

J.W.J.

The lesser of two evils: smoke or alcohol?

By J.W. JOHNSON

Headline seen recently: "Attorneys general in 16 states want to ban smoking in fast food restaurants."

Have we really gotten to this point? Perhaps so, when now at some colleges, one must ask permission to hold someone's hand.

Pay attention all you anti-smokers, fur haters, whale lovers, and other purveyors of mental myopia. Enough is enough! Your single-issue stridency, regardless of the cost to the concept of individual freedom, not to mention the economy, is becoming nauseating...such as, some of you used to say, was this writer's former cigarette smoke. After 29 years of smoking, it's been more than 2 years since the last cigarette, so subtract that from your list. More about that later....

In the first place, part of the reason that the short list of single-issue advocates noted above launch assaults against virtually anything, is because the very thing many are railing against has given us a standard of living which permits the time, i.e., the radical Sierra Club virtually trying to stop economic progress with extremist ecological views which do not even try to find ecologically sound solutions. No, that group would rather destroy the very economy which gave them the time to be bored and have nothing better to do than sit around and dream up extreme, self destructive views.

(Parenthetically, it's the same boredom born of success which now finds the professional community the largest consumer of cocaine and marijuana in this country...the struggle to survive having been supplanted by the boredom of having arrived.)

But it's not the Sierra Club, et al, who've become nauseating...it's the sanctimonious do-gooders who promote anti-smoking hysteria, and who now want to ban cigarette advertising completely, and now want to ban smoking in fast food restaurants.

I used to smoke... I smoked for 29 years. I enjoyed smoking. And had I continued to smoke, it would have no doubt shortened my life span...but that was my choice.

I tried very hard not to offend (heaven forbid) another person with my smoking. I did not, for example, smoke in someone else's home or car, unless I was given permission. I was always careful, even in my own home, about where smoke was being directed.

And I don't buy the alleged research on second-hand smoke. From everything I've studied (pro and con), this research is akin to the many research efforts spawned by pseudo-scientists struggling to publish a paper and/or obtain more grant monies. In short, the conclusions reached are the preconceptions held. The objection here is another cry from our victim-oriented view of things today: 'Oh, I'm offended by your smoke, which makes your life on this

planet, therefore, negligible, and consequently, my access to the media to complain about it, correspondingly greater.'

Now the anti-smokers want to ban tobacco advertising, and to ban smoking altogether in fast food restaurants. What about beer and liquor advertising? Virtually every sports event has some sort of liquor and beer advertising. It's doubtful that continued tobacco advertising will be more hazardous than, literally, running into someone who is DWI. Just ask the thousands of grieving relatives left behind by those who drink, drive and kill our fellow citizens each year.

And yet where is the hue and cry about banning alcohol advertising? Is it because the effects of alcohol have reduced the number of brain cells of many who shout anti-smoking.

The issue here is obviously not whether to smoke or not to smoke, whether to drink or not to drink; the issue is one of personal choice.

I chose to smoke. I choose, than and now, not to drink. Many of you have made the opposite choices. I support your right to do so.

And we should continue massive, and affected industry-supported education programs about the effects of both tobacco, alcohol and other forms of drug use.

But let's stop the whining about smoking, unless those of you who are doing so are also willing to give up the rest of the drugs in your sanctimonious life.

Library news

BMT Library offers unique lending service

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Friends of the Back Mountain Memorial Library are selling the "Entertainment '94" book at the library with proceeds to benefit the library. The cost of the book is \$25, and is packed with hundreds of discount offers from many of the best-known restaurants and merchants in your area. You can save 50% on almost everything—dining, travel, shopping, theatre, sports and more! The Entertainment card is welcomed at some of the best restaurants in town, with special second entrees 'on the house' benefits. The card is also the key to 50% savings at over 1500 hotels nationwide and is filled with thousands of dollars worth of 2 for 1 and 50% off coupons good for the entire family—dining, movies, sports, services and more. The "Entertainment '94" book may be purchased at the information desk in the library. It would make a nice Christmas gift for someone.

mas gift for someone.

The library has an on-going assortment of handicapped equipment available for the public to use when needed. We have wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, potty chairs, and canes. We also have one electric bed. The Dallas Rotary Club recently donated two new wheelchairs, which have been added to the inventory. These are available for loan without charge and are made available through the generosity of the Dallas Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs of Dallas.

