

# THE FREE PRESS

## THE WAR ON DRUGS



SPRING SEMESTER 2013  
ISSUE 4





# THE FREE PRESS

## In This Issue

**Drugs**

**Love**

**Justice**

**Facts**

**Trips**

**Censored**

# University of Connecticut

Department of Anti-Fuckery

**Censored**

To the University Community,

What an interesting year this has been, for the University, the student body, and of course, those of use here at the Department of Anti-Fuckery.

Things have changed a lot, but one thing hasn't: the egregious war on drugs persists. So while University logos come and go, and folks whine about it on facebook, millions of Americans remain in cages for non-violent drug crimes. Children remain without parents, and [we] all remain without justice.

The Free Press has changed leaders, members, and style. But one thing will never change, and that is [our] commitment to un-fucking fuckery. It is [our] opinion that one of the largest instances of modern day fuckery is this "war on drugs", and [we're] here to say something about it.

Enjoy the ride,

The University of Connecticut Department of Anti-Fuckery



# Stuff Stoners Love

[and why I don't understand]

B.Caws

## FUNYONS

Go out and get some *real* onion rings

## WINGS OVER STORRS

The smell is enough for anybody sober to gag

## NAMING THEIR BONGS

Seriously? Just, why? Please email reasons to  
president@uconn.edu

## DAZED AND CONFUSED

*"alright alright alright"*

## ANY MUSICIAN WITH THE LAST NAME

'MARLEY'

EVERY song is about smoking.  
Give it a rest would ya.

## TALKING ABOUT HOW HIGH THEY ARE

Wait a sec, you smoked a lot of pot and got really  
high? *That blows my mind.*

## /R/TREES

"Hey guys! Wanna see my new pipe? It's called  
mighty mouse."

## WHITE SOCKS AND SLIP ON VANS

Almost as bad as crocs.

## PINEAPPLE EXPRESS

I just don't get it.

## VISINE

Sure, it's *your eyes* that will give you away; not how  
you act or smell like dope.

## CLAM BAKES

"Hey guys! Let's sit in a car and blow smoke in each  
other's face!"

## TACO BELL

I don't like my food to burn on the way *out*.

## SUPER SMASH BROS

Alright, I understand this one.

## THE BIG LEBOWSKI

I'm sure it has something to do with the liberal use  
of the word "dude".

## ASKING 'DEEP' QUESTIONS AT

INOPPORTUNE TIMES

C'mon man, just let me eat my burger without  
wondering if all the black holes in the universe  
were once civilizations that grew too large and  
destroyed themselves.

## DRUG RUGS

You wouldn't wear an itchy tweed snuggie;  
so why these?

## NUTELLA

Tasteless goop that is apparently required for *all*  
college students to own.







# Life, the Universe, and Psilocybin

## [The Hitchhiker's Guide to 'Shrooms]

Humans have been aware of the changes in perception caused by certain species of mushrooms for what seems like longer than we can remember. Some of the earliest forms of record-keeping, cave paintings, have been found to be full of mushroom imagery in almost any place on the planet that psychoactive mushrooms grow. African cave paintings feature tall-bodied humans with mushrooms for heads, while further north, the work of an ancient shaman shows the figure of a person with small mushrooms sprouting from every inch of the body except for the head, which was depicted as a giant bee. Anthropologists postulate that this culture was aware that honey is a good preservative for psilocybin mushrooms. Despite the spread of prohibition, many tribal cultures (especially in the Amazon) make use of psilocybin mushroom for rituals.

The psychoactive chemicals in MOST psychoactive mushrooms (excepting such mushrooms as *Amanita muscaria*), are psilocybin and psilocin. However, as far as your brain is concerned, it's all psilocin because psilocybin is converted to psilocin before it gets into your brain. Recently, these two chemicals have been creating a buzz in the psychology world, as studies with psilocybin on people experiencing anxiety and depression (especially those who have been diagnosed with cancer or other life-threatening diseases) are showing incredibly promising results. One study re-evaluated subjects 8-16 months after their psilocybin treatments and found that 25% reported that they still saw a positive change in their lives while only 7% reported a negative change. Another study was conducted where close friends and

family members were questioned, and it was found that their reports were consistent with the data from subjects, further indicating that psilocybin can genuinely improve openness and overall outlook on life.

This issue is especially important to me because I was recently diagnosed with a life-threatening illness (for the sake of anonymity, I'm choosing to leave out some details of my experience). Shortly before the beginning of one of my semesters at UConn, I was told that without immediate treatment I would die within a few months, if not a month. I had to uproot my entire life, and spend the better part of the next 6 months confined to a hospital room, enduring physical and emotional pain at a severity that I had previously thought I would never have to experience. Afterwards, I was released from the hospital with a 97% chance that I was done with my disease. I'm just a few years out of treatment now with no complications, but the experience has fundamentally changed me as a person, and how I respond to the world around me.

Since my treatment, I've noticed a severe drop in my motivation. School work seems trivial to me ever since I spent so much time just trying to stay alive, and it's often hard to convince myself to do the bare minimum. Even things I enjoy, such as playing guitar, seem to take more effort than they used to. These are all the symptoms of my anxiety/depression and these all started after my treatment. Fortunately, a friend of mine introduced me to psilocybin mushrooms about a year ago and I've been able to use them to successfully manage my mental health issues ever since.

The experience itself is difficult to describe, and is effected by a large number of variables. For my first dose, I was unaware of the potential mental health benefits and had a relatively small amount, so it wasn't too intense. Colors became more vibrant, and the world looked sharper and clearer. I also felt like my field of vision was wider. It was similar to the experience of going from a small low quality computer monitor to a big high-definition screen. This was accompanied by the "melting down" of concepts in my own mind. Ideas like social status and authority were extremely confusing to me, and remain that way every time I take psilocybin.

Because I enjoyed my first experience, I decided to take mushrooms again and in higher doses. It didn't take long to notice what is sometimes called the "afterglow" effect, where my perspective on life was shifted to be more positive and my overall mood was improved. I'm not the same person I was before my diagnosis, but because of psilocybin mushrooms, I'm able to be happier and more energetic than I would be without them. I feel that there is strong experimental evidence to support the therapeutic use of psilocybin, and my own personal experience only serves to further solidify that belief. This fungus has many uses from helping the terminally ill cope with death, to curing addiction to hard drugs such as heroin and cocaine. To deny this medication to those who could benefit the most out of ignorance and fear is unethical and inhumane. Hopefully someday the world will conquer its fear of altered states of consciousness, and take full advantage of the positive effects of psilocybin.

