



2017 PENNSYLVANIA STATEWIDE HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
v.
Taylor Edsel

**SPONSORED BY THE YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION
OF THE PENNSYLVANIA BAR ASSOCIATION**

By: Jon Grode, Paul W. Kaufman, Jonathan D. Koltash & Talia Charme-Zane

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Problem Questions & Contact Information

Questions concerning these case materials should be sent to David Keller Trevaskis at the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA). Case material questions will be answered by the Mock Trial Executive Committee. Questions regarding mock trial procedure, including any questions involving the Rules of Competition or Rules of Evidence, should be directed to your District or Regional Mock Trial Coordinators.

Answers to legitimate and non-repetitive questions will be posted periodically in a supplemental memo on the mock trial website www.pabar.org under the Young Lawyer's Division (YLD) link.

You may begin submitting questions anytime. **The deadline for submitting questions is noon on January 10, 2017.** The final update will be posted no later than **January 13, 2017.**

Questions must be sent in writing using email. Please be sure to include return contact information in the event we need to reach you to clarify a question. **No questions will be considered unless submitted under this procedure.**

E-mail: david.trevaskis@pabar.org

Introduction and Acknowledgments

Welcome to the 2017 Pennsylvania Statewide High School Mock Trial Competition - the 33rd year of one of the top secondary level academic competitions in the Commonwealth! The competition, which commenced in 1984, is sponsored by the Young Lawyers Division of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA/YLD). It provides high school students with firsthand experience of the American judicial system. The Mock Trial Competition is one of a series of law-related and civic education programs conducted by the PBA to demystify the law for Pennsylvanians, including Freedom's Answer, I Signed the Constitution, Project PEACE, Law Day, and Stepping Out for Seniors.

This year's case, *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania v. Taylor Edsel*, is a criminal case to determine whether the defendant is guilty of committing arson when an advanced automotive plant burned in Wisawe, Pennsylvania.

The case was written by Jonathan A. Grode, Paul W. Kaufman, Jonathan Koltash, and Talia Charme-Zane. This is the second year running that the quartet has authored the Commonwealth's case material. Mr. Grode and Mr. Kaufman have co-written the Pennsylvania problems since 2011, and they co-wrote the national problems in 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2015. Mr. Grode also adapted and modified the 2007 mock trial problem and wrote the 2008, 2009, and 2010 mock trial problems. Mr. Kaufman was a four-time Delaware state champion mock trialer in high school and is a current member of the National High School Mock Trial Championship Board of Directors. Mr. Koltash co-authored the 2014 Pennsylvania case and is the PBA/YLD Mock Trial Co-Chair. Ms. Charme-Zane is a student at Stanford University and an alumna of the Pennsylvania mock trial program, where she captained the Central High School (Philadelphia) team that won the John S. Bradway Philadelphia High School Mock Trial Competition.

Mr. Grode thanks his wife, Jayne Bird, who tolerates his ongoing obsession with mock trial drafting, notwithstanding the fact that he promises each year that "this one will be the last he works on." Mr. Grode also thanks Roberta West for introducing him to the wondrous world of Pennsylvania Mock Trial. In addition, Mr. Grode recognizes the entire case writing team for dedication beyond words and a humor that entertains his most outlandish plots.

Mr. Kaufman thanks his wife, Sarah, United States Attorney Zane David Memeger, and Chief of the Civil Division Margaret L. Hutchinson for everything that they do to make his life a joy. Mr. Kaufman also especially thanks senior counsel Grode and Koltash, and he continues to be grateful beyond words for Ms. Charme-Zane and, now, Michael Schwoerer, Bradway alums doing amazing things. In the words of one of history's great mentors, "We will be watching your career[s] with great interest."

Mr. Koltash thanks his wife, Alaina, for her patience and support each year during "mock trial season" - which never seems to end. He also thanks Mr. Grode and Mr. Kaufman, whose leadership in writing the problem each year is greatly appreciated. Their countless hours and

dedication to ensuring a balanced, creative problem for the participants of the competition makes them the unsung heroes of the competition. For that, he is in their debt.

Ms. Charme-Zane thanks Mr. Grode and Mr. Kaufman for humoring her in her refusal to ever move on from Philly mock trial. She also thanks her former mock trial coach, Julian Thompson, who taught her everything she knows, including how to make witnesses cry during cross examination.

Thanks also goes to the other co-Chair of this year's Competition, Jennifer Menichini, Esq., for her efforts in organizing and implementing the many facets of this competition. The Mock Trial Committee would also like to express its appreciation to Joel Seelye, current PBA/YLD Chair, for his support of the competition.

Additionally, we thank David Trevaskis, PBA Pro Bono Coordinator and recent winner of the Isidore Starr Award for Excellence in Law-Related Education from the American Bar Association, for his continued involvement and experienced guidance in implementing the 2017 Mock Trial Competition, and we thank the incomparable Jane Meyer, whose tireless work over the years has ensured that the many errors that reach her desk do not leave it.

Finally, we thank the hundreds of volunteers who annually contribute their time and energy to the overall organization and running of the program. Last, but certainly not least, we thank the PBA staff, headed by Executive Director Barry Simpson and Deputy Executive Director Fran O'Rourke, and the many PBA staff members who provide valuable time and talent throughout the mock trial season. Without their assistance, this competition would not be the tremendous success that it is each year.

Special thanks go to Maria Engles, the PBA/YLD Coordinator, whose contributions to the program are so numerous as to defy description.

We hope you find these materials interesting, and wish you all the best of luck!

Case Summary

“Pride, envy, avarice – these are the sparks that have set on fire the hearts of all men.”

Dante Alighieri

Dre Nash was on the precipice of history - months away from revolutionizing the auto industry with the mass-market launch of the Nash Flash, a car that skillfully combined fuel cell technology with electric technology. Admired by all and respected throughout her/his industry, her/his charismatic personality made the business an investors dream. But, all was not as right as the public perceived it to be. Elongating production times, low profit margins, and technical issues besieged the Nash Flash.

Dre’s fame was not only based on her/his historic family, but also the fact that s/he was a great story of redemption. Years earlier Dre spent time in federal prison on drug charges. S/He knew the challenges of getting back on your feet appreciated those who worked hard to do it. To help those like her/him, Dre got involved with the 2nd Start Program – a nonprofit initiative designed to help reformed convicts reenter society with new life skills.

As part of 2nd Start, Dre hired several former convicts to staff the Nash Electromotive facility in Wisawee, Pennsylvania. Dre believed that making these people part of her/his success would serve to inspire others. S/He also saw the “2nd Starters” as a way to help her/him meet the daunting task of filling 500,000 preorders for the Nash Flash by the end of 2016. While Dre struggled to meet the production demand, additional pressure was created by her/his rival, Stu D’Baker, who was in the process of developing a competing fuel cell car. A race to be first to market ensued.

All the while, Taylor Edsel - a former arsonist and vaunted 2nd Starter – became Dre’s most trusted ally. Dre and Taylor relied on their common past to form a strong bond. But not everyone believed that Taylor, who infamously burned down her/his family home and used arson as a means to gain control in stressful times, was actually reformed.

On July 4, 2016, with the Nash production deadline rapidly approaching, a massive fire broke out at the production facility. The home of Dre’s revolutionary Nash Flash and everything inside was reduced to ashes. Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms agent Leslie Duesenberg arrested Taylor at the scene with no doubt in her/his mind that Taylor set the blaze herself/himself and fit the profile of a serial arsonist.

Effie Edsel, Taylor’s parent, Salve DeSoto, a former employee at Nash Electromotive, and Leslie Duesenberg will testify for the prosecution. Testifying for the defense are Taylor, her/himself, Alex Packard, a counselor with the 2nd Start Program, and Dre Nash.

Can people change? Is Taylor back at her/his old tricks, or is the fire the work of D’Baker, a cutthroat rival determined to thwart Dre’s success?

Let the jury decide. Trial is joined.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,	)	COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF
	)	THE 71st JUDICIAL DISTRICT,
Complainant,	)	PENNSYLVANIA
v.)	
	)	Docket No.: CP-71-CR-00883-2016
TAYLOR EDSSEL,)	
	)	Charges:
Defendant	)	Arson (1st Degree) (1 Count)

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AND PROBABLE CAUSE AFFIDAVIT

I, Detective Henry Leland, Badge 145999, of the Kalmia County Police Department, do hereby state:

1. I accuse:

Taylor Edsel, who resides at Route 66, Wisawe, Pennsylvania.

2. The acts committed by the accused were:

**** ARSON IN THE FIRST DEGREE**

COUNT 1

The accused did intentionally start a fire with the purpose of destroying or damaging the inhabited building or structure of another (18 Pa.C.S. § 3301(a)(1)(ii)) when the accused spread lighter fluid, a flammable agent, on the structure of another, the Nash Plant, owed by Nash Electromotive Inc., and then did ignite the lighter fluid, knowing that it would burn and damage or destroy the Nash Plant.

3. The accused committed these acts against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and contrary to the Acts of the General Assembly: . . .

18 Pa.C.S. § 3301(a)(1)(ii).

4. I ask that a warrant of arrest or a summons be issued and that the accused by required to answer the charges I have made.

5. I verify that the facts set forth in this Complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

DATE: July 15, 2016

Henry M.

Leland

(Signature of Complaint)

AND NOW, on this date, July 18, 2016, I certify the Complaint has been properly completed and verify that there is probable cause for the issuance of process.

Horace E. Dodge

Judge
Issuing Authority

Clerk of Courts – Original

<p>THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Complainant,)</p> <p>v.)</p> <p>TAYLOR EDSSEL,)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Defendant)</p>	<p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p>	<p>COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF</p> <p>THE 71st JUDICIAL DISTRICT,</p> <p>PENNSYLVANIA</p> <p>Docket No.: CP-71-CR-00883-2016</p> <p>Charges:</p> <p>Arson (1st Degree) (1 Count)</p>
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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS BEFORE ISSUING AUTHORITY

1. Defendant Taylor Edsel, who resides at Route 66, Wisawe, Pennsylvania, was arrested on July 16, 2016, and charged by Complainant with one count of Arson in the Frist Degree, 18 Pa.C.S. § 3301(a)(1)(ii).
2. A preliminary arraignment for Defendant Taylor Edsel was held before the undersigned at 1903 Dearborn Street, Laurel, Pennsylvania, on July 19, 2016.
3. At the preliminary arraignment, Defendant Taylor Edsel was advised of her/his right to apply for assignment of counsel and was given a copy of the Criminal Complaint.
4. At the preliminary arraignment, bail was set at \$600,000 based on the evidence presented at the time and the Criminal Complaint previously filed with the Court. The request for 10% bail posting made by Defendant Taylor Edsel was granted.
5. On July 26, 2016, a preliminary hearing was held before undersigned at 1903 Dearborn Street, Laurel, Pennsylvania. Defendant Taylor Edsel was present and was represented by counsel. The Commonwealth was represented by the assigned Assistant District Attorney. Detective Henry Leland was sworn and testified for the Commonwealth.
6. At the conclusion of the preliminary hearing on July 26, 2016, Defendant Taylor Edsel was held for court on the charges of Arson in the First Degree.
7. Bail was continued in the amount of \$600,000.

AND NOW, on this date, July 28, 2016, I certify the transcript of proceedings before the issuing authority has been properly completed.

Horace E. Dodge
 Judge
 Issuing Authority

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,	)	COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF
	)	THE 71st JUDICIAL DISTRICT,
Complainant,	)	PENNSYLVANIA
v.)	
	)	Docket No.: CP-71-CR-00883-2016
TAYLOR EDSSEL,)	
	)	Charges:
Defendant	)	Arson (1st Degree) (1 Count)

INFORMATION

The charge(s) having been over for court by the Court following a Preliminary Hearing, the District Attorney of Kalmia County by this information charges that, on (or about July 4, 2016, in said County, Taylor Edsel,

First Count:

did intentionally start a fire with the purpose of destroying or damaging the Nash Plant;

Against the Act of Assembly and the Peace and Dignity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Alexander Y. Malcomson

Alexander Y. Malcomson
Assistant District Attorney

Citation(s): FIRST DEGREE ARSON, 18 Pa.C.S. § 3301(a)(1)(ii)

Clerk of Courts – Original

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,)
)
 Complainant,)
 v.)
)
 TAYLOR EDSSEL,)
)
 Defendant)

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF
THE 71st JUDICIAL DISTRICT,
PENNSYLVANIA
Docket No.: CP-71-CR-00883-2016
Charges:
Arson (1st Degree) (1 Count)

ARRAIGNMENT

I, Taylor Edsel, having been advised by the District Attorney of Kalmia County, Pennsylvania, that I am charged by Information with Arson in the First Degree (18 Pa.C.S. § 3301(a)(1)(ii)).

I have been advised of my right to have an attorney represent me at all hearings and the trial of these charges.

I have been advised and fully understand that I/my lawyer have/has the right to request discovery or disclosure from the District Attorney within fourteen (14) days of today's date.

I have been advised and I fully understand that I/my lawyer have/has the right to file with the Court any pre-trial application for relief in the form of a single omnibus pre-trial motion within thirty (30) days of today's arraignment date.

I hereby enter a plea of Not Guilty to the above charges and request a trial by Jury. Trial is scheduled for February 2017 Term of Court. I waive [waive/do not waive] my right to be indicted, rather than proceeding under this Information.

DATE: November 13, 2016

Taylor Edsel

Defendant

John S. Gray

Attorney for Defendant

Alexander Y. Malcomson

Attorney for the Commonwealth

JURY INSTRUCTIONS

At the conclusion of a jury trial, the judge will instruct the jury how to apply the law to the evidence. Hypothetically, if the judge in your mock trial case were to provide instructions to the jury, they would look something like the following:

[**NOTE:** Teams cannot use a copy of these instructions as an exhibit during the mock trial competition; however, students may use these concepts in fashioning their case and making arguments to the jury.]

