
A Guide to Insider References Used by School Shooters and Other Attackers

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Many attackers cite previous killers as role models. Often they do so explicitly. In other cases, however, their references are subtler and can easily be missed. This is a serious hurdle in preventing school violence and other incidents of violence. For example, if a student posts online under the name Indigo or Rebdomine, or names his gun Arlene, or refers to himself as a “supreme gentleman,” these are important clues to his interests and possible violent intentions. But these clues will be missed by someone who is unfamiliar with the insider references used by school shooters.

This document lists names, dates, mottoes, symbols, and other items that might be cited by a potential attacker. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance in identifying potential attackers before they strike. In some cases, as noted below, the items listed here have been found among the writings or statements of perpetrators. Many items have not been cited (as far as I am aware) but are included because they may be cited in the future.

Beyond these specific items, it is important to be familiar with the attack at Columbine High School and the writings of the two perpetrators, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, particularly Harris’s journal and webpages. These can be found at *School Shooters .info*. Columbine has been cited far more often than any other incident of violence. Being familiar with the writings of the Columbine killers is important so that quotations from or references to them can be recognized.

Finally, please keep in mind that it is essential to consider context when conducting a threat assessment. A student who writes a paper about the Nazis or the attack at Columbine is not necessarily planning an attack. Each piece of information is just one piece of the puzzle — it may be a warning sign of danger, or it may be a benign reference. I am routinely contacted by students who are working on projects related to school safety with questions about school shooters, why they committed their attacks,

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how schools can be made safer, and so on. School violence is obviously on the minds of today's students. Please consider this as you proceed with your investigations.

The items below are presented in four sections:

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This document is excerpted and expanded from my book *Warning Signs: Identifying School Shooters Before They Strike*. Version 2.0 adds significant new information, particularly references to ideological hate groups and terror networks, and extends the coverage to include incidents up to 2025.

P.L. · November 2025

1 · Alphabetical and Numerical Listing

14; 14 words Refers to the fourteen-word motto of many white supremacists, “We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children.” See also *1488*.

88 Because *h* is the eighth letter of the alphabet, the number 88 refers to “Heil Hitler.” Karl Pierson used this number in the name of his attack, *Saguntum88*. “88” was used in several places by Seung Hui Cho; whether this referred to Hitler or had another meaning is unknown. See also *1488*, *Saguntum88*, and *Sturmgeist88*.

420; 4/20; 4-20 Refers to 20 April. This is both the Columbine anniversary and Hitler's birthday. Jeffrey Weise embedded this into one of his online names; see *Verlassen4_20*. (Also slang for cannabis; not all references are related to violence.)

764 An international terror network that engages in sexual extortion, particularly among minors. It is affiliated with the Order of Nine Angles (q.v.). Aiden Hale and Natalie Rupnow had connections to 764.

1312 Coded abbreviation for “All cops are bastards.” See *ACAB*.

1488; 14/88 Does not refer to the year. “14” (q.v.) refers to the fourteen-word motto of many white supremacists. “88” (q.v.) refers to “Heil Hitler.” Used by perpetrators of ideological violence: Wisconsin Sikh temple shooting; Charleston African American church shooting; Pittsburgh synagogue shooting; Christchurch, New Zealand, mosque shootings. Referred to by William Atchison.

2083 The title of Anders Breivik's manifesto was “2083: A European Declaration of Independence.”

ACAB Acronym for “All cops are bastards”; used in racist skinhead culture. (But also increasingly used by liberal policing-reform activists.) See also *1312*.

“Alea iacta (jacta) est” Latin for “the die is cast”; attributed to Julius Caesar. Karl Pierson wrote this on his arm. Marc Lépine included it in his suicide note.

The Anarchist(s) Cookbook This book provides instruction on making explosives from

household materials. Owned by Clay Shrout, Michael Carneal, Kip Kinkel, Eric Harris, Jared Loughner, and Karl Pierson.

Andre One of the shooters in the 2003 film *Zero Day* (q.v.). See also *Cal*.

Andrew Berwick Pseudonym for Anders Breivik.

Andrew Blaze Alias for Randy Stair.

Angel of Death Used by Kimveer Gill. See also *Todesengel*.

Anti-Terrorist of America Used by Seung Hui Cho.

Arlene Name Eric Harris gave his gun. Alvaro Castillo imitated this, naming his gun Arlene.

