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Home planet

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Madeleine Schafer
Kathryn Daly
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Kip Daly
Emily Mitamura
Sino Esthappan
Aaron Jones
Lillian Kalish
My senior project, “Home Planet,” is a 162-page graphic novel that, using the fictional story of thirty men sent from America’s death row to Mars in the year 2025, addresses capital punishment as an American institution and examines the relationship between expansion, expendability, and colonialism. I became critical of the death penalty while studying abroad in the fall of 2014 and working for the Human Rights League. Being involved in human rights work in Western Europe made me appreciate how unique it is among democratic nations that the United States continues to practice capital punishment. In addition to seeking to understand the historical and political factors that have gone into America’s continued use of capital punishment, I wanted to examine the cultural narratives surrounding the death penalty.

A text that has been critical in my research has been “Murdering Myths: The Story Behind the Death Penalty” by Judith Kay (2005). In it, Kay explains the function of narratives in shaping how we think about crime, punishment, justice, and revenge. She argues that physical violence, whether conducted between individuals or by the state, arises from a need to correct perceived injustice and to assuage feelings of shame and powerlessness. The logic that harming others is an appropriate response to feeling victimized is thus reflected both in the actions of perpetrators of interpersonal violence and in actions undertaken by the state to punish such perpetrators in the name of justice. Furthermore, in declaring some people deserving of execution, we both cede to the state the power to kill its own citizens and consent to operate within a predator-victim binary in which we are cast as either dangerous or helpless to dangerous individuals.

As Kay explains, the use of violence as a tool to right wrongs and restore balance is not only misguided in that it does not typically bring about the closure and satisfaction that is promised by the dominant narrative, or significantly deter crimes, but unjust in that the practice of capital punishment disproportionately punishes people of color and low-income Americans. On a larger scale, we can see the death penalty as a form of racial and social control and an attempt to mitigate the unpredictable and violent elements of our society through further violence that contributes to a cycle of hurt, shame, revenge, and grief. Kay writes that, since many of our ideas about poverty, criminality, and justice through violence come from stories that we learn and reproduce within families, in schools, and through the media, a solution to capital
punishment and to the prison-industrial complex more broadly requires the formation of new stories. Many scholars, including Angela Davis, have spoken of the importance of implementing creativity to craft new narratives that envision a society without capital punishment and challenge the dominant narrative that posits the death penalty as perpetual and unchallengeable.

In the vein of creating stories that expose and contradict the dominant narrative, I have created a graphic novel set in the future that tells the fictional story of the colonization of Mars using inmates from America’s death row. In “Home Planet,” we follow thirty inmates who are selected to travel into space and settle on Mars in order to perform manual labor that will prepare the planet for further colonization efforts by the United States. This scenario, while speculative, is informed by my research on early colonial American history, and the prevalence of penal inmates from Great Britain who came to the colonies as indentured servants in exchange for being pardoned from execution. Drawing from this example of condemned men as a labor force to fuel a colonization project, I wanted to reflect the link between colonialism and capital punishment by creating a hypothetical futuristic situation that functions as a reference to past events and as an extreme form of the ways in which the modern prison-industrial complex addresses a variety of political and economic needs beyond simply keeping citizens safe from interpersonal crime. My understanding of incarceration as a foundational American institution that responds not just to the actual danger of crime in our society, but that serves a variety of other purposes including population control, generation of capital, and the establishment of a concept of good versus evil that promotes solidarity among non-incarcerated citizens is drawn from Scott Christianson’s book *With Liberty for Some: 500 Years of Incarceration in America* (2005).

Having justified a connection between incarceration, labor, and the death penalty, I then chose Mars as a setting for my imagined penal colony because of its place in popular imagination as a potential next frontier for U.S. expansion. In “The Case for Mars,” (1996) Mars activist Robert Zubrin draws explicit links between Britain’s colonization of North America and the United States’ future colonization of Mars. He argues that Mars can be a site of resource extraction, wealth generation, and ownership that will give America economic, political, and cultural advantages within the world economy. While Zubrin and others who push for the colonization of Mars reflect ideas of manifest destiny in arguing that the United States not only needs Mars in order to prompt growth on Earth and remain competitive with other nations, but is entitled to control the planet and its resources, these activists tend to treat Mars as a politically neutral frontier because humans do not live there, and we would thus not have to conquer or
exterminate in order to occupy the planet. I argue that a more nuanced look at America’s history of expansion and colonialism indicates that, as George Lipsitz writes in his essay “Space,” America has never undertaken expansion without it being at the expense of some group of people. In my graphic novel, I draw attention to the inherently exploitative nature of expansion and reference in particular the use of condemned persons as labor in America’s founding.

Mars has also been valuable as a visual link to theories I explored during this project, including Avery Gordon’s concept of the “zone of exclusion” present in every society for the people it doesn’t want. Explained in her book _Ghostly Matters_, this idea of exclusion is highly relevant in a contemporary America that contains nearly a quarter of the world’s imprisoned population. Because the ways in which incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people experience physical, social, and psychological alienation as well as legal disenfranchisement are largely under-discussed in mainstream media, and therefore easily dismissed by those not directly impacted by incarceration, setting Mars as a site of banishment was a helpful strategy in pushing myself and readers to acknowledge the permanent separation from loved ones and society that death row inmates experience, even before execution.

