

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
FOI/PA# 1372462-0

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TO FBI WMFO/IMMEDIATE/

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UNCLAS

SECTION 1 OF 2

CITE: //0607//

PASS: SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT (SSA) [REDACTED] SQUAD C-4,

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN FIELD OFFICE (WMFO); SSA [REDACTED]

SQUAD C-4, MIAMI DIVISION; AND SENIOR SUPERVISORY RESIDENT AGENT

(SSRA) [REDACTED] WEST PALM BEACH RESIDENT AGENCY, MIAMI

DIVISION.

SUBJECT: ~~"FINDERS"~~ GROUP; WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT - SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PRELIMINARY  
INQUIRY; OO: WMFO.

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FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

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RE FBIHQ FACSIMILE TO MIAMI SSA [REDACTED] DATED 10/27/93  
AND TO MIAMI SSRA [REDACTED] DATED 10/28/93; AND FBIHQ SSA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] TEL CALL WITH WMFO SSA [REDACTED] ON 10/29/93.

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THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) HAS REQUESTED THE FBI  
CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS MADE BY [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE BY A GROUP KNOWN AS  
THE "FINDERS," AND WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, WAS PLAYED BY THE UNITED  
STATES INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

BY SEPARATE COMMUNICATION, WMFO WILL BE PROVIDED AVAILABLE  
DOCUMENTATION RECEIVED TO DATE FROM DOJ, CONCERNING [REDACTED]  
ALLEGATIONS. UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE (USCS) SA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] USCS HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D.C. [REDACTED]  
ALSO POSSESSES DOCUMENTATION CONCERNING "FINDERS" WHICH IS TO BE  
OBTAINED BY WMFO.

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THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS BEING PROVIDED AS BACKGROUND IN  
THIS MATTER FOR WMFO AND MIAMI:

IN 1987, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] WERE  
CONVICTED OF SEXUALLY ABUSING CHILDREN. ONE OF THE CHILDREN WHO  
ATTENDED THE SCHOOL DURING THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED SEXUAL ABUSE  
WAS THE [REDACTED] DOING BUSINESS AS  
~~[REDACTED]~~

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] AFTER THE IMPOSITION OF PRISON SENTENCES ON  
BOTH [REDACTED] BECAME CONVINCED THAT NUMEROUS  
OTHER CHILDREN HAD BEEN ABUSED AND THAT THE ABUSE WAS PART OF A  
LARGE, WELL ORGANIZED SCHEME. SUBSEQUENTLY, [REDACTED] HAS  
ATTEMPTED TO INTEREST CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS AND THE USCS IN HIS  
EFFORTS TO ENHANCE EFFORTS IN THE AREA OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND  
INVESTIGATING CLAIMS OF ORGANIZED SEXUAL ABUSE.

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DURING OCTOBER 1993, [REDACTED] MET WITH UNITED STATES  
CONGRESSMAN ROSE (FLORIDA) TO DISCUSS ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING A  
GROUP KNOWN AS "FINDERS." BOTH CONGRESSMAN ROSE AND [REDACTED]  
SUBSEQUENTLY PROVIDED INFORMATION CONCERNING THESE ALLEGATIONS TO  
DOJ.

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AN FBIHQ INDICES SEARCH REVEALED A REFERENCE TO "FINDERS" IN  
FBIHQ FILE 7-HQ-20191. A REVIEW OF THIS FILE INDICATED THAT FBI  
JACKSONVILLE (JACKSONVILLE FILE 7-1248) AND FBI WMFO (WMFO FILE  
7-1685) HAD CONDUCTED INVESTIGATION RESULTING FROM AN ARREST OF  
TWO INDIVIDUALS IN TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA, IN 1987.

ON 2/4/87, [REDACTED]  
WERE ARRESTED BY THE TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT (TPD) ON

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MISDEMEANOR CHILD ABUSE CHARGES RESULTING FROM A COMPLAINT THAT SIX CHILDREN PLAYING IN A PARK WERE UNKEPT AND NEGLECTED,

[REDACTED] THE TWO SUBJECTS WITH THE CHILDREN, COULD NOT INITIALLY PROVIDE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION AS TO THEIR LEGAL CUSTODY OF THE CHILDREN AND WERE UNCOOPERATIVE REGARDING THEIR IDENTITY AND THE CHILDREN'S IDENTITY. AS A RESULT OF INFORMATION DEVELOPED DURING THESE ARRESTS, THE TPD CONTACTED THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD), WASHINGTON, D.C., AND PROVIDED INFORMATION CONCERNING [REDACTED] AND THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH A GROUP KNOWN AS "FINDERS," BASED IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON 2/5/87, THE MPD EXECUTED SEARCH WARRANTS, PREPARED BY THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON, D.C., ON TWO PROPERTIES OWNED BY THE "FINDERS" IN WASHINGTON, D.C. SPECIAL AGENT (SA) [REDACTED] USCS, PARTICIPATED IN THESE SEARCHES.

A JOINT INVESTIGATION, CONDUCTED BY THE MPD AND WMFO, LEAD TO THE IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVIEW OF THE MOTHERS OF THE SIX CHILDREN, TWO OF THE FATHERS, AND SEVERAL OTHER KEY MEMBERS OF THE "FINDERS" GROUP. ON 2/18/87, WMFO PRESENTED THE RESULTS OF THEIR INVESTIGATION TO ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF

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COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON, D.C., WHO DECLINED PROSECUTION FOR VIOLATION OF TITLE 18, U.S. CODE, SECTION 1201 (KIDNAPING) AND 2251 (SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN). WMFO SA [REDACTED] WAS THE WMFO CASE AGENT IN THIS MATTER.

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DOJ REVIEW OF USCS DOCUMENTS INDICATES THAT DURING THE EXECUTION OF THE SEARCH WARRANTS BY THE MPD AT THE TWO "FINDERS" PROPERTIES, USCS SA [REDACTED] CLAIMS TO HAVE OBSERVED A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AND DOCUMENTS PURPORTEDLY CONTAINING INSTRUCTIONS FOR OBTAINING CHILDREN FOR UNSPECIFIED PURPOSES. THE INSTRUCTIONS ALLEGEDLY INCLUDED THE IMPREGNATION OF FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, PURCHASING CHILDREN, TRADING CHILDREN AND KIDNAPING THEM. [REDACTED] CLAIMS

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[REDACTED] HAS ALLEGED THAT THE FINDERS ARE INVOLVED IN A WELL ORGANIZED CHILD ABUSE SCHEME, AND THAT [REDACTED] IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AND THE FBI'S FOREIGN COUNTERINTELLIGENCE SECTION, CONSPIRED TO COVER UP THOSE ABUSES.

USCS SA [REDACTED] SHOULD BE CONTACTED BY WMFO TO OBTAIN COMPLETE USCS DOCUMENTATION CONCERNING "FINDER,S" INVESTIGATION BY WMFO IN THIS MATTER WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] AND THE REVIEW OF ANY DOCUMENTATION IN THE POSSESSION OF [REDACTED] THE STATE DEPARTMENT PASSPORT OFFICE, AND THE FOREIGN COUNTERINTELLIGENCE DIVISION, FBIHQ.

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SECTION 2 OF 2

LITE: //060777

PASS: SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT (SSA) [REDACTED] SQUAD C-4,

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN FIELD OFFICE (WMFO); SSA [REDACTED]

SQUAD C-4, MIAMI DIVISION; AND SENIOR SUPERVISORY RESIDENT AGENT

(SSRA) [REDACTED] WEST PALM BEACH RESIDENT AGENCY, MIAMI

DIVISION.

SUBJECT: "FINDERS" GROUP; WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT - SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PRELIMINARY  
INQUIRY; OO: WMFO.

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IT IS NOTED THAT A MEMBER OF CONGRESS HAS INDICATED TO THE DOJ THAT [REDACTED] DUE TO THE "FINDERS" INVESTIGATION.

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INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE CONDUCTED PROMPTLY IN THIS MATTER AND WMFO WILL SUBMIT RESULTS BY TELETYPE TO THE VIOLENT CRIMES/FUGITIVES UNIT, VIOLENT CRIMES AND MAJOR OFFENDERS SECTION, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION.

LEADS:

MIAMI DIVISION

AT STUART, FLORIDA

WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW [REDACTED],

DOING BUSINESS AS [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] AND OBTAIN ANY RELEVANT MATERIAL IN HIS POSSESSION CONCERNING "FINDERS."

WMFO

AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

1. WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW USCS SA [REDACTED]

2. WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW USCS SA [REDACTED]

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WASHINGTON, D.C., TP# [REDACTED] TO OBTAIN USCS DOCUMENTATION RELATING TO "FINDERS."

3. WILL INTERVIEW WMFO SA [REDACTED] TO OBTAIN DETAILS

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OF THE WMFO INVESTIGATION PERTAINING TO "FINDERS."

4. WILL REVIEW AVAILABLE DOCUMENTATION CONCERNING "FINDERS"  
FROM [REDACTED] STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICE AND THE FOREIGN  
COUNTERINTELLIGENCE DIVISION, FBIHQ.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

PAGE 9

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

BY MEMORANDUM DATED 10/26/93, FROM ACTING ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN C. KEENEY, CRIMINAL DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LARRY A. POTTS, THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REQUESTED THAT THE FBI CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS MADE BY [REDACTED] CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE BY A GROUP KNOWN AS THE "FINDERS," AND WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, WAS PLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. THIS COMMUNICATION DESIGNATES WMFO AS OFFICE OF ORIGIN AND SETS SPECIFICS LEADS CONCERNING THE INVESTIGATION OF THIS PRELIMINARY INQUIRY.

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ON 11/2/93 THIS MATTER WAS COORDINATED WITH UNIT CHIEF [REDACTED] OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (OPR), FBIHQ, WHO OPINED THAT ABSENT ADDITIONAL FACTS BEING DEVELOPED, THERE IS NO OPR ISSUE INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER.

Drafted By: DRW:RDT      Room/TL #: 5042      Phone No: 4294

COPY DESIGNATIONS:

- 1 - [REDACTED]
- 1 - [REDACTED]
- ① - [REDACTED]

1 - TICKLER

## Memorandum



*[Handwritten signature]*  
To : SAC, WMFO (31-WF-189911)

Date 07/01/96

From : SAC, MIAMI

Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP  
(Title)

RUC  
 File Destruction Program

Enclosed are 2 items.

These items are forwarded to your office since file meets criteria for destruction.

Enclosures are described as follows:

- Original Notes.
- Original FD-302's.
- Laboratory and/or Technical Support.
- Miscellaneous Documents.

Enc. 2

NOTE: DO NOT BLOCK STAMP ORIGINAL ENCLOSURES.



(Title) Finders Group

(File No.) 31C-WF-189911\*

Item	Date Filed	To be returned		Disposition
		Yes	No	
1	11/9/93		X	Disc. notes
2	11/15		"	" "
3	"		"	" "
4	11/23		"	" "
5	6/17/94		"	" "
6	"		"	" "
7	"		"	" "
8	"		"	" "
9	"		"	" "
10	"		"	" "
11	"		"	" "
12	"		"	Notes by [redacted] re: '87 investigation

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31C-WF-189911-1A  
NOV 09 1993  
FBI-WASH FIELD OFFICE

FD-340 (Rev. 8-18-89)

Universal File Case Number 310-WF-189911-1A-1

Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMFO

Serial # of Originating Document \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received 11/05/93

From \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City and State)

By SA [Redacted] (C-4)  
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned  Yes  No

Receipt Given  Yes  No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)

Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

Yes  No

Title: FINDERS

Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description:  Original notes re interview of

SA [Redacted] - Previous case Agent

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FD-340 (Rev. 8-18-89)

Universal File Case Number 31C-WF-189911-1A-2

Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMFO

Serial # of Originating Document \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received 11/5/93

From \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City and State)

By SA  (C-4)  
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned  Yes  No

Receipt Given  Yes  No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)

Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure  
 Yes  No

Title:

Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description:  Original notes re interview of  
 MPD

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FD-340 (Rev. 8-18-89)

Universal File Case Number 310-WF-169911-1A3

Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMFO

Serial # of Originating Document \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received 11/12/93

From \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City and State)

By SA  (C-4)  
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned  Yes  No

Receipt Given  Yes  No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)

Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure  
 Yes  No

Title:

Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description:  Original notes re interview of  
 USCS

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FD-340 (Rev. 8-18-89)

Universal File Case Number 310-WF-189911-1A4

Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMPD

Serial # of Originating Document \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received 11/8/93

From \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City and State)

By SA [Redacted] (C-4)  
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned  Yes  No

Receipt Given  Yes  No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)

Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure  
 Yes  No

Title:

Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description:  Original notes re interview of

[Redacted]

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FD-340 (Rev. 8-18-89)

Universal File Case Number 31C-WF-189911-1A5

Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMFO

Serial # of Originating Document \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received 1/11/94

From \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City and State)

By SA [Redacted] (C.A.)  
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned  Yes  No

Receipt Given  Yes  No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)

Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure  
 Yes  No

Title:

Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description:  Original notes re interview of  
Red! MPD [Redacted]

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FD-340 (Rev. 8-18-89)

Universal File Case Number 31C-WF-189911-1A-6

Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMFO

Serial # of Originating Document \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City and State)

By SA [Redacted] (C-4)  
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned  Yes  No

Receipt Given  Yes  No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)

Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

Yes  No

Title:

Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description:  Original notes re interview of

[Redacted]

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FD-340 (Rev. 8-18-89)

Universal File Case Number 31C-WF-189911-1A-7

Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMEU

Serial # of Originating Document \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received 5/13/94, 5/17/94, and 5/24/94

From \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City and State)

By SA [Redacted] (C.H.)  
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned  Yes  No

Receipt Given  Yes  No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)  
Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

Yes  No

Title:

Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description:  Original notes re interview of  
[Redacted] CONCERNING Name of C/S

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FD-340 (Rev. 8-18-89)

Universal File Case Number 31C-WF-189911-A9

Field Office Acquiring Evidence \_\_\_\_\_

Serial # of Originating Document \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received 1/3/94

From SA [Redacted]  
(Name of Contributor)

[Redacted]  
(Address of Contributor)

El Centro, CA  
(City and State)

By SA [Redacted]  
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned  Yes  No

Receipt Given  Yes  No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)

Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

Yes  No

Title:

Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description:  Original notes re interview of

[Redacted]

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FD-340 (Rev.8-18-89)

Universal File Case Number 310-WF-189911-1A10

Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMPD

Serial # of Originating Document \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received 12/20/93

From \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City and State)

By SA  (C-A)  
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned  Yes  No

Receipt Given  Yes  No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)  
Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

Yes  No

Title: "Funders Group"

Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description:  Original notes re interview of

AT USCS HQ

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FD-340 (Rev.8-18-89)

Universal File Case Number 31 C-WF-189911-47A

Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMFO

Serial # of Originating Document \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City and State)

By SA  (C-4)  
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned  Yes  No

Receipt Given  Yes  No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)

Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure  
 Yes  No

Title: "FINDERS" GROUP

Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description:  Original notes re interview of  
 12/21/93

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FD-340 (Rev. 8-18-89)

Universal File Case Number 31C-WF-109911 WA-12

Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMFO

Serial # of Originating Document \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received 12/20/93

From   
(Name of Contributor)

USCS, HQ, 1301 CONSTITUTION AVE, NW  
(Address of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City and State)

By SA  (C-4)  
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned  Yes  No

Receipt Given  Yes  No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)

Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure  
 Yes  No

Title: "FINDERS" GROUP

Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description:  Original notes re interview of  
Photocopies of notes made by  his  
1987 investigation of the FINDERS  
Photocopies of  memos to file on FINDERS

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(Title) \_\_\_\_\_

(File No.) \_\_\_\_\_

Item	Date Filed	To be returned		Disposition
		Yes	No	
1	3/1/91	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Original Notes RE: [redacted]
1A(2)	3/3/91	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		orig notes re mtg [redacted]

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31C-WF-18991-1A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED MP	FILED MP
FEB 28 1994	
FBI-N. MIAMI OFFICE	

SKL

Universal File Case Number 31 C WF 189911 - 1A<sup>1</sup>

Field Office Acquiring Evidence \_\_\_\_\_

Serial # of Originating Document \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received 1-26-94

From \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City and State)

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned  Yes  No

Receipt Given  Yes  No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)

Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure  
 Yes  No

Title:

Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description:  Original notes re interview of

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Universal File Case Number 31c WF 189911-1A(2)

Field Office Acquiring Evidence \_\_\_\_\_

Serial # of Originating Document \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received 11-15-93

From \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City and State)

By \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Special Agent)

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b7C

To Be Returned  Yes  No

Receipt Given  Yes  No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)

Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure  
 Yes  No

Title:

Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description:  Original notes re interview of

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# FBI FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN FIELD OFFICE  
SQUAD C-4 (202) 252-7844

### PRECEDENCE

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

### CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Sensitive
- Unclassified

Time Transmitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sender's Initials: MM  
 Number of Pages: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Including Cover Page)

To: FBI HQ  
 (Name of Office)

Date: 11/3/93

Facsimile Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Attn: SSA \_\_\_\_\_, VCH, CID  
 (Name Room Telephone)

From: SAC, WMFO  
 (Name of Office)

Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP  
WSTA - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;  
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - P.I  
OO: WMFO

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Special Handling Instructions: PLS HAND CARRY TO SSA \_\_\_\_\_  
ATTACHED IS A MEMO LOCATED IN THE WMFO FILE ON FINDERS DEALING  
WITH THE STATEMENT / MEMO OF CUSTOMS AGENT \_\_\_\_\_ FOR YOUR  
INFORMATION.

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Originator's Name: SA \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Originator's Facsimile Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: MM

310-WF-189911-2

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 03 1993	
FBI-WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

Confirmed by telcal w/SSA \_\_\_\_\_  
 Receipt of fax on 11/3/93 at 1015hr. MM



MEMORANDUM

TO: SAC, WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE  
(7-1685) (P) (C-4)

DATE: 3/9/87

FROM: SA [redacted]

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SUBJECT: [redacted]  
KIDNAPPING  
OO:WFO

On 2/18/87, [redacted] NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN (NCMEC), 1835 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. (WDC), Suite 700, provided the writer with the attached memorandum. [redacted] related she had received the memorandum from [redacted] CUSTOMS, WDC.

A review of the memorandum reflects obvious [redacted] observed and what was infact recovered by the METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD) during the execution of search warrants at [redacted]

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[redacted]

On 2/28/87, this memorandum was brought to the attention of [redacted] MPD, the [redacted] handling captioned matter for MPD. [redacted] advised the writer that a thorough review of all evidence obtained at the two aforementioned

② WFO

AV:rlw  
(2)

N ⊕

7-1685 - 56

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 09 1987	
FBI - WASH FIELD OFFICE	

locations did not produce any of the items described in the examples cited above by [redacted] advised no evidence of child sexual exploitation, kidnapping or any related crimes was obtained, and that there were no computerized lists ordering children. A copy of the memorandum was provided to [redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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[redacted]

Memorandum



To : SAC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P)

Date 11/4/93

From : SA [redacted] (C-4)

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Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP;  
WSTA - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;  
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PI;  
OO: WMFO

Attached to this memo is material provided to WMFO by FBIHQ, CID, VCU at a 11/02/93 meeting concerning captioned matter held at FBIHQ. The following individuals were present at this meeting:

SSA [redacted] FBIHQ  
SSA [redacted] FBIHQ  
SSA [redacted] WMFO  
SA [redacted] WMFO

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SSA [redacted] indicated that this investigation was to be a preliminary inquiry focusing primarily on the "FINDERS" Group. SSA [redacted] stated that he, or another FBIHQ representative would arrange for review of files/documents in the possession of the [redacted] State Department, and Intelligence Division FBIHQ, and advise WMFO accordingly.

*Info*  
*[Signature]*

INDEX  
~~ALL INFORMATION~~  
*M.C.*

2-WMFO  
MDC:mdc

*[Signature]*

31C-WF-189911-3  
SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ FILED \_\_\_\_\_  
NOV 04 1993  
FBI-WASH. FIELD OFFICE

11/2/93

To: Unit Chief [redacted]

From: SSA [redacted]

Subject: "Finders" - Preliminary Inquiry

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On 11/2/93, met with SSA [redacted] Division 5 Special Staff(ext 3951, Room 4127) and SSA [redacted] Office of Liaison and International Affairs (OLIA, ext 4634), FBIHQ who is the FBIHQ liaison with the State Department. I had previously provided [redacted]

[redacted] with a packet of documents concerning the "Finders" preliminary Inquiry. The three of them will determine the best manner to request the records checks by [redacted] DOS for "Finders."

[redacted] will conduct a search of Division 5 records to determine if there is any documentation concerning "Finders."

11/1/93

PRELIMINARY INQUIRY - ALLEGATIONS  
OF ORGANIZED CHILD ABUSE BY A GROUP KNOWN AS "FINDERS"

♦ On 11/1/93, a representative from the Violent Crimes Unit (VCU), Violent Crimes and Major Offenders Section, Criminal Investigative Division (CID), prepared a packet of documents received to date in this matter for review by WMFO.

♦ On 11/1/93, a representative from the VCU contacted WMFO SSA [redacted] and scheduled a meeting between representatives of the Violent Crimes Unit, SSA [redacted] and the WMFO case Agent on 11/2/93.

♦ On 11/1/93, a representative from the VCU met with FBIHQ Office of Liaison and International Affairs SSA [redacted] (State Department liaison) and SSA [redacted] to discuss DOJ's request that the FBI review documents from the State Department Passport Office (DOS) and the [redacted] [redacted] pertaining to "Finders." It is noted that the DOJ requested that an FBI Agent "review relevant documents firsthand, from the relevant intelligence agencies, as opposed to having to rely on the agency's summaries or review..."

During a meeting at DOJ with Section Chief Bergasser and DOJ Attorney [redacted] on 10/28/93, it was pointed out that a written request from the FBI or DOJ would be required before any records could be obtained from DOS [redacted] for review by the FBI. During that meeting, Mr. Bergasser requested that the FBI prepare a communication to [redacted] DOS and let him review it before it was sent to those agencies.

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10/29/93

PRELIMINARY INQUIRY - ALLEGATIONS  
OF ORGANIZED CHILD ABUSE BY A GROUP KNOWN AS "FINDERS"

♦ On 10/28/93, a representative of the Violent Crimes Unit met with George Bergasser, Section Chief, and Attorney [redacted] [redacted] Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Department of Justice. Bergasser noted that DOJ had received a three-ring binder from Special Agent [redacted] U.S. Customs Service (USCS). This binder contains USCS briefing material on "Finders." They requested that the FBI contact USCS to obtain a copy of the material contained in the three ring binder.

Bergasser noted that in 1987, in Stuart, Florida, a

[redacted]

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Bergasser noted that during October 1993, [redacted] met with United States Congressman Rose (Florida) to discuss allegations concerning a group known as "Finders". Both Congressman Rose and [redacted] concerning these allegations to DOJ. He is concerned that several Congressional subcommittees may be looking at the "Finders" matter and that the TV documentary "48 Hours" plans to air a segment on it.

[redacted]

[redacted]

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◆ On 10/28/93, an FBIHQ indices search revealed a reference to "Finders" in FBIHQ file 7-HQ-20191. On 10/29/93, a review of this file indicated that FBI, Jacksonville (Jacksonville file 7-1248) and FBI, WMFO (WMFO file 7-1685) had conducted investigation resulting from an arrest of two individuals in Tallahassee, Florida in 1987.

File review of 7-HQ-20191 indicated that a joint investigation, conducted by the MPD and WMFO, lead to the identification and interview of the mothers of the six children, two of the fathers, and several other key members of the "finders" group. On 2/18/87, WMFO presented the results of their investigation to Assistant United States Attorney [redacted] [redacted] United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C., who declined prosecution for violation of title 18, U.S. Code, Section 1201 (kidnaping) and 2251 (sexual exploitation of children). WMFO SA [redacted] was the WMFO case agent in this matter.

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◆ On 10/29/93, the information obtained at DOJ was discussed with WMFO SSA [redacted] and Miami SSRA [redacted] West Palm Beach RA, and a teletype was prepared designating WMFO as Office of Origin in this matter.

10/28/93

PRELIMINARY INQUIRY - ALLEGATIONS  
OF ORGANIZED CHILD ABUSE BY A GROUP KNOWN AS "FINDERS"

♦ On 10/27/93, an indices check by the Strategic Information and Operations Center (SIOC) identified four FBIHQ files (7-20191, 9-67521, 62-119517, and 66-19075) as having references to "Finders", and three FBIHQ files (87-0 serials 15124, page 1, and serial 15140; 157-370 and 157-1552) containing references to [redacted]. There were no references to [redacted]. [redacted] These files have been obtained and will be reviewed by the Violent Crimes Unit.

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♦ On 10/27/93, SIOC identified 16 articles in the Lexis-Nexis data base concerning "Finders". These articles indicate that on 2/4/87, the Tallahassee Police Department, Tallahassee, Florida conducted a traffic stop on a van containing two men and six small children. The two men were arrested and were each charged with one count of child abuse.

♦ On 10/27/93, a lead was sent to the Miami Division to locate and interview [redacted]. The case Agent has known [redacted] for approximately 15 years and will contact him 10/28/93 to schedule the interview with him.

