

cerned about the pleasure of the moment," he says. "They just think they will let the future take care of it."

"Also, young people are more concerned with their goals than their health. Their goals are more important than the possibility of contracting a disease. Some people would give five years off their lives if they could reach their goals."

Although some smokers aren't too concerned about the effect of smoking on themselves, they are concerned about the effects on others. Brothers, who says he started smoking because a lot of his friends says he doesn't meet much opposition to his smoking. Sometimes people ask me not to smoke, but it doesn't bother me," he says. "If people ask me not to smoke, I respect their wishes." Although Brothers says he doesn't smoke as much at A&M as he has in the past, sophomore business major E Dunn says she smokes more because it's more convenient. Neither of my parents smoke, so I

Smoking: The new generation?

by Staci Finch

don't smoke in my house," she says. "But here in college I smoke about 20 packs a week."

Dunn says she doesn't ever actually have a cigarette, and that her smoking is just a habit.

"I like to have something in my hands, especially when I'm driving," she says. "I've had to quit before, and it wasn't any big deal. I just like having a cigarette in my hand."

Dunn, who lives on campus, says she doesn't have any problems with her roommate.

"She knew I smoked before we moved in together," she says. "Also, I have an air filter that draws in the smoke and purifies it, so our room doesn't smell like smoke."

Several resident advisors in campus dorms say they don't have a lot of problems between smokers and non-smokers.

Tim Sheppard, resident director for Union Hall and a computer science graduate student, says he has few problems with residents who smoke.

"Once I had to make a room change, but usually I don't have any problems," he says. "I don't smoke, and I don't encourage it, but smoking is allowed in all of the hall, including lounges."

Michael Hartman, a junior accounting major and resident advisor

for the first floor of Moses Hall, says very few of his residents smoke.

"There are probably only three guys on my floor who smoke," he says. "I've had to make roommate changes in the past, but I haven't had any problems with them."

"Some of the guys who smoke on my floor are freshmen, and they are a little sensitive about it. Sometimes when I walk by them in the halls, they try to hide it like they're not smoking."

Hartman says he doesn't think students smoke as much in college.

"I've been surprised at how many people don't smoke in college, as compared to high school," he says. "I guess more people think it's not that cool."

Amelia Cleaver, a junior economics major, is the resident advisor for the third floor of Keathley Hall, a balcony-style residence hall.

"I've never really had any problems with residents smoking," she says.

"There are vents that go from room to room, and sometimes we have gotten complaints about smoke coming in the vents. But usually people who smoke go out on the balconies."

Fayee Durham, a junior psychology major and resident advisor for the fourth floor of Underwood Hall, says residents of her dorm have made their opinions on smoking quite clear.

"Our dorm has voted not to allow smoking in the laundry rooms, TV

rooms or study carrels," she says.

"However, there is one study carrel reserved for smokers."

"There aren't many smokers on my floor, and if we have any problems, there are ways we can get them worked out."

For those who don't smoke, smokers can be a nuisance. Johanna Sharp, a senior history major, says she is allergic to cigarette smoke.

"I don't like people to smoke around me," she says. "But I have never asked someone to quit smoking, because I'm really not sure I have the right to ask that."

Sharp says she does, however, ask people not to smoke in her car.

"If they are only going to smoke one cigarette, that's fine as long as the window is open," she says. "But more than one cigarette really bothers me, since I am allergic."

Carole Fulbright, a senior environmental design major, says she doesn't allow people to smoke in her home.

"If people are smoking in a public place, that's their business," she says. "But I don't let people smoke in my house or my car, because I don't like the way smoke smells and gets into everything. If people smoke at my house, I just tell them to go outside."

