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Conversation Between Paul Janszen and Mike Bertolini

April 4, 1988 at 6:30 p.m.

JANSZEN: Hello.

BERTOLINI: Paulie

JANSZEN: Mikey, what's up buddy?

BERTOLINI: Not much, how did your show go?

JANSZEN: 1500 people through the door and

BERTOLINI: Yeah, how many did Pete sign?

JANSZEN: You know how many?

BERTOLINI: How many?

JANSZEN: 500

BERTOLINI: No fuck'n way.

JANSZEN: Yeah, you know what happened? Pete did an
interview for me on the radio

BERTOLINI: Yeah.

JANSZEN: The day before

BERTOLINI: Yeah.

JANSZEN: He tells in the radio, he says, he's not going to Louisville for the show, or for the baseball game.

BERTOLINI: Oh.

JANSZEN: Yeah, so everybody's sitting there coming and going, well we were gonna, we had friends gonna come but they announced Pete wasn't gonna be here.

BERTOLINI: But, shit, that's fucked up because he didn't go for the game but he went for the show.

JANSZEN: See and everybody that went to the game did not see him at the game so they figured he wouldn't be at the show.

BERTOLINI: I hear you, I hear you. How many tables did you have there?

JANSZEN: 92

BERTOLINI: So you made money on it?

JANSZEN: Yeah, made about, I don't know, we made about
5-6,000

BERTOLINI: I hear you. What, who else did you have there?

JANSZEN: Tony and Tommy Helms.

BERTOLINI: You didn't have no Cardinals?

JANSZEN: Willie McGee came in

BERTOLINI: Yeah

JANSZEN: Started bitching about signing 8 x 10 photos.

BERTOLINI: Really?

JANSZEN: He says, how much money you guys making on photos?

BERTOLINI: Wait, was, did you pay him to come there?

JANSZEN: Please?

BERTOLINI: Were you paying him to come to the show?

JANSZEN: 2,000 an hour.

BERTOLINI: Man, what the, that's a fuck'n lot of money.

JANSZEN: Well that's what he wanted and so he signed a couple hundred autographs. First he signed a hundred, he started complaining about signing 8 x 10s

BERTOLINI: What's he expect you to fuck'n sell?

JANSZEN: That's what I said to him and then Charles got all over him and so he wound up, Danita says to him, get out of here

BERTOLINI: No.

JANSZEN: Yeah, Danita walked up to him and says, so you know what he does? He gets off of the stage and he starts walking around the show signing autographs free

BERTOLINI: Did you pay him already?

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: No fuck'n way.

JANSZEN: So, Danita saw him doing this, I didn't, but
Danita saw him

BERTOLINI: How long did you have him for?

JANSZEN: He was there for 40 minutes.

BERTOLINI: Did you break even on him at least?

JANSZEN: No. I lost about 1,500 on him

BERTOLINI: No.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: What a fuck'n dick.

JANSZEN: Yeah, so I would have

BERTOLINI: He is a dick. I dealt with him when he first
came up and you know like he came up in like
'83. I dealt with him like in '85 I dealt with
him after the World Series.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: Like after he did good in the '84 World Series I dealt with him the next year. He was so cool I paid him two, I paid him like a \$1,000 bucks to sign 500 autographs. He loved it. He'd pose for pictures for me all the time and then he starts becoming a fuck'n dick.

JANSZEN: You know what he said? He says, you guys probably asked Ozzie Smith and Vince Coleman first. He goes, I'm always the third choice, and then he says, uh....

BERTOLINI: He used to be so cool

JANSZEN: Well, I tell you what. He's not any more.

BERTOLINI: I know that, I know that, he fuck'n turned dick. Paulie, he used to be cool up until 2 years ago, ah man, he used to be so cool, really, really easy to deal with.

JANSZEN: But what the heck you calling me for finally.

BERTOLINI: What?

JANSZEN: You don't have Pete's new numbers?

BERTOLINI: Uh huh. I fuck'n, first of all, I ain't been able to call you because I fuck'n been trying to fuck'n think of your number and shit and I fuck'n just remembered it today.

JANSZEN: Did you ever get settled up with Pete?

BERTOLINI: About what?

JANSZEN: The money?

BERTOLINI: Fuck'n, we're working it out and shit, I don't know, the fuck. Did you ever?

JANSZEN: He still owes me about 12 grand.