ROLE OF THE JURY

Members of the jury, all of the evidence has been presented to you and you have heard the arguments of the lawyers. Now I will instruct you on the law.

You have two duties as a jury. Your first duty is to decide the facts from the evidence that you have heard and seen in court during this trial. That is your job and yours alone. I play no part in finding the facts. You should not take anything I may have said or done during the trial as indicating what I think of the evidence or what I think about what your verdict should be.

Your second duty is to apply the law that I give you to the facts. My role now is to explain to you the legal principles that must guide you in your decisions. You must apply my instructions carefully. Each of the instructions is important, and you must apply all of them. You must not substitute or follow your own notion or opinion about what the law is or ought to be. You must apply the law that I give to you, whether you agree with it or not.

Whatever your verdict, it will have to be unanimous. All of you will have to agree on it or there will be no verdict. In the jury room, you will discuss the case among yourselves, but ultimately each of you will have to make up his or her own mind. This is a responsibility that each of you has and that you cannot avoid.

Perform these duties fairly and impartially. Do not allow sympathy, prejudice, fear, or public opinion to influence you. You should also not be influenced by any person's race, color, religion, national ancestry, or gender.

JURY SOLE JUDGE OF FACTS; SYMPATHY OR PREJUDICE NOT TO INFLUENCE YOUR VERDICT

You are the sole judges of the facts in this case. It is your duty to determine the facts from the evidence produced here in court. Your verdict should not be based on speculation, guess, or conjecture. Neither sympathy nor prejudice should influence your verdict. You are to apply the law as stated in these instructions to the facts as you find them, and in this way decide the case.

Although the lawyers may have called your attention to certain facts or factual conclusions that they thought were important, what the lawyers said is not evidence and is not binding on you. It

is your own recollection and interpretation of the evidence that controls your decision in this case. Also, do not assume from anything I may have done or said during the trial that I have any opinion about any of the issues in this case or about what your verdict should be.

CREDIBILITY OF THE WITNESSES

As I stated in my preliminary instructions at the beginning of the trial, in deciding what the facts are you must decide what testimony you believe and what testimony you do not believe. You are the sole judges of the credibility of the witnesses. Credibility refers to whether a witness is worthy of belief: Was the witness truthful? Was the witness' testimony accurate? You may believe everything a witness says, or only part of it, or none of it.

You may decide whether to believe a witness based on his or her behavior and manner of testifying, the explanations the witness gave, and all the other evidence in the case, just as you would in any important matter where you are trying to decide if a person is truthful, straightforward, and accurate in his or her recollection. In deciding the question of credibility, remember to use your common sense, your good judgment, and your experience.

In deciding what to believe, you may consider a number of factors:

- (1) The opportunity and ability of the witness to see or hear or know the things about which the witness testified;
- (2) The quality of the witness' knowledge, understanding, and memory;
- (3) The witness' appearance, behavior, and manner while testifying;
- (4) Whether the witness has an interest in the outcome of the case or any motive, bias, or prejudice;
- (5) Any relation the witness may have with a party in the case and any effect the verdict may have on the witness;
- (6) Whether the witness said or wrote anything before trial that was different from the witness' testimony in court;
- (7) Whether the witness' testimony was consistent or inconsistent with other evidence that you believe; and
- (8) Any other factors that bear on whether the witness should be believed.

Inconsistencies or discrepancies in a witness' testimony or between the testimony of different witnesses may or may not cause you to disbelieve a witness' testimony. Two or more persons witnessing an event may simply see or hear it differently. Mistaken recollection, like failure to recall, is a common human experience. In weighing the effect of an inconsistency, you should

also consider whether it was about a matter of importance or an insignificant detail. You should also consider whether the inconsistency was innocent or intentional.

You are not required to accept testimony even if the testimony was not contradicted and the witness was not impeached. You may decide that the witness is not worthy of belief because of the witness' bearing and demeanor, or because of the inherent improbability of the testimony, or for other reasons that are sufficient to you.

After you make your own judgment about the believability of a witness, you can then attach to that witness' testimony the importance or weight that you think it deserves. The weight of the evidence to prove a fact does not necessarily depend on the number of witnesses who testified or the quantity of evidence that was presented. What is more important than numbers or quantity is how believable the witnesses were, and how much weight you think their testimony deserves.

PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE; REASONABLE DOUBT; BURDEN OF PROOF

The defendant, Taylor Edsel, pleaded not guilty to the offense charged. The Defendant is presumed to be innocent. S/he started the trial with a clean slate, with no evidence against her/him. The presumption of innocence stays with Taylor Edsel unless and until the government has presented evidence that overcomes that presumption by convincing you that Taylor Edsel is guilty of the offense charged beyond a reasonable doubt.

The presumption of innocence requires that you find Taylor Edsel not guilty, unless you are satisfied that the government has proved guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The presumption of innocence means that Taylor Edsel has no burden or obligation to present any evidence at all or to prove that s/he is not guilty. The burden or obligation of proof is on the government to prove that Taylor Edsel is guilty and this burden stays with the government throughout the trial.

In order for you to find Taylor Edsel guilty of the offense charged, the government must convince you that Taylor Edsel is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. That means that the government must prove each and every element of the offense charged beyond a reasonable doubt. A defendant may not be convicted based on suspicion or conjecture, but only on evidence proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Proof beyond a reasonable doubt does not mean proof beyond all possible doubt or to a mathematical certainty. Possible doubts or doubts based on conjecture, speculation, or hunch are not reasonable doubts. A reasonable doubt is a fair doubt based on reason, logic, common sense, or experience. It is a doubt that an ordinary reasonable person has after carefully weighing all of the evidence, and is a doubt of the sort that would cause him or her to hesitate to act in matters of importance in his or her own life. It may arise from the evidence, or from the lack of evidence, or from the nature of the evidence.

If, having now heard all the evidence, you are convinced that the government proved each and every element of the offense charged beyond a reasonable doubt, you should return a verdict of guilty for that offense. However, if you have a reasonable doubt about one or more of the elements of the offense charged, then you must return a verdict of not guilty of that offense.

NATURE OF THE INFORMATION

The defendant has been charged with the offense of first-degree arson. First-degree arson occurs when there is a fire, of incendiary origin, set by the Defendant. To find the defendant guilty of this offense, you must find that the following three elements have been proven beyond a reasonable doubt:

First, that there was a fire at the Nash Electromotive, Inc. Plant;

Second, that Taylor Edsel started the fire at the Nash Electromotive, Inc. Plant;

Third, that Taylor Edsel intended to start the fire at the Nash Electromotive, Inc. Plant.

The Commonwealth does not have to establish with direct evidence that Taylor Edsel caused the fire at the Nash Plant. Circumstantial evidence alone is sufficient. Circumstantial evidence is evidence that relies on an inference to connect it to a conclusion of fact.

JURY MUST NOT CONSIDER THE PENALTY

You must not consider the consequences of your verdict. That is, do not trouble yourself with the consequences to Taylor Edsel.

EVIDENCE OF OTHER OFFENSES AS SUBSTANTIVE PROOF OF GUILT

You have heard evidence tending to prove that the defendant was guilty of the other incidents for which he/she is not on trial. I am speaking of the testimony to the effect that he harmed a family pet or had other incidents where he set things on fire.

This evidence is before you for a limited purpose, that is, for the purpose of tending to show a possible pattern of conduct. This evidence must not be considered by you in any way other than for that purpose I just stated. You must not regard this evidence as showing that the defendant is a person of bad character or of criminal tendencies from which you might be inclined to infer guilt.

ROLE OF THE JURY – DELIBERATIONS, UNANIMOUS VERDICT, DUTY TO CONSULT

That concludes my instructions explaining the law regarding the testimony and other evidence, and the offenses charged. Now let me explain some things about your deliberations in the jury room, and your possible verdicts.

First, the first thing that you should do in the jury room is choose someone to be your foreperson. This person will speak for the jury here in court. He or she will also preside over your discussions. However, the views and vote of the foreperson are entitled to no greater weight than those of any other juror.

Second, I want to remind you that your verdict, whether it is guilty or not guilty, must be unanimous. To find Taylor Edsel guilty of an offense, every one of you must agree that the government has overcome the presumption of innocence with evidence that proves each element of that offense beyond a reasonable doubt. To find Taylor Edsel not guilty, every one of you must agree that the government has failed to convince you beyond a reasonable doubt.

Third, if you decide that the government has proved Taylor Edsel guilty, then it will be my responsibility to decide what the appropriate punishment should be. You should never consider the possible punishment in reaching your verdict.

Fourth, as I have said before, your verdict must be based only on the evidence received in this case and the law I have given to you. You should not take anything I may have said or done during trial as indicating what I think of the evidence or what I think your verdict should be. What the verdict should be is the exclusive responsibility of the jury.

Fifth, now that all the evidence is in, the arguments are completed, and once I have finished these instructions, you are free to talk about the case in the jury room. In fact, it is your duty to talk with each other about the evidence, and to make every reasonable effort you can to reach a unanimous agreement. Talk with each other, listen carefully, and listen respectfully to each other's views and keep an open mind as you listen to what your fellow jurors have to say. Do not hesitate to change your mind if you are convinced that other jurors are right and that your original position was wrong. But do not ever change your mind just because other jurors see things differently or just to get the case over with. In the end, your vote must be exactly that-- your own vote. It is important for you to reach unanimous agreement, but only if you can do so honestly and in good conscience. Listen carefully to what the other jurors have to say and then decide for yourself if the government has proved the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

No one will be allowed to hear your discussions in the jury room and no record will be made of what you say. You should all feel free to speak your minds.

Sixth, once you start deliberating, do not talk about the case to the court officials, or to me, or to anyone else except each other. If you have any questions or messages, your foreperson should write them down on a piece of paper, sign them, and then give them to the court official who will give them to me. I will first talk to the lawyers about what you have asked, and I will respond as soon as I can. In the meantime, if possible, continue with your deliberations on some other subject.

One more thing about messages. Do not ever write down or tell anyone how you or anyone else voted. That should stay secret until you have finished your deliberations. If you have occasion to communicate with the court while you are deliberating, do not disclose the number of jurors who have voted to convict or acquit on any offense.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,	)	COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF
	)	THE 71st JUDICIAL DISTRICT,
Complainant,	)	PENNSYLVANIA
v.)	
	)	Docket No.: CP-71-CR-00883-2016
TAYLOR EDSSEL,)	
	)	Charges:
Defendant	)	Arson (1st Degree) (1 Count)

VERDICT FORM

To the jury:

To further clarify instructions given to you by the trial judge, you are being provided with the following verdict form. At the conclusion of your deliberations, one copy of this form should be signed by your foreperson and handed to the court clerk. This will constitute your verdict.

Question 1:

Do you find that the Commonwealth has proven beyond a reasonable doubt that defendant Taylor Edsel intentionally caused the fire at the Nash Electromotive, Inc. Plant?

Yes _____ No _____

You have finished your deliberations. Please sign at the bottom of this form. Please return to the courtroom.

Jury Foreperson

Date

<p>THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Complainant,)</p> <p>v.)</p> <p>TAYLOR EDSEL,)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Defendant)</p>	<p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p>	<p>COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF</p> <p>THE 71st JUDICIAL DISTRICT,</p> <p>PENNSYLVANIA</p> <p>Docket No.: CP-71-CR-00883-2016</p> <p>Charges:</p> <p>Arson (1st Degree) (1 Count)</p>
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MEMORANDUM AND OPINION

I. Defendant’s Motion to Exclude “Profile” Evidence

The Court is presented with the novel question of the extent to which a “profile” may be admitted into evidence by a prosecutor to show that a criminal defendant meets that profile. The Commonwealth urges that such profiles are powerful tools that will assist the jury in determining guilt or innocence. The Defendant argues that these profiles are little more than scattershot characteristics assembled in secret by law enforcement, with little or no predictive value. The Court finds – as is so often the case – that the truth lies in the middle. Accordingly, the Court holds that evidence of such a profile is admissible if the profile is shown to be a valid exercise of statistical or scientific expertise. The Court further finds that the profile of serial arsonists represents a peculiar psychological phenomenon in which accurate profiling may be more likely.

The success of profiling is the stuff of legend, from Sherlock Holmes to real life cases where profilers have predicted the perpetrator’s gender, approximate age, religion, type of dress, and even speech impediment, all from review of crime scenes and use of “linkage analysis” to find patterns in seemingly unrelated data. These spectacular acts of profiling have spawned a wealth of television shows, movies, and memoirs from alumni of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Behavioral Analysis Unit (BAU).

Yet singular successes, however well publicized, do not tell this Court much about the success *rate* of the profiling effort. These successes may be the norm, or they may be the equivalent of throwing a dart blindfolded and hitting the bullseye occasionally. Moreover, there are serious questions about whether “linkage analysis” itself is a scientifically valid approach, and the BAU’s profiling has rarely been subjected to rigorous evaluation. There are also serious questions about the validity of the BAU’s samples, the significance of its statistics, and fundamental questions about whether its organizing principles are scientifically valid.

It is perhaps unsurprising, then, that Courts have divided on how to handle profiling evidence. Some courts have found prosecutors’ attempts to introduce these profiles to be appropriate. See, e.g. United States v. Meeks, 35 M.J. 64, 65 (C.M.A. 1992); Masters v. People, 58 P.3d 979, 983 (Colo. 2002). Others have rejected profiles as unscientific. See, e.g. People v. Robbie, 112 Cal. Rptr. 2d 479, 479-83 (Cal. Ct. App. 2001); State v. Garcia, No. 79917, 2002 WL 1874535, at *7 (Ohio Ct. App. Aug. 15, 2002); State v. Lowe, 599 N.E.2d 783, 784-85 (Ohio Ct. App. 1991).

