



GECMUN X

BACKGROUND GUIDE

Crisis 1

The Zodiac Killings

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Last updated on August 30, 2023

Committee Introduction

Welcome to the Zodiac Killings Crisis Committee!

This committee presents a thrilling and captivating simulation that centers around the infamous unsolved case of the Zodiac Killer. In this game, you will assume the role of the primary investigator responsible for uncovering the identity of the Zodiac Killer. However, the zodiac killer will not be working alone. The killer will have other unknown accomplices within the committee that will help him/her hidden.

Your objective is clear: to solve the Zodiac Killings by examining evidence, deciphering cryptic messages, analyzing crime scenes, evaluating suspects, and formulating strategies to prevent future attacks. As the primary investigator, you hold the crucial responsibility of leading the committee's efforts in unmasking the elusive killer.

Within the committee, you will encounter a diverse range of perspectives and approaches. Your four committee members bring their unique expertise and insights to the table. Together, you will engage in intense discussions, collaborate on investigative techniques, and analyze the ever-evolving information related to the Zodiac Killings.

As the primary investigator, you have the authority to draft public directives that guide the committee's actions. These directives will shape the committee's decisions and strategies in the pursuit of justice. However, be aware that the accomplices and the killer are in the committee and will try their best to sabotage the investigation and remain hidden forever.

This committee operates within a dynamic environment, allowing for collaboration, negotiation, and strategic maneuvering. Each member plays a vital role in ensuring the success of the committee's objectives. By leveraging the diverse strengths and expertise of your committee members, you will be able to navigate the complex web of clues and ultimately unmask the Zodiac Killer. Good luck, investigators!

Agenda Introduction

The Zodiac Killings Crisis Committee covers the contemporary murder mystery of "The Zodiac Killer" that happened in the late 1960s. The date is set to August 5th, 1969. Consecutive murders have been reported for the past year in the San Francisco Bay Area. Judging by the fact that the murdered individuals were primarily couples, the police have been suspecting a serial killer that is related to the recorded incidents throughout the past year. It was only 4 days ago when the police were informed by newspaper writers in the Bay Area that they had received a letter that was supposedly from the murderer of mystery.

The letter was by an individual who identified himself as the "Zodiac Killer." In the letter, he verified his identity as a killer by describing two of his past murders. The letter also contained a 340-character ciphered message consisting of symbols arranged in a rectangular shape. The bottom of the cryptic letter page included a doodle symbol resembling the position tolerance symbol (⊕). While the letter has not been decrypted yet, the police believe the decrypted letter will provide information regarding the killer's identity, purpose, and information.

While no further murders have been recorded yet that are suspected to have been done by the Zodiac Killer, the area is in literal dread, as everything about the murderer except the recently-received, undecoded letter still remains a mystery. Throughout the entirety of the conference, the timeline will gradually progress as the Zodiac Killer continues his operation, while the civilians, investigators, and journalists will all cooperate with one hope: to capture the killer.

Letter from the Chairs

"I like killing people because it's so much fun."

- The Zodiac Killer

Dear Delegates,

We are Dorothy Jang, Jihoo Kim, and Joy Kim from Korean International School Jeju. Upon countless careful considerations and months of meticulous planning, we are delighted to introduce ourselves as chairs of the Zodiac Killings Crisis Committee of GECMUN X.

As many of you might have heard of, the Zodiac Killings are a series of cold cases that remain majorly veiled to this day. By incorporating the historical details of this case into our agenda, we wish to revive the thrill through the foundations of a crisis committee. Although the recreation of the case will involve slight changes in logistics and minor details, delegates nevertheless expected to be well-versed on the general background of the Zodiac Killer.

The committee will consist of members from various backgrounds and occupations with the united goal of hunting down the Zodiac Killer and thus guaranteeing a safe America for all. We hope that delegates will be able to display exceptional cunningness to drive themselves step by step towards revealing the answer.

All three Chairs are well-experienced in Crisis committees and thus know what differentiates them from other MUN committees. We will try our very best to accentuate that special spark through our committee and make the Zodiac Killings an unforgettable experience for every single one of you.

Before the conference, we encourage all delegates to take several careful reads over this Chair Report on top of some individual research. This report will guide you through several important details you must know as participants of the committee that cannot be found through general information upon the real case. Above all, don't forget to enjoy yourselves and have confidence in your position!

In case you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any of us.

