

# ZODIAC, MONSTER OF FLORENCE

By Francesco Amicone

AUGUST 14, 2023 BY FRANCESCO AMICONE

## Zodiac – Monster of Florence. A journalistic investigation.



1/3 Zodiac - Mostro di Firenze

Ostello Volante



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[Psychiatric assessment on Amicone, excerpts – 2024 \(Italian\)](#)

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The following is an account of the journalistic investigation that led me to connect the

**Monster of Florence** and **Zodiac**

cases in 2017. From meetings with **Joe Bevilacqua** (  2022) to subsequent developments, up until today.

It is a **documented reconstruction of the facts** , some of which I experienced firsthand, which I supplement with the results of years of investigative journalism.

Much of the cited material can be found here or via links.

**VIDEO ON JOURNALISTIC INVESTIGATION**

**VIDEOS ON THE JOURNALISTIC INVESTIGATION (ENGLISH)**

**SUMMARY OF THE STORY**

**PRESS REVIEW - ZODIAC AND MONSTER (1943-2021)**

**WEBSITES THAT EXPLORE THE ZODIAC AND MONSTER CASES**

**ZODIAC LETTERS**



*Bevilacqua's photo from the 1990s was published in the book celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division. Thanks to Anonimo Veneziano.*

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## INTRODUCTION

The last stage cited dates back to 2024 and refers to the Italian and American investigation that arose from my transmission of Bevilacqua's genetic profile to the American authorities in charge of the Zodiac case. The investigative activity was reportedly initiated by the **San Francisco and Vallejo police departments, and the Napa County Sheriff's Office** .

In November 2023, with the help of researcher **Daniele Trinchieri** , I forwarded Bevilacqua's DNA profile to the law enforcement agencies investigating the American serial killer, requesting a verification.

My then-lawyer, **Jacopo Pepi** , had received authorization for defense investigations from Siena's deputy prosecutor **Nicola Marini** .

Assisted by the local judicial police department, Marini had obtained Bevilacqua's DNA with his consent in 2020 as part of the investigation into the 1997 murder of taxi driver Alessandra Vanni.

**Before 2023, Bevilacqua's DNA had never been compared** to the profiles extracted from the Zodiac case samples or those in the FBI database. Even **a partial match and other evidence could have determined the outcome of my trial** for alleged defamation of Bevilacqua, which has been underway by the Florence Prosecutor's Office since 2018.

**The Prosecutor's Office decided not to inform Judge Serafina Cannatà of the possible evidence in my favor** acquired in 2024, and on December 5th, **I was convicted** of defamation. The two-year prison sentence requested by the Prosecutor's Office was reduced by the judge to a fine and compensation for three of Bevilacqua's relatives.

**Unable to appeal a sentence on the merits and without receiving a response from the Prosecutor's Office** to my requests to share evidence, **I renounced the appeal to the Supreme Court** , and the conviction became final in 2025.

**I will request a review of the trial for an acquittal on the merits.**



*The American Cemetery in Florence, where Bevilacqua worked between July 1974 and December 1988. Credit: Meriadoc Brandibuck*

Since the beginning of my investigation (2017-2026), I have gathered a wealth of **information useful to law enforcement** . I did not immediately disclose it in its entirety

so as not to benefit Bevilacqua, who died four and a half years after his confession was reported.

The results of my journalistic research have been **attached to two complaints and related additions** . I have **also forwarded them to the US authorities** , and they are included in **the documents of my defamation trial** .

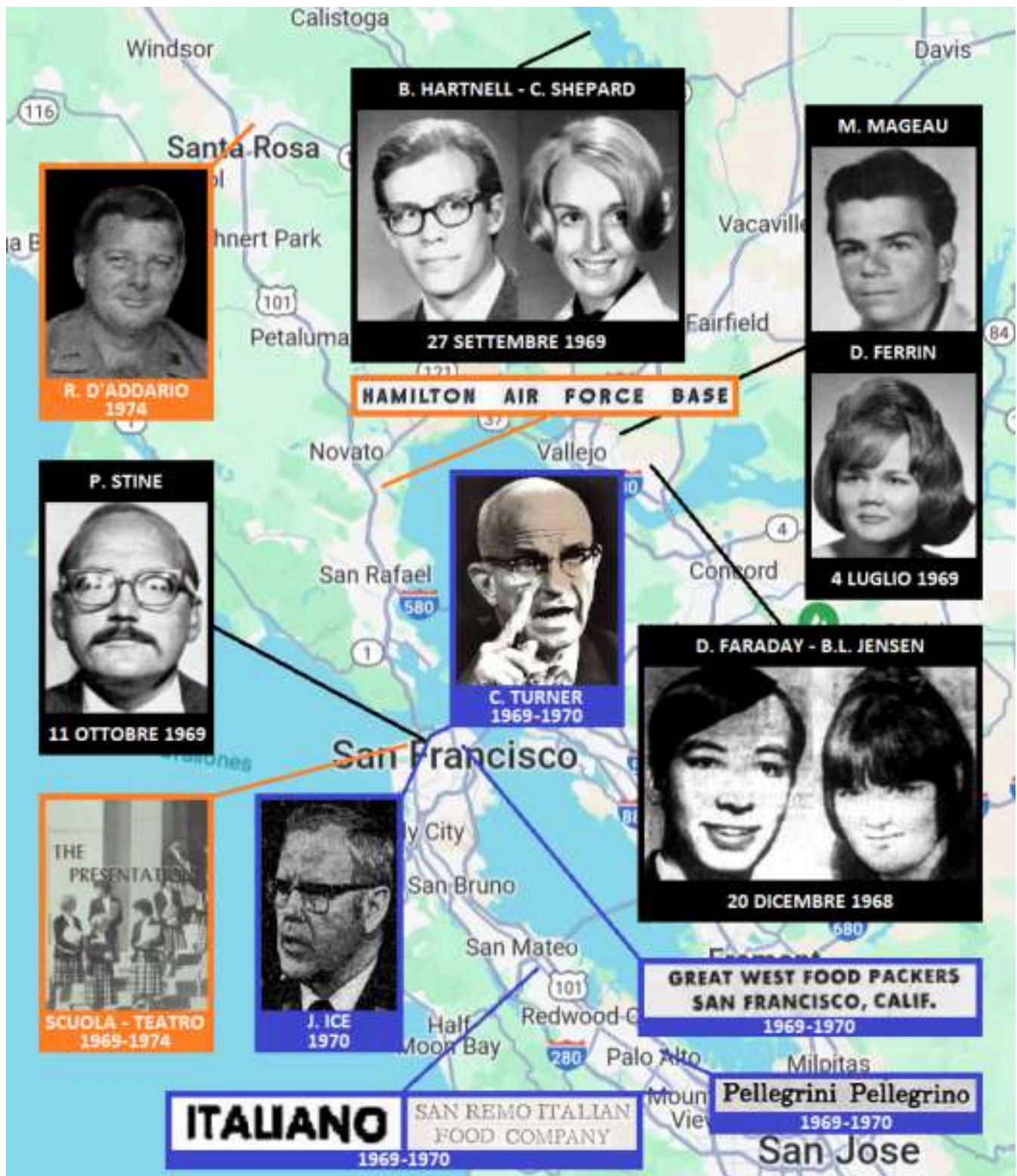


I shared documents and information with the Florence Prosecutor's Office especially **from 2018 to 2022, before my indictment and the death of the 87-year-old Italian-American at the end of that year** .

On March 1, 2022, based on the material I had gathered, my lawyers **Simona Buccheri and Patrizia Gottini** asked **Luca Turco** , Deputy Prosecutor of Florence, **to conduct an in-depth investigation into Bevilacqua** by contacting the American authorities in charge of the Zodiac investigation.

Unfortunately, it was to no avail.

**The minutes certifying the filing of my documentation and the investigations of the Carabinieri** in the investigation into Bevilacqua for the Monster murders, archived in 2021 and resulting from my complaint, **as well as the reports to the US law enforcement agencies** , are available to the reader [on this page](#) .



*Connections between Bevilacqua and the San Francisco area. Details in chapters 5-10.*

# 1. ZODIAC AND THE MONSTER OF FLORENCE

- **January 2017**

A strange dream makes me interested in the Monster of Florence case.

A few weeks pass and I propose a report on the serial killer to **Alessandro Giuli** , the new editor of the weekly **Tempi** founded by my father **Luigi** .

Like many who have taken an interest in the case in recent years, I wonder if there is an alternative truth to the judicial one.

In 2000, the accusations against the farmer **Pietro Pacciani** and the final conviction of the so-called "drinking buddies," **Mario Vanni** and **Giancarlo Lotti** , for some of the murders attributed to the "couple maniac," have in fact produced a **partial judicial truth** .



*Pietro Pacciani. According to the final verdicts in the trial of the "buddys," the main perpetrator of the crimes*

Many experts on the case, including magistrates, have **doubts** about the outcome of those trials. Among the skeptical members of the judiciary are **Francesco Ferri** , president of the Assize Court, who acquitted Pacciani on appeal in 1996; **Piero Tony** , deputy prosecutor general, and **Daniele Propato** , prosecutor general, who represented the prosecution in the appeal, **requesting the acquittal** of the "cronies" **for the Monster murders** .

On the other side, the public prosecutor **Piero Luigi Vigna** and the prosecutor **Paolo Canessa** , both convinced that they are on the right path.



*Giancarlo Lotti, first witness, then accused*

## **Zodiac**

After initial investigations, I suspect that **behind the Monster** , whose main activity in the province of Florence dates back to the 1980s, may be hidden **“Zodiac”** , an American serial killer made famous by the letters and **coded messages** he sent to the press. Zodiac struck in the San Francisco area in the late 1960s. Like the Monster, he attacked secluded **couples seeking intimacy** in isolated areas, dirt roads and country lay-bys, the so-called **lovers' lanes** .

In more than half a century, law enforcement agencies in **San Francisco, Vallejo , Solano** and **Napa** counties have investigated dozens of people but have never arrived at the name of a solid and shared suspect (the best known is **Arthur Leigh Allen** ), much less **led to a trial** , unlike in the Monster case.

Despite the quantity of letters sent to the press, neither calligraphy expert **Sherwood Morrill** nor his successors have managed to identify a subject with a handwriting entirely compatible with that of the Zodiac.



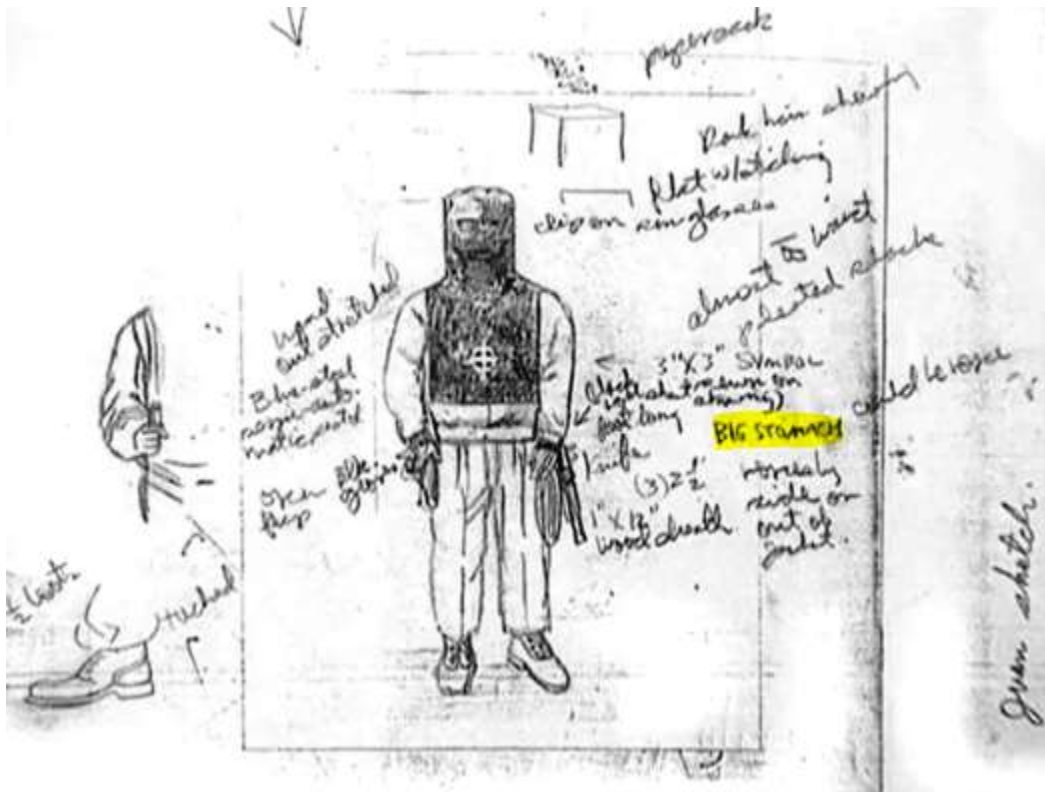
*On the left, the identikit of a suspicious man is used as an "icon" of the Monster. Only the face of Zodiac, on the right, is definitely attributable to the mass murderer.*

The Monster and the Zodiac are **chronologically compatible** .

Their activity, as detected by law enforcement, takes place in two distinct periods.

- **1968 - 1974** → **Zodiac** (other suspicious murders between '62 and '70);
- **1974 - 1985** → **Monster** (connected to evidence of a '68 crime, other suspicious murders starting in '72).

There are four confirmed Zodiac attacks, distributed in San Francisco and north of the Bay. One dates back to **December 20, 1968**. This is the only one for which no immediate claim of responsibility was made. The other three occurred between **July and October 1969** .



Identikit of the Zodiac from the Lake Berryessa attack on September 27, 1969. The words "big stomach" are prominently displayed in capital letters.

**The serial killer** at the time was a young man aged **between 25 and 45** , according to eyewitness accounts. He was **stocky** and had a **large face** , the first surviving victim, **Michael Mageau** , told Vallejo police officer Ed Rust. He had a **stocky** physique and a **prominent stomach** , **Bryan Hartnell** stated in his interview with **John Robertson** (Napa County Sheriff's Department), as highlighted in the draft of his identikit (previous image). The testimonies of **three teenagers** in San Francisco, summarized in a report by Officer Armand Pelissetti (San Francisco Police Department), confirm his height and build, but once again **his hair color changed** , which was now "**reddish brown** ," while in Vallejo it was "**almost blonde**" and at Lake Berryessa "**dark brown** ." Perhaps he used some kind of dye. In an interview with KPIX, Hartnell claimed that Zodiac was of medium-short height. According to **Vallejo** and **San Francisco** detectives (next image) , **he is 5' 8" tall** . Napa County Sheriff's officers raise his height by a few inches.

# WANTED

SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT

NO. 90-69

WANTED FOR MURDER

OCTOBER 18, 1969



ORIGINAL DRAWING



AMENDED DRAWING

Supplementing our Bulletin 87-69 of October 13, 1969. Additional information has developed the above amended drawing of murder suspect known as "ZODIAC".

WMA, 35-45 Years, approximately 5'8", Heavy Build, Short Brown Hair, possibly with Red Tint, Wears Glasses. Armed with 9 MM Automatic.

Available for comparison: Slugs, Casings, Latents, Handwriting.

ANY INFORMATION:

Inspectors Armstrong & Tochi  
Homicide Detail  
CASE NO. 696314

THOMAS J. CAHILL  
CHIEF OF POLICE

*Zodiac's identikit from October 18, 1969. He is 5' 8" tall. His hair is described as brown with a probable "red" tinge. The serial killer claims to have disguised himself. I'll go into more detail in [Chapter 13](#).*

The serial killer sent around twenty letters, mostly to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, ending in 1974.

His murders **could be many more** than those confirmed. He himself gradually provides much higher counts in his messages, although the police believe he exaggerates to give himself prominence. In his last letter, he **claims 37**.

There are connections or similarities with at least three unattributed **murders (as of 2023), two located in Southern California (chapters "Riverside" and "Water Theory" ), and one on Lake Tahoe (chapter "Parad-ice" ). In one case (Riverside), he confirms his responsibility. In another (Lake Tahoe), he may allude to his responsibility in a postcard. In both cases, the evidence dates back to two messages from March 1971, the last before a long three-year hiatus and the "farewell" letter of 1974.**



The Zodiac activity observed can be divided as follows.

- **1968**
  - Double homicide of **Betty Lou Jensen and David Faraday** , Lake Herman Road, Benicia
- **1969**
  - Assault of **Darlene Ferrin and Michael Mageau** (survivor), Blue Rocks Spring Park, Vallejo
  - Assault of **Cecilia Shepard and Bryan Hartnell** (survivor), Lake Berryessa
  - Murder of **Paul Stine** , Washington and Cherry Streets, San Francisco
  - Various letters from July
- **1970**
  - Letters between April and October
- **1971**
  - Two letters in March
- **1972 – 1973**
  - No activity found
- **1974**
  - Only and last letter in January

On July 31, 1969, the Zodiac's first encrypted message was delivered, divided into three parts and enclosed in three letters, to three San Francisco Bay Area newspapers: the *Vallejo Times-Herald* , the *San Francisco Examiner* , and the *Chronicle* , which was the primary recipient of his correspondence.

The text, deciphered by **Bettye and Donald Harden**, read as follows:

“ **I like killing people** because it's a lot of fun it's more fun than killing game in the forest because **man is the most dangerous animal** of all / killing gives me the most exciting experience / it's even better than fucking a girl / the best part is that when I die I will be reborn in **heaven** and all the ones I killed (sic) will become my **slaves** / I won't give you my name because you would try to slow down or stop my collection of slaves for the afterlife... **Ebeorietemethpiti** .”

I deciphered the final anagram using the keyword “paradise.”

Between 1971 and 1974, Zodiac remained silent. His **last attributed message** was dated January 29, 1974. He

no longer calls himself “Zodiac” but conceals his identity in a riddle, a passage about a drowning from Gilbert and Sullivan’s “The Mikado” (chapter “Firma” ).



*Lake Berryessa. One of the locations of Zodiac attacks.*

Two anonymous letters sent in the following months are considered potentially his in two FBI analyses from 1974.

- February 3, the author calls himself “a friend” ;
- May 8, the anonymous person signs himself “a citizen .”

In analyzing the second letter, the FBI cites a third letter sent in July signed **“red phantom,”** which, according to Bureau experts, **is likely not from Zodiac .**

In the late 1970's the FBI at their training facility at Quantico, Virginia, set up a special unit identified as VICAP which stands for Violent Criminal Apprehension Program. This unit was made up of psychiatrists, psychologists, and FBI Agents whose primary function was to make a profile on violent serial killers and sexual violators. The persons in this unit interviewed convicted mass murderers and sexual violators to determine what motivated them. They were able to develop profiles of serial killers which have had uncanny results in identifying the traits of responsible in serial murder cases.

On February 7, 1991, retired Detective ██████████ contacted ██████████ psychologist, VICAP Unit, Quantico, Virginia. ██████████ was familiar with the Zodiac case. He was informed of the investigation by Detective ██████████ in 1971, and the more recent information obtained from ██████████ in 1991. ██████████ indicated that his experience would show that the Zodiac killer probably gained as much pleasure from taunting the police regarding his killings and reliving the killings as he did of the killing itself. ██████████

██████████ indicated that the killings would probably still be continuing, and the only reason he could think of that they were not was that either the responsible had moved from the area, died, or that the police had come very close to apprehending him. ██████████ indicated that his studies show that persons who commit these types of crimes many times keep souvenirs or trophies from these criminal acts. These persons will take some type of article from their victims such as, identification, pieces of clothing, etc., so they can keep these in a hidden place and relive the incident many times over. ██████████ also indicated that the persons responsible for these types of crimes will keep journals and newspaper clippings of the crimes themselves. ██████████ indicated that persons who keep these souvenirs many times have ingenious hiding places within their residence such as, false walls, hidden safes, etc. ██████████ also indicated that many times these type of individuals will have a storage place at another location where they keep their trophies and souvenirs.

*1991. Zodiac Profile of FBI Agent Larry Ankrom - Vallejo Police Department*

In 1991, retired Vallejo detective **George Bawart** ( source ) contacted psychiatrist **Larry Ankrom** of the FBI's renowned behavioral unit , who would also be consulted on the Monster case (chapter "The Search Begins" ).

Ankrom, paraphrased from a police report, states that Zodiac:

"...he probably gets as much pleasure from **ridiculing the police** about his murders as he does from killing and reliving the murders."

And he adds that the murders "**are continuing** ." The only reasons he can imagine why this might not be the case are that:

"...he **moved away from the area** , or he died, or the police came very close to catching him."

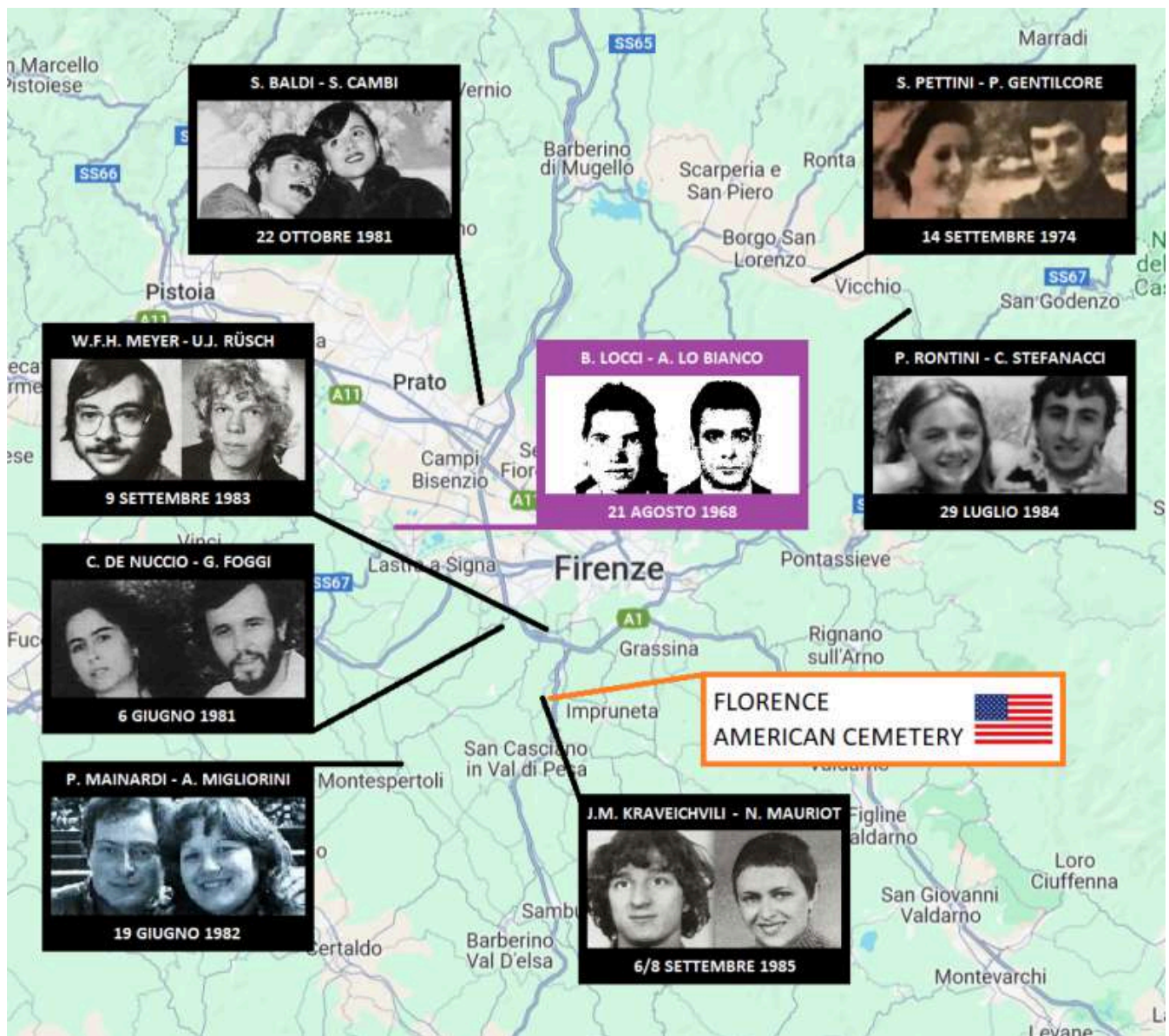
# ***What Is The Zodiac Killer Doing Now?***

## **Where Is Zodiac?**

*"What is Zodiac doing now?" "Where is Zodiac?" asks the Napa Register nearly two years after his disappearance.*

### **Monster of Florence**

The Monster crimes are **seven double homicides** against secluded couples in the **province of Florence** , committed with the **same .22 caliber firearm** , probably a Beretta pistol.



*Click to enlarge. Map of the "Monster Crimes." The double homicide in Signa, whose attribution is uncertain, is highlighted in purple.*

The Monster's confirmed criminal activity follows.

- **1974**
  - Murders of **Stefania Pettini and Pasquale Gentilcore** , Fontanine di Rabatta
- **1975 – 1980**
  - No activity found
- **1981**
  - Murders of **Carmela De Nuccio and Giovanni Foggi** , Mosciano
  - Murders of **Susanna Cambi and Stefano Baldi** , Calenzano
- **1982**
  - Murders of **Antonella Migliorini and Paolo Mainardi** , Baccaiano

- **1983**

- Murders of **Wilhelm Friedrich Horst Meyer and Uwe Jens Rüsç** , Via dei Giogoli, Florence

- **1984**

- Murders of **Pia Rontini and Claudio Stefanacci** , Vicchio

- **1985**

- Murders of **Nadine Mauriot and Jean-Michel Kraveichvili** , Via Scopeti, San Casciano
  - Message to **Silvia Della Monica** from San Piero a Sieve after the last crime

### **The date of the first crime in '81 hides an anagram**

From **1974 to 1981** , the Monster remained mysteriously **inactive** . He returned to kill a couple **on June 6, 1981**. The murder is similar to the previous one in 1974 in that the **same gun** was used and the **disfigurements** on the female victim's body.

**In the first crime** in 1974, the Monster inflicted nearly **a hundred cuts** on the murdered girl's skin. In the 1980s, when possible, **he removed her pubic area** ; in the last two cases, he also removed her **left breast** .

It's possible that the mutilations were **inspired by the film "Maniac"** ( [more on this here](#) ).

The date of the Monster's return in 1981, a few months before the ["Zodiac" sports center](#) opened its doors in Tavarnuzze, does not appear to have been chosen by chance. It is, in fact, **an anagram of the** Florentine license plate number of the victims' car, **"986116"** (discovered in 2025 by **Adriano Giannini** , a scholar of the Monster case).

In mathematical terms, considering all six-digit combinations from 0 to 9, there is only **a 1 in 5,556** (0.018%) chance **of randomly drawing 986,116 or a combination containing the same numbers in a different order** .

Adapting this procedure to physical reality has its limits, but the **mathematical result** is so **clear that it makes the hypothesis that the serial killer chose to attack the couple on June 6, 1981, precisely because it was an anagram of** their car's license plate, **more reasonable** than the idea of mere coincidence.



*The date of the crime, June 6, 1981, is an anagram of Giovanni Foggi's license plate number in Florence, "986116."  
It can reasonably be ruled out as a coincidence.*

### **The '68 connection**

In the summer of 1982, after the Monster's fourth known attack, the murders of a pair of lovers, **Barbara Locci** and **Antonio Lo Bianco** , were linked to the series of murders on a street in Signa on the night of **August 22** , 1968. Her young son, **Natale Mele** , lying in the back seat of the car that had been hit by bullets from a .22 caliber pistol along with the couple, survived the ambush **unharméd** . After the attack, "Natalino" walked away from the crime scene to a nearby house.

**MISTERIOSO DELITTO SU UN'AUTO IN CAMPAGNA**

# TRUCIDATI UN UOMO E UNA DONNA CON SEI RIVOLTELLATE A SIGNA

*I colpi sparati a bruciapelo mentre il figlioletto di lei dormiva sul sedile posteriore della vettura - Drammatico risveglio del bimbo nella notte: ha percorso due chilometri per chiedere aiuto - Sei persone, fra le quali il marito, sottoposte a interrogatorio e alla prova della paraffina*

*August 23, 1968. La Nazione on the Locci-Lo Bianco crime*

The murder took place in an **environment of Sardinian** emigrants . Locci had many lovers, and **the hypothesis** that **jealousy was the motive** is well established .

The connection, which gave rise to the so-called "**Sardinian trail** ," arose from the discovery of **five shell casings and five bullets** fired from the **serial killer's** gun in one of the folders containing the file of the confessed **Stefano Mele** , Barbara Locci's husband. The Mele trial concluded with a second appeal in Perugia in 1973.

Il G.I. dell'epoca, avvertito, disponeva il recupero del fascicolo processuale. Intorno al 20 di luglio del 1982 esso si trovava sul suo tavolo. **Allegati al fascicolo erano, per fortuita e inspiegabile combinazione, i bossoli e i proiettili** rinvenuti dopo il duplice omicidio.

*December 13, 1989. Motivation for the Rotella ruling, excerpt from Chapter IV. The document can be found at [this link](#).*

The discovery of the shell casings and bullets in Signa isn't **so unusual** . A legal expert in 2018 will tell me that **every now and then**, envelopes containing small pieces of evidence, including bullets and shell casings, are found in **old criminal files** in Italian courts.

Specifically in the Mostro case, **the importance** of the discovery, which could provide direction to the investigation by linking a series of murders to a previous one, necessitates thorough investigations.

The fact that the evidence is among the trial papers and **not in the evidence office** , where it should have been kept, means that for an indeterminate period of time between 1968 and 1982, it was **at the mercy of anyone** who consulted the file, including the parties and, if desired, even the defendant. The doubt about its provenance is legitimate and cannot be taken **lightly** .

Are these really the shell casings and bullets from 1968? Or did someone replace them with evidence from the Monster?

The **ballistics report** on the double homicide in Signa **does not contain microscopic photographs** that would provide certainty about the identity of the findings, but rather **generic descriptions** . **A comparison** with the cartridge cases and bullets found in the case file would be necessary **to verify or exclude** the hypothesis of a cover-up .

This check appears to be carried out **only on an "informal" level** . No opinion will be drawn up by a ballistics consultant on this matter ( **until 2023** ).

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2 interchangeable front sights for fast shooting accuracy. One 5/64" approx. one 3/32" approx. Comfortable wrap-around grips.

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COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, MARCH



## Winchester Cartridges

.22 cal. long rifle super speed ammo, rim-fire. Special low price!

**BOX**  
**50 59<sup>c</sup>**

Two advertisements in local US newspapers from the 1970s demonstrate how easily available the probable weapon and ammunition used by the Monster were.

### The discovery of the evidence

How investigators came to hypothesize the connection in the summer of 1982 will never be fully clarified .

The official version is that a Carabinieri marshal stationed in Florence, **Francesco Fiori** , remembered the crime and informed his colleagues. Some of them worked on the case, such as Colonel **Olinto Dell'Amico** .

Conversely, a request from investigating judge **Vincenzo Tricomi** dated October 29, 1982, attributes the connection to an anonymous author.

The Carabinieri deny this.

In 2002, at the request of the journalist *Mario Spezi* (author with **Douglas Preston** of the book "Sweet Hills of Blood"), Tricomi added some details to his version, stating that Fiori had brought to his attention an anonymous note, or rather a newspaper clipping with a caption.

Spezi and Preston write:

"It could also be that that marshal remembered the crime of '68, but the truth is that **we received specific information .**"

"Information? And from whom? What kind of information?" I pressed him, smelling sensational news.

"**A note arrived,**" Tricomi continued, not at all agitated, "an anonymous note, written in capital letters. **In fact, the writing was on an old newspaper clipping** that talked about the murder of '68. It read: Why don't you go and rewatch the Perugia trial against Stefano Mele?"

NALE CIVILE E PENALE  
UFFICIO ITALIANO

15.01.02

In ordine all'epistola di cui  
mi si chiede, ~~ho~~ permesso il  
notevole lasso di tempo stabilito e  
incerto ogni titolo, fatto dire  
di ricordare che presumibilmente  
nell'incirca 1982 venne il ~~trascritto~~  
Fice con un ritaglio di giornale  
di cui il fatto come e con quale modello  
non venuto in possesso; ~~con~~ ~~la~~ ~~ri~~ ~~fer~~ ~~re~~ ~~ella~~ ~~con~~ ~~fer~~ ~~ma~~ ~~le~~  
che riferire della conferenza tale  
condanne in sede definitiva civile  
e ~~Torino~~ - ~~di~~ ~~chi~~ ~~ave~~ ~~va~~  
se era possibile acquisire il ~~giornale~~  
e lo riferire nel ~~giornale~~ ~~giornale~~.

On the left, Tricomi's request. On the right, a partial confirmation of the version given by the judge to Spezi (the anonymous source is not cited, only the newspaper clipping).

Tricomi's version will be strengthened by a discovery made by researcher **De Gothia** .

On **July 20, 1982** , shortly before the finds were officially discovered, an appeal was made to *La Nazione* by none other than **the Carabinieri investigative unit** investigating the Monster, calling on an anonymous person who signed himself "**A Friendly Citizen**" to assist the investigators. How this was done is not explained, but it must have been considered important by those conducting the investigation.

The **chronological coincidence** between the publication of the appeal to the *Citizen Friend* and the search for the Mele file is a given. The conclusion drawn from this is obvious.

The Citizen Friend is the anonymous person who directed the Carabinieri to Signa.

## *Un appello dei carabinieri per il mostro*

Un appello è rivolto dal comando del nucleo investigativo dei carabinieri di Borgo Ognissanti a una persona che ha dato più volte un contributo anonimo all'indagine sui delitti del maniaco, il cosiddetto «mostro», perché si rimetta in contatto con loro.

L'uomo, che nella sua ultima lettera si è firmato «Un cittadino amico» e che ha scritto tre volte affermando di non rivelare la sua identità per non essere preso per mitomane, dovrebbe fornire di nuovo la sua collaborazione, magari anche solo telefonando al nucleo investigativo dei carabinieri.

*July 20, 1982, The Nation*

**"A friend"** and **"a citizen"** are the signatures Zodiac may have used in the letters dated **February 3** and **May 8, 1974**, before he disappeared from San Francisco.

**At that time**, the Mele file was being sent to Florence, a year after the final sentence.

Sirs- I would like to  
express ~~my~~ ~~concerns~~  
consternation concerning  
your poor taste & lack of  
sympathy for the public, as  
evidenced by your running  
of the ads for the movie  
"Badlands," featuring the  
blurb - "In 1459 most people  
were killing time. Kit & Holly  
were killing people." In  
light of recent events, this  
kind of murder-glorification  
can only be deplorable at  
best (not that glorification of  
violence was ever justifiable)  
why don't you show some  
concern for public sensibilities  
& cut the ad?  
  
A citizen

Editor,  
You know f-  
SLAY (Symbi  
Army) sp  
Norse w  
"kill"  
a friend

A citizen, a friend. Zodiac's possible last names. According to FBI expert Larry Ankrom, Zodiac took pleasure in both killing and mocking those investigating him.

### Did the gun change hands?

The investigation stemming from the connection with Signa was shelved in 1989 with the acquittal of Mele's suspected accomplices, his brother **Giovanni**, **Piero Mucciarini**, and the brothers **Francesco** and **Salvatore Vinci**.

**The Monster exonerated them all** with his crimes, continuing to strike as they were arrested or placed under surveillance. Judge **Francesco Ferri** recalled this in his appeal ruling in the Pacciani trial, which excluded the 1968 murder from the list of the Monster's crimes.

The mystery of the gun, however, remains. In his acquittal, investigating judge **Mario Rotella** hypothesized that **the weapon was transferred** from the perpetrator(s) of the 1968 murder to the Monster.

Could this be the case?

Whatever the answer, the Mele trial has never been reviewed and **no definitive** sentence to date **will attribute the '68 crime to the serial killer** .

It should be noted that the solution to what was defined as "**a mind-blowing enigma**" in **an interview with Enzo Biagi** by the deputy prosecutor **Francesco Fleury** , who was in charge of the file on the Monster in the 1980s together with his colleagues **Piero Luigi Vigna** and **Paolo Canessa** , could be another.



*The Monster's possible weapon, a Beretta 70 series, may have been purchased abroad.*

### **Breaking the chain of custody**

L'ipotetico passaggio dell'arma di Signa **impedisce di scartare** a priori indagati con un **alibi per il caso del '68**. Rimangono comunque **forti perplessità** su **come** questo trasferimento possa essere avvenuto.

Dall'altra parte, i possibili **indagati del '68** sono stati **scagionati dal Mostro**, sebbene

qualcuno sospetti che **Salvatore Vinci** possa avere **eluso la sorveglianza** dei Carabinieri nell' '85, anche se appare poco credibile.

Per districare questo groviglio, bisogna trovare il nodo principale.

### **Dove può nascondersi l'errore?**

Nelle fondamenta stesse del collegamento. Come si è visto, **è stato dato per scontato**, dopo un esame "informale" e non approfondito, che bossoli e proiettili del Mostro trovati nel fascicolo Mele provenissero realmente dalla scena del crimine del '68.

Le domande e risposte che seguono mettono in luce la gravità del problema.

1. La perizia balistica del '68 contiene foto al microscopio o altre informazioni che possano escludere con certezza una sostituzione dei reperti? **No.**
2. Chi svolge le indagini sul Mostro sa **quando** i reperti trovati nel fascicolo Mele sono stati lasciati fra le carte processuali, alla mercé delle parti e di chiunque autorizzato da un magistrato competente? **No.**
3. Sa **chi** è stato a inserirli nel fascicolo? **No.**
4. Sa effettivamente **per quanto tempo** sono stati nel fascicolo fra il '68 e l' '82? **No.**
5. Ha un elenco (al 2023) dei **nominativi** di chi ha visionato il fascicolo tra il '68 all' '82? **No.**
6. **Può escludere** che un soggetto pericoloso, scaltro e non identificato come il Mostro abbia consultato il fascicolo e manipolato i reperti ivi contenuti allo scopo di depistare le indagini? **No.**

Nulla esclude un depistaggio.

Proprio per ragioni di cautela, **negli Stati Uniti, le prove di Signa non sarebbero ammesse** in un processo come prove di un collegamento ([link per approfondire](#)).



### **What Happens If The Chain Of Custody Is Broken?**



In a criminal case, evidence may include, among many other things, photographs, DNA samples, bodily fluids, such as blood, documents, and personal property. If law enforcement officers make a mistake when handling evidence, a "chain of custody error" is said to have occurred. The chain of custody is the documentation and proper care of the evidence. The chain of custody is the documentation of, among many other things, parties who collected, handled, or analyzed a piece of evidence during an investigation. A record of the chain of evidence must be maintained and established in court whenever evidence is being presented. Otherwise, the evidence may be deemed inadmissible in court.

*Un'avvocato ed ex giudice in Florida avverte che prove non correttamente custodite (come quelle di Signa) possono essere escluse da un processo*

## Gli spostamenti del fascicolo Mele

Alla perizia balistica del '68 **mancono foto al microscopio** dei reperti originali. Come si può quindi avere la **certezza** che quelli trovati nel fascicolo siano **gli stessi**?

Per verificare se bossoli e proiettili del Mostro non siano stati inseriti nel fascicolo a posteriori, in sostituzione dei reperti originali, è imperativo che gli inquirenti:

- **reconstruct the steps** of the tests;
- carefully verify the **compatibility of the evidence** found in the file with those described in the 1968 expert report **without omitting** any inconsistencies and/or (as the injured parties will request without being heard) comparing them with a bullet believed to be in the body of the 1968 victim Antonio Lo Bianco;

By 2023, the comparison between the 1968 expert report and the finds in the file will have been carried out only superficially and at an "informal" level, **without written consultation** with an expert.

**Nothing rules out the possibility** that the 1968 shell casings and bullets were **replaced** with similar ones from the Monster's gun, which in reality never fired a shot at Signa. This weapon **is compatible** with the one hypothesized by the 1968 ballistics report, used **first to produce replicas** of the finds and, **later, to kill** couples in the Florence area starting on September 14, 1974.

I will go into more detail on this topic in the **postscript** .

The investigative effort to **reconstruct the transfers** of the artifacts between the 1990s and 2000s yielded **scant results**. Commissioner **Michele Giuttari** and his GIDES team, charged with the Monster investigation, succeeded only in ascertaining that the Mele trial documents, passed through Perugia for a second appeal, were **retransmitted to Florence** a few months before the Monster crimes certainly began, **on April 1, 1974**.

There

is no **reference to the evidence** found in the file eight years later.

Perhaps they were already inside one of the folders?

Giuttari is **one of the few** investigators who took the possibility of a cover-up seriously.

In 2024, researcher **Dario Quaglia** discovered a useful detail about the file's movements. On June 15, 1972, the file was sent to the Florence court during an investigation into

**Francesco Vinci** , from whom a .22 caliber revolver had been seized. It had been requested by Florence's deputy prosecutor **Carlo Casini** , who returned the documents on **June 28**. Again, there was no reference to the presence of the evidence found in the Mele file in 1982.

The lawyer for the families of the 1985 victims, **Vieri Adriani** , attempted to obtain clarification from the Prosecutor's Office on Quaglia's discovery, but was unable to obtain any information.



*June 6, 1994. On the left, Pietro Pacciani. On the right, "witness for the prosecution" Joe Bevilacqua.*

### **Pacciani and his companions**

In the 1990s, the Florence Prosecutor's Office first investigated the farmer **Pietro Pacciani** , who died awaiting a second appeal trial in 1998 after a conviction and acquittal, then the so-called "colleagues," **Mario Vanni** and **Giancarlo Lotti** . Both were definitively convicted in 2000, primarily on the basis of Lotti's **self-incriminating statements**, which proved contradictory and cumbersome to the objections raised by defense lawyers **Nino Filastò** and **Antonio Mazzeo** .

Aside from unverified hypotheses regarding some possible objects belonging to the victims, **no evidence will ever be found** linking Pacciani and his friends to the Monster murders. Nor will **the** murder gun ever be found (as of 2023).



*Mario Vanni. In a 2003 prison wiretap, he claimed that the real perpetrator of the crimes was a "black" American named "Ulisse". Pacciani allegedly met him in a forest.*

**Francesco Vinci** , the possible owner of the Signa weapon, was **killed in the summer of 1993** , a year before the start of the Pacciani Trial. On August 7, his body and that of his friend Angelo Vargiu were found in the trunk of a car set on fire in the **Pisan countryside** , not far from the American military base at **Camp Darby** . Their charred bodies bore clear traces of **torture** .

Vinci was involved in petty crime. What dangerous criminal could have had anything against him?

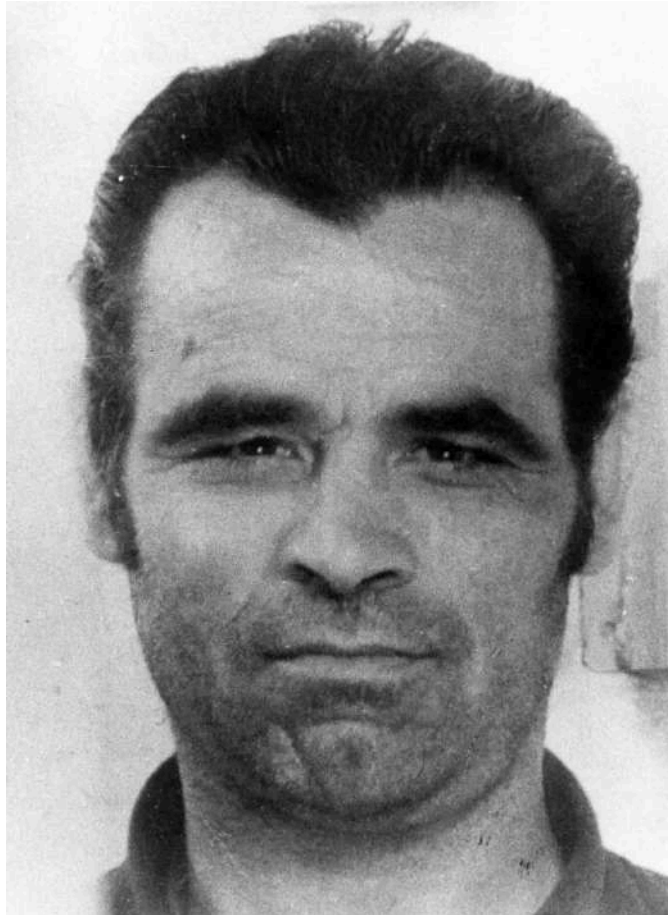
According to **Giovanni Calamosca** , an acquaintance of his, Vinci was killed because he knew the secret of the Monster's gun.

**Some researchers suspect** that the perpetrator of the crime is **the serial killer** , noting a double coincidence with another double homicide, that of **Milva Malatesta and her son Mirko** .

In the early 1980s, Milva, a prostitute by profession, lived near the serial killer's **last crime scene** on Via Faltignano, Chiesanuova. Her mother, also a prostitute, frequented

Pacciani.

In August 1993, about two weeks after Vinci and Vargiu were found, the car Milva was driving skidded off the road and set on fire. An empty gas can was found a few meters from the vehicle. Suspicion fell on her then-partner, Nicola Fanetti, and her husband, **Francesco Rubino**, who had already been accused of assault and battery, and from whom she had separated a month earlier. Fanetti was cleared. Rubino went to trial but was acquitted because he had not committed the crime in 1995.



*Francesco Vinci*

## 2. START OF THE RESEARCH

### **Cunning and skilled**

In 1984, the Florence Prosecutor's Office commissioned a group of experts from the



It's not just the killer's cunning that strikes "the popular imagination," **Corrado Augias** states in an **episode** of the Rai program **Telefono Giallo** in 1987.

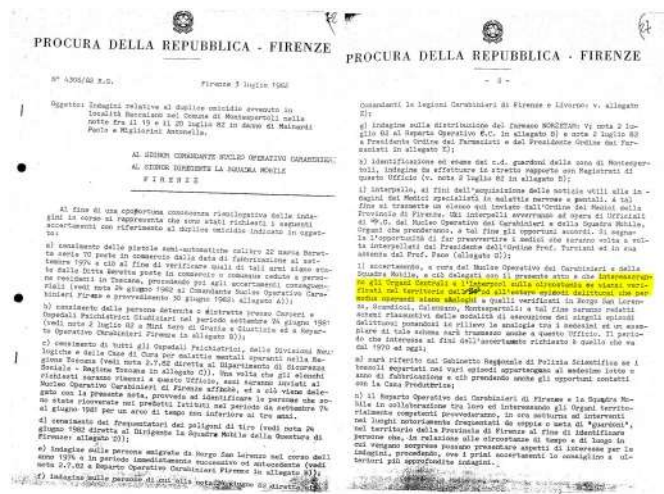
How does the Monster manage to avoid being caught in five years of constantly defying local law enforcement? How does he avoid making mistakes that any ordinary person would make on their first attempt to kill?

"Numerous" viewers of Telefono Giallo, paraphrased by Augias, observe:

"Too much expertise, too much skill, too much technical knowledge, **it must be the police .**"

### A foreigner?

The 1968 connection comes at a delicate stage of the investigation, distracting investigators from an anomalous fact that had emerged since the first murders in the 1980s, which had led examining magistrate Tricomi and the Prosecutor's Office to **ask Interpol to conduct investigations into similar crimes abroad .**



Both the investigating judge Vincenzo Tricomi (thanks to the researcher **Simone D'Angelo**) and the Prosecutor's Office immediately examined the hypothesis that the serial killer had acted abroad, which was set aside to follow the "Sardinian lead".

Various experts, starting from the first crime in the 1980s, from the anthropologist **Tullio Seppilli** in 1981 (image below) to the consultants from the **University of Modena** consulted by the Prosecutor's Office, highlight how, based on case history, the double murders of the Monster represent **an anomaly in the Italian context**, while similar ones can be found in **Anglo-Saxon and Northern European countries .**

**«E' un delitto tipicamente anglosassone -- risponde il professor Seppilli -- che ricorda da vicino qualcosa accaduto anche in Germania.**

*June 9, 1981, La Nazione interviews anthropologist Tullio Seppilli on the sidelines of the double homicide in Scandicci*

I wonder if the serial killer could be a **foreigner** .

According to statistical research from **Radford University** , nearly **70 percent of known serial killers** are American . And the province of Florence has no shortage of foreign residents.

Country	Number of Serial Killers	% of Serial Killers	Country's Share of World Population	Ratio
<b>United States</b>	<b>3,204</b>	<b>67.58</b>	4.35%	15.53
England	166	3.50	0.71%	4.92
S. Africa	117	2.47	0.74%	3.34
Canada	106	2.24	0.49%	4.59
Italy	97	2.05	0.80%	2.55
Japan	96	2.02	1.70%	1.19
Germany	85	1.79	1.08%	1.66

I only learned about it in 2023 from a short article in the German newspaper *Die Welt* on August 6, 1984, published by **Romina Saderi** on the Facebook group "The Monster of Florence," but it's obligatory to report it.

**The idea** of searching for the serial killer among **Florence's community of foreign residents** was pioneered by the renowned Italian **criminologist Franco Ferracuti** .

"...A **new theory** is now being supported by the famous Italian criminologist **Franco Ferracuti** . He suspects that the couple killer may be a **foreigner** living in Florence, since these murders are anomalous in Italy, while they belong to a category of crimes in **Anglo-Saxon countries** . Florence has always been a favorite city for **English and**

American tourists . Ferracuti advises the police to concentrate their investigations on the colony of foreigners in Florence ..."

Curiously, the book "Coniglio il martedì" by Aurelio Mattei , well known among researchers of the Mostro case because he gave rise to the hypothesis of a cover-up , was dedicated to Ferracuti , an expert on the United States.

Montag, 6. August 1984 - Nr. 182 - DIE WELT

### Kriminologe mit neuer These

In der toskanischen Landschaft rund um Florenz fielen dem Unbekannten 1974, 1981, 1982, 1983 weitere zwölf junge Männer und Frauen zum Opfer. Methode, Mordwaffe und Ritual änderten sich nie. Vor allem daraus ziehen die Ermittler den Schluß, daß immer ein und derselbe Täter am Werk war. Für Kritiker freilich rätselhaft, daß die Polizei immer noch ohne heiße Spur dasteht.

Eine neue These vertritt inzwischen der bekannte italienische Kriminologe, Franco Ferracuti. Er hat den Verdacht geäußert, daß es sich bei dem Pärchenmörder um einen in Florenz lebenden **Ausländer** handeln könnte, da Delikte dieser Art in **Italien** äußerst ungewöhnlich sind, in **angelsächsischen Ländern** hingegen **durchaus zur Verbrechens-Typologie gehören**. Florenz ist von jeher die **Liebungsstadt englischer und amerikanischer Dauertouristen**. Ferracuti gibt der Polizei den Rat, ihre **Recherchen auf die Florentiner Ausländerkolonie zu konzentrieren**.

Pia Rontini, das jüngste Opfer, war gerade von einer Urlaubsreise aus der **dänischen Heimat ihrer Mutter** zurückgekehrt. Ganz Florenz trauert mit den beiden betroffenen Familien. Nach der neuen Mordtat wird allen **Verliebten dringend abgeraten**, fernab von Wohngegenden zu flirten. Solche **Romantik kann in Florenz den Tod bedeuten**.

*"Criminologist has a new thesis"*

## Succession

If we exclude **the Signa case** from the list of the Monster's murders, as the trial sentences and **Michele Giuttari** , detective in charge of the investigations since the mid-90s, do, he and Zodiac **alternate in 1974**. The

American serial killer makes himself heard for the last time at the end of January 1974, sending a **letter** in which he mentions the film "**The Exorcist**".

**The Monster appears** in Mugello, north of **Florence** , **seven and a half months** later, killing a couple secluded in their car, **Pasquale Gentilcore and Stefania Pettini** , on September 14. **Five days later** , in Milan and Rome, the national premiere of "**The Exorcist**" is screened (chapter "**Firma**").

## Military background

In 1969, **various clues led** San Francisco **detectives Dave Toschi and William Armstrong to believe that Zodiac** , known to most for the **messages and ciphers** he sent to the press, had a **military background** (subsequent images).

The hypothesis that Zodiac was a soldier **finds agreement** among many scholars and enthusiasts on Reddit **in the thread** dedicated to the serial killer.

 r/ZodiacKiller · Postato da u/igotta\_storytotell 6 giorni fa

### Zodiacs most likely profession



*The perception of users who participated in this survey on the Zodiac subreddit is consistent with various pieces of evidence provided by San Francisco detectives.*

In an **FBI telegram** dated October 17, 1969, two clues are cited that seem to link Zodiac to a military background.

In the Lake Berryessa attack on September 27, 1969, the serial killer reportedly used a **bayonet**, according to San Francisco detectives and their colleagues from the Napa County Sheriff's Department led by Captain **Don Townsend**.

Shoeprints identical to military "Wing Walker Boots" were tracked from the road to the scene of the crime and back to the passenger side of the victim's car. (See attached photos).

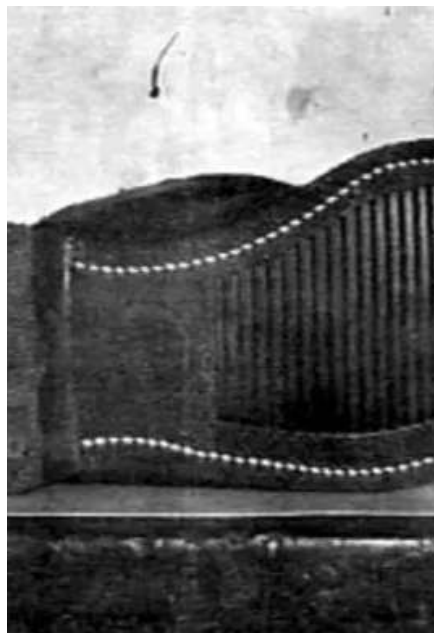
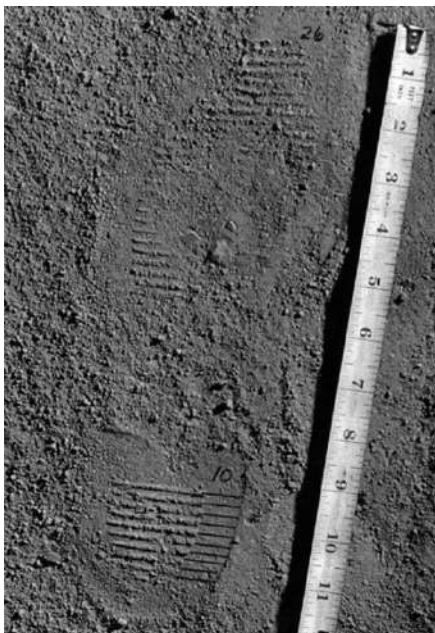
**Evidence:**

Latents  
Handprinting  
White plastic clothes line, hollow core  
Military shoeprints

as having blade approximately 12" in length  
ed on both sides similar to a bayonet.  
with two brass rivets and 1" white adhesive  
e where the guard would normally be. (

DOJ document on the '71 Zodiac murders. Excerpts on bayonets and Wing Walkers. Military fingerprints listed as evidence.

Additionally, he left sole prints on the ground which, on the instructions of Probation Officer **H.B. Schotte**, Napa County Sheriff's Sergeants **Kenneth Narlow** and **Richard Lonergan** assisted by Air Force **OSI detectives** stationed at Travis AFB traced to **Wing Walkers**, boots for climbing on the **wings of aircraft** sold firsthand **to order at military bases**.



On the left, the footprint found at Lake Berryessa; on the right, the "Wing Walker" boots that were issued to Air Force bases on order. Source: NSCD report

Toschi and Armstrong's hypothesis was confirmed in January 1970.

An **Army Security Agency document** (FBI telegram at bottom right) delivered by the Army's "Crime Anti-Detachment" ( **CID** ) at the **Presidio of San Francisco** , states that Zodiac was probably **trained** in cryptanalysis **by the US military** .

SF 9-2296  
CAG:fr

FBI

Date: 10/17/69

Inspector [redacted] advised that investigation is currently being conducted by Napa, Vallejo and San Francisco Police Departments concerning captioned matter and that he believes UNSUB may have military background inasmuch as UNSUB used bayonet and two separate 9 mm weapons and one of surviving victims observed UNSUB to be wearing military-type boots. Further, Inspector [redacted] related that the enclosed letter from UNSUB, identifying himself as Zodiac and stating he was responsible for the killing of cab driver, enclosed a blood stained piece of material alleged to have been taken from victim's shirt. [redacted] stated he had definitely established that material did in fact come from victim's shirt and laboratory examination indicated handwriting is same as that in prior letters written in Napa County on 9/27/69.

The enclosed letter and envelope are being furnished to the laboratory for examination and comparison with material previously submitted by Sacramento Division in this matter.

Copies of the letter and envelope and wanted flyer are being furnished to Sacramento Division for information and any action deemed advisable.

San Francisco Division will maintain close contact with Inspector [redacted] Homicide Division, San Francisco Police Department, to furnish laboratory and latent fingerprint examinations requested.

Enclosed for Sacramento is one copy each of above described letter and envelope and one copy of San Francisco Police Department wanted flyer #87-68.

For information of the Bureau and Sacramento, Inspector [redacted], San Francisco Police Department, advised on 10/17/69 that above described letter and envelope were received by the "San Francisco Chronicle", a San Francisco daily newspaper and furnished to the San Francisco Police Department. Inspector [redacted] stated that latent prints were obtained from the letter and as soon as photographic copies of same can be reproduced, they will be furnished to this office with a request that they be searched through the latent and single fingerprint files of the FBI.

4 - Bureau (Encls. 4)  
2 - Sacramento (9-88) (Encls. 3)  
2 - San Francisco

CAG:fr (4)  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

VIA TELETYPE  
JAN 20 1970  
ENCIPHERED

MR. 002 SF 0086

1122AM URGENT 1-22-70 MS

TO DIRECTOR (9-49911)

ATTN: IDENT DIVISION - FBI LABORATORY

FROM SAN FRANCISCO (9-2296) PFP

ZODIAC, EXTORTION, OO: SACRAMENTO

RE SAN FRANCISCO AIRTEL JANUARY TWENTYONE LAST.

INVESTIGATOR [redacted] HOMICIDE DETAIL, SAN FRANCISCO PD, ADVISED JANUARY TWENTYONE, LAST, THAT THE ARMY SECURITY AGENCY (ASA) THROUGH CID AT THE PRESIDIO, SAN FRANCISCO, FURNISHED A CRYPTO ANALYSIS ON JANUARY TWENTYONE, LAST, OF CRYPTOGAMS RECEIVED FROM THE UNSUB IN THIS CASE. POSSIBLE NAMES OBTAINED AS A RESULT OF ANALYSIS ARE [redacted]

ASA AND CID AT PRESIDIO, SAN FRANCISCO, OF OPINION DEEM THIS MATTER PROBABLY TRAINED IN CRYPTOGRAPHY BY U.S. MILITARY. SAN FRANCISCO INDICES NEGATIVE RE AFOREMENTIONED NAMES.

IDENT DIVISION REQUESTING COMPARE FINGERPRINTS OF PERSONS LOCATED IN IDENT FILES HAVING NAMES AS SET FORTH ABOVE WITH LATENT FINGERPRINTS SUBMITTED IN THIS CASE. REC 809-44911-97

END PAGE ONE

REC 809-44911-97

20 FEB 1970

Click to enlarge. On the left, the FBI telegram about Zodiac's use of a bayonet and military boots. On the right, the telegram about the ASA document handed over by the San Francisco CID unit to the police. Joe Bevilacqua also served in the CID.

Even in the earlier murder case of **Cheri Josephine Bates** , the most likely of the uncertain Zodiac murders, police investigations led to suspicions of a military connection.

Riverside police detectives were the first to suggest a connection between the Bates murder and the Zodiac, although the news was only broken in 1970 by *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter **Paul Avery** (headline below), a few weeks after receiving a **Halloween postcard** from the serial killer. This scoop revitalized the investigation.



*An Exclusive Report*

# New Evidence in Zodiac Killings

*A Link to  
Murder in  
Riverside*

*"New evidence in the Zodiac murders. A connection to the Riverside homicide."*

In a letter to the **Napa County Sheriff** dated **October 20, 1969**, **Riverside Police** Commander **Lambert Kinkead** and Sergeant **H.L. Homser**, head of the detective section, alluded to a **possible military connection** between the killer and the police, **noting that March** Air Force Base is near Riverside and that the heel print of a boot used by various U.S. government agencies and the military was found at the crime scene.

It might be worthwhile to note that just outside the city limits of Riverside is located March Air Force Base, a SAC base. Physical evidence found at the scene of our crime indicated that heel prints found near the body were made by a heel that was manufactured for military and other government agencies, including prisons.

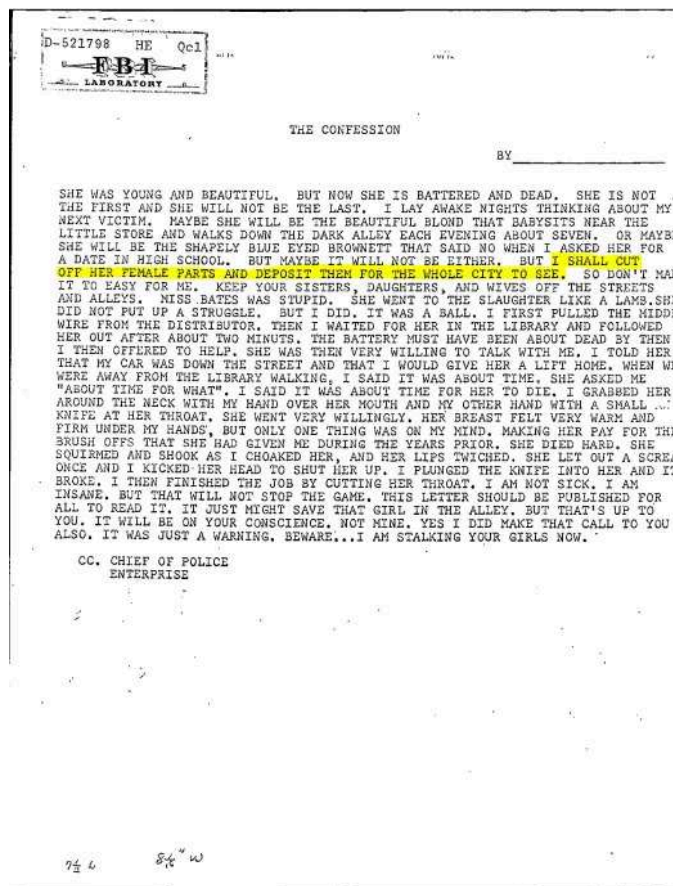
*Excerpt from Riverside Police's letter to Napa detectives investigating Zodiac*

Riverside investigators don't mention it in the letter, but a **TimeX wristwatch** was also found at the crime scene, which the **combative** student likely **grabbed from her attacker** during the struggle (next image on the left).

In the January 1969 issue of *Inside Detective* ([link](#)), we read that CBI detectives traced the watch to a supermarket on a **military base overseas** (it is not specified which one).

About a month after the murder, the police and the local newspaper, Press Enterprise, **received a letter** from the suspected killer threatening to cut off his future victim's

## female parts . A plan Zodiac apparently fails to follow through on.



On the left, the killer's suspected watch. On the right, the letter from Jo Bates's alleged killer.

Below left, an ad from a 1967 advertising campaign for the **Zodiac watch brand** , from which the serial killer clearly took his **nickname and symbol** .

Perhaps "Zodiac" was scarred by Riverside's mistake and this is his way of getting revenge.

The watch advertised at the bottom is the "**Sea Wolf** ," the Swiss company's flagship product in the 1950s and 1960s.

The **hype** focuses on its **aquatic abilities** .



"A diver's watch? The only time I'm in the water is in the shower," says the 1967 ad.

### 3. SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

A brief introduction. When comparing "Zodiac" to "The Monster," it should not be forgotten that:

- these are two nicknames, not two identities;
- **the two distinct series of crimes** being analyzed take place over a period of approximately 20 years in two different territories, which present different "obstacles" for the murderer;
- **the criminal activity of the Monster** attributed by the sentences is not concomitant but **subsequent to the certain one of Zodiac**.



*Renowned Italian criminologists asked to express an opinion will be highly critical of the Zodiac-Monster connection, labeling it a "hoax." But have they investigated it enough?*

## The Monster's "ritual"

In 2018, forensic psychologists from the Carabinieri RaCIS will be tasked with drafting a report on the Zodiac-Monster connection by their colleagues from the ROS ( [report here](#) ).

Based on some differences found by the Carabinieri consultants, the commander of the ROS (Special Operations Unit) in Florence, Giuseppe Colizzi, will express his opinion in a **note** dated October 4, 2018, stating that there is a **"significant behavioral dissonance"** between the two serial killers.

The main difference noted by RaCIS would be the **"preponderant" sexual component** in the Monster's crimes, compared to the Zodiac's previous ones.

*Da un'attenta analisi dei crimini commessi da "Zodiac" - a differenza di quelli del Mostro di Firenze - non appare emergere in modo così preponderante la componente sessuale.*

*September 28, 2018. RaCIS Report. Comparison of the Zodiac and the Monster's modus operandi.*

While mentioning the Bates murder (which Zodiac credits himself with in a **letter** ), the Carabinieri report makes no reference to the **"confession"** where the killer **prefigures the excisions** .

