

Stupid Criminals

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Entertainment

Midnight Facts for Insomniacs

Podcast Transcript

(Note: transcript consists of episode outline)

24-year-old Patrick Rempe had an awesome mustache. He also had questionable taste in friends. And drugs. And location. Based on the topic of this episode, can you guess which state he's from? Terrible taste in both state of residence and state of inebriation. Because apparently you don't make great decisions when you're a Florida man high on flakka. F-l-a-k-k-a, it sounds like a drug for muppets. "The snuffleupugus has been snuffling some flakka wakka." It's actually a synthetic designer drug modeled after the chemical cathinone, the active ingredient in a middle eastern plant called qat, which is similar to the South American Coca plant. When chewed, the leaves of the qat plant produce a mild high that suppresses appetite and makes you chatty. The synthetic version, on the other hand, makes you batshit insane. They haven't really

nailed down the formula. "We were shooting for a mild euphoric buzz; we achieved psychosis." These are clearly very reputable chemists. Definitely more Jesse than Walter white. "So we gave subject one some qat, and subject two received synthetic flakka. Subject one is talking a bit rapidly and has an elevated heart rate; meanwhile subject two just ate his own foot. Back to the drawing board, guys." Thats actually not far from the truth, because Flakka is chemically similar to the infamous street drugs known as "bath salts," which have famously resulted in instances of spontaneous face cannibalism. "Bath salts" are a great example of the hopelessness of the so-called war on drugs....when synthetic cathinone was first created, there were no laws against it, and it resembled bath crystals, so it was packaged in plastic bags and sold at gas stations and head shops. There was a time when bath salts were easier to obtain than alcohol or cigarettes. Don't drink and drive, but you can totally snort these crazy-crystals. That's why the drug war is unwinnable, because drug designers are always staying a step ahead of the law...it's like steroids in the olympics...the goal is always to find a substance that hasn't been banned yet. "One step in front of the police, one snort in front of the cops."

I mentioned Patrick's friends, that he had bad taste in friends. Back in 2015, they were all in jail. He ran with a high-class crowd, Patrick was kind of a dandy. So with his friends locked up, Patrick became lonely. He wanted to visit them. But it was way past visiting hours, and Patrick was not feeling patient, because Flakka. At this point flakka was already illegal, and when you're high on drugs, my assumption is that the easiest method for getting into a jail would be to just admit that you're high. Just drop by a police station and flash a bunch of flakka...or flash anything else.

Alternately, you could try a different strategy. Like, say, intentionally slamming your car into the front door of the jail. You get two guesses, and neither of them counts.

So Either the front door of the jail had far more structural integrity than Patrick anticipated, Or his car had less. There's surveillance video of the incident. He smacks into the door and it's like he's hitting a brick wall, the door doesn't break, but the front of his car immediately starts smoking. So Patrick tried a new tactic. He backed up and rammed into the metal fence surrounding the jail. And when that ended exactly the way you'd anticipate, he tried to scale the fence, and became entangled in razor wire.

When deputies attempted to extricate him from the razor-wire, he spat on them. I'm very supportive of efforts to reform the police, and I feel that generally police need to learn to deescalate a situation...violence should always be the last resort. Until a guy who's high on flakka spits in your face while you're pulling him out of razor wire. At that point if your taser accidentally discharges, fine. Don't shoot the dude with your gun, but you can tickle him with the zap zap. Sadly, the most recent info I could find on Patrick was another arrest record from 2019 for possession of a controlled substance. We can laugh at these people but I want to be clear that we're laughing because that's a positive way of dealing with a sad situation. Obviously this is a troubled man, he's an addict, and addiction is ultimately really sad and not funny, which is why it's important to occasionally laugh at it and remove its power. Patrick is also listed at 5' 3", which gives me more sympathy for the dude. Neither of us are tall guys and I can only imagine what it's like to be that short, because the world is mean. I don't know if I'd resort to flakka, but who knows. I'm not going to totally absolve him. Obviously he made poor choices. Like his height wasn't his fault, but that mustache was a choice.

