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

Compiled by Peter Langman, Ph.D.

Many attackers cite previous killers as role models. Often, they do so explicitly. In other cases, however, the references are more subtle 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 is a list of references to various names, phrases, 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, the items listed here have been found among the writings or statements of perpetrators. In cases where this has occurred, I have noted the usage. In most cases, the items have not been cited (that I am aware of) but they are included as items to be recognized.

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.

The information is provided in two formats: an alphabetical/chronological listing, and a listing in which selected items are grouped by incident. This should facilitate finding particular information.

Finally, please keep in mind that it is essential to consider context when conducting a threat assessment. Just because a student writes a paper about the Nazis or the attack at Columbine does not mean this is a warning sign of impending violence. Every 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 doing projects related to school safety, with questions about school shooters, why they committed their attacks, 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.

This document is excerpted from a forthcoming book on recognizing the warning signs of a school shooting.

P.L. · February 2020

1   ALPHABETICAL LISTING

1488	Does not refer to the year 1488. "14" refers to the 14-word motto of many white supremacists: "We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children." "88" refers to "Heil Hitler" (see below). Used by perpetrators of ideological violence: Wisconsin Sikh temple shooting; African American church shooting, Charleston, SC; Pittsburgh synagogue shooting; Christchurch, New Zealand, mosque shootings. Referred to by **William Atchison**.
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 below).

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 for his attack (Saguntum88; see below). "88" was used in several places by **Seung Hui Cho** (whether this referred to Hitler or had another meaning is unknown).
2083	The title of **Anders Breivik**'s manifesto was "2083: A European Declaration of Independence."
"Alea iacta 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 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**.
Andrew Berwick	Pseudonym for **Anders Breivik**.
Andrew Blaze	Alias for **Randy Stair**.
Angel of Death	Used by **Kimveer Gill** (may be imitation of "Todesengel" — see below).
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**.
Anti-Terrorist of America	Used by **Seung Hui Cho**.
Blades11	Online name used by **Jeffrey Weise**.
Blarvink	Online name used by **Adam Lanza**.
"Born to kill"	Used on T-shirt by **Dimitrios Pagourtzis**.
Catherine	Name **Pekka-Eric Auvinen** gave his gun.
Day of Retribution	The name **Elliot Rodger** used for his attack.
December of the Soul	Online name used by **Jeffrey Weise**.
"DDR guy"	How people at a local movie theatre referred to **Adam Lanza** because he played "Dance, Dance Revolution" for hours at a time.
Eric von Auffoin	Pseudonym used by **Pekka-Eric Auvinen**.
Green	Nickname used by **Dylan Klebold**.
Hamster	Because **Adam Lanza** liked hamsters, there are people who have the word "hamster" in their usernames, though I am not aware of any who have committed attacks.
"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"	Name 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"	Used 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**.
Ismail'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	Used by **Adam Lanza**. ("Cain toddler"?)
"Killer"	Used on T-shirt by **T.J. Lane**. Cited in post by **William Atchison**.
Knavesmig	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 selection"	Used 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 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**.
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 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** (San Gabriel High School) and **Dustin L. Pierce** (Jackson County High School).
Ragnarok	Title of **Alex Hribal**'s last piece of writing (and perhaps his attack); derived from 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 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 on-line 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 Columine attack. RPG is an abbreviation for "role-playing game." The forum is now at https://columbinemassacre.forumotion.com/. Three shooters have been members of this forum: **Adam Lanza**, **Randy Stair**, and **William Atchison**.
Smiggles	Online name used by **Adam Lanza** when he posted on "Shocked Beyond Belief."
Sturmgeist; Sturmgeist89	Online name 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" presum-

ably referring to "Heil Hitler."

"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." **Alek Minassian** committed the Toronto van attack that killed ten people and wounded 18. Just before going on his rampage, he posted on social media, "All hail the Supreme Gentleman, Elliot Rodger." Used by **William Atchison**.
Todesengel	Online name used by **Jeffrey Weise**; German for "angel of death."
Trench	Nickname used by **Kimveer Gill** online, perhaps as a reference to the trenchcoats worn by **Eric Harris** and **Dylan Klebold** or to the Trenchcoat Mafia.
Trenchcoat 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**, with 20 April being the date of Columbine and Hitler's birthday.
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 song "War," by Wumpscut; quoted by **Matti Saari**.
"Wrath"	Used on T-shirt by **Dylan Klebold**. Cited in post by **William Atchison**.
Wumpscut86	Online name used by **Matti Saari**. Wumpscut is the name of a music group; Saari was born in 1986.

2   CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF 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 Virginia Tech.
20 April	Anniversary of Columbine. **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 Sandy Hook.

