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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Why Fear Of Smokers?

I am writing in reference to the editorial titled "All Smoke and No Action" published March 9. The editorial addresses the Anne Arundel County Council's pending vote on two anti-smoking bills.

The first bill proposed by Councilwoman Maureen Lamb would limit smoking to designated areas in restaurants, hotels, motels and the private workplace. The second bill proposed by Councilwoman Diane Evans would ban smoking in county buildings, banks, health care facilities, museums, lecture halls and the common areas of shopping malls.

Needless to say, the second bill is expected to pass. The reason being that it is less offensive to the business community, and that the council, excluding Councilwoman Lamb, are afraid of the reprisals the first bill could cause.

I do not understand passing a bill to appease the business community, when its very existence depends on the patronage of those of us that make up society.

The truth of the matter is that smoking, whether it is mainstream or passive, is a reason for concern. It is no longer a secret that smoking (passive and mainstream) causes cancer and other illnesses. It only makes sense that stricter policies be enforced.

Alfred F. Warok Jr.
Silver Spring

United Way Still Works

The United Way of Central Maryland, including our local United Way in Anne Arundel County, has just finished the most difficult fund-raising campaign in its history, raising more than \$31.3 million. While this is below the amount raised the prior year, the fund-raising is a major achievement in these tough economic times.

Anne Arundel countians can take pride in their United Way's fund-raising results. They can also take pride in the wide array of human services that are provided daily by United Way-supported agencies, among them:

- * Opportunity Builders, Inc.: employment and programs for developmentally disabled.
- * Annapolis Bywater Boys and Girls Clubs: youth activities and dropout prevention.
- * Helping Hand: shelter and emergency services.
- * Red Cross: disaster relief, social services, blood services, health and safety training.
- * Meals on Wheels: food for home-bound seniors.
- * YMCA: child day care and youth activities.
- * YWCA: domestic violence services, women's issues and child day care.
- * Salvation Army: child day care, youth programs and emergency services.
- * Association for Retarded Citizens: programs for developmentally disabled.
- * Family and Children's Services: drug abuse services, counseling and adoption services.
- * Legal Aid: legal assistance in civil actions.
- * Health agencies: services for Alzheimer's, arthritis, cancer, diabetes, heart, lung, etc.

The quality of life in Anne Arundel is better today because Anne Arundel countians cared. Our local United Way, thanks to the support of its donors and volunteers, is doing its part to meet the human care needs of Anne Arundel County. It's still the best way.

Dan A. Colussy
Millersville

The writer is chairman, president and chief executive officer of UNC Inc. and chairman of the United Way of Central Maryland's 1992 campaign in Anne Arundel County.

Health Care

The Sun's March 19 coverage of the physician's rally held in Annapolis the previous day, missed the organizers' real message.

Many there hoped mainly to urge that health care reform priorities include universal access, and quality patient care, emphasizing cost-effective measures such as prevention.

As a speaker, I rightly referred to myself as a "fish out of water," away from my patients and in the political arena, but the remainder of my remarks addressed the above priorities, and also issued a call to action to my "fellow fish": If we have been part of the problem by a degree of apathy, we must become part of the solution by broadening our familiar advocacy role for patients and getting involved fully in the legislative process.

We are concerned that over 40,000 Marylanders in Anne Arundel County alone have no health insurance; that inadequate access to routine primary care and preventive care exists for many; that one in four adults in the county smokes; that cancer mortality and alcohol abuse comprise other exquisite problems. I hope that officials of the Clinton administration review proposals from within our profession to help build a true consensus on the best solutions to health care reform.

Patricia A. O'Hora, M.D.

Arnold

Mock Trials

On behalf of the gifted/talented and social studies offices of the Anne Arundel County public schools, we would like to thank the mock trial judges, coaches and lawyers who assisted in this year's competition.

We would like to thank Judges James Dryden, Martha Rasin, Michael Loney and Vince Mulieri of Anne Arundel County. Second, attorney-judges Paul Goetzee and Mark Lechowicz. Third, lawyer

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coaches Tyson Bennett and Brian McNamara, and coaches Clarence Riggs of Glen Burnie High School. Cheryl Menke of Broadneck High School, Susan Barry and Elizabeth Slear of Southern High School, and Marc Lyba of Chesapeake High School. Lastly, we would like to thank Harriet Smith and Myrna Miller for assisting in scheduling the competition.

The mock trial competition is one of the best programs for involving schools, community and the court system on a positive note

Dr. James Adomanis

Robert V. Jervis

Diane Sprague

The writers are with the Anne Arundel County public school system.

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