

Wise fatherly advice to butt out

I WAS 16 years old when my father noticed I had smoked a cigarette. I thought then it was a grown-up thing to do.

He did not make me promise not to do it again, he just pointed out to me what a stupid habit it was. He was then a more than 30-a-day man and he tried hard to stop. He managed to cut it down to eight a day by the time he died of cancer in 1964. He was 68 years old.

I am now approaching 84 years of age. My health is still good, my lungs are clean and breathing is not problem.

Now every time I see a youngster in the street smoking, it reminds me of Dad — and the amount of money it saved me over a lifetime! It makes one think.

**Andrew Friedrich
Howrah**

Scream test

THE Legislative Council should carefully consider the tobacco industry outcry over the proposed Bill to ban tobacco sales to emerging adults born after 2000.

Tobacco control advocates use the "scream test" for assessing policy impact — if a new policy gets no reaction from the tobacco industry, it rarely has an impact, but if the industry screams blue murder, the impact will be large.

**SMOKE BAN:
Youth targeted.**

With plain-pack legislation working well and tobacco consumption decreasing, the screams are still being heard, and MLC Ivan Dean's legislation now has the tobacco industry heavyweights in town again.

Think about it.

**Bryan Walpole
Sandy Bay**

Union greed

I WAS appalled to hear nurses working in our public hospitals have begun a campaign of industrial action in support of their claim for a pay rise and additional improvement to their conditions worth millions when other frontline workers, including teachers, are pushing for a pay freeze to save services.

The union was at the rally last week pushing for a pay freeze and now appear to have abandoned other frontline workers to line the pockets of their members.



CANCER DANGER: Smoking tobacco has often deadly lifetime ramifications.

wards a one-term government. The divide between rich and poor has never been more prodigious since WWII. Politicians, who never really understand the common will, and political parties who ignore the people, do so at their own peril.

**Mike Smith
Rosetta**

Death sentence

IT is time for Federal and State Governments and lawmakers to get some intestinal fortitude and bring back the death sentence for convicted murderers. It will deter some others.

The number of murders are rising and will get worse. They don't deserve to live and the millions of dollars it costs to keep them in jail could be better spent on the less fortunate in our communities. Hold a referendum to let people choose.

**Colin Knowles
Devonport**

Teeing off on plans

THE major problem with the planned golf course on South Arm (Mercury, December 2) is it will effectively transfer public land

will change the character of the reserve which now offers tranquillity, natural beauty and open space with respite from the built environment.

The area does need rehabilitation, and the local community has put much effort into weed eradication and regeneration.

However, until 2010 these activities were not permitted by the Parks Service, so it is unfair to use the need for rehabilitation as a justification for leasing the reserve. The other reasons given by the Parks Service and Attorney-General for granting the lease are equally spurious — to meet management objectives and to provide recreational access to the area.

Other concerns include potential over-use of groundwater resulting in salination of local aquifers, and the increase in traffic on roads that are already barely adequate.

Everyone should be concerned when a large, valuable public asset is to be virtually gifted to the lessee for 50 years.

It is legitimate to ask about the expected benefits and the likely disadvantages to the public.

The answers should be in sufficient detail to enable discussion and debate.

**Stuart McLean
Mt Nelson**