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♦ On 10/28/93, the Correspondence Unit, FBIHQ advised that they had no reference in their files concerning "Finders" nor [redacted].

♦ On 10/28/93, FBIHQ OLIA was contacted concerning the review of [redacted] State Department Office files pertaining to Finders. A written request in LHM format will be prepared to obtain this information.

♦ On 10/28/93, Jacksonville (JK) SSA [redacted] advised that JK was involved in an investigation with the group known as the "Finders" in 1987. This case involved the recovery of six children in Tallahassee, Florida who were traveling in a van with two grown males not related to them. The FBI had participated in the arrest of these two individuals who were each charged locally with one count of child abuse. SA [redacted] advised that many allegations had been made regarding sexual abuse in this case, but none were proven. It appears that there was parental consent for the children to travel with these individuals. The children were subsequently returned to their parents and the subjects spent about ten days in the local jail and released. This investigation was conducted primarily by local authorities.

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♦ On 10/28/93, [redacted] National Center for Missing & Exploited Children was interviewed concerning "Finders" and the two searches conducted in 1987 at the two Finders properties in Washington, D.C.



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[redacted]  
[redacted]  
subsequent to the Tallahassee Police Department (TPD) making the traffic stop of the van, the TPD determined that these two men belonged to a group known as the Finders based in Washington, D.C.. As a result of information developed by the TPD during the traffic stop, the TPD contacted the Washington Metropolitan Police Department (WMPD). The WMPD developed information that was subsequently utilized to obtain a search warrant for a warehouse and a residence located in Washington, D.C. owned by the Finders. U.S. Customs and the WMPD participated in this search and [redacted]

[redacted] noted that approximately seven computers and numerous computer floppy discs were seized during the search. He did not participate in any subsequent review of this material.

[redacted] advised that the NCMEC has not developed any positive information that the Finders organization is involved in child sexual abuse.

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

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[redacted] also advised that he had been told that documentation had been located in the WMPD files to indicate that SGT. John Stycher (deceased), who had been his Sergeant during the Finders search, had been contacted by a [redacted] who had told him to step away from the Finders case. Allegedly, [redacted]

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♦ WMFO conducted investigation in this matter and this information will be subsequently reviewed.

♦ On 10/28/93, George Bergasso, Section Chief, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Department of Justice advised that the DOJ has a book of material on the "Finders" and additional material that will be made available for review by the FBI. Representatives of the Violent Crimes Unit will meet with him on 10/28/93.

10/29/93

FBIHQ FILE SUMMARY OF 7-20191  
REFERENCE "FINDERS" GROUP

[redacted]  
[redacted] by Tallahassee Police Department (TPD) on misdemeanor child abuse charges. The two subjects were arrested after a complaint was made that six children were playing in a park seemed to be unkept and neglected. The two subjects with the children could not initially provide sufficient information as to their legal custody of the children and were uncooperative regarding their identity or the children identity.

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After the subjects were arrested TPD obtained information from the children that they were from the Washington, D. C. area. TPD and FBI Jacksonville contacted the Youth Services Division in Washington, D. C. in an effort to further identify the children. The FBI got involved in the investigation at this time due to the possibility that the children had been kidnaped. The vehicle registration records for a van the men had in their possession when arrested reflected that it was

[redacted]  
[redacted]

A joint investigation by the Washington Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation lead to the identification and interview of the mothers of the six children in question, two of the fathers, and several other key members of the "finders" group. All persons interviewed claimed their group consisted of an alternate communal type life style made up of intellectuals who have chosen to live the way they do. The mothers were all aware that the children had been taken to Florida on a trip, they were familiar with and thoroughly trusted the men in whose care the children had been placed, and all insisted the children were well cared for.

On 2/18/87, The United States Attorneys Office, WDC, declined prosecution in this matter for the violation of USC, Title 18, Sections 1201 and 1251.

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[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

References of FBIHQ File 7-20191:

Serial #2 - Photos of subjects and children

" #9 - Teletype from WMFO to FBIHQ re [redacted]  
[redacted] "Finders", allegedly a



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Serial #15 - Teletype from Jk to FBIHQ dated 2/7/87, synopsis of investigation to date.

- " #16 - Teletype from FBI Richmond (166C-841) to FBIHQ dated 2/7/87, re results of search warrants on property owned by [redacted] Virginia by Virginia State Police. Search warrants did not produce evidence of Federal or State violations of the law concerning sexual exploitation of children, however it appears that the children found in Florida had lived at this location.

Serial #20 - Airtel from FBIHQ to Jacksonville dated 3/10/87, responding to indices check request.

- " #24 - Teletype from WMFO to FBIHQ, re interview of [redacted] provides info pertaining to "finders" group and explanation of incident in Florida.

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- " #26 - Airtel from WMFO to FBIHQ dated 4/1/87, advising that AUSA [redacted] declined prosecution in this matter stating that there is no evidence of a Federal violation. No additional investigation in this case.

10/29/93

[redacted] indices check

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87-0 serial #15124 page 1 and serial # 15140 - Not identical

157-370 sub 61 serial 244 - does appear to be identical

Memo to FBIHQ from Mobile dated 2/16/68, [redacted] member of KKK

157-1552 serial 214 - Memo to FBIHQ from Jackson dated 11/26/65, Klan news letter mentions [redacted] favoring Blacks.

#### Indices Check "Finders"

7-20191 - See attached note

9-67521 - Complaint by [redacted] is extorting him.

62-119517 serial #1 - Inquiry from Legat Panama Re "Finders" group soliciting banks in Panama to provide them with a news letter.

66-19075 serial #1418 - not related to "Finders" group related to Finders fingerprint readers.

10/28/93

To: [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Re: Finders

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[redacted] On 10/28/93, I spoke to SSA [redacted] and SA [redacted] Jacksonville Division (JK) regarding information they may have on a group known as the "Finders".

SSA [redacted] advised that JK was involved in an investigation with a group known as the "Finders" in 1987. This case involved the recovery of six children in Tallahassee, Florida. The children were traveling in a beat up 1979 ford van with two grown males not related to them. The children were recovered in fairly good condition except that they were very dirty. On 2/20/92, a FOIPA request regarding this investigation was made by Washington D. C. [redacted] could not provide additional information regarding the FOIPA request. SSA [redacted] recommended that I speak with the Tallahassee RA case Agent [redacted]

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SA [redacted] advised that the FBI and local law enforcement participated in the arrest of two individuals who were traveling around the country with six young children not related to them. SA [redacted] said that he was providing this information from memory, but advised that the media blew the case out of proportion. He advised that many allegations were made regarding sexual abuse in this case, but none were proven. It appears that there was parental consent for the children to travel with these individuals. The children were returned to their parents and the subjects spent about ten days in the local jail and released. This investigation was conducted primarily by local authorities. SA [redacted] could not provide additional information in this matter.

notes:

JK case file 7-1248 consolidated to 62D-2214  
WMFO case file 7-1685  
FBIHQ case file 7-20191  
JK indices negative for [redacted]

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ROOM 2351  
 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
 TELEPHONE: (202) 226-6792  
 FAX: (202) 226-1860

COMMITTEES:  
 COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
 COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,  
 AND TECHNOLOGY  
 SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
 NARCOTICS ABUSE AND CONTROL  
 NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY (NATO)



DISTRICT OFFICE:  
 PALM BEACH GARDEN  
 4440 PGA BOULEVARD  
 SUITE 408  
 PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL  
 (407) 827-8192

PORT ST. LUCIE  
 7601 SOUTH U.S. HIGHWAY  
 SUITE 200  
 BARNETT BANK BLDG  
 PORT ST. LUCIE, FL 349  
 (407) 282-7668  
 (407) 466-3710

Congress of the United States  
 House of Representatives  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

January 25, 1993

HELP END CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND EXPLOITATION

COSPONSOR THE LEWIS BILL TO REESTABLISH CHILD PORNOGRAPHY UNIT

Dear Colleague:

In February, 1991, U.S. Customs "integrated" their Child Pornography and Protection Unit into the Smuggling Investigations Division, Office of Investigative Programs. At the time, Customs stated that "these changes have in no way affected the manner in which child pornography investigations are being conducted by our field offices or the support that our headquarters staff provides."

I asked Customs to provide me with arrests, convictions and employee-hours spent on child pornography and protection. Customs own numbers show a dramatic and inexcusable decline.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ARRESTS</u>	<u>CONVICTIONS</u>	<u>EMPLOYEE-HOURS</u>
1988	106	100	47,772
1989	54	57	54,613
1990	110	103	100,524
1991	82	116	61,173
1992	57	69	27,435

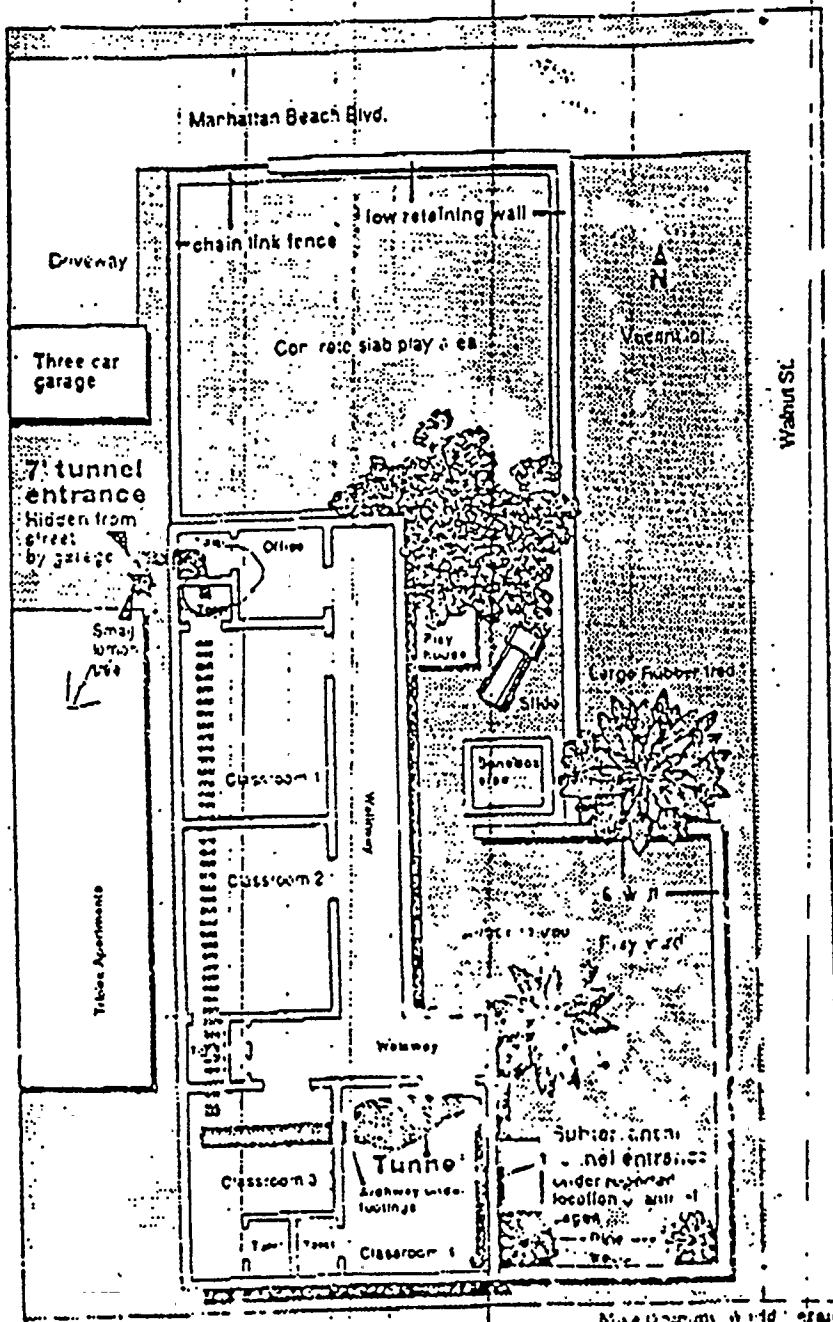
As you can see, since the Unit's heyday in 1990, arrests and conviction have been nearly halved, and employee-hours have been reduced to barely one-fourth of previous levels!!

Therefore, I am introducing a Concurrent Resolution calling on Customs to reestablish its Child Pornography and Protection Unit, and to equal or exceed its 1990 efforts.

It is clear Customs has given up most of their efforts to put an end to this reprehensible trade. It's time to make a permanent commitment to stopping those who prey on the most vulnerable members of our society. If you would like to cosponsor this Resolution, contact me, or Curt Hollmann of my staff at 5-5792.

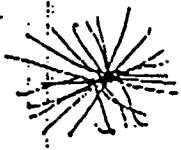
Sincerely,

Tom Lewis  
 Member of Congress



(72)

Diagram of McHenry Pre-School, which has been demolished ... Gunter says two tunnels may have once been connected.

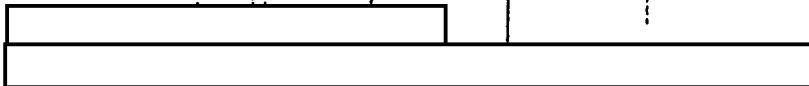


THE TUNNELS FOUND AT THE McMARTIN P.S. SCHOOL  
A PRELIMINARY REPORT

A formal report will be released when forensic tests are concluded.

- **45 foot tunnel**
  - 9 foot wide subterranean entrance found under west wall of the "Dog" room (Classroom 4, Ray Buckey's classroom).
    - Avocado tree roots cut on both sides of the entrance.
    - Disney bag, "Copyright 1982," found 4-1/2 feet below the classroom floor and 3" to 6" in from entrance and under foundation, Classroom 4.
  - Tunnel proceeded south, then east 45 feet through Classrooms 4 and 3, and north, then east 10 feet within Classroom 4.
    - Tunnels were 30" wide, 44" to 46" deep, with top of the tunnel 30" under the classroom floor.
    - The footing between Classrooms 3 and 4 was arched where the tunnel passed underneath and 12" shorter in depth at this location than same footing 12 feet to then north.
      - Four large, upright containers were found in the tunnel under the arch, obviously hand placed.
  - A 9 foot wide chamber was found along the tunnel under Classroom 4. Top of chamber and top of sections of the tunnel had layers of plywood covered with tar paper which had apparently been supported by cinder blocks and 2" x 2" and 2" x 4" wooden posts found underneath.
  - Tunnel features made it evident that tunnel was hand dug.
- **7 foot tunnel extending into the triplex next door**
  - Tunnel extended from the bathrooms off the office and Classroom 1 to the front yard of the triplex next door. Front yard concealed from street by three-car garage.
  - Children described entrance and exiting tunnel in triplex yard exactly where tunnel and exit were found.
  - 1 39" x 41" area under a hole cut in this neighbor's bathroom floor had been excavated and subsequently filled.
- **Other significant facts**
  - A small, white plastic plate with three pentagrams hand drawn on top of light green paint was found by the archaeologists in the stratified dirt in the play yard.
    - Per historical archaeologist, pentagrams were hand drawn by an adult and not part of the manufacturer's design.
  - Many other artifacts found, whose analyses will be released upon completion of tests.
  - No doorknobs were on Classroom 3 door, only a dead bolt lock.
  - Each classroom had on and off light switch labeled "Fire Alarm." System did not connect to fire station but was used as an alert within the school.
  - More than 2000 artifacts were found under the school floor, including over 100 animal bones.

Due to severe time constraints our archaeology team was unable to further explore the extent of the tunnel networks. Above documented through photographs, notes, graphs, diagrams and charts. For more details call (213) 854-5172.







DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE

ENF 1 E:INV:SM

Mr. and Mrs.

Dear Mr. and Mrs.

Thank you for your letter dated September 13, 1991, expressing your concerns regarding the U.S. Customs Service Child Pornography Program.

The Child Protection Act of 1984 clearly defined the agency jurisdiction in this typically multidisciplined area of enforcement. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service has jurisdiction pertaining to the use of the U.S. mail to transport child pornography, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has jurisdiction over the interstate transportation of child pornography, and the U.S. Customs Service has jurisdiction over the interdiction and the international distribution of child pornography. The statute has created a close working relationship between the agencies at the field office and Headquarters level. The point of this is that the statute has permitted a clear definition of responsibility for the respective agencies.

Recently, the U.S. Customs Service Headquarters Office of Enforcement experienced a massive reorganization. This reorganization caused the Child Pornography and Protection Unit to be integrated into the Smuggling Investigations Division. The Child Pornography and Protection Unit was a part of the General Smuggling Branch which was a part of the Smuggling Investigations Division. All Units, Branches, and Sections were eliminated during the recent reorganization. The child pornography program is now headed by the National Child Pornography Program Manager, a Senior Special Agent assigned to the Smuggling Investigations Division, Office of Investigative Programs, at Headquarters. These changes have in no way affected the manner in which child pornography investigations are being conducted by its field offices or the support that the Headquarters staff provides to these field offices. The primary functions of the Unit remain the same, that is to coordinate investigations within the U.S. Customs Service and between the U.S. Customs Service and other agencies, as well as collect, analyze, and disseminate child pornography data. 1151

Headquarters has established and still maintains working relationships with the Department of Justice through the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the FBI, the U.S. Postal Service, and various Military Investigation Commands. The Office of Enforcement also continues to work in conjunction with the Customs Office of Inspection and Control in seeking out and discovering new and unique methods of smuggling child pornography into the United States from other countries.

The aggressive approach that the U.S. Customs Service has demonstrated in conducting child pornography investigations within its jurisdictional area, has had an impact on both the violators and the distributors, and the methods of smuggling used by these individuals. The U.S. Customs Service will continue to target and investigate the importation of child pornography as aggressively as we have in the past. The ultimate effect is the enhancement on our part to prevent the sexual exploitation and abuse of children.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Finders/Chronology  
(See previous material for dates)

- Contact of U.S. Customs by Tallahassee PD regarding discovery of unidentified children and adult male "guardians" in city park.
- Requested contact with Washington MPD for assistance in locating possible address and relatives of children.
- Address located with assistance of MPD Intelligence Division.
- Second address identified. One residence, one warehouse.
- Search warrants obtained by MPD Intel. Warehouse site of previous MPD Intel inquiry involving classified maps of underground tunnel/sewer system, Washington, DC.
- During search warrant staging, disclosure of pending search warrant execution made by Tallahassee PD to local media (Tallahassee, FL). Tallahassee Media representative contacted D.C. media for more details. D.C. media reps peruse public information at courthouse, are waiting at search warrant sites for MPD search teams.
- Search warrants executed with MPD and two U.S. Customs agents (one at each site). FBI not involved until walk through on following day.
- Seizure of numerous documents made to include passports, telexes, computer/electronic media, correspondence, et al. (See previous material for expanded description).
- After search warrant shut down on first day, news reports carried FBI press release announcing FBI as "lead investigating agench." Day after, once search resumed, FBI agent from Washington Field Office (WFO) makes walk through of warehouse, but does not examine any seized evidence.
- Additional search warrant executed on farm in rural Virginia with support by Virginia State Police. No federal involvement. Evidence of satanic/cult ritual discovered.
- Based on observed documents, Customs agent unsuccessfully attempts to gain access to evidence for detailed analysis for use in investigating possible export, neutrality act, mann act, and child pornography violations.



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED] contacts MPD Intelligence and advised that all reports regarding Finders are to be classified at the Secret level. [REDACTED] also advised that no information was to be turned over to the FBI WFO for investigation, and that the WFO would not be advised of the [REDACTED] involvement/contact.
- Children discovered in Tallahassee were eventually turned over to individuals claiming to be parents or guardians. No further MPD, FBI or Customs involvement.
- As far as is known, no details of [REDACTED] involvement ever became public.



# FBI FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN FIELD OFFICE  
SQUAD C-4 (202) 252-7844

### PRECEDENCE

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

### CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Sensitive
- Unclassified

Time Transmitted: 10:35  
 Sender's Initials: MM  
 Number of Pages: 8  
(Including Cover Page)

To: FBIHQ - VC4  
(Name of Office)

Date: 11/5/93

Facsimile Number: 324-3089

Attn: SSA   
(Name Room Telephone)

b6  
b7c

From: FBI WASH (C-4)  
(Name of Office)

Subject: FINDERS GROUP, WSTA

~~MM~~

Special Handling Instructions: PLS HAND CARRY TO SSA

Originator's Name:  Telephone:

Originator's Facsimile Number:

Approved:

FBI/DOJ  
31C-WF-189911-4

SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NOV 05 1993	
FBI-WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

3B

Date 11/5/93

FM FBI WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P) (C-4)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

FBI MIAMI/PRIORITY/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3920//

PASS: CID, VCU, SSA

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b7c

SUBJECT: "FINDERS" GROUP, WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT-SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE-PRELIMINARY  
INQUIRY; OO:WMFO.

REF: WMFO FACSIMILE TO FBIHQ ON 11/3/93.

FOR INFORMATION OF FBIHQ, REVIEW OF WMFO FIELD OFFICE  
FILES CONCERNING CAPTIONED GROUP REVEALED THE FOLLOWING:

WMFO OPENED A KIDNAPPING CASE (7-1685) ON 2/6/87, AS A  
RESULT OF A 2/4/87 ARREST OF TWO MEN IN TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
FOR CHILD ABUSE. THESE INDIVIDUALS,

*2-WMFO*

*MDC:KCH*

*(2)*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Original filename: KCH006W.309

Time Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Telprep filename: \_\_\_\_\_

MRI/JULIAN DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ISN: \_\_\_\_\_

FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE: \_\_\_\_\_

^PAGE 2 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

[REDACTED] WERE TRAVELLING IN A VAN WITH SIX  
MINOR CHILDREN. THE VAN UTILIZED BY THESE INDIVIDUALS BORE

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
THE TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT (TPD) CONTACTED THE  
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD), WASHINGTON, D.C., TO GET  
INFORMATION ON THE CHILDREN, AS THEY HAD MADE STATEMENTS  
INDICATING A PRIOR RESIDENCE IN WDC.

ON 2/5/87, TPD CONTACTED THE LOCAL CUSTOMS OFFICE, WHICH  
SUBSEQUENTLY CONTACTED THE WDC AREA CUSTOMS OFFICE, WHICH IN  
TURN CONTACTED MPD. SPECIAL AGENT (SA) [REDACTED] CUSTOMS,  
PROVIDED THE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ARREST OF [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] TO MPD INTELLIGENCE AND THE INFORMATION ON THEIR  
WASHINGTON, D.C. ADDRESSES.

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PRIOR TO 2/5/87, MPD [REDACTED] HAD  
RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM A CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE, THAT A GROUP  
OF PEOPLE CALLING THEMSELVES, THE "FINDERS", WERE CONDUCTING  
BRAINWASHING TECHNIQUES AT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE SOURCE REPORTED

^PAGE 3 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

CHILDREN WERE USED IN RITUALS BY THE GROUPS, BUT REPORTED SOURCE NEVER OBSERVED ANY ACTUAL CHILD ABUSE.

BASED ON THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY TPD AND THIS SOURCE, MPD OBTAINED SEARCH WARRANTS AND EXECUTED THEM ON 2/5, 2/6/87 AT THE TWO WDC ADDRESSES. MPD SEIZED COMPUTERS, SOFTWARE, PHOTOGRAPHS, AND BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FINDERS GROUP FROM THESE LOCATIONS. NO EVIDENCE OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, KIDNAPPING, OR ANY RELATED CRIMES WAS OBSERVED, OR OBTAINED FROM THIS SEARCH.

PRESENT AT THIS SEARCH WERE MPD DETECTIVES, FBI SA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WMFO CASE AGENT AND CUSTOMS SA [REDACTED]

A MEMO FROM SA [REDACTED] DATED 3/9/87 WAS LOCATED IN THE

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^PAGE 4 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

[REDACTED]

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MEMO WAS SENT TO FBIHQ VIA FACSIMILE ON 11/3/93.

WMFO INVESTIGATION OF "FINDERS" GROUP REVEALED THROUGH A  
2/7/87 INTERVIEW OF GROUP MEMBER [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE FOLLOWING:

[REDACTED] ADVISED FINDERS WAS A GROUP [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] IN 1972 WITH THE IDEA OF  
RESPONDING TO PEOPLE IN EMERGENCIES. [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT THE  
GROUP GATHERED INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE OR COMPANIES. [REDACTED]  
ADVISED THAT "FINDERS" WAS BASED OUT OF [REDACTED]  
WDC. [REDACTED] DESCRIBED THE [REDACTED] AS  
MYSTERIOUS, AND RELATED THAT NO ONE USUALLY KNEW WHERE HE WAS.