- Mr. X

# The Experience

This Tuesday of the new semester was cold and fearless. The first day back was relaxingly slow. The world for us that evening was planning to reveal its incomprehensible and incredible nature.

It all began at the top of one of our dorm's stairs. It is quiet there and possesses an encapsulating view. Stillness does live there. Two friends and I. Sid was one of them. We sat there at the top of these stairs, devouring peanut butter and mushroom sandwiches.

***"I couldn't even taste it", we agreed.***

It was from there that we set off, gradually embarking on an indescribable experience. Down the stairs of the rabbit hole we ran and outside into the chill of the night. Finding an obscure spot, we choked on a pipe to calm our nerves before making our way toward the Drama-Music Building. It was only about seven o'clock and our night was young. The three of us silently trekked through parking lots. Sid noted the peaceful harshness of the streetlights, and their gradually increasing luminosity. *It was setting in.* I slowly grew more excited for the building's warmth.

We entered into an enormous green entrance hall. The visuals of its architecture are astounding. The experience that night was beautifully overwhelming. I was suddenly distracted by a sudden urge.

I really had to pee.

Yet, under the influence, a simple task like finding a restroom became an adventure in itself. Laughing and smiling, we strode down long white hallways. Strange thoughts slowly drifted in and out of my conscious. [From where?] Together, the three of us bantered universal truths. "You'll never have power in this life so long as you crave it" and "as soon as you think you understand, you cannot be further mistaken".

Just like that, we were in the bathroom. I simply found myself in locations that night. My memory was askew and time moved obscurely. I was torn between two realities. I quickly relieved myself, and we decided to finish off our bag of magic snacks. The three of us then sat in a big white room in the building. I am really not sure for how long. But the three of us sat there.

We are all already there. In that place of still completeness.

Storrs is a really fine place. Cold, quaint and quiet in mid-January. The library especially. One of us had left to venture to his room, so that left Sid and I and the virtually empty Babbidge building. My trip was still on the come up now. We climbed the stairs to the 4th floor. You can sit on the windowsills up there. So we did, for hours. I saw a guard. He was solemnly sitting in solitude, reading. I saw rows and rows of knowledge in books. The Library of Babel. I stood in the middle of a row and didn't feel overwhelmed as I previously had.

Eventually we started to talk.

We were on the come down now.

What felt like hours had flown merely by? I don't remember saying much. We touched on the idea of remaining present in our lives. About the conscience choice to remain in the moment. Nirvana was all on my mind. I asked Sid and he told me "shhh". He was right because I didn't know what I was talking about. Nirvana can't be understood. We talked about how we just got fucking rocked and needed sleep. My internal thoughts were much more personal.

My mind went to childhood. Memories of being read to by my Grandmother throughout the endless summer nights. The entire experience was personal. I learned to love solitude more.

I see a world where everyone already knows what we knew that night.

And without the help of anything outside themselves, too. I drifted to sleep remembering nights in Maine. I was laying under a skylight in my Grandparent's attic. I saw the moonlight shining throughout the room on my siblings faces. Their tired bodies, asleep and scattered across the carpeted floor. I saw the beautiful love of my life. She was peacefully sleeping in a white bed of her own. It was her and I again. I saw myself taking it all in. Just one breath at a time.

The next morning I woke up experiencing a deep feeling of bliss and a knowing. A knowing that there was no need to go back to where I was the night before. So I smiled.

**- Gordon Hoff**



# MDMA Therapy

I am happy. I am outgoing. I am confident, empathetic, and introspective. I am productive, intelligent, and hardworking.

I am a regular MDMA user

MDMA. Ecstasy. Molly. Rolls. All of these names refer to 3,4-methylenedioxy-N-methamphetamine. I would like to clear up a few misconceptions that you may have about MDMA. You've probably heard that it makes people go crazy, dance all night, and end up in the hospital from dehydration. Or, they get so thirsty that they drink too much water and end up with hyponatremia. These are both legitimate concerns and reasons why MDMA should not be used lightly.

Like any substance, whether it's alcohol, caffeine, or [insert substance here], it is important to know what you are doing before you do it and be prepared. If you are planning on taking MDMA, make sure that you have access to enough water and do not overexert yourself. If you're going to dance all night, take cool down breaks periodically and make sure you've eaten a nutritious meal beforehand.

Due to the nature of the black market to which MDMA distribution is restricted, other substances are often mixed with it or sold alone as MDMA. In this case, an individual can encounter harm when attempting to use MDMA, but this harm comes from the other substances and not from MDMA itself. This is very important; I almost died from taking a bad pill which was sold to me as MDMA but contained a different substance.

It's easy to test what you buy before you take it, and this can prevent you from having a bad experience.

With these precautions in mind, MDMA can be a very helpful substance. When I am under the influence of MDMA, I am not shy or inhibited. I am free to act how I want to act and say what I want to say. Alcohol has a similar effect on me, but tends to create new thoughts and actions that may not fit with my true self; intoxication from alcohol is very unclear and uncontrolled. MDMA is just the opposite. When under the influence of MDMA, I am very much myself, in control and clear headed. I am free to engage new acquaintances and old friends alike in heartfelt conversation. Words come out from deep inside effortlessly and without hesitation. I am able to verbalize things which may have been on my mind for a long time but held back out of fear or nervousness. Other people seem closer; their emotions are clear, legible, and important. I am able to detect a lie, hyperbole, or equivocation and pinpoint the reason for it. If it is fear, I will pry for its source. If it is nervousness or discomfort, I will try to ameliorate it. Thus, MDMA creates a warm, easy environment for productive, therapeutic conversation from which all involved parties can benefit.

MDMA is known as a rave or club drug because people often dance while using it. This is frequently spun as a dangerous and reckless effect,

but I think dancing is a very therapeutic activity. MDMA does not *make* you dance, it removes the reservations you have about what you are feeling, from self consciousness to awkwardness or any other negative emotions, and allows you to freely express yourself. There is no blackout, no loss of self or control; you are yourself, dancing to the beat of your own emotions.

The most beneficial part of my experiences with MDMA has been in my everyday life.

Going through them and seeing myself in that capacity has helped me to integrate the positive aspects of the experiences into my personality. Since I began using MDMA, I am more outgoing: I am not afraid to talk to anyone, regardless of how well I know them. I am more empathetic: I care about what's going on in other people's lives and want to help them. I am more productive: I don't hold back from doing what it takes to accomplish my goals. And I am always ready to have a good time.

Looking for clean molly?  
Trying to avoid eating a nice, healthy blend of laundry detergent, salt, and meth?  
Get your test kits today!

