

Voice of the Homeless

July 17th

TRANSCRIPT

NB: It's a windy day in Kingston, and unfortunately the wind noise makes the speech hard to hear. This is the best we could do.

How did I begin? Ah, I have an interpreter in class, right? So, this is what I mean about the staff. They make friends with certain guests, transients, speechists, whatever you want to call them. They're all still the same to me.

And a typical example, last night, in the courtyard, although they knew they shouldn't be, two people I know, one of them being a friend, got in shit for having pipes out. According to the Adelaide rules, you cannot have pipes out inside that courtyard. And the girl was told to put it away. My friend Charles was given a one-week SR- service restriction. So now he has nowhere to sleep for a week. He can go in and get meals, things like that, but he can't stay. Ah, that's a constant threat that every single one of us live under, from this sheltered staff. It's a threat, a threat of an SR, service restriction. Meaning, you ain't got no bed tonight, Chuckie.

So, one was told to put it away, the other was kicked out for a week. Well, I don't know what happened there. But, I don't know all the details between that other person who was told to put it away, and the person who was told to put it away, because that's what they did. [unintelligible]. Well, I was told to focus on one and fuck the other.

[2:19]

That's just what I did. But, you see, I got an email asking if I ever regretted my life up to now. And, no, I managed to live with guilt. And the way you do that is by regret. And I haven't done that in my life, actually. I'm too goddamn busy going forward, continuing to collect knowledge. Not any information. So, you know, that's basically what my whole life has been about. I've been on the back where three separate breaks from the streets.

[3:30]

Went to my college courses. Uh, one finished in a year. The other one took two years. And the other one took three years. So I had six years where I was normal. Uh, then I went to college. And I dropped my, dropped my certificates. So, um... Two of the courses I could understand, but that one is haunting me still. And I think I can remember back to when George Brown College gave me the list of courses that I qualified for. That the only one I qualified for was stationary engineering. And that was my very first college course. And I went through ten months and I probably forgot more now than I could ever remember. Uh, but, you know, it was just a super boring thing. Thank God it was only ten, ten months long. But my second course, cooking, was something that I wanted to do because I wanted to learn how to make good food. I was sick of, uh, Dairy Queen shit, Burger King, McDonald's, whatever. I wanted to learn how to make some really good food. So I did. I did very well. Again, I graduated with honors. Uh, the place, because I was an elementary student, I got a job placement.

[5:14]

So the other nineteen people in the class did not get automatic job placement when they graduated. Only I did. And they stuck me in a fucking French restaurant run by an orthodox Jew in Toronto. Well, Toronto was about an hour and a half further west of Belleville where I took my cooking courses. And, uh... They said, we can't send the heat there to the kitchen. Well, uh, we have to go to the restaurant and cook for the rest of us. But! Thank God I survived. I had trained. I had passed.

Very well. So I could cook just about anywhere, you know, apply to cook just about anywhere I felt like. But again, you know, the jobs were very brief.

I was only there long enough to, you know, maybe get enough money that I can get the hell out of that town and on to the next one. This is why I have gained the insight to the life of a homeless person. And it doesn't have to be the way these kids are right now.

[6:51]

Okay, maybe they don't have my strength and my willpower. Maybe they don't have the adventurous spirit and the courage to do it, you know. But if somebody helped them, they could find a little bit of that courage which could eventually build into a very large amount of courage.

Courage. The ability to face challenges. No matter what the odds.

If you take on a challenge, stick to it. There's a little bit of adventure. But only if you keep pushing that. I know. I've been there. I've done that.

Okay, I've walked through the nightmare, horror show of drugs, psychedelics, acid. There isn't a goddamn drug from pre-fentanyl and pre-crystal. Methadone. [crystal methamphetamine] You guys know what the fuck I'm talking about. I always have trouble remembering that one. Anyhow, pre-those drugs that they have today, I have tried everything.

[8:17]

And I mean everything. At one time, anything I could put into a needle and shoot up, I would. It didn't matter what it was. I'm surprised there's still a lot of people that do that. But at 25, I finally swore off needles when... When we'd be old, I had that intention. I was one of the oldies on the street there at that time.

And that was the end of that. And then it was only two or three months after that when I quit pushing drugs forever. To this day, I have never returned. Selling drugs? Oh, I've had chances, but people ask me and whatever. No. I said I wouldn't, and I won't.