Wishing all of you the very best,

Director Dorothy Jang (esjang24@kis.ac)

Head Chair Jihoo Kim (jhkim25@kis.ac)

Deputy Chair Joy Kim (joykim26@kis.ac)

Key Terms

Homicide

Homicide is a term in criminology used to describe a situation in which a human kills another human. Homicide can be considered both outside and inside a crime—which in this case, would be defined as murder. If considered the only way to prevent a felony from occurring or if used to protect a representative of the law, homicide can be legally justified and exempted from being considered a crime. The same goes for when it is used as a way of self defense.

Serial Killings

Serial killings often refers to a series of homicides that have consecutively occurred three or times within a short period of time—usually that of a month. These crimes share common characteristics or abnormalities that indicate the possibility that they were committed by the same perpetrator or group.

Cipher

Cipher is a method of translating a message concealed of its true meaning. A cipher usually consists of a transposition or substitution system, which differ depending on whether the original message was rearranged or replaced. The process of translating a cipher proceeds in accordance with a rule defined by a secret key known only to the sender of the message and the intended receiver. Ciphers are one of the key methods the Zodiac Killer uses to toy with the police, so it is something that will appear often throughout the course of the conference.

Communiqué

A communiqué is a French term that defines an officially published piece of news or an announcement that is directed towards the public mostly via newspapers.

Ammunition

By definition, ammunition is a supply or quantity of bullets and shells. Accordingly, ammunition can be referred to in guns as well as explosives. In the context of a crime, types of ammunition are often used as important pieces of evidence to track down whether or not the same person committed multiple consecutive crimes, as well as to track down the identity of the perpetrator as well.

Crime Scene

A crime scene is the place where an offense (a.k.a a crime) has been committed and therefore forensic evidence may be gathered for further investigation. This could be anywhere as long as it can serve as evidence for the investigator.

Caliber

In this context, a caliber refers to the internal diameter or bore of a gun barrel. This is an important component of the gun that can help identify the type of gun as well and also serve as a critical piece of evidence that helps identify the perpetrator.

Historical Background

The Zodiac Killings are a series of consecutive murders primarily targeting couples that have happened around the San Francisco Bay Area, which began a year prior to the current date of August 5, 1969. During this period, several couples fell victim to the Zodiac Killer. While the precise number of killings vary, notable incidents include the murders of David Faraday and Betty Lou Jensen on December 20, 1968, near Lake Herman Road and the murders of Darlene Ferrin and Michael Mageau on July 4, 1969, at Blue Rock Springs Park. The Zodiac Killer's modus operandi primarily focused on attacking couples, leading investigators to suspect a serial killer was at large.

Four days ago, newspaper writers in the Bay Area informed the police about a significant development. They had received a three-page letter, purportedly from the enigmatic murderer. The letter bore the name "Zodiac Killer" and provided a terrifying confirmation of his identity by describing two of his past killings. However, what truly captured the attention of investigators was the inclusion of a cryptic message in the form of a 340-character cipher code, arranged in a rectangular shape. The enigmatic letter concluded with a doodle symbol resembling the position tolerance symbol (\oplus), adding to the enigma.

The origins of the Zodiac Killings crisis lie within the circumstances surrounding the previous year's murders. The victims, predominantly couples, fell prey to the unknown killer, creating a climate of fear and uncertainty within the San Francisco Bay Area. The actions of the parties involved, including the unidentified Zodiac Killer, intensified the problem, leaving law enforcement agencies grappling with a series of unsolved murders and cryptic messages.

Previous attempts to resolve the issue had proven unsuccessful, as the identity and motives of the killer remained elusive. The recent receipt of the letter and the encrypted message raised hopes that it might provide crucial information about the killer's identity, purpose, and intentions. However, the decryption process was yet to yield any concrete results, leaving the investigators eagerly anticipating a breakthrough in their quest to solve the Zodiac Killings.

Current State of Affairs

The Zodiac Killings have plunged the state of California into a state of fear and panic, as the enigmatic serial killer continues to elude law enforcement and sow terror among the public. The Zodiac has been linked to at least five confirmed murders, with several other potential victims yet to be officially connected. Despite extensive investigations by the police and multiple law enforcement agencies, the Zodiac Killer remains at large, striking fear into the hearts of the community. The continuous spree of brutal murders has put immense pressure on the police and investigation authorities, leading to heightened tensions within the law enforcement community. The Zodiac's taunting letters sent to newspapers and cryptic codes have further perplexed authorities, hindering their efforts to apprehend the elusive killer.