Available from your favorite harm reduction crews at:  
[www.bunkpolice.org](http://www.bunkpolice.org) and  
[www.dancesafe.org](http://www.dancesafe.org)

- Frank Cervo



Go green or go home  
Go green or go home  
America  
Too many of my people aren't going home  
Are rolled into cop cars and whisked up like smoke  
I have rolled too many J's in white suburban landscape to think you're looking for someone  
    White like zigzag  
Not brown like  
    Earth  
Like New Jim Crow  
Like zigzag through concrete rat trap of savage  
Blue and white and blunts and  
How many medical marijuana patients have to get locked up  
But that's not even the problem  
Decrim is just an excuse to lock up the ones you don't like  
    AND Let the white ones... right ones go free  
In the state of Connecticut the Drug free school zone policy demands mandatory minimums  
In a state where Possession under a half ounce is a parking ticket  
That is, if you are in a school zone  
    Hartford  
Smoking in your house  
    Bridgeport  
Or on the street  
    New Haven  
They can send you back  
    Black  
Downtown. Chain cuffed and beat, lock you up with no hesitation to hit  
    He resists  
I'm tired of people telling me the drug war is a joke  
That its for people in America who can't deal with being sober  
Just want to avoid their problems by getting high  
    The problem is US  
    US government creating black market inflation  
Cartels run countries and south America is dying by the thousands  
Their blood is soaking the soil sewing it for growth  
    More bullets  
    Product  
    Profit  
    Bodies  
A war takes soldiers  
And US Police are happy to take kickback to take the position  
Arm up, so they do, shot fast, so they do  
Bust drugs, raise price  
Profit, more guns, more guns  
Till Cartel's have more money than some countries military  
Till there is no place left safe of the violence

Maybe                      Except America  
                                 Not

**Devin Samuels**  
**[Poetic Release]**







# THE UNITED STATES TODAY IS IN CRISIS

Over the past 40 years, US the prison population has exploded into the largest system of mass incarceration in the world. We imprison a higher percentage of our people than Russia, China, Iran, or anyone else, with the possible exception of North Korea, but that's not even certain.

Perhaps to some, this is a point of pride. Of American exceptionalism. Maybe this is what "We're number one!" is really all about.

## The imprisonment of a full 1% of our adult population.

Many of us do have a certain instinct in us, one that says: these people committed crimes, and they deserve punishment. But that begs the question: *what is a crime?*

The truly disturbing aspect of what has happened to our criminal justice system is that

OVER 60% OF THE PEOPLE IN PRISONS AND JAILS TODAY ARE SERVING TIME FOR NON-VIOLENT OFFENSES.

One quarter of the incarcerated 1% are in there for drug offenses. These are often people with real substance abuse issues that can and should be treated by doctors and nurses-not by police and jail cells.

These people are not vicious criminals. They are human beings. People whose families have been broken, whose children have been left without parents, people whose lives have been ruined and cast into a vicious cycle that our extremely punitive criminal justice system has created.

This is not the norm for a democracy. This is a national disgrace.

When we break down the figures and look at certain demographics, the picture becomes even more frightening.



## Let's look at race

African Americans comprise 13.6% of the American population, but almost 40% of the prison population. Almost 5% of the entire adult black male population is behind bars. And that's a snapshot of this moment, right now. Over the course of his lifetime, the average black male has a 28.5% chance of spending time in prison.

If we look at the number of males aged 18-44 who are either imprisoned or on parole, more than 8% of this population is under the control of the criminal justice system. The total number of Americans under control of the prison industrial system (in prison, jail, on probation, or parole) is 7.3 Million.

## Let's compare the US to the rest of the world.

First we can look at our neighbors: Canada incarcerates 116 per 100,000 residents, Mexico imprisons 209 per 100,000, and the US vastly overshadows these rates with the world record 743 per 100,000. When we look at Western Europe, we find the highest levels of incarceration in the UK, with 125 per 100,000 citizens behind bars. That's one fifth the USA's rate of incarceration, and that's the highest one.

Countries with low levels of incarceration include India, with a population of over 1 billion, and an incarceration rate of 40 per 100,000. Iceland has 44 per 100,000, while Norway boasts 70 per 100,000, and Germany holds 90 per 100,000.

China has a prison population of just 111 per 100,000. Russia has 502 per 100,000, while Iran maintains 333 per 100,000. These countries are supposed to be America's biggest threats, often hailed as antithetical to the principles of "democracy" and most importantly: "freedom": *yet they criminalize their citizens to a far lesser extent.*

Throughout most of the twentieth century, the US remained within the high end of western democracies, averaging between 100-200 per 100,000 from at least as far back as 1880, and lasting until the 1970s. Today it is by far the most prolific incarcerator in the world. How did it get this way?



For most of the 20th century, the US held between 100 and 200 inmates per 100k, peaking at 206 per 100k during WWII. At around 1980, however, the total rate of persons being held by federal, state, and local incarceration facilities increased once again to over 200 per 100k, and ever since has exploded. The graph ends in the year 2000, but more recent data shows the US total incarceration rate in 2010 to be 743 per 100k. But these are not just numbers.

### Policies are scraps of paper on which people think and critique

These ideas have very real human consequences. In California, 3 strike laws mandate utterly absurd life sentences for offenses like stealing \$2.50 worth of toilet paper, or slices of pizza, or golf clubs.

Scholars like Nils Christie point to the deinstitutionalization of the American mental health system, and the extremely punitive regime America has put into place in order to deal with the issue of drug abuse in society. Most of those charged in California [roughly 40%] have been clinically diagnosed as either mentally retarded or suffering from severe psychological problems. Prisons function *abhorrently* as mental hospitals, yet that is how many of them are utilized.

Roughly one million non-violent criminals currently inhabit America's vast network of prisons and jails. More than half have drug abuse issues. This is a revolving door, with recidivism rates the in the US as high as 50% nationwide. Entering jail is not a pleasant experience. As Chris Hedges explains:

Once you disappear behind prison walls you become prey. Rape. Torture. Beatings. Prolonged isolation. Sensory deprivation. Racial profiling. Chain gangs. Forced labor. Rancid food. Children imprisoned as adults. Prisoners forced to take medications to induce lethargy. Inadequate heating and ventilation. Poor health care. Draconian sentences for nonviolent crimes. Endemic violence.

For many, prison functions more like a criminal boot camp more than anything else. These people were not born with the instinct to harm others. Overwhelmingly, those that commit extremely violent crimes have prior arrests for non-violent crimes. They learned the behaviour from the culture and environment that incarceration itself creates.

The system is a vicious cycle. When released from prison, ex-convicts, especially those of color, face extreme hurdles to re-integration into society. In the United States, release from prison comes with a criminal record which adds excessive scrutiny to the process of accessing paid work. Without a decent job, healthcare is often inaccessible. And

in many states, former convicts are barred from forms of public assistance, subject to extended monitoring, and suffer extreme social stigma from overall society.