In approaching this project, I decided that a graphic novel would be an appropriate and effective form for several reasons, due to the subject matter of my project and to my personal goals for the work. I believe that comics have a strong potential in social justice outreach and education because, in addition to being accessible and catchy in a way that written work is typically not, reading sequential art requires a level of reader engagement that is important when addressing issues that are uncomfortable and high-stakes, and which require creative thinking. One way in which comics push readers to engage with the story actively is in presenting it through panels that are sequential but limited in what they show. The blank space between panels, called the gutter, thus becomes a place for readers to project their own ideas of what is happening, based on the images provided and their own prior associations. By choosing to leave certain spaces blank, or having panels cut off to imply but not show an entire image, graphic novelists call on the reader to actively fill in the story on their own.

As in fictional storytelling more generally, comics both encourages and relies on reader identification with characters. In drawing and viewing simplified human faces, we are pushed to see the characters as humans with whom we can relate. Such identification is particularly useful in talking about the death penalty, because one justification for capital punishment is that, in committing violent crimes, perpetrators forfeit their humanity and thus deserve imprisonment and execution. Taking the time to narratively and visually develop the characters of my novel into protagonists was helpful for me in reckoning with the fact that even the most violent
perpetrators - people whom we are conditioned to fear, hate, and dissociate from - are still humans who exist within particular social and personal contexts and must be considered as such for our sake as well as for theirs. Judith Kay argues that dehumanizing any group of people so as to justify inflicting violence upon them results in the inability of the dominant culture to apply full dignity and humanity to itself and to the people it claims to protect. My project seeks to overcome the apathy towards death row inmates encouraged by the dominant narrative through the humanizing of individuals and in particular through visual identification.

A challenge of this process was figuring out how to represent the men in my story so as to emphasize their humanity without making them overly sympathetic or endearing. I had in mind Avery Gordon’s discussion of complex personhood as well as her warning that efforts to overturn systems of power sometimes end up denying full humanity, and the contradictions it entails, to marginalized people. I believe that attempts to discuss or treat incarcerated people that portray them as either monsters or victims without agency are ultimately unhelpful because they do not work to dismantle the monster-victim binary which justifies much of America’s prison-industrial complex, and it was important to me not to present my characters at either extreme. Furthermore, I was working within my own limitations of experience and position, and had to balance telling the story I wanted to tell with not assuming authority of experiences that are not mine, namely of incarceration and economic and racial subjugation. While I am still working towards how to best treat death row inmates through fiction, as well as on the completion of my entire graphic novel, I believe that the two completed chapters I have submitted as excerpts for my senior project exhibit the potential of fictional, futuristic, illustrated stories to theorize about American culture and directly challenge the narratives that sustain capital punishment and other oppressive systems.

In conclusion, I believe that taking such a hands-on and layered approach as the creation of a graphic novel was critical to my work this year in thinking through capital punishment and considering both the dominant narrative and the underlying stories that contradict it. While I hope that readers will buy into and enjoy the scenario and plot I’ve created in the novel, my underlying objective is to tap into the potential of speculative fiction to push readers to rethink our own current place and moment. It is my hope that reading this graphic novel would prompt someone to think critically about the persistence of capital punishment in America, the humanity of people on death row, and the reader’s own place in the equation.
Sources Used

The following is a list of books, novels, and graphic novels that have informed my understanding of capital punishment and American culture, as well as of the value of fiction in approaching these issues.


YOU WILL EAT BREAKFAST IN THE DOME TODAY
PUT YOUR SUITS ON QUICKLY
SIX AT A TIME IN THE ANTECHAMBER

TAKE A SEAT
Hey man.

What. Can you tell me where we are?

We're in the dome that we BUILT. Why'd we build a dome?

You for real?

This is a fucking joke - who -

Motherfucker!

Man, don't -

ATTENTION INMATES
I'm Dominic Pena. You will call me Mr. Pena. I work for NASA as an engineer, and those of you working in construction will be assigned to me.

Welcome! I'm Dr. Elsa Ronsheim. Dr. Blasko and I run the greenhouse where some of you will be working.

I'll be straight with - this work is going to be hard. Follow my orders and behave yourselves and it will be bearable.

And those of you who show promise will get the chance to work on special projects.
MOST OF YOU WILL WORK IN CONSTRUCTION. IN THE GREEN HOUSE ARE HOLT, TAYLOR....

SAYERS...

PEREZ, SLIFTON

So looks like you four are the least retarded of the group we got in construction.

The gardeners got the smart ones, of course.
Though I suppose anyone who was really smart woulda stayed on Earth.

Heh heh

You four were selected to be in charge of the building crew. You'll be making sure that what I say gets done.

...starting with the foundation for this building.

...digging out the base...two weeks no longer.

Do what you have to do out there. Anything goes wrong, your asses are on the line.
Hello and congratulations on completing your first week of the initiative.

Overall, we're pleased with your behavior.

Given this, and our goals for the upcoming weeks, we will be installing televisions in your rooms.

Each room will get forty-five minutes of viewing time each night, on the condition that each inmate has performed his assigned tasks and not warranted a write-up in the past week.

Now I'd like to introduce you to your new spiritual advisor. You're each permitted one thirty-five minute Skype session with Father Callahan every other week.

