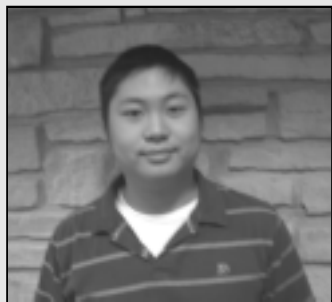


Phot-Opinion

Do you think that smoking should be banned in restaurants and other public places?



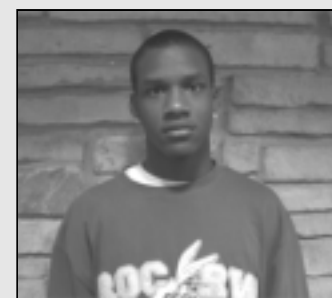
James Pan '07
No, because many restaurants already have smoking sections.

Andrea Peterson '08
Yes, because having a smoking section in a restaurant is like having a peeing section in a pool: it is not fair for the other people there.



Jordan Kane '09
Yes, because smoke affects a lot of people in a negative way, and if people are not smoking, they obviously do not want to smell or breathe smoke.

Lakema Hickman '07
No, because smoking is not illegal and people should be able to smoke when and where they want to.



Marlon Williams '06
Yes, because second hand smoke is harmful to the health of non-smokers.

Brett Weissenhoffer '08
No, it should be a person's choice as to whether or not they want to smoke.



Chicago ban would prohibit smoking in public places, create healthier city

JULIE CARLISLE
STAFF WRITER

Under the proposed smoking ban that would go into effect on April 1, 2006, smoking in restaurants, bars and other indoor public places in Chicago will be prohibited. Many people oppose the ban because they believe that businesses would suffer economically, and that it should be a person's choice as to whether or not they want to smoke in public. However, the smoking ban should be passed because it would create healthier environments and would make going to restaurants and bars more tolerable for non-smokers.

Chicago is a city known for having a lot of smokers, and smoking has dangerous effects for everyone, not just those who choose to smoke. The smoking ban would help make the city of Chicago into a safer place for non-smokers. "The health benefits of such a law would be substantial because exposure to second-hand smoke would be diminished," said Economics teacher Scott McAlister.

Second-hand smoke, the smoke exhaled from smokers and the smoke that comes from the burning end of a cigarette, can be very harmful to those who breathe it. According to a study conducted by the American Lung Association, second-hand smoke causes about 3,000 deaths from lung cancer every year, and about 35,000 deaths from heart disease every year. The study also states that second-hand smoke can cause excessive coughing and irritation of the eyes, lungs, and throat.

The Chicago smoking ban would help protect non-smokers from illness due to second-hand smoke because it would prevent people

from being exposed to smoke in public places. It is unfair for people to be subject to something as harmful as second-hand smoke in public places.

Smoking in restaurants is especially harmful for people who work in restaurants and bars, such

as waiters, waitresses, and hosts, who are surrounded by smoke everyday. A group of concerned Chicago restaurant employees formed a group called Chefs and Owners United for Good Health, which holds rallies to help spread awareness and gain support for the ban. Restaurant owners would be the most affected by the smoking ban financially, and if they support the ban, it shows that there is a need for change. The Chicago smoking ban is necessary because it would help create a healthier environment for restaurant employees, who are currently forced to inhale second-hand smoke everyday that they work.

be very popular among people ages 18-30, a ban that includes the type of places they would frequent might be detrimental to their revenue stream," said McAlister.

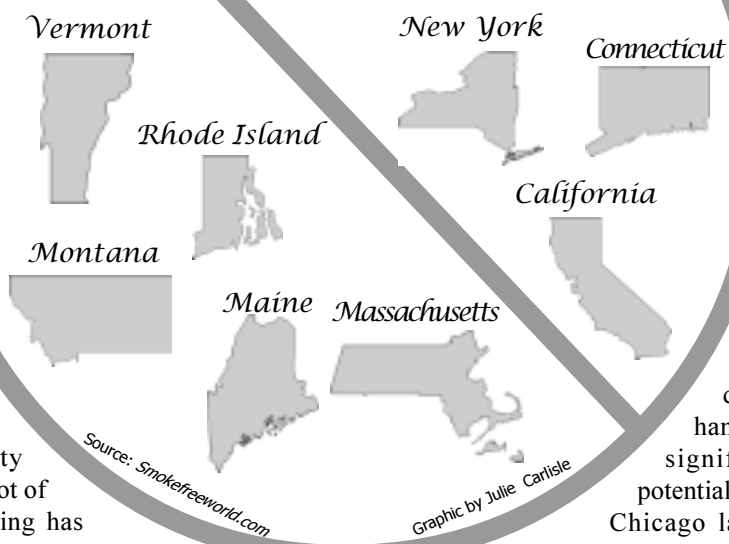
However, a study done by the New York City Departments of Finance, Health and Mental Hygiene, Small Business Services, and the New York City Economic Development Corporation shows that the effects of the New York City smoking ban were only positive, even for restaurant owners. The report also found that business tax receipts in bars and restaurants went up 8.7 percent after one year after the ban was enforced, and that employment in restaurants also increased. The dangers of second-hand smoke are more significant than the potential financial losses, so Chicago lawmakers need to enforce the smoking ban soon.

The ban is not an attempt to force people to quit smoking. Smoking would still be allowed in most outdoor public places including Navy Pier, The Taste of Chicago and Millennium Park according to the *Chicago Sun Times*. It would also be permitted in outdoor cafes at tables that are at least ten feet away from the building.

The proposed smoking ban in Chicago would have many benefits for the city because it would create a healthier environment and more places that people could go without being engulfed in a cloud of smoke. If passed, the proposed smoking ban in Chicago will have many positive effects on the community as a whole. It would make being in indoor restaurants safer for customers, employees and other non-smokers. The City Council should pass the smoking ban despite complaints because the positive outcomes would definitely outweigh the negative possibilities.

Smoking Statistics

States in the U.S. that already have statewide smoking bans





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