▸ Columbine: Eric Harris & Dylan Klebold

DATES

9 April	Eric Harris's birthday.
20 April	Columbine annivesary.
11 September	Dylan Klebold's birthday.

NICKNAMES AND USERNAMES

Green	Nickname used by Dylan Klebold.
Indigo	Nickname used by Eric Harris.
Reb	Nickname used by Eric Harris (short for Rebel).
Rebdoomer	Online name used by Eric Harris.
Rebdomine	Online name used by Eric Harris.
V	An abbreviation of Dylan Klebold's nickname, Vodka.
Vodka	Nickname used by Dylan Klebold.

WORDS, PHRASES, AND QUOTATIONS

Arlene	Name Eric Harris gave his gun.
"HATE! I'm full of hate and I love it"	Written by Eric Harris.
"Hitmen for Hire"	Name of video made by Harris and Klebold for their video production class at Columbine.
"The human race isn't worth fighting for anymore"	Written by Eric Harris.
"Ich bin Gott"	German for "I am God"; written several times by Eric Harris.
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."
"The lonely man strikes with absolute rage"	Written by Dylan Klebold.
"Natural selection"	Used on T-shirt by Eric Harris.
NBK	Abbreviation for movie *Natural Born Killers*: code name used by Harris and Klebold for their attack at Columbine High School.
"Wrath"	Used on T-shirt by Dylan Klebold.

▸ Jokela: Pekka-Eric Auvinen

DATE

7 November	Anniversary of attack at Jokela.

ONLINE NAMES AND PSEUDONYM

Eric von Auffoin	Auvinen's pseudonym.
Natural Selector89	Online name used by Pekka-Eric Auvinen (based on Eric Harris).

Sturmgeist; Sturmgeist89	Online name used by Pekka-Eric Auvinen.

PHRASES

Homo idiocracy / idiocratic	Used by Pekka-Eric Auvinen.
"Humanity is overrated"	Used on T-shirt by Pekka-Eric Auvinen.

▸ Norway: Anders Breivik

22 July	Anniversary of Anders Breivik's attack.
2083	The title of Anders Breivik's manifesto was "2083: A European Declaration of Independence."
Andrew Berwick	Pseudonym for Anders Breivik.

▸ Sandy Hook: Adam Lanza

DATE

14 December	Anniversary of Sandy Hook.

ONLINE NAMES

Blarvink

Kaynbred

Kayn-tdlr

Knavesmig

Smiggles

MISCELLANEOUS

"DDR guy"	How people at a local movie theatre referred to **Adam Lanza** because he played "Dance, Dance Revolution" for hours at a time.
Hamster	Because Lanza liked hamsters, there are people who have the word "hamster" in their user-names, though I am not aware of any who have committed attacks.

▸ Red Lake: Jeffrey Weise

DATE

21 March	Anniversary of Red Lake attack.

ONLINE NAMES

Blades11

December of the Soul

Nativenazi

Neonecrosis

Todesengel

Verlassen4_20

▸ Virginia Tech: Seung Hui Cho

DATE

16 April	Anniversary of Virginia Tech.

ATTACK NAME

VTech	Refers to Virginia Tech.

NAMES AND NICKNAMES

Ax Manson	Name used by Seung Hui Cho.
Ax Ishmael	Name used by Seung Hui Cho.
As Ismail	Erroneously reported in the media as used by Seung Hui Cho
Anti-Terrorist of America	Name used by Seung Hui Cho.
Ismail's Ax	Erroneously reported in the media as used by Seung Hui Cho
Question Mark	After **Seung Hui Cho** signed in to a class with a "?" instead of his name, he became known as Question Mark.
Seer of Veracity	Name used by Seung Hui Cho.

4   ADDITIONAL SOURCES

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

"Reading Between the Lines: Recognizing Insider References to School Shooters," by Peter Langman, *Campus Safety Magazine,* 17 February 2020. https://www.campussafetymagazine.com/safety/reading-between-the-lines-recognizing-insider-references-to-school-shooters/.

"Role Models, Contagions, and Copycats: An Exploration of the Influence of Prior Killers on Subsequent Attacks," by Peter Langman. https://schoolshooters.info/role-models-contagions-and-copycats-exploration-influence-prior-killers-subsequent-attacks/.

"Different Types of Role Model Influence and Fame-Seeking Among Mass Killers and Copycat Offenders," by Peter Langman, *American Behavioral Scientist,* 2017. https://schoolshooters.info/different-types-role-model-influence-and-fame-seeking-among-mass-killers-and-copycat-offenders/.

"The Influence of Columbine" (poster format), by Peter Langman. https://schoolshooters.info/influence-columbine-poster-format/.

"The Influence of Columbine" (tabloid format), by Peter Langman. https://schoolshooters.info/influence-columbine-tabloid-format/.