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JOINT INVESTIGATION BY MPD AND WMFO LEAD TO THE  
IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVIEW OF THE MOTHERS OF THE SIX  
CHILDREN IN QUESTION, TWO OF THE FATHERS AND SEVERAL OTHER KEY  
MEMBERS OF THE SO-CALLED "FINDERS" GROUP. ALL PERSONS  
INTERVIEWED CLAIMED THEIR GROUP CONSISTED OF AN ALTERNATIVE  
LIFESTYLE, COMMUNAL-TYPE ASSOCIATION MADE UP OF INTELLECTUALS  
WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO LIVE THE WAY THEY DO. THE MOTHERS WERE ALL

^PAGE 5 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

AWARE THAT THE CHILDREN HAD BEEN TAKEN TO FLORIDA ON A TRIP, THEY WERE FAMILIAR WITH AND THOROUGHLY TRUSTED THE MEN IN WHOSE CARE THE CHILDREN HAD BEEN PLACED, AND ALL INSISTED THE CHILDREN WERE WELL CARED FOR, ALTHOUGH IN AN ALTERNATIVE MATTER. EVERYONE INTERVIEWED STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT NO ONE IN THEIR GROUP ENGAGED IN SEX WITH CHILDREN, THAT NO RITUALIZED ABUSE OCCURRED, THAT THE "FINDERS" ARE NOT A SATANIC CULT, AND THAT THE CHILDREN ARE IN FACT THE OFFSPRING OF THE MOTHERS INTERVIEWED. ALL OF THE MOTHERS AND THE THREE FATHERS INTERVIEWED AGREED TO BE POLYGRAPHED CONCERNING THEIR TESTIMONY.

ON 2/18/87, THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, WDC, DECLINED PROSECUTION IN CAPTIONED MATTER FOR VIOLATION OF UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 18, SECTIONS 1201 AND 2251.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

WMFO FILES ALSO CONTAINED A 10/7/92 EXTORTION CASE (9A-WF-183055) WITH [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THIS CASE WAS OPENED AS A RESULT

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^PAGE 6 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

[REDACTED]

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THAT HE AND SEVERAL OTHERS OF THE "FINDERS" GROUP, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ADVISED THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES REALIZED THAT

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AND THE OTHERS, AT THE

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TIME, WERE IN A CUSTODY BATTLE OVER THE GROUP'S PROPERTY

ASSETS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] PURPORTEDLY RESIDED AT

[REDACTED] VIRGINIA.

^PAGE 7 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

ON 6/14/93, THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DECLINED PROSECUTION OF THIS MATTER AND THIS CASE WAS CLOSED.

WMFO CONTACT WITH U.S. CUSTOM SERVICE, WDC, INDICATES THAT CUSTOMS SA [REDACTED] WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW UNTIL MONDAY, 11/8/93.

WMFO IS SCHEDULED TO REVIEW THE MPD FILE CONCERNING "FINDERS" ON 11/4/93.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUES AT WMFO.

BT

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# FBI FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

**WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN FIELD OFFICE  
SQUAD C-4 (202) 252-7844**

### PRECEDENCE

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

### CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Sensitive
- Unclassified

Time Transmitted: 11:30  
 Sender's Initials: JW  
 Number of Pages: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Including Cover Page)

To: FBIHQ - VCU  
 (Name of Office)

Date: 11/5/93

Facsimile Number: 324-3089

Attn: SSA   
 (Name Room Telephone)

b6  
b7c

From: FBI, WMFO (C-4)  
 (Name of Office)

Subject: FENDERS GLOW, WSTA

Special Handling Instructions: PLS HAND CARRY TO SSA

Originator's Name: SA  Telephone:

Originator's Facsimile Number:

Approved:

31E-WF-189911-17

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED <u>m</u>	FILED <u>m</u>
NOV 05 1993	
FBI-WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

# Memorandum



To : SAC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P)

Date 11/4/93

From : SA [redacted] (C-4)

b6  
b7C

Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP;  
WSTA - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;  
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PI;  
OO: WMFO

Attached to this memo are copies of METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD) investigative file reports of pertinent information obtained during writer's 11/4/93 review of the MPD case jacket on the FINDERS GROUP.

The MPD case jacket was made available for review by [redacted] MPD Intelligence Division, 300 Indiana Avenue, NW, WDC.

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The MPD case jacket did not contain a listing of specific items seized from the 2/5 - 2/6/87 searches of the FINDERS GROUP properties, [redacted]

[redacted] In addition there was no indication of the present status of any items seized at these searches, or a listing of personnel present at the searches.

[redacted] indicated that the MPD investigating Detective for this case was [redacted] presently [redacted]

[redacted] opined that [redacted] could answer questions concerning the specifics of this search.

2-WMFO  
MDC:mdc

31C-WF-189911  
SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ FILED \_\_\_\_\_  
NOV 04 1993  
FBI-WASH. FIELD OFFICE



INVESTIGATIVE INFORMATION REQUEST FORM

FBI, Savannah Information Technology Center  
220 East Bryan Street  
Savannah, Georgia 31401

- Commercial Telephone or FTS: (912) 944-0824 thru 0828
- FAX: (912) 231-1076 and (912) 231-0974
- Secure FAX & STU III: (912) 231-1075

ITC Use Only: SITC Record #: 14334  
 Date/Time In: 11/3 11:10  am  pm  
 Date/Time Out: 11/3 11:30  am  pm  
 Database(s) Used:  
 1. TRW 5. LN 9. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. TY 6. PH 10. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. EQ 7. JA 11. \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. MN 8. \_\_\_\_\_ 12. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Handled By: \_\_\_\_\_

TO: FBI, SAVANNAH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Date: 11/3/93

Forfeiture/Seizure Related:  Type of Request:  FAX  Telex  Mail Reply:  FAX  Telex  Mail  
 Requestor: SA Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ UCEN: 31C-WF-189911 b6

Office/RA: WMFO SQUAD C-4 (Requestor Name is Required) Precedence:  ROUTINE  PRIORITY  IMMEDIATE (The UCEN (File #) is Required) b7C

Fugitive:  Yes  No NCIC Activity/Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CCH Conducted:  Yes  No Off-Line Searches Conducted: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Driver's Lic. Conducted:  Yes  No Subject:  Yes  No Vehicle:  Yes  No Driver's License:  Yes  No  
 Driver's License #: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Vehicle Registration: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

SEARCH CRITERIA (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

Name - Last: \_\_\_\_\_ First: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alias: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: M DOB1: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB2: 1/1  
 SSA1: \_\_\_\_\_ 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

RESIDENCE  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State: WDC Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS  
 Business Name: "FINDERS" GROUP Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State: WDC Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

- CHECK DESIRED SEARCH PARAMETERS (Please check only those that are needed)
- 1. Specific Information Desired CONDUCT LEXIS / NEXIS CHECKS FOR REFERENCES TO SUBJECT AND GROUP FINDERS IN MEDIA AND FAX RESULTS TO WMFO
  - 2. Determine All Individuals Associated with Social Security Number(s)
  - 3. Report Validity of Social Security Number
  - 4. Employment Report (subject to availability) INQUIRY WILL POST TO CONSUMER'S ACCOUNT
  - 5. Determine Who is Associated with Telephone Number(s)
  - 6. Determine Address of Business/Person ( U.S. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ State(s))
  - 7. Determine Property Owned by Individual ( U.S. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ State(s))
  - 8. Determine Who Owns Property Listed Above
  - 9. Determine Who Resides at Address Listed Above
  - 10. Determine Financial Background Info, Financial Associates/Institutions (NOT FULL CREDIT REPORTING)
  - 11. Determine Corporate Business Info/Institutions Associated with: \_\_\_\_\_ (Person/Business)

Reply From: FBI, Savannah Information Technology Center (SITC)  
 Return Reply To: SAC. WMFO  
 Attention: SA SQUAD C4 31C-WF-189911-8  
 Based on search criteria, marked records are attached:  
 Possible Identifiable Records  
 Other Peripheral Information  
 Brief Synopsis of Information Found  
 No Information Found

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
 SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ FILED \_\_\_\_\_  
 NOV - 8 1993

# Memorandum



To : SAC, WF (31C-WF-189911)  
ATTN: [REDACTED]

Date 11/3/93

b6  
b7C

From : SAVANNAH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER  
INVESTIGATIVE INFORMATION SERVICES

Subject: [REDACTED]

Attached are copies of Investigative Information Services printouts setting forth results of inquiries conducted by Investigative Information Services. Also attached are two copies of an accomplishment/reply form. It is requested that you record the Investigative Information Services accomplishments on this form, return one copy to the Investigative Information Services, and maintain one copy together with the computer printouts as a serial in your case file.

Set forth below is a brief synopsis of results of inquiries.

[REDACTED] is utilized by the subject. Property data and tax assessor info is attached. All other searches were negative.

Should additional contact be necessary, this request was handled by Analyst [REDACTED]  
Telephone [REDACTED]

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1 - WF (Enc. 1)

Attn: Special Agent Supervisor [REDACTED]

Note: Copy forwarded [REDACTED]

Via Mail \_\_\_\_\_ / Facsimile \_\_\_\_\_ X Date 11/3/93

1 - SVITC

(2)

NDB



\*\*\*\*\* TRW ADDRESS UPDATE \*\*\*\*\*  
FBI - SAVANNAH PUBLIC SOURCE INFORMATION GROUP  
\*\*\*\*\*

DATE: 11-03-1993 TIME: 12:45:53 SUBJECT ID: ADDRESS UPDATE



b6  
b7C

1 11/03/93 09:08:20 CP01 706  TVA1

\*\*\*\*\* NO RECORD FOUND \*\*\*\*\*

NOT TO BE USED FOR CREDIT GRANTING.  
DO NOT CONTAIN INFORMATION FOR MORE THAN ONE CONSUMER  
\*TRW'S 93 EXTENDED ON-LINE HOLIDAY HOURS BEGIN NOV. 15 THROUGH JAN. 7.  
\*NEW HOURS: UP MONDAY 2:00 A.M. THROUGH FRIDAY MIDNIGHT PST, UP SATURDAY 4:00  
\*A.M. THROUGH SUNDAY 10:00 P.M. PST. SAME SCHEDULE APPLIES ON HOLIDAYS ALSO.  
-----END

\* END OF REPORT ID: 11-03-1993/12:45:53 (ORN: 335) \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* TRW SOCIAL SEARCH \*\*\*\*\*  
FBI - SAVANNAH PUBLIC SOURCE INFORMATION GROUP  
\*\*\*\*\*

DATE: 11-03-1993 TIME: 13:33:23 SUBJECT ID: SOCIAL SEARCH

[REDACTED] V-04/042/3.34

PAGE 1 DATE 11-03-93 TIME 9:55:50 PCR04 V406

SSN: [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

FULL NAME/ADDRESS:

[REDACTED]

ABBREVIATED NAME/ADDRESS:

[REDACTED]

NOT TO BE USED FOR CREDIT GRANTING  
MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION FOR MORE THAN ONE CONSUMER

END -- TRW SOCIAL SEARCH

\*\*\* END OF REPORT ID: 11-03-1993/13:33:23 (ORN: 336) \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*  
EQUIFAX DTEC \*\*\*\*\*  
FBI - SAVANNAH PUBLIC SOURCE INFORMATION GROUP  
\*\*\*\*\*

DATE: 11-03-1993      TIME: 13:31:58      SUBJECT ID: DTEC

[REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

SSN ISSUED PRIOR-1951      STATE ISSUED-DC

OF 1 [REDACTED]

FA [REDACTED]

&

ID OF REPORT EQUIFAX AND AFFILIATES - 11/03/93

END OF REPORT ID: 11-03-1993/13:31:58 (ORN: 338) \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* TRANS UNION TRACE \*\*\*\*\*  
FBI - SAVANNAH PUBLIC SOURCE INFORMATION GROUP

TE: 11-03-1993 TIME: 13:32:37 SUBJECT ID: TRACE

CE [REDACTED]

TRANS UNION CREDIT REPORT

R		MKT/SUB	INFILE	DATE	TIME	
	QHO2870232	15	SC	11/03/93	11:53CT	
T ON			SSN	DOB		b6
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER TRACE *			[REDACTED]			b7C
NAME/SPOUSE				SSN OWNER		
ADDRESS				ADDR RPT DATE		
1.	[REDACTED]			SUBJECT		
				04/89		

END OF NETWORK TRACE\*\*  
COPYRIGHT 1993, TRANS UNION CORPORATION

\* END OF REPORT ID: 11-03-1993/13:32:37 (ORN: 337) \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* TRW ADDRESS UPDATE \*\*\*\*\*  
FBI - SAVANNAH PUBLIC SOURCE INFORMATION GROUP

TE: 11-03-1993 TIME: 13:36:28 SUBJECT ID: ADDRESS UPDATE

b6  
b7c

1 11/03/93 09:58:55 CL05 306 [REDACTED] TMD2

---FILE IDENT: SS# IS [REDACTED]  
-91 [REDACTED]  
02-18-91

ADDRESS LOCATED REPORT TYPE G  
NOT TO BE USED FOR CREDIT GRANTING.  
DO NOT CONTAIN INFORMATION FOR MORE THAN ONE CONSUMER  
\*TRW'S 93 EXTENDED ON-LINE HOLIDAY HOURS BEGIN NOV. 15 THROUGH JAN. 7.  
\*NEW HOURS: UP MONDAY 2:00 A.M. THROUGH FRIDAY MIDNIGHT PST, UP SATURDAY 4:00  
\*A.M. THROUGH SUNDAY 10:00 P.M. PST. SAME SCHEDULE APPLIES ON HOLIDAYS ALSO.  
-----END

\* END OF REPORT ID: 11-03-1993/13:36:28 (ORN: 339) \*\*\*

----- A D D R E S S -----  
OPTION : A (E)DA (N)BRS (A)DDR (P)HN (Z)IP (C)ITY (S)TATE (U)S  
(M)ENU (H)ELP (F)WD (B)ACK (W)METRO AREA (X)CLEAR  
SELECTION : FILE : R (R)ESIDENTIAL (B)USINESS

-----  
NAME : [REDACTED] FOR FIRST NAME SEARCH, ENTER F :  
HOUSE# : [REDACTED] STREET: [REDACTED]  
CITY : WASHINGTON ST : DC ZIP CODE: PHONE #: ( ) - -

b6  
b7c

RETURNED NAME/ADDRESS

NEAREST HOUSE # FOUND  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
(000) 000 - 0000

SENDER : UNKNOWN LENGTH OF RES : 00  
MEDIAN INCOME : 0211.0K HOME OWNER PROB :  
HEALTH RATING : A HOME VALUE : 0466.7K  
DATE OF BIRTH : HOME VALUE INDEX: 255  
DWELLING TYPE : UNKNOWN

NET.ASP ° ANSI ° FDX ° 2400 E71 ° LOG CLOSED ° PRINT OFF ° ON-LINE

TIME: 12:07:22

METRONET ON-LINE INFORMATION SYSTEM

DATE: 11/03/93

A D D R E S S

OPTION : A (E)DA (N)BRS (A)DDR (P)HN (Z)IP (C)ITY (S)TATE (U)S  
 (M)ENU (H)ELP (F)WD (B)ACK (W)METRO AREA (X)CLEAR  
 ELECTION : FILE : B (R)ESIDENTIAL (B)USINESS

NAME : FINDERS GROUP FOR FIRST NAME SEARCH, ENTER F : F  
 HOUSE# : 1307 STREET: 4TH ST NE  
 CITY : WASHINGTON ST : DC ZIP CODE: PHONE #: ( ) -

RETURNED NAME/ADDRESS

GLOBAL PRESS REVIEW  
 1307 4TH ST NE  
 WASHINGTON DC 20002 7001  
 (202) 546 - 9828

NET.ASP ° ANSI ° FDX ° 2400 E71 ° LOG CLOSED ° PRINT OFF ° ON-LINE

Front Footage : 0  
Depth Footage : 0  
Bldg Footage : 37,200  
Pool : 0  
# Units : 4  
# Baths : 0.0  
# Bedrooms : 0  
Total Rooms : 0  
Stories : 0.0

END OF DATA

Universal Directory of ALL Data for Washington DC

For: FINDERS GROUP

1	Tax Lien	DC - No Record on PH Online
2	Judgment	DC - No Record on PH Online
3	Bankruptcy	DC - No Record on PH Online
4	Environmental	DC - No Record on PH Online
5	Tax Assessor Name	DC - No Record on PH Online
6	Grant Deed Name	DC - No Record on PH Online
7	Federal Aviation Admin.	DC - No Record on PH Online
8	Watercraft	US - No Record on PH Online

END OF LIST



MAIL-IT REQUESTED: NOVEMBER 3, 1993

1032ZC

CLIENT:  
LIBRARY: ASSETS  
FILE: ALLOWN

YOUR SEARCH REQUEST AT THE TIME THIS MAIL-IT WAS REQUESTED:  
3918 W/2 W AND DC

NUMBER OF RECORDS FOUND WITH YOUR REQUEST THROUGH:  
LEVEL 1... 2

LEVEL 1 PRINTED

THE SELECTED RECORD NUMBERS:  
1

DISPLAY FORMAT: FULL

SEND TO: SAVANNAH, # 5  
FBI  
220 EAST BRYAN STREET  
SAVANNAH GEORGIA 31402FRANC

\*\*\*\*\*03367\*\*\*\*\*

LEVEL 1 - 1 OF 2 RECORDS

TRW REDI Property Data, Copyright (c) 1991

PROPERTY RECORDS FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ESTIMATED TAX ROLL CERTIFICATION DATE July 31, 1991

Owner [Redacted]

Mailing Address: [Redacted]

MUNICIPALITY: [Redacted]

b6  
b7C

\*\*\*\*\* LOCATION \*\*\*\*\*

Property Address: [Redacted]

Property Use (REDI): Apartment

Assessor's Parcel Number: 1315- -0039

\*\*\*\*\* ASSESSMENT VALUES \*\*\*\*\*

Land Value: \$ 173,725

Improvements: 170,515

Total Value: \$ 344,240

Use Code: MULTI-FAMILY FLATS

Lot Size: 4,655 sq ft

Year Constructed: 1938

\*\*\*\*\* PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS \*\*\*\*\*

Units: 4	Stories:
Rooms:	Heating: HOT WATER
Bedrooms:	Cooling:
Bathrooms:	Floor:
Fireplaces:	Walls: BRICK
Pool:	Const:

\*\*\*\*\*

MAIL-IT REQUESTED: NOVEMBER 3, 1993

1032ZC

CLIENT:  
LIBRARY: ASSETS  
FILE: ALLOWN

YOUR SEARCH REQUEST AT THE TIME THIS MAIL-IT WAS REQUESTED:  
1307 W/2 4TH OR 4 AND DC

NUMBER OF RECORDS FOUND WITH YOUR REQUEST THROUGH:  
LEVEL 1... 3

LEVEL...1 PRINTED

THE SELECTED RECORD NUMBERS:  
3

DISPLAY FORMAT: FULL

SEND TO: SAVANNAH, # 5  
FBI  
220 EAST BRYAN STREET  
SAVANNAH GEORGIA 31402FRANC

\*\*\*\*\*03418\*\*\*\*\*

LEVEL 1 - 3 OF 3 RECORDS

TRW REDI Property Data, Copyright (c) 1991

PROPERTY RECORDS FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ESTIMATED TAX ROLL CERTIFICATION DATE July 31, 1991

Owner: [REDACTED]

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]

MUNICIPALITY: [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

\*\*\*\*\* LOCATION \*\*\*\*\*

Property Address: [REDACTED]

Municipality: WASH DC

Property Use (REDI): Warehouse

Assessor's Parcel Number: PAR -0129-0027

\*\*\*\*\* ASSESSMENT VALUES \*\*\*\*\*

Land Value: \$ 54,960

Improvements: 205,390

Total Value: \$ 260,350

Use Code: WAREHOUSE-MULT-STORY

Lot Size: 5,496 sq ft

Improved Square Feet: 10,414 (building)

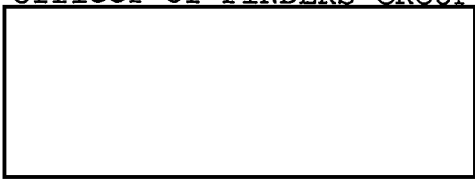
Year Constructed: 1931

\*\*\*\*\* PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS \*\*\*\*\*

Units:	Stories:
Rooms:	Heating:
Bedrooms:	Cooling:
Bathrooms:	Floor:
Fireplaces:	Walls: BRICK
Pool:	Const:

\*\*\*\*\*

[FINDERS GROUP]

No. Name	Clue(s)	Source
1 FINDERS GROUP	Officer of FINDERS' KEEPERS	OH-COR
2 FINDERS GROUP	Officer FINDERS GROUP	OH-COR
3 FINDERS GROUP	Officer of FINDERS GROUP	OH-COR
4 FINDERS GROUP INTERNATION		IL-COR
5 ''		IL-COR
6 FINDERS GROUP LIMITED		CO-COR
7 ''		CO-COR
8 ''		CO-COR

b6  
b7c

Number=More Info N=New Search R=Revise State(s) S#=Save Clue E=Exit \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name	Type	Status	Date
1 FINDERS GROUP	TRADE NAME	CANCELLED	01-03-1986

umber=MoreInfo O=OrderDocs N=NewSrch E=Exit 1  
 INFORMATION AMERICA NETWORK--OHIO  
 1 SECRETARY OF STATE CORPORATE--Detail  
 Information current through 10-16-1993

Name: FINDERS GROUP

Owner(s): FINDERS GROUP  
 Address: 629 OAK ST  
 COLUMBUS 43215

Type: TRADE NAME  
 State of Origin: NOT AVAILABLE  
 Date of Filing: 01-03-1986  
 Status: CANCELLED ON 02-22-1991  
 Date of Expiration: 01-03-1991  
 State ID Number: RN88852

\*\*\* History \*\*\*

Date	Transaction
02-22-1991	CANCELLED BY OPERATION OF LAW

TURN=More Information P#=Page E=Exit to Summary  
 INFORMATION AMERICA NETWORK--OHIO  
 1 SECRETARY OF STATE CORPORATE--Detail  
 FINDERS GROUP

\*\*\* History \*\*\* (Cont'd)

Date	Transaction
10-01-1990	LETTER/RENEWAL NOTICE MAILED

Date of Most recent Change in Capital: 04-13-1979

Tax Capital: 1,000  
Total Capital: 1,000

umber=MoreInfo RETURN=Summary O=OrderDocs P#=Page N=NewSrch E=Exit

\*\*\*\*\* DOCUMENT FILING HISTORY \*\*\*\*\*

File Date

Transaction

08-29-86

Type: ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
Comment: FINDERS GROUP LIMITED

RETURN=More Information P#=Page E=Exit to Summary  
INFORMATION AMERICA NETWORK--CORPORATE GLOBAL  
3 COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF STATE--Detail  
FINDERS GROUP LIMITED]

3-NOV-1993  
Page 4/4

\*\*\*\*\* DOCUMENT FILING HISTORY (Cont'd)\*\*\*\*\*

File Date

Transaction

NOT AVAIL

Type: 1993 CORPORATE REPORT MAILED 08/01/92  
DUE 10/31/92

NOT AVAIL

Type: 1993 CORPORATE REPORT SECOND NOTICE 11/30/92  
SUSPENDED AFTER 01/31/93

12-15-92

Type: INTENT TO DISSOLVE  
Document No: 921119454

12-15-92

Type: DISSOLVED CORPORATION  
Document No: 921119455

Number=MoreInfo RETURN=Summary O=OrderDocs P#=Page N=NewSrch E=Exit



INVESTIGATIVE INFORMATION SERVICES

In order to help us better serve your investigative needs, please complete the following and return to:

**FBI, Savannah Information Technology Center  
220 East Bryan Street  
Savannah, Georgia 31401**

SAVANNAH ITC RECORD #:  LICEN. 31C-WF-189911  
ANALYST:

b6  
b7C

Was the information provided helpful to your investigation?

YES

NO

If NO, please let us know how we could be more helpful to your investigation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ACCOMPLISHMENT(S) resulting from information:**

**PERSON(S):** (Enter total number applicable to each of the following)

\_\_\_\_\_ FBI Fugitive(s) Arrested:     FBI     Local    Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Local Fugitive(s) Arrested:    FBI     Local    Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Subject(s)     Arrested     Located     Identified

\_\_\_\_\_ Witness(es)     Located     Identified

\_\_\_\_\_ New Witness(es)    Located     Identified

**BUSINESS(ES):** (Enter total number applicable to each of the following)

\_\_\_\_\_ New Business(es) Identified

\_\_\_\_\_ New Business Associates/Associations Identified

\_\_\_\_\_ Financial Audit Trail(s) Enhanced

**ASSET(S):** (Enter total number applicable to each of the following)

**(TYPES: C = CASH    R = REAL PROPERTY    P = PERSONAL PROPERTY)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Asset(s)     Located     Identified    [VALUE: \_\_\_\_\_ TYPE: \_\_\_\_]

\_\_\_\_\_ Asset(s) Subject to Seizure/Forfeiture    [VALUE: \_\_\_\_\_ TYPE: \_\_\_\_]

\_\_\_\_\_ Potential Economic Loss Prevented    [VALUE: \_\_\_\_\_ TYPE: \_\_\_\_]

**OTHER:** (Enter total number applicable to each of the following)

\_\_\_\_\_ New Case(s) Initiated

\_\_\_\_\_ New Lead(s) Generated

**COMMENTS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 - Case File   
1 - SITC

b6  
b7C



# FBI FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN FIELD OFFICE  
SQUAD C-4 (202) 252-7844

### PRECEDENCE

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

### CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Sensitive
- Unclassified

Time Transmitted: 0900  
 Sender's Initials: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Pages: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Including Cover Page)

To: FBI HQ. VC 4  
(Name of Office)

Date: 11/8/93

Facsimile Number:

Attn: SSA   
(Name Room Telephone)

From: FBI WMD (C-4)  
(Name of Office)

Subject: FINDERS  
DU: WMD

*[Handwritten signature]*

Special Handling Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

Originator's Name:

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Originator's Facsimile Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: *[Signature]*

310-WF-18981-9  
 SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
 SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ FILED \_\_\_\_\_  
 NOV 08 1993  
 FBI - WASHINGTON  
*[Signature]*

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b7c

2A

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 11/8/93

FM FBI WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P) (C-4)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3920//

PASS: FBIHQ, TRAINING DIVISION, NCAVC/ISU FOR SSA

b6  
b7c

SUBJECT: "FINDERS" GROUP, WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT-SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE-PRELIMINARY INQUIRY; OO:WMFO

FOR INFORMATION OF NCAVC, CAPTIONED MATTER WAS OPENED ON 11/2/93 AS A RESULT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S REQUEST THAT THE FBI CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS MADE BY  CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE BY A GROUP KNOWN AS THE "FINDERS", AND WHAT ROLE IF ANY, WAS PLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

*[Handwritten mark: a large 'X' with a checkmark below it]*

MDC: Kch  
(2)

Approved: *MM* NOV 8

Time Received: \_\_\_\_\_

MRI/JULIAN DATE: 698/312

FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE: \_\_\_\_\_

31C-WF-189911-10

~~KCH006W.312~~

~~KCH015W.309~~

Telprep filename: KCH00650.312

Original filename: \_\_\_\_\_

ISN: 006

12<sup>50</sup> D5

↑PAGE 2 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WITH U.S. CONGRESSMAN

ROSE (FLORIDA) TO DISCUSS ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING A GROUP CALLED "FINDERS". BOTH ROSE AND [REDACTED] PROVIDED INFORMATION CONCERNING THESE ALLEGATIONS TO DOJ.

