

**TOP SECRET:**

**ad-hoc of the secretary-general  
bearmun 2023**

## **Bay Area's Zodiac Killer Force, 1969**

Chair: Harsh Kumbhat

Crisis Director: Justin Kaito Church



This is the Zodiac speaking,  
I though you would need a  
good laugh before you  
hea- the bad news, and i  
you wont get the **Can't**  
news for a while yet. **do as**  
PS could you print **thing**  
this new ciphe- **with**  
on your front page? **it!**  
I get awfully lonely  
when I am ignored,  
So lonely I could  
do my **Thing!!!!!!**

Des July Aug  
Sept Oct = 7

<https://www.the-sun.com/news/1959149/zodiac-killer-identity-case-cracked-california-murders/>

## **Table of Contents:**

Letter From the Chair

Letter From the Crisis Director

Procedural Overview

A Note on the Committee's Timeline

Introduction

Zodiac Killer Timeline

Horror at Lake Herman Road: Faraday and Jensen

The Zodiac Returns in Vallejo: Mageau and Ferrin

Zodiac's Letters and Ciphers

    Z408 Cipher

Unconfirmed Victim: Cheri Jo Bates, Zodiac's First?

Major Suspects:

    Arthur Leigh Allen

    Jack Tarrance

    Lawrence Kane

    Richard Gaikowski

State of Affairs & Current Events c. September 1969

    Local Response

    Current Evidence

    Will the Zodiac Strike Again? Almost Certainly.

    Purpose of the Bay Area's Zodiac Task Force

# Letter From the Chair

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Bay Area's Zodiac Task Force of 1969 at BearMUN 2023!! My name is Harsh Kumbhat, and I am absolutely thrilled to be your Chair this year. I'm originally from Kolkata, India, and am currently a junior at Cal, studying film and creative writing. I joined UCBMUN my freshman spring (almost 2 years ago!), and I've been hooked ever since. Not only am I active on the competitive collegiate circuit, but I've also had the privilege of staffing our college conference, UCBMUN, over the past two years. Currently, I am serving as the Secretary-General of UCBMUN, which will be held in February 2024!

Other than MUN, however, I spend my time watching lots of movies and TV shows, while also trying to write my own. To that end, I'm involved in the Business Careers in Entertainment Club here at Berkeley, where I've had the opportunity to work for Amazon Prime, CBS, NBC, and Netflix among other names in the entertainment industry. I also love to read, go on hikes, and cook, but my skills are mostly limited to Indian food!

The Zodiac Killer is notorious not only here in the Bay, but all over the world for the havoc he wreaked on San Francisco in the late 1960s. To this day, the identity of the serial killer remains a mystery. But you, as delegates of the Bay Area's Zodiac Task Force, can change that, and put an end to his heinous crimes. I am extremely excited to see how delegates will work together to solve the case, or perhaps, work to make sure it remains unsolved altogether!

Considering the sensitive material of this committee, I'd like to highlight that Kaito and I will not tolerate any form of discrimination from delegates, both in frontroom and backroom. If any such cases are brought to our notice, we will shut it down immediately. We expect you all to be respectful with us and each other, and ask that you craft your approach to this topic keeping fully in mind its sensitive nature. All that aside, I'm looking forward to seeing you all very soon!

Go Bears!

Best,

Harsh Kumbhat

harshkumbhat@berkeley.edu

# Letter From the Crisis Director

Hello Delegates,

Welcome to BearMUN 2023. My name is Kaito Church, and I am a senior double majoring in Chemical Biology and Global Studies: Development in Asia, and minoring in music. I have had the honor of being a member of UCBMUN since the fall semester of my freshman year. During my time in UCBMUN, I've been able to staff the Khan of Khans committee, the UNSC committee, and the UNODC committee for BearMUN, and staffed the adhoc committee for collegiate conference UCBMUN. I have also been an undersecretary-general for UCBMUN, and last spring, had the honor of working as the Director-General of UCBMUN XXVII.

Outside of MUN, I'm involved as the president and music director of a student orchestra that plays music from anime, film and video game music, having arranged and conducted for the orchestra. I've also composed my own songs in the Undergraduate Composer's Club, engaged in bioacoustic research while studying abroad, and I work for the university's new student orientation.

The Zodiac Killer as a topic is one of intrigue and mystery, and is one that has historically not been solved. While I don't expect our committee to follow history's paths, I am excited to see how you all engage in this mystery, and carve out your own narrative within this committee. I personally look forward to chaotic arcs, and I hope that this committee provides an opportunity for you all to do that.

I will also ask all delegates to remain respectful of each other, both within the committee and through their crisis notes. I will not be tolerant of any form of discrimination, including but not limited to racism, sexism, misogyny, homophobia, ableism, etc.

Best,

Justin Church

kaito-church@berkeley.edu

# Procedural Overview

This committee will function according to the standard UCBMUN Rules of Procedure. We may be more laid-back with regards to the chair's discretion for committee flow because this is Ad-Hoc—you all know what you are doing. However, if at any time if you are uncertain of procedure, feel free to send a note up to the dais or raise a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry.

For crisis notes, we will be using a two-notepad-system as per UCBMUN standard. Please keep in mind that, as always, you should not submit both of your notepads to the crisis backroom at the same time. To facilitate note writing, *we will amend the rules to allow note collection during voting bloc.*

Finally, we expect all delegate arcs, notes, directives, and speeches to be tasteful. Any problematic ideas will be shut down immediately. We would like to discourage the use of fantasy arcs, arcs that involve COVID-19, and arcs that involve the targeting of minorities, human trafficking and the exploitation of sex workers. If you have any questions about what will be deemed unacceptable, please feel free to reach out at any point before or during the conference.

## A Note on the Committee's Timeline

At the start of the first committee session, the committee will be roughly set in October of 1969. Information regarding the case up to that point will be included in this background guide to help give a clear understanding of all the events that have already occurred. However, given the nature of crisis committees, it is possible that the timeline for events that take place in committee—through crisis updates—may not match up with the sequence of events that transpired in real life. In other words, the committee will only consider the following information: 1) all of the information included in the background guide, 2) outside information (such as from research on the internet) about the events mentioned in the background guide, 3) crisis updates and any other information given to the committee during conference by the crisis staff.

As the conference continues, the timeline will become less focused on specific dates and more concerned with relativity. In other words, everything that happens in the first crisis update takes place after all that is mentioned in the background guide, everything that happens in the second crisis update is after the first, and so on. When relevant, the crisis staff may give specific dates during updates. If at any point there is confusion or miscommunication about certain events, do not hesitate to ask the Crisis Director. That being said, given the dynamic nature of crisis committees, delegates should not worry about the minutiae of specific dates and should instead focus on developing creative solutions, crisis arcs, and enjoying themselves.