Ax Manson Name used by Seung Hui Cho.

Ax Ishmael Name used by Seung Hui Cho.

Ax Ismail Erroneously reported in the media as used by Seung Hui Cho.

Blades11 Online name used by Jeffrey Weise.

Blarvink Online name used by Adam Lanza.

“Born to kill” Worn on T-shirt by Dimitrios Pagourtzis.

Cal One of the shooters in the 2003 film *Zero Day* (q.v.). See also *Andre*.

Cain See *Kaynbred* and *Kayn-tdlr*.

Catherine Name Pekka-Eric Auvinen gave his gun.

ChildRapistOhChrist Online name used by Adam Lanza.

cryinghampster [sic] Online name used by Adam Lanza.

Day of Retribution The name Elliot Rodger used for his attack.

“DDR guy” How people at a local movie theatre referred to Adam Lanza because he played the game *Dance, Dance Revolution* for hours at a time.

December of the Soul Online name used by Jeffrey Weise.

DJSmiggle-Smug Online name used by Adam Lanza.

Elephant A 2003 film inspired by the Columbine attack. Written about by Jeffrey Weise.

Eric von Auffoin Pseudonym used by Pekka-Eric Auvinen.

fuckcomments Online name used by Adam Lanza.

gayfortimk Online name used by Adam Lanza, presumably referring to Tim Kretschmer. See also *GFTK*.

GFTK Online name used by Adam Lanza. See *gayfortimk*.

Green Nickname used by Dylan Klebold.

Greg Pseudonym of Adam Lanza, used to call in to a radio program.

Hamster Because Adam Lanza liked hamsters and referenced them online, there are people who have the word *hamster* in their usernames, though I am not aware of any who have committed attacks. See also *cryinghampster*.

“HATE! I’m full of hate and I love it” Written by Eric Harris. Quoted by Pekka-Eric Auvinen and Karl Pierson.

“Hitmen for Hire” Title of video made by Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold for their video production class at Columbine. Has been imitated by a group of would-be school attackers who were thwarted.

Homo idiocracy / idiocratic Used by Pekka-Eric Auvinen.

“The human race isn’t worth fighting for anymore” Written by Eric Harris. Quoted by Pekka-Eric Auvinen.

“Humanity is overrated” Worn on T-shirt by Pekka-Eric Auvinen. Quoted by Matti Saari and William Atchison.

“Ich bin Gott” German for “I am God”; written several times by Eric Harris. Quoted by Kimveer Gill.

Indigo Nickname used by Eric Harris.

Iron Cross Nazi military honor. Discussed by Dylan Klebold. Used by Chris Harper-Mercer in his profile name on a dating website.

Ismael’s Ax Erroneously reported in the media as used by Seung Hui Cho.

Judgment day Dylan Klebold referred to the attack at Columbine with this term, perhaps imitating Charles Manson and his followers, who referred to a coming “judgment day.”

Kaynbred Online name used by Adam Lanza. (“Cain-bred”?)

Kayn-tdlr Online name used by Adam Lanza. (“Cain toddler”?)

“Killer” Worn on T-shirt by T.J. Lane. Cited in post by William Atchison.

Knavesmig Online name used by Adam Lanza.

“The lonely man strikes with absolute rage” Written by Dylan Klebold.

Nativenazi Online name used by Jeffrey Weise. Copied by William Atchison.

Natural Born Killers See *NBK*.

“Natural selection” Worn on T-shirt by Eric Harris. Copied by Alvaro Castillo (on T-shirt). Used in writings by Pekka-Eric Auvinen. Copied by Randy Stair (on T-shirt). Used in post by William Atchison.

Natural Selector89 Online name used by Pekka-Eric Auvinen (based on Eric Harris).

NBK Abbreviation for title of movie *Natural Born Killers*; code name used by Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold for their attack at Columbine High School. Used by Karl Pierson to refer to the movie, perhaps in imitation of Harris and Klebold. Used in Instagram handle by Jesse Osborne: “kmosh_nbk_kmfdm” (KMFDM was one of Harris’s favorite bands). Used in foiled attack.

Neonecrosis Online name used by Jeffrey Weise.

Nineteen Minutes A 2007 novel by Jodi Picoult about a school attack.

NostalgicPenguin Online name used by Adam Lanza.

09A; ONA See *Order of Nine Angles*.

