

From *Satirical Smoke*

Antismokers have been getting, quite simply, nuttier and nuttier with every month that goes by as they proclaim the deadly dangers of even the shortest and most fleeting exposures to secondhand smoke in hopes of new, attention-getting headlines.¹ The public presentations of these studies never mention that they involve sticking smoke-avoiders of the most extreme variety into smoke-choked chambers that would make a sealed airplane smoking section seem like the fresh air on a mountaintop by comparison; chambers literally 2,000% as smoky as those airplanes of years past.

The funny thing is that the researchers – those who jump up on a podium at a moment's notice to spread the fear that even healthy people might meet the Grim Reaper at the mere sight of a smoker – feel no qualms about paying innocent subjects \$100 to “risk death” in these chambers. Indeed, it seems to be routine for antismoking scientists to claim, “No risk is expected to volunteers in collecting the data,” when subjects are sent to spend hours measuring smoke with little backpack sniffer-boxes in smoky bars and restaurants.ⁱ

¹ Antismokers prefer the term “Secondhand smoke” rather than the more accurate “secondary smoke” because it evokes the image of smoke that’s been “used” and cast off as waste by smokers, although most of it comes from the burning end of a cigarette. As Campaign For Tobacco Free Kids puts it, “*Secondhand smoke seems like the most unappetizing name for smoke inhaled by nonsmokers, and using the most unappetizing name possible should probably be the goal for those of us who are working to prevent and reduce smoking.*” Unfortunately, the term has been so widely promoted in the public mind that it’s hard to avoid without introducing confusion. See CTFK: http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/8/2/156.abstract/reply#tobaccocontrol_el_20.

The Island of Dr. Michaelious

In his groundbreaking experiments of early 2012, "*The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to DHMO*," Dr. Michaelious McFadden found that even rather brief exposure to relatively small amounts of DiHydrogen MOnoxide can be a killer.²

In a study hailed as being ahead of its time, Dr. Michaelious paid 15 students \$50 apiece and then held their heads in five-gallon buckets of water for just five minutes. Upon laying them out on mats afterwards, he was appalled to note the drastic effect that even such brief exposure to relatively small quantities of DHMO had upon their circulatory and respiratory systems. Uniformly, by every modern scientific measurement available, the subjects generally expired.

One student, a member of the Swim Club and founder of Students For a Smoke-Free Campus, showed a profoundly atypical reaction and began spontaneously reviving after several minutes on the mat. Dr. Michaelious duly noted the odd reaction and immediately repeated the experiment to see if it would recur. According to his meticulous notes, it did not. Autopsies revealed that DHMO exposure was definitely the culprit in every case, despite Big Water's predictable claims to the contrary.

The Michaelious Experiments met with great academic success and approval, and his conclusions laid the groundwork for many new laws and workplace regulations. Despite his good works, however, Dr. Michaelious is currently being held by authorities pending investigation for intent to defraud. Evidently he'd paid the students by check without actually having funds in his checking account to cover those payments. The subjects

² The good Doctor can't claim full credit in his concern about DHMO. There's an entire website devoted to its dangers at: <http://www.dhmo.org/>

themselves never complained, but some disgruntled family members (probably DHMO abusers) were not so charitably inclined.

ⁱ Repace JL. "Air Quality in Marquette Restaurants..." *Michigan Department of Community Health*, April 22, 2011. http://co.marquette.mi.us/departments/health_department/docs/Marquette_Air_Report_Repace_2011.pdf.