Speaking of his future victim, the alleged serial killer wrote already in '66:

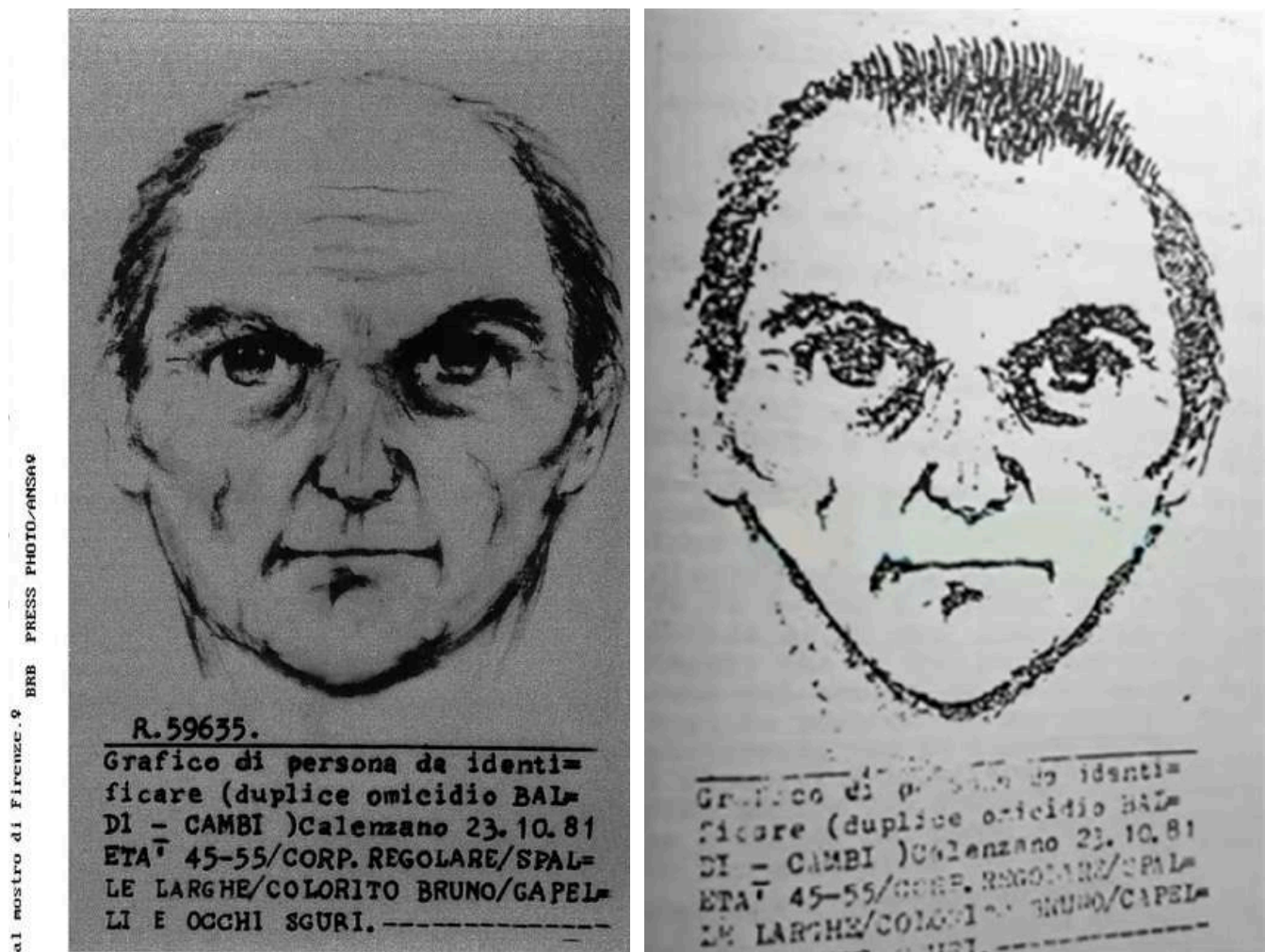
"...I will cut off her lady parts and leave them all over town to witness."

*A DATE IN HIGH SCHOOL. BUT MAYBE IT WILL NOT BE EITHER. BUT I SHALL CUT OFF HER FEMALE PARTS AND DEPOSIT THEM FOR THE WHOLE CITY TO SEE. SO DON'T MAKE IT TOO EASY FOR ME. KEEP YOUR SISTERS, DAUGHTERS, AND WIVES OFF THE STREETS*

*November 29, 1966. Letter of Claim of Murder in Bates*

In their 1984 **report** , **University of Modena experts De Fazio, Luberto, and Galliani** observe that the **"sexual component"** that characterized the Monster's crimes **"emerged"** only in **1974**. However ,

at the beginning of his activity, **the excisions** of the pubic area and left breast on the female victims that would appear in the 1980s were absent.



*The suspect who has so far "lent" his face to the Monster was spotted in Calenzano on the night of 22 October 1981, after the second crime involving the excision of the girl's pubic hair.*

In short, the Modena experts note these differences in the Monster's way of acting.

- 1968 – The female victim **is not targeted** . **A knife is not used**. **The motive appears to be jealousy** . Little **Natale Mele** , **Barbara Locci** 's son , survives the attack **unharméd** , lying in the back seat. There is a **confessed perpetrator** , her husband **Stefano Mele** , who has repeatedly accused other acquaintances of complicity and recanted (the trial will never be reviewed);
- 1974 – The serial killer disfigures the girl with dozens of superficial cuts, but **the excisions are missing** ;
- 1981 – He begins **cutting off the pubic hair** of murdered women;
- 1984 – He also begins to remove his left **breast** .

Whether or not the Monster is responsible for the Signa crime, the team led by Professor De Fazio interprets these differences as a sign of "evolution."

According to the Prosecutor's Office's consultants, the **sadistic-sexual overtones** that characterize the Monster's crimes **had not yet** fully developed in 1974.

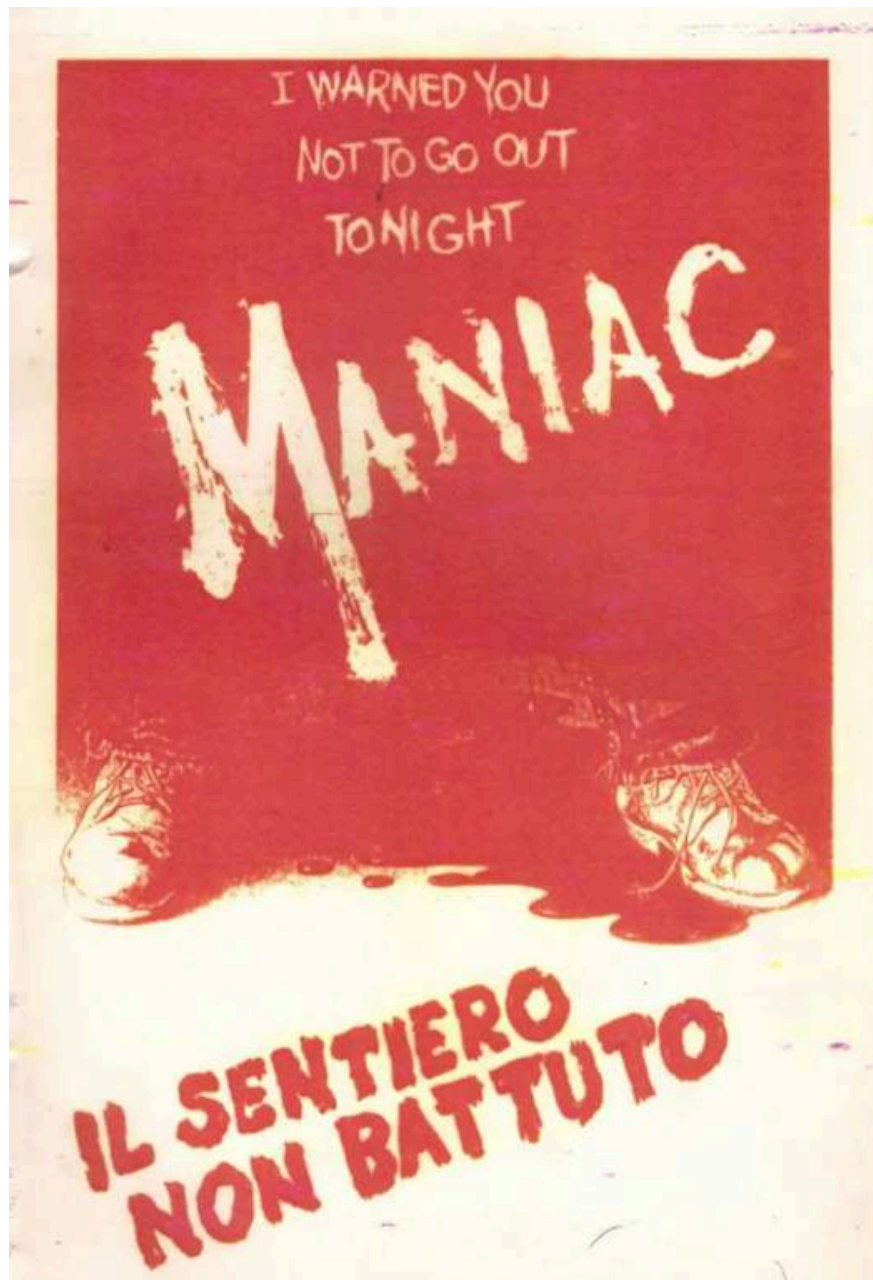
De Fazio and colleagues emphasize the **peculiarity** of the pubic hair removal of the 1980s, sometimes involving part of the vulva, but **focusing on the upper hair area** .



*In 1968, little Natale Mele survived an attack unharmed. This led investigators to suspect that the killer was a relative or family friend.*

In June 2018, after the publication of the first articles of my investigation, drawing on the advice of the Modena experts, the **doctor-criminologist Valerio Scrivo** , although critical of the connection, observed on **Radio Florence International** that the differences between Zodiac and the Monster could be explained as **an evolution of the modus operandi** of the same murderer.

The chronological sequence would also explain why the **Monster left no survivors** (except for Signa), while **two young men survived** the Zodiac's attacks . Scrivo will observe that if the two serial killers were the **same person** , then Zodiac, who precedes the Monster, would necessarily have **less experience** . For this reason, he would be **less prepared** and would make mistakes that he later, in Italy, manages to avoid.



*Cover of De Gothia's research. According to the scholar of the Monster case, the serial killer was inspired by a horror film when planning the ritual in the 1980s.*

### **"Maniac"**

Researcher **De Gothia** and lawyer **Nino Filastò** believe that cinematic inspiration may have been responsible for the Monster's change in behavior in the 1980s.

Specifically, **De Gothia's thesis** stems from the **analogy between the Monster's new ritual** —cliptart cutting—and that of the protagonist of the horror film "**Maniac**," released in American theaters and Italy in early 1981, shortly before the serial killer's return after nearly seven years of apparent inactivity.



*Italian and American posters for "Maniac." The analogy De Gothia draws with the Monster's excisions is clear.*

In the film, which achieved success in the United States, sparking **scandal and protests** over its scenes of gruesome violence and **its relentless treatment of female victims**, **Italian-American Joe Spinell** plays Frank Zito, a violent New York murderer who **scalps** murdered women to wear on mannequins.

EDEN, Prati, Piazza Cola di Rienzo 74  
 tel. 380 188 L. 3 501  
 Maniac (horror, 16-22 30) V.M.18

*Eden is one of three cinemas in Rome that screened "Maniac" in February 1981.*

The film premiered in Florence in August, after the Monster's first crime. De Gothia and blogger **Antonio Segnini**, who summarized the research, report that **the distribution** of Spinell's film in Italian theaters **stalled shortly after its national premiere** in three cinemas in Rome and Palermo. Only a few other theaters on the peninsula subsequently screened it.

Was the serial killer inspired by the commercials? Or perhaps he saw the film in Rome?



*Joe Spinell as Frank Zito in the Daily Mail, January 27, 1981*

### **Only couples, always the same gun?**

According to RaCIS experts, the Monster attacked **only couples** using **the same gun** (unlike the Zodiac).

**This is an assumption that has never been proven, not an investigative conclusion .**

It stems from the **decision** by Florence investigators to **limit their investigations** into the Monster to couples killed with the same gun. This thesis remains to be proven, but there are many doubts about it.

Over the years, scholars of the Monster case, starting with the lawyer **Filastò** , have identified **multiple unsolved cases** in Florence and the surrounding area that could be unrecognized crimes by the serial killer.

To give three significant examples, dating back to **1984** alone , there are:

- January 21, 1984 – Murder of **Graziella Benedetti and Paolo Riggio** (Lucca area)
- March 1, 1984 – Murder of **Gabriella Caltabellotta** (Florence)
- July 27, 1984 – Murder of **Giuseppina Bassi** (Florence)



*Gabriella Caltabellotta lived very close to Susanna Cambi's home*

The Zodiac's murder of a taxi driver in San Francisco, following three previous attacks on secluded couples north of the Bay Area, appears to have stemmed from a **"more random" choice of victims**, according to RaCIS consultants.

But is this really the case?

A reasonable explanation for the "California" serial killer's **pattern breakdown** is offered by criminologist **Sharon Pagaling Hagan** in a bonus feature for the 2007 film "Zodiac" (next video).

Hagan hypothesizes that the American serial killer decided to strike in San Francisco to **gain fame** in the city as well. And that the choice to focus his attention on a taxi driver was **dictated by the different urban context**, very different from the isolated countryside areas where finding couples and disappearing is easier.

There's a second possible motive behind his choice to strike in San Francisco (which leads him to kill a taxi driver), similar to the one that leads him to break the pattern at Lake Berryessa, striking before dark. I discuss it in the **chapter "Don't Drink the Water"** .

In 2020, Zodiac will be suspected in a previous **murder** of a taxi driver, **Ray Davis** . Also a little further south of the "Monster Zone", in 1997, a taxi driver, **Alessandra Vanni** , was killed under mysterious circumstances .



## Zodiac Killer - Behavioral Profiling

ZODIAC KILLER DOCUMENTARIES



Watch on

### The messages

Hagan calls the Zodiac murders, and by implication his correspondence with the press, a **"bizarre marketing technique ."** The serial killer's primary goal, the criminologist explains, is to increase his fame.

It was difficult for Zodiac to capture the attention of journalists in an area with high criminal "competition." **In San Francisco alone** , by mid-1969, there had already been nearly **100 homicides** since the beginning of the year ( **source** ). A situation that had little to do with the relatively quiet countryside around Florence, and Italy in general in the 1980s, where the homicide rate was approximately four times lower than in **California in 1969 ( ISTAT data )**.



*The Monster's message. A package containing a piece of breast from the last woman killed.*

It's true that, as RaCIS notes, **the Monster** apparently sent only one letter. But it's also true that **he didn't need** to write to be the center of media attention. Could this be the reason he didn't send letters (or at least not officially) to the press?

Assuming the serial killer didn't have **a command of the Italian language**, his choice to remain silent might also have been dictated by the **caution** the Modena experts acknowledge.

### **The envelope to Della Monica**

Both Zodiac and the Monster challenged those who investigated them.

In **an interview** with *La Città* on August 1, 1984, the head of the Tuscan Criminal Police, **Giuseppe Grassi** (see next image), questioned such an attitude on the part of the Florentine "couple maniac" because up until then **he had not sent any letters**.

As if in response, the following year the Monster sent **a message** by post. The addressee was Deputy Prosecutor **Silvia Della Monica**.



*In 1984, the head of the Tuscan Criminalpol called the Mostro case "the most difficult" of his career. He didn't believe the serial killer had accomplices.*

The package, sent from **San Piero a Sieve** , where **Della Monica** was renting a **vacation home** , contained, inside a cellophane envelope sealed with super-strong glue, a breast piece from the last woman killed. The clippings composing the address came from a magazine that will be traced by researcher **Valeria Vecchione** in 2020.

The researcher was able **to compare the clippings** in magazines of the time thanks to a photocopy of the back of the unglued **letters provided to her by documentary maker Paolo Cochi**.

In this case there is **a similarity** , observes the RaCIS, because Zodiac also **attached evidence** of his crimes in some messages, namely the clippings of Paul Stine's bloody **shirt** .



*Stine's Zodiac Cutout Shirt*

In reality, there is much more.

In his final act, the Monster needs only a few lines to incur, perhaps on purpose, a type of **spelling error that is observed three times in Zodiac's** correspondence, also **associated** with a hyphenated word .



dissap -  
eared

dif-  
icult

discon -  
ect

*Zodiac's "Disap-arire," "dif-icile," and "discon-esso" vs. the Monster's "republi-ca." The author of the message to Della Monica uses a single-syllable hyphen, starting with "ca." Is he hinting at something?*

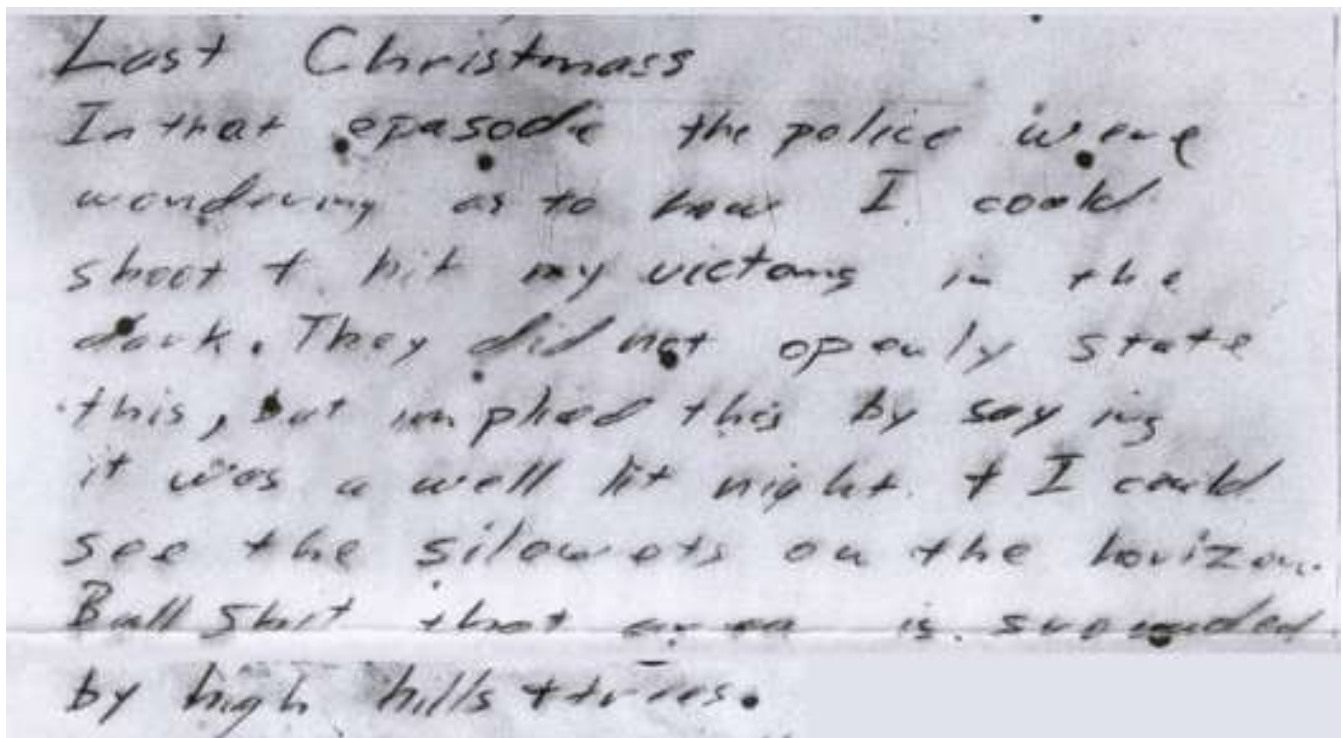
This isn't the only similarity found. Also notable is the end-of-circulation date of the magazine from which the letters are cut, **December 20** , and the apparent attempt to intimidate the recipient with his "**closeness**" (subchapter "**December 20**" and following).

### Other similarities

The similarities between Zodiac and the Monster cited by RaCIS stop at their **preferred victims** , intimate **couples who are attacked especially at night in remote areas of the countryside**.

Researcher **Jacopo Cioni** , with the help of **Nick Mon** , made a discovery about another common feature of their modus operandi.

With the exception of the Via Scopeti murder in 1985, the dating of which is disputed, **the two serial killers** could have **always acted** when **the moon** had not yet risen or was **obscured** by natural obstacles.



August 4, 1969. Zodiac points out that there was darkness in the area where it struck on December 20, 1969.

Above, an excerpt from Zodiac's **letter dated August 4, 1969**. According to him, Solano sheriff's deputies led by Sergeant **Les Lundblad** had insinuated that the night of December 20, 1968, was brightly **lit** and that the outlines of objects could be distinguished. Zodiac objects that this is not true because the crime scene was **surrounded by trees and hills** . He is implicitly referring to the absence of moonlight.

It's worth remembering that at Lake Berryessa, the Zodiac strikes in broad daylight. There's a possible explanation, however, for this disruption of the pattern. I discuss it in the [chapter "Don't Drink the Water . "](#)



*A glimpse of Lake Berryessa, California, where in 1969 the Zodiac attacked a couple, hiding his face in a black hood with a white Celtic cross.*

Further similarities emerge from a comparison of the American serial killer's modus operandi described in a [Department of Justice document](#) (made available along with other reports [on](#) researcher **Michael Butterfield** 's website ), which, at the request of Napa Sheriff **Earl Randol**, sent Agent **Mel Nicolai** to support the local Zodiac investigation.

Indeed, a fitting opinion can be found for the Monster as well:

"...he enjoys publicity, doesn't panic in stressful situations, and enjoys ridiculing the police..."

### **The most dangerous prey**

According to the "monstrologist" **Francis Trinpet** , an analysis of the Monster's murderous actions highlights an action similar to that of a hunter, where the prey, however, are human beings.

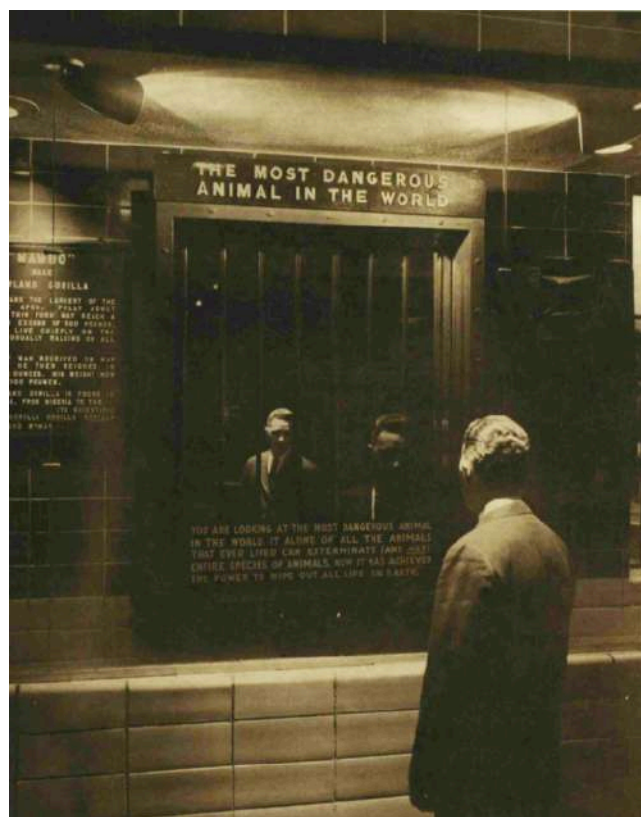
In his [first ciphertext](#) of July 31, 1969, **Zodiac explicitly** outlines his murderous activity as a "**hunt**" for humans .

"I like killing people because it's a lot of fun. It's more fun than killing game in the forest because **man is the most dangerous animal** of all..."

For many American scholars, "it is a direct allusion to the film **"The most dangerous game"** , where the Russian nobleman Zaroff, the antagonist, defines human beings with almost the same terms ( **"the most dangerous prey"** ).

Researcher **Daniele Trinchieri** will point out to me that it could also refer to an installation from 1963 at the Bronx Zoo in **New York** , where one reads **under a mirror**

"You are looking at **the most dangerous animal in the world** . It alone, of all animals that have ever lived, can (and has) exterminated entire species of animals. Now it has the power to wipe out all life on earth."

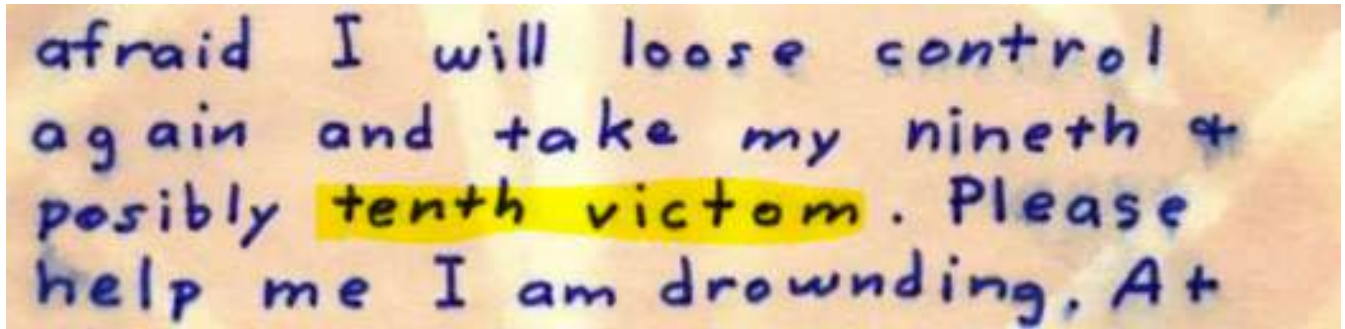


In 2023, a user of the zodiackiller.com forum, **ShaneV** , discovered that in his letter to lawyer Melvin Belli, the serial killer likely referenced a film on the same theme as "The

Most Dangerous Game."

In the letter, dated December 20, 1969, Zodiac wrote:

"...I fear I will lose control again and make my ninth, possibly (sic) **tenth victim** . Please help me, *I'm drowning* ..."



A photograph of a handwritten note on lined paper. The text is written in blue ink and reads: "afraid I will loose control again and take my nineth & posibly tenth victom. Please help me I am drownding. At". The words "tenth victom" are highlighted in yellow.

"The Tenth Victim," observes ShaneV, is the title of an **Italian film by Elio Petri** released in the United States in **1966** , starring **Marcello Mastroianni** and **Ursula Andress**. The film is set in Rome and New York, in a dystopian future where human hunting has become a sport: **"The Great Hunt** .The trailer reads:

"...for every individual, **the most coveted goal was the tenth victim.** "



## 4. THE SERIAL KILLER'S SIGNATURE

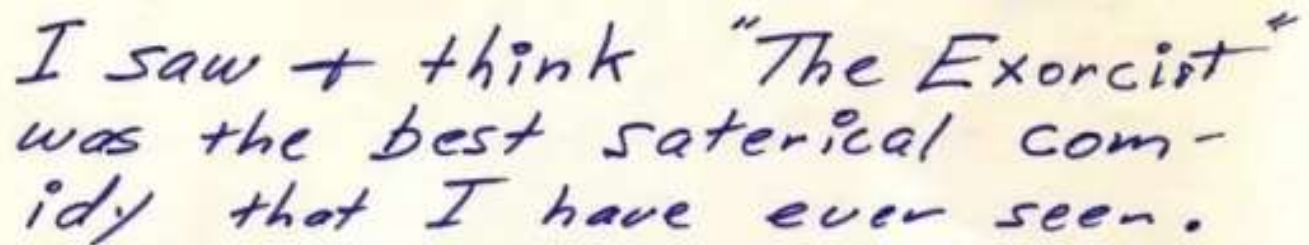
While the **Monster's "cinophilia"** remains only a matter of **hypothesis** , what can be said about Zodiac?

After a three-year hiatus (1971-1974), the American serial killer apparently returns to writing for one last time.

In his **last** letter, dated **January 29, 1974** , he specifically mentions "**The Exorcist** ," which had been released in theaters in his country for about a month, captivating audiences and media attention. The wave of enthusiasm for the famous horror film would last for many months in various countries.

Zodiac, who strangely **uses neither his nickname nor the Celtic cross** that distinguishes his past correspondence **in this letter , writes to the Chronicle :**

**I saw "The Exorcist"** and I think  
it's the best  
satirical comedy I've ever watched.



I saw + think "The Exorcist"  
was the best satirical com-  
edy that I have ever seen.

A few years after the start of the journalistic investigation, I will reread **an article** by Alberto Pasolini Zanelli from 10 February 1974, and asking myself why there was a difference between the ritual of that year and the subsequent ones of the 80s, I will seem to have solved the mystery.

The De Fazio-Galliani-Luberto expert report highlights how the body of the 1974 female victim, Stefania Pettini, appeared **supine, with her limbs stretched out, and a branch**

**slightly inserted into her vagina** . Specifying:

"Ninety-six puncture and cutting injuries were recorded, affecting almost exclusively the front of Pettini's body, from her face to the upper third of her thighs."

There are not only injuries to vital organs, experts note.

"Other lesions are rather superficial and are mostly distributed irregularly on the chest, abdomen and thighs..."

If the Monster of the 80s **quoted "Maniac"** , **didn't he do the same with "The Exorcist"** in '74 ?

Bottom left, two frames from the **levitation scene** in the film specifically mentioned by Zodiac a few months before the appearance of the "Tuscan" serial killer.

The second-to-last photo on the right shows the tortured body of the girl killed by the Monster, covered by a sheet. **The position and pattern of the wounds** seem to recall the levitation scene, when the possessed girl floats in the air **supine, her limbs outstretched** , while **the holy water** sprinkled by the priests causes **multiple cuts** on her already severely scarred skin .



In another scene from the film, the little girl **masturbates with a crucifix** . **The branch** may have been inserted into the victim's **vagina to allude to that scene**.

Unlike "Maniac," however, "The Exorcist" hadn't yet been released in Italian theaters. On the day of the crime, it would have been another six days before its national premiere in Milan and Rome.

Where might the "Italian" serial killer have watched it?

### **The signature: a drowning**

In the next part of the "Exorcist" letter, the serial killer adds his "signature".

This time **he doesn't use "Zodiac"**. This word is completely **absent** from his last official letter of '74. There isn't even his typical **Celtic cross**.

In its place, the serial killer decides to make **a riddle**.

In fact, he writes:

"Signed, yours truly:

He dived into the foaming wave  
and an echo emerged from the  
suicide's grave

titwillo titwillo titwillo"

Signed, yours truly :

He plunged him self into  
the billowy wave  
and an echo arose from  
the suicides grave  
tit willo tit willo  
tit willo

What does it mean? The **Zodiac signature**

riddle contains a passage about a drowning from **Gilbert and Sullivan** 's comic operetta "**The Mikado** ." The lyrics ( [explained here](#) in English) describe the sad end of a **bird** who sings to attract a mate, but **his love is not reciprocated** , and in despair **he throws himself into a wave and drowns** .

**The "suicide's grave" is the water** in which the story's protagonist drowns.

It recalls the similar fate of **Ophelia** in Shakespeare's tragedy "Hamlet ." This name will appear **during the conversations** with **Bevilacqua** .

Below, the verse sung by Mitchell Butel in a stage production by Opera Australia gives a better idea.



## La firma di Zodiac

Ostello Volante



Watch on

### **What connection** could there be **between Zodiac's identity and this song?**

The serial killer must have enjoyed The Mikado, because this is the second time in his correspondence that he's extracted and quoted lines from Ko-Ko, the Executioner, one of the main characters in Gilbert and Sullivan's opera.

**The FBI** recalls the precedent of **July 26, 1970** (image below).

REPORT  
of the  
**FBI**  
LABORATORY  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: SAC, San Francisco (9-2296)      Date: March 1, 1974  
 From: FBI File No. 9-49911-177  
 Lab. No. CR-14164 IC  
 D-740208094 LL

Re: ZODIAC  
EXTORTION

Specimens received: 2/8/74

**Qc52** Photograph of envelope postmarked "U.S. POSTAL SERVICE  
CA 940 AM 29 JAN" bearing hand printed address "San Fran.  
Chronicle Please Rush to Editor"

**Qc53** Accompanying hand printed letter beginning "I saw E. think..."

**Result of examination:**

No determination as to the meaning of the marks on the bottom  
of the note on Qc53 could be made. Although having some characteristics  
of Chinese or Japanese, they are not complete radicals.

The middle portion of the note is a quote from "The Mikado"  
by Gilbert and Sullivan. It is noted portions of "The Mikado" had been  
quoted in previous specimens. (Laboratory report 8/10/70, CR-13516 JU)

PWP:spl  
(6)

3

REPORT  
of the  
**FBI**  
LABORATORY  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, San Francisco (9-2296)      Date: August 10, 1970  
 From: FBI File No. 9-49911  
 Lab. No. D-700731080 LL  
 CR-13516 JU

Re: ZODIAC  
EXTORTION  
OO: Sacramento

Specimens received: 7/31/70

Qc52 through Qc56 were described in Laboratory report dated 8/5/70.

**Result of examination:**

The reference to the Mt. Diablo code in Specimen Qc54  
probably refers to the map contained in Qc51, previously submitted,  
which included Mt. Diablo.

Specimens Qc54 and Qc55 contain text taken from a  
song of Ko-Ko, the Lord High Executioner, in Act I of the  
Mikado, by Gilbert and Sullivan.

The reference to billiard players in Qc56 may have  
been taken from a song sung by the Mikado in Act II of the  
same play.

No code or cipher material was found in Specimens  
Qc52 through Qc56.

Result of document examination was furnished  
separately.

Specimens Qc52 through Qc56 are being retained.

FJC:mls  
(6)

Many researchers in recent years have wondered what "Mikado" show Zodiac might have witnessed if he had seen it in the San Francisco area, and attention has fallen on a remarkable coincidence.

**DATE BOOK** MOVIES ART TELEVISION  
NIGHT LIFE RADIO JAZZ  
MUSIC STAGE PUZZLES

Week of October 12-18, 1969

©Chryslis Publishing Co. 1969.



A scene from the western 'The Good Guys and the Bad Guys,' near the Rancho, Coliseum. El Rey and El Rancho Drive In.



Ray Thomas (of TV's "bracket") prepares to ascend the discom-  
pense chamber of his spaceship in "Journey to the Far Side of the Sun,"  
a sci-fi thriller destined for the Alexandria and Mission Drive In.

**'The Mikado,' Grand Kabuki, The Christmas Tree**

**THE** BRADY BUNCH, the nation's most popular television series, is a  
satellite production of Gilbert and Sullivan's  
"The Mikado" opera Saturday at 8:30 p.m. at  
the Presentation Theatre, running weekends  
through November 8.

Chandler's Inn and Sylvia's songwriters and  
musicians, will appear in concert Saturday at  
8 p.m. in Sellsbach Hall at the University of  
California Berkeley.

Richard Pidgeon opens *Fading of the Bees*  
*Street* and will continue through Saturday,  
October 11. And Lois Richard, a 1950's rock  
'n' roll star, has resumed his career after a  
four-year hiatus to perform Thursday through  
next Sunday at Pillars West.

Grand Kabuki, with its 300 years of Japa-  
nese Theater tradition, is celebrating its  
Arts and Sciences of the Curran Theater. The  
Oakland Symphony, with conductor Gerhard  
Smetacek and pianist William Newman, plays on  
Tuesday evening Beethoven's "Lesser" Over-  
ture No. 3, Haydn's C Major Concerto, and  
Strauss' "The Jews", Rehearsal Place Concerts  
No. 1 in D Minor, Opus 53, Oakland Auditorium  
Theater at 8:30 p.m.

In San Jose, the Danes Company of Dan-  
cers and Musicians presents "Dances, Dances,  
Dances" at the Merit Gymnasium, San Jose City Col-  
lege, 2150 Moorpark, San Jose, West at 8 p.m.

On the music scene, "The Christmas Tree"  
featuring William Hadden and Vera, last  
year's winners of the Pro-Parkside and  
Singer Songwriter contest, will perform  
Wednesday at the Pro-Parkside and  
Singer Songwriter contest.

"The File of the Golden Goose" is an ad-  
venture film about an endorser agent's at-  
tempt to smash a counterfeit ring. Starring  
Vic Bryner and Adrienne Cori. It will open  
next at the Royal and Empire theaters.

watch  
**NEWSWATCH**  
today at  
6 and 11 pm



Singer Ed Ames returns  
on Thursday evening to  
the Verelton Room at the  
Fairmont for a three-  
week engagement.



Nina Simone performs  
Tuesday at SAC in Davis,  
Friday at the San Jose  
Auditorium and Saturday  
at Berkeley Community.



Susanna Salls singer Fife  
Singer's performance next  
Sunday at 2 p.m. in the  
amphitheater on Mount  
Tomaselli.

Edited by the  
**San Francisco Chronicle**  
A Section of the S. F. Sunday Examiner & Chronicle

Get The Full Picture  
**NEWSWATCH**  
weekdays at 6:30 am,  
noon, 5:30 and 11 pm



KRON-TV



KRON-TV

1969 S. F. Sun

Present Gilbert & Sullivan's  
Most Famous  
Comic Operetta

**THE MIKADO**

**TURSDAY OCT. 18 8:30**

Oct. 31 Nov. 7  
Nov. 1 Nov. 8

Students at 1.75; Total \$

Oct. 26 Sat. Nov. 8

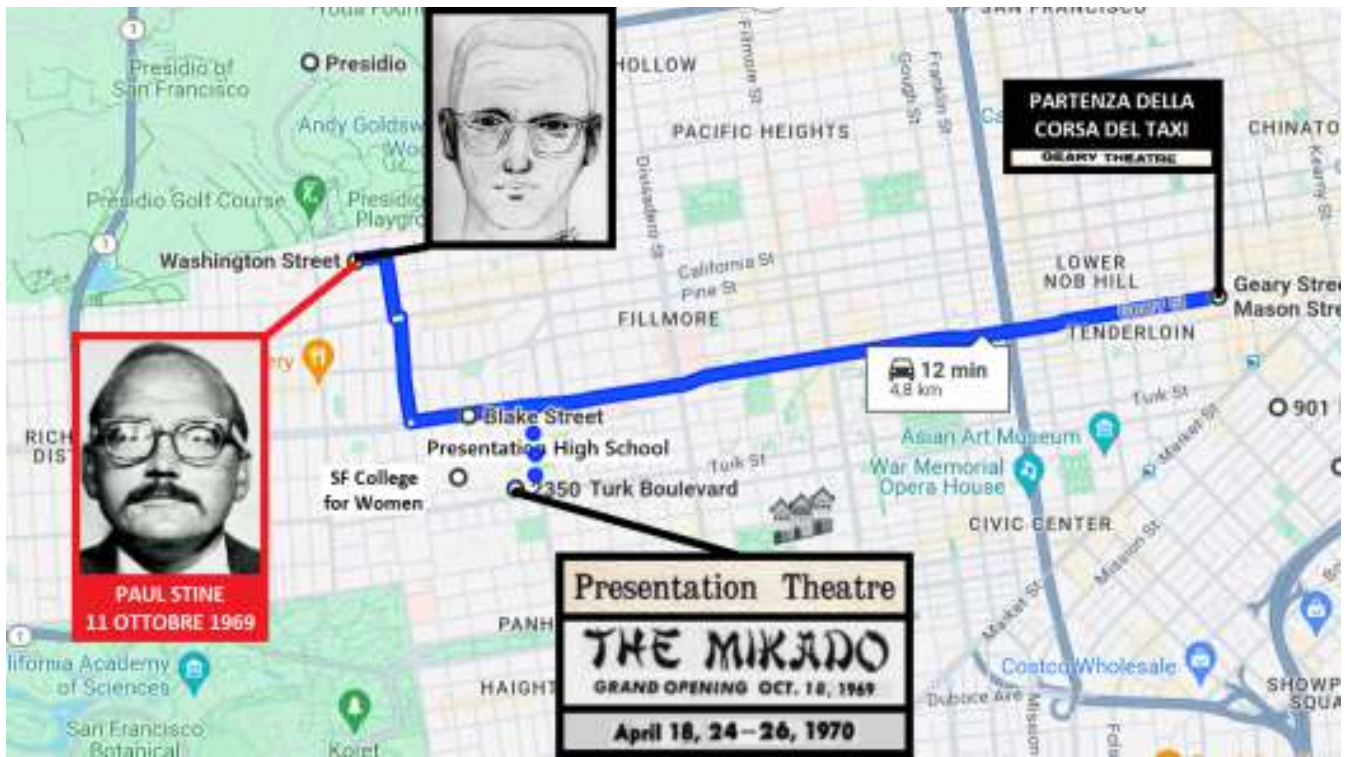
Students at 1.00; Total \$

2350 Turk west of Masonic

In the days following Stine's murder, a new production of "The Mikado" by the Lamplighters, a historic theater company known in the city for its performances of Gilbert and Sullivan operas, was promoted in the *Datebook*, a performance supplement in the Sunday editions of the San Francisco Chronicle and *Examiner*.

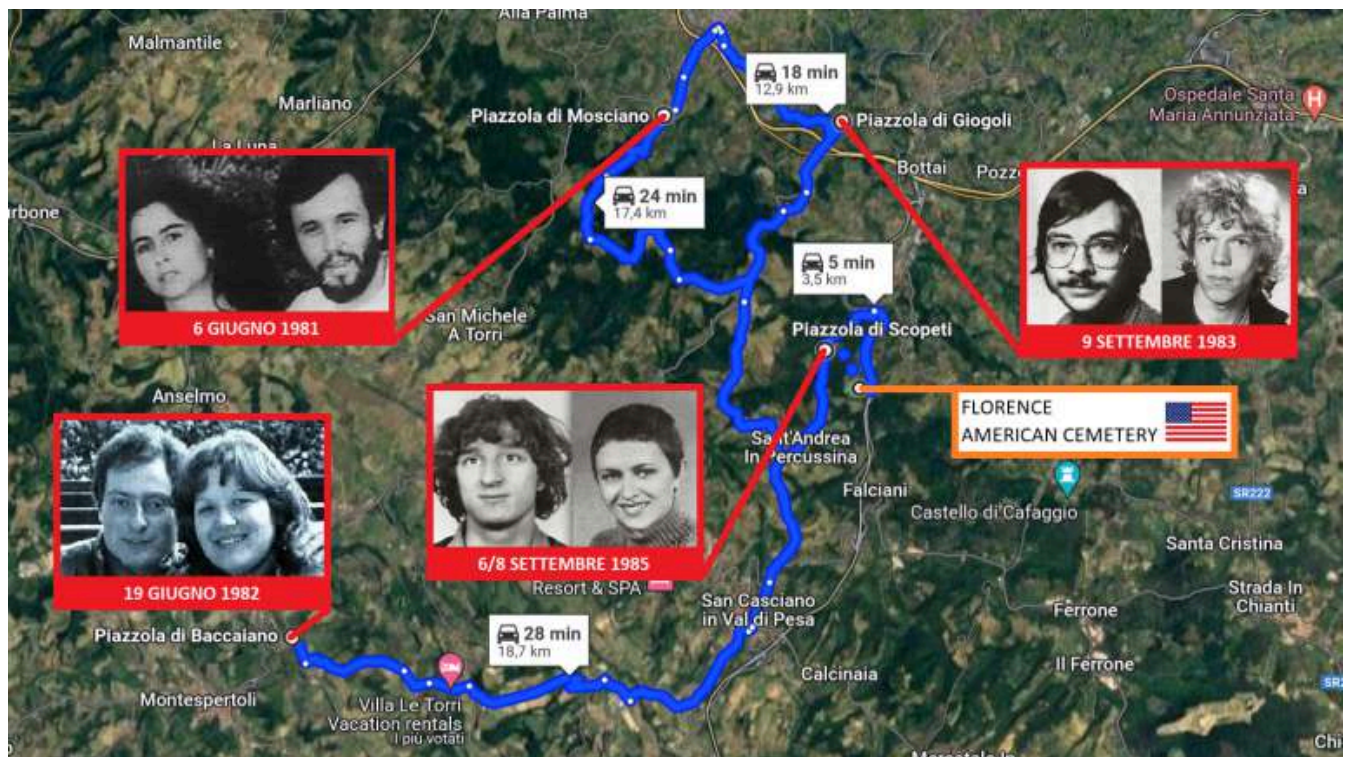
The Lamplighters performed "The Mikado" for several consecutive weeks beginning **October 18, 1969**, at the Presentation Theatre, just a mile from the crime scene. They performed it again between April 18 and 26, 1970, when Zodiac sent a letter with his name in code.

The theater took its name from the "Sisters of the Presentation." It was in fact located within the grounds of this religious institute of nuns in San Francisco, along with a girls' high school attended until a few years earlier by an acquaintance of Joe Bevilacqua (chapter "The Mikado Connection").



## 5. Joe Bevilacqua

In 2017, while sifting through the testimonies from the **Monster trials** , I came across **that** of Joseph, alias **Giuseppe Bevilacqua**, nicknamed “Joe” ( **official transcript** ). A **stocky** , corpulent Italian-American with a **quick wit** , he **testified at the Pacciani trial** in 1994. From the full recording of the hearing on **Radio Radicale**, I learned that he was born on **December 20, 1935** , in Totowa, **New Jersey** , United States.



*The Monster murder area south of Florence, accessible by car from the American Cemetery. They are located near Bevilacqua's residence/workplace.*

At the time of the crimes, Bevilacqua was working for the American Battle Monuments Commission at the **Florence American Cemetery**, where he worked and resided between July 1974 and December 1988, before moving to Nettuno, to the Rome-Sicily American Cemetery ( [source](#) ).

c. **Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua reported for duty** as Superintendent-Trainee **on 1 July 1974** and served as such until 31 May 1975. On 1 June 1975, Mr. Bevilacqua was promoted to Assistant Superintendent.

*ABMC Annual Report 1975. Excerpts from this document and other reports on the Florence American Cemetery from the Monster's years of operation can [be downloaded here](#).*

**Most of the crimes** attributed to the Monster occurred in the **rural area south of Florence, where the cemetery was located. In this area alone, the serial killer's attacks**, recorded in sparsely populated areas on the border of four municipalities, brought the homicide rate to the average levels for a territory of 100,000 inhabitants in the early 1980s ( [ISTAT data 1985](#) ).

**Bevilacqua arrived** in Florence exactly **in the interval** of a few months between the Zodiac's **last official letter** and the **first attack** undoubtedly committed by the Monster.

## Contact with investigators

Bevilacqua's testimony at the Pacciani trial originated **from his** spontaneous contact **with the Carabinieri** , who **heard** him as a possible witness on **30 June 1992** .

I will not obtain the transcript of these statements because from 2018 to 2023 the **Florence Prosecutor's Office** will not be able to find it.

V. si ricorda che **il verbale non è**  
**stato reperito.**

Se comanda

18/9/23  
IL PROCURATORE DELLA REPUBBLICA  
Luca Turco Agg.

*Response from Deputy Prosecutor Luca Turco to one of the many requests for a copy of the transcript of Bevilacqua's statements sent between 2018 and 2023*

The injured parties will tell me that they do not have a copy of the minutes, while **lawyer Alessio Fioravanti** , consultant to the Bevilacqua family's legal representative, will refuse to provide me with assistance.

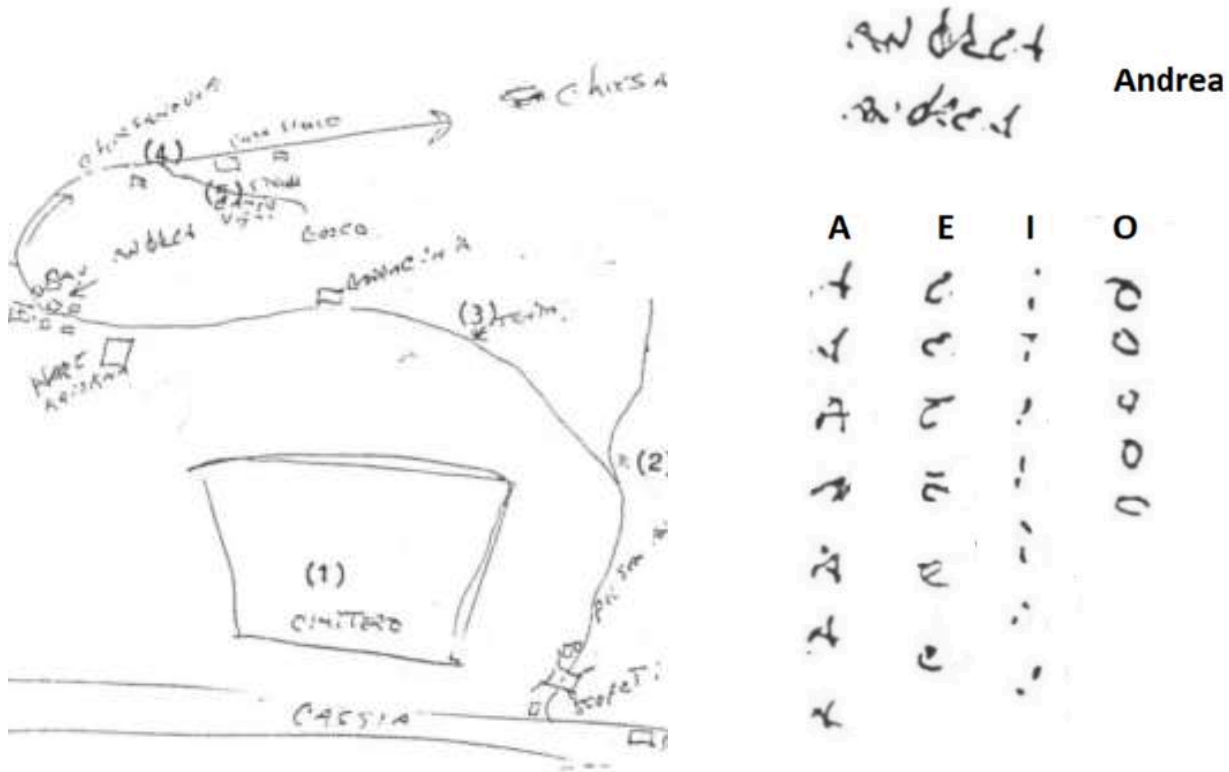
In 2024, researcher **Dario Quaglia** will release a copy of the summary of Bevilacqua's statements drawn up by the Carabinieri (next image).

The statements are **partly in contrast with** the American's deposition at the Pacciani trial in '94 ( **video / full transcript** ), but above all **with what he will tell me in 2017** , claiming that he already knew "Vampa" at the time of the Monster murders, when he worked at the American Cemetery in Florence, information that he will confirm **to the Carabinieri a year later** .



The lack of actual statements is partially compensated by **two indirect sources** from 1994:

**the American's deposition** at the Pacciani trial (see next video; the full version can be **heard here** from minute 6) and the reasons for the first-instance **verdict** .



*Click to enlarge. Map of the Via Scopeti area drawn by Bevilacqua. On the right, a sample of the letters on the map.*

Above, a copy of the **map** of the murder area given by **Bevilacqua** to the Carabinieri and reproduced in the **report of the inspection** of **July 14, 1992**. That day, the American was **accompanied** by the forensic police **to the places he had indicated** to take photographs that were later shown during the 1994 hearing.

Bevilacqua's handwriting on this sheet of paper is not consistent. **It is not entirely in capital letters** , unlike the one I will see at his house and on the card with his phone numbers that he keeps in his wallet and will show me on July 28, 2017. Furthermore, it is only partially in **lowercase letters** (a characteristic of Zodiac).

I'll consult **an expert** , but **he'll tell me** that **more homogeneous samples are needed for a handwriting comparison**. The map and signatures are **n't enough** .

The Florence Prosecutor's Office will decide not to order this investigation (until 2023).



*Via Scopeti. The dirt road leading to the nearby 1985 crime scene, where the victims had pitched a tent.*

### **The suspicious man spotted in '85**

In 1992, Bevilacqua told the Carabinieri that a **brother-in-law of his from Florence** had **brought** him to Nettuno, where he had been working since 1989, **a newspaper with a photo of "a certain Pietro Pacciani ,"** his fellow citizen from San Casciano in Val di Pesa who had been officially investigated by the Prosecutor's Office since the autumn of 1991. At that point, the American, who had something to say about the Monster's latest crime, contacted **the Carabinieri** in Nettuno who reported him to their colleagues in Florence.



*Joe Bevilacqua and Pietro Pacciani, at the hearing of June 6, 1994*

The "untraceable" report states that the Carabinieri **showed Bevilacqua a photograph of Pacciani** . The American claimed to see "**a certain resemblance**" between the man in the photo and an **unknown man spotted** near the crime scene on Via Scopeti a few days **before the Monster's last crime** .

In his subsequent courtroom testimony in 1994 (see next video), Bevilacqua ignores his brother-in-law's visit and claims he hadn't seen any photos of Pacciani before being interviewed by the Carabinieri. He maintains that he **stopped** to look at the suspicious man **precisely because he didn't know who he was**, and he reiterates this.

TESTE Bevilacqua: No, io non sapevo chi era.  
PUBBLICO MINISTERO: Lei non sapeva.  
TESTE Bevilacqua: No, no.  
PUBBLICO MINISTERO: Lei ha riconosciuto una foto e non sapeva chi era.  
TESTE Bevilacqua: Per foto solo.  
PUBBLICO MINISTERO: Oggi lei, in quest'aula, vede qualcuno che, sia pure con le sembianze di oggi, assomiglia a quella persona?  
TESTE Bevilacqua: Sì, sì.  
PUBBLICO MINISTERO: E chi è?  
TESTE Bevilacqua: Il signore là accanto all'Avvocato.  
PUBBLICO MINISTERO: Come mai crede di riconoscere...  
PRESIDENTE: Diamo atto che è il Pacciani, eh!

*Official transcript of Bevilacqua's 1994 deposition. The full text is [available here](#).*

In 2017, he told me, and the following year to the Carabinieri, a **different version** of his knowledge of Pacciani, stating that **he already knew who he was** when he worked in Florence.

## Joe Bevilacqua al processo Pacciani. Testimonianza completa

Ostello Volante



Watch on

### **The sighting of the French couple**

At the hearing on June 6, 1994, Bevilacqua positively **identified Pacciani as the "unknown man"** from 1985. He said he saw him at the edge of the Scopeti **forest** near a path leading to the crime scene.

The witness adds that he also **spotted the victims twice** in the days leading up to the murder, officially dated Sunday, September 8, 1985, while driving along Via Scopeti. The second time, the victims were already in the lay-by where they were allegedly killed. The American recalls noticing that **the woman** was wearing a **black bathing suit** . He didn't say this at the trial, but in statements to the Carabinieri two years earlier, he claimed that **his wife Meri Torelli** , whom he married in August 1984, was **in the car with him** that time.

Bevilacqua specifies that the distance as the crow flies between the cemetery where he lived and the crime scene was **"300, 400 meters . "**

In 2018, he said he saw the two victims in the crime scene **the day before** the murder.

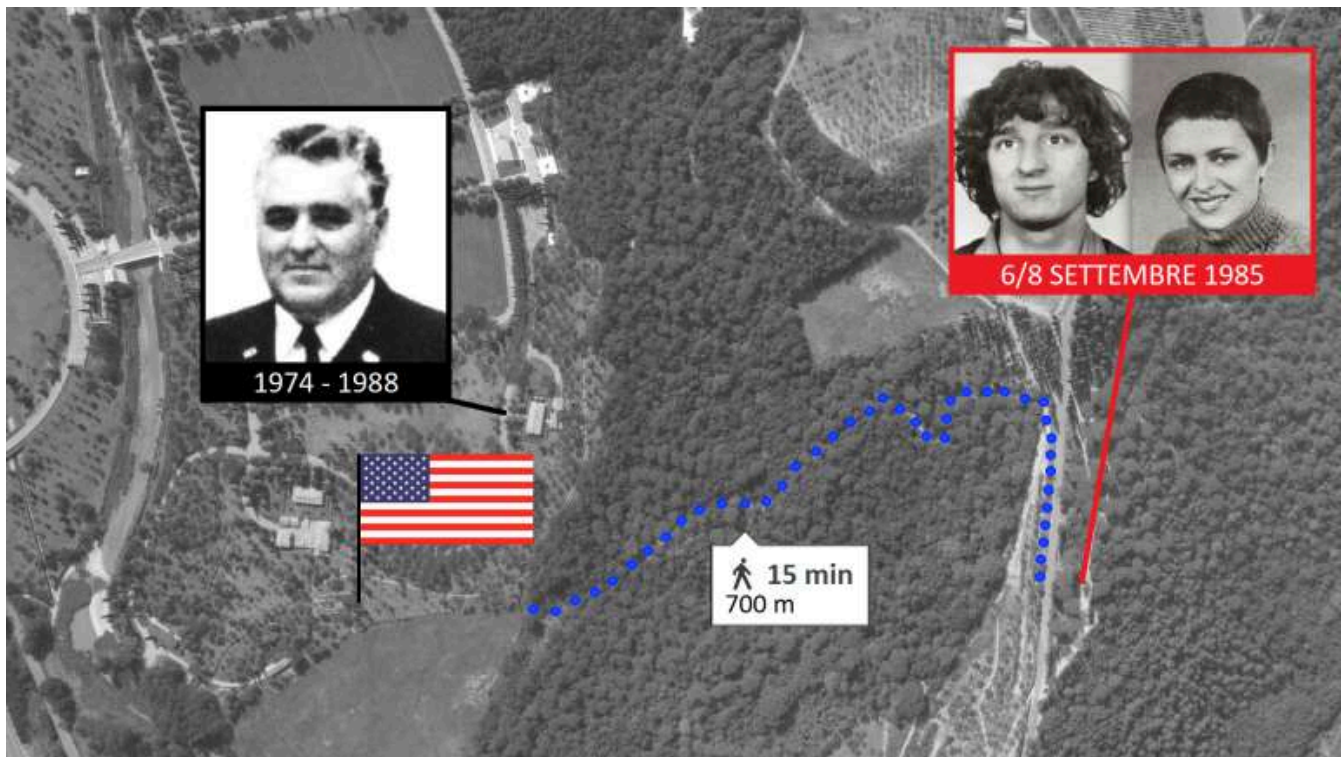


*Area of the Monster's last known crime, 1985. The distance between the crime scene and Bevilacqua's home is indicated. The witness's precision is striking.*

### More information on the '85 crime

The date of Scopeti's attack remains uncertain. According to coroner **Mauro Maurri**, it occurred on Sunday, **September 8th**. Other experts, including Professor **Francesco Introna**, have indicated an earlier date due to the advanced development of **fly larvae** found in photographs of the victims' bodies. Research coordinated by documentary filmmaker **Paolo Cochi**, based on the **consensus of five forensic entomologists**, also **concludes** that the crime **was dated back**.

Supporting this backdating are the **receipts** found in the victims' car, cited in the book "Delitto degli Scopeti. Giustizia mancata" by **Vieri Adriani, Francesco Cappelletti, and Salvatore Maugeri** (published by Ibiskos Ulivieri), which date back to Friday, **September 6**.



*The American flag marks the boundary of the American Cemetery where Bevilacqua lived. The Monster's final crime scene is a few hundred meters away. Photo source: [Tuscany Region](#)*

Above, an aerial photo of the American Cemetery and **Via Scopeti** from 1982. In blue, a **path** runs alongside the cemetery fence and up the hill to Via Scopeti. The elevation gain is about ninety meters.

Researchers **Nicola Blasco** and **Roberto Terrinazzi** found that walking along this and other nearby paths takes about **ten to fifteen minutes** to reach the cemetery fence and then the valley floor.

In **"A Fairly Normal Man"** (Mondadori, 1994), the detective who succeeded **Sandro Federico** as head of the Anti-Monster Squad in 1986, **Ruggero Perugini**, hypothesizes that the serial killer **struck near his residence** in 1985.

Now in his **fifth consecutive year** of open "challenge" to the city and the police force, the Monster, according to the police officer who attended the FBI Academy in Quantico, decided **not to risk** striking far from home.

20) Adesso vive molto vicino all'area in cui sono stati commessi gli ultimi omicidi, specialmente l'ultimo. Probabilmente non vuole aumentare i rischi di essere intercettato su un percorso di caccia troppo lungo. Sono convinto che nel 1985 ha ucciso a due passi da casa sua. (Vicino a Scopeti ci abitano i fratelli di B.L. Verificare anagrafi.)

Paraphrased by the *Corriere della Sera* on the occasion of the capture of Ted Kaczyński, the SAM detective, also citing Zodiac, says that:

"...it's typical for these criminals to seek contact with the police and get involved in investigations. It's the thrill of the challenge, the pursuit of notoriety."

*Corriere della Sera*

SABATO 6 APRILE 1996

7

L'ESPERTO/ Parla Peter Smerick, autore del rapporto sul matematico-eremita del Montana

## Il tallone d'Achille? La vanità

*Lo psicologo Fbi: «Ecco perché questi criminali lanciano messaggi»*

DEL NOSTRO CORRESPONDENTE

WASHINGTON — Che cosa ha spinto Unabomber a inviare lettere all'Fbi e ai giornali, e a insistere più volte sulla pubblicazione di un lungo manifesto sul *Washington Post* o il *New York Times*? L'inconscia volontà di essere scoperto? «Non credo — ci risponde l'esperto Peter Smerick —. Penso piuttosto che si sentisse invulnerabile, in una posizione di forza, col diritto di reclamizzare la propria dottrina. Realizzava finalmente il suo sogno: rivolgersi a un pubblico prigioniero delle sue trame».

Fino a due mesi fa, Peter Smerick ha fatto parte dell'équipe dell'Fbi alla ricerca di Unabomber. È uno degli autori del suo identikit psicologico, tracciato all'Accademia di Quantico, «identikit — dice con soddisfazione — molto vicino alla realtà: avevamo capito che Unabomber era un ex scienziato, di circa 50 anni, so-

litario. Siamo stati noi a insistere che il *New York Times* pubblicasse il suo manifesto. Era il suo tallone d'Achille, come speravamo. Abbiamo avuto fortuna, perché il fratello si è fatto avanti. Ma prima o poi saremmo arrivati a lui anche da soli».

Secondo Smerick, quasi tutti i serial killer scrivono ai media e alla polizia «perché sono divorati dalla megalomania e dal desiderio di dimostrare di essere in controllo non solo delle vittime ma anche della legge». Le lettere, le telefonate e gli altri indizi sono un sintomo non tanto di autodistruzione quanto di autoaffermazione. «È gente che innanzitutto vuole dominare. Anche quando implora di essere fermato, in genere il pluriomicida si guarda bene dal costuirsi all'autorità. Col passare del tempo la soddisfazione di Unabomber per aver pubblicato il suo manifesto senza essere scoperto dev'essere cre-

sciuta a dismisura. Non penso proprio che si aspettasse di venire catturato. La vanità è stata il suo punto debole».

Un esperto italiano di serial killer, Ruggero Perugini, l'agente di collegamento della nostra Dia con l'Fbi a Washington, ci ha detto che è tipico di questi criminali cercare un contatto con la polizia e coinvolgersi nelle indagini. È il brivido della sfida, la ricerca della notorietà. Sono attenti lettori e collezionisti di tutto ciò che i giornali scrivono di loro. Tanto è vero che chi uccide per ragioni sessuali spesso non abusa delle vittime, si gratifica invece della pubblicità.

Perugini ci ha citato tra i molti i casi quelli di Zodiac e del Figlio di Sam, David Berkovitz. Dopo la cattura di Unabomber, Zodiac è uno dei due most wanted degli Stati Uniti, ossia dei criminali più ricercati dalla legge. Di Zodiac, tuttora in libertà, l'Fbi sospetta

che abbia fatto 37 vittime a San Francisco. L'altro most wanted è il «Green River killer», l'assassino del Fiume Verde a Seattle: avrebbe ucciso 48 prostitute, ma rappresente un'anomalia, perché non si fece mai vivo con nessuno.

Tra il '66 e il '74, gli anni delle stragi (l'Fbi teme

che più tardi si sia trasferito a New York), Zodiac spedì ben 21 lettere ai giornali, vantandosi dei propri crimini. Il Figlio di Sam, autore di sei omicidi nel '66 e '77, ne preveniva la polizia. A differenza di Zodiac, fu arrestato e imprigionato a vita.

E. C.

During the Pacciani trial hearing on June 6, 1994, Bevilacqua was **evasive** in his answers regarding his past. **He didn't tell** the court that he was a **highly decorated Army veteran** (much less a Vietnam veteran). Only **after his defense arguments** at the Pacciani trial did Prosecutor Canessa **learn** of his military honors by contacting the U.S.

Embassy.

Why?



## Joe Bevilacqua al processo Pacciani. Testimonianza completa

Ostello Volante



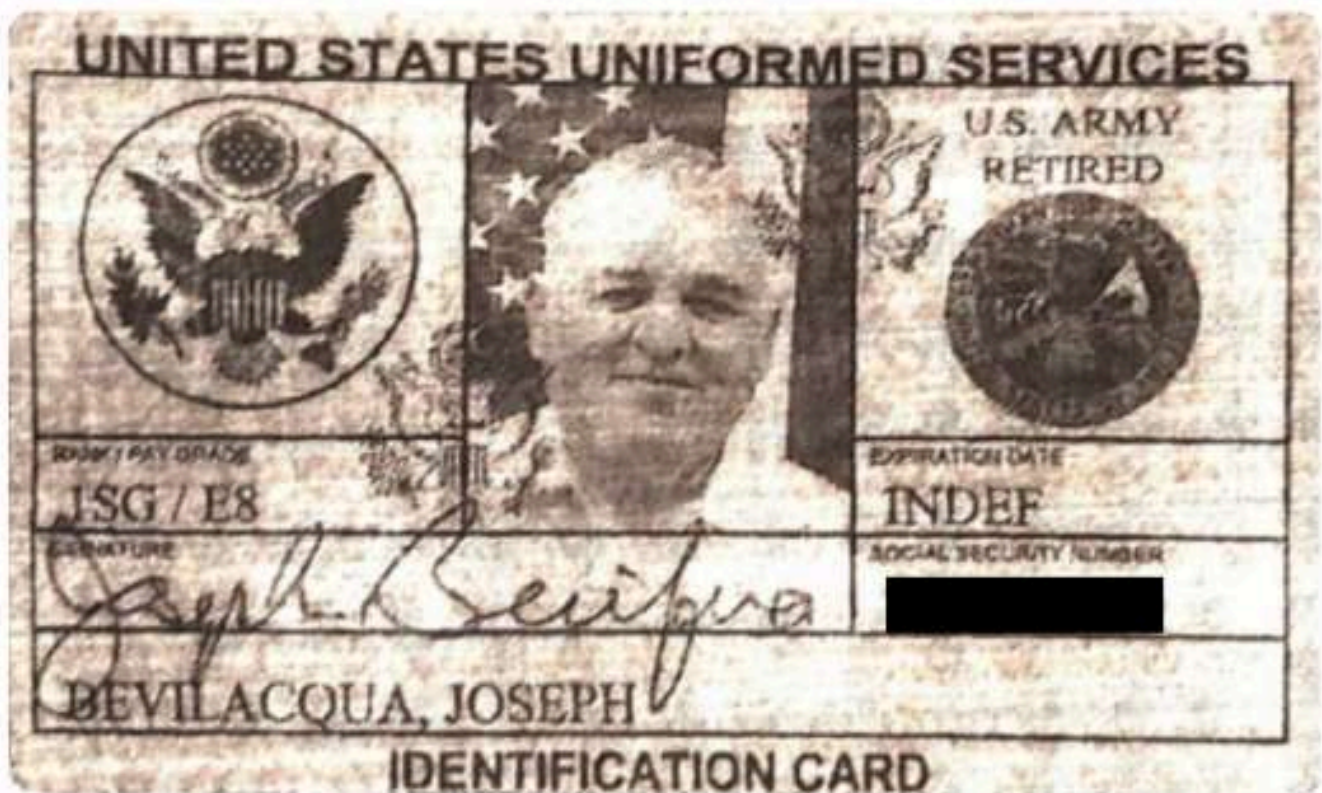
Watch on

*Bevilacqua – Pacciani Comparison*

Above, the video clip of the hearing with the **comparison between Bevilacqua and Pacciani** , considered to be quite **similar in appearance** .

