



Scripts.com

# Call Me Lucky

By Unknown

Thank you very much.  
Thank you and congratulations  
for being part of this  
huge crowd today.  
They tell us ifs  
not another Vietnam  
and then they wheel out  
Henry Kissinger  
to tell us about it.  
Henry Kissinger!  
If it's not another Vietnam,  
why would they bring  
Henry Kissinger?  
What, was Goebbels  
not available that day?  
Goering wasn't around?  
Bring out Kissinger.  
And he talks like  
he's really saying'  
"We must very careful  
or war will be averted. "  
Unlike the U.S. Government,  
I've never supported  
Saddam Hussein.  
Nor have I supported  
the Shah of Iran,  
Shamir, Sharon'  
Suharto,  
Chiang Kai-shek,  
Kristiani,  
,  
the Somozas'  
the Duvaliers,  
Marcos, Batista,  
Diem,  
Rios Montt,  
Stroessner, Pinochet'  
Sorezo,  
Park Chung-hee,  
General Zia,  
The Sultan of Brunei,  
Assad, King Fahd,  
General Zia,  
Franco, Savimbi'

Lyndon Johnson,  
Richard Nixon,  
Gerald Ford'

P.W. Botha,  
Margaret Thatcher,  
Ronald Reagan  
or George Bush.

- Everything about him  
was honest and true,  
and there was no bullshit.  
There was no...

No fake anything.

- Oh, Barry Crimmins,  
oh my God.

Who's Barry? Barry who?

He was a guy...

who you heard about  
before you actually saw him.  
This whispered-about presence.  
I never met anyone like him.

- I went to Kentucky...  
I got into a big hassle.  
I got caught smuggling  
books into Kentucky.  
Got off on a technicality.  
No one could prove  
they were books.

- Barry Crimmins was this  
weird mythical force  
that was a judgmental  
sage of some kind that'  
you know,  
I didn't quite get.

- You know, in the 80s  
and 90s there was, like,  
this wave of comedy that was...  
the truth teller.

And I feel like people  
should claim him more.  
Because I think he has  
much more of an influence  
than anybody realizes.  
Gruff, smart, annoying...  
Like, invasive.

- You know, Barry  
should have been a super,  
super, superstar, I suppose,  
if this was a just world.

- I was always very aware of  
this name and this presence of,  
"If you really want to see  
somebody go to the edge,  
you gotta go look  
for Barry Crimmins. "  
But he wasn't  
putting albums out'  
the internet wasn't there yet.

- He had integrity,  
you know, and he would...  
He was a man of his word.  
But he was,  
he was a nut job!

- Hold on a second.  
Watch...  
Watch the kind  
of stuff I can do here.  
Listen, I'm sick of  
listening to you yell.  
I'm making a TV show here,  
okay?  
And you're yelling.  
Just get out.  
I don't like you.  
He's like a, you know.  
Like a guy in a John Ford  
movie, you know?  
He's just this combination  
of sort of anger  
and sentimentality,  
you know?  
Which, you know, makes him  
fascinating but difficult.

- He would rip politicians,  
he would rip musicians.  
Everything was fair  
game in his eyes.

- He's like a combination  
of Ambrose Bierce

and Charles Manson,  
if you're just looking at him.

Will Rogers and Mark Twain.

- Audie Murphy  
and Abby Hoffman.

- He looks a lot like  
Fidel Castro.

Noam Chomsky and Bluto.

- Everybody should just  
treat each other well...

Because there's a  
lot of pain out there.

And comedy has nothing to  
do with alleviating it.

It's just a distraction, man.

- I knew that he  
was a troubled guy'  
that things were  
not easy for him.

They didn't seem  
easy for him ever.

When he was around he was  
always kind of nervous  
and seemed fragile  
in a way.

But volatile.

- There's always so many people  
around making noise and stuff.

You never know

what to do, really'

because your senses are  
constantly assaulted.

And your senses are being  
assaulted right now by me  
because you're watching me  
on some electric thing.

And it's making us weird.

- His fuse was getting  
shorter and shorter.

- Fuck you.

Fuck your family.

Fucking nine-year-old kid's  
giving me shit about politics.

Blow me, all right'?

But that wasn't the issue.  
He has demons,  
Barry, you know'?

- I didn't know, I didn't  
know what made him tick.  
But that's the way he was.  
But I think...  
There was a lot of personal  
things that happened in his life  
when he was young  
that came out later.  
This is...  
Obviously I'm  
talking about Barry,  
and you're Barry's sister and...  
I don't know what's going on.  
If you want to tell me,  
this would be the time.  
God damn it!

- He lives in a nice house,  
nice stone fireplace.  
Surrounded by trees  
in a very wooded area  
in upstate New York.  
Wide open fields.  
Gorgeous nature.

- He is away from society'  
show business,  
Wal-Mart,  
Top 40 radio, you know'?

He's like a wizard.  
You know, he lives,  
he lives in the woods.

- I think it's good for  
him up there, too.  
Chopping the wood.  
It gives him a good outlet.  
It's a lifestyle.  
When you're 30 it's okay  
but at a certain age you  
start to get arthritis,  
you want a dental plan,  
you know?

- I've been a mechanic

for about 30 years  
and that's how I  
got to meet Barry.  
I was working on his cars  
and snowplowing for him,  
and he always told me  
these things that he's done  
and I've never believed him.  
I usually don't let my  
customers be my friends  
to a point where they  
come to my house  
but Barry kinda  
broke through that.  
- He's the finest person  
I've ever met in my life.  
Bottom line.  
- It's funny,  
the contrast of where he is  
and commenting on what's  
happening in the world  
is funny in itself.  
It's like if Thoreau  
could have a computer.  
Yeah, fuck this plan.  
Well, there's a couple of things  
I really still feel  
I have to accomplish,  
and if I do I think I'll be  
able to put my little tile  
in the grand mosaic of life.  
And those two things are,  
of course,  
I'd like to overthrow the  
government of the United States'  
and I'd like to close  
the Catholic church.  
- In a lot of ways I think  
Barry is his own worst enemy  
when it comes to his career.  
He's rarely had an agent.  
He can be incredibly stubborn.  
He doesn't like to delegate.  
He has a hard time

trusting others.

So if you add all that up  
and it's not a good mix  
for career advancement.

- Would you welcome now,  
in any condition,  
Barry Crimmins.

Bar.

- Been on sort of a  
health kick lately.

Lotta wars going on  
right now.

I think cable TV  
should pick up on it.

Start a cable war network.

All war, all the time.

- To take Barry and put him  
in between Jeff Dunham  
and a guy doing  
MC Harmer yokes...

It was a very stark difference.

It wasn't exactly profitable  
to be doing really  
harsh politi...

It was probably doing  
fun political stuff.

"Quayle's an idiot,  
Reagan's kind of", you know...

But he was, you know,  
almost he was edging into  
Noam Chomsky territory,  
but doing it in front  
of a neon, you know,  
thing of Charlie Chaplin  
with people drinking  
blender drinks.

- They're talking about putting  
Reagan on Mount Rushmore.

Wow, huh?

If they do that we'll have  
to raise a bunch of money  
to buy Lincoln and  
Jefferson blindfolds.

If they're going to honor him



they're going to put him on  
the million dollar bill.  
This way all his friends  
will have something  
to remember him by.  
Oh, that HUD scandal  
was nothing.  
They created homelessness  
and got paid extra for it,  
and I'm the jerk for  
pointing it out, excuse me.  
Sorry America at home, too.  
Those of you that  
still have one. Okay.  
- Before like a lot of  
these guys like Bill Maher,  
Jon Stewart, he was like  
one of the first guys  
that really would nail  
that kind of thing.  
So he was the always...  
"I know you like Bill Hicks  
but you gotta go find  
Barry Crimmins. "  
- One of the questions I've  
always wondered about Barry  
is how does he  
make any money'?  
You know?  
And I dare say this.  
If you don't know anything about  
the lineage of Boston comedy  
this place would not exist  
if this guy didn't start  
where he started  
way back in the 80s.  
He's a nice man,  
he's a gentleman'  
he's a funny man.  
He's one of the best  
performers working today.  
Please welcome  
Mr. Barry Crimmins.  
Give him a nice

round of applause.

Barry Crimmins.

- I became a vegetarian  
a long time ago.

You know what happened,  
I was...

I was eating a chicken leg which  
was a bone with meat on it,  
and I was holding it  
with my hand,  
which was a bone  
with meat on it.

My name's Barry Crimmins  
and I'm from Skaneateles,  
fucking New York.

- Barry's childhood.

Take 1 A&B count, mark.

- Okay, this is my  
childhood home. 27 Sta...

- Barry, turn over the other shoulder...

- Okay.

- This is...

- It's this one, right'?

- It's this one.

- It's the brown one'?

- We've got the wrong  
house framed up.

Are you fucking kidding me'?

- Well, this is my  
childhood home.

27 State Street.

Centrally located in  
Skaneateles, New York.

Skaneateles is an Indian  
word that means

"beautiful lake  
surrounded by fascists. "

It's spelled

S- K-A-N-E-A-T-E-L-E-S.

And when you can do that  
you're in the second grade.

It's changed over the years.

A lot of the fascists have died.

New people have moved in.

- My father was the only Democrat in the damn town. That's the truth.

- You know, while we only have one 24 hour Christmas ornaments shop, but there's, you know, 15 or 16 others and they have a Dickens festival at Christmas, even though most of the people in town that I grew up in would have rooted for Scrooge. I come to my high school reunion. I went to my 20th high school reunion because I was on TV and stuff quite a bit around then. But then a couple of the boys pulled me aside and they said "Grimmer.

We gotta give you a chance to clear your name. "

And I go, "About what?"

"We heard when you were over in Boston you done an AIDS benefit. Now this isn't true, is it?"

"Yeah, I've done dozens of AIDS benefits. "

"Well, you're not a queer, are you?"

I'm whatever threatens you.

I'm a Communist with AIDS and I bite.

He hated school... but he was a genius in my mind.

- You know, and he was probably smarter than any of the

teachers in there.

What's your rules of work?

- My rules of work are simple.

A to Z gravity.

In other words,  
the worst first.

And in my case...

childhood was the worst.

- He was born in Kingston,  
New York,

which was the first  
capital of New York.

On July 3rd so he was  
almost a firecracker but...

On the 3rd of July  
in Skaneateles

they have flares that they  
plant around the lake.