And courts have widely rejected defense proposals to admit evidence that the defendant did *not* fit a particular profile. See, e.g. State v. Fain, 774 P.2d 252, 257 (Idaho 1989); State v. Stevens, 78 S.W.3d 817, 823, 836 (Tenn. 2002). It is a bit of a muddle.

The foregoing concerns give the Court significant pause. However, the Court need not decide the admissibility of profiles generally. The Commonwealth submits that the profiles of serial arsonists are more reliable than profiles generally, based on the widely accepted psychological characteristics of serial arsonists. In this regard, the Commonwealth convinces. Based on the statement of Leslie Duesenberg and the sources cited in the parties' briefing, it does appear that serial arsonists fit into established categories more neatly than other criminals. These categories may improve the predictive character of profiles to the point that a particular profile is appropriate for admission. And there is at least some – admittedly, self-reported – evidence for that in the witnesses' statements.

This is a close call, but we find that, in the case of a serial arsonist, evidence of a profile is admissible

The Court finds that Leslie Duesenberg may testify regarding the consistency of Taylor Edsel with the profile that Duesenberg developed, if and only if the Commonwealth demonstrates that Edsel committed two or more prior acts of arson, that is the intentional setting of fires, that could serve as a predicate for the profile. The Defendant will, of course, be entitled to cross-examine on the limitations of the profile, the limitations in the degree to which it matches the Defendant, its overall rate of success, and other, related matters disclosed in the record. The Commonwealth can also determine that it does not wish to use the profile evidence after all. Should profile evidence be presented, the jury will decide what, if any, weight to give it, just as it does for all other matters placed before it.

II. Defendant's Motion to Exclude Evidence of Prior Arson

The Court must then address the Defendant's objections to the introduction of her/his history of arson, including acts committed as a juvenile. The defendant objects to this evidence pursuant to Rules 403 and 404(b).¹

The Defendant first argues that no evidence of arsons for which s/he was not convicted of a crime may be admitted. That is simply wrong. The admissibility of evidence pursuant to Rule 702 (a profile) or Rule 404(b) (to show knowledge, intent, or motive) does not turn on whether there was a conviction for the underlying acts. Nor, for the same reason, does it matter if the acts of arson were committed as a juvenile, although the relevance of that fact to the profile would of course be an area on which cross-examination would be permitted. It is the facts that matter, not the legal consequences of those acts or lack thereof. Moreover, the burden for admission of evidence is lower than the quantum of proof beyond a reasonable doubt required for a criminal conviction. Strict proof

¹ Notably, the Commonwealth provided proper notice to the Defendant of its intent to present evidence of the Defendant's other arsons, as required by Pa.R.E. 404(b)(3).

may be demanded of prior bad acts evidence, but that proof need not be in the form of a certified copy of an adult conviction.

The question, however, remains whether introduction of this prior bad acts evidence should be permitted at all. If the acts evidence is used – as Defendant claims – merely to show that the Defendant was a bad person inclined to commit arson, it must be excluded. The Commonwealth argues, however, that the crimes are distinctive in nature and that this distinctive nature serves to prove the identity of the perpetrator, a recognized exception to Rule 404(b).

The Court must therefore decide whether the evidence in question “describes a crime so distinctive in method and so similar to the charged crime that proof [someone] committed one tends to prove they committed the other.” Commonwealth v. Weakley, 2009 PA Super 74, ¶ 13, 972 A.2d 1182, 1188 (2009). Required, therefore, “is such a high correlation in the details of the crimes that proof that a person committed one of them makes it very unlikely that anyone else committed the others.” Commonwealth v. Novasak, 414 Pa.Super. 21, 606 A.2d 477, 484 n. 7 (1992). In comparing the methods and circumstances of separate crimes, a court must necessarily look for similarities in a number of factors, including: (1) the manner in which the crimes were committed; (2) weapons used; (3) ostensible purpose of the crime; (4) location; and (5) type of victims. Remoteness in time between the crimes is also factored, although its probative value has been held inversely proportional to the degree of similarity between crimes. See Commonwealth v. Miller, 541 Pa. 531, 664 A.2d 1310, 1319 (1995); 1–404 Ohlbaum on the Pennsylvania Rules of Evidence at 404.22.

Here, the Commonwealth proffers that it will show that all of the arson acts were committed using a tennis ball with a wadded core of paper or cotton soaked in lighter fluid as the trigger. The Commonwealth proffers that it will also show that the crimes had a similar psychological pattern, i.e. a stress reaction leading to arson against a particular structure causing – or at least symbolic of – the stress. And each arson took place here in Wisawe at a time, thankfully, when no person other than the arsonist was present. If proved at trial, these facts would show similar manner, weapon, and purposes of the crimes, at least, and possibly victims and locations as well. That would be sufficient to differentiate *this* arson from arsons *generally*, in accordance with the dictates of Weakley. Accordingly, the Court holds that evidence of prior acts of intentional fire-setting by Taylor Edsel may be admitted at trial in this action as the Commonwealth attempts to prove the identity of the Nash Electromotive Plant arsonist.

All other evidentiary matters are reserved for argument at trial, which shall occur at the earliest convenience of the Court and parties. All other motions regarding such matters are denied without prejudice, and counsel may raise them again at trial consistent with the rules of court.

Louis Chevrolet
Louis Chevrolet
Common Pleas Judge

<p>THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Complainant,)</p> <p>v.)</p> <p>TAYLOR EDSSEL,)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Defendant)</p>	<p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p>	<p>COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF</p> <p>THE 71st JUDICIAL DISTRICT,</p> <p>PENNSYLVANIA</p> <p>Docket No.: CP-71-CR-00883-2016</p> <p>Charges:</p> <p>Arson (1st Degree) (1 Count)</p>
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Stipulations

1. All documents, signatures, and exhibits, including pre-markings, included in the case materials are authentic and accurate in all respects; no objections to the authenticity of the documents will be entertained. The parties reserve the right to dispute any legal or factual conclusions based on these items and to make objections other than to authenticity.
2. Jurisdiction, venue, and chain of custody of the evidence are proper and may not be challenged.
3. All statements were notarized at the time they were initially made and all statements were reviewed by their authors shortly before trial. No changes were made.
4. All evidence was constitutionally recovered, and all statements were constitutionally obtained. No objection will be entertained to the constitutionality of any evidence, nor will any motions to suppress on constitutional grounds be permitted.
5. With respect to the allegations against Taylor Edsel, the Nash Electromotive plant in Wisawee, Pennsylvania, was an occupied structure of another within the meaning of 18 Pa.C.S. §§ 3301(a)(1)(ii) and 3301(j).
6. The instant criminal trial is separate from the issue of sentencing, and the jury will be called upon only to determine guilt or innocence of the crime charged.
7. Taylor Edsel has waived her/his right not to testify in a criminal proceeding against her/him, and either side may comment on the fact of that testimony in opening statements or during the prosecution's case in chief, if such comment would otherwise be proper.
8. The photo identified as Exhibit 1 was taken by a professional photographer covering the fire for the Associated Press. It accurately depicts the fire at the Nash Electromotive plant.
9. The emails identified as Exhibit 2 were voluntarily provided by Nash Electromotive's custodian of records at the direction of Dre Nash, in response to a request from law enforcement officials. The emails are between two Nash Electromotive email accounts, assigned to Dre Nash (dren@nashe.com) and Taylor Edsel (taylor@nashe.com) on a Gmail for Business system.
10. Exhibit 3 was issued by the Detroit Auto Classic. The Detroit Auto Classic routinely produces press releases and recordings of speeches at its events in its regular course of business.

11. Exhibits 5 and 6 were provided by Leslie Dusenberg and Alex Packard, respectively.
12. Exhibits 7 and 8 were taken from the memory of Taylor Edsel's laptop computer, which was seized legally from Edsel and searched pursuant to a warrant. The images were recovered by technicians at the Carnegie Mellon CyLab using established, forensically sound processes, and they were given to the investigating officer, Leslie Duesenberg, in whose custody they have remained. The CyLab is not a law enforcement agency, but it routinely assists law enforcement investigations in performing collections and regularly generates such reports.
13. Exhibit 9 is the result of a mass spectrometer analysis performed by crime scene investigators at the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. The results were obtained using established, forensically sound processes, and they were given to the investigating officer, Leslie Dusenber, in whose custody they have remained. The law enforcement officers performing the analysis were not told anything about the sample or the case for which it was being used before or after their work was concluded. ATF routinely uses a mass spectrometer to analyze material left behind following arsons.
14. Exhibits 10 and 11 were taken from Dre Nash and Taylor Edsel's cellular telephones, which were seized legally from Dre Nash and Taylor Edsel and searched pursuant to valid warrants. The images were recovered by technicians at the Carnegie Mellon CyLab using established, forensically sound processes, and they were given to the investigating officer, Leslie Duesenberg, in whose custody they have remained. The CyLab is not a law enforcement agency, but it routinely assists law enforcement investigations in performing collections and regularly generates such reports.
15. Exhibit 12 was obtained from The Laurel County Unified E911 Service. Laurel County E911 answers all 911 calls in Laurel County and is required by Pennsylvania law to maintain recordings for at least six months and to prepare transcripts of these recordings as requested. Laurel County E911 is not a law enforcement agency, and the dispatcher is not a law enforcement officer.
16. The grounds on which evidence may be admitted are defined by the Rules of Evidence. No objection will be entertained under any constitutional provision, including but not limited to the Confrontation Clause of the United States Constitution or Article I, Section 9 of the Pennsylvania Constitution

/s/ _____

Assistant District Attorney

/s/ _____

Defendant's Attorney

Date: December 17, 2016

List of Witnesses

The prosecution and the defendant must call each of their respective witnesses.

For Prosecution, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

- **Leslie Duesenberg:** ATF Investigator
- **Effie Edsel:** Parent of the Defendant, Taylor Edsel
- **Salve DeSoto:** Former Employee of Nash Electromotive

For Defendant, Taylor Edsel:

- **Taylor Edsel:** Defendant
- **Dre Nash:** CEO and Founder of Nash Electromotive
- **Alex Packard:** Psychologist for 2nd Start Program

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

- Dre - dray
- Duesenberg - duse-in-burg
- Celetric - sa-le-trik
- Salve - sal-vay
- Wisawe - wizz-a-wee

Please note for scientific terms used in the problem, pronunciation assistance is easily found on the web by searching “[term] + pronunciation”

Statement of Leslie Duesenberg

1 Where there's smoke there's fire, and when it comes to Taylor Edsel, there is always fire. I've
2 had a long career, and it's my job to learn to read both the data and the people: how they act,
3 their mannerisms, their histories and proclivities. You can tell those that need a second chance
4 and those that should never see the light of day again. But rarely, and I mean rarely, do you
5 come across someone who from an early age is pure evil. And, in my career, there is not one
6 single person who fits the description of a bad apple more than Taylor Edsel, and the good
7 people of Wisawe are paying the price. As always, heartbroken in the hills.

8
9 I'll start at the beginning. Back in 1999, I had just started work as a Pennsylvania state trooper
10 at the Laurel County barracks in Wisawe. I had an Associate's Degree in Psychology from Lake
11 County Community College, and I was finishing up a bachelor's in Criminal Justice from Penn
12 State. Wisawe's a smallish place, so when the Wisawe PD needs backup, they call up the
13 State Police. But none of us in the Lake County garrison had any experience with arson.

14
15 Anyway, that summer, I responded to a call from dispatch of a disturbance involving "fireballs."
16 When I arrived at the Edsel residence, there on the side of the street with a bottle of lighter fluid,
17 was an eight-year old Taylor Edsel. S/He had cut a small silver dollar sized opening in an old
18 tennis ball, taken a wad of cotton and shoved it in the ball before filling it with the lighter fluid.
19 There were about a half dozen burned out tennis balls in plain sight. When I confronted Taylor
20 about it and tried to give that standard stern-but-motivational warning, s/he showed no remorse,
21 no feeling, no guilt – nothing. It was like Taylor was staring through a fog. S/He had a death grip
22 on this old Zippo too. It was a real distinct lighter with a navy insignia on it. Not something you
23 forget easily.

24
25 Anyway, I took her/him to her/his parents. Disheveled and discombobulated, Effie Edsel
26 answered the door. Presenting Effie with Taylor, s/he muttered something about Taylor not
27 being the same since her/his spouse left. Effie admitted, that s/he was tired of Taylor and told
28 her/him to play outside and, "not burn the house down." Effie didn't expect Taylor to instead try
29 to set the street on fire. I didn't file a report and, though the thought crossed my mind, I didn't
30 bother to call social services.

31
32 A few years later, in fall 2003, I was once again called back to the Edsel residence, this time
33 responding a report of an uncontrollable blaze in the backyard. Arriving on the scene after the
34 fire department, I found Taylor, alone, grinning silently and staring at the burnt remnants of the
35 family dog house. After digging through the still smoking debris, I found signs that the family dog
36 died trapped in the burning structure. I later learned that the week before, Effie told Taylor that it
37 was going to be one of Taylor's chores to take the dog for a walk twice per day. I also found a
38 few charred tennis balls. I started yelling at Taylor, trying hard to shake some sanity from her/his
39 laconic trance. But, my efforts were to no avail. All Taylor said was "I'm in control now, and all is
40 as it should be." I arrested Taylor and s/he was later released to Effie. Effie told me that we
41 would've been better off just leaving Taylor in jail.

42 As an eight year old, some antics are expected, but a twelve year old who shows no remorse
43 after killing a family pet, accident or not, is a menace. I was hoping that Taylor would get
44 sentenced to community service or possible juvenile detention. But, alas, all Taylor received
45 from the juvenile adjudication was six months of anger management classes and a year's
46 probation.

