

- What-- and I was going to work up a good sweat so that I look good, right? I mean, you ain't don't look good if you didn't work up a sweat. I was out there trying to work up a, sweat but my old fumbly legs collapsed, and I fell in the water. Sat down dead in the water.

- But you did it with such class, right?

- Absolutely.

- Such class.

- I didn't scream. I didn't bite my pencil.

- You see a lot of good people there-- Wayne, Dewey, Ray, [? Marta. ?] Everybody was there, [? Marta's ?] significant other.

- He told me there's a wonderful lady who works for the city's solid waste department.

- She will be there.

- And she is a wonderful lady, and she and I got down that gully and worked together. And she was-- she could fill them bags up faster than I could carry them out.

- How about the guy from natural conservation?

- Cling is great. He'll be there. There's a-- Nation Bank will be there. *Prison Life Magazine* should be there.

- And then we're going to go out to the park. Now, we work either until noon or until we get the dumpster.

- It's going to be 11 o'clock. We're going to have two dumpsters this time, one on each end of that gully. We're going so far. It's getting-- things are going so well to have so much help. So there's going to be a dumpster on each end. At 11:00 AM, we're quitting. We don't care.

We're going to go eat vittles and have a good time down at the park. And then from there, wherever you go is your business. The good thing about this, the project, is it's a bunch of ex-convicts and their families and their friends that care about the community. And most of us don't work in Fifth Ward, but a lot of us have done business down there.

- Oh, absolutely. As a matter of fact, there's a house not a block and a half away that's been open for 14 years that I know of.

- And that's part of it, and it's part of the peer support network. We can change things if we all unite together with a common goal. You get a common purpose like the gully, and we have our peer support groups. We'll open up a new one in Baytown, the September the 12th. It's-- the laws are getting bad because Republicans, and there's a lot of other reasons. We can affect those by uniting.

- Well, you damn sure can affect what affects you. I mean, look. The drug laws are crazy. Hey, I got a great solution to that. Stay out of drugs.

- The booze.

- And it won't make any difference how crazy they get. Your life is out of control? Hey, stay out of the booze. You'd be amazed how much control you can get in your life if you just leave up them bottles.

- Pretty soon, they're going to be-- cigarettes are going to be classified as a Schedule II narcotic.

- Right. Aren't they now?

- No, they're getting ready to be, though.

- And whether you believe it or not, what Ray said, it sounds so simple. It's too-- it sounds too simple for it to work. It works.

- Hey, you do not have to surrender. As a matter of fact, I would suggest that getting in control of your life would be the final act of defiance. You remember that mouse in front of the tiger with his finger raised? You remember the final act of defiance?

- And the eagle swooping down on the mouse.

- And he turned around and shot the bird? The thing about it is these traps that you keep falling in, you have very carefully constructed over the bulk of your life. And if you really want to win this war, get control of your life, and the rest of it will take care of itself.

An old cop that I've been warning for 20 years, Steve Andrews-- bless his heart-- Steve is as ignorant and dumb as the bark on a rotten oak tree. And me and Steve would square off today. We would square off yesterday. He's still swole at me. I'm not swole at him because I ain't got time to be swole at him.

But he is pushing the envelope of the law, and I'm not. So when the axe falls, guess who's going to get cut? And that's-- and he's a cop, and I'm not, no kind of a cop. I got a badge on too. I got a T-shirt, Houston Police Department.

- You ought to be ashamed of yourself.

- If Gloria saw that shit, she'd be calling me all kinds of mothers.

But this is my crowing shirt. It's when they have screwed up so bad that I know that I got them. I throw on a police badge, go out, and rub it in their face for a while. So you're starting something new in Baytown on September the 12th.

- September the 12th. We're going to have Peer Network out there, which is going to be at an AA club. It's not AA. It's going to be held at that club. They're going to let us use the room on Tuesday nights and Friday nights.

- Tuesday night and Friday nights?

- Tuesday nights and Friday nights.

- That's not far from Barrett Station. You fellers at Barrett station can come right up there through Highlands and get to Baytown and go to that meeting. Now, what's the address?

