

# BEWARE THE GENERIC MADMAN

by Michael E. Conti

Another screwball shoots his way into the national consciousness, this time in Los Angeles. One dead, five wounded. Three of the wounded are small children. Instead of ending his irrational act of violence by committing suicide, this latest delusional loser flees the scene and catches a cab to Las Vegas. There he turns himself in to the authorities, eagerly awaiting the fame and media attention that his shameful act will surely win for him. Finally, he must be thinking, his zero-sum life will have real meaning.

And it does.

The true meaning however, will not be gleaned from the anti-gun diatribe that has been building momentum in this country for the last few years, and that will surely be brought to yet another shrill crescendo by those in our society who choose to focus their anger on objects, instead of on those who wield them with such murderous intent.

No, the meaning of this sociopath's life is subtler than that, and we should not allow it to be lost in the hysterical wailings of the politically motivated in our midst.

The true meaning of this man's existence is a warning.

It is a warning for all of us to be aware that ideas like ethnic cleansing and the need for extermination of those "not like us" are not limited to the far off places like Kosovo and northern Iraq's Kurdistan, but are continuing to be planted, nurtured and harvested right here at home in the United States of America.

It is a warning that, even though this man may have acted alone while firing indiscriminately into a group of innocents, his hatred born of ignorance and fear was fed and reinforced by groups of likeminded individuals who have organized themselves into

authoritarian structures that offer both justification and reward for committing acts of atrocity against members of their own society. Groups such as the Aryan Nations that attract weak, powerless-feeling people like Buford Furrow and offer them an identity based on intolerance and malice. An identity that can, under the right circumstances, produce what can be referred to as the generic madman (GM).

And it is a warning that as the Millennium approaches, a great many more of these people, the siren song of infamy, death, murder and martyrdom pulsing within their disturbed minds, may make their attempt at righting imagined wrongs by striking out at those they have come to perceive as the enemy.

### **Identifying the Enemy**

In this latest case, Furrow apparently chose to attack the men, women and children at the Community Center because they were Jews. This would fall in line with his Neo-Nazi/Christian Identity group affiliations and beliefs. The postal worker who allegedly died at his hands that same day was reportedly selected because he “didn’t look white” and because he was a government employee. This would indicate that Furrow may also have been operating under the influence of the White Supremacist movement ideology, and that he had perhaps read The Turner Diaries one too many times.

What we in the law enforcement community also need to be aware of is that in addition to blacks, Jews, Hispanics, homosexuals, and most other minority groups, anyone in the employ of the federal or local government may also be readily identified as an “enemy agent”, and as such is considered a primary target according to the doctrine of the so-called Patriot Movement.

Bottom line: regardless of sex, race, religion, or politics, you and I, by the very nature of our occupations, have also been identified by these extremist as the enemy.

## The International Generic Madman (IGM)

A few weeks before Furrow opened fire into a crowd of innocents, I was in Israel on business. While there, I had an opportunity to travel a bit and visit some of the most holy places on the planet, places that are at the core of the great monotheistic world religions



**Above:** Privately-hired armed escort stands by her charges outside Jerusalem. This common sight attracts very little attention from passers-by, but greatly decreases the likelihood of attack by an IGM. This is because IGMs tend to prefer attacking those unable to defend themselves. Shortly after being taken into custody, Buford Furrow was reportedly quoted as saying that he had aborted two other attacks on the day of the shootings, for there appeared to be a higher level of security at these other locations. (Photo by Mike Conti)

of Islam, Christianity, and Judaism.

One of the sights from the Holy Land that left a deep impression on me, however, had nothing to do with temples, mosques, churches or ruins.

It was the sight of groups of children travelling together on field trips, travelling through these most sacrosanct places in order to learn about some of mankind's richest history – and while they went from place to place, in addition to a guide, with them at all times was a young man or woman carrying a rifle or submachine gun.

I was informed that these privately-hired armed escorts were there to protect the children from the very old and very real threat of what can aptly be referred to as the International Generic Madman. For again, regardless of sex, race, religion or politics, the madman who is driven to commit atrocities against the most

innocent among us by inner – and very often, outer – demons chanting political, religious, or racial mantras of fear, hatred, and revenge, is not unique to any one part of the world, but is, and always has been, present in every society.

For in the IGM's world of fear and hatred, nothing else matters than the pursuit of revenge, or to give their zero-sum lives and causes some meaning, regardless of how much needless bloodshed, pain, and suffering results from their despicable and cowardly actions. Actions that, incidentally, often provide motivation and “justification” for an IGM on the other side of the ideology to counter-attack, putting more innocents into the withering line of fire, and exacting a greater toll on the fabric that holds us all together.

Whatever your personal views on these matters may be, brothers and sisters, I respectfully suggest that you do not let the madman's warning go unheeded. The next few years will undoubtedly be presenting those of us in law enforcement the world over with many new, difficult – and perhaps extremely harsh – challenges.

For whether his name is Hitler, Klassen, Hussein, McVeigh, or Furrow, the international generic madman will always be with us.

And as always, we must stand ready to deal with him.

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