Fulbright says she thinks people

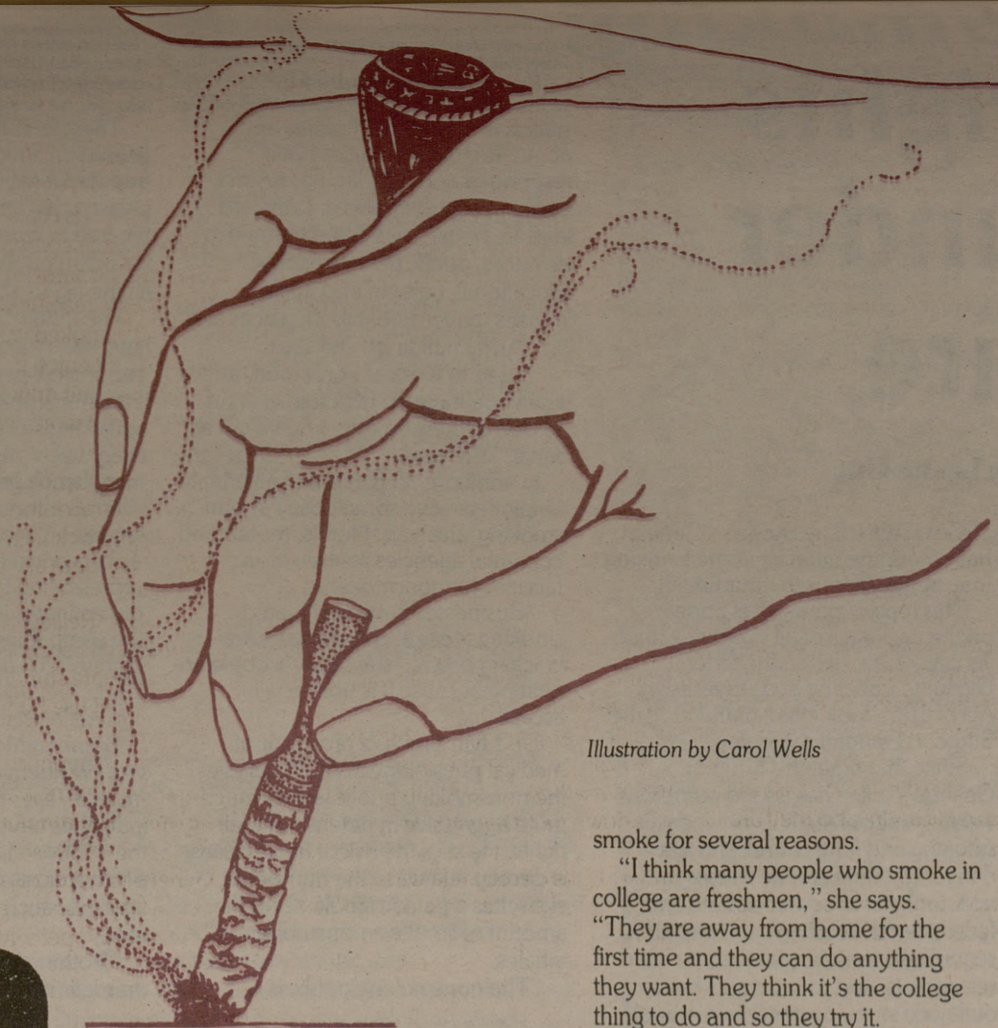


Illustration by Carol Wells

smoke for several reasons.

"I think many people who smoke in college are freshmen," she says.

"They are away from home for the first time and they can do anything they want. They think it's the college thing to do and so they try it."

"I also think a lot of people like the extra high cigarettes give them when they are drinking."

Steve Ridge, a junior political science major, says people who smoke don't really bother him.

"I've never been around a smoker who bothered me with his habit," he says. "I think people should respect the rights of non-smokers, and not smoke in public places, but personally it doesn't bother me."

Senior finance major Cindy Shannon says the main reason smoke bothers her is because of her contact lenses.

"I don't hardly know anybody who smokes, so not much of it goes on in my house or my car," she says. "But when I go out the smoke bothers me, because people with contact lenses just can't handle it."

Sarah Simmons, a junior elementary education major, says smoking bothers her, but she doesn't always ask people to stop.

"The only person I've ever asked to quit smoking was my mom," she says. "I don't like approaching a stranger to ask him to quit smoking. I think people are entitled to do what they want, so I don't like asking them to quit."

Carl Harvey, a senior speech communications major, says smokers don't realize they are endangering other people's health.

"Being around people who smoke makes me very uncomfortable," he says. "It can really mess up your clothes, and breathing in their smoke is bad for your health."

"I don't like being in public places where there is smoking, even though there isn't really anything I can do about it. I just try to avoid those designated areas."