- It's-- and in if you're in Pasadena or La Porte, any of that, OK, it's going to be at-- the address, 624 Massey Tompkins Road-- 624 Macy Tompkins Road. And it's right behind the Grace Bible Church. And that's right off of Main Street, and you hit the Massey Tompkins Road, and you'll see the Grace Bible Church, the white building right behind it.

- AA's got a shack out back there.

- They got a place back there, and there's going to be a-- we're going to have two rooms available. My significant other, who I'm very proud of, is going to be doing like an [? Al-Acon ?] for the spouses and the children.

- Sure.

- And she's a counselor, so she's qualified. And we'll be doing the men's group, basically. You can have your significant other there. Just, if they feel more comfortable in a room talking about their issues and their problems and how hard we are to work with--

- What those suckers did to me the other day. You know.

- That's true. That's true.

- You can get told on in the other room, but--

- And you can learn what to expect if your husband just got out of prison or your boyfriend or your father because believe it or not, most of us go through these phases. And we think we're unique, but we're not.

- No, it's the same stuff for everybody.

- The same thing for everybody, and with the good thing, Ray used to laugh at me before I got out, and he laughed harder when I first got out. And some of the people did here too, like everybody in the building that had been out or haven't been in, because they knew what I was going to go through. And I was the only one who didn't because-- and they tell me, but I couldn't hear it. I had to experience it.

- Yeah, you think that y'all got all this wired now. But to be perfectly honest with you, I'm doing the best I can. I was more afraid to get out of prison than I had been the years before to go in, and for good reason. Because suddenly, you've got to control a hell of a lot more of your own business and your own life than you ever did in prison.

You ain't got the major to breathe on you. You ain't got somebody to tell you when to get up and go to bed. And that meal you eat today, you're going to have to contribute to society to get it instead of just doing [INAUDIBLE]. And that sounds like [? you. ?]

I got that right.

Sometimes. And sometimes it gets [INAUDIBLE]. But I don't care how you [INAUDIBLE].

- Look here. If you want to go be a part of the cleanup, even if you don't get paid for it, [? don't ?] [? pay ?] and [? yet ?] you're doing something. Clean up like a lot of [INAUDIBLE], we used to eat that stuff.

- You're going to eat that, though. But you're going to eat that, though.

- [INAUDIBLE].

- You're going to eat well.

- You're going to eat well. This idea of going in there and flat weeding, we're going to have holes just like we had in the penitentiary. We're going to go out there, and ain't nobody telling us do it. Ain't nobody telling us how hard we got to work.

- If you ask Richard, how long is this project is going to last, he'll say 10 years.

[LAUGHTER]

- We ain't going nowhere. We're out here to stay. We've got something we can grab hold of. And if you get to thinking crazy or feeling crazy, just get in the car and drive by that gully. That's your gully. You come out there one time, it's your gully. It's yours forever.

- Now since I got there, this one's [? over ?] by the north side of Interstate 10. I know you think you know where Market Street Road is. Well, this is the other Market Street. This is Market Street north of I-10, not the Market Street south of I-10. And you can figure out how that works. But this one is [INAUDIBLE].

- At I-10 Waco.

- If you come back on Waco and go north, you will see Market Street [INAUDIBLE].

- When you pass that multi-purpose center, you can't even [INAUDIBLE] the police sign and everything on it. And the gully's right down the road from it. And you'll see a bunch of people out there early. [? It was ?] really nice. You see [INAUDIBLE] laying out there. You just [INAUDIBLE] [? survey. ?] And that's [? Gary. ?] Wayne gets so much-- has done so much [INAUDIBLE] out there, [INAUDIBLE] to make it. [INAUDIBLE] to be [INAUDIBLE]. There's an opportunity that if he does make it, [INAUDIBLE]. if he don't make it, to maybe send him a card while he's in recovery.

- Well, Richard, anything else going on in the world?

- Well, y'all know the [INAUDIBLE] is no more. [INAUDIBLE] dead [INAUDIBLE] dead. [INAUDIBLE] one person left in [INAUDIBLE] Criminal Justice Initiative, and all she does is answer the phone. And I was trying to call [? for ?] [INAUDIBLE], and she won't forget. So it don't look good.