# Introduction

The Zodiac Killer is one of the most notorious serial killers in the Bay Area's history whose identity hasn't been discovered to this day. From the late 1960s to the early 1970s, he is well-known for leaving a trail of cryptic, taunting letters about his crimes for the police and press. In fact, he sent several letters to law enforcement and press agencies over the short span of a few years.<sup>1</sup>

The Zodiac Killer has only been linked to five murders in Northern California, but may have been responsible for many more. His mysterious murders have led to intensive investigations, none of which have resulted in the confirmed identity of the killer. However, the mystery of these murders have had a large impact on the media, leading to several acclaimed books and movies about the Zodiac Killer.<sup>2</sup>

Some of the murders that the Zodiac has been definitively linked to are the following. In December 1968, the Zodiac killed two teenagers after forcing them out of a car, before shooting them on Lake Herman Road in Benicia. Moreover, in July 1969, a couple was shot in Vallejo at Blue Rock Springs Park; only the male victim survived, while the female victim died. By the time the Zodiac made his final victim count claim in a letter in 1974, he boasted a total victim count of 37 and taunted that the SFPD had come up with zero leads.

To this day, the Zodiac investigation is open and new forensic technology that was not available at the time—such as DNA testing, more advanced fingerprinting analysis, supercomputers that can decipher codes, and more—is constantly being applied to see if new leads can be found. Despite the case being under investigation by the SFPD, FBI, Vallejo PD, and Solano County Sheriff's Office, there have been few developments in the case to the modern day. Even if more leads and evidence are found, it is likely that at this point the Zodiac is not even alive anymore as he was described as being middle-aged in 1970 by eyewitness accounts.

Though investigators have failed in the past, this committee is an opportunity to rewrite history and change the trajectory of one of the most notorious serial killers in history. All of the delegates gathered here today will be serving on the Bay Area Zodiac Task Force, a group dedicated to protecting the greater San Francisco Bay Area from the Zodiac Killer's threats and to hopefully put an end to his reign of terror.

---

<sup>1</sup> Dan Noyes, "I-Team: Friend Confesses to Being Zodiac Killer," ABC7 San Francisco (KGO-TV, April 16, 2014), <https://abc7news.com/zodiac-killer-killers-symbol-cross-hairs-lake-berryessa/7852/>.

<sup>2</sup> "Zodiac Killer." Biography.com. A&E Networks Television, April 14, 2021. <https://www.biography.com/crime-figure/zodiac-killer>.

# Zodiac Killer Timeline

**Oct. 30, 1966**

Cheri Jo Bates, an unconfirmed, yet suspected victim of the Zodiac, is killed outside of the Riverside City College library.

**Apr. 30, 1967**

Three letters declaring that “Bates had to die” are sent to the Riverside PD, Cheri Jo Bates’ father, and the Riverside Press-Enterprise.

**Dec. 20, 1968**

David Faraday and Betty Lou Jensen are killed on Lake Herman Road in Benicia.

**July. 4, 1969**

Michael Mageau and Darlene Ferrin are shot in Blue Rock Springs Park in Vallejo. Though Ferrin does not survive, Mageau does.

**Jul. 31, 1969**

The first confirmed Zodiac letters are sent to the SF Chronicle, the SF Examiner, and the Vallejo-Times Herald. A cipher is sent in each letter and they are solved by the Hardens.

**Aug. 4, 1969**

The SF Examiner receives the first letter in which the killer announces himself as “the Zodiac.”

**Sept. 27, 1969**

Bryan Hartnell and Cecilia Shephard are attacked in Lake Berryessa. Hartnell survives the attack.

**c. October, 1969**

Start of Committee

## Unconfirmed Victim: Cheri Jo Bates, Zodiac's First?

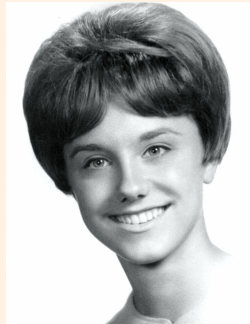


Figure 1: Cheri Jo Bates<sup>3</sup>

Cheri Jo Bates was an 18-year-old student at Riverside City College. October 30th, 1966 began as a normal day but it would soon take a dark turn. Bates had started her day with breakfast and church with her father and then headed to the library to work on a research paper. After the library closed at 9 PM, she left the library and never returned home. She was found dead, with several slash wounds, on campus at 6:30 AM the next morning with the keys in the ignition of her car.<sup>4</sup> The details surrounding her death are a mystery as there were no witnesses and evidence left at the scene has not identified a suspect. Before her murder, the Riverside community had never seen such a brutal, unexpected crime. The Riverside City College campus community was shaken by her murder and has never been the same since.

Of the aforementioned evidence—such as skin underneath Bates' fingernails, indicating a struggle—the most important identifying evidence are the fingerprints that were found on Bates' car, though they have yet to be matched to a suspect or identified. Additionally, a men's watch and a footprint of a military style boot were found at the scene but have not produced any leads. Though a link could not be made at the time, the military style boot print is similar to ones left at the scene of the Zodiac Killer's confirmed crimes, meaning some investigators use this as evidence of a connection between the Zodiac and the Bates murder.

A morbid, typed confessional letter describing the murder of Bates, but not naming her, and threatening to target more women was mailed to the Riverside Police Department and the Riverside Press-Enterprise in November of 1966, not long after Bates' murder. However, the language in the letter did not help in the investigation and police remained stumped. This would not be the last time the killer would correspond with the press and the police. In April of 1967, the killer mailed three nearly identical letters to Cheri Jo's father, the Riverside Police Department, and the Riverside Press-Enterprise, eerily declaring that "Bates had to die there will be more." While at the time these letters seemed like a twisted taunt, this behavior would become a calling card of the Zodiac

---

<sup>3</sup> "Cheri Jo Bates," IMDb (IMDb.com), accessed August 21, 2021, <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm11048739/>.

<sup>4</sup> Valerie Osier, "RIVERSIDE: Co-Ed's 1966 SLAYING Still a Mystery," Press Enterprise (Press Enterprise, February 27, 2019), <https://www.pe.com/2013/11/30/riverside-co-ed8217s-1966-slaying-still-a-mystery/>.

Killer—who at this point had yet to reveal himself—and these letters are among the chief reasons many consider the Bates murder to be the Zodiac’s work.

