

Home Invasion: Two Case Studies-Two Outcomes

The chances are your home will never be invaded by intruders while you are there. That's the good news. In the following two real life stories, two families faced intruders with very different results.

Case #1: Petit Family, New Britain, Connecticut - July 23, 2007

Steven Hayes, 44 and Joshua Komisarjevsky, 26 are two examples of how the Criminal Justice system has failed to protect society (you and me). Both have lifelong arrest records of preying on the public to support their various habits. Both men saw Ms. Hawke-Petit, 48 and her daughter Hayley, 17 at a local market. Hayley was soon to move on from high school to college. Her father is a renowned endocrinologist and her mother a nurse. She had an 11 year old sister, Michaela, at home.

These men are both career criminals who met in a drug treatment halfway house when they were discharged from state prison and allegedly did the following acts.

The men followed the women home and then finalized their plan. They went to a store and gas station and obtained a baseball bat, rope, four gas cans and returned to the house at 3:00 A.M. They entered through an unlocked door, found Dr. Petit asleep in a downstairs chair, beat him with the baseball bat, tied him up and threw him into the basement.

They then went to the bedrooms, tied up Michaela, Hayley, and Ms. Hawke-Petit and proceeded to rape them all. When morning came, Hayes took Ms. Hawke-Petit to the bank and demanded she withdraw \$15,000 from her savings account while he waited outside the bank in a

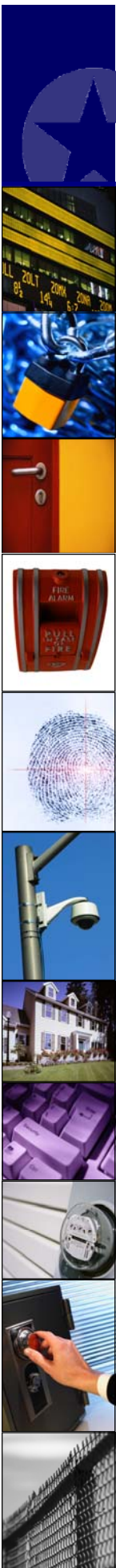


car. She told the teller she needed the money or her family would be killed. A bank employee called 911; Ms. Hawke-Petit went out to the kidnapper's car and returned to her home. Shortly thereafter the men strangled her and poured gasoline on the girls who were still alive and tied to their beds and ignited the fuel in an attempt to destroy any DNA evidence and silence the victims who could testify against them. They attempted to escape in a family vehicle and were captured by the police who had surrounded the house. The Doctor stumbled out of the basement and cried out for a neighbor to help him. By then his family was dying or dead and his house was on fire.

What small change in circumstances could have altered this from tragedy to a mere frightful wake up? The bad guys got in through an unlocked door. If the doors had all been locked would the intruders have been heard as they attempted entry?

If the family had an alarm system, it was not in use. They wouldn't have needed anything particularly complex or an expensive system, just something that told the family that a door had been opened, made a loud noise and summoned

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Home Invasion—Two Case Studies (Continued)

the police. No panic buttons were ever used in the house to signal an intrusion or kidnap attempt.

Ms. Hawke-Petit willingly followed the criminal's instructions at the bank when she could have alerted bank staff to have Hayes arrested in the parking lot. Instead, she acted the perfect compliant victim when she could have turned the tables, putting the police in charge of events instead of meekly getting back into the car with Hayes who drove her home to her own murder. Had she acted aggressively, Hayes would not have been available to participate in her murder and the murder of her children. She would have been alive to give the police the detailed information they needed to rescue her kids.

Case #2: King County Family survives night time intrusion-2006

Two adults in an upscale neighborhood in a gated, secluded location on the water on the Eastside were home at 8:00 PM last year eating dinner. Cars were in the driveway, lights were on and anyone looking should have known the house was occupied. The three men who jumped the family's fence certainly should have known. Perhaps they did, we don't know yet as they have not been caught. The owners of the house have a large and robust pair of doors at their entry made of thick oak. The owners heard one sharp hit as the three men kicked their way through the door, shattering the wood on the fixed part of the door and ran into the house.

The owner is a high-profile businessman in Seattle in his early 60's. Trim, fit and well muscled, he is friendly and articulate but has a "I'm in charge" type personality and his response when he got up and encountered the three intruders was certainly not what they expected to get. He didn't ask them what they wanted or try to negotiate with them. He got mad, really mad and he inserted Murphy (remember Murphy's Law?) into the equation. He started charging

them and yelling at the same time. They scattered out the front door and off the property instantly. Was that the right response for our hero-owner? Maybe, he certainly could have exercised other options that would have protected the family but it worked! He refused to be a victim, he likely saved his own and his vivacious wife's life and he did it his own way. Moral? Fight or flight!