In some ways, however, it de-stigmatizes incarceration itself. To young people with excessive tendencies towards novelty seeking behaviour, the law itself creates an opportunity for deviance. Incarceration becomes a rite of passage in some circles, social pressure pushes certain groups towards criminal behaviour, and the segregation from the mainstream culture enables and encourages this cycle. In other words: When your only hope for economic survival is to sell drugs, you're going to sell drugs.

Is this justice? Is closing the door to public services, scholarship programs, jobs, and numerous other paths towards social advancement the proper punishment for substance abuse crimes? Should these behaviours be defined as crimes at all, or are there more effective methods of treating the social ills of drug abuse?

And we have not even begun to discuss the way in which prisons are used as low wage factories for innumerable American companies. If you've purchased clothes from Victoria's Secret, shopped at Walmart, own a Texas Instruments calculator, or called customer service at TWA airlines then you've dealt with prison labor. It's hidden amidst the vast supply chains of the modern industrial landscape, an archipelago of prisons run for profit.

In the words of Chris Hedges:

"How is it that a 15-year-old in Newark who the country labels worthless to the economy, who has no hope of getting a job or affording college, can suddenly generate 20,000 to 30,000 dollars a year once trapped in the criminal justice system?"

At every juncture in this system of building prisons, running prisons, providing raw materials (including food services, construction inputs, human beings, etc), and renting out prisoner's bodies for extremely low wages, there is a massive transfer of wealth in progress from taxpayer expenditure to private profits. This too is a vicious cycle, as the top 3 private prison contractors spent \$45 Million over the past 10 years lobbying for harsher sentencing laws - and more prisons.

So with all this spending and lobbying,  
what's the story going to look like in  
another 5?

**-Blanye East**







# SUBSTANCE CULTURE BLASÉ IN THE FLOURISH

The argument for ending the war on drugs is a clear cut conversation with a real endgame, but here I am interested in cutting through the cultural stigma and disillusion surrounding the love and hate of altered states. From both sides of the aisle dividing the two sides of drug politics, I-man wishes to draw dissidence out of the pews, through the double doors of ideological chapel, and out into the ambiguous, warm, morally colorful area that is the real sunshine which we may feel on each of our faces. Past the legal and logistical side of this suggestion towards [sensitivity], the discussion I am spelunking into here is as simplistic a search for satisfaction as I can find in my own relationship with getting silly and real and unreal on drugs and the subtle or overt dysfunction we can all see in other people's relationships with substance.

Don't get me wrong – I really enjoy getting high on some *sweet, sticky, crystally sativa*, and I think the stigma surrounding any drug, usually a product of prohibition politics, is totally deplorable. But even as a connoisseur of cannabis, someone who has smoked a lot over a long period of time, habitually smoking a ton of weed makes it harder to learn shit and grow up – that is, to make the compromise that is

institutional maturity. I would not be the person I am today without having indulged– I regret nothing, because the regret is not justified. My choices have brought me to this point, and I have been blessed with a strong enough brain. But I do have a newfound respect for my extreme level of cultural and literal wealth and want to give a crack at fulfilling some small truth, anything worth doing that's actually right. Unfortunately, this takes an endless amount of effort. I need to condone a ton of terrible shit to not go crazy and move far away to lead a purer life. I allow this to go on out of respect for my luck so far - my obligation to everyone I know - and a sense of humor.

I intellectually justified smoking lots of weed because the world is a terrible place if you look too hard or don't look hard enough.

It didn't help that the police officer from the 5th grade D.A.R.E. class lied to me – lied to us all!



At the same time that we have our reasons to stay straight, having fun and having a sense of humor seems to need no justification. Fun and humor seem inherently good, and drugs symbolize the undeniable value of living life to its fullest in human cohesion. The question remains as to what fullest is, and that seems to be completely subjective.

We have brains that are regulated internally by chemicals that are perpetually released at moments of positive and negative stimuli. Technology, food, and moments of social acceptance or rejection all trigger a rush of chemicals made by the brain that are meant to affect our mood and behavior. *Love and near death probably get you really high*. Those who scorn drug use in itself are likely to hold something dear that would make them a hypocrite. The notion of sobriety itself only speaks to the stigma of direct chemical input. As a society, besides the drunk coffee and the popped pills, we are always cycling through habits and addictions. As a society, alcohol is condoned as a coping mechanism, a release, probably because it represses feeling and direct experience and is pretty useful for keeping the population *stupid and happy*. We are always moving between highs and lows dictated by biological law. That is the only objectivity this conversation grants.



# ING, FERMENTING VASE OF IMMINENT VICTORY “...and stay in school.”

I am speaking to the disillusion we have all contracted in believing that we need - let alone that we deserve - an external source of satisfaction past being alive and well with ground beneath our feet. Or, that apathy is a justification for limiting oneself – merely, I deny that an attitude of cynicism and confusion is good enough reason to numb oneself. At some point, everyone should find their habit of anesthesia unsatisfying. All of you will read this differently and the fact that satisfaction is ambiguous is the operative condition of this mild criticism. But my greatest apprehension in this, the inseparable passive-aggressivity:

By pointing out a societal dissatisfaction that is a much bigger thing than just a bag of weed -

I alienate myself from the clear cut just-cause that is the true aim of this drug war issue. In saying these things I slight myself socially in the eyes of the guys and gals with whom I have shared a joint or gotten *hella faded*. In this way I run the risk of distracting the hard work of my peers here, their words so diligently dedicated to the collective good, one of many attempts to correct decades of litigious irrationality and corruption.

It seems unfair to the consistency of our mission to, in this context, raise my hand and hesitantly mumble that I think all of culture is on an endless hunt for socio-chemical satisfaction. I want to let you guys and gals know that I would love to do it again. Just not right now,

because for better or worse, I have to finish this article.

I feel like I'm bringing up a valuable point that usually gets swept under the rug because it is simply too difficult to internalize. Everyone is too scared or too cool or too awkward or too high to admit that things aren't great when they aren't obviously not in our perfect little world here at uconn. In this case, the only thing we have to fear is our own ignorance – a lack of understanding being the seed for this human terror, our inability to know everything and the realization that we control so very little of the conglomeration of our lives. “What a crusty puss puss this kid is, going on about brain development and social alienation. He isn't even that eloquent lol, lets go shoot up and watch the price is right reruns until we know all the prices,” some may say among themselves in reaction. Go for it. In the end, all I want is to activate some doubt in y'all's brains. I know its there.

Reach out and touch it.