Currently, the San Francisco Police Department and the California Department of Justice are collaborating with in an attempt to gather clues and identify potential suspects, even calling on the FBI's expertise in handwriting analysis, cryptanalysis, and fingerprints to aid their investigation. However, the Zodiac's cunning tactics and cryptic messages have made progress slow and challenging. The police have urged the public to come forward with any relevant tips or information that could assist in identifying the Zodiac Killer.

Despite their efforts, the current status quo reveals several inefficiencies in the investigation. The lack of a breakthrough in identifying the Zodiac Killer has resulted in growing public mistrust in law enforcement's ability to apprehend the perpetrator. This has also led to frustration among the victims' families and the broader community, as they seek closure and justice.

With the Zodiac's ability to evade capture and the public's growing concern, the pressure is mounting on the authorities to take more decisive action. The inefficiencies in the current status quo underscore the need for enhanced cooperation between different law enforcement agencies and a more comprehensive strategy to confront this elusive and deadly criminal.

As delegates of the Zodiac Killings Crisis Committee, you must critically assess the current state of affairs and collaborate to develop effective policies and strategies that can lead to the identification and apprehension of the Zodiac Killer. The fate of justice and the safety of the community lie in your hands.

Stances of Parties

Dave Toschi (San Francisco Police Department): Dave Toschi is dedicated to bringing the Zodiac Killer to justice. He believes that by pooling resources and intelligence from multiple agencies, they can enhance the investigation's efficiency and increase the chances of capturing the elusive killer.

Bill Armstrong (Vallejo Police Department): Bill Armstrong, having worked on the Zodiac case, is committed to maintaining cooperation between different law enforcement agencies. He advocates for a comprehensive and coordinated effort to investigate all leads and evidence related to the Zodiac Killings.

Ken Narlow (Napa County Sheriff's Office): Ken Narlow is focused on thoroughly investigating the Lake Berryessa attack. He believes in analyzing the crime scene and cryptic messages with precision, hoping to gain insights that might lead to the Zodiac Killer's identity.

Jack Mulanax (Napa County Sheriff's Office): Jack Mulanax shares a similar perspective with Ken Narlow, emphasizing the importance of meticulous investigation and evidence analysis in solving the Zodiac Killings.

Harvey Hines (Detective): Harvey Hines supports comprehensive data analysis and surveillance techniques in the investigation. He believes advanced technology and codebreaking experts like Evelyn Blakewood and Alexander Crosswell can play a pivotal role in deciphering the Zodiac's cryptic messages.

Barry Brown (Fictional FBI Agent): Barry Brown takes a data-driven approach, utilizing technology and statistical analysis to identify patterns and potential connections between Zodiac killings.

James DeBaune (Fictional FBI Agent): James DeBaune emphasizes the significance of psychological profiling and understanding the Zodiac Killer's motives and patterns of behavior to devise effective investigative strategies.

Bill Baker (Sheriff): Sheriff Bill Baker prioritizes restoring public trust in law enforcement and ensuring that innocent individuals are not unjustly targeted during the investigation.

Evelyn Blakewood (Fictional Cryptologist): Evelyn Blakewood relies on traditional cryptographic methods and manual code-breaking techniques to decipher the Zodiac Killer's cryptic messages. She brings her extensive knowledge of historical ciphers and pattern analysis to the investigation, aiming to uncover hidden meanings and potential leads.

Alexander Crosswell (Fictional Cryptologist): Alexander Crosswell specializes in classical cryptography and decryption methods commonly used in the 1970s. He focuses on applying frequency analysis, substitution ciphers, and other well-established techniques to crack the Zodiac's codes and provide valuable insights to the committee.

Michael Mageau (Survivor): Michael Mageau is determined to help law enforcement in any way possible to catch the Zodiac Killer. Having survived a terrifying encounter, he is haunted by the experience and seeks closure and justice for the victims and their families. He cooperates fully with investigators, sharing every detail he can remember about the attacker, hoping it will lead to the killer's capture.

Bryan Hartnell (Survivor): Bryan Hartnell is committed to supporting the investigation by providing accurate and detailed information about his encounter with the Zodiac Killer. While traumatized by the attack, Bryan remains resilient and hopeful that his account can aid in identifying the perpetrator and preventing further crimes. He emphasizes the need for collaboration between survivors, law enforcement, and codebreakers to solve the case.

