

Ex-smoker speaks up

I am very tired of hearing and reading all the trash against smoking. Here are a few facts.

I smoked for about 58 years. I started smoking when I was 12 or 13. I quit three years ago. I smoked three packs or more a day for many, many years. I have probably breathed enough second-hand smoke to raise a small, sunken ship.

When I quit smoking three years ago, my lungs were clear. They were still clear as of last June. If tobacco is as deadly as it is portrayed to be, how come I am still alive? Why don't they do a study to determine why I am still alive? There surely are thousands like me who could be studied. Maybe whoever does these studies could find why we are still alive and it might benefit others who are supposedly dying from tobacco use.

When I quit smoking, I quit cold turkey, so I have not been able to reconcile the addiction claim, either. It is impossible that any reasonable person did not or does not know of the dangers of tobacco. Individuals should be responsible for their own actions under these circumstances. But tobacco has taken a heavy hit by prejudiced judges and juries. I have always paid my medical bills and my natural gas heating bills (for 50 years).

I loved a good smoke. After all this, I wish I had a cigarette. It is legal.

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