

# Dan Rather Reports

**Episode Number:** 517

**Episode Title:** Pornland, Oregon

**Description:** Oregon's largest city has an unfortunate nickname, but vice officers with the Portland police think it's well deserved. The sex trade, especially involving minors, is taking off like a rocket. And Portland police feel understaffed and overwhelmed with young girls being sold for sex.

**TEASE:**

DAN RATHER (VOICE OVER)

TONIGHT. CHILD PROSTITUTION IS BOOMING IN AMERICA.

SERGEANT DOUG JUSTUS, HEAD OF PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU'S VICE DETAIL

Well, these are kids, okay. These are kids that are 10, 12, 13, 14 years old. It happens every single day -- every day.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

PORTLAND, OREGON IS ONE OF A GROWING NUMBER OF HUBS FOR CHILDREN FORCED INTO THE SEX TRADE.

LINDA SMITH

You need a lot of product when you have that many buyers comin' to shop. And that's what Portland has become. A place for people to shop for the innocence of children of our nation.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

A SPECIAL REPORT INTO SEX TRAFFICKING AND CHILDREN.

MICHELLE (AKA KRISTI)

I would have never thought that I would have been in this situation. I would have never thought that I would have sold myself for any other person.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

WE'LL BRING YOU THE NEWS, TONIGHT ON DAN RATHER REPORTS.

## **PORNLAND, OREGON:**

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

GOOD EVENING. OUR REPORT TONIGHT MAY MAKE YOU UNEASY OR UNCOMFORTABLE. BUT IT'S A STORY THAT NEEDS TO BE TOLD. EACH YEAR HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ADOLESCENTS ARE MANIPULATED AND EVEN FORCED INTO AMERICA'S ILLEGAL SEX TRADE. IT'S CONSIDERED BY MANY TO BE MODERN DAY SLAVERY AND IT'S HAPPENING BIG TIME IN A LOT OF PLACES IN THIS COUNTRY. INCLUDING IN A CITY YOU MIGHT NOT EXPECT...PORTLAND, OREGON. AS WE FOUND IN OUR INVESTIGATION, A SMALL TEAM OF VICE AND PATROL OFFICERS IN PORTLAND IS WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK ATTEMPTING TO RESCUE HUNDREDS OF TEENAGE GIRLS, WHO ARE THE VULNERABLE VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

SURROUNDED BY RIVERS AND MAJESTIC MOUNTAINS, THE PICTURESQUE CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON IS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS A MODEL AMERICAN CITY. IT IS ONE OF THE MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY OR GREEN CITIES IN THE UNITED STATES. THERE ARE MORE OPEN SPACES IN PORTLAND THAN ANY OTHER U.S CITY. IT'S BEEN VOTED ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST LIVABLE CITIES. PORTLAND ALSO OFFERS CLEAN, QUIET AND ENERGY EFFICIENT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO EVERY CORNER OF THE CITY.

BUT THERE IS ANOTHER SIDE TO PORTLAND, A SEEDIER SIDE. THE CITY HAS MORE STRIP CLUBS PER CAPITA THAN LAS VEGAS AND WITH ALL-NUDE SHOWS AND NUMEROUS SEX STORES, PORTLAND HAS BEEN DUBBED "PORNLAND."

IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT WHERE YOU FIND STRIP CLUBS AND SEX STORES, YOU'LL MOST LIKELY FIND PROSTITUTES. BUT WHAT IS SURPRISING, IS THAT THIS MODEL CITY IS BECOMING A MAJOR CENTER FOR CHILD TRAFFICKING... JUVENILES BEING FORCED INTO SELLING THEIR BODIES.

SERGEANT DOUG JUSTUS, HEAD OF PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU'S VICE DETAIL

It is out-of-control problem. It is unbelievable. I've only done this job three years in the Vice. I've been a cop for 29. If you had told me three years ago that a 14 year old girl would go to a food court, meet a guy, and three hours later be selling herself... I'd a said, "No friggin' way." It happens every single day, every day.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

SERGEANT DOUG JUSTUS HEADS THE PORTLAND POLICE'S VICE DETAIL, WHICH INVESTIGATES ALL PROSTITUTION CASES IN THE CITY.

HE THOUGHT HE'D SEEN JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING. FOR THE LAST THREE

DECADES HE WORKED UP THE RANKS - FROM A PATROLMAN TO UNDERCOVER NARCOTICS OFFICER, TO HOMICIDE DETECTIVE AND THEN SERGEANT. IN 2008 HE WAS PROMOTED TO HEAD PORTLAND'S VICE DETAIL.

JUSTUS

Well, these are kids, okay. These are kids that are 10, 12, 13, 14 years old. It is the most troubling job I've ever done in police work. It drives me crazy. It keeps me awake at night. I-- I just-- it kills me that these little kids are getting out-- out here getting raped.

RATHER

Well, why Portland? I mean, I'm puzzled.

JUSTUS

Well, Portland's a very liberal city. You know, the big thing here is, "keep Portland weird." It's - I -- I don't know. You know, I really don't know I just know that we are very liberal, and we let things go, and we shouldn't. Alright, this is the Dancing Bear -- right here.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

SERGEANT JUSTUS SHOWED US SOME OF THE SEEDIER SIDES OF PORTLAND. IT'S WHERE SEX CAN BE BOUGHT ON THE STREET OR IN A STORE. IT'S A CITY WHERE ZONING IS UNRESTRICTED. HERE A GRADE SCHOOL IS JUST ACROSS THE STREET FROM A SO-CALLED ADULT ENTERTAINMENT STORE. IT'S A CITY WHERE STRIP MALL HAS A WHOLE DIFFERENT MEANING...LIKE HERE AT TOWN PLAZA.

JUSTUS

And this entire place is in some sort of -- exotic strip. Its got a video visions, it sells you know, x-rated movies, then they've got a dance thing in there, and then they've got this um, the sugar shack juice bar. And then you go in there and they've got little rooms with curtains on them. You can go in there and have sex.

RATHER

So, the town plaza is basically the sex plaza?

JUSTUS

Pretty much (LAUGHTER), pretty much.

RATHER

I'd like to think that I have a fair number of road miles on me but I don't know if I've ever seen in effect, a strip mall dedicated completely to sex.

JUSTUS

That's it.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

ANOTHER REASON THAT CHILD PROSTITUTION HAS A Foothold here is that PORTLAND IS A MAJOR TRANSIT HUB. THERE'S THE PORT, FREIGHT RAIL, AND AN EXTENSIVE HIGHWAY SYSTEM. INTERSTATE 5 STRETCHES NORTH TO WASHINGTON STATE AND SOUTH TO CALIFORNIA. OTHER HIGHWAYS LEAD TO NEVADA AND ARIZONA. EASY TRANSIT MEANS EASY TRAFFICKING -- AS GIRLS ARE MOVED FROM PLACE TO PLACE TO KEEP UP WITH GROWING DEMAND.