And Barry for years thought  
it was for his birthday  
because it was the 3rd of July.

That was kind of fun.

I didn't have to put  
too much out on his cake.

This is my brother,  
my only brother  
and my biggest brother.

He's big, yes.

Everything was funny to Barry.

I mean, the news  
was funny to Barry.

- Oh, he had a great  
relationship with his father.  
His father was very humorous.  
And he'd say to me.

"I had some good jokes  
to give him.

Barry didn't want them. "

My mother,  
we'd be leaning in and,  
you know, lecturing  
and my brother would  
talk back to her  
in a voice like John Wayne.

My mother... and we would  
just crack up, you know'?  
Because it's my younger  
brother talking to...  
"Get ahold of yourself, mom. "  
- And we rode around all  
day in the back roads,  
smoking cigars  
and drinking beers.  
- Yeah, we went down  
to Watkins Glen.  
H was 1973.  
Grateful Dead playing,  
The Band  
and The Allman Brothers.  
So, you know,  
we get there the first night.  
We're camping out in tents.  
Huge thunderstorm comes up.  
Crimmins is all of a  
sudden out of the tent  
with an umbrella,  
looking for something.  
You know, a beer or something,  
you know? Whatever.  
I happen to be looking,  
peeking out of my tent  
right at the same time.  
All of a sudden this frigging  
lightning bolt comes down.  
Just fries the friggin umbrella,  
Goes off into everywhere.  
He told me he was on acid.  
Probably... well, yeah.  
Crimmins is, like,  
running around going, like,  
"Wow, did you see that?"  
Anybody else would  
have been fried.  
- It was a good,  
centrally located place  
for an idyllic childhood.  
Except unfortunately  
the Catholic church

was only three blocks up there.

- You know, we grew up in those years Catholic. Being taken to church every Sunday.

Barry was always going to church really early in the morning before everybody else.

It was almost like Barry was a servant of the church.

- There's these early morning services in all churches, ostensibly because priests are supposed to say a mass every day.

It's, like, apparently some sort of, like, milking a cow thing, I don't know.

There was this priest, Father Neary, who hated me and

I couldn't figure out why 'cause I was a sincere kid trying to do my job.

But early on Neary gave me the old pedophile shoulder rub thing. He started that.

And I just hit him with an elbow. it was a reflex.

And so I get stuck serving mass with this monster every day.

And he was really scary.

He looked like

Christopher Lee, the guy who played Dracula.

I would come in through the basement and I would creep in and be as quiet as possible because he was terrifying. And there he would always

be sitting in this chair,  
and the stained glass would  
be bathing him in this eerie  
green and blue and red.  
And I would be on the altar  
and I would pour the water  
to wash his hands  
and he would go,  
"Are you trying to drown me?"  
I would ring the bell.  
"You know we don't need...  
you're not working with  
the fire department. "  
Every day,  
he just made my life miserable.  
He tried to get me into  
his car a couple of times.  
"You wanna go get an  
ice cream?" No thanks.  
- Yeah, we went to the same  
high school in Skaneateles.  
He was a couple of  
years ahead of me.  
Big jock.  
He just came up to me  
one day and just goes,  
"Listen, I'm doing a comedy  
thing over at Under the Stone. "  
I remember it so clearly,  
just walking into  
that side door  
down underneath the restaurant.  
And, you know, I was in the  
middle of a comedy act  
in Skaneateles. New York.  
- I don't know if it's  
the awful weather  
or what but there's  
something about that area  
of Central New York  
where people are just,  
just hilarious.  
And years later I was  
reading this book about

the Iroquois Indians'  
and apparently Ben Franklin  
and Thomas Jefferson  
thought they were  
fucking hilarious.  
So, yeah, there  
was an ad, you know,  
"Comedians Wanted" for a  
comedy open mic night happening.  
The ad did say.

"Comedians Wanted,  
Bear Cat"

People called him Bear Cat.  
I don't know if he referred  
to himself as Bear Cat  
tn the text of this ad.

- Oh, n did in the ad.
- n did say n?
- Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.
- Oh, okay. So guilty.
- We did start calling  
ourselves Bobcat and Tomcat,  
- directly kind of making fun of, making fun.
- As a spoof.

I used to be a doctor,  
but now I'm

- I was 16,  
you were 15 I think.

- We were in  
high school anyway.  
High school knuckleheads.

How old was Barry then?

He was in his...  
maybe like 26 or 27  
when we met him.

Yeah.

So you know Barry would be  
calling and my mother was,  
you know, understandably curious  
and a little nervous like...

- Yeah, yeah.
- "Who is this Barry Crimmins?"

"He runs the comedy show  
at the Old Stone Mill... "



"What's he doing  
calling here?"  
"He wants to talk about  
the comedy show. "  
'How OK! is he?"  
"I don't know... 40? 45'?"  
I don't know. "  
He always seemed  
like an old guy.  
You talked me into  
doing comedy.  
"Hey, you're funny,  
you know what I mean?"  
Ah, I don't know.  
You were always Bob  
"Full Steam Ahead"  
Goldthwaite.  
And I'm Tom  
"Let Us Not Be Hasty'  
Let's Weigh All The Options"  
Kenny.  
You know, that whole night  
and that experience, like,  
you know, going up and  
then getting the validation  
of this guy Barry Crimmins,  
that did change the whole  
course of my life, I think.  
- To see Barry in  
this environment  
with the comedy  
made sense.  
It was extremely funny.  
I mean, I laughed  
to the point of tears.  
And he said to me,  
"I'm gonna make a living  
at this if it kills me. "  
And that was shortly before  
he left and came here,  
he came to Boston.  
He called me and goes,  
"I found the perfect spot.  
It's a Chinese restaurant

that does country western line dancing four nights a week.

I'll be able to talk him into anything. "

- "I'm gonna start a comedy club here.

We're gonna make it five days a week. "

- He ran a club there that everybody wanted to work.

It was a great club.

- Might have been the best comedy club ever.

- He saw the comedy wave coming.

- The Connection was paying \$15 bucks a set.

Barry paid \$20.

Connection said,

"Okay, we'll pay \$20."

Barry paid \$25.

Connection went to \$25,

Barry went to \$30.

And the next thing you know, you're making \$400 bucks on a Friday night.

That was Barry.

He recognized talent.

He booked

Paula Poundstone over there.

Sweeney and Lenny.

- Bobcat Goldthwaite was part of that.

Kevin Meaney, Rogerson.

Dennis Leary.

- He basically spawned all of these great humorists.

It was a family, a real family, not like a show biz family.

It was fucking cool.

- He knew something was happening.

- We didn't know what hit us and it turned out to be

the foundation of  
comedy nationally.

He would take the money,  
like, what I was being paid,  
like, \$30 bucks.

He'd have it crunched up,  
crunched up  
and he would throw it  
on the floor.

He'd just throw it on  
the floor at my feet.

He'd go, "There!"

Then he'd walk away.

Jokingly,

like, you know'?

Over and over.

Not just once.

- Of all the  
bigger-than-life characters,  
Crimmins was the biggest.  
And you could tell he was,  
like, in charge.

- He wasn't the most  
successful comedian in Boston;  
he was, like,  
the president of the scene.

- He had become this guy  
that you could go to  
and he understood your plight.  
He understood my comedy.  
Even though I didn't even  
understand it myself.

What's wrong with you people'?  
God... my eye!

- He just seemed to have extra  
knowledge of stuff in general.  
So if he was giving you a  
compliment comedy-wise,  
it was really...  
it felt good.

- I mean, I remember we did  
a Ding Ho reunion one time,  
and everyone was going on and on  
about what a great guy Barry was

and how he helped  
me do this and,  
you know, I said, "Look,  
I don't think Barry likes me.  
And, you know,  
that's just the way it is. "  
And then afterwards for,  
like, every time I saw him,  
"Yeah, I don't like you,"  
"Yeah I don't like you,  
I don't like you,  
what are you gonna  
do about it?"  
"I don't like you. "  
- And he was very  
direct with comics.  
He had quality control  
at the Ding Ho  
in terms of who he booked.  
- I love most of the  
comedians that I work with.  
Almost every single  
one of them.  
- The first time that I  
performed at the Ding Ho,  
I brought about 40 friends  
from the neighborhood.  
I was supposed to do  
5 minutes.  
It ran about 24 minutes.  
I don't want to brag,  
I'm not trying to make  
anyone feel uncomfortable,  
but two years ago  
I went to Europe.  
Huh!  
Excellent country.  
I was an open micer  
and Crimmins is in the back  
going, "That's Clark!"  
"That's Sweeney!"  
"Do your own shit, Tingle!"  
You know,  
I was demoralized.

And so he was saying  
the next day,  
"You know, you really have  
to go through your stuff  
with a fine-toothed comb  
to make sure it's not  
derivative of other people. "  
I think that was the first time  
I heard the word "derivative. "  
- You could tell straight away  
that there were other comics  
who respected mm  
but were a little irritated by  
their having to respect him.  
Does that make sense?  
I was really scared of him.  
He didn't have an  
open demeanor.  
- I think the terror of  
Barry Crimmins being mad  
made us funnier.  
- You know what else  
made me mad this summer  
when we sold the  
Statute of Liberty  
to huge corporations?  
I felt we could have fixed  
that with our tax payer's money.  
I would... would you be  
real indignant about that  
if they took tax money...  
What, you would say  
"You took our hard-earned  
tax payer's dollars  
and you fixed the goddamn  
Statute of Liberty'?"  
Next thing you know you'll be  
defending the Constitution. "  
They surrounded the Statue  
of Liberty on its birthday  
with rich thugs in yachts.  
H's looking down and saying  
"I asked for huddled masses.  
What is this?"

Who painted "Beatrice"  
across my crown?"

Liberty and justice for sale.

I got sucked in.

I donated \$100 bucks,  
they sent me a Statute  
of Liberty tote bag.

I use it to smuggle baby  
Mexicans into the country.

- Barry, are you going  
to vote this year?

- Yes, I already  
voted in the primary  
and I will vote, certainly.

- Ah, would you tell us  
who you voted for?

Um... no.

...No?

- He was a very lovable,  
capable,  
straightforward comedian  
that was able to smuggle  
stuff about authoritarianism  
and consumerism  
into a seemingly  
middle of the road set  
that the audience would laugh  
at and then it was too late,  
they'd already started  
laughing at some pretty  
subversive, you know,  
apocalypse-culture  
son of stuff.

