

First it is not a healthy situation. Does the government really believe that uprooting a non-violent drug user from their family, school, work, etc., and placing them in prison is going to be helpful to them or society?

The billions spent could be put to better use by treatment for those who need it and education programs. During the years of the drug war and the DARE program, children and teens have had anti-drug messages shoved down their throats. More teens are using drugs now than ever before. We need to destigmatize the drug user. Over 2 million people in America smoke marijuana daily. Clearly they have not swallowed the propaganda, and clearly drug use has not lead to the downfall of our society. Drugs will always be around as long as the demand is there.

For the amount of money spent, DARE has not seen great results. It is purported that marijuana is the gateway drug, but what led to the marijuana? Considering the fact that tobacco kills about 430,700 people a year; more than all other drugs combined, prescription, and recreational. Alcohol comes in second with 110,640. Why don't we see more money and effort going to deter kids from tobacco and alcohol? Kids who went through the DARE program are as likely to experiment with drugs as those who don't go through the program. The fact is, the War on Drugs has failed. It hasn't accomplished what it is intended to do, except alienate large segments of our population for practicing the right to pursuit of happiness and freedom. In the end, it all comes down to personal choice. Teens are going to choose for themselves whether or not they are going to experiment with drugs. No school programs, or endless propaganda ads on TV and radio are going to deter them if they are interested in trying something out.

Today, I forced myself to listen to 93.1, just about every commercial break had back-to-back anti-marijuana ads funded by The White House's own Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). Apparently, this is done because 93.1 is the most listened to radio station by local teens. So the DJ's are required to play the anti-marijuana propaganda, which has no basis in fact. Many times these messages directly contradict the music played on this station, which supports the party scene, promiscuous sex, and drug use. The ONDCP turned some heads when it was found out they had been "directly influencing" scripts for popular prime-time television shows, such as *Home Improvement* and *90210*. Congress had okayed a plan to spend \$1 billion dollars to buy anti-drug commercial space. But they requested that the networks sell their time at half price, in exchange, the ONDCP would sacrifice some of their ad time if the networks put anti-drug messages in their shows.

More than ever, we are being bombarded with anti-drug propaganda through TV, radio, and school. We are led to believe drug-users are bad people who need to be locked up or helped. There are strides being made, however. All ready eight states have legalized marijuana for medicinal purposes despite the fact the government has kept marijuana on the

list of Schedule I Drugs, ranking it with heroine, PCP, and LSD. California state and local governments continue to pass pro-medicinal marijuana laws. Marijuana is on its way to being decriminalized in Canada, following in the foot steps of the majority of Western Europe, many who've adopted a harm-reduction policy to drug use.

The enforcement of the Drug War violates many of our rights given to us by the Bill of Rights, the supreme law of the land, as well as the rights of other people in countries like Columbia, who's fields are being sprayed with pesticides, making the natives sick and killing their crops, all in the name of the Drug War. Bottom-line is as long as one is not harming anyone, the government shouldn't tell one what to put into one's own body. The people have always known that, now the people have to take back our government, and exercise our democratic freedoms.

Sources: 1) *Why Marijuana Should Be Legal* by Ed Rosenthal and Steve Kubby, 2) *Marijuana Myths Marijuana Facts* by Lynn Zimmer, Ph.D. and John P. Morgan, M.D., 3) drugwarfacts.org, 4) drugsense.org, 5) *Everything You Know is Wrong* edited by Russ Kick.



Get Involved

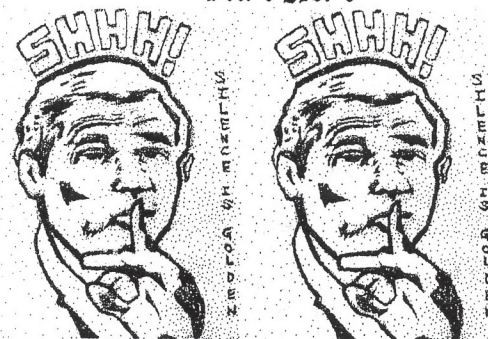
The Red Pill is looking for volunteers, writers wanted, or if you're not a writer and still want to help, copy and distribute at will.