Again, good first week. Know that we're watching you all carefully and that all comforts and freedoms depend on your continued cooperation.
Hello. I'm Michael Callahan, from Philadelphia originally but I've been in D.C. for three years, working at Arlington Correctional.

I look forward to getting to know you, and hope to be able to help you in any way that I can.

So schedule Skype sessions and we'll talk. God bless.

He's pretty.

SILENCE. THAT IS ALL FROM EARTH. HOLT AND O'HARE ON CLEANUP ALLEN GRANT AND JOHNSON IN THE GYM.

THE REST OF YOU WILL RETURN TO YOUR ROOMS
Toad turned the wheel towards the alien planet and they headed for it.

See here? There's nine planets that use the same sun we do. Earth is only one of them.

If there are more planets, why do we only live here?

I guess it comes down to conditions.

We live here because there's water and it's not too hot or too cold.

Anywhere else you'd freeze or burn.

Oh.
Ramos, you're due in 2:15.

Ramos, this is superintendent Coyle. Fuse below we've stalling your train. Check back in 45.
Ray Ray

When’s the train move?

We’re held up

I don’t have time to wait.

Sorry man, nothing I can do.

Say that again.

Sir...
And now I will let Mr. Anderson himself explain the committee findings.

Thanks, Todd. I trust you’ve all read about the Mars Committee's recent work.

...in addition to new breakthroughs concerning water distillation and radiation protection, we've come up with a new strategy for traveling to Mars in ten months.

With government support, the committee believes that we can have the first Americans on Mars as early as 2014, with colonization under way within three to four years of landing.

But Mr. Anderson, there is still so much we don't know about Mars. Won't the first years be incredibly dangerous?

Yes, how can we lobby seriously for funding under such circumstances?
CLICK HERE
ONLY IF YOU ARE
18 OR OLDER!!!
CNN: HER WITH US TODY ARE PRESIDENT FINEL, NEXT TO HER SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN BURCHETT, AND ON THE RIGHT NASA REPRESENTATIVE TIM CONN.

President Finell, why does this mean for the future of the spacecraft?

Will these men die on Mars?

Thank you for your questions. Along with NASA and leaders in criminal justice, we at the White House have prepared a program that believe all Americans can be proud of.

President Finell is absolutely right. Not only will these inmates gain the opportunity to be useful, but their work will give us something we haven't had in 200 years.

A Frontier.
It's an outrage! Sending convivial men into space means profiting from men off of the prison-industrial complex and using citizens' lives to promote U.S. imperialism.

A program that all Americans can be proud of.
Hi More

Hey.

How’s Jordan?
You still making dumplings?

Food still good here?
You watch the space last night?

so you really thinking about going into space?
I took the test. Guess it’s just wait and see now.

But you HAVE a choice.

A choice between what?
Baby, if I stay here I'm never...

If you go, I'll never see you again.

You wanna watch me fry?

I guess...

I guess I like being on the same planet as you, you fucker.

[Scene change]

[Character in a room, looking at a mirror]
Take off your clothes.

Open your mouth.

Lemme see both sides of your hands.

Pull your foreskin back.

Bend over.

Spread your cheeks.

Be home of your feet.

Get dressed.
Google Art and Documentary Film

Prison Industrial Complex
What is the PIC?
The PIC is a term we use to describe the overlapping interests of government and industry in finance, surveillance, policing, and imprisonment. It's solutions to economic, social, and political problems.

Do Death Row Inmates Deserve a Second Chance?
(John Bermudez)

It's December, and Jeremy Kile won't be spending Christmas with his wife and two daughters. Jeremy is on death row at San Quentin Pris...
MERTON, TRENT
AGE: 36
PHASE: III
NAT. U.S.
LANG: ENG
INJ. DATES: 2004
YRS/SOLITARY: 2
CURR. MEDICATION: Zoloft,
Narika, CA
TEST SCORE:
INTELLIGENCE: 76%
OBEYANCE: 78%
NON-VIOLENT: 33%
PHYSICAL HEALTH: 94%

How's it looking?
Mixed bag. Check out this guy.

His physical health is impressive.
He seems kind, peaceful.

Well he's not going to be babysitting your children.

Besides, it's expected that they'll be a little cracked.
We have meds for them.

What about this one?

BRANTLEY, DAVID
AGE: 42
PHASE: I
NAT. U.S.
LANG: ENG
INJ. DATES: 1999
YRS/SOLITARY: 9
CURR. MEDICATION: Bipolar,
April, OC
TEST SCORE:
INTELLIGENCE: 68%
OBEYANCE: 91%
NON-VIOLENT: 95%
PHYSICAL HEALTH: 71%

You kidding? Nine years in solitary! This fellow's not fit to toast bread!

He does look a little fried.
January 6, 2017

Dear Brad,

Sorry to not have written for a while and I think it is important that we be in touch with each other. We remain connected, as usual, and though we may not visit often, you and I have a relationship that goes beyond what we see in the messages. Our friendship is something I value and cherish. Though we may not always fill each other with the same sense of presence, I am grateful for the bond we share.

I wonder sometimes how to engage with people such as yourself. It's not easy to know where to start, but I hope you enjoy this letter. I've been thinking about you and your experiences, and I find myself wondering how you perceive your life and how you see the world around you.