47
48 By that point, I was working on a master's degree in Criminal Justice, which focused on
49 Criminology, online at the University of Phoenix. I needed a thesis topic, and the look in that
50 kid's eyes just stuck with me. I started digging deeper and deeper into the literature about
51 arsonists, particularly serial arsonists. I always had an interest in statistics - my mom was a
52 pollster - and I combined the two into a predictive model for whether arsonists are likely to strike
53 again. I was spotted by a recruiter for the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms,
54 and Explosives. I went through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center course and
55 became an ATF agent specializing in arson profiles.

56
57 I've been in the profiling and forensic inquiry division at ATF for five years. I serve as a crime
58 scene tech once per year to keep up my certification, but really, I work full time on profiling and
59 arson data compilation. I've helped put dozens of arsonists behind bars. My success rate is
60 pretty darn good, and usually 60-80% of any profile I predict turns out to be true. Of course, I've
61 had my fair share of misses too. You see, arson profiling is a bit tricky, because arsonists fit
62 several models. First, there are the kids just playing with fire. Statistically, these kids usually
63 grow up fine, once they get some sense in 'em. Second, there are the financial guys, people
64 needing insurance money, firefighters desperate for extra overtime, and the like. Those people
65 are otherwise well adjusted, but they just need money. Then there are the hero types, who
66 want to make themselves look good rescuing people.

67
68 Finally, there are the hardcore ones, the real whackos. Interestingly, these arsonists share a
69 fairly uniform set of characteristics. Generally they are emotionally stunted, badly adjusted to
70 the world. Often they have suffered some hardship that has left them feeling out of control.
71 They seek to vent their anger or get control of the environment by burning things, and they
72 respond with fire to anything that threatens their sense of control or reminds them of being
73 powerless. Often it's a circumstance like whatever got them starting fires in the first place, or a
74 pattern of circumstances that develop and become a trigger.

75
76 Regardless of type, serial arsonists usually settle on a single incendiary device. One arsonist
77 might use a matchbook with cloth around it - another one a milk carton with gasoline and a
78 pillowcase fuse. But it's very rare - almost unheard of - for them to switch back and forth.
79 Except the for-hire burners. The pros tend to vary their methods or mimic others' ways of doing
80 things to throw us off.

81
82 Taylor fits the profile of a hard-core serial arsonist to the bill: suffered a trauma young, craved
83 control, used fire to respond to losses of control, the whole textbook. I was with ATF by '07, so I
84 wasn't there when s/he burned down her/his family home, but the report eventually made its
85 way across my desk. Front and center was the same incendiary device - a tennis ball with

86 wadded cotton. I can't say I was surprised. Should have sent that kid to a sanitarium, not jail. I
87 also wish that ATF had been called in earlier; the investigation was mishandled, and someone
88 should have testified at the sentencing about the danger Taylor poses. Someone like me. The
89 very fact that the local paper got details of the case was a huge error. More than that, though, I
90 wish someone had consulted me when Taylor was hired at the Nash auto plant, instead of that
91 bleeding heart, star-eyed Alex Packard. Anyone could see that kid was 100% in-profile for
92 getting out the tennis balls again if something went wrong, and that plant was loaded up with
93 hydrogen, a highly flammable gas. It was like making a kleptomaniac your bank teller.

94
95 The Nash Flash was a big deal, politically, so my team (responsible for the northeastern U.S.)
96 was on a helicopter less than an hour after the 911 call. The smoke had barely started to thin
97 when we arrived. First, it was an arson. That was plain to see from the damage around the
98 main hydrogen duct. The safeties had been disabled, and those switches don't flip themselves.
99 Second, the accelerant was lighter fluid. We know that from the spectrometer results. Third,
100 there was trace remnants of vulcanized rubber near the flash point, also confirmed by
101 spectrometer results. And fourth, Taylor Edsel was – against all common sense – present at
102 the plant, clothes burned half off her/his body. And when I asked her/him why, s/he said "To
103 make things right." Finally, there was the Navy Zippo. Everyone knows Taylor loves that Zippo;
104 s/he even asked me to bring it into the holding cell with her/him when I arrested her/him in 2003!
105 We found it in the plant, not far from the likely ignition site, charred and twisted from the heat
106 and flames. You couldn't read the Navy printed on it; all the paint had melted off. Of course,
107 there were no fingerprints or whatever. Not at those temperatures.

108
109 Even though it was pretty clear what had happened, I built the profile anyway. In building the
110 criminal profile, one has to assume that the arson is serial. Based on historical trends of a
111 gasoline-like accelerant in an industrial facility, with rubber of some kind from a foreign object, in
112 Central Pennsylvania, the profile came out with a likelihood of an 18-30 year old who had the
113 capacity to plan the crime in advance but who was under stress at the time. The profile
114 suggested a history of anti-social behavior and someone living alone or with a caregiver. That
115 was reported at an 80% x2 confidence, meaning that we would expect 80% of it to be true for
116 80% of the cases of serial arson fitting our profile. It's hard to know how tight the conclusion
117 was, though, because the profile included Taylor's old crimes, and not many people burn things
118 down with tennis balls. Even so, the profile was influenced by the same thing my eyes were: it
119 was almost certainly Taylor just based on the profile alone.

120
121 My bosses didn't immediately accept that Taylor was working alone, especially when we heard
122 from Dre Nash and Salve DeSoto about the problems with the Nash Flash and the fact that
123 Nash wasn't going to be able to timely fulfill all the preorders s/he took for the car. So when the
124 brass instructed me to look into the possibility that it was an insurance job, I did. Didn't make
125 sense, though. The cars in production were worth more than the policy, once they were sold,
126 and Nash wasn't likely to destroy her/his own plant. It doesn't take a psychologist to see that
127 s/he had way too much ego for that.

128

129 And of course we looked at whether it could have been a pro job, but that's basically impossible
130 to figure out. I mean, pros often work deep underground, doing cash transactions or
131 transferring money through sites on the "dark web" or in cryptocurrencies that are more or less
132 untraceable. There's basically no trail unless they leave one. You can spend a lot of hours and
133 not get anything useful. Besides, we had the arsonist right there.

134
135 The agents put Taylor under intense interrogation, but s/he refused to confess. S/He wouldn't
136 even answer any questions of mine other than to say "I didn't do this one, I was trying to save
137 the factory." We were able to pull the 911 records from July 4th and we were able to confirm that
138 one of the calls reporting the blaze came from Taylor. Believe it or not, that is not unusual.
139 Many arsonists love to see the police and fire response to their work. It makes them feel
140 important to see all these people trying to fix their mess.

141
142 Look, I know that Alex Packard is selling some new age stuff about how criminals can reform.
143 But the Book of Jeremiah was right, "Can a leopard change his spots? Then may ye also do
144 good, that are accustomed to do evil." In other words, if you're a bad guy, that's who you are.
145 When the United States studied prison recidivism in 2005, it found that 1 in 5 federal offenders
146 had been arrested at least once within one year of leaving prison. Within five years, the number
147 jumps to 47%. The number was 77% within five years for state criminals.

148
149 I'm also aware of the arguments about re-entry, and I've studied those, too. There is surely
150 some promise in reentry programs, especially ones that help with employment. And modern
151 reentry programs combining education and job placement are really having an impact. But
152 we're not talking about a drug addict or a petty criminal. Taylor is an arsonist, and there's not a
153 speck of scientific literature about the impact of reentry programs on arsonists, much less serial
154 arsonists! What we do know is that they consistently return to patterns of criminality, largely to
155 express their own need for control.

156
157 We pulled all of the email correspondence between Nash and Taylor off of the Company's email
158 server and while most of the communication was straight business, there were two email
159 exchanges from January 2016 that are suspicious. In one email exchange, Nash was again
160 lamenting the production issues and Taylor had responded by stating, "I know boss and rest
161 assured I have a plan, we'll light a fire under them." In the second email, Nash seemed
162 panicked by the fact that s/he discovered an issue with the onboard computer software that
163 would halt production and require a recall. Taylor responded by stating, "do you want me to
164 "fire" the software engineers, ha ha!"

165
166 We reviewed Taylor's home computer and found a number of internet searches regarding arson
167 related topics. In addition, we found through Taylor's Amazon.com account that s/he had
168 recently purchased a case of tennis balls. We also recovered an unopened bottle of lighter fluid
169 but no other accelerants from the home. Our interview with Effie confirmed our suspicions that
170 Taylor had not kicked the fire bug. S/he offered additional circumstantial evidence and begged
171 that we lock Taylor up for good this time. Effie was at the plant when we found Taylor and swore
172 s/he saw Taylor emerge from the smoldering building carrying a tennis ball.

173
174 As part of our due diligence, we also reviewed the massive amounts of public interviews with
175 Nash as well as with her/his competitors to determine if there was anyone else who would have
176 had motive to destroy the production facility. We did find that the one competitor in particular,
177 Stu d'Baker, the manufacturer of a car line with the same name, had a significant beef with
178 Nash Electromotive. While most cast off Stu as a bit of a blowhard without any substance, he
179 did contend in one article that the idea for the Nash Flash engine was actually his and that Nash
180 stole it outright. In the same article, Stu claimed that his company was close to producing a
181 better version of the fuel cell engine and guaranteed that it would be way better than the Flash.
182 Given Stu's advanced age (70) and extensive wealth, we quickly eliminated him as a suspect.

183
184 So that's it. You pull a trigger on a gun, you get a bullet. You pull a trigger on an arsonist, you
185 get an arson. I can testify, within a reasonable degree of statistical certainty, that Taylor Nash
186 fits the behavioral and psychological profile of a serial arsonist. Heck, it's so spot-on I might
187 even write it up in an article someday. S/He responds to stressors that make her/him feel
188 powerless by confronting the issue with fire, specifically a gasoline-filled tennis ball. When s/he
189 saw that the plant was going to miss its target, it threatened her/his newfound peace, her/his
190 livelihood. In other words, s/he was losing control of her/his life once again. Taylor only knows
191 one way to cope with that, and that's just what s/he did. And just like always, my beloved
192 Wisawe suffered. We arrested Taylor on the spot. Remember, to Taylor, his pleasure – maybe
193 his only pleasure – is to burn.

Statement of Effie Edsel

1 My name is Effie Edsel and I'm Taylor's parent. I still remember the day s/he was born, and now
2 that I think about, even from her/his earliest moment, Taylor was a difficult child – we were in
3 labor for eighteen hours before s/he was finally willing to come into the world. For a few years,
4 everything was great. My ex, Terry, was a real outdoorsy person and s/he would plan family
5 camping trips for the three of us. Taylor seemed to enjoy all the usual activities – setting up the
6 tent, boating, hiking – as much as the next kid, but nothing intrigued her/him as much as lighting
7 the campfire. S/He would watch the two of us stock-still, eyes-wide, from a few feet away as we
8 tried get the fire going. Terry always used her/his father's Zippo from the Navy. Taylor also
9 seemed really athletic – Terry would take Taylor to play tennis at the local Y as soon as Taylor
10 was barely big enough to hold a racket, and Taylor excelled at the sport right away and it was a
11 special bonding time for them.

12
13 I don't remember the exact moment when Taylor started to change, but around age four, s/he
14 started to get out of control. Taylor would say disturbing things at home too. We got a puppy,
15 Muffin, when Taylor was three and Muffin and Taylor never really hit it off. One time, when
16 Terry was complaining about Muffin scratching up our hard wood floors, Taylor said we should
17 just "bake the Muffin." When we asked Taylor what s/he meant, Taylor smiled at pointed at the
18 kitchen stove. After that, Terry told me that we should send Taylor to a special, highly-
19 disciplined program for children who needed more structure in their environment. I wasn't
20 willing to admit my failures as a parent at that time. I refused. We got into a huge fight over
21 what to do about Taylor, and things were never quite the same after that. Terry got more and
22 more frustrated, until s/he had finally packed her/his bags by the time Taylor turned six.

23
24 Taylor's behavior problems and obsession with fire seemed to intensify when I became a single
25 parent. First off, I never should have given Taylor Terry's Zippo, but when Terry left it behind, I
26 thought it would be nice for Taylor to have. Also, I was working two jobs and didn't have time to
27 take Taylor to her/his tennis lessons, so Taylor was just home alone a lot after school. I'd
28 frequently return from work to find Taylor lighting up pieces of paper with that damn Zippo and
29 throwing them into an empty trashcan, or worse, throwing flaming tennis balls into the sink.
30 Once, I asked Taylor why s/he was setting the tennis balls on fire, and s/he said it was too get
31 back at her/his Terry for leaving. I would scold Taylor in these moments, but not too harshly – I
32 should've been harsher.

33
34 The first (though certainly not the last) time a police officer knocked on my door about Taylor
35 was in the summer of 1999 when Taylor was eight. The officer came to the door, dragging
36 Taylor by the arm, and said s/he had found Taylor sitting outside and lighting tennis balls on fire.
37 I felt guilty about working so much, and told the officer I would scale back on my hours and
38 spend more time with Taylor. The officer seemed satisfied with that, and let Taylor off with a
39 warning. But of course I still had to pay the bills, and within a few weeks, I was working extra
40 shifts again.

41

42 Taylor seemed shaken by her/his run-in with the police, and s/he managed to stay mostly out of
43 trouble for the next few years. Then in September 2003, I returned home from work one day to
44 find a smoldering wreckage in the backyard where Muffin's doghouse used to be. There was no
45 one in sight and the house was eerily silent. Our answering machine was filled with messages
46 from panicked neighbors, and there was also a message from a police officer named who had
47 arrested Taylor. The next message was from Taylor. Her/his voice sounding oddly detached,
48 Taylor said s/he was in a holding cell at the jail.

