Workplace Smoking Ban A Great Idea

This past week, important events have occurred at the international, national, and MIT campuses. On the international level, the world-renowned doll manufacturer Mattel has announced that it is phasing out the manufacture of barbies. This significant event was probably missed by most of the MIT population, though, because the Undergraduate Assembly (UA) and Associated Students (AS) were discussing the same day. Of course, it may be the other way around; perhaps the decisions were being made by a corporation that is concerned about its bottom line, whereas the Undergraduate Assembly (UA) and Associated Students (AS) were discussing the same day.

Either way, our new UA President Vijay P. Shah and AS President Ramy Arnaout '97 are to be congratulated and wished the best in their year in office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who voted for me — no matter the outcome, I was excited to be a part of it, and thoroughly amused at the fact that people actually voted for me.

Anyway, a little off topic, this week’s ban on smoking in the military is no big deal. The Department of Defense to limit smoking to designated rooms and facilities is significant progress in reducing risk to non-smokers in public areas. However, it is environmentally conscious in its operations. For instance, the Department of Defense has spent $100 million on tobacco control policies, which is a significant amount of money.

In 1986, the Pentagon implemented restrictions on smoking, still allowing workers “light up in private offices, designated restrooms, and hallways and in smoking areas of restaurants,” “since the Department has determined that smokers should be in separate areas.” In 1986, the Pentagon implemented restrictions on smoking, still allowing workers “light up in private offices, designated restrooms, and hallways and in smoking areas of restaurants.” In 1986, the Pentagon implemented restrictions on smoking, still allowing workers “light up in private offices, designated restrooms, and hallways and in smoking areas of restaurants.”

This ban is an excellent course of action for any government agency, business, or organization to take for the safety of all employees. Non-smokers are not immune to smoking-related diseases — studies suggest that secondhand or “second-hand” cigarette smoke affects the health of smokers as well as non-smokers.

In March 1994, the last fast-food franchise has made a bold move to a smoke-free environment, as commercial airlines did earlier this year.

These policies are excellent measures for protecting others from the potential dangers and discomforts from cigarette smoke. A person should not have to ask another to put out a cigarette in a public place. Smoking should be reserved only for selected enclosed rooms in buildings and the household.

The recent action taken by the Department of Defense to limit smoking to designated rooms and facilities has received much media coverage. It is a step in the right direction, and I hope that more businesses and organizations will follow.

To Reach Us

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