Two questions:

How does the alcohol industry sell its product to young people?

...and can public health learn from this?

## Can You Sell Health Like Hooch?

Prof Gerard Hastings OBE

PERTH 12<sup>th</sup> August 2010



## Can You Sell Health Like Hooch?

- 1. In theory yes; social marketing is a well established discipline
- 2. And it works
- 3. So how do the alcohol companies do it?
- 4. Conclusion: in theory yes; in practice it is very difficult

# What is marketing?

- The processes business uses to encourage consumption of its products:
  - Multifaceted
  - Strategic and long term relationships not just transactions: the <u>who</u> as well as the <u>what</u>
  - Seeking to influence the behaviour of customers, stakeholders even competitors
- Social marketing uses the same techniques to influence social and health – rather than consumer - behaviour

# What is marketing?

mass media advertising billboards press television

### What is marketing



### What is marketing



This is what we tend to focus on

### **Football Sponsorship**



Mass Media Advertising



**Texting** 



### **Electronic Gadgets**



### Websites



Young

person



### **Electronic Gig Guide**



### Merchandise



**Festival Sponsorship** 



### **Social Networking Sites**





### POS



### Competitions

#### WIN TICKETS TO THE CRUCIAL NI WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS!

Fancy watching the national team polish off the Poles and thrash the Slovaks? It's getting close to crunch time in the World Cup qualifiers and our lads have a couple of tricky home ties

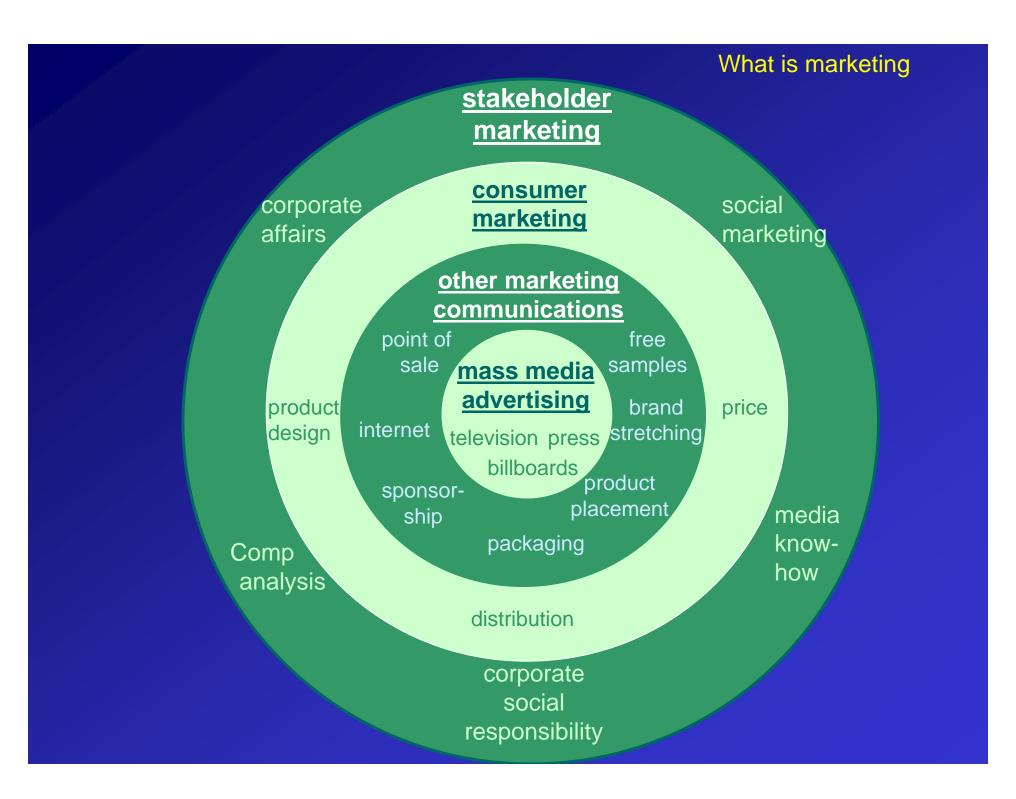




Cumulative impact: these communications are designed to reinforce and support one another

### What is marketing





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# We know marketing influences young people

## This is clear for

- tobacco (Cochrane Collab, 2004)
- energy dense food (WHO, 2006)
- and alcohol ....

