

MANIFESTO

Thank you all for agreeing to consult on this case. As you know, we've confirmed that the recent string of bizarre attacks worldwide are the actions of one man, but we have so far been unable to identify the suspect. We believe the suspect has connections to Hollywood, but we have no other leads at this time.

The exhibits below were sent to investigators after each of the incidents. Psych profiles suggest that the suspect is taunting the police by revealing his identity through coded messages, but we have as yet been unable to break the code or extract any useful information from these demented ramblings.

It is our hope that your collective expertise will help us crack the case and identify the suspect.

Sincerely,

*Anne Agramma
Supervisory Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation*

This was the first letter, sent to the Bureau anonymously. The handwriting is a match for the suspect, and we believe it's the key to solving this maniac's riddle. — Anne

xxEDCBAxx
Axxxx Bxxxx Cxxxx Dxxxx Exxxx
xxABC DExx
ABCxE Dxxx
AxxBxCxxDxE

ABCxDE
xxABCDExx
ABCxxxx/yyyyDE → ABCDE/xxxxyyyy
xxxABCDE
BEACD

This note was found at the first incident site, shortly after explosions at dozens of poultry farms released tens of thousands of chickens. Our initial theory of ecoterrorism proved to be incorrect, and we now suspect that the intent was simply to sow chaos. — Anne

HELLO, WORLD!

- 3 I'M FAMOUS. NOT JUST FAMOUS, BUT INTERNET FAMOUS. I'M ON TIKTOK, YOU KNOW.
- 5 BUT PRAY YOU NEVER MEET ME. YOU FAT HENS CLUCKING AND SCRATCHING HAVE NO
- 4 IDEA WE'RE AT WAR. ENDLESS WARS, WARS AWFUL AND DEHUMANIZING, AND YOU DON'T
- 5 HAVE A CLUE. BUT YOU WILL. AND AS THIS NOVEMBER LINGERS ON AND ON, YOU'LL
- 1 KNOW ME: A FELLOW NOMAD RIDING THROUGH THIS BURNING DESERT OF STUPIDITY.

The Grand Chandelier inside the Paris Opera was sabotaged, causing it to crash to the ground. Although no one was injured, the damage was extensive. This note was found among the wreckage. — Anne

THE BODY POLITIC

- 2 IN 1888 PARIS, A CHANDELIER CRASHED DOWN ON A THEATER AUDIENCE,
- 1 DELIVERING DEATH IN A GLITTERING SHOWER OF CRYSTAL AND METAL.
- 2 ASKING IF THE SHOW SHOULD CONTINUE, THE DIRECTOR WAS SHOCKED
- 1 WHEN THE AUDIENCE CRIED, "OUI!" BARELY A NANOSECOND'S PAUSE.
- 3 AND THE ORCHESTRA PLAYED ON. THAT IS SOCIETY. ENJOY THE SHOW...

After potent hallucinogens were dumped into the water supply in Manhattan, this rambling rant was mailed to the Bureau. As yet, we have been unable to determine the significance of the numbers to the left of each line. — Anne

REALITY IS HARD TO SWALLOW

- 5 PROPAGANDA, EVERYWHERE. PEOPLE SAVOR IDIOTIC
- 1 CONSPIRACY; IT DESTROYS EVERYONE'S RATIONALITY.
- 3 MY OBJECTIONABLE JOB IS TO OVERTURN
- 4 THEIR EASY, QUIET, UTTERLY IGNORANT LIVES... AND
- 4 WATCH AS THEY EMBRACE REALITY.

The same hallucinogen used in Manhattan was deployed in Baton Rouge, causing a flock of birds to attack a company picnic. — Anne

MINDING THE FLOCK

- 5 SEVEN DAYS A WEEK WE HEAR THE DEATH RATTLE OF THE CORPORATE MACHINE. NO 9-TO-5
- 2 HIJINKS, NO DOLLY PARTON LYRICS TO EASE THE PAIN. JUST THE CARROT AND A STICK.
- 6 WE BEAR THE SCARS OF THAT STICK, THE VULGAR SUTURES ON OUR SOULS. WORKHORSES, WE
- 1 CANTER TO THE GLUE FACTORY, CONVINCED IT'S OUR SALVATION. WILL YOU GRIP YOUR ROSARY?
- 5 RETREAT INTO THE TURTLE SHELL OF RELIGION? OR JUST DROWN YOURSELF IN WHISKEY?

We followed up on the clues in the note, but none of them panned out. The biography he's describing may be a red herring to throw us off the trail. — Anne

DO YOU EVEN SPEAK MY LANGUAGE?