Conclusion:

- A. Turn on your alarm system. It doesn't do any good if it isn't turned on.
- B. We are witnessing more and more intrusions while homes are occupied. Urban, upscale homes are targets as much as any other.
- C. This increases the risk of a violent confrontation, even if you are a peaceful victim you cannot determine what is in the mind of the intruder.
- D. Be proactive, get some training and protect your family. Become aware that there are predators out prowling, looking for new victims. Don't be one.
- E. Do you know how to activate your panic buttons?
- F. Survive. Your family needs you.
- G. Discuss these two cases with family and work up a plan on how to respond if it happens to you. Call me and we'll go over your plan. There is no charge for my time to work with you on this. I've made my living my entire life protecting people; I can help you prepare yourself.

When presented with a situation like either man faced, you don't have time to digest the circumstances, to call the police or to ask for a do-over while you get ready. You work with what you have at hand and unless you are well prepared, you might end up like Dr. Petit, wondering for the rest of his life what he might have done to protect his family.



“Insights into Hidden Behavioral Characteristics of Personal Staff”

By Gerald (Gary) R. Brown

Many businesses, large and small, receive anonymous letters, emails, notes, telephonic communications, etc. Some writers use harsh language that may appear to the recipient as intimidating and threatening, while others appear to be quite benign although in the final analysis are indeed threatening. These same techniques can be applied to you and your family’s personal security and dealing with others.

This article will be an overview of a relatively new investigative technique that is being employed by the FBI, other federal and local law enforcement and corporate security that can also help you gain valuable insight not only into the dangerousness and truthfulness of anonymous communications to you and your family, but also be a valuable tool in helping you insure other factors in your business and personal/family security plan.

Evaluating someone’s writing is a multi-step process which includes: Content Analysis which looks at the actual linguistics, both words and phrases in communication(s). Secondly, Form Variance Analysis™ is used to evaluate changes or similarities in the format and form of the communication. The third technique used is Behavioral Profiling/Characteristics which is an evaluation of their personality demonstrated in the handwriting itself. Just the process of using Form Variance Analysis™ requires a lot of evaluation because the analysts looks at the letter formations, size of the letters, slant, spacing, pressure, margins, etc. There are over 100 basic personality traits and a lot of variations in strengths and traits to be considered when evaluating handwriting characteristics.

The techniques employed in the corporate security world help evaluate dangerousness of anonymous letters and sometimes identify or lead to identification of the authors of such communications. Corporations and law enforcement agencies employ two of the above techniques (Content and Form Variance Analysis), but

few are trained and experienced in combining those techniques with the personality insights that can be gained from the handwriting when available.



In addition to evaluating anonymous or other communications to you and/or your family, these techniques can easily be employed in the following areas: *In the initial selection process for personal staff, household and security, through handwriting analysis the personalities can be evaluated usually before any pre-selection interviews are conducted.*

A. The Truth Question: Each person being considered can be asked a pertinent question you would like to know the answer to and the answers content can be evaluated not only for personality characteristics, but for the truthfulness of their comments. If you don’t do the hiring yourself, the company/personnel doing the hiring would find it insightful to adopt these techniques. In addition, each applicant’s ability to think on his or her feet, withstand high degrees of stress, and be diplomatic, discreet, creative, persistent, and perhaps most important, their general stability. Periodic, typically annual, reevaluations can identify changes in the personality before it may be evident to others and for appropriate preventive action to be taken before you or your family are embarrassed.

B. Compatibility Evaluations: Insuring that personality conflicts between you and your personal security personnel do not interfere either overtly, or as is more likely, covertly undermine the smooth working not only among themselves, but between you, your family, staff members and members of the security team.

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“Insights into Hidden Behavioral Characteristics of Personal Staff” (continued)

When a *handwriting analysis indicates the potential for personality conflicts*, you can either reject the person or, especially if the other qualifications are high and you don't want to “lose” that person, you can “head off” any potential personality conflicts at the very beginning of employment by making all parties (family and security personnel alike) aware of the potential conflicts. This will, in turn facilitate all involved adjusting from the start vs. the building of tensions over a period of time.

When you do have a problem, application of the three techniques on all statements of the parties involved can help insure you are getting the best information possible unvarnished by other interests and agendas.

C. Are they Drug Users? An added potential benefit is that an evaluation of the handwriting can also identify “something” impacting the thinking processes of an individual. That “something” is often drugs (prescription or otherwise), but it can, in some limited cases spot other factors that may be of concern for full and efficient functioning of that individual. Advanced knowledge that a member of your security team or household staff may be taking a drug, legal or illegal, that could impair their judgment on a temporary basis could prove crucial in a stress situation.

On a personal note, for fifteen years I have volunteered at a high school graduation party providing

handwriting analysis for the students. Over the course of the years I have seen the changes in the personal characteristics of the students that are linked to the mental health of our children. Most of these kids have no parents at home when they arrive and they spend less time engaged in sports, clubs, or with positive adult influences. Handwriting analysts have noted a significant shift from cursive writing in the early 90's to a high incidence of block lettering, indicating that many of our children are becoming more withdrawn from societal engagement. This shift in culture reinforces the importance using these techniques for obtaining insights unavailable from other sources into members of your personal staff.

Future newsletters will include articles that will dive further into evaluation of writing styles and content analysis and how these observations are useful in planning personal interaction, hiring, determining accountability and possible compatibility.

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