

Reckless Disregard

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*I don't want them injected
me with anything "A2 5p16"*

There are several mass murderers loose in America. Collectively they kill more innocent men, women, and children than all the drunk drivers, illicit drug pushers, and gang bangers combined.

This collection of serial killers with reckless disregard of human life, extinguishes the hopes and lives of over 100,000 Americans every year. Another two million are seriously harmed or injured each year. In the past decade they are responsible for over one million innocent deaths yet not only have they not faced justice, they have enriched themselves with profits that would make Bill Gates envious.

These parasitic killers come not from some cave in Afghanistan, but from plush office suites. They don't have tattoos, assault rifles, or long hair. They dress well, they

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speak well, and they prey on the most common human weakness, hope. They claim their aim is to treat the sick, cure the ill, and enrich life while the reality is far more than brutal. Not only do many of their lethal and toxic products not help many of the people counting on them but even when they do help, such as the case with life sustaining AIDS drugs, they are withheld from all but those few who can afford to pay prices that are akin to blackmail. Millions in Africa, South America, and elsewhere are dying from their inability to pay for overpriced drugs and every effort to provide humanitarian supplies, even in the midst of epidemics, has been resisted in court.

The depredations, scope, and callousness of these modern killers make Charles Manson and John Wayne Gacy pale in comparison. These murderers in three-piece suits and designer dresses kill more Americans in an hour than any mass murderer could hope to kill in a lifetime.

Collectively these pitiless people have engaged in the longest running and most destructive continuing criminal enterprise in history. Who are they? They are nameless and faceless executives who hide behind the alleged respectability of names like Eli Lilly, GlaxoSmithKline, Merck and Co., Pfizer, and many more. At least the

psychotics Manson and Gacy were aware at some level that they were killers. Not the drug companies. To them, the deaths are nothing more than the unavoidable collateral damage in the war on disease and the pursuit of earnings.

While the suffering from hundreds of thousands of deaths, millions of adverse reactions, millions addicted, and economic havoc is damning, it is only one half of the coin. The other half is the active support and participation of the pharmaceutical industry in the so called war on drugs. Obviously they don't support war on their own drugs, only those of their competition. The biggest threat the pharmaceutical companies face today is medical cannabis. Patients who can grow their own at home for pennies instead of buying high priced pharmacy synthetics threatens the bottom line. This is why 80-90% of the war on drugs is against cannabis and why the drug companies are leaders in supporting both "community anti-drug groups" and drug warrior political candidates. Take a look at the campaign contributions from the drug industry and you see why both leading Democratic and Republican politicians have continued a war on medical cannabis despite the demonstrated futility and cruelty of the drug war.

The earnings gained from reckless disregard are astronomic. The entire "war on drugs" (in reality a culture war on cannabis) costs a futile \$40 billion dollars a year of taxpayer money. Not one dime of this money goes to prevent the millions of prescription drug addicts or the millions who spend their Social Security on needless drugs instead of buying groceries. Author Alexandra Marks documents the steep rise in the non-medical abuse of prescription drugs. She points out that in 2003 some 9 million Americans secured prescription drugs through the Internet without ever seeing a physician. So much for regulation, when folks can buy thousands of doses of

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sedating drugs without question and have them delivered next day mail. Where is the FDA and DEA in regulating high priced Internet drugs? Be assured that the drug industry bosses have insured that prescription drug abuse is simply not a priority.

A recent review of the nations' outlay for high priced prescription remedies indicated: "Prescription drug spending rose 15.3% in 2002, with total spending for prescription drugs hitting \$162.4 billion, compared with \$140.8 billion in 2001. Drug costs are expected to exceed \$180 billion for 2004. Medicare and the State Medicaid programs are collapsing under the weight of unfettered health care costs led by toxic prescription drugs. Nearly 20 million Americans remain uninsured and have no prescription drug coverage. President Bush's new drug

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plan for seniors and the disabled is described by many experts as "cynical" and "utterly inadequate." These costs are the unavoidable result of advanced research and development according to the drug industry but their own statistics prove they spend far more for marketing than research.