Order of Nine Angles (09A) An international Satanic and neo-Nazi organization. Promotes accelerationist ideas and radicalization toward violence. Sometimes known as the “Sinister Tradition.”

Pedobear Online name used by Adam Lanza.

queerforkimveer Online name used by Adam Lanza, referring to Kimveer Gill.

Question Mark After Seung Hui Cho signed in to a class with a ? instead of his name, he became known as Question Mark.

Rage Novel by Stephen King, published under the name of Richard Bachman; portrays a student who kills two teachers and holds a class hostage. Read by several school shooters, some of whom appear to have imitated the story in their attacks: Kristofer Hans, Gary Scott Pennington, Barry Loukaitis, and Michael Carneal. In addition, two other students appear to have imitated the story, holding classes hostage at gunpoint, though they did not kill anybody: Jeffrey Lyne Cox and Dustin L. Pierce.

Ragnarok (Ragnarök) Title of Alex Hribal’s last piece of writing (and perhaps his attack); an apocalyptic event in Norse mythology.

Reb Nickname used by Eric Harris.

Rebdoomer Online name used by Eric Harris. Copied by William Atchison.

Rebdomine Online name used by Eric Harris.

ResistantX Online name used by Sebastian Bosse.

Saguntum88 Used by Karl Pierson as the name of his attack. Saguntum was the site of a siege in 219 BCE in which Hannibal reportedly had every adult in the town put to death; “88” (q.v.) presumably refers to “Heil Hitler.”

Seer of Veracity Used by Seung Hui Cho.

“Shocked Beyond Belief” A phrase Eric Harris used in one of the “basement tapes” (videos in which he and Dylan Klebold talked about their upcoming attack). The phrase became the name for an online forum devoted to school shooters, other mass murderers, and movies and songs about them. The forum originally was called “*Super Columbine Massacre RPG*.” *Super Columbine Massacre* is a video game based on the Columbine attack. RPG is an abbreviation for “role-playing game.” The forum is now at <https://columbinemassacre.forumotion.com>. Four shooters have been members of this forum: Adam Lanza, Randy Stair, William Atchison, and Solomon Henderson.

Sinister Tradition See *Order of Nine Angles*.

Smiggles Online name used by Adam Lanza when he posted on “Shocked Beyond Belief” (q.v.).

Sturmgeist; *Sturmgeist89* Online names used by Pekka-Eric Auvinen. (*Sturmgeist* is the name of a music group; it translates as “storm spirit.”)

Sturmgeist88 Online name used by William Atchison (based on Pekka-Eric Auvinen), with “88” (q.v.) presumably referring to “Heil Hitler.”

Super Columbine Massacre RPG See “*Shocked Beyond Belief*.”

“Supreme gentleman” A reference to Elliot Rodger, based on how he referred to himself in his final video when he addressed himself to women: “I’m the perfect guy, and yet you throw yourselves at these obnoxious men instead of me, the supreme gentleman.” Before Alek Minassian committed the Toronto van attack that killed ten people and wounded eighteen, he posted on social media, “All hail the Supreme Gentleman, Elliot Rodger.” Used by William Atchison.

Todesengel German for “angel of death”; online name used by Jeffrey Weise.

Tempel ov Blood [*sic*] (*ToB*) An American militant Satanic organization affiliated with the Order of Nine Angles (q.v.).

ToB See *Tempel ov Blood*.

Trench Nickname used by Kimveer Gill online, perhaps as a reference to the trench coats worn by Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold or to Columbine’s “Trench Coat Mafia” (q.v.).

Trench Coat Mafia Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold were erroneously believed to have been part of this group at Columbine High School. Multiple perpetrators or would-be perpetrators have used this term.

V An abbreviation of Dylan Klebold’s nickname, *Vodka*.

Verlassen4_20 Online name used by Jeffrey Weise. See 420.

Vodka Nickname used by Dylan Klebold.

VTech Refers to Virginia Tech.

“Whole life is war and whole life is pain / And you will fight alone in your personal war” Lyrics from the song “War,” by Wumpscut; quoted by Matti Saari.

“Wrath” Worn on T-shirt by Dylan Klebold. Cited in post by William Atchison. Copied by Desmond Holly (on T-shirt).

*Wumpscut*⁸⁶ Online name used by Matti Saari. Wumpscut is the name of a music group; Saari was born in 1986.

Zero Day A 2003 film inspired by the Columbine attack. Written about by Jeffrey Weise. See also the names of the two fictional shooters, *Andre* and *Cal*.