WMFO INVESTIGATED A GROUP CALLED FINDERS IN FEBRUARY, 1987. FINDERS WAS AN ALTERNATE LIFESTYLE GROUP, LOCATED AT 3918/3920 W STREET, N.W., AND 1307 4TH STREET, N.E., WDC, THAT EVOLVED INTO A DATA GATHERING GROUP. THE GROUP WAS

PURPORTEDLY HEADED BY A [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] VIRGINIA, WITH THE LEADER IN THE WDC

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WMFO CLOSED THE CASE WHEN NO VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL LAW, NO CHILD ABUSE, NO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN WAS DETERMINED TO HAVE OCCURRED.

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b7C

b6  
b7C

^PAGE 3 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

SA [REDACTED] THE WMFO CASE AGENT FOR THE 1987 INVESTIGATION, ADVISED THAT THIS MATTER WAS BROUGHT UP AGAIN SOMETIME IN 1989, WHEN TV TALK SHOW HOST [REDACTED] WAS PURPORTEDLY PLANNING TO AIR A SPECIAL EXPOSING FINDERS AS A SATANIC CULT. SA [REDACTED] PROVIDED SSA [REDACTED] OF NCAVC, QUANTICO WITH INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS INVESTIGATION. SA [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT WHEN THE TELEVISED SPECIAL AIRED THERE WAS NO RESPONSE TO FINDERS.

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LEADS:

TRAINING DIVISION, NCAVC, AT QUANTICO, VA.

REVIEW RECORDS CONCERNING THE FINDERS AT QUANTICO AND ADVISE FBIHQ, AND WMFO OF ANY REFERENCES TO FINDERS, SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSING THEIR CURRENT STATUS AND LOCATION IF KNOWN. ADDITIONALLY, REVIEW ALL REFERENCES TO FINDERS AND THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY IN AN ATTEMPT TO DETERJINE IF ANY CORRLATION EXISTS.

BT

0023 MRI 00698

PP FBIWMFO

DE FBIWMFO #0006 3121750

ZNR UUUUU

P 081749Z NOV 93

FM FBI WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P) (C-4)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3920//

PASS; FBIHQ, TRAINING DIVISION, NCAVC/ISU FOR SSA [REDACTED]

b6  
b7c

SUBJECT: "FINDERS" GROUP, WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT-SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE-PRELIMINARY  
INQUIRY; OO:WMFO.

FOR INFORMATION OF NCAVC, CAPTIONED MATTER WAS OPENED ON  
11/2/93 AS A RESULT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S REQUEST  
THAT THE FBI CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS  
MADE BY [REDACTED] CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE  
BY A GROUP KNOWN AS THE "FINDERS", AND WHAT ROLE IF ANY, WAS

31C-WF-189911-10

PAGE TWO DE FBIWMFO 0006 UNCLAS

PLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

WITH U.S. CONGRESSMAN

ROSE (FLORIDA) TO DISCUSS ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING A GROUP

CALLED "FINDERS". BOTH ROSE AND [REDACTED] PROVIDED INFORMATION

CONCERNING THESE ALLEGATIONS TO DOJ.

WMFO INVESTIGATED A GROUP CALLED FINDERS IN FEBRUARY,  
1987. FINDERS WAS AN ALTERNATE LIFESTYLE GROUP, LOCATED AT

[REDACTED]

THAT

EVOLVED INTO A DATA GATHERING GROUP, THE GROUP WAS

PURPORTEDLY HEADED BY A [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] VIRGINIA, WITH THE LEADER IN THE WDC

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WMFO CLOSED THE CASE WHEN NO VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL  
LAW, NO CHILD ABUSE, NO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN WAS  
DETERMINED TO HAVE OCCURRED.

SA [REDACTED] THE WMFO CASE AGENT FOR THE 1987

b6  
b7C

b6  
b7C

4B

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 11/9/93

FM FBI WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P) (C-4)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

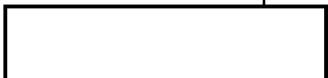
FBI MIAMI/PRIORITY/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3920//

PASS: CID, VCU, SSA



*Note corrections on pages 1 & 2*

SUBJECT: "FINDERS' GROUP, WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT-SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE-PRELIMINARY INQUIRY; OO:WMFO.

RE: BUREAU TELETYPE TO WMFO AND MIAMI, DATED 11/2/93, AND WMFO TELETYPE TO BUREAU AND MIAMI DATED 11/6/93, BOTH CAPTIONED AS ABOVE.

REFERENCED BUREAU TELETYPE ADVISED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REQUESTED THE FBI CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS MADE BY



CONCERNING CHILD

b6  
b7C

b6  
b7C

*MC:SG  
CD*

*4/12*  
*31C-WF-189911-11*  
*SRG01150.314*  
*SRG0050.313*

Approved: [Signature] Original filename: SRG0050.313

Time Received: 9:00pm Telprep filename: SRG01150.314

MRI/JULIAN DATE: 1232/314 1/314 ISN: 033

FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE: 131 Dec 11/9/93



^PAGE 2 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

SEXUAL ABUSE BY A GROUP KNOWN AS THE "FINDERS", AND WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, WAS PLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

REFERENCED BUREAU TELETYPE INITIATED SAID PRELIMINARY INQUIRY AND SET FORTH LEADS FOR WMFO AND MIAMI.

INVESTIGATION AT WMFO INDICATES THAT MATERIALS SEIZED DURING THE EXECUTIONS OF TWO FEBRUARY 1987 SEARCH WARRANTS OF "FINDERS" ADDRESSES IN WASHINGTON, D.C., WERE PROBABLY FORWARDED TO THE TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA POLICE DEPARTMENT (TPD) FOR INCLUSION IN THEIR "FINDERS" CASE.

LEAD:

MIAMI DIVISION AT TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA THROUGH LIAISON INTO THE TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA POLICE DEPARTMENT, REVIEW THEIR INVESTIGATIVE FILES CONCERNING THE "FINDERS". ASCERTAIN THE STATUS OF ANY PHYSICAL EVIDENCE MAINTAINED BY THE TPD, REVIEW SAME AND ADVISE FBIHQ AND WMFO. LOCATE INVOLVED TPD PERSONNEL TO INCLUDE THE THEN CHIEF OF POLICE, AND DETERMINE IF ANY OUTSIDE AGENCY (~~NOTIFY~~ <sup>NOTIFY</sup> FROM THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY) ATTEMPTED TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF THEIR INVESTIGATION.

^PAGE 3 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

BT

0077 MRI 01232

PP FBIWMFO

DE FBIWMFO #0033 3141842

ZNR UUUUU

P 101830Z NOV 93

FM FBI WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P) (C-4)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

FBI MIAMI/PRIORITY/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3920//

PASS: CID, VCU, SSA

b6  
b7c

SUBJECT: "FINDERS" GROUP, WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT-SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE-PRELIMINARY  
INQUIRY; OO:WMFO,

RE: BUREAU TELETYPE TO WMFO AND MIAMI, DATED 11/2/93,  
AND WMFO TELETYPE TO BUREAU AND MIAMI DATED 11/6/93, BOTH  
CAPTIONED AS ABOVE.

REFERENCED BUREAU TELETYPE ADVISED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF  
JUSTICE REQUESTED THE FBI CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO

31C-WF-189911-11  
SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED \_\_\_\_\_  
NOV 11 1993  
FBI - MIAMI

PAGE TWO DE FBIWMFO 0033 UNCLAS

ALLEGATIONS MADE BY [REDACTED] CONCERNING CHILD  
SEXUAL ABUSE BY A GROUP KNOWN AS THE "FINDERS", AND WHAT ROLE,  
IF ANY, WAS PLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE  
COMMUNITY.

b6  
b7c

REFERENCED BUREAU TELETYPE INITIATED SAID PRELIMINARY  
INQUIRY AND SET FORTH LEADS FOR WMFO AND MIAMI.

INVESTIGATION AT WMFO INDICATES THAT MATERIALS SEIZED  
DURING THE EXECUTIONS OF TWO FEBRUARY 1987 SEARCH WARRANTS OF  
"FINDERS" ADDRESSES IN WASHINGTON, D.C., WERE PROBABLY  
FORWARDED TO THE TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA POLICE DEPARTMENT (FPD)  
FOR INCLUSION IN THEIR "FINDERS" CASE.

LEAD:

MIAMI DIVISION AT TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

THROUGH LIAISON INTO THE TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA POLICE  
DEPARTMENT, REVIEW THEIR INVESTIGATIVE FILES CONCERNING THE  
"FINDERS". ASCERTAIN THE STATUS OF ANY PHYSICAL EVIDENCE  
MAINTAINED BY THE TPD, REVIEW SAME AND ADVISE FBIHQ AND WMFO.  
LOCATE INVOLVED TPD PERSONNEL TO INCLUDE THE THEN CHIEF OF  
POLICE, AND DETERMINE IF ANY OUTSIDE AGENCY (NOTIBLY THE U.S.  
INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY) ATTEMPTED TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF  
THEIR INVESTIGATION.

Memorandum



To : SAC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P) (C-4) Date 11/12/93

From : SSA [redacted]

Subject: FINDERS GROUP;  
WSTA-SEOC;  
OOJ-PI;  
OO:WMFO

b6  
b7C  
b7E

On 11/9/93, SSA [redacted] OLIA-FBIHQ was telephonically contacted re the status of his efforts to have both [redacted] U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT queried re the FINDERS. [redacted] had previously been requested by SSA [redacted] VCU-CID, to handle the inquiries on a headquarters level. [redacted] advised that he was drafting a letter for approval by the VCU which would be sent to the respective agencies. He further advised that [redacted] was assisting him in this effort.

SSA [redacted] was requested to advise WMFO of the results of his efforts as soon as possible.

On 11/9/93, SSA [redacted] advised that he was handling the review of any FCI files at FBIHQ and would advise WMFO of the results.

INDEX  
~~INDEX~~

2-WMFO

JKD:plj  
(2)

31C-WF-189911-14

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
NOV 12 1993  
FBI-WASH. FIELD OFFICE

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b7C

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[redacted] [signature] 11/12



# FBI FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN FIELD OFFICE  
SQUAD C-4 (202) 252-7844

### PRECEDENCE

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

### CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Sensitive
- Unclassified

Time Transmitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sender's Initials: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Pages: 7  
(Including Cover Page)

To: FBIHQ - VCU  
(Name of Office)

Date: 11/12/93

Facsimile Number:

Attn: SSA   
(Name Room Telephone)

From: FBI - WASH (C-4)  
(Name of Office)

Subject: FINDERS -  
PI

b6  
b7c

Special Handling Instructions: FD. 302 s OF MPD CASE OFFICER  
 + USCS SR AGENT

Originator's Name:  Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Originator's Facsimile Number:

Approved: [Signature]

310-WF-18991-15  
 FBI/DOJ  
 SEARCHED INDEXED  
 SERIALIZED FILED  
 NOV 12 1993  
 FBI - WASHINGTON

C4

0014 MRI 00488

PP FBIWMFO FBIJK

DE FBIMM #0002 3161508

ZNR UUUUU

P 121505Z NOV 93

FM FBI MIAMI (31C-WF-189911) (P)

TO FBI WMFO/PRIORITY/

FBI JACKSONVILLE/PRIORITY/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3460//

PASS: TALLAHASSEE RA.

SUBJECT: FINDERS GROUP, WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT - SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PRELIMINARY  
INQUIRY; OO:WMFO.

RE WMFO TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND MIAMI, DATED 11/10/93,  
FOR INFORMATION OF WMFO THE TALLAHASSEE RESIDENT AGENCY  
IS IN THE JACKSONVILLE DIVISION, REFERENCE TELETYPE WILL BE  
FAXED TO THE JACKSONVILLE DIVISION.

BT

#0002

Nov 17 10 51 AM '93

31C-WF-189911-16

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FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

4/1/93

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 11/15/93

FM FBI WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P) (C-4)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3920//

PASS: VCU-CID SSA

b6  
b7C

SUBJECT: "FINDERS" GROUP, WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT-SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE-PRELIMINARY INQUIRY; OO:WMFO.

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO WMFO AND MIAMI DATED 11/2/93, AND WMFO TELETYPE TO BUREAU DATED 11/6/93, BOTH CAPTIONED AS ABOVE.

REFERENCED BUREAU TELETYPE ADVISED WMFO THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REQUESTED THE FBI CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS MADE BY A  CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE BY A GROUP KNOWN AS THE

b6  
b7C

31C-WF-189911-17

Approved: *R. [Signature]* 7 '4 '93 Original filename: MDC003W.319 #4

Time Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Telprep filename: MDC06380.319

MRI/JULIAN DATE: 1145/319 ISN: 010

FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE: 439 J



^PAGE 2 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

"FINDERS" AND WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, WAS PLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

TO DATE, WMFO HAS CONDUCTED THE FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION INTO CAPTIONED MATTER.

THE WMFO CASE FILE ON THE "FINDERS" WAS REVIEWED AND SUMMARIZED FOR FBIHQ IN REFERENCED WMFO 11/6/93 TELETYPE.

THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD) CASE FILE WAS REVIEWED BY WMFO ON 11/4/93. COPIES WERE MADE OF SIGNIFICANT DOCUMENTS AND SENT TO FBIHQ, VIA FACSIMILE ON 11/5/93. ON 11/9/93, A PHOTOCOPY OF THE ENTIRE MPD FILE WAS OBTAINED AND HAND CARRIED TO FBIHQ.

WMFO INTERVIEWED FBI SA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] RESPECTIVE CASE AGENTS FOR 1987 "FINDERS" INVESTIGATION ON 11/5/93. FD-302s REFLECTING THESE INTERVIEWS WERE SENT TO FBIHQ VIA FACSIMILES ON 11/8/93 AND 11/12/93.

WMFO HAS NOT YET INTERVIEWED CUSTOMS SA [REDACTED] PER INSTRUCTIONS OF FBIHQ, BUT IS PREPARED TO DO SO UPON FBIHQ AUTHORIZATION.

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b7c

^PAGE 3 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

WMFO HAS SET FORTH LEADS FOR THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE UNIT TO REVIEW ITS RECORDS FOR REFERENCES TO THE "FINDERS" AND FOR MIAMI TO REVIEW LOCAL POLICE RECORDS FOR SAME.

WMFO IS AWAITING THE RESULTS OF OLIA SSA [REDACTED] EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY ANY PERTINENT FILES AT EITHER [REDACTED] THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT. IF POSITIVE, THE WMFO REVIEW OF ANY IDENTIFIED FILES WILL BE CONDUCTED AS SOON AS ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE.

WMFO CONTINUES TO RUN INDICES CHECKS AND REVIEW FILES FOR POSSIBLE CONNECTIONS TO CAPTIONED INVESTIGATION.

BT

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b7C  
b7E



# FBI FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN FIELD OFFICE  
SQUAD C-4 (202) 252-7844

### PRECEDENCE

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

### CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Sensitive
- Unclassified

Time Transmitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Sender's Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Pages: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Including Cover Page)

To: FBIHQ - UCL  
(Name of Office)

Date: 11/22/93

Facsimile Number:

Attn: SSA   
(Name Room Telephone)

From: FBI WASHDC  
(Name of Office)

Subject: FINDERS  
PI -

b6  
b7C

Special Handling Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

Originator's Name:  Telephone:

Originator's Facsimile Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: AGD

210-WF-18991P-19

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FBI - WASHDC	

# CITY Paper

WASHINGTON'S FREE WEEKLY

VOL. 8 NO. 32

AUGUST 12-18, 1988



*Shame of the Outback*  
An Aussie Biker-Barrister B-Movie  
Wartofsky (28) Jenkins (29)

## NEWS release

CHIEF MAURICE T. TURNER, JR. • METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT • WASHINGTON, D.C.  
FEBRUARY 9, 1987

ALLEGATIONS RELATING TO FINDERS ORGANIZATION

### INFORMATION REQUESTED

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT IS CONTINUING TO INVESTIGATE THE ALLEGED ABUSE OF SIX (6) CHILDREN FOUND WITH TWO MEN IN TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1987. BASED ON INFORMATION DEVELOPED BY THE TALLAHASSEE AUTHORITIES, THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WAS CONTACTED AND REQUESTED TO ASSIST WITH THE INVESTIGATION.

## IN SEARCH OF THE

# FINDERS



A WORLDWIDE NETWORK

- We Find
- PERSONS
- PLACES
- THINGS
- ORGANIZATIONS
- IDEAS
- EXCHANGES
- MONEY
- INFORMATION
- NOUNS

United States District Court  
DISTRICT OF Columbia

In the Matter of the Search of  
3318-20 N Street, NW, known as 2 2-story  
brick structures with an entrance between  
the addresses connecting the two  
structures

### INFORMATION REQUESTED



MARION PETTIE

### INFORMATION REQUESTED

Who are these game players? And why did they become a national news story last year? Jon Cohen [8]

31C WF-789911-20

*Handwritten signature*

# In Search of the

# FINDERS

**U**ntil February 1987, the Finders were invisible to all but a few friends, relatives, neighbors, police, and intelligence buffs.

The Finders liked it like that.

Even those familiar with the group of 20 adults and six children had different notions of what the members were up to. The Finders liked that, too. The more disparate the images, the more invisible the group became.

Its camouflage theory: If your foe can't discern your edges, you make a poor target. Friends of the Finders described them as '60s throwbacks who lived communally, ascribed to Eastern philosophies, played elaborate games using the globe as their board, and raised their children creatively. Relatives branded them a cult and charged that they were pawns of their leader, Marion Pettie Jr., a.k.a. the Game Caller, the Student, the Stroller. Police followed leads alleging that the group was satanic and used the children in rituals. Intelligence buffs believed the technology-savvy bunch was made up of spooks. Neighbors of Finders' homes in D.C. and rural Virginia tagged them as plain weird. How else to explain perpetually shuttered windows, a motorcade of just two adults outfitted in dress clothes ambulating outdoors with blacked-out kids who didn't go to school?

These images ran in concentric circles, like planets around the sun. Then on Wednesday, February 4, 1987, the planets began to collide.

Shortly before 5 o'clock that afternoon a woman who lived next to Myers Park in Tallahassee, Florida, called police to report an odd sight: a man dressed in a coat and tie playing in the park with six unkempt children. When two patrol cars arrived at Myers Park the officers found two well-dressed men and six kids alongside a foul-smelling, blue Dodge van with Virginia plates. The kids, between the ages of 2 and 7, were bug-bitten, had scratches on their legs, and were wearing dirty clothes.

One officer interviewed the men, Michael Holwell, 23, and Douglas Ammerman, 27. The other questioned the children.

Had Holwell and Ammerman told the police they were from a D.C.-based communal group, had they explained they were on a camping trip, had they reached in the glove compartment and forked over the letters-of-consent from the children's mothers, had they not acted so evasive and weird, they well might have been thanked for their time and left alone. But there are too many what-ifs in the Finders saga, too many chapters that could have been the last one.

Instead, what happened is this: Holwell and Ammerman were arrested on misdemeanor child-abuse charges. Within a day the national news rocket took off, fueled with the worst kind of off-the-record innuendo, misleading court documents, and wide-eyed pronouncements from officials working the case. If you believed the reports, Holwell and Ammerman were satanic D.C. cultists that swiped children from their parents, sexually abused them, and peddled kiddie porn across the globe.

The *Washington Post* ran Page One stories three days in a row. Washington TV stations dispatched reporters to Tallahassee to broadcast live remotes. The *Miami Herald* quoted parents of Finders wondering if the group was going to pull a mass suicide, a la Jonestown. The staid *New York Times* reported that "some have described [the Finders] as a bizarre cult of devil worshippers." Everyone got in on the act. There were stories broadcast by Rita Braver, Connie Chung, Larry King, CNN, even the BBC.

The Law pulled out all the stops, too. The Tallahassee and D.C. Police hooked up with the FBI, the U.S. Customs Service, Interpol, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (an FBI-like unit), and police in Virginia, San Francisco, and New York.

Holwell and Ammerman sat in stir at Tallahassee's Leon County Jail and the state of Florida held the children in protective custody. Meanwhile, police raided Finders' homes in D.C. and Virginia, investigating everything from the men's sexual habits to their finances.

The only trouble was, they hadn't broken any laws. After six weeks in jail, the charges against the men were dropped. And though the state kept some of the child-

ren from their mothers for months, eventually all of them were returned.

A year-and-a-half later, the Finders have quietly gone back to their own business. But some questions have yet to fade. How did the case get so whacked out of proportion? Why did it continue, week after week?

And who are the Finders, anyway?

**T**he Tallahassee Police Department responded to my Freedom of Information Act request by turning over most of their Finders files. Their cooperation was remarkable. The Washington Metropolitan Police Department, on the other hand, which searched two D.C. Finders' dwellings, refused to answer any questions for this article. "We were not the lead agency," explained spokesman Sergeant Joe Gentile. D.C. Police also denied my Freedom of Information Act request and appeals, claiming that this case was a juvenile matter and therefore off limits.

Officer Judy Suchocki, one of the arresting officers, guides her patrol car between stands of oaks to a patch of dirt at Tallahassee's Myers Park. As her headlights illuminate webs of Spanish moss hanging from the trees, she tells the story of the arrest.

Suchocki had responded to a Code 13P, suspicious persons, and arrived as the back-up to the first officer on the scene, Tony Mashburn. Mashburn questioned Holwell and Ammerman; Suchocki interviewed the four boys and two girls in the Dodge van.

"They were scared of us, which is not unusual for kids," says Suchocki.

"My first impression was that they were dirty, but I would not say that they were unusually dirty for kids," she says. "The van smelled like urine and there were blankets all over the back. They definitely were sleeping in the van. I asked the kids where they were from, why they were here, where they were going. Mary was the one who was talking. She was real talkative."

Mary, 7, said they were from Washington and she recited their Glover Park address and phone number. She gave all the kids' names and their ages: Max Livingston, 6; Benjamin Franklin, 4; Honey Bee, 3; John Paul Pope, her brother, 2; and B.B., 2. They didn't go to school, though they had been taught how to read and how to play games. One of the two men was her daddy, Mary said, but they hadn't seen their mommies since before Christmas—which the Finders don't celebrate. She explained that they have lots of mommies and daddies and that the adults do what the Game Caller says. Right now, they were being "weaned" from their mommies and just "going different places," sleeping in campgrounds.

"I was worried about the kids being kidnapped," says Suchocki. "For her to tell me they were being weaned was odd."

After questioning the kids for 20 minutes, Suchocki compared notes with Mashburn. Ammerman and Holwell had told Mashburn they were D.C. teachers en route to Mexico where they were going to start a school for brilliant children. The kids' parents, they said, were back in Washington. Then Ammerman became evasive, refusing to claim any of the kids as his own, and Holwell clammed up entirely.