JUSTUS

It's basically, the same avenues that the cartel brings their drugs in. Okay? It's a product. You can take these kids up and down the state. They use the same areas. They know the same connects, and they start selling 'em.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

...AND MANY OF THEM ARE SOLD HERE...

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

THIS IS EIGHTY-SECOND AVENUE... TO THE UNTRAINED EYE IT LOOKS LIKE ANY BUSY THOROUGHFARE IN AMERICA, BUT IT'S A HOTSPOT FOR UNDERAGE PROSTITUTION IN PORTLAND....

OFFICER JOSH HOWERY, PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU

I would say the street's mostly business, but right off the -- right off of the main avenue is a lot of residential

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND A PLACE WHERE YOU'LL OFTEN FIND OFFICERS JEN HERTZLER AND JOSH HOWERY, ONE OF ONLY TWO TEAMS OF PORTLAND POLICE OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO PROSTITUTION PATROL TO COMBAT THE SEX TRADE.

OFFICER JEN HERTZLER, PORTLAND POLICE

Portland is almost a Mecca for prostitution. Prostitutes and their pimps travel through Portland on a circuit. I think a lot of people that have lived -- if they don't live on 82nd or around 82nd; realize that some of the women walking up and down the street are prostitutes.

HOWERY

She's young

HERTZLER

She's really young.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THEY SPOT A GIRL WHO THEY THINK MAY BE A STREET WALKER, SHE'S YOUNG, ALONE, AND WALKING DOWN 82ND AVENUE...AND FOR THE PROSTITUTION PATROL, THAT'S THREE STRIKES.

HERTZLER

Hi. Where you going?

WOMAN

It really don't matter.

HERTZLER

It does matter. Are you loitering on our streets?

WOMAN

No.

HERTZLER

Where you from?

WOMAN

Here...okay you know I don't want to talk to you guys, I didn't do anything wrong, so...

HERTZLER

You missed a date back there, that guy pulled over for ya.

WOMAN

No he didn't.

HOWERY

How old are you?

HERTZLER

How old are you?

WOMAN

I'm...legal

HOWERY

Legal for what?

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

SHE MAY LOOK YOUNG, BUT SHE'S TOUGH. AND THE OFFICERS KNOW THEY HAVE TO OFTEN TAKE A TOUGH STANCE TO BREAK THROUGH TO HARDENED STREET WALKERS.

THIS YOUNG WOMAN IS SO BOLD AS TO CALL 911 TO TRY TO GET THE OFFICERS TO QUIT, AS SHE SAYS, "HARASSING HER."

WOMAN

So what are you guys doing following me?

HOWERY

Did you just call 911?

WOMAN

Yes, I did!

HOWERY

You're under arrest, stop.

WOMAN

For what?

HOWERY

Misuse of 911.

HERTZLER

2951

HOWERY

Ma'am it's not okay to call 911 for a non-emergency. Can I see your ID please?

WOMAN

Okay.

HOWERY

Have you ever been arrested?

WOMAN

This year? Probably

HOWERY

What for?

WOMAN

Assault.

HOWERY

Assault?

WOMAN

Yes.

HOWERY

Anything else?

WOMAN

No.

HERTZLER

Are you back in contact with Charles?

WOMAN

No. He's -- he's still in jail.

HERTZLER

He was your pimp in 2004, right?

WOMAN

Yes.

HOWERY

So you do have a history of prostitution then?

WOMAN

Yeah...

HOWERY

So you know what goes on out here, right?

WOMAN

Yeah, I do.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AFTER CHECKING OUT HER ID, IT SEEMS THAT SHE WAS ALREADY IN THE SYSTEM FOR PROSTITUTION WHEN SHE WAS ONLY 14 YEARS OLD, WORKING FOR A PIMP NAMED CHARLES. BUT THERE WILL BE NO ARREST...THE OFFICERS' TONE SUDDENLY CHANGES. THE PORTLAND VICE TEAM AND PROSTITUTION PATROLS SEE WOMEN LIKE THIS AS VICTIMS WHO MUST BE HELPED, NOT LOCKED UP.



HERTZLER

I'm worried that you're walking 82nd again.

WOMAN

No, that's not the case.

HERTZLER

I'm worried that maybe somebody's helping you do this. Putting it in your head again.

WOMAN

No.

HERTZLER

Taking advantage of you again.

WOMAN

No.

HERTZLER

Intimidating you again.

WOMAN

No.

HERTZLER

It's not the case?

WOMAN

No not at all. No one.

HOWERY

There is money and there's resources available to you if you find yourself in a bad position. You understand that?

WOMAN

Yes.

HOWERY

Alright. I'll trust that you'll call them if you need it.

WOMAN

Alright.

HOWERY

Bye - bye.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

SERGEANT JUSTUS SAYS THE GIRLS BEING SOLD FOR SEX IN PORTLAND COME FROM EVERY WALK OF LIFE. IN THE PAST IT'S BEEN PRIMARILY RUNAWAYS BUT MORE AND MORE HE SAYS HE'S SEEING MIDDLE ECONOMIC CLASS GIRLS FROM SUBURBS SURROUNDING PORTLAND.

JUSTUS

What we're seeing more and more nowadays, it's the girl from Beaverton, from Tigard, from Estacada, from Vancouver, Washington. Parents both work -- or maybe a single parent.

RATHER

You're not telling me, are you, that girls from what we call middle economic class and above get roped into this?

JUSTUS

Oh yes, they do, every day.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND THAT BRINGS US TO THE STORY OF SUE AND RON. THEY DON'T WANT TO USE THEIR LAST NAME, BUT THEY WERE WILLING TO SHARE THEIR NIGHTMARE. THE OREGON NATIVES MARRIED 25 YEARS AGO. THEY NEVER IMAGINED THAT THEIR ONLY DAUGHTER WOULD GET ROPED INTO THE SEX TRADE...BUT SHE DID WHEN SHE WAS 16-YEARS OLD.

RATHER

Many people think of child prostitution and think, "Well, it's runaways, immigrants, abused children." Did you think that before your daughter got into this?

SUE

Yes, I did. You never think it's gonna be right here in your own home.

RATHER

Well, tell me what happened, how it happened, and why it happened.

SUE

She met a-- a boy at school who was-- made friends with her. He had a cousin who he introduced her to. That cousin befriended her, made him-- made her think he was her boyfriend. He basically -- he had other girls that he had used, and he had done this to other girls before. He knew what he was doing. He actually courted her. He came to our house. Sat and watched TV, and did that t-- k-- type of thing, made her think that he cared about her. She actually felt like she loved him.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND JUSTUS SAYS WHAT HAPPENED TO SUE'S DAUGHTER WAS A CLASSIC MOVE OUT OF THE PIMP PLAYBOOK. IT'S CALLED RECRUITING, AND IT'S FOLLOWED BY BREAKING AND THEN MAINTAINING A GIRL.