TDCJ is taking over, and it can be a positive. It can be a positive for some areas. It's hard to believe, and I know y'all are saying, man, this is crazy.

It's positive if you get out. While you're in prison, it ain't positive. While you're in an aftercare facility, maybe it's not positive. But once you get out, it's positive because it's so bad, you ain't going to want to go back [INAUDIBLE]. You know what I mean? That's what the good part is.

- Well, Texas Department of Criminal Justice is [INAUDIBLE]. institution [INAUDIBLE] to take a moment [INAUDIBLE] this program [INAUDIBLE]. And then there's the parole [? office, ?] which is the largest bureaucracy in the history of state government.

- Yes it is.

- It is the biggest money-spending the taxpayer has ever seen.

- [INAUDIBLE].

- And it's been [INAUDIBLE].

- [INAUDIBLE] the deal.

- But then they [INAUDIBLE] it to you. In a situation, [INAUDIBLE] eight months into an [? 18-month ?] [? tour ?] that takes us to [INAUDIBLE] every week. So there's no time. We have to scratch the surface.

- Those who get out don't worry about them not having nobody to [INAUDIBLE], to take [INAUDIBLE].

- If you really want to beat the system, if you really want to beat them at their game, do like Ray said. Get out and don't go back.

- Control your life.

- That would just-- that's one less to work with. What we can do is we put a lot of pressures on all these prisons. Well, [? all ?] these prisons, if we quit going back, they're going to find out, uh-oh, they made a mistake.

- They're already farming them out to other states.

- Yeah, well, I was on Colorado radio [INAUDIBLE] these county jail facilities [INAUDIBLE]. We got convicts in Colorado, and Tennessee, and Kentucky, and Connecticut, and New Jersey. And we're trying to find convicts all over the country who've been down here [? and ?] take up space [INAUDIBLE].

- And let me tell you something. Also, like Ray said, if we get out, and we goof up again, they got a place for us. They're not going to [? let ?] us go. They're not going to--

- They're going to slam the doors.

- We're valuable inside. Outside, they're not making money. [? In ?] [? Tennessee, ?] they ain't going to make money off of us, so we're not that valuable. Inside, we are. We're [? worth ?] a lot of thousands of hours just by being there.

- That's right.

- When we get out, most of us earn minimum wage and apparently [? don't ?] pay our taxes. So they don't get that much money back. So the best thing for TDCJ is us inside.

- Anyways, it comes to know that I've always heard [INAUDIBLE] getting even, revenge, is what you do to yourself. [INAUDIBLE] screwing up about [INAUDIBLE] something. [INAUDIBLE]. The average person does that. I'm sure Richard can [INAUDIBLE]. By the time that person reaches 40, the state will have spent a million dollars on him.

- We're very, very valuable if we stay in.

- Very valuable.

- You wouldn't think they'd make [INAUDIBLE] pay their taxes too.

None of us are making any big bucks [INAUDIBLE].

- Yeah, you're not making the big bucks. You're not paying a hell of a lot of taxes. But we ain't costing the taxpayers a million dollars over a 22-year period. Now I don't [INAUDIBLE] sitting in a cell [INAUDIBLE]. I know how hard it is for you to make your first million. I don't care [INAUDIBLE] you're still [INAUDIBLE]. But [INAUDIBLE] moved around. Look at the 40-year-old that you see in [INAUDIBLE]. He's going to [INAUDIBLE]. [INAUDIBLE] cost the taxpayers a million dollars.

- [INAUDIBLE] and I just cost the taxpayers a million dollars. But every one of us that are laid up in those bunks have given the TDC system-- the prison system a million bucks. We earn [? them ?] money? Can you believe it? We, who say how much we hate it, are making them money? Yeah, that's--

- Snap. Snap. Yeah, I mean, you don't have to be able to count to figure out that you are paying the wrong [? country ?] here.

- How much money are we making in prison? While we're serving that time, how much money is our parents and our wives and our girlfriends and anything else we want to do making money? Nobody. It goes to the prison system.

