

Letters

Our article on Philip Morris tobacco executives attracted a heavy response and high praise. Their critics far outnumbered their defenders, though one letter writer praised the executives for "an admirable level of personal introspection." The profile of John Mack inspired many theories on U.F.O. abductees, one of whom said they aren't "little nobodies."

HOW DO TOBACCO EXECUTIVES LIVE WITH THEMSELVES?

On April 13, I will celebrate one year free of a 40-year servitude to cigarettes. I wonder if any of the Philip Morris executives in Roger Rosenblatt's article "How Do Tobacco Executives Live With Themselves?" (March 20) have a clue — or for that matter, care — what withdrawal from nicotine is really all about? After going through intense periods of depression, anxiety, insomnia and physical pain, I cannot join them in calling the smoking of cigarettes simply a habit.

The sooner the Food and Drug Administration designates nicotine a drug, the sooner we can decide what to do with those who would advertise, market and manufacture one of the world's most deadly and addictive products.

FRED HARSH
Greenport, L.I.

Reading Roger Rosenblatt's article, I could not help but think how far America has come from its roots. America offered a new life, with no promise of success. Immigrants required a huge store of responsibility for themselves and their families to make it here.

Rosenblatt describes a modern America that has traded in its wealth of responsibility for the holy grail of the no-risk guarantee. If they smoke and get sick, drink and get cirrhosis, drive too fast and crash, ski and break a leg, people no longer accept the conse-



quences that follow their (freely chosen) actions.

C. FREY
Denville, N.J.

Several years ago, I applied for a middle-management position at Philip Morris. After several interviews, all of which went well, I was asked to submit a urine sample for a drug-screening test, a routine part of the interview process. The irony was rich.

Apparently, the executives of the country's largest purveyors of beer and cigarettes believe passionately in "freedom of choice," but only for the choices they espouse — the ones that line their pockets.

ESTHER MILLS
New York, N.Y.

I agree with the Philip Morris management in believing that we should all have a personal choice. A corollary question is whether society should be obliged to pick up the medical bills of people who knowingly abuse their bodies with tobacco, alcohol or drugs. In the law of torts, there is the doctrine of assumption of risk. If people are to have the freedom of personal choice, then they must be

ready to accept the responsibility for consequences.

HAROLD SHERMAN
Ridgefield, Conn.

I am a doctor, a former two-pack-a-day smoker who stopped in 1959. I was in charge of a 35-bed ward at the Cincinnati Veterans Hospital. All my patients smoked. In a six-week period, three died of lung cancer and five died of emphysema. I decided (as I smoked while writing the death summaries) that tobacco was not good for me. I was right. It is not good for anyone, and in a truly sane, caring world, those smart, cultured, rich hypocritical people pictured in your article would be out of work and possibly in jail for murder.

C. KILGORE, M.D.
Ithaca, N.Y.

The freedom-of-choice mantra that Philip Morris spokespeople intone loses legitimacy when you think of the carcinogens to which nonsmokers are exposed every time someone lights up. Smoking is no more a matter of freedom of choice than is driving drunk on a crowded highway.

SCOTT DOUGLAS
Wilton, Conn.

JOHN MACK'S ABDUCTEES

John Mack is certainly not the first noted psychologist to investigate reported experiences with aliens. Carl Jung's monograph "Flying Saucers: A Modern Myth of Things Seen in the Skies" reported on his analysis of

TAKING CARE OF SOMEONE YOU CARE FOR... AT THE ESPLANADE

LUXURY APARTMENT RESIDENCES
FOR SENIOR CITIZENS
OFFERING TOTAL CARE
24 HOURS A DAY

From our family to yours...

We, the Scharf family, have been caring for the elderly for over forty years. Thousands of families have turned to us to care for their relatives because the Scharf Family Senior Care Residences are synonymous with quality care, comfort and security.

Our senior care residences offer a complete range of Residential and Health Care Services including *personal care, medication supervision and nursing services*. All of these services are available while residing in a luxurious, private apartment.

We invite you to experience our personal commitment to superior care and to meet our professional, dedicated staff at our two locations.

Our family welcomes the opportunity to meet with you and your family. We are sure you will feel at home with us... because our family cares about your family.

THE ESPLANADE

IN MANATTAN:
305 West End Avenue at 74th Street
New York, NY 10023
Tel: 212/874-5000 Fax: 212/769-2804

IN WHITE PLAINS:
South Broadway & Lyon Place
White Plains, NY 10601
Tel: 914/761-8100 Fax: 914/761-9015

Now Managing a Portfolio of Fidelity Funds Is Easy.