49
50 I immediately rushed over to the jail, somehow still convinced this was all a big mistake. After
51 all, Taylor was only twelve. I finally registered the ominous lack of Muffin's bark when I was
52 getting into my car, but refused to accept the obvious meaning behind that silence. The officers
53 at the jail informed me that Taylor would be released into my custody. Taylor greeted me upon
54 her/his release in that same detached voice s/he had used in the message. I promised Taylor
55 that I would be home more. At that point Taylor smiled and said, "I'm not upset. I know you've
56 been complaining about how old and sick Muffin is and how expensive her veterinary bills are,
57 so I took matters into my own hands." As the meaning of Taylor's words sunk in I started to
58 shake Taylor, tears running down my face, "What did you do? What did you do?" Taylor just
59 looked at me with that creepy smile on her/his face. It's true that I had been complaining about
60 Muffin for a while to Taylor, but I never would have guessed that Taylor would have taken that to
61 mean s/he should *set Muffin on fire*. I told Taylor firmly that s/he had better not dare blame me
62 for this, and that I was through feeling responsible for the way s/he had turned out. I remember
63 telling the officer at the station that Taylor would be better off in jail.

64
65 I went with Taylor to her/his court date later that month. I had Taylor plead guilty to make it
66 easier on all of us. Honestly, I was hoping that the judge would send Taylor to a juvenile
67 detention center just so I wouldn't have to deal with her/him for a little while. Unfortunately, the
68 judge ruled that the doghouse and even poor Muffin were our property, but the judge was
69 worried about Taylor so sent her/him to some anger management classes, that unfortunately
70 didn't really do anything to changer her/his attitude. Like I said, I used to blame myself a lot for
71 whatever trouble Taylor got into, but something in me changed when Muffin died. I finally
72 started seeing Taylor for what s/he really was – a monster. Of course, it didn't help that word in
73 the neighborhood got out about what Taylor had done, and my neighbors began to "forget" to
74 invite Taylor and me to everything from block parties to book club meetings. People start
75 treating you differently when they learn your kid set the dog on fire.

76
77 After Muffin died, I was in a pretty dark place. I had been working two jobs in the restaurant
78 industry, but suddenly I couldn't keep up with it all and I got laid off by both of my employers. I
79 managed to find work again a few months later, but by that point I had gotten behind on the
80 bills, putting our expenses on credit cards. Four years later, in 2007, I ran out of excuses, and
81 the landlord was threatening to evict Taylor and me. I guess I should've learned my lesson after
82 what happened to Muffin, but I had no one else to talk to besides Taylor, so I complained about
83 the landlord a lot to Taylor and told her/him more than a few times that I wished something,
84 anything would happen to let us start over with a clean slate.

85 March 22nd, 2007 is a day I will never be able to forget. It was a Thursday and I was on double
86 at my one job and then the night shift at a diner. Taylor was meant to be alone from the end of
87 school until I would get home around 12am. It was around 8pm when I got a call at work from
88 the fire department. My heart immediately sunk, and I knew the house was on fire before the
89 deputy had even uttered the words. Everything was gone. Our clothes, our things, our
90 memories all gone. Everything destroyed, except for Taylor. I found Taylor sitting on what was
91 left of the front stoop, idly tossing a charred tennis ball in one hand and gripping that Zippo in
92 the other with two police officers standing over her/his shoulder. When I asked Taylor what had
93 happened, s/he just said, "I fixed everything for us."
94

95 The stares of the neighbors gathered around the police tape was enough to send me over the
96 edge for good. I was the worst parent in the world and had raised a monster. When a reporter
97 from the Wisawe Lark, the local paper, found me after the majority of the police had cleared the
98 scene and I was trying to figure out where I was going to sleep that night, my guard was down.
99 I answered all of her/his questions like I was at confession. I told the reporter about my spouse
100 and Taylor's prior arsons. I went into detail like I had never told anyone before as if saying
101 those words would remove my guilt – but it didn't. I even talked about Taylor's obsession with
102 setting tennis balls on fire, the Zippo, everything. I don't really care that the details got printed,
103 but the quote that made it into the paper still haunts me. I said, "Taylor's a menace, a devil.
104 S/He should be locked up for a long, long time, but I would be worried s/he'd burn the prison
105 down too."
106

107 The trial took place later that year, and Taylor was tried as an adult even though s/he was only
108 sixteen. The public defender got Taylor the best deal she could – better than I wanted Taylor to
109 get – and Taylor pled guilty to first degree arson charges and got sentenced to five to ten years
110 in prison. I know it sounds horrible, being glad that my child was going to be locked up, but I've
111 lost everything because of Taylor. When s/he was in prison, I finally was able to start rebuilding
112 my life. I guess Taylor was right and I got that fresh start after all. I used the few dollars in
113 Taylor's college fund to get a small apartment in the center of town. When my new neighbors
114 asked if I had any children, I told them I didn't. When I started dating again, I didn't tell my new
115 partner I had a daughter/son.
116

117 In April 2014, Taylor served her/his minimum sentence and was released to probation for good
118 behavior. It was like someone hit a reset button. Taylor said s/he was part of a program called
119 2nd Start, which gave people like her/him another shot at making something of themselves.
120 Taylor said s/he had an amazing therapist named Alex Packard through the program, who had
121 worked with her/him when s/he was in prison, and would continue to help her/him now that s/he
122 was out. Taylor said Dr. Packard had set her/him up with a job. In fact, Taylor was so popular
123 with the 2nd Start program that s/he was on the cover of their promotional material!
124

125 I almost didn't believe my eyes, but Taylor went to work with a smile on her/his face the day
126 after s/he got released from prison and kept going to work every day for the next two years.
127 S/He had a job at that cool new car plant in town that everyone was talking about. When Taylor
128 started helping out with the rent, I was beside myself! It really seemed like Taylor had changed.

129 S/he helped around the house, was friendly to the neighbors, and repeatedly apologized for the
130 mistakes s/he had made in the past. Taylor still tossed those dreadful tennis balls up in the air
131 every now and again and stared into the flame of the Zippo, but s/he assured me that it was all
132 part of her/his treatment with Dr. Packard, and s/he would never light a tennis ball or anything
133 else on fire as long as s/he lived.

134

135 The only real problem I had is that my new partner, Pat, who was a dog lover, with two glorious
136 shih tzus, googled Taylor after I confessed I had a child. Fortunately, s/he didn't break up with
137 me – in fact we are still together. But, s/he was so appalled that Taylor killed Muffin that s/he
138 refused to be in the same room as Taylor and wouldn't let Taylor anywhere near Tucker or
139 Mercedes, her/his dogs. Obviously, this was a cause of great stress for me, and it is hard to
140 imagine a real future together when as soon as Taylor comes home, Pat leaves.

141

142 At the start of this past summer, in mid-May 2016, Taylor started to flip. I came back from work
143 that day to find Taylor holding the Zippo in one hand and a tennis ball in the other. I swear s/he
144 was about to set it on fire. Taylor said the company s/he worked for was behind on production
145 for the upcoming year and s/he was really worried about it. Over the next few weeks, Taylor
146 seemed perpetually stressed out and spoke less and less to me. S/He would come home from
147 work and lock her/himself in her/his room and stare for hours at her/his laptop or technical
148 drawings from the plant. I don't think Taylor was sleeping well or even at all some nights. I'm
149 pretty sure s/he was missing her/his therapy sessions as well.

150

151 Two days before the big fire at the Nash plant on July 4th, I went into Taylor's room when s/he
152 didn't come down for dinner. The Zippo was open on her/his little desk, flame flickering in a
153 room without any other lights on. I asked Taylor what was going on and s/he said, "I need to do
154 something about the problem at work. Dre has done so much for me and I can't let him down.
155 I'm going to fix this." The next night I got a call from Alex Packard, Taylor's therapist. Dr.
156 Packard said Taylor had missed her/his session again, and asked if s/he could talk to Taylor. I
157 told Dr. Packard that Taylor wasn't home. Dr. Packard asked where Taylor was and I said I
158 didn't know, explaining that I thought s/he had been in a therapy session. I expressed my
159 concern that s/he might be relapsing. Dr. Packard got really mad and started yelling that 2nd
160 Start was a great program and that I didn't know what I was talking about. S/He hung up the
161 phone.

162

163 On July 4th, 2016 both Taylor and I were off from work. Pat was out of town visiting her/his
164 parents, so I decided to take Taylor to the neighborhood barbecue. Taylor hung out with us, but
165 s/he seemed distracted the whole time. Finally, around 7pm Taylor stood up like a ramrod, then
166 grabbed her/his backpack, and left. I thought I heard her/him mutter "I'm going to fix this." I
167 started to feel uneasy when Taylor still hadn't returned two hours later. I'm still not sure what
168 made me start driving in the direction of the Nash plant, but I did. I had a similar feeling come
169 over me as the day of the house fire. When I was still about a quarter of a mile from the plant, I
170 saw smoke and the glow of a large fire in the background. I kept driving until I was in the plant's
171 parking lot and then slammed on the breaks – a lone figure coming from the direction of the
172 plant darted in front of the car and then disappeared into the smoky blackness. The split second

173 that my headlights illuminated the person's face was plenty of time for me to recognize the
174 figure as Taylor. I swear s/he also had a tennis ball in her/his right hand. I heard police sirens
175 getting louder and louder, and knew the police were already on their way and that Taylor was in
176 big trouble.

177
178 The police surrounded my car, and I was held for questioning. I told them all I knew, which was
179 not much. We found Taylor nearby, staring at the plant with that same look on her/his face as
180 s/he had after the dog incident and the house fire. Her/His clothes were a mess, burned in a
181 bunch of places, and her/his face had soot all over it. They took Taylor's laptop from her/his
182 backpack. When they patted Taylor down, they pulled out her/his wallet, but not the Zippo from
183 Terry's dad. I was surprised; Taylor's never without that. The police also asked me if they
184 could search the house, and of course I said yes.

185
186 Taylor needs to be locked up and never released. I don't care if it is a prison or a sanitarium. I
187 know s/he has that 2nd Start doctor fooled, and s/he almost had me fooled, but I know Taylor.
188 Taylor set that fire on July 4th because that's who s/he is. Taylor is the same person today s/he
189 was in 2003 when s/he killed poor Muffin – a monster. At least I still have Pat, Tucker and
190 Mercedes!

Statement of Salve DeSoto

1 Don't be fooled! Taylor Edsel is a thief and a monster. S/He claims to be reformed; to want to
2 change the world, but deep down s/he doesn't care. S/He stole my job and greedily destroyed
3 Nash Electromotive. I know it's true because I'm the only one who has seen both sides of the
4 coin and I know the grass is really greener in a D'Baker. Yes, that Stu D'Baker, the face of
5 traditional auto manufacturing, the same one who is a poster child for environmental damage, is
6 the one who is changing the world. And while no one knew it at the time of the Nash
7 Electromotive fire, we have the very proof today. The D'Baker Celetric is scheduled to become
8 the best-selling alternative fuel-cell car in the world. And Dre Nash is about to be revealed as
9 the fraud s/he is, thanks to me.

10
11 I never thought I'd be fodder for the tabloids. After graduating in 2004 from Bethel Park High
12 School, I attended Stanford University. In 2008, I earned a B.S. in electrical engineering and
13 went on to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. I planned on earning my PhD in
14 mechanical engineering at MIT on my way to a job as a professor.

15
16 All of that changed in the Spring of 2013. While preparing to defend my dissertation, I was
17 recruited by Dr. Nash. By that time, everyone treated Dr. Nash as a visionary. Her/His creation
18 – the Nash Flash – was gaining new headlines daily and appeared ready to set the automotive
19 industry on its head. Not only would it revolutionize the cars we drove, but it could save the
20 environment! When you talked to Dr. Nash, you felt like you were in the presence of greatness.
21 Even though I was at the top of my class, getting recruited by *everyone*, I simply couldn't turn
22 down a chance to change history. Dr. Nash convinced me that I was needed urgently to turn
23 what was essentially a prototype on a small scale assembly line into full on production model.
24 Dr. Nash said that I had to drop out of the PhD program and start working immediately. I can
25 say now that I have no regrets, but my mother to this day still bemoans the fact that her pride
26 and joy never became a doctor.

27
28 In my new position, as Director of R&D, I was hired to refine the manufacturing process with the
29 goal of efficiently and effectively meeting the pre-order distribution date. If we missed this
30 deadline, consumer faith would plummet, and the share price would tumble, just when the loans
31 were coming due. If we didn't succeed, the bigger auto companies would get their designs to
32 market, and that would be the end of Nash Electromotive. To create almost 500,000 cars in a
33 couple of years was unheard of for a start-up company, but we were determined to make the
34 deadline. For months, while the existing plant continued to churn out Flashes at a bog turtle
35 pace, we worked on the layout and design of the new wing of the Wisawe manufacturing facility.
36 We had fold-out beds in our offices – that's how serious we were.

37
38 Nash and I became very close. We discussed more than work. Dr. Nash believed not just in
39 reinventing things, but reinventing people. After having a run in with the law, s/he firmly
40 believed in hiring "rehabilitated" convicts. Dr. Nash was very supportive of a rehabilitation
41 program called 2nd Start. I think s/he was even a board member of the organization. However, I
42 was skeptical of the program – most people remain the same, that's human nature. I always

43 thought that Nash's decision to hang a fortune on the whims and fancies of the criminal mind
44 was criminally stupid.

45
46 In fairness, most of the 2nd Starters were not bad. In fact, most of them were good at their jobs -
47 filling in important roles around the plant. However, one of them, Taylor Edsel, the "poster child"
48 of the entire 2nd Start organization was downright peculiar. Edsel, a "rehabilitated" arsonist, was
49 a charming person in an awkward sort of way, the kind of person you wanted to like – but never
50 actually could. At first, most people thought I was crazy to doubt Edsel's earnestness. My co-
51 workers considered Edsel an amazing colleague and friend – a story of redemption and
52 rehabilitation. But, I saw something suspicious – even if at first I could not articulate it. I know
53 that Edsel viewed Dr. Nash the way many of us did, as a visionary, but it was more than that.
54 Edsel craved approval almost like an addiction, like s/he needed that approval to function. I
55 initially chalked it up to loyalty, but we all know now it is insanity.