2015 was actually a great year for stupid criminals. Or I guess a bad year for stupid criminals, or a bad year for criminals in general because so many of them were stupid. A good year for mocking stupid criminals. On August 24, 2015, a man in a black hoodie robbed the savings bank in Asheville Ohio. He used the classic slide-a-note-to-the-teller technique. I wonder how much trouble you'd get in if you slid a note to a bank teller that said something like, "have a wonderful day." they probably wouldn't appreciate that. Their day would be significantly less wonderful. No weapon was observed by the teller or by surveillance cameras. Presumably he claimed to have one, but it's pretty amazing that banks will just take you at your word. Like "yes, this guy is an attempted bank robber, but he has an honest face." The man in the hoodie, BTW, did not have what I would describe as an honest face. In fact, his face was covered with tattoos, which he had feebly attempted to cover with makeup. Police were initially unsuccessful at solving the case. One week later, a heavily tattooed man named John Mogan II posted a photo to his Facebook in which he was behind the wheel of a car with a giant wad of cash stuck in his mouth. I love that name. A face-tatted petty thief

named "John Mogan the second."
"My name is John Mogan the second, I will be your robber this evening. Prepare to meet your maker, this is a heist. I'll be taking every wallet in this Arby's." John Mogan the first must be so proud. That's one of the problems with giving one of your children your own name. Especially if you have multiple children. You're really rolling the dice, gambling that you chose correctly. That's when you pull a George Foreman and name all your kids George. My fiancé is one of six kids, and all their names start with J: Jodi, Joseph, Jessica, Jill, Jennifer, Joy. And Joy married a guy named Jay. So that's fun. I don't feel too bad for messing up their names, because she does it all the time. She'll literally be on the phone like, "listen Joy...Jessica, Jill, whoever." Anyway, in comments on the Facebook photos John referred to the cash as a "McStack," and in subsequent posts wrote, "I got six bands bra real shit [n-word]. Im doing rree=aaaaalll) good." John is white btw. Incidentally my iPhone autocorrected white to shite when I was dictating my notes, which I thought was appropriate. John is indeed shite.

Another one of the photos featured John's girlfriend, Ashley Duboe, also posing with her own wad of cash. It was relatively easy to pick up John for questioning, because

he was on parole, having been released from prison the previous month after serving a sentence for bank robbery.

About those face tattoos: on one cheek he had tattooed the words "loyalty's thin" and on the other cheek "betrayal's thick." those were the messages he wanted to broadcast to the world. I guess the real message he was broadcasting was "my parents didn't do a good job." John Morgan the first has some explaining to do. John Morgan the second plead guilty and received a sentence of three years. He also had to repay the \$6000 he had stolen. Ashley received two years in prison for driving the getaway car. So you know what that means, fellas. Ashley is going to be free and single for at least one year before John gets out. And she makes terrible decisions, so you've probably got a chance. Actually, this all happened back in 2015, so presumably they're back together and on the road to "happily ever after." On the road to being gunned down like Bonnie and Clyde. These are people who watched *natural born killers* too many times. Remember that overrated-ass movie?

Let's go to Australia, 2012. You've seen the hangover? Set in Vegas? What happens in Australia stays in Australia. Unless it ends up in the

international news. Rhys Owen Jones, 21, and Keri Mules, 20, Two Welshmen on holiday in Queensland's Gold Coast spent a night drinking and celebrating on the beach, and woke with brutal hangovers, zero memory of the previous evening, and a penguin named Dirk. At the time they didn't know his name was Dirk; they didn't know much of anything about the previous evening because: drunk Welshman. But they probably figured out what happened when the local news reported a penguin named Dirk missing from the nearby sea world theme park. It turns out that the two men— with assistance from an equally inebriated local— had broken into sea world, swam with the dolphins, discharged a fire extinguisher in the shark tank, and stolen Dirk. They tried to feed Dirk and they put him in the shower in a misguided attempt to make him comfortable, before finally realizing a seven year old fairy penguin isn't a practical pet for two guys in a hotel room; they promptly panicked, and released him into a local canal. But what they didn't realize was that before passing out the previous evening, they had posted triumphant pictures to Facebook. Dirk was spotted by some locals, who alerted the appropriate authorities. I'm not sure who qualifies as the appropriate authorities to wrangle a penguin,

but those authorities were contacted and were successful. Dirk was returned to his aquarium and to the company of his girlfriend "peaches." Some of the articles use the word "girlfriend" some used "companion," others used "mate." No one wants to clarify the relationship between these flightless birds. It's complicated. The two tourists pleaded guilty to trespassing and stealing and keeping a protected animal. They wrote letters of apology, which must have come across as sincere, because they were spared jail time and got off with fines of 1000 Australian dollars each. I don't know how much that is in Welsh. I believe it was approximately 640 British pounds. The judge said, "You could have found yourselves in a morgue if you'd gone into the wrong enclosure. Perhaps next time you are at a party you will consider drinking a little less vodka." Words to live by. Drink less, and stay out of the gorilla cage.