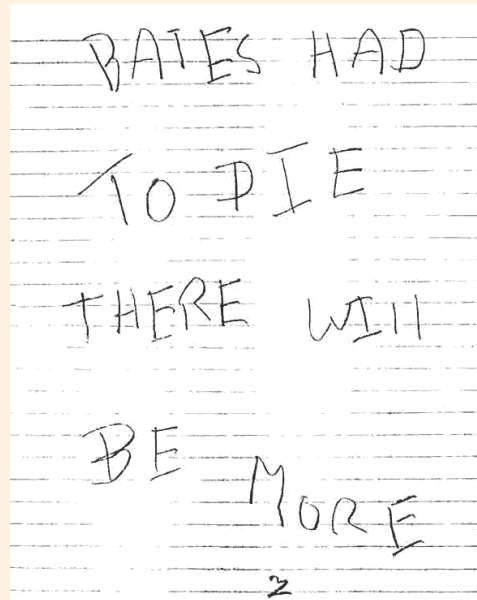


Figure 2: The letter sent to the Riverside Press-Enterprise<sup>5</sup>

Some details of her case—such as the similar language and the handwriting in a letter claiming responsibility for the crimes—have led some reporters to believe that the Zodiac could be responsible. For instance, the letters sent in April of 1967 are signed with a haphazardly written ‘z’ which some believe to stand for the Zodiac before he would begin to ascribe that name to himself in the press years later. Opinions on whether or not the Bates murder is related to the Zodiac differ between police departments, press outlets, and citizens following the case. Regardless of whether the perpetrator of the Bates murder was the Zodiac, the case remains unsolved and has not had any new developments in recent years.

Whether Bates’ killer was the Zodiac or not, several suspects have been considered in the case but none have been a match to the physical evidence—such as the fingerprints on Bates’ car—and several have alibis. In summation, the police are stumped and the case has gone cold. Since the killer escaped justice, the greater Riverside community—which to this point was not familiar with such gruesome crimes—has taken measures to reduce the fear, including putting lights up in the area where Bates’ body was found almost immediately after the crime.

---

<sup>5</sup> Tom Voigt, “Zodiac Killer Letters and Ciphers,” Zodiac killer letters and ciphers -- Codes, Cryptography, accessed August 21, 2021, <https://www.zodiackiller.com/Letters.html>.

## Horror at Lake Herman Road: Faraday and Jensen



Figure 3: David Faraday (left) and Betty Lou Jensen (right)

The Zodiac would claim his first confirmed victims on the 20th of December, 1968 on Lake Herman Road in Benicia, California. David Faraday (17-years-old) and Betty Lou Jensen (16-years-old) had been on their first date and were found by passersby shortly after 11:00 PM.<sup>6</sup> Neither of the victims would survive long enough to give a statement and no witnesses have come forward. As a result, the police were unable to identify any viable suspects or leads. Though it is hard to piece together the events without any witnesses, police assume the perpetrator pulled up in their own car and shot the two young adults before driving away shortly thereafter.

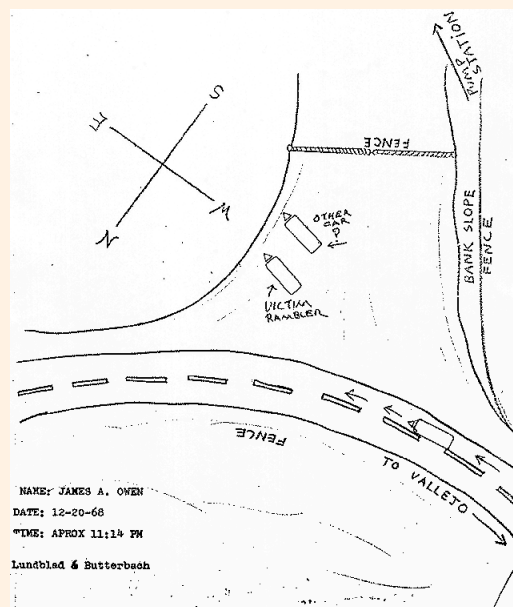


Figure 4: A police sketch of the crime scene<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup>png

<sup>7</sup> Lundblad-Butterbach. Benicia Police Dept. Case # V25564. Vallejo: 12th, Dec, 1968. Print.

The scene of the crime was at a well-known lover's lane and the station wagon where Faraday and Jensen had been attacked was pointing east. Faraday had been found outside the passenger door while Jensen was found about ten feet behind the car. Of the two victims, Jensen was determined to be dead at the scene, but Faraday was still breathing and was rushed to the hospital. However, he was declared dead on arrival at the hospital. Bullet casings from a small caliber gun had been found on the ground in the area.

Given the lack of witnesses or physical evidence, investigators were able to make few conclusions about the case. Though a motive could not be identified—officers described the attack as a senseless one—robbery was ruled out as the belongings of the victims seemed untouched. Community response to the attack was mostly panic amongst the peers of the victims and local parents.<sup>8</sup> According to locals, the area of the attack was recognized as a lover's lane not just to locals in Benicia, but to high school kids from Vallejo High School and Hogan High School as well. Previously determined to be a safe area for a retreat, the attack on Lake Herman Road ignited new fears amongst the community.

## The Zodiac Returns in Vallejo: Mageau and Ferrin

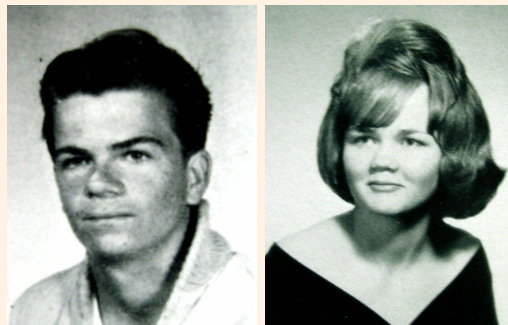


Figure 5: Michael Mageau (left)<sup>9</sup> and Darlene Ferrin (right)<sup>10</sup>

The Zodiac would strike for the second time on the 4th of July, 1969 in a parking lot at Blue Rock Springs Park in Vallejo, California. In a striking similarity to Lake Herman Road, the area was a lover's lane that local youths frequented and that the greater community was well aware of. As opposed to his first lover's lane attack, this time the Zodiac did not succeed in killing both of his victims. Of the young couple, Michael Mageau (19-years-old) and Darlene Ferrin (22-years-old), that

---

<sup>8</sup> *This Is the Zodiac Speaking*. Directed by David Prior. Dreamlogic Pictures, 2007.

<sup>9</sup> "Michael Renault Mageau," IMDb (IMDb.com), accessed August 21, 2021, <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3094464/>.

<sup>10</sup> "Darlene Elizabeth Ferrin," IMDb (IMDb.com), accessed August 21, 2021, <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm10818804/>.

was attacked, Mageau— despite being shot several times—was able to survive until help arrived and gave statements to the police that give us an understanding of how the attack played out.