JUSTUS

It's-- it's-- you recruit 'em, it's the soft sell. He takes her out and buys her clothes, takes her to dinner. Shows her all this great stuff he can do, all this freedom they can have, all this great times. It's the, "I'm the greatest guy in the world. Everybody's screwed up but us. I see your point." Just treat 'em like a princess, right?

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

JUSTUS KNOWS THE RITUAL ALL TOO WELL. THE GIRLS YOU'RE ABOUT TO MEET HAVE ALL BEEN RESCUED BY SERGEANT JUSTUS AND HIS TEAM. THIS IS A YOUNG WOMAN WE'LL CALL LAUREN, WHO INITIALLY ENJOYED THE COMPLIMENTS SHE RECEIVED FROM THE YOUNG MEN SHE MET AT A LOCAL MALL.

LAUREN

In the beginning I liked it. I liked the attention. I liked how they made me feel, how they talked to me. I guess it just-- it made me feel wanted because at school people would make fun me and tell me how I was ugly and stuff.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

LAUREN WAS AN 11-YEAR-OLD MIDDLE-SCHOOL STUDENT IN PORTLAND. SHE WAS A CHEERLEADER, A MEMBER OF THE CHESS TEAM, AND PLAYED BASKETBALL. ONE OF THE BOYS IN PARTICULAR BEGAN SHOWERING HER WITH GIFTS.

LAUREN

Bought me a phone. And-- said he just wanted to keep in touch with me. And talked about how pretty I was and how he wanted me and...

MICHELLE

He used to compliment me all the time and tell me how beautiful I was.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND THEN THERE'S THE STORY OF A GIRL WE'LL CALL MICHELLE. SHE'S FROM A TIGHT-KNIT WORKING CLASS FAMILY IN PORTLAND. SHE WAS 16 WHEN SHE MET A BOY THROUGH A FRIEND. HER FAMILY DIDN'T APPROVE OF HIM, WHICH LED TO MANY ARGUMENTS.

MICHELLE

He used to tell me all the time, "Oh, your-- your family doesn't really love you. 'Cause if they really loved you then they would let you do what you want," and this and that. And, "They don't really care about you because they're always arguing with you, yelling at you."

JUSTUS

They get in a pissin' match with their mom, right? And the mom says, "You can't go out. You gotta be home by 10:00. And-- you have to do all your homework." And there's this good looking, smooth talking guy, and she's all upset 'cause her mom said, "You gotta clean your room". And he's going, "Baby you come with me, no problems."

MICHELLE

At first I was like, "No that's not true at all because my family really does love me." And then I guess you could call it -- I started to get a little brainwashed, and he was really controlling.

JUSTUS

And that's how it is. They-- they-- they soft sell 'em. They get 'em a little bit away from their parents; get 'em away from their friends. They-- they get their phone away. They put their

phone in their back pocket. "You can't get this back now. I've spent this money on you." And then they break 'em.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

SUE DIDN'T LIKE THE YOUNG MAN HER DAUGHTER BROUGHT HOME. BUT, AT THE TIME, SHE DIDN'T REALIZE HER DAUGHTER WAS IN DANGER.

RATHER

You said that he came to the house, sat with the family, did what boyfriends are supposed to do.

SUE

In the very beginning until he knew I was on to him. Because I looked him in the face one day and I told him, "If you ever hurt her I-- you will be sorry. I-- I will make you pay." And he just gave me this smirky little grin like it was all a game to him. And that was when he quit coming over to our house. He actually got her to move out of our home. She ended up living in a car with him. Then it was, you know, "Oh, baby, we need money. We-- we don't have any money." And he got her prostituting that way.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO MICHELLE.

MICHELLE

Like, he suggested it and I said-- you know, I shrugged my shoulders and said, "No, I don't-- you know, I'm not gonna do that." But then he kind of suggested it a little bit more.

JUSTUS

And then they go to a party, and then their buddies come over. And then their buddies have sex with 'em. And then they get a, "Hey, look. You had sex with these guys. And that wasn't that big of a deal, was it?" "Oh, not that bad." "Well, you know what? We can make a lot of money if you do this."

LAUREN

He forced me to do stuff with his friends-- sexual stuff. And-- it casually kind of went on-- to if you loved me, you know, I'll-- you'd-- you'd take money. You know, you'd get me some money. And I'll be your boyfriend if you do this.

MICHELLE

'Cause he told me, "Well, if you love me you would-- you would do a lot for me." So, that's kind of what convinced me, I guess. I wanted to show him how much I love him.

#### RATHER (VOICE OVER)

SO HOW MANY UNDERAGE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED IN SEX TRAFFICKING IN PORTLAND? JUSTUS SAYS IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY, OTHER THAN IT'S A LOT. HE SAYS HE KNOWS HE SEES MORE YOUNG FACES ALL THE TIME... THE YOUNG WOMENS' BOYFRIENDS SUDDENLY ONE NIGHT BECOME THEIR BOSS. THE UNDERAGE GIRLS REALIZE THEIR LIFE IS IN DANGER IF THEY TRY TO GET OUT. ONCE THE PIMP HAS BROKEN THEIR SPIRIT, THERE'S NO TURNING BACK...

#### JUSTUS

They all tell you that first time they have the sex that they get paid for, they've got 'em. 'Cause now they can say, "You wanna go home and go tell your parents you're a whore? They're gonna belittle 'em, put 'em down. You're-- you're out having sex. And your school? I'll -- I-- I know the principal. I'll go by and tell him. And these cops. They're not gonna arrest me. You're the criminal. And they just maintain that pressure on 'em the whole time. "You can't leave me. If you leave me, I'll go kill your little brother. I'll go burn your house down. I'll find you. There's no where you can go."

#### SUE

He abused her. I know she told me several times that there were times where she was actually afraid to go to sleep-- for fear of what he would do to her while she was sleeping. I know that she saw other girls that were abused terribly. I know that she saw times like where she'd either see on the news or she'd see in the paper that-- either pimps or girls had been killed-- that she had known one way or the other.

#### LAUREN

I was hit a couple times-- for not bringing enough, for talking back. You're always supposed to bring back more than \$100. Well, I was at least. I don't know about other girls.

#### MICHELLE

Between me and my boyfriend at the time there was a lot of violence. Like I said, black eyes. He used to choke me all the time. I guess you could call he got a little bit smarter and punching me in my stomach so I wouldn't have any-- visible bruise. I would have never thought that I would have been in this situation. I would have never thought that I would have sold myself for any other person. I would have never thought that I would have let myself be treated as badly as I was being treated by him. You know, I just went crazy. I wanted to let him know how much I loved him.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THEN THERE'S A YOUNG WOMAN WE'LL CALL BRIANNA. SHE TOO COMES FROM A MIDDLE CLASS BACKGROUND. HER PARENTS WERE DIVORCED...SHE WAS UNHAPPY AND BEGAN HANGING OUT WITH, WHAT SHE ADMITS NOW, WAS A BAD CROWD...SHE ENDED UP UNDER THE CONTROL OF A PIMP WITH A GUN.