- Can you believe Exxon actually  
called a press conference  
to tell us that they're going to  
pass the cost of the oil spill  
along to us,  
the consumers?

No kidding.

I was sure the vice presidents  
at Exxon would have insisted  
on paying for the  
entire affair.

"No, no, no,  
your money's no good here.  
Those otters are on me,  
I've got those. "  
Did you hear what  
the Chief of Staff  
for President Bush John Sununu  
said about this oil spill?  
He said, "Hey, nobody ever  
mentions how much oil  
didn't spill out  
of the Valdez. "  
Once in a while you  
need an up guy  
like John Sununu, you know?  
Is the tanker half-empty'?'  
- I was always amazed that Barry  
knew the stuff that he knew.  
Before the internet,  
before CNN.  
I was like,  
how do you know who  
the Defense Minister  
in Syria is?  
How do you figure  
that stuff out'?'  
- I have to say,  
I know when it was politics,  
like, on stage or  
even hanging out'  
if he said something,  
I would say that,  
two thirds of what  
he's talking about  
I don't know what he means.  
- I love the new pope, too.  
He's a wonderful man.  
He's a wonderful man.  
A leftist, according to his  
PR man from Fox News,  
Greg Burke.  
Good man.  
Celibate-.  
Doesn't do a thing

with his penis,  
his dirty, dirty penis.  
And he's selled to us that  
he's this progressive man who'  
who tells that we  
should help out the poor.  
We should help them.  
We should help the poor...  
'cause God forbid the  
church sell a fuckin' chalice.  
- I remember in the mid 80s,  
seeing him,  
maybe before I even started,  
you know, doing comedy.  
So he's smoking,  
he's wearing a jacket,  
maybe a tie.  
He's got this afro  
and his mustache.  
You know, he's greasing the  
audience with some garbage  
about this and that.  
Then he does a few  
political jokes  
and just sort of,  
like, nothing.  
He's getting nothing.  
And he's exasperated.  
And then he just stops,  
defeated and goes,  
"All right, there are three  
branches of government... "  
And he starts a civics lesson.  
- I think to be a guy who takes  
the world very seriously  
and is outraged by bullshit,  
to have been really  
politically aware  
at the height of the mass  
hypnosis of the Reagan era,  
must have been  
acutely distressing.  
- Let's start with the part  
that is the most controversial.



A few months ago I told  
the American people  
I did not trade arms  
for hostages.  
My heart and my best intentions  
still tell me that's true.  
But the facts and the  
evidence tell me it is not.  
- Our international policies  
under Reagan are great.  
Central American policies  
are tremendous.  
If people are hungry,  
kill them.  
- But this group of over  
150 religious leaders,  
each baring crosses with  
the names of people  
they say were killed  
by Contras,  
was among those in Washington  
vigorously opposing  
the president's proposal.  
- Well, you know, I had  
been going to Nicaragua  
for the previous  
three or four years.  
I was a big supporter  
of the Sandinistas.  
Barry was very much on top of  
what was going on down there.  
He had done a lot of material  
about the Iran-Contra affair.  
- The President's so into  
pulling boats into harbor  
I'm afraid he's going to pull  
the boats into harbor  
in Nicaragua which  
would be a big mistake  
'cause he mined that  
three years ago  
and he's old and he forgets.  
- So he was the  
perfect person to bring.

- One of the finest political satirists you will ever see.

Would you please say hello to Mr. Barry Crimmins.

Barry?

- What a tough summer its been in the United States. We have this big presidential election coming up.

Of course the big problem is someone will win.

Just some rambling notes from a guy kind a freaked out in another land.

The Contras, though, from what I understand, I mean, they keep comparing them to the founding fathers of the United States, Thomas Jefferson and stuff.

And from what I understand they're cocaine dealers.

I never read a quote from Thomas Jefferson, "Come on in the men's room, I'll tighten you up. "

I thought I was just supposed to say no to drugs...

unless they're from the Contras, then just say, "Si. "

- He was loved down there. People liked what he had to say. He, you know, gave the whole group credibility.

- I keep hearing about the Contras, the freedom fighters. And I thought about it for a while and I realized they are: some of them have been fighting freedom for what, close to forty years now.

Whenever it rears its ugly head.

They don't get that joke at  
the comedy clubs in America.  
So I'm in Nicaragua  
and I'm in this field hospital  
with all these kids.  
H's so hot'  
they're so uncomfortable'  
a lot of them with fresh wounds.  
You could see they're  
wrapped up in gauze,  
and there's blood coming...  
I mean, it's, like,  
really heavy.  
And every kid on one of  
these cots has lost a limb.  
Lost an arm or a leg,  
or whatever.  
And for whatever  
reasons they said,  
"Okay, Barry,  
you address this group. "  
So I tell them that  
they're not my enemies,  
and what has happened to  
them does not represent  
what an awful lot  
of people I know,  
and have listened to what  
I've had to say on stage  
and in public,  
does not represent us.  
And I do not want  
to harm children.  
I do not want to harm  
babies who have...  
I do not want to harm you.  
You're beautiful  
and you've been... and my  
country did this to you.  
And as someone who believes  
in freedom this is what I do.  
I say this is wrong.  
And I oppose this.  
And I love you.

And I hate fucking  
Ronald Reagan  
and the fucking  
bullshit PR campaign  
that this country is about.  
I fucking despise it.  
And I don't like to hate  
and despise  
but I do cause it's crap  
and it kills and maims  
and harms innocents.  
And there's tears  
coming down the kid's faces.  
There's tears coming down  
everybody's faces.  
And then I just said,  
"That's all I got.  
I got nothing else to say. "  
And the applause starts.  
I have heard the sound  
of one hand clapping.  
I've heard the sound  
of one hand clapping  
and it haunts me,  
stays with me my whole life.  
- Why don't you just ask me  
what you most want to know'?  
I mean, he told me at one  
stage of the game that,  
you know, someone might  
call to interview me  
but nobody asked me  
to be filmed.  
Okay?  
You understand?  
And so, um, so when I  
understand I'm being filmed  
then suddenly I'm thinking,  
oh, I think I'm being asked  
to discuss something  
very intense.  
- Anybody who does any kind of  
political humor runs into this.  
It's not for everybody.

And so it's a hard thing  
anyway,  
coupled with the fact of  
personal experiences  
that are hurtful and  
haven't been resolved.  
And in terms of drinking'  
was he trying to block  
something out?  
I don't know.  
He would have to be the  
one to diagnose that.  
- I don't think I've  
ever seen Barry  
without a beer in his hand.  
I think that was,  
you know, that was it.  
- I remember that distinctly,  
watching him on stage and...  
First of all not believing  
how much he could drink  
and go on stage.  
This isn't going to be enough,  
by the way.  
- He's the hardest drinking  
man who's not an alcoholic.  
We would do the show  
and after the show  
the core would stay.  
We'd lock up.  
There are fights.  
And they were  
behind the bar, like...  
the first thing I noticed  
about the Boston scene  
is they had the keys  
to the bar.  
This place is magic.  
And there's been  
a lot of magic here.  
Kind of like that.  
When I was 19,  
I was at the other  
club owner's party

and I had been drinking  
and then I took some acid.  
And I might have done  
some coke that night,  
I don't know.  
I was a maniac.  
I was blacked out  
and I just ripped the  
VCR off the television  
and threw it out the  
window in a snow storm.  
I kind of just destroyed  
the whole place.  
The next day I couldn't  
have been less popular.  
Like, everybody  
kind of abandoned me.  
I felt so alone.  
I felt horrible.  
And Barry just reached  
into his pants pocket  
and gave me a couple  
hundred bucks and he said,  
"Why don't you go home  
and figure out what you're  
going to do with your life. "  
And I've been sober ever since.  
- We left the Ding one  
morning, about 5:30, 6,  
and we went to a place on  
Mass Ave and it was closed,  
or we were there too early,  
and I said,  
"Why don't we go to  
Julia Child's house?"  
Welcome to The French Chef.  
I'm Julia Child.  
1-  
This is a cheese souffle.  
- So we go down by the  
river where she lived,  
and we pull in.  
Pull into Julia Child's  
driveway.

Get out of the car,  
bang on the door.  
"Julia!  
Wake up!  
Make us breakfast,  
you fucking bitch!"  
And Crimmins is going'  
"We're gonna get arrested,  
this is where she lives. "  
He looked at the mail,  
he goes, I said,  
"Yeah, I used to know,  
I know used to deliver mail...  
I was the paper boy,  
like, I was... "  
And I go, and he goes,  
"You're out of your mind. "  
And of course the  
whole house woke up  
and we managed to  
evade the police.  
- I remember one time being in  
the dressing room with Crimmins.  
He used to talk like, you know,  
"We're gonna make  
a difference here. "  
And I'm like, "Uh... does  
anyone have any coke'?  
Is there coke around?"  
- The most insane thing that  
happened at the Ding Ho  
is everybody became  
a cocaine addict.  
- So Barry, as you know,  
hates cocaine.  
- And we all kept it  
from him, you know'?  
- You doing drugs?  
What kind are you on?  
- Uh, cocaine.  
You want some'?  
Uh, no thanks.  
- "No, I'm not doing coke.  
No, no, no. " You know?

So, you know, "I gotta go  
to the bathroom again. "  
You know'?

And you go in.  
Yeah,...

Do I look all right?  
And he knew it.

- I get in the cab one day  
to go to the Ding Ho,  
where I worked for several  
years to make the place happen.  
And someone says, "You going  
over there to get some blow?"  
"Jeez, no, I'm going over  
for the prostitutes. "

- Interestingly enough,  
he wasn't the alpha.  
The alpha was Lenny  
and the beta was Barry.

- And he was, you know, he was  
cerebral and did his politics,  
and I was the exact opposite  
end of the spectrum.  
'Cause I love women.  
Women are probably the  
number one reason  
why I'm not  
a homosexual today.  
Okay, I blew one guy but  
I needed a ride real bad.  
Ah, you're great.  
I'm kidding you,  
I'm teasing you, folks.  
I didn't need the ride.  
See, the thing is...