BERTOLINI: So, he paid you about 38?

JANSZEN: Huh?

BERTOLINI: How much, did he pay you anything yet?

JANSZEN: No, well that's all that, what he did was he signed a bunch of autographs for me

BERTOLINI: I hear you

JANSZEN: And, you know, plus he wrote some checks that I had cashed that I had sent up to the guy.

BERTOLINI: Yeah.

JANSZEN: So he's into me for about anywhere from, I don't know, once you figure out all the autograph stuff, he probably owes me about, anywhere from like 10-12,000.

BERTOLINI: Yeah, I hear you

JANSZEN: Did he ever get...wait a minute, he was up to you for how much total?

BERTOLINI: What me or all together?

JANSZEN: No, the guy...the bookies in New York, how much did he

BERTOLINI: Don't talk like that on the phone, I hate that

JANSZEN: Alright, how much did he owe you, owe them?

BERTOLINI: All together between me and them about 2...2 and a quarter

JANSZEN: Jesus christ.

BERTOLINI: But we're forgetting them, he's just gonna take care of me.

JANSZEN: What do you mean you're forgetting them?

BERTOLINI: Forgetting them, they don't get nothing

JANSZEN: What are they gonna do to him?

BERTOLINI: I don't know. We're not gonna worry about them.

JANSZEN: Oh my god, Mikey. You're gonna have some people after him.

BERTOLINI: He don't, this is what he's gonna do. I have no control.

JANSZEN: Doesn't he even give a shit?

BERTOLINI: What are they gonna do Paulie? They made enough off of him. What the fuck are they gonna do to him. Like Denny...were you with us, yeah you were with us with Denny McClain weren't you?

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: They got him for enough. You know what I'm saying it's not like they got 25 and then we started this and now we're gonna screw them out of this. What he owes, they already got that much in previous loss.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: Know what I'm saying. Man, fuck'n, they already raked the guy, fuck it man. I mean look at

JANSZEN: What do they, do they still call you?

BERTOLINI: No, they don't know where I am or nothing really. When they see me we just bullshit them. What are they gonna do? They can't do shit to me.

JANSZEN: But do they still ask about the money?

BERTOLINI: Yeah, what the fuck, they ain't gonna do shit to me. They know who's the, you know, who did it. Because he's told them, he's talk to them lots of times. What can they do him, they can't do nothing, there's no proof. The only proof actual, positive, 100% proof is me that's it.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: Anything else is just hearsay. I don't care if a million people say, oh yeah, I know it too. I'm the only one who can prove and man, he's my best friend in the whole world.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: Know what I'm saying, fuck that, I'd die before I'd ever get him in trouble.

JANSZEN: Yeah. Well

BERTOLINI: You know, but, I ain't worried. It's not like Paulie

JANSZEN: But he, hey, he ain't doing nothing right now is he?

BERTOLINI: I hope not. I don't think so.

JANSZEN: Because

BERTOLINI: He...I know not for the last couple of months he hasn't at all, not at all.

JANSZEN: Because he was about ready for, to go to gamble, what is that gambleholics.

BERTOLINI: No.

JANSZEN: No, I mean he, Mikey, let me ask you something?

BERTOLINI: Wait, he said that to you?

JANSZEN: No, but I'm saying, don't you think he should?

BERTOLINI: What are you crazy? You know what kind of fuck'n scandal man?

JANSZEN: No, but I'm saying, I'm just saying, deep down, how, when a guy

BERTOLINI: I don't think he can go, I don't think he can get help, Paulie. Are your phones clear?

JANSZEN: No, I'm sitting here, do you think I'd be talking to you like this?

BERTOLINI: Man do you know, I mean do you know if they are good or not.

JANSZEN: Yeah, this is the office number, this is a

BERTOLINI: Is this a cool phone?

JANSZEN: That's why I told you to call me on this one.

BERTOLINI: Paulie, man.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: You know what I'm saying, I got killed man too, you know what I'm saying, I mean big time. I fuck'n almost destroyed myself. Then I met her and I remember what you told me when I first met her.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: I was gonna spend just as much, if not more, being involved with a girl than I was at that shit, and you're right.

JANSZEN: I told you, I said, I said

BERTOLINI: With the money I spent and lost and the money I lost by not taking care of business a couple of hundred grand, no problem.

JANSZEN: You mean with the baseball shows?

