

# The writing on the wall

Forensic Profiler Ron Rice knows what handwriting reveals

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PLYMOUTH - Betty Short, David Faraday, Betty Lou Jensen, Michael Mageau, Darlene Ferrin and Bryan Hartnell were all hunted by killers who left letters behind. Brooke Shield was harassed, stalked and terrorized by a letter writer. CEOs, high school students and countless others have been victimized by threats

penned by jealous wives, irate competitors, abusive husbands, obsessed fans and unbalanced kids.

For Ron Rice, handwriting is like a fingerprint, because the crazies of this world may look like everybody else, but they don't write like everybody else.

When Private Investigator and Forensic Profiler Ron Rice looked at a stalker's notes to Brooke Shields in 1995, he wanted to tell the investigators who hired him how harmless the guy was. He wanted to ease Brooke's mind.

He couldn't do that.

Rice's report on Shields' stalker told the story of someone absolutely, positively capable of murder. The stalker, if he ever got hold of her, would want to

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STAFF PHOTO/EMILY WIL COX

Private Investigator and Forensic Profiler Ron Rice has been called in to assist in countless criminal investigations including the Zodiac murders, the Black Dahlia murder, the Nicole Brown Simpson murder and the stalking of Brooke Shields.

# Another kind of fingerprint

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touch her, Rice told the investigators. When she panicked, her stalker would be aroused, and then he'd have to shut her up.

In 2000, a judge ordered Mark Ronald Bailey to stay away from Shields and her family and associates. Bailey was placed on probation for 10 years.

When Rice was called in to assist in the Zodiac murders case, he analyzed a different handwriting sample — one that told an even sicker story. The Zodiac committed a series of grisly murders during the 1960s and 1970s in the San Francisco area, and sent letters to police boasting of his crimes.

After years of trying to find this psychopath, San Francisco-area law enforcement officials couldn't agree on who had killed, tortured and mutilated all those people. The finger finally fell on Arthur Leigh Allen, a convicted pedophile who died of natural causes in 1992. But Rice analyzed Allen's handwriting and completed a profile of him that didn't match up with the Zodiac's — at all.

Rice says there is no way Allen was the Zodiac killer, and a 10-year-old investigation he's involved in will one day solve the case definitively.

Rice, who is also a certified clinical and forensic hypnotherapist, has appeared on TV shows like *Unsolved Mysteries*, giving his opinion on cases like the Vincent Foster suicide. According to Rice, Foster, who was a deputy White House counsel during the Clinton administration, didn't pen the suicide note investigators claimed he wrote before he died in 1993.

Rice analyzed Foster's writing and the suicide note carefully and found they just didn't match up.

Again and again and again, Rice has been called upon to testify in court about his profiles of killers, victims and others based

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explained, leafing through a pile of documents — threat notes he's been hired to analyze in the past.

One was made to the CEO of a South Shore company who arrived to work to find the death threat on her desk. The victim was so traumatized and terrified she couldn't go to work for a week. When she did return, the company paid to have her escorted by law enforcement to and from the building.

Rice was called in to examine the note and had a few questions for the victim.

"Is there anyone who you're in competition with?" he asked.

The answer was no.

Then Rice wanted to know if the woman's husband had received a promotion recently and whether anyone was in competition with him for it. The CEO said her husband was promoted recently, but their good friend, who worked with him, would never have written such a note. Rice did some investigating and discovered the CEO was right. The friend hadn't written the note. His wife had.

Jealousy is a strong force and one that often plays a part in the world of threats.

Rice has seen it time and again. He pulled out another document — this note was written to a married woman and



PHOTO COURTESY R. RICE

Here's one of many death threats Private Investigator and Forensic Profiler Ron Rice has investigated and solved.

ship followed.

Rice continues to play an important role in criminal investigations, and has solved countless death threat mysteries at schools. Bathroom scrawls are more revealing than children believe, and notes penned by students are sometimes easy to track.

But Rice is also concerned about women and the difficulty they have discerning what type of men they're dating. After 40 years investigating crimes, Rice will tell you, women are often the victims. Women in their 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s and 60s who are alone and vulnerable become easy targets for predators. Rice has seen how so many women will risk their safety because they're desperately lonely and

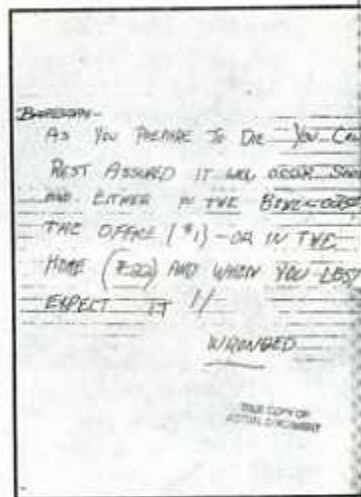


PHOTO COURTESY R. RICE

Forensic Profiler Ron Rice investigated this death threat and discovered it was penned by the wife of a friend, angry that her husband didn't get a promotion.

on their handwriting. He worked with investigators on the Black Dahlia murder years after Betty Short was killed. Like the Zodiac, the Black Dahlia murderer, who killed Short in 1947, wrote letters to police.

Rice can look at someone's handwriting and do a complete profile on that subject, from the way he thinks, to his preferences, to his inclinations.

But Rice isn't just a handwriting expert. He's been a licensed private investigator for 40 years, solved countless crimes, and been on the inside of investigations that never reached the press. Many corporate crimes are handled internally, he

signed by "The Girls" who claimed they had all slept with the victim's husband. In the letter, the writer claims that she just wants to let the victim know what her husband is doing. Rice's investigation revealed the claims were bogus, made by a woman jealous of a happy couple she wanted to break up.

Sometimes charges are pressed and Rice testifies. Other times, he gets his check and the matter is handled internally, such as the case of the CEO. The woman who penned the letter admitted to the deed when investigators presented her with Rice's findings. A settlement and the end of a friend-

aying for love.

Dying for love is exactly what he'd like to prevent.

His business, based out of his South Plymouth home, is called Women Confidential World, and it offers a profiling service and advice to women who want information on the type of man they're dating. Women give Rice a sample of the man's handwriting and Rice goes to work, compiling a complete profile on him. Rice offers emotional and intimate compatibility profiling as well, through analysis of a woman's writing and her partner's. He said he's never been proven wrong about a profile. He's profiled Oklahoma City bomber Timothy

McVeigh's writing and O.J. Simpson's. But Rice said it's time he used his skills to prevent crime, too.

Rice's employees, Donita Capilli, of Hanson, and Eileen Femino, of Plymouth, are trained handwriting profilers as well, and work with Rice's clients.

"We want to save women from embarrassment, physical harm and sexual abuse," Rice said.

For more information on Women Confidential World, visit [www.womenconfidential-world.com](http://www.womenconfidential-world.com).

"It's not what you say," Rice said. "It's how you write