Thank you for being there as a friend and a confidant. Your presence in my life is comforting and I appreciate your support.

Best,

[Signature]

[Date]
You talking to me has been a great thing for me here, I will remember alot of the things you said when I'm not there and more importantly that you kept sending me letters.

I wonder if you could tell me what you look like. I'll tell you about me: I'm 6'2, I have a beard usually but it's pretty close. I'm bald on top and pretty good looking! Ha ha, just kidding about that.

Yours,
Brad.
This is your commander, Sergeant Paul McCall. He will oversee your deployment. Stand up!

It is my responsibility to prepare you for the mission. I promise you, we will take this very seriously. All you need to do is follow my orders and keep out of trouble.

And remember, you aren't heroes. You're just.

Enter, BE-125

I allow you to introduce yourself, Commander, BE-125.
Boys, allow me to introduce you to your in-space commanders.

Greetings! Today, I will learn your names. You will follow my orders.

Line up now and say your names when directed. Misbehavior will not be tolerated.

I'll leave you all a moment to get acquainted.
YOUR NAME?

Scuse me? I don't speak computer.

You are being warned. Say your name and cease complications.

My name is Up Your Ass.

Up Your Ass.

Ha ha.

O ERROR CRUDE JUICE

Do not make me ask you again.
Glad you boys are acquainted with your commander.

Be assured that he is smarter than all of you. Try to put together and show them how happy you were.

He can even pretend Español, right BE-12?

Sí, SENOR.

Now that introductions are out of the way, we've got work to do.

Early to say, but I've made expectations clear, and we've had no trouble so far.

So how are they taking to the program?

Well—Beyond a doubt.

So you expect they'll be ready in three weeks?
BR 125, we're all the men triple strapped and checked.
NO P.I.C. ON EARTH OR MARS

Mommy, why are those people here?

They just want to spoil our fun.

They're idealists, making a statement.
It's all set. In a few minutes, I'll give the command, and you cue the music.

Alright. The turbines are on. Seven minutes till blast off.

Music
This is where sessions will take place. We've set aside the room for this morning.

Friends available:
- Ship
- Call

Skype

[Drawing of people and a computer screen showing a chat window]
10:15
Skype

Hello, Brad. How are you today?

10:16

Been better. Yourself?

10:16

Are you adjusting to the routine yet?

10:16

Unsure

10:16

I dug that we have a gym.

10:16

Do you think we could get some -

10:20

I'm proud. I don't have a gym, either.

10:21

Can't say I have.

10:21

Have you been finding time to rep?"'

10:21

Thank you, Brad. Peace be with you.

10:28

Later, Father.
Got it.

SR-125: You have reached headquarters. Show me the day.

GLADLY

Looking good. No problem on the read.

When were they last weighed?

I want to be sure their muscles are maintaining weight & if so, send the results to morrow.

SR-125

CALL ENDED 4:08
They're

? ?

Let me know the results tomorrow. That should be all we need to do for now.
And this is CNN reporting to you from the nation's capital. Joining us today is Sergeant Paul Coff of the U.S. Army. He trained the Mars InSight mission prior to their departure.

Sandra: Thank you Linda.

Sandy: With only five days left before the ship is scheduled to reach Mars, is there a lot of excitement at NASA?

It's certainly gratifying to see the spacecraft align the plan we set out so precisely. I speak on behalf of all of us from the Army when I say that working with NASA has been truly...
But we aren't in the clear. Landing on Mars will likely be the most difficult part.

I can believe that. Do you feel that the inmates are sufficiently prepared for life on Mars?

We wouldn't have sent them otherwise...

And what will that job be?

Those assigned to the greenhouse will care for plants, record data, and assist our scientists.

Once they set up their own shelters, the inmates will be divided into two groups.

Do you mind telling us more broadly, how the Inmate Initiative fits into NASA's goals for Mars?

As I see it, these inmates are performing the indescribable work of paving the way for more scientific research on Mars.

The rest will be put to work building a larger space station that can accommodate more scientists.
Our scientists have already taken steps towards transforming Mars—

—which, once underway, will allow us to plan for permanent human colonies on Mars.

Can you tell me more about the training program you used to prepare the spacemen?

Every man on that ship can put a space suit on with his own hands.

Do you see the training as something we can be replicated in the future?

Absolutely. After judging this group's performance, I'll know what needs to be tweaked.

It was quite rigorous. Along with physical training, they were taught the effects of decreased gravity, and how to perform necessary activities in low-gravity procedures.

We developed their knowledge of the Martian environment. There should be no surprises.

Thank you, Sergeant Cuff.

Thanks, Linda.
Come in.

I heard from the skip and they're about four hours from landing.

4 hours later
419 minutes later

Looks like they've found it.

Spacecraft has landed.

Excellent, go speak with Damian now.

Elsa
GREETINGS. BR 125 FROM NASA. THE SPACECRAFT IS PARKED.

NICE TO MEET YOU. I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE 38 MINUTES UNTIL LANDING.

THAT IS CORRECT. THEY ARE A SLEEP AND ARE STRAINED.

HOW LONG UNTIL THEY WAKE UP?

ABOVE TWO HOURS. WE DID NOT WANT ANY TROUBLE DURING LANDING.
Contact us if anything happens.

Our box bricking is 400 meters from here.

