



## WHERE IS JOHNNY MAHAFFEY?

Prison in itself is the very embodiment of societal failure—cell after cell, filled with the lost sons (and daughters) of families broken. Either, before, possibly lending to the imprisonment; or, after, due from the imprisonment. Then, of course there is the unquestionable duplicity found within every case—keeping them within an in-between.

Part of my own Purgatory, is that I find myself increasingly preoccupied with my memories, a pre-occupation encouraged by idle hands, body, and thought. Memories of my life begin to blur—struggling at times to recall something once on the tip of any moment. I accept that with years passing, my life --Johnny Mahaffey in freedom--will grow less and less distinct, until the day all that will remain will be the forgotten pages of an unread memoir. Even now, as I pen these words I try to gather in the details reminiscent of my life among the living; because prison--is not life. I am repeatedly amazed by how the human mind works: concocting its own way through the muddled anguish of existence.

Every day--too busy for the exhaustive endeavors of prison captivity--my mind remains preoccupied with contemplation of what I can only call "The Bigger Picture." My existence is inconsequential, of that many would (and do) agree, yet it is uncharacteristically human to believe such a thing! Solopsistic, narcissistic views are not becoming of intellectually enlightened individuals; however, such self-centering



is unavoidable, to a degree—we're wired for, and trained from birth to believe our own self-importance.

Another duplicitous cunundrum: to lead a seemingly "pointless" life, that absolutely refuses to fall into—or anywhere near—that of the supposed ... inconsequentiality!

If I were NOT me, I would not BE me; I would be someone else, and there is no one else I would rather be. It is not WHO I am that is of little/no consequence—it is the WHERE, that is nonessential to the status quo of J.E. Mahaffey, writer ...

... *ex post facto*.

