

RUSSELL D.

POPE: Have you mutilated your – cut yourself?

RUSSELL: Yes. I stuck a piece of wire through my penis. They took me to the hospital and Dr. Hector sew my penis – had to give me – had to cut me to get it out because I messed up an artery. I went through there and hurt an artery. I cut my stomach, cut my legs, hung myself. When I get so depressed that's what I do and then when I don't take my medicine or they don't give it to me they get mad at me. That's another way they do things to you when they know you having a serious mental problem, setback problem, they don't give you psychotic medication they know it going to make it worse. They don't give me my Prozac or my Seroquel or the medicine I've been taking me to help me rest or help me think a little clearer. They stopped giving it to me and it only – that's what make me get more hyper, more want to hurt myself when I could get that medicine that will control some of my behavior sometime.

POPE: And why do you – how does it make you feel when you cut yourself? Does that help or does that make things worse?

RUSSELL: It helps sometimes because I get the frustration out. I get the frustration out. I feel like ain't nobody listening to me, I cut myself and open myself up and it make me feel good sometime when I can mutilate myself. Do stuff like that to me. Yeah. Or when I wanted the pain, I'd do it. I just do it.

POPE: In lock up do you go out on rec?

RUSSELL: They take that from me.

POPE: They take it.

RUSSELL: They take it. They take shower, they don't give me no shower. Don't even ask me do I want to shower.

They don't - I can stand up all day but they won't let me go outside. They say my name ain't on the list. That's another way of punishing you. Keep you in your cell like that. No shower, no rec, when they bring my food, they say he refuse to eat. What can I do Ms. Pope? He refuse shower, he refuse recreation. I'm an inmate, I'm locked up in a cell. There ain't nobody I can tell. I can't tell nobody.

You know. So I got to accept it as it is and then when you're doing that to an individual like that you know constantly and he ain't got nobody to communicate with that's when I go to hurting myself because ain't nobody listening to me.

POPE: So how long has it been since you've been out on rec?

RUSSELL: I ain't been out in a long time. I ain't been out in awhile. About 6 months.

POPE: How long has it been since you had a visit?

RUSSELL: Visit from who?

POPE: From family?

RUSSELL: They won't let my family come.

POPE: How long has it been since you've seen them?

RUSSELL: A long time.

POPE: A long time.

RUSSELL: Over 2 years.

POPE: Really. How about phone calls?

RUSSELL: No phone calls or nothing. Hearing no voices down there catching the masturbating charges and that right there stop everything stopped me from seeing everybody and all that. Nobody come see me so I don't - I get impression they nobody love me no more anyway, so I - when I hear them voices and ain't getting my medicine, I just - anybody come by my cell I don't care no more.

None of them come by my door no more. They told me - they say you going - that's why a lot of them dudes back there want to hurt me. The inmates want to hurt me because the officer tell him that he be going up there and filing grievances and having people from Columbia and they know your name good back there. When they see me up here, you going to talk to Ms. Pope. He going to snitch. He going to tell her that they doing all kind of stuff back here. See you got the officer bribe certain inmates and so they bribing them they going to take up for the officer even though they doing - locking people in the

shower, we know who did it, they locked me in the shower butt naked, that's the holding cell.

POPE: They did that to you.

RUSSELL: That's the holding cell now. They don't bring you up front. They don't put you in no crisis intervention room. Suppose to go in a room. They put you in shower butt naked with handcuffs on and leave you like that.

POPE: For how long?

RUSSELL: As long as they want to. Or put you in a restraint chair.

Yeah. That's what they doing back there to a lot of people that they tell me well you crazy or you have mental problem. I don't admit that. I use to be ashamed Ms. Pope. But I'm not ashamed no more because I know we all have problems. My problem might be different from yours. I might have mental problems so what. It ain't nothing to be ashamed of.

That's why when they do that to me. So, they put me in the shower butt naked, so what, in handcuffs and leave me like that all night handcuffed don't give me no food or nothing. Leave me like that 24-72 hours like that.

POPE: What – is there anything that's happened since you've been in SCDC that has really made you feel good about yourself or your situation?

RUSSELL: No.

POPE: No?

RUSSELL: No ma'am. Ain't nothing in here make be feel good about nothing back here at Lieber. Ms. Pope, I'm a man. They sodomize me. They took a pen when I'm handcuffed that ain't right [crying] to me.

POPE: You okay, Russell?

RUSSELL: I'm sorry [crying]. You know what I'm talking about [inaudible - crying hysterically].

I want another topic.

POPE: How does being in lock up affect your symptoms?

RUSSELL: How lock up affect my symptoms, in a lot of ways. You're around so much noise. You around so much noise beating and banging and beating and banging flooding the cell it'll drive you crazy. It make me get where I can't go to bed sometimes because I be seeing stuff at night Ms. Pope. I be seeing stuff at night because there's so much confusion back there in lock up. My whole room close in on me sometimes and one night I got up and a man was in my cell butt naked, no clothes on and had his head in his hand and try to shit on me. He try to shit me and he had no head and I told the police they need to get him out of here. Police cut the light on, he said where he at? And I said you see that man sitting on bed with no head, he had no clothes on and tried to poop on me, shit on me and everything and wipe it off me and he said why you got all that stuff on you

and I said man he shit on me, you need to get him out my room. He said man you crazy, man cut my light out and won't talk to me no more.

POPE: And just left you in there?

RUSSELL: Yeah and left him in there too. No head or nothing.

POPE: Was that a time when you weren't getting your medication?

RUSSELL: They won't give me my meds. No ma'am, they won't give them to me. They won't give me no meds, no counselor, nobody to talk with you or none of that.

POPE: Is there anything else that you have a problem with, with the mental health system. You talked about the staff not being very professional and not knowing how to deal with --

RUSSELL: They be telling -- the staff in the mental health staff they go back there and talk to other inmates about you. How you my counselor and you talking telling them man I got a mental problem. Don't mess with him, he got a mental problem. They ain't their business if I got a mental problem. Why you going to tell them that. That [inaudible] and mess with me. Beat on the wall all night and them beating on the wall all night. That don't make no sense. That don't make no sense. But they do it now, they do that to me, Ms. Pope, because they figure they can get away with it that's why they do that. They figure they doing it because they can get away with it and nobody saying nothing to them about it.