

24th March 2005

Dear Hon. Mrs. Rita Fan ,

There is a recent debate in the society about the government's plan to table an amendment bill to ban smoking in all indoor workplaces, restaurants, bars, karaoke lounges and outdoor campuses. As a group of third year medical students from the University of Hong Kong, we are fully aware of the tremendous adverse effects that both active and passive smoking can bring to the society. Hence, we would like to write to express our concern about the topic.

According to a recent press release in February, a research carried out by the Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health, the University of Hong Kong concluded that smoking costs Hong Kong over \$5 billion annually. This has taken into account costs for health care, residential care and lost working time for both active and passive smoking, with addition of the value of thousands lives. The study also reveals that about one-fifth of the total deaths due to tobacco are caused by passive smoking.

Another research carried out by the above academic bodies, together with the Department of Health and the University of Oxford was released in January has shown for the first time that passive smoking is an important cause of death from stroke, in addition to heart and lung diseases and cancers.

Arguing for years of whether all the public indoor area should be banned for smoking, legislation has been done to ban smoking in shopping centres, cinemas, TV game centres, supermarkets, department stores and banks in 1998. Restaurants with more than two-hundred seats are required to designate one-third of the seats as no-smoking areas. However, it is not enough to protect all the indoor workers. Even the restaurant-goers sitting in the no-smoking area are at risk as the smoke circulating under the same air-conditioning system. For the past few years, with more and more evidence pointing to the association of smoking with various health hazards in passive smokers, it is now the right time to consider a complete ban of smoking in all indoor area.

As a well-developed international city, the Hong Kong government has a responsibility to safeguard the health of its citizens and tourists. We strongly support the amendment bill to ban smoking in all indoor workplaces, restaurants, bars, karaoke lounges and outdoor campuses. Attached is a poster made by us that expresses our thoughts on this issue. We sincerely hope that you can support the government's bill which is planned to table in the Legislative Council in May.

Yours Sincerely,

3rd year HKU Medical Students:

Victoria CHAI	Alice CHEUNG	Samuel CHUNG	Grace HO	Jason LAI
Angus LAM	Barry LEUNG	Phoebe MAN	Oliver NG	Clement YU