National Cancer Institute

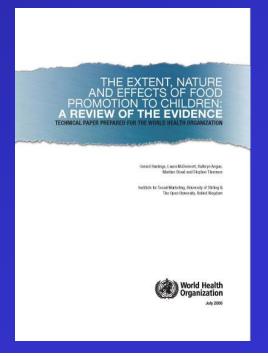
NCI TOBACCO CONTROL MONOGRAPH SERIES

**19** 

The Role of the Media in Promoting and Reducing Tobacco Use

> Edited by Ronald M. Davis, M.D.

Elizabeth A. Gilpin, M.S. Barbara Loken, Ph.D. K. Viswanath, Ph.D. Melanie A. Wakefield, Ph.D.



## "it is undeniable that alcohol advertising acts as an encouragement to consumption"

(European Court of Justice ruling – C152/78 (2002)

Evidence statement 5: There is conclusive evidence of a small but consistent association of advertising with consumption at a population level. There is also evidence of small but consistent effects of advertising on consumption of alcohol by young people at an individual level.

(UK Gvt Review (2008)

"alcohol advertising increases both the uptake of drinking and consumption in young people" (Science Committee of the EU Commission Alcohol Forum 2009)

"Longitudinal studies consistently suggest that exposure to media and commercial communications on alcohol is associated with the likelihood that adolescents will start to drink alcohol, and with increased drinking amongst baseline drinkers."

Alcohol and Alcoholism 2009

## ISM research

- Using a cohort design to investigate the impact of alcohol marketing
- Random sample of 1000 13 year olds followed up at 15; asked about drinking and marketing
- In-home interviews, plus self completion for the sensitive information (eg on drinking)
- Funded under the National Prevention Research Initiative (consortium funding led by the Medical Research Council)

## Results

- a. astonishing ubiquity of alcohol promotion
- b. its effects on drinking behaviour

Types of advertising seen	13 year olds (2006)	15 year olds (2008)
Sample size	920	636
	%	%
TV/Cinema	77	76
Sports Sponsorship	61	76
Clothing (sports tops)	66	73
Music Sponsorship	34	46
Sponsorship of TV & Film	30	32
Social networking sites	12	*34
Mobile communications	24	*21
Websites	14	*7
Any channel	96	97
Number of channels	5.5	6.0

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<sup>\*</sup> Note: question wording varied between stages

## Results

## **Effects**

After controlling for important confounding variables significant associations emerged between awareness, appreciation and involvement with alcohol marketing at Stage 1 with drinking behaviour at Stage 2:

- uptake of drinking
- amount consumed

Gordon, MacKintosh and Moodie (in press) *The impact of alcohol marketing on youth drinking behaviour: A two-stage cohort study* Alcohol and Alcoholism

# **Social marketing also works**

- Commercial marketing clearly has an effect
- A review of SRs on alcohol prevention and harm minimisation
- 8 out of 13 had a positive effect overall; 4 mixed / moderate effects, 1 no effect
- strong evidence of impact

Gordon R, McDermott L, Stead M, Angus K (2006) The effectiveness of social marketing interventions for health improvement: What's the evidence? Public Health, Elsevier

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## Health Select Committee Enquiry

Internal marketing planning documents: Client/Agency Contact

Reports; Client, Creative and Media Briefs; Media Schedules; Advertising

Budgets; Market research reports

The Sources of the Documents				
PRODUCERS	BRANDS	COMMS AGENCIES		
Beverage Brands	WKD (an alcopop)	Big Communications Bray Leino PR Five by Five (digital)		
Diageo	Smirnoff vodka	AKQA JWT		
Halewood International	Lambrini (a perry) Sidekick shots	BJL Cheethambell JWT		
Molson Coors Brewing Company	Carling	Beattie McGuinness Bungay (BMB)		

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## **HEALTH WARNING**

Bu

This is just a glimpse inside alcohol promotion

This promotion is very extensive: one of the companies pleaded that the documents for just one brand would amount to one million pages

The chosen producers and comms agencies are not especially at fault: they are just typical

		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
International	Sidekick shots	
Molson Coors Brewing Company	Carling	Beattie McGuinness Bungay (BMB)