- We've got a multi-billion dollar economy that we're talking about. And we ain't even got to the lawyers and the judges yet.

- Thank you for that. We do have somebody here that can really spit down some lawyers and judges.

- Oh, absolutely.

- Ray is good. Ray is good. And when him and Wayne hooks up and starts talking about those lawyers-- whew!

- Well, my anger is not as fresh.

- [INAUDIBLE] just out for revenge.

- I'm sick of [INAUDIBLE]. I was learning how to cope with anger so that [? it'd ?] help me [INAUDIBLE], which is a big deal. [INAUDIBLE] hurt yourself. I don't blame the [INAUDIBLE].

- Wayne ain't been out long enough. Wayne just [INAUDIBLE] [? the whole thing ?] out.

- Well I just found a way to direct it, and I kind of direct it when I'm here on the program. But it doesn't bother me very much at all. I get myself wound up to get on here.

- Well, I think your anger is very natural. I'm not putting your anger down. As a matter of fact, I'm sitting here exploiting your [INAUDIBLE].

- It really kills me to sit there and pick the newspaper up, and I open it up, and I read inside about Captain [? Strahan ?] and about this Officer Hopkins over on the Ramsey 2 unit that's extorting money out of inmates. And these guys are out there wearing gray suits, and we have people in prison for less than that.

- [INAUDIBLE].

- Well, I just-- it's just last week here.

- [INAUDIBLE].

- Here we go again, another sex scandal in the sexiest department of corruption. This time, we aren't talking about little old captains. We're talking warden. That's right, warden.

The newest drain on our tax dollars comes in the form of three sexual harassment lawsuits in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Institutional Division. Cheryl-Anne [INAUDIBLE], Donna Marie Byrne, and Sally Campbell each filed their own lawsuit claiming that Warden Bruce August made sexual remarks, stared at them, and inappropriately touched them. I wonder where he touched them.

Anyway, we have another sex offender on the San Saba Unit. As I did with Captain [? Strahan, ?] I'm calling on Wayne Scott, director of the Institutional Division, to relieve Warden August of all his duties and suspend him without pay until these charges are disposed of. This man should not be allowed to continue to supervise anyone.

He has shown that he has no regard for the women he has to supervise daily. This warden's action has begun to be the norm in TDC. There have been several employees that have filed suit for sexual harassment. Each of these lawsuits has to be settled with taxpayer money.

When Captain [? Strahan ?] was filed on by an employee, the administration decided to keep him on the payroll due to his hard-handedness against inmates. By keeping him on the job, this allowed him to continue to make sexual advances towards other employees. Don't make the same mistake again, Mr. Scott.

Remove this man from the position so the taxpayers will not have to shoulder any more responsibility. If you do not remove this man from a supervisory position, the public can only think that you are negligent and indifferent to the citizens and the taxpayers of this state. I want each and every employee of TCJ to know that their job title is public servant, not public relations.

You work for us, Mr. Scott. We are your employers. I want you to take the measures to keep Warden August from harassing any more female employees, thus costing the taxpayers even more money than it already has been wasted.

I also certainly clearly object to the state of Texas representing Warden August in court. Hell, let him get his own lawyer. He's a sex offender, and there are bunches of those in prison right now.

Discharge this man before he does any more damage. Give us taxpayers a break, Mr. Scott. Only you can prevent sexual harassment. Do it.

- [INAUDIBLE]. [? We've ?] had enough of that--

- Yep.

- --of the [? warden. ?]

- We got people in jail for this kind of stuff. All I know is they need to be wearing white, my honest opinion. I wonder why these women haven't pressed criminal charges. All I've heard is that civil lawsuits were filed. Well, what about criminal charges? Now this [? is ?] a criminal offense now.

- Oh, absolutely.

- And so--

- And [INAUDIBLE].

- That's right. Staring at them, that could be counted as stalking. So it's about time that they made an example, and I can't think of a better one than having a warden. Sit there and put him on the plank. That's what I think. I think they need to do that, set an example.

- Sounds good enough to me, [INAUDIBLE]. [? Marta, ?] what'd you bring?