A new book given to the library in memory of Josephine Castellani by Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Castellani is "The Complete Book of Baking" by The Pillsbury Company. Pillsbury has assembled hundreds of delicious recipes in one complete and comprehensive book that any home baker, whether novice or expert, can enjoy and use with confidence. A baking basics chapter gives all

the information you need to know on ingredients and techniques. Each recipe has been tested by the trusted Pillsbury test kitchen, so you can be assured it will work every time, even in special conditions, such as high altitude. The best baking book ever.

"Smilla's Sense of Snow" by Peter Hoeg presents one of the toughest heroines in modern fiction. She is part Inuit, but she lives in Copenhagen. She is 37, single, childless, moody and she refused to fit in. Her six year old neighbor, Isaiiah, manages only with a stubbornness that matches her own to befriend her. When Isaiiah falls off a roof and is killed, Smilla doesn't believe it's an accident. She has seen his tracks in the snow, and she knows about snow. She investigates and discovers that even the police don't want her to get involved. But opposition appeals to Smilla. A magical, nerve-shattering journey!

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As I was saying...

Make a child's Christmas toy that will last

By JACK HILSHER

Some grandparents cope with Christmas by giving money. Others haunt toy stores. But a few are smarter...they have discovered a time-honored way to remember their grandkinder by making them wooden toys. This column will show you how to be one of the smart ones.

Wood has it all over plastic, which never produces heirlooms. Wood does...a hand-made gift from Nana or Pop-Pop is never, ever, thrown away. So...let's get started.

The toy you are going to make in an hour or two has been called a "Whizzer Spinner" and it dates back to when the wheel was invented in China around 1000 B.C. For parts you'll need some string or fine twine, a few short dowels any diameter and some scrap plywood about 1/4" thick and at least 4" square.

Begin by drawing a circle 3 or 4 inches on the square and cut or saw it out. If you use a compass to form the circle, do not lose the center point. If you drew the circle around a glass, lacking a compass, measure carefully to find the exact center point. Finally, sand the edges of your circle.

Next measure and drill two

small holes about 1/16", evenly on both sides of the center point. Lacking a drill, a fine nail hammered in and pulled out will also do the job. (Your holes should be large enough for the string to run through without binding.)

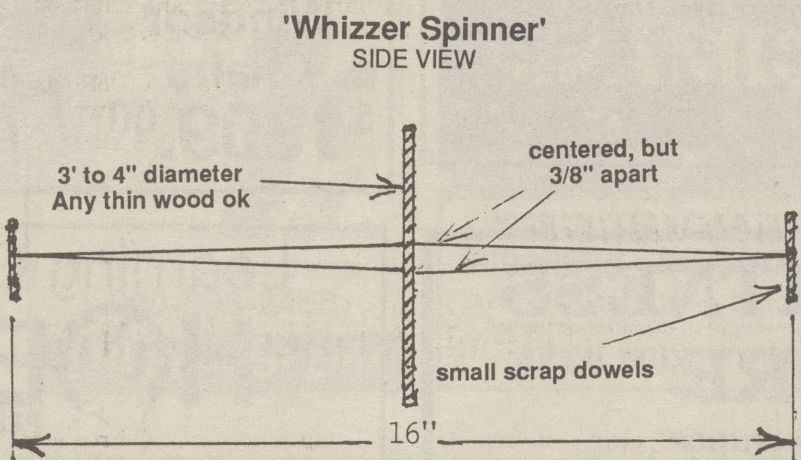
Cut and thread your string or twine through both holes as shown in the drawing...two short dowels make good handles. Keep string to the lengths shown.

Test by holding the unit level, one dowel in each hand. Loosely spin the disc in one direction by flipping it a dozen or more times until both sides of the double strings are twisted. Now extend your hands slowly, which will pull the whole rig taut and cause the disc to rotate back in the opposite direction from your twist. Its

momentum should cause it to twist again, but you control this by alternately pulling and loosening, slowly increasing speed with the hands coming together and pulling apart. It sounds more difficult than it is...your whizzer will be whizzing and spinning in no time.

A plain circle is silent; try cutting "half-scallops" evenly around the edge of another disc and you'll get a nice humming sound. Finish off the disc with bright (non-toxic) colors...the whizzer design the better, and when the disc spins at top speed there is an illusion and dots become lines of color.

Congrats! You've just made a great stocking stuffer and become a hero in the bargain.



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For 1994, you have options about your group health care coverage, because now HMO of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Blue Cross HMO, is enrolling Procter and Gamble employees.

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