



SOLD ON SEA ART

Rick Piper's paintings speak out to fellow beach-lovers. **LIFE, 1D**

FLORIDA TODAY

A GANNETT COMPANY

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75 CENTS

KEEP THAT UMBRELLA Wet weather sticking around this weekend. **SPACE COAST, 1B**



GLORY ALL GONE

Lies lead Ohio State to forfeit 2010 Big Ten title, 12-1 season and Sugar Bowl win.

SPORTS, 1C

Jim Tressel,
ex-Buckeyes
football coach

Reality Check aims to prevent bad choices

My picture was on the front page of last Sunday's paper with the article, "Gangs in Brevard" by John Torres, which was great.

I would like to clarify a few things. Regarding the caption next to the photo with the words "Scared Straight," I always emphasize that what we do in my program, Reality Check, is not like the Scared Straight program in anyway.

It is reality. I never yell, scream, degrade, talk down to, or humiliate anyone. We educate people to the facts of what will happen if you keep making bad choices.

In the article under the heading, "Answers," the Reality Check program is not just an anti-gang program. It is a program for teens and adults making bad choices, not just gang kids. I was in prison for 11 straight years and in the "hole," or isolation, for three years out of the 11 years.

I was abused and urinated on by guards in prison, but I also like to mention that some guards saved my life. There are good and bad in all professions, whether it is a police officer, corrections officer or any professions. The key is prevention, not incarceration.

Larry Lawton
Palm Bay