Society of Sensory Professionals

Inaugural SSP Conference: "Creating the Future"

Sensory: The Secret Weapon

Nancy Eicher President, Food Perspectives



Today's Thesis

The world of consumer goods has undergone a titanic shift in how the end user relates to the brand and product...

and we have an opportunity to be the agents of change. "In the struggle for survival, the fittest win out at the expense of their rivals because they succeed in <u>adapting</u> themselves best to their environment. I have called this principle "Natural Selection."

-- Charles Darwin

EVOLUTION OF MARKETING

STEP RIGHT UP, FOLKS, IT CURES ALL BUT WAIT,

IT SLICES IT DICES, AILMENTS ... THERE'S MORE I'M GONZO FOR GONZO POPS

THESE TARO CHIPS ARE BAKED BY COOLEST SHERPAS

I DUST FOUND THE BRAND



SNAKEOIL SALESMEN



TV ADMEN



EQUITY CHARACTERS



HAWKERS



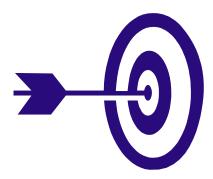
AUTHENTICITY CONSUMER ADVOCATES

Sensory amidst change

This is about us – the Sensory community

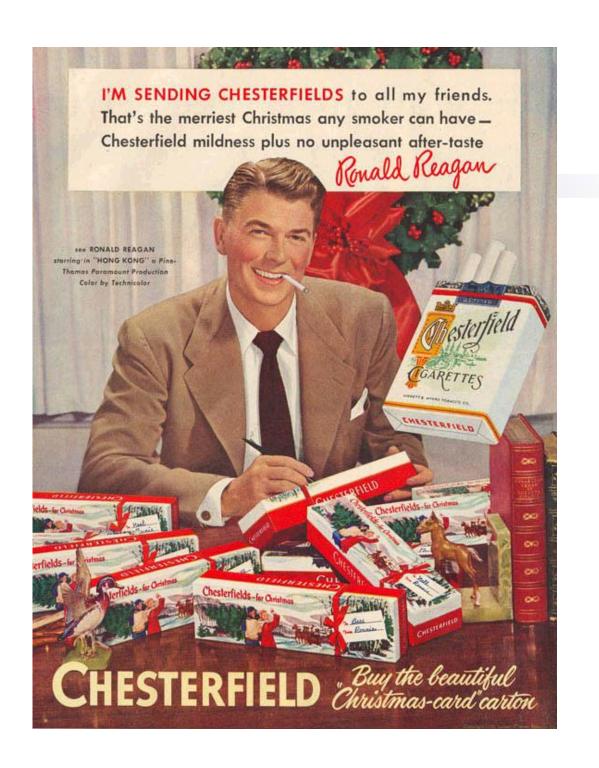
We're perfectly situated at the center of the bull's-eye - between the brand, the product and the consumer

And, we're ideal advocates for change to make products succeed in this new consumer-driven world

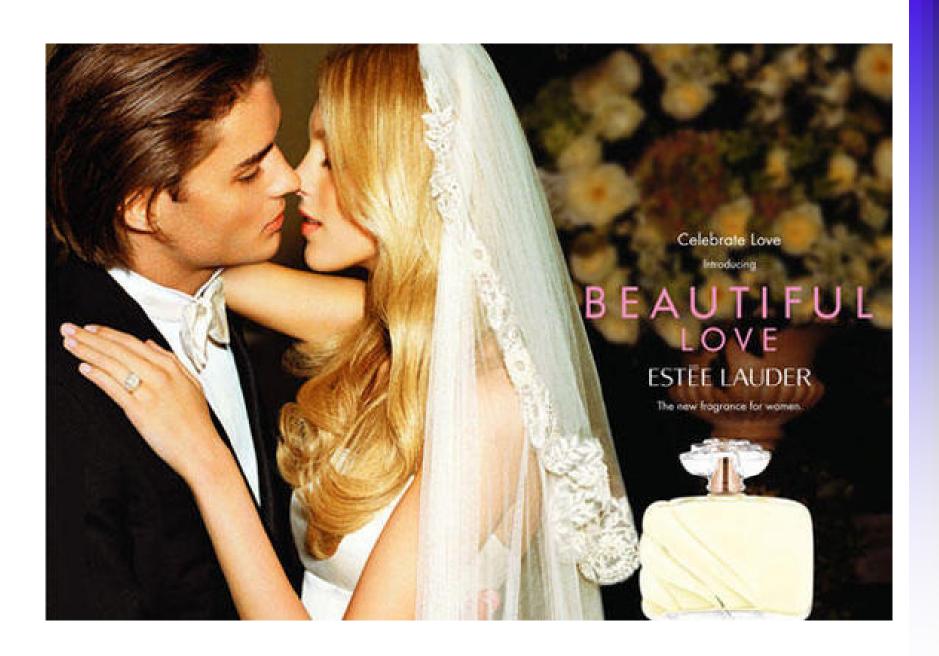


Consumer packaged goods have a long history of trading on the strength of their brands — including the celebrity pitchmen, emotion or inherent brand strength.

