

WOULD ANYONE CARE TO TAKE A SMOKE BREAK?

After my tenure as a division leader, I returned to pure research. We accomplished several tests jointly with the Strategic Air Command (SAC) that headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska.

In my capacity of a senior scientist, and the guy in charge of the Los Alamos part of the tests, I met frequently with the Vice Commander of SAC, and in that capacity chaired any number of meetings on the scientific part of the experiments. Representatives from the several parts of SAC associated with the tests met with us in various locations to discuss requirements and preparations.

On one occasion I was approached before the meeting by an aide of a Major General who would be the ranking officer present. He explained that the general was an inveterate smoker, and my typical non-smoking meetings needed to be altered to accommodate the situation.

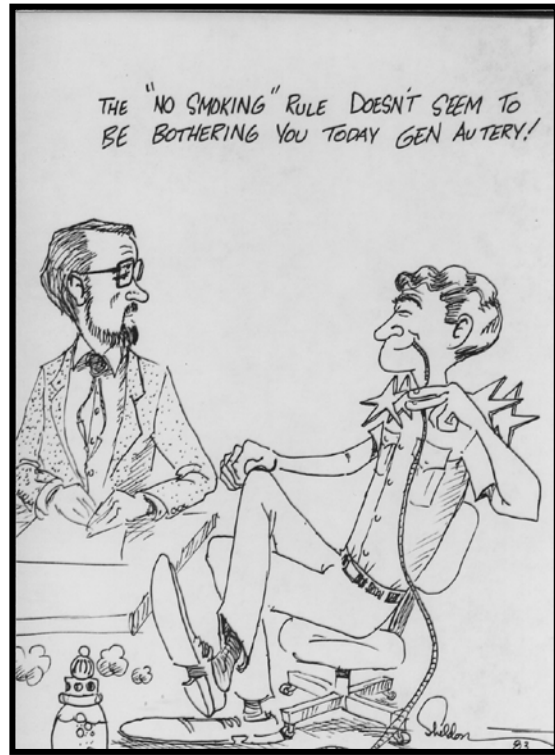
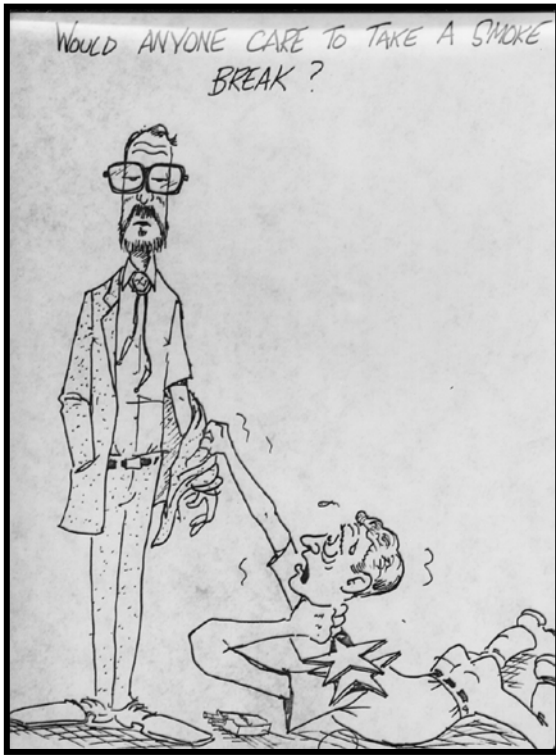
Having never smoked, I was well known most everywhere as a non-smoker and that in an age when smoking was still quite popular.

At the opening of the meeting early one morning, I announced that the general needed to smoke quite often, and he would be accommodated by us having a smoke break whenever he desired. The meeting began, but it was in session for about the normal time before we had a smoke break. Indeed, we did not have more than the usual number, insofar as I remember.

The second day's meeting was quite analogous. The general seemed to do better the second day, but just how I am not sure.

One of the SAC attendees in the audience was a cartoonist, and at meeting's end he brought to me his two special cartoons, one for each day.

They follow.



Generally it is not a good idea to have a good cartoonist around, but a certain Mr. Sheldon warmed my heart a bit on this occasion.