# The intentions, thinking, strategising that underpins alcohol marketing in the UK

## **Emerging Problems**

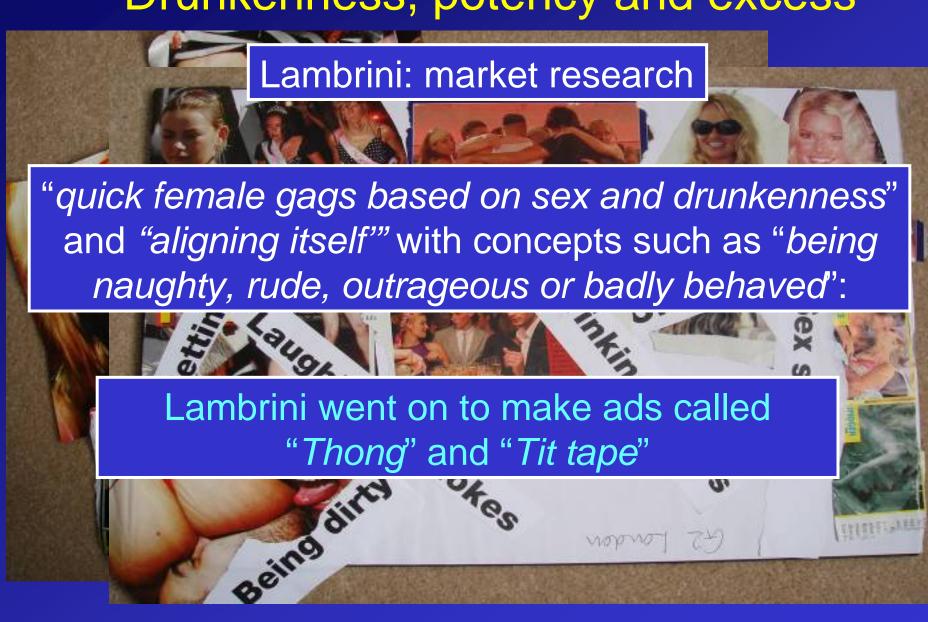
- 1. Drunkenness, potency and excess
- 2. Promoting sociability and social success
- 3. Appealing to masculinity and femininity

all are outlawed by the regulatory codes

## Drunkenness, potency and excess

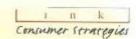
The self-regulatory codes state that advertising must not link alcohol with brave, tough, unruly or daring people or behaviour; nor should it encourage irresponsible, anti-social or immoderate drinking (whether in terms of style or amount). References to, or suggestions of, buying repeat rounds of drinks are not acceptable - including any suggestion that other members of the group will buy any further rounds. Ads must not suggest that a drink is to be preferred because of its alcohol content or place undue emphasis on alcoholic strength



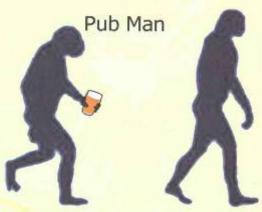


## Drunkenness, potency and excess

3.8 What are Pub Man's Needs at This Point?

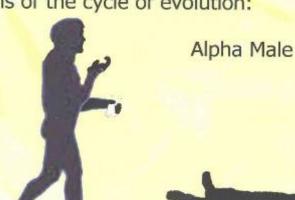


If we think of the average bloke in terms of the cycle of evolution:



- Reassurance, ease, simplicity bonding
- Ritual habit
- Repetitive

Comfort zone



Individual, quirky, more energy and drive, adventure, sex, sexual allure, challenge bravado, image, *fun*, hedonism

The mission

Spirits and mixers can fulfil better here





The self-regulatory codes state that alcohol can not be linked to the social acceptance of the social success of individuals, events or occasions. More specifically, advertisements must not imply that drinking can enhance an individual's popularity, confidence, mood, physical performance, personal qualities, attractiveness or sexual success.



### **Category Insight**

To own sociability is to dominate the booze market

"3 Aspects of 'Belonging'... Initiation: Expressions of the moment when an individual joins a group and finds a happy home in the pack — The Moment of Belonging. Celebration: An expression of the sheer joy of belonging — The Joy of Belonging. Contagion: An expression of the magnetic power of the group — The Power of Belonging".

wine, but don't like the taste



### **Category Insight**

To own sociability is to dominate the booze market

"Broadly speaking each piece of communication will either; celebrate 'Join Us', by championing the benefit of togetherness, or facilitate 'Join Us', by providing and enhancing experiences where togetherness is key"







### **Category Insight**

To own sociability is to dominate the booze market

"Carling celebrates, initiates and promotes the togetherness of the pack, their passions and their pint because Carling understands that things are better together."