We'll Do It For You.

Fidelity Portfolio Advisory Services

Managing a substantial portfolio in today's constantly shifting economic landscape is anything but simple. Doing it well requires a dedication few individuals can commit to. Now, Fidelity offers a sophisticated money management alternative for today's conservative investor.

Ongoing Management for Fund Portfolios of Over \$200,000¹

Are you frustrated by the complexities of managing your own portfolio of mutual funds? Now Fidelity Portfolio Advisory Services (PAS) can do it for you.

Simply define your investment objectives, time horizon, and risk tolerance. Your personal Account Executive, acting as liaison, will communicate your financial profile to a dedicated staff of professional investment managers. They, in turn, will configure a portfolio of selected Fidelity stock, bond, and money market funds to match your goals.

This diversification across asset classes and our ongoing management of your portfolio can help meet your requirements for a balance of capital preservation and return.

Exceptional Value

In order to make the most of your investment dollars, PAS investors pay no loads on any fund investments in their portfolios.² And the low annual PAS advisory fee is based on a sliding scale, beginning at 1% and declining to .25%, determined by the assets under management.

Put Our Asset Allocation Expertise to Your Advantage

With more than 46 years of investment management experience to call upon, Fidelity is uniquely qualified to help you reach your objectives. So, if you're looking for both long-term performance and peace of mind, look into Fidelity Portfolio Advisory Services. It could be the simplest investment decision you'll ever make.

Call Today to Request Your PAS Information Kit and Investor Profile Questionnaire

1-800-544-3455

9 a.m.-6 p.m. ET

Fidelity Investments
Common sense. Uncommon results.

¹Minimum \$100,000 for retirement accounts. ²Underlying fund expenses will apply. Fidelity Distributors Corporation. Portfolio Advisory Services is a service of Strategic Advisers, Inc., a Fidelity Investments company.

the "voluminous dossier" he began accumulating in 1946 ("John Mack's Abductees" by Stephen Rae, March 20).

Jung remained skeptical of U.F.O.'s. He was, however, fascinated with their widespread socio-psychological reality and suggested that such experiences are "psychological projections," based on "emotional tension" expressed as symbols or "living myth."

KAREN F. DAVIS
Director, Humanities and
Modern Language
Marygrove College
Detroit

If enormous energy could be harnessed to transport beings across entire worlds, then why would these spectacular travelers be so limited in their genetic technology that they needed an unending stream of human abductees to fiddle around with? If there were life forms capable of a technology that could propel them across the universe, is it likely that such wondrous creatures would need to snatch and probe like a bunch of clumsy proctologists? And wouldn't such extraordinary encounters provoke more original stories?

EDWARD DOOLEY
Needham, Mass.

JUST TAKE AWAY THEIR GUNS

The abandonment of Fourth Amendment rights, as advocated by James Q. Wilson, a college professor of public policy, is appalling in its effete capitulation to tyranny ("Just Take Away Their Guns," March 20). Secure in the belief that persons of his social stratum will never be subjected to abuse, Wilson is perfectly willing to sacrifice the dignity of others. "Young black and Hispanic men will probably be stopped more often than old-

er white Anglo males or women of any race," he says, rather cavalierly. This kind of intellectual bankruptcy gives ivory-tower thought a bad name.

The country does not need legally sanctioned Rodney King incidents. No doubt, Wilson wonders, "Why are these people so angry?"

VICTOR P. FASANO
New Haven

What a radical idea — take guns away from criminals, instead of from law-abiding citizens! Why hasn't anyone thought of this before? Wilson makes so much sense that, in our confused system of justice, his proposal probably will never become reality.

Politically incorrect? Probably. But with the number of murders each year in New York City, any search or seizure of guns seems reasonable to me.

JOHN W. FARRELL
Yonkers

OUTSIDE LOOKING IN

It is no paradox that the actively alcoholic friends of Leslie Garis confide in her with their problems (Hers: "Outside Looking In," March 6). Any bartender worth the salt off a frosty margarita can claim the same of the regulars who bend an elbow night after night and "instinctively understand" that they won't be judged.

One of the insidious consequences of any addiction is the loss of ability to act in one's own best interest. Confronting a friend about an addiction is *not* interfering, and waiting for him to ask for help comes, all too often, on the heels of tragic consequences.

CRAIG BECKER
Brooklyn