6 WHEN I SEE MANGER SCENES AT CHRISTMAS, I ALWAYS WONDER ABOUT
4 THE THREE WISE MEN. DID THEY FEEL WISE AS THEIR ROBES SWISHED
5 THROUGH MANURE? IN MY YOUTH, I WORKED AT COUNTY FAIRS AND
6 ALPINE RESORTS, AND FELT MUCH LIKE THOSE THREE SAGES. THERE'S
7 A REASON NO ONE HANGS OUT A SHINGLE AS A WISE MAN THESE DAYS.

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When the GPS systems in the Strait of Dover were hacked, bringing the world's busiest shipping lanes to a standstill, we immediately guessed who was responsible. The note was found shortly after the shutdown. — Anne

WEARING THE CAPTAIN'S UNIFORM

1 ALLOW ME TO VENT SOME ACCUMULATED ANGST. I WAS NOT MEANT FOR THIS. IN COLLEGE,
3 SPORTS HELD MY INTEREST BRIEFLY, AND IF I CHOSE TO COMPETE IN STADIUMS INSTEAD
1 OF THIS VENUE, TO GARNER THE PRAISE OF THE CROWD INSTEAD OF THEIR CONDEMNATION,
2 WE WOULD NOT BE HERE TODAY. BUT THE SKIPPER LONG AGO ABANDONED OUR SHIP, AND
3 NOW THIS PASSENGER MUST TAKE THE WHEEL. THE ROLE GROWS SWEETER AS TIME GOES ON.

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Even though the biographical details appear to be false, I still can't shake the feeling that the suspect is revealing his identity in these notes, taunting us. Maybe we're reading too much into it. Strip away the irrelevancies. — Anne

A COLORFUL DELUSION

2 REMEMBER MY CAREER IN SPORTS? TURNS OUT RUGBY IS A DEAD END
5 CAREER. TOO VIOLENT FOR TAME AMERICANS, WHO NONETHELESS ENJOY
1 MOVIE PLOTS BORNE ALONG ON EXPLOSIONS GALLONS OF BLOOD. HOLY
1 MOSES, NO WONDER THEY'RE OBLIVIOUS TO REALITY. EACH SHEEP
3 IN ITS SHELTERED CORRAL, CONDITIONED FOR THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

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These attacks are becoming bolder, and larger. The recent hacking of three stock exchanges halted trading for over a week, causing economic havoc. I find it curious that the suspect adds titles to each note. Perhaps these are clues of some sort? — Anne

THY NAME IS GREED

1 GREED CAN ALWAYS BE EXPLOITED. REMEMBER THOSE GULLIBLE MILLIONAIRES
4 WHO BOUGHT INTO THAT PYRAMID SCHEME LAST YEAR? THEY THOUGHT THEIR
1 SHIP HAD COME IN, BUT NOW IT'S IN PERMANENT DRYDOCK. THEY LOST IT ALL.
4 AND ALL IT TOOK WAS SOME GUY IN NEVADA WHO SAW THEIR GREED MORE
5 CLEARLY THAN THEY SAW HIS CHECKERED PAST. BAA, BAA, SLUMBERING SHEEP.

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We knew something was up when 300 tons of powdered gelatin were stolen from warehouses in the Midwest, but the suspect evaded the increased security. Now large sections of Chicago's waterways are lime-flavored. — Anne

I WILL NOT GO WITH THE FLOW

3 EVEN MY STINT WORKING CARNIVALS DIDN'T PREPARE ME FOR THIS CIRCUS.
1 LAST WEEK, SOME CORPORATE CLOWN IN A CREWNECK AND LOAFERS DROPPED
2 HIS WALLET. I PHONED HIM UP TO LET HIM KNOW I HAD IT. HE ACCUSED ME
4 OF STEALING IT. AS I HUNG UP THE RECEIVER, \$200 RICHER, I REALIZED
2 THE WORLD IS GETTING BLEAKER — AND I KNEW I HAD TO ACT NOW.

The suspect is getting personal. Now that we've confirmed that this is a Hollywood celebrity, they know the end is near. Let's bring this fugitive to justice. — Anne

HUMILIATION IS A USEFUL TOOL

3 TO THE GUMSHOE READING THIS, ARE YOU STILL PUZZLED BY MY METHODS? MY MOTIVES?
4 FRUSTRATED THAT YOU'RE STILL EMPTY-HANDED, FACE RED AS THE BACKSIDE OF A MANDRILL?
1 HOW HUMILIATING TO KNOW THAT ANY TRAP YOU CAN DEVISE IS INSUFFICIENT.
2 EACH OF MY LITTLE PUBLIC LESSONS WILL BE MULTIPLIERS OF YOUR SHAME.
4 SO SORRY TO PUT THE BRAKE ON YOUR AMBITION, BUT I'VE GOT A JOB TO DO, TOO.