- He would overlook my,  
my, my right wing,  
my right wing nut job stuff...  
because I pulled people  
into the club.  
And he was not a stupid man.  
He saw me bringing people in,  
and so he says,  
"We'll put up with your bullshit



because you bring people in.  
But you're wrong!  
You're wrong!"  
There was the night I  
walked in with a chainsaw  
and I fuckin' sawed one  
of the tables in half  
and the fuckin' place- I said,  
"Any hecklers here tonight?"  
And sawed the table in half.  
And the fucking  
crowd went crazy,  
and Crimmins was steaming,  
just steaming.  
Couldn't wait to fucking get me.  
And he says, "Are you  
out of your fucking mind'?"  
What if that fucking chain broke  
and went up and sliced someone's  
fucking face in half?"  
I go, "Wow, man, that  
would have been cool. "  
But you know,  
in retrospect, he's right.  
What if I hit a,  
what if I hit, like,  
a screw or something,  
and the chain, like,  
you know?  
People,  
they don't want to be maimed.  
They want to laugh 'till they  
puke or piss their pants  
but they don't want to  
be maimed, you know'?"  
I voted for Ronald Reagan.  
To this day I think he  
was a great hero to me.  
And I'm sure he was the  
Antichrist to Crimmins,  
and he said so on stage.  
But I'm testimony to the  
fact that his compassion,  
his humanity, isn't restricted

to people that agree with him.

- You know, we were very close and very different.

He's more about anger and I'm son of more about depression.

He's also one of the few people I know who gets more articulate the angrier and more upset he gets.

- Forgive me, and if I seem like I'm threatening stuff or going after stuff,

I'm negative or whatever...

no, but there's just a lot of bullshit out there

and I have all week

to notice it

and you guys don't so

I just try to report to you,

and I mean well, and if I

seem negative or whatever,

please, it just means

I'm still in there pitching

and everybody else has

given up so who's positive

and who's negative in

that deal? I don't know.

- You may recall, in 2005,

there was a woman,

Cindy Sheehan, who had

lost her son in the war.

And she wanted to

see George W. Bush.

And she went down to Texas

and she was waiting

outside the ranch.

- I don't want any

more children to die.

I'm a broken-hearted morn.

Why would I want

one more mother

to go through what

I'm going through

just because Casey is dead?

- It started off a little slow  
with seven people  
and then Barry came down.  
He was there for weeks.  
I mean, he... I mean, hundreds  
and hundreds of media came  
as a result of his efforts.

- I think he could also  
see what was happening'  
how the media and other  
forces were coming  
to kind of spread  
their own message.  
He is deeply offended  
that the world doesn't  
think these things  
are as important as  
the world says they are.  
He would like the world  
to be a principled place.  
He would like politics to  
be an honorable profession.  
He would like the world  
(o share his values.  
And one of the ways it's  
expressed when he's on stage  
is in the tremendous  
kindness that he shows  
to the audiences  
he's screaming at.  
You know'?

- Barry Francis Crimmins  
is fucking ashamed  
of the United States  
of America right now.  
You should all be... if  
you've got no fucking courage,  
if you don't stand up  
against this bullshit,  
and you don't believe,  
go read some Tom Payne  
and then see what you  
should do right now.  
You decide what you do right

now because I'm embarrassed.  
I'm embarrassed  
to live in a country  
where everyone's  
cowed into bullshit.  
"Oh, well, well, but  
you know in the end  
we're still the greatest land-  
We suck right now.  
The United States of America  
in 2004 sucks right now  
and is an embarrassment.  
So lets see if that  
makes the cut.  
I hope it does.  
If it does,  
you're watching a good movie.  
- He stopped, I think,  
worrying about whether  
he was being funny or not.  
And the audience,  
rightfully was like,  
"Who the fuck is that guy'?  
Why is he yelling at us  
because I don't know about  
where chalk comes from? "  
- What I couldn't do is,  
I always had to close shows  
and would watch the  
acts on before me,  
and I would watch the audience  
think they were great  
and I'd hate the audience  
by the time I got out there  
because it was, you  
know... you know,  
"Where you from'? What do you do?  
You're a queer. "  
You know those comics.  
Why do women go  
to the bathroom in pairs?  
Because they get  
hassled by drunk men.  
Write an act, you asshole!

How come foreigners drive  
cabs and work at the 7-11?  
Because they're entry  
level jobs, that's why.  
Same reason your great  
grandparents built the rail road.

Write a goddamn act!

I used to be proud  
to consider myself  
a stand up comic but I can't.  
I don't want the  
guilt by association.

- He doesn't do it on purpose  
but he can make you feel  
a little small or guilty  
about having had a...  
really a basically  
incorrect political idea  
or notion about something.

- I didn't mean to  
insult you or anything...  
well, I guess I meant to,  
like, inform you  
but it came out as an insult.  
I'm awful goddamn  
sorry for that.

- He doesn't even really  
like the word "comedy".  
And, you know, having  
covered comedy for so long'  
I can understand how he's  
sort of at odds with it.  
I sometimes feel cheap,  
that I'm up just up on the  
stage making people laugh.  
It's kind of like  
testing your reflexes.  
It's just a nervous reaction.  
And I think he has  
always felt that way'  
I suspect, as a comedian,  
that he wasn't going up there  
just to make people laugh.

- Fucking I hate comedy,

I really do.  
Almost everyone involved  
with it, ya know?  
I'm super-needy  
but blah, blah.  
What did you think?  
- And it was extremely  
stressful just watching him  
because first people  
would be mad that  
they're not really laughing.  
Some people would leave.  
And then there would  
be... some people would heckle.  
Barry doesn't...  
he doesn't suffer  
fools wisely.  
He lays into those hecklers.  
It is completely unbelievable.  
It's just beautiful.  
Whoever it is doesn't know'  
does-n'! know what he's doing,  
really.  
He thinks he's just going  
to yell at the guy on stage.  
He doesn't know the force,  
the energy,  
that he's going to be  
crushed verbally for two'  
three minutes maybe.  
Just overwhelmed.  
- Someone would say something  
and he would just go off.  
What?  
Did I vote for Carter?  
In this most recent election?  
Yeah, I was a die-hard.  
Jimmy Carter?!  
What, if I don't like Reagan,  
I have to like...  
therefore it falls  
I like Carter. Fuck you.  
You're like a college student,  
aren't you?

College students  
these days are real hip.  
"I support the president.  
I've got a computer  
in my dorm.  
I've never gotten laid.  
I got drunk once;  
I'm pretty sure  
the beer was bad. "  
Fuck you.  
Fuck your family.  
No, he kept going and going.  
And then he would fuckin'  
beat them down so much.  
Want some more?  
Fucking gold boy?  
Fuck you. Fuck you.  
Jesus, not tonight,  
not tonight.  
- And he would do  
a litany of shit.  
More facts and'  
"Did you know this?  
And did you know that?"  
And the people would go,  
"What the fuck, man?  
It's a comedy show. "  
Jimmy Carter?!  
What, do you think  
I like Jimmy Carter'?  
Jimmy Carter and his immediate  
family has never been seen in  
public without mucus on  
some part of their body.  
Carter's best plan  
to get the hostages out  
is go out into the desert  
and attack ourselves  
with helicopters.  
You know what he promises?  
"A government as good  
as its people. "  
Apparently we suck.  
"If you don't like Reagan,

you like Carter. ll follows. "  
Fuck you.  
"Fuck you.  
Fuck you,  
Mister Politic Boy.  
That shit doesn't  
affect me. "  
He goes,  
"It doesn't affect you?!"  
- My impression of

**Richard Nixon:**

"Where is that constitution?"  
How come nobody ever shot  
that motherfucker?  
Shoot him.  
Piss on his grave.  
He would go into a rage.  
And I said,  
"Barry, what the fuck?"  
- There was something shaky  
and weird about him  
but I couldn't put  
my finger on it.  
- I don't know if a lot of  
people knew why at that point.  
I don't 'think I did.  
- I certainly wasn't the  
only one who noticed it'  
but there was just...  
you knew that wasn't him.  
And then when all that  
stuff happened with him,  
you kind of understood,  
you know,  
that self-protective shell that  
he put over himself for so long.  
- I remember writing about it  
and talking to him and saying'  
"You gotta cutout  
the clubs for a while.  
The clubs just  
aren't working for you.  
I don't! know what you're



going to do next  
but the clubs obviously aren't  
the right place for you. "  
As I look back now  
in retrospect,  
a lot of this makes sense.  
- Okay.  
Mm-hmm. I love you.  
- Okay.  
Bye, mom.  
He's had some rough times  
but he's like I am,  
you know?  
I've had them, too, but I  
forget about the rough ones  
and try and be happy  
that I'm alive and doing well.  
- I knew my mother liked  
Black-Eyed Susans  
and I would pull clumps  
of them out of the ground.  
I didn't know that you were  
supposed to cut them off,  
so I would bring them  
to her like clumps  
with the roots still dangling,  
all full of dirt.  
And because she liked it  
so much I kept doing it,  
and I didn't realize she was  
getting kind of a kick out of me  
being an idiot.  
Now I feel bad about  
wiping out generations  
of Black-Eyed Susans.  
But, you, know, that's me,  
I find a way to ruin anything.  
He was really a great boy.  
- So this was dated back  
in early May of 1992.  
"Barry Crimmins has been the  
social and liberal conscience  
of the Boston comedy  
almost since its beginning.

His topical and political  
humor has always been  
intensely personal  
and acidic.

Crimmins took both of those  
traits to a new level last night  
in perhaps the most  
highly-charged  
and soul-baring  
monologue ever staged  
in one of the city's  
comedy clubs. "

That was amazing.

He got up at Stitches.

- It was just like a regular  
stand up comedy show.

And the crowd was good  
and he was popular in Boston  
and everybody loved him,  
you know,  
so they were all psyched.

- There was nothing  
funny about it,  
as one might imagine.

"Near the end of the night'  
after a rambling,  
scathing indictment  
of almost every aspect  
of American government  
and culture'

a clearly tortured Crimmins  
suddenly shifted topics. "

- Anytime somebody that  
you've known for a long time  
discloses something huge  
and game-changing and...  
it makes you rethink  
that whole person.

- "Since I was a little kid,  
he began,

I could never stand to see  
anyone innocent victimized.