By Mageau's account, the attacker pulled into the parking lot shortly after midnight where he and Darlene had been staying. He then shone a bright flashlight into Ferrin's car before firing several shots into the vehicle, hitting both Ferrin and Mageau. Then, their assailant walked away, before returning shortly after, and then fired several more shots. Finally, the attacker drove away and help arrived within the hour. Little physical evidence was left at the scene aside from the shell casings from the bullets used by the attacker.

Until this point, there was still no connection between the murders of David Faraday and Betty Lou Jensen and this attack. However, the Zodiac would claim responsibility for both attacks in an unconventional fashion shortly after the attack at Blue Rock Springs Park.

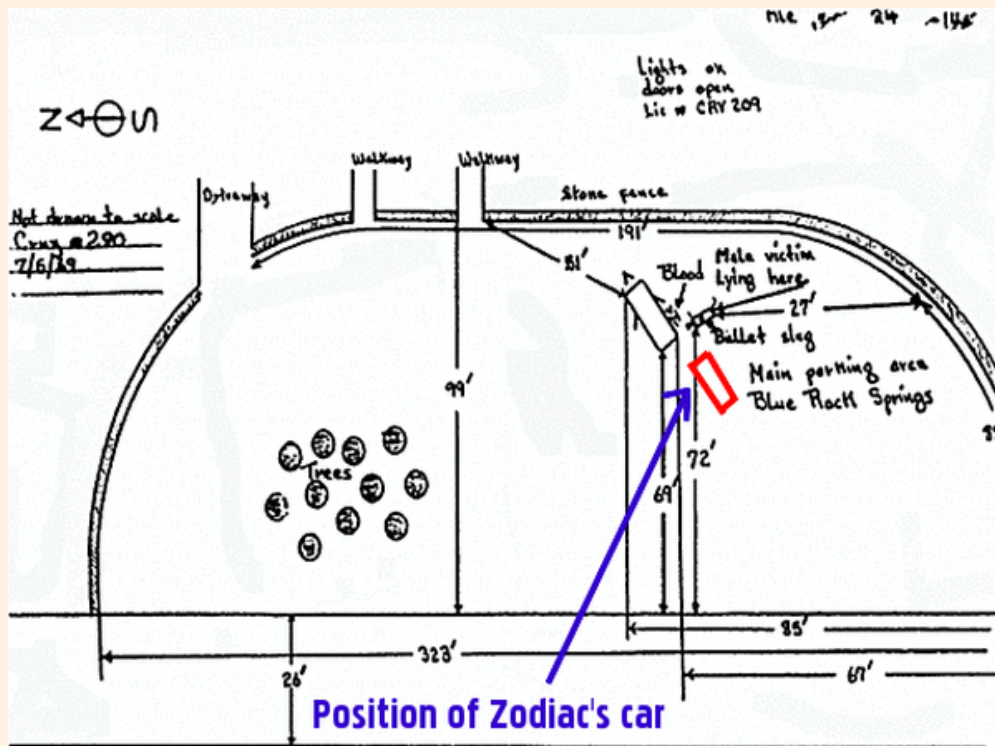


Figure 6: A sketch of the Blue Rock Springs crime scene.<sup>11</sup>

At around 12:40 AM, the Zodiac called the police and told the dispatcher the following statement: “I want to report a murder. If you will go one mile east on Columbus Parkway, you will find kids in a brown car. They were shot with a 9-millimeter Luger. I also killed those kids last year. Goodbye”.<sup>12</sup> Since the confessional call happened so shortly after the attack and contained details only someone present would have known, the police are certain the caller was the perpetrator. As this is the first

<sup>11</sup> “ZODIAC Ciphers,” ZODIAC CIPHERS, accessed August 20, 2021, <https://www.zodiacciphers.com/>.

<sup>12</sup> Butterfield, Michael. “The Zodiac KILLER: A Timeline.” History.com. A&E Television Networks, November 8, 2017. <https://www.history.com/news/the-zodiac-killer-a-timeline>.

attack where there was a survivor, the murder at Blue Rock Springs Park has been investigated thoroughly by the Vallejo PD.

Similar to the Faraday and Jensen murders, investigators are stumped when it comes to suspects and leads. Initial police reports, however, attribute a possible motive to jealousy and revenge,<sup>13</sup> as Ferrin was married and her date with Mageau could have angered someone. At this point, local investigators and people began to fear the prospect of a “crazed killer”<sup>14</sup> terrorizing the youths of the Bay Area.

## Bryan Hartnell and Cecilia Shepard



Figure 7: Bryan Hartnell (left) and Cecilia Shepard (right)<sup>15</sup>

On September 27, 1969, the Zodiac struck again in one of his most gruesome murders at Lake Berryessa in Napa County. He attacked a couple of college students—Bryan Hartnell (20-years-old) from Pacific Union College and Cecilia Shepard (22-years-old) from the University of California, Riverside—who were relaxing by the lake. According to Hartnell’s account, the young couple drove out to the lake and found a tree to lie under and enjoy nature. After lying on the ground for some time, Hartnell heard a noise and asked if Shepard saw where it came from. Shepard stated there was a man behind a tree—not far from where the two were lying—but that she could not see what he was doing. Shortly thereafter, the suspect emerged from behind the tree and Shepard told Hartnell that the man had a gun.

---

<sup>13</sup> Officer Lynch and Officer Rust. Vallejo Police Dept. Case # 243 146. Vallejo: 5th, Jul, 1969. Print.

<sup>14</sup> *This Is the Zodiac Speaking*. Directed by David Prior. Dreamlogic Pictures, 2007.

<sup>15</sup> Tom Voigt, “Definite Zodiac Victims: Cecilia Shepard and Bryan Hartnell,” *Definite Zodiac Victims Cecilia Shepard and Bryan Hartnell*, accessed August 21, 2021, <https://www.zodiackiller.com/ShepardHartnell.html>.





Figure 7: An aerial view of the scene of the attack<sup>16</sup>

Hartnell described the Zodiac as between 5'8"-6'0", heavy-set, possibly weighing 225-250 pounds, and with dark brown hair. He was wearing a black hooded mask that resembled a paper bag in shape, nearly went down to the waist, and was adorned with the Zodiac's symmetrical cross symbol. Aside from the mask, the assailant was wearing a dark blue windbreaker, pleated slacks, and sunglasses. Hartnell was unable to remember any details about the killer's shoes.