BRIANNA

He never hurt me with the gun, he just, he would show it to us. And tell us that his gun was his best friend-- he would slap, from time to time-- a lot of the times, he would just switch up. Sometimes he would be nice and take us shopping. Other times, he would hit us and tell us to work and won't let us come back in the house. It's-- it's all about how much money you make and how much money you're bringing to them.

MICHELLE

He would want to go and act like he had a lot of money. So, we'd go to, you know, Red Lobster or Olive Garden, you know. He'd want to buy the expensive alcohol. Cars... And cars, when you have a car, you gotta pay for gas, and gas is not that cheap anymore. So, I made a lot of money for him and he just wasted it. I don't have anything to show for it, but a pair of shoes.

JUSTUS

An average pimp with one kid will make between \$800 and \$1,000 a day. That's seven days a week, 30 days in a month.

RATHER

And not much overhead.

JUSTUS

No overhead. You get a cheap hotel for 50 bucks a night, a bottle of booze. Take her to Taco Bell or McDonalds, something-- cheap food. You buy her some clothes, and that's it.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

SOME OF THE PIMPS ARE TEENAGERS THEMSELVES. ACCORDING TO JUSTUS PIMPS KEEP ALL THE MONEY... AND LEAVE THE GIRLS WITH NOTHING.

IT'S A LUCRATIVE BUSINESS, AND ONE THAT IS CREATING A NEW BUSINESS MODEL. YOUNG GANG MEMBERS, WHO USED TO COMPETE FOR DRUG TURF, ARE WORKING TOGETHER NOW TO SELL GIRLS. THEY'VE EVEN FORMED A NEW GANG OF SORTS NAMED AFTER A CRUDE EXPRESSION --- M.O.B.

RATHER

Well, we've been hearing a lot about this game MOB. What is MOB? What can you tell me about it?

JUSTUS

Money over bitches.

RATHER

And who are they? What do they do?

JUSTUS

They're a gang that-- could be a Crypt, could be a Blood, could be an unpaying customer, could be whatever. That's the-- they kinda, like, don't worry about too much crossing over 'cause it's women. It's not drugs. And they'll cooperate. They're trade a girl here and there. But it's a loose knit group that goes up and down the state here in Washington, California. And they sell women for money. And they are just-- that's all they are.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND IT'S NOT JUST THE YOUNG PIMPS...OLD-TIME GANG MEMBERS HAVE FOUND THAT PEDDLING YOUNG PROSTITUTES IS EASIER--AND MORE PROFITABLE THAN DRUGS.

JUSTUS

It's the gang members that went to jail in the '80s and '90s that got busted. And, you know, the federal government made it tougher on drugs. Smaller amounts-- if it was crack, you went to prison. They-- they-- they cracked down the gangs.

RATHER

Well, we had the war on drugs.

JUSTUS

Right. So now they come out. I just spent ten years for selling crack, okay, and there's how many? Around the Portland area alone, there's probably 50 drug investigators in different groups. The city of Portland, there's two Vice investigators.

RATHER



Wait-- wait a minutes. There-- 50 investigating drugs and two on this subject?

JUSTUS

Right.

RATHER

How can that be?

JUSTUS

I'm not a politician. I'm just a cop. But if I'm a criminal and I got busted for drugs and I had a regional task force over here, and there's another task force over there, and there-- every city has a drug investigator, at least. And then I know that there's two Vice investigators in the city of Portland, let me think. I think I'll sell women because what are the chances of me getting caught?

ERNIE ALLEN, CEO OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN

This is organized crime. Not mafia. Not La Cosa Nostra. Not what people think of traditionally as organized crime... But, organized crime in that these kids are part of a network. They are moved from community to community.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

ERNIE ALLEN IS THE CO-FOUNDER AND CURRENT CEO OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN... IT'S A UNIQUE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION MANDATED BY CONGRESS IN 1984 TO WORK WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES TO FIND MISSING CHILDREN AND TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.

ALLEN

Our estimate is-- that there are at least 100,000 American kids a year who get caught up in this insidious activity. And there're estimates far more aggressive than that-- typically 100,000 to 300,000 kids a year. So this is not a modest problem.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND THAT'S ESPECIALLY TRUE OF PORTLAND...WHICH IS GAINING NATIONAL ATTENTION AS A MAJOR HUB FOR CHILD TRAFFICKING. LAST YEAR DURING A NATIONWIDE STING CONDUCTED BY FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS CALLED "OPERATION CROSS COUNTRY", PORTLAND

HAD THE SECOND HIGHEST NUMBER OF ARREST AND RESCUES IN THE COUNTRY. AND A RECENT REPORT BY A STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL NOTED THAT PORTLAND WAS ONE OF THE TOP THREE CITIES IN THE U-S FOR THE NUMBER OF ARRESTS, INVESTIGATIONS AND RESCUES OF UNDERAGE SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS. THE OTHER CITIES WERE MIAMI AND LAS VEGAS...

RATHER

What are the chances, or do you think there are any chances that we-- we, in the press, and you, who work with this on an hour by hour basis, are overstating it? Because, I run across people who say, "Well, listen, I haven't read anything about this. I haven't seen anything about this. Can't be that big a problem."

ALLEN

Well, I-- I think the chances that we're overstating it are miniscule. I had a police officer say to me once that the only way not to find this problem in any community is simply not to look for it.

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

ERNIE ALLEN...UP NEXT, THE INTERNET. CHILDREN AND THE MARKETING OF SEX....

**PORNLAND, OREGON ACT 2:**

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

WELCOME BACK. AS YOU'VE SEEN PORTLAND HAS A SMALL BUT DETERMINED VICE SQUAD, LED BY SERGEANT DOUG JUSTUS, TO FIGHT THE TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN. BUT THE PROBLEM IS MUCH BIGGER THAN ONE OFFICER IN ONE CITY. POLITICIANS AND CHILD ADVOCATES ARE TAKING NOTICE... AND ONE OF THE MOST VOCAL IS JUST ACROSS THE STATE LINE IN WASHINGTON.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

TRAVEL UP INTERSTATE 5, OVER THE BRIDGE FROM PORTLAND IS VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON... A BEDROOM COMMUNITY THAT'S GETTING A VIVID LESSON IN WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THEIR OWN BACKYARD.

LINDA SMITH, FOUNDER OF SHARED HOPE INTERNATIONAL

She was turned, she went from a little girl to someone that a lot of things happened to and as they happened to her...

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

LINDA SMITH IS A FORMER REPUBLICAN CONGRESSWOMAN FROM SOUTHERN WASHINGTON WHO IS HOLDING A TRAINING SESSION WITH REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT, CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL SERVICES PROFESSIONALS ABOUT THE ISSUE OF CHILD TRAFFICKING.