Earl Van Best Jr. (Suspect): Earl Van Best Jr. maintains his innocence and denies any involvement in the Zodiac Killings. He vehemently rejects the allegations against him and contends that he has been wrongly accused due to mistaken identity or circumstantial evidence. Earl advocates for a thorough investigation that explores alternative leads and suspects to find the true Zodiac Killer.

Arthur Leigh Allen (Suspect): Arthur Leigh Allen insists that he is innocent of the Zodiac Killings. Despite being a prime suspect at one point, he argues that the evidence against him is circumstantial and that he has been unfairly targeted by investigators. Arthur is vocal about his rights as a citizen and demands a fair and unbiased inquiry into the case.

Raymond Davis (Suspect): Raymond Davis is cooperative with law enforcement, acknowledging that he was considered a suspect in the Zodiac Killings. While he maintains his innocence, he acknowledges that investigators have a duty to thoroughly examine all potential leads. Raymond expresses hope that the true killer will be apprehended and that justice will be served.

Lawrence Kaye (Suspect): Lawrence Kaye denies any involvement in the Zodiac Killings. He is open to assisting investigators by providing information about his whereabouts during the time of the crimes. Lawrence seeks transparency in the investigation process and urges law enforcement to explore other avenues to find the perpetrator.

Gary Francis Poste (Suspect): Gary Francis Poste asserts that he has no connection to the Zodiac Killings. He is willing to cooperate with investigators and provide any relevant information about his activities during the time of the murders. Gary emphasizes the need for a thorough and unbiased investigation to find the true culprit.

Paul Avery: As a seasoned journalist, Paul Avery is committed to uncovering the truth behind the Zodiac Killings. He aims to present accurate and unbiased information to the public, keeping them informed about the investigation's progress and any potential breakthroughs. Paul is dedicated to maintaining the integrity of his reporting and avoiding sensationalism, focusing on facts and evidence to provide comprehensive coverage of the case.

Susan Mustafa: Susan Mustafa is deeply invested in the human aspect of the Zodiac Killings. She seeks to tell the personal stories of survivors, victims' families, and the impact the killings have had on the community. Susan's reporting style emphasizes empathy and compassion, allowing readers to connect emotionally with the people affected by the crimes. She is also interested in exploring the psychology behind the killer's motives and how it has shaped the investigation.

Robert Graysmith: Robert Graysmith is a passionate and relentless investigator-journalist. He is determined to go beyond the surface-level facts and delve into the intricate details of the Zodiac Killings. Robert is known for his in-depth research and pursuit of new leads, often independently investigating the case beyond official channels. His reporting focuses on potential suspects, the Zodiac's cryptic messages, and any overlooked evidence that might aid in identifying the killer.

Scott Newhall: Scott Newhall is a dedicated editor and journalist, committed to keeping the Zodiac Killings in the public spotlight. He emphasizes the importance of public cooperation and support for law enforcement efforts. Scott's reporting style is informative yet engaging, aiming to mobilize the community to contribute any valuable information that might lead to the killer's capture. He often writes editorials urging readers to remain vigilant and actively participate in solving the case.

Donald Harden: Donald Harden has been a teacher in North Salinas High School since 1960. During his high school years, Harden learned and experienced deciphering cryptic messages. When he heard the news of a mysterious killer who sent cryptic messages to the public, Harden committed and decided to cooperate with his wife to solve the cipher - the code that even the most bright-minded individuals are struggling to solve at the current state.

Possible Solutions

Solution #1: Strengthening Community Policing

One possible solution for the police in combating the Zodiac Killings is to adopt a community policing approach. By building strong relationships and trust with the local communities, law enforcement can gain valuable insights and information from residents who may be more inclined to share vital clues or suspicious activities. Community policing fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility among civilians, making them active participants in crime prevention efforts. For example, organizing regular town hall meetings, neighborhood watch programs, and community outreach events can help bridge the gap between the police and the public.

Solution #2: Utilizing Cryptography and Codebreaking

Civilians involved in the investigation can contribute significantly by utilizing their expertise in cryptography and codebreaking to decipher the Zodiac's cryptic messages. Cryptographers and puzzle enthusiasts can collaborate with law enforcement, sharing their insights and analyses of the Zodiac's communications. By working together, they may be able to unravel hidden meanings or patterns within the Zodiac's letters, leading to potential breakthroughs in identifying the killer. Engaging the public in this manner empowers citizens and demonstrates that collective intelligence can be a formidable asset in the pursuit of justice.

