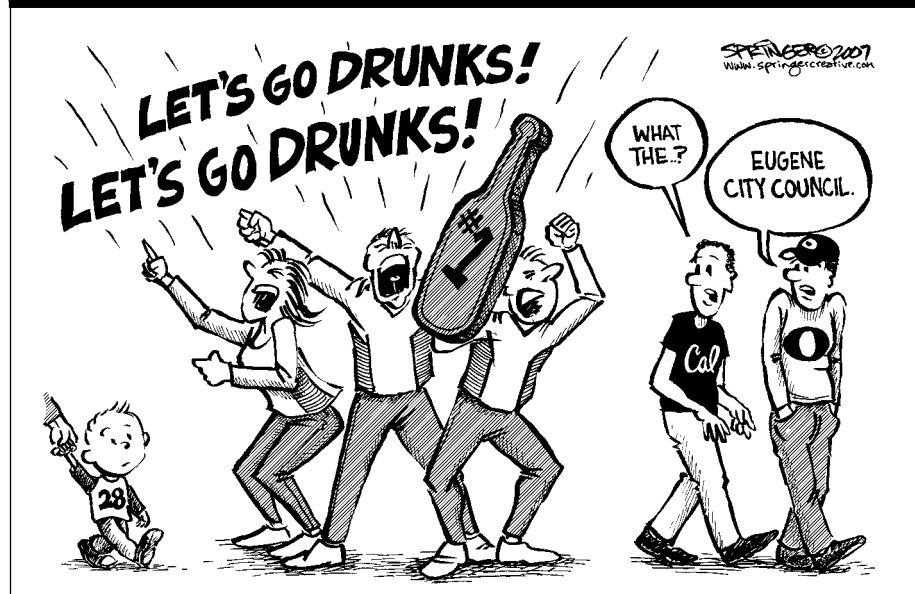




as a direct result of U.S. intelligence agencies overseeing the distribution routes for this very lucrative crop. For examples of complicity, read "Who Benefits from the Afghan Opium Trade?" by Michel Chossudovsky, Gary Webb's book *Dark Alliance: The CIA, the Contras, and the Crack Cocaine Explosion* and *Deep Cover* by Mike Levine.

Millions of drug users have been locked up and billions of taxpayer dollars spent, yet an estimated 10 million people worldwide are still heroin dependent, with over one million users residing in the U.S.

Why has the War on Drugs failed so miserably? Looking under its surface, this war was never meant to be won. It was created as a cash cow — with myriad government agencies and their corporate partners milking its never-ending wealth of subsidies.

During the 1960s and '70s, most of the world's heroin supply originated in the Golden Triangle of Southeast Asia. In the 1990s, the majority of heroin seized in the U.S. came from South America. In this century, military forces and U.S. intelligence agencies have relocated once again to produce this year's glaring statistic: In 2007, Afghanistan supplied 95 percent of the world's heroin.

Robert Simms
Corvallis

A NEW WORLD VIEW

I read the news sites today. I read about veteran soldiers failing to receive adequate treatment for their wounds, physical and psychological. I read about Blackwater killing civilians and brazenly calling them "armed combatants," hear about how our forces have swell armor where one in 16 who are hit succumb to their wounds, the rest left mangled. Double amputees earning less than hired killers, our boys getting ground up for rich men's gain.

Dissent is not what we need. Our nation is crumbling, our economy in shambles. Racial tensions are veiled in anti-immigration and fueled by packagable stereotypes. We watch our words to not sound anti-American or racist or ignorant. Freedom of speech is a luxury that national security cannot afford. It is that freedom which will be our salvation. If we cannot ask the hard questions without punishment, if we cannot raise our small individual voices in concert, as a population, we will be subjected by an oligarchy of bankers. The same bankers consuming our taxes, raising ATM fees and waging the never-ending war. We need to take back our nation and return to reason and truth as opposed to simple authority.

If there is anything that you do today, please do this: Go to www.zeitgeist-

movie.com and watch. Have an open mind, understand it is objective, aimed at changing opinions. If you disagree, I urge you to research what you cannot accept. When I first watched this movie, I was outraged yet skeptical. I have researched much of the content and now have an entirely new context with which to view the world.

Charlie Klausmeier
Eugene

PINK SLIP FOR HARRY

Senate Majority Leader Reid is such a nice guy. Bespectacled and soft-spoken, he'd make a perfect church deacon or Presbyterian minister. A church mouse would be his friend; he'd keep the kitty leashed. At the local bar, he'd down Shirley Temples while puffing on a meerschaum. A bookkeeper for the Rotarians. A marshal for the Shriners. Yes — that Harry is such a nice guy.

It would be such a pleasure to fire him.

Weeks ago Sen. Russ Feingold proposed a censure of Bush over the Iraq War, since both Reid and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi have soft-pedaled the impeachment process against our king. Neither thinks it's necessary. Now Pelosi admits that the Dems have failed to deliver on the Iraq War. Well, speak for yourself, speaker — and Harry, too.

America needs neither puffing pipes nor cleric's collars, sugary drinks nor fat mice. We need a sweaty pipe fitter wielding a hissing blowtorch. We need a Hulk Hogan wielding a folding chair. We need The Exterminator on a roaring Harley. We need some blood, sweat and tears. And a pink slip for Harry.

Add another for Nancy, who has taken Botox to a new level by actually freezing herself in time. Before the 2006 elections, she promised not to impeach the King if she became Speaker. Always good to telegraph your plans to the enemy just before the troops align.

Promises kept!

The Harry and Nancy Show: A church mouse hugging a nerveless kitty, both stoned on botoxed catnip. Find me a mastiff.

Tom Erwin
Springfield

UNBELIEVABLE

Today I received another in a long series of spam letters from Dr. Dean, Democratic Party chair, entitled, "Unbelievable." I typically respond to these spams, mostly for fun. I don't kid myself that my responses or opinions float their way to the top of the pond, but it makes me feel better. I thought I'd share today's response. Hopefully a lower level party hack will read this, and pass it upwards.

Unbelievable is right!

I can't believe, for instance, that the Dems

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