

TOBACCO PREVENTION

Suggested Talking Points for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Audiences

By Perry Stevens - PerryStevens487@msn.com

The tobacco industry says it's a friend to the GLBT community because it gives money to the Gay Men's Health Crisis and other gay organizations. But when RJ Reynolds was putting together a campaign to target gays in San Francisco, how did they refer to it in internal memos? As "Sub-Culture Urban Marketing": SCUM. That's the acronym they used. They call us Scum but they want our money. These people are not our friends!

(source: San Francisco Weekly, May 2, 2001)

The number one cigarette brand among gay men is Marlboro. But Philip Morris, which makes Marlboro, refuses to advertise in a gay or lesbian publication. They'll advertise other brands in our magazines and newspapers, but they're afraid that advertising Marlboro to gays would tarnish its reputation as a "masculine brand." They hate us, but they're taking our money, and they're taking our lives in the process.

(source: personal communication with Joe Landry, publisher of Out and The Advocate)

Tobacco companies say they're our friends because they give money to AIDS organizations. What they don't mention is that people with HIV who smoke are much more likely to develop pneumonia and other HIV-related diseases than people who don't. Tobacco companies are not our friends!

(source: <http://medicolegal.tripod.com/preventaids.htm>)

Just remember that every Marlboro you smoke means more money for the tobacco companies...and you know what they do with it? They turn around and give it to Jesse Helms and Trent Lott and the rest of the rightwing fanatics who say gay marriage should never be legal...that we're all sinners headed to hell...and that we shouldn't be allowed to adopt children or serve in the military. Big Tobacco is not our friend!

(No source needed...just a fact!)

You know that if you smoke, and have a dog, then your dog smokes, too! We don't really think about it much, but scientific studies have shown that dogs living with people who smoke are two-and-a-half times more likely to develop nasal, sinus, or lung cancer than dogs who live with non-smokers. So think about giving up cigarettes...if not for yourself, then do it for Fido!

(source: <http://www.vetcentric.com> April 10, 2001 article by Christina Mehra)

If you have a cat, your cat smokes, too! A study at Tufts University found that cats living with smokers have a greater chance of developing oral cancer. This doesn't happen because they breathe it in...but the carcinogens from the smoke get caught in the fur, and the cat picks them up while grooming, leading to mouth cancers. So if you can't stop smoking for yourself, do it for your Kitty-Kat!

(source: <http://www.healthypet.com/FAQ/general-38.htm> HealthyPet.com)