

# **Nicotine Wars**

**by Phillip W. Weiss**

Once upon a time in the future a world government emerged that banned the use of cigarettes, which by that time had become the rallying point for a major social movement, the symbol of which was the cigarette butt. An object of reverence to be treasured, cigarette butts became a form of currency and were used to measure one's social standing. i.e., the more cigarette butts you had the greater your prestige in the community.

Yet there were others who perceived this focus on the butt as a threat to world health and were determined to stamp it out (pun intended) completely. Two groups emerged: the pro-cigarette group or “Butties” and the anti-cigarette group, known as “Breathers.” Each group embraced peoples of all races and cultures. For the Butties, the cigarette was a symbol of freedom and liberty; for the Breathers, cigarettes were a threat to public health and world financial stability. By this time, tobacco corporations were long gone and replaced by cooperatives that grew the tobacco in plantations located on Mars (such cultivation having long since been banned on earth). The tobacco was smuggled back to earth in space ships that had to avoid the system of anti-ballistic satellites deployed to destroy such vehicles.

The leader of the Butties was a living legend named Nicholas Tinowsky, aka Nick O’Teen. He smoked four packs of cigarette per day and had

accumulated over 850,000 cigarette butts, making him the wealthiest Buttie in the solar system. His arch-rival was Nolan Smoninski, aka No-Smoke or Nos. Nick and Nos were first cousins. As children they were close friends but grew apart after Nick became involved with the Butties. Feeling abandoned, Nos had vowed to destroy his recalcitrant cousin and all of his butts. Also involved was a lady. Her name was Samantha Smokovski, aka Smokie. She was in love with both Nick and Nos, Nick because he was handsome and the wealthiest Buttie in the solar system, and Nos because he was the most powerful politician on earth. Despite her name, Smokie did not smoke cigarettes but was being pressured by Nick to join his cause. Smokie considered joining the Butties but felt a deep loyalty to Nos who had saved her life from a gang of Butties who had tried to force her to smoke. That incident left her traumatized, and she had recurrent nightmares and a pathological fear of cigarettes which upon exposure to the cigarette fumes drove her into a frenzy.

The war erupted over a trivial incident that occurred on the Brooklyn Bridge. A young male Buttie mistook a female Breather for a Buttie and asked her for a light. The Breather panicked, started screaming, which attracted a crowd, and soon a fight broke out on the bridge. Soon, the fighting spread across North America and within days became a worldwide conflagration. Although far superior in numbers, the Butties lacked the sophisticated weaponry necessary to prosecute the war, and so had to resort to guerrilla tactics against the far superior military forces of the Breathers, whose weapons included anti-Nicotine

chemical bombs which caused cigarettes to disintegrate and an advanced butte detector, or ADBUD, an electronic device which could locate a stash of cigarette butts within a fifty-mile radius. To counteract these weapons, the Butties developed a pill, called Flash, which was 99-percent Nicotine but not yet perfected; when ingested it caused the skin to turn a bright green color and induced delusions of grandeur. Soon, Flash was being bought and sold in an illicit black market that found its way into the Breathers' ranks. The Breathers took severe measures to suppress this drug and vowed harsh measures against the Butties for contaminating the world with such a vile product.

Accusations and cross accusations of criminality escalated. Nos vowed to bring Nick to trial for racketeering while Nick accused Nos of committing genocide against the Butties. Undecided over whom to support, Smokie appealed to the women of the world to stop fighting and to exercise tolerance. Millions of women responded to Smokie's appeal and soon huge peace rallies involving millions of women sprung up throughout the world. Women demanded that the fighting stop and blamed the war on male arrogance. Soon the war morphed into a male versus female struggle, with Smokie emerging as the leader of the women, aka The Ladies.

In an effort to form a united front, Nick and Nos sent tentative feelers to each other, but these outreach efforts failed to produce a meeting due mostly to Nick's unwillingness to declare total war against Smokie, something that Nos favored, believing that Smokie has betrayed him. Meanwhile, on Mars the

cultivation of tobacco continued unabated under the command of Johan Deludier aka Tobacco Joe or To-Jo, who was carefully monitoring the events on earth and was hedging his bet on who would win. To-Jo decided to suspend shipments of tobacco, which produced a panic among the Butties who openly accused To-Jo of being a traitor. Nick proposed a plan to invade Mars to take control of the supply of tobacco and ensure that the Buttie economy remained viable. Learning of this plan from his spies, Nos warned Nick to refrain from invading Mars or risk the consequences, which would be the Breathers launching their own invasion of Mars to destroy the tobacco plantations. Nick warned Nos that if he destroyed the tobacco supply, he would flood the world with Flash and destroy human civilization.

Then, while fighting was raging on earth, a surprising event occurs. Earth was invaded by a race of aliens, known as the Duwapis, named after the sound of their voices that sounded strangely similar to doo-wop music. The Duwapis lived on a planet located in the Andromeda galaxy, one-million light years away from earth. The Duwapis decided to invade earth after they detected that earth had nicotine, a substance that was critical for sustaining Duwapien life. The Duwapis breathed nicotine like humans breathe oxygen; without the nicotine the Duwapis could not survive.

Due to changes in the galaxy caused by a massive intergalactic wind that encased the entire Andromeda galaxy in a poisonous haze, all the nicotine in the Duwapien atmosphere was converted into oxygen, which was poison to the

Duwapis. Their purpose for invading earth was to steal the nicotine and transport it back to their planet. Upon learning of their plans, Nos immediately tried to form an alliance with the Duwapis, but the Duwapis, led by Edgar Buchanan Techonadaquichenotagawatiyegolotakechianaqualadociusezala, aka Techie, refused to negotiate and instead demanded total unconditional surrender or face annihilation. (Techie's name included that of famous Hollywood actor Edgar Buchanan because while monitoring the earth, Techie watched thousands of Hollywood movies and television shows including the complete filmography of Buchanan, and in the process became a huge fan of the actor and adopted his name.) Enraged, Nos vowed to destroy the invading Duwapis and soon was bombarding the Duwapi positions with canisters containing pure oxygen. Nick offered to help fight the Duwapis and Nos accepted the offer. Smokie, learning of this new alliance between Nick and Nos, proposed a tripartite alliance of the Butties, Breathers and The Ladies to rid the earth of the Duwapis. Unintimidated, and to the accompaniment of the theme song for the popular 1960s sitcom Petticoat Junction which starred Edgar Buchanan, Techie rallied his troops and soon the whole of the earth was engulfed in one huge battle as humans fought aliens for control of the planet.

For the earthlings, their battle cry was "Cover your butts!" For the Duwapis, their battle cry was "Smell the nicotine!" Then, out of this chaos, nature intervened. A male Buttie named Boris and a female Duwapi named Celexiagraphalongoprophilia, aka Celia, met, fell in love, had sex (note: female

Duwapis resemble beautiful female Hollywood movie stars), producing an offspring, half human, half Duwapi, who was to become the savior of the planet and the founder of a new cult. His name was Wengahopaling, which in Duwapi means child of hope; among the earthlings he was known simply as Weng. Part 2 of this story deals with the rise of Weng and his plans to conquer the universe and corner the supply of nicotine.

**Principal Characters:**

**Boris – father of Weng**

**Celia – mother of Weng**

**Nick – leader of the Butties**

**Nos – leader of the Breathers**

**Smokie – leader of The Ladies**

**Techie – leader of the Duwapis**

**To-Jo – leader of the tobacco growers**

**Weng – half human/half Duwapi cult figure**