Figure 8: A sketch of the Zodiac's outfit, as described by Hartnell<sup>17</sup>

Once the couple had been approached, the killer asked for Hartnell's money and car keys. He then stated that he was an escapee from a prison in Montana where he had been held for murder and that he had killed a prison guard in his escape. In an explanation for his need for the money and car, the perpetrator expressed that he was heading for Mexico—presumably to evade the law—and was

---

<sup>16</sup> "Photos: The Zodiac Killer," Napa Valley Register, December 11, 2020, [https://napavalleyregister.com/news/local/photos-the-zodiac-killer/collection\\_d4809b67-bb21-5d35-8ea3-e1d965d5b36a.html#2](https://napavalleyregister.com/news/local/photos-the-zodiac-killer/collection_d4809b67-bb21-5d35-8ea3-e1d965d5b36a.html#2).

<sup>17</sup> Bill Black, "This Eccentric Academic Thinks the Zodiac Killer Is a Hoax," MEL Magazine, October 22, 2019, <https://melmagazine.com/en-us/story/this-eccentric-academic-thinks-the-zodiac-killer-is-a-hoax>.

broke. Hartnell then asked the Zodiac if his gun was loaded, to which the Zodiac removed the magazine from his pistol and showed the ammunition to the victims.

Under threat of violence, the two college students cooperated with the Zodiac. He told Shephard to tie Hartnell's hands behind his back with rope he had given her. Then, the hooded figure tied Shephard's hands and then tied the victims' ankles together. Without warning, the man began to stab Hartnell in the back with a knife until the 20-year-old played dead. The Zodiac then turned his attention to Shephard and stabbed her several times on both the back and stomach. After the stabbing was complete, the man walked away, leaving the wallet, car keys, and all other belongings of the two victims behind.

An hour after the attack ended, the Napa Police Department received a call from a man who proposed that he was responsible for the attack. The police were able to trace the call to a phone booth, where they collected fingerprints. The attacker also left a cryptic message on the victims' car door, which included the dates of the Faraday-Jensen and Ferrin-Mageau murder as well as a cross-circle symbol.<sup>18</sup>



Figure 9: The message written on the victims' car door<sup>19</sup>

Shephard succumbed to her injuries but Hartnell was able to survive after receiving medical attention. Similar to all of the Zodiac's prior murders, little physical evidence that could help identify the

<sup>18</sup> "Definite Zodiac Victims Cecelia Shepard and Bryan Hartnell," Definite Zodiac Victims Cecelia Shepard and Bryan Hartnell, accessed August 10, 2021, <https://zodiackiller.com/ShepardHartnell.html>.

<sup>19</sup> "Photos: The Zodiac Killer," Napa Valley Register, December 11, 2020, [https://napavalleyregister.com/news/local/photos-the-zodiac-killer/collection\\_d4809b67-bb21-5d35-8ea3-e1d965d5b36a.html#2](https://napavalleyregister.com/news/local/photos-the-zodiac-killer/collection_d4809b67-bb21-5d35-8ea3-e1d965d5b36a.html#2).

Zodiac definitively was left behind. Fingerprints lifted from the phone booth the Zodiac's call was made from, for instance, have yet to be identified. However, a footprint was found by police at the scene. After consulting twelve shoe stores, police acquired the following conclusions about the shoe: 1) it could be approximately size 10.5, 2) it could be an imported boot, 3) the sole and heel could be made out of neoprene. The incident at Lake Berryessa is also the second time one of the Zodiac's victims survived and—seen as a coincidence by some officers and a clue to others—the second man that was left less injured than the woman at the scene.

As this is the Zodiac's third attempt at double murder and the second attempt where he has publicly announced himself and taunted the authorities, the public is very invested not just in the development of the case, but in having an active role in cooperation with law enforcement. For instance, the news about the Zodiac's call to the Napa PD was broadcast on the radio, along with the details that the call was from a pay-phone and that the phone was left dangling off the hook without ending the call. Upon hearing this, a local reporter drove around until he found a payphone with a dangling phone and thus helped police identify the phone booth the call was made from. While this example shows press involvement, a number of citizens have also flooded police lines with tips and tried to help in any way possible. Now that the Zodiac is getting more bold with the execution of his attacks and confessions, the sense of urgency in the community is growing by the minute. Police departments are doing their best to balance their investigative efforts without abandoning other crimes and duties.

## Zodiac's Letters and Ciphers

The Zodiac is known for communicating with the press and law enforcement, often mocking them and including various ciphers and cryptic messages that were teased to provide information about the killer's identity. As of the start of this committee, he has sent a total of four letters, though investigators expect him to send more. All four letters have been sent to local newspapers and usually have the message "Please Rush to Editor" inscribed on the back of the envelope.

Officials are currently conflicted over how to deal with the Zodiac's correspondence. Members of the press tend to want to publish the letters so they can appease the killer and prevent him from striking out of anger—the Zodiac often threatens to attack if his letters aren't published—while local police departments worry that meeting his demands will only embolden him and scare the public. So far, the Zodiac's messages have been published almost in their entirety.

The public response has been a mix of paranoia, and even interest in helping solve the Zodiac Killer mystery. Some people took it upon themselves to decode the Zodiac ciphers and interpret his letters that were published in the newspapers. Moreover, many people started to suspect their friends or

family members of being the Zodiac killer and filed police complaints about it; a few people even gathered evidence and published books about it.

## Z408 Cipher

The cipher pictured below is the first cipher that the Zodiac sent in. It is 408 characters in total; the killer split the cipher into three equal parts and mailed it to separate locations in Vallejo and San Francisco. He threatened to go on a killing rampage if the cipher wasn't printed in the newspaper.<sup>20</sup> The police faced a dilemma in giving the Zodiac Killer a platform; they did not want to give him more attention and cause paranoia within the public, but the police did not want to risk more deaths either.

Within a week, Donald Harden and his wife Bettye cracked the cipher. The officially accepted cipher solution is contained in the below article. The text is as follows:

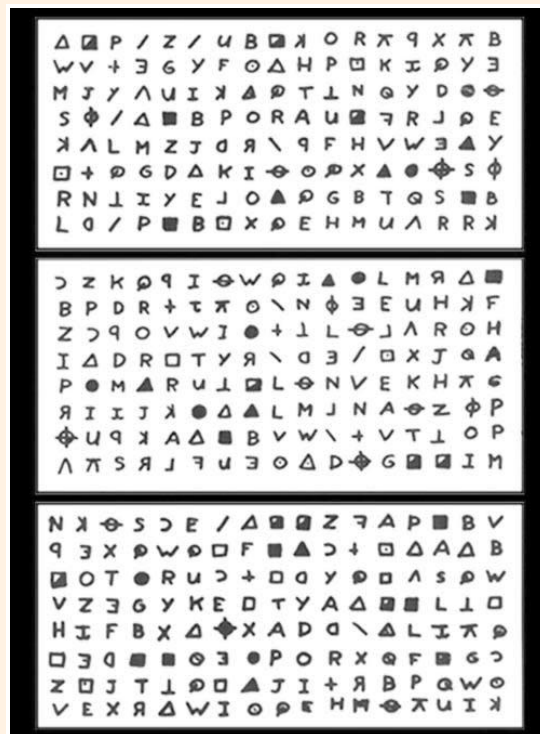


Figure 10: The three parts of the Zodiac's "Z408" cipher<sup>21</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Craig P. Bauer, "The Zodiac Ciphers: What We Know," History.com (A&E Television Networks, November 8, 2017), <https://www.history.com/news/the-zodiac-ciphers-what-we-know>.