I've always identified with  
victims and thought that was

because I was some  
white kid from a rich town  
in upper state New York.  
Only recently, Crimmins went on,  
did he really begin  
to understand that  
wasn't the reason.  
The room instantly grew as  
silent as a newly dug tomb. "  
- So I'm a little kid...  
I'm a real little kid...  
and I'm by all reports  
a sweet little kid.  
Curly haired...  
I mean, I remember  
everybody loving me.  
I remember, you know,  
strangers doting on me'  
and I remember  
trusting everyone'  
and I remember delighting in,  
figuring out what's going on.  
What, you know,  
day and night is,  
and what, you know,  
the sun is.  
I was a good little kid,  
you know?  
And I deserved a break.  
I was a sweetheart like  
every little kid. You know?  
I deserved a break.  
And I didn't know  
what was headed my way.  
You know,  
my parents who weren't...  
they just went out sometimes  
so they had a babysitter.  
And, uh...  
the babysitter  
kind of set me up  
and made me like her a lot.  
And then this guy  
started coming over

who was her mother's  
boyfriend or something.  
You know, something that was  
an arrangement that wouldn't  
have been formally  
discussed in the late 50s.  
Sometimes you know  
who's not good.  
And anyway this guy  
was not good.  
And, you know,  
I can remember him, like,  
touching my curly hair.  
There was always, like,  
an attraction, you know?  
Like, I generally  
didn't mind but this guy...  
there was something just wrong.  
You know, I couldn't tell  
you now how many times.  
I mean, I could never...  
how many times or whatever  
but it was a number of times.  
This guy would come over,  
he would take me down in the  
basement and... rape me.  
- Barry felt that it was key  
to interview you.  
He actually said to me  
that you're his hero.  
And that's in regards to...  
ms rape.  
- It's scary for anybody  
of any age to really see  
someone who's gone,  
who's the face of evil,  
who's like this nothing.  
There's no soul there.  
There's nothing.  
It's just so...  
possessed by what they have,  
what they feel like  
they have to do,  
what they can't not do.

And I would of course  
scream and cry...  
and... my face would get shoved  
into these couch cushions...  
to muffle the noise.  
Well, this sewed to  
suffocate me and I...  
I would get asphyxiated  
and pass out.  
This is...  
a lot to ask of me.  
Anyway, so...  
let's see...  
So I was, like, five.  
So I.. - even like a normal  
five year old,  
I sneaked in the house, right?  
And nobody was upstairs.  
So I thought that was  
very strange, like,  
you know, where's Barry?  
Where's the babysitter?  
So...  
I went downstairs,  
walked down the stairs and...  
you know, I thought  
Barry was dead.  
Then the babysitter saw me  
and yelled my name  
and then Barry  
looked up at me...  
And I ran and just...  
knew he needed help.  
So I made it up  
almost to the top stair  
and she got my foot'  
and I was screaming,  
and I bit the babysitter.  
Pretty hard.  
- I read of this poor  
little girl in India  
who was raped to death.  
I think she was 3 years old.  
Imagine that. I mean,

I've been through some stuff'  
but being raped to death...  
Well, I mean, that's the  
end of your whole life.  
And I just felt  
so badly for her,  
felt so terrible for her.  
And I was,  
you know, relating to it,  
and I was just thinking, yeah,  
so, it could've been worse.  
I had almost been raped  
to death a number of times.  
- But it's that glance  
that gets you,  
you know what I mean?  
Life registers in, in... kind of  
visually on people, you know?  
It's a glance that lasts  
a lifetime, you know?  
Just like the glance from  
my brother, you know?  
And I had to, like, belt out of  
there and run up some stairs  
and what the hell'  
and yet the whole world  
was changed for both of us  
from that point on,  
you know?  
- It was the most shocking thing  
I think in my life that I heard,  
when I heard the whole story.  
I mean, it makes you  
just revile humanity.  
It makes you want to hug Barry  
and just... or fucking kill him,  
you know,  
put him out of his misery.  
And it just took a long time for  
me as his friend to get over it.  
- To me it gave me  
a little bit of resolve  
knowing the man that I do.  
'Cause there was, there

was always anger there.

There was always something.

- He's always seemed a little angry.

- There was always...

- he was always pissed off at something, and...

- And he'd show it on stage too.

- And it started to

kind of fit into place.

- I do remember the

headline in The Phoenix:

"Baby Rape. "

And it was,

you know, something

that I don't think

I understood,

fully comprehended at first.

It was like something

that I myself would go'

you know, "Why, why would you,

why are you talking about that?"

You know?

"That was a long time ago.

Why bring that up?"

You know?

And it wasn't until that I came

to terms with my own sexuality

and my own abuse

that I looked back

on that and said,

"Look at how courageous,

you know,

he was to admit that

and not be afraid. "

A lot of gay people

here tonight?

Just me. OK.

You know, Lenny

had called Crimmins

and told him that I was gay.

And then he called me

and it wasn't...

he didn't even ask me,

you know,

if I was or wasn't gay.

It was just, like,  
this kindness that he had that,  
it would be okay if I was.  
And I just continued to  
deny it, you know?  
"No, I'm not, I'm not. "  
Because that was my whole life,  
you know?  
That, you know,  
you were just, like'  
constantly hiding  
that you are who you are'  
you know,  
so I couldn't admit it.  
It took me a long time to,  
you know, come to that,  
come to those terms'  
and when I did, you know,  
I called Barry and it wasn't...  
he didn't say, "I knew it,"  
or anything like that.  
It was just this kindness  
that he had,  
and if it was anything that,  
you know,  
if there was anything  
that he could do to help me,  
you know,  
he would be there.  
But you can be  
a football player.  
You can be a fucking homo  
and be a football player.  
How about that?  
You couldn't do that  
years ago.  
Now you can be  
a football player.  
And everybody's going,  
"Oh my God, he's so brave.  
He's so brave!  
He plays football,  
and he's gay.  
He's brave.



That's brave. "  
I'll tell you what's brave.  
I told my wife I was gay.  
That's brave, alright?  
That is brave.  
- So many people

**said this to me:**

"Well, are you talking  
to anyone about it?"  
Yeah, I thought I was  
fuckin' talking to you.  
You know?  
But what they're really saying  
is go talk to the psychiatrist  
who's then gonna...  
and I did, and you know'  
they said, "Well, there's  
a variety of things... "  
and basically they  
were just telling me  
what drugs  
they could put me on  
and for once in my life  
I turned down drugs.  
- I was sitting in the offices  
of Moving Forward,  
the news journal that  
I published and edited,  
and answering phones,  
and I get this call  
and it's Barry Crimmins.  
So he told me a  
little bit about himself,  
but it was very humble,  
you know?  
He didn't get into,  
you know,  
all this stuff about  
being a famous person  
or, you know,  
anything like that.  
He really just wanted  
someone to talk to.

He had been rejected repeatedly  
by numerous organizations  
who were out there  
supposedly helping victims  
of childhood sexual  
abuse and...

you have male survivors  
and you have female survivors  
and generally the  
two mix quite well,  
at least in my experience.

But there are, you know,  
both men and women  
who don't want anything to do  
with the opposite gender,  
you know, the gender  
that they were abused by'  
and unfortunately Barry  
encountered a couple  
of these people in Cleveland.

When Barry went to Cleveland  
he kind of stopped  
doing comedy  
and was looking for  
other survivors,  
people like him who had  
been raped as a child.

And this was when AOL  
was in its infancy.

And they had all  
these chat rooms.

- You know, Barry called me  
up one night and he said,  
"Lana," he said'

"Go here and then go here. "

You know, "Look at this. "

And I, I just went...

Wow, I couldn't believe,  
you know, what I was seeing.

- What he ended up finding  
was people exchanging  
child pornography.

- You know, it's the  
first time these people

ever had a community.  
You know, I mean,  
you really could never talk  
to other child  
molesters or whatever.  
And they're emboldened  
and living it up,  
and when I first  
stagger in there,  
I do what any  
normal person would do,  
I just go,  
"Are you people crazy?"  
- Somebody would in  
good faith send you a file  
and expect something in return.  
- They very often would start  
sending me child pornography  
to show me how much  
fun I could have.  
- He had gone to AOL  
repeatedly and said,  
"Look what you're hosting,  
this horrible stuff. "  
And they would just, you know,  
patronize him and say,  
"Thank you for your help  
with this" and do nothing  
'cause they were making  
a ton of money off of it.  
- You know, we're used  
to broadband, okay?  
I mean, you know, this...  
when we were on dial-up modems,  
this was not a flat rate,  
and if you spent a certain  
level of time online,  
you got charged more.  
- And one of the main things  
that these child molesters  
talked about in these  
rooms was, you know'  
they're spending a thousand,  
\$1,200 a month to be on AOL.

- So Barry poses  
as two children  
and stockpiled all  
this information  
that was evidence...  
crime evidence.

That's what child  
pornography is.

- I make an account,  
and I make it two kids,  
and they say  
"Our parents make us share...  
our stupid parents  
make us share an account. "

- I just can't imagine kind of  
locking yourself away  
and pretending to be,  
you know,  
one of these people that  
caused him such misery  
in order to set them up.

- If you've seen  
child pornography...  
when you've seen  
a picture of a little kid  
with curly red hair  
getting raped by a big guy  
who looks exactly like him  
with curly red hair,  
and the look on the  
kid's face and his eyes'  
you can see, like,  
the humanity leaving the kid...  
The loss, the...  
he's just shutting down  
as much as he can  
while still being alive.

- I know that  
seeing what he saw  
was something that he  
couldn't get out of his head.

- You know, he damaged himself  
to, like, save these kids.  
And, you know, you talk about

things that you can't unsee,  
and he saw so much  
horrible stuff.

- I think that one of the  
things that's so extraordinary  
about this is how  
physically sick Barry was.

- He told me he got down to  
something like 155 pounds,  
which, you know, was probably  
a good 100 pounds lower  
than he had been.

- He had a haunted,  
hollow look.

I've never seen anyone transform  
to a shadow of a person  
like I saw him transform.

- As with most people  
who have been abused,  
different things are gonna come  
back to you at different times.  
Somethings going  
to trigger a memory.

A difficult, painful memory.

And I know that this did.

I know that this did that-.

- This guy contacts  
me and he says,

"I want you to take a pair  
of your underwear  
and pee on them,

and... do you know what a Ziploc  
bag is?" I said, "Yeah. "

"Put them in a Ziploc bag  
and mail them to me. "

And I said'

"Sure, give me your address. "

I became aware of Barry  
because my immediate  
boss instructed me

and another fellow prosecutor  
to go out to his house  
and to speak to him.