****Saturday, March 20th, anti-war protest at Lincoln Park at Noon.**

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The Red Pill

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Silence is Golden

They say that truth is the first casualty of war, but in democracies we cannot afford that loss. A well-informed populace is key to a functioning democracy. With this current administration, secrecy has been top priority. Even before the terror of 9/11, this presidency sought to limit our right to know. Before 9/11, the Bush administration classified 33 million previously public records, and since 9/11 the classification of documents has kicked into overdrive—in what amounts to a war on truth. All wars are expensive; 5 billion dollars is spent annually by the federal government classifying, storing, and protecting sensitive documents; a 30% increase over the Clinton Administration. Granted, a certain amount of classification is necessary, but much of what is being classified today is overkill. Republican Rep. Peter Gross, Head of the House Intelligence Committee, said, "I read report after report after report all day, and they've got some type of classification cover on it. I'll say 'what's classified about it?'"

In a White House that is simultaneously stonewalling three federal investigations, secrecy is a way of life. Former Republican New Jersey Gov. Thomas Kean heads the independent commission investigating 9/11. Kean wants to interview the President, Vice-President, and other top officials. Kean has also threatened to subpoena the president's daily briefs. Because of the stonewalling the commission needs an extension on its May 27th deadline. The previous 9/11 commission also complained of non-cooperation on the part of the White House. When the first 9/11 report was finally released, the White House demanded that 28 pages be redacted, and it is widely believed that the redacted 28 pages pertained to Saudi Arabia. The White House is more subtly stonewalling the investigation into our pre-war intelligence; the President talks about the issue, but incomprehensibly so. In the January State of the Union Address, Bush said that Saddam had "weapons-of-

mass-destruction-related-program-activities." Whatever the fuck that means. Furthermore, the commission's report is not due until after Election Day—lucky for Bush—bad for democracy.

To be fair to this administration, they don't keep everything secret. Take for example, the grotesque pictures of Saddam's sons Uday and Qusay. Their bodies weren't even cold before the government propaganda machine got their pictures on every network and in every newspaper. Many watched the second Iraq war live on television. By using embedded journalists, the Pentagon could appear as though they were being open, but every image went past Pentagon censors. What we didn't see on CNN, MSNBC, or Faux News, was real war with real death. The Bush administration has also banned photos of the body bags coming home from Iraq. Former First Lady Barbara Bush in an interview with Good Morning America showed how well her son's propaganda has worked: "Why should we hear about body bags and deaths and how many... it's not relevant. So why should I waste my beautiful mind on something like that?" The most callous release of information was when a top White House official illegally leaked the identity of an undercover CIA agent as an act of retaliation against her husband. An investigation has been launched into who leaked the information to the media. Bush has expressed that the White House will cooperate, but that cooperation has not been forthcoming.

We should be suspicious of our government, especially when they operate more and more under a veil of secrecy. It is our duty to keep our government accountable, it is one of the checks and balances of our system, but accountability is impossible when every government file has "Top Secret" stamped on it, and the nightly news is cleared by a censor.

Who Really Were the 9/11 Hijackers

Just three days after the 9/11 attacks, the FBI released the names, photos, and personal details about the nineteen hijackers. When the list was released, FBI Director Robert Mueller said, "It is possible that the hijackers used false identities... If we have made mistakes then obviously that would be regrettable."¹ Apparently mistakes were made, but to date the FBI has not updated the names or photos. How did the FBI get these names? According to the official story all the hijackers were ticket holders who got past security with box-cutters. If they were ticket holders, their names or aliases would appear on the passenger lists. But the passenger lists as published by CNN, AP, and the *Boston Globe*, contain none of the names on the FBI list—or even any Arabic names.

The *Daily Telegraph* of London interviewed several of these men, who were upset about being identified as the perpetrators of 9/11.³ If investigators do not know who the hijackers were, then they do not know their motives, history, or connections. If these were just stolen identities, why

doesn't the FBI figure out who they really were? If not, how do we even know that there were nineteen hijackers?