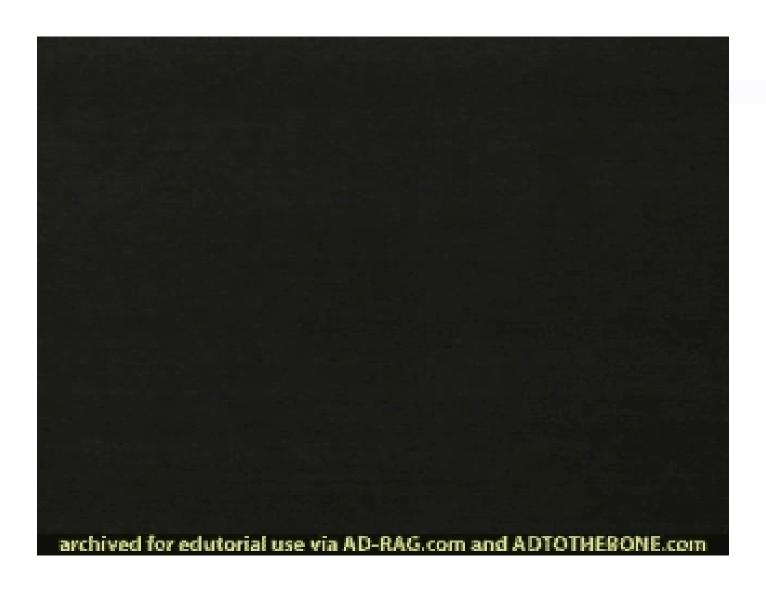
The following is an example of the power of a celebrity pitchman to endorse a product



Another popular advertising tactic was to capitalize on the power of emotion to motivate awareness, and purchase.



While some categories of products tend toward emotional advertising more frequently, there have been some great examples in the food industry as well.

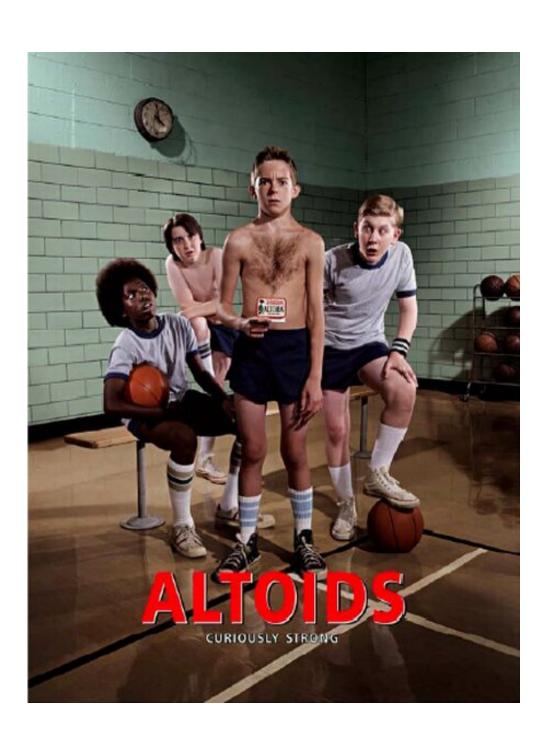


The brand or the symbols of the brand can also have great power in creating a positive images. Here are two instantly recognizable corporate symbols.