2 · Dates by Calendar Year

9 April Eric Harris's birthday. Alex Hribal committed his attack on this date; he wanted it to be on 20 April, the anniversary of Columbine, but that date fell on a weekend, so he chose Harris's birthday.

16 April Anniversary of the Virginia Tech shooting.

20 April Anniversary of Columbine; also, Hitler's birthday. Alex Hribal wanted to commit his attack on this date, but the school was closed, so he chose the birthday of Eric Harris instead. Sky Bouche committed his shooting on this date. Others have planned to commit attacks on this anniversary but were thwarted.

22 July Anniversary of Anders Breivik's attack.

30 August Kip Kinkel's birthday. Alvaro Castillo chose to commit his attack on Kinkel's birthday.

11 September Dylan Klebold's birthday.

14 February Two school shootings have occurred on Valentine's Day, but there is no known connection to the holiday. The perpetrators were Steven Kazmierczak and Nikolas Cruz.

14 December Anniversary of the Sandy Hook shooting.

3 · Graphic Symbols

Symbols are reproduced below when possible, excepting those that are intricate, highly variable in appearance, or well-known. Symbols are alphabetized by their most common names. The Anti-Defamation League also maintains an extensive database of hate symbols. Obviously, some of the items below are innocuous on their own; they are included because they have been used bizarrely or obsessively by killers.

Ankh (☥) An ancient Egyptian symbol of eternal life. Used by Dylan Klebold.

Inverted cross (⬮) A Satanic emblem. Used by Aiden Hale.

Barbed wheel (⌘) Eight radial spokes, each with a counterclockwise-facing barb on the end. Used by Dylan Klebold, apparently to represent fate or some force that controls events.

Black Sun See *Sonnenrad*.

Bowlcut Drawing of Dylann Roof's distinctive haircut; used by Roof's supporters.

"Dark abyss" symbol (⬛) An octagon divided into eight radial, alternately shaded slices, sometimes with spirals in the lighter slices. Invented and used by Aiden Hale. See also *spiral*.

Double- and triple-barred crosses (‡/≡) Used by Dylan Klebold.

Downward Spiral See *spiral*.

Highway A road receding toward a distant horizon; a recurring image in Dylan Kle-

bold's journal. (*The Lost Highway* was Klebold's favorite film; the title is a common phrase in his writings.)

Infinity sign (∞) Standard mathematical sign. Used obsessively or idiosyncratically in the journals of multiple shooters, including Dylan Klebold, James Holmes, and Aiden Hale.

The Lost Highway See *highway*.

Sonnenrad Also called Black Sun. An emblem comprising two concentric circles; the inner circle contains a swastika or other symbol of hate, and the outer circle contains jagged radial lines. Used by neo-Nazis and other hate groups. Resembles Dylan Klebold's barbed wheel (q.v.), though the connection is uncertain.

Spiral Dylan Klebold and others drew spirals throughout their journals. Klebold referred repeatedly to *Downward Spiral*, a Nine Inch Nails album.

ss symbol Two jagged S's resembling lightning bolts; an abbreviation for *Schutzstaffel*, the Nazi secret police. Used by neo-Nazis. Used by Dylan Klebold.

Swastika Infamous Nazi emblem. Used by Eric Harris and others.

"Ultraception" symbol (⊕) A circle or zero enclosing an infinity sign bisected by a numeral 1. Invented and used by James Holmes.

4 • Additional Resources

The following documents illustrate the range of influences among school shooters and other violent offenders.

- Langman, Peter. "Different Types of Role Model Influence and Fame-Seeking Among Mass Killers and Copycat Offenders." *American Behavioral Scientist*, 2017. Available at *School Shooters .info*.
- . "The Influence of Columbine." Available at *School Shooters .info*.
- . "Influences on the Ideology of Eric Harris." Available at *School Shooters .info*.
- . "Reading Between the Lines: Recognizing Insider References to School Shooters." *Campus Safety Magazine*, 17 February 2020. Available at *School Shooters .info*.
- . "Role Models, Contagions, and Copycats: An Exploration of the Influence of Prior Killers on Subsequent Attacks." Available at *School Shooters .info*.
- . *Warning Signs: Identifying School Shooters Before They Strike*. Allentown, PA: Langman Psychological Associates, LLC, 2021. [SS.1]