

Show me the data!

I have been following the “Partnership” saga more closely since Governor Barbour has shined his light of accountability on this well-crafted example of misdirection and slight-of-hand. As you stated in your “Partnership” editorial dated March 8<sup>th</sup>, “...Partnership's spending does need more public scrutiny. Some expenditures have seemed more political than practical when it comes to tobacco programs.” You also stated that the “...Partnership does good work with documented successes in its anti-tobacco programs.” But you never source or document your data.

Need help? Try a visit to the Center for Disease Control’s web site and compare the national averages of tobacco use for 2002, 2003, and 2004, vs. Mississippi’s averages for these same three years. There is precious little difference. So again, what have we been spending those millions on? And why do you seem to think the “Partnership” has exclusivity on hiring tobacco cessation professionals to do this job? You folks may be able to overtake the New York Times in pushing an agenda rather than reporting both sides of a story fairly. Keep up the “good work.”