YES SIR

We aren't moving.

Inmates are regaining consciousness.
Like the looks of our new neighborhood?

Seems like they know what they’re doing.

They’ve been trained. And drugged. They’re like shiny robots. Out of it.
Checking in on site, the power of the site five parent centers.

They'll sleep on the roof tonight.

We want the dome finished by tomorrow night.

Yes sir.
ONCE YOU HAVE REMOVED THE HELMET AND LANYARDS, RETURN TO YOUR SEATS. DANCE WILL BE SENT TO YOU IN YOUR SEATS.
YOU WILL BE DEPARTING IN THE DOME TODAY. PUT ON YOUR SUITS. QUICKLY.

SIX AT A TIME IN THE ANTECHAMBER
Hey man, can you tell me where we are?

What?

We're in the dome that we built.

Why did we build a dome?

You for real?
"This is a fucking joke, who's in charge here?"

"Man be cool, you probably forgot. Robo coils gonna explain everything."

"Who? Attention inmates!"

"These are your new superiors. They will oversee your work. Hello and welcome!"

"I am Dr. Elsa Kanshei. Dr. Blasco and I run the greenhouse where some of you will be working."

"And I'm Anthony Koer. You will call me Mr. Koer. I work for NASA as an engineer, and one in command will be reporting to me."
You'll be working hard, I'll be clear on that. Following orders and
behaving yourself will make it bearable for all of us.

Any three of you
who show promise will
have the chance to work
on special projects.

We're glad to have your help. Very important work
is going on here.

**WORK BEGINS IN ONE HOUR. MOST OF YOU WILL BE IN CONSTRUCTION.**

In the Green House are:
HOLT, TAYLOR

**SAVERS**
So looks like you four are the least retarded of the group we got in construction.

Of course, the gardeners got the really smart ones.

Though I suppose anyone who was really smart would've stayed on Earth.

Heh heh.

You four are to be in charge of the men on building crew. It's up to you to make sure that what I order gets done.
This is the first building you boys will be working on; I expect you to know it.

We start with the foundation...

And keep on them. If anything goes wrong, your asses are on the line.
Welcome to the greenhouse. This is where Damian and I work.

We water the plants every day. More often, but there's a schedule. Damian and I will be in the lab today.

Dr. Peterson and I are currently looking at the evolution of C. elegans. You people must be warming up fairly quickly. I'll probably be late. You really should have been here at 3 PM.

Exactly! You're Terrence, right?
Welcome to the greenhouse. This is where Damian and I work.

We water the plants every day. Maybe twice, but there's a schedule. Damian and I will be in the lab.

Dr. Kepesheim and I are currently looking at the evolutionary tolerance of C. Finlay, you might want to wait for some future records. I'll probably see you soon. Yeah, you have the graph here. It's read.

Exactly! You're Terrence, right?
Hi Janet. It's from up here.

It's different here.
I hope you're doing good...

I don't think you'd like it here. It's really cold here.

Sorry I didn't get in touch sooner. Honestly, I don't remember to look. I did. I'm pretty sure they were giving us stuff.

It's really different up here. It's really cold up here. It's like a winter wonderland.

Go around the steps and knock. We should be here.

They got me doing construction work. I'm getting back in shape.

This is D.C. Correction. You are invited to our headquarters. Wednesday July 14.
Hi Janet. Hi from up here.

It's different here.

I hope you're doing good...

Sorry I didn't get in touch sooner. Honestly, I don't remember a lot of the trip here. I'm pretty sure they were giving us... stuff.

I don't think you'll like it here. It's really... really cold.

Well...

They got me doing construction work. I'm getting back in shape, sort of.

This is D.C. Corrections. You are invited to our headquarters. Wednesday, July 11th.

It's really different to someone who's never been here. You've seen some of it yourself.

So, I figured... We should be fine.

I'm a little worried about the drugs and all, this girl told me.

This is Maine. You can see the mountains.
Your shoulder hurt too?
Yeah. ThisDigging is really
It's tough.

Hey COOPER. How
much longer are
we gonna be
shoveling for?

That, all you
got? Come on
man, I'm
asking you
when were
gonna stop
shoveling.
Wha?

Until we're
done.
And I told you, we should have given us a man job. That's not the way things work.

So you don't even know, huh. What do you do in Ben's office, suck his cock?
Hello, I'm Dr. Montgomery, from NASA. Father, Mission Director, and I have been in touch with the ship since takeoff.
Now that the inmates are settled in, we're pleased to be able to show you videos they've recorded with our help.

---

Yes?

---

Excuse me

---

Why do we have to watch these here?

---

Mission security. The safety of everyone on board requires that we not release these videos to the public.

---

I'll call you in one at a time. Each video can play through twice. Please, Mrs. Mark, if you'd like to speak with him again.

---

First up is Brad Marks. That's my son, Mrs. Marks.

---

Hey Ma, Brad here. It's been a busy first week. Feeling good.

---

Overall, it's an improvement. So don't worry about me.

---

...Bradley here... first week...
I really miss you being. You know I'm doing this for us. It'll hurt being so far away from you, kid.

I'm learning new skills.

The other guys are alright. I got, um, four roommates.

Please send me a video back, if they let you.
Hello and congratulations on completing your first week.

We're pleased to see the behavior you've exhibited, and with how you've handled and adjusted.