He had something to (ell us.

We drove to Lakewood.  
It wasn't too far away.  
It was in an apartment complex.  
I remember we had to pound  
on his door a number of times  
to get his attention.  
He finally came to the door'  
and we were met by a man  
who was fairly striking.  
He had dark hair.  
Unkempt, for sure.  
- You know, here's Barry  
with a Che poster up.  
A lifelong LSD enthusiast.  
I'm sure they...  
I don't know what  
they thought of Barry.  
- He had been looking  
on the computer  
and researching the sharing  
that was taking place.  
People were talking to  
each other on computers  
and at the time our office  
didn't even have computers.  
We couldn't understand  
what he was talking about.  
How were people communicating  
with each other on computers?  
- Yeah, you can even talk with  
people all over the world  
on chat lines.  
- Don't they have chess games  
and stuff like that, too'?'  
- Yup. They got more stuff  
than you can imagine.  
- It was clear that  
he had knowledge  
about what he was doing,  
but when we saw him,  
it didn't make sense.  
He was a man that I could  
describe as crazed at the time.  
He said that they were

sending images of children  
who were being raped  
and images of children who  
were having sex with adults.  
It's something that we  
had never heard of before.  
We were shocked.  
We were astonished.  
I mean, I left there  
fairly shaken  
and not knowing how our office  
was going to deal with  
that into the future.  
He essentially left us  
with a big problem.

- I was thinking Frank Capra  
but feeling Don Knotts  
as I began my testimony  
before the U.S. Senate  
Judiciary committee.  
My hand trembled so rapidly  
that there were small craft  
warnings for my water glass.

- There's no excuse in  
presenting pornography  
where children  
can get ahold to it.

- Senator Strom Thurmond,  
Pterodactyl, South Carolina,  
Thurmond's genius may  
be that nobody ever  
knows what the hell he's saying.  
The indecency.  
The lawlessness of pornography  
being presented where  
children can reach it  
should not be allowed  
under the law.

- I unsuccessfully stifled  
a huge grin  
as he blathered some  
senatorial cordiality  
that he was appreciative that'  
"This

here hearing was important  
'cause it concerned children. "

- Our children are the future of this country.
- Senators Russell Feingold of Wisconsin, Mike DeWine of Ohio and Paul Simon of Illinois all boasted of their unfamiliarity with the internet. This being 1995. It seemed as if they took a certain manly pride in how low tech they were.
- Most of the Senators who voted wouldn't have the foggiest idea how to get on the internet in the first place.
- My children, if they were here' would tell you that I'm computer illiterate, so you're gonna have to kind of take" walk me through this.
- I have to say there is no one in this room with the possible exception of Senator DeWine now who is less competent in this area of computers than I am.
- Each bravely disregarded his cyber illiteracy and went on to espouse numerous platitudes and make impassioned, ambiguous statements.
- You know, I'm not a lawyer, and I'm not going to say that I know exactly where things fall within the Constitution.
- After hundreds of hours of documenting things to sickening to relate,



my moment had arrived.  
A man stepped up beside me.  
After months of knocking  
on AOL's door,  
I was suddenly face to face  
with Bill Burrington.  
My name is Bill Burrington.  
- America Online's  
Assistant General Counsel  
and Director of  
Government Affairs.  
Burrington was nattily attired  
and youthfully handsome  
with male model, slicked back,  
wind tunnel resistant hair.  
His shoes were worth  
more than my education.  
So there I sat'  
my heart pounding  
but in the right place.  
Sitting in the sterile,  
formal environment  
of the U.S. Senate  
hearing chamber,  
I was haunted by  
the horrifying images  
I had seen over the  
past seven months.  
The children with the dead eyes  
and (he defiled bodies.  
I wished everyone  
could see the pictures.  
I wished no one  
could see the pictures.  
And I thought about the kids  
who could still be protected.  
My name is Barry Crimmins.  
I'm a writer and a children's  
rights and safety advocate  
residing in Lakewood, Ohio.  
I'm also an adult survivor  
of childhood sexual abuse.  
I go into this hearing with my  
suit and my Jerry Garcia tie on

and I look like a, you know,  
a marijuana grower  
at his arraignment.

Much of the controversy  
surrounding the problems  
of online pedophile centers  
on parental controls.

- Parental control protects  
the vast majority of families  
where parents want to control  
what their children do.

In many cases, the parents  
themselves are the perpetrators  
of these crimes.

This issue completely  
disregards the serious reality.

AOL constantly has rooms  
entitled "Family Fun,"

"Nudist Families,"

"Incest is Best,"

"Have Hot Step Daughter,"

and so on.

In these rooms,  
child pornography is traded  
and incest is discussed  
and celebrated.

Many of the photos that are  
exchanged are purportedly  
of people's own children.

- Mr. Crimmins rejects parental  
control on the basis

that some parents transmit  
images of their own children.

But we think this  
misses the point.

- I'm all for  
parental control software.

I was, I was mischaracterized  
as being against it.

I just pointed out a flaw in it'  
that some parents  
abuse their children.

- He was angry, and they're  
not used to hearing anger.

And of course he was angry.  
Look at what he'd  
just been through.  
They weren't quite sure  
what to make of Barry.  
I hope this will result in the  
arrest of numerous traffickers  
in child pornography.  
I also hope that it establishes  
that AOL has had a great deal  
of prior knowledge as to how  
its service is being misused  
and therefore AOL  
facilitates and profiteers  
on these dastardly crimes.  
- I think that there were  
some statements made that are,  
are accurate and some  
that are a bit misleading  
and we appreciate Mr. Crimmins  
involvement in this issue.  
We want to make sure we  
have an accurate record.  
We want to work with  
Congress to protect children;  
empower parents to screen  
out unwanted material;  
and preserve constitutional  
guarantees of free speech,  
free press and  
individual privacy.  
- These people are  
deluding themselves  
if they think child pornography  
is protected speech.  
It is not.  
It is crime evidence.  
During his testimony,  
he made several patronizing  
references to me,  
and he attempted to  
dismiss as dated  
many of the problems  
I described.

- Much of the activity that Mr. Crimmins has been involved on America Online occurred early this year, in January/February.

Last Monday afternoon'

I was sent numerous files of child pornography.

I attempted to forward it to AOL's post office boxes, the toss adviser, toss email, they...

n said that n was unavailable because it was full in both cases.

I don't know how much it would cost them to open up another mail box for themselves.

And I haven't heard back about those files, for example, and I very rarely do.

- Now, in your case, you did receive responses.

I've reviewed the correspondence and you received responses...

- I've received responses at times, but I haven't received responses at other times.

And the more heinous it is, the less response I get.

It's like there's denial involved or something.

Well, there's no denial here.

We're trying the best we can to manage our growth.

- Mr. Burrington, let me make sure I understand what your testimony is.

You mention that it's your company's policy that if we've got a room

full of pedophiles  
and you see that going on,  
that you try to zap that out.

Is that correct?

- We truly have pretty much  
"three strikes, you're out"  
at America Online, as a  
lot of the services do,  
which is you are  
given a warning...

- I don't think child... people  
trafficking child pornography  
should get three strikes.

I think they  
should get one strike.

I don't think that they  
deserve three strikes.

I think that's a heinous crime,  
and I think one strike  
and you should be out  
for child pornography.

- OK, let's take it,  
if I could...

- And all of a sudden  
I see Chuck Grassley  
lean over to his aide and go.

"Who is this guy?"

And, you know,  
the guy goes,

"He's one of ours. "

Grassley's like'

"Oh, OK, OK."

I had 'em.

And Burrington  
from that point on  
had lost his very  
expensive footing.

I've explained this to AOL,  
I've sent them extensive  
questions...

I've almost did an  
interrogatory...  
for the past several months.  
Their response has been

arrogant and dismissive.

Barn/ continued,

and the buzzer's going off.

How close are you to, uh...

- I'm getting there.

I'm very close.

- OK, I hope so.

- OK.

- Barry's just blowing  
right through 'em.

- It's not hyperbolic to state

that AOL is the key link

in a network of child

pornography traffickers

that has grown exponentially

over the last several months.

What has recently taken place

is nothing short

of the de facto

decriminalization

of child pornography.

This is a full scale emergency'

and I'm here to tell the

American people today

that not only are their

children in danger

when they're on AOL'

they're in danger

because of America Online.

Thank you.

- I remember not really

getting the depth

of what Barry had been through

until I saw a list of the names

of the chat rooms.

And when I sat with

that list on my desk'

after I printed it out,

I just put my head down

on my desk and sobbed.

And...

it wasn't only because

of my own abuse,

you know, because

I saw, you know,  
"Daddy Does Daughter,"  
and, you know,  
just this vile, you know,  
representation of violence  
against children.  
But it was because  
I saw just in words  
what Barry had been through.  
- If you can judge a person  
by the enemies they make,  
you know, my enemies are, like,  
NAMBLA and politicians.  
Now, I can live with that.  
- I think the important thing  
about Barry is his connection  
with trying to make the  
world a better place.  
That's the thing that never,  
never changes, you know'?  
He's not become  
cynical about it.  
He's not allowed it to sort of  
poison the way he feels  
about people.  
I always hit it off with Barry  
right from the beginning  
because although he  
was political,  
he wasn't sort of ideological.  
- The most memorable show that  
I saw Barry Crimmins do  
was he was performing  
with Billy Bragg  
and it was a big tour  
that Billy was doing  
with the Red Star Army'  
and Barry Crimmins was  
really opening the show.  
He was the emcee  
for the show.  
- So we invite him on  
and he would, you know,  
do the equivalent

of a guitar solo.  
He would do a  
couple of punchlines.  
We'd break,  
he'd lay in there.  
1,2,3,4.  
- You know, Billy,  
a lot of people ask me...  
You say you're from  
the United States,  
But if I hate that  
country so much,  
why don't I get out of it?  
I say, "Because I don't  
wanna be victimized  
by its foreign policy. "  
- It was almost  
like a Socialist  
sort of version of Laugh In  
where Barry would tell a joke  
and then Billy would  
go back into a song.  
I guess he was...  
I guess he would've been  
the Goldie Hawn of it.  
It's just funny where'  
you know, I'm working  
in bars every night,  
and we're just going, and  
we're telling our dick jokes  
and going home or  
whatever, you know'?