So don't ever do drugs, kids.  
Or do them, whatever.  
You'll probably be fine.

I don't know. I don't think anyone knows what's best for everyone because every body is always different, the life experience a singular chaos calmed by plurality. Just don't do dumb shit that may make drugs look bad, because there are no good or bad drugs.

There are only shamans and junkies – we! People!

“Ecstasy is a complex emotion containing elements of joy, fear, terror, triumph, surrender, and empathy. What has replaced our prehistoric understanding of this complex of ecstasy now is the word comfort, a tremendously bloodless notion. Drugs are not comfortable, and anyone who thinks they are comfortable or even escapist should not toy with drugs unless they're willing to get their noses rubbed in their own stuff.”

– Terence McKenna

**Written by One Blood**

# Dirty Drug Money

It's Spring break and a bunch of your friends go on a long boat ride around Panama City Beach to soak up the sun and drink away midterms. As the festivities begin, your boat starts drifting farther and farther away. Your captain and crew don't realize drifting up away from the dock until they come across a never before found island; proceeding later in the drunken aurora.

Due to the lack of being contact with the outside world, your crew decides they never want to leave vacation, and stay on this island for their rest of their lives. What would a crew like that need to survive and make a new society? I break it down into 3 categories. First being Iron and Steel; without these raw materials no buildings can be made, and no sort of transportation can be manufactured. These materials would help furnish society with trade, in order to sell products and bring in products at a lower value to stimulate growth. Second, the only way to develop trade is to cultivate marine transportation. Lastly, you need some way to connect all of the citizens together, a communication company, per se, that allows business people to talk and start making profit for the society.

What if I was to tell you that one company was able to combine all of these powers under one specific group's portfolio, owning the power to distinguish which societies make it or don't in the working-class world, based on *their* investments alone.

## The British-East India Company

A company over 300 years old that has evolved into four major companies that still exist today.

### *Stanton Marine*

Specializes in all aspects of marine transportation, is recognized world wide as one of the most respected marine ship company in the business.

### *Tristar Iron & Steel*

Produces steel for close to half the globe.

### *Lansafe Communications*

Connects the entire world under their company's global telephone markets.

### *MacDonald Whisky*

Sells premium scotch whisky internationally, offering numerous opportunities to trade.

Now by this point you're probably thinking, "Hey- this is the drug war issue, shouldn't he be talking about... well, drugs?" Well worry no more, because I'm about to lay it up on you.

Your crew clearly needs a way to keep the vacation going, the easiest way is to achieve intoxication in the cheapest, most effective way. The fourth company listed under the British-East Company is MacDonald Whisky, but alcohol isn't the drug in which the British-East India Company gained all of their profits since the early 1770s.

In the 18th century, Britain had a huge trade deficit to the Qing Dynasty in China, and needed to come up with a method to gain profits fast. So in 1773, the company created a British monopoly on Opium trade, which they were able to grow in India. Since Opium is illegal in both England and China, company ships could not carry the opium into China, but sold it to the largest port in India, Calcutta, on the condition that it be sent to China through various suppliers that had sketchy business practices [even sketchier than a drug dealer in North res hall]. The proceeds of the drug-smugglers landing their cargoes at Lintin Island were paid into the 13 company factories at Canton by the mid 1800s.



The illegal opium trade raised most of the money needed to buy tea in China, the most expensive import. Western merchants owned each of these factories, all set back 100 yards from the main ports, which featured elegant apartments on the top floors.

Despite China putting a ban on opium imports, reaffirmed in 1799 by their late empire, the drug was still smuggled into China by traffickers and agency houses such as Jardine Matheson in amounts averaging 900 tons a year. Jardine Matheson Holdings Ltd is a conglomerate with strong property interests based in Hong Kong, with a primary listing of publicly traded shares in the London Stock Exchange. Today, Jardines is a Fortune Global 500 company, with all roots traced back to the hub of British import of illegal opium. These profits were poured directly into China with tea and cotton exported from the British Empire.

In 1838, China was approaching 1400 tons of smuggled opium a year. A death penalty for opium smuggling was imposed for the Special Imperial Commission, Lin Zexu, in hopes to curb the smuggling. This death resulted in the First Opium war (1839-1842) between China and the all mighty powerful England, leading Hong Kong to sign the Treaty of Nanking, opening the

Chinese market to the drug that was destroying its own country.

This all led to a Second Opium War which was fought by Britain and French allies against China, and led to the Treaty of Tientsin, which opened even more Chinese ports, and stated that it permitted "Christian Missionary Activity," but was really meant to loosen the import of opium and grow the profits of the British-East India company.

During this time, the United States followed the lead of all the other great powers by building up their navy, and creating a mercantile empire.

Both of those tactics are represented by 2 of the 4 companies which the British-East India company funds. While it's noted that the United States did not control any of the land leased by England, which locally elected English people for government practices, they shared British land grants and were invited to invest.

The relationship of East India Company's profits to the British government was unimpeded. It's important for people of today to realize that the money that powerful investors are willing to present, came on the backs of the people in China and India, destroying thousands of families just like yours.

The main industries that took the occupations of thousands of employees were based off drug farming and leaving the profits to the rich English.

Drugs aren't bad, corporate control over the entranced impoverished people is bad. East-India Company investors weren't worried about growing a society, even though they owned all the companies needed to succeed. They separated India and China into two classes; the rich, and the drug infected.



**- Ginger Snaps**

# Your Money, Their War

## Domenica Ghanem

For 25 billion dollars, you could purchase 1000 private islands, order 7,122,507,125 Big Macs, or fund a War on Drugs in the U.S. in 2013. In 2010, armed with 15 billion of your tax dollars, the government spent a rate of \$500 every second on the drug war. State and local governments spent at least another \$25 billion on the effort.

That the drug war is expensive is not news to anyone. That the drug war is wasteful may be news to some. What is far more shocking than how much money is spent on the drug war is just exactly what the money is being spent on.

The federal budget for 2013 boasts new programs for drug prevention, harm reduction, and treatment for substance abuse. In reality, funding was decreased in departments such as SAMHSA, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, as well as Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Funding was increased for drug treatment efforts in prisons, for drug court programs, and various other types of correctional facilities.

The Obama administration might try to assuage us: the budget allowed for a \$19.4 million increase for the Veterans Health Administration. Surely, no one could find fault in that. Except that the funding is going to the VHA supposedly to help veterans with substance abuse issues linked to PTSD. Consider, now, that research has shown that controlled doses of LSD alongside therapy by specially trained doctors significantly improve the condition of patients that struggle with PTSD. The legalization and regulation of LSD would do more for prevention of substance abuse and homelessness in veterans than the \$568.2 million that the federal government is disbursing to the VHA in the name of the Drug War.