- More of the same, it sounds like. I'd like to start off by wishing a slightly belated happy birthday to Philip Brasfield, currently residing in the belly of the east [INAUDIBLE].

- Philip is a multi-published author, scholar, and gentleman, who has put in 18 years flat time, and accumulated 40 years. To quote the old spiritual, it's time for Pharaoh to "let my people go." Let's hope Mr. Brasfield's future birthdays are celebrated with homemade cake and a generous helping of free air.

Under the heading of "When Will They Ever Learn?", when will the public in general ever learn, and TDC, in particular, going to realize that caged, chained, maltreated animals of all species will eventually become vicious and bite even the hand that feeds it? I'm referring to the Draconian new administrative segregation plan which is already in effect on some units and will be system-wide on October 1st. I'm told the new rules are modeled after those of infamous Pelican Bay supermax unit in California.

They state inmates may be placed in paper gowns, allowed no personal property, and that includes fans, and fed a food loaf, consisting, we are sure, of mainly VitaPro. I am further told the reason for the paper gowns instead of clothing are to be used as a tool for humiliation. My personal advice to brothers and sisters inside the walls is this.

Humiliation is the state of mind, not your body. No one can control your mind and thus humiliate you unless you're weak and you allow them to do it. I'm asking each of you on the inside to stand together and give each other emotional support. If you don't let the keepers divide you, they cannot conquer you. Whether your brother wears a white suit, a paper gown, or the suite he was born in, stand with him, and thus, this humiliation tactic will fail before it even starts.

Let's change horses now to one who should be humiliated and probably isn't. We've heard that Security Officer Worsham, on "The Ham," has been arrested for indecency with his 13-year-old stepdaughter.

- Oh, my [INAUDIBLE].

- It's been said that Officer Worsham has admitted the dastardly deed but claims his common law wife, the girl's mother, knew and consented.

- Two more perverts.

- Mama was said to have been arrested a couple of days later for being a lousy excuse for a mother and a little something about some missing state drugs. What's the matter, Officer Worsham? You get tired of beating on handcuffed boys and decide to play with little girls instead? TDCJ, when asked about this matter, doesn't know nothing. Now let's go back to a man we know would rather play with the boys right here.

- Woo!

- No, I'm [INAUDIBLE] sitting around the court house. [INAUDIBLE] this kid, I mean, this was a brown-skinned [INAUDIBLE] man.

- I set him off, didn't I?

- [INAUDIBLE] pretty walked by--

- You ought to see his computer screen.

- --and his old thing's [INAUDIBLE]. Wouldn't you like to show that young man something? [INAUDIBLE]. The only thing I could show that young man is how sexually insecure he's going to become by the time he is 50 years old. And why would I want to put that on the [? streets? ?]

Oh, good god. Thank you. That said, you know, way back in Houston history, we had a cop, Officer Greenspan, Greenspan, Greenspan. And he was the vice captain.

And he organized a big Church of Christ ministry on the side. And he organized the chicken hunts [INAUDIBLE]. He was going to catch all them homosexuals messing around with little boys.

- Down there in [INAUDIBLE]?

- And he'd-- oh yeah, way back in [INAUDIBLE]. Greenspan was, I mean, absolutely evangelical about this. Well, I went to join, and I got out, and I said, well, whatever happened to Officer Greenspan? I come to find it out he had some little property over in [INAUDIBLE] County, where he had set up a trailer park. And in that trailer park, there was a mother and her two daughters.

And Officer Greenspan had been giggling with those little girls since they were six years old and they were roughing their [INAUDIBLE] schoolteacher rather than [INAUDIBLE] [? taught ?] at home. And Officer Greenspan, the great chaser of the chickens, ended up doing a little time himself.

And that gets into my main point this week. I have spent whole [INAUDIBLE]. It started off-- a friend of mine, a wonderful man, was on trial because he was in an [? arcade, ?] and Officer [INAUDIBLE] asked him to go away with him [INAUDIBLE]. And [INAUDIBLE] indecent exposure [INAUDIBLE].