I won't go back. You guys know what that woman's like? She swore off drugs. I don't know what it was. It was only a few months later when I left Vancouver to travel across Canada to the Atlantic Ocean.

So, I forgot. They [Street Health & CTS] hand out baggies, pre-made-up baggies, with stem pipes.

[9:50]

A stem pipe is something that's used to smoke crack, ling, and some smoke beer. Then there's the green baggies. The green baggie is bowl pipes, and they smoke crystal and fentanyl in them. And then you got the orange baggies, and they have got needles in them. Sterilized water tubes. Wipes, whatever. I don't know, because I didn't want to touch any

orange baggies to investigate them. And then there's a black baggie, and whatever. Those baggies, I don't know. The black baggie, I have no idea what it is. But, I just wasn't interested in looking into the means of how the hub supports drug use of any kind. I mean any kind.

Not a safe injection. Everything. Fentanyl. Crystal meth.

Hey, hey, hey, I remembered one little question. You know, when you allow somebody to continue to consume drugs, how in the hell are you ever going to get them cleaned up through a resource center like for housing or something? If you're only encouraging them to do it, and not worry about getting busted by the cops.

(11:33 - 11:41)

That's bullshit, man. That is fucking dumb bullshit. They are supporting what's happening. They're endorsing the fact that they do it. And, you know, if somebody has a needle in their hand, or something, or fentanyl, those are the ... probably like they'll bring it back after he's okay, or she's okay, or whatever.

Wind noise

[12:22]

And I think the whole fucking idea of that was...rampant drug use.

[12:35]

A lot of violence.

And they close their eyes to it.

How the fuck did that ever happen? Who on city council thought it was a great idea to put a drug council on the edge of downtown? What idiot thought of that idea? I am so against the Hub [ICH], it's ridiculous. There's about maybe two staff, all the staff there, that I ever went to. The rest, what background information I got on them, I just don't know. But unfortunately I was trapped there until my goddamn chair got fixed.

And... Senseless. Remarkable. Whatever.

[13:40] Yeah. I got a lot of information. They were worried about the drug use.

For me only. Not against them. Never blackmailed them.

So... All I did was find out who the hell these people were. Because I'm not a very good person to do it. And, you know, living on every word that they said and action they did. I thought I am dealing with a bunch of assholes. That I've encountered in the past. Yeah.

And sure enough, I am. Fuckin' hell. Holy mother of God.

What the hell is this? What the hell is this? I don't know, there was a list on the website and my lawyer supervisor took a look at everything. And he said that my daughter and my stepson would have to sign on my behalf of all the property. Because they're my hands.

[15:38]

And that's only something he did nothing about. And he said that's more than upward. He said because the evidence that you brought against him, he said it's very, very good.

So... It's because I want them sons of bitches to smarten the fuck up and start doing their job properly. Because they failed to end homelessness for me. Because they did nothing.

[16:22]

I want to see their asses slapped. I want them to see that yeah, homeless people and street people can bark back. Okay? They can stand up for themselves and fight for fucking injustice.

I lost a \$3,000 gaming computer because of their ignorance and their neglect. Now normally I don't give a crap about material shit. But if they had done something, I would have gotten more than four months use out of that computer. But I didn't. And then I had to pay for two years on it. It was no good. It was gone. It was garbage. And they tried to offer me \$500 to make it go away.

[17:12]

It was the claim of the manager of Homebase Housing. The judge was not happy with a statement like that. He said, oh we're a non-profit organization.

We don't have that kind of money to throw around. I told my lawyer, I said yeah. And at any given day you look up Joseph Street to Patrick from Montreal.

There's about 20 to 30 vehicles sitting there. Not one of them, Patrick's, costs under \$50,000, \$60,000. So obviously the staff are getting very well paid, aren't they? And what are they doing? There's two floors of offices.

And what are they doing? I would love to know. I would love to be a fly on the wall and find out what the fuck they're doing. There's two floors.

And all the homeless population has done in the last four years is grow. And grow. And grow. And they claim that they're ending homelessness by taking you from the shelter. And then they stick you in an idiotic, concocted idea of transitional housing. That's where you get to live for a year or less on hopes and prayers.