"I'm not sure what's going on," Mashburn told Suchocki. They radioed their higher-

**For one week in 1987, the D.C.-based Finders were the talk of the country when Tallahassee Police arrested two well-dressed members traveling with six dirty kids. The secretive group has faded away again, but a few questions haven't. How did they become Page One news? Why did the state of Florida drag the case out for week after week? And who are the Finders, anyway?**

By Jon Cohen

RE: DATE WARRANT RECEIVED 2/5/87 DATE AND TIME WARRANT EXECUTED 2/5/87 1715 INVENTORY MADE IN THE PRESENCE OF

A.D.D.  
 FR 11 JEFF UBOIS/ MCI 10: 216-0456  
**INFORMATION REQUESTED**

8317 metro sta  
 ST PETERSBURG TIMES

Cult children were seen

TO KIDS GAME: EXPAND YOUR GRANNY NETWORK  
 WORK.  
 MDP TO KIDS GAME, TUES. 5AM  
 IF AUTHORITARIANS APPROACH AGAIN, SAY THAT YOU ARE AUTHORIZED  
 WAY TO MEXICO TO START A SCHOOL, AND THEN YOU ARE GOING TO  
 BY THE MOTHERS TO DO THIS.  
 IT FEELS LIKE A HOSTILE ACT WHEN KIDS ARE FOUND DEGRESS  
 IN SCHOOL.) IF THEY ASK TELL ABOUT THEIR DEGRESS THAT YOU ARE GOING TO  
 FEW THAT THEY DON'T HAVE. ANNOUNCE THAT YOU ARE GOING TO  
 CALL THE SCHOOL: "HARVARD UNIVERSITY FOR EIGHT KIDS."

COMMAND: PR 12  
 PERSON: JEFF UBOIS  
 SUBJECT: MDP TO KIDS GAME  
 DID YOU  
 FOR THEM ARCHIV  
 MTC 0456  
 MDP TO KIDS GAME  
 SUBJECT: MDP TO KIDS GAME  
 MDP TO KIDS GAME  
 ARRIVED IN KING KING STAYING IN  
 GUEST HOUSE FULL OF STAYING IN  
 HOUSE A BLOCK CHING THIS



**RTG.I.A.D.**  
**INFORMATION REQUESTED**  
**RTOMAB.**

Telephone Answering Machine E.  
 Assorted papers & note books  
 7700 W St.  
 Notes  
 Documents  
 3) Documents  
 4) Documents  
 5) Documents

FILE  
 Florida Department of Law Enforcement

MISSING JUVENILE

NAME:	UNIDENTIFIED MALE
ALIAS:	
STATUS:	Runaway ( ) Parental Absduction ( ) Dutgr(X)
HEIGHT:	
HAIR COLOR:	Brown
HAIR STYLE:	



Waiting for their supervisor to arrive, Suchocki continued her interview with the kids. The Game Caller was a big fat man who sat on a pedestal and threw pennies at them, Mary said. Suchocki began to think the kids had been brainwashed.  
 Mary recounted a recent trip to a coin-op laundry: They hadn't put enough soap in the machine and some of the clothes didn't come clean. They said they received food in reward for work, lived on a diet of raw vegetables and fruit, and hadn't eaten since morning. As they talked, Mary took oranges and bananas from a box in the van and peeled them for the other kids.  
 "Stuff like that made me wonder if the men were taking care of the kids properly—even if they weren't being kidnapped," says Suchocki.  
 Florida child-abuse laws make it a misdemeanor to deprive children of food, clothing, shelter, or medical care or to cause them mental injury. On arrival, Suchocki and Mashburn's supervisor decided, if nothing else, these laws had been broken and he told the officers to arrest the men.  
 Suchocki didn't put up any argument. "There was no way I was going to let these men continue with the kids if I could help it," she says. "Can you imagine how I would have

felt if we let them go and I learned later that these six kids were kidnapped? Think about it. If it was your child who was kidnapped..."  
 When informed that they were under arrest, Holwell fell to the ground.  
 "The guy just did a fake faint," says Suchocki. "I've seen it several times. Women are real good at doing it. Usually when a person really faints you don't bend the knees. This guy did a Scartlen O'Hara thing."  
 "I checked him. I looked at his eyes to make sure he wasn't diabetic or something. I said, 'Get up. I know you're faking this mess.' And he wouldn't get up....It was like a child playing; like when you go in to check if they're asleep at night."  
 A few teenagers hanging out in the park noticed the commotion and fetched their home video camera to tape the arrest. Holwell was hoisted by his limbs, put in a patrol car with Ammerman, and driven to the station. Suchocki drove the kids over in the van.  
 Ammerman, who had a valid driver's license, was booked under his name and also under an alias, Kenny Rogers. Holwell had no ID and was booked as John Doe, with the a.k.a.'s Michael James Houlihan and James Michael Holwell.  
 "The children were extremely hungry when they got to the police department," officer Mashburn wrote in his three-page report. "The children appeared as if they hadn't bathed in several days and most of them

didn't have on any underwear....The children's clothing were extremely filthy and they had on mismatched socks."  
 Investigator Cheryl Weigand of the Sex Crimes and Juvenile Unit "Miranda-ed" Holwell and Ammerman in a holding cell and attempted to interview them. Instead of answering Weigand's questions, Ammerman asked about the charges while Holwell hid on the cell's floor with his eyes shut tight, jerking his body. "Holwell was doing the frog," says Weigand, who was appointed the case's lead investigator.  
 "If they had said who they were, given us a number where we could have contacted the mothers, I'm not saying the situation wouldn't have concerned us—it might still have been a little hard for us to understand—but it would have lifted a large cloud," Weigand says. "We had six children, and we didn't know who their mothers were."  
 Weigand ushered the kids through the second of the many interviews they would endure.  
 Mary said the Game Caller's name was Mary Pettie. She said he forbade the children from entering the Glover Park house and that he lived on the roof. While on the road, she explained, they wrote to Pettie on a modem-equipped computer—a TRS-80 laptop—and then he would tell them what to do.  
 "I don't understand, Investigator Weigand said.

Mary told her they were "different." Different indeed. One of the boys peed on the rug in Weigand's office. Other kids soiled their pants. Six-year-old Max Livingston, she noted, had a poor understanding of time. He didn't seem to recognize a stapler, a typewriter, and other common office objects. Weigand led the kids back to the van to get some food and one of the 2-year-olds ate eight bananas and a carrot.  
 "These children were not properly taken care of," says Weigand, who hails from New York. "Being a police officer is very much a learned behavior. You see one incident and say 'what if?' We see hundreds and hundreds and we learn what is reasonable for a parent to do and what is not reasonable."  
 Weigand spoke with one of the girls about sexual abuse. "[S]he became very evasive," Weigand wrote in her report. "She denied any 'bad touches,' or any inappropriate behavior by the adults. [She] became very fidgety, and wanted to end the interview."  
 Later, two of the kids described a game in which they ripped off an adult's clothes. Apparently, the kids only tore off a man's jacket and then rummaged through his pockets for change. They told Weigand about another game where women walked around naked.  
 "Both children felt that this was very funny," wrote Weigand, "and went along with the concept of it being a game."  
 The police fingerprinted the children and

Research for this article was aided by a grant from the Fund for Investigative Journalism.

# In Search of the FINDERS

took their mug shots after agents from Florida's Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) arrived to place the kids in protective custody.

Investigator Weigand phoned the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department and explained the situation, giving them the Glover Park phone number and address Mary had memorized. D.C. Police reported back to Weigand, saying they had reached an answering machine with a "weird" message on it, some kind of biblical passage. D.C. said it was going to send a cruiser by the house. Tallahassee didn't hear from D.C. until the next day.

**A**s Finders travel the country and the world, they communicate with fellow members via electronic mailboxes, such as MCI Mail. No matter where they are they can receive or transmit a message with a Touch Tone phone, a computer, a modem, and the mailbox password.

The day after Tallahassee Police arrested Ammerman and Holwell, a Finder named SS (Stuart Silverstone—they typically use their initials when corresponding) sent a "priority" report to BM (Bob Meyer).

"The sequence of events started here when I returned to W St [the Glover Park home] last night around 10pm to a waiting Metropolitan Police Officer Smith of the 2nd District HQ," SS's report reads. Officer Smith told SS that three kids were found in Tallahassee living in a van and that police thought one of the mothers lived at this address.

"The offer asked my name, which I gave, + whether this was a school. No, and that was about it," wrote SS. "I offered to make some calls to try + locate the mother."

SS checked the answering machine and listened to a message left by the D.C. Police. A few minutes later, the phone rang. It was an official from Florida's HRS explaining that they had his kids and that the juvenile court would be holding a custody hearing the next morning. "He asked me if I knew where the mothers were, + I said I would try to find out. He asked if this was a school, + I said No, it was a private residence. He would not tell me more, such as the names of the men being held + charges."

On Thursday, the day after the arrest, the juvenile court granted HRS temporary custody of the children. The criminal court set bond of \$100,000 each for the misdemeanor child-abuse charges leveled against Ammerman and Holwell. SS called Investigator Weigand, using the name Steve Learner, and told her he was trying to help put the mothers in touch with her. Weigand explained the particulars of the case. Would the mothers get their kids if they showed up? he asked. Not necessarily, Weigand said.

"It was a very routine sort of investigation," says Officer Scott Hunt, who was the Tallahassee Police Department spokesman at the time.

Hunt phoned the press Wednesday night and briefed them, but on Thursday the only mention of the arrest was in a small story in the local paper, the *Tallahassee Democrat*. "Child abuse cases were not that unusual," says Hunt.

That changed before the close of Thursday when D.C. Police realized Ammerman and Holwell were members of the Finders:

"Their [D.C. Police] response was 'Holy shit! We've been looking at these freaks,'" says Hunt.

Tallahassee Investigator Cheryl Weigand spoke to Detective Jim Bradley of the Washington Metropolitan Police Intelligence Unit that day. In her report she wrote, "He asked this investigator if I thought there was a possibility there may be more children at either of the locations [the Glover Park home the women and children resided in or a Northeast warehouse that the men called home]. This investigator stated that may be true, but I did

not have any specific child that I knew of there. He stated that he was going to get search warrants on both locations, and try to serve them later this date."

Det. Bradley filed an affidavit for the search warrants at the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on Thursday afternoon, explaining that he was looking for evidence of kidnapping, a federal crime, or any related offenses described in the affidavit.

"Prior to February 5th, 1987 your affiant, Detective James E. Bradley, Jr. received information from a confidential source of information," wrote Bradley. "This source stated that a group of subjects calling themselves the Finders, A [sic] cult, were conducting 'brainwashing' techniques at the above described two locations in Dist of Columbia. The source stated that members of the 'cult' attempted on numerous occasions [sic] to introduce it into the 'cult' by promising financial rewards and sexual gratification. The source stated that children are used in 'rituals' by the members of the 'cult'. The source stated that it never personally observed the children being abused but that it had had conversations with grandparents of the children who feared for the safety of the children.

"The source further stated that during the latter part of December 1986 it personally had conversations with one of the 'cult' members, identified as Allen Schoen, wanted it to 'explore' Satanism with members of the 'cult.' Judge Jean Dwyer approved the warrants shortly after 4 p.m.

Bradley's affidavit became the fount of much of the sensational reporting that followed. Ex-Finder Paula Arico, mother of Mary and John Paul Pope and formerly Holwell's wife, says Bradley's "confidential source" is a woman who had a brief affair with a group member. Two independent sources confirmed this.

In the affidavit, Bradley summarized what he had learned from Tallahassee Police and wrote, "Lastly, the source in this investigation told your affiant that the information concerning this 'cult' is kept in computers stored at the addresses listed in this affidavit."

In what appears to be an addendum, Bradley added this zinger in slightly larger type.

"On December 15, 1986 Detective Bradley responded to the area of Glover Park in the rear of the 3900 Block of W Street, N.W. Det. Bradley observed a clearing approximately seventy yards behind the house and several stumps surrounding the open area. Several round stones had been gathered near the circle, this practice is sometimes used in Satanic rituals, and evidence that several persons had gathered in the clearing recently. The rear of the residence is covered from the alley by heavy bamboo growth, save a small entrance to the rear yard. In the rear yard [sic] was a small very ornate gravestone propped up against the support pillar for the porch."

Like other members of the Metropolitan Police, Det. Bradley did not return phone calls and did not reply to a written request for an interview.

To a school of journalists circling a story, an affidavit like this one—packed with sex, child abuse, the occult, and cultism—is fresh blood. Affidavits are court documents, and journalists can quote from them without fearing a libel suit. Whether the police have their facts straight doesn't matter—an affidavit tells a journalist what the police think they know.

If that wasn't enough to chum the waters, sexual abuse got tossed in. An HRS caseworker told Investigator Weigand and at least one other Tallahassee officer that two of the children were "confirmed cases of sexual abuse," even though the physician who conducted sexual exams on the children for HRS had not confirmed sexual abuse.

The doctor's dictation, transcribed the day after the exam, cautiously describes possible sexual abuse of one boy and one girl.

"This is a distinctly abnormal hymenal pattern compatible with either digital or attempted penile penetration," he said of the girl. "The absence of superficial [sic] abrasions revealed by toluidine [sic] blue would argue against any recent trauma (in the last 3-5 days)." Of the boy, he stated, "The degree of anal sphincter laxity should prompt questioning in the area of anal digital penetration or

sojomy, although it is not diagnostic of either."

Thursday evening, D.C. news stations broadcast their first Finders stories and Friday's *Washington Post* ran a small story in Metro.

On Friday, Weigand, another Tallahassee investigator, and an FBI agent tried to interview the men at Leon County Jail, where they were kept in isolation. To the investigators' surprise, when they arrived at the jail they bumped into Doug Ammerman's brother, David.

David told the officers Doug had visited their parents in Gainesville a few weeks before the arrest with a boy he claimed was his. Doug Ammerman had told his parents he was heading for Miami.

Though David said he hadn't seen his brother in three or four years, the year before he had written Doug a letter. David showed the investigators the reply. It wasn't from Doug. It was from Stuart Silverstone—SS—and printed on the letterhead of Gung-Ho Traders, 1307 Fourth Street NE, the address of the Finders' warehouse. Silverstone's letter said Doug had left for China with a Dr. Gung-Ho just before the postman delivered David's letter. David Ammerman also showed investigators a letter addressed to their mother signed by "The Three Wives of Gung Ho."

The letter reads, "This is to testify that your son Douglas, aka Earnest Angel, I Betterson, Danny Proper, Kenny Rogers is a true master of the art of fucking. The shape of his cock is unique and he is truly an artist at using it to give us the most pleasure. The depth! The width! The height! No other man touches us in this way."

"His hands have magic as they stroke our slender limbs and moist pussies. Words cannot describe the tender passion that Douglas brings to our orgasmic pleasures..."

"Oh Mrs. Ammerman, we cannot thank you enough for having raised such a great stud. Just think, if he had never left home, we'd never have known the ecstasy of his throbbing penis!"

Doug Ammerman refused to speak with the investigators or his visiting brother. Holwell, however, offered some "basic information" and asked about the children. Had they been seen by a doctor? Was anything found? Where were they? The investigators told him the kids were in protective custody and not in need of immediate medical attention.

Friday was also the day that reporters from the *Post* and local TV stations got their hands on the affidavit, just in time to photograph and videotape the raid of the Finders' warehouse.

At a press conference in Tallahassee, Scott Hunt revealed that "physical examinations showed sexual abuse to one of the children."

The Washington TV stations went wild. Take WUSA-TV, for example, D.C.'s CBS affiliate. They broadcast the arrest footage shot by the teens. Bob Strickland appeared live from Tallahassee. Mc-lo-dra-ma-ic Mike Buchanan, citing police sources, reported that the Finders had "worldwide connections," used "sex and children to obtain power and money," and had two bank accounts with over \$100,000 in each one. The Glover Park residence was "a breeding house where women exercise great control." The children in custody were "like shells, zombie-like."

In the searches of the Finders' two D.C. addresses, police recovered computers, data disks, software, diaries, and other personal papers. Police also seized photos they said showed children taking part in animal blood-letting ceremonies. One photo supposedly showed a child in chains.

If you missed it on TV, there it was on Page One of the Saturday *Post* in two stories above the fold, complete with police mug shots of the kids in Tallahassee.

"Officials Describe 'Cult Rituals' in Child Abuse Case," one *Post* story was headlined. "Customs officials said they were looking into whether a child pornography operation was being conducted," the article said. Adding to the intrigue, *Post* reporters noted that photos of naked children were "visible through a bag carried from the warehouse" during the raid. (In TV footage of the raid, one of the article's



Homebound: After 41 days in jail, Florida dropped all charges against Holwell (l) and Ammerman.

Phil Seaver/Tallahassee Democrat

# In Search of the FINDERS

authors can be seen scribbling madly as she peers through a jam-packed plastic bag a cop hauls away.)

The *Miami Herald's* Page One story quoted Officer Scott Hunt, "It is our belief these kids were not kidnapped but that their parents gave them away, because one of the rites of passage into this satanic organization is that you have to give up your rights to your children, and that the leaders of this organization can do what they want to with your children."

In the *Tallahassee Democrat's* Page One story, Hunt was quoted, "As far as we're concerned, this goes from coast to coast and from Canada to Mexico.... There is no doubt in our mind that this will have at least national, if not international, repercussions."

The FBI had joined the case to look into the "transportation of children across state lines for immoral purposes or kidnapping." U.S. Customs was contributing its satanism and pornography expertise. Interpol was investigating a tip about Holwell.

The Tallahassee Police Department was awash in the media flood. "I had 75 reporters waiting for me in the lobby," says Hunt. "We logged 450 telephone calls to me in two days. They were bringing in overtime people to help take messages." Hundreds of calls were from parents claiming the children. Canvassing the nation for the kids' parents were the National Center for Exploited Children, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Child Find, Children's Clearing House, the National Child Safety Council, and the National Association of Missing Children. Aside from a bomb threat phoned to the house holding the kids, they were physically safe as could be.

**S**unday night, three days after the arrest, the Finders went public with their story. Gardner Terrell's CPA attorney with the Internal Revenue Service sent a memo to D.C. and Tallahassee Police, the FBI, HRS, the juvenile court judge, the FBI, Dan Rather, and the *Washington Post*. With a stab at wit and humor, the Finders' trademark, Terrell headed the memo "SUBJECT: Investigative Leads."

"This memo is respectfully offered in the hope that it will clear up some misunderstanding concerning the current 'missing children' case receiving so much media coverage," he wrote. Terrell explained that in early January, Ammerman, a landscape gardener, and Stanley Berns, an architect, had taken the seven children to Berea, Kentucky, to help the Rev. Jim Wyker build a retirement community called New Hope. Terrell gave the name and phone number of a Berea couple who helped care for the kids during their visit, and said the plan had been to enroll them in the couple's Montessori school while the community was being built.

Because the Rev. Wyker was not ready to break ground for New Hope, wrote Terrell, "the men took the children on a vacation/camping trip to the warmer climate of Florida with the full applause and approval of the children's mothers." Terrell wrote that he drove to Florida with Holwell, computer programmers Christian Herbst and Thomas R. Van Deusen, and Robert M. Meyer. Herbst, noted Terrell, has a Harvard M.A., while Meyer "is a Princeton and Oxford M.A."

"When we were satisfied that the six children [were] safely in the hands of five capable adults, Mr. Meyer and I left Florida." On the day of the arrest, Holwell and Ammerman took the kids to the park while the three other men looked for "accommodations."

"The mothers had fully authorized these men, in writing, to care for their children and expressed full confidence in them," wrote Terrell, referring to the authorization letters in the van's glove compartment. "All of the mothers are now in San Francisco working in business offices, earning money to help pay for 'New Hope.'"

Terrell, who claimed he owned the raided Glover Park home and the Northeast warehouse, closed by saying he considered the arrests and raids "mistakes." Not violations of civil liberties. Not a humiliating pain in the ass. Not a wholly unnecessary bureaucratic fuck-up. Mistakes, that's all. His memo included his phone number and an offer to help in any way he could.

Reporters and police never poked a hole in Terrell's even-toned and cordial letter. From Berea, Kentucky, the Rev. Jim Wyker confirmed that the men and children had stayed with him for a week in January. The 86-year-old retired non-denominational minister was a rock-solid source. He told the *Louisville Courier-Journal* he met the Finders at a "meeting of commune proponents" a few years before. That past November, he told them about his New Hope plans, and January 9 they popped in to help. "The only thing we discussed was the land and the building and children's center," he said. "I'm not trying to uphold the

Kids."

The Sunday *Washington Post* ran two Page One stories on the Finders, one headlined "Cult Member Defends 2 Men in Child Abuse Case."

"We are all in a state right now where we are afraid. We've been made almost dysfunctional by the reports," Terrell told the *Post* in what the paper called a lengthy telephone interview. Terrell described the "bloodletting ritual" as the slaughter of two goats kept on a farm in Virginia. The goats had been killed for food, he said, and the kids had watched the slaughter as an educational experience.

The *Post's* conversation with Terrell came shortly after police raided five Finders' properties in two small Virginia towns near Old Rag Mountain, Etlan and Nethers. Again, the *Post* satisfied the readers' longing to peer behind the curtain—no matter what might be there. "The door of one cabin was open yesterday, revealing large amounts of food, clothing, sleeping bags, books and pamphlets from

"By Monday, Washington's out of this, they're shutting down," recalls Lt. Van Meter. "We're getting calls from the chief in D.C. telling our chief, 'We don't have anything. Bye.'"

Monday was also the day Tallahassee got first wind of Marion Pettie's whereabouts. Lt. Lee Hart of the Culpeper (Virginia) Police Department informed Tallahassee that he had a contact with the Finders. Hart said this contact told him Pettie put out the word for members to flee and hide, and Pettie would probably go to Andrews Air Force Base and catch a military plane flight to China. This was plausible: Pettie, a retired Air Force master sergeant, had the right to free, stand-by military transport.

Monday also saw a visit to the Washington, D.C., Field Office of the FBI by one of the Finders' mothers and the three men from the white van.

An FBI report of the interviews gives the impression that Herbst, Van Deusen, and Meyer had remained calm until they read the newspaper accounts on Friday morning, February 6th. "[T]hey realized they were being portrayed as child abusers and satanists. Frightened, the three decided to return to WDC and figure out what to do."

In Monday's *Washington Post*, Terrell explained the men's silence and passivity ("Finders Member Labels Arrests 'All a Big Mistake.'"). Shortly before the Tallahassee arrests they had been stopped by police in Marion County, Florida, and that incident combined with 10 years of being hassled by D.C. cops convinced the men that it would be better to deal with a judge than unreasonable police.

"Another Finders mother called the Tallahassee Police Monday and asked whether the mothers would be arrested if they came to claim their kids. 'We couldn't give the mothers the guarantee that they wouldn't be arrested,' says Lt. Van Meter. The mother agreed to call back the next day."

Two more mothers visited the FBI in D.C. on Tuesday. "Everyone interviewed stated child abuse and child sexual exploitation is not a part of their beliefs and sex with children is morally reprehensible." The FBI report states, "All have complete confidence in the ability of any of their group to care for the children.... They do not in any way, shape or form practice 'satanism,' and all are eager for the return of their children. Everyone interviewed agreed to be polygraphed by the FBI should the need arise." Two more mothers were to be interviewed the next day, the report explains, and after that the mothers were planning to head to Tallahassee.

"[We] have not uncovered any indication of violation of a federal statute," the report concludes.

"We had pretty much tied up the case," Investigator Weigand says.

By Tuesday, the *Post* had consigned the Finders story to the Metro section—"D.C. Police: Finders Odd, Not Criminal."

That night, Terrell invited reporters into the Finders' warehouse for an interview. Sitting with his back to the cameras, a Ronald Reagan mask cowering the hind part of his head, he explained that the mothers hadn't come forward because they were waiting out the storm.

Terrell also told reporters that he was "playing the role of Gunguz K. Plato."

Tallahassee Police spokesman Hunt was flabbergasted. "Why are we doing this jousting in the media? I believe Mr. Terrell could go a long way in clearing this case if he produces the mothers of these children as he says he can," he told the *Tallahassee Democrat* on Tuesday.

"Up till that point, people said the ol' police department did some pretty dumb things," recalls Investigator Rick Huffman, who inherited the case from Weigand when she left for vacation. "Then there's this clown on TV saying all these stupid things. People started saying that's too stupid to be any kind of a cult. In Tallahassee, it turned out that this whole thing was being perceived as a joke."

Though Weigand believed the case was wrapped up Tuesday, she still wondered why the mothers had not hightailed it down to Tal-

Specials Description

MEMBER LABELS

MEMBERS REQUIRED

Mistake

abuse

Memo: Finders found

Mystery children were

held by cult, police say

folks from Washington, I don't know them. All I know is what I saw."

The report of three other men jibed with tips police had gotten about a white van traveling with the blue van. Several state police had even been put on the lookout for the white van.

On Sunday, a college student and part-time Tallahassee Police Department employee brought to police a TRS-80 computer he found. (One police source told me the student brought the computer in on Thursday, but that the police wanted to explore its files for a few days.) Files on the computer included a report from the three men Terrell mentioned in his memo, Herbst, Van Deusen, and Meyer.

This trio had left Holwell and Ammerman at 10 a.m. Wednesday morning. "They were dressed in suits and ties, the van had been cleaned up, and the kids had been dressed in clean clothes, they had a large amount of produce with them, and the kids had a breakfast buffet before they left," the confiscated report reads. Holwell and Ammerman were supposed to link up with the men via their electronic mailbox. Until they read SS's report the next morning, the three men had no idea where Holwell and Ammerman had gone. SS's report didn't send them into a panic though: One spent the day earning a few dollars helping "a cripple" while the other two researched an article about desktop publishing at Tallahassee's Florida State University library.

Other files in the TRS-80 included a report from a member working in Hong Kong and a short note from MDP, Marion D. Pettie, to the "Kids Game." Dated 5 a.m. Tuesday morning, it reads, "If authoritarians approach again, say that you are on the way to Mexico to start a school and that you are authorized by the mothers to do this."