SMITH

... We've trained over 7000 first responders law enforcement in the United States. I don't know how many more in just the last few months...

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

WHILE IN CONGRESS, SMITH BECAME INTERESTED IN THE ISSUE OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD TRAFFICKING. SHE STARTED A NON-PROFIT CALLED SHARED HOPE INTERNATIONAL WITH THE MISSION OF RESCUING AND REHABILITATING CHILD PROSTITUTES. THIS IS ONE OF THEIR UNDERCOVER VIDEOS.

MAN 1

And I'm gonna tell you somethin', if you pay the price you can get what you want, and I can get it for ya.

MAN 2

Really?

MAN 1

Now if you want something really young, that \$200 – it'll cost ya, it'll just cost ya a little more than that.

MAN 2

Sure, sure.

MAN 1

How young are you talkin'? Talk to me.

MAN 2

Well, how young do you have?

MAN 1

Well I don't have nothin' younger than 14.

MAN 2

Ok – no 14's good.

MAN 1

Ok.

MAN 2

Yeah – that'd be great.

MAN 1

Well you're gonna have to add something to that.

MAN 2

Sure, sure.

SMITH

And once I figured out just how bad it was, we-- we analyzed several parts of the nation-- for the Department of Justice, and put it all together and started looking at it, I decided that most people wouldn't believe it.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND WHEN SMITH STARTED DIGGING, SHE REALIZED THAT IT WAS HAPPENING IN PORTLAND, A FEW MILES FROM HER OWN HOME TOWN.

SMITH

There's a lot of buyers that come to Portland because there's like 160 commercial sex venues that are in a magazine that you can get. I hate to tell people about that. But you can actually have just a holiday of going place to place ordering girls. Going to strip clubs, back rooms and have two or three girls brought to the side room in Portland. You need a lot of product when you have that many buyers comin' to shop. And that's what Portland has become. A place for people to shop for the innocence of children of our nation.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THE PROBLEM GOES FAR BEYOND PORTLAND. POLICE ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE NOT ONLY FIGHTING A GROWING WAVE OF TRADITIONAL SEX

TRAFFICKING, BUT THE POPULARITY OF CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING ON THE INTERNET, HAS ALSO CREATED AN EASY, INEXPENSIVE AND SECRETIVE WAY TO SELL YOUNG CHILDREN. AND ONE OF THE MOST WELL KNOWN MARKETPLACES FOR SELLING SEX ON THE INTERNET IS CLASSIFIED GIANT "CRAIGSLIST". HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED TO THE YOUNG WOMAN WE'RE CALLING BRIANNA.

BRIANNA

I met this guy and he said, "Would you wanna make some money?" And I said, "Sure." I went with him to his house and he told me to take off my clothes and he took a picture of me. He didn't show my face. And he posted it on Craigslist...

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

SUDDENLY HER SERVICES WERE BEING PEDDLED TO ANYONE WITH AN INTERNET CONNECTION. AND THE COST OF THE AD WAS LITTLE MORE THAN A COUPLE CUPS OF COFFEE.

BRIANNA

Back then, it was five dollars. Paid for it on his credit card. The next thing I knew, he clicked "Post Ad." And he put my name and my age. Not my real name, just like a fake name-- and then the phone started ringing.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

BRIANNA WASN'T ALONE. AT ANY HOUR ON ANY DAY, THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF ADS FOR SERVICES IN PORTLAND LIKE MASSAGE AND OTHER CODE WORDS FOR SEX... AND THE PICTURES MAKE CLEAR MOST OF THE OFFERINGS ARE FOR VERY YOUNG WOMEN. PORTLAND DETECTIVE MEGHAN BURKEEN, WHO WORKS WITH SERGEANT DOUG JUSTUS, SHOWED US SOME OF THE OTHER ONLINE CLASSIFIED SITES WHERE PIMPS SELL THEIR GIRLS.

RATHER

And as I understand it, there are underage girls on this?

DETECTIVE MEGHAN BURKEEN

Yes. A lot of the pimps will post their girls that are working for 'em on Craigslist. And there's not just Craigslist, I meant there's the TNA Review board. Um, there's Backpage, which is also open to the public. So I just type in Backpage... So, it's another website, just like Craigslist. And the thing about TNA board which makes it a little different than the other websites is that Johns will go on there and review the girl that they had and they'll recommend that girl to other Johns. Like I had so-and-so, she was great.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

ACCORDING TO ERNIE ALLEN AND THOSE WHO TRACK CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING... COMPANIES LIKE CRAIGSLIST ARE NOW ON THE RADAR OF ELECTED OFFICIALS.

ALLEN

It's why-- 'bout a year and a half ago the National Center and 43 state attorneys general entered into an agreement with Craigslist-- because what we were finding is that these kids were being advertised for sex...

Rather

on Craigslist?

ALLEN

...on Craigslist and other sites. Craigslist agreed to take steps. They agreed to require identifying information in the use of a credit card before anybody could submit an ad, so at least we can then determine who-- who posted the ad. They agreed to work more closely with law enforcement. They agreed ultimately to shut down-- what they call their erotic services-- section.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND CRAIGSLIST ALSO PROMISED TO GIVE THE REVENUE FROM THE EROTIC ADS TO CHARITY. IT WAS A SHORT LIVED PROMISE. IN MAY OF 2009 CRAIGSLIST REPLACED THEIR EROTIC SECTION WITH AN ADULT SERVICES SECTION, WHICH CRITICS SAID WAS EXACTLY THE SAME. WE ASKED CRAIGSLIST FOR COMMENT. THEY TOLD US THAT THEY WERE NEVER OBLIGED TO DONATE TO CHARITY. THEY FURTHER NOTED THAT QUOTE - AFTER FULFILLING AN EARLIER PLEDGE, FOR WHICH CRAIGSLIST WAS CRITICIZED, WE ANNOUNCED IN MAY OF 2009 THAT CRAIGSLIST WOULD BE MAKING NO FURTHER PUBLIC PLEDGES IN CONNECTION WITH ITS CHARITABLE GIVING PROGRAMS - END QUOTE.

THE AIM GROUP ESTIMATES ADULT ADVERTISEMENTS ON CRAIGSLIST WILL HAUL IN MORE THAN \$36 MILLION DOLLARS THIS YEAR. CRAIGSLIST DID NOT DENY THE ESTIMATE, BUT CLEARLY STATED TO US THAT QUOTE - ANY OF THE FIGURES BEING THROWN AROUND BY CRAIGSLIST "ANALYSTS" ARE POSITIVELY DWARFED BY THE ADULT AD REVENUE AT THE LARGE INTERNET COMPANIES, MEDIA CONGLOMERATES, NEWSPAPER CHAINS, AND TELEPHONE COMPANIES - END QUOTE.