You're hoping and praying that you're going to find another place by the end of that year. But I mean you had a bitch of a time in the first place when you ended up in the shelter. So what makes you think that you're going to have any better chances even when you're housed for one year? Like I said, that's like standing with a carrot out in front of you and when you get it out, done, you take it away.

[19:09]

They promise and promise and promise they're going to do things for you and they don't. They don't. They make you go out and search and search and search.

And then you hopefully, maybe, just might have found a place that you can half-ass and afford. But if you use your entire check from O.W. or O.D.S.P. or whatever, you're broke. You got nothing for food. Nothing for anything else. But in the event that that happens, they will drive you to your appointment. Oh yeah. They'll drive you to it. And be right there sticking their fucking noses in while you're applying and everything. While you're doing your app for the apartment.

Like, what gives here, you know? When they went with me, you know, I told them, I said, get the fuck over there. Get away from here. You don't need to see this.

I just don't like people looking over my shoulder. And, you know, so at the end of that year, what happened? They were going to kick me out on the first of November. Where the hell was an old man in a wheelchair and a puppy dog going to go? Well, I was off.

[20:28]

But the whole thing is that at the end of that year, I was homeless again. And where would I end up again? Back over in the shelter. Waiting for them to shove me into another transitional unit. Transitional units do not work. They give false hopes. And home-based housing are idiots, and they do not do anything to help end homelessness.

(21:05 - 21:34)

So there's their mission statement shot all to hell. Now, we get to Adelaide. Now, Adelaide is not without its bruises, okay? You might think, well, why not? Because they... Lionhearts, who is the operator of the beds at night and the breakfast in the morning.

They were so far off. Their mission statement, it was ridiculous. I don't recall exactly what it is now. But it had something to do with, you know, accepting humility and love and caring and passion and blah, blah, blah, blah. And I started roaring with fucking laughter, man, when I read it. Because I witnessed the staff that run that part for Lionhearts

One of them, oh my god. She's just downright mouthy. Short little... But, you know, I'm kind of beginning to tolerate her.

But there are a few others that, you know... Okay, there's, let me see. Three out of about, I think it's 14 staff they got there that I like. The rest, meh.

And then there's the manager, Karen. She's okay. But she's between a rock and a hard place too.

[22:54]

And I've seen it. And her future does not look very good. She's probably going to face a hell of a lot more challenges.

But I think she's strong enough to conquer them. When you accept the position of manager for a section of Lionhearts that deals with this, you're taking on a lot. And I mean a lot.

So, but... As far as the Hub goes, zip. I don't like anything about the place. As far as home-based housing and In From the Cold goes, zip.

I don't like anything about them. That staff included in both places. Here, there's a few staff that I like, but a lot of them I just tolerate. I've learned to tolerate people. But one thing that sets me off is stupidity. When somebody does something deliberately stupid, that really upsets me. Man, you're going to get a blast from me. Because stupidity just totally pisses me off. Sure, they're stupid people, but they don't have to be stupid.

They can burn, like I did. Because after my family, I was never going to be called stupid or fool, useless and worthless anymore. And I tried very hard for these last two years to do that. I gathered up the strength a few times to get the hell off the streets and try to do a normal life, but... You know, family was calling. The street kids were my very first real family. They cared about me and took care of me.

Is there anyone wondering why I fell in love with them? Because I finally found the family that I had always prayed for when I was a kid. And to this day, I still love street kids. But these ones I love even more because they so desperately need a change to the system.

I check my email. I don't have anything new in regards to anybody wanting to help me out here. So I guess I'm not going to sit here and beg and plead every fucking day. I do it once and that's it. Nobody wanted to help. So, one day, as usual, I took on alone.

I had it all done. And I went to the server and prepared the server on the platter to the city of Kingston. I don't know what good these video broadcasts are doing.

I don't know if they're being shared or what. I know that one of the board members, one of the board members, she's moving a lot of my videos from here over to the site called Rumble

[26:34]

So, I just wish that I could find someone as honest and heartfelt as I am to these kids to help. We don't have to have money. We don't need, you know, things that don't matter.

Oh shit, now coming the rain, can it? What they need is a helping hand. Send it out to them to help. Alright guys, that's all.

I'll be back later. Have a great one. Next time back.