"It feels like a hostile act when kids are found not to be in school. If they ask tell about their degrees, plus a few that they don't have. Announce that you are going to call the school: 'Harvard University for Bright

groups such as the World Future Society," the source revealed. "A plastic bag containing hundreds of neckties and several pairs of penny hose were on the floor, along with boxes of diapers."

The *Post* coverage included juicy tidbits in paragraph 16 of one of the stories. According to a U.S. Customs spokesman, agents who saw photos seized in the D.C. raids said some of them appeared to involve sex between adults and kids. This appeared balanced with a D.C. Police source calling the pictures "no more pornographic than what you find in your average home." Later in the story, a D.C. Police source confided that the D.C. raids didn't turn up "anything anywhere."

"We had two separate investigations going on. Ours and the media's," says Tallahassee Police's Lt. Jo Ann Van Meter, who supervised the beginning of the investigation.

"I never expected the media attention I got," says Tallahassee Police spokesman Hunt. "Never. That's the problem you have with multiple jurisdictions: The media was playing off all of us and making it a bigger story."

**O**n Monday, Day 6 of the Finders Crisis, Washington Metropolitan Police began to slink away from the case.

The day before, D.C. Detectives Jim Bradley and Eric Witzig had interrogated the kids in Tallahassee. Bradley, who had requested the D.C. search warrants, said his visit to Tallahassee was prompted by three separate accounts of the Glover Park house's basement. Exactly what he was looking for in Tallahassee escaped Investigator Weigand, who wrote in her report for that day, "He indicated that there may have been a hole dug in the walls or the floor of the basement, for unknown reasons." Judging from the Tallahassee reports, the D.C. detectives' trip to Florida was a waste. They didn't learn much more than Mary could count to 10 in Chinese.

"The chief in D.C. sent up a hue and a cry in the beginning," says Tallahassee's Lt. Van Meter, "and then when his guys didn't come up with anything, he backed away."



# In Search of the FINDERS

lahassee the day they learned of the arrest. "Seems to me that people who have never done anything wrong have nothing to fear," says Weigand. "What were they hiding? If it were me, I'd blindly go get my child."

**S**ex, confusion, small-mindedness, fear, the press, and the enigmatic Finders kept jolting the Finders case back to life. HRS recruited Chicago psychologist Dr. Nahman Greenberg to tackle the question of sexual abuse. Known for his sex-abuse work in the Manhattan Beach, California, preschool case, Greenberg held a series of interviews with the kids. His conclusion: the evidence was inconclusive.

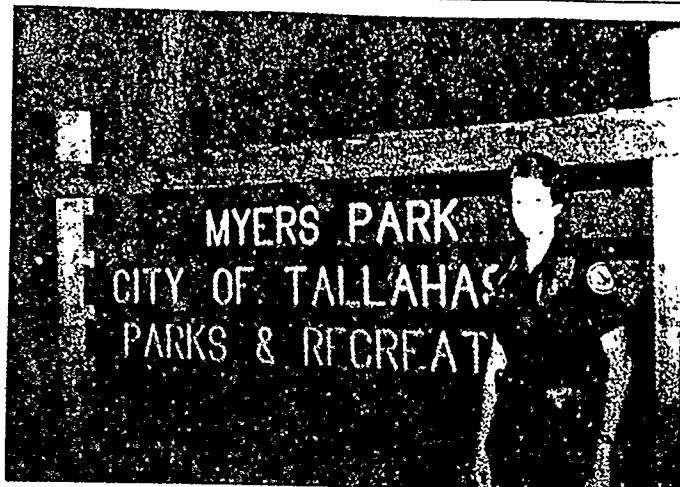
The tangle of law-enforcement outfits working the case continued to confuse everyone.

"A couple of officers in D.C. used our arrest as an excuse to go into the warehouse," says a Tallahassee officer who asked for anonymity. "They were obsessed with this group and wanted access."

Larry Kahaner, a D.C. journalist and author of the current book, *Cults That Kill*, spoke with police about the Finders while researching his book. (The Finders are not mentioned in his book, nor does he classify them as a cult that kills.)

"Finders were operating here for 25 years," says Kahaner, "and as far as I know, law enforcement had nothing on them. I think that was a very embarrassing thing. Not that they got caught with their pants down—but they were at least half-way down."

Investigator Huffman is the only Tallahassee officer who squarely discussed problems in his own department with me. He says the arresting officers did right. "You really have to



Stop, In the Name of Law: Arresting officer Judy Sobocik at the scene of the "crime."

commend them. It's easier to cut someone loose than to get involved." But, he says, "If you get down to the bottom line, people have the right to remain silent."

A sociology major in college, Huffman says he compared the Finders to the Amish—different, not bad. Yet he cautions, "They do have their immaturities."

"Our chief of police wasn't here," says Huffman. "He's very progressive and has the ability to think in new ways. But I had to deal with the deputy chief. He had already written the group off."

"There was a meeting with the FBI, HRS, state's attorney, guardian ad litem [a legal advocate for the kids]—everybody. I had only said one thing: Let's be objective."

"He let out a sigh I can still remember. He said, directed at me, something to the effect of 'if it swims like a duck, quacks like a duck

and looks like a duck, what the hell more do you need?' Obviously, these men should be sent down the river."

Huffman says the deputy chief meant well, "But he had a very narrow view."

Separate Florida agencies were battling over what to do with the case, too. "It became a political ball that bounced from one agency to the next," says Lt. Van Meter. "HRS and the state's attorney didn't want to let go of it. They kept insisting there was more to it. We got really embarrassed. It got to be a real circus."

Willie Meggs, the state's attorney, handled both the adult and juvenile cases.

"Willie gets up every morning and takes his righteous indignation pill," says Van Meter.

"He's very religious, very conservative. To him, these people were heinous. He's the kind of guy who has moon craters on one arm and

apple pie on the other. To him, they were living wrong and living bad. The HRS case-worker came off like that, too."

Sherry Walker, the assistant state's attorney first assigned to the juvenile case, stepped down because she believed her office was "projecting our own morals on this group." Walker, who is running for state senate, doesn't bad mouth Willie Meggs. She thinks he was doing his job as an elected official.

"Tallahassee is very conservative. Anything not Southern Baptist is fearful to people. In this conservative environment, it looked like the mothers were unfit. We believe that kids should get three meals, clean clothes, and be put to bed at a decent hour. In this area, women are the primary caretakers. Mr. Meggs was elected by this same conservative group," Walker says.

Meggs did have "very deep feelings" about this case, Walker allows. "When you have such deep feelings about what you think is right and wrong, it does slow things up. A legal decision is not the same as a moral decision."

Willie Meggs, who displays a Holy Bible in his office, says he thinks the case went on so long because Holwell and Ammerman refused to cooperate. "The defendants acted like horse's tails," he says. "They were all secretive. If blame has to be placed anywhere it ought to be placed on these people."

Meggs says his office wanted to be "absolutely sure" of the kids' safety. "We weren't just willing to let them go to these women who claimed to be their mothers."

Meggs' office repeatedly offered plea bargains in the Holwell and Ammerman cases. "We didn't have anything," Meggs says, point blank. "When it all boiled down, when you get down to the final analysis, I just wanted them to get out of Dodge."

Meggs stands by his office's actions. "We all have a soft spot for kids," he says. "I certainly hope that the citizenry would want us to get to the bottom of a case like this. The only thing I wish is that we could have done our

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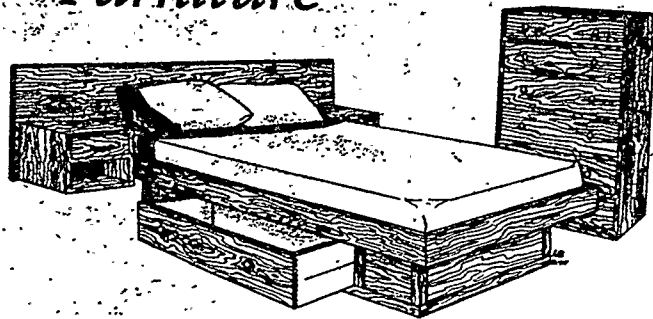
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# In Search of the FINDERS

investigation without the press."

Nearly everyone who tangled with the Finders affair slagged the media—including the media—and blamed them for protracting the cases. Some attacks were, of course, "kill the messenger." Others whipped reporters for all the right reasons. Some were more introspective complaints. Others lamented the constraints of late-20th century journalism, where it's the McMedium, not the message.

"This became a big story because the press made it a big deal," Scott Hunt says. Hunt, who took flak for announcing sexual abuse and satanism in the case, is red in the face now. "How do you think I got this information? By osmosis? Somebody told me."

One report that especially irks Hunt was originated by WUSA and rebroadcast by the Tallahassee CBS affiliate. "They prefaced the story, 'Fact: Tallahassee Police Department has botched this investigation,'" says Hunt. The local station invited Hunt to the studio to rebut.

"I went live on the air and called the D.C. affiliate a bunch of liars," he says with satisfaction. "I didn't bare any horses. I let the CBS affiliate have it right between the eyes."

Rick Huffman doesn't let Hunt or others in his department off so easily. Part of the problem, he says, is that the Tallahassee Police Department wasn't used to national attention. "We had Connie Chung call us up," he remembers. "Our old PIO [public information officer—Hunt] is flapping his gills all over the department."

According to Huffman, Hunt said, "This is it folks! This is my day! Connie Chung is going to interview me."

Huffman, who didn't give any interviews

once took over the case, says publicity meant power-money-promotion to some on the staff. Others, he says, like Hunt, had purer motives. "They were like, wow, we may be the impetus to bring down pedophilia all over the world. We're the snowball at the top of the mountain. Maybe we can do some good." But Huffman didn't believe this was a credible case.

"They had no experience dealing with a case of this sensitivity," Huffman says. "They were passing along circumstantial evidence to the media."

Huffman was particularly rankled by the allegations of sexual abuse.

"I told them, You people are dealing with fire. For you to mention possible sexual battery to the media, they don't hear 'possible.' You are proposing the idea. This is where the inexperience hurt them. They should have personally gone to the doctor and had a good tete-a-tete to find out how far we were going to go with this. If the doctor said we had semen stains on the girl, they should have asked, Well, did you find a little? A lot? Where did you find it? If it was inside the vagina it would be different than on the foot."

"I just think we jumped to conclusions."

The ordinarily toothless Post ombudsman, Joseph Latin, was critical of his paper's Finders coverage. He chomped into his colleagues. "The news stories were laced with unnamed sources; innuendo abounded," he wrote. "Facts were in short supply, but space in The Post wasn't."

In the *Washington Journalism Review's* Finders critique, the news director of WRCTV was asked if his reporters were too quick to trust the authorities. "Well, they're initially your source," he said, "and as long as you report it as such you're reporting a news story...I mean, we're not an investigative agency...We're journalists...Maybe police did jump the gun, I don't know. These things tend to look very different in hindsight."

Getting facts straight is tough, as I showed in a piece of Finders press criticism I wrote

for *City Paper*. I incorrectly reported that the men faced sexual abuse charges. I incorrectly stated their bond, and I incorrectly said they were arrested February 5. And I only faced a weekly deadline.

Tallahassee Democrat reporter Jan Pudlow, who did some of the best reporting on the group and stuck with it long after the pack had gone home, says the Finders have to shoulder some of the blame for the media's goofs.

"If you're looking at the media's responsibility to capture the truth about these people, I've got to admit I've got a little bit of bitterness lingering because these people did not make it easy for reporters to tell the truth about them," says Pudlow. "You know what they call wit and humor? I was part of their wit and humor. The wit is being deceitful and downright lying and what they call humor isn't real funny."

"I've been in the business about 10 years and I realize that when you interview somebody, everybody uses a little manipulation. We all know that. But I have never been so blatantly manipulated as by this group."

Pudlow, the first reporter to interview the mothers when they came to Tallahassee, says, "If the Finders told me today that they were coordinating the second coming of Christ and there was Jesus at their right hand I still wouldn't want to get a quote from them."

I first called the Glover Park home in late June, dialing one of the many Finders' phone numbers listed in the Tallahassee Police documents. "Gooten tag," said the answering machine. "Ni Hau. Konichi wah." I didn't leave a message.

I then called the Northeast warehouse and group member Bob Meyer answered. I requested a group interview and told Meyer I had the police records. I dropped a detail to Meyer that not many people know. When they arrived in Tallahassee to claim their kids, the Finders mothers told police the group did not call itself the Finders. Finders, they said,

was the name of a business the group no longer ran. That's right, Meyer said, laughing. As we spoke, I could hear the punctuated chatter of a computer keyboard. Was Meyer keyboarding our conversation?

(Because the Finders refer to themselves as both the "Finders" and the "so-called Finders," I call them the Finders throughout this article for consistency's sake.)

I offered to send the group clips, including my press critique. A few days later, July 2, they left a message on my home answering machine. I had not given Meyer my home number, though it is listed.

"Hello," the message began. "This is the so-called Finders calling for Jon Cohen on Saturday at 8:30 in the evening. Sorry we didn't get through to you. Maybe we'll get together later."

I called them back at the warehouse to see about an interview. I got a rhyming message that went something like this:

Could we buy another's year  
Our windy salutations here  
'Twould make us meet  
Be quick then  
As our Lord requests  
A truthful foal of wit and zest  
We bid thee speak

I left a message.

The next day, *City Paper's* receptionist buzzed me and said Steve Usdin was here to see me. Since I didn't recognize the name, I asked her to put him on the phone. "This is Steve Usdin from the so-called Finders," he said. I ran downstairs.

Usdin, clean-shaven and dressed in a conservative coat and tie, was maybe in his mid-20s. I told him I was swamped and asked if we could meet the next day.

"I don't know," he said. "I'll set tomorrow aside and wait in the office all day," I said eagerly. "Don't do that for me," he said. "I don't make appointments."

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# In Search of the FINDERS

"Well, I'll be here," I said.  
 "Not on my account I hope," Usdin said.  
 There was more sincerity than sternness in his voice.

He took out a reporter's notebook and asked me for my phone numbers.  
 "You already have them," I said.

"Oh yes," he answered. "Well, I look forward to making this work." That was the last I saw of Usdin for a month.

Over the weekend of July 16, the Finders hand-delivered an envelope to *City Paper's* office. Inside was a photocopied note that reads:

TO: JON COHEN  
 FR: M.D. [last name inked out]  
 RE: FINDERS  
 DT: 17 JULY 1988

If you want to do an in-depth study of the Finders, it would be best to do an in-depth study of the Troubadours, trouveres, and similar movements, or you won't understand what we're talking about.

The Finders often use the *Encyclopedia Britannica* as a source book. The 1987 edition of the *Britannica* describes troubadours and trouveres as closely related lyric poet-musicians who traipsed through France, Spain, and Italy in the 12th and 13th centuries. Adored by the courts, their verse typically explored love. Their poetry also set up lyrical conversations about "matters of a religious, metaphysical, or satirical character."

The word troubadour, notes *Britannica*, "is a French form derived from the Occitanian *trobar*, 'to find,' 'to invent.'"



The Finders Keepers: The media flood swept away Tallahassee officers Jo Ann Van Meter and Scott Hunt.

On July 19, I left another message on the warehouse answering machine. Later that day, Kristin Knauth, whose son Ben Franklin was held in Tallahassee, called me back.

"Two people are in Atlanta covering the convention, two are in Japan, and one had to go to San Francisco on an emergency," Knauth said. "Can we meet later?"

On July 26, I called the warehouse yet again and asked for Steve Usdin.

Bob Meyer answered and said Usdin wasn't there. Since Meyer was the first person I spoke with a month before, I asked him what it was going to take to arrange an interview.

"Is there a time that's best for you?" he asked.

I told him my schedule and he assured me he'd do what he could.

Two days later, Kristin Knauth called me. "We have an information gift for you,"

Knauth said. She invited me to pick it up at the Glover Park house.

"Can we meet for an interview?" I asked.  
 "After you read this, you'll probably have more questions," she said.

When I arrived at the Glover Park house, Knauth led me to a lounge that has a world map covering one wall and made me a cup of tea. She was kind enough, striking me as more nervous than zombie-like. She reminded me of an actress doing an improvisation who was trying a little too hard to maintain a character.

I was nervous, too. In all fairness, I was also in character and trying hard to maintain it. From my readings and dealings with group members, I knew that she intended to interview me as I intended to interview her. My goal was to regulate what I said, not to blather on to ease the tension.

I took out a stack of papers from a package she handed me, my information gift. The first page cracked me up:

To: Jon Cohen  
 Fr: M.D. ["Student" is scratched out]  
 Dt: 20 July 1988  
 Re: Mutual Benefit

Enclosed are some information gifts. I am planning to do an in-depth study of Jon Cohen, his associates and his relatives. How do you suggest I go about it?

I told Knauth I didn't think they needed my help to do an in-depth study of me, in-depth studies being their speciality. I quickly flipped through the other papers as we chatted. Along with what are essentially book reports, there was a smattering of electronic mail dispatches from members working in Japan, at the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta, and San Francisco. A blurb in one of the group memos caught my eye:

"On participatory journalism: I have heard it mentioned in conjunction with 'New Journalism' of the Tom Wolfe/Hunter Thompson variety [sic] where the journalist becomes an actor in the drama he or she is reporting on. But what the student means by it is hard to say—maybe one tenet is Mao's 'No investigation, no right to speak' so I'll quit guessing."

Knauth proceeded to win the upper hand in the interview game, offering no information yet still getting me to talk.

Before I left, I told her I was running out of time and if they wanted to speak with me it would have to be sooner rather than later. She said Usdin would be the best one to speak with me and, that he'd be back from San Francisco in a few days.

"He's welcome to call me at home," I said at the door.

"You already gave him the number?" she asked coyly.

"No," I said. "But he has it."



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## In-Search of the FINDERS

On August 2, Steve Usdin came by my office for the second time.

"I'm here because our elected leader for the day asked me to come down here," Usdin said.

I asked him if I could tape record the conversation and he said I was welcome to, but he hadn't come here to give an interview.

"Then why are you here?" I asked.  
 "Two reasons. One, to tell you that we'll answer all your questions. Two, we like you. We think you're a kindred soul. We thought there might be something bigger we could do together."

"Like what?" I asked.  
 "I don't know," said Usdin. "Maybe start a paper together."

Usdin told me that he was a reporter, too, and that he covered the Democratic Convention for a Japanese TV station. (I later checked this out and it was true.) We joked about the Tallahassee case a little.

"You know that Post story 'Police Say Finders Odd, Not Criminal'?" he asked. "I say, 'Police Criminal, Not Odd.'"

Then Usdin said that he never understood why police were going after them for satanism, saying he thought laws against devil worshipping were abolished after the Salem witch hunt.

"Not that I'm into satanism," he said. "I'm no more interested in satanism than the Democratic Convention. Actually, I'm more interested in the Democratic Convention because I get paid for going there."

Usdin said he was in Moscow when the story broke and first heard about it on a shortwave radio. "We got our 15 minutes of fame multiplied by five," he laughed.

At the end of our talk, I asked if I could speak with Marion Pettie at the meeting where they'd answer my questions.

"I don't see why not," said Usdin. "He speaks to me and I'm a reporter."

"I'd also like to hear what you dig up in your investigation of me," I said.

Usdin smiled widely. "Maybe we'll write a story about you," he said.

What were their names and what were their games?

Who are these funny persons who play the game of games?

Sometimes they act like nice guys or dragons raising hell.

But before it flips, they change the game; that's why it works so well.

—Opening and closing stanzas from the Finders' song, "The Ballad of Ballads," sung to the tune of "Oh, Susanna."

**RTGIAD.** Ready to go in any direction. It's a salutation or a closing found on most every Finders' report, and it's the essence of the group.

If you aren't RTGIAD, you can't play the game calls. And with the Finders, everything is a game call. Dress, diet, work, play, travel, marriage, divorce, pregnancy, child-rearing, pranks, investigations—even calling games can be a game call. Many people have suggested that the whole arrest was a game call. The point of all this fun and games: Every game call yields knowledge, which members bring to the Student, Marion Pettie, so he can call better and better games.

It's hard to lead a game-playing life—in this society, at least—without raising eyebrows.

While the Florida fracas exposed the Finders to the highest degree of scrutiny, it was not the first time outsiders had tried to understand the group and its motives.

After Marion Pettie retired from the Air Force as a master sergeant in 1956, he returned to the Culpeper area, his home town. One of Pettie's sons told the *Washington Post* that during the '60s his father spent his days at the library near Pettie Farm, the family's

90-acre property by Old Rag Mountain, and "became 'a student of the world.'" In the late '60s-early '70s, Pettie Farm was known for its free organic meals and philosophical powwows on the front porch. Pettie's son told the *Post* that his father began a new life around 1971 when he started a commune with his followers in the Glover Park house.

Today, members look much more yuppie than hippie, a turnabout that started in the early '80s. Though they have changed with the times, they still don't blend in.

They've turned heads in rural Culpeper, where they often show up at town meetings in business suits. John Davies, a Culpeper attorney who represented a former group member in a divorce proceeding five years ago, says they never say anything but always take notes.

"From my perspective, they can have a significant impact on a community like Culpeper," says Davies. "I think part of their goal is taking control of the local government." As evidence, Davies says he knows of a stockbroker running for local office with whom they tried to invest \$25,000. And they're always researching townspeople.

The Finders have combed local real estate titles to see who owns what, and how much they owe, says Davies. He's also noticed Finders men walking down the street in coats and ties and making notes on every house they pass.

Davies says he thinks there's an old-fashioned motivation behind their game playing: Dollars. "Basically, they're doing collectively what an individual investor would do," he says.

In Washington, several people have posited that the Finders gather information because they are spies.

Daniel Brandt, who has put together a database of intelligence citations he sells as spy-BASE, says he first met Steve Usdin and Jeff Ubois, another group member, in the summer of '84. "They approached me 'cause they saw I was doing this database," says Brandt. "I had posted a note about it in an extremely obscure journal called *Reset*."

Usdin and Ubois claimed they represented an outfit called Information Bank and they gave Brandt software in exchange for information. "They were very well-informed about counterespionage," says Brandt. He met with them several times over the next year, visiting the warehouse twice.

"They kept pumping me for information and I got suspicious," says Brandt.

Brandt grew more suspicious when his friends told him odd tales about their dealings with the Information Bank. Realizing the depth of the Information Bank's knowledge of the left, he sent out a three-page memo to progressive groups around D.C.

Dated November 10, 1986, the memo is headed "A Summary of What is Known About Some Very Strange People Who use Computers and Seek Out Progressives so That They can ask a lot of Suspicious Questions." In addition to Information Bank, Brandt wrote, members said they were from Global Press Review, Hong Kong Business Today, and The Seekers. Members also approached Lou Wolf, a co-editor of *Covert Action Information Bulletin*, and he helped Brandt check them out.

"There are several characteristics that lend themselves to the interpretation that this is an information-gathering front for a cult of some sort," Brandt wrote in his summary, noting that members may not be told the purpose behind their missions. "The guise of computer consulting is an ideal method of spying on the Left," he concluded. "It would take about twenty seconds to copy an entire mailing list from a hard disk onto a floppy."

"If it's a game, it's pretty bizarre," says Brandt, who hasn't heard from the group in a few years. "It seems like there must be some sort of impetus behind it."

More than a year before the Tallahassee case, Rep. Robert Kastenmeier (D-Wis.) looked into the group at the behest of a constituent whose son had joined. Kastenmeier says he had a hunch that they were intelligence linked, but when he took it to the House Intelligence Committee he couldn't get verification. Kastenmeier's office did learn

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The Florida Finder binder forced Paula Arico to choose between the group and John Paul and Mary.

## In Search of the FINDERS

that Pettie had a background in military intelligence.

According to FBI documents, Pettie worked in Air Force intelligence and sometimes bragged about his intelligence connections in later years. When the Finders story broke, WUSA reported that a police source claimed Pettie's deceased wife worked for the CIA. *Cats That Kill* author Larry Kahaner, who has many sources in the FBI and Washington Metropolitan Police, says he was told the Finders once did database training for the CIA.

"I don't think you have to read anything deep and dark into this," says Kahaner. "The interesting part about the Finders is that they like to play games with law enforcement agencies. That's their stink. As you'll notice in Tallahassee, they did indeed embarrass them. It may have been one of their games."

None of the Tallahassee Police I spoke with knew anything about the Finders working for an intelligence operation. But they all had a similar response to Investigator Cheryl Weigand's: "Nothing they are involved with would surprise me."

**P**aula Arico nearly spits up her food laughing when I tell her people suggest the Finders may be spooks.

Arico and I are eating at a restaurant in Tallahassee. She resettled here after the juvenile court finally deemed her fit to raise Mary and John Paul. "That's their model, to pretend they're CIA," says Arico, who was in the group for 8 years and now works as a bookkeeper for a progressive construction company. "Wouldn't it be an exciting life?"

This is one of the few times in our many talks that Paula calls the group "they." Though she left the Finders more than a year ago, it's still "we this" and "we that." She also still speaks lovingly—no, adoringly—of Pettie.

"The rest of us are just dead between the ears compared to him," says Arico.

Arico has a theory for why the Finders gather megabytes of information. "We want to be the best at everything, and you can't be the best in anything if you don't have information about what the best is," she says. "So getting your information-gathering skills together is the first thing you have to do."