The American is taller. At his trial, he stated that he was 5'7", about 1.72 m tall. His **military ID card** listed his likely height as a young man: 68 inches, equivalent to **5'8"**, the **same possible height** as Zodiac, according to Vallejo and San Francisco police.

Bevilacqua's physique is also consistent with the serial killer's **identikit** , as are two other physical characteristics. Like Zodiac, he was **stocky** and had a **prominent stomach** .



DATE OF BIRTH	WEIGHT	HEIGHT	HAIR COLOR	EYE COLOR
1935DEC20	190	68	BR	BR

DD FORM 2 (RETIRED) OCT 93 PROPERTY OF US GOVERNMENT  
OUSD(P&R) NOV 2002

*Copy of Bevilacqua's military ID (I cut off the back)*

The key moment of the video is an insinuation about Bevilacqua by his near-namesake , **Rosario Bevacqua** , Pacciani's lawyer. "**What if he were the Monster?**" the lawyer asks, addressing the presiding judge, Enrico Ognibene.

Bevacqua, who is defending Vampa along with his colleague **Pietro Fioravanti** , is attempting to paint his client's accuser in a negative light, but **perhaps** he also harbors **genuine suspicions** about him.

It's a small thing, but certainly the number of letters in the name "Joe Bevilacqua" is compatible with the **encrypted name** of the serial killer "Riddler" sent on **April 20, 1970**

J O E B E V I L A C Q U A

A E N ⊕ ⊗ K ⊗ M ⊗ √ N A M

Visual comparison between Bevilacqua's name and the encrypted Zodiac's name in the letter of April 20, 1970

### December 20th, a special day?

Bevilacqua's birthday, **December 20**, also seems to fit the Zodiac case, in which it appears twice.

Thanks to the work of researcher **Valeria Vecchione**, in 2020, it will be discovered that the date also appears in the Monster's only **confirmed message**, the package to Silvia Della Monica from September 1985. The magazine from which the letters were cut, in fact, was in circulation **from December 14 to 20, 1984** (excerpt below).



Above, detail of the magazine from which the Monster cut out the letters of the message to Della Monica in 1985, on newsstands between 14 and 20 December 1984. Below, the package addressed by Zodiac to the lawyer Belli

In particular, in the American case, December 20th falls in:

- 1968 – A couple, **Betty Lou Jensen and David Faraday** , are killed in a layby on Lake Herman Road, near Vallejo;
- 1969 – The San Francisco Post Office stamps a letter addressed to attorney **Melvin Belli** . This is quite likely the mailing date, given that mail was collected in the city every weekday, sometimes twice.

### The “birthday phone call”

On **October 22, 1969** , a self-proclaimed Zodiac, identified a few months later by police as a mentally ill man, **Eric Weil** , telephoned Belli live on television.

Already in his 340-character encrypted message dated November 8, the real serial **killer denied** being the author of that phone call, but it was only deciphered by researchers **David Oranchak** , **Sam Blake** , and **Jarl Van Eycke** in 2020.

Thus, in December 1969, probably to regain possession of "his" story, the real Zodiac decided to actually **contact the lawyer Belli** by sending him a letter.



*Melvin Belli*

In the book “Zodiac” by **Robert Graysmith** and in the film of the same name by **David Fincher** , another phone call from a presumed Zodiac **directed to Belli** is mentioned , this time to his **home number** , which is dated back to the same days in which the serial killer sent the letter to the lawyer, that is, **at the end of December '69** .

I reconstructed the story [at this link](#) .

An FBI telegram dated **January 14, 1970** , states that an unidentified individual called Belli's home claiming to be the serial killer (it's not specified when, only that the lawyer was in Europe). Impatient with Belli's absence, the so-called Zodiac reportedly told the housekeeper:

"I can't wait. **Today is my birthday.** "

The possibility that Zodiac actually took the risk of calling Belli's house cannot be ruled out, especially since **he copied the font** of the house number on the envelope containing the letter to his lawyer from the one physically affixed to the house (image below, discovered by **MK Zodiac Project** ). To do so, he must have been **very close to it** .



*Note how Zodiac reported on the envelope (highlighted in red) the street number of the Belli house by copying the font from the one affixed to the building*

**Some** American researchers (who have provided meticulous insights into the Zodiac case) have questioned **the dating** of the phone call. They claim it was made not in December but in January. The author, they add, is the same **braggart** who had already contacted Belli live on television in October. This is because the "urgent" telegram from

the FBI in San Francisco informing Washington, DC, of the call is dated mid-January, and the braggart would have been **born around that time**.

A search of my own back through **FBI correspondence** proves Graysmith right, however.

The telegram about the birthday call is actually a reply to an FBI message exchange dating back to **December 29, 1969**. On that date, according to the Washington, DC, office's reply of January 12, 1970 (image below), the San Francisco office had sent headquarters a list of police suspects "**with the same or similar birthdate**" (redacted). It is therefore clear that the "birthday call" must have already taken place, even if the FBI was unaware of it.

AN BSA OF PLAIN  
2:44PM URGENT 1-14-70 MS  
TO DIRECTOR (9-49911) ATTN: IDENT. DIVISION  
FROM SAN FRANCISCO (9-2896) (P) 1P

JAN 14 1970  
ENCIPHERED

ZODIAC - EXTORTION. OO-SACRAMENTO  
RE SAN FRANCISCO AIRTEL DECEMBER TWENTYNINE LAST.  
ON INSTANT DATE INSB [REDACTED] IDENTIFIED  
[REDACTED] CONFIDENTIALLY ADVISED THAT UNSUB, WHO IDENTIFIED  
HIMSELF AS "ZODIAC," TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED [REDACTED] BELVIN  
[REDACTED] RESIDENCE IN EFFORT TO CONTACT BELVIN. UNSUB WAS ADVISED  
[REDACTED] AND STATED, "I CAN'T WAIT. TODAY'S MY BIRTHDAY."  
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION IS REQUESTED TO RE-CHECK, IF ON  
FILE, FINGERPRINTS OF [REDACTED] BORN [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] WITH LATENT FINGERPRINTS SUBMITTED IN THIS MATTER.  
SUTEL. EX-116 9-4991-88  
ARMED AND DANGEROUS. JAN 20 1970  
AM COPY SACRAMENTO.  
END  
NSM FBI WASH DC  
cc - SAC SAN FRAN 1970  
9-4991

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Washington, D. C. 20537  
REPORT  
OF THE  
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION  
LATEX FINGERPRINT SECTION

JAN 12 1970  
9-2296  
9-49911 - 83  
8-10042  
SAC, San Francisco

ZODIAC  
EXTORTION

Airtel 11-20-69  
San Francisco

Basic information furnished. Fingerprints not located. Identification Division files for following:

[REDACTED]

Fingerprints were located for the remaining  
suspects listed below with same or similar birth dates.

JAN 20 1970  
THIS REPORT IS FURNISHED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

## 6. THE 2017 INTERVIEWS

### Preparations

What is Bevilacqua's true past?

Why is his testimony so ambiguous?

At the time, there wasn't the wealth of information about his background that **I will collect** and **share** starting the following year on this blog, bringing it together in a post on his **biography** .

The information available online in 2017 says that the former director of the Florence American Cemetery is a **baseball fan** , knows something about **gardening** , was a **soldier** , and fought in **Vietnam** .

I can make some additional deductions from the medals pinned on the ABMC cemetery director's uniform in a photo of him with then-Speaker of the House **Newt Gingrich** on the Anzio coast in the 1990s.



*Former Speaker Gingrich and Bevilacqua*

He displays the same military decorations in photos showing him alongside sitting US presidents, Republican **George Bush Sr.** and Democrat **Bill Clinton** , and Vice President **Dick Cheney** .

He has received a Purple Heart for a war wound, two Bronze Stars with V-devices, and a **Silver Star** , the third highest honor awarded by the US Armed Forces.

All are prestigious medals earned for combat actions.



*Bevilacqua together with two US presidents and a vice president*

My main interest is to know **when he served in Vietnam** .

I know from his Vietnam Service Medal that he served four tours. He must therefore have been there between 1967 and 1971.

Determining this precisely is important to verify the presence of an alibi for the Signa murder, apparently linked to the others by the shell casings and bullets found in the Mele file. And for the Lake Herman Road case of December 20, 1968, claimed by the serial killer in July 1969.

After the interviews and his admission, I will provide some answers that I will present in an article dedicated to the cover-up and in one on the Saigon-San Francisco flights.

After initial investigations, on **April 7, 2017, I requested a message** be delivered to Bevilacqua.

My contact was a former colleague of his at ABMC, **Melanie Resto** , director of the Rome-Sicily American Cemetery .

In the message (below) I ask Bevilacqua for advice on a biography of an American **soldier with a little-known past** who may have served in the military police in **California** during the Vietnam era.

At the Pacciani trial in 1994, Bevilacqua declared that he had been part of the "criminal police."

If he were really Zodiac, he would understand the allusion.

Three days after I asked for the message to be delivered to Bevilacqua, Director Resto sent me her number.

From: Resto Mélanie  
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2017 8:53 AM  
To: 'francesco.fenicio.cianci@gmail.com'  
Subject: RE: messaggio per Joseph Bevilacqua

Buongiorno Sig. Cianci,

Il Sig. Bevilacqua preferisce che lei lo chiami al numero qui.

Sig. Bevilacqua tramite: 339 [REDACTED]

Regards,

Melanie Resto  
Superintendent

American Battle Monuments Commission | Sicily-Rome American Cemetery  
Unit 9500 | Box 11 | DPO AE 09624-0011  
Piazzale Kennedy 1 | 00048 Nettuno | Italy  
T +39 06.98.80.284

---

From: Francesco Cianci <francesco.fenicio.cianci@gmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, April 7, 2017 6:19:10 PM  
To: Resto Mélanie  
Subject: messaggio per Joseph Bevilacqua

Buonasera,

l'ho chiamata questo pomeriggio per avere un contatto con l'ex Soprintendente Joseph Bevilacqua. Ecco il messaggio che vorrei gli fosse recapitato (se possibile).

Grazie per la cordialità e la disponibilità!

"Salve, sono Francesco Cianci,

la contatto perché sto scrivendo una biografia su una persona che servì per l'Esercito USA fra il 1960 e il 1968.

Della sua vita in quel periodo purtroppo si sa poco. E non so da dove iniziare per le mie ricerche, che partono solo dal fatto che nel periodo del Vietnam doveva essere di base in California e forse faceva parte della Military Police.

Sono del tutto incompetente dell'ambiente militare e avrei bisogno di orientarmi per scrivere questo capitolo che dovrebbe rivestire una certa importanza nel complesso della storia di questa persona.

Contatto Lei per la sua esperienza e perché mi hanno suggerito il suo nome.

Sarebbe disponibile a concordare un colloquio telefonico o anche per email?

Grazie,

Francesco"

*Click to enlarge*

- **Early May 2017**

I wait a few weeks before contacting Bevilacqua.

I'm walking down the street in Monza. I dial the number given to me by the director of the Anzio American Cemetery. During the brief call, the American seems only a little nervous, not upset.

"My name is Joe, not Giuseppe," he tells me.

The Italian registry office thinks differently. But it's true that in some interviews he's called Joe, short for Joseph. He invites me to meet in person.

"My house is near the only baseball field in the province, you can't miss it."

I should go and visit him already in those days, when I go to Florence to meet the lawyer and criminologist **Edoardo Orlandi**, whom I have already interviewed by telephone, but I prefer to postpone it.

After carefully **weighing** the benefits and risks, **I'll decide not to record the conversations** with Bevilacqua.

Given the circumstances, I don't have much choice.

Recording openly **isn't an option**. My interlocutor is a potential **serial killer** on the loose. I need **truthful information** that could harm him. He won't give it to me if he knows I'm recording him.

The priority isn't documentation, but acquiring genuine information.

There would be the possibility of secret recording, but Bevilacqua claims to have been part of an unspecified **"criminal police force"** (I later discovered he also conducted **undercover** investigations). In other words, **an expert**.

I fear he would find out, and I only have one chance.

I therefore decide not to take any risks and not to record the conversations.



*Aerial view of Florence near Piazzale Michelangelo*

- **May 26, 2017**

This is the first of **seven conversations lasting approximately three or four hours** (two, the shortest) found in an analysis of Carabinieri records between me and Bevilacqua. The meetings took place at his home in Sesto Fiorentino and in the Falciani area, near Florence. I had already been to the Tuscan capital **in early May**, accompanied by lawyer Edoardo Orlandi, when I visited **Giampiero Vigilanti**. Due to an oversight, I will also backdate the first meeting with Bevilacqua to early May in my statements to the Carabinieri in 2018.

The meetings with the American confirmed by Carabinieri officers are dated:

- May 26, 2017
- May 27, 2017
- June 30, 2017
- July 28, 2017 (with a visit to Falciani)
- August 9, 2017, morning
- August 9, 2017, afternoon
- August 10, 2017

On the first day, Bevilacqua is frightened. He doesn't hide his **anguish** when he looks out onto the balcony and asks me the real reason I've come to visit him.

He lets me go up to his apartment after making me repeat several times that I'm there **"for Vietnam."** Which was partly true.

**"It's really him,"** I think.

From his attitude, I gather he knows why I'm there. He doesn't want to hide it, even if it remains implicit.



**RAGGRUPPAMENTO OPERATIVO SPECIALE CARABINIERI**  
**SEZIONE ANTICRIMINE DI FIRENZE**

**OGGETTO:** annotazione di P.G. relativa all'analisi dei traffici telefonici delle utenze n. [REDACTED] intestate a BEVILACQUA Giuseppe e dell'utenza n. [REDACTED] intestata a AMICONE Francesco.

In his apartment, there's only me, the American, and his dog **"Ophy ."** A **giant poster of Jesus** at the entrance **clashes** with the **small statue of a bull** seemingly **goring a woman** in the center of the table we're sitting at.

Researcher Daniele Trinchieri will point out to me that the work probably depicts Lygia from **"Quo Vadis?"**

From his attitude, I deduce he **knows why I'm there.** He doesn't want to hide it, even if it remains implicit.

We sit down. I notice him moving away from the balcony window, as if afraid of being targeted.

**He's on the alert.**

I glance too long at a piece of paper written in pen and he turns it over. I linger on a tattoo on his right arm and he tries to roll down his sleeve.

We're talking about Vietnam.

I've brought an illustrated book with photographs, **"NAM" by De Agostini** , to help his

memory.

He's starting to gain confidence, but not too much.

At a certain point, seemingly for no reason, he says:

"There were a lot of **Berettas** in Vietnam..."

He's undoubtedly referring to the Monster's infamous gun. He seems to want me to talk, but I'm in no hurry.

The next day, **the bull disappears and** his wife **Meri Torelli appears**, who, although she occasionally visits the house, won't be attending the meetings. Bevilacqua shows me some photo albums and mentions his work in the military police's investigative departments. At the end of the second interview, he walks me to the front door. As we reach the door, he pats me on the shoulder and says:

**"I like you because you're a trouble-free guy."**



*The figurine was similar to this one with the woman turned upside down*

I'll say a few words about Bevilacqua's wife.

Mrs. Torelli presented herself as a practicing Catholic.

The City of Florence will inform me that **from 1969 to the end of the summer of 1984** , shortly after her marriage to the American, **Meri lived** on Viale Fratelli Rosselli in Florence ( [link](#) to an excerpt from Pagine Bianche from 1982-1983), **near the home of Susanna Cambi** , killed by the Monster on October 22, 1981, together with Stefano Baldi, in Calenzano (her daughter Anna Maria Bevilacqua was born the following year). **Gabriella Caltabellotta** , a girl stabbed to death on February 29, 1984, also lived in the same area. Her body was found in a slope north of Florence in the days following the murder.



It would be helpful to take a look at that stamp collection Bevilacqua would like to show me, but Mrs. Torelli **doesn't like "that kind of stuff."**

I wonder what he's referring to. Collecting?

Researcher **Trinchieri** will point out that philately isn't Bevilacqua's only hobby. Just before moving to the Florence American Cemetery, the American joined a numismatics association, according to a May 1974 issue of *The Numismatist magazine*.

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FORGET US!**

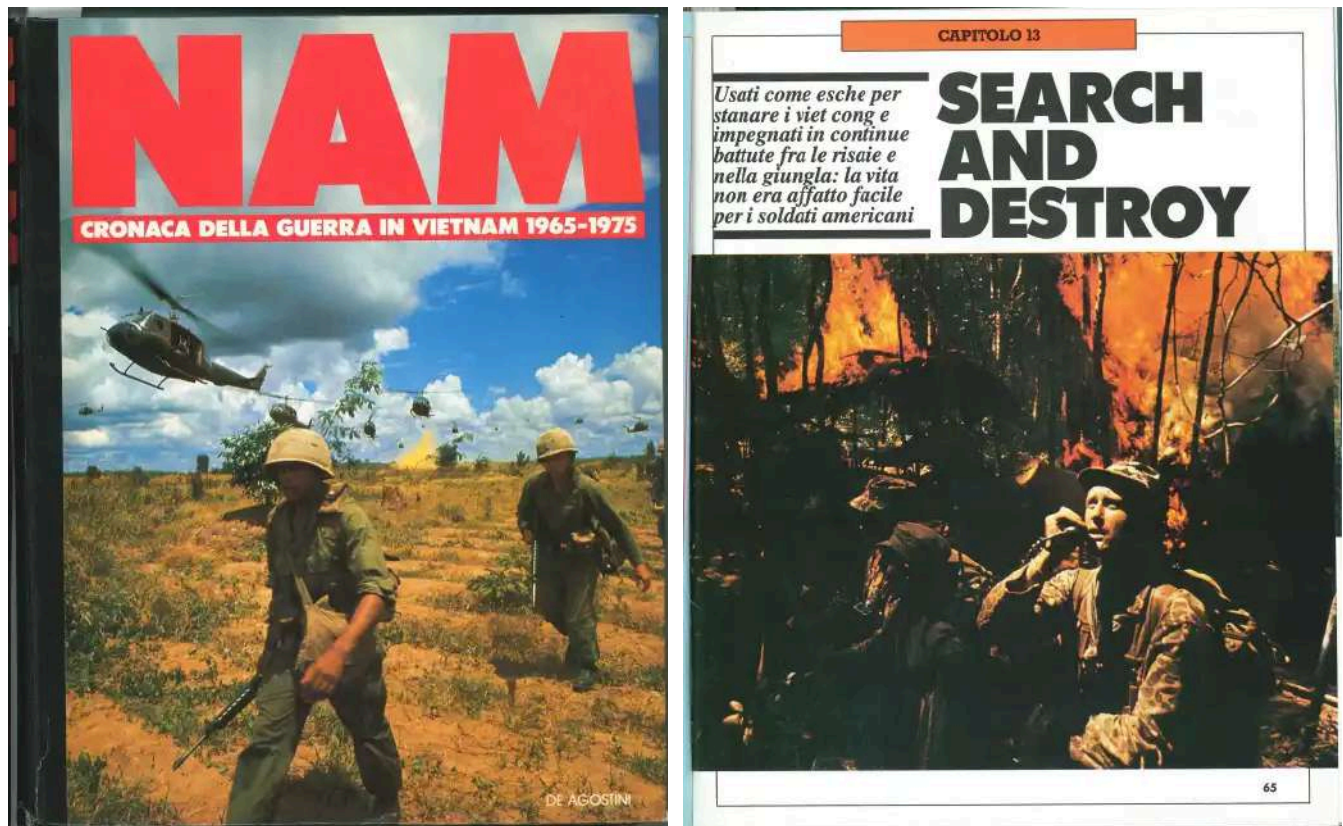
- R-78865 **Robert P. Van Ness**, 2309 New Market Dr., Louisville, KY 40222. Dick C. Brown
- R-78866 **James J. Crotty**, Box 193 RR #2, Beecher, IL 60401. Edward C. Rochette
- R-78867 **S. J. Ingeneere**, 80 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116. Arthur M. Fitts III
- A-78868 **Betty J. Medlar**, 4516-48th, Lubbock, TX 79414. John Jay Pittman
- R-78869 **Joseph G. Pellegrino**, 688 Goodrich St., Union Dale, NY 11553. Phil Rosenbaum
- R-78870 **Gerrit Mostert**, Cheyenne, WY Tom Mason
- R-78871 **Harold J. Stutes, Jr.**, 827 St. Louis St., Lafayette, LA 70501. Carrell A. Trego
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- R-78875 **Harold Bates**, Rochester, MI Florence M. Schook Michigan State Numis. Soc.
- R-78876 **Joseph Bevilacqua**, HHD 8th LOG CMD, APO New York, NY 09019. Edward C. Rochette
- R-78877 **Thomas A. Carpenter**, 159 Summer St., Apt. 41, Amherst, MA 01002. EDO
- R-78878 **Howard W. Naylor**, 13316 Idlewild Dr., Bowie, MD 20715. Johnny D. Chapman
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- R-78880 **William A. Rapanotti, Jr.**, Houston, TX Chet Falkenhainer, Pat Johnson
- R-78881 **Joe C. Harr**, 103 Highland Dr. R #5, Blountville, TN 37617. Grover C. Criswell, David Frye
- R-78882 **Albert Carrier**, 7640 Mulholland Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90046. Geneva Karlson
- J-78883 **Don Anderson**, 1123 N. Eustis Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46229. Francis E. Duncan
- R-78885 **David S. Pence**, P. O. Box 376, Bettendorf, IA 52722. Robert W. Richardson
- J-78886 **Denny R. Laferty**, Rt. 4, Lot 23, Taylorsville, KY 40071. Roy M. Baldwin
- R-78887 **Patrick F. Dew**, Rt. 50E, Athens, OH 45701. Gary L. Phillips, Steve Sewell
- J-78888 **Thomas G. Hallenbeck**, 1141 W. Lexington Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46807. Kenneth L. Hallenbeck, Kevin L. Hallenbeck
- R-78889 **Aubrey M. Armstrong**, Somerset, MA Ralph S. Jaffe, Betty K. Jaffe
- R-78890 **Ernie W. Proctor**, 627 Mountain View, Cultus Lake, B.C. Canada Edward C. Rochette
- R-78891 **Edgar M. Mills**, RD 3, Box 24, Andover, NJ 07821. Carleton F. Daly
- R-78892 **John M. Hutcheson**, Rochester, MN N. Neil Harris
- J-78893 **Mark Conrad**, 47-46 40th St., Long Island City, NY 11104. Kenneth L. Hallenbeck
- R-78894 **Hans S. Johansson**, Paseo de San Juan 12, Barcelona, Spain EDO
- R-78895 **Barry Potashnick**, Menlo Park, CA Edward C. Rochette
- R-78896 **Dee W. Pulsipher**, 843 Briarfarm Lane, Kirkwood, MO 63122. George R. Wiseheart
- J-78897 **James F. Kimball**, 247 Buckskin Path, Centerville, MA 02632. Edward C. Rochette
- R-78898 **Wayne Kenaston, Jr.**, San Diego, CA Richard E. Martin, Richard H. Ponterio
- R-78899 **David R. Green**, 21 Kings Rd., Madison, NJ 07940. Edward J. Hilbert, Mary-Liz Treuting
- R-78900 **Paul G. Schacht**, 20 Skylark Dr. #25, Larkspur, CA 94939. Edward C. Rochette
- R-78901 **David (Pete) Funderburk**, 208 Craven St., Tarboro, NC 27886. John G. Kustriza
- R-78902 **Alex J. Ranciglio**, Grandview, MO Troy H. Coan
- R-78903 **Alan Hanau**, 171 W. 12th St., New York, NY 10011. Phil Rosenbaum
- A-78904 **Nikki Bethune**, Gadsden, AL Valentine Pasvolisky, John Jay Pittman
- J-78905 **Ronald Remy**, 12 Mann St., Mansfield, PA 16933. Michigan State Numis. Soc., Florence M. Schook
- R-78906 **John A. Lore**, 849 S. 60th Ave., Hollywood, FL 33022. Elliott M. Arking
- R-78907 **Herbert W. Haedl**, P. O. Box 733, Sioux Falls, SD 57101. Robert C. Bakewell
- R-78908 **Steven Schor**, Melville, NY EDO
- R-78909 **Charles J. Ortiz**, 14681 Goldenwest St., Westminster, CA 92683. Richard C. Striley, W. T. Ohlendorf
- R-78910 **Paul D. Rogers, Jr.**, Ft. Lauderdale, FL Donald E. Lewis
- R-78911 **Gary Lee Morman**, 1302 Broadway, Dakota City, NE 68731. Edward C. Rochette
- R-78912 **Robert A. Hoshaw**, 737 Williams Drive, Crown Point, IN 46307. Robert J. Crossett
- J-78913 **Todd Estell**, 114 S. Kossuth, Osceola, IA 50213. J. A. Wade
- R-78914 **Everett Howard**, RR #2, Broughton, IL 62817. Edward C. Rochette
- R-78915 **Donald E. Hanlon**, Laurel, MD David C. Amey
- R-78916 **Ralph W. Harker**, Rantoul, IL William M. Rucker
- R-78917 **Mark Kovalanka**, Ledyard, CT Donald D. Lussada

## Vietnam

During our conversations, Bevilacqua told me that he had been in the army for 20 years, between 1954 and 1974, specifying that in 1964 he became a **military investigator in the army's Criminal Investigation** department (CID) in Livorno (I'll go into [more detail later](#) ).

In our first meetings, however, we delve deeper into his experience in Vietnam.

Bevilacqua tells me about the **"Search and Destroy"** operations, when he was leading a platoon in the 27th Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, near Cu Chi in 1968. Bevilacqua received several medals for valor that year (related documents are in the [biographical post](#) ).



*Click to enlarge. This is the book I brought to the meetings with Bevilacqua, having him comment on it.*

Of those he has received, the **Purple Heart** for a war wound awarded to him in **November 1968** certainly has great symbolic value, but the **Silver Medal** is the most important.

An excerpt from the citation I will receive from the National Personnel Records Center in Saint Louis in 2019 reads:

"...Sergeant First Class Bevilacqua distinguished himself by his **heroic actions** on March 9, 1968, while serving as a platoon sergeant in Company B, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, in a **combat operation** in the Republic of Vietnam. When his **platoon** came **under intense enemy fire**

from three sides, including small arms fire, automatic weapons fire, and RPG rockets, Sergeant Bevilacqua **reacted immediately**, maneuvering his squad into a defensive position. As the platoon began its retreat to allow air strikes on enemy positions, a **man** was seriously wounded and immobilized by enemy fire. Sergeant Bevilacqua noticed the man left behind and, risking his own life, **crawled** approximately sixty meters **under incessant enemy fire** to reach him and carry him to safety. Realizing that the incessant gunfire made it impossible to carry him, **he tied the cord of his rifle** to his legs and **dragged him along, about eighty meters**, bringing him to safety..."

The two volumes we browse during the meetings will be sent by me to the Napa Sheriff's Department in the summer of 2020.



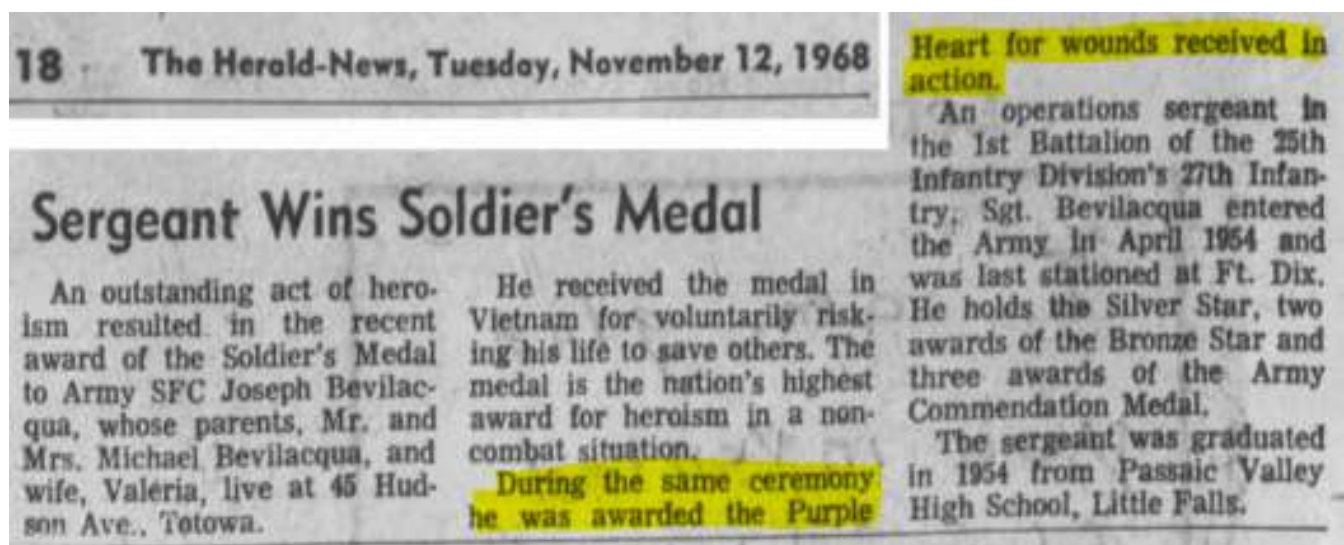
Click to enlarge. Other pages of the book dedicated to the infantry, of which Bevilacqua was a member.

'68, an alibi?

Bevilacqua was in Vietnam in 1968. Does this mean an alibi for the Signa murder and the

Zodiac attack on Lake Herman Road?

As for the Italian double homicide, almost certainly. But as we've seen, in that case **the mystery of the gun** looms large . Bevilacqua was at **Camp Darby** near Pisa **between 1971 and 1974** , when the hypothetical **cover-up** could have been carried out (at the Perugia or Florence courthouse). Did the American soldier have the knowledge and skills to carry it out? We'll see in later chapters that Bevilacqua worked as a **military investigator** , even **undercover** . He would have had neither the connections nor the skills to carry it out.



*After the Silver Medal, Bevilacqua also received a Soldier's Medal and a Purple Heart for war wounds in the fall of*

'68

I provide a detailed explanation of why 1968 is not an alibi **for the Zodiac case here** . In short, Bevilacqua himself, responding to the Carabinieri in 2018, informed them that he had **passed through California** on his way to Vietnam. According to Pan Am prospectuses (excerpt below), San Francisco was on the main **trade route** connecting the continental United States to the Southeast Asian country.

The airport in nearby **Oakland** , in particular, was one of the **major hubs** used for **transferring troops** to and from Saigon. Given the numerous decorations for valor he received on the battlefield that year, it is possible that Bevilacqua traveled to San Francisco during the **Christmas period** for a **short leave** with permission from his command.

**U.S.A.—CENTRAL PACIFIC—PHILIPPINES—VIETNAM—  
SINGAPORE—INDONESIA**

PAGE 16

DECEMBER 1-31, 1968

**EASTBOUND** Read Down

Hours from G.M.T.	CLASS→	FLIGHT NO.→	FY	FY	FY	FY				FY	FY
			800	824	814	842				822	812
			707	707	707	707				707	707
	JET AIRCRAFT→					SU	FR	WE	SA	DAILY	DAILY
	FREQUENCY→		DAILY	DAILY	TU	SU	FR	WE	SA	DAILY	DAILY
+8	SAIGON	(As Lx)	—	—	13 30 14 20	11 05	9 55 11 05	11 50	11 50	—	—
	(International Date Line)		Arrives Honolulu ONE DAY EARLIER due International Date Line								
-8	SAN FRANCISCO (R)	(As Lx)	6 15 8 45	—	19 45	16 15				—	—

December 1968. Pan Am flew from Saigon to San Francisco. Due to the great distance, three stopovers were planned: one in Guam, in the Philippines, and the other in Honolulu, where the 25th Infantry Division headquarters was located.

Below, the cover of a small booklet I send to Bevilacqua after our first meetings in May. The cult of the Madonna Undoer of Knots originates from the devotion of a married couple.

Since I myself am a Catholic believer, and the victims of the Monster and the Zodiac are mostly couples, I decide to **give it** to the couple. It will be used as **"evidence"** in my defamation trial.



*Prayer book given to Bevilacqua*

I will later personally give Bevilacqua “Orthodoxy” by **Gilbert Keith Chesterton** , a Christian writer and apologist known for his detective stories about **Father Brown** , whose possible cause for sainthood has been debated by the Catholic Church in recent years.

I decide to ask for **the intercession** of Our Lady, Undoer of Knots, and of Chesterton for the resolution of this sad affair.



*Chesterton is the only Englishman after Henry VIII to have received the title of "Defensor Fidei" from a Pope*

In her **deposition** on October 12, 2023, Mrs. Torelli will confirm that **Bevilacqua is lucid** and will remain so until his death in 2022, even though one of his daughters, Stella, will question his mental health following a hospitalization for **heart disease in 2021** .

TESTE (TORELLI MERI) - Nel '17 quanti anni aveva? Aveva 82 – 83, è di dicembre.

GIUDICE (DOTT.SSA CANNATA') – Era una persona... Diciamo, stava bene, era lucida?

TESTE (TORELLI MERI) - Si si si, è sempre stato lucido, dopo... Si si, è sempre stato lucido mio marito.

*Bevilacqua's wife's testimony at the **hearing on October 12, 2023.***

In 2017, the only health problem the American tells me about during interviews are the recently removed kidney stones that he keeps in a small bottle on a shelf in his office bookcase.

He doesn't appear to have any cognitive deficits. **On the contrary.**

Below is Bevilacqua's dog, "Ophy," short for **Ophelia** . A well-known Shakespearean character and an emblem of **suicide by drowning** , caused by unrequited love.

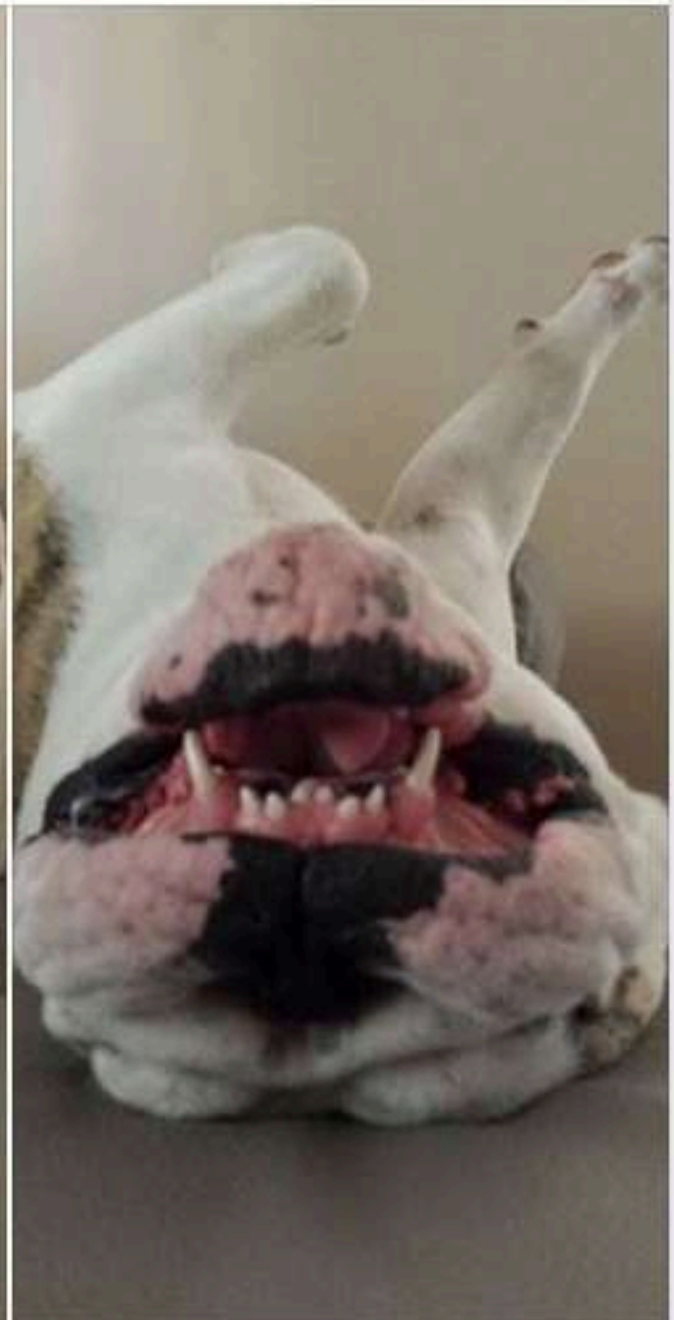


Anna Maria Bevilacqua

24 giugno 2014 · 🌐



Ophelia è pronta x i mondiali....beh più o meno....



👍 13

Commenti: 1 Condivisioni: 1

Considering that Zodiac's latest signature is a piece about an **identical fate** caused by the same motif, a suicide by drowning from **Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Mikado ,"** it can be considered a real confirmation not only of the **water theory** but of Zodiac's possible signature.



Ophelia, painting by John Everett Millais

## 7. "MIKADO" CONNECTION

Bevilacqua's daughter, Anna Maria, who posted the above picture of Ophy, is married to John David M., a **San Francisco** native and fan of the local **Giants** team .

Cognome [REDACTED]

Nome JOHN DAVID

nato il [REDACTED] in SAN FRANCISCO (STATI UNITI D'AMERICA)

[REDACTED]

(C.F. [REDACTED])

Cognome BEVILACQUA

Nome ANNA MARIA

nata il [REDACTED] in FIRENZE (FI)

[REDACTED]

(C.F. [REDACTED])

Bevilacqua is a baseball fan and was honorary president of the Italian team **Nettuno Lions** between the 1990s and 2000s.

The cap he often sports in pictures with his family (below) is a **San Francisco Giants** cap .



Anna Maria Bevilacqua's mother-in-law, **Luanne F.** , lived in **San Francisco** in the 1960s and 1970s . According to the 1970 phone book, the family lived in an apartment on 26th Avenue.

**In the year the Zodiac** case broke , she graduated from San Francisco State University and married in December 1969.

## SAN FRANCISCO

F [REDACTED] John W 377 26thAv ....386-4455

© The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company 1970

rs., Dec. 11, 1969 S.F. Exami

[REDACTED]-F [REDACTED]  
 hn E. M [REDACTED], 23, 851 47th Ave.  
 ianne L. [REDACTED], 23, 377  
 re.

From her **Facebook profile** , and from a search of student photo albums from American schools, I learned that before going to college, Luanne F. attended **Presentation High School**, run by the Presentation Sisters.

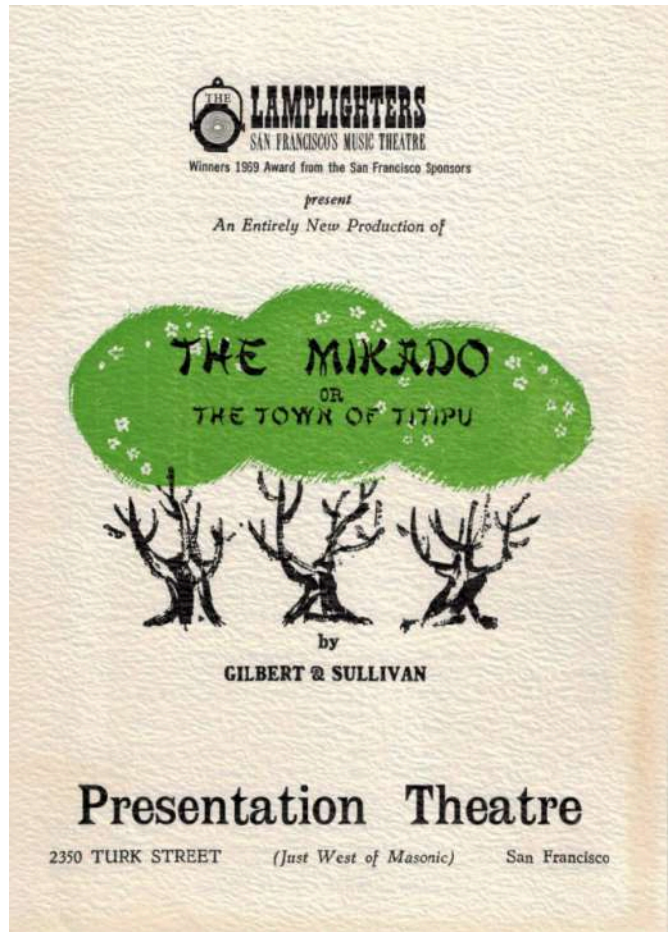
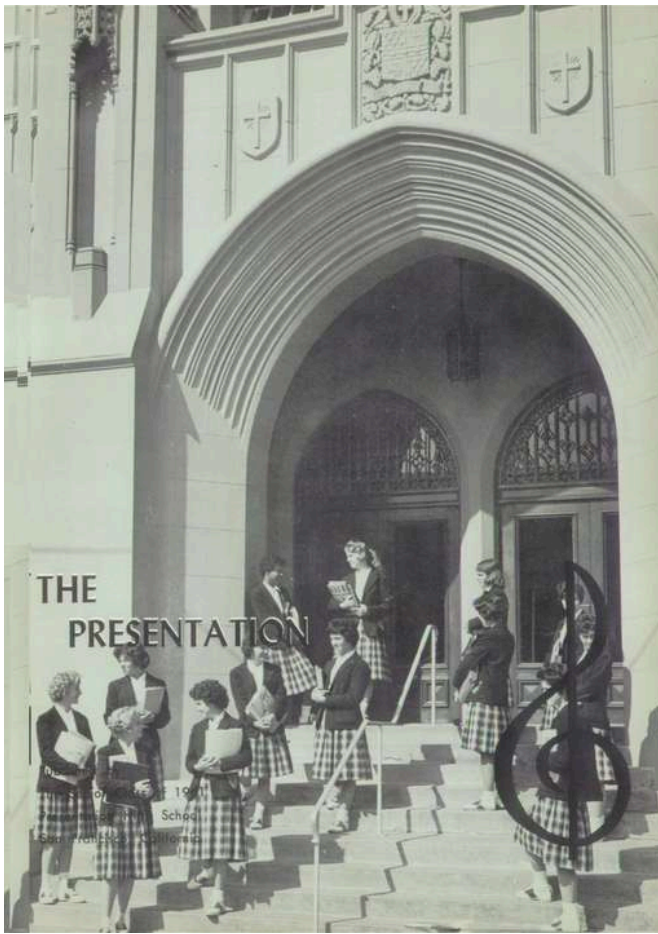


*On the left is Oracle Park in San Francisco where Anna Maria Bevilacqua was with her husband a few years ago.*

Since the **newspapers.com** archive made online searches of millions of old U.S. newspapers possible, Zodiac researchers have discovered that starting on **October 18, 1969** , a week after Paul Stine 's murder , the **Lamplighters** company , known in San Francisco for its **Gilbert and Sullivan** operas , performed a new version of **"The Mikado** ," an operetta that Zodiac is said to have mentioned **repeatedly** in his correspondence.

**Where was** The Mikado performed? At the Luanne F.

**Girls' School's Presentation** Theatre , which for years would be the stage for the Lamplighters.



The **Sisters of Presentation** complex , now almost entirely owned by the University of San Francisco, was **less than 2 kilometers from the scene of the crime** of October 11, 1969.

Anna Maria Bevilacqua's husband, John DM, later lived **almost opposite** the institute.



The school was also a short distance from the Bridge Cinema (now the site of the SF Baseball Academy) at the intersection of **Geary and Blake Streets** , where “Take the Money and Run,” starring **Woody Allen** as **Virgil Starkwell** , was being shown on the day of Stine's murder .

I will find that both the red Virgil of New Jersey and the hero of the eponymous Ancient Roman poet are **recalled in the Zodiac case** .

"BRILLIANT!  
MARVELOUS!  
EXCITING!"  
-Richard Christian

# HAIR

SEATS NOW  
THRU NOV. 30!

TUESDAY-FRIDAY, 8:30  
SATURDAY AT 9:00 & 10:00  
SUNDAY AT 2:30 & 7:30

For Order Bookings-  
Call Marjorie Chase  
at 775-0772  
No Performance on Mondays  
Purchase tickets at independent  
agencies: TFS Center,  
Box Office, Geary Theatre,  
etc.

**GEARY THEATRE**  
415 Geary Street,  
San Francisco, Calif. 94102  
Call 775-8795 for information

**THE LAMPLIGHTERS**  
SAN FRANCISCO'S MUSICAL THEATRE

**OPENING TONIGHT!**

# THE MIKADO

Booked by: William Goodwin, Frank Barlett

Fri. & Sat. Even. thru Nov. 8  
Mets: Sun. Oct. 24/Sat. Nov. 8

INFO/TICKETS at Marjorie's  
(in SF-O'Farrell Station, 287-7447)

**PRESENTATION Theatre**  
2350 Turk west of Masonic

Theater — New production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Mikado," by the Lamplighters, opening tonight at 8:30 and continuing Fridays and Saturdays until Nov. 8 at Presentation Theater, Turk near Masonic.

EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT  
**BRIDGE**  
GARY AT RISK  
18 + 0118

— SHOW TIMES —  
12:30+3:30+8:15  
8:30+8:25+10:05

"WOODY'S  
BRILLIANTLY  
FUNNY FILM"  
JOHN WASSERMAN  
CHRONICLE

WOODY ALLEN'S  
"TAKE THE MONEY  
AND RUN"

**None of the** direct connections with **San Francisco** will emerge from **Bevilacqua's statements** to the Carabinieri in 2018, despite specific **questions about California** asked **in the presence of informed family members** (chapter **"Bevilacqua and Pacciani "** ).

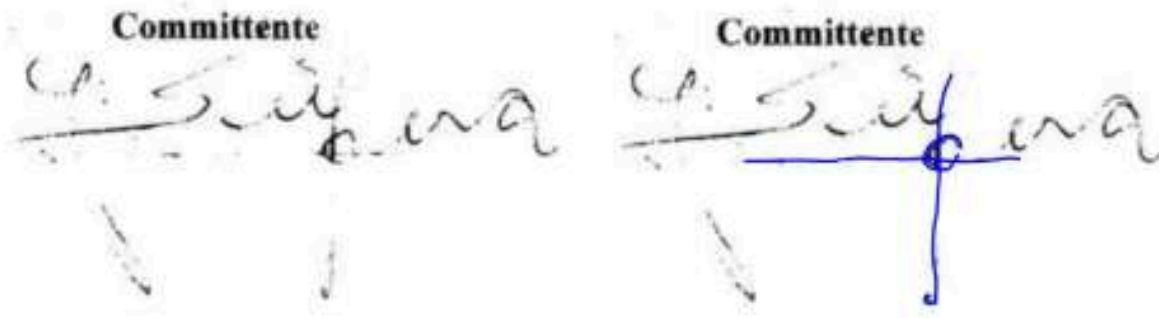
Any **reference** to the Californian city will also be **omitted by Mrs. Torelli** and her daughter **Anna Maria** in their depositions at my defamation trial (the transcript is **here** ).



*In place of the Bridge Cinema, there is now a center for training in baseball, throwing and batting. Here, too, they root for the Giants.*

- **June 30, 2017**

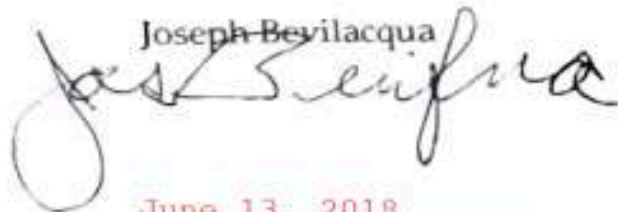
I present Bevilacqua with a written agreement regarding the drafting of his biography. I no longer have the original, but even though it's of poor quality, the scan of the signature, written in blue pen by the elderly "client," reveals **something** he usually doesn't.



June 30, 2017  
Deal with Francesco Amicone



May 22, 2018  
Warning



June 13, 2018  
Lawsuit



May 29, 2018  
Interview by the Carabinieri

The memory of Bevilacqua signing the contract will come back to me several times. The sheet of paper on the kitchen table, him holding a pen. I watch him **take aim and effortlessly place** the underline in the buttonhole of the Q. A Celtic cross. I associate this image with Ulysses, the protagonist of Homer's poem "The Odyssey," which gives its name to a mysterious, supposedly "American" monster . The cunning king of Ithaca, a master of the bow, who, in one of the final cantos , reveals his identity by shooting an arrow through twelve axe rings.



*After winning the archery contest, Odysseus slays the suitors who are threatening his wife Penelope and intending to steal his throne. Illustration from the book "The Most Beautiful Stories of Classical Ages" by Gustav Schwab.*

## 8. NOTES, CID AND COLLEAGUES

Once again, he brings me a scrapbook to leaf through. On the front cover, there's a **Celtic cross** drawn on it .

I'm taken aback for a few seconds before turning the page.



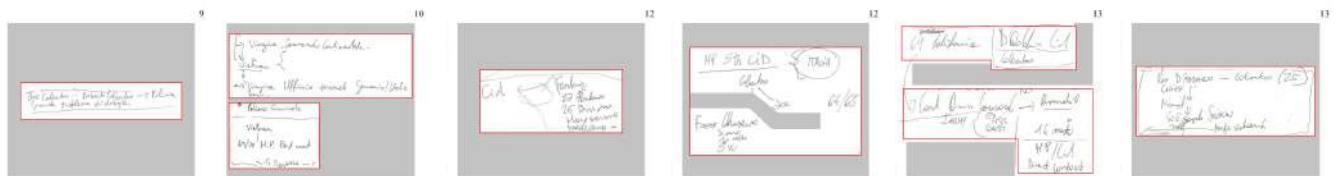
*Selected pages from the notes. On the right, Bevilacqua's attempt to discredit my notes in his 2018 defamation lawsuit.*

The notes do not report Bevilacqua's **admission (in this chapter)** , unlike what a note signed by officers Ilardi and Giannini will suggest (chapter **“Denunciation”** ) and what the commander of the ROS of Florence, **Giuseppe Colizzi** , will think .

**Bevilacqua** will try to discredit them in his **complaint of June 13, 2018** , insinuating that they have been altered. Perhaps he has something to fear?

Certainly, they would be **important** to the investigation because they contain confidential information on his **duties and movements not present in his official records** .

Apart from **the evidence** that will come to light **in the following years** , the authenticity of the notes is also corroborated by some **errors** of misunderstanding in the **pronunciation** of the dates, as can be seen for example from the annotation “62/63” (second image in the previous gallery) instead of “72/73” (dates reported in the **official records** ).



*Click to enlarge* . Selection of notes with grayed-out highlights and alignment for ease of understanding.

I will have to immerse myself in a **long** research project **to verify the accuracy of the information** noted in 2017 and fully understand the references to Bevilacqua's military career.

In the notes there are various references to Bevilacqua's comrades, his commander in the 5th CID in Livorno **Colombo** , to **Frank Chiusano** and **Raymond D'Addario** , a member of the CID unit of the 25th Infantry Division when Bevilacqua served in '68.



*CID officers in Thailand. Seated first on the left is D'Addario. Second to last on the right in the same row is Colombo.*

*Photo: Courtesy of Louise "Mickey" Head*

In my article published in *Il Giornale* on May 29, 2018, there is a typo regarding Colombo's name. I cite **his father Joe** (see annotations on page 9 of the notes), whom Bevilacqua mentions in reference to a family legend that claims he was the source of inspiration for the famous **Lieutenant Colombo** .

REACHING OUT

Zoo wants you
Brevard Zoo needs volunteers to give tours and slide shows to civic groups and schools. Call 676-4266.

PEOPLE

SECTION D

TODAY'S GOOD BET

Get in on the act
Children's Community Theater has auditions for adult touring group at 10 a.m., 1840 Baldwin St., Rockledge. Call 632-9217.

MONDAY, May 22, 1989

The Haven thanks generous donors

These wonderful, countless volunteers who work at and for The Haven, an emergency shelter for abused and abandoned children in Brevard County, are planning a celebration Wednesday at the Eau Gallie Yacht Club in Indian Harbour Beach.



AMY CLARK
PEOPLE

beneficial donations.

At the 5:30 p.m. party, businessmen and individuals who donated more than \$500 will be honored and presented with plaques by Craig Ruffalo, chairman of the event. Among the honorees are American Bank of Brevard, Sun Bank, Citicorp and Southern National Bank of Florida, First Florida Bank, First Union National Bank of Florida, First Federal of Decatur, G. B. Corp., Heritage Corp., Mechanics Inc., Southern Moving and Storage Co. Inc., Business, Harrell, Silbertson & Graham, Law Firm, Sun and Beauty of Florida Inc., and Gary Cunningham.

Here are some statistics about The Haven

These donors from The Haven's Community Council, a fundraising group for the shelter, will celebrate the completion of a fund drive to the Haven's community which reached \$17,000. These funds will be used to help offset the operating costs of The Haven, which has an annual budget of \$170,000, says Kenzie Kay Bender, vice and main chairman for The Haven's

Just when you thought television had no more suspense to offer, when even the 'Miami Vice' cops have made their final predictable busts, real life comes to the rescue with a puzzle Perry Mason couldn't untangle:

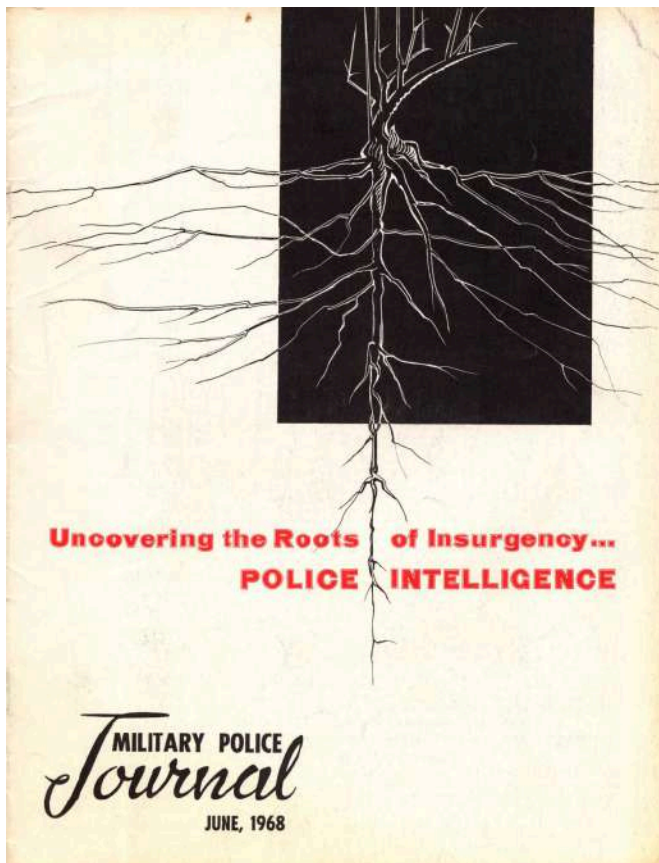
The Columbo Mystery



Who is the real Detective Columbo—TV copstar Peter Falk, right, or the late Joseph Colombo, a Melbourne Beach retiree, left, who died in 1986—and whose family created the series he based on his law enforcement career?

Colombo and D'Addario, the two most cited CID colleagues, would have been aware of Bevilacqua's movements in those years, including in California.

When he admits his guilt for the crimes of the Monster and the Zodiac, Bevilacqua will mention both of them, alluding to the fact that they had guessed something, but he will leave the sentence hanging (chapter "Admission").



MAJ Charles F. Kruak from Ft. Leavenworth, Kas. to Hqs US-AMV, APO SF 9637 (57)  
 MAJ Franklin X. Krahe from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to OT P.M.G., Washington, D. C. (54)  
 MAJ John A. Martin from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Hqs 3th Army, Ft. Sheridan, Ill. (58)  
 MAJ Darrell B. Maurana from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to 188th MP Bde, Ft. Carson, Colo. (59)  
 MAJ Douglas C. McHair from Ft. Leavenworth, Kas. to OT-PNG, Washington, D. C. (57)  
 MAJ Gaudin Marshall from Ft. Hood, Tex. to USA SUPCOM/CDB, APO SF 9632 (62)  
 MAJ Earl H. Moore, Jr. from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to 96th MP Bde, APO SF 9631 (61)  
 MAJ Wyatt C. Minton from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Hqs Third Army, Ft. George G. Meade, Md. (56)  
 MAJ Jim S. Muenigh from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Ft. Riley, Kas. (62)  
 MAJ Robert L. Owens from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Germany (62)  
 MAJ Richard H. Palmer from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Ft. Leasley J. McVair, Washington, D. C. (54)  
 MAJ Travis W. Parker from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Germany (62)  
 MAJ Billy R. Pinkerton from Ft. McPherson, Ga. to HQ USARV, APO SF 9625 (62)  
 MAJ David J. Pool from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to HQ USARV, APO SF 9635 (62)  
 MAJ Douglas O. Rimlach from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to HQ US-AMV, APO SF 9637 (62)  
 MAJ Charles W. Rishworth from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Vietnam (59)  
 MAJ Harold Schwesnick from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to 1st Cav Div, APO SF 9690 (57)  
 MAJ David H. Stem from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to 17th Abn Bde, APO SF 9622 (59)  
 MAJ Donald R. Uzbachi from Ft. Leavenworth, Kas. to 25th Inf Div, APO SF 9624 (57)  
 MAJ Robert E. Wagild from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Ft. Polk, La. (56)  
 CPT Robert F. Alvres from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Hqs Third Army, Ft. McPherson, Ga. (58)  
 CPT Kenneth M. Alderson from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Ft. Riley, Kas. (54)  
 CPT Phillip G. Barrett from Ft. Benning, Ga. to 1st Inf Div, APO SF 9630 (59)  
 CPT James I. Berry from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to APO SF 9622 (60)  
 CPT David I. Bertocci from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to 188th MP Bde, APO 9694 (55)  
 CPT Lawrence Brode, Jr. from Ft. Still, Okla. to USA Elm K&A, APO New York 0965 (70)  
 CPT Ronald E. Bozins from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Ft. Riley, Kas. (54)  
 CPT Emory L. Boyd from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Ft. Riley, Kas. (54)  
 CPT William R. Conley from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to USA SUPCOM-CIB, APO SF 9632 (59)  
 CPT Guy E. Dorr from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to 60th MP Bde, APO SF 9623 (60)  
 CPT James L. Duncan from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to 1st MP Det (CI), Ft. Belvoir, Va. (60)  
 CPT Woodell J. Durcan from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to 57th MP Co., West Point, N. Y. (59)  
 CPT Harry M. Durbin from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Ft. Riley, Kas. (54)  
 CPT Donald T. Ellis from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Ft. Riley, Kas. (54)  
 CPT Rockwood M. Farmer from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to USAMA, West Point, N. Y. (58)  
 CPT Richard D. Fetter from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Ft. Riley, Kas. (54)  
 CPT Van C. Fontana from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to 86th Egr Bde, APO SF 9629 (59)  
 CPT Donald E. Haag from Ft. Campbell, Ky. to Ft. Riley, Kas. (54)  
 CPT Joseph Haag, Jr. from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Ft. Riley, Kas. (61)  
 CPT John L. Hauschild from Ft. Hamilton, N. Y. to USA Elm USMACV, APO SF 9622 (70)  
 CPT Wayne D. Herring from West Point, N. Y. to SUPCOM-CIB, APO SF 9632 (63)  
 CPT David R. Kennedy from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Hqs AMALCOM, East Afr. Com. (54)  
 CPT Norman D. Jarrell from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to 188th MP Bde, APO SF 9694 (61)  
 CPT Robert R. Jorgensen from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to 188th MP Bde, APO SF 9694 (52)  
 CPT William A. Latta from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to USA Elm US-AMV, APO SF 9622 (64)  
 CPT James Lewinger from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Ft. Riley, Kas. (59)  
 CPT Douglas W. Little from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Ft. Riley, Kas. (59)  
 CPT Jim W. McFarland from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Hqs US-NONARC, Ft. Moore, Va. (55)  
 CPT Jackson S. Murray from Ft. Detrick, Md. to Hqs US-RL, APO Seattle 9749 (56)  
 CPT Bruce D. Nagle from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Carlisle Bks, Pa. (56)  
 CPT Lawrence P. O'Dea from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to 96th MP Bde, APO SF 9623 (56)  
 CPT Richard Perry from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Ft. Leasley J. McVair, Washington, D. C. (56)  
 CPT Gary L. Reed from Herndon, Va. to VN (59)  
 CPT Owen H. Saki from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Hqs Sixth Army, Presidio SF, Calif. (62)  
 CPT James W. Short from Arlington Hall Station, Va. to 18th MP Bde, APO SF 9694 (61)  
 CPT Herbert L. Sklar from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Germany (to assigned Unit of Omaha prior to departure from Germany) (54)  
 CPT William Sontöfer from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to USMACV, APO SF 9622 (54)  
 CPT Harris W. Trow from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to 188th MP Bde, SF 9694 (56)  
 CPT Walter Stammers from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to USMACV, APO SF 9622 (54)  
 CPT Harris W. Trow from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to 188th MP Bde, SF 9694 (56)  
 CPT Wallace A. Walker from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Germany (53)  
 CPT Charlie L. Whitehead from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Ft. Benet, N. C. (54)  
 CPT Wilbert Williams from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to USA Elm USMACV, APO SF 9622 (65)  
 1LT William D. Wisse from Sand Base, N. M. to Vietnam (51)  
 1LT Allen R. Chick from Presidio of SF, Calif. to USA Elm MACV, APO SF 9622 (64)  
 1LT Rafael Gomez from Ft. Campbell, Ky. to USA SUPCOM-CIB, APO SF 9628 (63)  
 1LT Arnold A. Gordon from Camp A. P. Hill, Va. to SUPCOM-CIB, APO SF 9628 (63)  
 1LT John E. Gray from Ft. Polk, La. to Hqs USARV, APO SF 9675 (53)  
 1LT George Johnson from Ft. Riley, Kas. to USMACV, APO 9622 (53)  
 1LT Perry L. Shonkfelder from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to 188th MP Bde, APO SF 9694 (71)  
 1LT William O. Rutledge from Ft. Stewart, Ga. to Vietnam (57)  
 2LT Richard Daugherty from Ft. Det. Calif. to USMACV, APO SF 9629 (54)  
 2LT John M. Miller from Ft. Riley, Kas. to 1st Inf Div, APO 9645 (54)  
 2LT Joe R. Pine from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Vietnam (56)  
 2LT Glee R. Ray from Ft. Riley, Kas. to USMACV, APO 9622 (53)  
 2LT Alan M. Smith from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to Vietnam (54)  
 CW2 Lawrence T. Matuse from Ft. MacArthur, Calif. to USA Engg Dist Pacific Command, APO SF 9643 (61)  
 CW3 Aurelio P. Benedetto from Ft. G. G. Meade, Md. to 188th MP Bde, APO SF 9694 (61)  
 CW1 Robert L. Colombo from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to 188th MP Bde, APO SF 9694 (59)  
 CW3 William T. Matulis from Ft. Dix, N. J. to Germany (58)  
 CW3 Norman E. Bobbins from Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. to APO SF 9623 (70)  
 CW2 George H. Ellis from Ft. Myer, Va. to 188th MP Bde, APO SF 9694 (59)  
 CW2 Bryant D. Goodrich from Ft. C. G. Meade, Md. to Germany (58)  
 CW2 Joseph Klees from Ft. Polk, La. to Germany (58)  
 CW2 Charles J. Mauer from Ft. Hood, Tex. to 24th Inf Div, APO 9637 (61)  
 CW2 Kenneth M. Russell from Ft. Riley, Tex. to Germany (58)  
 CW2 Billy H. Thompson from Ft. C. G. Meade, Md. to 188th MP Bde, APO 9694 (61)  
 WO Melvin L. Allen from Ft. Hood, Tex. to Germany (58)  
 WO Raymond E. D'Addario from Ft. Detrick, Md. to 188th MP Bde, APO SF 9694 (61)  
 WO Terry F. Gray from Ft. C. G. Meade, Md. to 188th MP Bde, APO SF 9694 (61)  
 WO Cecil A. Moorhead from Ft. Gordon, Ga. to 55th MP Det (CI) APO SF 9623 (70)

**RETIREMENTS**  
 COJ Robert F. Ribicoff (63)  
 LTC Lyle J. Gartry, Jr. (67)  
 LTC John S. Gibson (55)  
 LTC Robert P. Gohlbach (65)  
 LTC William R. Hunsicker, Sr. (52)  
 LTC Frank A. Pasterfield (67)  
 MAJ Edward M. Nunnaker (41)  
 MAJ LTC 1640  
 CW3 William M. Ransford (64)  
 CW3 Mildred E. Gonnore (67)  
 CW2 Robert E. Griffin (57)  
 CW2 Thodorico C. Volzner (58)  
 MSG Sam C. Eranovich (54)  
 1SG George L. Spangum (70)  
 SFC Edmond J. Birkbe, Jr. (59)  
 SFC Lloyd E. Condit (73)  
 SFC Doyle Gillert (53)  
 SFC Harvey Jones (71)  
 PSC Billy E. McCullough (68)  
 SFC Joseph L. Parker (73)  
 SFC Arthur R. Paulsen (57)  
 PSC Walter Rydell (66)  
 SFC Floyd B. Taylor (57)  
 SFC Norman M. Tenney (68)  
 PSC Calvin Way (56)  
 SFC East Webb (63)  
 SSG Edgar M. Benson (65)  
 SSG Danny J. Billeit (59)

A military publication from June 1968 found by researcher Mefisto54 with the names of D'Addario and Colombo and their first assignment in Vietnam

Bevilacqua's key information about his former colleagues will later be found in the responses to my FOIA requests to the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis (below, excerpts from their military records; the photos were inside the file).

