

I did not know a single smoker when I was in high school who had any difficulty finding supplies for their habit.

Do underage drinkers at WSU have a problem get-



ting a hold of alcohol? Not usually.

So why not promote smoking among young people? They'll find a way to buy the product. By the time they're old enough to know better, it'll be too late.

Hmm, now where are those cigarettes that Mom had stashed in her purse?

Keri Andrews will return your call if you leave a message at 335-4576.

LETTERS

Michelle will be missed by all

Editor,

When I read the newspaper reports about Sunday's fatal car accident involving Jason McEndoo, Michelle J. Wilde McEndoo and Ryan McShane, I was really upset to see Michelle McEndoo constantly referred to as McEndoo's wife.

Yes, he was a huge part of her life, and she loved him very deeply, but she was much more than that.

Michelle J. McEndoo was more than just a football players

wife.

In addition to being a newlywed, she was a great friend, a loving teacher and a fellow student.

Working with Michelle, at Little Tykes Daycare, was a great pleasure for all of us because she was always happy and smiling.

She worked with children of all ages, from babies to 3-year-olds, she gave them all her love.

The children she took care of loved her in return, and we (teachers, children, and parents) miss her very much.

This accident took away an important person in many of our lives.

We are keeping Jason McEndoo, Michelle's parents and her family in our prayers constantly.

We just want to stress to everyone that she was an individual.

So, if you only knew Michelle as McEndoo's wife, you missed out.

To those that knew her, she always will be, Michelle J. McEndoo, our friend.

Jenn Foisy

Butch should be rented out to all

Editor,

I saw the photo of "Butch" at the Gay Pride Parade and thought to myself "Here we go again."

Sure enough, in the next issue of The Evergreen, homophobia raised its anal retentive head to spew its hate filled crap.

Doug Hughes states that "Butch" should not be allowed at any political event... "The mistake has been made once," and "At no time should 'Butch' be used in a political way." These are two of his quotes.

Guess what Doug, "Butch" showed up at Gov. Lowry's inaugural ball, and hugged and appeared to kiss the Gov. in front of hundreds of people.

Where were your cries of protest then?

Wes Taylor states that he is offended by "Butch's" appearance in the parade, and wants to know if "Butch" would march in the German Club parade, or the Friends of Palestine Club parade.

The answer is probably yes.

Just like the GLBA, both of these clubs are recognized by ASWSU (along with a couple dozen others). "Butch" represents ALL students at WSU.

If every club on campus wants to spend their money to have their money to have their own parade, I'm sure that "Butch" would be more than happy to participate.

Wake up guys! According to statistics, about 10 percent of the population is gay. That means about 1700 students on this campus are gay.

Add in gay members of the faculty and staff and that number could be well over 2000.

You will just have to live with the fact that the person sitting next to you in class, or your teacher, or the person who hands you the burger you just bought or the person that cleans your residence hall may be gay. The list goes on and on.

By the way, Wes, I'm offended by all the drunk alumni who stagger into my town and raise hell at every home game, but I accept the fact that you have to act this way to prove your team spirit.

Learn to live in peace or you will die filled with hatred.

Randy Johnson

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