

||| WE ARE ALL ||| ||| CRIMINALS |||

One in four people in the U.S. has a criminal record.
This is the other 75%.

Participants in We Are All Criminals tell stories of crimes they got away with. The stories range from humorous to humbling, but all have one thing in common: they are privately held memories without public stigma. Each shows that often times the only thing separating *clean* from *criminal* is who gets caught.

PRIVATE MEMORY:

CURRENT CFO / COO
BURGLED HOMES



Let's just say I'm never going to be president.

Let's see. I stuffed a potato up a tailpipe and blew up a car. I blew up a mailbox. I torched a friend's AC.

I was particularly adept at breaking and entering – a career I continued til 10th grade. My friend and I would dress in all black, slinking around the neighborhood. A cop stopped us once. Oh, we're out looking for our lost dog. Have you seen him? Why would anyone scurry around in all black looking for a pet in the middle of the night? He didn't even question it, just let us get on with our night.

Sometimes we'd break into homes and just eat their ice cream. Other times we'd rifle through their stuff.

I still have some of it, such as a simple gold bracelet. I just took it on our family vacation to Barbados. I often wear it when I travel. If it's stolen, oh well. I didn't spend anything on it.

Don't tell my son.

- Read the [full story](#) and [more](#) on the website.

IN THE NEWS:

RACE AND RECORDS

While only 8% of the U.S. population has a felony record, roughly 24% of African Americans in Missouri carry that stigma. The Washington Post [reports](#) that such records exclude citizens from higher education, jobs, professional licensure, food support, housing and civil duties like voting and serving in public office. While nearly **“a fourth of African American residents statewide have shared this experience that relatively few whites have shared, it makes for a situation where you have great tensions, and a sense of us and them.”**

PUBLIC RECORD: PETTY THEFT

He was exhausted, working overnights and spending his days in school. Add to that, his newborn daughter cried all afternoon and early evening, which was the only time he had at home to rest. He kept it together, proud that he was providing for his family.

One evening he stopped at a big box store on the way to work, grabbed a couple of packs of diapers and, out of hands, stuck an energy drink in his jacket pocket. When he forgot to pay for the energy drink, he was nabbed and charged with theft. It was his first and only offense.

He complied with court requirements and the case was dismissed. The fact of the charge is still on his record, though. He's had a couple of job prospects fizzle out after the record check. He's trying to stay positive, but worries that this one mistake will hold him back for a long time to come.

ON THE DOCKET:

||| Dakota County Jail |||
Hastings, MN
9.2 + 9.9

||| Thinking Making Living |||
Nash Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
9.12 opening
9.02 – 12.13 exhibit

||| Beyond Ban the Box with HIRED,
Council on Crime and Justice, MN Dept of
Human Rights |||
St. Paul, MN
9.16

||| Inside-Out Connections' The Invisible
Children: Building Community Support for
Children of Incarcerated Parents |||
St Cloud, MN
9.19

||| Westminster Presbyterian Church |||
Minneapolis, MN
9.21

||| Community Action Partnership |||
Mora, MN
9.26

||| Dorsey + Whitney |||
Minneapolis, MN
9.30



WAAC THANKS:

We Are All Criminals took to the airwaves with [KPFA](#). Many thanks for the opportunity to discuss our work!

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READ THE FULL STORY AND GET INVOLVED AT: www.weareallcriminals.org