Asst. Crim. Invest. & CBR NCO	USALesGenDetot, APG19 (SD5thMP(CI)Det)
Asst. Crim. Invest. & CBR NCO	8th USA Log Comd Aug APO 09019 (SD 5th MP (CI) Det (E3008) USAREUR

Bevilacqua's public assignments in the 5th CID of the military police in Livorno between 1964 and 1966

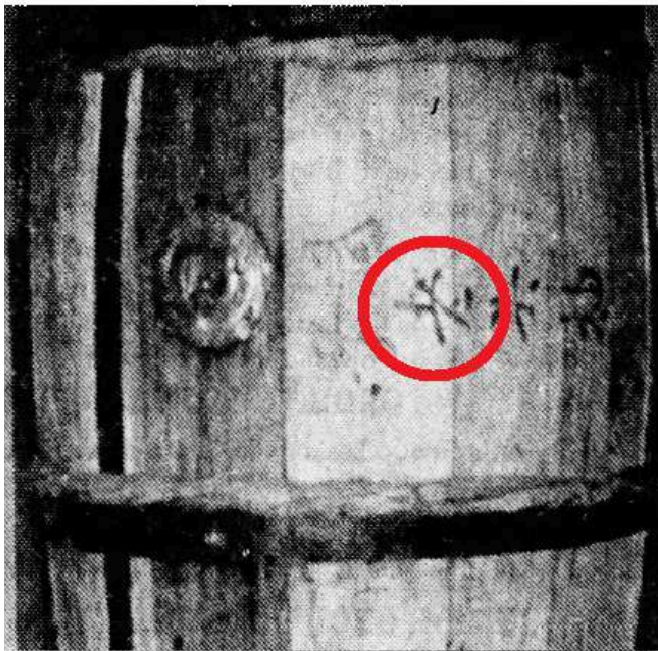
I note a coincidence involving **Colombo**.  
 Bevilacqua's former boss returned to Livorno in May 1975, where he remained until 1979 (details in the following images). His stay in Tuscany covers most of the Monster's alleged years of inactivity established by the sentences.



At the bottom right of the January 29, 1974, letter, the K-shaped symbol drawn by Zodiac is likely copied from the one on the left, which had appeared two years earlier in several newspapers, including the Santa **Rosa Press Democrat**, in reference to the murder of **Kim Wendy Allen** near the city.

Press Democrat, Santa Rosa

March 19, 1974



**WOODEN SOY BARREL  
Kim Had One Like It**

I saw + think "The Exorcist" was the best satirical comedy that I have ever seen.

Signed, yours + ruly :

He plunged him self into the billowy wave and an echo arose from the suicides grave  
tit willo tit willo  
tit willo

Ps. if I do not see this note in your paper, I will do something nasty, which you know I'm capable of doing



Mc - 37

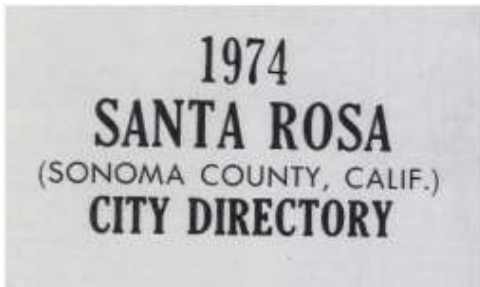
SFPD - 0

On the right, the Zodiac PS ending with "mysterious" symbols reads: "If I don't see this message in your newspaper, I will do something horrible, which you know I am capable of..."

**D'Addario and his wife** are listed in the **Santa Rosa telephone directory starting in 1974** (bottom left image).

The former CID detective was residing on the Atlantic Coast in early 1973, but he must have already been in the San Francisco Bay Area when the Zodiac mailed his last letter in late **January 1974**, as the name of one of his daughters was mentioned in a local newspaper the day before the letter's postage date (bottom right image).

dario Raymond (Candida) retd  
Montecito Av

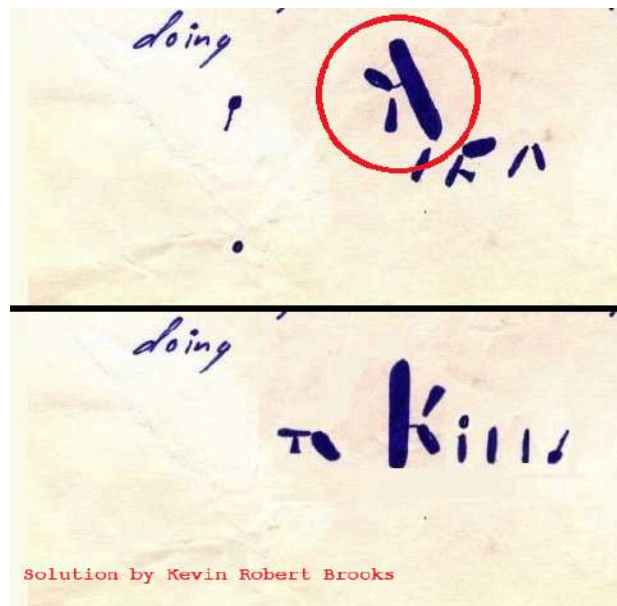


Click to enlarge . The Army Register also reads "Daddario" instead of "D'Addario."

**Could D'Addario and Colombo** have realized that **Bevilacqua's presence in California** coincided with Zodiac's activity?

Perhaps that's what he suspects.

Unfortunately, D'Addario died in 2008, while **Colombo died** of natural causes on June 28, 2018, without being consulted by the Prosecutor's Office, despite likely knowing Italian (he had an Italian wife).



Above, the decoding of the "K" and other symbols at the bottom of the last letter of the Zodiac, proposed by **Kevin Robert Brooks** and reported by researcher **Richard Grinell** . By rotating and moving the symbols, the verb **"to kill"** can be clearly read . The same term is underlined in the letter sent by **"a friend"** a few days later. The last "official" Zodiac letter would therefore conclude with this warning to

the editor of the *Chronicle* :

"...If I don't see this message in your newspaper I will do something horrible that you know I am capable **of killing!** "

## 9. "UNDERCOVER"

According to Bevilacqua, his assignments had to remain secret because he worked undercover, and that is why they would not be present in his **official records** ([downloadable here](#) , with translation), where there is never any **reference to California** .

It must be said, however, that the **CONARC** headquartered in Virginia to which the American was assigned between February 1969 and April 1970 was also in **command of the 6th Army** based at the **Presidio of San Francisco** .

17Feb69 | Inf Opns Intel Spec (DCSLOG) HQ CO USCONARC(2500) Ft Monroe VA

*Bevilacqua is an "operations and intelligence" specialist at the Deputy Chief of Staff, logistics sector, CONARC*

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Military Manpower</u> 30 June 1971	<u>Location</u>
# <u>Continental Army Command</u>	(3112)	
CONARC b/	752	Fort Monroe, Virginia
1st U.S. Army b/	454	Fort Meade, Maryland
3rd U.S. Army b/	467	Fort McPherson, Georgia
5th U.S. Army b/	695	Fort Sam Houston, Texas
6th U.S. Army b/	582	Presidio of San Francisco, California
MDW	162	Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.

*Organization of the Continental Army Command in which Bevilacqua served in 1969*

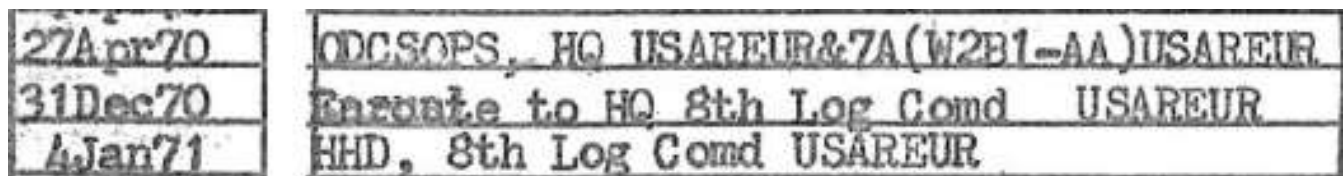
I have already spoken about Bevilacqua's **theoretical alibis in '68.**

Also from April 1970 to early 1971, there are Bevilacqua assignments that seem inconsistent with Zodiac activity in California (however sporadic). I discuss this at the end of the chapter on the **Khaki Mafia** .

In any case, using **investigators stationed at other bases** to conduct undercover activities in the **restricted military environment** in which they operate should be standard practice for CID units. I'll provide an example of this from **an anti-drug operation carried out by the Camp Darby CID** , assisted by the Carabinieri and the Pisa Prosecutor's Office, dating back to 1971 (below).



The "blond" and "lanky" **hippie detective could also be Bevilacqua** , if the description given by the military to the press is false. This investigation, in fact, seems to have taken place simultaneously with his transfer to Camp Darby from the base in Germany where he was previously officially assigned.



*Bevilacqua apparently served in the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff "Operations Sector" of the Seventh Army in Heidelberg, Germany, before returning to Camp Darby in '71.*

In January 2019, I received **confirmation** of Bevilacqua's claims of **covert activities** from his battalion commander in Vietnam, Lieutenant Colonel **Mark L. Reese** . This is what Reese wrote to me:

*"When I took command of the First Wolfhounds in September 1968, Sergeant First Class **Bevilacqua was my Operations Sergeant** . I considered him a brave soldier.*

*Shortly after I took command, the Division Commander gave him a **special undercover assignment** .*

*He was sent to the Division's NCO Academy to determine if any illicit activity had been committed in that unit. It took him about a week to gather **evidence of a drug trafficking and prostitution ring** , involving several NCOs and, I believe, at least one officer.*

*When he returned, he had an interesting story to tell."*

Mark Reese



[francesco.amicone](mailto:francesco.amicone)

Data: 11 gen 2019, 23:13

[Visualizza dettagli sulla sicurezza](#)

assumed command of the First  
nds in September, 1968, SFC  
ua was my Operations Sergeant  
red him an outstanding soldier.  
ssumed command, the Division  
nder charged him with a special  
ver assignment. He was sent to  
NCO Academy to determine if  
s were being committed within  
ook him about a week to get the  
ral NCO's and, I believe, at least  
or dealing in drugs and prostitu  
e returned to my command, he l  
resting story to tell

# San Antonio Express

Thursday, April 17, 1969 ★ ★ Page 10-H

## Army Officer Recognized For Heroism

The former professor of military science at the University of Texas at Arlington, recovering at Brooke General Hospital from injuries received in a helicopter crash in Vietnam, has been cited for heroism and outstanding achievement.

Lt. Col. Mark L. Reese Jr., whose wife, Barbara, and their four children reside in Arlington, was presented the Silver Star for gallantry in action and the Legion of Merit for his "remarkable initiative and astute organizational ability," during a special ceremony Wednesday by Brig. Gen. William H. Moncrief Jr., commander of the hospital.

Col. Reese, who commanded the 1st Battalion of the "Wolfhounds" (27th Infantry) 25th Infantry Division, was serving his second tour in Vietnam.

Col. Reese was cited for heroic actions on Nov. 17, 1968, when an element of his "Wolfhounds" came into heavy contact with the enemy. According to the citation accompanying the nation's third highest award for valor, "With complete disregard for his own safety, Col. Reese brought his helicopter into a rugged landing zone to deliver a medic and extract a wounded man. While under fire from hostile positions, Col. Reese returned to the area of contact to resupply his men with ammunition."

*On the left, Reese's email. On the right, an article about the intrepid lieutenant colonel being awarded the Silver Star and Legion of Merit.*

As mentioned in the [previous chapter](#), a response to my FOIA request will prove that **D'Addario** was an investigator in the CID unit in the 25th Division to which Bevilacqua belonged between August and November 1968.

In my [notes](#) taken during the 2017 interviews, I note that Bevilacqua refers to him as "**chief**," linking him not only to Maryland but also to **Saigon** and **Vietnam**.

Ray D'Addario - Colombo (25)  
 Chief  
 Manny  
 Steve  
 Mike  
 Saigon  
 Maybe Vietnam

In the image below, I compare references to Bevilacqua's undercover activities alongside his official assignments in his **military dossier**.

He tells me he worked for various CID units from 1964 to 1974, concurrently with his official assignments.

**RE: Veteran's Name: BEVILACQUA, Joseph**

2Feb68	-	Casual	Enroute to USARPAC-Vietnam
5Feb68	11G50	1SG	Co 1st Bn 27th Inf 25th Inf Div - Vietnam
9Jun68	11F50	Opns Sgt	HHC 1st Bn 27th Inf 25th Inf Div - Vietnam
16Oct68	11FA0	Inf Opns Intel Sp	HHC 1st Bn 27th Inf 25th Inf Div - USARPAC/RVN
7Feb69	-	Casual	Enroute to CONUS
17Feb69	11F50	Inf Opns Intel Spec (DCSLOG)	HQ CO USCOMARC(25CO) Ft Monro VA
9Apr70	-	Casual	Enroute to USAREUR
27Apr70	11F50	Op Sgt	ODCSOPS HQ USAREUR&7A(M2E1-AA)USAREUR
31Dec70	-	Casual	Enroute to HQ 8th Log Comd USAREUR
4Jan71	76Z50	1st Sgt	HHD, 8th Log Comd USAREUR
1Apr71	76Z50	1st Sgt	HHD, 8th Log Comd USAREUR

CID  
 Frankie  
 27 Feb 68  
 25 Div  
 Mary  
 Medicine -

69 California  
 Bobbio Col  
 Colombo  
 West  
 East  
 16 months  
 H8/Cid  
 Direct Contact



Bottom left, I note his investigative work for CID **while he was with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam**. This work was confirmed by Reese. Bottom right, his **16-month undercover**

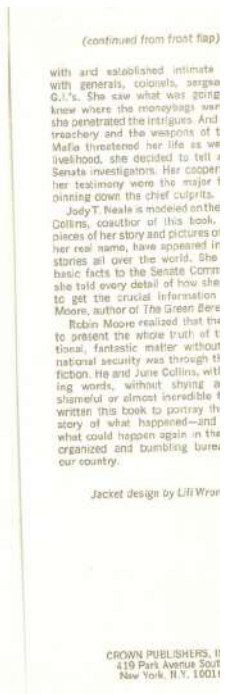
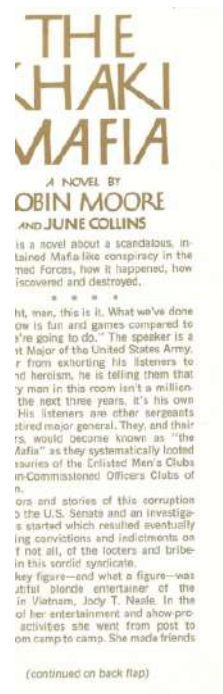
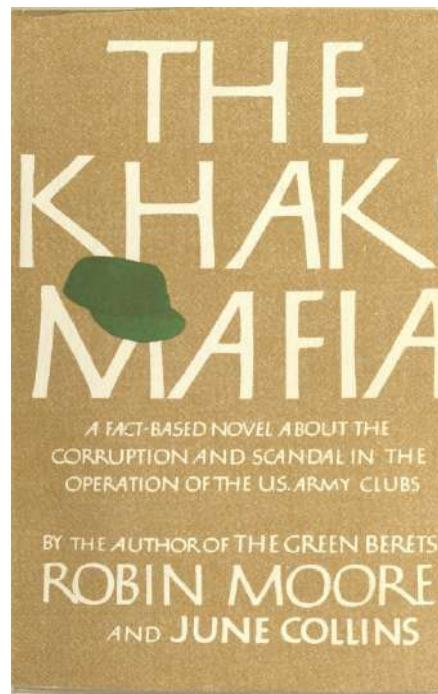
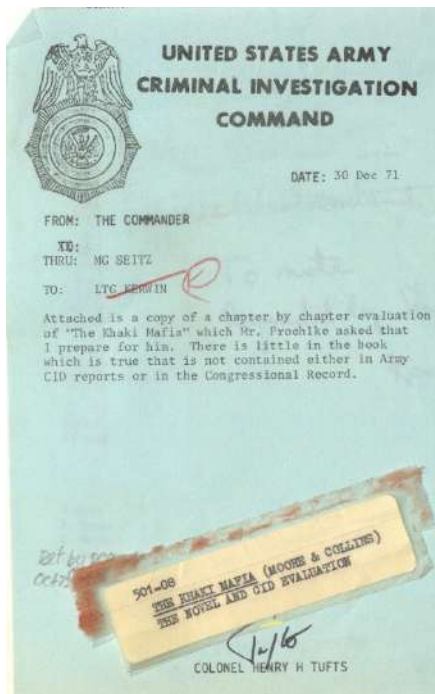
assignment that also took him **to California** , coinciding with his assignment to CONARC in 1969-1970.

## 10. KHAKI MAFIA

On page 13 of the notes, I report Bevilacqua's statement that he was **in California in 1969** (and **in 1970** , he told Falciani on **July 28, 2017** , although I don't report it) where he carried out undercover assignments. The American claims he cannot discuss his "work," that is, his "undercover" activities, but specifies that at that time he carried out a 16-month undercover assignment **in "direct contact" with the suspects** .

Although he remains vague, Bevilacqua claims to have participated in the CID **investigation into the "Khaki Mafia** ," the nickname given to a group of Army non-commissioned officers following Sergeant Major **William O. Wooldridge** , who operated dirty deals in the management of Army **clubs and mess halls** through a company called "Maredem" based in **Fullerton, California** . The nickname provided the title to the book of the same name by **Robin Moore and June Collins** , based on her attempt to fight the corrupt system the group had established in Vietnam.

One chapter of the book is dedicated to the Wolfhounds regiment and is set during Bevilacqua's time in service.



At left, CID Commander Henry Tufts' assessment of "The Khaki Mafia," which concludes: "There is little in the book that is true and is not contained either in CID reports or in Congressional documents."

The presence on Bevilacqua's background sheet of the **unusual double assignment** of **"canteen attendant"** and then **"club attendant"** (supervisor) after his two-year internship at the 5th CID in Livorno would be explained by his participation in the Khaki Mafia investigation.

See image below.

I believe this is **a change** made to Bevilacqua's official background **in subsequent years** to justify his inclusion in the targeted organization.

**RE: Veteran's Name: BEVILACQUA, Joseph**

1Jun64	53A.60	Asst Crim Invest & CBR MCO	USA Leg Gen Denot, APG19 (3D5thMP (CT) Det)
27Sep65	53A.60	Asst Crim Invest & CBR MCO	5th USA Leg Comd Aug APO 09019 (3D 5th MP (CT) Det (E3008) USAREUR
1Aug66	-	Casual	Enroute to COMUS
6Sep66	94B40 M	Mess Steward	Co A Sp Trps USAG (1A-1262) Ft Dix NJ
8Dec66	94B40 M	Club Steward	Co A Sp Trps USAG (1A-1262) Ft Dix NJ
14May67	11B40	Lt Wpns Inf	HqCoComGpISATCI (1A-1387-00) Ft. Dix NJ
59Sep67	-	Honorable Discharge	
6Sep67	11B40	Lt Wpns Inf	HqCoComGpISATCI (1A-1387-00) Ft. Dix NJ
2Feb68	-	Casual	Enroute to USARPAC-Vietnam



Col. HENRY H. TUFTS, comandante CID Agency e USACIDC 1969-1974

Colonel Tufts. As I said when I started, Senator Gurnsey, I don't have the documentation, but if you will remember back, I believe early in 1969, this subcommittee sent its staff to Vietnam. This kicked off a series of what we call club and mess investigations. The CID Agency was just in its infancy, had just been activated. We investigated the Mareдем case, which has now resulted in action in California, and out of this came many other cases.

**FRAUD AND CORRUPTION IN MANAGEMENT OF MILITARY CLUB SYSTEMS**  
**ILLEGAL CURRENCY MANIPULATIONS AFFECTING SOUTH VIETNAM**

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1971

U.S. SENATE,  
 PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS  
 OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,  
 Washington, D.C.



Above left is Colonel **Henry Harold Tufts** , head of the CID Agency (soon to be called "command"). The highlighted text is **his response** to the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on the Khaki Mafia dated March 13, 1971, in which he discusses the early days of the investigation.

"I believe that **in early 1969** this subcommittee sent its staff to Vietnam. This brought to light a series of what we call **club and mess investigations** . The **CID Agency** was in its embryonic state, it had just been activated (October 1, 1969). We investigated the Mareдем case, which has now resulted in a court action in **California** , and many other cases have come to light."

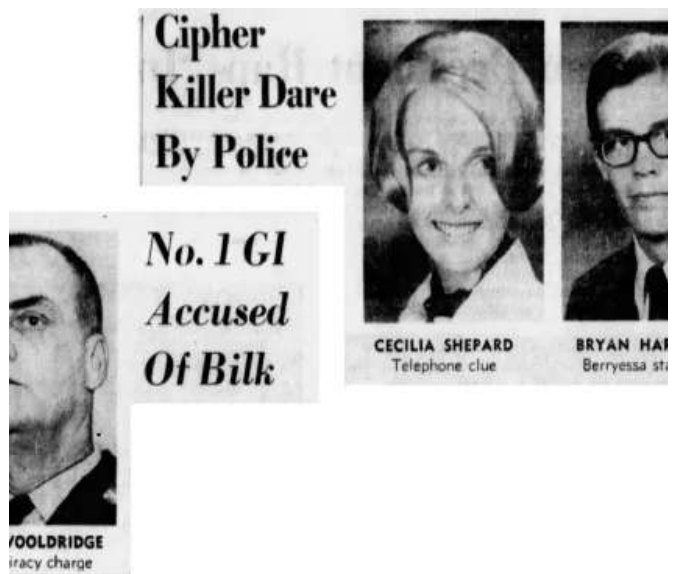
Tufts is referring here to the **indictment of Mareдем shareholders in Los Angeles** a few weeks ago, which was achieved thanks to the work of the CID, the Senate and - as

this New York Times article reports – a seven-month investigation by a **grand jury** assisted by military detectives .

At this link the complete transcripts of the Senate hearings (1969 – 1971).

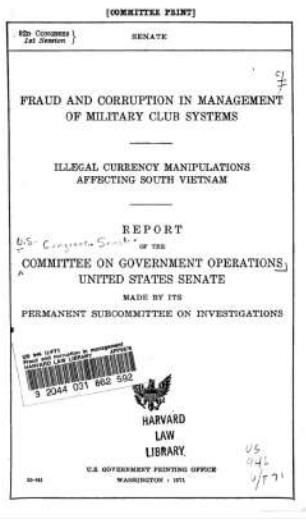
The importance of the investigation into the Khaki Mafia was brought to my attention in **2018** by the Anglo-American director and storyteller Hugo Berkeley .

Various newspapers of the time **simultaneously featured front-page** news about the Zodiac crimes and the Senate hearings on the Khaki Mafia (images below). Meanwhile, CID detectives were still investigating.



*One of several stories about Zodiac and the Khaki Mafia that appeared simultaneously on the front pages of San Francisco Bay Area newspapers.*

In July 1969, at the urging of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, the **1st CID** and other CID departments, later coordinated by the **CID Agency** headquartered in **Washington DC** , opened a series of investigations on various continents, focusing especially on **California, Vietnam and Germany** , coinciding with the main period of **Zodiac activity** (from the first claim on July 5, 1969 to the disappearance in March 1971).



The Hear illustration was typical of the MareDEM operation. It could offer the big suppliers an advantage over other broker roles—that is, guaranteed sales. Look at the Hear case. MareDEM would also use the threat of no sales to enforce its will. Two of the biggest markets in Vietnam, the 3rd Infantry and Lewis Fifth Force, were controlled by MareDEM owners. A third sizable market, the club system at the Americal Division, was controlled by a consortium friendly to MareDEM.

William Daugh  
MareDEM could deliver its promises as well. In 1 year's time, MareDEM sold \$1,510,871 in goods to units in Vietnam. Of that amount, 17 percent or about \$255,000 of its business was done with Harker, Harker and Daugh. Harker bought \$400,000 worth of goods from or through MareDEM; Harker \$205,000; and Daugh \$254,900 (pp. 260, 292).

As Captain Leach of the Civil Asset Inspector General's office learned from his informant, MareDEM had "supposedly" "ousted" the competition. Also effective of the MareDEM mode of operation was what happened to Horner & Co. of Manila (p. 269). Horner had served as broker in Vietnam for Diamond Head Food Co. of Los Angeles, a supplier of large amounts of snack bar items to the clubs. Snack bar items—such as peanuts, mangoes, peanuts and potato-chips—constitute a substantial monthly procurement at NCO clubs.

Subcommittee investigation revealed that most open case systems, supporting a division complement of some 10,000 to 12,000 troops, spent about \$60,000 a month on snack bar items. When MareDEM began business in Vietnam, it became the broker for Diamond Head Food Co. Horner was dropped (p. 269).

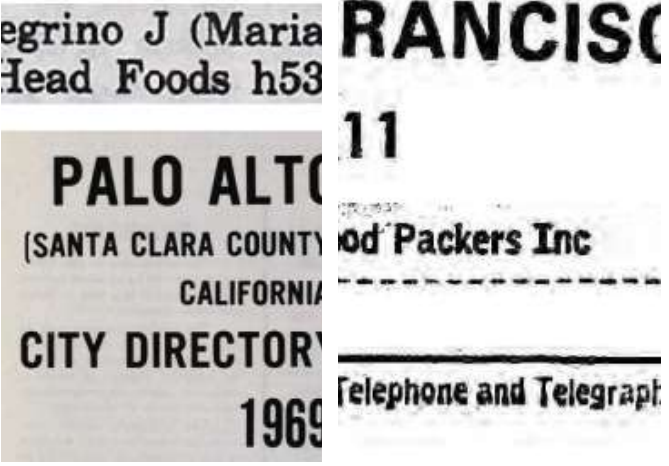
However, since MareDEM did not have sufficient cash on hand to guarantee the orders it placed with Diamond Head, MareDEM turned to Great West Food Packers Co. of San Francisco to act as purchaser (p. 269). Diamond Head would then make shipment on receipt of orders from Great West. Instead of one broker, Horner, there were two—Great West, which took 10 percent of the selling price, and MareDEM, which took 11 percent. Horner had taken 12 percent (p. 269).

Of the \$1,210,871 in sales that first year, MareDEM sold \$71,000 in orders it placed directly with suppliers. Another \$200,000 in orders were filled through Great West Food Packers, and some \$200,000 in orders were filled by MareDEM through World Importing & Exporting Co. (p. 292).

Great West Food Packers itself was not owned by MareDEM, as MareDEM either won the confidence of Diamond Head or developed sufficient cash resources. In any event, MareDEM began dealing directly with Diamond Head.

In its dealings with Great West Food Packers, MareDEM used inflated freight costs to increase profits. In 17 invoices examined by subcommittee staff, exact freight charges totaled \$10,700.20. This expense charge was divided up with MareDEM receiving \$6,010.10 (Great West receiving \$3,690.10) and Pellegrino Pellegrino, Great West's main supplier representative, receiving \$1,000.00 (p. 269).

One of the suppliers MareDEM bought from was World Importing & Exporting Co. of San Francisco. The subcommittee examined invoices and other



MareDEM had been involved in business with a San Francisco company investigated by the CID in 1969 and later acquitted. But there were other investigations in the area during the same months.

In addition to MareDEM, headed by Wooldridge and other non-commissioned officers who sold food and beverages at inflated prices to army clubs and canteens in Vietnam through corrupt activities, some San Francisco companies with which the Khaki Mafia did business also ended up in the crosshairs of the CID departments.

In 2019, I will have the main report on the suspects, which includes the one on Pellegrini's company, provided to me by the US Army Crime Record Center.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CRIME RECORD CENTER  
3715 TANGIEN ROAD  
QUANTICO, VA 22134

August 13, 1969

FAIR-338615-133719-345791-3461

Mr. Francesco Ambrose  
Francesco.ambrose7@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Ambrose:

This is in response to your request for Army crime records pertaining to Brigadier General Earl F. Cole, SGT Theodore Bates, Major General Carl C. Turner, and CCL James Lee. Your requests were received July 22, 2019. The attached Report of Investigation (ROI): 1969-CIDU11133216-27, is responsive.

The names of law enforcement personnel, as well as names, social security numbers and other personal items of information pertaining to third parties have been withheld. The removal of this information constitutes a partial release pursuant to Title 5, USC, Section 552, Exemption (b)(7), and (b)(7)(C) of the FOIA, because release could violate the personal privacy of other individuals mentioned in the report. We also applied Exemption (b)(7)(E) to withhold the identification numbers of special agents, as well as investigatory records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, where the techniques or procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions would be disclosed. Moreover, releasing the withheld information would harm an interest protected by these exemptions.

This partial denial, which is made on behalf of Major General Kevin Vickers, Commander, USACIDC, and Initial Denial Authority for USACIDC records under the FOIA, may be appealed to the Secretary of the Army.

If you decide to appeal all or part of this denial, your appeal must be submitted within 90 days of the date of this letter. In your appeal, you must state the basis for your disagreement with the partial denial and you should state the justification for its release. Your appeal made through the General and should be addressed to the Director, U.S. Army Crime Records Center, 37150 Tangien Road, Quantico, Virginia 22134, for forwarding as appropriate to the Office of the Secretary of the Army, the appellate authority.

We advise that the complete ROI consists of approximately 43000 pages, minus the 53 pages being provided in this release, which equals a total of 38447 pages remaining for this case.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

DD FORM 1300 (Rev. 10-1-68)

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*The headquarters of the company investigated by the CID is a few minutes' walk from the San Francisco Chronicle and the Geary Theatre, near which Zodiac boarded Stine's taxi on October 11, 1969.*

Between 2020 and 2021, I will obtain further reports inherited from Colonel Tufts from the **University of Michigan** , thanks in particular to Labadie Collection Director **Julia Herrada** .

I have made **certified translations** of the most interesting excerpts available in the **"investigative documents"** section .

The most obvious "coincidence" concerns the investigation into General **Carl C. Turner** , former head of the U.S. military police, accused, among other things, of having stolen a pistol from the CID records **at the Presidio of San Francisco** . The area where the Zodiac fled after Stine's murder on October 11, 1969.

~~TOP SECRET UFG ONLY~~

CID REPORT BY INVESTIGATION  
For use of this form, see AR 15-10, TB PIG 3, for proposed agency  
 to be used for a full investigation report.

PREPARED BY <b>US Army CID Agency</b> 2d and S Street Washington, D. C. 20315	TYPE OF REPORT Completed	REPORT NUMBER 69-CID011-00033
OFFENSE Larceny	PERIOD COVERED 25 Sep 69 - 13 Jan 70	DATE OF REPORT 9 February 1970
SUBJECT (Last name - First name - Middle name - Grade - SSAN - Organization or address and ZIP Code) <b>TURNER, Carl C.; MG (Retired); ██████████ 8002 Greely Blvd, Springfield, VA 22150</b>		
BASIS FOR INVESTIGATION On 25 Sep 69, TFMG requested that an investigation be conducted relevant to the unauthorized release of weapons from the evidence room of Det B, 6th MP Group (CI), Presidio of San Francisco, CA.		
INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY Investigation disclosed that about 14 December 1967, at the Airmail facility, San Francisco International Airport, San Francisco, California, US Customs officials seized a package containing one .45 caliber pistol, SN 7466, with holster, suspected to be property of the US Government. The pistol and holster were released to Detachment B, 6th Military Police Group (CI), Presidio of San Francisco, California, (ISFC), where the items were retained in the detachment evidence room pending outcome of an investigation and pending legal proceedings.  On an undetermined date in 1968, while conducting an inspection of this evidence room in his capacity as TFMG, TURNER expressed interest in the .45 caliber pistol, SN 7466, and asked that it be given to him. TURNER's request was denied at that time, however, arrangements were made so that TURNER would receive the weapon upon completion of any judicial proceedings involved pertaining to the weapon.  On 7 August 1968, in compliance with TURNER's previous request, the weapon was released from the evidence room on instructions of Colonel Louis J. KLEKAS, Commanding Officer, 6th Military Police Group (CI), ISFC, to CW3 Andrzej GLINSKI, OTFMG, 1st Military (Continued, see attached sheets)		
DISTRIBUTION	COPIES	DATE OF NOTICE TO CO RESPONSIBLE FOR SUSPICION OF DA FORM 38
Dir, USAIRR-CID (Repos cy)	1	Investigator (Signature) <i>Henry H. Tufts</i>
SA, ATTN: General Counsel (Info cy)	1	TYPED NAME, TITLE, AND ORGANIZATION DALE A. ROWLEY Criminal Investigator
Internal Revenue Service, Washington, DC	2	APPROVING OFFICER (Signature) <i>Henry H. Tufts</i>
ATTN: Dir, Intel Div (Info cy)	(1)	TYPED NAME, GRADE, TITLE AND ORGANIZATION HENRY H. TUFTS, COL, MPC CO, USACIDA, Washington, D. C.
Dir, ATF Div (Info cy)	(1)	
Judge Advocate General (Info cy)	1	
TFMG, Washington, DC (Info cy)	1	
FILE	1	

Classification controlled by Authority  
 Time *CA/CR* Date *2 APR 74*



**Stabbing Victim Describes His Ordeal**

# Hartnell: 'I Refuse

**BY J. MERCE CARSON**  
 "I refuse to be a victim," said Bryan Hartnell, 30, of Lake Berryessa, who was stabbed in the chest by a man who he says was a member of the Zodiac gang. Hartnell, who was hospitalized for several days, said he refused to be a victim of the Zodiac gang, which has been responsible for several slayings in the San Francisco Bay area. Hartnell, who was hospitalized for several days, said he refused to be a victim of the Zodiac gang, which has been responsible for several slayings in the San Francisco Bay area.

# The Napa Register

Serving Napa County For More Than 100 Years

1964 YEAR—No. 48 Tuesday, Oct. 7, 1969

## Traffic Signal Approved

# Gun-Selling Denies Acting

**Down Rezoning**

City Council has approved a rezoning of the area around the Lake Berryessa Golf Course. The rezoning will allow for the construction of a new 18-hole golf course. The rezoning will also allow for the construction of a new clubhouse and other facilities. The rezoning will be effective on the date of the council's decision.

**Carl Turner**  
 General Counsel

Carl Turner, general counsel for the city, said he was not acting as a gun seller. He said he was only providing information to the city council. He said he was not acting as a gun seller.

The Turner investigation began on **September 25, 1969** (top left of report's front page). Two days later, the Zodiac attacked a couple at Lake Berryessa. The surviving victim, Bryan Hartnell, appears (right) on the front page of the October 7, 1969, *Napa Register* along with General Turner at a Senate hearing.

Below, in blue, is the route of Stine's taxi, from its starting point, a few meters from the Geary Theatre, to its arrival point, near the Presidio. Both are adjacent to two areas where investigations into the Khaki Mafia were underway.

There are other connections in the area, such as the **Sisters of the Presentation** school, an institution that included the girls' high school where Bevilacqua's mother-in-law had studied a few years earlier, and in whose theater the Lamplighters staged a successful production of "**The Mikado**" in 1969, mentioned several times by Zodiac.

Near the school was The Bridge, a cinema that at the time of the murder Stine was showing **Woody Allen's "Take the Money and Run"** (details in the chapter "**Water Theory**"). "Zodiac" claims to have disguised himself to commit the murder (letter dated **November 9, 1969**). I suspect he dressed up as the film's protagonist, wearing **thick-framed glasses and a red wig** to resemble him.



One of the main investigations in the San Francisco area involves dealings between a non-commissioned officer and his brother-in-law's company, the Sanremo Italian Food Company of Los Altos (October 9, 1969 – June 1, 1970), used to supply pizzas to military canteens and clubs in Vietnam. **Sanremo owned the “Italiano” restaurant in the Hillsdale Shopping Center in San Mateo (yet another coincidence).**

CID REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	
Report of the investigating officer to the supervisor and the Bureau	
1. TITLE AND SYNOPSIS	2. SUBJECT
3. SUMMARY	4. ANALYSIS
5. CONCLUSIONS	6. RECOMMENDATIONS
7. REFERENCES	8. DISTRIBUTION
9. APPROVALS	10. SIGNATURES
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CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

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According to the Wooldridge trial transcripts that NARA in Riverside will send me (what a coincidence, really), that report was the **basis of the Los Angeles District Attorney's charges** against Wooldridge and the other defendants (gallery below).

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

HONORABLE WARREN J. FERGIJSON, JUDGE PRESIDING

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )  
Plaintiff, )  
vs. ) **No. 7500-Criminal**  
**WILLIAM O. WOOLDRIDGE,** )  
**WILLIAM HIGDON,** )  
**NARVAEZ HATCHER,** )  
**THEODORE BASS,** )  
Defendants. )

REPORTER'S PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Place: **Los Angeles, California**  
Date: Monday, August 2, 1971  
Pages: 1 through 20

KAY J. WIGHT  
Official Reporter  
430 U.S. Courthouse  
312 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012  
Telephone: 622-3251

1 MR. FAREED: May I also inquire --  
2 THE COURT: Excuse me. Go ahead.  
3 MR. FAREED: Is it your Honor's intention to  
4 require us -- I assume it is not your Honor's intention to  
5 require us to give, at this posture of the case, a complete  
6 list of government witnesses at this point?

7 THE COURT: Well, if it is necessary to answer  
8 the bill of particulars completely and fully that you give  
9 names, then that is included in the bill of particulars,  
10 Mr. Fareed.

11 If this was a case that involved national  
12 security, if this was a case that involved organized crime,  
13 if this was a case in which the governmental interest was  
14 so great that the bill of particulars should not be granted,  
15 I wouldn't grant it.

16 But if, in the answers to the bill of particulars  
17 it is necessary to give names, they have to be named.

18 MR. FAREED: But names, your Honor -- I might  
19 make this representation to the Court for whatever guidance  
20 it would provide -- **the CID report**, included therein is a  
21 table of contents mentioning some **nine pages of exhibits**  
22 **and three pages of witnesses' names.**

23 Now what concerns me is: It is one thing to give  
24 a disclosure of all of the witnesses that have been  
25 interviewed by the CID.

One of the main questions about Bevilacqua's past is why he was posted to Germany in 1970, if he was traveling to California.

**The investigation into the Khaki Mafia** was a **major operation** coordinated by **CID units** spread across **multiple continents** , including Europe.

In the CRC's response published above, I'll be told that the investigative reports alone amount to approximately 40,000 pages.

A memorandum states that **between July 1, 1969** , the official start date of the investigation, and **September 1970** , **90 investigations** had been opened , 71 of which were completed .



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
UNITED STATES ARMY CID AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20315

CLUBS AND MESSSES

In June, 1969, a task force was established by USACIDA to investigate criminal activities within NCO open mess systems in the Republic of Vietnam and elsewhere. On 15 January 1970, the task force configuration was dissolved and the 1st MP Detachment (CI) was charged with the responsibility to bring these investigations to a conclusion.

In the course of this massive effort, 2,486 mandays were expended. During the period 1 July 1969 through September 1970, 90 investigations were initiated; 71 were completed and 19 were nearing completion.

Many of these cases attracted a great deal of national attention; the investigations led to inquiries into a great number of related and unrelated crimes and the results caused marked impact on the improvement of Army policies, procedures and practices relative to club management and procurement. USACIDA investigators traveled to many countries during which they interviewed more than two thousand people in the course of their investigations.

I will discover that one of the largest and most complex investigations was launched on **March 11, 1970**, by the 9th CID of the **7th Army in Germany**, supported by the CID Agency in Washington, DC, and other units around the world, including Vietnam and California. The investigators' primary suspect was Brigadier General **Earl F. Cole**, one of the "big shots" in the Khaki Mafia investigation, along with Wooldridge.

CID REPORT OF INVESTIGATION (Continuing Policies)		
Form of this form: see AFM 70-18 (Rev. 3) and dependent agency to the Office of the Process/Storage System		
REPORTING CID AGENCY Deployment A 9th AF Gp (CI) APO NY 09403	TYPE OF REPORT In Progress - UDL Period Covered 15 Aug 70 - 31 Mar 71	REPORT NUMBER 70-CID017-30008
OFFENSE 1. Conspiracy 2. Violation of Lawful General Regulations (AR 60-20, Exchange Service Operating Policies) (Continued, see attached sheets)		DATE OF REPORT AUG 16 1971
SUBJECTS (Last name, first name, middle initial, organization or address and ZIP Code) COLE, Earl Franklin (1); (2); (3); [redacted]; 5420 Brookland Rd, Alexandria, VA 22310 TOM BROTHERS & CO, LTD (1); 5-15 Hankow Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong, BCC. TUNG-MAI, David (1); Chi/Nat; FF# C128806; 5-15 Hankow Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong, BCC. TUNG-SHAO-LIANG, Henry (1); Chi/Nat; FF# C090798; 5-15 Hankow Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong, BCC. (Continued, see attached sheets)		
BASIS FOR INVESTIGATION Reference ROI 70-CID017-30008, 1st Progress, this office, 5 Oct 70.		
INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY Investigation during the period of this report disclosed that COLE, while assigned duties as the Deputy Chief of Staff (PSA), HQS, USARV, with additional duties as Chairman of the Board, Vietnam Regional Exchange (VRE), Deputy Chief of Staff, MACV CORDS, during the period Jun 66 to Dec 68, and Commander, European Exchange System (EES), Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), during the period Jan to Sep 69, became acquainted and maintained association with the firms TOM BROS, ANICRAL, PAK FUDASIA, MANDARIN TEXTILES (Dynasty Clothing), SABL ELECTRONICS, PRICE & CO, CASBE DIAMONDS, REINHOLD BROS, MELCO, STAR OF SIAM, and other companies and their representatives who were under contract to, or attempting to obtain contracts from US military clubs and messes in the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) and various Exchange outlets in the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES), located in USARPAC and USAREUR. Through this association with COLE, these firms and their representatives were able to conduct and expand their business ventures in Vietnam and Europe. The association of COLE with these firms and their representatives during the aforementioned period was highly questionable and was not commensurate with his assigned duties as Chairman of the Board, VRE, and as Commander, EES. Further investigation revealed that GOODLETT and ICE, former Commanders of VRE between Sep 65 and Jul 67, and MAJOR, LEWELLYN, SWAFFORD, and WHITE, former civilian executives of VRE during the period 65/66, became acquainted and associated with CRUM, (Continued, see attached sheets)		
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Asst. Sec. of Defense, Wash. DC 20315 (Action Cy)		20
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CINCPAC, DA, Wash. DC (Info Cy)		(1)
Senate Permanent Inves Subcom, Old Senate bldg, Wash. DC (Info Cy)		(1)
(Continued, see attached sheets)		
DATE OF NOTICE TO CO RESPONSIBLE FOR SUBMISSION OF DA FORM 104		30 Jul 70
INVESTIGATOR (Signature) [Signature]		
TYPED NAME, TITLE, AND ORGANIZATION		
CECIL MULLINS		
Crim Inves		
APPROVING OFFICER (Signature) [Signature]		
TYPED NAME, GRADE, TITLE, AND ORGANIZATION		
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SAC, USAREUR & 7th Army		

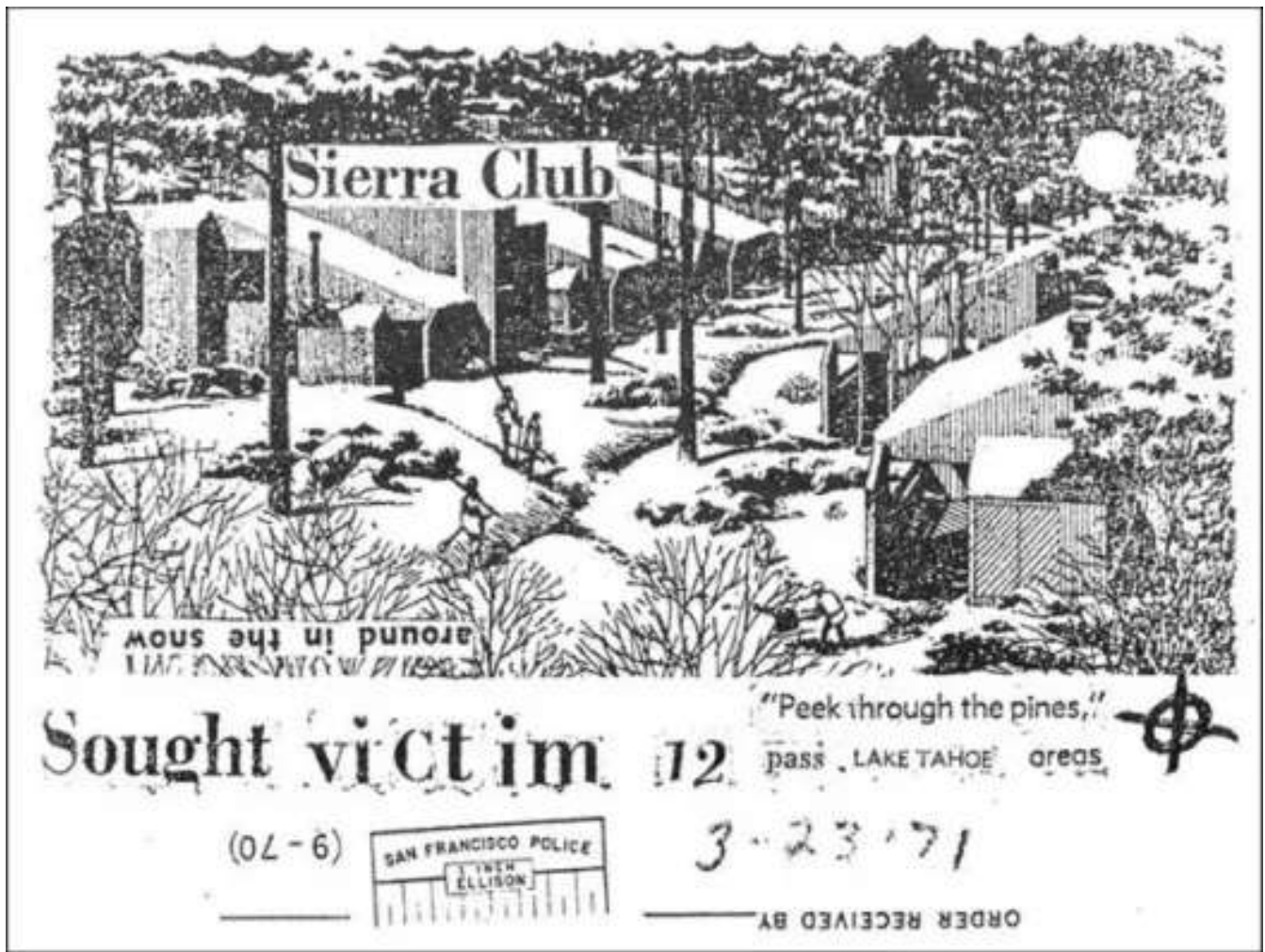
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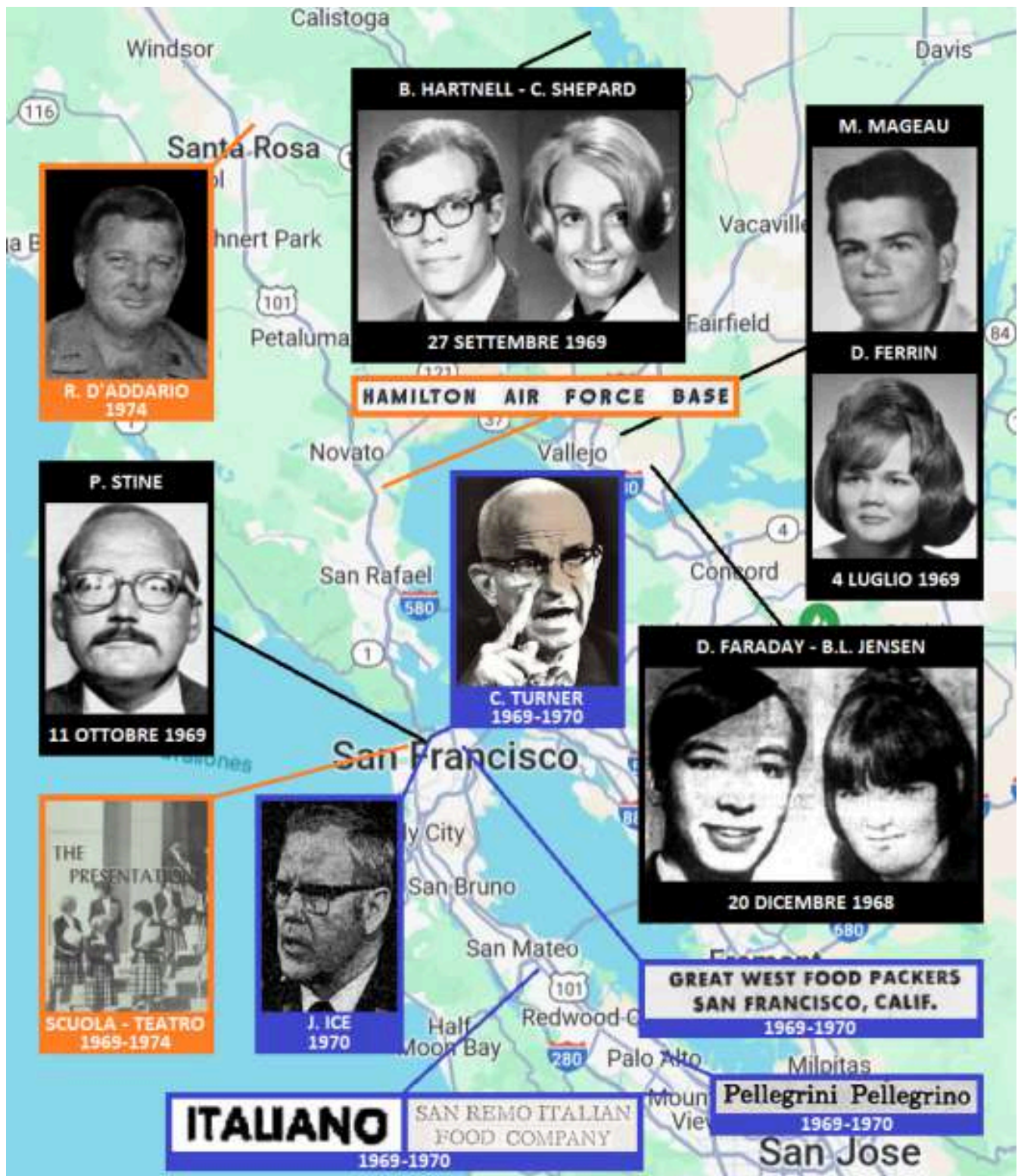
Subjects investigated in the 9th "German" CID report (here, some excerpts) cited in the Senate hearings on the Khaki Mafia. Highlighted are the two suspicious coincidences related to the Zodiac's period of activity in 1970.

Cole ran the **military supermarket system in Europe** and, previously, had held senior positions in the US Vietnam command. He was believed to be in league with a **Los Angeles businessman** nicknamed the "Vietnam Money King," **William Crum**. Connected with Cole, and often associated with him, was Colonel **Jack Ice**, an investigator stationed at the **Presidio of San Francisco**. Together with them, various companies in Vietnam and at home were investigated, including **Anicral of Reno, Nevada**. This city is located a short distance from **Lake Tahoe**, where Zodiac may have kidnapped and killed nurse Donna Lass during the investigation into Cole.



*Zodiac postcard mentioning Lake Tahoe, postmarked March 22, 1971. It precedes nearly three years of apparent inactivity. Then comes the last attributed message, dated January 29, 1974.*

In short, if he had worked undercover in **the Cole investigation** , despite (or precisely because of) his assignment in Germany, Bevilacqua would have had **various reasons** to be in Northern California between April and October 1970, especially in the **Lake Tahoe** area , as he told me during the 2017 interviews (see chapter **"Parad-ice"** ).



*List of discovered connections between Bevilacqua and the San Francisco area*

I conclude with a detail about Bevilacqua's assignment to Germany.


Even if he had been physically in Heidelberg on the morning of April 27, 1970, as a literal interpretation of his background suggests, the **Seventh Army** headquarters was about an hour's drive **from Frankfurt Airport , one of the busiest hubs in the world .**

Pan Am's schedules suggest that the sergeant could have been in San Francisco on the

evening of Monday, April 27, in time to mail the Zodiac "Dragon Card" stamped by the local post office the following afternoon.

Nonetheless, an assignment in Germany seems out of place with a concurrent activity in California.

Is there anything that could explain this oddity?

**Atlantic Services** 

**PAGE 6** APRIL 26 TO JUNE 30, 1970

Westbound READ-DOWN		Class	Flight No.	Jet Aircraft	Frequency
ATLANTIC	2	PT	103	58	DAILY
		747	747	PAN AM'S 747	
+1	Frankfurt	AB	12:30	1:30	
+1	London (Heathrow)	AA	18:30	5:30	

**PAGE 7**

Westbound READ-DOWN		Class	Flight No.	Jet Aircraft	Frequency
ATLANTIC	2	PT	121	747	DAILY/DAILY
		747	747	PAN AM'S 747	
+1	London (M) (Heathrow)	AB	18:40	19:40	
-2	San Francisco (M)	AA	21:30	21:30	

Flights 58 and 121 on Page 6 connect at London to Flights 121 and 123.

Polar Route

Click to enlarge. Pan Am flights from Frankfurt to San Francisco, late April 1970.

## 11. THE STRANGE COINCIDENCE OF RIVERSIDE

Three weeks after the indictment of Wooldridge and other Maredem associates in Los Angeles and four days after Colonel Tufts' Senate hearing, Zodiac returned to writing after a several-month hiatus (disappearing nine days later, only to return one last time in 1974), and sent his only confirmed letter to the *Los Angeles Times*, confirming the connection to the 1966 murder of student **Cheri "Jo" Bates**, which had emerged from an investigation by journalist Paul Avery. In a letter titled "The Confession," Bates's killer had **threatened to remove the "lady parts"** of his future victims.



*The watch with torn strap found at the crime scene that the CBI traced to a military supermarket overseas*

Although Riverside police suspected a military connection, the **chronological coincidence between the Bates murder and the arrest of Sergeant Herbert Boeckenhaupt for espionage** by Air Force detectives from the OSI (of which D'Addario was a member until July 1967) in Riverside in the days preceding the murder went virtually unnoticed by Zodiac case websites.

I'll be reporting on this under the handle PaninoAlBanchetto on Sneak JB in 2020. Boeckenhaupt was arrested "secretly" in Riverside on Monday, October 24, 1966. After being **questioned for a few days by the OSI**, he was handed over to the FBI the day after the Bates murder.

Both stories appeared on the front page of the *San Francisco Examiner* on October 31, 1966, and in the November 2 edition of the *Corriere della Sera*.



**Blasts Rock Saigon**  
*Many Hurt On Holiday*  
 SAIGON (Tuesday) — A series of explosions occurred in the heart of Saigon this morning only before a big national celebration was in full swing.  
 Several persons were seen being taken from the scene.  
 Thousands of persons were driving for a parade that is to begin at 8 a.m. The explosions were off at 10 in the immediate vicinity of Saigon's Roman Catholic cathedral.  
 A U.S. military policeman at it was believed a clay pipe had been set in a hole in the ground above a flower.  
 It had this other words.



4 CORRIERE DELLA SERA Mercoledì 2 novembre 1966  
**Studentessa americana misteriosamente assassinata**  
 Era fra le più belle ragazze dell'università di Riverside, in California - Si suppone che sia stata uccisa da un innamorato respinto



5 CORRIERE DELLA SERA Mercoledì 2 novembre 1966  
**Bevilacqua per conto dei russi sergente americano arrestato**  
 addetto all'ufficio radio del Pentagono e ha fornito informazioni a un diplomatico sovietico che è stato dichiarato «persona non grata» dal dipartimento di Stato



Other news reports suggest that Boeckenhaupt's arrest was part of a **NATO anti-espionage operation** coordinated with Italy.  
 Could Bevilacqua have been in Riverside to oversee this operation?  
 His official military background cannot confirm this, given that, in conjunction with the Bates case, he was assigned, likely fictitiously, the positions of mess and club attendant.



## 12. THE THEORY OF WATER

In 2020, researcher **Kristi Hawtorne** will uncover **another case** possibly linked to the Southern California activity Zodiac alludes to in his **letter to the Los Angeles Times**.  
 The Oceanside murder of taxi driver **Ray Davis** occurred four years before that of **Cheri**

**Jo Bates** , on **April 10** , 1962, but again very close to a military base. In this case, the Marine Corps base at **Camp Pendleton** .

Bevilacqua was then a **CBR (chemical, biological, radiological) trainer** . Given the specific nature of his work, although assigned to Fort Dix, New Jersey, he may have temporarily gone to Camp Pendleton to train recruits.

18Aug59	Asst. Chem Instr (GS)	Fac Co Sp Tng Regt Ft Dix, NJ
24May62	Cml Instr	(TDY) Hq Co USAG CP Drum, NY

*Bevilacqua's assignments around the time of the Davis murder*

Davis's murder shares some similarities with the **official Zodiac crimes** . From the choice of victim, a taxi driver like Paul Stine, to the claim of responsibility and the associated **psychological terrorism** (he threatened to kill a bus driver).

There's also the **reference to water** in the name of the crime scene, a constant that Graysmith notes in "Zodiac," in what will be called the **"water theory"** in Fincher's film about the serial killer ( **link to scene** ).

Before Graysmith, it was researcher **Gareth Penn** who highlighted the references to water in the Zodiac murders, a recurrence already vaguely mentioned in 1969 by psychiatrist **Leonti Thompson** .

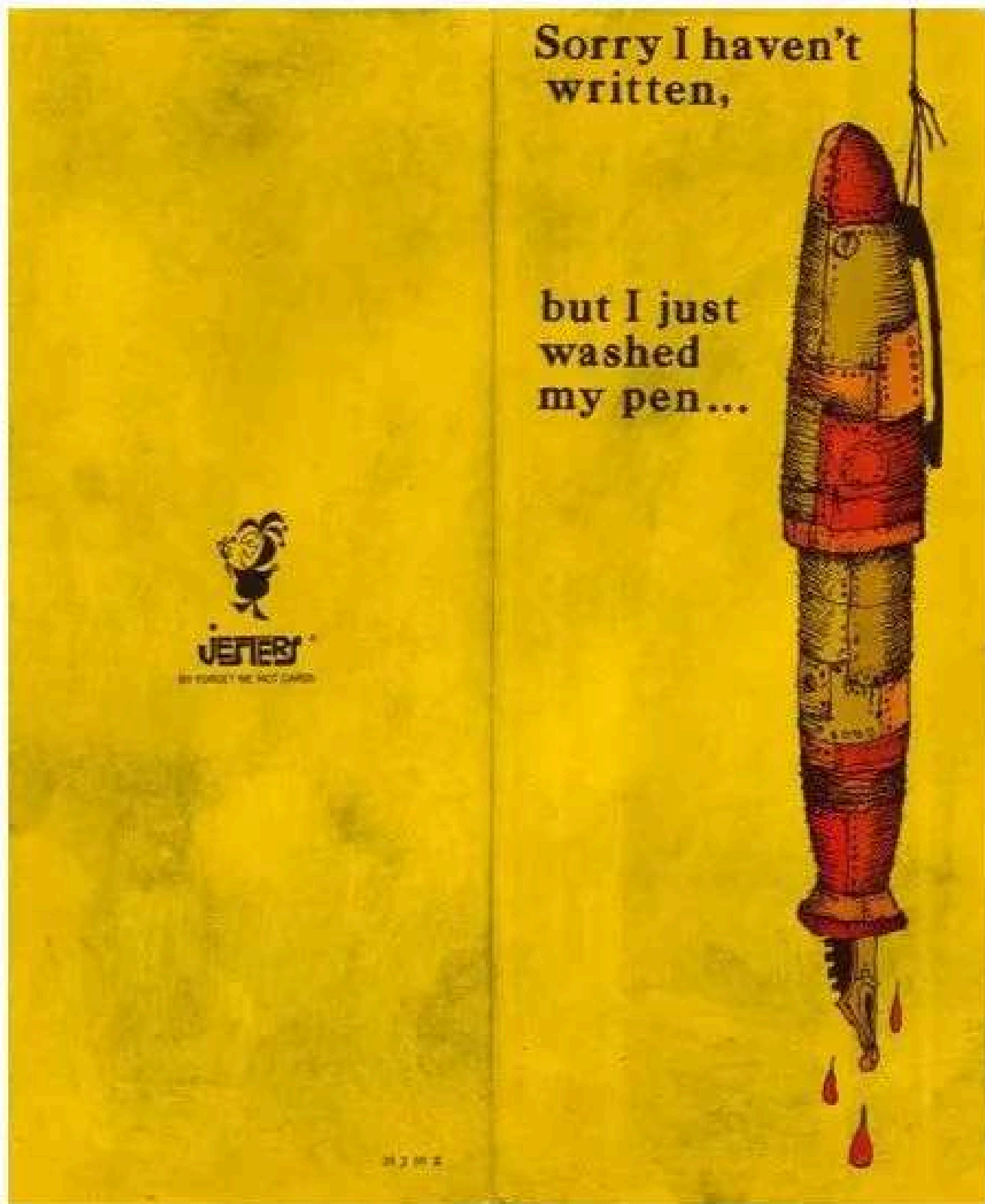
In addition to the possible **Oceanside** , the oceanic equivalent of "waterfront," and **Riverside** , the confirmed locations of the Zodiac crime scenes are: **Lake Herman Road**, **Blue Rocks Spring** (creek), **Lake Berryessa**, **Wash...ington Street** (wash means "to wash" – Zodiac refers to this word several times). To which is also perhaps added **Lake Tahoe** .

**I thought it was strange that the killings so far had taken place in locations that had a form of water in their name: Lake Herman Road, Blue Rock Springs, Lake Berryessa, and Washington Street, which was quite close to Lake Street.**

*"Zodiac", Robert Graysmith*

**"Sorry I didn't write, I just washed my pen,"** reads the Zodiac postcard sent on November 8, 1969. The murder of Paul Stine near the intersection of Cherry and

Washington Streets, in a residential area close to the base of the **Presidio of San Francisco** , had occurred the previous month.



*Zodiac postcard sent one month after the Washington Street murder*

## 13. "DON'T DRINK THE WATER"

The police officers who responded to the Stine murder, finding the lifeless body of the taxi driver slumped in the car, noticed that the keys and wallet had been stolen. They immediately suspected a **robbery** .

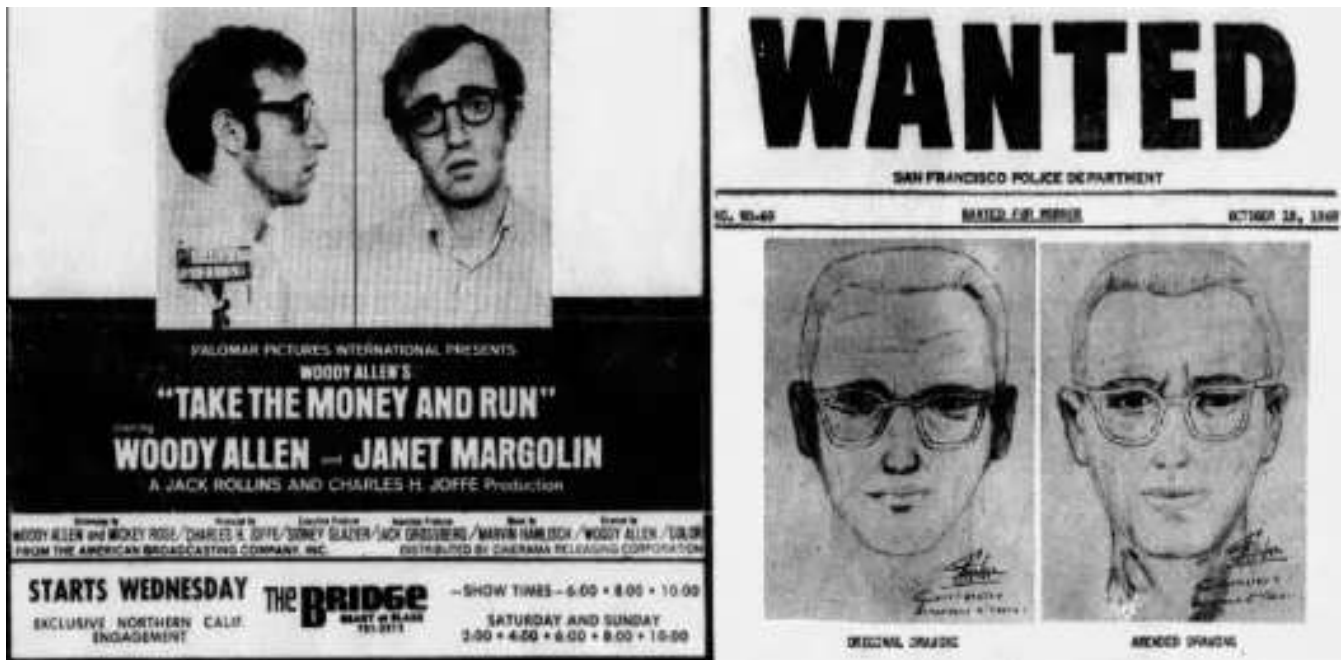
Three children saw the attacker. They described him as being in his 40s, with **thick glasses** and **reddish-brown hair** .

Zodiac claims to have been disguised . How?



I will find that the description given by the witnesses fits that of **Woody Allen / Virgil Starkwell** in **"Take the Money and Run"** at "The Bridge" cinema in San Francisco starting on October 8, 1969 .

