

MEMORANDUM

Privileged and Confidential

TO : ANTI-VIGILANTE TASK FORCE (GROUP)
FROM : AGENT DALE PETEY
DATE : SEPTEMBER 3, 2019
SUBJECT : VIGILANTES IN POP CULTURE

Be advised that the coming weeks will see a spike in media about masked vigilantes of history.

American Hero Story: Minutemen

You'll notice outdoor advertising went up overnight to promote the second season of *American Hero Story*, including two bus shelter posters and a billboard along Pennsylvania Avenue outside our office. I can only imagine what it must be like for our esteemed colleague Agent Blake to have to see so-called "hero shots" of her mother and father on her way into work every day.

Despite my repeated requests, the cable network responsible for *American Hero Story* refuses to provide me with review copies. (Is a subpoena appropriate?) But if Season 2 is anything like the inaugural season, we can expect a sensationalistic hyper-pop narrative that plays recklessly with history, proceeds from an overtly left-wing point of view, and risks alienating the fringe constituencies who regard "costumed adventurers" with problematic reverence. While there's reason to believe the new set of episodes won't be as provocative to vigilante profiles as Season 1, we should be wary of its cultural influence all the same.

Unlike Season 1, which focused on the life and times of Walter James Kovacs, aka Rorschach (Objectivist/Sociopath on the Werthem Spectrum), *American Hero Story: Minutemen* dramatizes the origins of the masked vigilante phenomenon through the figure of Hooded Justice (WS: Unclassifiable), a never-identified mystery man who was active between 1938 and 1955. He vanished after refusing to testify before the House UnAmerican Activities Committee and disclose his name to a state senator. In his memoir *Under The Hood* (a likely source of so-called "research" for the new season), Hollis Mason, the first Nite Owl (WS: Thrillseeker/Romantic) and directly inspired by Hooded Justice, speculated that Hooded Justice was Rolf Muller, a former circus strongman from East Germany, and a Communist spy. Muller's body was found off the shore of Boston Harbor with a bullet in his head in 1955.

Because *American Hero Story: Minutemen* is a period piece — and because *AHS*, in general, fictionalizes real-world events enough to qualify as "alternative history" — it's possible that contemporary audiences won't see any relevance to current circumstances or even take it seriously. However, given the reverence among conservative psychographics for Edward Blake, aka The Comedian (WS: Super-Soldier/Nihilist), and given the liberal perspective of the storytelling, we should expect a critical take on The Comedian that might irritate and antagonize his "fans." Of course, Agent Blake would understand the appeal of her father better than anyone. If she would be open to crafting a threat assessment of the show, I'd be more than happy to assist her.

The Book of Rorschach

New on the radar is the re-release of *The Book of Rorschach* by Sons of Pale Horse, a short-lived space rock band of the nineties named after the popular death metal group that perished on November 2 during

the Dimensional Incursion Event. The new edition is set to “drop,” to use the music industry parlance, on November 4, which is to say, a couple days after the 24th anniversary of the D.I.E. It’s something of a squidsploitation exercise, though this might be the least of its offenses to good taste.

You might remember the record if you came of age in the early part of the century. It was one of those one-hit-wonder things and considered controversial for offending the sensibilities of the time; it didn’t “know the room,” to use a phrase that I tend to hear quite often. For those raised on classical music — or, in the case of Deputy Director Farragut, raised in New York, during the last of the radio-free years — all you need to know is that the album was inspired by “Rorschach’s Journal” (explored in a recent memo; copies at my desk, feel free to come by anytime to ask me for one), and that the record is known to be popular with two types of vigilante profiles on the Werthem Spectrum, the rare Objectivist/Messianic and the increasingly common Paramilitary/Nihilist. An obvious example would be the Seventh Cavalry in Oklahoma. Field reports from Tulsa have indicated that original editions of *The Book of Rorschach* were found in 7K homes during the police raids that followed the “White Night” in 2016.

I have obtained an advanced copy of the re-release, and I must say, it gave me cause for concern. The record contains an essay written by Seymour David. If you know the lore behind “Rorschach’s Journal,” then you know that David was the one who discovered it while working as an editorial assistant at *New Frontiersman* in the eighties. He exploited the small fame he gained from making this lucky find to launch a career as a scholar of post-modern culture and his work often overlaps with mine. I’ve met the man at many conferences, and let me tell you, he’s an embarrassment to our oft-maligned field of study, a self-important know-it-all who doesn’t know when to shut up. I am reluctant to use my CV as an offensive weapon, but I have a doctorate in History and this man knows nothing of it.

Alas, David has a following, which means his essay is going to receive some attention, and that brings me to my worry: his writing portrays the band as misunderstood misfits who made a “masterpiece” that deserves to be re-discovered and appreciated anew. And since the legends of Rorschach have inspired copycats over the decades — including those, like the 7K, who misappropriate him to some degree by projecting their own extremist ideologies onto him — we should consider the possibility that the re-release of *The Book of Rorschach* might further stoke renewed interest in him. Should I work up a more detailed threat assessment? Please advise.

Submitted respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Petey". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Special Agent Dale Petey

Anti-Vigilante Task Force/Research Unit
Sub-Basement 1, Room X, Desk 2