RATHER

Is this or is this not-- and to ask the question is not to suggest I know the answer, a case of you're kind of running an electronic house of ill repute that has children in it, and you say, "But if you catch any of our people doing it, we'll be happy to take 'em out of the house."

ALLEN

That's exactly right. We had a case in which-- we'd been searching for a little girl reported missing for three years. One of our analysts found her picture on Craigslist being advertised for sex. She was 15 years old. We worked with the task force in that community. When they went into the place where the child was being held, she had a one year old infant. There was one piece of furniture in this room. It was a couch. The baby was sleeping on a cushion from the couch, on the floor. The girl was sleeping on the remainder of the couch, and was being taken out to service her clients several times a day. Now, that's what I mean by 21st century slavery.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

BUT IN MANY CASES, YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE DOING IT RIGHT UNDER THEIR PARENTS NOSES... BRIANNA NEEDED ONLY A CELLPHONE.

BRIANNA

It's very easy to hide being a prostitute, whether you're living in your mom's house or your dad's house or your grandparent's. It's-- it's kind of like the phone call type thing. Your phone is always ringing, so you take phone calls. And they never just show up to your house 'cause they don't know where you live, or you would tell them, "Meet me down the street, over at the hotel." Or, you know, it's-- it's you can hide it very good.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

BRIANNA EVENTUALLY DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL... BUT MICHELLE STAYED. AFTER SCHOOL HER PIMP SENT HER TO WALK THE TRACK... OFTEN FOR HOURS ON END.

MICHELLE

I was living two different lives, like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, you know. That's kind of how I felt. Because by day I was, like you say, going to high school. And I had to put on my-- my happy face, you know. Nothing's wrong with me. I'm just a happy girl, you know. Me and my boyfriend are-- are cool. Everything is fine. And so... I would have to go every day after school-- just go straight to walking-- walking the track.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

IN SOME CIRCLES PORTLAND HAS BECOME KNOWN FOR ITS UNDERAGE PROSTITUTION BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT A LOT OF THE JOHNS ARE LOOKING FOR. THE GIRL WE ARE CALLING LAUREN WAS IN HER EARLY TEENS.

LAUREN

Some guys-- are creepy. Um, some guys did actually know how old I was. And they liked that.

MICHELLE

I used to lie and say that I was 18 'cause I know that some of 'em would get freaked out. So, I would lie and say I was 18. But some of 'em, you know, I just kind of get the vibe off of 'em. So, I'd let them know my real age. And one time I let this guy know my real age. "Yeah, I'm 16." And he said, "Oh, well, you're not young enough. You need to get out." And I was like-- I was so desperate for money at the time that I said, "Well, I can put my hair in pigtails, you know. I can-- I can make myself look younger." And he didn't want it. He wanted-- he told me that he was looking for an 11 or 12 year old.

RATHER

You ever talk to these johns who've had sex with a 13, 14 year old girl?

JUSTUS

Oh, yeah. They're remorseful. Most of them are really remorseful. They're just, like, "Oh, God, I really screwed up. I'm so sorry."

RATHER

And what do you say to him?

JUSTUS

I say, "Get the hell out of our town." 'Cause a lot of 'em come from outside of Portland.

You know, my perfect world, if I was king for the day? I'd have a giant billboard on 82nd Avenue and I'd put their picture up there and say, "These guys are raping our children." And I think that same guy gonna come back and to it again? I don't think so.

RATHER

Well, in your judgment, the-- the buyers get off easy.

JUSTUS

Yes, they do. They-- that needs to be changed.

RATHER



Can you arrest the john?

JUSTUS

Oh, yeah, we can arrest him. The problem is this, you know, being there when the act occurs. And if you see and you know this girl's a juvenile, well, you can't let that act occur because you're allowing a felony to occur in front of you, you gotta stop it. But, say, you catch a john driving away, and you go get the little girl and she's 16, now, you gotta go to court, and you gotta prove that he knew she was under 18 years old. You can arrest him for the prostitution which is a misdemeanor, and (SLAP) get outta here and don't do anything. But we had a case where a 16 year old was picked up by an 84 year old and were caught in the act. And we had to go to court, and he argued to the judge that he didn't know she was under 18. And so he got found guilty for the prostitution but not the more serious felony.

SMITH

Well, don't you think if buyers knew if they went out shoppin' and they got a kid and couldn't say, "I didn't know how old she was," and they were gonna get that stain-- same 10 year penalty that they would think twice before shoppin'? I think that would deter buying. Now would it stop everybody? No. But would it stop a whole lot of guys? Yes.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THIS YEAR LINDA SMITH HELPED WASHINGTON STATE PASS ONE OF THE TOUGHEST ANTI-TRAFFICKING BILLS IN THE COUNTRY. THE BILL INCREASES MONETARY AND JAIL PENALTIES FOR THE JOHNS. IT ALSO MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO ESCAPE PROSECUTION BY SAYING THAT THEY DIDN'T KNOW THE GIRL WAS UNDERAGE. BUT THE JOHNS CAN ESCAPE WASHINGTON STATE'S NEW LAW BY SIMPLY DRIVING DOWN I-5 INTO PORTLAND.

SMITH

Oregon needs to follow Washington State. They need to increase those penalties dramatically, but they need to enforce the penalties against the buyer.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

BUT SMITH SAYS THE WHOLE MINDSET HAS TO CHANGE, WHERE YOUNG PROSTITUTES ARE VIEWED JUST LIKE ANY OTHER YOUNG VICTIM, AND JOHNS ARE VIEWED AS MOLESTERS.

SMITH

Statutory rape is built into most state laws and could be used in this case, but often the other law on arresting prostitutes overrides, so they arrest her and she never gets into the position of being- - a victim. And because he has given money, he's considered then-- involved in prostitution

versus raping a child. It is just that transition of money. So really what you're telling them is in a neighborhood, if you molest that 12, 13, 14-year-old girl you're gonna go to jail a long time. Are you the teacher? Are you the minister? It might just-- maybe you should just take some money and go to the truck stop or go to Portland and go down to Deja Vu. And kind of hang out there. And you can get a minor there. And as long as you give money, you're probably not gonna be in trouble.

RATHER

What is about city, county, state governments, for that matter, the federal government that they haven't awoken to this problem?

JUSTUS

(SIGH) I have a million thoughts in my head right now. But-- I mean, who runs the country? Men, okay. Who has sex with these kids? Men.

RATHER

Never thought of it just that way.

JUSTUS

Yeah, you see women out having sex with these little girls?

RATHER

Well, you tell me.

JUSTUS

No. Sure don't.

JUSTUS (AT MEETING)

We see probably seventy percent of our guys, who are 18 to 25...

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

BUT SERGEANT JUSTUS VIEWS THESE CHALLENGES AS OBSTACLES THAT NEED TO BE OVERCOME. HE AND HIS TEAM SPEND TIME EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT CHILD TRAFFICKING AT MEETINGS WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SCHOOL GROUPS - LIKE THIS ONE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND.