The film, starring bumbling bank robber Virgil, was already released in theaters in Los Angeles and New York in August.



*Robber, thick glasses, red hair... Virgil Starkwell?*

As you can see from the map below, **the Bridge Cinema** is located along the (hypothetical) **direct route of the taxi that leads to the crime scene** of October 11, 1969 (next map).

The Bridge is also not far from the **“Presentation”** theatre , where ten days after the Stine murder and in April 1970 (when Zodiac sent his **encrypted name** ) **Gilbert and Sullivan's “Mikado”** was performed, mentioned by Zodiac twice in his correspondence (chapters **Signature** and **Mikado** ).



A month after the Stine murder, Officer **Donald Fouke** confirmed in a memo that he had encountered the possible suspect but did not stop because he had been told the man was black.

The suspect later identified as Zodiac by Fouke was stocky. **He walked hunched over** , shuffling his feet, with an **“almost limping” gait** , a description consistent with Bevilacqua's **gait** , which I have direct experience with.

There are other important details that Fouke recalls. The man had **light-colored hair** (with **a red tinge** , according to the official identikit ) , **a blue zip-up jacket**, and **brown pants** .

The **costume** is identical to the clothes **Woody Allen** wears in various scenes of “Take the Money and Run”, such as the one in the **meeting between Virgil and Louise**, the **washerwoman** and his future wife.

In this scene we witness an exchange of **words** focused on the word **“wash”** (next video).



## Il travestimento di Zodiac. Scene da "Prendi i soldi e scappa"

Ostello Volante



Watch on

References to “wash” are already there during the attack on Lake Berryessa, where Zodiac plays the part of **a robber on the run** , just like Virgil.

He used washing lines to tie up his victims and claimed responsibility for the attack from a payphone in Napa located between **the Napa Car Wash** and a laundromat (see next images).

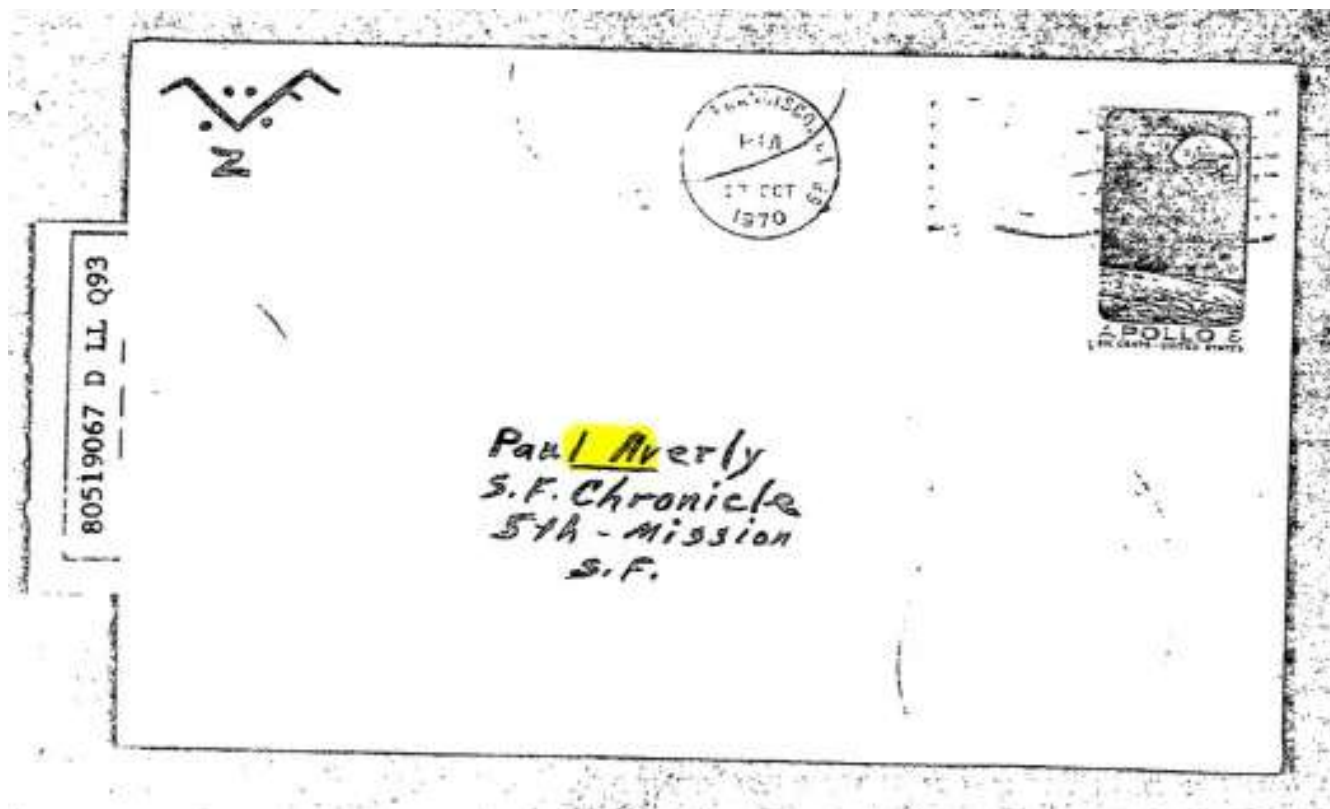


*On the left, the laundry at 1245 Main Street, Napa. Credit: GJ Golik, 1972. On the right, the telephone booth from which the Zodiac contacts the police with the word "wash" highlighted.*

There is a possible "half" quote from "**wash**" the following year.

On the envelope containing the **Halloween postcard** , Zodiac strangely underlines the letters **LAV** in **Paul Avery** 's (misspelled) name .

According to the **solution** I proposed, the postcard's riddle centers on a **pun in Italian** . Consulting a 1991 Collins English-Italian dictionary I have at home, I note that most **common Italian words** that begin with **LAV** are **derivatives** of "**lavare**" (to wash) .



### But why impersonate Woody Allen?

There could be more than a coincidence behind this choice of Zodiac. After all, **many people might find something in common** with the robber protagonist of "Take the Money and Run."

#### Even Joe Bevilacqua.

The film's opening line informs us that, just like Joe, **Virgil was born in New Jersey in December 1935**.

There's **another genuine coincidence** that may have influenced Zodiac to the point of deciding to play Virgil.

I realized this by searching **newspapers.com** for the title of a **successful Allen play**, which I discovered in **an October 6, 1969, Examiner article** about "Take the Money and Run."

Looking for some reference to this comedy among the newspapers published in the San Francisco area in September 1969, one's eye falls on **an article** in the ***Napa Register***.

I discover that Allen's play is being performed by the amateur **Pretenders** troupe in Napa **on the same day** as the Lake Berryessa attack.

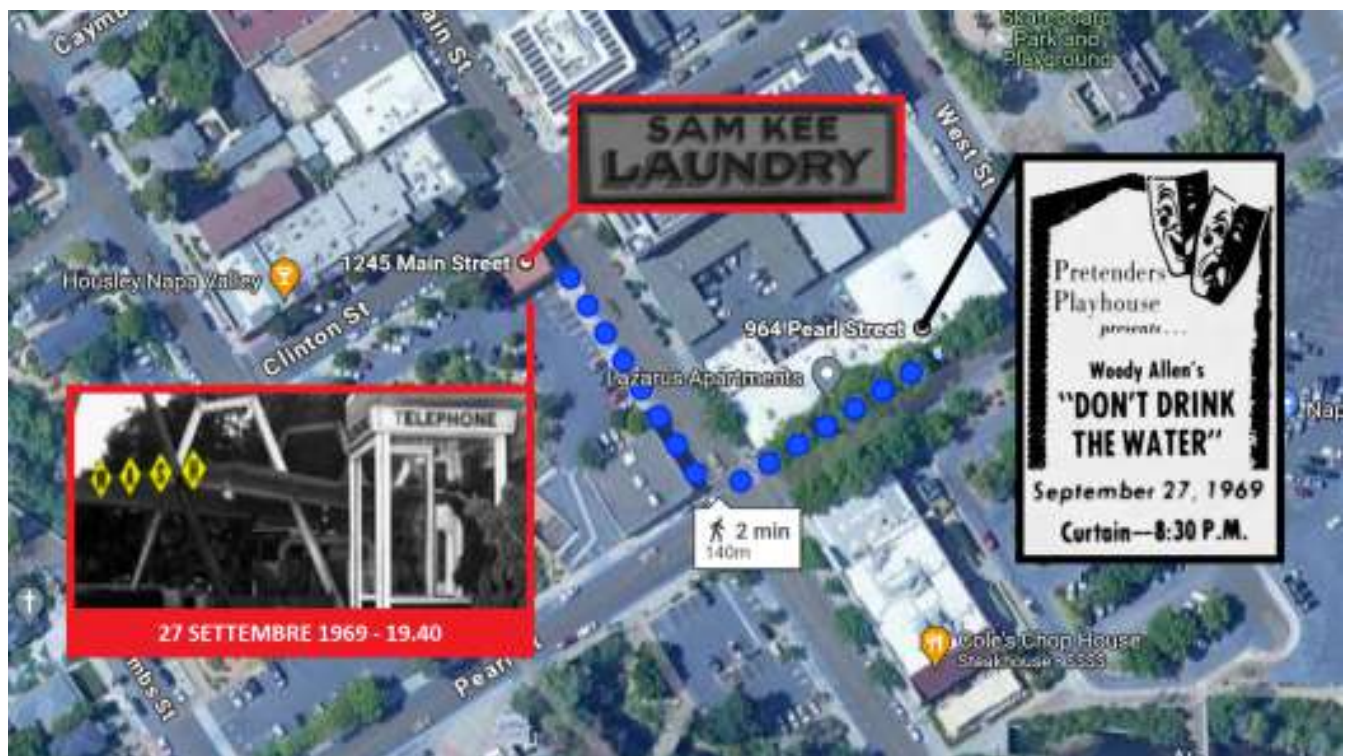
If this is the correct connection, **I expect** the theater to be **near the phone booth** . I make this prediction out loud before opening Google Maps, to avoid the fateful "confirmation bias."

The title of the play is:

**"Don't drink the water"** (don't drink **the water**)

And yes, **the theater** where it is performed is just **140 meters** away from the cabin where Zodiac claims responsibility for the attack on Lake Berryessa (next image).

The show starts **less than an hour after** the claim.



I think leaving his signature and mocking the police are the motives that push "Zodiac" to Napa and **break the pattern** by striking at **Lake Berryessa before dark** .

He stumbles upon the coincidence of this play being in his area of operation and searches for a phone booth near the theater. He chooses the one located at the **Napa Car Wash** , which contains a **water reference that can be used** to further reference

Allen's film "Take the Money and Run," which he must have already seen. Then, he plays the part of the robber.



## Zodiac. Interviste a Bryan Hartnell e al detective Don Townsen

Ostello Volante



Watch on

*Interviews with Bryan Hartnell and Detective Don Townsend on the Lake Berryessa Attack*

The serial killer predicts that **when the police** arrive at the phone booth to take fingerprints, **the curtain will rise** on **"Don't Drink the Water"** in the nearby theater .

When he learns that "Take the Money and Run" is coming to San Francisco on October 8th, **he decides to move to the city** to increase his fame ( **Pagaling Hagan** ) and sign his name following a **similar pattern** to that of Lake Berryessa, preferring to mention **"wash"** instead of striking near the Bridge, which is located along the taxi route anyway.

# Woody Allen Play Will Open Friday

"Don't Drink the Water," Woody Allen's 1967 Broadway hit, opens this Friday at Pretenders' Playhouse, 964 Pearl Street.

Featuring Adrian Van Dyk and Barbara Chandler as an American couple trapped by Communist police, the plot revolves around their efforts to escape from the American Embassy where they have sought refuge.

Their problems become almost insurmountable and funnier and funnier as their daughter, Sue (Jean Simpson), falls in love with the hapless son (Carl Grif-

ble) of the American ambassador (George Koerner), the Communist police lead by Krojack (Rod Williams) invade the embassy and the embassy staff (Joe Lillis, Dale Scott, and Steve Carter) seem incapable of handling the problem.

The cast also includes Bob Case as a priest hiding in the embassy, Frank Ruffo as the sultan of Bastia, and Peggy Van Patten as the Countess Bordoni.

The play will run Sept. 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27. The Pretenders' boxoffice is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 5 to 7 p.m. during the week and from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the nights of the performances. Tickets are \$2.50 for adults and \$1.25 for students.

14A—The REGISTER Napa, Calif. Wednesday, September 12, 1967



EXTREMELY FUNNY moment from the Pretenders' Playhouse production of the Woody Allen comedy hit, "Don't Drink the Water" is shown here. Sue (Jean Simpson) drags Father Ebrosey (Bob Case) down to meet her parents. The play opens Friday night at Pretenders' Playhouse, 964 Pearl Street.

## 14. PARAD-ICE

- **July 28, 2017**

The day before, tempi.it published an [article of mine on Vigilanti](#), the latest suspect in the Monster case by the Florence Prosecutor's Office, whom I met with the lawyer and criminologist Orlandi in early May.

Meri Torelli is worried.

He, not so much.

"Be careful, **my wife is keeping an eye on you**," he says softly.

Who knows why, he keeps calling Vigilantes "**Radiant**".



*Bevilacqua wearing a "Joe's" cap in the 2000s.*

*Source: Senator **Lucio Malan** 's website*

That day **we went to Falciani** , near the American cemetery in Florence. The "trip" was confirmed by Bevilacqua himself.

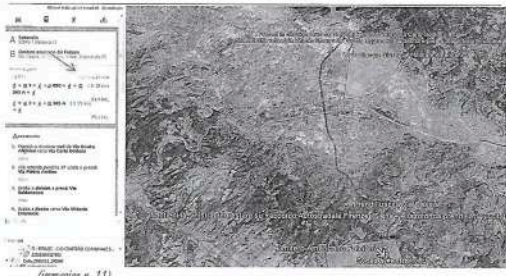
Below are the two pages of the annotation on the analysis of the Carabinieri **phone records confirming the conversation** with Falciani on July 28, 2017.

In data 06 luglio 2017 l'utenza di AMICONE Francesco torna in Toscana dove vi rimane fino al 14 luglio 2017. In data 7 luglio 2017 alle ore 16:18 e il giorno 08 luglio 2017 alle ore 11:23, BEVILACQUA è stato contattato sull'utenza n. 05 [redacted]. Dai dati di spostamento delle celle aggirate dall'utenza di AMICONE, l'utenza non si è mai registrata sotto alcuna cella servente l'abitazione di BEVILACQUA. Non è possibile trovare riscontri circa eventuali incontri fra i due soggetti attesa la mancanza di prossimità fra le celle dei due *denote* nonché la prossimità del telefono cellulare di AMICONE all'abitazione di BEVILACQUA.

In data 28 luglio 2017 e solo per quel giorno, l'utenza 333 [redacted] di AMICONE si è registrata nell'area fiorentina. L'incontro del 28 luglio 2017, appare di interesse, in quanto alle ore 14:19:58 e per 76 secondi, l'utenza mobile di AMICONE, ha intrattenuto una conversazione con l'utenza fissa intestata a BEVILACQUA. Durante tale impegno, il cellulare si è registrato sotto la cella di Sesto F.no via Sarri, servente l'abitazione del BEVILACQUA. L'esame dei dati successivi farebbe ritenere che AMICONE possa essere passato a prendere BEVILACQUA a casa per recarsi poi insieme presso il cimitero Falciani come dichiarato dal giornalista nel verbale delle sue S.I.T. ai Carabinieri di Lecco. Alle successive 14:55:28, infatti, AMICONE riceve un SMS agganciando la cella n. 222010040327922 ubicata c/o il cimitero comunale Settignano, s.n.c. del comune di Calenzano (FI). Alle ore 16:17:42, ha ricevuto un ulteriore SMS che lo ha attestato sotto la cella n. 222010040429250 ubicata in Località Acquedotto, s.n.c. del comune di Impruneta (FI) con direzione di irraggiamento di 210° rispetto al nord. Come si può desumere dalla grafica (immagine n. 10) la cella di cui sopra è quella servente il Cimitero Americano di Falciani, luogo dove ha lavorato per molti anni il BEVILACQUA Giuseppe, nonché luogo dove nei pressi, nel settembre del 1985, è stato commesso l'ultimo degli omicidi attribuiti al c.d. *Mostro di Firenze*. I due impegni sono avvenuti a circa 20 minuti di distanza l'uno dall'altro. Il tempo di percorrenza fra i due punti, percorrendo l'autostrada A1 con uscita "Impruneta", come riporta la grafica (immagine n. 11) è di 19 minuti e pertanto compatibile con l'ipotesi descritta.



(immagine n. 10)



(immagine n. 11)

L'utenza n. [redacted] ha effettuato altri agganci delle celle telefoniche e tutti nella zona compatibile con il Cimitero di Falciani fino alle successive 18:54:51 quando sull'utenza di AMICONE questi riceve un SMS che lo attesta sotto la cella n. 222010040337969 ubicata c/o HOTEL FLORENCE AI USCITA CALENZANO snc del comune di Calenzano (FI) (immagine n. 12), lungo il tragitto verosimilmente percorso dal giornalista per ricompagnare a casa il BEVILACQUA.



(immagine n. 12)

Successivamente l'utenza del giornalista risulta essersi allontanata in direzione Croci di Calenzano (FI). Va segnalato come elemento di interesse che alle ore 19:12:27, per la durata di 181 secondi, verosimilmente dopo aver ricompagnato a casa BEVILACQUA, AMICONE ha chiamato l'utenza n. [redacted] intestata a VIGILANTI Giampiero<sup>3</sup> e segnalata - dall'operatore

<sup>3</sup> "dato anagrafico corretto è Giampiero" nato a Vicchio (PI) il 22.11.1950 e residente a Prato in via Antonio Anelli 10

June 6, 2018. Note on the analysis of the records of the Carabinieri of the ROS of Florence

At the time, I still didn't know about the "coincidence" between the **Bates and Boeckenhaupt cases** . During that day, I asked him three times if he had been in **Riverside in '66** .

The American **always answered "yes . "**

The third time, outside his house, he added with an amused expression:

"And who told you?"



*Falciani, Bar Marconi. Here, for the first time, Bevilacqua and I openly discuss the Monster and Zodiac cases.*

In the late afternoon of that July 28th, Bevilacqua and I were sitting at an outdoor **table outside the Marconi bar** . Two beers in front of us.

He was wearing a **red cap with the word "Joe's" written on it** .

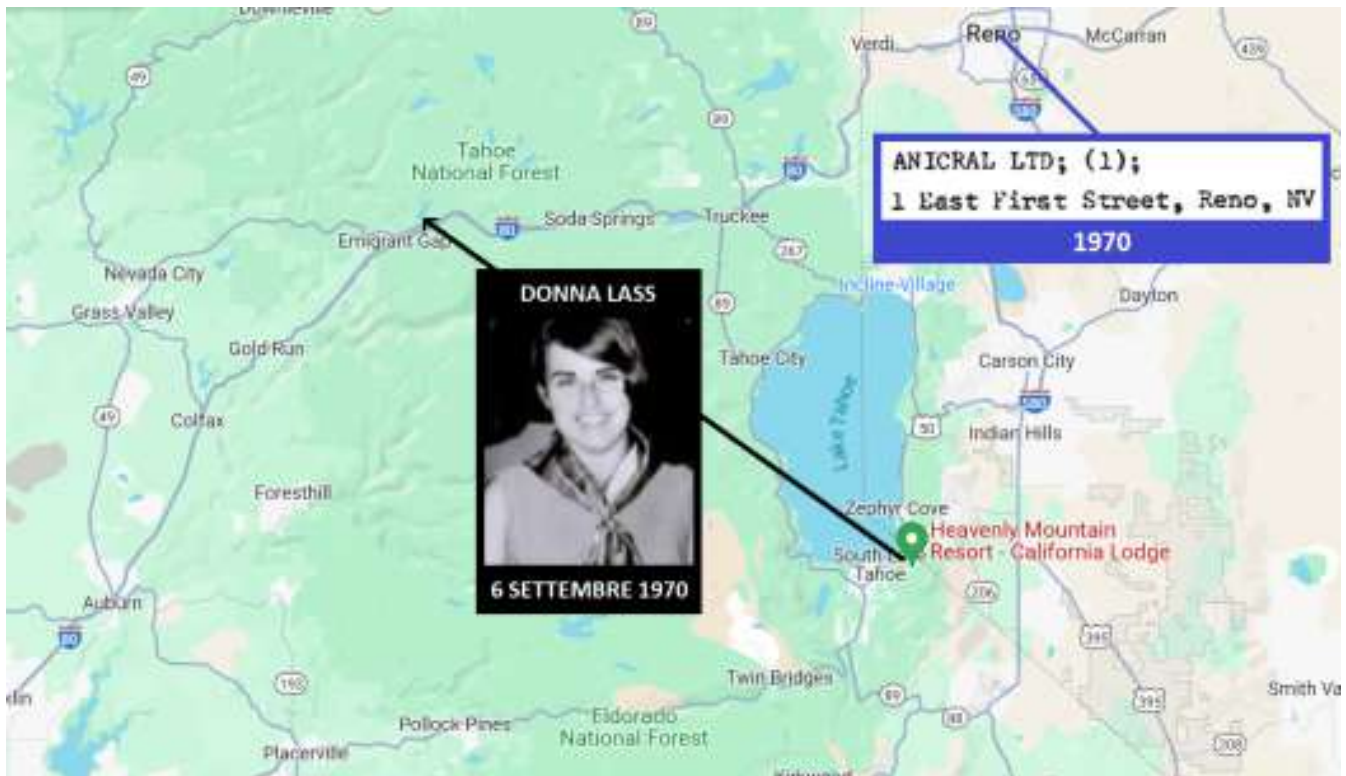
He sat down after chatting with the manager, who hadn't seen him in a while.

**I take a map of Lake Tahoe** from my shoulder bag and place it on the table. I ask Bevilacqua if he was **in that area in 1970**. A **long silence** .

I repeat the question several times before getting an answer.

"I understand, I understand," he replies.

**Bevilacqua admits to having been there in 1970, when Donna Lass** , a possible Zodiac victim, was kidnapped and killed .



Lake Tahoe area. Donna Lass's skull was found near Emigrant Gap. Above, one of the businesses investigated in the Khaki Mafia case around the time of her kidnapping in South Lake Tahoe.

Without giving him any directions, and asking for his advice as a former military investigator, I ask him where he would have hidden a body in the Lake Tahoe area.

Bevilacqua takes a quick look north on the map.

"I'd drop it from a helicopter." He points to the mountains on the left side of the map.  
"Here, on one of these peaks. No one would find it."

"And without a helicopter?"

Speaking of the southwest area, he says there are "too many campsites," too many rangers you might encounter. He thinks for a moment and draws a line at Emerald Bay, but then discards it.

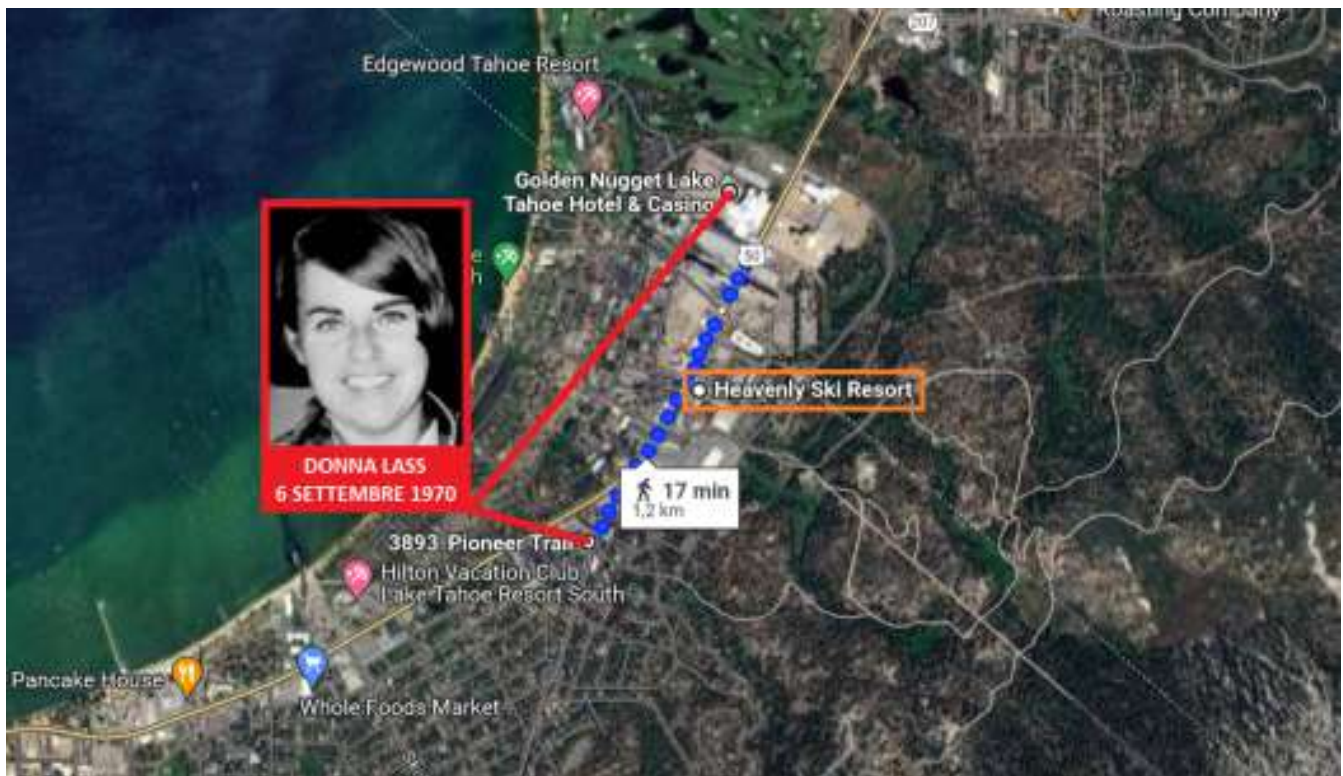
"In fact, I'd bring it here," he says with a half-smile. He circles the Heavenly Ski Area (pictured below).

"Why?" I ask.

"Because 'Heaven' means 'paradise.'"



Donna Lass's skull was found **elsewhere** in 1986 (it will be **identified in 2023**), but the **Heavenly Cable** Car base station was located about a mile from her workplace to her apartment near where she was allegedly kidnapped. As of July 28, 2017, I still don't have this information.



"Paradise," or rather "**paradice**" with a "c" instead of an "s," as Zodiac spelled it, was an obsession of the serial killer, who claimed that in the afterlife the people he killed would

become his slaves.



*The base station of the Heavenly Ski Resort gondola along Donna Lass's commute to work.*

“**Paradice**” is also the **keyword** I used to solve the anagram at the end of Zodiac's first encrypted message.

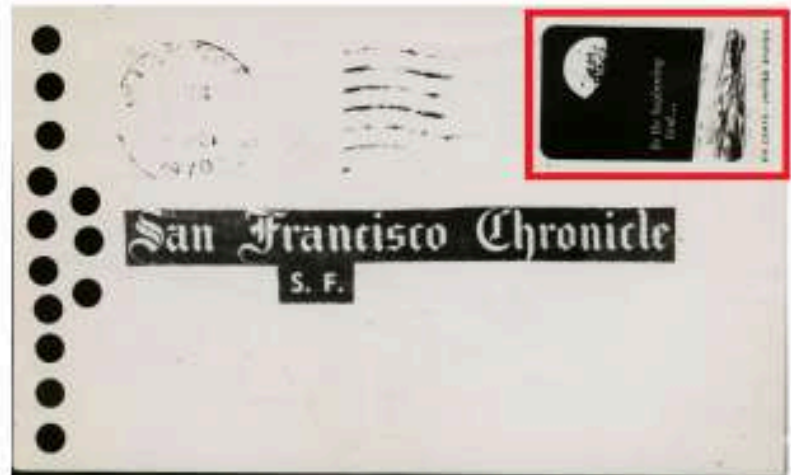
It's worth noting that the serial killer placed a commemorative stamp of the Apollo 8 mission on two **messages sent the month after** Donna Lass's kidnapping ( you can find the complete set of stamps used on researcher **Richard Grinell 's blog** ). The stamp bears the incomplete opening words of the Bible: “**In the beginning, God...**” . The full sentence follows.

"In the beginning God created the **heavens** and the earth."

In English: "In the beginning God created the **heavens** and the earth."



OCTOBER 5, 1970



San Francisco Chronicle  
S. F.

OCTOBER 27, 1970



Paul Averly  
S.F. Chronicle  
57A - Mission  
S.F.

15. "DO YOU WANT TO BREAK THE MONSTER'S  
BALLS?"

On July 28, I also asked Bevilacqua about Melivin Belli. I pronounced the surname of the lawyer to whom Zodiac had sent a letter on December 20, 1969, in Italian, and he corrected me (pronounced "bellai"):

"Belli, the lawyer?" he asks, correcting my pronunciation (it's "bellai").

I ordered a second beer for myself. The American still hasn't finished his.

I ask him about **Pacciani** .

As I report in the **report of the conversations** I will deliver to the Carabinieri in Monza on February 22, 2018, and on April 16 to the Florence Prosecutor's Office, Bevilacqua confides in me that **he already knew** the Florentine investigators' main suspect, the "monster," when he was director of the American cemetery we visited before reaching the bar.



*Florence American Cemetery. Scopeti Woods in the distance. Credit: Meriadoc Brandibuck*

Bevilacqua claims he had run into Pacciani several times behind the cemetery at the edge of the Scopeti forest. He said the farmer went there to hunt. The American adds that "Vampa" also came to the area for prostitutes and that one of them had once **"punched"** him .

"He tried to get a job at the cemetery," she adds.

"He **was a pig** . Vanni too. **But the worst of all was Lotti.** "

Who knows why Lotti in particular...

**"Vuoi rompere i coglioni al Mostro?"**

Riguardo alle vicende legate al Mostro di Firenze, il 28 luglio, Bevilacqua mi disse che conosceva bene Pietro Pacciani, e che lo aveva più volte incontrato nel bosco dietro il cimitero dei Falciani. Conosceva anche Mario Vanni e Giancarlo Lotti, che definiva "il

3/5



*April 16, 2018. Report of the interviews delivered to the Florence Prosecutor's Office.*

The American also tells me about the French couple he spotted "the day before" the crime.

"The man died before the woman," he says.

This detail isn't so well known.

The Monster (and Zodiac) tried to incapacitate the male victim immediately before attacking the women.

In that crime, however, things were about to end badly for him. The boy, **Jean-Michel Kraveichvili** , had managed to escape a few meters while **Nadine Mauriot** lay mortally wounded in the tent.

I ask Bevilacqua another question, but this time **he loses patience.**

**"Do you want to piss off the Monster?"** he asks.

"No," I reply promptly, "but the Carabinieri are investigating."

He seems to think for a few seconds.

"Do you think they'll come and piss me off?" he asks.

"I think so."

"Me too," he adds.

### The Zodiac Sports Center

Before arriving in Falciani, in the **town next to the American Cemetery** , Tavernuzze, a sign indicated the **"Zodiac" sports center** .

I came across this coincidence in early May. A local man told me that the facility had opened its doors with a few tennis courts in the 1980s. **Previously** , the closest was a center called **"Valle Verde"** (the shooting range mentioned by Mattei in **"Coniglio il martedì"** ?).



I'll discover that **Zodiac Srl** was founded in 1978. Until the early 2000s, the majority shareholder was **Leonetto Mugelli** , a well-known construction entrepreneur from Impruneta with a passion for car racing. **The sports center** in Tavernuzze opened to the public **a few months after the Monster's resumption of business in 1981**. The news was likely already known in the local community before the Scandicci crime.

Perhaps the serial killer **was "awakened"** by this coincidence?

Bevilacqua, in the car, nonchalantly tells me that **one of his daughters worked at Zodiac** . Years later, I'll be informed by a source that the center's name was coined by Zodiac Srl's second largest shareholder, music producer **Giancarlo Bigazzi** , who wrote

the lyrics to many successful love songs between the 1960s and 1990s. Another detail the Monster might have known?



## 16. ULYSSES

- **August 9 and 10 , 2017**

We're on the balcony of the Bevilacqua house, because the floor tiles in the living room are being replaced. Across the Autostrada del Sole, the hills southwest of Florence, bloodied by the Monster in the 1980s, are visible.

I've brought along an excerpt from the transcript of the wiretapped **conversation** **between Mario Vanni and Lorenzo Nesi** in Pisa prison on June 30, 2003.

In this conversation, Vanni, a retired postman sentenced to life in prison for **complicity** with Pietro Pacciani and Giancarlo Lotti in some of the Monster's murders, claims that the **real serial killer** is an **American**. A **black man** .

"Torso," as the former postman is nicknamed, says that someone (it's not stated who, but he appears to be referring to **Pacciani**) **met the American in the woods** . The American's name was "**Ulysses** ," like Homer's hero , and he is said to have committed the Monster's crimes.

After a series of exchanges with Nesi, Vanni adds that Ulisse had handed over the guns to the "prosecutor who matters" and then killed himself, claiming he learned this from television.

Is it possible there's **some truth** to Vanni's story? Perhaps he **confused a confidential information** from Pacciani, or someone he's connected with, **with information** learned **from another source** (television)?

**I'm looking for a response from Bevilacqua** . Therefore, **I'm submitting a short excerpt from the wiretap to him** , just to see how he reacts and what he'll say. The excerpt is this:

" **Vanni:** It was Ulysses who... killed all these people! Black ...

**Nesi:** Who is the black guy ?

**Vanni:** He's an American !"

We're sitting next to each other on the balcony, and Bevilacqua's **tension is visible** . He's not scared, but **furious** .

"I think they'll kill him," he blurts out.

"Who?" I ask.

**"Vanni. I think they'll kill him."**

Bevilacqua doesn't know the postman is dead, and I'm not updating him. He claims they only let him read *Famiglia Cristiana* .

With a puzzled tone, he asks:

## "Why black?"

Slip of the tongue?

I reassure my interlocutor by informing him that the police have identified Ulysses as a young man of African-American origin, Mario Robert Parker , confirmed by witness **Gabriella Ghiribelli** .

According to Ghiribelli, "Uli" was not black (Parker is).

I do not tell Bevilacqua that these statements **were not supported** by the investigation and that the identification of Ulysses remained **uncertain** .

In the next part of the transcript, which I don't let Bevilacqua read, Vanni uses the word "negro" several times instead of "nero."

At one point, Vanni and Nesi say this to each other:

" **Nesi:** And where was this American?

**Vanni:** And where was he, in the woods you find him! He found him in the woods ... he had everything, that he was the one who committed these crimes!

**Nesi:** But who said this?

**Vanni:** Huh?

**Nesi:** Because now, up until now you've been telling me that Pacciani committed these murders!

**Vanni:** Huh!

**Nesi:** And who is this black man?

**Vanni:** His name was Ulisse ."

Reading this exchange, I'm reminded of the title of an article in *Repubblica* dated June 7, 1994, by **Franca Selvatici** , a report on the hearing at which Bevilacqua testified.

The title is:

"Pacciani was in the woods"



# “Pacciani era nel bosco”

## *Poco dopo due francesi furono trovati morti*

di FRANCA SELVATICI

*Repubblica headlines Bevilacqua's testimony. How many Americans did Pacciani encounter in the woods?*

“**Bosco**”, “**americano**” and “**nero**” (the bikini of the French victim **Nadine Mauriot** ) are “key words” in Bevilacqua’s deposition.

But Ulysses? That would be a fitting nickname for a cunning warrior.

The adventures of the Homeric hero reached a **peak of popularity in Italy in the 1960s and 1970s** thanks to a RAI television adaptation of the Odyssey .

The miniseries directed by **Franco Rossi** was also adapted for the cinema and has been rerun on RAI numerous times from 1968 to the present day.

**A rerun** was broadcast in July 1974. The first episode aired seven days after Bevilacqua was assigned **to the American Cemetery in Florence** .

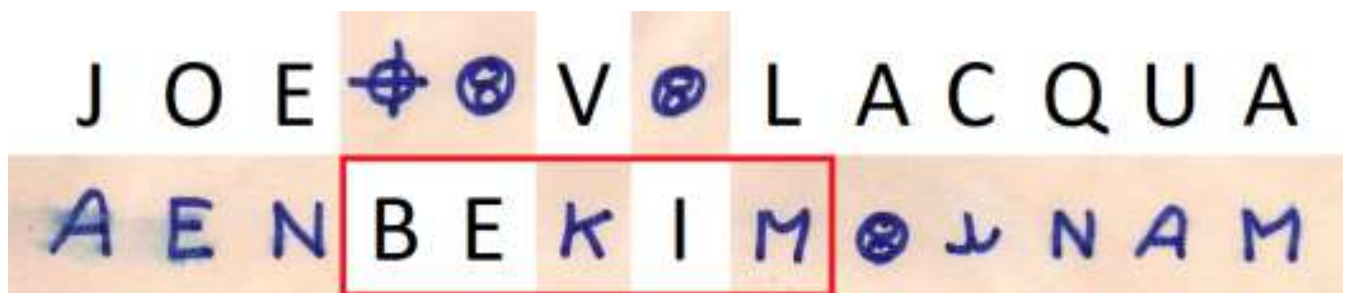
The Serbian-Albanian actor Bekim Fehmiu played the role of **Ulysses** .



1968, RAI TV series "Odyssey". Actor Bekim Fehmiu plays "Ulysses"

And it is precisely the name of the actor, **Bekim** , that "mysteriously" emerges when "Joe Bevilacqua" is compared with the code name of the Zodiac sent to San Francisco in April 1970 .

In the complete decryption of Zodiac's name I will demonstrate that **the "M"** in the ciphertext was placed **at that point** in the ciphertext **with the intention** of making "Bekim" appear.



Ciphertext with the name Zodiac. Note that if you replace the central symbols with letters, you get the word Bekim.

In 1970, the expensive Hollywood film **"The Adventurers"** starred **Fehmiu in the lead role** as revenge-seeking Latin lover Dax Xenos.

**At the time** Zodiac sent the letter with his encrypted name, this film was playing in various theaters in San Francisco and the Bay Area .

One of these was the **Hillsdale Cinema** , located in the eponymous San Mateo shopping center , which also housed the “Italiano” restaurant run by the San Remo Italian Food Company , one of the companies investigated in the Khaki Mafia case (see next images).

**me** Friday, June 20, 1969

Page 32—S.F. Examiner ☆☆☆ Mon., April 20, 1970



**T  
HILL  
FA  
M**

**San Francisco Movies**

<b>DISTRICT THEATERS</b> <b>ALEXANDRIA</b> Geary at 16th 752-8100 Candice Bergman—Ernest Borgnine "THE ADVENTURERS" SHOWN ONCE ONLY AT 8:45 "DOWNHILL RACERS" SHOWN ONCE ONLY AT 7:00	<b>DRIVE-IN MOVIES</b> <b>EL RANCHO</b> El Cm. & Hickey So. S.F. PL 5-5000 ROAD SHOW ENGAGEMENT "THE ADVENTURERS" 8:20 "GOODBYE, COLUMBUS" 7:30
--	--

**Bay Area Movies**

<b>ALAMEDA COUNTY</b> <b>THEATRE 70</b> OAKLAND Phone: 653-0777 Unlimited Parking Upper Deck "THE ADVENTURERS" "DOWNHILL RACER"	<b>SAN MATEO COUNTY</b> <b>CINEMA HILLSDALE</b> SAN MATEO—Phone 349-4511 "THE ADVENTURERS" AT 1:30, 4:45 & 8:15 p.m.
<b>CONTRA COSTA COUNTY</b> <b>CAPRI</b> 1653 Willow Pass Concord 687-4130 "THE ADVENTURERS"—Color from Harold Robbin's novel Nothing has been left out	<b>DRIVE-IN MOVIES</b> ★ <b>SANTA CLARA COUNTY</b> ★ <b>MOFFETT</b> Mt. View YO 8-1905 Bayshore-Sterlin "THE ADVENTURERS" "GOODBYE, COLUMBUS"

As for the confusion about "**black**," it's possible the meaning was misunderstood. It may have been a reference to Mauriot's bikini that Vanni **misunderstood** .

Or there may have been a double misunderstanding.

The **Zodiac symbol**, also displayed in his disguise at Lake Berryessa, is a **Celtic cross** , which in Italy is normally associated with **neo-fascist** groups , commonly called "blacks." If "**Ulysses**" had shown up to Pacciani **wearing a hood with a Celtic cross** , Vampa would almost certainly have mistaken him for a "neo-fascist."

It is therefore possible that when recounting this episode, Pacciani **used the word "black"** and that Vanni (or the intermediary who perhaps reported it to him) thought it was a reference to **skin color** .



*Maybe Vanni misunderstood the word "black"?*

## 17. TIPS

On August 9, 2017, I handed Bevilacqua a small reproduction of the Halloween postcard .

After picking it up, he turned to me with a smile.

"Who did this? Was it you? A *child* ?"

Then he remains silent while he seems to examine it carefully.

He opens it and places his index finger on a **strange symbol** that Zodiac has drawn on the third page (next images). Then he turns the page and, on the back of the postcard,

points to a **letter P**.

He moves up and, still silent, draws an invisible vertical line from the **first word "By"** to an **upside-down N**. Then, from the upside-down N, he draws another horizontal line **back to the letter P**. I

know what he's doing. It's part of the **solution** based on the assonance of the letter Q and the word "cuckoo." I've already figured it out, even if I don't yet know the meaning of the mysterious symbol.



The numbers indicate the order of Bevilacqua's silent index finger movements. Here's the complete **solution to the riddle**.

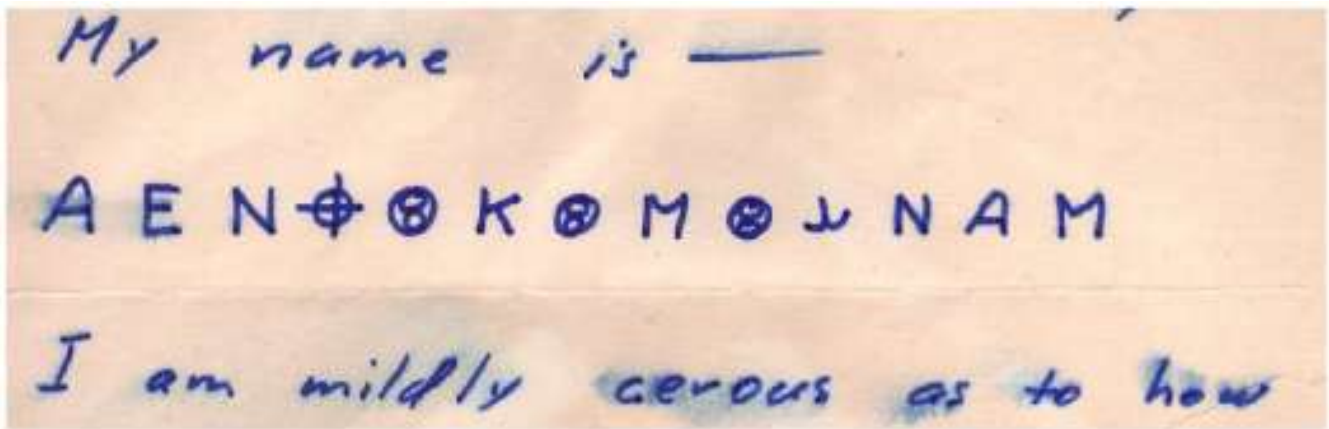
I hand the American a copy of the first page of the letter bearing the Zodiac name, dated **April 20, 1970**. He begins to translate it.

"Let's forget this," he says with a smirk and raising a hand.

Skip the 13-character ciphertext that's supposed to hide the message's author. He'd rather point me to the underlying phrase.

" **That sentence is strange** ," he says. "Why did he write 'waxy' instead of 'curious' ?"

"Ah," he adds, interrupting me. "**You think it's a mistake...**"



*"I am moderately waxy..." reads the sentence under the Zodiac ciphertext of April 20, 1970.*

The reading continues until the word "cid." Zodiac writes that there's more glory in killing a cop than a "cid" (he should have said "kid") because a cop can shoot.

"Strange, it's usually the other way around. **A cid is worse than a cop ...**" Again, he corrects himself. "Ah, you're going to tell me he meant kid, child."

Unfortunately, I didn't bring the second page of the letter. It would be useful because, I'll find out, it's one of the steps in the decipherment. There, too, Zodiac seems to allude to the word "cid" when he writes:

"...so the bomb won't go off by accident . "

Because of the acid or "a cid" (**un cid**)?

**For the August 10th meeting, I brought Robert Graysmith** 's book "Zodiac" with me, and we discussed the American case.

Bevilacqua picked up the book.

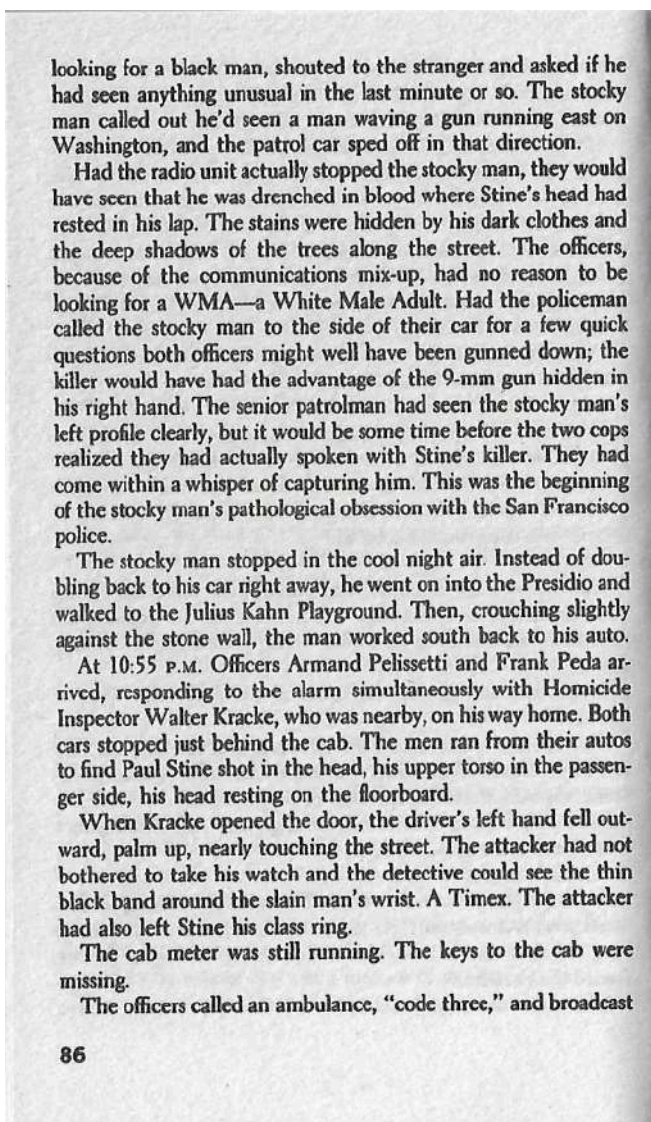
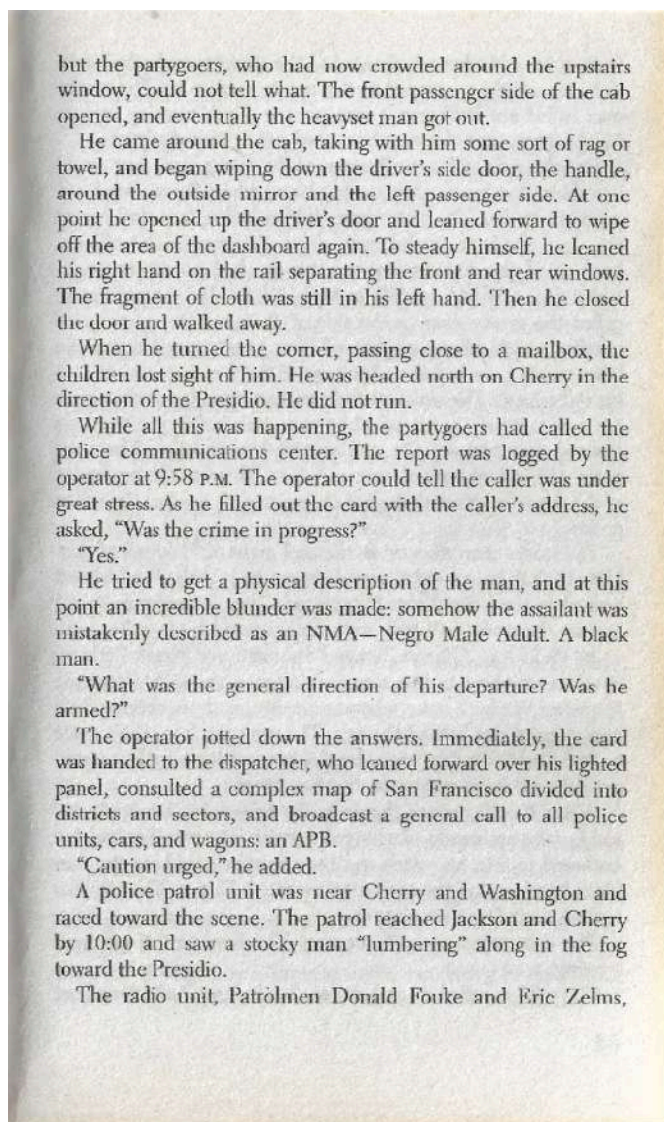
"I feel like I've read it before," he says. "Graysmith... I think he changed his last name." Indeed, he has.

We sit down and Bevilacqua begins leafing through the book. He comes across the name of Detective **Dave Toschi** and sighs.

"Toschi... He was good. He was like Lieutenant Colombo."

He's the second person involved in the Zodiac case, after attorney Belli, who tells me he knows who he is.

The elderly American continues leafing through the text. He lingers on the passage that describes how Zodiac allegedly **mised two** patrol officers ( **Donald Fouke** and **Eric Zelms** ) a few minutes **after Stine's murder** on October 11, 1969. And he begins to translate it.



*The two pages on which Bevilacqua stopped, after having leafed through the book for a few seconds*

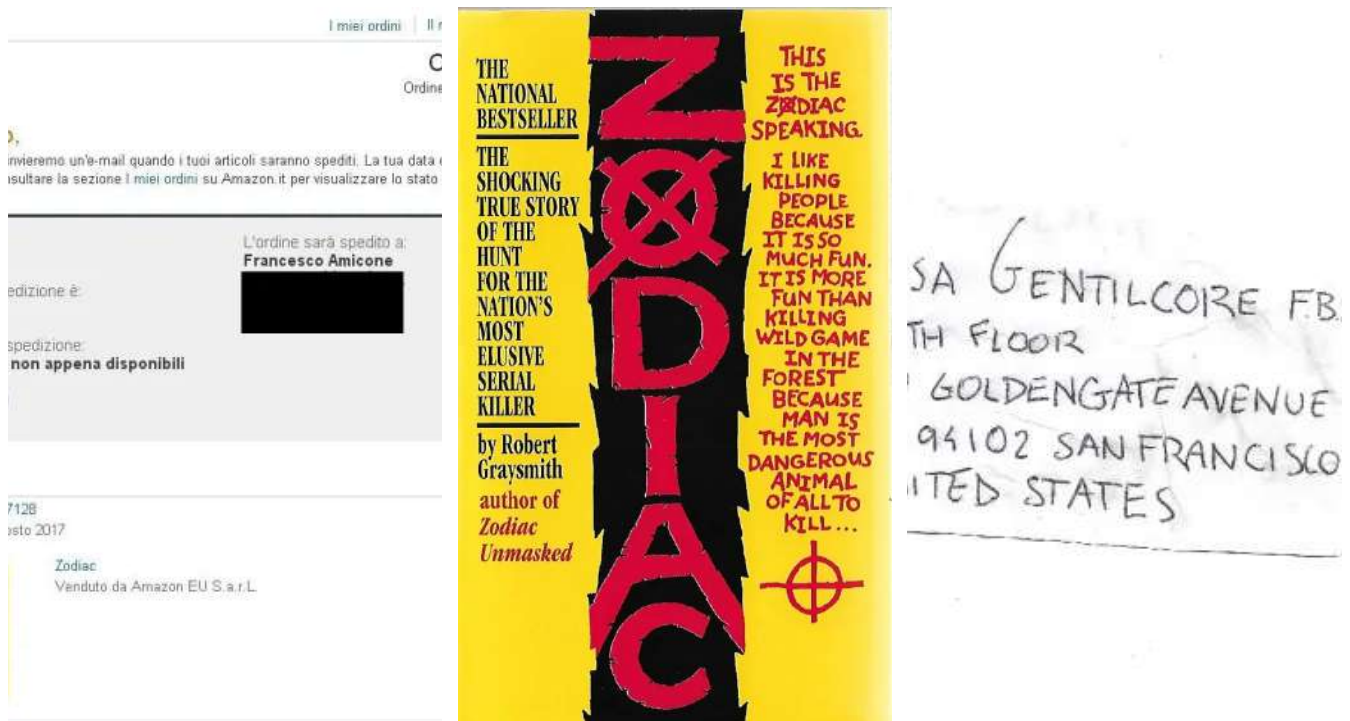
Graysmith said a **"stocky" man** (Zodiac) was walking with an **"awkward"** gait when a police patrol spotted him but failed to stop him.

The two officers explained the mistake by claiming the radio had broadcast a statement saying the attacker was "black."

According to Zodiac's November 9, 1969 , letter , the officers even **pulled the car over** to the curb and asked him if he had noticed **a suspicious person** . Zodiac pointed them in the direction he had seen, saying he had seen a man running east on Washington Street.

**"He,"** Bevilacqua says, referring to Zodiac, "didn't shoot because **he thought they were too stupid.**"

A few days after my last meeting with Bevilacqua, I mailed the cover of "Zodiac" with **Bevilacqua's fingerprints** to the FBI office in San Francisco (Agent **Lisa Gentilcore** ) in **an anonymous envelope** with no message, believing it likely they'd detect them by entering them into their database. "Maybe something will turn up," I thought.



*The Zodiac book read by Bevilacqua and one of the 2017 test labels with the contact information of the FBI agent to whom I sent the cover*

## 18. ADMISSION OF GUILT

- **September 12, 2017**

The "admission phone call" dates back to September 12th, not the 11th, contrary to what I will oversightfully tell the Carabinieri and report in the first articles of the investigation. These are three consecutive calls present in the complete records. This will be certified in 2023 by a **technical report** from my defense on the **records** from the Bevilacqua investigation, obtained with the **authorization of prosecutor Turco**. These are contacts that will "escape" the Carabinieri by mistake (perhaps because I use my home number and not my cell phone?).

**RISPOSTA** : Ho già consegnato in data 22 Febbraio u.s. un documento di 5 fogli ai Carabinieri di Monza dove si specificano i miei incontri con il BEVILACQUA. Nel suddetto documento specifico che vi è un errore (così' come riporto nella odierna denuncia); la data della telefonata è il **11 Settembre e NON il 12**. Preciso infine che io ho consegnato il documento ai Carabinieri di Monza ma non so se è già stato trasmesso il tutto alla Procura competente. ----- //

*Please note my backdating error in the **summary information report** of the Carabinieri of Lecco dated March 1, 2018. I oversight corrected the correct date (September 12, 2018) in the first summary of the conversations with Bevilacqua delivered on February 22, 2018 to the Carabinieri of Monza (the subsequent version with the **incorrect date is here**).*

**Summary information report**, Carabinieri of Lecco, 1 March 2018. In the first **document on the meetings** with Bevilacqua delivered a week earlier to the Carabinieri of Monza, I reported the correct date of the admission phone call (12 September 2017).

**I am not** secretly recording the conversation, even though Italian law allows it. The reason is **ethical and professional**.

I have undertaken not to disclose information received from Bevilacqua without his consent.

affiancati in quanto avevano entrambi la caratteristica di colpire coppie appartate, l'Amicone rispondeva che era riuscito ad avere **una confessione dal Bevilacqua** durante una conversazione telefonica tenuta con il predetto in data 11/09/2017, **che però non aveva registrato**.

*Note from the Florence Prosecutor's Office regarding an informal meeting on April 16, 2018. I backdated the admission by one day due to an oversight. The fact that it wasn't recorded should have remained secret.*

After an exchange about where I've been on vacation, I inform him that I want to discuss **Zodiac's code name** .

"We don't talk about these things on the phone," he replies.

I ignore him, telling him his name is in the solution. I read it to him.

**"They knew!"** Bevilacqua replies, frightened.

"Who?"

"D'Addario and Colombo. They knew because..."

The American leaves the **sentence hanging** . He's done **so before** when speaking about the Monster. From the tone of his voice, I deduce that it's just a **suspicion** . Besides, between '75 and '79, when Colombo was back in Livorno, the "Monster" didn't sign off on any crimes. Perhaps he feared being discovered? The serial killer's apparent return dates back to '81.

Bevilacqua also mentions the **"Maryland CIA"** (the National Security Agency?). He believes they "know" too.

I'm taking a step back to clarify if there's a misunderstanding.

"Maybe they framed you?" I ask doubtfully.

**"For fifty years?" he replies.**

Yes, he is admitting that he is Zodiac.

**"Why didn't you turn yourself in?" I ask.**

**"So you don't get anyone else in trouble,"** he replies in a lower voice.

"Your family?"

"Yes."

I urge him to turn himself in. He must go to the Carabinieri.

**"Do you know how long it's been?"** he says.

"Murder doesn't have a statute of limitations," I reply.

We have a brief discussion.

"Talk to a priest."

"You know. The only priest I spoke to told me I was the **devil incarnate** ."

During our conversations, he told me about a **Baptist chaplain** who had accused him of a **criminal "affair"** in Vietnam.

At a certain point, he seems convinced.

"What do I have to bring? The gun?" he asks, referring to the Monster's Beretta.

**"Do I have to bring the gun?"** he repeats.

I distinctly hear **a moan** in the background. It's his **wife Meri**. She, in fact, shortly thereafter intervenes to help her husband, whom you can no longer hear due to a strange interference (are we being wiretapped?).

Mrs. Torelli writes down the number of the lawyer **Francesco Moramarco** , a criminal lawyer I know who works for a **firm used by Tempi** . I ask

the lawyer, whom I previously informed of my journalistic investigation, **to assist Bevilacqua in the practical process of turning himself in** . Therefore, I inform him of the admission, informing him that he will be contacted shortly.

## **.22-CALIBER AUTOMATIC LONG RIFLE PISTOL™**



# **77<sup>88</sup>**

2 interchangeable front sights for fast shooting accuracy. One 5/64" approx. one 3/32" approx. Comfortable wrap-around grips.

**BERETTA® .22 L.R. CALIBER**

The most well-known version of the possible Monster gun was known as the "Jaguar" in the United States. Bevilacqua's home will never be searched (as of 2023).

A year later, Moramarco, the lawyer, **told the Carabinieri** that he had been **contacted only once** on September 12, 2017, by the "alleged" Bevilacqua, but that he had **only given him his office address. And that he had never heard from him again.**

Colonel Colizzi reported that **the Milanese lawyer**, without having it put in writing, **questioned the reliability** of my journalistic investigation.

Regarding the contacts between Moramarco and Bevilacqua, the phone records partially **contradict** the lawyer. In fact, the phone calls between him and the American that day **were two, not one**.



#### DETTAGLIO TRAFFICO TELEFONICO ENTRANTE/USCENTE

ORGANO RICHIEDENTE : Procura Repubblica c/o Tribunale FIRENZE  
DESTINATARIO : luca turco  
DECRETO NUMERO : 000879/2018-45 DEL 04/06/2018  
PROGRESSIVO DRU FONIA FISSO : 2184151

INIZIO DATA	CONVERSAZIONE ORA	DURATA (SEC)	CHIAMANTE OLO CTE	CHIAMATO OLO CTO
-------------	-------------------	--------------	-------------------	------------------

12/09/2017	15:33:20	835	039	<b>Telefonata dell'ammissione con interruzione</b>	055
12/09/2017	15:47:52	13	039		055
12/09/2017	15:48:36	197	039		055
//	//	//	//	//	//
12/09/2017	15:52:50	83	055	<b>Contatti JB - avvocato</b>	392
12/09/2017	16:28:11	171	392		055
13/09/2017	10:11:18	856	333	<b>Ultima conversazione</b>	055

*Bevilacqua's landline. Calls dated September 12-13, 2017. The calls between Bevilacqua and me immediately preceded the contact with attorney Moramarco.*

At 3:47 PM on September 12, 2017, Moramarco, who already knew about my journalistic investigation, was notified by me of Bevilacqua's "confession" by text message.

He responded with a text message at 5:50 PM.

**Two minutes later, the lawyer received a call from Bevilacqua**, and the two remained on the phone for about a minute and a half. This length of time was consistent with what he told the Carabinieri, except that, **half an hour later**, following another exchange of text messages between us, **the American called again**. This second call lasted about three minutes. Moramarco contacted me again, saying:

"He hasn't confessed..."

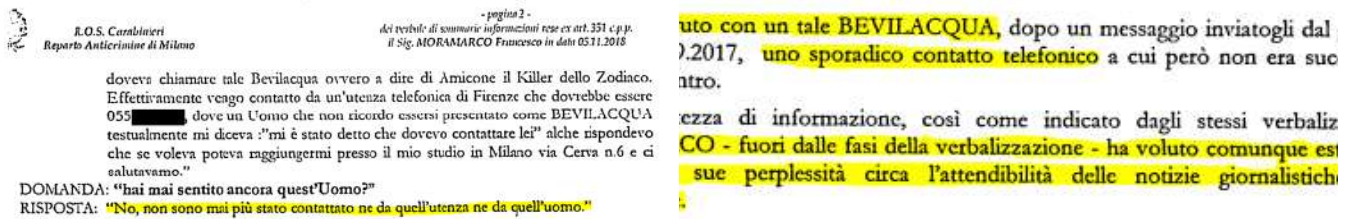
"Yes, he has," I reply.

"I mean," she clarifies, **"he hasn't gone to the police yet ."**

**The lawyer**, whom **I trust** and whom **I will see that evening in Milan**, will not add anything else, limiting himself to claiming that he **advised Bevilacqua against speaking on the telephone**.

Data e ora	Utenza A	Evento	Utenza B
2017-09-12 15:52:50	MSISDN: +390555 Intestatario: * BEVILAQUA GIUSEPPE Data di nascita intestatario: 20/12/1935 Luogo di nascita intestatario : STATI UNITI D'AMERICA Codice fiscale/P.IVA intestatario: BVLGPP35T20Z40R	Durata: 00:01:23 Evento: Chiamata	MSISDN: +39392 Intestatario: * FRANCESCO MORAMARCO
2017-09-12 16:28:11	MSISDN: +39392 Intestatario: * FRANCESCO MORAMARCO	Durata: 00:02:51 Evento: Chiamata	MSISDN: +390555 Intestatario: * BEVILAQUA GIUSEPPE Data di nascita intestatario: 20/12/1935 Luogo di nascita intestatario : STATI UNITI D'AMERICA Codice fiscale/P.IVA intestatario: BVLGPP35T20Z40R

In 2018, during investigations by the Florence Public Prosecutor's Office that arose from my complaint, the **commander of the Florentine ROS** , Colonel **Giuseppe Colizzi**, **did not report** Moramarco's inconsistency, preferring instead to highlight an **off-the-record** comment by the lawyer that casts a **bad light** on me (image below right).



*Click to enlarge. On the right, the note dated November 7, 2018, signed by the commander of the Florence ROS, Giuseppe Colizzi.*

This way of summarizing Commander Colizzi's findings will not be an isolated case in the Bevilacqua investigation.

The complete notes can be found at [this link](#) . Here are the main critical points.

- In the note on the telephone records, Colonel Colizzi dismisses the “phantom admission” as non-existent **without citing** (apparently due to an error on the part of the person carrying out the analysis) **the telephone calls between me and Bevilacqua on 12 September 2017** , which are difficult to miss in the complete records as they **immediately precede** the contacts found between Moramarco and Bevilacqua as seen above;
- In the note on the American's statements to the Carabinieri dated **May 30, 2018**, a serious **contradiction regarding his knowledge of Pacciani** , which I believe to be **reliable (we will see)**, will be omitted to highlight, on the contrary, an unfounded insinuation against me;
- In the note on the **criminological report** of the forensic psychologists of the RaCIS that Colonel Colizzi himself will want to consult, **he replaces their conclusions** with a **personal idea** on their Zodiac-Monster comparison **taken out** of context.

In data 12 settembre 2017, risultano esserci state tre telefonate fra le utenze intestate a Luigi Tommaso Amicone (039 [redacted]) e a Giuseppe Bevilacqua (utenza fissa 055 [redacted]). La più lunga è durata 14 minuti e 10 secondi. **Allegato Nr. 01 (contiene 2 pagine)**

Lo stesso giorno, successivamente ai contatti fra le utenze di Amicone e Bevilacqua, risultano esserci state due telefonate fra l'utenza (utenza fissa 055 [redacted]) di Bevilacqua Giuseppe e l'utenza mobile 392 [redacted] intestata a Francesco Moramarco. **Allegato Nr. 02 (contiene 2 pagine)**

Nelle stesse ore, si sono registrati molteplici contatti telefonici (vari SMS e telefonate) fra l'utenza mobile 392 [redacted] intestata a Francesco Moramarco e l'utenza mobile 333 [redacted] intestata a Francesco Amicone. **Allegato Nr. 03 (contiene 6 pagine)**

***Technical report** on the 2023 billing records. My landline was registered in my father's name.*

- **September 13, 2017**

I'm in Florence to accompany Bevilacqua to the Carabinieri. I call and find out **he's changed his mind**.

"A friend," he explains, "told me to always answer 'no, no, no.'" **There's no one behind you**," he adds.

Once again, he is joined by his wife. **Despite hearing his admission**, Bevilacqua does not turn himself in.

**The couple**, later questioned by the authorities, **deny everything**, failing to mention their telephone conversations with lawyer Moramarco.

In their two **partial analyses** of the 2018 phone records, **the Carabinieri failed to note the September 12, 2017, phone calls** between myself and Bevilacqua, although they did note the immediately subsequent contacts with the lawyer Moramarco, which the American had not declared. I don't know why.

