

Dope Nation May 2008

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An unsent letter to the United States of America, from a natural born American, North and South, expatriate living in exile from all my American lands.

By R.F. Salazar-Nader

Ladies and gentlemen, I write to you now in the hopes that this message reach, and strike a chord with anyone and everyone that feels the way I do about the world and times in which we live, and our beloved country of the United States of America. I write out of concern, for the well-being of all my peers and colleagues. But, have I need to be concerned? Am I taking something for granted in the simple fact of being concerned for grown adults?

We are all doped up. You think it's the athletes? Think again. The word "Doping", so bandied about in the last few years, what does it mean? Dope is a slang word for heroin. It is also used as a word for drugs in general. Furthermore, a dope is an idiot, an imbecile, presumably because he's on drugs. Doping then comes to mean a person on drugs. In the case of athletes, performance enhancing drugs. But what are these performance enhancing drugs? They are nothing more than medical technology. The same medications you and I use everyday.

Technology is what defines our modern, progressive society. The West is at the top of the human heap through technical and technological superiority. This superiority in things technical and technological we have used to conquer the world, in the form of "globalization", which is another word for "imperialism".

Medical technology is what has caused our lifespans to have expanded dramatically in the last few decades. That, and a completely sedentary lifestyle. Well paid scientists produce the dope. The athletes are, and are not allowed to use these medical technological tools to increase their performance, or athletic "lifespan", as it were. Our

whole nation is hooked on drugs. All sorts of drugs, hooked on cigarettes, hooked on alcohol, hooked on money, hooked on good times, hooked on dope, our meds. But not only that, on our packaged and poisoned foods, on our tv, our tv shows, our cars, on our lifestyles of expenditure, on the story we have chosen to believe. I could go on, but I think it would only belabour the point. Each has to see for him/herself the state of their own addictions.

To top it all off, we criminalize marijuana, nature's natural medication for most ailments and complaints, particularly mental. Why do we criminalize marijuana? Because its natural? Because it wasn't created in a lab by Pfizer or Merck or whatever? Not only criminalized, but demonized as well. A little harmless green bud, that can alter the mind, when used with care and respect and responsibility, it can alleviate anything from pain, to hunger, to arthritis, to many other common afflictions. Side effects? Well, these will vary, depending on the level of knowledge and reason one apply to its consumption.

The people need companies like Anheiser Busch, Nestle, JR Reynolds, Eli Lilly and others to medicate, to get their fix of their preferred poison. Marijuana would allow them to self-medicate, and that would be bad for business. Marijuana is more harmless than a diet coke, which contains aspartame, a poisonous manmade sweetener. Marijuana contains no nicotine, is a de-stresser, and aids in sleeping. Side effects, in the sense of headaches, anal leakage, liver damage, and so on are caused only by laboratory drugs. With marijuana, perhaps droopy red eyes and dry mouth.

Marijuana is a plant put on this Earth by God, like everything else which is natural. It is nature's medication for psychological ills, when used wisely and properly. The same can be said for the heroin poppy, and the magic mushroom. We turn our back on and criminalize these natural drugs, and we pump ourselves full of legal, but poisonous, physically and spiritually, drugs.

Marijuana is the only thing that can save this country now. The US is not suffering a purely financial crisis, but also a mental, moral, and spiritual crisis. It has lied to itself too long, and the soul now cries out for attention. We may deny the soul, or feel we can subjugate it under material priorities, but history will show us the error of our ways. In the end, nothing on this plane lives forever, and a nation doesn't either. As by the power of its mind, body and soul, a nation like the US can bring itself up to the level

of first among peers, so by the power of its blindness and errors can the same nation come crashing down in a heap. If you can stop committing the errors, you can stop the process of decay.

We will not cease or desist in the errors of our ways. The reason is that we have poisoned ourselves, in mind, body and spirit, and now we must purge. There is a festering infection in the mind from so much misconception, and the body must become ill. After this, it will be better.

