

NEW YORK, NY 10034

New York, N.Y. 10034

June 19, 1998

D.W.)

Dear Sir:

Your guest Monica Chapen today spoke of smoking, which is so entrenched in our culture, as if it is a very simple matter: if you want to smoke, do it. if you choose not to, that's fine. Wouldn't it be grand if it was that simple!

When this non-smoker ~~ever~~ got lung cancer, many realities hit hard. Radiation therapy alone brought in a bill of \$8800⁰⁰ and more later. This didn't include chemotherapy costs, hospital costs (I have diabetes and it was necessary to be hospitalized for the chemotherapy treatments occasionally) and of course, my doctor's bills. There is no way individual families can afford the costs associated with the illnesses that result from smoking and pay their rent and other needs.

I grew up in a family of sisters who smoked and lived 27 years with a husband who smoked. Your talk about second-hand smoke being ~~was~~ not solid really made me wonder where you're coming from.

According to you, anyone can stop smoking. Not in the real world. There are many people who struggle daily and it runs into years - without success. Sometimes by the time they ~~start~~ attempt to stop, they learn they have cancer, or emphysema.

Are you for real? Do you really believe those statements you made today?

Sincerely yours,