**The complete phone records will not be filed with** the Bevilacqua investigation until

after the case is closed, and **only at my request, in 2023**. They would have served to confirm my version of events.

Va però evidenziato che da un'analisi del traffico telefonico delle utenze intestate a **BEVILACQUA**, sono emersi **due contatti telefonici il giorno 12.09.2017** (alle ore 15:52:49 per la durata di 54 secondi e alle successive ore 16:25:11 per la durata di 171 secondi), **con Putenza cellulare n. [REDACTED] intestata all'avv. MORAMARCO Francesco**.

*Note on the analysis of the ROS records, July 7, 2018. The note's editor sees the two phone calls between Bevilacqua and attorney Moramarco.*

- **September 14, 2017**

I sent the first report regarding Bevilacqua to the Carabinieri and the Florence police headquarters.

These were two empty certified emails with the **summary** of Zodiac's name in the **letter** dated April 20, 1970, attached.

**This post provides** the complete, albeit **bizarre**, decipherment of Bevilacqua's name.

Subsequently, the Prosecutor's Office sent me a standard response inviting me to file a formal complaint,

following the procedures.

Oggetto: CONSEGNA: Mostro di Firenze  
Da: poto-certificati@pec.aulis.it  
A: francesco.antonio@ [REDACTED]  
Thu, 14 Sep 2017 11:58:07 +0200  
Record di arrivo esiguo

Il giorno 14/09/2017 alle ore 11:58:07 (+0200) il messaggio "Mostro di Firenze" proveniente da "francesco.antonio@ [REDACTED] ed indirizzato a " [REDACTED]@pec.aulis.it" è stato consegnato nella casella di destinazione.

Oggetto: CONSEGNA: Mostro di Firenze  
Da: poto-certificati@pec.aulis.it  
A: francesco.antonio@ [REDACTED]  
Thu, 14 Sep 2017 14:37:47 +0200 (EST)

Ricevuto di avvenuta consegna il giorno 14/09/2017 alle ore 14:37:47 (+0200) il messaggio "Mostro di Firenze" proveniente da "francesco.antonio@ [REDACTED] ed indirizzato a: "arp.great.8@pec.pulviscolata.it" è stato consegnato nella casella di destinazione.



The **first reports** to Italian and US law enforcement agencies, following the admission on **September 12, 2017**, were **informal** and sent via email.

As for the reports to US law enforcement, I remained **anonymous** for a certain period of time using **different accounts**.

Likewise, I leave partial information on **a forum** about the Monster, **reporting the deciphering** of Zodiac's name on the blog of a researcher, **Martin Rush**, in December 2017.

I'm being cautious for a few months because **I don't know if there are other people involved** and I suspect the "admission phone call" was **intercepted**.

When it becomes clear that there is no surveillance or investigation, that Bevilacqua likely has no accomplices and will not turn himself in (although his wife **Meri Torelli**

heard the admission), seeing that my reports are having no effect, I will file a formal complaint.

## 19. THE COMPLAINT

Introduction. I won't have the opportunity to read the investigative documents of the Florence Public Prosecutor's Office and the ROS (Special Operations Squad) until 2022. I'll only be able to learn about the investigations into Bevilacqua four years after reporting him , when **I learn** that the murder case against him has been dismissed (a request **not notified to the victims' relatives** ) and I will consult the file, which also includes my summary information to the Carabinieri in 2018 (a copy is not given to the potential witness upon questioning).

- **February 2018**

In the fall of 2017, my email reports to the Florence **Prosecutor's Office received** only a standard response. A formal request to file a complaint in accordance with the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code. **No response from the FBI** , however , despite some provocation. For example, I attached a photo of a hickory nut to an email (the English word "nut" also means "crazy"). They probably thought I was the one. I'm still **convinced** that the phone call between me and Bevilacqua was **intercepted** . I waited to go to the investigators in person, believing that the American was under surveillance and would turn himself **in** , at least at the urging of Mrs. Torelli, who introduced herself as a devout Catholic and **listened** to her husband's admission.

In mid-February 2018, I decided to go to the Carabinieri in Monza, who asked me for a summary of my conversations with Bevilacqua. I hadn't yet concluded my investigation—far from it, even though at the time I was convinced otherwise.

In addition to the admission, in the report I submitted to the Carabinieri in Monza on February 22nd, I cited several useful elements, including the fact that **he knew Pacciani** , contrary to what he repeatedly reiterated in his testimony at the 1994 trial.

On this matter, the American **confirmed** my statements when he was questioned by the Carabinieri of the ROS in Florence on May 30th.

The first summary is **almost identical** to the one I will deliver to the **Florence Prosecutor's Office on April 16, 2018**. The main **difference** is the **date of admission**, which is **correct (September 12, 2017)** . From March 1 , **I will mistakenly backdate it by one day** , having been misled by the log of outgoing calls on my cell phone (I had made the **call from a landline** ).

**RISPOSTA** : Ho già consegnato in data 22 Febbraio u.s. un documento di 5 fogli ai Carabinieri di Monza dove si specificano i miei incontri con il BEVILACQUA. Nel suddetto documento specifico che vi è un errore (così come riporto nella odierna denuncia); la data della telefonata è il **11 Settembre e NON il 12**. Preciso infine che io ho consegnato il documento ai Carabinieri di Monza ma non so se è già stato trasmesso il tutto alla Procura competente. ----- //

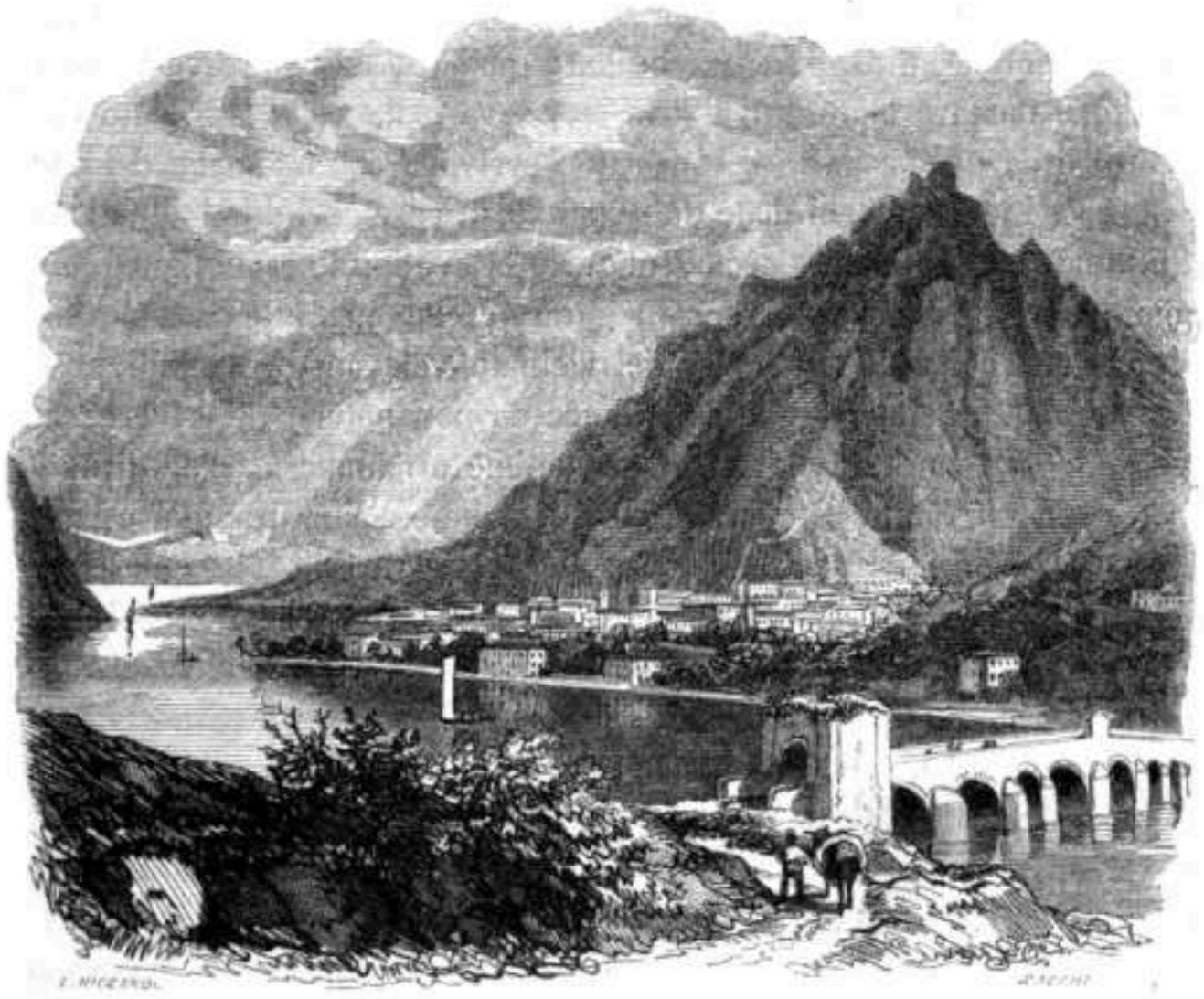
*Please note my backdating error in the **summary information report** of the Carabinieri of Lecco dated March 1, 2018. I oversight corrected the correct date (September 12, 2018) in the first summary of the conversations with Bevilacqua delivered on February 22, 2018 to the Carabinieri of Monza (the subsequent version with the **incorrect date is here** ).*

- **March 1, 2018**

I decide to file **a complaint** in Lecco. I choose the Carabinieri station in this city because it's not far from my home, and to contrast it with the numerous locations of the serial killer.

The Lecco area is home to the protagonists of the most classic Italian novel, Alessandro Manzoni's "**The Betrothed**," **Renzo and Lucia. A couple** , like the preferred victims of the Monster and the Zodiac, separated by the lust of a petty tyrant.

The station commander, Major Salvatore Fornaro, interviews me for a **brief briefing** .



Lithograph by Lecco in the final edition of "The Betrothed"

- **April 16, 2018**

I have an informal meeting at the Florence Prosecutor's Office with the officials of the Prosecutor's Office **Liberato Ilardi and Andrea Giannini** , who are assisting the prosecutor Turco in the investigation into the Monster. **I warn them** that *Il Giornale* will publish my story on Bevilacqua. They are skeptical.

A month and a half later, Ilardi and Giannini will draft a note with their recollections of this conversation, **attributing to me** , among other things, **false information from Bevilacqua** provided to the Carabinieri the **day after** their article was drafted (images below).

**On May 30** , the American (Amicone, in the note) will claim that in 2017 I had received his contact from the **US Consulate in Milan**.

This is not what happened.

As seen in the chapter "Conversations" and I will declare to the ROS on June 19, I

contacted Bevilacqua through the director of the American cemetery of Sicily-Rome, **Melanie Resto**, who forwarded him a **message of mine allusive** about his dark past. It was Bevilacqua himself who gave me his telephone number, telling me where he lived (the address was also in the **White Pages**).

In una nota anonima inviata il 28 agosto 2018, la PS della Procura di Firenze alla DdP dichiarava di Bevilacqua del vicino della ricerca di Salzano.

Bevilacqua, ex agente FBI  
 Capofila del cosmo Francesco AMICONE. L'ho conosciuto nella primavera del 2018 quando si presentò a casa mia presentandosi come scrittore di libri e di aver avuto il suo nome e la mia residenza del **Consolato Americano di Milano**. Mi riferiva di essere intenzionato a scrivere un libro sulla mia vita in qualità di Direttore del Cimitero Militare Americano di Palermo e di ritorno.

Il Direttore di Firenze, 27 agosto 2018  
 Sistema di aver incaricato diverse volte Giuseppe Bevilacqua presso la sua abitazione in Viale Forlanini, Via Risorgimento 148, dopo aver ottenuto il suo numero telefonico tramite il **Consolato USA di Milano** con la scusa di volerlo intervistare per i suoi racconti militari e come direttore del Cimitero Americano di Palermo.

Storia di Bevilacqua, 31 gennaio 2018  
 Chiariva, albeit, che questi nel corso del loro primo incontro, aveva riferito all'esperto e alla moglie di averlo rintracciato per il tramite del **Consolato Americano di Milano, perché aveva mai indicato chi effettivamente lo aveva fatto il suo nome**.

In ragione delle dilazioni intercedute di Francesco Antonio, avvenivano successivamente più incontri tra quest'ultimo e Francesco.

L'informazione data da Bevilacqua è affidabile dalla PS di Firenze ed è falsa.  
 Il giornalista ha contestato Bevilacqua tramite la testimonianza dell'**AMICONE MELANIE RESTO**, FIDELITÀ del disciplinare di regolamento all'indirizzo della sua proprietà **www.american-cemetery.com** il profilo di servizio del **Consolato Americano di Milano** e quanto appena l'amicone, è stato lui stesso a fornire il proprio numero.  
 Sul mobile non era presente al primo incontro, a differenza di quanto scritto (a confronto del 2017).  
 Ho ricevuto di email a oggi 07/11/2018.

Un'operazione di Antonio, 13 giugno 2018  
 Inizialmente, anche al fine di verificare la sua presenza sul territorio, ho svolto alcune ricerche (a tal proposito ho inviato due mail, una delle quali alla **AMICONE MELANIE RESTO**) e l'altro **AMICONE** General Management (che non mi ha neanche risposto) che mi hanno confermato che il Bevilacqua era reperibile in di una utenza telefonica italiana (registrata per a lui in suo - **02-99999999**).  
 Gli **White Pages** bianche aveva comunque gli individui due Giuseppe Bevilacqua nell'area di Firenze.

L'Ufficio a questo punto dà atto che al sig. Antonio viene chiesto di far visionare le due immagini nel dossier al suo ufficio sostanziale, quest'ultimo di non essere nella possibilità di fornire nell'atto stesso che la mail utilizza ma quella arrivata a Francesco Antonio (dovrà essere il responsabile del sig. Antonio Francesco, magari con gli altri nomi).

Gmail  
 Francesco Antonio [redacted]@pro.it.com

**FW: A question for superintendent Resto**

From: Melanie Resto [mailto:melanieresto@american-cemetery.com] Sent: Friday, April 10, 2018 8:53 AM To: Francesco Antonio <francescoantonio@pro.it> Subject: messaggio per Joseph Bevilacqua

Buongiorno Sig. Carlo,  
 Il Sig. Bevilacqua preferisce che lei si contatti al numero qui.  
 Sig. Bevilacqua tramite 300 [redacted]

Ringrazio,  
 Melanie Resto  
 Superintendent

American Bahá Moutain Cemetery (Sul piano American Cemetery)  
 Unit 9500 (Box 11) (DPO AE 30424-0011)  
 Palazzo Kennedy 1 (30040 Nettuno) Italy  
 T +39 06 66 08 25 24  
 www.amc.gov | Join us on Facebook

From: Francesco Carlo <francescoantonio@pro.it> Sent: Friday, April 7, 2017 8:18:19 To: Melanie Resto Subject: messaggio per Joseph Bevilacqua

Bevilacqua,  
 Ho chiamato questo pomeriggio per avere un contatto con l'ex Superintendente Joseph Bevilacqua. Ecco il messaggio che sono gli ho inviato per cortesia.  
 Scusi per le cordialità e la chiarezza!  
 Tanti saluti Francesco Carlo.  
 Il contatto per il quale ho ricevuto una biografia su una persona che servì per l'Esercito USA tra il 1969 e il 1990.  
 Della sua vita in quel periodo purtroppo io non so. E non so se fosse ancora con lei ma spero che potrei non dirle che nel periodo del Vietnam aveva svolto il suo in California e forse forse parte della Military Police.  
 Sono un foto giornalista nel centro di Roma e avrei bisogno di materiali per scrivere questo capitolo che mi sta venendo una certa importanza nel complesso della mia ricerca.  
 Come lei ha la sua esperienza e perché lei ha scritto il suo nome.  
 Sarebbe disponibile a concedere un colloquio telefonico o anche per una? Grazie.  
 Francesco?

*There are several oversights in the Florence Prosecutor's Office's investigative report dated "May 29, 2018." The most serious concerns the initial contact between me and Bevilacqua. On the right, the suggestive message sent to the Italian-American in 2017.*

The contents of this note will seem to "inspire" an article in *La Nazione* on **June 2, 2018**, written by Stefano Brogioni, from which Bevilacqua can easily deduce the lack of a registration of the admission.

affiancati in quanto avevano entrambi la caratteristica di colpire coppie appartate, l'Amicone rispondeva che era riuscito ad avere **una confessione dal Bevilacqua durante una conversazione telefonica tenuta con il predetto in data 11/09/2017, che però non aveva registrato.**

*Note from the Florence Prosecutor's Office regarding an informal meeting on April 16, 2018. I backdated the admission by one day due to an oversight. The fact that it wasn't recorded should have remained secret.*

- May 7, 2018**

Bevilacqua receives a **letter** from me asking for evidence (to convince the investigators). I try to entice him with the possibility of a **deal** to publish his **biography** with a major Italian publishing house.

SPERO CHE TI  
CONSENGI.  
IN OGNI CASO, SE MI FAI UN GRANDE FAVORE,  
E MI MANDI UNA LETTERA  
PROVANTE ALL'INDIRIZZO

*Excerpt from the letter sent on May 4, 2018*

- **May 19, 2018**

The first part of my report on the Zodiac-Monster connection is published on tempi.it. Two more installments follow. The third (May 21, 2018) refers to Zodiac, **without explicitly naming** Bevilacqua as a suspect, but instead naming a **former investigator from the 5th CID in Livorno**.

The ending is **toned down** to ensure that the American doesn't become upset and choose to **turn himself in**.

- **May 22, 2018**

Appointed by Bevilacqua, lawyer **Paolo Russo** drafted a brief formal notice regarding the letter I'd received more than **two weeks earlier**, in which I hoped he would turn himself in. (The formal notice never reached its destination because I recently moved and mistyped my new house number.)

The formal notice **doesn't address** phrases like **"I hope you turn yourself in"** (for what...?). It urges you **not to sell or disseminate** written material...

"...if it pertains to Mr. Bevilacqua's personal and professional history and life events, before having previously examined and assessed its full content and its truthfulness and/or reliability."

### **The warning :**

- does not comment on the request for proof;
- does not mention the hope of turning himself in;

- **It does not contain references** to my report on the **Zodiac-Monster** connection .

The third and final part of my article was published 24 hours before the formal notice was drafted. **One would expect** the **text** drafted by Attorney Russo to cite it.

**Instead, no.**

**Not the slightest mention** of the previous day's episode (Monster = the American Zodiac).

It was **impossible not to notice** since it was **the opening title** on the tempi.it homepage (below).

http://www.tempi.it/

Go

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63,758 captures

2 Mar 2000 - 29 Feb 2024

2017

21  
2018

2019

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# TEMPI

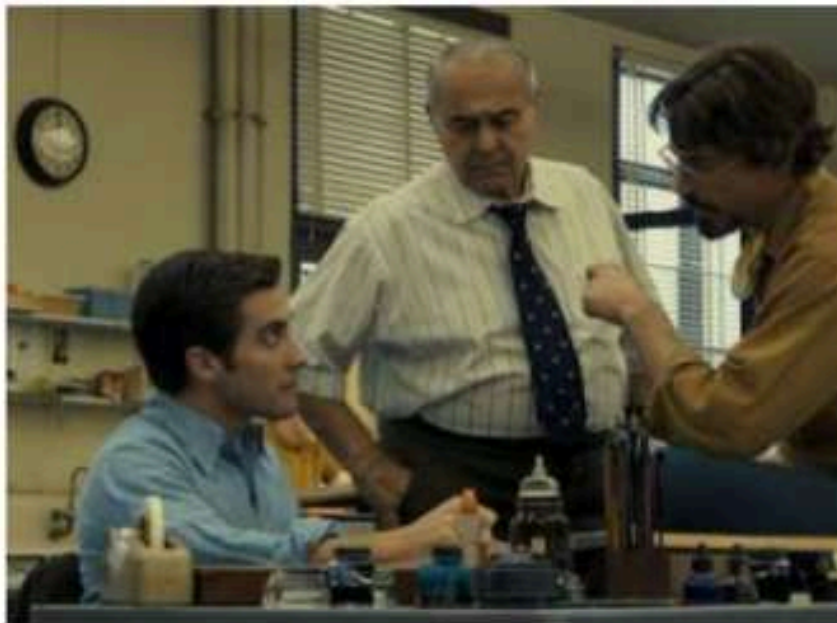
Registrati Login



cerca...



TEMA DEL GIORNO



## Storia di un mostro. Ulisse, nero, l'americano, Zodiac

**SOCIETÀ** Alle Fontanine nel Mugello, così come a Lake Berryessa e a Riverside in California la "firma" è la stessa. E se il Mostro di Firenze fosse Zodiac? Elementi su cui indagare



21 maggio, 2018

Francesco Amicone

ALTRI TEMI

May 21, 2018. The Zodiac-Monster report is the "topic of the day" on tempi.it. Why doesn't Bevilacqua's May 22 warning mention it? Why will Bevilacqua and Torelli deny having read it?

**Bevilacqua** and his **wife know that I work** with tempi.it.

When I showed up at their home on July 28, 2017, without my informing them, Mrs.

Torelli had already seen and read my article on Vigilanti that had appeared on tempi.it the previous day .

The Bevilacqua hired a lawyer and had him send a formal notice **without first checking tempi.it** ?

It's **unlikely** , but that's what they'll say.

He told the Carabinieri and in the subsequent complaint.

She, contradicting herself , went to court in 2023.

Poste Italiane  
Accettazione **RACCOMANDATA** RICEVUTA  
È vietato introdurre denaro e valori nelle raccomandate. Poste Italiane SpA non ne risponde.  
Si prega di compilare a cura del mittente a macchina o in stampatello

DESTINATARIO  
FRANCESCO AMICONE  
CONTRADA S. MICHELE  
63064 CUPRA MARITTIMA (AP)

MITTENTE  
STUDIO LEGALE  
AVV. PAOLO RUSSO  
Via F. Redi, 31 - 50144 FIRENZE  
Tel e Fax 055 3245232  
e-mail: studio@avvocatopaolorusso.it

26  
paolo Russo  
Firenze - Tel. e Fax 055/3245232  
ID - Partita IVA 05099680489  
paolo.russo@firenze.pecavvocati.it  
Firenze, 22 Maggio 2018

Egr. Sig.  
Francesco Amicone  
Contrada S. Michele,  
63064 Cupra Marittima (AP)

acqua/Amicone

Giuseppe Bevilacqua, residente in Sesto Fiorentino  
in calce alla presente, in risposta alla Sua lettera  
Maggio 2018, per contestarne il contenuto.

Fraz. 25075 Sez. 04 Operaz. 141  
Consolo: B  
Passo gr.: 15 Tariffa € 5.95 affr. € 5.95  
Serv. Agg.: AR

The formal notice appears to have been sent in response to the article on tempi.it. However, it is not mentioned.

- **May 29, 2018**

As of May 29, **Bevilacqua still doesn't know about my complaint** .

He likely decided not to tell Russo about the articles on the Zodiac-Mostro connection on tempi.it **to avoid informing him** of the September 2017 phone calls.

On the other hand, my report, which concludes with a **sugar-coated and "wait-and-see"** tone , without explicit references and reiterating **the exhortation to turn oneself in** , might not be perceived as an immediate threat.

**Maybe we can come to an agreement, right?**



May 29, 2018. The title of my article chosen by the newspaper

On May 29, however, the American was **caught off guard** by the publication in the newspaper *Il Giornale* of the account of his **admission** and the following day by a visit from the Carabinieri.

How **can you explain** to investigators **the failure to cite** the tempi.it articles in the formal notice **without appearing suspicious?**

Why didn't you mention it to attorney Russo?

Hence the **convenience of "knowing nothing"** , with the support of his wife.

Notice in the image below how, in 2023, at my defamation trial, Mrs. **Torelli contradicts herself** on this crucial detail.

DIFESA PARTE CIVILE (AVV. BENUCCI) – Mi scusi signora, **prima di allora voi avevate letto qualcosa sulle testate online** o le testate cartacee?

TESTE (TORELLI MERI) - **Si.**

DIFESA PARTE CIVILE (AVV. BENUCCI) – Avevate letto qualcosa **o l'avete appreso nel momento in cui...?**

TESTE (TORELLI MERI) - **No, l'abbiamo appreso al momento quando sono venuti a farci... A interrogare mio marito**, ecco, e poi dopo, a distanza di poco, si vide anche alla televisione con

*Hearing on October 12, 2023, in the defamation trial. Ms. Torelli's lawyer, Elena Benucci, is forced to re-assign the question before getting the "right" answer.*

## 20. THE INVESTIGATION BY ROS. BEVILACQUA AND PACCIANI

- **May 30, 2018**

**Bevilacqua was interviewed** by two Carabinieri officers from the Florence ROS (Special Operations Unit) as a person informed of the facts. **This is the link** to his statements.

The former Army **CID** investigator , with a 20-year career in the military, undercover operations, and a year of war in Vietnam, is elderly but lucid and independent. Oddly, he was **interviewed** by the ROS (Special Operations Unit) **at his home and in the presence of three family members** rather than at the nearby Carabinieri station in Sesto Fiorentino.

His relatives were his wife, a daughter, and a grandson. His daughter and son-in-law, who live next door to him in San Francisco, were **absent**

. The reasons for this were Bevilacqua's age and state of "apprehension," claims **ROS commander Colizzi** in his statement dated June 2, 2018.

This **decision prevented** the Carabinieri from collecting the **American's DNA** , which would **only be acquired two years later** by the **Siena Prosecutor's Office** .



RAGGRUPPAMENTO OPERATIVO SPECIALE CARABINIERI  
SEZIONE ANTICRIMINE DI FIRENZE

N. 87/1-1 di prot.lio 2013

50123 - Firenze, 01 giugno 2018

OGGETTO: Procedimento penale 879/2018 R.G. mod. 45, della Procura della Repubblica presso il Tribunale di Firenze.  
Delega d'indagine datata 29 maggio 2018 - Trasmissione verbale di sommarie informazioni rese da BEVILACQUA Giuseppe

PROCURA DELLA REPUBBLICA FIRENZE	ALLA PROCURA DELLA REPUBBLICA FIRENZE
01 GIU. 2018	PRESCO IL TRIBUNALE DI (Proc. Agg. dett. Luca Torni)
DEPOSITATO IN SEGRETERIA	L'ASSISTENTE GIUDIZIARIO Dott.ssa [redacted]

FIRENZE

In ordine alla delega in oggetto indicata si comunica che nella tarda mattinata del 30 maggio 2018 si è proceduto ad ascoltare a sommarie informazioni il sig. BEVILACQUA Giuseppe<sup>1</sup>, il quale si manifestava immediatamente estraneo ai fatti riferendo di aver già adito per le vie legali contro il giornalista free lance Francesco AMICONE<sup>2</sup>, per questioni antecedenti alla pubblicazione degli articoli.

Brevemente il BEVILACQUA riferiva di aver conosciuto l'AMICONE nella primavera del 2016 allorché si presentava presso la propria abitazione manifestando la volontà di scrivere un libro sulla sua vita in qualità di militare americano e direttore del Cimitero Militare Americano di Falciano e Nettuno. Gli incontri, finalizzati alla raccolta da parte dell'AMICONE delle notizie utili alla redazione del libro, avvenivano sempre presso l'abitazione del BEVILACQUA ma si interrompevano bruscamente dopo 3-4 volte a causa della scarsa professionalità del giornalista a cui veniva inibito - tramite comunicazione formale dell'avvocato Paolo RUSSO del Foro di Firenze, difensore del BEVILACQUA - di non pubblicare nulla di quanto acquisito durante gli incontri.

Accertamenti eseguiti su fonti aperte permettevano di appurare che gli articoli stampa a firma o riconducibili al giornalista Francesco AMICONE sono apparsi su varie testate giornalistiche tra cui "TEMPI", periodico mensile fondato nel 1994 da Luigi Tommaso AMICONE<sup>3</sup>, padre di Francesco.

Per meglio lumeggiare la conoscenza e i rapporti intercorsi tra i due soggetti, si ritiene utile acquisire i tabulati telefonici delle utenze in uso al giornalista Luigi AMICONE (339 [redacted]) e del sig. Giuseppe BEVILACQUA (055 [redacted] e 339 [redacted] dal 1 giugno 2016 alla data di notifica del decreto.

<sup>1</sup> BEVILACQUA Giuseppe, nato a Torino (Stati Uniti d'America) il 20/12/1935 [redacted]  
<sup>2</sup> AMICONE Francesco [redacted]  
<sup>3</sup> AMICONE Luigi Tommaso [redacted] consigliere comunale di Milano e candidato alle elezioni del 4 marzo 2018 nel collegio plurinomale dell'Emilia Romagna 1 nella lista 13-Forza Italia.

Si rappresenta infine che in considerazione dell'età e dello stato di apprensione del sig. BEVILACQUA Giuseppe l'escussione è avvenuta nella sua abitazione alla presenza della moglie, della figlia e del nipote e per tale motivo non è stato possibile acquisire discretamente alcuna traccia DNA.

Alla presente si allega verbale di sommarie informazioni rese dal sig. BEVILACQUA Giuseppe il 30/05/2018.



May 30, 2018. Note from ROS Commander Colizzi regarding Bevilacqua's statements. No mention is made of the serious contradiction regarding Pacciani by the suspect, whose credibility is taken for granted.

Bevilacqua's 2018 statements consist of a three-page report signed by him and his family members present.

The American is being questioned on three topics: his **conversations with me**, his involvement as **a witness in the Mostro case**, and his general **travels to California**.

The Carabinieri's questions are generic.

Bevilacqua claims to **know nothing** about my journalistic investigation into the Monster and "forgets" that I contacted him via a message about his past in California, delivered to him by his former colleague **Melanie Resto**.

Of the six times I visited his home, according to the **Carabinieri's investigations**, he cites three without going into detail.

He is trying to instill suspicion about my professionalism.

He forgets that he **returned to the United States from Vietnam** in early '69 and **not "at the end" of '69** , that is, **before and not after** the Zodiac claims began in San Francisco.

The report states that he left **Florence** in 1979, rather than **1989**. An oversight that evidently goes unnoticed, despite the three-page report being read aloud by the Carabinieri and signed, page by page, by Bevilacqua and two informed relatives.

And what does he say about California? No, he doesn't mention his mother-in-law **Luanne** , or his son-in-law who lives next door, even though his **favorite hat** is somewhere in the house to remind him of them.

Sono nato nel comune di Totowa Boro nello stato del New Jersey. Sono passato per la California solo **quando sono dovuto andare in Vietnam** a prestare servizio militare. Altre volte sono stato **in California con la famiglia** in vacanza ma solo per brevi periodi. **Non ricordo** di essere mai stato a **Riverside** in California ma puntualizzo che negli Stati Uniti d'America vi sono più località denominate Riverside **che significa "a fianco al fiume".**/

The minutes conclude with a "clarification" on the meaning of Riverside. What does this mean, he explains:

"... next to the river."

In reality, "Riverside" has a slightly different meaning: "riverside." Did Bevilacqua mispronounce it on purpose?

His last words in English would translate like this:

"By the river"

It's the **same expression** (only the article changes) that ends **the title of the song** from **"The Mikado"** from which Zodiac's **latest signature is taken.**

# On a tree by a river

For works with similar titles, see [The Suicide's Grave](#).

Versions of

**On a tree by a river** (1885)

*W. S. Gilbert and Arthur S. Sullivan*

Commonly known as **Tit-Willow**: a song from [Gilbert and Sullivan's](#) opera [The Mikado](#).

*"On a tree beside a river", or better yet "on the bank of a river"*

On **April 16, 2018** , I delivered to officers Ilardi and Giannini a brief **account of the conversations** I had with the American in 2017. This five-page summary I had already provided to the Carabinieri in Monza on **February 22** (in the first version, the date of the "admission phone call" was correct).

I cite this document in the *Giornale* article on the admission .

It reads:

"Bevilacqua told me that **he knew Pietro Pacciani well** , and that **he had met him several times** in the woods behind the Falciani cemetery."

## "Vuoi rompere i coglioni al Mostro?"

Riguardo alle vicende legate al Mostro di Firenze, il 28 luglio, **Bevilacqua mi disse che conosceva bene Pietro Pacciani, e che lo aveva più volte incontrato nel bosco dietro il cimitero dei Falciani.** Conosceva anche Mario Vanni e Giancarlo Lotti, che definiva "il

3/5



*April 16, 2018. Report of the discussions*

**Bevilacqua would have known who "Vampa" was** , the main Monster suspect of the Florence Prosecutor's Office, at least since the 1980s, when he worked at the American Cemetery in Florence.

This is information that was unknown to the Prosecutor's Office and which became public knowledge with the publication of my article in the *newspaper* .

In his deposition at the Pacciani trial in 1994, the American had declared that **he did not know** the defendant, **reiterating this several times** .

"I didn't know who he was."

TESTE Bevilacqua: No, io non sapevo chi era.  
PUBBLICO MINISTERO: Lei non sapeva.  
TESTE Bevilacqua: No, no.  
PUBBLICO MINISTERO: Lei ha riconosciuto una foto e non sapeva chi era.  
TESTE Bevilacqua: Per foto solo.  
PUBBLICO MINISTERO: Oggi lei, in quest'aula, vede qualcuno che, sia pure con le sembianze di oggi, assomiglia a quella persona?  
TESTE Bevilacqua: Sì, sì.  
PUBBLICO MINISTERO: E chi è?  
TESTE Bevilacqua: Il signore là accanto all'Avvocato.  
PUBBLICO MINISTERO: Come mai crede di riconoscere...  
PRESIDENTE: Diamo atto che è il Pacciani, eh!

*June 6, 1994. Bevilacqua's testimony at the Pacciani trial. Official transcript.*

Bevilacqua claimed that, in the days leading up to the 1985 double homicide, he had noticed **a suspicious man** on the edge of a wood near the crime scene. He added that **he had stopped** to look at the man **because he had never seen him before** .

He later noted similarities between the "stranger" and Pacciani, claiming he **didn't know who he was** before the police showed him a photo of him (or before his brother-in-law showed it to him, according to the transcript of his previous statements).

Finally, at the hearing Bevilacqua **clearly identified** Pacciani as the "unknown".



## Joe Bevilacqua al processo Pacciani. Testimonianza completa

Ostello Volante



Watch on

On May 30, 2018, Bevilacqua contradicted himself by confirming what **I had anticipated** to the investigators.

Durante la mia permanenza a Falciani ho avuto modo di conoscere Pietro PACCIANI in quanto era solito venire lungo la rete di recinzione per cacciare gli animali ed io dimoravo all'interno del Cimitero Militare Americano di Falciani; altre volte mi è capitato di incontrarlo al bar degli Scopeti. ---///

*May 30, 2018. Joe Bevilacqua's statements to the ROS*

Bevilacqua does not contradict himself on the **remaining part of his** 1994 version, which **remains almost unchanged** .

The American in fact claims:

- of having seen the victims **the day before** their murder which took place near the American cemetery in Florence where he lived and that the girl, **Nadine Mauriot** , was wearing a **black bathing suit** ;
- of having to tie up his **dogs** on the night of the crime .

The only serious discrepancy, **impossible to miss** for those conducting the Monster investigation, is his knowledge of Pacciani.

Although this contradiction casts doubt on Bevilacqua's credibility (and confirms my

own), **there is no mention** of it in the ROS (Special Operations Investigation) and Prosecutor's Office documents relating to the investigation into the American, which will be closed in 2021. **Why?**

In 2004, lawyer **Pietro Fioravanti**, a longtime defender of the "Vampa," along with his colleague **Bevilacqua**, was questioned **by Giuttari**, head of **GIDES**, and officer **Davide Arena**, on behalf of Perugia's deputy prosecutor **Giuliano Mignini**, as part of the investigation into the death of **Francesco Narducci** ([here are their statements](#)). Fioravanti recalled that **Pacciani muttered the word "infamous"** when he approached Bevilacqua during the **confrontation over height**. According to Fioravanti, Bevilacqua **knew more** than he admitted at trial.

Voglio dire un'altra cosa, e cioè che il custode del cimitero americano nella zona dell'ultimo duplice omicidio, tale Bevilacqua, sapeva dell'omicidio degli Scopeti prima che la notizia venisse fuori. Tale fatto l'ho contestato in Tribunale. Ritengo che lui ne sapesse di più anche perché sentii durante il processo che Pacciani mormorò al Bevilacqua la parola "infame" mentre erano vicini per l'accertamento dell'altezza.

*Statements made to the GIDES by lawyer Pietro Fioravanti in 2004. Pacciani had been dead for years. The lawyer had no reason to defend him to the hilt, pointing to witness Bevilacqua as a suspect.*

Bevilacqua's knowledge of Pacciani will be **confirmed by Mrs. Torelli** at the **hearing on October 12, 2023**, of my defamation trial (excerpt from her deposition below).

DIFESA IMPUTATO (AVV. PEPI) - Mai, va bene. Senta, l'ultima cosa. Quando vennero i Carabinieri nel 2018 **suo marito disse che conosceva il Pacciani?**

TESTE (TORELLI MERI) - Mah, avrà detto.. Ora questo non mi ricordo.

DIFESA IMPUTATO (AVV. PEPI) - Non si ricorda, va bene.

TESTE (TORELLI MERI) - Non mi ricordo, però sicuramente **l'aveva visto tante volte** perché al cimitero, insomma, ci andava, ecco, perché a volte sparava, sicché cadeva qualche animale dentro in cimitero e andava anche a prenderlo, così insomma.

DIFESA IMPUTATO (AVV. PEPI) - **Il Pacciani andava dentro il cimitero a prendere gli animali?**

TESTE (TORELLI MERI) - **In cimitero chiedendo il permesso a mio marito eh? Naturalmente.**

*October 12, 2023. Excerpt from Meri Torelli's deposition.*

In 1994, Bevilacqua was deemed credible, and his testimony was one of the foundations of Pacciani's conviction in the first instance. This means it was **actually false testimony**.

The former US soldier's contradiction is also serious because investigators **know that Vanni**, defined as Pacciani's "accomplice" by the sentences, asserted that **the real serial killer was an American encountered in a wood** by Vampa, a certain "Ulisse".

They should also know that the identification of Ulisse as Parker by the witness Ghiribelli is disputed. And that "**along the fence**" of the cemetery where, according to him, Bevilacqua ran into Pacciani, **lies the Scopeti wood**.

Finally, the American himself said at the hearing in 1994 that he had passed through those woods "**thousands of times**".

By 2023, **the office of prosecutor Turco**, who is responsible for the Pacciani trial documents, **will not be able to trace the transcript** of the statements made by Bevilacqua to the Carabinieri on **14 July 1992**. What emerges from the first-instance ruling is that it differs from the 1994 deposition for:

- **the uncertainty of** Bevilacqua's recognition of the peasant;
- the **presence of his wife Meri Torelli** in the car the time the American allegedly saw future victim **Nadine Mauriot in a bikini**.

V. se ricordasse che il verbale non è  
stato reperito.

Se comunque

18/9/23  
IL PROCURATORE DELLA REPUBBLICA  
Luca Turco Agg.

## 21. OTHER FINDINGS

In 2017 and 2018, I sent **several reports** about Bevilacqua from multiple accounts to U.S. law enforcement agencies, including the Vallejo police. I will be constantly updating them with the results of my research until 2024.

In the days immediately following the publication of the article about “Ulisse’s” admission in *Il Giornale* , my uncle **Duilio Valenti** , a respected chef from San Anselmo, north of San Francisco, also informed the **Vallejo Police** Department , bringing them a copy of my article.

A few days later, one of the many detractors of my journalistic investigation, the user **Max Bosco** of the Facebook group “Il mostro di Firenze”, heard one of the investigators responsible for the Zodiac investigations, **Terry Poyser** , who replied that **Bevilacqua:**

"... **is not** a person of interest, **a suspect** , or **a lead** in the Zodiac case, as **his name is not in our records** ."



Terry Poyser

a me

22:03 Vedi dettagli



Mr. Bosco,

The Vallejo Police Department does not have fingerprint evidence in relation to the Zodiac cold case, that would only be with the San Francisco PD.

The name you provided is not a person of interest, suspect, or lead in the Zodiac case, as the name is not in our files.

Perhaps you should check with the SFPD.

Sincerely

Detective Terry Poyser

Vallejo Police Department

*June 2018. Vallejo police were informed of Bevilacqua's admission but deemed it unnecessary to investigate. In the United States, there is no mandatory criminal prosecution requirement.*

While Bosco contacts the American police, in Italy the Florence prosecutor's office has already interviewed Bevilacqua. **His** statements should alert investigators, but they don't. Florentine investigators **don't investigate his past** . His home **isn't searched** .

As of 2023, the U.S. **Department of Justice will never be consulted or notified** about the content of my statements by the Florence Prosecutor's Office. Bevilacqua's **DNA** will be acquired, yes, but by the **Siena Prosecutor's Office** in 2020.

- **June 1, 2018**

Bevilacqua's **lawyer , Elena Benucci** , issued **a statement** in which her client **denied** his admission that he was a serial killer. The statement was published by several newspapers, including ***La Repubblica*** and *La Nazione* , Florence's main daily. The statement reads:

" **I deny having confessed** to anyone that I was the perpetrator of the Monster of Florence and Zodiac murders. **For the simple fact that I did not commit them.** [...]"

### **A "dead track" from the very beginning**

On June 2, 2018, the day after Bevilacqua's denial, we learned from reading *La Nazione* that, **ignoring official secrecy** , the Florence prosecutor's office had announced that my complaint would be unresolved. "**A lead that's already dead,**" paraphrases **Stefano Brogioni** in the article titled:

"THE ZODIAC HOAX IN COURT"

**The piece appears to mirror** the contents of the note on the April 16, 2018, conversation **between police officers Ilardi and Giannini** , including the error regarding the U.S. Consulate.

Bevilacqua, obviously aware of the circumstantial content of the 2017 admission of guilt, **can easily deduce that a recording is missing** .

The move by the Prosecutor's Office suggests that **they will not carry out surveillance activities** .

From now on, **I will periodically send** messages via email and certified email to Bevilacqua's lawyer with the aim of making his client feel "**attended to**" .

# «Io un killer? Vi denuncio»

*alista di essere l'assassino americano e il mostro di Firenze*



(presso i carabinieri di Lecco, e non a Monza come aveva riportato La Nazione) e ha allegato la prima delle tre pagine inzuppate di accuse contro l'ex direttore del cimitero americano dei Falciani di cui aveva intenzione di scrivere la «biografia».

PER LA PROCURA di Firenze, la segnalazione di Amicone era una pista già morta dopo la convocazione dello stesso presso la polizia giudiziaria dello scorso aprile. Agli inquirenti, infatti, quel filo che legava due dei più misteriosi serial killer della storia è apparso suggestivo, affascinante, ma nulla più. Con «incastrati» forzati, basati su una decrittazione «personale»

«Sono stato diffamato»

Bevilacqua ha annunciato che denuncerà il giornalista che gli ha attribuito la 'confessione'

«Smentisco fermamente di avere confessato a chicchessia di essere l'autore dei delitti»

«Queste notizie hanno lesa la mia dignità»

...i, accusato di essere il mostro di Firenze  
...to per qualche gior- per il semplice fatto che non li ho

*The opinion of the Prosecutor's Office published in the main newspaper of Florence at the beginning of the investigation makes known to the public (and obviously also to Bevilacqua) the low consideration for my testimony.*

By the way. In my posts and articles, I always cite sources, including "monstrologers" and forum users. So I wonder what "ideas copied from forums" Brogioni means in his **piece** .

Perhaps the judicial reporter for *La Nazione* is referring to the **comments about Bevilacqua I wrote anonymously on the imostridifirenze** forum using various pseudonyms in 2017, when I also **reported the deciphering** of Zodiac's name on researcher **Martin Rush** 's blog .

- **June 19, 2018**

I am being interviewed by the Florence ROS (Special Operations Squad) for a summary statement ( **here is the transcript** ). I am mentioning the name of the lawyer Francesco Moramarco, whom I had recommended to Bevilacqua with the aim of helping him turn himself in.

- **September 28, 2018**

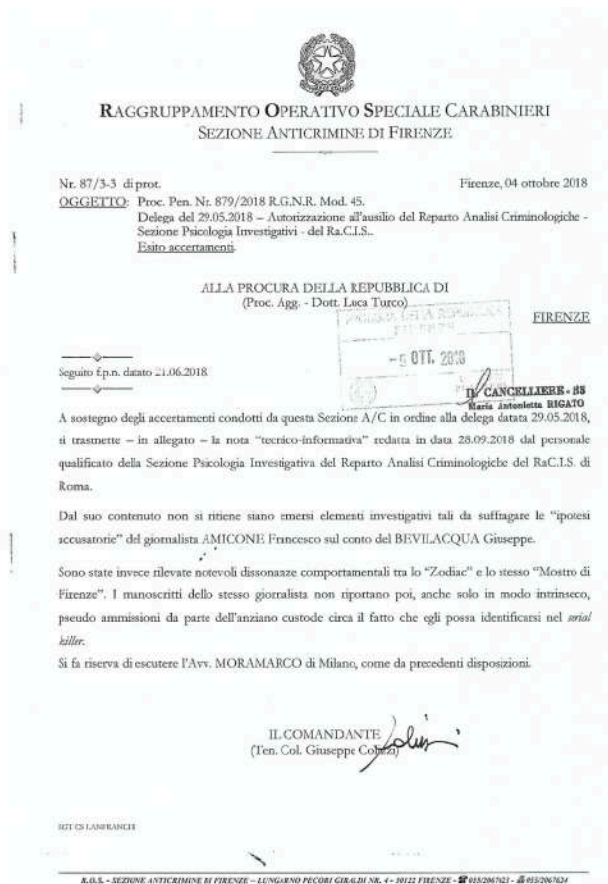
Date of drafting of the RacIS Carabinieri report on the hypothesis of the Zodiac-Monster-Bevilacqua connection ( **available here** ).

This "technical-investigative note" by the Carabinieri forensic psychologists focuses primarily on **comparing** the cases of the Monster and Zodiac based on the available

literature.

The experts, in their conclusions, state that **they cannot rule out** that Bevilacqua could be **one or both serial killers** because detailed **information** on his **"psycho-biography"** is lacking . In any case, they find **"particulars of psycho-criminological interest "** in his life experiences.

The Carabinieri forensic psychologists **advise** their colleagues at the ROS and the Florence Public Prosecutor's Office **to consult with me again** .



On the left, a note from Colonel Colizzi. On the right, an excerpt from the conclusions of the RaCIS report.

Although it was **Colonel Colizzi** who requested a consultation with the RaCIS psychologists, in his investigative note dedicated to the experts' report, the commander of the Florentine ROS **does not cite their actual conclusions** on Bevilacqua and the Zodiac-Monster connection.

Instead of raising the issue of the **lack of information on the American's psychiatric history** reported by the Carabinieri consultants, who also suggested I interview him again, the colonel expresses his **negative opinion** on the connection, based on a **comparison** within the report's pages, in which the authors list differences and

similarities between the two criminal cases without taking sides.

Furthermore, that comparison is based only on the literature available as of 2018 and ignores the Riverside killer's (possibly Zodiac) **threat to cut off his next victim's female parts** .

A DATE IN HIGH SCHOOL. BUT MAYBE IT WILL NOT BE EITHER. BUT I SHALL CUT OFF HER FEMALE PARTS AND DEPOSIT THEM FOR THE WHOLE CITY TO SEE. SO DON'T MAKE IT TOO EASY FOR ME. KEEP YOUR SISTERS, DAUGHTERS, AND WIVES OFF THE STREETS

*November 29, 1966. Letter from Cheri Jo Bates' killer. "...I will cut off her female parts and leave them all over town to witness."*

- **March 19, 2019**

**The investigation** into Bevilacqua by the Florence Public Prosecutor's Office and the ROS (Special Operations Squad) **has effectively already concluded** , although I won't know about it until 2022.

After an informal meeting with Chief Prosecutor **Giuseppe Creazzo** and Prosecutor **Turco** , who dismiss me "nervous," I hand over to the Judicial Police section of the Public Prosecutor's Office a copy of Bevilacqua's **official biographical documents** relating to his military past and his presence in Florence between July 1974 and December 1988. It is not mentioned in the **report** (next image), but I also file the email from Lieutenant **Colonel Reese** confirming the **undercover** investigative activity he told me about in the **2017 conversations** . I will re-attach the email in 2020 and in subsequent additions.



# PROCURA DELLA REPUBBLICA

PRESSO IL TRIBUNALE ORDINARIO DI FIRENZE

Sezione di Polizia Giudiziaria - Aliquota CARABINIERI

Viale Alessandro Guidoni, 61 - 50127 FIRENZE (tel. 0557994880 - fax: 0557994901)

**OGGETTO:** Verbale di integrazione di denuncia presentata da:

- AMICONE Francesco nato a Milano il 06.04.1986, identificato a mezzo Tessera Ordine Nazionale in data 25.04.2015

L'Anno 2019 addì 19 del mese di Marzo, alle ore 15.40 all'interno degli uffici della Procura della Repubblica di Firenze - Sezione di Polizia Giudiziaria Aliquota Carabinieri, Noi sottoscritti Ufficiali di P.G. Ten. Col. Cesare CUCCI e Mar. Magg. Stefano ASDRUBALI, rispettivamente Responsabile ed addetto al Reparto in intestazione, diamo atto che è intervenuto avanti Noi AMICONE Francesco il quale dichiara quanto segue: " Ad integrazione della denuncia presentata ai Carabinieri di Lecco presentata in data 01.03.2018 consegno la seguente documentazione:

- Dichiarazioni rese in data 06.06.1994 da Giuseppe BEVILACQUA nell'ambito del procedimento penale riferito al " *Mostro di Firenze*, a cui il denunciante ha inteso apportare delle annotazioni evidenziate in giallo con una propria conclusione, composto da n.23 pagine;
- Compendio di tutte le soluzioni ai messaggi cifrati e degli indovinelli del *Serial Killer americano* noto come *ZODIAC* da me identificato in *Joe BEVILACQUA* edito in data 19.03.2019 e che consta di n.55 pagine;
- Raccolta di documenti relativi alla biografia professionale di Giuseppe BEVILACQUA ottenuti tramite *FREEDOM INFORMATION ACT*, riferito ad una legge americana per la quale un cittadino può richiedere atti governativi per l'interesse pubblico, consta di n.5 pagine fronte/retro;
- Estratti di n.2 pubblicazioni rispettivamente del 1975 e del 1985 edite dal *Governo Americano* descrittive dell'impiego nell'esercito americano di Giuseppe BEVILACQUA dal 1964 al 1974, consta di n.22 pagine fronte/retro.

L'ufficio da atto di acquisire i documenti sopra richiamati che fanno parte integrante del presente verbale.

F.L.C. e sottoscritto in luogo e data di cui sopra.

## 22. ARCHIVING AND DEATH OF BEVILACQUA

### • November 2020

Siena Deputy Prosecutor **Nicola Marini**, with his consent, has acquired Bevilacqua's **genetic profile** as part of the investigation into a cold case, the 1997 murder of taxi driver **Alessandra Vanni** in Castellina in Chianti. The DNA comparison is currently negative. This initiative comes **two years after I reported** a possible connection between Alessandra Vanni's murder and Bevilacqua, and after being **interviewed in**

**September 2018** by officers from the Siena Prosecutor's Office's Judicial Police Division, **Carlo Brandini, Nicola Leonardi , and colleagues** . The profile is entered into the **Ministry** of the Interior's database and shared with the Florence Prosecutor's Office. There are no traces of DNA that can be definitively attributed to the serial killer in the Florentine crimes, and in this case too, the comparison is currently **negative** . **I notify the American detectives** of the availability of Bevilacqua's DNA profile (see next image), but it is not acquired. Two years later, my defense, represented by attorneys **Simona Buccheri and Patrizia Gottini**, will submit a request to **prosecutor Turco** for a more in-depth investigation and to forward it to the **Department of Justice** for review, as part of my defamation trial. Every investigation will be denied. Ultimately, I will have to submit Bevilacqua's DNA profile in person for defense investigation, emailing it to the relevant US authorities **in November 2023** .

Francesco Amicone [REDACTED]

20/11/2020 16:56

Joseph Bevilacqua's DNA profile

A [REDACTED]@cityofvallejo.net • [REDACTED]@countyofnapa.org

Good morning.

this email is to inform you that a Joseph Bevilacqua's DNA sample was taken in a investigation on a cold case

[REDACTED]

- **November 9, 2020**

I am filing a new complaint against Bevilacqua for illegal possession of a firearm, specifying for the first time in a document that **his wife heard his admission** and emphasizing the importance of the gun, which he was supposed to hand over to the Carabinieri when he turned himself in.

**No searches have been conducted** as of 2023.

I attach to the document the first reconstruction of the possible **diversion of the Monster** , and I bring to the attention of the investigators an element discovered by the researcher **Revilix** , on the **Sneak JB Fellowship** forum created by **Filippo Cangemi** alias **JimMorrison84** , which could be an important piece of evidence.

In his 1985 ballistics report (see next images), the prosecutor's consultant **Giovanni Iadevito** , who examined the cartridge cases and bullets from the double homicide in Scopeti in 1985, observed the presence of a **whitish substance**.

The substance was **concentrated in the firing pin** crater . This leads the expert to believe that it was **"fixed"** in that spot **at the moment of the shot** , when the pistol's firing pin made an impression on the base of the cartridge case. Therefore, Iadevito logically argues, it must have **already been present on the cartridge cases before the serial killer fired** .

- 11 -

autore degli otto duplici omicidi trova il suo maggior filo conduttore, dal punto di vista balistico, nella ripetitività dell'utilizzazione di una stessa pistola semiautomatica Beretta, della serie "70" calibro 22 L.R. e di cartucce, di pari calibro, marca Winchester prodotte in un lasso di tempo abbastanza individuabile (confr. perizia Stefanacci - Rontini - cap. Esami merceologici).

Con l'attuale lavoro ci si propone di fornire non soltanto nuovi dati ma anche una più articolata e completa prova tesa a dimostrare l'utilizzazione della stessa, identica arma per tutti i singoli fatti criminosi.

#### PARAGRAFO II

##### RIGUARDO AGLI APPORTI MICROFANCELLARI

Come già rappresentato nel capitolo II - paragrafo III, sin dal primo esame dei bossoli fu notata la presenza di microparticelle nelle impronte da percussione.

TJ

../..

W

- 12 -

E fu proprio tale particolare concentrazione a richiamare l'attenzione: doveva trattarsi di materia che sui bossoli persistesse allo sparo. Tale assunto trova la sua ragione d'essere nella considerazione che l'unica parte fortemente interessata è il cratere di percussione; ciò può solo significare che era stata l'azione meccanica del percussore, all'atto dello sparo, a fissare in quella zona, materiale che, verosimilmente, prima, aveva interessato, almeno, tutto il fondello della cartuccia.

Di tale fatto ne fu data notizia, oralmente, ai Magistrati che provvedettero, per i necessari accertamenti, a nominare un collegio peritale del quale fa parte anche lo scrivente.

#### PARAGRAFO III

##### LE IMPRONTE DA PERCUSSIONE

Tale esame lo si è effettuato illuminando i reper

../..

TJ

W

Subsequently, a chemical analysis of the whitish substance was performed. According to the Iadevito-D'Uffizi-Crea report authors, it could be a mixture of **silicone, plaster, and zinc** .

The examination was conducted with instruments from the 1980s. With today's tools, it should be much more accurate.

ANNEX B

Florence Cemetery and Memorial

Personnel

At the end of the fiscal year, personnel consisted of 16 Italian and fifteen local nationals. Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua was Superintendent throughout the year. Mr. Stokes was Superintendent terminated his duty with ABMC effective December 1979. He was not replaced due to a cut of the budget.

1) Cleaned, washed and applied "Nubex" silicone sealant to crosses, plot and row markers (annual "Nubex" project)

Conclusioni di prova (conclusi)

1) - È opportuno, in base ai risultati forniti dalle analisi e alle osservazioni volte al riferimento al deterioramento fisico, trascurare la possibilità della presenza di resti di silicone di calcio, e cioè di gesso, tali da ritenersi anch'esse in qualche maniera caratterizzanti;

2) - In merito all'attenzione, esaminando i risultati del progetto attivo, sulla presenza notevole del silicio e sulla conseguente possibilità di esistenza sui beni di resti di gesso al silicio. È evidente che in quest'ultima particolare aspetto possa ritenersi anch'esse caratterizzanti.

3) - Dovrebbe, a questo punto, porre l'attenzione su due questioni essenziali:

a) - le considerazioni circa l'origine del corpuscoli sono quelle che detengono la più elevata probabilità di correttezza interpretativa;

b) - nessun pezzo di analisi, né trovano quelle uscite,

**Revilix**, aware of these findings, highlights that in the ABMC reports of the American Cemetery of Florence, when Bevilacqua was director, the product **Nubex** is mentioned several times (here is the patent), a **liquid silicone** that was **massively sprayed on the crosses** and other **white marbles** of the cemetery coming from Lasa, with the aim of waterproofing them and preserving their whiteness.

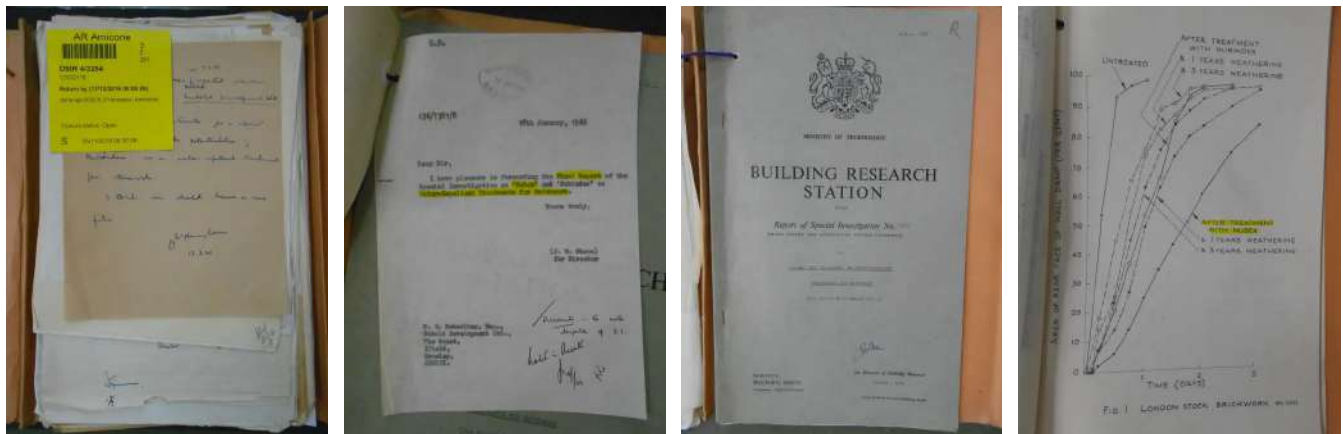
Before filing the new complaint, **I travel to England** to consult with the **National Archives**. Correspondence between **Nubold Ltd.** and the Building Research Station, which tested "**Nubex**" and "**Nubindex**," identifies the **trade name** of the liquid silicone used at the American cemetery, not cited in the patent, confirming its use for waterproofing stone buildings.

In the complaint, **I inform** investigators of the **Revilix discovery**, attaching the **documents on Nubex** silicone and the extracts that mention it in **ABMC reports**. I point

out that it would be **useful to repeat the chemical analysis** of the substance conducted in the 1980s.

The Bevilacqua investigation file, which was closed a few months later, **contains no evidence** of this complaint.

The investigation, coordinated by prosecutor Turco and led by ROS commander Colizzi, **ended in 2018** , with the sole exception of DNA evidence acquired by the Siena Prosecutor's Office.



- **April 6, 2021**

**The murder** case against Bevilacqua has been **dismissed** by investigating judge **Gianluca Mancuso** (without my knowledge).

In **justifying** his request for dismissal, **prosecutor Turco** fails to cite **my statements** to the Carabinieri regarding Bevilacqua's **admission** . **Furthermore, he claims , contradicting reality**, that my **journalistic investigation contains no evidence** and that **no objective data emerged** from the 2018 **ROS investigation**. **In violation of the law** , the victims' families and their lawyers **have not received the mandatory notification of prosecutor Turco's request** . This **will prevent** the injured parties from exercising their **right to** timely object and request a more thorough investigation.



261 2

P.4.m.

Vizio art. 408 c.p.p.  
L'autoarchiviazione del procedimento.  
Firenze 26/11/21

CHIEDE

Il Procuratore della Repubblica  
Luca Troschel



Click to enlarge. Request and decree to dismiss the proceedings for the Monster murders against Bevilacqua, resulting from my 2018 complaint .

• **April 22, May 22, and October 5, 2021**

I am filing **three additions** to my complaint, based on the results of my research, largely disclosed in this post. I am also attaching a report on the possible **cover-up** of the 1968 Monster case.

**Over the course of the year** , investigators received **numerous corroborations** to my testimony, including information on work ( **Khaki Mafia** ) and family ( **Luanne F.** ) ties that linked the American to the San Francisco area during the Zodiac era.

**I would like to highlight the importance** of the discovery by researcher Valeria Vecchione in 2020 of the issue of the **magazine** used by the Monster to compose the **envelope to Della Monica** , which, in addition to the "orthographic" analogies, **contains references compatible with Zodiac** "anticipated" in unsuspected times ( **first article** on tempi.it in 2018).

**I have previously** noted that the magazine chosen by the Monster was in circulation on newsstands **between December 14th and 20th** . This latter day, Bevilacqua's birth date, is **a recurring theme** in the Zodiac case. Furthermore, the selection of letters from the magazine made by the "Italian" serial killer also contains a **reference to water** , as in the crimes of his American counterpart ( **water theory** ).

## The signature of "Zodiac" also in the Monster's farewell

Valeria Vecchione demonstrated that the author of the letter to Della Monica meticulously **cut out each letter** in the envelope, separating it from the others, with the sole **exception** of the word "DELLA," which he pasted in full. Without this (involuntary?) assistance, the serial killer would have **complicated the comparison** of the clippings with the pages of contemporary magazines, making identification nearly impossible.

In my 2018 articles, I cited writer Robert Graysmith's "water theory," noting that Zodiac (the Monster) **seems to purposely seek out references to water** . For example, **the American serial killer's latest signature is literally a song about drowning** .

In 2020, guided by that **single word from the envelope** to Della Monica that the Monster cut out in full ("DELLA"), **Valeria is directed to the title of an article in the magazine *Gente*** .

"Dear sweet waters, I no longer recognize you: here the dream OF my childhood has ended."



**proceedings have ever** been opened based on this complaint, according to the Florence Prosecutor's Office's review of the criminal records database (document below).



**PROCURA della REPUBBLICA  
FIRENZE**

\*\*\*

**COMUNICAZIONE DI ISCRIZIONE PARTE OFFESA**

Istanza presentata da [REDACTED]

Al nome di: **AMICONE FRANCESCO**  
data nascita: **06/04/1986**  
luogo nascita: **MILANO - MI**

Si comunica, ai sensi dell'art. 335 c.p.p., che dal Registro Informatizzato delle Notizie di Reato di questa Procura della Repubblica con dati aggiornati al giorno 15/12/2022 alle ore 12:44:00

**NON RISULTANO ISCRIZIONI SUSCETTIBILI DI COMUNICAZIONI**

Si rilascia per gli usi consentiti dalla Legge.

FIRENZE il 15/12/2022

Compilatore (254)

UFFICIO TRIENNALE GIUDIZIARIO  
(II) CANCELLI  
LEONIGIO SANTARELLI

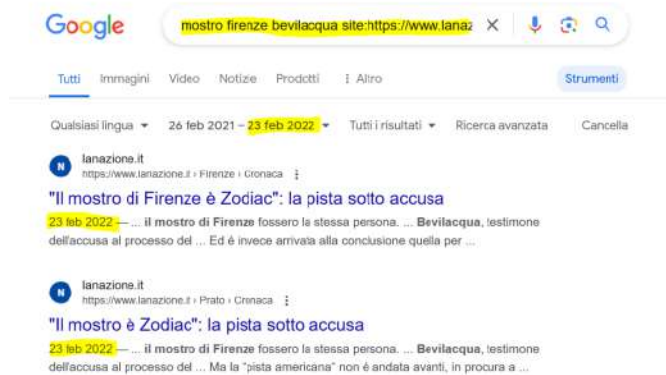
Consegnato il

- **February 2022**

I received notice of the conclusion of the preliminary investigation in my case for alleged defamation of Bevilacqua and **discovered that the murder investigation** against him **was closed in 2021**. The last information received by the Prosecutor's Office, at the end of 2020, was that they had acquired his DNA.

I reported this information to *La Nazione* reporter **Stefano Brogioni** .

Due to the fact that not even the victims' relatives were informed, **news of Bevilacqua's closure was not made public for a year** .



*The news of Bevilacqua's case being shelved comes out almost a year later, following my report.*

- **March 2022**

Until 2024, the **Department of Justice** will not be **contacted** by the Florence Prosecutor's Office, not even to exchange information about the former American official. **The police offices** responsible for the Zodiac case will receive information from me, but not from the Florentine investigators, although the Prosecutor's Office has repeatedly emphasized that the American counterpart **has physical evidence for possible comparisons** . Partial genetic profiles, fingerprints, but also **letters** , that is, numerous **handwriting samples that can be attributed with certainty to the serial killer** .

In a **defense brief** dated March 1, 2022, including a statement from me, the defense, represented by **lawyers Simona Buccheri** and **Patrizia Gottini** , requests a **more in-depth investigation** .

The investigations indicated include **the questioning of 86-year-old Bevilacqua** , who **refused** to be interviewed by the defense, also for health reasons, and the **transmission**

of his fingerprints and genetic profile to the competent U.S. authorities for comparison with the samples from the Zodiac case .

### Conclusione

Potrei continuare per svariate pagine, ma non servirebbe a nulla se chi indaga non dispone quegli accertamenti che devono essere fatti per giungere alla verità.

Si è ancora in tempo per rimediare ed occorre farlo immediatamente.