JUSTUS (AT MEETING)

You ladies in here, how many of you at 13,14, and 15, knew what you wanted to be, had no problems with your parents, everything was just great... raise your hand.  
Now imagine coming from a broken home, divorced parents, foster kid, you know been abused all your life. And that's no wonder these guys can target them and pick them off and do this to 'em.

JUSTUS

We are-- we are like the duck that's paddling like hell underwater and keeps his head to stay like that. That's exactly what we are. We are just-- we absolutely just stay afloat by working our asses off.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

MEANWHILE, NIGHTTIME MEANS NEW PATROLS ARE BACK ON THE STREETS OF PORTLAND. THIS TIME THE COPS CONFRONT ANOTHER WOMAN THEY THINK IS A STREETWALKER. BUT IT QUICKLY TURNS INTO A SQUEEZE PLAY TO GET HER PIMP. AND TO DO THAT THE POLICE GIVE A LESSON IN STREET ECONOMICS.

OFFICER MIKE GALLAGHER, PORTLAND POLICE

How much money do you have?

WOMAN

Like a thousand dollars saved up.

GALLAGHER

Okay, you said you've been doing this for 2 months, how many nights a week are you out here?

WOMAN

Just a couple.

GALLAGHER

So you're making roughly \$1000 a week. Correct? Is that... give or take. So in the two months you should have \$8000. Where is that \$8000 going?

WOMAN

Well... \$2000 of it went to my brother. I had a \$600 cell phone bill that got paid off...

GALLAGHER

So you're using it to help...what's David using it for?

WOMAN

Basically I just take care of him.

JUSTUS

So you start writing it all down, and you do the math. And then you go, "Where's your money?" "Oh, well--" Because they don't even think about it. They see the money in their hand. They don't even realize they're giving it to him. And you just start letting them figure it out. And it's, like, holy crap. I guess-- I guess it's not that great.

HERTZLER

We're gonna need to take this girl back to East. She's rolling on her pimp.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

EVEN IF THE GIRL DECIDES TO ROLL ON HER PIMP, THE CHANCES THEY'LL BE ABLE TO PROSECUTE HIM, OR GET HER OFF THE STREETS ARE SLIM.

JUSTUS

Here's the problem, Mr. Rather. Your evidence is your girl, okay? Your 15 year old is your evidence. If I arrest you for stealing a car, I got the car as evidence. Or if you sell drugs, I have the dope; I can put it in an evidence locker and keep it. W-- if you're my evidence and I arrest this pimp and then you run away, which they always do, I have no case. So I have to go find you.

RATHER

And then after you find this girl, this hypothetical 15 year old, you find her, you bring her in. You say, "You're gonna be the key witness in prosecuting this guy." What happens?

JUSTUS

She runs away because we have no facility that you could hold them in.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IN THE UNITED STATES THERE ARE FEWER THAN 100 BEDS DEDICATED TO THE REHABILITATION AND PROTECTION OF CHILD PROSTITUTES -- NOT ONE OF THEM IN PORTLAND. ACROSS THE COUNTRY RESCUED GIRLS ARE USUALLY LOCKED UP BECAUSE NO OTHER OPTION EXISTS.

ALLEN

I remember-- a young kid was recovered, been reported missing to the National Center when she was 12. She was now 14 when she was rescued. A prosecutor and-- a state called me and said, "We don't have anywhere to put her. The domestic violence shelters don't want her because they're afraid she's a risk to the other people there. The traditional child abuse groups and runaway shelters don't want her. They think she represents a high risk. I have no choice but to put her in secure detention."

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

WITHOUT A PLACE TO HOUSE THESE GIRLS, SERGEANT JUSTUS SAYS IT'S HARD TO WATCH OVER HIS VICTIMS AND KEEP THEM SAFE. AFTER NEARLY THREE YEARS ON VICE, JUSTUS HAS SAVED ONLY A HANDFUL OF GIRLS, AND IT'S A RECORD THAT DISTURBS HIM.

JUSTUS

They're just kids. Like, this one little girl, she wrote a note to her foster mom. I'm nothing but a whore and a drug addict. I'm not worth saving. And it eats your guts up because you wanna help 'em so bad, and they get so close, and then they run away.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

LOSING A CHILD TO THE STREETS IS A HORROR SUE EXPERIENCED FIRST HAND. SHE KNEW HER DAUGHTER WAS TURNING TRICKS AND SHE FELT POWERLESS TO STOP HER.

SUE

There were times where, you know, she would be out after curfew. We-- we'd call the police. We'd have the police bring her back to us. We'd get her away from him, she'd sneak out in the night, she'd go back to him because she loved him.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THEY TRIED EVERYTHING THEY COULD THINK OF TO GET HER AWAY FROM HER PIMP... THEY CALLED THE COPS ON HIM... THEY WORKED WITH VICE TO BUILD A CASE AGAINST HIM... THEY BROUGHT HER HOME EVERY TIME SHE CRIED FOR HELP. THEY THOUGHT ABOUT MOVING, BUT DIDN'T HAVE THE MONEY... AND WITH EVERY CHANCE THEY HAD, THEY FOUGHT AND BEGGED HER TO LEAVE HIM...

SUE

It finally took me realizing that I can't say anything against him because she loves him. I needed to show her I love her to finally, you know, try to actually win her back. So, one of the hardest things my husband and I ever had to do was drive her back to a motel to drop her off to stay with him. There were times that even though it sickened me-- I paid for her to have a motel room for her and him to sleep at because I knew that if I was paying for it she wasn't out prostituting herself to get the money to pay for it.

RATHER

That must have been hard.

SUE

It was awful.

RATHER

And to some mother who may be watching this and say-- saying to herself, "I could never, I would never pay for a motel room in which I knew my daughter was going to be selling herself for profit"-- to someone in the audience who may be saying that you say what?

SUE

I thought I couldn't do it either. But if I paid for that motel that was maybe one or two tricks that she wasn't pulling. So, although it was the hardest thing I have ever done in my life, she told me that by doing those things it made her realize that we were giving her unconditional love.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND THAT LOVE FINALLY BROUGHT HER HOME.

SUE

She decided that he was being more abusive. She broke up with him. She came back home. But as we all know, pimps don't let their girls go. So, he came back and he tried to kill her in my home.

RATHER

Literally tried to kill her?

SUE

Literally tried to kill her. He broke ribs, punctured a lung, and strangled her. And I have pictures. I have the-- the stuff that when he comes up for parole will be there.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

18-YEAR-OLD DARREN "DJ" EVANS, WHO WAS HER DAUGHTER'S PIMP, PLEAD GUILTY TO ASSAULT IN THE SECOND DEGREE. WITH THE HELP OF THE PORTLAND VICE DETAIL, HE WAS CONVICTED FOR PROMOTING PROSTITUTION AND SENTENCED TO EIGHT YEARS AND FOUR MONTHS.

RATHER

Where do you think it goes from here?