<sup>21</sup> Craig P. Bauer, "The Zodiac Ciphers: What We Know," History.com (A&E Television Networks, November 8, 2017), <https://www.history.com/news/the-zodiac-ciphers-what-we-know>.

"I like killing people because it is so much fun - it is more fun than killing wild game in the forest because man is the most dangerous animal of all - to kill something gives me the most thrilling experience - it is even better than getting your rocks off with a girl - the best part of it is that when I die I will be reborn in paradise and all the [lone/stray people]\* I have killed will become my slaves - I will not give you my name because you will try to slow down or stop my collecting of slaves for my afterlife". -Z408 Cipher solution  
 \*exact wording/solution unclear



Figure 11: The deciphered cryptogram is printed in the newspaper<sup>22</sup>

## Major Suspects

<sup>22</sup> "Cryptogram Ciphers," ZODIAC CIPHERS, accessed August 20, 2021, <https://www.zodiacciphers.com/zodiac-news/category/cipher%20theories>.

One of the biggest issues for investigators is identifying a suspect who matches up with all the evidence. For instance, Mageau, a survivor of the Zodiac's attacks, has been unable to identify an individual from police photo lineups. Additionally, Bryan Hartnell, the only other survivor to date, encountered the Zodiac while he was wearing a mask and thus has only been able to comment on the killer's height and stature, not his face. The lack of eyewitnesses in general has prevented the identification of the Zodiac. Other than the victims themselves, no one has been close to the Zodiac or been able to look at him, making a visual identification nearly impossible. Additionally, physical evidence such as fingerprints and items left behind by the Zodiac have not been linked to any individual. Finally, handwriting analysis has proven inconclusive as no suspects have been found to be a perfect match for the letters written by the Zodiac. Though there is no current leading police suspect, there are a number of persons of greater interest.

## Arthur Leigh Allen

Arthur Leigh Allen was born on December 13, 1933 in Hawaii and grew up in Vallejo, California. According to his mother, Allen had an interest in killing animals and hurting bugs during his childhood. He worked in the U.S. Navy during his early life, but he was dishonorably discharged in 1958 for an undisclosed reason. Later on, Allen also worked as an elementary school teacher in California, but he also lost this job in 1968 because he was violently molesting school children.

There is quite a bit of circumstantial evidence that points to Allen as the Zodiac. Allen wore a Zodiac watch, and Allen's friend Don Cheney spoke about how Allen's novel ideas had a significant resemblance to the Zodiac killings. For example, Allen told Cheney how he'd enjoy killing couples, taunting the police with letters about his crimes, and signing letters with the cross-circle symbol of his watch. Additionally, Allen's favorite book is *The Most Dangerous Game*, which is about a man who hunts people, a book alluded to in the Zodiac's letters. Another incriminating detail is that Allen took his only sick day on November 1, 1966 and the Bates murder was on October 30, 1966.<sup>23</sup> Moreover, Allen knew 1969 victim Darlene Ferrin and frequently visited the restaurant that she worked at in Vallejo. However, no charges were brought against Allen since there was no direct evidence; specifically, his fingerprints and DNA did not match the killer's.<sup>24</sup> Also, Allen's handwriting has been found to not match the Zodiac's.

---

<sup>23</sup> "Arthur Leigh Allen," Zodiac Killer Wiki, accessed August 20, 2021, [https://zodiackiller.fandom.com/wiki/Arthur\\_Leigh\\_Allen](https://zodiackiller.fandom.com/wiki/Arthur_Leigh_Allen).

<sup>24</sup> Bob Calhoun, "Yesterday's Crimes: The Zodiac KILLER Dna Profile That Never Was," SF Weekly, March 21, 2018, <https://www.sfweekly.com/news/yesterdays-crimes-news/yesterdays-crimes-the-zodiac-killer-dna-profile-that-never-was/>.



Figure 12: Arthur Leigh Allen, compared to the Zodiac killer police sketch.<sup>25</sup>

## Jack Tarrance

In 2007, Dennis Kaufman claimed that his stepfather Jack Tarrance was the Zodiac killer. Tarrance died in 2006, but Kaufman submitted several pieces of evidence that incriminated Tarrance as the Zodiac: bloody knife, film rolls, handwriting samples, and a homemade hood that matched the description of the one worn by the Lake Berryessa attacker.<sup>26</sup> Tarrance also resembled the main police sketch that was being circulated at the time, with his crew cut and glasses.

---

<sup>25</sup> Bob Calhoun, "Yesterday's Crimes: The Zodiac KILLER Dna Profile That Never Was," SF Weekly, March 21, 2018, <https://www.sfweekly.com/news/yesterdays-crimes-news/yesterdays-crimes-the-zodiac-killer-dna-profile-t-hat-never-was/>.

<sup>26</sup> "Jack TARRANCE," Zodiac Killer Wiki, accessed August 20, 2021, [https://zodiackiller.fandom.com/wiki/Jack\\_Tarrance](https://zodiackiller.fandom.com/wiki/Jack_Tarrance).



Figure 13: Jack Tarrance, compared to the Zodiac killer police sketch.<sup>27</sup>

## Lawrence Kane

Lawrence Kane was born on April 29, 1924 in New York as the oldest of three brothers, though his two brothers unfortunately passed away during infancy. In his early life, Kane served seven months in the U.S. Naval Reserve before being honorably discharged after a diagnosis of psychoneurosis hysteria in 1943; his mental illness arose from his anxiety over his unstable, ill mother. In 1947, Kane was arrested on charges for fraud and conspiracy, and he was arrested again in 1949 on a grand larceny charge. But he was able to get this charge dismissed through a loophole in civil law; this was a repeating pattern for Kane, and he was known for having an amazing knowledge of civil law that prevented him from ever getting charged.<sup>28</sup>

Kane is another primary suspect for the Zodiac for several reasons. One reason is because he had a tendency to create aliases like Larry Kane and often made drastic changes to his appearance. Also, Kane probably knew victim Darlene Ferrin because her sisters recognized Kane as

---

<sup>27</sup> "Monsters among US - Zodiac Killer," Monsters Among Us - Zodiac Killer, accessed August 20, 2021, <https://zodiackillerjacktarrance.org/>.