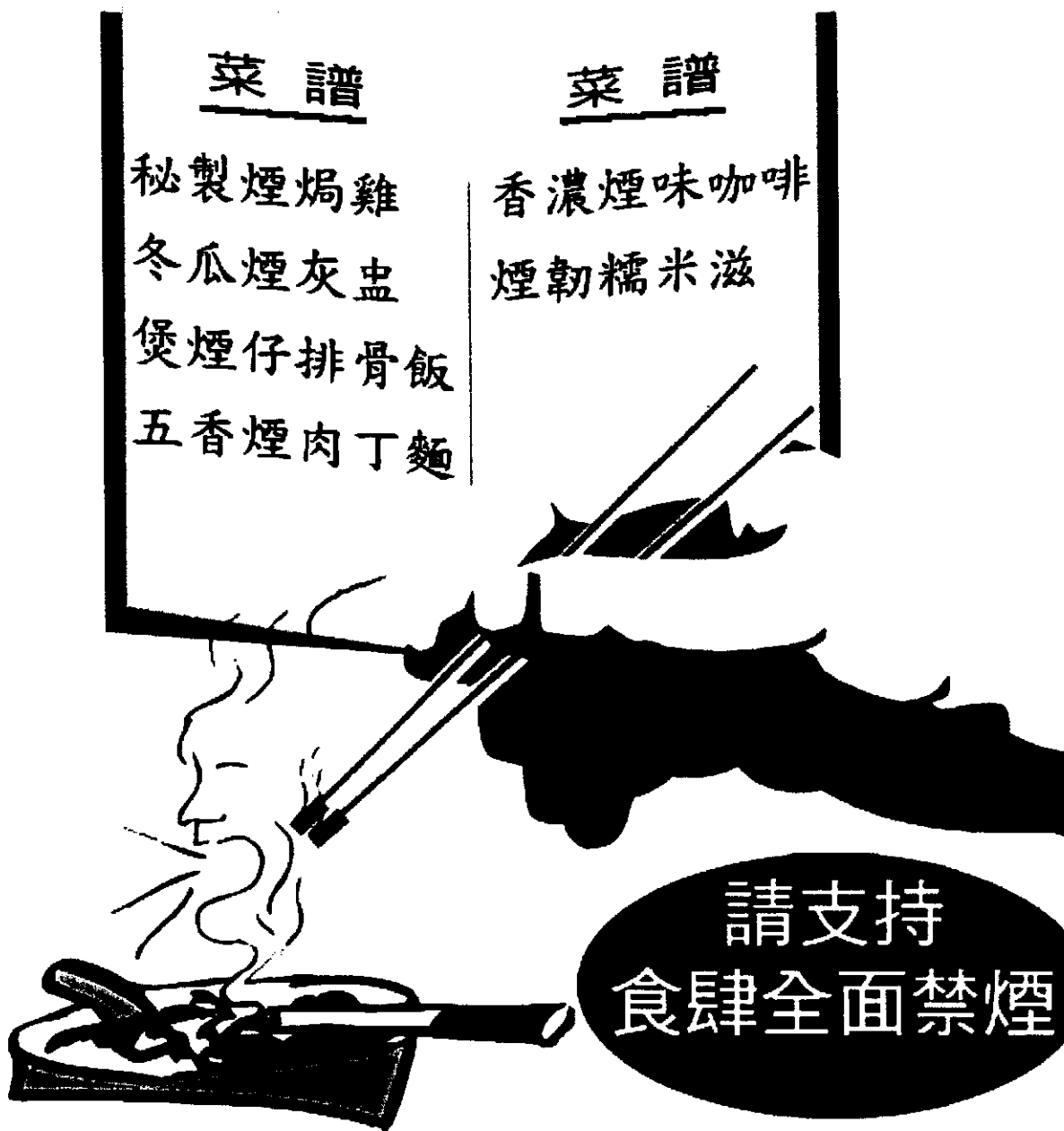
不食 人間煙火

菜譜

秘製煙焗雞
冬瓜煙灰盅
煲煙仔排骨飯
五香煙肉丁麵

菜譜

香濃煙味咖啡
煙韌糯米滋



請支持
食肆全面禁煙

24th March, 2005

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Public opinion on smoking ban in all restaurants

It is universally known and with evidence that tobacco smoke has harmful effects on public health. We are aware of the current proposed amendments on smoking ban- all restaurants, educational institutions and indoor workplaces shall be statutory no smoking areas. We carried out a campaign for support of the establishment of this law and at the same time, we did a simple survey on the opinion on this law and the present smoking ban policy in Central.

The survey took place in Central for 2 hours. During these 2 hours, we collected 828 signatures in total and interviewed 581 people. Of those interviewed, 524 (90%) were non-smokers, and 57 (10%) were smokers. Among all non-smokers, 66.1% think that the present government policy on tobacco control is inadequate, requiring improvement. Among the non-smokers, 97.5% support the establishment of the proposed amendments.

Here, we have attached letters to the Legislative Council members, we would really appreciate it if you would kindly pass on these letters. We have also attached here the signatures we have collected for reference for the Legislative Council members. Please take our campaign into serious consideration and coerce the Legislative Council into swift passing of this law.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours faithfully,

Chan Shiu Wai

Chan Yu King

Ho Kwok Cheung

Lau Kei Wai

Law Jessica

Lee Chi Yan

Lee Sau Man

Wong Ying Way

Wong Ian

Yung Shuk Fei

(3rd year HKU Medical Students)

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We have already sent the signature we collected to the Secretary of the Legislative Council. Please take our campaign into serious consideration and coerce the Legislative Council into swift passing of this law.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours faithfully,

Chan Shiu Wai

Chan Yu King

Ho Kwok Cheung

Lau Kei Wai

Law Jessica

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