General Information

Source: NBC Nightly News
Creator: Brian Williams/Kevin Corke
Event Date: 07/06/2005
Air/Publish Date: 07/06/2005

Description
Some in the food industry say they are tired of being blamed for the obesity epidemic in the U.S., and argue that individuals have a personal responsibility for what, and how much, they and their children eat.

Keywords
Food, Obesity, Overweight, Weight, Epidemic, Blame, Responsibility, Choice, Advertising, No-Fat, Low-Fat, Parents, Freedom, Public Health, Science, Junk, Statistics, Disease, Heart Attacks, Strokes, Cancer, Arthritis, Labels, Popcorn, Movies, Center for Consumer Freedom, Center for Science in the Public Interest Movement

Citation
MLA
Backlash Against the "Food Police"
https://archives.nbclearn.com/portal/site/k-12/browse/?cuecard=2303
Source: NBC Nightly News
Resource Type: Video News Report
Creator: Brian Williams/Kevin Corke
Copyright: NBCUniversal Media, LLC.
Event Date: 07/06/2005
Copyright Date: 2005
Clip Length: 00:02:22

APA

CHICAGO MANUAL OF STYLE

Transcript
Backlash Against the "Food Police"
BRIAN WILLIAMS, anchor:
We all know people who won't eat anything before reading the nutrition information labels first. Perhaps you're one of them. But who can blame them all really? After all, we've been told that movie popcorn is bad for us, and that's just for starters. But now there's a backlash forming, and our own Kevin Corke has the story.
KEVIN CORKE reporting:
High protein, low carbs.
Unidentified Woman: What I want is zero cholesterol and less sodium.
CORKE: No fat, low fat. The information is confusing.
Mr. MICHAEL JACOBSON: It's clearly an epidemic.
CORKE: What to eat, what to avoid? Who to believe? This man says the food police are out to get you.
Mr. RICK BERMAN: Obesity is not a disease and food is not addictive.
CORKE: Rick Berman runs the food industry-funded Center for Consumer Freedom. He's on a mission to fight what he says are scare tactics being used to, well, take the fun out of eating.
Mr. BERMAN: You've heard the term junk science? These people use junk science ad nauseam.
CORKE: With bigger portions and rich desserts like these available at just about every turn, there's little denying Americans are getting heavier. But the question remains: Who's to blame? Berman says it's about time people take personal responsibility for their culinary choices.
Mr. BERMAN: People know the difference between a banana and a banana split. And--and if you need a warning sign, you know, everybody's got a warning in their house, and it's called a mirror.
CORKE: Michael Jacobson runs the Center for Science in the Public Interest. He says Berman is twisting statistics to distract from what almost everyone agrees on.
Mr. MICHAEL JACOBSON: I think everybody knows intuitively that obesity ain't good for us. And that
it increases rates of heart attacks, strokes, cancers, arthritis.

CORKE: Dr. David Ludwig runs the obesity program at Children's Hospital in Boston.

Dr. DAVID LUDWIG: What level of personal responsibility does Consumer Freedom want a five-year-old to take in the face of endless advertising of fast food?

Mr. BERMAN: Kids are not driving themselves to McDonald's. It's not about kids and their choices. It's about parents and their choices.

CORKE: A loud debate over obesity, one that is weighing heavily on a public increasingly weary about who decides what's for dinner.

Kevin Corke, NBC News, Orlando.