<sup>28</sup> Galaxie500, "Lawrence 'KANE' Kaye (1924-2010)," Lawrence "Kane" Kaye (1924-2010), August 19, 2021, <https://lawrencekane.wordpress.com/>.



someone who scared Ferrin. Specifically, Pam Huckaby, who was Darlene Ferrin's sister, claimed that Kane stalked Darlene for months before her murder by the Zodiac. Moreover, another possible Zodiac victim by the name of Kathleen Johns also identified Kane as her abductor.<sup>29</sup> Other contributing evidence is that Kane had a brain injury, as well as a tendency to lose control; in 1965, his psychologist diagnosed him as "losing the ability to control self-gratification".<sup>30</sup>



Figure 14: Lawrence Kane, compared to the police Zodiac sketch.<sup>31</sup>

## Richard Gaikowski

Gaikowski is primarily a suspect for the Zodiac because of a few circumstantial pieces of evidence relating to his background. For instance, Gaikowski served in the army during the 50s and the Zodiac is believed to commonly wear military style boots at the scenes of his crimes. He lived less

---

<sup>29</sup> "Zodiac Suspect LAWRENCE KANE," Zodiac suspect LAWRENCE KANE, accessed August 11, 2021, <https://zodiackiller.com/SuspectKane.html>.

<sup>30</sup> "Larry Kane 'Eyewitness Identifications,'" LARRY KANE: "Eyewitness Identifications" |, accessed July 27, 2021, <https://zodiackillerfacts.com/zodiac-theories/the-accused-the-accusers/larry-kane-zodiac-suspect/larry-kane-eyewitness-identifications/>.

<sup>31</sup> "LARRY KANE," LARRY KANE: "Eyewitness Identifications" |, accessed August 20, 2021, <https://zodiackillerfacts.com/zodiac-theories/the-accused-the-accusers/larry-kane-zodiac-suspect/larry-kane-eyewitness-identifications/>.

than five miles from the site of the Lake Herman Road attack. Additionally, Gaikowski works at the Good Times, a counterculture newspaper that is reportedly pro-violence. Some of the fictional pieces of work ran in the newspaper include similarities to the crimes and demeanor of the Zodiac; the stories were published before the attacks at Blue Rock Springs Park and Lake Berryessa. Additionally, on the exact day that the Zodiac sent his cipher split into three parts, the Good Times ran a piece that was split into thirds. Finally, the police dispatcher who heard the Zodiac's voice in July of 1969 identified Gaikowski's voice as matching the Zodiac's. Investigators are unable to conclude if the aforementioned evidence is merely coincidence or if Gaikowski is truly the Zodiac. There are no fingerprints on file for Gaikowski and no probable cause for a warrant, so comparing his prints to those left at the crime scenes is currently impossible, making a definitive identification difficult.<sup>32</sup>



State of Affairs & Current Events, c. October 1969

---

<sup>32</sup> "Richard Gaikowski," ZODIAC CIPHERS, accessed July 27, 2021, <https://www.zodiacciphers.com/richard-gaikowski.html>.

## Local Response

Police departments across the Bay Area are working separately to investigate the crimes and identify this threatening and elusive serial killer. However, due to jurisdictional issues, information is not being shared between different departments. Additionally, there has been no formal federal investigation of the case as the FBI determined it does not fall under federal jurisdiction.<sup>33</sup> The immense pressure due to public fear has made the investigation a top priority for the departments involved. It's possible that the public will become restless if no new leads are found or if they feel that the police are not doing enough.

Information on their current top suspects can be found above. However, there is no single police favorite and theories tend to differ between departments. Further intervention from state and/or federal forces is unlikely until a formal case is presented to them.

Aside from the law enforcement response, a number of press and other citizens have taken the case into their own hands. For instance, some cartoonists have done their own independent drawings based on eyewitness accounts, some reporters have done their own investigative research—especially on the unconfirmed victim Cheri Jo Bates and on the suspects that the police are reluctant to look further into—and some have even done their own interviews of the survivors and families of the victims. Additionally, tips are constantly being given to law enforcement and thus hundreds of suspects have been considered, ruled out, or marked as a person of interest.

---

<sup>33</sup> "The Zodiac Killer," FBI (FBI, March 2, 2007), [https://archives.fbi.gov/archives/news/stories/2007/march/zodiac\\_030207](https://archives.fbi.gov/archives/news/stories/2007/march/zodiac_030207).

## Current Evidence

From the two crime scenes police have studied, there is not sufficient physical evidence to help guide suspect investigation. Though it is sparse and has yet to be used to identify a suspect, all relevant physical evidence is as follows:

- From the Bates murder:
  - Fingerprints on Bates' car
  - A men's watch
  - A military-style boot print
- From the Lake Herman Road case:
  - Shell casings
- From the Blue Rock Springs Park case:
  - Shell casings
  - Michael Mageau is a surviving eyewitness
- From the Lake Berryessa case:
  - Fingerprints from the phone booth the Zodiac used
  - The message written on Hartnell's car door
  - A military-style boot print
  - Bryan Hartnell is a surviving eyewitness

Though the Zodiac continues to send ciphers, the Hardens are the only ones to have solved any of the encrypted messages to date. Cryptologists and code breakers are still working to understand these ciphers, though top intelligence officials have yet to make any progress. So far, four letters have been received:

- A letter and cipher to the Vallejo Times-Herald sent on July 31st, 1969

- A letter and cipher to the San Francisco Examiner sent on July 31st, 1969
- A letter and cipher to the San Francisco Chronicle sent on July 31st, 1969
- A letter to the San Francisco Examiner received on August 4th, 1969

Aside from the letters mentioned above, there are also some letters involved in the Cheri Jo Bates case that could or could not be written by the Zodiac as the crime has yet to be confirmed as the work of the Zodiac:

- The letter titled “The Confession” sent to the Riverside Police Department and Riverside Press-Enterprise in November of 1966
- The three nearly identical letters sent to the Riverside Police Department, Riverside Press-Enterprise, and Cheri Jo Bates’ father in April of 1967
- A morbid poem written on a desk in the Riverside City College library, the last place Bates was seen alive

## Will the Zodiac Strike Again? Almost Certainly.

Though everyone tends to have differing opinions about the Zodiac, the one thing everyone agrees on is that he will likely strike again. While the race to discover his identity continues, local communities will have to prepare to protect themselves and keep an eye out for signs of the Zodiac. City governments are growing restless and neighborhoods are becoming paranoid. They will need leaders who can act under pressure in the event of the Zodiac striking again. Additionally, ensuring that resources are properly allocated will be an important balancing act for local officials. Though the Zodiac investigation is a top priority for the Bay Area, there are still other unsolved crimes happening every day as well as non-crime related issues that could be negatively impacted if too

much focus is placed on the Zodiac investigation. While this Task Force will not always directly address these other issues, they should be mindful that the methods they employ to address the Zodiac case do not have unintended consequences in other areas of local life.

