

choices he made. He had to come to the point where he would accept full responsibility and be truthful that he wasn't the victim, but the victimizer.

On December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2001, a codefendant and Shea robbed a Burger King in the county of Williamsburg. During this robbery there were two other unwilling participants: the restaurant manager, Annie M■■■■, and an employee Z■■■■ D■■■■. During the robbery Shea thought of no one but himself. It doesn't matter that he made sure A■■■■ was given her medication for her chest pains, or any other steps he may of taken to ensure nobody got seriously injured, he was there for one thing and that was for the money that was never his for the taking. He did not regard the rights of the victims to be safe and secure in their place of employment. His actions showed a total disregard for their sense of safety. Shea not only stole money from this business, he also stole the victims' right to work, live in peace, and their right to go about their lives without being traumatized by another person. Shea now stands accountable and fully responsible for the robbery; in addition, he is sorry for the pain, fear, and suffering that his selfish actions brought into the lives of A■■■■ M■■■■ and Z■■■■ D■■■■.

It has taken him many years to come to this way of thinking, to accept responsibility for his behavior and come to grips with the ramifications that this robbery caused the victims. For years Shea hid himself from his faults, failures, and error in judgement and he now understands that no one, including himself, has a right to victimize another person, no matter the circumstances. Shea simply had no right. Shea Dease failed to accept responsibility which was partly fueled by his fear of losing a relationship with his mother. Being honest with her about his involvement would have been the death nail, sealing the coffin of a relationship fraught with his misbehaviors, drug usage, and crime. Telling the truth and accepting responsibility from the beginning was a risk that Shea's immature mind was just unwilling to take. Later in 2011, Shea came to this realization that hiding behind his lies and deceit did more damage to him , and his need for change, than telling the truth would ever do.

Shea felt that in order to become a man of positive moral character--to move forward in becoming a man that others can trust and count on--he first had to accept the fact that he has many issues, he must be willing to seek help for those issues and own the responsibility that on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2001, he had in fact robbed a Burger King and victimized two law-abiding people. Even though nobody was physically injured in Shea's crimes, he knows that there are no victimless crimes.

Twenty years hence and Shea is now 40 years old; if his request for a conditional pardon is not approved and he is made to continue with his sentence, Shea will be 71-79 years old upon his release. A truly humbling thought, but this is the reality that Shea is facing. To argue that his sentence is excessive, leaving him no chance to live a meaningful life