BERTOLINI: What, yeah, you know, not fuck'n running anything, you know, just fucking up. You know what I am saying?

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: Now I'm...my head is straight and shit, but it's hard, you know, it's gonna be fuck'n, it's gonna take me time to fuck'n. It's just gonna be hard work.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: To get my shit together again. But, let me ask you, who the fuck is running the show in Cincinnati, fuck'n the same, at the All Star show like mine?

JANSZEN: I have no idea. Oh, Chuck Perkins said something. Isn't that the show he's doing, he's bringing 43 Hall of Famers in?

BERTOLINI: Get the fuck, 43 Hall of Famers

JANSZEN: He just, hey Mikey, he just told me down in Louisville. He said he's putting on a show in July and he's gonna bring in 40-some Hall of Famers

BERTOLINI: What is he crazy?

JANSZEN: That's what he told me.

BERTOLINI: Do you believe him?

JANSZEN: No. I asked him how much would tables be, could I get one? He says, well we're not, we don't know about, we're not

BERTOLINI: Paulie, let me ask you something here.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: Do you wanna, I got, you know I have the Convention Center booked for that week.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: OK, for, its Tuesday and Wednesday.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: I have, you know, I already got the contract paid and everything like that.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: The thing is I can't advertise in SCD for a while 'til about May

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: 'Cause they want to see how my Kansas City show goes first before they let me advertise again.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: Alright, I need, and they got pissed at me because I was doing a Kansas City show and my friend Harry is running it and they didn't know I was involved in it, you know, I was a partner, so they got pissed at me and said

JANSZEN: Well how the hell did they find out?

BERTOLINI: Because fuck'n people know how I set my ads up and stuff and people fuck'n talk and rated me out and shit, 'cause I told people I was involved. I didn't think it was a big deal, alright. I want to run that show in Cincinnati, 'cause that show could fuck'n make, a fuck'n humongous fortune no doubt.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: I have the fuck'n ultimate place, you know what I'm saying.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: Alright, do you want to run it with me? It's all set up, it's not like I'm saying let's do a show. I have it set up.

JANSZEN: You got it all set up already?

BERTOLINI: It's done, it's done, I have the contract sitting inside, sign, sealed and delivered.

JANSZEN: When can you come to Cincinnati and we'll sit down and go over everything.

BERTOLINI: Ah...fuck

JANSZEN: I mean, look at it this way, Mikey, I put 92 tables in that Louisville card

BERTOLINI: I'm just saying, Paulie,

JANSZEN: That's good ain't it?

BERTOLINI: But, this is number one here, no one, I'm not involved. What I'd have to do is this, just like in case, 'cause there, when you send in that ad, 'cause they knew I was gonna run a show there

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: 'Cause I had sent in an ad and he told me he wouldn't put it in because I was like on probation for a little bit

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: Alright, until after my Kansas City show, I'd have to sign like a paper to you saying I sold you the Convention Center, I sold you Pete Rose, I sold you Willie Stargell, you know, for like 10 grand, you know what I'm saying. Like I sold you my rights to the show.

JANSZEN: Oh, OK.

BERTOLINI: We'd make up a bullshit contract, you know what I'm saying.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: Just so like, hey, it's my show, he's not involved, that's it.

JANSZEN: Uh hum.

BERTOLINI: That's it, and you handle fuck'n everything from there, that's it.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: You know 50-50, that's it.

JANSZEN: Uh hum.

BERTOLINI: It's all set up, man. I got the players, I got the place, all you do is take the mail, the phone calls, that's it.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: Fuck'n easy fuck'n 70, 80, 100 grand. I'm telling you.

JANSZEN: Well, when can you, I'm asking you, when can you come to Cincinnati and talk?

BERTOLINI: When you can you fly....I don't want to fuck'n leave here right now 'cause I got to take care of shit, I got to get my life in fuck'n, everything is in order. I just now, I'm fuck'n, I'm operating and living without any money because no one fuck'n, Pete you know, fucked it up.

JANSZEN: Well I tell you what, I'm glad that he's taking care of, I mean what's he into you for right now?

BERTOLINI: Well me, about 70-something.

JANSZEN: Didn't he ever, didn't he ever take care of you like he did with me, like, you know, give you a little bit at a time and

BERTOLINI: Yeah, he did. But, he's given me like, like 9,000. I have it all written down. You know, he's given me like 9,000 in five different times.

