

I: Interviewer: What is your name, current state or residence & connection to skateboarding?

J: Jessie, current state of residence is western North Carolina, I'm a professional.

K: Kevin Thomas Depriest, currently my canine Richie & I live in Sullivan County, Tennessee. I have been skateboarding as far back as I can remember, my brother Dale was a ripper in the early 90's, anytime we were near one of those old concrete parks on vacation we would stop in & Dale would ride. I can remember butt boarding down into the bowl somewhere in Florida.

I: To your current knowledge, is it illegal to skateboard down an open road?

J: As far as I know it's legal to skate down open public roads unless ordinances put in place state otherwise.

K: I don't know if it is against the law in TN, if it is it should not be. I really enjoy it and I don't know anybody that has tried it and didn't like it. If there is a law, they're tripping, but I aint a voter so I guess I just got to live with it and try not to offend, scar, or get in anyone's way.

I: Have you ever had to deal with police or even members of the public claiming it is illegal? What was the result?

J: I have found myself caught in many situations where I'm caught in places perfectly legal to skate and still get told to leave those areas. Sometimes I am told it's legal, by other officers and I am doing no harm, it really depends on the type of police or neighbors you're dealing with as well as the laws in the area.

Once I had neighbors on a road who thought skateboarding on their road was illegal because they owned a lot of the houses on the street, but it was not a private road.

K: I have been through it with the "pink devils", and I don't want to even go there or think about it, it has never been good. The police should be more focused on true crimes instead of bothering someone socializing with friends, teaching, trying to get exercise or taking a stroll.

I: Do you believe skateboarding down an open road, regardless of legal status, is morally appropriate?

J: I believe regardless of legal status skateboarding is a freedom everybody has.

K: Yes, just like snow sledding & bicycling.

I: Do you know if anybody has been arrested for this?

J: Yes, however, I do not personally know anyone who has.

K: Yes, pretty sure it's too common.

I: Do you believe that skating down an open road is objectively safe?

J: It's only as safe as long as you know what you're doing, however, even then it can still be dangerous.

K: heading down the roads is as safe as you make it, but there are dangerous roads no doubt.

I: What is the typical response from the public?

J: mainly "be careful!" or they're excited to see you and ask you to do tricks.

K: "Wow! You and your dog look so cool, he loves it!"

I: Do you have an idea as to why there is a stigma against skateboarding in this country/state?

J: there is mainly a stigma against skating in North Carolina because this happens to be a place where lots of elderly people reside where they grew up & there wasn't much skateboarding and you're not used to seeing it and it throws them.

K: seen it first hand, I think if someone that didn't want skaters on their property or just wanted to confront somebody skating, if they were just nice & friendly to begin with that there may be an opportunity for change.

I: What if I told you, based on my research for this project, that skateboarding is illegal on any road not specifically in a "designated area"?

J: I would find it very hard to believe because I've been told by officers before that it is legal on public roads.

K: If you were to tell me that, based on your research, I would have to say this is not a skateboarder, but a law maker getting in the way.

I: Does the legal status have any affect on your intention to continue to skate?

J: It doesn't change my drive at all, mainly because I've been doing it so long and accepted the risks.

K: Yes, I get nervous about getting in trouble for skating. That's weak, maybe I shouldn't think about that.

I: Do you believe that the legal status has any affect on the community as a whole? Do you think if it were legal or illegal that it would change the public's attitude towards the sport?

J: If people know that there is not way to fight and say it's legal then it'll bring more peace of mind to the skaters knowing that it can freely practice their passion unbothered.

K: If folks knew that you couldn't get in trouble or cause a disturbance, folks would be more willing to try skating and it would be more normalized. Seems a lot of folks really like it and like seeing it happen.