Ahmed Alnami
Reported to be on Flight 93. Alive and well working as a supervisor at Saudi Arabian Airlines.

Waleed Alshahri
Reported to be on Flight 11. Works as a pilot for Saudi Arabian Airlines.

Abdulaziz Alomari
Reported to be on Flight 11. Works as an engineer at Saudi Telecoms. Says he lost his passport in Denver in 1995, has lived in Riyadh since 2000.



Saeed Alghamdi
Reported to be on Flight 93. Interviewed by Asharq Al Awsat, a Arabic-language newspaper in London after 9/11.

Khalid Almihdhar
Reported to be on Flight 77. BBC reported that evidence suggests that he is still alive.

Salem Alhazmi
Reported to be on flight 77. Is actually a worker at a Saudi Arabian chemical plant. He lost his passport in Cairo in 1998.

Sources:

1. Harrison, David. "Revealed: The Men With Stolen Identities." *Daily Telegraph*, September 23, 2001.
2. Kick, Russ. "Pieces of the 9/11 Puzzle" *Abuse your Illusions*. Disinformation Company Ltd. USA. 2003. pg. 209-210.
3. Schmidt, Susan. "Some Hijackers' Identities Uncertain" *Washington Post*, September 20, 2001.

Corporations Make Bank at Mesa State

Governor Owens has said that colleges should be run more like a business, and less like a public institution. If that means selling out and putting profit over people, then Mesa State is ahead of the curve.

In the College Center, the Wells Fargo lady sits patiently to hook a new account for the banking giant. Wells Fargo

knows that if they issue you a 'student credit card' with a 23.9% interest rate, they will own you forever.

Have you noticed that there are no Pepsi machines on campus? Well, it's because Coca-Cola and Mesa State have signed contracts. It amounts to Mesa State selling us, a captive market, to Coca-Cola.

Whether you get a coffee in Houston Hall, a bite to eat at the Cafeteria, or a slice of pizza at the Book Cliff Café, your money goes to the same place; the coffers of Sodexho-Marriot, a huge multi-national conglomerate. Sodexho is a French company that is the largest food provider in the world. Sodexho has long been involved in the private prison industry, and until recently was the largest stockholder in Corrections Corporation of America. Sodexho lobbies for longer prison sentences to fill beds in prisons it owns in Australia, France, and Great Britain. Sodexho is also known for its union-busting prowess, and recently was under fire when its so-called "Union Prevention Manual" was leaked to the press. Again, Mesa State makes money on the deal, and again, we are sold as a captive market to unethical corporate titans. But there is a choice, support your local lunch spots next to the college. The food is better.

The State of Disunion

\$'s spent annually by the Bush administration, classifying, storing, and guarding classified documents:	\$,000,000,000
# of previously public documents classified by the Bush administration prior to 9/11:	33,000,000
# of Americans in prison or jail:	2,033,331
Starting hourly wage for a Bookcliff Cafe dishwasher:	6.50
Price with tax of a Burger Combo at Bookcliff Cafe:	5.38
Total sales posted by Sodexho in 2003, in Euros:	11,687,000,000
# of deaths attributed to alcohol annually:	110,640
# of deaths attributed to cannabis ever:	0
\$'s spent on the war on drugs year to date:	\$,623,000,000
# of Americans arrested for cannabis year to date:	104,627
# of days Osama has been on the run:	849

DARE to End the War on Drugs

As of February 21st, the government has spent an estimated \$5.6 billion funding the War on Drugs just this year. After the events of 9/11, the Ad Council began running ads proclaiming that by participating in drug use, even smoking a joint, one is contributing to and supporting terrorism. Considering about 50% of the marijuana consumed in the US is grown here, and the rest is imported, the majority coming from Mexico, second is Canada. In reality, filling the SUV with gas does more to support a terrorist network than smoking a joint.

In my opinion, because drug use is looked upon as threatening to our society, we have an abundance of non-violent drug offenders in prison/jail. The US incarcerates more people than any other industrialized nation. There are 2,033,331 people in prison or jail. 60% of inmates in federal prison are non-violent drug offenders. The majority of