So Barry wins this Peace Award  
from this Peace Abbey.  
So I go to be at the  
ceremony or whatever  
and it's... the two recipients...  
it's Barry and Maya Angelou.  
You know?  
So they had the ceremony'  
and Gandhi's grandson is there  
to present the award  
to Maya and Crimmins.  
And... he's overweight.



Like, he's pretty overweight.  
And I'm just,  
we're at the ceremony,  
and Crimmins just  
whispers to me like,  
"That's Gandhi's grandson.  
He could lose a few. "  
Let me ask you this:  
Irish... religious upbringing?  
- I'm a Catholic  
but it's in remission.  
It's in remission?  
Based on fear  
and real estate.  
- Did your religious upbringing  
influence your politics,  
do you think?  
- Yes, those people  
mistreated me so much  
that they made me start to  
believe in that kind of stuff.  
I tweet the Pope every day  
demanding excommunications.  
You know,  
we gotta have our hobbies.  
I haven't been to mass  
in 43 years.  
Our trial separation is over.  
Please excommunicate me.  
Chase away the Monday blahs  
by doing something new  
like excommunicating me.  
I know what you've done.  
I know what you represent.  
Are you fucking kidding me'?  
I go, send me...  
I'll know I'm in hell...  
if there's Popes and  
Bishops there, shitbag.  
Later on... this is now  
40 years later...  
and my friend John Considine  
calls me one day and says,  
"Go online, check out the

Syracuse Post-Standard  
and there's a story  
about Neary in there.  
And this guy Charlie Bailey  
has gone public  
and talked about how  
he had been tremendously  
sexually abused. "  
- Barry's helped me by  
telling me, you know,  
that, reinforces, that you'  
you're told that  
you're the only one  
and you feel like  
you're the only one.  
And then Ban? saying,  
you know,  
he had I'll n-ins  
with Neary, and...  
you know,  
you feel a little bit good  
that you found somebody  
else that's been in your shoes,  
but then you feel awful  
that they exist, too.  
These guys are masters  
at what they do.  
I mean, they're...  
I would swear to God they  
take a class somewhere  
because what he did is he  
told my mother, he says,  
you know, I would be upset  
after my counseling sessions  
because it's really  
hard to be a priest  
and there's a lot of pain  
and sacrifice involved  
in becoming a priest,  
so if afterwards I was upset  
or I was crying,  
I was withdrawn,  
just ignore it.  
Say a prayer over 'em

and ignore 'em.  
And this is all about 6 weeks  
worth of grooming  
before he finally raped me.  
- This piece of shit  
operated for years,  
and was from church to church  
all over upstate New York,  
harmed hundreds of children.  
Countless little boys.  
I know of probably 25, 26.  
- I had been raped by a priest,  
when I was 12, 13 years old  
and this guy's name  
was Thomas Neary.  
I was in a deep,  
dark depression,  
and I really didn't know  
what to do or where to go.  
Sometimes I would type this  
priest's name in the internet  
to see if there was  
anybody out there.  
So I typed in his name and  
up came Barry Crimmins' name.  
- If I ever saw anybody  
do that to a kid,  
I would be over that  
fucking railing so fast'  
smashing his head with a  
tabernacle or whatever  
the lucky magic shiny  
shit they should sell  
and feed the poor with.  
I saw people keep their mouths  
shut and not break silence  
and not take action when  
a child was being harmed  
right in front of their eyes.  
How much did that...  
how much did everyone?  
silence embolden Neary?  
He tested the waters with  
what he did to me in public

on that altar every morning.  
He did Mo me.  
If he could get away  
with that shit in public,  
what do you think he could  
get away with in private,  
And what he could get  
away with was raping kids  
and making them swallow  
his filthy, fucking semen  
and telling them it's Eucharist,  
that's it's the body of Christ.  
Fuck him.  
Burn.  
I hope there's a hell you  
fucking piece of shit, Neary.  
I hope there's a fucking hell,  
and I hope there's an eternity,  
and I hope they triple  
the time of it,  
you fucking piece of shit.  
Fucking Pope.  
Fuck you, Pope!  
Fuck you, Pope!  
And they find Francis of Assisi  
after a thousand years?  
Oh.  
I'm so mad.  
I mean, like,  
I fucking hate the Ca-  
I mean, really,  
God bless everybody.  
Nah, I don't mean to say that.  
But I don't mean not to.  
'Cause I don't like,  
you know I...  
atheists are just  
so evangelical.  
It's like you become.  
You know,  
you become what you resist.  
You're evangelists.  
You know, like, I don't care.  
Telling me that we all

gotta believe the fucking shit'  
or I don't gotta believe  
the fucking shit,  
or whatever the fuck it is.  
Leave me the fuck alone!  
I got tortured enough  
as a child dealing with  
the fucking Catholic church.  
And I don'( want to sign off  
on your fucking shit  
or talk about it anymore!  
I just wrote that.  
"Many people are so overwhelmed  
by the thought of child abuse  
that they'll do just about  
anything to change the subject  
when it's mentioned.  
The most common device these  
subject switchers utilize  
is the ultimate decree.  
They'll say, 'I think if someone  
gets caught abusing a kid,  
they should be  
rounded up and killed.  
Case closed. '  
I wouldn't have  
wanted my rapist  
put out of his own misery  
and into mine.  
I started life without  
blood on my hands,  
and I aim  
to keep it that way.  
Had the man who had raped me  
on numerous occasions  
not died in prison while  
serving his third term  
for sexually abusing  
very young boys,  
I might have gone to see him.  
My personal revenge  
would've been to show him  
that I did not become  
what I resisted.

And I hadn't grown into a  
cruel and heartless man.  
I would've told him that he  
inflicted a burden upon me  
that almost killed me.  
And not just when I was  
nearly asphyxiated  
during his savage assaults.  
Then I would tell him that  
I was sorry that he had such  
a miserable and wasted life.  
Even if I supported  
the death penalty,  
I wouldn't want child rapists  
killed simply because  
they were once  
children themselves.  
In all likelihood,  
they were abused children.  
While most victims of  
childhood sexual assaults  
don't grow to  
become pedophiles,  
the vast majority of pedophiles  
were sexually abused  
as children.  
Who knows what would've  
happened to me  
if I had been raped a few more  
times or a few years later. "  
Now, if it had been  
five more times,  
would I have gone over,  
would I be the rapist today?  
Would I be the m...  
you know,  
would I be the horrible  
person today?  
I don't know.  
So spiritually, I mean'  
I feel like I have this  
huge debt to pay.  
I feel like there's entire  
nations that feel like I do.

You know?  
There's entire nations.  
And you know what, and that's  
why I don't give a shit about  
American dreams  
or whatever 'cause,  
I mean, you know what,  
I, that's who I am.  
That's the country I am.  
I'm of the country of  
the raped little kids.  
I'm of the country of  
the fucking heartbroken.  
And the screwed over.  
And the desperate with  
no chance to be heard.  
That's what country I'm from.  
- People tended to believe  
that abuse in males  
was exceptionally rare.  
Well, I think we know now  
that's not the case.  
And a lot of that is in large  
part to what Barry's done.  
I mean, Barry has been  
very out there as a survivor.  
- I've had some problems  
from when I was younger  
from people you  
trusted very well  
and they did some  
bad things to you  
and he helped me get rid  
of that to a point  
where I can focus on  
more of my family  
than rather than have that  
be in my mind all the time.  
That's one of the things  
he knows about my life  
that there ain't a lot  
of people that know.  
And, uh...  
he did that for me,

and I'm very thankful  
for him for that.

- Any chance Barry got,  
he was defending me  
or he was telling  
the true story  
'cause of course there  
were a lot of lies  
and stuff out there about me'  
but he was there to say.  
"You know, I actually  
know Cindy Sheehan,  
and this is the Cindy  
Sheehan that I know. "

- It started, like,  
on Memorial Day.  
And I was just home,  
and I was, and he said,  
"No Vet should be alone  
on Memorial Day.  
You should have a... you  
should have some cook-out. "  
So he bought me one of them  
big barbecue chickens  
and some other stuff  
and it was...  
and then, and then he left,  
you know,  
he was like, you know,  
a ghost sometimes.  
He would do stuff  
when I was asleep.  
Sometimes I'd wake up  
and, you know,  
the dishwasher is empty or  
there's something, you know'?

Ifs like,  
how'd this happen?  
To me, prayer is behavior.  
You don't stand on  
a mountain and say'  
"I believe in God  
and you don't.  
Therefore I'm saved



and you're damned. "  
Prayer is gestures.  
It's trying to do  
the right thing,  
always trying to weigh the  
right and wrong in everything  
before you make a decision.  
And Barry always does that.  
- I think those of us  
who survived  
have all learned coping skills.  
I'm not sure when  
I first met Barry,  
which probably was in the 80s.  
If he had all the coping skills  
stitched together.  
He used to talk about  
being followed by the wolf.  
The things he had  
yet to work out.  
The rape.  
You know'?'  
The rage at some of the  
political things that happened.  
- It's almost like there's  
a need in him to get back  
what was taken from him then.  
You know?  
But the reality of that is  
there is no getting that back.  
- I gotta tell you.  
You know what?  
I don't give a fuck anymore.  
I don't give a fuck.  
Let me tell you this shit.  
Monday...  
Monday, we went  
to the basement...  
we filmed in the basement where  
I got raped as a little kid.  
And so since then,  
I don't know,  
I've been a little spacey.  
You're gonna laugh.

It's OK.  
But I went.  
You know, I went there.  
I don't really go back there  
and hang around that often.  
You know, I've done my  
quote unquote "work",  
although there's always  
more to do sometimes.  
And what I believe about  
that work for abuse survivors,  
you have to go through things  
and not around them.  
But "through" is a goal,  
you know?  
You get "through" it.  
I was given some sort of a gift,  
or I have some sort of a gift  
or was born with it,  
where I can convey  
things to people  
they don't generally  
want to hear about.  
If there were some grand  
rhyme or reason to things,  
I could understand why  
I was gonna grow up  
to be a big strong man who  
knew how to tell people stuff  
they didn't want to hear  
and make 'em like it.  
You know, not like  
what was happening  
but make it accessible  
to people.  
What I came to learn and  
out myself a break about  
and many other people  
is when you meet people  
and they behave oddly  
or they have these  
weird quirks  
or whatever it is  
they're doing,

if you figure out  
where they come from,  
what happened to them,  
whatever their deal is,  
you realize there's  
sanity at the source  
and instead of this  
behavior being like insanity,  
it's in fact ingenious.  
It's a survival technique.  
So, you know, I had my  
survival techniques.  
There's no way...  
coming someplace where  
what happened to me as  
a child, coming back to it,  
does make  
your breath a little shorter  
and you feel it  
a bit in your...  
in the pit  
of your stomach.  
Thais W?  
Hob; "My.  
It's a different place.  
Good.  
So it's just sort of on,  
you know, sort of on this site.  
You know... and I  
don't think we need to...  
I don't think there's any need  
to build shrines to demons.  
Um, I...  
I hope that there's been a  
lot more good spirits here  
than that one awful one...  
and that generations of kids  
have grown up and visited  
and played in that house  
without anything  
happening to them  
except things that  
should happen to kids.  
They got a chance.