JANSZEN: Well

BERTOLINI: You know like 2,000 one; 15 two, like that.

JANSZEN: Well I guess when you're, you were up there 5 times what I was.

BERTOLINI: You know, he's like, I have it written down and everything, like he says to me the other day, you probably thousand dollared me to death. I said, I got it all written down, Petey. I said man, you still owe me 70-something. And, I said, the worst part about it is originally he only owed me like 40 and he owed Bruno 35, right.

JANSZEN: Right.

BERTOLINI: Well, Bill owed me 35. So I said, Bill you pay Bruno and now Bruno's money that Pete owed Bruno

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: Is now mine. So fuck'n I only, man Pete's like 2/3 of the money I got in the whole world, man.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: You know, and plus I owe on loans and shit. I mean, last year at this time I didn't have nothing left, man. At least now I got like fuck'n

JANSZEN: Yeah, but

BERTOLINI: Made like 50 or 60 grand to play with right now.

JANSZEN: But your problem was, you let, you went and let him, you just kept putting stuff in. You should have stopped.

BERTOLINI: I did, but fuck it.

JANSZEN: Yeah, you did but after it was up there so high that you know every week,

BERTOLINI: What was I supposed to do? He wanted to do it, I was fuck'n

JANSZEN: You should have done what I did. Whenever it got up to like 20-some I made him write, you know, he might only come up with half of it but you know, I was out, there was a time when I was out

BERTOLINI: He used to, he used to mail me 60,000 bucks every, I used to fly out there and get checks. I remember, he used to send it fuck'n the Express Mail, I couldn't believe it. It was so funny, Petey sending me stuff. He used to send me like 8 checks, 8,000 each made out to all different names.

JANSZEN: Ah, at least it was under 10,

BERTOLINI: What, yeah

JANSZEN: Made out to every, oh, he had different names

BERTOLINI: Yeah. I mean he used to mail me checks
whenever.

JANSZEN: Yeah, well

BERTOLINI: Then it got so high and shit and fuck'n, you
know, it was like he said, man no matter how good
I do, it's like I never go down

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: Know what I'm saying. When you

JANSZEN: Do you, let me ask you something, do you pay Pete
when he signs stuff for you?

BERTOLINI: I take it off what he owes me. But I haven't
been getting that much to sign, god.

JANSZEN: Is it

BERTOLINI: I haven't fuck'n been doing nothing.

JANSZEN: Because, you know, I said something to Pete the other day, like you know, for a while, he should be signing some stuff for me because I mean, just think of something, forget about all the money and everything else. What about all the running around and all the headaches?

BERTOLINI: I hear you.

JANSZEN: You know, I mean don't

BERTOLINI: I know what you're saying.

JANSZEN: Don't that add up?

BERTOLINI: What does it take for him to sign for an hour for you for nothing.

JANSZEN: I mean doesn't that make up for the weeks and weeks of stress you got to go because you're borrowing money from your parents, your brothers and everybody else?

BERTOLINI: Paulie, wait, between me and you, for the fuck'n....Paulie, I lost myself about 200-something thousand dollars gambling.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: OK. Paulie, between me and you, there is no fuck'n money worth it. Even if I would have won 200-something thousand.

JANSZEN: You just don't, you get out of that

BERTOLINI: The stress, the pain, the fuck'n ups and downs is not worth it.

JANSZEN: That's right.

BERTOLINI: Man, you know what he'd go through every day? I would hate... Paul, I'd sit at the track with him. I'd go to the track, while he was down here, I was going to the track with him and stuff.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: And I feel like the whole world is fuck'n on top of me right now, OK.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: Alright me, Arnie, Arnie's wife, Pete, and these two other people and a Cuban sitting there. Petey's going

JANSZEN: You mean Mario?

BERTOLINI: What, a Cuban and two other people, we'd be sitting there and Petey would be throwing a 1,000-1,500 a race. I was collecting all the tickets at the end, you know, as we lost.

JANSZEN: Uh um.

BERTOLINI: He fuck'n lost 10 grand. He lost, he loses 10 grand every night. Meanwhile, here I am fuck'n dying I need money, you know what it would do, you know how it would fuck'n help me to be able to fuck'n get 50 grand right now of my money and just fuck'n pay like get 25 convention halls booked all at once and know I have them and work from there.