*Conclusion of my statement in the pleadings of March 1, 2022*

**No further investigation is ordered by the prosecutor Turco** , who will ask for and obtain my indictment from the same investigating judge Mancuso who had archived the Bevilacqua case a year earlier.

Given the prosecutor's opposition, I will be the one to **transmit** Bevilacqua's genetic profile the following year.

**Despite** the fact that the Bevilacqua case was closed **by bypassing cross-examination** and that **the investigation is flawed and contains serious errors** (for example, the Carabinieri's failure to confirm the phone calls of September 12, 2017), prosecutor Turco deems it **unnecessary to carry out an investigation** and requests that I be prosecuted for defamation.

**The same investigating judge Mancuso, who closed the Bevilacqua case “de plano,” accepted** the request from the prosecutor Turco without further investigation, even though the victims' relatives were not notified, in violation of the legal obligation (art. 408, 3-bis of the Code of Criminal Procedure).

**Bevilacqua's handprints / impronte delle mani di Bevilacqua**

1 messaggio

Francesco Amicone [REDACTED]  
A: [REDACTED]@giustizia.it [REDACTED]@countyofnapa.org

31 marzo 2022 18:09

Good morning,

I've written this email to put you in contact with each other, luogotenente Liberato Ilardi, Procura della Repubblica di Firenze (Mostro di Firenze case) and detective [REDACTED] Napa County Sheriff's Department (Zodiac case). I think that the Italian investigators are able to ask Joe Bevilacqua for his palm prints in order to verify if they match with the hand prints left by Zodiac in the San Francisco case. If they match, as I presume, it is very probable that Bevilacqua is the Zodiac Killer and the Monster of Florence. I have no contact with the SFPD, but I think that detective [REDACTED] could do something.

Regards

—

Buongiorno,

ho scritto questa email per mettervi in contatto l'uno con l'altro, luogotenente Liberato Ilardi, Procura della Repubblica di Firenze (caso Mostro di Firenze) e detective [REDACTED] Napa County Sheriff's Department (caso Zodiac). Penso che gli investigatori italiani siano in grado di chiedere e ottenere da Joe Bevilacqua le sue impronte dei palmi della mano per verificare se corrispondono alle impronte della mano lasciate da Zodiac nel caso di San Francisco. Se corrispondono, come presumo, è molto probabile che Bevilacqua sia Zodiac e il Mostro di Firenze. Non ho contatti con la polizia di San Francisco, ma penso che il detective [REDACTED] possa fare qualcosa.

Arrivederci

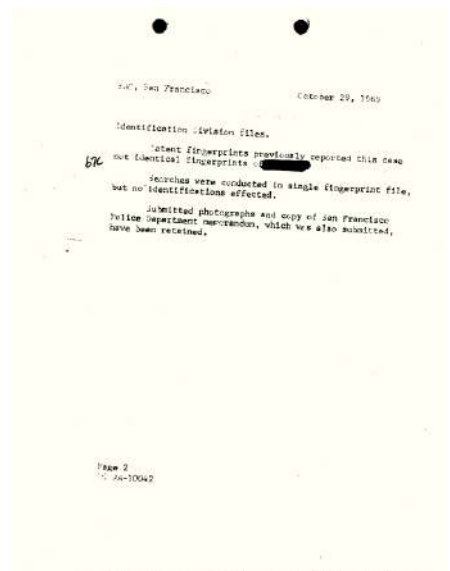
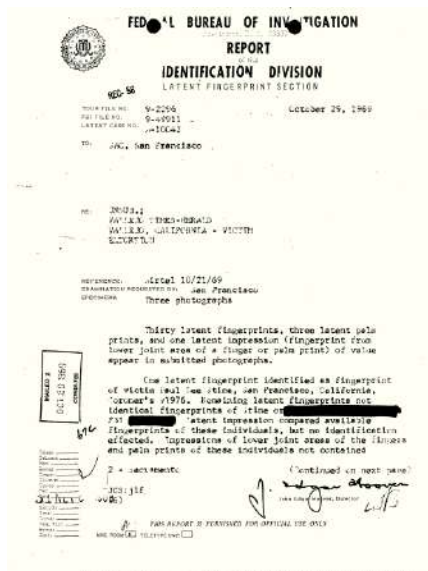
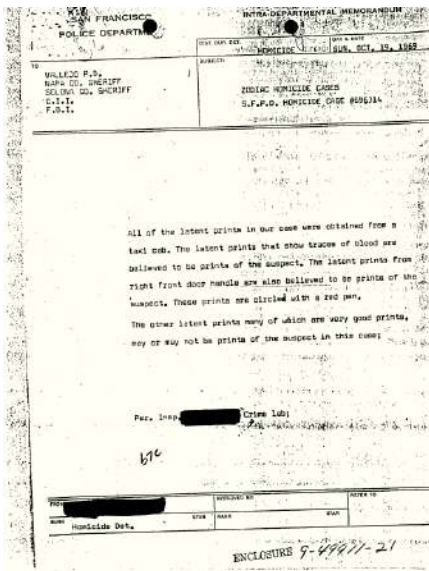
Francesco Amicone

Above is an email dated **March 31, 2022**, to the prosecutor's assistant, Carabinieri Lieutenant **Liberato Ilardi**, in which I put him in touch **with a** Napa County Sheriff's detective responsible for the Zodiac case.

I urge the Prosecutor's Office to ask American investigators to compare the Zodiac case's **fingerprints with those of Bevilacqua, as per the formal request** submitted by my defense on March 1.

U.S. law enforcement has latent **fingerprint samples potentially linked to the serial killer**, including the bloody partial prints found on **Paul Stine**'s taxi, killed in San Francisco on October 11, 1969.

This attempt also fails.



*San Francisco Police and FBI communications discussing possible Zodiac prints found on Paul Stine's taxi, attached to my attorneys' March 1, 2022, request for further information*

- **July 7, 2022**

After **unsuccessfully urging the Florence Prosecutor's Office** to contact the American police and vice versa (for example, **the March email** to Lieutenant Ilardi and the Napa detective), I requested and received permission from Judge Mancuso to consult the Bevilacqua investigation file, archived in 2021 (prosecutor Turco also authorized me to do so). Reading the documents, **I discovered that the analysis of the Carabinieri phone records found no phone calls from Bevilacqua on the date I indicated** in the transcripts and articles (**September 11, 2017**) .

For reasons unknown to me, the author of the analysis and Colonel Colizzi **do not cite our three consecutive phone calls on September 12th** made from our landlines , **which precede those between Bevilacqua and Attorney Moramarco** (which will also be confirmed by a **defense technical report** ). This failure to cite them **will be used to justify my 2024 conviction by Judge Serafina Cannatà** , who will ignore the technical report and the complete attached records. This is, on my part, an obvious **error of backdating by one day** , which **does not call into question the veracity or the sequence of events** . It would have been **easily explained if these phone calls had been seen/cited by the Carabinieri**.

I also discovered that **the case was closed without due notice** to the injured parties, as **I pointed out to both him, Judge Mancuso, and Prosecutor Turco** . None of the victims' relatives were notified and were able to object.

As can be seen from the next PDF file, **a note for Prosecutor Turco sent to Lieutenant**

**Iardi**, where **I highlight some critical aspects of the closed investigation**, if the provision of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which requires notification of violent crimes to the injured parties, had been respected, **it would have been easy to obtain a more in-depth investigation** that could have changed the course of events.

In 2022, both Prosecutor Turco and Preliminary Investigations Judge Mancuso **could have corrected their alleged error** by ordering **new investigative investigations**, but **they will both decide that it is not necessary**, and I will be sent to trial without any further investigations having been ordered.

- **September 22, 2022**

After having informed law enforcement agencies in Vallejo, Napa, and Riverside in previous years, I am sending a **report** on the Bevilacqua case to the **San Francisco Police Department**, once again highlighting the availability of his **DNA profile** in the Italian law enforcement database. I am attaching a **document ( front page )** containing the translation of the **main documents** from the Bevilacqua investigation, the reports on the **Khaki Mafia**, and other information on the American's **connections** to the **San Francisco** area .

September 17, 2022  
Italy

To  
SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT - HOMICIDE DETAIL  
"ZODIAC KILLER" CASE - 111 pages.

This is Francesco Amicone, Italian independent Journalist. I already informed ██████████ (Napa Sheriff's Department) and ██████████ (Vallejo Police) about the following facts.

In 2017, I met an 81-years man, an American citizen named Joseph Bevilacqua (Totowa, NJ, 12/20/1935), who had testified before a court in Florence, Italy, against the supposed "Monster of Florence" Pietro Pacciani in 1994. After some talks in 2017, Bevilacqua admitted to me his responsibility for Monster's span of crimes and, also, that of your "Zodiac" case.  
If you want to know something more, you may search my blog "ostellovolante".

In 2018, I filed a complaint against Bevilacqua and made public some of our talks. Italian authorities suddenly investigated me instead of him and I had not received any confirmation that they properly inform the Department of Justice about the case. I recently read the investigation records in the Bevilacqua file. Attached to this note are the interviews made by the Carabinieri (gendarmerie) in 2018 that can be of interest for you. Even if Bevilacqua told the Carabinieri a different story on his knowledge about Pacciani, Florence Assistant DA Luca Turco chose not to do research on him. Bevilacqua's interview is the only thing on him in the file. By the way, Siena Deputy DA Nicola Marini made Bevilacqua give the police his DNA for another case.

Bevilacqua is a former soldier (1954-1974) and ABMC employee in Italy (1974-2010). Son of Italians. Now he lives in Sesto Fiorentino, near Florence. He has an Italian wife (since 1984) and was married before. Three daughters (1965, 1970, 1982). One of them, Stella Celesta, works in the USA.  
Luanne Fordemwalt, mother of Bevilacqua's son in law, is from San Francisco. At the time of Stire's murder, her parents resided at 377, 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and she was attending the local state university.  
In the meanwhile, Bevilacqua was investigating into the "Military clubs and messes case" and the so called "Khaki Mafia" for the Army CID. Bevilacqua told me he has been both a cid and an undercover investigator from 1964 to 1974, even if his public official military file tells a partially different story. By the way, here is attached an email by his battalion commander in Vietnam who says Bevilacqua performed at least one undercover assignment, in 1968.

Bevilacqua told me he was working undercover (also) in California while formerly assigned at the Continental Army Command in 1969-1970. After years of research, I finally found three reports on cid's investigation on the Khaki Mafia conducted in San Francisco and the Bay Area during the Zodiac period which could have involved Bevilacqua. There is not Bevilacqua's name in those reports but he might have been interviewed by a Grand Jury in 1979 about the case that resulted in a trial in a federal court in Los Angeles.  
Bevilacqua was conferred a Purple Heart because injured in Vietnam in November 1968. Bevilacqua did not tell me, but I think he might move in San Francisco from Saigon in December 1968 to have a check-up at the Letterman Hospital. I cannot know it for sure because I am not allowed to request his health records as any other record not releasable to the public.  
One more thing. Raymond Elia D'Addario (also Daddario), one of Bevilacqua's cid fellow, moved to Santa Rosa, h5190 Montecito Avenue, just before the last known letter by Zodiac in 1974. D'Addario's relatives still live in the area.

If you think I am not a fool or an idiot, you may ask for Bevilacqua's handprints for a comparison with that print on Stine's cab.  
Bevilacqua's DNA should be within the Italian police database. I am sure he did not lick any stamp, by the way.  
Sorry for my poor English.  
Kindly regards,  
Amicone Francesco  
22.09.2022  
11:31:42  
GMT+01:00

Francesco Amicone ██████████@gmail.com

- **October 27, 2022**

The elderly **Bevilacqua is still lucid** , as his wife Meri will confirm at the hearing on October 12, 2023 , and **shows no symptoms of neurodegenerative diseases** , contrary to what his daughter reported on Facebook after a hospitalization in 2021.

The other **health problems** of the Italian-American highlighted in the defense brief of March 1, 2022, **which I underestimated in the July note, appear to be worsening in the fall** . This leads me to ask the investigating judge to order an evidentiary incident to acquire **Bevilacqua's fingerprints** .

Judge **Mancuso rejects this and other requests** , sending me to trial.

- **November 3, 2022**

I am being sent to trial for defamation by the investigating judge Mancuso, after the **prosecutor Turco refused** to consult the US authorities for a **DNA test** on Bevilacqua with the samples from the Zodiac case.

- **December 23, 2022**

Suffering from a heart condition, **Bevilacqua died at the age of 87** without the U.S. law enforcement **ever having been contacted** by the Florence Prosecutor's Office for information about him. And without **ever** having been **interviewed by a** Florentine magistrate, either **as a suspect** or **as an injured party** . An unnecessary qualm for the Florentine magistrates who followed his case until 2023.

## **23. EPILOGUE: NEW INVESTIGATION AND MY CONDEMNATION**

- **September 19, 2023**

Upon **request signed by the lawyer Jacopo Pepi** for defense investigations, the prosecutor Marini authorizes me to have Bevilacqua's **genetic profile** .

- **November 6, 2023**

I received the requested copy of Bevilacqua's profile with the help of a **delegate** , researcher **Daniele Trinchieri** .

- **November 7 – 15, 2023**

**I'm forwarding Bevilacqua's genetic profile to the police departments** responsible for the Zodiac case, as well as to the **Riverside** (Bates) and **Oceanside** (Davis) police, **and to the FBI** for review.

Over the years, **some partial DNA samples** potentially linked to the American serial killer have been isolated, and Bevilacqua's DNA has never been to these samples **before**. They might find a match.

- **January – July 2024**

I am sending the FBI the **complete results** of my **journalistic investigation** into Bevilacqua and the Zodiac-Monster connection, as well as my solutions to the unsolved Zodiac ciphertexts: **the anagram** of Z408, the **"Mount Diablo" code**, and **Zodiac's name**, which includes a summary of the **solution to the Halloween Card riddle**. During 2024, after receiving Bevilacqua's genetic profile, **the U.S. police launch an investigation** into his **involvement in the Zodiac crimes and contact the Florence Prosecutor's Office**, which reopens the file on Bevilacqua.

- **July – December 2024**

**Despite the reopening of the investigation** into Bevilacqua, triggered by the receipt of his genetic profile in the United States and subsequent American investigations, **the Florence Prosecutor's Office** (Prosecutor Turco is the original leader of my case) **has not included any evidence in my favor in the case file** and has not asked Judge **Serafina Cannatà** for an extension of the hearings.

Quite the opposite. **For the alleged defamation of Bevilacqua**, the prosecutor delegated by Deputy Prosecutor Turco has requested that I **be sentenced to two years in prison**. He obtained it on December 5, 2024, although the sentence was commuted to a fine. A few weeks later, Turco retires.

An appeal is not possible. For this reason too, I am waiving my right to appeal to the Supreme Court of Cassation. My conviction will be final in April 2025.

**I will await the evidence in my favor from the Prosecutor's Office** so I can request a **review** of the trial and an acquittal on the merits. In the meantime, **Bevilacqua will officially become a "victim"**.

**The main cause of this epilogue is that same "Italian justice" which, in 2024**, thanks to my work, the investigations of the Siena Prosecutor's Office and the US police and sheriff's departments, **resumed investigating Bevilacqua's responsibility in an**

**unprecedented series of murders** , the cause of death and suffering for dozens of people.

  
**PROCURA DELLA REPUBBLICA**  
**Tribunale Ordinario di Siena**  
Sezione di Polizia Giudiziaria - Polizia di Stato

OGGETTO: Verbale di consegna di copia del profilo genetico di Bevilacqua alias Joseph Bevilacqua, nato a Totowa (Stati Uniti) il 20/12/1935 deceduto il 23/12/2022 a Sesto Fiorentino.

Il giorno 06 novembre 2023 alle ore 13.15 in Siena presso gli uffici in intestazione innanzi al sottoscritto Agente di P.G. Ass. Capo Coordinatore Nicola LEONARDI è presente TRINCHIERI Daniele [redacted], identificato a mezzo PG [redacted], delegato dal signor Amicone Francesco al ritiro di copia del profilo genetico di Bevilacqua alias Joseph Bevilacqua, nato a Totowa (Stati Uniti) il 20/12/1935 deceduto il 23/12/2022 a Sesto Fiorentino.-----

Come da delega del PM dott.Nicola Marini, questo Agente di PG, procede alla consegna di copia cartacea a colori del profilo genetico di cui in oggetto, nonché a fornire copia in formato PDF dello stesso in apposito supporto USB messo a disposizione dal Trinchieri. Documentazione trasmessa a questo Ufficio dalla Direzione Centrale Anticrimine della Polizia di Stato, Servizio Polizia Scientifica, Terza Divisione-----

Il Trinchieri Daniele firma il presente verbale per ricevuta di quanto sopra.

Fra [redacted]

---

**Zodiac case. Man's DNA profile**  
1 messaggio

---

Fra [redacted]  
To: [redacted]@countyofnapa.org 7 November 2023 at 22:04

Good morning,

This is Francesco Amicone, Italian journalist.

[redacted]


I attached here a pdf with Joe Bevilacqua's genetic profile extracted by the Italian police for a case of murder occurred in Siena, Tuscany, in 1997 (no match). [redacted]

[redacted]

Regards

---

**4 attachments**

 **JB Dna profile.pdf**  
773K

[redacted]

*Click to enlarge. On the left, the report of delivery of Bevilacqua's genetic profile to my delegate Daniele Trinchieri. On the right, one of the emails containing the profile transmitted to the American authorities.*

PROCURA DELLA REPUBBLICA – TRIBUNALE DI SIENA

Sostituto Procuratore dott. Nicola Marini



ISTANZA PER ESTRAZIONE E COPIA DI DOCUMENTI

Il sottoscritto Avv. Jacopo Pepi, del Foro di Firenze difensore di fiducia di

Francesco Amicone

nato [redacted] imputato nel procedimento n. RGNR 8859/2018 presso il Tribunale di Firenze per diffamazione aggravata nei confronti del sig. Giuseppe alias Joseph Bevilacqua, nato a Totowa (Stati Uniti), il 20/12/1935 e deceduto il 23/12/2022 a Sesto Fiorentino;

\*\*\*

Osservato che il procedimento presso il Tribunale di Firenze, già in fase dibattimentale, si basa su un'inchiesta giornalistica dello scrivente pubblicata a partire dal maggio 2018 in cui viene riportata la propria testimonianza relativa ad ammissioni di Bevilacqua, già testimone al processo Pietro Pacciani sul caso del cosiddetto "Mostro di Firenze", riguardanti gli omicidi seriali attribuiti al Mostro e a crimini analoghi commessi in precedenza negli Stati Uniti sotto lo pseudonimo di "Zodiac";

Vista la necessità per indagini difensive di sottoporre al dipartimento dello sceriffo di Napa e ai dipartimenti di polizia di San Francisco, Vallejo e Riverside (Stati Uniti), il profilo genetico del querelante Joseph Bevilacqua, allo scopo di effettuare una comparazione del DNA con il profilo ottenuto dal materiale biologico repertato nel caso "Zodiac" al fine di dimostrare la verità di quanto scritto nell'inchiesta giornalistica per dimostrare l'assenza del requisito oggettivo della diffamazione;

Informato, dal proprio assistito, della probabile esistenza di una copia dell'analisi del profilo genetico di Bevilacqua agli atti delle indagini sullo stesso in via di archiviazione / archiviate relative al caso di omicidio di Alessandra Vanni;

\*\*\*\*

Chiede alla S.V.

Ai sensi dell'art. 391 bis e ss e dell'articolo 116, comma 1, c.p.p.

Autorizzazione ad estrarre copia dell'analisi del profilo genetico di Bevilacqua alias Joseph Bevilacqua, nato a Totowa (Stati Uniti), il 20/12/1935 e deceduto il 23/12/2022 a Sesto Fiorentino.

Siena, 15 settembre 2023

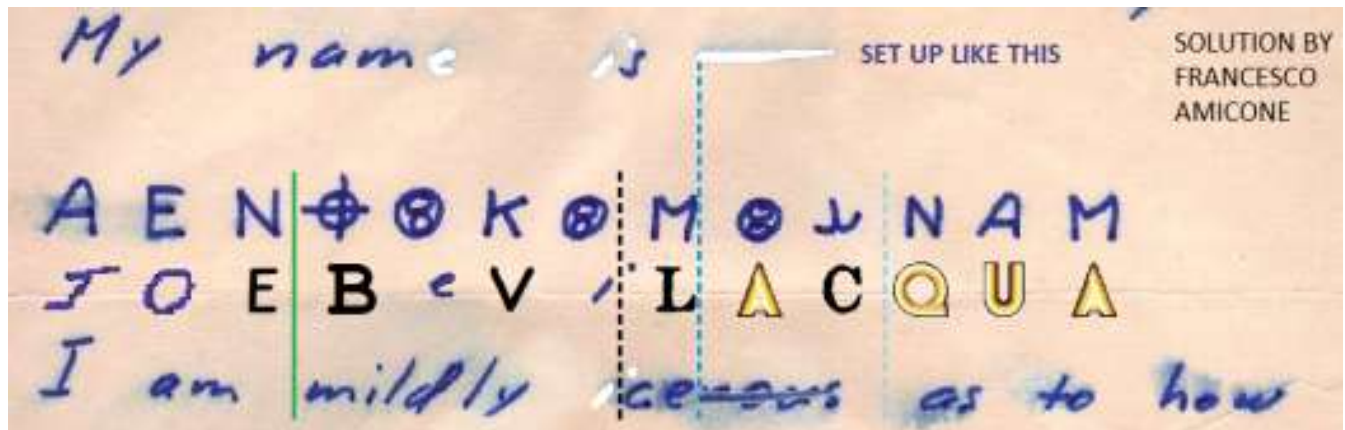
Avv. Jacopo Pepi

*HPM*  
*visto autorizzare quanto*  
*richiesto.*  
*Siena 19.09.23*  
IL PROCURATORE DELLA REPUBBLICA  
- Nicola Marini - Sost.

*J.P.*

*HP*

## CONCLUSION: DECIPHERING



*Zodiac's name deciphered*

Foreword. Removing letters with allusions, hints, etc., Zodiac sent four letters with encrypted messages (even though his name isn't technically "encrypted"):

July 31, 1969 – 408-symbol ciphertext

November 8, 1969 – 340-symbol ciphertext

April 20, 1970 – Letter with Zodiac's name

June 26, 1970 – Letter with the code Mt. Diablo

And at least two with explicit riddles:

October 27, 1970 – Halloween Postcard

January 29, 1974 – Letter from the Exorcist

**It's possible** that there are allusions and references, even important ones, that have been **overlooked** so far, but the **main puzzles/decryptions** have been **solved**, because the first ciphertext of 408 symbols was deciphered in 1969 by the couple **Bettye and Donald Harden**, the second of **340 in 2020** by researchers Oranchack, Blake, and Van Eycke. Researcher Brooks decoded the **final symbols** of the last confirmed message. And the following are the other complete decipherments/solutions I've provided since 2018, in chronological order:

- Final anagram of cipher 408 ;

- Zodiac Name ;
- Mt. Diablo code ;
- Halloween riddle (I'm also submitting this one to Bevilacqua);
- Zodiac's latest signature .

A summary of the solutions follows.

### Anagram of Z408 solved with "paradice"

The first three letters attributed to the Zodiac were posted on July 31, 1969. They contained three parts of a ciphertext that was solved a few days later by two Salinas teachers, **Donald and Bettye Harden** .

The deciphered text reads:

"I like killing people because it's a lot of fun / It's more fun than killing game in the forest / Because man is the most dangerous animal of all / Killing gives me the most exciting experience / It's even better than fucking a girl / The best part is that when I die I'll be reborn in heaven / And everyone I've killed will become my slaves / I won't give you my name because you'd try to slow down or stop my collection of slaves for my afterlife / **ebeorietemethpiti** "



Third part of the Z408 encrypted message. The anagram EBEORIETEMETHHPITI is highlighted.

There are some spelling errors in the plain text. Paradiso is also pronounced "**paradice**" with a "c."

The serial killer will use the same word several times later.

"Paradice" is an obsolete archaic term. It could be a **play on words** with "dice," dice, or "**ice**", **ice**

As for the identity of the message's author, the Harden couple's decipherment **seems to contradict this** . It

says the serial killer does not want to reveal his name. However, the **last 18 characters** of the ciphertext remain **unresolved** .

It reads:

"EBEORIETEMETHHPITI"

Were the letters jumbled to form an anagram?

Perhaps so. In that case, the solution could point to Zodiac's identity, even though his name shouldn't be there.

In June 2022, I managed to **decipher the anagram using the columnar transposition** method (Zodiac **simplified** it by stopping at an intermediate step) and the keyword "paradice."

The solution is:

"E EREB I TOPE I'M THE HIT"

I (TO) DRINK AND  
 ←  
 E EREB I      TOPE I'M THE HIT

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
E	B	E	O	R	I	E	T

P	A	R	A	D	I	C	E
7	1	8	2	4	6	3	5
E	E	T	B	O	I	E	R

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
E	M	E	T	H	H	P	I

7	1	8	2	4	6	3	5
P	E	I	M	T	H	E	H

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
T						I	

7	1						
I	T						

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
E	E	T	B	O	I	E	R

P	A	R	A	D	I	C	E
7	1	8	2	4	6	3	5
E	E	R	E	B	I	T	O

7	1	8	2	4	6	3	5
P	E	I	M	T	H	E	H

7	1						
I	T						

SOLUTION BY FRANCESCO AMICONE

Z408 ANAGRAM

The first part of the sentence is backwards (like six words, including "paradice," in the **Z340 solution** ) and contains **two Italian words** , the verb "**bere**" in the infinitive and the conjunction "e."  
 The corrected and translated text is a mysterious sentence.

"I DRINK AND I DRINK I'M THE HIT"

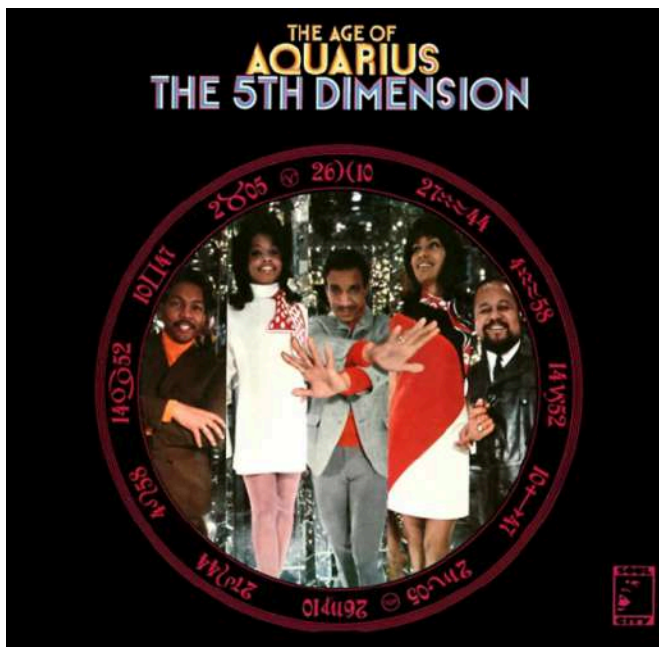
In baseball jargon, "hit" is the equivalent of "**hit**," and this could simply mean that it's the correct solution to the anagram.

However, the sentence **seems more like a riddle** than a self-confirmation of the solution.

A riddle to which I know the answer.

In fact, two years before solving the anagram, I came across a 1969 hit while completing the **decipherment of the name Zodiac**. A song that inspired the serial killer to encrypt part of his name, "**Aquarius—Let the Sunshine In**" by **5th Dimension**, which also gives its title to the album "**The Age of Aquarius**".

**Aquarius is the zodiac sign of Aquarius, the water bearer.**



**The solution to the anagram is supported by six main points:**

- "**Paradise**" is perhaps the **most emblematic** word in Zodiac's correspondence. He may have used it as a keyword.
- **A complete sentence** emerges, "...pe I'm the hit", with the first transposition.
- The result of the second transposition of the previous part, obtained by following the same method, is **sensibly linked** to the next one, **giving meaning to that "...pe"** which becomes "tope".
- Splitting only the first line of the diagram, and not other letters in the following line, is compatible with the **division of the sentence** by the **length** of the identified keyword.

- The solution contains backwards words **as in the following** ciphertext.
- In the **letter signed “a friend”** (perhaps of Zodiac) a Old Norse word is mentioned which the anonymous writer uses in a figurative sense, “[to] kill” , and which **literally means “to hit”**.

## Old Norse [ edit ]

---

### Verb [ edit ]

**slá** (singular past indicative **sló**, plural past indicative **slógu**, past participle **sleginn**)

1. to hit, beat, strike
2. to strike, pluck (a string instrument)

### Mt. Diablo Code

The 32-symbol ciphertext sent on **June 26, 1970**, follows Zodiac's "cipher name," which I leave at the end of this chapter.

Attached to the letter is **a map** with a compass pointing to true north (erroneous by 2° east). It states that **the compass** should point to magnetic north.

The author of the message writes that the map, **along with the ciphertext**, indicates the location where he would place the bomb.

He states that the bomb's **target is no longer a school bus** because the school is closed for vacation.

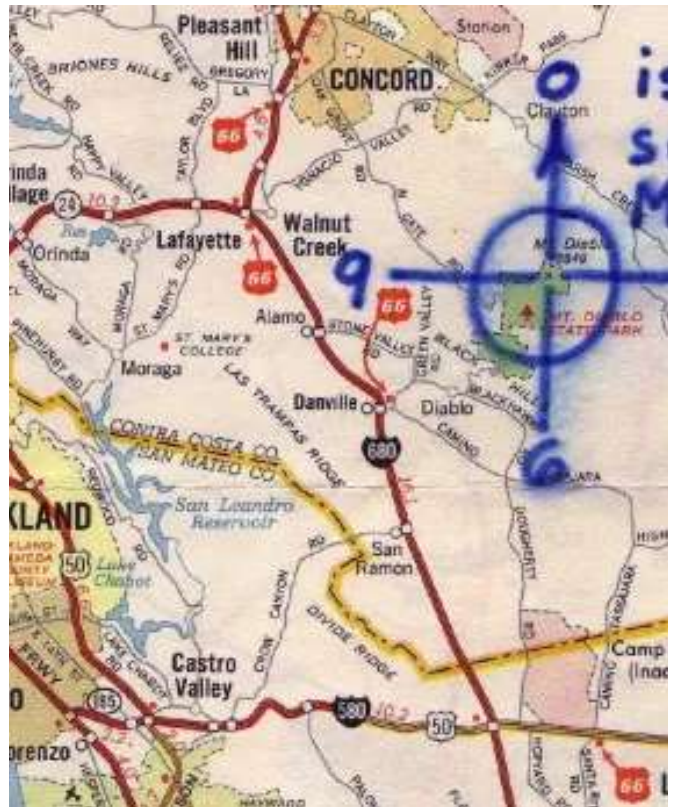


IL CODICE MOUNT DIABLO															
C	Δ	J	I	■	O	X	J	A	M	7	▲	Ω	R	T	6
F	O	O	H	I	L	L	B	L	V	D	H	I	L	L	C
X	O	F	D	V	T	H	C	E	L	+	P	W	Δ		
R	E	S	T	1	4	M	I	F	A	R	5	7	0	°	

■ SOSTITUZIONI NUMERI/LETTERE DA O/W A 9/N  
■ OCCORRENZE  
■ Z32=Z408  
■ Z32=Z340

DECRYPTION  
 BY FRANCESCO AMICONE

\* LO ZERO DELLA BUSSOLA DI ZODIAC È A 2° GRADI VERSO EST.  
 \*\* LA SCALA È SBAGLIATA. LA VERA DISTANZA È DI CIRCA 16 MIGLIA.  
 \*\*\* INVECE DI "AWAY" / "FROM", DELIBERATO, FORSE.



On the left, the decipherment. On the right, a detail of the Zodiac compass. Note that it is divided into four quadrants, but instead of the cardinal points, there are multiples of 3.

In **a letter** the following month, the puzzle killer suggests that the solution involves "inches and radians." A distance and an angle, then.

The solution is indeed **alphanumeric** and contains a **distance in miles and an angle in degrees** (which has one extra turn).

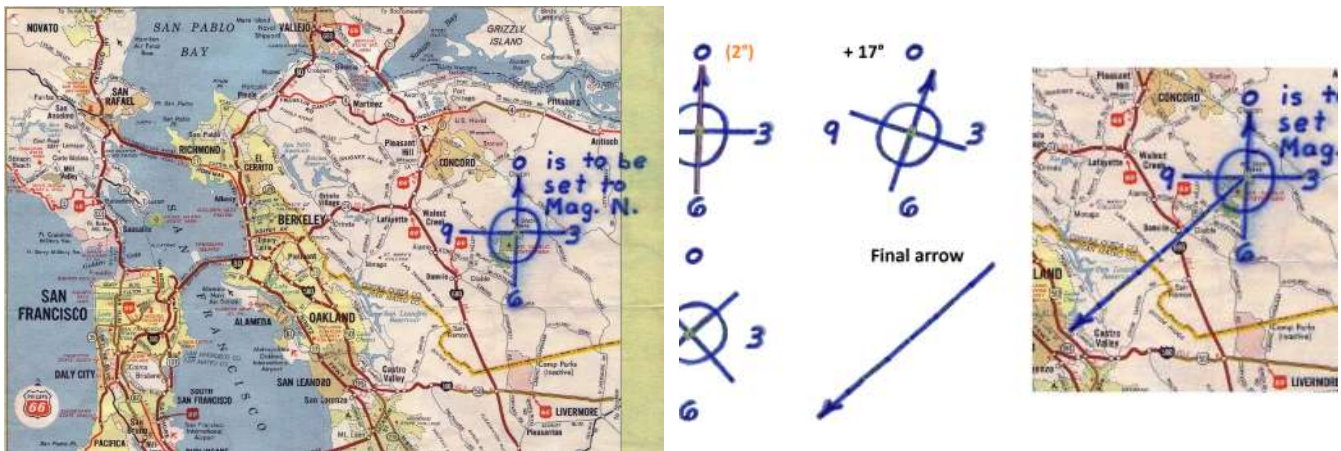
"Foothill Blvd Hillcrest 14 will make me 570°"

In addition to indicating the location where he would place a bomb, Zodiac provides a **distance to the nearest 14 miles**, and the measurement of **an angle, 570°** (an **azimuth**, in this case).

This is the **route to follow** from the top of Mount Diablo to the target (according to the map used by Zodiac), which is located in the town of **San Leandro**. To determine it, the author of the ciphertext used the **classic method** of orienteering with a compass and map.

The decipherment contains a semantic error, as **it confuses "away" with "far"**. Both mean "far" in Italian, but only "away" can be used to mean "distant" in English. However,

this isn't the first glaring error he's made by native speakers. In the previous letter, he wrote "cid" instead of "kid" . "Cerous" instead of "curious" .



*You can use a program like Paint 3d to check both the length of the pointer and the degrees of the solution using the image on the right, by turning the Zodiac compass*

To verify the solution, you can use the image [at this link](#) and overlay it on the Zodiac map.

**Foothill Boulevard and Hillcrest** indicate a specific area of **San Leandro** where the Alameda **Sheriff's station "Eden Township"** is located , which according to the Zodiac map is 14 and decimal miles (in reality, 16 and a half) from the summit of Mt. Diablo and is at an angle of 570° (210° and one turn) from 1970 magnetic north in the area on the map.

**The location of the decipherment is indicated with millimetric precision by the "elongated" compass pointer** aligning the segments into which the quadrants are divided.



Zoom

### Halloween Postcard: Peek-a-boo

In late October 1970, Zodiac sent a postcard to *Chronicle* reporter **Paul Avery** that appeared to contain a riddle.

To make the solution easier to understand, I used a reproduction of the postcard from David Fincher's film "Zodiac," not the black-and-white photocopies from the FBI, which are available in the solution post.

Zodiac made some changes to the original pre-printed postcard (a cutout of **a pumpkin**, a skeleton, drawings, writing, etc.).

On the first page it reads:

"I feel it in my bones,  
you long to know my name,

and then I'll give you a clue... "



*On the left, a replica from the movie "Zodiac" of the postcard sent by the serial killer. On the right, an unaltered copy of the original.*

I found the possible **solution to the riddle** in 2017, before the discussions with **Bevilacqua** , to whom I submitted the postcard in August 2017.

On that occasion, the Italian-American sneered and then, silently, with only the movements of his fingers, indicated what I already considered to be confirmation of the solution (next images).

The riddle involves the **game of peek-a-boo** , and the Italian pronunciation of the letter "Q," which sounds similar to the "cu" in "cucù."

Therefore, the clue to Zodiac's name is the **letter Q**.


Zodiac used the **Braille alphabet** , inserting "ie" (meaning "that is") and the symbol of **Red Ryder** 's ranch , the protagonist of a Western comic, to direct the reader to confirm the solution (image below right).


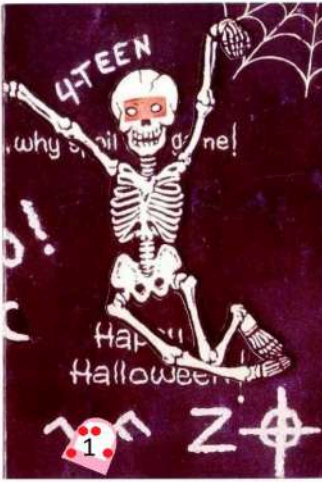
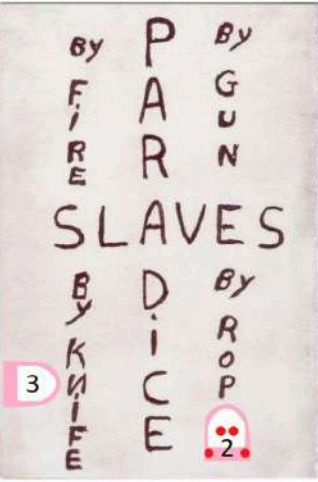
Zodiac's postcard alludes to a second Western comic starring Tim Holt as **Redmask** . Both characters' names have the word "**red**" in common , and this may be a reference to the hair color of his disguise on the night of the Stine murder.

**INQUE, PERCHÉ RIVELARE IL NOSTRO**  
 (E NELLA CARTOLINA)

**"CIOÈ Q"**

SOLUTION BY FRANCESCO AMICONE

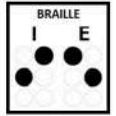

1 È Braille. Quindi, indice sui puntini, tenere la cartolina di Halloween di Zodiac fra l'indice e il pollice. → 

Peek-A-Boo del cucù".  
 ne corretta cucù.

→ QQ! ↔ Ass  
 CUCÙ!

1 → 2 Il pollice indica la P di ROPE  
 3 N dovrebbe essere N  
 4 Gira la P per avere q

 L'indizio è q 

SOLUTION BY FRANCESCO AMICONE

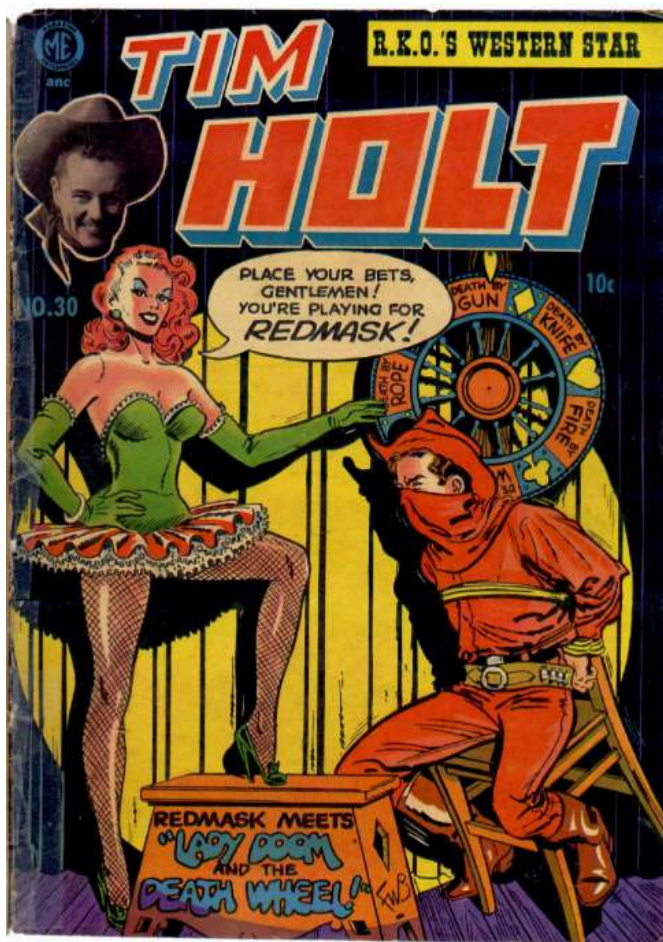
**Solution to the Halloween riddle** . The postcard here is a replica of the original, which is green. The pun is based on the assonance between "cucù" and "qq."

The fact that Zodiac chose the **VF symbol** for the Red Ryder Ranch probably **depends on the encrypted name** he sent a few months earlier. Two symbols in that text are taken from a seal depicting a bull (an animal also present in **Bevilacqua's house** in the form of a **figurine** , during our first meeting ).

The Halloween card also includes a **reference to water** , via another western comic featuring **Redmask** (image below).

A few years ago, researcher Tahoe27 discovered that **the four “by...”s** on the last page of the Zodiac postcard (“by fire”, “by gun” etc.) were **copied from a wheel of death** drawn on the cover of **issue 30** of a comic book starring actor **Tim Holt** .

**The skeleton head** in Zodiac's red mask **partially covers a sentence** (bottom right image) . Similarly, Redmask's head **partially covers a fifth "death by..."** not copied by Zodiac. **A "mysterious" word beginning with W.**



*Red Ryder, Redmask... the emphasis on the color red, like Virgil Starkwell 's hair color , could be an allusion to the disguise in the Stine murder*

In drawing the Q-shaped “nest” around the bird (**a cuckoo**) the author perhaps clumsily attempted to **emulate the Q** on the cover of the Fifth Dimension single **“Aquarius - Let the sunshine in”** which he used in the **encryption method** of the **“Zodiac name”** a few months before sending the Halloween Card .



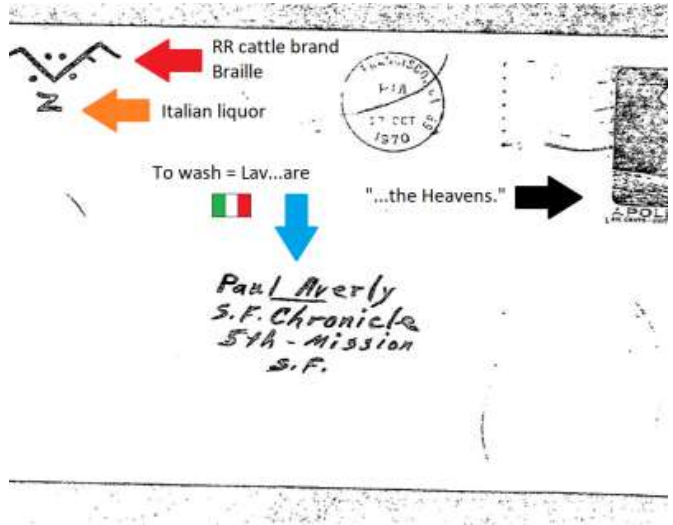
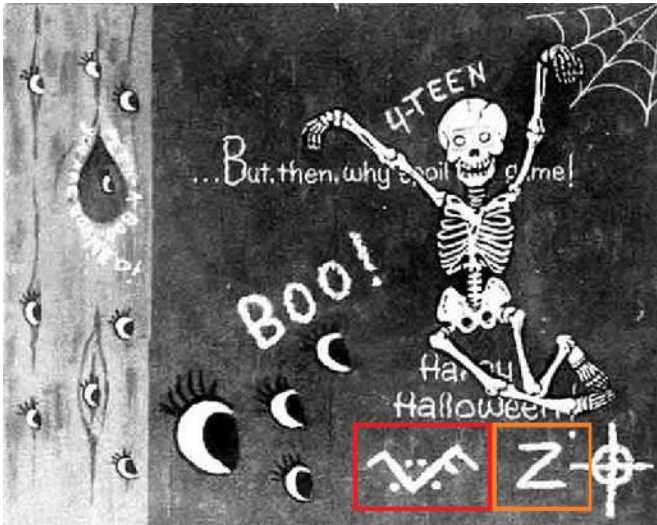
### Pumpkin

The pumpkin wasn't on the original Halloween postcard . **Zodiac put it there.**

Why?

Of course, it's a symbol of Halloween. What makes me think there's more, however, is the Z drawn by Zodiac on the inside pages and on the envelope.

**The suspicion that it's not Zodiac's initial** , as he might have us believe, arises from the fact that the presence of his initial **is an exception** in his correspondence. It would be the only time he would have included it.



On the left, the anomalous symbols under the skeleton with the red mask. On the right, I label the clues on the postcard envelope.

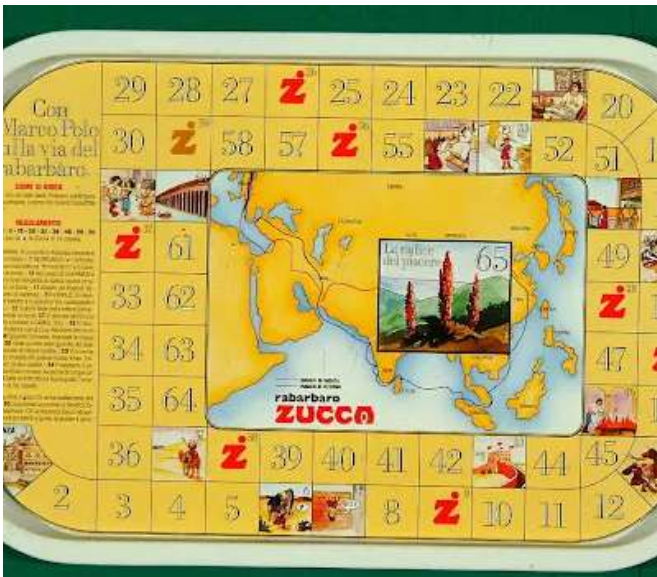
In 2018, I mentioned what I thought was the reason for including the pumpkin on the Halloween card. I removed it due to **lack of evidence**.

I decided to **reinstate it** after solving the anagram of cipher 408 in 2022.

"I drink and I gulp I'm the hit"

It's supposed to be a pun in Italian on the **same theme** as the anagram and compatible with Halloween.

I came up with this idea after stumbling upon a tray I had at home identical to the one in the next image.



This is a tray of the **Italian liqueur "Zucca"** , very popular in Italy at the time of Zodiac.


Although I have not found any evidence so far that the **Z with the detached dot** was in use before 1972, the **Chinese girl whose body forms a Z** had already been the symbol of the brand since the 1950s.

### HALLOWEEN CARD BY ZODIAC THE PUMPKIN

SOLUTION: AN ITALIAN LIQUOR



PUMPKIN = ZUCCA



FROM YOUR SECRET PAL

I feel it in my bones,  
You ache to know my name,  
And so I'll clue you in...

ORIGINAL CARD

ZODIAC'S

MOVIE REPLICA

*The most famous advertisements for Zucca bitter (these date back to the 1960s) portray a Chinese girl or a girl with Chinese features who positions herself as a Z*

The detached dot, for Zodiac, could represent a **macabre allusion** .

In 1968-69, to highlight the low blood alcohol content of Rabarbaro Zucca, this motto was reported in advertisements:

"The aperitif that won't make you lose your mind."

While it may have been the work of wild animals, only the skull of **Donna Lass** , the victim to whom the Halloween postcard may allude, has been found to date .

PAGO IO L'APERITIVO  
 se beviamo  
**ZUCCA**  
 il rabarbaro

Ricavato dall'esotica radice del rabarbaro,  
 nota sin dai tempi più remoti  
 per le sue virtù salutari, Rabarbaro ZUCCA  
 è l'aperitivo sano dal gusto sempre aperitivo.  
 Fresco, con seltz o liscio con ghiaccio, come dissetante.  
 Ghiacciato e con acqua come digestivo e tonificante.  
 Caldo e liscio come digestivo e tonificante.

...IN COMPAGNIA ...IN CASA MIA

l'aperitivo che non fa perdere la testa

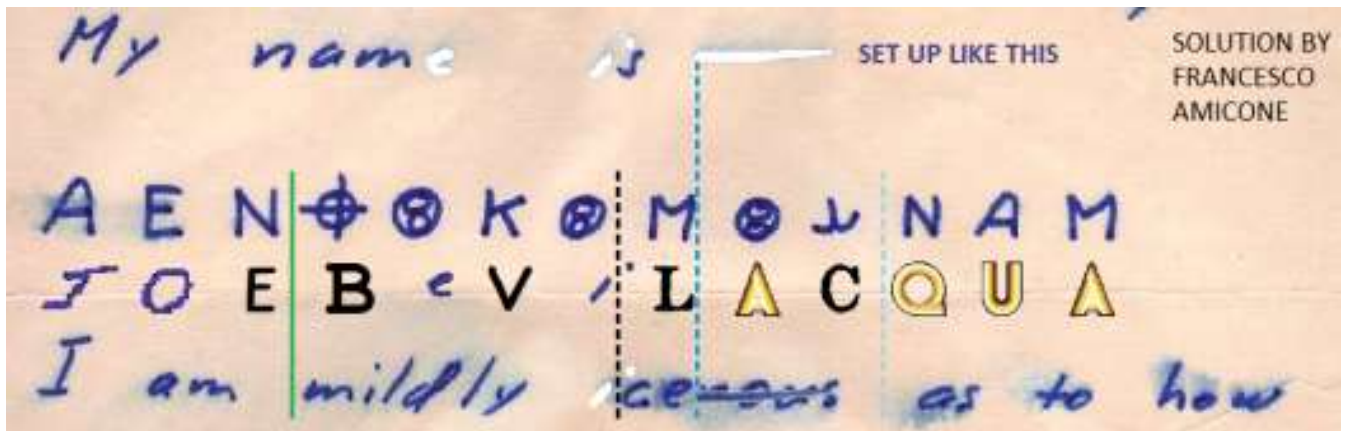
PAGO IO L'APERITIVO  
 se beviamo  
**ZUCCA**  
 il rabarbaro

Ciò, come va? Che piacere rividerci,  
 sempre in gamba, amaro (ma  
 mi volete accompagnare al bar? D'accordo  
 il rabarbaro ZUCCA lo pago  
 è l'aperitivo che non fa perdere la testa  
 Si beve sempre, quando? In ogni occasione, e  
 ...IN COMPAGNIA ...IN CASA

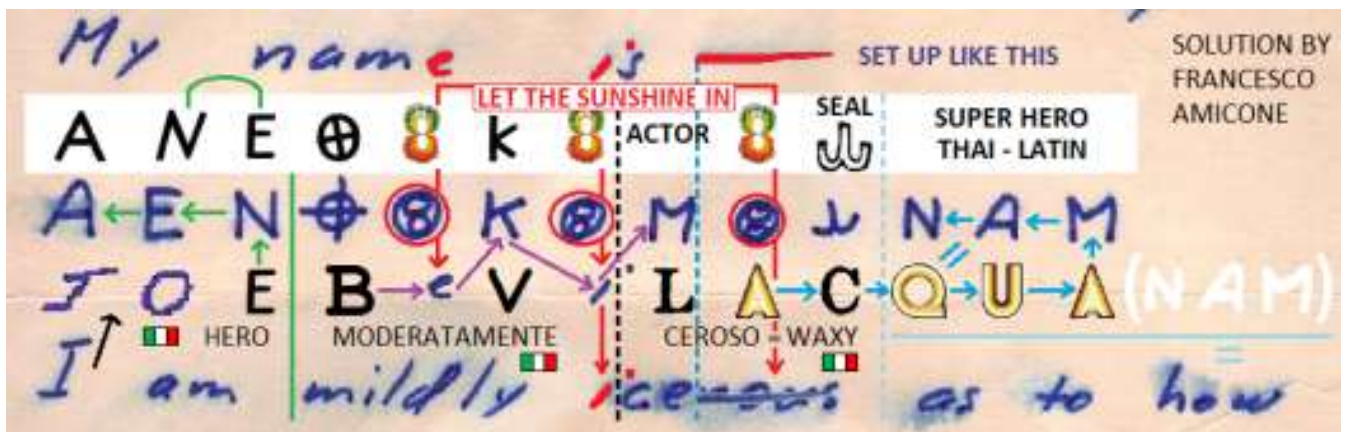
l'aperitivo che non fa perdere la testa

Rhubarb Pumpkin advertisement from the late 1960s

Zodiac's name



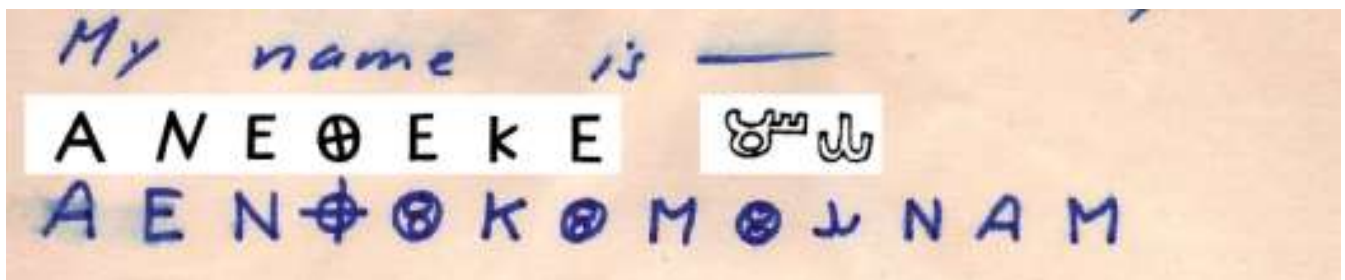
Unlike the ciphertexts mentioned above, the **408** with its final anagram and the Mt. Diablo Code with its arrow, as well as the **340** (I talk about it at this link), the “Zodiac name” is not based on a substitution cipher .



Complete solution

This becomes clear when you discover that **the author of the message reproduced** most of the symbols **almost identically** from texts he may have consulted in a public library (Graysmith has speculated that he was, in fact, doing research there).

The image below **clearly shows the similarity** between the codex bearing the Zodiac's name and two reproductions contained in **books on ancient inscriptions** that were digitized a few years ago.



*On the left, above the cipher, is the inscription in ancient Greek "anetheke." On the right, the two Brahmi letters "mi" and "ya."*

**"Anetheke"**, which in English translates to "**set up as a votive / dedicated**," was part of a dedicatory formula to deities found in the inscriptions of many ancient Greek temples.

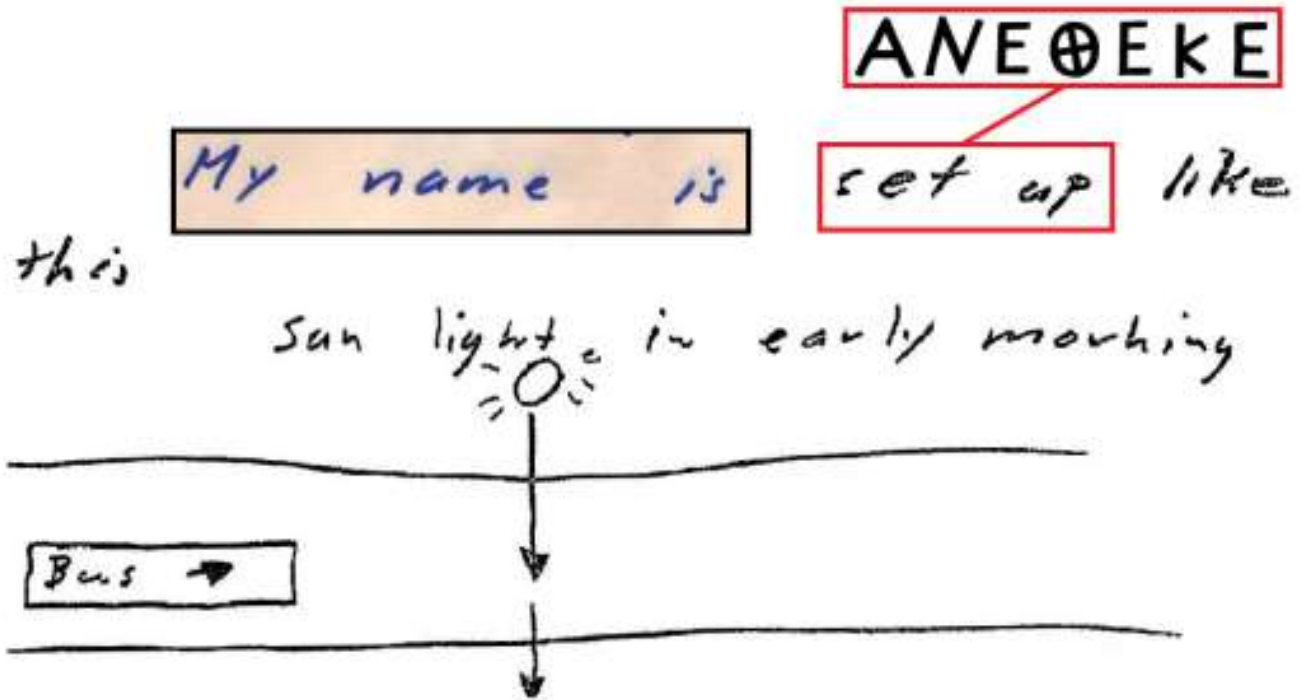
The verb **"set up"**, which in English also means "to set up," is cited on the **second page** of the letter. This can hardly be a coincidence.

Researcher **Tom Voigt**, the first to publicize the connection on the website **zodiackiller.com**, hypothesizes that Zodiac copied something from **Frederic W. Goudy**'s **"The Alphabet"** because of the distinctive shape of Theta, similar to a Celtic cross. The inscription comes from a temple of **Poseidon, god of the sea**, mistakenly located in the book near Lake Tenaro (actually, **Cape Tenaro**).

**The method** of the first part of the decipherment is **indicated by the word "set up"**, **translation of "anetheke"**, which is found **on the second page** of the letter.

I emphasize the concept by replacing the opening words on the second page with "My name is..." The translation is this:

"[My name is] set like this..."



*Under the sentence, Zodiac drew a sun with two rays, a road and a bus in transit.*

Superimposed on the ciphertext, **the** bus diagram **reveals two letters and a word** that alludes to the last part of Zodiac's name.

Corresponding to the circled 8 symbols, the sun "captures" two letters: **E, I, and the hyphen**, indicating **a translation** underlying the ciphertext.

Two translations of the second arrow form the **word ICE**, from "cerous."

I illustrate the complete method in the video below.



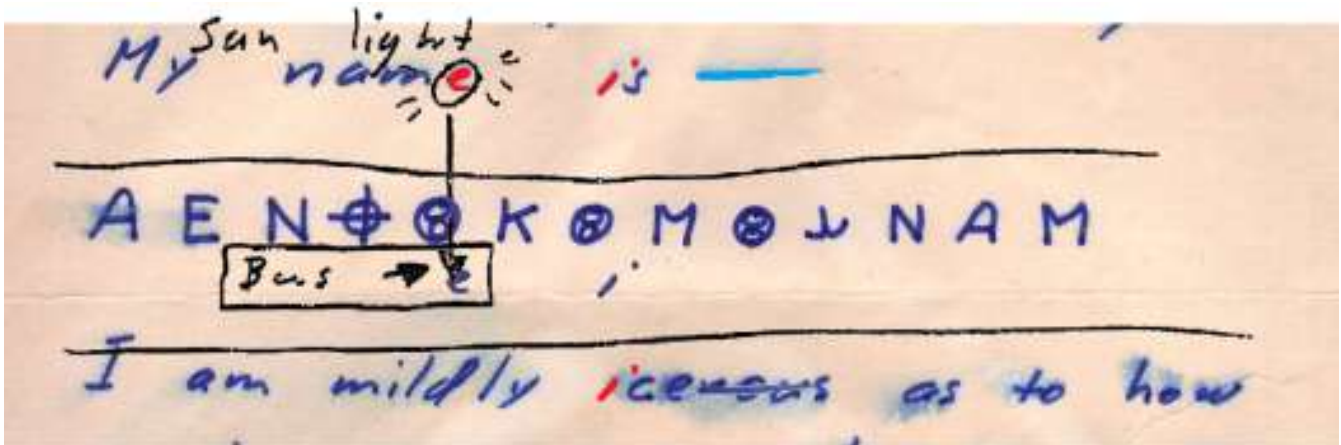
## Zodiac Killer's name decryption. "Let the sunshine in"

Ostello Volante



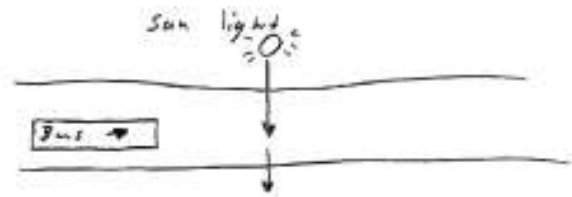
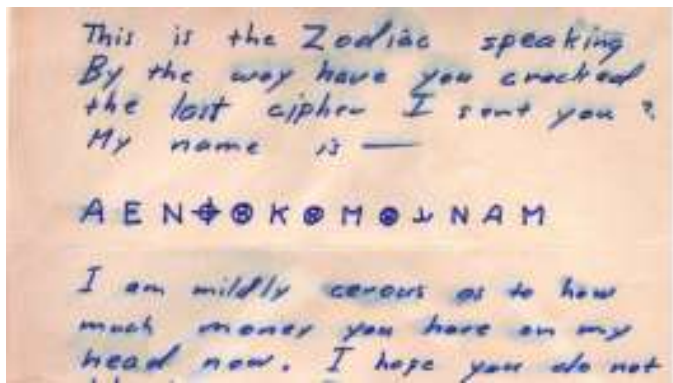
Watch on

The concept is that to decrypt the letters you need **to let sunlight enter the school bus**, as I highlight in the next image by virtually making it slide along the road.



*I'm just moving the bus to highlight the concept*

**You can verify** this part of the decryption by using **the image at this link** or the one in the gallery below and sliding the graphic over the letter.



Click to enlarge, then overlay using a program like Paint

The identified method is strengthened by the **solution of the anagram** at the end of **408** , which according to Zodiac would contain his identity (but not his name), **a riddle** with two Italian words including the **verb "bere"** .

"I drink and [drink and] gulp down I'm the hit"

What "hit" are you talking about?

I received **a tip from Bevilacqua** on July 28, 2017, although I can't say at the time if it would be useful.

When I ask Falciani the American what he thinks of Zodiac, he, imperturbable, reflects for a few seconds, then responds with his usual half-smile:

"In my opinion, he is **five people** ."

I won't give much weight to this strange statement ( **why five?** ) until I come across the probable **source of inspiration** for Zodiac, a Fifth **Dimension hit** that reached number two on the **Billboard Hot 100 in 1969 and won a Grammy** for Best Recording of the Year in 1970 .

**"Aquarius - Let the sunshine in"** , that is "aquarius - let the sunshine in".



## The 5th Dimension Age of Aquarius 1969

ViniBassMan



Watch on

Is this a reference to the “sunbeam” method and the 5th Dimension song that Bevilacqua continues to call **“Raying”** Vigilantes on July 28, 2017 ?

Below is the cover of the single.

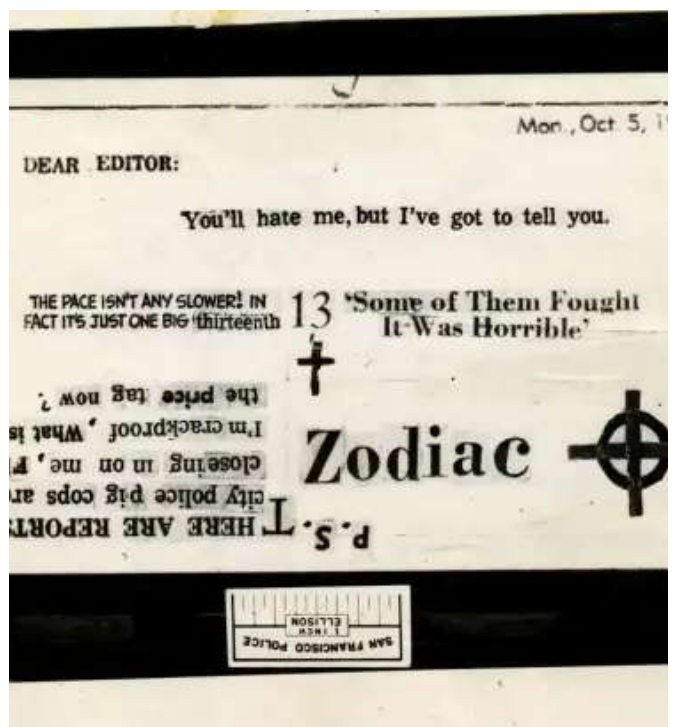
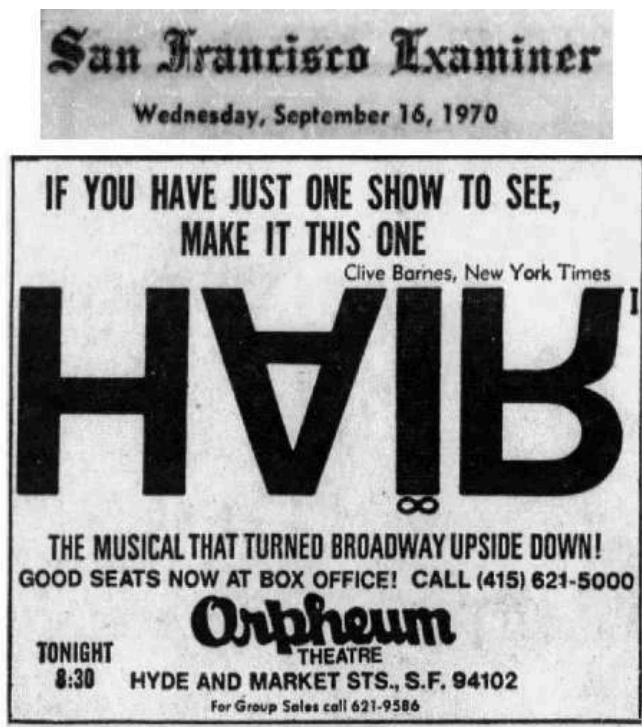


“Aquarius – Let the Sunshine In” is composed of two songs from the **hippie musical** “**Hair**,” which was performing at the **Geary Theatre** the night of the Stine murder. On October 11, 1969, **according to the police** , Zodiac got into his future victim’s **taxi right near that theater** , at the intersection of **Mason and Geary Streets** .