"But why compile a giant *Who's Who*?" I

ask.

"It's a mystery why things are of interest to Pettie, but he's not able to call complete games if he doesn't have complete information."

"You don't know what game Pettie has in mind to call tomorrow. He already has it in mind. He's got next year's game in mind based on the information you're bringing him right now."

"Talk like this sounds like slavish devotion, brainwashing, cult. But ultimately the labels are stupid. If any group defies a label it's the Finders. They're constantly changing, reinventing themselves, drafting new 'Constitutions,' setting new rules—RTGIAD."

"A taste of Finders cosmology can be found in John Fowles' novel *The Magus*, in which Maurice Conchus (conscious—get it?) bedazzles the protagonist with a troupe of actors/consciousness-seekers playing the "godgame." As one of *The Magus*' characters says, "[I]n the godgame we start from the premise that in reality all is fiction; yet no single fiction is necessary."

Paula Arico has lived the godgame. "The best thing about it for me is that I lived and worked with my best friends for eight years," Arico says. "It's hard to have that. And in a situation where everyone was committed to working it out. If you've ever had that one-on-one relationship with another person where there's that long-term level of commitment, I had that with 20 people."

"You really trusted 20 people?" I ask. "For the time that I did," she replies. "I got my eyes opened pretty quickly in about three weeks of February in 1987. But up until then, yeah, I had implicit trust, because we were all committed to Pettie's dream. His dream was our dream."

On the day of the arrest, Paula Arico was working temp jobs in San Francisco, sharing an apartment with a single mother not in the group. It was part of a "women's game" that had been underway since December 1986, and Arico was having a blast. For a long time, the women had wanted the men to do more child-rearing and it was finally happening. She was sure Mary and John Paul were in good hands.

"I can't describe the feeling for those kids," says Arico. "They were the future of the tribe. We are all fucked up. No amount of game playing has managed to straighten us out. Some people have been in the group for 20 years and are still fucked up. It's the new generation that's going to bring the new age in." She notes that she doesn't think people in the group are any, more fucked up than non-Finders.

Arico didn't get wind something was wrong until Friday morning. "I was getting ready to

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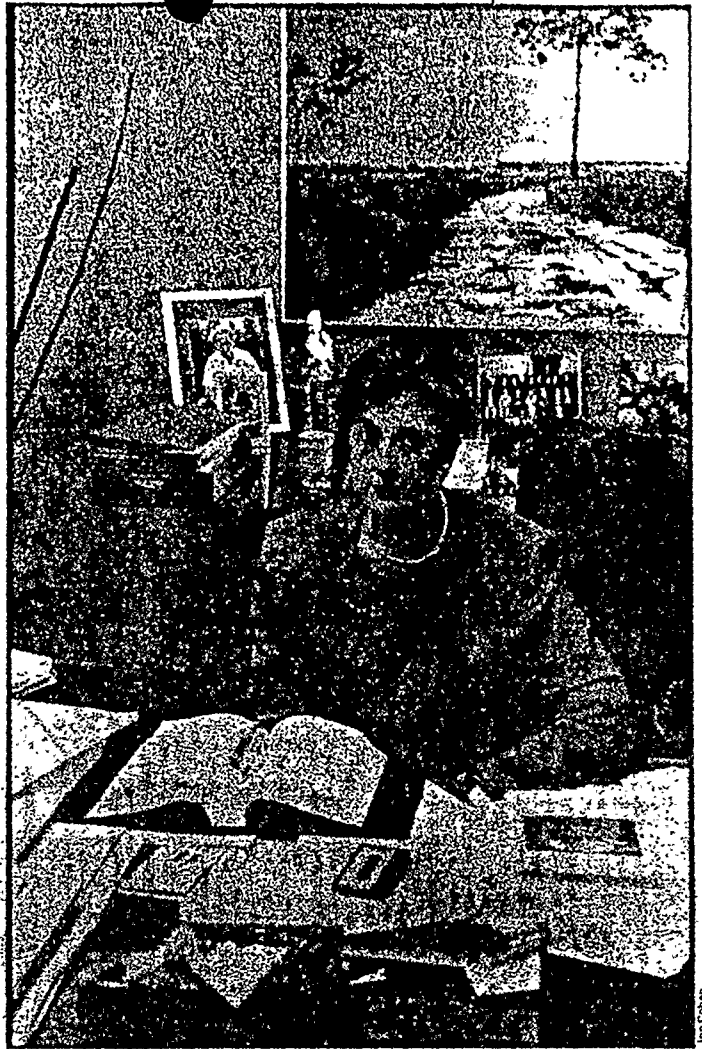
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Courting Disaster: At the juvenile hearing, the Finders "gamed" their attorney, Paula Walborsky.

## In Search of the FINDERS

go to work, and I got a phone call from somebody who was telling me that if Stuart [SS] had already called me and told me to go to Tallahassee that those orders were reversed." The person didn't have any other information.

Carolyn Said, mother of B.B., was the only women's game player who had a computer, and she kept Paula and the others plugged into the group. Paula called her and learned zilch.

Then the mothers—Said, Arico, Knauth, Judy Evans, and Pat Livingston—began hearing news reports. "By Friday afternoon we were all in a tizzy," says Arico. They finally contacted Pettie in Southern California and planned a group meeting in San Francisco for Saturday night.

I ask why they didn't call the Tallahassee Police in the interim. "We had to make a group decision," she says.

Pettie arrived at dusk and, as is their custom, the women massaged him to help him think. They carried out a traditional Finders meeting, each person speaking their mind, going round and round in a circle. Since the police had seized the computers from their D.C. homes; one of the group's concerns was how to stay in touch. But the kids were Topic A.

"This wasn't the first time that things had not gone right with the kids' game and we were all just really upset about that, that no-

body had learned their lessons any other times," she says.

Pettie's advice: Your home is in D.C., not Tallahassee. Go back to D.C. and let your presence be known.

They took his advice.

Back in D.C. Sunday night, the women—the alleged satan-worshipping-kidnapping-brainwashed pornographers—were greeted by reporters camped on their porches.

Pettie's game call was to let the FBI call the game. The possibility of kidnapping, the bureau said, took precedence over the misdemeanor child abuse charges. One agent advised they immediately head to Florida and hire a good attorney.

When the mothers called Scott Hunt at the Tallahassee Police Department on Monday evening they couldn't get through.

"Carolyn's on the phone saying she's B.B.'s mother and she's met by snorts and giggles," recalls Arico. "She's the 200th caller claiming these beautiful children." They finally spoke to Tallahassee Police, but Hunt still told the media they had yet to hear from the mothers. "I'll never forgive him for that," says Arico.

After finishing their last FBI interview on Wednesday, the women hit the road for Tallahassee. By Friday, they were sitting in their lawyer's office.

"You haven't lived until you've been employed by the Finders," says the attorney hired to represent them, Paula Walborsky. "They elect a new leader each day. I could be hired or fired two or three times in 24 hours. But I really got sucked in. I loved it. There were great, sexy Constitutional issues."

Constitutional issues didn't come into play for weeks, though. It took until the next Thursday, in fact, for Walborsky to set up a

court-sanctioned, one-hour meeting between the mother and kids.

The mother-and-child reunion took place at a park where a dozen HRS officials showed up to watch. "We would not leave," says Arico. "We told them that they would have to physically take the children away from us. We were not going to get up and walk away from our children."

"John Paul is in my arms and he's saying, 'But I want to go home with you.' And I'm saying, 'Well, I want you to go home with me, too.' I just sat there with him crying my eyeballs out, and he's crying his eyeballs out, and they came and took him away from me."

During the next few weeks, the Finders settled into the media saddle and displayed what may be their finest wit and humor of the affair. But it ultimately drove Arico and two other mothers from the group.

A memo attributed to "M.D. Pettie" delivered to the *Tallahassee Democrat* said he was resigning as leader of the Finders—a position he said he didn't know he held. "I thought I was just a consultant on Wit and Humor," the memo said. "If I ever was the leader, I hereby resign to devote myself full-time to Zen Walking."

The Finders also started publishing a news-

letter, *The Daily Finder*, in which they announced that they were all moving to Tallahassee. "The Finders are always looking for signs and symbols," they wrote. "Since February 4, Florida has been sending signals that they want to keep some Finders members, so now the rest are coming."

Another issue of *The Daily Finder*, "Come to Tallahassee," invited friends to come join the drama and featured the song, "Old Tallahassee":

Well I came to Tallahassee  
In a van so full of glee  
They put me in the jailhouse  
With a chain upon my knee

You get the idea.

Before the trial, Ammerman and Holwell spoke freely with Walborsky, who was assisted by several Finders men. "They all had handlebar mustaches and dressed alike," Walborsky says.

"I sent them to FSU library to get me books for the case to explain their philosophy. They came back with books on psychology, India, American Indians, Samoan tribes, Chinese philosophy."

Juvenile court was packed with on-lookers

and media on the first day of the custody battle. Witnesses Holwell and Ammerman showed up in prison garb and shackles. "Talk about a circus," says Walborsky. "We could have sold tickets."

Right before the hearing, Walborsky learned that the Finders men she had been working with had left town and were replaced by Steve Usdin. She also got the news that Pettie had put a gag order on Ammerman and Holwell and that she was going to be fired.

"I said ooooh-kay. The First Amendment issues haven't even been argued and they stand up and fire me," she says.

In court Steve Usdin delivered a proclamation from Pettie. Our interests and the state's interests are the same, he said, so we don't need counsel.

"Some people practice law 20 or 30 years and never get fired on television," Walborsky jokes.

Pettie's strategy of nonresistance split the mothers. Knauth and Livingston gave Walborsky the boot, as instructed, while Arico, Evans, and Said retained her.

Arico describes the behind-the-scenes drama of that morning.

Livingston had called Pettie. "She begged him to tell her what to do," says Arico. "He

said, 'Fire your attorney.' If you called him and begged him and he told you to do it, you can't say no. She was in agony. She really loves her son and she knew what would happen the way I knew what would happen if I fired my attorney—it wouldn't be in the best interest of the children."

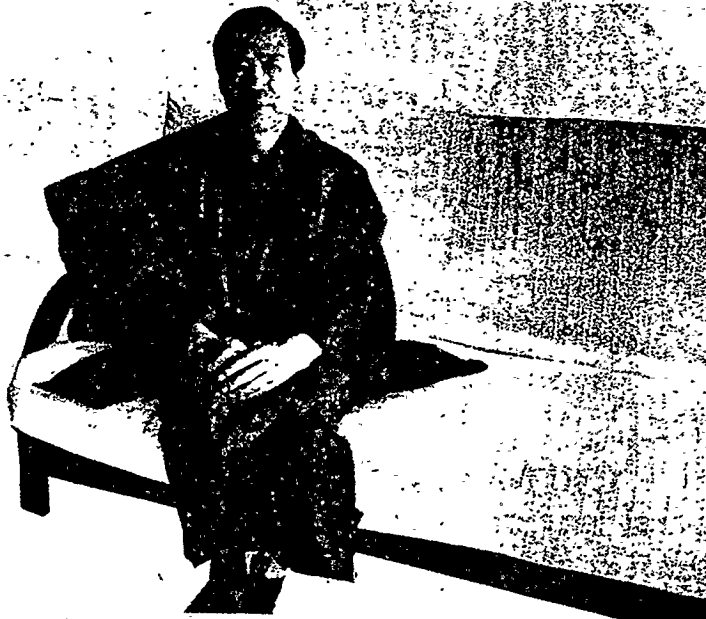
Arico understood Pettie's logic. If you're in a confrontational situation, in some ways, you're creating it. Do what Gandhi and Ammerman and Holwell and others have done when attacked: Don't fight.

On another level there were the teachings of Lao Tzu. Planning. Strategy. Tactics. Loyalty. "Those ideas are really the crux of the group," says Arico, "and they are what keep the group functioning at the high level that it does." Pettie wanted them to go before the judge and tell him in unison that he could end all this right now, he could be the game caller. "Think if you were a judge, and there were five women in your courtroom, and in all of your experiences with them you knew that they really loved their kids and were trying to do the right things," says Arico. "That's the position Pettie wanted the judge put in."

Arico couldn't accept Pettie's advice. "The group told me to choose between Pettie and

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# In Search of the FINDERS

my kids. I chose my kids."

The hearing lasted until Wednesday. Walborsky hammered on the constitutional issues and appealed to the judge's experience. "This is a judge who has seen thousands of juvenile cases," Walborsky says. "I told him if the walls could talk they would cry. This wasn't

the real thing. Essentially that's what he said in the end. He praised the efforts to raise the kids correctly. He was only concerned about their educations."

John Paul, B.B., and Honeybee, the three youngest children, were returned to their mothers—Arico, Said, and Evans. The judge didn't free the older three because he wanted their mothers to demonstrate that they would adequately educate them.

Arico agreed to cross every t and dot every i, and after two months of state supervision, she was given full custody of Mary. Livingston and Knauth's children were put in foster homes, but the state finally relinquished cus-

tody to the mothers that August.

Hours after the March 18 juvenile case ended, the Finders announced to the press that they had disbanded. It wasn't true, of course. But it did signal the end of Arico, Said, and Evans' membership in the group.

Arico cites many personal reasons for leaving the group that have little to do with the Florida incident. A few years before, she says, "I saw the writing on the wall, but I didn't read it."

She spoke with attorneys about suing the authorities and decided there were too many obstacles. "I would have had to put my children into therapy immediately to prove that

they had been traumatized. As far as I'm concerned, whatever trauma there was, they've basically gotten over it now." Another hurdle would be proving wrongful intent. "Everything they did was within the limits of the law," she says.

Arico's final analysis of what went wrong: "You just can't have a highly disciplined lifestyle and have kids. You just can't. It just doesn't work."

Make no mistake, though...She loved being a Finder. "It's a very magnetic situation," she says. "But the mystery's gone now, the whole mystique that nobody knew what we really did." CP

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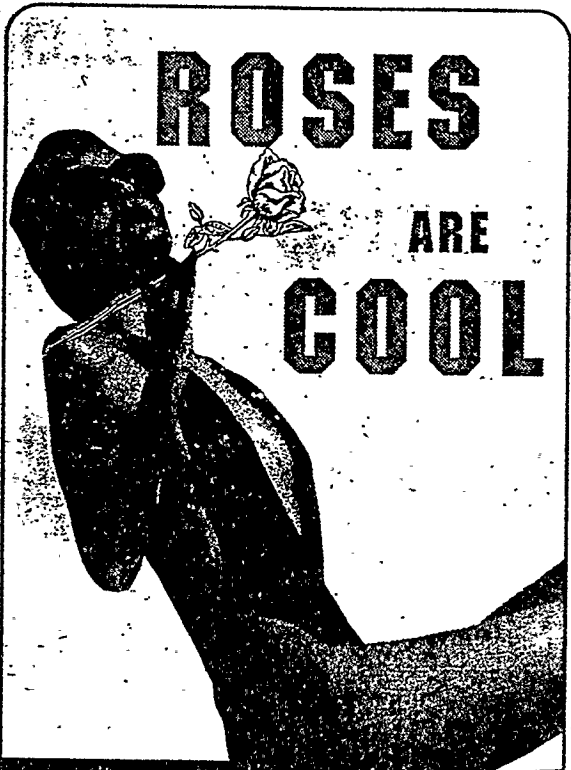
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**IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

FOR Chief  
DATE 9-21 TIME 3:28 A.M. P.M.

M [Redacted]

OF Washington Times

PHONE 800 433-6804 02  
AREA CODE NUMBER EXTENSION

FAX [Redacted]

MOBILE [Redacted]  
AREA CODE

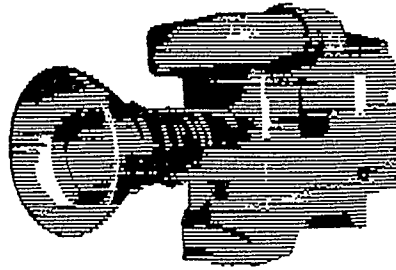
TELEPHONED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PLEASE CALL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CAME TO SEE YOU <input type="checkbox"/>	WILL CALL AGAIN <input type="checkbox"/>
WANTS TO SEE YOU <input type="checkbox"/>	RUSH <input type="checkbox"/>
RETURNED YOUR CALL <input type="checkbox"/>	WILL FAX TO YOU <input type="checkbox"/>

MESSAGE  
Re: Finders Case  
3600 NY AVE NE  
Wash DC  
20002

[Signature] ATT NAT DESK  
SIGNED Mo de ne file

TOPS FORM 4005 LITHO IN U.S.A. Sent 9-22-93

b6  
b7c



# 48 HOURS

September 16, 1993

Chief Mel Tucker  
Tallahassee Police Department  
SENT BY FAX  
904-891-4204

Dear Chief Tucker:

As an associate producer of CBS News/48 Hours, I would like to request that, under Florida Chapter 119, you make available all files and materials associated with your investigation into the Finders organization that took place in 1987.

I will be in your city sometime in the middle of next week and would like to examine the records in person; if there is a copying fee, CBS News would reimburse you your costs.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Best regards,



b6  
b7c

**CBS NEWS**

524 West 57 Street New York, NY 10019 (212) 975-4848

310-WF-189911-23

*nd*  
*nd*

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

FOR Chief Tucker

DATE Sept 15 TIME 1035 A.M. P.M.

M [Redacted]

OF CBS NEWS 48 HRS.

PHONE [Redacted] AREA CODE [Redacted] NUMBER [Redacted] EXTENSION [Redacted]

FAX

MOBILE AREA CODE [Redacted] NUMBER [Redacted] TIME TO CALL [Redacted]

TELEPHONED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PLEASE CALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CAME TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	WILL CALL AGAIN	<input type="checkbox"/>
WANTS TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	RUSH	<input type="checkbox"/>
RETURNED YOUR CALL	<input type="checkbox"/>	WILL FAX TO YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>

MESSAGE  
Please Call

SIGNED

b6  
b7C

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CHAIRMAN

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MARTY RUSSO, ILLINOIS  
STENY HOYER, MARYLAND  
GERALD D. KLECZKA, WISCONSIN  
DALE E. KILDEE, MICHIGAN

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

SUITE H-326, U.S. CAPITOL  
225-2061

Washington, DC 20515-6157

September 15, 1993

WILLIAM M. THOMAS, CALIFORNIA,  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

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NEWT GINGRICH, GEORGIA  
PAT ROBERTS, KANSAS  
PAUL E. GILLMOR, OHIO  
JAMES T. WALSH, NEW YORK  
MICKEY EDWARDS, OKLAHOMA  
BOB LIVINGSTON, LOUISIANA  
BILL BARRETT, NEBRASKA

ROBERT E. SHEA,  
STAFF DIRECTOR  
HEIDI M. PENDER,  
SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE CHAIRMAN  
CHARLES T. HOWELL,  
CHIEF COUNSEL  
MARY SUE ENGLUND,  
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

Tallahassee Police Department  
Attention: Chief of Police  
234 East 7th Avenue  
Tallahassee Fl., 32303

Dear Chief Tucker,

In furtherance of its legislative and oversight responsibilities under the rules of the House, the Committee on House Administration is conducting an investigation into an organization known as the "Finders". In order to examine the credibility of certain allegations against the Finders organization the Committee must obtain all relevant documentation.

It has come to my attention that your office may have certain information which will further this investigation. Accordingly, I am requesting under Chapter 119 of the Florida Public Records Law that you provide the Committee with all reports in your possession concerning the organization known as the "Finders".

Please address your response to [redacted] of my staff. Should you have any further questions [redacted] can be reached at [redacted]

b6  
b7c

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Charlie Rose  
Chairman  
Committee on House Administration

310-WF-189911-24

mk

nl

C4

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 11/18/93

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
 (ATTN: CID-VCU, SSA [redacted])

FROM : SAC, JACKSONVILLE (31C-WF-189911) (TRA) (RUC)

SUBJECT : "FINDERS" GROUP;  
 WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT - SEXUAL  
 EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;  
 OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE -  
 PRELIMINARY INQUIRY;  
 OO: WMFO

b6  
b7C

Re WMFO teletype to the Bureau, dated 11/10/93.

Enclosed for WMFO are following items received from TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT Chief MELVIN TUCKER:

1. Complete TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT case file concerning the FINDERS;
2. A letter from Congressman CHARLIE ROSE to Tallahassee Police Chief MELVIN TUCKER, dated 9/15/93;
3. Copy of a letter to Chief TUCKER from 48 HOURS, dated 9/16/93;
4. A TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT memorandum to Chief TUCKER from [redacted] concerning being interviewed by a U.S. CUSTOMS Agent concerning an FBI [redacted] [redacted] the captioned matter;

*[Handwritten signature]*

b6  
b7C  
b7E

- 2 - Bureau
- ② - WMFO (Enc. ②)
- 1 - Jacksonville
- MMP/sdh
- (5)

31C-WF-189911-27

*[Handwritten initials]*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Number) (Time)

4/30

5. Two memos purportedly authentic U.S. CUSTOMS' memos concerning the FINDERS case; and

6. A copy of an article from the "city paper" concerning the FINDERS case.

~~Also enclosed for WMFO is a copy of Jacksonville's complete investigative file regarding this matter, to include copies of the 1A and 1B sections.~~ BLP

On 11/16/93, contact with Tallahassee Police Chief MEL TUCKER revealed that there was never any outside agency either in or outside the United States intelligence community who contacted anyone in his department with an attempt to influence in any way their investigation of the FINDERS GROUP. All evidence in the case that was obtained was either returned to its owners or otherwise destroyed.

Chief TUCKER advised that he has been contacted by a number of individuals recently concerning the FINDERS case. One was Congressman CHARLIE ROSE, Chairman, Committee on House Administration, who both telephonically and in writing expressed an interest in the facts and circumstances surrounding the FINDERS case in Tallahassee, Florida. Additionally, Chief TUCKER was contacted by [redacted]

[redacted]

memorandum to Chief TUCKER, SA [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

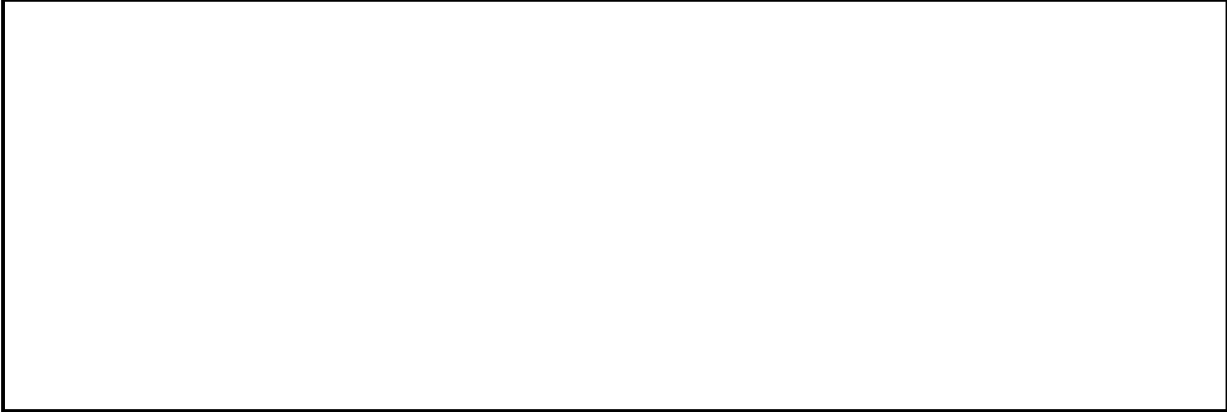
b6  
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For the information of the Bureau, Tallahassee SSRA



Tallahassee portion of the investigation, and also resolve whether there was any improper influence by any agency brought to bear on the TPD in the performance and reporting of their investigation. The bottom line was that the Tallahassee investigation was not impeded/influenced in any way by any agency or improper considerations.

This matter is considered RUC by Jacksonville Division.

31C-WF-189911  
MDC:mdc

On 11/10/93, the following names were searched in WMFO indices at the request of SSA [REDACTED] FBIHQ, CID, VCU.

b6  
b7C

Finders  
Finders Transnational  
Finders Transnational Ragged Mountain  
Womens Network Service  
General Scientific Corporation

[REDACTED]  
Isabelle Pettie

[REDACTED]  
Future Enterprises

Attached to this insert are the results of this query.

31C-WF-189911-28

SEARCHED.....	INDEX.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
NOV 22 1993	
FBI-WASH. FIELD OFFICE	



Date 11/10/93  
 Requested SA  
 Ext. 7772 Squad: C-4 File No. 31C-WF-189911  
 Social Security Account # \_\_\_\_\_

b6  
b7C

To: Office Services Manager

Subject FUTURE ENTERPRISES *see Attach*  
 Aliases \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Place \_\_\_\_\_ Race \_\_\_\_\_ Sex  Male  Female

- Exact Spelling  Main Criminal Case Files Only  Restrict Locality of  
 All References  Criminal References Only  
 Main Security Case Files Only  Main Security (if no Main, list all Security References)  
 Security References Only  Main Criminal (if no Main, list all Criminal References)

General Indices:  NEG  POS  
 Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date 11-18-93  
 ISIS:  NEG  POS  
 Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Confidential Indices:  NEG  POS  
 Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date 11-22-93  
 OCIS:  NEG  POS  
 Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

ELSUR Indices:  NEG  POS  
 Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 IIS:  NEG  POS  
 Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

FOIMS:  NEG  POS  
 Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 MICRO:  NEG  POS  
 Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

GLOBAL:  NEG  POS  
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 REGIONAL:  NEG  POS  
 Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Place an "X" by the Field Office(s) to Query for Regional Searches.