56
57 When Dr. Nash got frustrated with something, Edsel always wanted to jump-in and "fix it." S/he
58 was obsessed with making Dr. Nash happy. For example, there was an employee in my
59 department who was struggling to meet deadlines. I brought it to Nash's attention one day while
60 Edsel was in earshot. Edsel immediately volunteered to "take care of it." I heard her/him tell Dr.
61 Nash that s/he "would motivate the employee or else." All I know is that the employee left the
62 company about a month later without the customary two-week notice. People don't burn
63 bridges like that for not reason. I'm surprised we didn't get sued! So yes, I was upset that
64 Edsel was moving in on my territory, but I was more upset about what was happening!

65
66 Edsel also had odd habits. S/He was always walking around clicking his favorite lighter. I
67 remember it distinctly, it was a Navy Zippo. S/He would click it open, and then click the cover
68 shut. Sometimes, when s/he did not think anyone was around, s/he would even start a flame. It
69 was creepy. In August 2015, I saw Edsel sitting in her/his office just burning a wooden pencil. I
70 couldn't let that one go. I mean we are working on hydrogen fuel cell cars and the entire plant is
71 a restricted area. Edsel looked embarrassed at first when I said something to her/him, and I
72 guess I kind of started yelling about it, then s/he started yelling back. It only took a minute or so
73 for the folks down the hall to tell us to knock it off. As Taylor was walking away, I heard her/him
74 mumble, "better the pencil than your house!"

75
76 I talked to Dr. Nash about what I saw. Dr. Nash then confronted Edsel in my presence, but
77 Edsel denied the entire thing. The other workers who broke up the fight all said that they had no
78 idea what started it. I'm sure they were just afraid of what that little psycho would do next. Dr.
79 Nash just told me that Edsel was a shining example of how second chances could change the
80 world and that I should not be jealous or divisive. As if! I was all but dissertation at MIT, and I
81 was going to be jealous of someone who left high school early?! No chance.

82
83 Edsel moved into the office next to mine, supposedly so we could work out our differences. I
84 knew better; it was intimidation, plain and simple. Edsel also had this habit of bouncing this
85 tennis ball against our shared wall. It was almost impossible for me to work.

86 That was a turning point in my relationship with the Company. I was now viewed as a hater of
87 the beloved 2nd Start program and insubordinate. Things changed quickly. I was given more
88 routine projects, clearly beneath my education and ability. Dr. Nash no longer relied on me as
89 her/his right hand. It was about this time I started to question Dr. Nash as well. Not only did
90 s/he have a blind loyalty to Edsel, but the Nash Flash did not appear to be as great as
91 advertised. While the new production line was coming along based on the work we had already
92 done, I often heard Dr. Nash talk to Edsel about how concerned s/he was over a massive
93 software glitch. When your whole car runs on computers, a software glitch can be the end of
94 the line. Dr. Nash's frustration was clear. I tried to make some suggestions, but this was not my
95 area of expertise, and my ideas were dismissed quickly. I was convinced that shareholders
96 would want to know about this, but Nash never disclosed it. Probably because of Taylor's
97 influence.

98
99 In October 2015, I attended an automotive conference in Detroit on behalf of Nash
100 Electromotive. There my life changed again when I met Stu D'Baker. Most think that Mr.
101 D'Baker is a blowhard and the worst kind of capitalist. Maybe that used to be true; D'Baker has
102 made no excuses for lying about the emissions his vehicles were making in the late 1990s, and
103 yes, he did a year in federal prison after the auto industry bailout blew up and the government
104 was looking for someone to blame in 2008. But Mr. D'Baker is an old school, roll up your
105 sleeves and get things done kind of guy. He started his company in the 1970s, when he was in
106 his twenties. Then, cars were just cars – no onboard computers, no technology. I have to
107 admit, after listening to him, I was shocked at how he just got it. In fact, I remember every word
108 like it was yesterday. I couldn't find a copy of the speech, but I printed out the Detroit Auto
109 Classic press release and I keep it a copy of it on my desk for inspiration.

110
111 After his speech, I approached Mr. D'Baker to introduce myself. At first, he scoffed at me. He
112 made it very clear to me he hated Dr. Nash and the Nash Flash. By default, he viewed me as
113 the enemy. When I pushed back, Mr. D'Baker informed me that the man I worked for was a
114 fraud. He told me that Dr. Nash stole the idea for Nash Flash from D'Baker based on a white
115 paper he had a few engineers write in the '80s when the gasoline crisis looked like it would be
116 returning. Mr. D'Baker said he was working on his own fuel cell energy driven vehicle, which
117 was no secret in the industry. He promised me it was going to be way better than the Flash.
118 But we all knew it was a race to market, and Nash was still way ahead.

119
120 After the conference, my skepticism of Dr. Nash began to grow. There was enough proof to
121 convince the masses that Dr. Nash had everything under control. The car was still the darling of
122 the media and the quality reviews were outstanding. But no one knew that our production cost
123 was well above sale price. We were burning money faster than a flash fire. Not only was our
124 production falling further behind, but I didn't think that Dr. Nash was conveying the full scale of
125 the problem to stockholders and investors. I know s/he was working hard to solve the software
126 and production problem, but the entire thing felt... off. I mean, it's one thing to believe the
127 solution was right around the corner for a month or two. But after a few months, don't you have
128 to rethink things? I also began to research what Mr. D'Baker told me. Although there was no
129 evidence that Dr. Nash stole the Nash Flash from anyone, s/he did appear to come out of

130 nowhere relying on a family name and a few talk show appearances. Dre's behavior was also
131 very erratic around this time. I don't think s/he was sleeping very much. I once saw her/him
132 popping prescription pills like candy. Captain McTwitch at the helm of a multi-million dollar
133 company: definitely not a recipe for success.

134
135 Around Thanksgiving 2015, I had had enough and contacted Mr. D'Baker. I was invited to his
136 plant, and I was shocked at how close he was to having, in mass production, a product
137 substantially similar to the Nash Flash. What was more shocking was that his version was more
138 fuel efficient, albeit at a slightly higher price point! If this product hit the market before Dr. Nash
139 filled his preorders, Nash Electromotive would never survive. But Mr. D'Baker told me he was
140 having a production issue, too. Based on our conversations, I was able to diagnose the
141 underlying problem and offered to solve it. After all, Nash had faced the same problem. When
142 Mr. D'Baker offered me a job and a promotion, I knew what I had to do. D'Baker bought me out
143 of my Nash contract for, I don't know, like a million dollars or something. I don't know if I'd
144 broken my confidentiality agreement or whatever, but I figured that tearing up the contract fixed
145 that problem anyway. I never even went home! I just got to work doing what I promised Mr.
146 D'Baker I would do and aligning the hydrogen injection and storage system until it was just like
147 the Nash plant. I'm sure Dr. Nash was happy to see me go. The only downside was having to
148 communicate with Taylor Edsel to get my personal effects and my non-Nash research materials
149 from the company.

150
151 And that was a real downside. Taylor was so petty, so small-minded, that s/he wouldn't just
152 send back my things. I'd get a box that had family photos, but not the research materials that
153 were sitting next to them. Then I'd get some research materials, but not my diplomas. Taylor
154 thought it was funny to make me beg for things that were mine! The worst was my stuffed plush
155 of Tim the Beaver, the MIT mascot, from the 1920s. Taylor was almost completely uneducated
156 and s/he knew I was appropriately proud of my accomplishments. I was still asking for my
157 master's diploma and my Tim back halfway through 2016! By then I wasn't calling anymore; I
158 couldn't stand the smirking tone in Taylor's voice, and I'm not the begging type! So I started
159 texting. At least that way, I thought I could forward the message to Dr. Nash if needed. The
160 degree I could get another copy, but my stuffed Tim was another story. And now, of course he's
161 gone. Irreplaceable.

162
163 I was not shocked when I heard about the fire at Dr. Nash's production facility in Wisawe. Part
164 of me always felt that this would happen as long as Edsel worked there. With the issues with
165 the software and the looming delivery deadline, the stress clearly overwhelmed her/him. It was
166 bound to happen; if you leave a match in the hot sun, it is going to catch fire. I had heard Dr.
167 Nash discussing the production issues with Edsel in meeting after meeting, and I could overhear
168 their conversations through our office wall. Dr. Nash was banging on about how s/he only
169 needed a few more months past the deadline to meet the demand.

170
171 I was, however, completely at a loss for words when investigator Leslie Duesenberg came to
172 our corporate office to question me about D'Baker. Sure, D'Baker had a desire to beat Nash,
173 and more than a few million reasons to do so, if you know what I mean. Probably close to a

174 couple hundred million, but who's counting! However, there are at least two reasons I know that
175 D'Baker had nothing to do with the fire. First, one thing I learned about D'Baker since starting to
176 work for him is that he likes a fair fight. He would never bend the rules. I get that some people
177 find D'Baker difficult to deal with, but he is a 70-year old titan of his industry. Legends don't
178 sabotage the competition; they beat it. Second, Mr. D'Baker did not need to burn down Dr.
179 Nash's facility. We were going to beat Dr. Nash anyway. Mr. D'Baker developed a superior
180 product that was weeks away from going into mass production. Burning down Nash
181 Electromotive facility would only give Dr. Nash an excuse. Having a more superior product on
182 the market, one that anyone could buy, would illustrate that the Nash Flash was nothing more
183 than a dream. When Nash had missed those production promises – and s/he would have, at
184 least based on what I saw – the industry would have turned right to the D'Baker. Instead, now
185 Dr. Nash has an excuse for why s/he has fallen behind. Would it have hurt us if Nash had
186 beaten us to market? No doubt, especially with the press willing to ignore the Flash's flaws in
187 favor of the redemption storyline. But we would have won in the end. Unfortunately, Taylor took
188 all of the sport out of it by taking her/his tennis balls and lighting the whole damn "court" on fire!

Statement of Taylor Edsel

1 My name is Taylor Edsel and I'm twenty-five years old. I'm the first to admit that I've made
2 mistakes during my life, but the fire that happened at the Nash Electromotive plant is not one of
3 them. Let me start by talking about the not-so-glamorous years of my life – I have nothing to
4 hide. When I was really little, things were cool, I guess. Terry was around and we'd play tennis
5 and go camping. I loved Terry! My parents got divorced when I was six. Effie would always tell
6 me that it was my fault that Terry left because I was always getting in trouble. It's rough when
7 you get blamed for your parents' divorce as a six-year-old.

8
9 After my parents got divorced, Effie had to take another job to make ends meet, and I spent a
10 lot of time at home alone. S/He was working two restaurant jobs. When I got bored, I'd light
11 something with Terry's father's Zippo. Terry left it when s/he moved out and it was really all I
12 had left to remind me of her/him. I liked running my fingers over the Navy insignia. I mostly just
13 wanted some attention from Effie, and didn't know how else to get it. My thing with tennis balls
14 is a little bit more complicated. It was only after years of therapy that I really figured it all out.
15 The short of it is lighting the tennis balls on fire was my way of getting back at Terry for leaving.
16 That's what Dr. Packard said. Anyway, before long tennis balls are all I wanted to burn. You
17 just put some cotton inside and they're perfect.

18
19 They say that if you play with fire, you'll get burned, and boy, is that a true statement. I first met
20 Officer Leslie Duesenberg when I was eight. I was sitting on the sidewalk outside my house,
21 playing with the tennis balls. Officer Duesenberg made me stop what I was doing and said that
22 s/he had seen kids like me before and that I had better get back on the straight and narrow.
23 Officer Duesenberg spoke to Effie. Effie seemed exhausted more than anything.

24
25 The next time I saw Officer Duesenberg was in 2003, when s/he arrested me for burning down
26 the dog house in my backyard. I know Officer Duesenberg and Effie think that I lit that fire on
27 purpose, but I didn't. The day of the fire I was sitting in my backyard, lighting up some tennis
28 balls and tossing them like I usually did when I was feeling really low. Usually the tennis balls
29 would just burn themselves out, so I lit a few and then went back inside to make a snack. I
30 guess one of the tennis balls rolled a little too close to the dog house and it caught fire. By the
31 time I smelled smoke in the house and came running back outside, the dog house had all but
32 burned down with our dog, Muffin, trapped inside. It was horrible. I was in so much shock that I
33 think I just stood in front of the smoldering wreck of the doghouse.

34
35 It was Officer Duesenberg who came to the house again. S/He started yelling about what a
36 psychotic freak I was. I think my silence made Officer Duesenberg even angrier. S/He
37 handcuffed me and told me I was under arrest for arson. I remember Office Duesenberg
38 saying, "I've seen psychopath kids like you before. You're going away for a long time, kid." I
39 was only twelve. In spite of Officer Duesenberg's testimony at the juvenile adjudication that I
40 was a ruthless psychopath who felt no remorse, the judge just made me enroll in six months of
41 anger management classes and go on probation for a year. But that did not stop everyone in
42 the neighborhood and the kids at school from turning on me. Effie too.

43

44 The whole experience of being arrested and especially of Officer Duesenberg telling me I was
45 going to spend the rest of my life in jail, really freaked me out. I tried as best I could to stay out
46 of trouble for the next few years, but everything at home was so much worse. Effie barely
47 spoke to me, and s/he also ended up getting laid off at work. In 2007, the landlord was coming
48 by our place almost every day, threatening to kick us out if we didn't pay up fast. Effie kept
49 saying to me that s/he wish some miracle would happen to give us a clean slate again, and that
50 s/he didn't know what to do anymore.