Here's a quick one. In 2017, two thieves in Everett Washington devised an innovative method for successfully breaking into an ATM at the Coastal Community Bank. They used a blowtorch. Firefighters responded to the blaze, and extinguished the flaming cash. No intact bills were successfully stolen, but they did manage to do \$35,000

worth of damage including the flambéed money. The thieves were never caught. I feel like they were, like these guys definitely pulled more stupid shit and ended up in jail at some point. The universe doesn't allow people this stupid to get through life unscathed.

Let's head Back to 2015, the high water mark for criminal ineptitude. The UK, Home to slightly less than half our audience. We are huge among the sheepfuckers. So Gloucester (glawster) resident Jamie Sharp stole a Porsche, and was very proud of himself. So proud that he filmed himself bragging, "I'm in a Porsche Boxster...now hear the revs." Moments later he crashed into a wall. He was pulled unconscious from the wreckage, definitely with a concussion and some head damage, but his phone along with the video was thankfully intact. This earned him a spot on "Britain's dumbest criminals." Two years later, out on bail, he stole another car. This time the incident was recorded on a CCTV security camera, and the victim posted the footage to social media, where Jamie was promptly recognized from his appearance on the TV show Britain's dumbest criminals. When you're so dumb that you end up on a television show about dumb people, and prove the title of the tv

show correct by doing the dumb thing again and then get recognized for being famously dumb. It's like a meta level of dumbness, dumbness layered on idiocy. A layer cake of stupid.

Chicago, 2008. Ruben Zarate attempted to rob a muffler shop, but was thwarted by a locked safe. Employees told him they didn't have the combination but could contact the owner to open the safe. Ruben was not a patient man. He said sure, contact your boss, I'll come back when he arrives. And he left his phone number so that they could contact him. He said, "You guys better call me because otherwise I'm going to come back to shoot you." Sure bro, we'll be waiting right here. Employees called the cops, then called Ruben, who returned to the store and was shot and arrested. He pulled out his gun when he saw the cops, I'm assuming he was trying to make good on his promise, but he was capped in the leg. He survived, for the time being. I have no confidence that he's smart enough to feed himself, let alone make it through prison.

28-year-old resident of Wichita Falls, Texas, Shareeka Strawn was pulled over this past February for a tail light violation. Ordinarily this would result in a simple fix-it ticket,

but Shareeka knew something the cops didn't know: she had five outstanding warrants for her arrest. She did what any resourceful criminal would do... she told the cops she didn't have any identification, and gave them a fake name: Porshala Strawn. A totally random name of a totally random woman who, it turned out, ALSO had warrants for her arrest. Shareeka came clean and was jailed on her outstanding warrants, plus the added charge of providing false information to law enforcement. It subsequently turned out she had also thrown a bag of marijuana out the window during the traffic stop, which cops subsequently recovered and tested, so add one more charge for good measure.

Robbing a store is always a bad decision from a moral perspective. And it's often a bad decision from a logistical perspective. 22-year-old Derrick Mosley of Beaverton Oregon learned the hard way that the planning of a heist is as important as the execution. For his weapon, he chose a baseball bat. And as his target he chose a gun store. It did not go great. To be fair, he also brought a knife. You know what they say about bringing a knife to a gun fight? I don't actually know what they say, but I'm assuming it's not a good idea. Mosley entered the

store, smashed a gun case and reached for a gun...Assuming the guns in gun stores are all loaded? They aren't. The ones that are loaded aren't in the cases, they're behind the counter. As Mosley quickly found out. By the time police arrived, Mosley had already surrendered to the armed clerks. In addition to first degree robbery, One of the offenses he was charged with was "unlawful possession of a firearm," presumably as a result of the two seconds he had his hands on an unloaded gun. That's kind of a dick move on the part of the cops, but also kind of funny.

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