JANSZEN: What's Pete,

BERTOLINI: That would fuck'n be awesome.

JANSZEN: What's Pete say to you about that?

BERTOLINI: He says, oh, you should have been thinking about it before you were running around with that fuck'n whore, this and that,

JANSZEN: Ah, saying you're the one that threw the money away, not him.

BERTOLINI: But wait, I said, Pete well, I owe more to the bank in notes than he owes me, but, that he's signed for, that he's responsible for. But, he's my friend, you know, I'm gonna pay them off. But do you understand, I want to get them paid off like immediately because the longer they stay out the more chance I have of being investigated.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: And that's the last thing I need, 'cause then I'll have to disappear and work under an alias and shit. I mean, I don't want to hide for the rest of my life.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: You know, have to start doing things like fuck'n some other people do, you know, fuck'n like, you know, that I could go to jail forever for, you know what I'm saying.

JANSZEN: Well, I tell you what I'd do Mikey. I'd get, I would just sit down and work on your shows, and

BERTOLINI: It's like so fucked up, man. I have, you know how much my live...you know how much budget is a month to live?

JANSZEN: Uh uh. (negative)

BERTOLINI: About 7,000 and most of that is bills.

JANSZEN: Yep. Most of it is, most of it is loans that Pete took out for you 'cause he owes you money and, uh

BERTOLINI: Well, I

JANSZEN: And, you're paying 'em.

BERTOLINI: I had to take loans out because he wasn't giving me money, OK. But regard, hey, regardless this, I made a lot of money off those loans, OK.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: And I blew a lot of it still, I still didn't learn, but I learned now and it's like I don't want to be punished any more like, first, he says to me, I'm not gonna give you any money as long as you're with that cunt, he says. I said, Petey, I said forget it, I said, I'll go back to New York tonight, take all my shit, I'll go back, I'll never deal with her again. Are you gonna pay me tomorrow? You know. He says, all I do is see you when you want money. I said, Petey, man, I need, you're all the money I got in the world, man. You know, Paulie, I got \$2,600 in loan payments, I'm doing \$2,800 in loan payments every month, a \$1,200 car payment, that's \$4,000, OK.

JANSZEN: Uh um.

BERTOLINI: My rent is a \$1,000, that's \$5,000; my phone this and that, my instructor, that's fuck'n 700 all that garbage; my gym instructor, my fuck'n phone, my electric, that's \$5,700, OK. Food, eating out, this and that, the car, \$1,300 a month, you know what I'm saying.

JANSZEN: Uh um.

BERTOLINI: Guess \$7,000 to fuck'n live, man, to exist and I don't bring in a fuck'n penny right now.

JANSZEN: Yeah.

BERTOLINI: Not a penny do I make, I haven't made money in so long, I don't know what it is to make a profit.

JANSZEN: Hey, Mike, do my a favor

BERTOLINI: Yeah.

JANSZEN: I got to take care of something right now, so why don't you give me your number and I'll call you back in a little bit, give me the

BERTOLINI: Ah, now you got me all depressed.

JANSZEN: Just give me your number and I'll get back to you.

BERTOLINI: Paulie, first of all you can't mention nothing. I can't believe you did that show with Charles. How do you fuck'n do that, man, you fucked me up.

JANSZEN: Mikey, I said I'll call you back and we'll talk about the show, give me the

BERTOLINI: Will you fuck'n call him and tell him about the show I offered you

JANSZEN: Hell no I'm not, I'm not gonna say nothing about Charles, I just got to run somewhere with Danita.

BERTOLINI: I hope not man,

JANSZEN: She's half out the

BERTOLINI: I don't want to fuck'n

JANSZEN: You call, OK, call Charles' line and keep it busy then you'll know I can't get a hold of him.

BERTOLINI: No, I'm just saying, man. Man, I don't deal with the guy, alright, fuck'n if you want to make a lot of money, I got the contract, we'll make a lot of fuck'n money.

JANSZEN: Alright, give me your number

BERTOLINI: No one can know I'm involved, that's the key. I'm out of it.

JANSZEN: Mikey, give me your number, and I'll call you back.

BERTOLINI: (813) 461-0142. And, if you fuck up, man, I'm gonna fuck'n send Willie McGee to your house to sign autographs.

JANSZEN: Yeah, good send him there, alright bye.

BERTOLINI: Good bye.

END