Another favorite way of the government to waste taxpayer money is to fund youth drug prevention media scams. The government has spent \$33 billion in marketing "Just-Say-No" style messages. Yet, in 2006 the Government Accountability office reported that ads aimed at preventing drug use in children and teens were ineffective. Meanwhile, the white house website touts the "proven effectiveness" of these campaigns. The federal website cites surveys where kids say that after seeing an above-the-influence ad, they were less likely to do drugs. Meanwhile, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports that drug overdoses have risen steadily.

Further analysis of the Drug War budget shows that the government is not committed to cracking down on violent trafficking operations, but rather their focus is on small offenders. The budget allowed for a decrease in funding for HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas), whose main purpose is to coordinate federal, state, and local law enforcement so that they can be more effective in dismantling high

intensity trafficking enterprises. Meanwhile, funding for local drug task forces is determined based on figures such as the number of arrests an officer makes. It is far easier and less dangerous for a police officer to arrest small time users and sellers of innocuous drugs such as marijuana.

The budget did not forget to include funding for night vision goggles, body armour, x-ray equipment, biometrics, machetes, and even an eTrace system used to track gun users associated with the drug trade (Just kidding about the machetes).

With 25 billion dollars, surely the government must be on the winning side of the war. Not so. Over the course of this war, the government has spent around \$121 billion to arrest more than 37 million nonviolent drug offenders. Not only does it cost \$450 billion to lock up all of those prisoners, but evidence shows that jail time tends to increase drug abuse.

The government's goal in 2011 was to decrease drug use by 76.7%. Department of Education anti-drug grant winners reported a combined whopping 1% decrease in drug use. The lesson: these drug war funded programs don't work. Don't be so sure that the government even wants to try and make them work. They continue to put money into programs like Drug Free Communities. This policy specifically states that it will not award money to afterschool programs, mentoring programs, sports programs, treatment service programs or facilities, drug courts, or landscaping for neighborhood revitalization projects. The Drug War is not an attempt to make us any safer or healthier. It is a way to squeeze every last penny out of us while effectively accomplishing nothing.

On the other hand, ending prohibition of drugs would reduce government expenditure by \$41.3 billion annually. If drugs were regulated and taxed like tobacco and alcohol, they would generate tax revenue of roughly \$46.7 billion each year. Retail sales of imported hemp exceeded \$70 million in 2006. If the U.S. seized the opportunity, hemp could become a \$300 million industry. If it is money the government wants, ending the drug war will make more of it while reducing injury to the people. On all fronts, but especially economically, it makes sense to end the drug war.

We are partly to blame for the continuation of this reckless and destructive spending. We have not made our arguments sound enough, our voices loud enough. Let us make sure that the government cannot ignore these facts. Not everyone understands the spiritual and medicinal merits of drug legalization, but many people will respond to hard and fast mathematical evidence. Don't let the drug war become a non-issue. They may have \$25 billion, but we have 25 times the passion to end the war on drugs.



OUR TAX DOLLARS  
HAVE CONTRIBUTED

# \$1 TRILLION

TO THE DRUG WAR  
AND

# \$10 BILLION

EVERY YEAR  
TO MARIJUANA  
PROHIBITION

GET INVOLVED IF YOU CAN THINK OF  
BETTER WAYS TO SPEND YOUR MONEY.



**THE WAR  
ON DRUGS**  
IS A WAR ON US

JOIN US FOR  
A MEETING!

**SCHOOLSNOTPRISONS.ORG**

# Legislative Action Alert:

## Drug Free School Zones

In case you haven't heard, the Connecticut state legislature is considering a bill, HB 6511, that would reform the state's drug-free school zones law. While the bill wouldn't fix everything that's wrong with school zones, it would be a huge step in the right direction.

What could possibly be wrong with drug-free school zones, you ask? Good question! Their name makes them sound fantastic (I mean, who would possibly oppose keeping drugs out of schools? If you don't like this law, that must mean you want kinds shooting heroin on the playground!), but they're actually incredibly ineffective and a classic case of institutional racism.

Specifically, the current law gives anyone convicted of a drug crime within a drug-free school zone a mandatory minimum prison sentence. At first this may sound reasonable, at least to someone who thinks drugs should stay illegal. If it's more illegal to have drugs near a school than it is to have them far away from the school, then drug dealers won't go near schools and sell drugs to children and kids won't use drugs, right? Unfortunately, this doesn't pan out in the real world, and the law also creates a slew of terrible side effects.

First off, the law defines a school zone as within 1,500 feet of "the real property comprising a public or private elementary or secondary school, ... a licensed child day care center, ... [or] a public housing project." The first group makes sense, at least in the context of the bill, and the day care center follows the same logic. But by including housing projects in the law, the state effectively creates harsher penalties for poor people than for wealthier people committing the same crime.

As if this wasn't enough, the law also has a huge impact on poorer people and people of color, even those who don't live in housing projects. The way the law is written, cities are affected much more than suburban or rural areas with lower population density. For example, in Hartford, most of the city is within 1,500 feet of either a school, day care, or public housing project. This is even more dramatic in New Haven, which is almost one giant school zone – so much so that it's often featured in reports about the negative side effects of school zone laws all over the country. And as cities are disproportionately populated by lower-income people and people of color, these individuals are given much harsher penalties for drug crimes, even when the defendant wasn't interacting with schoolchildren.

And of course, if everywhere is a school zone, nowhere is. When an entire city has enhanced penalties for

drugs, there's no reason for drug users or sellers to stay away from schools. The law is so far-reaching that it's actually counterproductive.

