

You Might Still Be Institutionalized If...

THIS NEXT SUBJECT OF MY BLOG DOESN'T DEAL WITH THE INMATES WHO ARE IN THE PRISON SYSTEM. RATHER, IT DEALS WITH THE INMATES WHO HAVE BEEN RELEASED AND ARE TRYING TO GET THE HANG OF BEING FREE CITIZENS AGAIN.

THE ONLY PROBLEM IS, THERE ARE MANY HABITS, PRACTICES, AND BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS THAT CERTAIN INMATES MAY HAVE GROWN SO ACCUSTOM TO, THAT IT'S TOUGH TO SEE HOW THEY CAN JUST ERASE THAT LIFE STYLE AS SOON AS THEY STEP OUT OF THE GATES. THESE HABITS AND BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS HAVE LITERALLY BECOME A PART OF THEIR CHARACTER. IN PRISON, THIS IS KNOWN AS BECOMING INSTITUTIONALIZED, AND IS A SUBJECT THAT GETS REFERRED TO QUITE OFTEN. BUT MOST OF THE TIME IT'S JUST USED AS A WAY OF TEASING A FELLOW INMATE ABOUT THE WAY HE DOES SOMETHING.

THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS THAT I THOUGHT WOULD REVEAL IF AN INMATE HAD REMAINED INSTITUTIONALIZED EVEN AFTER BEING RELEASED. AND, IN PRESENTING THEM, I THOUGHT I MIGHT USE THE IDEA OF THE WELL KNOWN COMEDIAN JEFF FOXWORTHY (YOU MAY BE A REDNECK IF...) ALSO, IF THERE ARE ANY OF YOU WHO CAN RELATE WITH WHAT I'M SHARING HERE, AND WISH TO SHARE YOUR REMARKS, FEEL FREE TO ADD TO MY LIST. I'LL PROBABLY BE ADDING MORE OF MY OWN LATER.

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YOU MIGHT STILL BE INSTITUTIONALIZED IF...

1. YOU KEEP INCLUDING YOUR D.C. NUMBER EVERYTIME YOU ADDRESS AN ENVELOPE OR FILL OUT A FORM.
2. YOU KNOCK ON THE TABLE BEFORE GETTING UP FROM A MEAL.
3. YOU GET A PIECE OF CARDBOARD TO BLOCK A COLD DRAFT COMING OUT OF A VENT, INSTEAD OF ADJUSTING THE THERMOSTAT.
4. YOU WEAR A PAIR OF FLIP-FLOPS WHILE TAKING A SHOWER.
5. YOU NOTICE AN UNTOUCHED ITEM ON THE PLATE OF THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU AND ASK, "YOU GONNA EAT THAT?"
6. YOU SEE SOME COPS DRIVE UP TO THE DONUT SHOP, WHERE YOU'RE ENJOYING A CUP OF COFFEE, AND YOU YELL TO EVERYBODY, "ONE TIME! ONE TIME!"
7. YOU FLUSH YOUR TOILET AT LEAST FIVE TIMES.
8. YOU WAKE UP IN THE MORNING AND START STARING AT YOUR BEDROOM DOOR, WAITING FOR IT TO SPRING OPEN.
9. YOU PUT THE SALT SHAKER IN YOUR POCKET UPON LEAVING A RESTAURANT.
10. YOU PUT YOUR OUT GOING MAIL IN THE BOX WITHOUT SEALING THE ENVELOPE.
11. YOU KEEP A RAG NEXT TO EACH OF YOUR SINKS SO YOU CAN WIPE THEM DRY AFTER EVERY USE.
12. YOU BRING A SEASONING PACKET WITH YOU TO A RESTAURANT.
13. YOU CHECK YOUR INCOMING MAIL FOR ANY STAMPS THAT ARE REUSABLE.
14. YOU BRUSH YOUR TEETH AT THE TOILET INSTEAD OF THE SINK.
15. YOU TIE SOME TOILET PAPER AROUND THE BATHROOM DOOR KNOB BEFORE USING THE TOILET.

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16. YOU HAVE TO STOP YOURSELF FROM TELLING THE WAITER THAT YOU'RE NOT EATING THE FOOD, BECAUSE HE TOUCHED THE TRAY.
17. YOU FIND YOURSELF FIXING SOME FORM OF GOULASH FOR EVERY MEAL.

LIKE I MENTIONED BEFORE, THIS IS JUST A FEW OF THE COUNTLESS PRACTICES THAT ARE OUT THERE. OH, AND IF THERE ARE ANY OF YOU WHO MAY NOT UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ONE OF THESE REMARKS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ASK.

MAZE