Solution #3: Psychological Profiling

The Zodiac Killer and his/her helpers may try to outwit the investigators by carefully concealing their motives and identities. To counter this, they could employ psychological profiling to assess the behavior, motives, and characteristics of the Zodiac Killer. By understanding the criminal's mindset, they may gain insights into potential triggers or patterns that could assist in narrowing down the list of suspects. This approach requires a deep understanding of criminal psychology and a willingness to step into the mind of the perpetrator.

Solution #4: Media Strategy

Civilians involved in the case can leverage media to garner public attention and create awareness about the Zodiac Killings. They could collaborate with journalists and media outlets to highlight the urgency of solving the case, encouraging witnesses to come forward and share crucial information. Employing a strategic media campaign can not only put pressure on the Zodiac Killer but also engage the

public in a collective effort to assist law enforcement. However, caution must be exercised to ensure that sensitive information is not inadvertently leaked, compromising the investigation.

Solution #5: Intelligence Gathering and Data Analysis

The government officials can prioritize intelligence gathering and data analysis to track patterns, identify potential suspects, and uncover hidden connections within the Zodiac Killings. By pooling resources from various law enforcement agencies and utilizing advanced technology, the government can create a comprehensive database to centralize information related to the case. This data-driven approach can facilitate cross-referencing of clues and evidence, enhancing the efficiency of the investigation. Emphasizing on accurate data collection and analysis can aid the government in developing evidence-based strategies to apprehend the Zodiac Killer and his/her helpers.

Solution #6: Disinformation Campaign (Zodiac Killer)

The Zodiac Killer and his/her accomplices could deploy a well-orchestrated disinformation campaign to mislead law enforcement and divert attention from their true identities and activities. By strategically disseminating false leads, creating fake evidence, and planting misleading clues, they could create confusion and chaos within the investigation. For instance, they might anonymously send cryptic letters to media outlets and law enforcement agencies, containing misleading information about the Zodiac's motives, targets, or locations of future attacks. Additionally, they could fabricate evidence at crime scenes, making it appear as if the crimes were committed by copycats or unrelated individuals.

Questions to Consider

For Government/Police Agency:

- How can the government optimize resource allocation to combat the Zodiac Killings and achieve successful outcomes in apprehending the killer?
- What measures can the government implement to foster collaboration and information sharing among different law enforcement agencies, expediting the investigation process?
- How can the government utilize advanced technology, like data analysis and surveillance, to aid the investigation while safeguarding individual privacy rights?
- What strategies can the government employ to rebuild public trust in law enforcement and restore confidence in their ability to protect citizens from serial killers like the Zodiac?
- How can the government proactively address potential backlash or public outcry if innocent individuals are inadvertently targeted or due process rights are violated during the Zodiac Killings investigation?

For Civilians Involved:

- How can codebreaking experts contribute to the Zodiac Killings investigation while safeguarding their personal safety from potential threats posed by the killer?
- What steps should civilians take to responsibly share information with law enforcement, ensuring collaboration without interfering with official investigations or compromising sensitive data?
- How can civilians utilize media platforms to raise awareness about the Zodiac Killings without inadvertently spreading disinformation or causing unnecessary panic among the public?
- What ethical considerations should civilians keep in mind when deciphering the Zodiac's cryptic messages, especially if the messages may contain clues about future crimes?
- How can civilians involved in the investigation strike a balance between pursuing justice and protecting themselves and their loved ones from potential risks or harm?

For the Zodiac Killer and Their Accomplices:

- How can the Zodiac Killer and accomplices effectively coordinate and communicate to continue criminal activities while evading law enforcement capture?
- What strategies can the Zodiac Killer use to mislead investigators through false leads and disinformation, creating confusion and hindering progress in the investigation?

- How can the Zodiac Killer and accomplices avoid detection while planning and executing future attacks, despite increased public awareness and law enforcement scrutiny?
- What psychological tactics might the Zodiac Killer employ to instill fear and panic within the community, complicating the investigation and obstructing cooperation between law enforcement and civilians?
- How could the Zodiac Killer and accomplices take advantage of potential divisions or disagreements among committee delegates to further their ability to evade justice?

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