# Appealing to masculinity and femininity

advertisers must not imply that alcohol can enhance attractiveness, masculinity or femininity – nor use daringness, toughness, bravado, challenge, seduction, sexual activity or sexual success.

# Appealing to masculinity and femininity



Thou sh



# Lambin girls just wanna sparktel

HILL KNOWLTON

ents\2006\1. Key Documents\A2

UK's Sexiest Legs Search

**Girls Guides** 

Celeb Pins

Contact us

Links

The largest fashion event in the world is set to take you by

We're launching the first ever Search for the UK's Sexiest Legs and we'd love all you Lambrini girls to come along and take part!

Fashion shows will take place at every day at the following times:-Friday Dec 1 - 11am, 1pm and 3pm

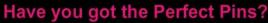
If you can't make it to Clothes Show Live, do not fear, you still have a Thou sh chance of entering. Simply send us some pictures of your pins looking

Pretty Perfect and you could be in with a chance of winning a host of Lambrini girl goodies including shopping vouchers, concert tickets,

Pretty Polly Sparkle Fishnets and of course bottles of Lambrini for you to share with your friends.

Thou sh So pop along to see us on Stand PU98 Thou sh

and strut your stuff!



storm at the NEC in Birmingham from the 1-6 December 2006 and Lambrini will be there!

Contestants will have to show off their perfect pins and answer questions from a panel of judges. The overall winner from daily contests will be chosen by our fashion expert and PPRETTY POLLY 'S Head of Design

Saturday Dec 2 until Wednesday Dec 6 - 10am, 12pm, 2pm and 4pm

Should you win, not only will you win the crown of the UK's Sexiest legs but you will participate at PPRETTY POLICY'S Spring Collection photoshoot and take home your very own model portfolio!



a Lovers

8

# The intentions, thinking, strategising that underpins alcohol marketing in the UK

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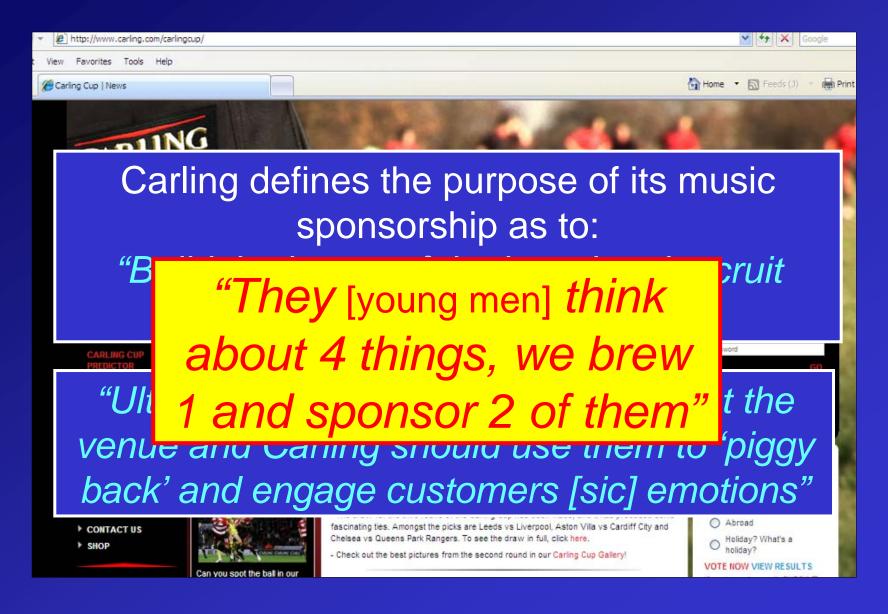
- 1. Drunkenness, potency and excess
- 2. Promoting sociability and social success
- 3. Appealing to masculinity and femininity
- 4. Sponsorship
- 5. New media

In the UK there is no formal regulation of sponsorship by alcohol companies (which is a major gap)

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But linking alcohol consumption with sporting success and youth culture is explicitly prohibitted









## New media

# Everything X 2

## Can You Sell Health Like Hooch?

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# **Conclusion**

- Commercial marketing certainly influences drinking behaviour
- 2. In theory, so can social marketing
- 3. We are used to fighting against the odds but we are being over whelmed by commerce
  - We don't have their resources
  - We don't have their ubiquity
  - We don't have their staying power
  - We don't have their bloody nerve

# **Conclusion**

So yes, we can sell health like hooch, but please level the playing field: do something to reduce the amount of alcohol marketing