

DRUG WAR, from page 5

within the ministry of the interior, people would not be having an insurgency against their own government. So I am quite sure there were deaths of American service members in Afghanistan that would not have happened had it not been for the war on drugs.

E.G.: How much Afghan heroin makes it to the United States?

I.F.: It's coming more from South America, along with the cocaine. The violence we see there is cartels fighting each other. And boy, every time somebody like El Chapo Guzmán gets locked up, it's just piggy move-up within the organization. People are fighting each other for who's going to come out on top.

A lot of the violence we see in Mexican cartels and Chicago street gangs is due to gang and cartel members fighting for dominance. I learned back in the 1980s in Chicago that a drop in the violence may be nothing to cheer about. It usually meant that one larger gang had established dominance — probably more dangerous, as they then had more muscle to extort locals.

The violence in Mexico is out of control. If this were happening outside suburban Portland or Washington, D.C., I think we'd change our drug laws real fast. One of the papers I wrote several years ago, on the reason drug illegality has hung on as long as

it has in the U.S., is that most of the violence and corruption is outside the U.S. It's in the transit countries and the producer countries.

I personally think there's a real moral question about us insisting Mexico keep drugs illegal, while their stuff is simply supplying our market. It undercuts their democracy. Their citizens cannot vote and say, "Hey, enough of this! Let's stop the illegality" because (of) the foreign aid that we offer and our military assistance. We've got a big club to hang over them. That undercutting democracy around the world — in Afghanistan and Mexico, Central America — I think is another of the big damages caused by the war on drugs that people in the U.S. mostly don't think about.

E.G.: Why aren't more police officers, who see some of the same aspects of the drug war that you've seen, in favor of ending prohibition? Are they afraid they'll lose their jobs?

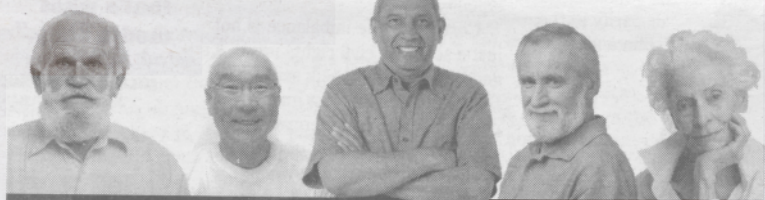
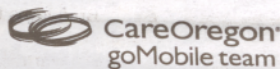
I.F.: Police departments are benefiting from the war on drugs. For example, the federal 1033 Program, which is the Pentagon giving surplus military equipment to local law enforcements specifically authorized to fight the war on drugs. And they added the war on terrorism more recently, but there isn't that much terrorism going on in Oregon, or anywhere else domestically for that matter, so it's the drugs. And police departments are getting

equipment that I'd previously seen only in Iraq — MRAP, these mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles; it's like a tank.

And what's become of community policing, Officer Friendly? Instead, some of those pictures coming out of Ferguson, Mo. — people weren't that geared up when they were driving around in Afghanistan, and there's something wrong when our police are taking this "us-them" view toward the local population. There's no excuse for this sort of equipment. A lot of it is used for serving drug warrants. Instead of just quietly going up to somebody's house, we're going to knock the door down. And if you've read stuff by Radley Balko, the number of people injured and killed by police trying to serve drug warrants and getting the wrong house, this is contributing to police militarization and lack of trust between police and local populations.

E.G.: Do you think you'll see the end of drug prohibition in your lifetime?

I.F.: Oh yeah. As far as marijuana goes, I would bet that in 10 years' time, we are going to look back on this and think, "What in the world were we thinking?" And given that there is a worldwide movement, especially led by Europe, to address some of the harder drugs, I think that's going to come too. We're moving in that direction, and it looks to me like in the past couple of years, there's been quite a sea change. We see that in Washington and Colorado, the sky did not fall. Now we've got Alaska and Oregon about to go into production. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, teen use has not increased any place where it's been legalized, so saying the kids are going to get into it is counterfactual. Highway accidents are not up in Colorado. We're getting to almost a critical mass of evidence and experience, and people are going to calm down about this.

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Sept 9..... 8-10 a.m.
Sept 23..... 8-10 a.m.

Clackamas County Community Corrections-Transition Center, 1024 Main Street 97045
Sept 2..... 1-3 p.m.
Sept 16..... 1-3 p.m.
Sept 30..... 1-3 p.m.

Lloyd Center, 2nd Floor by Cinnabon
Sept 9..... 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Sept 23..... 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Portland Rescue Mission, 111 W Burnside
Sept 3..... 8-10 a.m.
Sept 10..... 8-10 a.m.
Sept 17..... 8-10 a.m.
Sept 24..... 8-10 a.m.

Street Roots, 211 NW Davis
Sept 16..... 8-10 a.m.

Union Gospel Mission, 3 NW Third Ave.
Sept 22..... 2-4 p.m.
Sept 29..... 2-4 p.m.

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

TUES	9/8	MISSISSIPPI PIZZA
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THURS	9/10	BIG ASS SANDWICHES
MON	9/14	PACIFIC PIE COMPANY*
TUES	9/15	SALVADOR MOLLY'S
WED	9/16	COUNTY CORK PUBLIC HOUSE
THURS	9/17	THE OBSERVATORY
FRI	9/18	HARLOW
SAT	9/19	ADDY'S SANDWICH BAR
MON	9/21	THE FLORIDA ROOM
TUES	9/22	TIN SHED
WED	9/23	FRACK BURGER**
THURS	9/24	PRASAD
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