From the **advertisements** of the time and from the **poster** for the show at the Geary Theatre, we can see that **the musical uses an 8 as its symbol** , like the one in the Zodiac cipher, where the “sunbeams” that decipher E, I and ICE are passed.



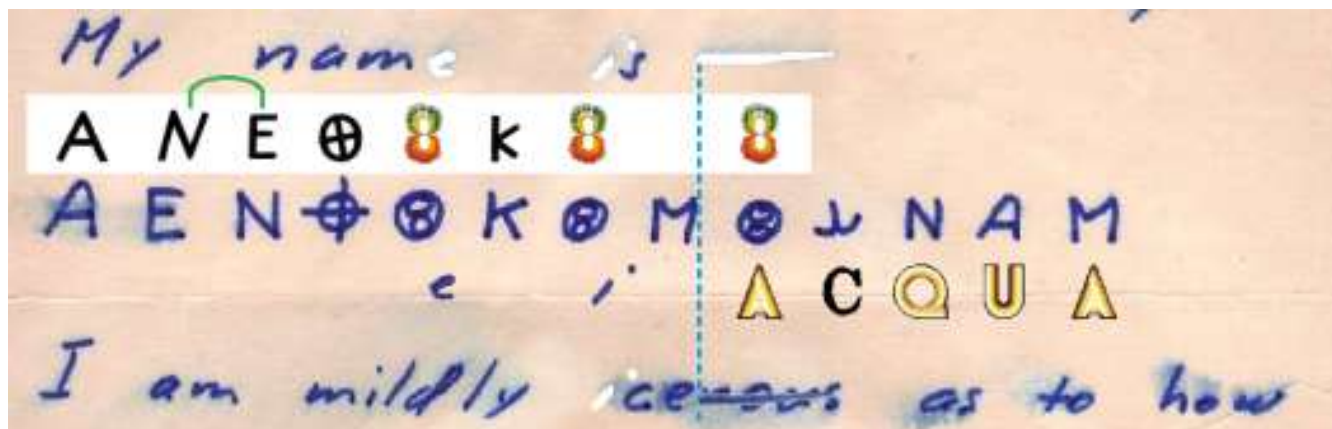
One clue supporting these findings is the **October 5, 1970, Zodiac postcard** (below), composed of **newspaper clippings** from an insert in the *SF Sunday Examiner and Chronicle* and oddly **featuring an “upside-down” paragraph** (next image on the right). In the weeks preceding the postcard's mailing, several **“Hair” ads** with the headline “upside-down” were published (next image on the left).



On the left, a “topsy-turvy” ad from *Hair* in September 1970. On the right, a postcard from October 5, 1970, mimicking the *Hair* ad from three weeks earlier.

Since I didn't bring Bevilacqua the second page of Zodiac's letter, which was supposed to be used to decrypt the text based on the Fifth Dimension song, I figured all this out later. Much of it came from research on the website **newspapers.com** , which contains millions of editions of American newspapers, and other sources I cite in the **decryption** .

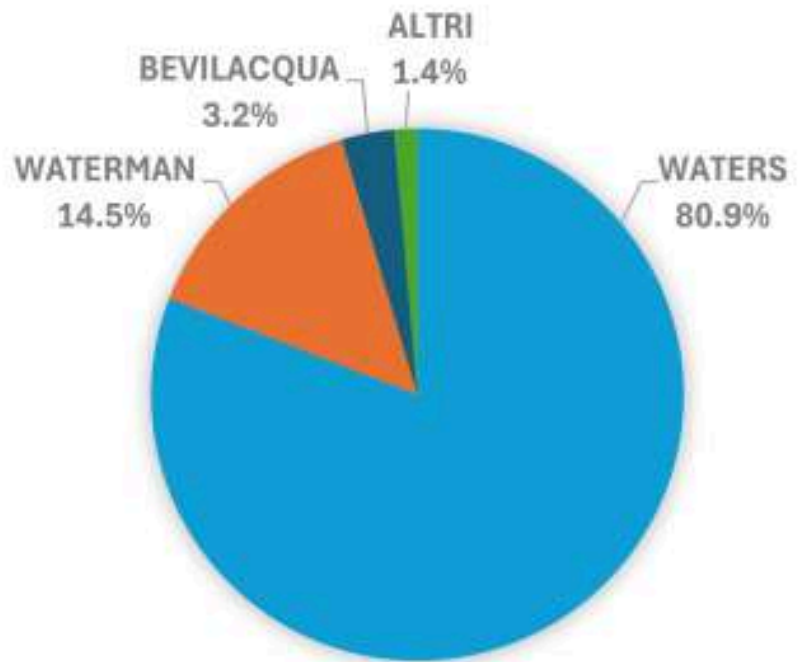
Once the "hit" has been identified ( **Aquarius-let the sunshine in** ), which also serves to encrypt **E, I and the word ICE** , it is possible to expect that Zodiac has **Italian origins** (a hypothesis also compatible with the **solution to the Halloween riddle** ) and that its name contains the word "**water**" (aquarius, ice, by water, **water theory** etc.).



The list of surnames recorded by the **Census Bureau** in 2010 (with 100 or more occurrences) containing the word **WATER/ACQUA/AQUA** meaning "water" and **compatible** with the letters E and I decoded is composed of **only 9 names** . **One of these** , entirely compatible with the solution, contains the verb "bere" cited in the anagram.

DRINK WATER

1	WATERS	67929
2	WATERMAN	12177
3	BEVILACQUA	2667
4	WATER	363
5	ILACQUA	283
6	DEERINWATER	178
7	VIVACQUA	187
8	AQUARO	116
9	DWATER	103
TOT		84003



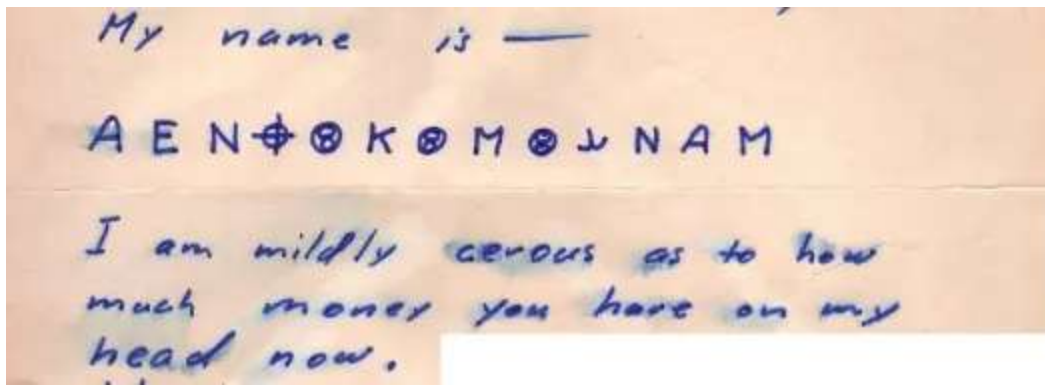
Frequenza dei cognomi ( $\geq 100$  individui) che includono la parola WATER/AQUA/ACQUA con il significato di "acqua" compatibili con la soluzione "Let the sunshine in" nella popolazione USA nel 2010.  
**Fonte dei dati:** US Census 2010

### "Why did he write 'waxy'?"

In 2017, I received a tip from the potential author of the message, Bevilacqua. After reading the letter's opening lines, he focused on the sentence below the encrypted text.

" This sentence is strange . Why did he write 'waxy' instead of 'curious' ?"

"Ah... You think it's a mistake..."



The ciphertext with the phrase below

My name is -

[SYMBOLS]

I am moderately waxy (sic) to know  
how much money you have on my  
head now.

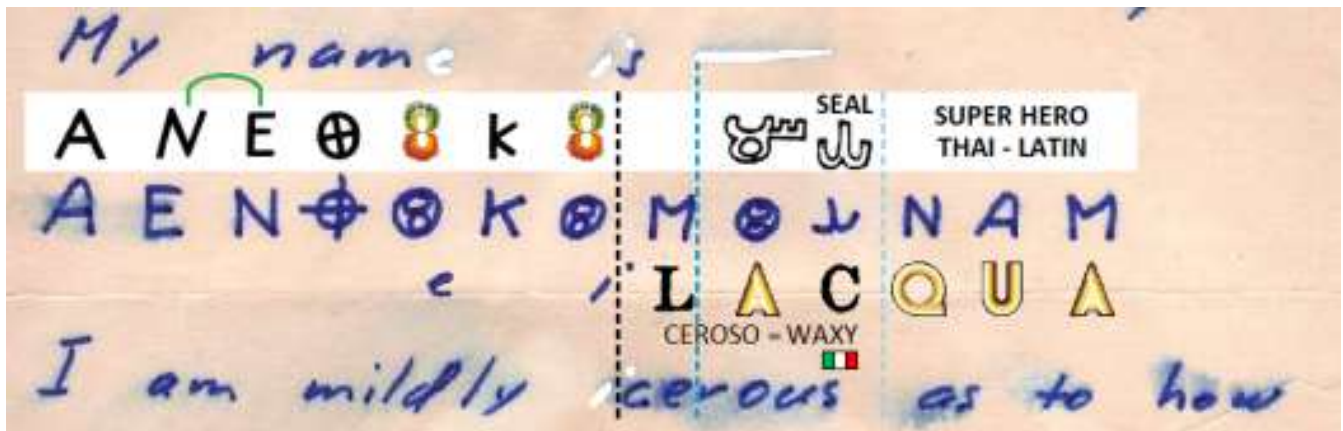
**"Cerous" is useful for getting ICE** , but it's not my first discovery.

Reflecting on Bevilacqua's emphasis, a few weeks after our last in-person conversation in August 2017, I get a sense of how the encrypted message should be read.

"Ceroso" corresponds to the letters "lac" in the surname Bevilacqua.

**"Lac"** is the main substance in sealing wax.

The ciphertext is part of a puzzle.

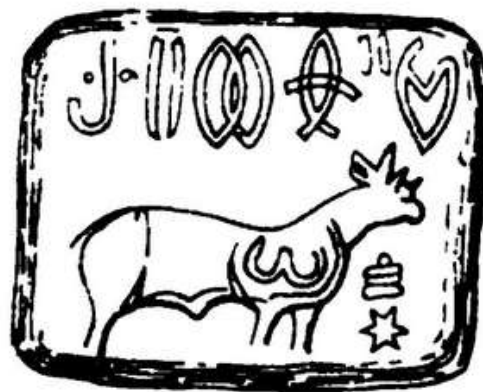


Waxy and LAC

Below, the probable source of the anchor symbol. It is an attempted Brahmi translation by archaeologist **Alexander Cunningham** of a Harappan seal inscription in **"The Inscriptions of Asoka ."**

**Seals** were used to **imprint sealing wax** on parchments, letters, and other documents, leaving a mark or emblem.

L achh mi ya  
 J ⊕ SEAL J



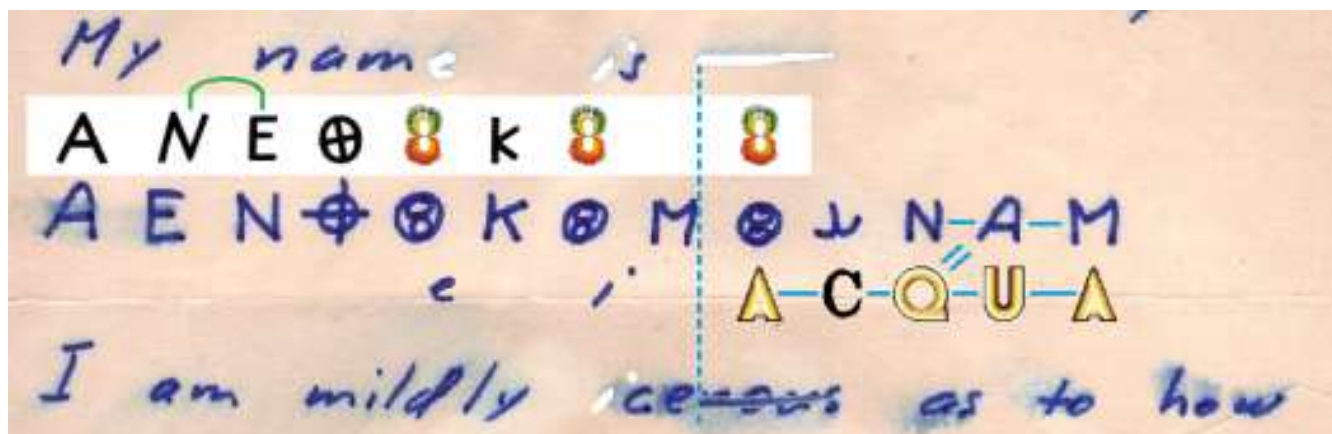
**STONE SEAL**

The encoding of Zodiac's name was not achieved with a substitution cipher.

The symbols are part of a sort of **puzzle** that combines **parts of** Zodiac's real name with the **phrase underneath** .

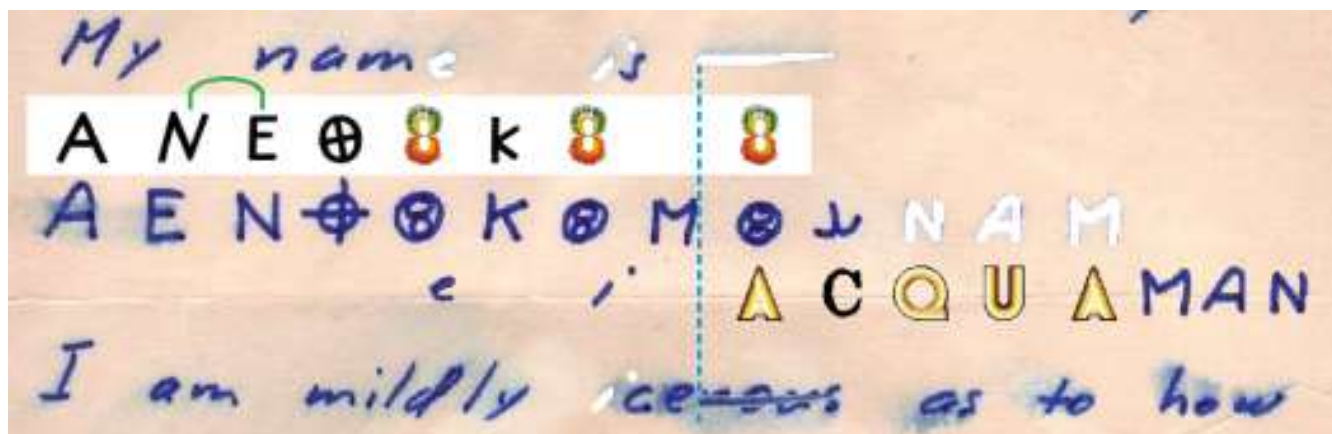
Let's take the **last three letters of the ciphertext, NAM** , which also give the title to the book I brought with me to the talks with Bevilacqua in 2017.

"Nam" was a familiar term for the 2.5 million American soldiers who served in Vietnam in the 1960s and 1970s. The diminutive of the Southeast Asian nation means "south" in Vietnamese. But **in neighboring Thailand, the same pronunciation is used to mean "water,"** Fabio , a reader of the blog, informs me .



Thailand, Washington's ally during the war, hosted several American air bases and was a favorite destination for soldiers stationed in Vietnam to go on R&R leave . **In the photo** of D'Addario and Colombo, the Thai flag is visible on the first flagpole on the left.

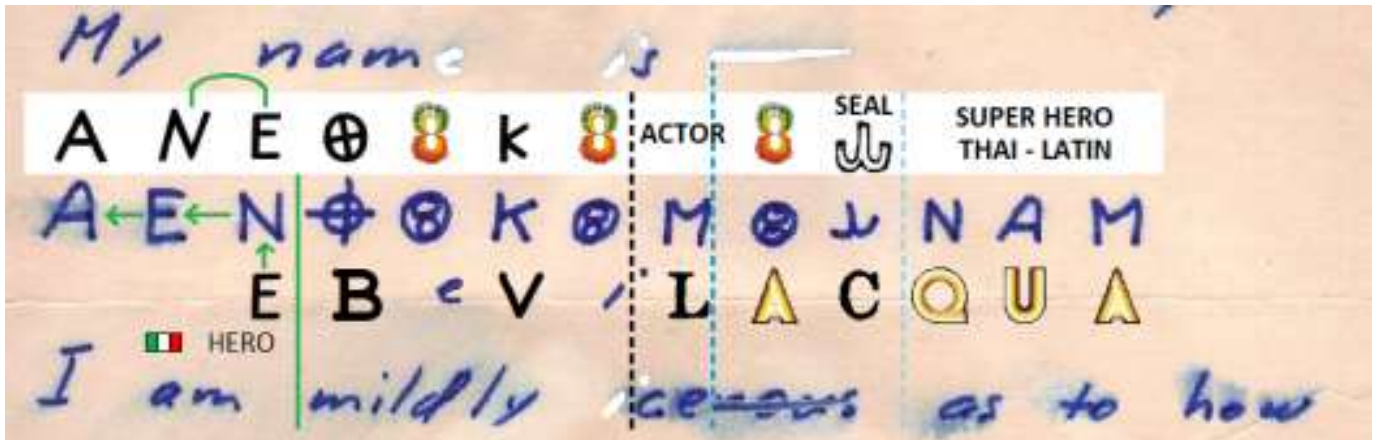
NAM is the opposite of MAN. These letters could also have been chosen for the comic book hero AQUAMAN .



Be that as it may, the combination of NAM and the last part of the word ACQUA is **QUA-NAM**, the Latin translation of "in what way", "how" , the last word of the ciphertext.

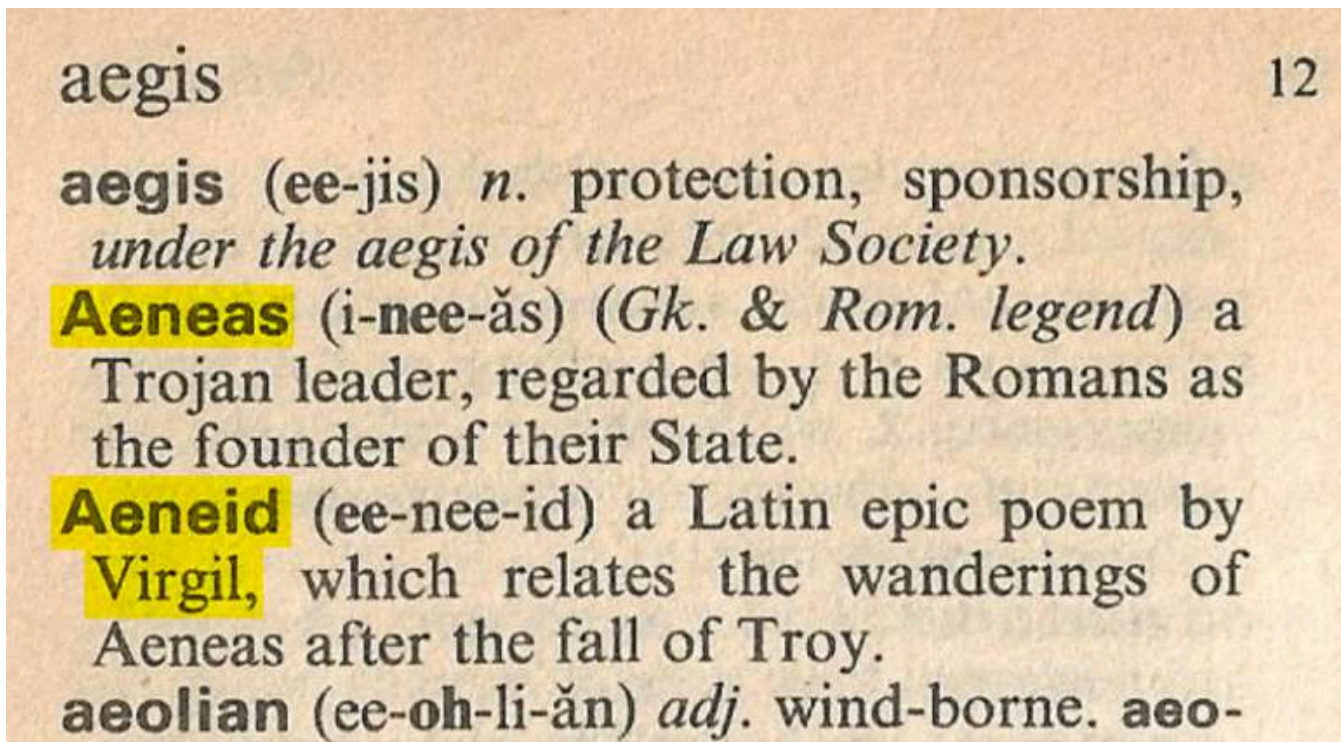


In the initial part, **the inversion** of the first E and the N of ANETHEKE allows the author of the message to encrypt the third letter of his name, an E, forming the word **ENE A** .



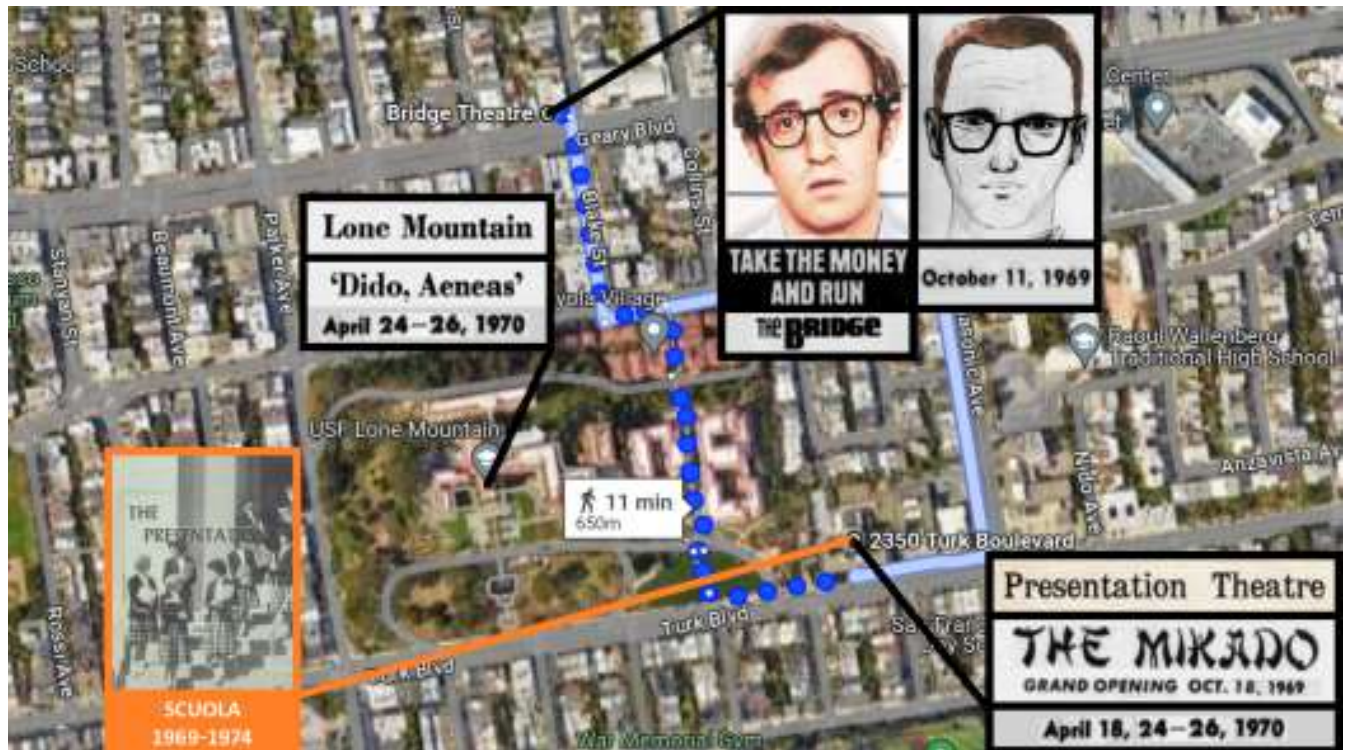
*In the decipherment we find the name Aeneas, protagonist of Virgil's Aeneid*

**The reference is to Virgil** , the great poet from Mantua who shares his name with **Virgil Starkwell** , the protagonist of "Take the Money and Run" **played** by Zodiac in the attacks on Lake Berryessa and San Francisco.



The serial killer may have gotten the idea while frequenting the area south of the Bridge Cinema, where Luanne F. High School and the Presentation Theatre are located, where "The Mikado" was performed a week after Stine's murder and between April 18 and 26, 1970 , when he sent the letter with his name encrypted.

At the end of April 1970, in the same area, at Lone Mountain, Henry Purcell 's drama "Dido and Aeneas," inspired by a famous passage from Virgil 's poem , was performed .



A clue to this indirect reference to the name of the protagonist of "Take the Money and Run" is found at the bottom of the first page of the letter, when the serial killer writes that his **previous bomb** had **misfired** . He concludes:

" **I got drenched** in the **rain** we had a little while ago."

*I was swamped out by the rain we had a while back.*

I believe that with this phrase Zodiac is **not** referring to a **real event** . Again, he **uses it to identify himself with Virgil Starkwell**.

In a review by **Stanley Eichelbaum** in the *Examiner* of October 8, 1969, we read:

"Eventually, Virgil is sent to prison, where he's clever enough to carve a bar of **soap into the shape of a gun** that looks convincing. Then, on the day he decides to escape, **he's caught in a terrible downpour** ."

The soap gun melts under the **It rains** and Virgil is taken back to his cell.

**This scene** is recalled at the **end** of the film (spoiler), when Virgil, once again captured by the police, tells the documentary filmmaker who is interviewing him:

"I'm very good with my hands... do you know if **it's raining** outside ?"



## Il travestimento di Zodiac. Scene da "Prendi i soldi e scappa"

Ostello Volante



Watch on

Finally, **the first combination** of the ciphertext, **I=JO, is probably residual** .

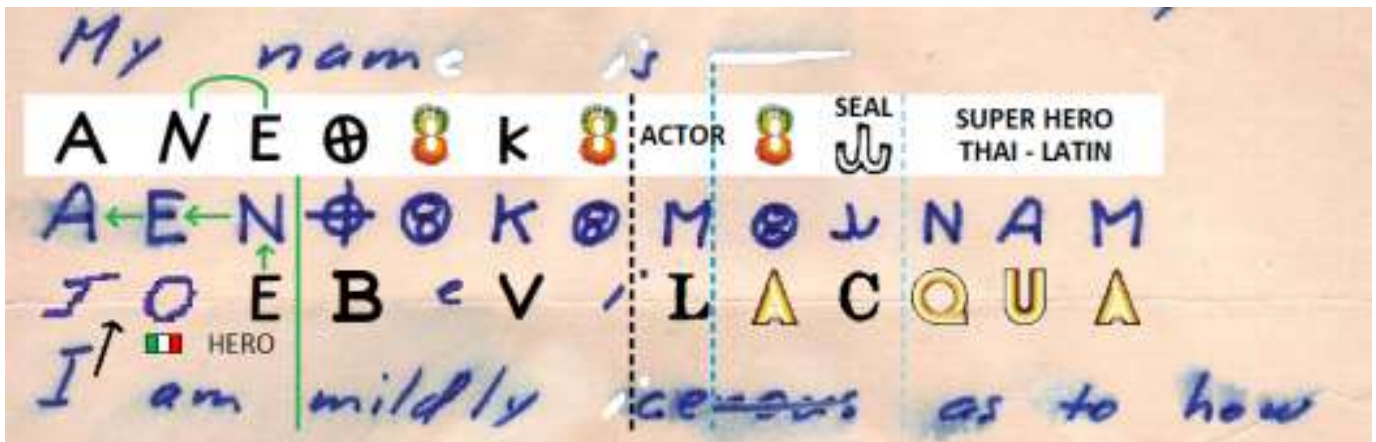
After moving the N and first E of ANETHEKE to form ENEA, **"Zodiac" doesn't have many choices for a sensible combination** with the first two letters.

For this reason, he adopts a **trick** , and on the second page of the letter he writes an I similar to a J above the equals sign and **a 10 which, written IO, can mean "I" in Italian, that is "I"** .

hope you have fun trying  
 e out who **J** killed

$\Phi = IO$       SF PD = O

From which: I = IO = JO.



### Coincidences with the murder of Alessandra Vanni

It should be noted that the reference to “seals” is **also** present in the crime of 9 August 1997 of the taxi driver **Alessandra Vanni**, found in the car she was driving in **via Doccia**, in front of the cemetery of Castellina in Chianti, **her hands tied behind the seat with string** .

The **crime scene** is located near an Etruscan **burial mound** along a **road leading to Florence** (passing through Falciani).

In 2018, I will report to the Siena Prosecutor's Office a series of coincidences that will lead to the acquisition of Bevilacqua's DNA.



*Alessandra Vanni's hands tied behind the seat with a string, "string" in English*

The Carabinieri of the local station, a few days after the murder, received **an anonymous letter** with a quote from the Apocalypse of St. John **in Latin** .

"Quis est dignus aperire librum, et solvere signacula ejus?"

The translation is: "Who is worthy to open the book and **loose the seals** ?"

Maybe it's just someone who wants **to help** the investigation?

It could be a coincidence, of course, but I'm suspicious, in addition to the **use of Latin** and the reference to **seals** , the string with which the taxi driver was tied.

String is **also** used to **"untie" seals**.



Nowadays, a seal (top left), sealing wax, and string are often used in composing wedding invitations. [Image source](#)

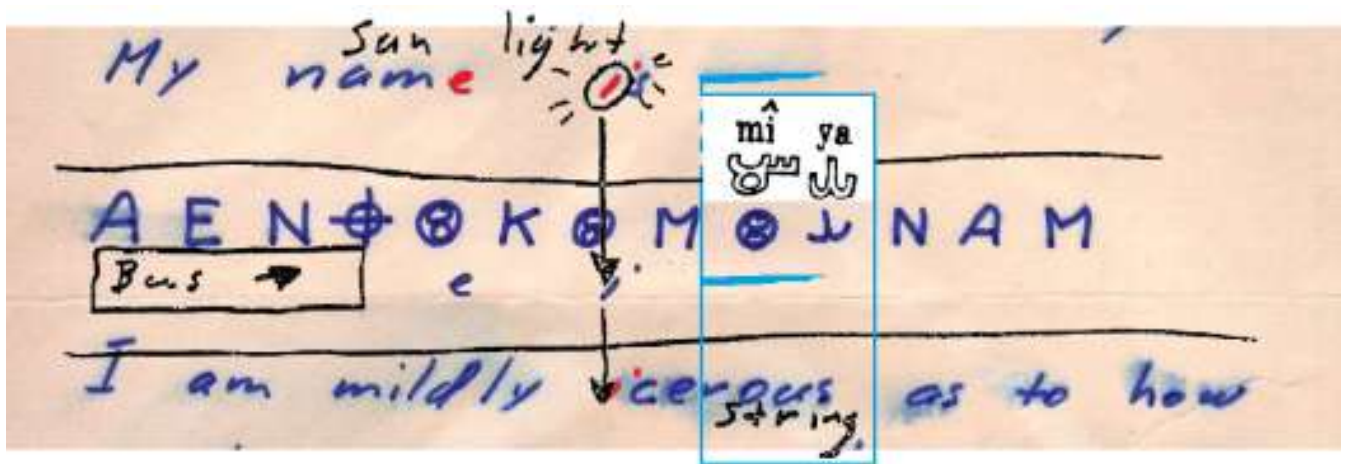
In 2024, **Valeria Vecchione will point out** to me and Daniele Trinchieri **the similarity** between the knot used to tie Alessandra Vanni's hands and that of the **seal of the tomb of the Pharaoh Tutankhamun** , also famous for his curse.

I rule out any coincidences. It seems like we're looking at the **signature of a serial killer**



Under the bomb diagram used to decipher the Zodiac name, there is the word “string ,” which in English means string .

If this word is also included when superimposing the diagram over the ciphertext with the sun disk on the I, “string” matches **the** symbols attributable to the **Harappan seal** .



In the same case there are:

1. A reference to **paradise** similar to that of the **Lass case** , since perhaps the murderer got into the victim's taxi near **Via del Paradiso** in Siena;
2. A reference to **water** , as in all crimes attributed with certainty to Zodiac since the crime scene is in **Via Doccia** .
3. The victim was a **taxi driver** . Zodiac is certainly credited with the **Stine murder** , but in recent years, as we've seen, another **suspicious homicide of a taxi driver** dating back to 1962 has emerged.

**Bevilacqua's DNA doesn't match** that extracted from the victim's fingernails. However, I still have a doubt.

Tying the victim's hands with string behind the seat may have a symbolic meaning for the murderer. But from the photo (below), it's clear that the **position** in which the victim's hands are tied—behind the seat— **would allow** the murderer in the passenger seat to easily **manipulate them , minimizing contact and without leaving the taxi.**

In the 1990s, **DNA was known** , and **defying the police** was part of **Zodiac's modus operandi** .

Could it be that the culprit purposely inserted **DNA** fragments of other people's skin into the victim's fingernails?



*Letters, sealing wax and seal*

## POSTSCRIPT: THE COVER-UP

Today, it's often said that there's "only one certainty" about the Mostro case. **The same gun fired from '68 to '85** .

But this **isn't a certainty** .

The Monster's gun was certainly fired **between 1974 and 1985**. The same cannot be said for the 1968 case. It will be remembered that the crime was linked to subsequent ones only in 1982 and that the evidence from the Monster's gun was not in the Evidence Office but **among the documents** from the Mele trial. How long had it been there? Who had included it in the file?

These are not irrelevant questions, because anyone consulting that documentation would have had it at hand. And this over an indeterminate period of 14 years.

A phrase coined by writer **Lee Child** goes:

"Arrogance kills in an investigation."

Evidence that has suffered such a long interruption in the chain of custody does not provide "certainty."

**The possibility** that the Monster artifacts were included in the Mele file exists and **is not as remote** as it may seem.

I presented my reconstruction of the "misdirection" in two reports ( **I discuss them here** ) submitted to the Florence Prosecutor's Office in 2020 and 2021. These reports include documents, a **consultation with 21 experts**, and the results of a **ballistics test** confirming the feasibility of producing credible replicas of the Signa bullets and casings to replace the originals. These replicas, in this case, would have been obtained with the serial killer's gun.

To date, **there is no evidence to rule out the possibility** that the '68 connection was a **red herring** . On the contrary, there are facts that make it possible and clues that point in that direction.

I'll list them.

- **The chain of custody** of the Signa shell casings and bullets was **interrupted** for an undetermined number of years, and the Florence Prosecutor's Office was unable to reconstruct the sequence of events.
- **There are no microscopic photographs** capable of confirming that the evidence found in the Mele file is the same as that found in '68.
- The finds described in '68 and those found in the folder present only **generic similarities** that are easily replicable (brand, type of firearm, etc.).
- There are **inconsistencies** between the Monster findings in the file and the 1968 descriptions that are difficult to interpret as the result of an expert error.
- **The investigations** stemming from the connection were **inconclusive** despite extensive investigative efforts. The Monster continued to kill.

- The '68 crime continues to be considered **"different"** from other double homicides, in terms of motive and method of execution, and no concrete link has been found with the Monster crimes **apart from the cartridge cases and bullets in the Mele file** .



*Beretta .22 caliber 70 series with short barrel*

What is certain is that the bullets and cartridge cases found in the Mele file 14 years after the events **come from the Monster's gun** .

However, **it is not certain that they are the same ones from '68** .

At the very least, a comparison should be made **between the 1968 expert report and the findings** . If the evidence described in the 1968 ballistics report were **identical** to that found in the Mele file, we could be a little more confident. If something didn't add up, however, there would be little reason to be reassured.

In 42 years, **no judicial expert** has been commissioned to conduct a comparison of this type and prepare a written opinion.

In more recent years, it has been taken for granted that an investigation of this type or a similar one had been carried out. The error lies in the **superficiality at the beginning of the investigation into the Sardinian lead** , when it was assumed that the evidence was the same as in 1968 based on **generic similarities** .

What matters is that, once the facts are analyzed, **the connection is based on an "assumption"** , which is precisely what Lee Child's motto warns against.

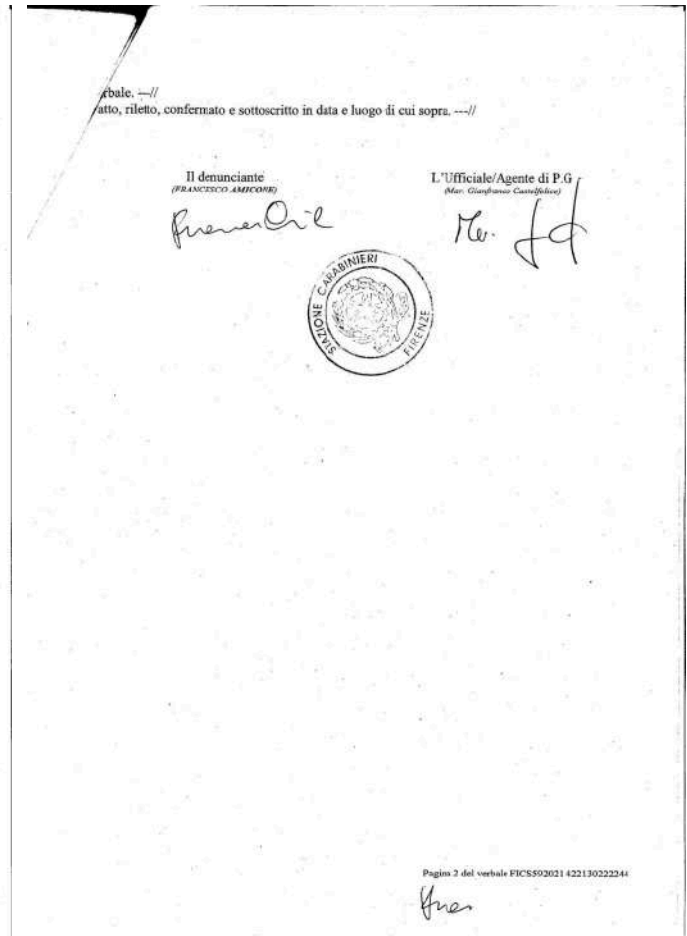
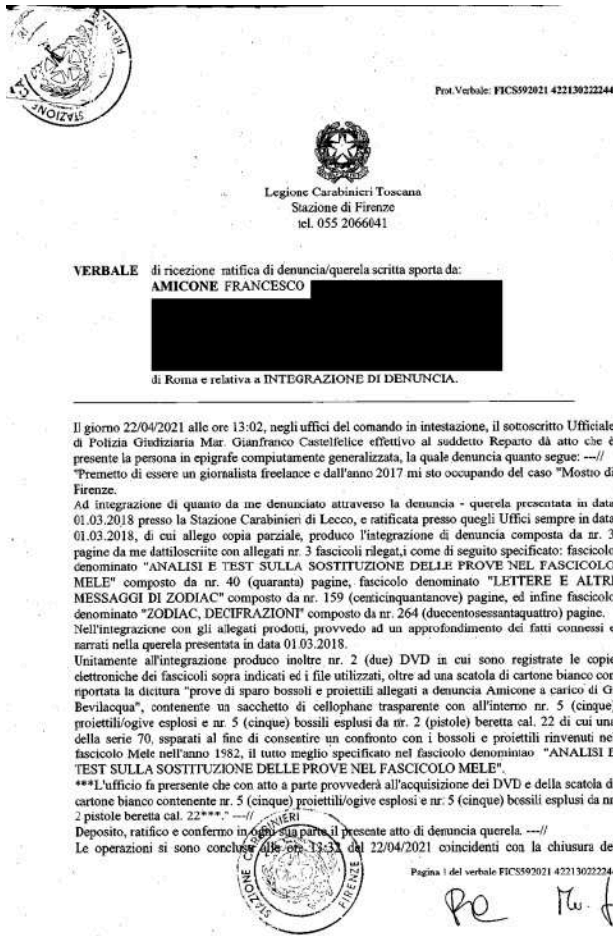


*Beretta, Colt, and Ruger .22 from the 1960s. There are countless .22-caliber pistols. The "barrel"-shaped firing pin (like the one on the Monster pistol) is common in weapons of this caliber, even among carbines.*

In 2020 and 2021, I had reported this “gap” to the Prosecutor's Office, highlighting in my report summarized here **the need** to appoint a qualified consultant to carry out a **comparison between the shell casings and bullets of the Monster found in the Mele file and the descriptions in the 1968 Zuntini report .**

The **request** for this investigation **was recently made** by the **lawyers of the victims' families** , who suggested **also using for the comparison the possible bullet found in the body of Antonio Lo Bianco** , one of the victims of '68.

At the beginning of 2024, the injured parties received a denial from **prosecutors Turco and Beatrice Giunti** on the basis of a **note from lieutenant Ilardi** (not a ballistics expert) which essentially defined the **control as superfluous .**



April 22, 2021. Minutes of filing of my report on the cover-up

## Problems

From 1982 to today, investigators have thought the evidence was the same for three reasons.

1. The bullets were **Winchester** superspeed .22 caliber;
2. The striker mark was **bar-shaped** ;
3. Some characteristics of the bullet deformations were compatible.

But are these similarities **enough to rule out** a substitution?

Regarding the similarities of the cartridge cases, a ballistics expert interviewed in 2021 told me:

"It's like saying a car has four wheels and a steering wheel."

The description "bar" isn't even enough to identify the make or model of the gun.

**Many .22 calibers** , even rifles, leave a **bar-shaped** firing pin mark , ballistics experts I consulted in 2021 will tell me.

As for the brand of cartridges, **Winchester** is mentioned . Even those who have never held a gun in their hands might have heard of it. Its cartridges are among the best-selling in the world.



*On the left, ejected shell casings from a Beretta 76. On the right, from a rifle. Both are "bar-shaped." Photos taken from my 2021 report, which will be included in the Bevilacqua case file.*

### **The inconsistency of the ejector sign**

**The cartridge cases and bullets** found in the Mele file **are similar** to those in Signa, but only in a generic way. That is, they are easily **replicable** if one wanted to replace them.

Not only that. They present various inconsistencies that support **the hypothesis of a cover-up** . One of the most important is that of the **ejector mark** .

The following is the description given by ballistics expert **Innocenzo Zuntini** in his **1974 report** on the Rabatta murder. Referring to the ejector mark left by the Monster's gun, the same on all the cartridge cases from his crimes and those in the Mele file, he states:

"...the five cartridge cases found **clearly bear** the ejector mark..."

And again:

"...on the case back of each of them you can **see** the double ejector mark **at 9 and 7 o'clock ...**"

i 5 bossoli repertati hanno **chiaramente impresso** il segno dello **espulsore** il ch e la fa assegnare alla categoria delle armi autom (i revolvers ne sono sprovvisti)

*Zuntini report from '74*

con una pistola automatica, in quanto sul fondello di ciascuno di essi   visibile il **duplice segno dell'espulsore rilevabile alle ore 7 e alle ore 9** (considerando un

*Transcript of the Zuntini report on the shell casings of the '74 Monster, source: Vieri Adriani*

The ejector mark is defined as **"detectable," "clearly imprinted ."** Just like the cartridge cases found in the Mele file, which are indeed from the Monster (but are they the same ones from '68?).

The ejector marks from the serial killer's gun are actually **visible to the naked eye** (when held up to the light), recognizable even by an inexperienced person. His weapon, like others, leaves this **distinct** mark .



*Case in the Mele file. Circled in red, the ejector "scratch" is evident at 9 o'clock.*

If these cartridge cases **were the same ones from '68**, we should find confirmation of this in the description of the ballistics report from the time, signed by Zuntini himself. **The ejector marks must match** those on the cartridge cases found in the Mele file. I don't think there's anything to add to the **serious inconsistency** that emerges from what the ballistics expert wrote in '68.

"We also note that on all the seized cartridge cases **the signs [...] of the ejector** (which are **normally found** on the edge of the base at approximately **8 o'clock**) are almost **undetectable** ."

Rileviamo ancora che su tutti i bossoli in sequestro sono quasi irrilevabili i segni dell'estrattore (che deve apparire in genere dietro il righellino in corrispondenza delle ore 15 e dell'espulsore (che di norma si rileva sull'orlo del fondello in corrispondenza delle ore 20 circa).

*Zuntini report from '68*

### Estimation of the probability of misdirection

There are only two possible alternatives to explain the inconsistency of the ejector track, which is accompanied by others that I discuss in the [post on the misdirection](#) .

- An observation error by Zuntini;
- A red herring. The authentic finds from Signa were replaced by others from the Mostro pistol.

Faced with an either/or situation, I thought it would be useful to do some statistical research to answer this **question** :

**How likely is it** that a ballistics expert like Zuntini would be unable to make a few simple observations (for example, indicating where the ejector pin marks are) so as to rule out a red herring?

After consulting **11 ballistics experts** , all of whom **were able to pinpoint** the location of the ejector mark, I decided to conduct a simple random probability sampling.

I believe that in this case, Zuntini **can be compared** to today's ballistics experts because the inconsistent **observations were easy** to make, including the one on the ejector mark, and did not require technological means or knowledge that he lacked in 1968.

I obtained a sample of 10 individuals randomly selected from a population of **263 names of ballistics experts** registered in **138 of the current 140 courts in Italy**. In the report, I had requested/counted some who were being dismissed, for a total of 155. To correct the population number, I added 1.9 (average number of ballistics experts per court) for each court. Rounding up, we can say that the population is **300** .

I made it a rule to exclude the people I had consulted and those who had already dealt with the Monster case. After the draw, I had to replace with a new draw those who had been included in the lists by mistake (2 names).

Each expert's name was written on slips of paper that I randomly pulled from a container.

I showed the 10 randomly selected experts, who were also contacted via email or telephone, photographs of the bullets and a spent cartridge attached to the Mele file, taken from **Paride Minervini** 's ballistics report (2016). I asked them several questions, without informing them of the reason so as not to influence them.

Their responses were also attached to the **report** delivered to investigators in 2021, linked at the beginning of the **post on the cover-up** .

$$\text{Dimensione del campione} = \frac{\frac{z^2 \times p(1-p)}{e^2}}{1 + \left( \frac{z^2 \times p(1-p)}{e^2 N} \right)}$$

*Formula to use for calculating the sample*

## Results

Both in the reasoned selection and in the random one that led me to consult approximately 7% of the population of ballistics experts registered in the court registers, **100% of them were able to recognize and indicate where the ejector mark was located** , unlike Zuntini.

This was to be expected, given that even a person without particular knowledge of ballistics is able to distinguish it on the cartridge cases attached to the Mele file.



*A cartridge case found in the Mele file was shown to the ballistics experts interviewed. The ejector "scratch" is at 9 o'clock. It is visible to the naked eye.*

Regarding all the anomalies, the answers of the 10 randomly selected experts gave these results.

- **No** experts (unlike Zuntini) have defined the ejector mark on the cartridge case found in the folder as "almost undetectable," knowing how to correctly identify it;
- **Zero** experts (unlike Zuntini) have observed impact incisions on bullet A (but they may be on the hidden side);
- **One** of them defined the scratch on the E bullet as a "burr parallel to the rifling";
- **No one** committed all three of Zuntini's alleged errors.



*From left to right the alleged bullets A, B, C, D, E*

Regardless of the sampling method (from haphazard to random), as the number of experts consulted increased, **the proportion of those who contradicted Zuntini's observations** on the ejector, **or did not make the full set of errors** on the characteristics of the bullets (some of which were possible, as mentioned), **remained unchanged (100%)**.

Given the outcome of these 21 interviews, it can be reasonably assumed that in the overall population of professional ballistics experts in Italy:

1. The majority will be able to confidently indicate the ejector track of the cartridge cases attached to the Mele file;
2. Most will not make Zuntini's hypothetical complete series of errors in observing/describing the bullets.

I recall that the calculation reported in my report submitted to the investigators is incorrect, for various reasons, but it can easily be corrected.

Considering the 10 randomly selected experts, if you use **this online calculator** (formula below), with a 99% confidence level and maximum variability, you can be almost certain that the probability that the "survey" result does NOT accurately reflect the responses of the entire population of 300 experts is 40% (margin of error).

$$\text{Margine di errore} = z \times \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$$

Since the answers are unequivocal, **that 40% can be converted** into an estimate of the probability that a registered ballistics expert, like Zuntini, would be **incapable of correctly making the observation on the ejector** that would justify the inconsistencies between the 1968 report and the attached evidence.

The same applies to the bullets, if the discrepancies were confirmed.

This means that, updating the Zuntini report , **the probability that the '68 expert was wrong is lower** than that of a misdirection.

**The misdirection has a 60%** chance of having occurred.

# MOSTRO DI FIRENZE

## CASO DEL '68, PROBABILITÀ DEL DEPISTAGGIO



■ PROBABILITÀ DI UNA SOSTITUZIONE DEI BOSSOLI E DEI PROIETTILI DEL '68

■ PROBABILITÀ DELLE IPOTETICHE OSSERVAZIONI SBAGLIATE DELL'ESPERTO BALISTICO DEL '68

Stima basata su un campione casuale semplice di 10 esperti balistici in una popolazione di 300 iscritti agli albi dei tribunali italiani (n. 263 approssimato in eccesso) intervistati dal giornalista Francesco Amicone nel 2021 con percentuale di successo del 100% (osservazioni corrette sul segno dell'espulsore dell'arma visibile sui bossoli trovati nel fascicolo Mele).

In questo caso, il margine di errore del 40% con livello di confidenza del 99% e massima variabilità equivale alla stima della probabilità che un esperto balistico iscritto agli albi, come il perito del '68, sia incapace di effettuare correttamente le osservazioni in oggetto, unica alternativa ragionevole alla possibile sostituzione dei reperti del delitto del '68 con repliche provenienti dalla pistola del Mostro. Dunque, la probabilità del depistaggio è superiore all'alternativa, attestandosi al 60% con il più elevato livello di confidenza.

ostellovolante.com

**Only the Monster could have done the '68 cover-up**

**Giuttari** and the deputy prosecutor of Perugia, **Giuliano Mignini**, also suspect that

there is a diversion behind the connection with the '68 crime, having verified an idea by journalist **Tommaso D'Altilia** in the early 2000s.

Inspired by Mattei, D'Altilia suspected the existence of a **conspiracy at the institutional level** that would have decided to attribute the '68 crime to the Monster. An intrigue that would have also involved the **intelligence services** .

In reality, **it's not necessary** to theorize a "**conspiracy**" to explain the cover-up. A significant point, however, is that in order to do so, **it was necessary to first have the shell casings and bullets from the Monster's gun.**

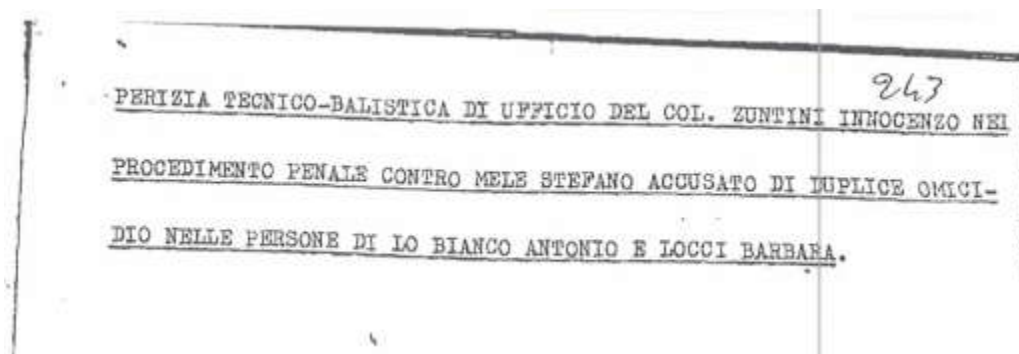
Anyone authorized to do so—magistrates, judicial police officials, clerks, lawyers, and others—had access to the Mele trial documents where the Monster's findings were found. But **who among them** could have had the "**replicas**" for the replacement?

**Only the investigators and the Monster .**

Law enforcement **could have hidden some shell casings** found at the Monster crime scenes and then inserted them into the Mele file, for example.

Attaching them, passing them off as those from Signa, wouldn't have been difficult. But for what purpose?

**And the bullets?**



*Ballistics report from 1968*

Unlike cartridge cases, bullets deform upon impact, taking on unique characteristics. They had to resemble the '68 descriptions and, above all, **there had to be enough of them for a replacement** .

The only confirmed murder in which the Monster used **copper-coated cartridges before the connection with Signa** occurred in 1974.

According to the official reconstruction, only one 10-round magazine was emptied (plus

one in the chamber, perhaps). Investigators deduced this from the fact that the girl had been wounded by the bullets and then stabbed to death. Eight bullets were found and catalogued.

This means that, even assuming the other three bullets had been hidden by the Carabinieri, **two replicas would have been missing** to replace Signa's five bullets.

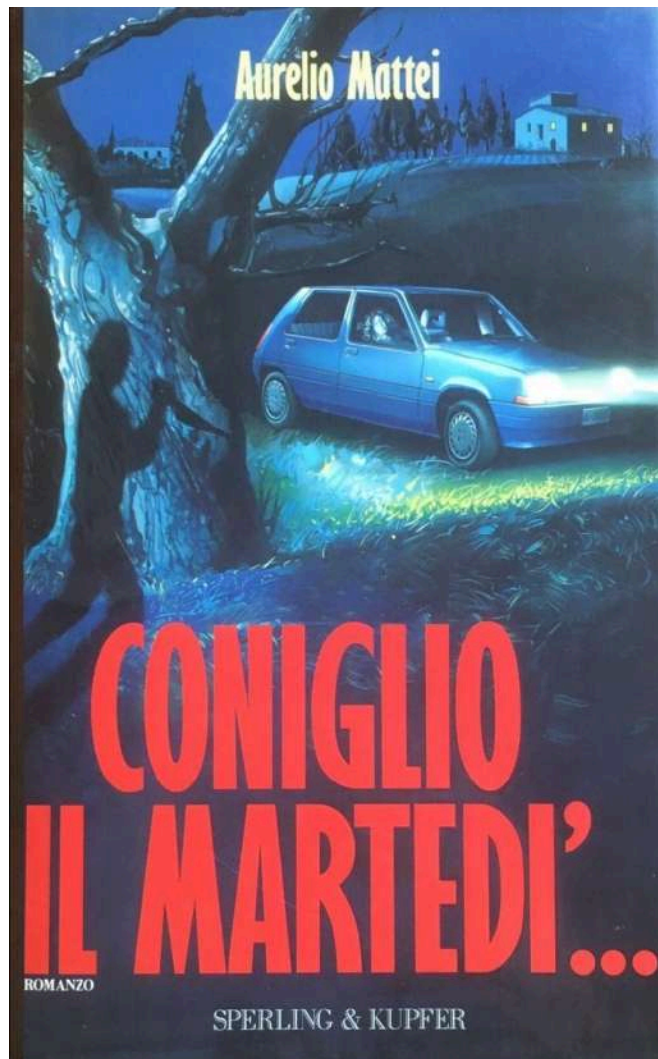
Law enforcement **would not have had enough ammunition** for a replacement without gaining possession of the Monster's weapon.

If the police didn't substitute evidence, **who could have?**

The Monster.

**Only the serial killer**, in fact, with or without the help of an accomplice, **could have had the shell casings and bullets to substitute evidence** in the Mele file and falsely claim the '68 crime.

In fact, this is exactly what happens in the novel inspired by the adventures of the Monster **"Rabbit on Tuesday"** by **Aurelio Mattei**, psychologist and consultant to the Italian intelligence (curiously the book is dedicated to the "master" **Ferracuti**), to whom the original hypothesis of the "misdirection" is traced back.



Mattei imagines the serial killer protagonist of his novel using a ruse to access the evidence office of a court and replace shell casings from an old crime with those from his own gun, obtained by shooting at an imaginary “**Valle Verde**” shooting range south of the city.

The real Monster would have been better off than the protagonist in Mattei's book if the Signa findings were in the Mele trial file, where his were later found.

There are two other differences between reality and Mattei's story:

- The serial killer should have replaced **the bullets as well** , not just the shells.
- He would have acted **before the '74 crime** .

A cover-up devised and executed by the Monster after 1974 would imply **a coincidence** in the use of a compatible weapon and the same brand of ammunition in the 1968 double homicide.

In this scenario, the Monster would have discovered the existence of a crime similar to

his own, previously committed in the same province where he was active. Coincidentally, a .22 caliber pistol compatible with his own and the same brand of ammunition would have been used in that crime.



*Gelatin at the range, before the start of the test with which I replicated the Signa bullets in 2021*

It can't be ruled out. But **it seems more likely** that the Monster was already aware of the '68 crime before beginning the murders attributed to him. In '74, the serial killer already knew which weapon and which cartridges had been used in Signa because **he had already consulted the Mele file** .

The similarities are therefore not coincidences.

The gun used in the future crimes was **purposely chosen** from among those suitable for producing credible replicas of the evidence in Signa. **Only later** was it used in the murders of the couples in Florence.



*Replicas of the '68 bullets I made. The engravings on the first one were made after the fact with a tool that also accentuated the burr on the last one. This could have been done without, given more time.*

### **Trojan Horse**

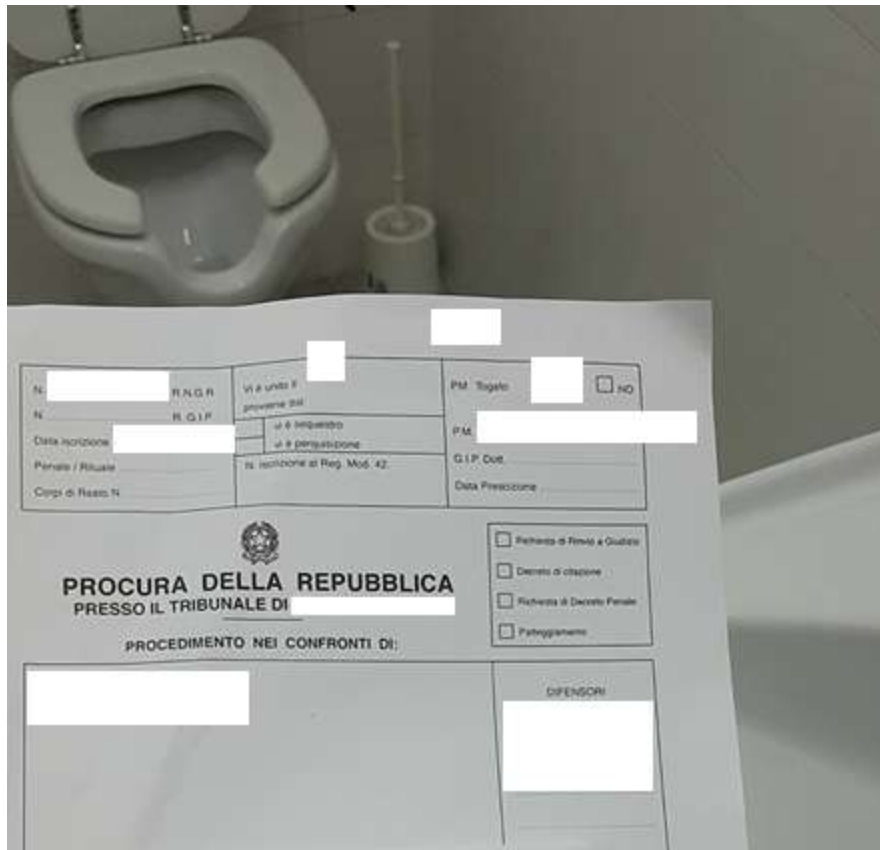
Where could the cover-up have occurred?

In the **court registry of Perugia** or **Florence** .

It's not necessary to resort to elaborate criminal plans to steal or insert objects into a criminal file, such as the one containing the evidence from Signa.

Anyone with experience in the reading rooms of Italian criminal courts (myself included) would agree that **it certainly wouldn't be a "mission impossible"** to steal or insert a small bag into a file without attracting attention, while the staff busily deals with paperwork. **Far from it.**

That's not where the evidence is kept, after all.



*Criminal files were taken to a bathroom adjacent to a consultation room. It's unsafe to leave evidence of the crime among the trial papers.*

Even if the real cartridge cases and bullets from Signa, like those from the Monster, had been in the Mele file, they would have been **at the mercy of anyone who** consulted it, potentially even the serial killer.

A person **experienced with firearms** , finding the bag of evidence and reading the Zuntini report, would have immediately **understood** that he could have claimed responsibility for the crime **by replacing** the evidence with replicas of a **suitable gun** . A gun he would then have used to commit murders.

The substitution of the evidence would have represented a veritable **"Trojan horse"** , a more than valid reason to continue using the same weapon.

Could it have been the Monster himself (the **self-styled "friendly citizen"** ?) who gave the Carabinieri the directions to Signa?

*Availability of Unauthorized Weapons on U.S. Army Installations.*

Noted a memorandum from the Commander, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, concerning the availability of unauthorized dangerous weapons on Army installations, an extract of which is quoted below.

Two criminal investigation reports have come to my attention which illustrate the seriousness and potentially harmful consequences to the health and welfare of U.S. soldiers, regarding the availability of unauthorized dangerous weapons on U.S. Army installations. Information gleaned from the reports is summarized below.

a. USACIDC special agents, after being apprised of an off-post armed robbery, decided to study the circumstances surrounding the event in order to determine the post's vulnerability to criminality. The study concluded that the weapon used to perpetrate the crime—a German-made .22 caliber revolver (also known as a Saturday Night Special)—could be purchased with ease from a department store located near the installation. Further, that the prospective buyer need only show proof he was over 21 years of age and sign a statement attesting to the fact he had no criminal record. It was later determined that between 1 Jun-1 Nov 73, soldiers from the installation purchased 165 handguns from local stores—84 of the weapons qualifying as Saturday Night Specials.

**An April 24, 1974, CID administrative report denounces the spread of unauthorized weapons on U.S. military installations.**

Citing an excerpt from an investigation at a base, it highlights how it was discovered that **165 pistols** were purchased by soldiers **in a six-month period in 1973, 84 of which were "Saturday Night Specials"** (cheap and unreliable small-caliber pistols).

Investigators determined that to purchase them, one simply had to prove one was over 21 and present a self-certification declaring a clean criminal record.

An American soldier stationed in Italy could have shipped the pistol from the United States with his home supplies without declaring it to the Italian authorities. The only requirement would have been to inform the local Provost Marshall.

This information can be found in a 1974 Department of the Army pamphlet, **"Italy: Facts You Need to Know . "**

## Weapons.

Unload and pack your weapons in your hold baggage or with household goods to avoid complex customs procedures necessary to bring weapons into Italy. However, all personally-owned firearms must be registered with the local provost marshal within 72 hours of arrival or acquisition. Shotguns and certain other small caliber weapons may be retained in private quarters. Italian law defines any handgun of a .38 caliber or larger, and any rifle of a caliber larger than .22 as "war weapons." The possession of "war weapons" within Italy is prohibited by law. To comply with this law, any person having "war weapons" in his possession at the time of his arrival in Italy must register them with the local provost marshal and then turn them in to his unit arms room for safekeeping until his departure from Italy. In view of this, it is recommended that "war weapons" be left in the States.

*"Italy: Facts You Need to Know." In the "Weapons" chapter, the 1974 U.S. Army pamphlet explains how to import weapons into Italy while avoiding "complex customs procedures."*

### The motive behind the "Zodiac" cover-up

I believe the original bullets and casings from Signa were truly **carelessly left in the Mele file** . This would explain how the serial killer came up **with the idea of a cover-up** . Their physical presence in the file may have prompted him to do so, which he must have consulted only to obtain privileged information and claim credit for the crime with a letter claiming responsibility.

The motive for the cover-up was the **concrete risk** that continuing his attacks on couples in Italy would have posed for him, already a wanted man in his home country. If he doesn't want to give up the fame he covets, **he needs a way** to avoid detection before returning to commit his rare crimes and "challenge" the police.

Zodiac (like the "Monster" later to be) isn't a casual serial killer. He's demonstrated his cunning and ability to outsmart California law enforcement.

In the long letter dated **November 9, 1969** , the serial killer responds to the provocations of the San Francisco police, who "defamed" him by calling him a clumsy criminal, explaining that he disguises himself when he commits murders and that he leaves no fingerprints because he applies two layers of "Superattack" glue to his fingertips and uses finger cots. He flaunts his knowledge by writing that he knows the

police can trace him through a product analysis of the household products he purchased, and not just by checking the guns (he specifies that the ones he used would be untraceable).



*Stefano Mele accused himself and several of his wife's lovers, but none of them could be the Monster.*

In the early 1970s, in Italy, "Zodiac" may have thought that without protecting himself in advance, the police would eventually be able to trace him. This covert investigation would have offered him **the opportunity to attack couples** in Florence with greater safety.

Furthermore, it has been seen that a typical Zodiac trait was the pleasure he took in **ridiculing the police** , as FBI profiler Ankrom observes . The diversion would also have given him this satisfaction. Perhaps this is the main reason why he did not get rid of his infamous .22 caliber pistol, which became the **"signature" of his crimes** .

**Bevilacqua** , a 20-year-old career soldier in the army, had **an alibi for the Signa case** , having been abroad in 1968. This would explain **why** he may have **initially been interested** in that crime.

The future director of the American Cemetery in Florence had already been stationed at **Camp Darby** , near Pisa, **for a few years when, on April 1, 1974** , the Mele file (where

cartridge cases and bullets from the Monster would be found years later) was transmitted from the Court of Perugia to the Court of Florence.

Bevilacqua would have had **the time, the ability and the motive** to carry out the diversion.

L'uomo, che nella sua ultima lettera si è firmato «Un cittadino amico»

A citizen

a friend

"A citizen" and "a friend" are the signatures of the last possible letters of "Zodiac" of '74