

# PROMOTIONAL STRATEGY

Seventh Edition

**ENGEL \* WARSHAW \* KINNEAR** 

# PROMOTIONAL STRATEGY

## Managing the Marketing Communications Process

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Seventh Edition



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This book had its beginning in the fall of 1961 when Jim Engel, then an assistant professor of marketing at The University of Michigan, was assigned to teach the promotion course. Available texts proved to be unsatisfactory, thus leading him to contact his graduate school mentor, Hugh Wales, at the University of Illinois. Both agreed to try their hand at an innovative approach which would focus on the entire promotion mix, not just advertising, and build from a solid behavioral foundation.

As they prepared preliminary outlines, they realized that another person was needed to shore up the material on sales management and reseller strategies. The logical candidate was Marty Warshaw, Jim Engel's colleague at Michigan. And so the book was launched. Hugh Wales retired after the third edition, and another Michigan colleague, Tom Kinnear, joined the team.

Our purposes have changed little since the first edition. Our basic conviction is that advertising, sales promotion, personal selling, direct marketing, public relations and publicity, and corporate advertising are all component parts of *one integrated promotional mix*. There is no way that an individual activity, say advertising, can be managed without fully considering these strategic interrelationships.

We are also convinced that marketing strategy must be grounded in realistic research that clearly documents the opportunities and problems to be faced. This requires knowledge of consumer motivation and behavior, the competitive climate, the legal climate, and so on. While this is not a book on research per se, it will help students identify and glean the information needed and teach them how to think strategically once it is in hand.

Since the outset we have provided the reader a thorough grounding in consumer behavior. Initially we felt, with justification, that few students would have course work in that field. Hence, we tried as much as we could to include a summary of Engel, Kollat, and Blackwell, *Consumer Behavior* (now Engel, Blackwell, and Miniard, *Consumer Behavior*, 6th ed). We now are aware that most readers have had a basic exposure to consumer behavior, so in this edition we concentrate on stressing its unique implications for promotional strategy. Our coverage of consumer behavior remains extensive, however, and is foundational to everything else.

We also have always written from the perspective of those who must conceive and execute promotional strategy. Our intent is to mold and shape effective strategic thinking rather than to provide cookbook lists of answers. We avoid simple answers to problems that defy rule-of-thumb solutions. We make no attempt to imply certainty when it does not exist in the real world.

Finally, our goal—and our greatest challenge over the years—has been to make this book both theoretically sound and highly practical. As we have gained experience ourselves both in teaching and in practical marketing

strategy, our perspectives understandably have become modified. Certainly a comparison of this edition with the 1967 version would reveal a marked shift toward consistent use of the criterion, what does this all mean on the firing line?

Some schools still retain separate courses in advertising and sales management. Although we take an integrated approach, our material is readily adaptable to a more limited course in advertising by skipping the sections that do not directly apply. We strongly recommend the broader integrated approach, however, because of the trend in that direction in business practice.

Long-time users will quickly see that we have retained our traditional focus which has given this text a leading position in the field. But, *this is an altogether new book throughout*. The following are the greatest changes:

- 1. Professors and students alike consistently tell us to provide even more examples and illustrations. This we have done in every chapter. It makes for much more interesting and relevant reading.
- We have been urged never to sacrifice our unique grounding in consumer behavior, and certainly we have not done so. But, as noted earlier, the behavioral material is slanted much more specifically toward promotional applications.
- 3. We have greatly expanded the chapter on The Nature of Communication (Chapter 3) by adding material on semiotics and nonverbal communication for the first time.
- 4. Chapters 5 and 6 focusing on understanding consumer behavior have been rewritten extensively from the perspective of promotional strategy considerations. Students will especially benefit from the emphasis on diagnosing consumer behavior in the context of expected outcomes.
- 5. Our treatment of promotional objectives (Chapter 9) is all new and plows fresh ground in tying objectives concretely to information gained from diagnosing consumer behavior.
- The dynamic issues of channel command and control is highlighted in many chapters. Manufacturers have been forced to some radical new thinking in channel strategy, and students are immersed in the central issues.
- Direct marketing continues to receive strong emphasis as a type of promotional strategy which has gained all-new importance in the current arena.
- 8. As usual, we end with a strong section on social and economic considerations. We hope that this is given the coverage it deserves in a world in which ethics all too often seem to be put on the back burner.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Over the 23 years of our existence, we have been the beneficiaries of widespread input from colleagues literally throughout the world. This has proved invaluable. They are far too numerous to acknowledge by name here, but we do want to thank those who have specifically contributed their insights to this edition:

Les Carlson, *University of Arkansas, Fayetteville*Gilbert Churchill, *University of Wisconsin, Madison*Mark Fackler, *Wheaton College, Illinois*John Holmes, *Bowling Green State University, Ohio*Lawrence Johnson, *University of Kansas, Lawrence*John Schleede, Jr., *Central Michigan University* 

Also a special thank you to Beth Thompson and Ron Kobler for their help in developing materials for this revision.

We have always thanked our families over the years for their forbearance through the tyranny of seven revisions. Jim and Marty are empty nesters, but we still join Tom in expressing appreciation to our wives and kids who always have been partners with us. And, in keeping with our tradition, each of us continues to blame the other guys for errors and omissions in the manuscript.

## A Special Tribute to Marion Harper

Over the years we have benefited from the input of leading professionals in the advertising and promotion world. In particular, the Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc. provided the opportunity for the senior author to have unlimited access to company and client resources for an extended period in the 1960s.

This was at the time when Marion Harper was chairperson at Interpublic. He stood out among his contemporaries as a strategic thinker and innovator, and Interpublic under his leadership became a world-recognized trend setter in strategic marketing.

Marion Harper passed away in late 1989. We would like to add our tribute to the many given upon his death. This book never would have achieved the impact it has had over its years of existence without the input and inspiration of Marion Harper and his executive team.

James F. Engel Martin R. Warshaw Thomas C. Kinnear

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