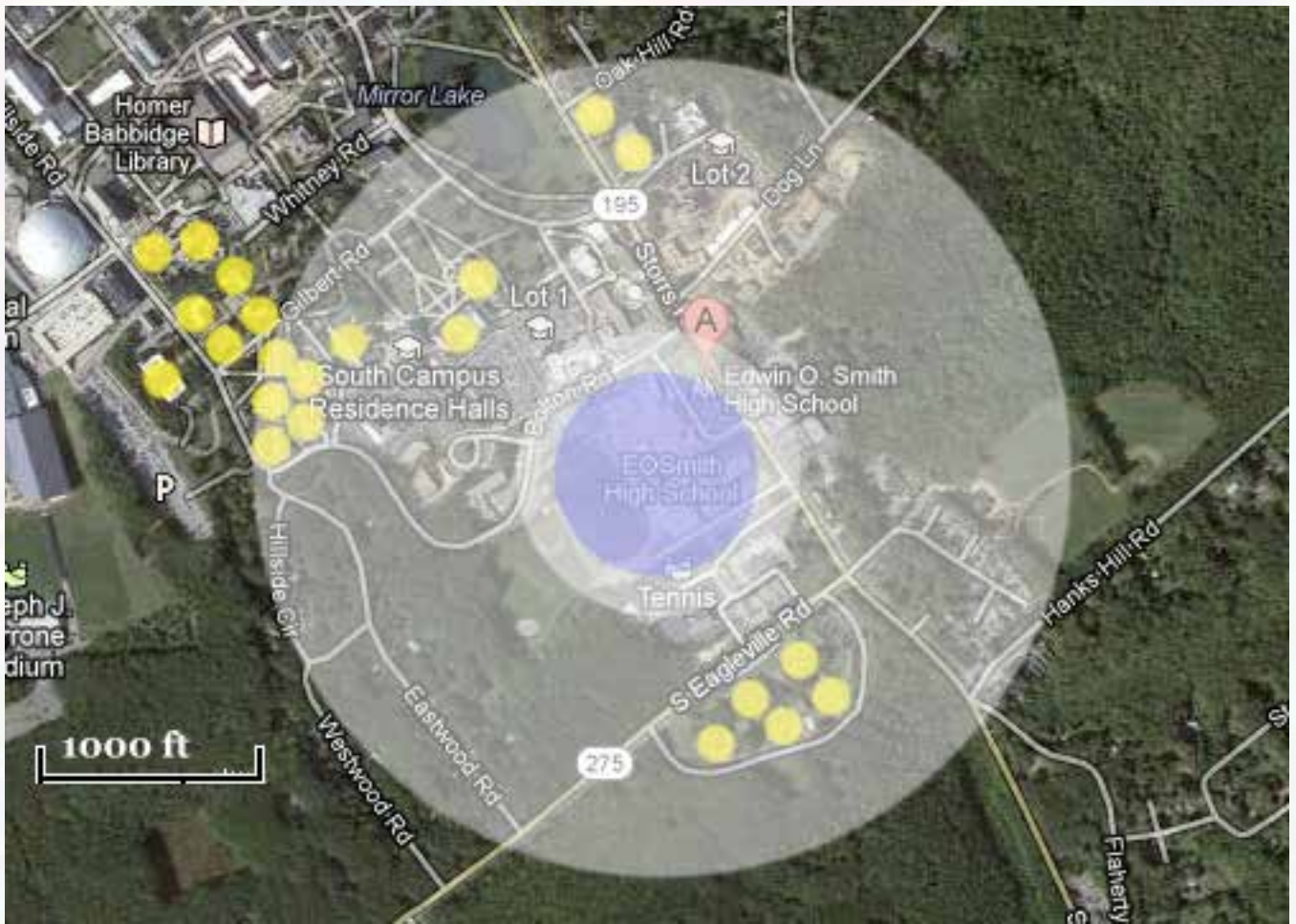
This law's negative impact on lower-income citizens and communities of color is reason enough to support its repeal, or at least reform. But it also has a huge impact on UConn students. As E.O. Smith High School is located practically on campus, a large chunk of UConn is located within a drug-free school zone. In order to show the reach of our local school zone, I put together a graphic off of Google Maps. The blue circle in the middle is the perimeter of school property. The white circle just outside it represents 200ft away from the perimeter, which is what the HB 6511 is proposing to change the zone to. And the larger white circle represents 1500ft from the perimeter, the current school zone. The small yellow circles represent UConn-owned residence halls. As you can see, many residence halls including Buckley (451 residents), Shippee (295 residents), South campus (710 residents), Alumni (971 residents), and Mansfield Apartments (263 residents) are currently within the school zone. This comes to a total of 2,690 students, and I estimate there are an additional 200 students who live in non-UConn-owned housing that falls within the school zone.

If any of these thousands of students are caught with a small amount of drugs in their room (in case you're wondering, marijuana decriminalization made it so that you only pay a fine for possession under ½ an ounce of marijuana, even in a school zone), they could be charged with possession in a school zone and slapped with a mandatory minimum sentence. Admittedly, this is unlikely, as cases of simple possession are typically bargained down to community service or compulsory drug education classes. But starting your court proceedings with that additional charge puts you in a much weaker bargaining position, making it more likely that you'll need to pay an exorbitant fine or actually spend some time in jail.

It's questionable whether drug-free school zones make any sense at all, since drug-using minors typically buy drugs from their peers, not from creepy old drug pushers standing just outside the perimeter of the school zone. Also, there are already enhanced penalties for selling drugs to minors, no matter where it occurs. But politically speaking, school zones will be difficult to totally eliminate, so shrinking them from 1,500 feet to 200 feet will go a long way in preventing city residents and college students alike from receiving unfair sentences for drug crimes.

**Sam Tracy**





E.O. Smith School zone, right in our very own back yard! The yellow dots are where real life, actual students like [you] might live. The large circle is where the school zone stands currently, the small white perimeter is where it might move, and the blue inner circle is the the school's perimeter

## **If [you] think that's fucked**

**here's some people you might want to speak with**

Gregg Haddad - CT State Representative for Mansfield/Storrs  
(860)-240-8585

Don Williams - Ct State Senator for Mansfield/Storrs  
(860)-240-8634

Or look up your own CT  
legislator and give them a  
call!



QR Codes are fun!

# UConn ssdp Students for Sensible Drug Policy

Students for Sensible drug policy is an international grassroots organization of students dedicated to ending the War on Drugs. SSDP believes that drug abuse and addiction is harmful, but the prohibition of these substances is more harmful. From mandatory minimum sentencing laws to racist school zone policies, The Drug War has ruined countless lives and has affected many more. SSDP mobilizes and empowers young people to participate in the political process and push for more sensible drug policies that focus on harm reduction and education rather than incarceration.

SSDP UConn, and the members that it is made up of, has taken this idea and ran with it. We have lobbied at the state level, pushing through a Good Samaritan policy in 2010, decriminalizing marijuana in 2011, and getting medical marijuana in 2012. SSDP UConn has also focused a lot of effort on University drug policy, through electing Student Government Senators, getting signatures for petitions, and much more. We strive to bring to UConn important local and national activists that can provide essential information about the effects of the War on Drugs, through reaching out to groups such as Law Enforcement Against Prohibition and Drug Policy Alliance. SSDP UConn meets in Monteith 221 at 8:00PM on Thursdays.