We will not save ourselves. The changes required are too drastic. What would it take to spur us to wakefulness and action? A total re-education and a new life. To die, and be reborn, like the phoenix. But our government will not desist, our corporations will not desist, and, at the end of the day, our people will not desist in the pursuit of their personal poisons. They are doped, we are doped.

Why do we demonize the athlete who simply uses the technology at his disposal to improve his performance? We do not demonize our own addictions to any of a vast array of poisons which we consume daily. Why? Because we refuse to look, or are not capable of looking at the truth of the matter. This is where marijuana can help. Another of marijuana's side effects, or perhaps even a main effect, is a lack or loss of motivation. In other words, a perceived comfort with natural circumstances and conditions. That's what Wall Street needed. What the Phizers of the world need, what we need. To stop and live a lifestyle of smelling the roses. That's what they are there for.

"Progress", as we know it, is our new Tower of Babel. Humans are no longer there to fulfil themselves and grow spiritually, but to be consumers of the goods they produce. Batteries for the economy, nothing more. The country misrepresents itself. It lies to its people and itself. It spends its money on focusing how to control its people through marketing, advertising and PR. The church used to do that. At the same time, it fosters a philosophy which allows it to sell the industrial sector out from under the feet of its masses. Unbeknownst to them.

What was the reason for this? Why was the American industrial complex, not long ago the best in the world, sold out to people in other countries? For profit. For the people? No, for the leaders. Because labor is much cheaper in China. Because our people cost too much. But Ford said "I pay my people so that they can buy my cars". Long

forgotten. Americans don't have money, they have credit. America doesn't have money, it has debt. Who has the money? The corporations have the money. Like Exxon, and the pharmaceuticals, and tobacco, and Wall Street, and IT. America just has debt.

American industry is a thing of the past. The automotive is itself redundant, and is no longer able to sustain itself in a globally competitive world. It has been eliminated as an effective player in American economics. Americans driving Chinese cars in the future? The same question was asked about Japanese cars in the 60s. Any other manufacturer of any industrially produced good is just as likely to be from China as from anywhere else. Certainly, China produces the cheapest goods.

But our companies also produce in China, and sell in America under Western names, like Nike and Adidas and so forth. Contract manufacturing they call it. And we were hard-working, blue collar people. The best workforce on the planet. What do we live from now? We live from credit. The blue collar industrial jobs are gone, but the white collar desk jobs in SF, NY, LA, Chicago, and MIA are in. Work at a desk, behind a computer, and live like a king. On easy credit. Buy a house, and fuggedabout it.

Football, baseball, basketball, hockey, Hollywood and beer take care of the rest. In the big cities, coke and highballs. Our food became not fit to eat. Packages, preservatives, conservatives, colorants, enhancers, artificial endulcorants, not to mention GMO.

My grandpa, a wise man, told me years ago that the mainstays of American economics are the credit financial and the arms industries. Our arms industry will become the new saviour of the economy, and a military machine will be built. After that, a way would probably be found to put it to use. That would spell the end of the Unified States of America. The cosmic forces heaved upon it would be too great to withstand. It would break apart. It would have become clear that the government no longer represents the population. Internal racial and social stresses would break out of control. The US government would eventually lose the reins of a once unified population after several failed attempts to exercise martial law.

Americans are volatile and unpredictable. They really are capable of anything, because this is what is taught us. But a horrible and disastrous war is the only thing, in my current and humble opinion, that would wake us up cumulatively from our catatonic

slumber which keeps us blinded to the epic reality of the precarious political scenario which decorates our times.

The only way for America to survive is to eat some humble pie. The propaganda machine Americans have built to indoctrinate Americans into demonizing all their enemies, especially the brown ones, is simply magnificent in its scope and range. Americans are indoctrinated to be belligerently dumb and numb.

America has to reinvest in itself. It has to spend money on itself. Profits have to be redefined. A profit to the individual, the community, the nation and the world. Not just a profit to the shareholder. America is no longer an industrial nation, it is no longer the production and export champion that it once was. The mindset has changed, the priorities are different, the nation is a different one. Our mindset has led us to these problems. How deep are they? In my opinion, these problems go down to the core. A new mindset must be re-found. A healthier, more realistic mindset.