

||| 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:

I'M A HIRING MANAGER;
I GOT AWAY WITH MAKING
TERRORISTIC THREATS



My best friend Mike and I wanted to be the next Stephen Spielberg. The alley and parking lot across from the town bank made a natural location for the bank robbery scene. Mike's brother had a nylon over his head and an attache case with fake money sticking out of it and the rest of us were loaded up with masks and fake guns. Mike waved stage directions with his replica .357 BB gun. It never occurred to any of us that the pedestrians would think it was anything but kids making a film.

Before we knew it, squad cars were coming at us from four different directions. It took about half an hour for the police to stop shouting, put their guns away, and let us up off the pavement. Eventually, they let us go. They even let us finish up.

This story isn't about bad things I got away with; it's about being a kid and the presumption of innocence that a lot of people don't ever get.

PUBLIC RECORD: DISORDERLY CONDUCT; RESISTING ARREST

He was 17 when a SWAT team showed up at his girlfriend's house looking for her uncle. Mad that they broke her front door and ruined his night, he yelled "pigs" at them as he left.

Less than a minute later, he was on the ground with a broken nose, 2 bruised ribs and a gun pressed to the back of his head. He was arrested and charged as an adult with Disorderly Conduct and Resisting Arrest.

He spent 6 weeks in the county jail waiting for trial; nobody in his family could afford the \$100 to bail him out. He was acquitted on both counts.

The charges are still on his record, and he's still mad. About the broken door, his injuries, the scary time in jail. Mostly he's mad because of the setbacks to his studies. He won't graduate high school on time. And he wonders if any college will admit him now that he has these charges on his record.



WAAC THANKS:

WAAC is proud to be featured in Thompson Reuters' [Legal Current](#) and in the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers' [Collateral Damage Report](#).

ON THE DOCKET:

||| Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative: Keynote Address |||
Sioux Falls, SD
6.24

||| Alliance of Prison Ministries Organizations 24th Annual Conference |||
Minneapolis, MN
7.23 – 7.24

||| Criminal Law in American Society |||
U of M, Minneapolis, MN
8.5

||| American Sociological Association Annual Conference, "Hard Times" |||
San Francisco, CA
8.18

IN THE NEWS:

ENCOUNTERS WITH POLICE

A 13-year-old was shot 7 times and killed by Santa Rosa police while carrying a lookalike gun, [Time reports](#). The model carried by the youngster was plastic with a transparent center section. According to a paper funded by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, **U.S. police use or threaten to use force in at least 200 such incidents annually.**

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