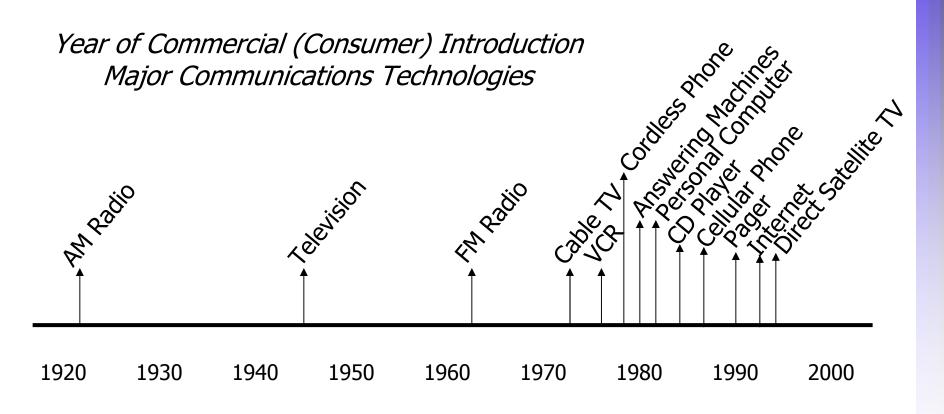
Here is another brand play, with little more than a playful image and a brand name.



But...the world is changing. The message today – an important shift is taking place, an evolution in consumer communication.

Why this shift, why now?

The 1980's-90's started an explosion of consumer communication technologies



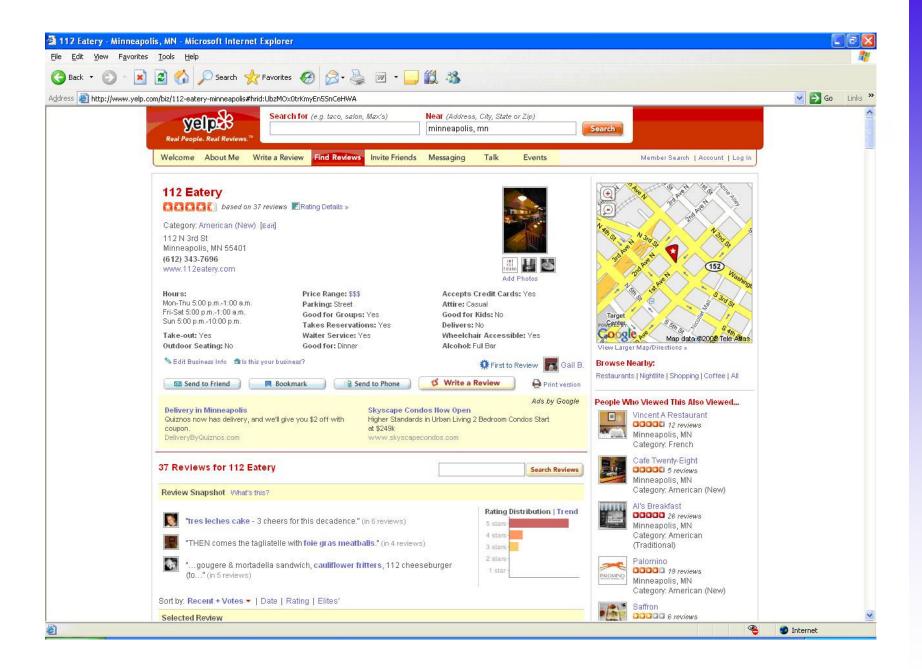
Source: Wall Street Journal

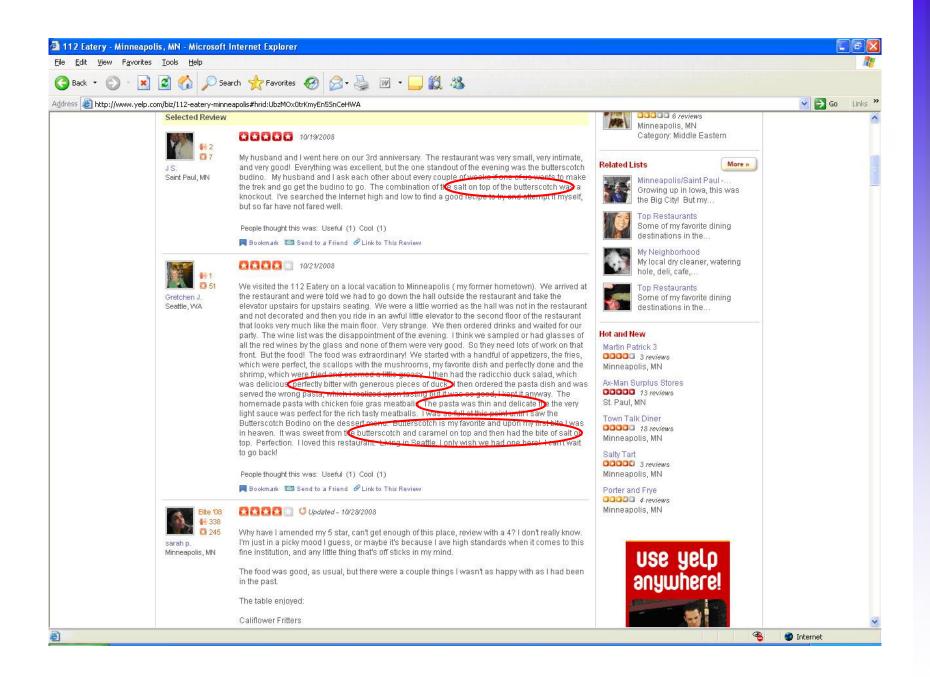
And the pace is accelerating...

