

Smoke without fire



On November 21st. Joachim Gauck, 74, and his life-companion Daniela Schadt, 54, had their picture taken at the Bundespresseball (federal press ball). The sponsoring board in front of which the president and his life-companion are posing is adorned, among other things, with a kind of corolla, which on closer inspection turns out to be the logo of the tobacco company British American Tobacco (BAT). Berlin-based Forum Rauchfrei, an association of anti-tobacco activists, has now written a letter to the president, demanding an explanation of how this monopolization of his person by the tobacco company came about. After all the federal government had passed a

law based on a World Health Organization convention. WHO demands “to be alert to any efforts by the tobacco industry to undermine or subvert tobacco control efforts.” Forum Rauchfrei wants to win the president over to warn publicly against tobacco industry sponsoring.