## Purpose of the Bay Area Zodiac Task Force

With a wide variety of experience and specialties in this committee, you are a team that is well-equipped to protect your communities and, maybe, even finally solve the mystery of the Zodiac's identity. As the Zodiac is still considered active, it is up to the committee to roll with the case as it develops. As an interjurisdictional task force, your advice and recommendations will be accepted by local leaders from a variety of locales and backgrounds. Wield your influence over the Bay carefully, for your recommendations can both succeed and backfire. The fate of this case rests in your hands.

### **Questions to Consider**

1. Do you believe that the Zodiac is one of the major suspects or is he completely unidentified?
2. Who does the Zodiac seem to mainly target as his victims?
3. What actions can you take to find the Zodiac? How can you work together as a committee with everyone's different skills to identify the Zodiac?
4. How will you protect the public from the Zodiac?
5. How will you address public fear and pressure without negatively impacting the investigatory process?

# Character List

## 1. Robert Graysmith, Cartoonist, SF Chronicle

Skill, *Propaganda Artist*: Graysmith is one of the cartoonists for the San Francisco Chronicle and has created multiple comic strips for the newspaper. He specializes in spreading news and subtle—but important—messages through his cartoons. He's especially known for his cartoons that critique society's flaws.

## 2. Dave Toschi, Investigator, SFPD

Skill, *Police Know-How*: As someone with connections to and knowledge of the SFPD, Toschi can help investigate possible Zodiac suspects and has access to evidence from various murders. Toschi is especially known for his impressive investigative skills, with quite a good record of catching criminals.

## 3. Bettye Harden, Cipher Expert

Skill, *Decoding*: Harden learned how to decipher cryptograms and other puzzles from her husband, Donald. While this applies to criminal evidence, Harden can also apply her puzzle solving skills to pick locks and break into safes, among other applications.

## 4. Melvin Belli, Attorney

Skill, *Persuasion*: Belli is a famous, successful, and seasoned attorney who is known for being able to argue even the toughest of cases. With his persuasion, Belli can convince almost anyone of anything that has a gray area or an ounce of reasonable doubt. Those in government and law enforcement are much harder to persuade, but there are weak links in every chain if you can find them.

#### **5. Paul Avery, Reporter, SF Chronicle**

Skill, *Investigative Journalism*: Paul Avery is a reporter at the SF Chronicle who participates in investigative journalism. He often goes out of his way to look for clues for potential news stories and is known for his effective interview skills. Avery knows how to sleuth around to discover almost any information he desires with his investigative skills.

#### **6. Kevin Flagan, Reporter, SF Chronicle**

Skill, *Public Presence*: Kevin Flagan is a SF Chronicle reporter who especially enjoys writing about secret stories that others may not find. His work focuses on homelessness, drug addicts, and serial killers. Flagan is a well-known and credible reporter among the public, so he often has their support. Many of his articles have been breaking news, which established public trust in him.

#### **7. Michael Andraychak, Police Sergeant**

Skill, *Police Management*: Michael Andraychak is a Police Sergeant in the Bay Area who oversees cases in the vicinity. Andraychak is especially gifted in his ability to lead other police officers and operate an efficient police department. He directs several police officers and has a very loyal police force to him at his local department.

#### **8. Gianrico Pierucci, Homicide Inspector**

Skill, *Crime Specialist*: Gianrico Pierucci is the main police officer who is investigating the Zodiac case. As a homicide inspector, Pierucci is quite the investigator and has already discovered several Zodiac suspects. He is well known for his quick thinking, self-defense skills, and lie detecting abilities among criminals.



### **9. Sam Blake, Mathematician and Cryptologist**

Skill, *Problem-Solving*: Sam Blake is a well-versed mathematician, who especially enjoys applying math to problem solving and breaking codes. He specializes in decoding patterns and solving complex mathematical problems. He is also a great debater, and can use logic to argue his way out of any situation.

### **10. Jarl Van, Software Engineer**

Skill, *Hacking and Decoding*: Jarl Van is a software engineer who specializes in hacking through complex servers and creating protective malware software. He also applies his software engineering and computer science knowledge towards decoding puzzles.

### **11. Dr. Cydne Holt, Forensics Researcher**

Skill, *Forensics*: Dr. Cydne Holt is well-trained in identifying forensics clues at the crime scenes and using these clues to identify criminals. More recently, the doctor has been able to investigate DNA fingerprints, bloodwork, cloth fibers, and other marks left behind by criminals.

### **12. Alexandra "Lexi" Quinn, Psychologist**

Skill, *Profiling*: Lexi Quinn is a skilled psychologist who specializes in criminal profiling. She can provide insights into the possible motivations and behaviors of the Zodiac Killer, helping the investigative team understand the psyche behind the crimes.

### **13. Elena Rodriguez, Archivist, SF Chronicle**

Skill, *Research*: Elena Rodriguez is an archivist at the San Francisco Chronicle, adept at digging through historical records and newspaper archives. She can uncover information that may be crucial to understanding the Zodiac Killer's patterns and past activities.

#### **14. Victor Stone, Tech Expert**

Skill, *Digital Surveillance*: Victor Stone is a tech expert with a knack for digital surveillance. He can help trace online activities and communications related to the Zodiac case, utilizing his skills in cybersecurity and data analysis.

#### **15. Isabella "Izzy" Martinez, Linguistics Specialist**

Skill, *Language Analysis*: Izzy Martinez is a linguistics expert with a focus on language analysis. She can assist in deciphering the Zodiac's cryptic messages, identifying linguistic patterns, and providing valuable linguistic insights that could aid in the investigation.

#### **16. Winston Harper, Crime Scene Photographer**

Skill, *Photography*: Winston Harper is a skilled crime scene photographer who captures detailed and high-quality images of crime scenes. His photos become crucial evidence for forensic analysis and can provide a visual timeline of the Zodiac Killer's activities.

#### **17. Fiona O'Reilly, Librarian, San Francisco Public Library**

Skill, *Historical Records*: Fiona O'Reilly, a librarian at the San Francisco Public Library, is an expert in historical records and rare books. She can uncover obscure information about symbols, rituals, or historical events that may be relevant to the Zodiac case.

## **18. Quentin Chang, Medical Examiner**

*Skill, Autopsies:* Quentin Chang is a highly skilled medical examiner who conducts thorough autopsies on the victims. His detailed examinations provide critical information about the modus operandi of the Zodiac Killer, helping the investigative team understand the nature of the crimes.