The result? The balance is shifting.

The consumer packaged goods industry is changing as consumers have more access to information and act as reviewers for each other.

- The traditional power of brand promise is being challenged by the power of consumer advocacy
- Consumers are connecting directly without the intervention of advertising or the company message
- Messaging about products is increasingly about the stuff itself

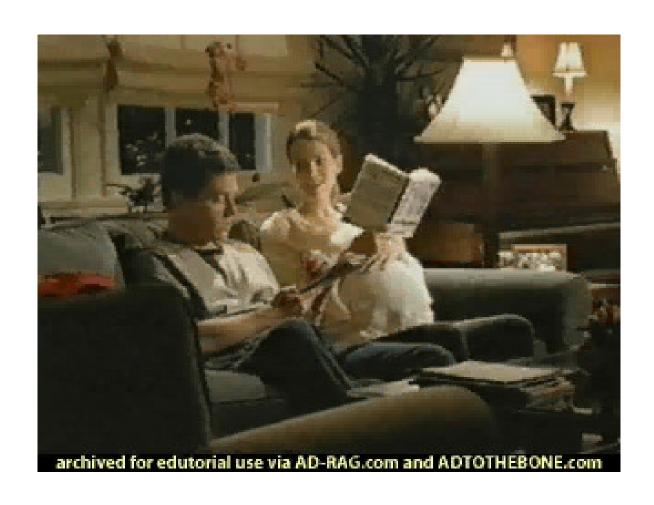




The evidence that communication technology is having a profound impact on our consumers can already be seen.

The next two advertisements show how well manufacturers have identified what is important to their customers, and how to communicate those product benefits clearly.

The impact is already evident





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Widmer "Brrr" Red Ale is

FTC Moves to Unmask Word-of-Mouth Marketing

Endorser Must Disclose Link to Seller

By Annys Shin

Washington Post Staff Writer

Tuesday, December 12, 2006; Page D01

The <u>Federal Trade Commission</u> yesterday said that companies engaging in word-of-mouth marketing, in which people are compensated to promote products to their peers, must disclose those relationships.

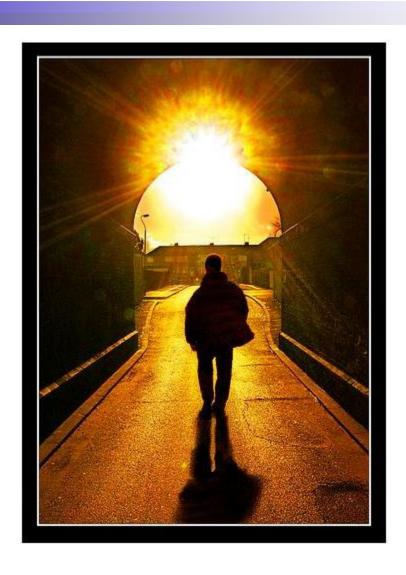
In a staff opinion issued yesterday, the consumer protection agency weighed in for the first time on the practice. Though no accurate figures exist on how much money advertisers spend on such marketing, it is quickly becoming a preferred method for reaching consumers who are skeptical of other forms of advertising. Word-of-mouth marketing can take any form of peer-to-peer communication, such as a post on a Web blog, a MySpace.com page for a movie character, or the comments of a stranger on a bus.

What happens next?

While the impact of consumer advocacy has clearly shaped marketing communication – it also has the power to change how we develop products and understand our consumers' wants and needs.

- ⇒ The value system for products must be understood and leveraged throughout the development process
- ⇒ The <u>delivery</u> of the promise is as, or more, important than the promise itself
- Alignment of the product, its features and benefits, to the brand or positioning is critical to success.

It's becoming a Sensory world!



Thanks!

