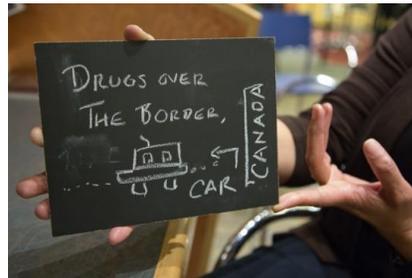


||| WE ARE ALL ||| ||| CRIMINALS |||

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 WORK FOR THE FEDS.
I'VE MOVED DRUGS
ACROSS BORDERS



In high school and college, my friends and I would pack into my car and hit up the Grateful Dead concert tour. I preferred to be the designated driver (tame by comparison, with the occasional toke of pot). But on more than one occasion, there were hundreds of dollars of hallucinogenic mushrooms, LSD, hash and weed on the persons of my passengers – some of it intended for sale.

There was one very close call: coming back from a concert in Canada, the border patrol found a wooden pipe with THC resin in my boyfriend's tackle box. They ripped by car apart, searching for more. When they couldn't find anything else, they let us go.

A few years later, I was appointed to a position in the federal court system working in the very district where I was stopped. Ironically – eighty percent of my caseload was drug dealers.

PUBLIC RECORD: UNDERAGE DRINKING, PUBLIC URINATION, POT

Like so many other kids leaving the football game, he was stumbling back to his dorm room drunk, high and thinking about ordering a pizza and passing out for the rest of the afternoon. He ducked behind a temporary fence to take a leak in what he thought was a closed construction site. The foreman came over and dragged him by the shoulder to the campus police.

He was charged with underage drinking, misdemeanor possession of marijuana, public urination, public intoxication, and trespassing; he pleaded guilty to the first three. He lost his financial aid because of the pot, and his campus job shortly after that. Unable to afford it without financial aid and income, he put school on hold. At least he was able to keep his unpaid internship until court-ordered treatment and probationary requirements interfered with scheduling. Now, three years later, the best job he's been able to land with his record is working at the same pizza joint where he worked in high school. He delivers pizzas to stoned kids in the very dorm he once called home.

And his worst memory of the whole ordeal was the hearing where he actually asked the judge to take him off probation and put him into jail, thinking there would be schooling and treatment opportunities in there. He found out the hard way: there wasn't.

ON THE DOCKET:

||| Katherine E Nash Gallery |||
Minneapolis, MN
10.21

||| Midwest Mentoring Forum |||
Richfield, MN
11.6

||| St. Louis University |||
St. Louis, MO
11.12 – 14

||| Hamline Law |||
St. Paul, MN
11.18

||| Stillwater Prison |||
Stillwater, MN
12.2

IN THE NEWS:

EDUCATION BEHIND BARS

High recidivism rates -- re-incarceration after release from prison -- drive up incarceration costs. Nationally, more than half of people in prison return within 3 years of their release. For those offered significant educational opportunities while incarcerated, recidivism rates fall to less than 22%; some programs, such as [Bard Prison Initiative](#), have fewer than 4% of graduates return to prison. A 2013 RAND study found that this dramatic reduction in recidivism represents a 400-500% return on investment on education in prison.

However, people in prison haven't been eligible for Pell Grants or state funds for education since the mid-1990s. According to [Forbes Magazine](#), since the mid-90s 350 postsecondary prison programs have dwindled to just a dozen nationwide. Likewise, other programs that have shown promise such as substance abuse and behavioral counseling, the arts, and trade instruction also remain woefully underfunded.

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