EACH YEAR

THE UNITED STATES SPENDS

\$20 BILLION

ON DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT

...THAT'S EQUAL TO

1/3

THE EDUCATION  
BUDGET

20X

THE ART  
BUDGET

UConn  
ssdp

Students for  
Sensible  
Drug Policy

Thursdays at 8pm  
Monteith 221

[facebook.com/UConnSSDP](https://facebook.com/UConnSSDP)

# Drug War Fallacy Bingo

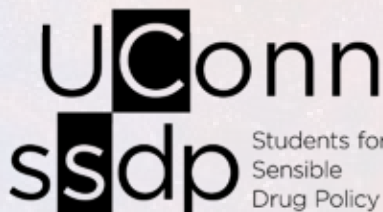
About to get into an argument over the failed 'War on Drugs'?

Turn that argument into a wonderful game of bingo!

Simply fill in the appropriate square as soon as an argument is brought up by your opponent.

Enjoy!

B	I	N	G	O
Marijuana has no medicinal value.	Alcohol is safer than all illegal drugs.	The 'War on Drugs' has lowered drug use.	If drugs are illegal, children can't get them.	Decriminalizing drugs will increase usage.
The drug war keeps drugs off the streets.	Drugs are now less pure thanks to the 'War on Drugs'.	Prohibition does not fund organized crime.	We need to put more people in prison for drug crimes.	Prescription drugs are safer.
Putting drug addicts in prison does not ruin families.	Prison helps to rehabilitate drug addicts.	<b>Free.</b>	Marijuana kills brain cells.	Psilocybin (mushrooms) have no medicinal value.
Drug laws are enforced fairly on everyone.	Marijuana is a gateway drug.	Hemp is just as dangerous as marijuana.	Needle exchange programs promote drug use.	Drugs are now harder to get than before the drug war.
Marijuana overdose is a serious risk.	MDMA has no medicinal value.	Prohibition is a strategy that is proven to work.	A small amount of money is used to fund the drug war.	Minorities are more likely to use drugs.



Students for  
Sensible  
Drug Policy

Meetings every Thursday @ 8pm  
in Monteith 221

[facebook.com/UConnSSDP](https://facebook.com/UConnSSDP)  
[twitter.com/UConnSSDP](https://twitter.com/UConnSSDP)  
[UConnSSDP.tumblr.com](https://UConnSSDP.tumblr.com)



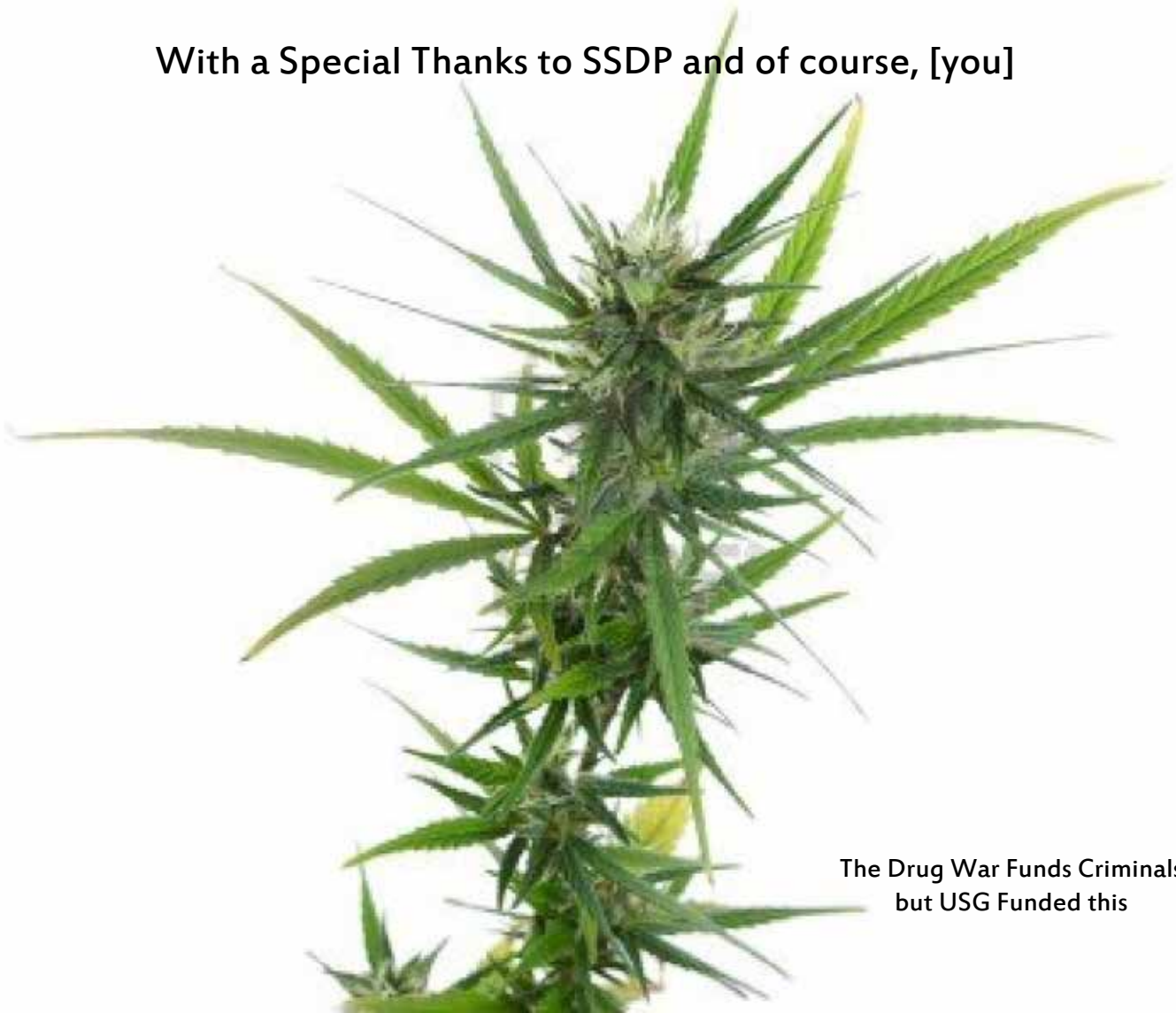
# **That's All, Folks**

**It's been a crazy semester, thanks for tokin' along with [us]  
[We'd] like to thank some of [our] Chronic Contributors**

Josh Cranmer - Centerfold  
THC Bongche  
Hudson - Page 1  
Titus and Fei Fei - Page 4  
Mr. X  
Kevin Oliveira  
Nicole - Front Cover  
B. Caws  
Blanye East

President Herbs  
Gordon Hoff  
Domenica Ghanem  
Devin Samuels  
Sam Tracy  
Frank Cervo  
Ransom - Back Cover  
Ginger Snaps  
One Blood

**With a Special Thanks to SSDP and of course, [you]**



**The Drug War Funds Criminals  
but USG Funded this**