Each room will get 45 minutes of viewing time each night, on the condition that each inmate in the room has performed their assigned tasks and has not warranted a write-up in the past week.

And I'd like to introduce you to your new guard, Mr. Adams. You're each eligible to see 30 minutes of entertainment with your cellmates every other week.

Given this, and our goals for the upcoming weeks, we will be installing televisions in your rooms.

Again, your first week. Know that we're watching you all carefully and that all decisions and pressure depend on your behavior and work.

Hello, friends. Nice to meet all of you. My name is Mike Adams.
I'm from Philadelphia originally.
I've been in O.C. for two years,
working as Chaplain at Princeton Correctional.

I look forward to getting to know you,
and I hope to be able to help you out
in whatever ways I can. So schedule
Skype sessions and we'll talk. God bless.

He's pretty.

SILENCE. THAT IS ALL FROM
EARTH. HOLT AND SHORE ON
CLEAN UP TONIGHT. ANYTHING
ELSE, ALLEN, BRAND, JOIN US IN THE GYM.

The rest of you may return
to your rooms.
Dialogue

ha ha ha

(inaudible audience laughter)

Hey. Hey, what is this place?

Fuck off. Don't you see we're watching this.

When are we going home?

What? It's planning.
Nice to meet you, Brad. I see you're also from Philadelphia.

Are you going to be a peace officer?

Well, like George did. I never really fit in.

I'm fine, too, I'm just not in the mood.

Were you close to your older brother?

No.

Ah, I actually grew up in Houston.

So you're not really Philly.

Sure, my parents died when I was young, so I moved around a lot.

Is your mom still around? How's she doing now?

Well, my dad did too...

But I didn't become a Bishops fan.

Oh, I guess not much.

Man who built the silos is still there?
"So, Fishman, how was getting to know the Jews?"

"I enjoyed talking with them. I expect it will take time gone to build trust."

"I heard someone said you were putting in radiation shielding."

"What?"

"Nothing. I just thought it might make sense to be prepared."

"I can tell you that a few inmates are uncomfortable about being forced to give blood."

"And one man had a dream the other night that the red man came into his room and injected him with a syringe."

"Ha, ha. I'm surprised he remembers that."

"So he was injected? Why?"

"We're developing a new radiation protection system for people who need to spend long periods of time in that area. This sets off a triggering wire into the Auric and makes it go off."

"But everyone up there can absorb it?"

"No, no. I'm not sure if people are allergic or can't absorb it."

"But it's still on the limes?"

"They don't absorb until they enter the body."

"Ha, ha, fuck if I know."

"So why the injections?"

"We're testing for side effects. It's only been used on rodents so far."

"I suppose someone's gotta do it."

"While you're here, did anything strange come up? Anything seem... unusual?"
Jamil: What?
You need about brakes?

[Characters speaking]

He lost it! Forgot why we're here. Wanted to know when he's back.

Uhh, nope.

Damn. Where's he now?

Well after he flipped out no one saw him for a day. Now he's back but he doesn't really talk.

Apparently he just mixed cement.

[Characters speaking]
"The meds wreaked this week.
You think?"

"Come on! You feel it, right? Half of us didn't even know we were on Mars when we got here. They've been doping us."

"I mean I have been sleeping better since all this. But why now? Most of us were feeling this before we got here."

"This must be harder stuff they don't want us to feel things."

"I'm gonna stop taking my pills."

"Man that could be really dangerous."

"I'll take my chances."
I thought something was fucked, but this is killing me, so I think.

Worried it's gonna hurt your chances at the NBA?

Haha DAMN Gamez

Hey, maybe if you ask they'll put you in the greenhouse.  Uh, "Terrence".

You have to be pretty smart for that, right. Say, our best athlete has to pick flowers.

I don't know man. I've never seen this guy talk.
Breakfast is over. Suit up and get to your work stations.
Terrence, this is Dr. Ruprecht. Could you come up to one floor when you're done working?

Hello Terrence. Come in.

So how has working in the greenhouse been for you? Are you enjoying it?

Because I've been pleased with your work. You follow instructions well, and you remember details. That's impressive.
Anyway, I wanted to ask if you were interested in helping me out... really, I'm working on this project.

Of course, it would be some extra work for you. But I've spoken with headquarters, and they're willing to increase your pay. That would go to your... parents, or whatever. We could probably work in some extra privileges here, too.

Great! I'm glad we'll be working together. This will be a great opportunity for you to learn field work skills.

So, how does that sound?

Okay.
Oatmeal trying to tell you something, J?

How long you been off the pills for?

3 days.

I feel like shit.
Why wouldn't you?

Who else went off?

Derek did. Hank wouldn't. Most of the rednecks. And apparently, A-train.

Was this a good idea, man?

Hell if I know.
Darn it, you see me just bench 115?

Too bad you’re still ugly.

Fuck you.

Agh, I feel good too.
Clear.
This is turning out to have been a solid idea.

I've been having some fucked-up dreams though. You know about these?
Whatever you say.

You trying to get yourself in trouble? You better not talk about this shit over video.

I didn't mean over Skype, you dipshit.

I...

My shit?

You gonna be okay?

You wanna get up so I can do my fucking job?
You left me here.
What is this a hunger strike of one?