Reckless disregard is recession proof, inflation proof, and immune from truth telling. The Dow Jones Industrial average may plummet but drug stocks do nothing but rise. Why shouldn't they rise? State and private programs to secure lower cost American drugs from Canada have been crushed by heavy handed Federal enforcement efforts claiming these drugs are "unsafe." So, you can't import your medicine and you can't grow it. Patients are forced to buy drug industry concoctions at monopolistic prices even though the industry itself admits that perhaps only 50% of patients receive any benefit despite the price and toxicity.

While the Federal Government wastes nearly a billion dollars each year to warn folks from using nontoxic cannabis it ignores scientific evidence of pharmaceutical drug dangers and provides the FDA stamp of approval that allow pharmaceutical drug pushers to reap record profits. *The FDA is in essence the enforcement arm for drug company extortionists.* The drug companies shell out nearly \$20 billion dollars a year to prime the pump for useless and dangerous drugs. Drug companies spend more money on bribing doctors and politicians and on advertising drugs folks don't need and would be better off without than they do on finding all of the miracle cures that are always just around the corner.

We have a war on the wrong drugs and the wrong drug pushers. Our physicians who are supposed to be looking out for us seem blinded by the honorariums, free samples, and outright bribes offered by the pharmaceutical company representatives. Eli Lilly and Company pays cash bonuses to doctors to have their sales people sit in on patient consultations and give samples of its latest concoctions. Little does the patient realize that in drug culture only the first fix is free. Pfizer creates a whole new and utterly fabricated disease of wide spread female sexual dysfunction then promotes Viagra to treat it. Pfizer

also promotes its brain numbing drug Neurontin for every "off label" use imaginable and is willing to pay doctors to try out their product.

Our decision makers in Washington are influenced by huge campaign donations from the drug companies and not from any scientific proof, medical evidence, or the cries of anguish from the sick, disabled, and dying. Even universities and scientists have been co-opted by the drug cartel. Is research money tight? The answer is simple, just be willing to ignore ethics and take pharmaceutical company money for so called "independent" research. Then give the perverted "results" to the sales folks and harm some more patients. The *Observer* recently published reports that physicians and researchers no longer even have to write professional papers for publication. The drug companies have teams of ghost writers who know exactly how to spin the results for their newest products. With universities and medical centers dependent upon the drug companies for well over half of all their research money not a word of protest is heard about the perversion of science for profit. Where is the FDA in all of this? They are involved in what is called "fast track." The FDA exists today to get new and more profitable drugs to market. Today's "regulator" is tomorrow's high priced pharmaceutical executive or consultant.

Just as the small print warnings on a pack of cigarettes doesn't absolve the tobacco companies from helping to kill 500,000 Americans a year, neither does the small print

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about "adverse reactions" absolve the pharmaceutical companies from their advertising fueled carnage. At least the tobacco companies never claimed that their poisonous products would treat illness. Tobacco can't be advertised in mass media anymore due to the harm but the latest drug products fill our television screens, websites, newspapers, and magazines. Over 50% of patients today come to the doctor with a new prescription in mind from this advertising blitz and most physicians are more than happy to comply.

How are folks to know the truth and make decisions in their own interest? How do patients protect themselves from the predatory practices of the drug makers? If the government and the AMA have been bought and sold, then how are ordinary Americans to know what to do?

Don't ask for the truth in the ads we all read and see ad nauseum. Don't ask for the truth on the Internet either. Ask a health question on nearly any major health website and you'll get information from experts that are consultants for the drug companies and the sites themselves are sponsored and censored by the same drug companies. Any mention of cheap, safe, and effective

cannabis as medicine is banned as promoting illegal activities. This as pop-up ads tell us that we need Viagra to make a marriage work, Prozac for when times seem dark, and above all that little purple pill.

We are fighting the wrong drug war on the wrong people and we are paying for this terrible mistake through great suffering and loss of life. Intentional and reckless disregard for human life is the very definition of homicide. Why then are we punishing the sick growing medical marijuana while ignoring the real holocaust being perpetrated by supposedly responsible and humanitarian companies? In today's America greed is only rewarded and mass murder ignored.

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