SUE

We take it one day at a time. We love her. We go to counseling. And we just move forward. And we are so proud of her that she has just become a wonderful young lady.

RATHER

Any chance, in your opinion, that she'll fall back into this life?

SUE

No. No. She told me, she said-- (LAUGH) she said, "Mom, you're right. Love doesn't hurt, and I've learned one big thing. If you don't like my boyfriends, he's out the door." (LAUGH)

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

SUE'S DAUGHTER WAS LUCKY. AS WERE THE OTHER GIRLS JUSTUS AND HIS VICE TEAM HELPED BUT THEY STILL HAVE A LONG ROAD TO RECOVERY.

MICHELLE

Well, in my mind he was my boyfriend. I-- I guess I'm still kind of in denial that he was actually just my pimp. I don't-- I don't like to be considered a prostitute, a ho. Because in my mind that's not what I was. I was in denial.

BRIANNA

Yeah, I think I was a victim because I was forced. It wasn't voluntary.

LAUREN

I got just so tired of it. Like, it -- I like the feeling of being home with my family. Being able to be a normal teenager 'cause I've never really gotten to do that. And I've never really even gotten to be a kid really.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

MICHELLE AND BRIANNA ARE DOUG JUSTUS' SUCCESS STORIES. BUT EVEN SUCCESS STORIES CAN BE FLEETING. IN THE DAY BEFORE WE PREPARED OUR REPORT FOR AIR, WE FOUND OUT THAT LAUREN HAD RUN AWAY FROM HOME. AND FOR A COP WHO'S SPENT DECADES ON THE STREET, SAVING THESE CHILDREN HAS BECOME PERSONAL. PICTURES OF HIS TEAM AND THE YOUNG GIRLS HE'S TRYING TO GET OUT OF THE BUSINESS SHARE THE SAME SPACE WITH HIS FAMILY.

JUSTUS (ON PHONE)

I was gonna to tell you, that 14-year-old from Vancouver, that you wrote the report on... yeah

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

BEFORE JOINING THE VICE DETAIL, HE HAD ALWAYS WORKED SHIFTS, BUT NOW HIS DAYS AND NIGHTS HAVE NO END. HE'S BEEN MARRIED TO WIFE KASEY FOR 30 YEARS. HIS OWN CHILDREN ARE GROWN. HIS LIFE IS NOW ABOUT HELPING OTHER CHILDREN. IT'S THE YOUNG WOMEN ON PORTLAND'S STREETS THAT ARE CONSTANTLY ON HIS MIND... AND HE'S BECOME CLOSE TO SOME OF THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES.

JUSTUS

I even have Alex and her moms picture in my wallet, I don't even have pictures of my own kids in my wallet.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

HE KEEPS TABS ON THE GIRLS... CHECKS UP ON THEM WITH TEXT MESSAGES, EVEN ON HOLIDAYS. BUT THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER STORIES THAT DIDN'T END SO WELL. SOME HAVE RUN AWAY FROM THE POLICE ... OR HAVE REFUSED TO PRESS CHARGES AGAINST THEIR PIMP... AND OTHERS HAVE SIMPLY DISAPPEARED.

RATHER

Give me a case or two that still keeps you up at night-- you still worry about it.

JUSTUS

A little 16 year old that-- got brought to Portland in 2008 and-- worked my butt off on that case. Built her trust up. Convinced her to work with me, and her mom, and her sister. Did everything I could. And then-- got her to testify and put the bad guy in jail and haven't heard from her since. That was 11 months ago.



RATHER

And you wonder where she is.

JUSTUS

Yeah. It k—

RATHER

What is your experience telling you where she is?

JUSTUS

She's probably dead.

RATHER

Because she squealed?

JUSTUS

Yeah. And see, that's your trust. That is-- that's me, Doug Justus, going to that fam-- that mom and saying, "Trust me on this. I'll do the right thing. I'll take care of your kid." And now I can't find her.

RATHER

That's heavy.

JUSTUS

It kills me. Yeah.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THE GIRL HE'S TALKING ABOUT IS KELSEY EMILY COLLINS. JUSTUS FOUND HER ON THE STREET WHEN SHE WAS 16 YEARS OLD. SHE WOULD BE 19-YEARS OLD TODAY...BUT FOR THE LAST YEAR SHE'S BEEN LISTED OFFICIALLY AS MISSING. I'LL BE BACK WITH SOME CLOSING THOUGHTS IN A MOMENT.

**PORNLAND, OREGON ACT 3:**

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

AND NOW, AN UPDATE. SINCE WE FIRST PUT ON THE AIR THIS REPORT LAST MAY, MUCH HAS HAPPENED IN PORTLAND...BEGINNING WITH ADDRESSING AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE PROBLEM, FIRST BY OTHER NATIONAL MEDIA OUTLETS AND BY THE CITY OF PORTLAND ITSELF. PORTLAND HAS BECOME MUCH MORE AGGRESSIVE IN HELPING GET YOUNG GIRLS OFF THE STREETS. IT WILL SOON GET ITS FIRST SHELTER BEDS FOR VICTIMS OF UNDERAGE PROSTITUTION.

...PORTLAND ALSO RECENTLY CHANGED ITS FORFEITURE LAW TO REQUIRE MONEY AND ASSETS SEIZED FROM PIMPS, AND THEIR ORGANIZED CRIME CONNECTIONS AND JOHN'S GO TO VICTIM'S SERVICES. AND, THE PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU HAS DOUBLED THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS ON ITS HUMAN TRAFFICKING DETAIL...FROM TWO TO FOUR.

AND FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IS NOW ALSO TARGETING THE TRAFFICKING OF MINORS. THE FBI CONDUCTED A NATIONWIDE STING OPERATION IN NOVEMBER THAT LED TO THE ARREST OF 99 PIMPS AND THE RECOVERY OF 69 UNDERAGE PROSTITUTES. THE HIGHEST CONCENTRATIONS OF THE CHILDREN RECOVERED WAS IN THE NORTHWESTERN UNITED STATES.

CRAIGSLIST NOW HAS SHUT DOWN THE ADULT SERVICES SECTION OF ITS WEBSITE. POLICE CALLED THE ADS IN THAT SECTION NOTHING MORE THAN SOLICITATIONS FOR SEX...OFTENTIMES WITH UNDERAGE GIRLS.

AND FINALLY, WE LEAVE YOU WITH PHOTOGRAPHS OF YOUNG WOMEN WHO WERE LAST SEEN IN THE NORTHWEST BUT ARE SUSPECTED TO HAVE FALLEN INTO PROSTITUTION AND ARE NOW MISSING.

IF YOU RECOGNIZE ANY OF THESE GIRLS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL POLICE OR THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN AT 1-800-843-5678. AND THAT'S OUR PROGRAM FOR TONIGHT. FOR HDNET, FROM NEW YORK, DAN RATHER REPORTING. GOODNIGHT.