You better not think I'm going in on this with you.

Do whatever you want, kid.

Man WHAT is your problem? This is what we got. You haven't had your families in a bunch the last three months.

Caused that shit is happening if we are building. That'll probably get a lot even if they want.

Or are you trying to get in the 'Guns' pool for first man to starve on Earth?

Even if they want.
I was playing—myself
You know, in all this time, I never let myself think I'm not going home?

Sounds crazy, right? But how many guys here even know which way's left?
We're a bunch of sorry motherfuckers, man.

I couldn't even tell you how I got here. Just for kicks, it's800x1500, me 800x1500.

So that's why you tried to pop off your helmet this morning?

What's the difference? Helmet on or off?
Seventeenth... Eighteenth... Nineteenth.

That makes it...

The World Series

They NEED me
Hey, Chas, know what happened to Dirk's face?

That can't get our TV taken away.

And you beat on him over a TV?

You better watch how you talk to me.

Man, suck a fat one.
Hey, Kerr wants you back outside.

What do you want, Pocahontas?

Feel good, huh? You go off the pills and your charming self is back.

Don't know what you're celebrating for. Me and my buds used to have a lot of fun with girls like you. You think it's any different here?

Flattered. And things might just be different around here. Seen enough, how's that?

A couple us are talking about getting rid of the color.

Cut the crap, Goldilocks. I didn't come here to play games with Frags.

I'm not playing with you, Char. But you gotta cool it. Quit knocking guys around or I'll know. It's not me you gotta worry about, Tomfool.
Well I'll be damned. We've got no time to lose.
Let's work smart.

But that thing's practically inevitable. And what would we do once he's out of the way?

I'll have to see that bastard up close.

Destroy Robo xl?

That's insane.

I mean, it's risky.

It's completely nuts.

We'd need a really tight plan.

And even then, no one here knows how to operate a laser.

No fucking way.

I can think of better ways to die.
We need a list of demands. Let's work on one now.

Program's shutting so shut the fuck up.

And if you do crack 4, what then?

And you think they would make it that easy?

Rednecks.

Say that (louder, boy).

It might be easier than you think. But I'd need your help.

And how's that?
I think I can crack the code. Maybe even disable Robin's self but I'd need time. Someone to distract him long enough.

I know where his office is. It's easy from there.

Like during a dinner party when you're not locked in. If a fight broke out I could slip away.

You got something better?

We need to take a hostage.

But hey, they could take a while to figure out. And nothing we do will distress him long enough.

Looks like Tom Thaddeus got some bright ideas after all.
You'll be back before the wind storm, right?
And you have how many days' worth of water?

I want you to keep this on you at all times.
Can you promise me that?

Elisa! We're not in Arizona, but if we were, none of these men would be allowed within 50 feet of you.

We're even breaking regulations by letting you in the office.

But I know how much you value him.
So please, promise me you won't go anywhere without me.

I promise.
Cool it Doc and do what I say. Don't want you to drop your phone.

Look like she got a gun too!
They have her at knife point, or this robot waiting on our orders.

How in hell did they get her at knife point?

Meanwhile, they're slumping in demand for instructions on how to "turn off" the robot.

How many men involved?

Pretty much all. Something about lowering the electric bills, not too sure.
Hey Guff. James is there too. We have the girl and we will get her up-stage and possibly可能なことを现在的に言う

RobotPhil:

And you've confirmed this with the robot?

It's true. I suppose I'll have to stall them.

We are greatly disappointed that you have chosen to do this. Rest assured that if Dr. Rashin is harmed in any way, I will personally destroy each and every one of you.

In the meantime we are willing to put down ER-125 in order to talk about this man-to-man.

Go to the door marked "operations" and enter, the code 127727.

Find the button that says "sleep" and press it.

In the meantime, connect me to Dr. Rashin and we will continue to discuss this.

He thinks we joking.

We'll have to show him we mean business.
Go into the office. To disable, find the blue switch to the left of the table, and set it to DEACTIVATE.

It will say “command,” which is when you enter the password, 3-0-4.
Again, 3-0-4 and press enter.

Perfect.
You wanna play me, fine. Amen. While I go take care of that.
Sounds good.

Good work, bro.

Mr. Cuff, thank you for your cooperation.

Now I’d like to talk to you about the other part.
We gonna keep Dr. Kanzler alive and well in exchange for proofing.

We’re gonna help you.

One: We will all be brought back to Earth after seven years of service on Mars. This is to include the time we have already put in.

Upon our return, our debt to society will have been repaid, and we will be released on parole.
TWO: While we remain on Mars, we demand an expansion of our rights.

THREE: We would like to stage a strike with selected community members and friends twice every week for one hour.

FOUR: We demand a media contact to which we can relay our demands to be published.

In addition to informing the public of our lives, past, present, and our plan to return, we would like a lawyer to address us facing the great sex and a hunting trip on Mars.
We believe that these demands are fair for the amount of hard work and risk we have put forward.

And we look forward to our eventual reintegration as productive members of society.

Call ended 1:09:36
GET UP AND REPORT TO THE DINING ROOM IMMEDIATELY.
As you may have guessed, punishment for your actions will be severe.

If we let them get away, they'll only get away with it again.

Well, there's not much to say. You boys have really put yourself in a tough situation for yourselves!