51

52 Seeing her/him like that really upset me, so I told Morgan Kincaid, my best friend – ok, my only
53 friend – at school what was going on and asked for some advice. Morgan told me that it was
54 really simple, all I had to do was mess up the house badly enough that we could get the
55 insurance money to come through on it, and then the landlord would be off our backs. The only
56 way I knew how to mess things up was to light fires, so that's exactly what I did. I know what I
57 did back then sounds crazy, and believe me, it sounds crazy to me too now, but I assure you,
58 there was not a doubt in my sixteen-year-old mind that burning down the house would solve all
59 of me and Effie's problems.

60

61 It was March 22, 2007. I had come home from school and Effie was working a double. My plan
62 was to simply burn our personal effects and leave the house intact. That way the renter's policy
63 would give us lots of money. I stuffed a few tennis balls and placed one in my closet and one in
64 Effie's closet. As I lit the fuses and backed out of the house to not let the smoke consume me, I
65 remembered that I had my full stash of lighter fluid in my closet. The tennis ball popped – they
66 always pop – and then the closet exploded in a massive blaze that was so hot the rest of the
67 house was soon engulfed in flames. All I could do was stand in disbelief as the sirens of the
68 approaching first responders grew louder and louder. The house burnt down completely and I
69 was arrested again. Effie didn't bother coming up with the money for bail and as I was being
70 tried as an adult, I had to wait for the trial in jail.

71

72 While in jail, I had a lot of time to ponder my situation. I was at the very bottom. It was a dark
73 sad place. Effie even had some quote in the paper where s/he compared me to the devil.
74 However, rather than sending me deeper into depression, reading the article caused an
75 epiphany. I knew I needed help and that my perception of the way the world worked was
76 warped. I would redeem myself and win back the love and affection of Effie.

77

78 The public defender told me that the government had me red-handed and that there was no
79 sense fighting the charges. I pled guilty to felony arson and was sentenced to five to ten years
80 in prison. I was resolved to worked my way up from the very bottom and become the good and
81 honest person I knew I was! I'm not going to sugarcoat it – prison is rough. But then I met Alex
82 Packard and got involved in the 2nd Start Program and everything changed. 2nd Start is an
83 amazing initiative supported by the incredible Dre Nash. Dre had her/his own share of run-ins
84 with the law when s/he was younger, and understands how hard it is to get back on your feet
85 after being told you're no good for so long. Basically, there are two parts to the program; first,

86 life skills classes and counseling are provided to inmates when they are still on the inside, and
87 second, Dre and Alex work with inmates after they are released to find jobs.

88
89 Unfortunately, the 2nd Start program was only implemented at the Wisawe Central Detention
90 Facility in 2011, after I'd already spent years in prison. The first few times I met with Alex for
91 counseling, I was angry and uncooperative. But Alex has a way of making people open up to
92 her/him, though, and after just a few weeks of meeting with Alex regularly, I was speaking freely
93 to her/him about everything. Alex made me realize that lighting fires was a way for me to regain
94 a sense of control after everything I'd been through, and that I needed more productive ways to
95 manage my emotions if I wanted to change my life. I started working hard in the engineering
96 and metalwork classes I was taking through 2nd Start, and for the first time in a long time, I didn't
97 feel the desire to light fires. I found that I actually had an amazing aptitude for math and
98 problem solving. You just have to see the weaknesses, the inefficiencies, and figure out how to
99 fill the holes. While in prison I was able to earn my GED and start on a college degree in
100 Electrical Engineering through online classes.

101
102 People at the prison took notice of how much I had changed, and by the end of my time in the
103 2nd Start program, the warden decided to release me from prison. 2nd Start decided to create a
104 new fundraising campaign and I was actually selected to be the cover story of redemption. I
105 was so proud, I even sent a signed copy of the magazine to Effie. Alex also did me another
106 favor and put in a good word with Dre for me and I had a job waiting for me when I was
107 released. That's what's so ridiculous to me about this whole thing – I finally got my life back on
108 track because of 2nd Start; why would I burn down Dre's plant and risk losing everything?

109
110 It would be a mistake to pretend that life after prison is a cake walk, even if you're lucky enough
111 to have the tremendous support I did from Alex and Dre. I had nowhere to go besides back to
112 Effie's apartment when I was released and our relationship was understandably tense at first.
113 Especially since Pat was on the local ASCPA board and refused to be in the same room as me.
114 However, after a little while, we started to get along better than we had in a long time. It didn't
115 hurt that I was also paying my fair share in rent and helping out with expenses. I also kept
116 seeing Alex for counseling after being released from prison.

117
118 Work at Dre's plant was certainly difficult, and it was a challenge at times to keep up with Dre's
119 demanding production schedule. Dre's new car model – the Nash Flash – was creating all
120 kinds of hype in the automobile market, and preorders for the model were through the roof. By
121 the beginning of 2015, we had 500,000 preorders for the Nash Flash, but had only produced
122 40,000 models. Dre had promised customers that they would have their cars by the end of
123 2016, and the pressure was on. I was the lowest ranking employee in the Process
124 Management Section, but it seemed like I was the only one getting anything done. Dre was
125 getting so frustrated that s/he was yelling at the whole division that the company would be
126 ruined if we didn't get things right. The stress got to me too and I snapped and started yelling
127 back, asking why none of our ideas were being followed. It turns out that the supervisor didn't
128 like my style and had been sitting on them, not passing them on. A day later, he was on the
129 street, and I was the head of the whole group. Dre respected me for standing up to her/him, but

130 I think maybe s/he took things too far. Dre was so convinced I could do anything, I had little
131 choice but to try and help.

132
133 It didn't help that I kept running into Salve DeSoto, a bitter engineer who seemed to dislike me
134 from the moment I started working. I think DeSoto was jealous of my relationship with Dre, and
135 I know that s/he hated how I came from the street to a position of importance. But, DeSoto had
136 helped Dre design the Nash Flash automated manufacturing process, so I had to work with
137 her/him for everything. That didn't bother me, though; Dre and I had been through a lot of the
138 same things both growing up and in prison, and so we connected on a deeper level than Dre
139 and DeSoto had. Unfortunately, DeSoto's hatred for me led her/him to try and get me fired.
140 S/He picked a fight with me and then made up some ridiculous story about me lighting a pencil
141 my Zippo in my office. Now, that is so stupid that anyone who knew me knew it was a lie. First
142 off, there was a ton of explosives at the plant. Second, I'd never light up wood; not really into
143 that at all. DeSoto's plan backfired and s/he essentially got demoted. I was actually charged
144 with keeping DeSoto in line. At the end of 2015, DeSoto left Dre's plant to go work for Stu
145 D'Baker, our biggest competitor. Nobody was sad about that.

146
147 By default, I really did become Dre's right hand. We would exchange emails, jokes, and stress.
148 Yes, it's true that there are a few emails lying around from January of 2016 where we discussed
149 the faults of the plant and the issues we were having in making our deadlines. Sometimes, you
150 have to joke a bit even in the most serious of situations. No way to maintain sanity otherwise
151 when you are working 20 hours a day. We knew how real the situation was, and in jail, that's
152 how you let off steam. That's one thing I loved about Dre; I could be real with her/him and s/he
153 wouldn't get that panicked look like everybody else did.

154
155 I was thrilled when DeSoto left, happy that I wouldn't have to endure her/his taunts any more.
156 Or so I thought. DeSoto was always finding excuses to call me, asking for some piece of paper
157 or some other research materials that s/he "forgot" when s/he left. And s/he would always ask
158 me how work was going at the plant. When I refused to answer, s/he just said, all quiet-like, "It
159 doesn't matter. You'll never beat us to market." DeSoto was also obsessed with me sending
160 back some stuffed animal from her/his college days. I had more important things to do than
161 worry about a raggedy stuffed animal.

162
163
164 In February 2016, I started seeing Dre later and later at night, sometimes just standing and
165 looking out the window, red-eyed. It was awful, s/he was definitely on edge and exhausted, but
166 couldn't sleep. Although, I doubted it, I did question whether or not Dre was having a relapse.
167 Cocaine and prescription amphetamines are pretty similar. S/He started planning how to tell the
168 public we were going to miss our production goals, and s/he was meeting the accountants all
169 the time, looking all hollow. I realized that nothing else mattered; I had to help with the software
170 bug. I'm no coding expert, so it was hard, but I just started at the beginning and kept reading.
171 The burning Zippo flame really helped me focus, just like Dr. Packard said it would. I felt like I
172 was making headway, but it wasn't quick enough. For some reason the on board computer
173 would crash if the engine software registered above a few thousand RPMs on the tachometer.

174 Nothing I could do would work. I was so busy, I didn't even have time to see Dr. Packard, and
175 one night, I even started Googling arson information. It calmed me down, even though I knew it
176 was wrong. I almost called Dr. Packard, but I was too ashamed. Instead, I bought some more
177 lighter fluid for the Zippo.

178

179 Then a real tragedy struck; I lost the Zippo. I know I put it in my pocket on the morning of July 1
180 or so, but by the end of the day, it was just... gone. I can't even explain what happened. I
181 wasn't going to tell that pompous twit DeSoto that, though, no matter how s/he edged me
182 on. If I'd found my Zippo, I might just have burned that stupid stuffed animal.

183

184 By the time Effie's July 4th party rolled around, I was lost in my own thoughts and just spiraling
185 into stress. We were sitting in the backyard enjoying the holiday when the grill went out. They
186 started checking everything until someone laughed that it was just the tank out of propane.
187 When he reached down to switch it, I figured it out: switch the tank. I realized that our software
188 problem would not matter if we just ran a *different* computer to track the RPMs. It could display
189 right on the dash. Then it could share the information later, when the car was off, with the
190 monitoring system. Maybe we could solve the bug by just disconnecting the input, just like the
191 propane tank! But I didn't know if it could work. Would the electrical wiring function? Was that
192 even legal? I had to know, and the only place I had those books was the plant. The next thing I
193 remember I was driving outside the gate, my mind still racing. I texted Dre and let her/him know
194 I was heading to the office to solve the problem.

195

196 I ran into the plant in that same mindset, with my brain pinging so quickly I can't even tell you
197 how far I made it in. I think I just got through the front door, because that's the last thing I
198 remember. Other than the heat. Some primal instinct must have taken over, because I
199 remember throwing myself to the side just as the fire exploded out the doors and windows. I felt
200 the heat wash over me, and my mind started, like, blinking on and off. I think I remember
201 running – or stumbling, I guess – and called 911 right away. I think I might have tried to go
202 further in or something, but the flames were too hot. The next thing I remember, someone was
203 shaking me out of a haze a little ways from the plant.

204

205 At first I couldn't believe when the police started questioning me – after all, it was me that called
206 them – but I guess it makes sense. To the cops, I'll always be a convict. And I guess if I'm
207 being fair I can see the line they're drawing. Yeah, I had a tennis ball on me, but that's for
208 stress relief. Dr. Packard is really big on turning negatives into positives. I know the Zippo
209 turned up at the crime scene as well, but like I said, I had lost it a few days beforehand. I easily
210 could have lost it at the plant – or worse someone could've planted it!

211

212 Nash Electromotive was my entire life, my entire identity, my entire source of happiness. Now,
213 once again, I have nothing. There are only so many times the great phoenix can rise from its
214 own ashes and I really don't think I will ever fly again. This wasn't me – more likely DeSoto and
215 D'Baker, trying to get a leg up on the competition. It's true that I've made mistakes in my past,
216 but 2nd Start changed my life, and I haven't set a single fire since the day I met Alex Packard.
217 July 4th, 2016, was no exception.

Statement of Dre Nash

1 In 1937, the destruction of the Hindenburg set back the use of airships forever. We can only
2 hope that the explosion at Nash Electromotive on July 4th, 2016 does not have the same effect.
3 All of our investor money is being used to pay back those who made preorders for the Nash
4 Flash, our signature automobile, and we have no working capital remaining. The insurance
5 money is meager compared to the cost of our equipment that was destroyed in the fire. We are
6 on the verge of bankruptcy. What pains me the most is what it means for our planet, for
7 mankind, for the town of Wisawe, for the 2nd Start program, and what it could mean for Taylor
8 Edsel. There are two things I do know, that Taylor Edsel had nothing to do with this terrible
9 event and that when the establishment is threatened, they will stop at nothing to regain order.

10
11 Building cars is in my bones. My great-grandfather did it and I am really good at it. But, where I
12 got to today, is not a result of my name, but instead hard work and dedication. That's the best
13 thing that ever happened to me was getting disowned. You see, I grew up privileged, too
14 privileged, and I took advantage of the system because I felt immortal. No one ever said "no" to
15 me. People would bow to my family's greatness and I was at best a taker and at worst an
16 abuser.

17
18 One thing I definitely abused was drugs. College for me in the mid-nineties was a blur. When I
19 was a sophomore in 1996, a few of my friends and I decided it would be fun to go down to
20 Mexico for spring break. We knew we could drink down there, and by that time I had grown
21 quite fond of cocaine. And we found a ton of it. When it was time to leave, I couldn't just let all
22 of that cocaine go. Rather than flying, I convinced my friends that it was better to drive back to
23 the U.S. and then catch a flight from San Diego. To make a long story short, we rented a car
24 and the U.S. border was crawling with drug sniffing dogs. I was charged with smuggling and
25 distribution.