They learned about life.  
They had fun.  
They laughed.  
And that's the only trepidation  
I would have about this  
is I wouldn't want any kid  
that lives here, you know...  
Although, we have to  
compromise a little bit  
of children's innocence  
to keep them safe.  
To tell them they  
must be protected...  
YOU know?  
There's no shrine  
to that maniac  
who did those heinous crimes  
to me and my sister.  
Maybe because  
even witnessing it'  
you know, is severe violation  
of a young spirit or anybody.  
Yeah.  
Nothing special.  
Just a basement.  
You know,  
if that kid can survive that,  
if I can survive  
what happened to me,  
you can at least hear  
about it or think about it,  
YOU know?  
H's not that much too ask.  
I know it's unpleasant, and  
I know that people give us,  
"Oh, everybody is a victim. "  
Well, I'm not a fucking victim.  
You know?  
I'm not a victim.  
I was but I'm not anymore.  
And, uh...  
But I am a witness.  
You know?  
And...

I'm my life's testimony.  
You know, not only to  
what happens to kids,  
but what you can go on  
to do and become,  
no matter what they do.  
Unless they kill you.  
You know?  
But that was close in my case.  
It was real close.  
But I'm here, I made it.  
Thus, call me lucky.  
OK?  
And I'm not coming  
back here again.  
- He might say that  
he hasn't changed  
but when I first knew Barry  
he was just a raw nerve.  
He still has that fire in him,  
but it's a little less  
at the whole world  
and at specific targets.  
- You know who the biggest  
suck-heads in the world are?  
The people who think  
they're clever,  
that are like, "Well, I happen  
to be politically incorrect. "  
And now you get to act like  
you're a cutting edge rebel  
because you're reinforcing  
the oppressive status quo.  
You sack of fucking  
rancid horse assholes!  
- I remember from  
my youth thinking, like,  
you know, this guy needs  
to be taken down a notch.  
Do you know what I mean?  
It's like,  
who does he think he is'?'  
And now ifs sod of like'  
well, someone should,

he should be taken  
up a notch, I think.

- He gives a voice to all  
those moments that you have  
that, where you can't seem to  
articulate your anger at this,  
this entity, this, this...  
at the injustice in the world  
and how powerless we are.

But he's a reminder  
that you do have power.

- I think underneath the  
cynicism and the rage  
is a sense of idealism  
and justice.

The child who first discovered  
that everything they  
told him about society  
was supposed to  
operate was untrue.

And that begins a life  
journey to reconcile that.

- I'm tired of being  
called a radical.

I don't think I'm radical.

I don't think you're radical.

I don't think we're radical.

What's so radical  
about what we want?

We want peace.

We want economic justice.

We want civil rights.

We want jobs.

We want hope.

We want public transportation.

I'm a radical?

No, I'm not a radical.

I don't! have 400,000 troops  
assembled in a desert

wearing scuba diving suits

to bring me more oil and

I'm already choking to death on.

That's radical.

- People go, "Why do you

have to say that you're gay'?  
Why do you have to do that?"  
Well, why don't I'?  
Why shouldn't I be  
able to get up there  
and tell people who I am'?  
And why shouldn't  
Barry get up there  
and tell people  
where he's come from  
and his plight and his  
journey that he's been on'?  
And that's what,  
that's what comedy,  
that's where n comes from.  
t comes from,  
comes from jour...  
it comes from a lot of places'  
but it comes from pain, too.  
- My mother goes to me,  
please go to the priest.  
Tell the priest that you're gay.  
Please do that for me  
before I die.  
Please, go to confession.  
So I went to confession, and I  
told the priest that I was gay,  
and it was very difficult  
to tell him that.  
Uh, now we're dating, but so  
it worked out... really well  
- Well, I'd never  
call Barry a saint.  
And Barry...  
you know, he always  
grumbles about God'  
but I know I think half the  
reason why Barry's so funny  
is a gesture of healing'  
and it sounds kind of corny  
to put it like that.  
You know what I mean?  
But I think, really, it's from  
something deep inside him.

- He's like music.

He's harmony.

He's nature.

He has an understanding

what beautiful is,

and he has an understanding

of what horrific is.

- You know, I'd like to sort of  
in many ways be more like Barry.

He's been wonderful to me

with all this problems

that I've had.

He's always been there.

And he still calls me

every day and always said'

"You can call me in the middle  
of the night if you need me. "

You know? So that's a  
wonderful way to feel.

- He's like a dancing

bear that got loose

and now he's calling the tune.

He's got the deep voice.

He's shaggy-

And we always thought that

deep voice and shaggy meant'

you know, a creature.

And he's a beat up creature.

But guess what?

That brain is completely,

you know,

on the ball and

the heart is enormous.

When I think of him,

I just think of us smiling.

Like, it makes me smile like...

don't you think he's one

of the smartest people

- you ever met in your life'?

- Yeah, definitely.

- I can't think of anybody

that I really respect

more than Barry.

Certainly a better person



for having known him.

- Something that I've always remembered about him is we cannot surrender being the rude, funny, obnoxious truth tellers. We cannot surrender that. That's our best weapon. It's funny how you become really best friends with people, you know?

So I just, I guess I love him. I think I'd be remiss in not saying.

- There's no way we should've been the friends we were. But we were really great friends because he was really instrumental in, um... he made me a lot of money. I think of Barry as a relative because what he thinks of me is really important. But at the same time, he loves me unconditionally. So it's very weird. He's like a boat. A nice, real nice sailboat or something like that. If you have a chance to get on that boat, get on it.

- Sometimes the most anti-religious people behave the most religiously.

- We have to have enough guts to open up our ears, to open up our hearts, and to listen, look, watch and believe and testify' to what really happens to

innocence in this world.  
We have to take care of  
innocence in this world.  
And we have to be  
brave enough  
to stand up and tell the truth  
about what happens to  
innocence in this world.  
So tell the truth.  
Tell everyone the truth.  
Tell anyone the truth  
because your lives  
depend on it.  
My life depends on it.  
And people who really can't  
be heard really depend on it.  
They really depend on it.  
Thank you very much.  
So I'm Barry Crimmins,  
trying to be a good guy  
but putting off a nasty aura  
most of the time  
so that people don't go...  
to me all day long.  
You know, there's so many  
people who've been through  
what I have been through  
and they are afraid  
to deal with anybody.  
For whatever reasons  
I was only hurt so much  
and then somehow  
I had a lifetime  
where I was lucky enough,  
like, my drug of choice  
was friends.  
# Yeah, I know I got Religion  
# It took me away  
# It took me away  
# Yeah, we're locating my...  
- It's interesting to see  
that the same things  
that he was thinking  
about back in the 90s

are essentially the platform  
that's being used  
not only in our county  
but throughout the nation.  
We have indicted over  
a thousand people  
for sharing child pornography.  
Hey, Goldthwaite.  
You suck.

- There's these...  
there's nobody else like him.  
He's just one of a kind.

- And I don't want to  
fawn over him 'cause he's,  
you know, kind of a dick.  
He's terribly racist.

I don't know if you knew  
that about Barry Crimmins.  
It's something that we  
would fight about a lot.

- This is such an odd circum...  
because even his closest friends  
don't know this side of Barry'  
but we were both America's  
biggest hope in figure skating.  
And we met m Montreal'  
we were training for  
the Olympics...

it's kind of a cute image.  
Crimmins calls me up,  
and I get over to his house  
and he's not there.  
And then I hear this  
clatter downstairs,  
and he's down there'  
he's got 20 can opener  
bottle openers  
and he's just throwing 4 here,  
goes in another room,  
and throws 4.

I say, "What the heH  
are you doing?"  
He said, "I couldn't find a  
fuckin' beer opener

so I bought 20 of them  
and I'm scattering them  
around (he house. "  
So he'd never be shy  
a bottle opener again.  
- I remember picking him up  
and I, you know,  
I always had like,  
kitschy stuff in my car  
like a frog on the dashboard  
or you know some sort  
of stuffed thing,  
and he'd go,  
"You're a grown man.  
Why do you got  
toys in your car for?"  
And he'd toss 'em.  
He'd just, held chuck  
'em right out the car.  
And I never felt like  
I could go,  
"Hey, don't do that. "  
I'd go, "Alright. "  
You know,  
toss my stuff, I guess.  
- He would pull into the front  
of my house on a Sunday morning  
and really low toot the horn.  
Not like a beep beep beep,  
but just a.  
And I would wake up going,  
"What is that?  
What's that noise?"  
That's Barry Crimmins out front  
'cause they don't sell liquor  
in Boston on Sunday.  
So he wants me to drive  
him to New Hampshire.  
And he would pull to  
the front of my house'  
and I'd be like, "But Barry,  
my, my wife and my baby,  
I really, I can't... "  
He'd be like,

"This is taking up time. "

- Because, you know...

I mean, I have this problem  
about being in show business.

I can feel shame  
and embarrassment,  
and it's, like,  
really, like,  
ruins you if you're  
in show business.

I'm such a bad actor,  
I can't even be in a  
documentary about myself.

- Crimmins audition,  
James Franco.

- This...

this mark?

- Yeah.

- OK.

- And... you set?

- Yeah.

Ready, and action.

- People say, "Barry, if you  
don't love this country,  
why don't you leave it?"  
Because I don't want to be a  
victim of its foreign policies.

Ugh.

Socialism is bad.

Yeah, I learned that  
in public school.

Public school is socialism.

Ugh.

I do not fear excommunication.

I demand it.

Fuck you, Crimmins!