Another one of my friends, who was really wonderful [INAUDIBLE], was a transgendered woman in [INAUDIBLE] in Houston, who [INAUDIBLE] try things, was trying a case and called him to be a witness in that case, testified, was [INAUDIBLE] the statement as written. That case later this week was resolved with a hung jury, [INAUDIBLE] the court [INAUDIBLE] to convict, [INAUDIBLE] hung for a few days before the judge [INAUDIBLE] [? Charles ?] was a total victim in the situation because, obviously, none of the [INAUDIBLE] years.

- Does that mean you're an expert witness on wiggling?

- No, I'm an expert witness in lying cops.

- Oh, OK.

- That's why I was called to testify, because in my own case, there was an internal affairs investigation of the cop that [INAUDIBLE] arrested me for interfering. And y'all will recall a few weeks back, it was in all the newspapers when I got arrested for something I said to a police officer. Those charges have been dropped.

I am not accused of interrupting a police officer's investigation because even if you take one word to the police officer, that is not a violation of the statute. And they're refileing that case. And it's impeding apprehension. And ultimately, they will discover probably a crime.

But I didn't do that either because I've got better sense than to violate that statute. I can quote it from memory. [INAUDIBLE]. I never violate the statute that, number one, I can't quote in toto [INAUDIBLE]. And number two, I don't think they'll concoct [INAUDIBLE] problems with their [? complication. ?]

If those two things are true, I'll [? bother ?] that sucker every time. We'll just go to court and find out what that sucker means, who's done that [? uncertain ?] statute. But I decided that after I read the offense report, which was just a patent lie, [INAUDIBLE] with considerable evidence that he was lying, I called internal affairs. And I said, I want you to get through with this trial before I file on this cop for lying in this official government document.

There is a charge for lying in an official government document. And they told me, bring it in, and we'll investigate it like it is. [? It ?] don't have to stay with the court [INAUDIBLE]. And even though he lies in the document, we would [INAUDIBLE]. So I carried that to the internal affairs. Another investigation was ongoing before I [INAUDIBLE].

And then yesterday, the last day of the [INAUDIBLE], yesterday, there was more due process in the criminal justice system than there is today. Yesterday, [INAUDIBLE] more research is easier to defend yourself against than it is today.

And yesterday, Sergeant Gray of the Houston [INAUDIBLE] Mr. Williams. And they were [INAUDIBLE] forced their way into a warehouse and took out of there a full paddy wagon, full of the things like-- you never seen some of the [INAUDIBLE] in real life. They carried-- I didn't know that there was that many obscene devices in that warehouse.

I didn't have any-- but I watched them cops work up a sweat loading them up and loading. And wait a minute. They didn't have a warrant for this. And that was yesterday. That's not today. So all of that is in violation of perfectly good laws that were in effect until midnight last night. Do [INAUDIBLE]?

- Yeah, I was just curious. You think they're going to sit on these too?

- Yeah, they sat on the [INAUDIBLE] before and wouldn't come up off of them [INAUDIBLE]. And they got more of them.

- Were they all used when they got them back?

- Well, we never did get them back. If you recall, they checked them suckers up or carried them home.

- Yeah, they probably--

- I'd like to have been hiding in the judge's chamber when they went in there and asked for a warrant to go hunting--

- No, no warrant was [? issued. ?]

- Now you know why they didn't get a warrant.

- They went over-- they went this morning at 11:45 to Judge Doug Shafer's office. And I hope the judge is listening to us, at least some of the judges are listening to us because Judge Shafer based on the videotape, made [INAUDIBLE] warrantless search, signed a warrant to go back to [INAUDIBLE].

Now [? if ?] yesterday [INAUDIBLE]. The threat of that was the videotape, which was the basis of the warrant [INAUDIBLE]. So now the first day of the new law, they went back, and they ransacked that place. They tore it up.

[INAUDIBLE]. They went to work on the computer with a big screwdriver. They went to work on the front doors with a big screwdriver. They [? fought ?] everything. The only thing they left untouched was the shotgun. Everything else was [INAUDIBLE] on top.

- Their mama.

- It was kind of like those are real [INAUDIBLE], not the rubber ones.

- Yeah.

- And they tore that place up.

- [INAUDIBLE].