You'll get to give me in.

First of all, you'll all be working on construction now. And if you thought nine hours on day was bad, now it's it.

You're going to learn what exhaustion means, and that's a guarantee.

And I hope you're looking forward to this video, because it's the last TV you'll see for three months.
That means no recreational television, nothing to or from your families.

But beyond your privileges, you've lost our trust. Elsewhere, and even in D.C., the...in your own control, and the...care to monitor all conversations...not take you within your...residential dome...even through your...outdoor suits.

But be advised: we are in frequent contact...with...all...of your families. If you do...anything...to...make this mission more...challenging...will have to...read more...down its...year.

Boys, I hope it is abundantly clear...not a single...you will ever...set foot on Earth again.

Now I'm going to conclude with a...little...clip...that...didn't make it into the...last batch of recordings.

Hi, Daddy.

Yesterday was Mommy's birthday. She and Dad took us to dinner. She...is very...excited...for the...restaurant.
Bennie has six teeth now, and they're blue because I gave him ddt.

I love you, Daddy. Be careful if you see any aliens and take a picture. I can't wait to see you.

I'm done. You need to leave for work and report to Mr. Kerr. Believe your eyes.
GR-125. In the event of meteor punctures, oxygen will be lost from the dome and your command center will be the only secure space.

You are to go there immediately and contact base camp for further instruction.

BREACHED

YES SIR
You guys hear that?

RoboPhil?

Oh, you better sit down. This could be a POP.

Where's the robot?

He's gone!

What the rule?

Hey BJ!!!
So I left the door open.

Maybe he had to go to the potty.

Man: What up?

Mother of God!
...MET AS COMING FROM
0.25 TO 0.61 MILLIETER...

They've punctured the
prechamber so far.

Jesus H. Christ,
He just left there,
All in the men's hall?

He needs instructions.

Bring me the
headset.
"This is so fucked.

"Yo, if these things keep making holes in us we're not gonna be able to stay in this place.

"The robot's closet is sealed off.

"We're not allowed in there!

"But this is an emergency!

"You think Cuff goes a dump if we did?

"We gotta send off the lolotrons and have food in there.

"You fuckhead, they're not gonna let us all die.

"Wanna bet?"
ROBO FAII!

PLEASE! WE ARE GOING TO DIE!

ST-115!
THIS IS EVACUATION!

Does that piece of shit not get it?
We got it.

"Think it's gonna be enough to block the door?"

"We're gonna need them both."

"Let me the fuck in."

"Robot fuck didn't let you in huh?"

"I'm shocked."

"God damn if I have to die here with you."

"Did she remember to turn the stove off?"
"It's fucking cold in here. We better save these projects!"

"It's the police. They say we can't do shit without Cuff's permission and phone messages take a long time."

"We're gonna move out of D.C. when I'm done with this."

"It's not going to work."

"I'm going to take care of it myself."
What the fuck?

Who did that?

Man don't move! You're gonna fuck up the tables.

Just chill for a minute! He's gonna come get us, we just gotta keep the oxygen in the room.
Are you crazy?
You trying to hold
me in oxygen with
a picnic table.
You think you
are?

Man shut up and
quit wasting air.
I didn't come here
to die next to
your ugly ass.

You didn't what?
What the fuck do you
think we're here to do?

We're here to -

--to--

-COUGH-
WAHH

Ehh

Shh

Everything alright?

Yeaah... He's just teething.

Ding Dong

Here, I'll get it.

Hey mom! How's it up?

Good, you?

Mom! You tell dad!
And Sayers catches at the 15 yard line...

(How's the job going?)

(Its whatever)

You heard from Jamal lately?

(Yes, him and Janet moved to Arizona.)

(Darn)

(Daddy, I need a Chip)
It is with great solemnity that I announce the success of our Mars Initiative.

While our current technology did not allow us to predict Saturday's meteor storm, we have a comprehensive log of the events. Data surrounding the incident.

We move forward with a more thorough understanding of the conditions on Mars.

We acknowledge also the productivity of this mission. Our accomplishments on Mars are for every American to take pride in.

[Cut!]

At that point, send us a report detailing the storm. We will be conducting an investigation. We have gathered the dome and their equipment and personality.
Thanks for coming with me.
Of course, I miss him too.

You hear about what happened the other day? To those guys on Mars?
All dead, right?

Yeah, I keep thinking about it. That was like 30 guys, dead in 5 minutes.
I mean it sucks, but that was gonna happen.

But like that! Most of those guys have kids.

They probably killed guys that had kids, too. You think the guy who shot your dad was thinking about that?

It’s funny, because I believed in the Death Penalty for a long time. Even more when it made sense.
And I thought it was because of my dad, and everything we went through after he got shot.

But now I just feel used.

Used?
Because I’m not gonna get my dad back. And now it feels like I got blood on my hands too; because a bunch of kids are proud their fathers.

And they don’t even get a gravestone.
So you're saying you forgive the guy that shot your dad?

I don't know how I feel about forgiving. But I mean, I don't think about him so much. Because when I think about all that, I just see my dad shot. And that's ugly.

And I wouldn't send him to Mars either, if it was up to me... That shit is just embarrassing.

But it's the future.

Jesus, I hope not.

Here man, let's open a beer. For your dad.

To Uncle Dave

To the future.