**Northeast**

**Mid-Atlantic**

**Central**

**Western**

- Albany
- Bern Switzerland
- Bonn Germany
- Boston
- London England
- Mexico City Mexico
- New York City
- Newark
- Paris France
- Philadelphia
- Rome Italy
- All above

- Atlanta
- Baltimore
- Birmingham
- Charlotte
- Jackson
- Jacksonville
- Knoxville
- Memphis
- Miami
- Mobile
- New Orleans
- Norfolk
- Quantico
- Richmond
- San Juan
- Savannah
- Tampa
- Washington Field
- All above

- Buffalo
- Chicago
- Cincinnati
- Dallas
- Cleveland
- Denver
- Detroit
- El Paso
- Houston
- Indianapolis
- Kansas City
- Little Rock
- Louisville
- Milwaukee
- Minneapolis
- Oklahoma City
- Omaha
- Pittsburgh
- San Antonio
- Springfield
- St. Louis
- All above

- Albuquerque
- Anchorage
- Butte
- Honolulu
- Las Vegas
- Los Angeles
- Phoenix
- Portland
- Sacramento
- Salt Lake City
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- Seattle
- All above

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
	UCFN <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Neg		
	GENERAL INDICES		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Search		
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manual Search		
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*Handwritten notes:*  
 SEARCHED  
 SERIALIZED  
 INDEXED  
 FILED  
 11-22-93  
 31C-WF-189911

b6  
b7C

Consolidated by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reviewed by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**File Review Symbols**  
 I - Identical      ? - Not identifiable  
 NI - Not identical      U - Unavailable reference

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
 SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ FILED \_\_\_\_\_  
 NOV 11 1993  
 FBI - WASH. METRO FIELD OFFICE  
 FBI/DOJ

**MICRO COMPUTER (Continued)**

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File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
Future Enterprises			
91-11586-531 P2	WAFD	8-82	
		BA	
		No Data	
		C-4	

File Review Symbols

- I - Identical
- NI - No Identical
- Q - Not Comparable
- U - Unavailable reference

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

OF \_\_\_\_\_ PAGES

Date 11/10/93  
 Requested by SA  
 Ext. 772 Squad: C-4 File No. 31C-WF-189911  
 Social Security Account #

b6  
b7c

To: Office Services Manager

see A-11

Subject GENERAL SCIENTIFIC CORP

Aliases  
 Address Birth Date Birth Place Race Sex  
 Male  
 Female

Exact Spelling  Main Criminal Case Files Only  Restrict Locality of  
 All References  Criminal References Only  
 Main Security Case Files Only  Main Security (If no Main, list all Security References)  
 Security References Only  Main Criminal (if no Main, list all Criminal References)

General Indices:  NEG  POS  ISIS:  NEG  POS

Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Confidential  OCIS:  NEG  POS

Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date 11-22-93 Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

ELSUR Indices:  NEG  POS  IIS:  NEG  POS

Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

FOIMS:  NEG  POS  MICRO:  NEG  POS

Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

GLOBAL:  NEG  POS  REGIONAL:  NEG  POS

Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Place an "X" by the Field Office(s) to Query for Regional Searches.

<b>Northeast</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Albany <input type="checkbox"/> Bern Switzerland <input type="checkbox"/> Bonn Germany <input type="checkbox"/> Boston <input type="checkbox"/> London England <input type="checkbox"/> Mexico City Mexico <input type="checkbox"/> New York City <input type="checkbox"/> Newark <input type="checkbox"/> Paris France <input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia <input type="checkbox"/> Rome Italy <input type="checkbox"/> All above	<b>Mid-Atlantic</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Atlanta <input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore <input type="checkbox"/> Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/> Charlotte <input type="checkbox"/> Jackson <input type="checkbox"/> Jacksonville <input type="checkbox"/> Knoxville <input type="checkbox"/> Memphis <input type="checkbox"/> Miami <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile	<input type="checkbox"/> New Orleans <input type="checkbox"/> Norfolk <input type="checkbox"/> Quantico <input type="checkbox"/> Richmond <input type="checkbox"/> San Juan <input type="checkbox"/> Savannah <input type="checkbox"/> Tampa <input type="checkbox"/> Washington Field <input type="checkbox"/> All above	<b>Central</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Buffalo <input type="checkbox"/> Chicago <input type="checkbox"/> Cincinnati <input type="checkbox"/> Cleveland <input type="checkbox"/> Dallas <input type="checkbox"/> Denver <input type="checkbox"/> Detroit <input type="checkbox"/> El Paso <input type="checkbox"/> Houston <input type="checkbox"/> Indianapolis <input type="checkbox"/> Kansas City	<input type="checkbox"/> Little Rock <input type="checkbox"/> Louisville <input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee <input type="checkbox"/> Minneapolis <input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma City <input type="checkbox"/> Omaha <input type="checkbox"/> Pittsburgh <input type="checkbox"/> San Antonio <input type="checkbox"/> Springfield <input type="checkbox"/> St. Louis <input type="checkbox"/> All above	<b>Western</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Albuquerque <input type="checkbox"/> Anchorage <input type="checkbox"/> Butte <input type="checkbox"/> Honolulu <input type="checkbox"/> Las Vegas <input type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles <input type="checkbox"/> Phoenix <input type="checkbox"/> Portland <input type="checkbox"/> Sacramento <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Lake City <input type="checkbox"/> San Diego <input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco <input type="checkbox"/> Seattle <input type="checkbox"/> All above
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b6  
b7c

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
Consolidated by _____			
Reviewed by _____			

UCFN  Pos  Neg  
 GENERAL INDICES:  
 Automated Search  
 WF:  Pos  Neg AX:  Pos  Neg  
 Manual Search  
 WF:  Pos  Neg AX:  Pos  Neg

CFR CONFIDENTIAL FIELD OFFICES SEARCHED

SEARCHED ASD  
 DATE 11-22-93  
31C-WF-189911

SEARCHED INDEXED  
 SERIALIZED FILED  
 NOV 10 1993  
 FBI - WASH. METRO FIELD OFFICE  
 FBI/DOJ WJF

File Review Symbols  
 I - Identical ? - Not identifiable  
 NI - Not identical U - Unavailable reference





Date 11/10/93  
 Requested by SA [redacted]  
 Ext 7792 Squad: C-4 File No. 31C-WF-109911  
 Social Security Account # \_\_\_\_\_

b6  
b7C

To: Office Services Manager

Aliases \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Place \_\_\_\_\_ Race \_\_\_\_\_ Sex  Male  Female

- Exact Spelling
- All References
- Main Security Case Files Only
- Security References Only
- Main Criminal Case Files Only
- Criminal References Only
- Main Security (If no Main, list all Security References)
- Main Criminal (if no Main, list all Criminal References)
- Restrict Locality of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  NEG  POS  
 Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date 11/16/93

Confidential Indices:  NEG  POS  
 Search \_\_\_\_\_ Date 11/22/93

ELSUR Indices:  NEG  POS  
 Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

FOIMS:  NEG  POS  
 Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

GLOBAL:  NEG  POS  
 Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Place an "X" by the Field Office(s) to Query for Regional Searches.

**Northeast**

**Mid-Atlantic**

**Central**

**Western**

- Albany
- Bern Switzerland
- Bonn Germany
- Boston
- London England
- Mexico City Mexico
- New York City
- Newark
- Paris France
- Philadelphia
- Rome Italy
- All above

- Atlanta
- Baltimore
- Birmingham
- Charlotte
- Jackson
- Jacksonville
- Knoxville
- Memphis
- Miami
- Mobile
- New Orleans
- Norfolk
- Quantico
- Richmond
- San Juan
- Savannah
- Tampa
- Washington Field
- All above

- Buffalo
- Chicago
- Cincinnati
- Cleveland
- Dallas
- Denver
- Detroit
- El Paso
- Houston
- Indianapolis
- Kansas City
- Little Rock
- Louisville
- Milwaukee
- Minneapolis
- Oklahoma City
- Omaha
- Pittsburgh
- San Antonio
- Springfield
- St. Louis
- All above

- Albuquerque
- Anchorage
- Butte
- Honolulu
- Las Vegas
- Los Angeles
- Phoenix
- Portland
- Sacramento
- Salt Lake City
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- Seattle
- All above

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
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**CFR CONFIDENTIAL INDICES SEARCH**

SEARCHED [initials]  
 DATE: 11/22/93

UCFN  Pos  Neg

**GENERAL INDICES:**

Automated Search \_\_\_\_\_

WF:  Pos  Neg  Neg

Manual Search \_\_\_\_\_

WF:  Pos  Neg AX:  Pos  Neg

Consolidated by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**31C-WF-109911**

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
 SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ FILED \_\_\_\_\_

FBI - WASH. METRO FIELD OFFICE  
 FBI/DOJ

*[Handwritten signature]*

**File Review Symbols**

I - Identical  
 NI - Not identical  
 ? - Not identifiable  
 U - Unavailable reference

Serial

File No.

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
196C-886*	WMFO	1-82	
			Diane Sherwood,
			Information Concerning
190-1-Sub G-503 PL		11-84	
		FOIPA Request of Diane	
		Mc Herman Kohr	
		FR-HQ FOIPA# 292 376	
		3918 W St NW	
		WDC 2007	

b6  
b7C

File Review Symbols

- I - Identical
- NI - No Identical
- Q - Not Comparable
- U - Unavailable reference

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_  
OF \_\_\_\_\_ PAGES



To: Office Services Manager

Date: 11/10/93  
 Requested by: SA  
 Ext. 7792 Squad: C-4 File No. 31C-WF-189911  
 Social Security Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: ISABELLE PETTIE

Aliases \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Place \_\_\_\_\_ Race \_\_\_\_\_ Sex  Male  Female

- Exact Spelling  Main Criminal Case Files Only  Restrict Locality of  
 All References  Criminal References Only  
 Main Security Case Files Only  Main Security (If no Main, list all Security References) b6  
 Security References Only  Main Criminal (if no Main, list all Criminal References) b7C

<input type="checkbox"/> _____ EG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date <u>11-16-93</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> ISIS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Co _____ Searched by _____ Date <u>11-22-93</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> OCIS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> ELSUR Indices: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> IIS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FOIMS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GLOBAL: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> REGIONAL: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____

Place an "X" by the Field Office(s) to Query for Regional Searches.

- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p><b>Northeast</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Albany<br><input type="checkbox"/> Bern Switzerland<br><input type="checkbox"/> Bonn Germany<br><input type="checkbox"/> Boston<br><input type="checkbox"/> London England<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mexico City Mexico<br><input type="checkbox"/> New York City<br><input type="checkbox"/> Newark<br><input type="checkbox"/> Paris France<br><input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Rome Italy<br><input type="checkbox"/> All above | <p><b>Mid-Atlantic</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Atlanta<br><input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore<br><input type="checkbox"/> Birmingham<br><input type="checkbox"/> Charlotte<br><input type="checkbox"/> Jackson<br><input type="checkbox"/> Jacksonville<br><input type="checkbox"/> Knoxville<br><input type="checkbox"/> Memphis<br><input type="checkbox"/> Miami<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mobile | <p><b>Central</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Buffalo<br><input type="checkbox"/> Chicago<br><input type="checkbox"/> Cincinnati<br><input type="checkbox"/> Cleveland<br><input type="checkbox"/> Dallas<br><input type="checkbox"/> Denver<br><input type="checkbox"/> Detroit<br><input type="checkbox"/> El Paso<br><input type="checkbox"/> Houston<br><input type="checkbox"/> Indianapolis<br><input type="checkbox"/> Kansas City | <p><b>Western</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Albuquerque<br><input type="checkbox"/> Anchorage<br><input type="checkbox"/> Butte<br><input type="checkbox"/> Honolulu<br><input type="checkbox"/> Las Vegas<br><input type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles<br><input type="checkbox"/> Phoenix<br><input type="checkbox"/> Portland<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sacramento<br><input type="checkbox"/> Salt Lake City<br><input type="checkbox"/> San Diego<br><input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco<br><input type="checkbox"/> Seattle<br><input type="checkbox"/> All above |
|--|--|--|--|

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
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CFR CONFIDENTIAL INDICES SEARCH

**UCFN**  Pos  Neg SEARCHED BY: (Signature)

**GENERAL INDICES:**  
 Automated Search DATE: 11-22-93  
 Manual Search

WF:  Pos  Neg AX:  INDEXED  Neg

**POSITIVE RESULTS**  
 WF:  Pos  Neg AX:  REVIEWED  Neg

31C-WF-189911

Consolidated by \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I - Identical  
NI - Not identical

File Review Symbols

? - Not identifiable  
U - Unavailable reference

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
 SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ FILED \_\_\_\_\_

NOV 10 1993

FBI - WASH. METRO OFFICE

(Signature)

Date 11/10/93  
 Requested by: SA  
 Ext. 7792 Squad: C-4 File No. 31C-WF-189911  
 Social Security Account #

b6  
b7C

To: Office Services Manager

Subject FINDERS, FINDERS GROUP *See ATT*  
 Aliases FINDERS, TRANSNATIONAL *See ATT*  
 Address FINDERS TRANSNATIONAL RABBIT MOUNTAIN Birth Date Birth Place Race Sex  
 Male  Female

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exact Spelling                | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Criminal Case Files Only                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Restrict Locality of |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All References     | <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal References Only                                 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Main Security Case Files Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Security (If no Main, list all Security References) |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Security References Only      | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Criminal (if no Main, list all Criminal References) |   |

NEG  POS  
 Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date 11-16-93  
 ISIS:  NEG  POS

Confide \_\_\_\_\_ Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date 11-22-93  
 OCIS:  NEG  POS

ELSUR Indices:  NEG  POS  
 Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 IIS:  NEG  POS

FOIMS:  NEG  POS  
 Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date 11-15-93  
 MICRO:  NEG  POS

GLOBAL:  NEG  POS  
 Searched by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 REGIONAL:  NEG  POS

Place an "X" by the Field Office(s) to Query for Regional Searches.

- | Northeast  | Mid-Atlantic  | Central   | Western  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Albany<br><input type="checkbox"/> Bern Switzerland<br><input type="checkbox"/> Bonn Germany<br><input type="checkbox"/> Boston<br><input type="checkbox"/> London England<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mexico City Mexico<br><input type="checkbox"/> New York City<br><input type="checkbox"/> Newark<br><input type="checkbox"/> Paris France<br><input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Rome Italy<br><input type="checkbox"/> All above | <input type="checkbox"/> Atlanta<br><input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore<br><input type="checkbox"/> Birmingham<br><input type="checkbox"/> Charlotte<br><input type="checkbox"/> Jackson<br><input type="checkbox"/> Jacksonville<br><input type="checkbox"/> Knoxville<br><input type="checkbox"/> Memphis<br><input type="checkbox"/> Miami<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mobile | <input type="checkbox"/> New Orleans<br><input type="checkbox"/> Norfolk<br><input type="checkbox"/> Quantico<br><input type="checkbox"/> Richmond<br><input type="checkbox"/> San Juan<br><input type="checkbox"/> Savannah<br><input type="checkbox"/> Tampa<br><input type="checkbox"/> Washington Field<br><input type="checkbox"/> All above | <input type="checkbox"/> Albuquerque<br><input type="checkbox"/> Anchorage<br><input type="checkbox"/> Butte<br><input type="checkbox"/> Honolulu<br><input type="checkbox"/> Las Vegas<br><input type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles<br><input type="checkbox"/> Phoenix<br><input type="checkbox"/> Portland<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sacramento<br><input type="checkbox"/> Salt Lake City<br><input type="checkbox"/> San Diego<br><input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco<br><input type="checkbox"/> Seattle<br><input type="checkbox"/> All above |

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
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**CFR CONFIDENTIAL INDICES SEARCH**

SEARCHED BY: DSD

DATE: 11-22-93

NEGATIVE RESULTS

POSITIVE RESULTS  
 (REVIEW IN \_\_\_\_\_)

31C-WF-189911  
 SEARCHED INDEXED  
 SERIALIZED FILED  
 NOV 19 1993  
 FBI - WASH. METRO OFFICE  
*[Signature]*

Consolidated by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reviewed by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I - Identical  
NI - Not identical

File Review Symbols

? - Not identifiable  
U - Unavailable reference

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
Finders 9-5009*	WMFO	1-87	
		Finders Finders Transnational; Ragged Mountain Research Center	
		Extortions C-4	
Finders Organization 9-5009-1 P2	WMFO	1-83	
		Address 3918 3920 W Street NW Washington D.C Telephone (202) 358-8169 and (202) 353-7694	

b6  
b7C

File Review Symbols

- I - Index
- NI - No Index
- Q - Not Identifiable
- U - Unavailable Reference

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
Finders 62-0-25213 B	WMFO	6-83 No Data Extortion C-4	



b7E

Finders Transnational 9-5009*	WMFO	7-83	
		Finders: Finders Transnational, Ranard Mountain Research Center,	
		Extortion C-4	
62-0-25213 B	WMFO	No Data 6-83 Extortion C-4	

b6  
b7C

File Review Symbols

- I - Identical
- NI - No Identical
- 9 - Not Identical
- U - Unavailable reference

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_  
OF \_\_\_\_\_ PAGES

Date: 11/10/93  
 Requested by: SA [redacted]  
 Ext: 7792 Squad: C-4 File No.: 310-WF-189911  
 Social Security Account #

b6  
b7C

To: Office Services Manager  
 [redacted]

*See A-17*

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Aliases: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: 12/12/20 Birth Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Race: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex:  Male  Female

- Exact Spelling
- All References
- Main Security Case Files Only
- Security References Only
- Main Criminal Case Files Only
- Criminal References Only
- Main Security (If no Main, list all Security References)
- Main Criminal (if no Main, list all Criminal References)
- Restrict Locality of

General Indices:  NEG  POS  
 Searched by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 11-16-93

[redacted]  POS  
 Searched by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 11-22-93

ELSUR Indices:  NEG  POS  
 Searched by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FOIMS:  NEG  POS  
 Searched by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

GLOBAL:  NEG  POS  
 Searched by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Place an "X" by the Field Office(s) to Query for Regional Searches.

- |  |  |   |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Northeast</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Albany</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bern Switzerland</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bonn Germany</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Boston</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> London England</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mexico City Mexico</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> New York City</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Newark</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Paris France</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rome Italy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All above</li> </ul> | <p><b>Mid-Atlantic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Atlanta</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Birmingham</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Charlotte</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Jackson</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Jacksonville</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Knoxville</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Memphis</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Miami</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mobile</li> </ul> | <p><b>Central</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> New Orleans</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Norfolk</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Quantico</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Richmond</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> San Juan</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Savannah</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tampa</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Washington Field</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All above</li> </ul> | <p><b>Western</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Buffalo</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Chicago</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cincinnati</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dallas</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Denver</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Detroit</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> El Paso</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Houston</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Indianapolis</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Kansas City</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Little Rock</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Louisville</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Minneapolis</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma City</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Omaha</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pittsburgh</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> San Antonio</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Springfield</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> St. Louis</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All above</li> </ul> | <p><b>Western</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Albuquerque</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Anchorage</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Butte</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Honolulu</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Las Vegas</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Phoenix</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Portland</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sacramento</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Salt Lake City</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> San Diego</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Seattle</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All above</li> </ul> |
|--|--|---|--|--|

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks

**UCFN**  Pos  Neg

**GENERAL INDICES:**

Automated Search

WF:  Pos  Neg AX:  Pos  Neg DATE: 11-22-93

Manual Search

WF:  Pos  Neg AX:  Pos  Neg

**CFR CONFIDENTIAL INDICES SEARCH**

SEARCHED BY: ASD

310-WF-189911

b6  
b7C

Consolidated by: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1 - Identical  
 NI - Not identical

**File Review Symbols**

? - Not identifiable  
 U - Unavailable reference

SEARCHED INDEXED  
 SERIALIZED FILED

NOV 10 1993

FBI - WASH. METRO FIELD OFFICE  
 FBI/DOJ

*[Signature]*

Subject		File No.	
File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
950097*	WMFO	7-83	
		Finders	
		Finders transitional	
		Nugged Mountain	
		Research Center 1.	
		Extortion	
		C-U	
620-25213B	WMFO	6-83	
		No Data	
		Extortion	
		C-U	
62025213	WMFO	3-77	
		No Data	
950091 P4	WMFO	7-83	
		Finders number	
		C-U	

b6  
b7C

File Review Symbols

- I - Identical
- NI - Not identical
- Q - Not identifiable
- U - Unavailable reference

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_  
OF \_\_\_\_\_ PAGES

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
9B-665*	AX	5-83	
62-0-1001	AX	4-80	
100-0-20	AX		10-69
		100-0-20C	10-69
		100-0-20D	10-69
		100-0-20E	10-69
		NOV 11-12-16	
		12-12-20	
190-136*	AX	3-85	
100-0-20C	AX	10-69	
100-0-23C	AX	12-96	
		(Mn)	
190-136*	AX	3-85	

b6  
b7C

File Review Symbols

- I - Identical
- NI - No Identical
- Q - Not Identical
- U - Unavailable reference

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_  
OF \_\_\_\_\_ PAGES

31C-WF-189911  
MDC:mdc

The following files were reviewed on November 22 and 23, 1993, as a result of listings in WMFO manual general indices. Listed below are the results of that review:

Indexed to Finders, Finders Group, Finders Transnational, and Finders Transnational Ragged Mountain:

9-5009 extortion case opened on 7/14/83 by Alexandria Division against [redacted] as the victim. Subject [redacted] was described as a W/M born approx [redacted]

[redacted] Victim [redacted] advised that he was a member of this cult, headed by [redacted] which was also known as FINDERS. He described the cult as an alternate lifestyle group, and related an incident detailing the death of a member, BARBARA MATEJA. [redacted]

[redacted] WMFO contacted MPD, and was advised that MATEJA had died as a result of refusing medical attention for religious reasons, and that no homicide investigation had been conducted. File reflected that the case was closed as the AUSA for Alexandria would not consider any prosecution.

[redacted]

Indexed to [redacted]

9-5009 same as detailed above.

9B-665 file destroyed on 4/2/69.

190-136 FOIPA file that could not be located.

Indexed to Isabelle Pettie:

no references.

b6  
b7C

b7D  
b7E



31C-WF-189911-29

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 23 1993	
FBI - ALEXANDRIA	



Indexed to

[redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

[redacted]

190-1 sub E is a 10/31/84 FBIHQ response to a FOIPA  
request on [redacted]

Indexed to Womens Network Service:

no reference.

Indexed to General Scientific Corporation:

105-2574 file could not be located.

Indexed to Future Enterprises:

[redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

31C-WF-189911  
MDC:mdc

The following files were reviewed on November 22 and 23, 1993, as a result of listings in WMFO FOIMS indices. Listed below are the results of that review:

Indexed to Finders:

[Redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

[Redacted] and [Redacted] were members of his group. The case was closed upon resolution by interview.

[Redacted]

Indexed to General Scientific:

[Redacted]

Indexed to [Redacted]

[Redacted] same information as detailed above.

Indexed to [Redacted]

[Redacted] same information as detailed above.

190-C0000001-E request for FOIPA information by [Redacted] concerning an [Redacted] dated 9/9/87.

190-Z0000001 FOIPA file that has been destroyed.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
*[Handwritten signature]*

b6  
b7C

31C-WF-189911-30

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 23 1993	
FBI - [Redacted]	

Indexed to Future Enterprises:

[redacted] lead on Philadelphia Division 3/3/88  
investigation of [redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

[redacted]

[redacted]

Memorandum



To : SAC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P)

Date 11/23/93

From : SSA [redacted] (C-4)

b6  
b7C  
b7E

Subject: FINDERS GROUP;  
WSTA-SEOC;  
OOJ-PI;  
OO:WMFO

On 11/23/93, SSA [redacted] VCU-CID advised that based on recent discussions with VCU Unit Chief [redacted] and Section Chief [redacted] the interview of U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE SA [redacted]

It is noted that as of 11/23/93 the formal written request from FBIHQ to both [redacted] and the USDOS had not been sent out of FBIHQ.

INDEX  
~~INDEX~~

2-WMFO

JKD:plj  
(2)

31C-WF-189911-31

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 23 1993	
FBI - WASH FIELD OFFICE	

[redacted]

b6  
b7C



# FBI FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN FIELD OFFICE  
SQUAD C-4 (202) 252-7844

### PRECEDENCE

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

### CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Sensitive
- Unclassified

Time Transmitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sender's Initials: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Pages: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Including Cover Page)

To: FBIHQ - VCU  
(Name of Office)

Date: 11/24/93

Facsimile Number: 324-3089

Attn: SSA   
(Name Room Telephone)

b6  
b7C

From: FBI WASHO (311-UM 189411) (PXC-4)  
(Name of Office)

Subject: FINDERS 001 WASHO  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Special Handling Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

Originator's Name:  Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Originator's Facsimile Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: AKD

311-UM 189411-32

FBI/DOJ

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
<b>NOV 24 1993</b>	
FBI — WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

11/24