

Oshkosh Northwestern
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Age statistic twists alcohol, tobacco issue

Why does alcohol result in 30 average years of life lost and tobacco only results in 14? Average age of death: for the smoker, 63, and 47 for the person dying from alcohol-related causes.

One reason is a sizeable number of those dying from alcohol attributable causes are young. When a five-year-old child gets killed by a drunk driver, the death is alcohol-attributable. Young drinkers can die of acute alcohol poisoning. Some "celebrate" their 21st birthday by drinking 21 shots in a row and never wake up.

Total alcohol attributable deaths have fallen from about 100,000 to 75,766. (Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report, Sept. 24, 2004).

Tobacco related deaths: 442,398. (Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report, April 12, 2002). Smoking related deaths among the young are rare. Few die in their 20s of tobacco smoke-related heart attacks.

A 52-year-old Australian woman recently asked us to give the "smoking kills" line a rest. "I've smoked for 30 years. I have emphysema. I am virtually housebound. I get exhausted walking more than a few meters. I have urinary incontinence,

and because I can't move quickly to the toilet, I wet myself and smell. I can't bear the embarrassment, so I stay isolated at home. Smoking has ruined my life. You should start telling people about the living hell smoking causes while you're still alive, not just that it kills you."

Alcohol moderation (no more than two drinks a day) is associated with longer life. Cancer-causing poisons in tobacco smoke are never moderate.

Daniel Lynch
Oshkosh

Prediction: Democrats will be bad for country

I have decided responding to individual attacks on the President in the letters to the editor is pointless.

First off if any of you think Al Gore would have even remotely been able to respond to 9/11, I can only imagine how bad off we would have been. I am sure he just would have blamed it on global warming. John Kerry would still be deciding what to wear to his inaugural.

Yes I agree the after-invasion planning was not thought out well. Saddam had WMDs he used them before that is a fact. He had over a year to hide them anywhere from Syria to

North Korea.

We are doing good over there but you would never hear that from network news. All they want you to hear is the body count.

But don't worry all you liberals. In two years time with the Democrats in charge of Congress we will have many more domestic issues to worry about. Tax hikes, a quagmire of health care and laws barring us from everything from trans fat to how many sweets you can eat.

Ken R. Linke Jr.
Fremont

Board should support UW-Fox Valley project

On Jan. 16, the Winnebago County Board will decide if it should make the required \$5.3 million match with Outagamie County to construct a new Communication Arts Center at UW-Fox Valley. As a small business owner in the city of Oshkosh, a member of the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce, and a Winnebago County taxpayer I strongly urge them to make that commitment.

1) For over thirty years, the need for a replacement of the current auditorium has been documented by both the campus and county-funded engineering studies.

2) The current auditorium has numerous code and safety violations (a significant liability risk) and is deemed ADA non-compliant (denying disabled students educational opportunities).

3) UW-Fox Valley enrolls 1750 local students providing vital access into the UW System to complete their education. UW-Fox Valley (not UW-Green Bay or UW-Oshkosh) is the only local institution that offers a mechanical engineering program.

4) UW-Fox Valley provides an annual economic impact of \$50.4 million in our region while at the same time drawing the lowest amount of municipal capital support per resident of any of the 13 UW Colleges.

It is paramount for employees to possess the necessary communication skills and creative abilities to facilitate the success of my small business. The Arts and Communication Center at UW-Fox Valley would serve a vital function in developing these abilities in our future workforce.

True leaders on the Winnebago County Board will recognize that supporting this project is in the best interests of local employers and the continued economic vitality of our community.

Todd H. Schatz
Oshkosh