26
27 My parents valued their reputation more than me and I was cut off. My lawyer was a nice
28 enough fellow, but there was nothing he could do. There was no way I was going to convince a
29 jury that I was going to do all of the drugs myself. I was sentenced to 5 years in a federal
30 penitentiary, the minimum possible sentence even for a first-time offender, with no chance of
31 parole. In an odd way, I was cured, because cocaine was now associated with my deepest
32 pain. With tons of time on my hands, for the first time in my life, I voluntarily picked up a book
33 and started to read. I became obsessed with education and particularly with automobiles. One
34 thing about prison libraries is they're good for practical things. I guess I was channeling the
35 spirit of my great-grandfather. In the meantime, I worked in the prison shop, fixing small motors.

36
37 When I finally got out, for the first time in my life, I felt normal. I enjoyed being out of the
38 spotlight and decided to dedicate my life to education. I started out small. In 2002, I enrolled in
39 community college. From there, I was able to enroll in an electrical engineering degree program
40 at Kalmia University. Maybe it was because I as was a bit older or maybe it was because I had
41 this huge chip on my shoulder, but this time around school was all about school and not the
42 "extracurricular" activities. I finished the degree and started right in on a PhD program. In 2010,

43 I defended my dissertation and was awarded a doctorate in chemical engineering. My thesis
44 was about combining hydrogen fuel cell technology with electrical propulsion. My thesis advisor
45 was so smitten with my concept, that I was invited to do a two-year fellowship as a post-doc at
46 Kalmia. I had finally found a home!

47
48 I refused to take my foot off the gas and in 2012 I emerged from the lab with an invention that
49 promised to change the transportation industry forever: the Nash Flash, a new type of engine
50 that had better fuel efficiency and longevity than anything on the market. The crown jewel of my
51 research was a huge paper published in *Nature*. It was because of the positive publicity that I
52 was receiving that I first met Alex Packard. Alex was very interested in my life and my ability to
53 change from a spoiled child into an academic hero. The story became internet fodder, and I
54 decided it was time to reemerge from the shadows. I wanted to provide other inmates and
55 former inmates a glimmer of what is possible with conviction after being convicted. Alex was
56 already working for an organization called 2nd Start, but it lacked a spokesperson to bring it to
57 the national scene. I helped bring it to life, I helped bring the prisoners to the program. It's
58 amazing how much a few late night television appearances can do when you have a good story
59 to tell.

60
61 The side benefit of my work with 2nd Start and the talk show tour is that I was able to raise tons
62 of venture capital funds, which allowed me to incorporate and take the business public under
63 the name Nash Electromotive, Inc. (NASHE) and start working on our first batch of production
64 models. In 2013, the Nash Flash was born. The body was crowdsourced and based on a
65 combination of over 200 design submissions. I also only used top end parts, for things like
66 suspension and brakes to be paired with the Flash engine. The specifications for the car were
67 unheard of. Capable of 0-60 mph in 3.5 seconds with over 600 hp and 550 lbs of torque as well
68 as the equivalent fuel economy of 75 mpg. On top of all of that, we pegged the MSRP at less
69 than \$40,000, nicely equipped. My biggest mistake was the preorder scheme. I thought it
70 would bring extra attention to the business and working capital, and it did, but it set us up for
71 unparalleled stress. I opened up preorders in the summer of 2013 to the masses promising
72 delivery by the end of 2016. We received over 500,000 preorder by the end of 2015, I couldn't
73 back down from the delivery date. Reputation was all we had.

74
75 My competitors, especially Stu D'Baker, stood in disbelief and tried to copy my secret formula,
76 but they all were unsuccessful. D'Baker has always been a piece of work. The fella never liked
77 my great-grandfather and relished when the original Nash folded. I know he didn't like me any
78 better. He claimed that I stole the idea for the Flash from him, which is ridiculous. Yeah, I read
79 the "famous" white paper he had his team produce to get the government off his back way back
80 when, but a few loose ideas on hydrogen power paled in comparison to the precision
81 engineering in the Flash. D'Baker is a cheat, and if anyone is capable of cutting corners and
82 breaking the law for his own gain, it's D'Baker. I mean, it was less than 10 years ago that his
83 company had to pay huge fines for falsifying income reports to get government funding during
84 the federal recession bailout.

85

86 Anyway, I knew that if I was going to have any chance of making my preorder target, I needed
87 to hire the best and brightest minds. That is how I found Salve DeSoto. Salve is a genius, there
88 is no doubt about that. But, with all geniuses there is an ego that goes with it. Salve couldn't
89 handle the fact that others had ideas that were worthwhile. S/He is also an incredible snob,
90 which normally would not that big an issue, but Salve had a huge problem with all of the 2nd
91 starters I had hired. When you need thousands of workers and the town where your plant is
92 located only has a couple of thousand people living there, you will recruit from wherever you
93 can. And, by hiring ex-convicts, not only was I making good on my promise to Alex, but I was
94 filling out my roster nicely. A win-win.

95

96 Unfortunately, Salve loathed them and in particular, Salve had it out for Taylor Edsel – who, if I
97 am being honest, had the heaviest of record of all of our employees . Salve became obsessed
98 with Taylor and spent more company time talking about what Taylor was doing than her/his job.
99 Then Salve suggested that Taylor was lighting a Zippo in her/his office on a regular basis at the
100 office. Of course, we all knew that Taylor was convicted of arson, so I took the allegation quite
101 seriously – not to mention the fact that no lighters or matches were permitted at the facility. I
102 had security go to Taylor's office when s/he was on lunch break and we did not find one single
103 iota of an incendiary device. All we found was a can of tennis balls – that's it! I never told Taylor
104 about the search because, well, you know, fire is a sensitive topic for an arsonist.

105

106 After that incident, my trust for Salve diminished. I took her/him off of the more important jobs
107 and sent her/him to conferences just so I wouldn't have to deal with her/his whining. When
108 D'Baker wanted to pay me \$1 million dollars to break Salve's non-compete clause in January
109 2015, I happily agreed. Sure Salve helped set up the very production line we were still using
110 when the plant burned down, but really by the time D'Baker came a calling, we didn't need
111 Salve anymore. Our biggest problem was not production processes. It was the product itself. I
112 know I should have been a bit more forthright with our investors on this very topic, but I was
113 embarrassed to admit that we had a significant issue in the tachometer.

114

115 One thing you get from being in prison is that you learn very quickly how to tell if you can trust
116 someone or not. You know if someone is a vault or a sieve. Call it forced intuition. I can tell
117 you with 100% confidence that Taylor Edsel was a vault. We became close. Everyone was
118 always quick to dismiss Taylor because of her/his past. But I could see through the insecurity, I
119 could read between the canned psychologist-prompted answers, I could see her/his soul. Over
120 the years, Taylor became my confidant. I told Taylor things I did not tell my legal team, my
121 production team, and even my own family. Taylor was full of great ideas, and what I loved the
122 most was that even if s/he did not know the answer, s/he would try to find a solution.

123

124 With Taylor, I could also joke about my past – something very few would understand. Those
125 emails are just one example. S/He once gave me a birthday cake that said I should "blow" off
126 some steam, and the "blow" was in powdered sugar. Taylor would also confide in me. S/He
127 often spoke of her/his strained relationship with her/his parent Effie. One thing Taylor was very
128 blunt about was her/his former obsession with fire. I know it was a control thing for her/him and
129 I can tell you up to the day of the fire, Taylor was in control. Those demons were exorcised long

130 ago through the great work of the 2nd Start program. The only fire that I saw around Taylor was
131 that Zippo, and I'll tell you, some great ideas came from her/him staring into that flame. Never
132 technical ideas, more like...art, or inspiration, or something, seeing moves that a trained
133 engineer wouldn't. I even let it slide a couple times when I saw Taylor with the Zippo in the
134 production building.

135

136 In the months leading up to the great fire, life was moving very fast. We were under
137 tremendous pressure to get more and more cars off the line and it became increasingly obvious
138 we were not going to make our delivery date. I became somewhat paranoid as a result of the
139 stress. I also developed a bit of a habit of taking too many Adderals. I know, I know, a former
140 coke addict popping amphetamines doesn't seem like a great idea, and it wasn't, but I just told
141 myself that I had a prescription for it. Plus, it helped me work around the clock, even if it meant
142 that my attention to detail wasn't always what it used to be, especially when I took one or two
143 too many. Anyway, I beefed up our security and monitored the production floor, where the fire
144 eventually was started, with cameras and motion detectors. I'm not sure if it was a glitch in the
145 system or not, but I distinctly remember a night in June 2016 when the motion detector went off
146 twice in one night. I sent security down to the floor, but nothing seemed amiss, though one of
147 the doors that was normally locked was ajar. The same alarm went off the night of the fire. Of
148 course, whatever triggered it was lost in the explosion.

149

150 Yes, I was concerned about that and the production issue, but even if we had to return preorder
151 money, I would do so before pushing off models that did not meet our high standards. The
152 wrench in the works was the software problem. There was no quick fix when a dud would roll
153 off the line, and our fail rate was about 40% of all Flashes produced. It was a constant
154 discussion in the last two or three months among the executive staff. Because the stress was
155 messing with me, Taylor took more and more of the motivator/intimidator role. S/He pushed
156 people hard, and that was fine by me. I felt helpless because my background and expertise
157 were propulsion and chemistry, and our programmers swore that the code was clean. Taylor
158 was so vested in finding a solution that s/he started reading computer programming text books.
159 It was a nice gesture, but the issue was far more complex than a bit of coding in the computer
160 language C++.

161

162 The night the fire broke out, I was on the football field at Ruffed Grouse High School, watching
163 the town fireworks display, sponsored of course by Nash Electromotive. I guess I was looking
164 for a distraction, but now I wish I was where I should have been – at the factory trying to solve
165 our problems. If I was there, then maybe I could have stopped it. I could have prevented ruin.
166 Taylor did text me that night and let me know that s/he was heading back into the office to work
167 on the glitch. True dedication.

168

169 I wasn't surprised when the ATF agent came to interview me. The only question in my mind
170 was whether they would get there before the SEC did. The manner in which the interview was
171 conducted was embarrassing. In the middle of trying to "break" me about the disclosure issue,
172 Duesenberg starts going on about some profile that supposedly shows that Taylor did it, only
173 the profile sounds like it was built by studying Taylor's old arsons. Big shock that it gives the

174 only result it knows how! And then s/he started in about how criminals can't change, to *me* of all
175 people. Unreal. Anyway, after I got tired of her/his nonsense, I asked whether s/he'd even
176 checked the hotels, you know, like real policing. S/He got all flushed and stammering and said
177 s/he had, but you could tell s/he was lying – like I said, I know – and ended the interview right
178 then. I could see then that the fix was in, and I hired a nice attorney for Taylor. At least the SEC
179 investigators had the common sense to let me tell my side of things and check it out. Nash
180 Electromotive is in for a fine, and I won't contest it. We should have been more open about the
181 production issue.

182
183 Looking back, I know that even if we had to disclose to the public the true nature of the delay,
184 we would have been ok. The main point is that I refused to send out a bad product. I was not
185 going to produce the modern-day Pinto. Twenty years from now, the production delay would've
186 been a footnote. What is a crime is the intentional act of arson that destroyed the hopes and
187 prayers of generations that follow. What adds insult to injury is the fact that Taylor, the most
188 honest and hard-working employee of the entire company, is being blamed. When you've seen
189 what I've seen happen to good people, it's hard to have real faith in the justice system. But I
190 guess we all have to trust the jury to see through the nonsense that the prosecutor's peddling.

Statement of Alex Packard, PhD

1 Hi. I'm Alex Packard, and I'm a clinical psychologist. I am here to testify on behalf of Taylor
2 Edsel, who like so many reformed ex-convicts in this world is being unfairly – unjustly –
3 punished by society for a debt s/he has long since paid. Like so many individuals released from
4 prison, Taylor is being judged not by who s/he is, but by who s/he was, by people like Leslie
5 Duesenberg. I read that Neanderthal's statement, and I refuse to stand by while s/he tries to
6 throw another innocent person in jail.

7
8 I should slow down. Sometimes my passion gets the best of me. My name is Alex Packard, and
9 I'm a clinical psychologist practicing in Wisawe, Pennsylvania. I have lived my whole life in the
10 Keystone State, and I obtained both my bachelor's degree and my PhD from the University of
11 Pennsylvania. I have been a board certified clinical psychologist since 1992. So many of
12 today's mental health issues are treated for the first time in prison, because we systematically
13 underfund mental health services. So through Packard LLP – that's my company – I have been
14 providing mental health services to inmates since 1994. Over time, I became positively
15 dysthymic watching the cycle of offense-conviction-release-reoffense. That's what we call
16 "recidivism," and it is a complex problem with many components, the most important of which
17 are the lack of educational opportunities in prison and the discrimination inmates face in the job
18 market upon release. I began to study the problem and I received a master's degree in
19 Criminology from St. Joseph's University in 2009.

20
21 I despaired the lack of results I was able to achieve until 2010, when I came up with the idea for
22 2nd Start. The program provided education and counseling in prison and jobs after release. In
23 2013, the program really took off when I was able to recruit Dre Nash to be the face of the
24 organization. Dre had a vision for a new plant in Wisawe, and s/he planned to crew it, in part,
25 with my "2nd Starters," chosen from some of the harshest prisons in Pennsylvania. Dre believed
26 – as I do – that the statistics don't tell the real story. The first thing you need to know is that not
27 everyone even agrees with what recidivism even means. Some people treat *any* re-arrest after
28 release as a recidivist episode, even if that re-arrest is just for a violation of probation... which a
29 lot of them are! So in the 77% recidivism statistic that Leslie Duesenberg uses like a weapon in
30 her/his statement, you have – yes – some people who committed serious crimes after release,
31 but you also have people whose only crime was having a beer or forgetting to show up for an
32 appointment with the probation officer. But people like Duesenberg make released inmates
33 sound like a menace to society for even the tiniest slip-up!

34
35 Besides which, what Duesenberg is really missing is that it is the environment that makes the
36 criminal, not some lurking evil deep within them. As I said, if you put people in prison, give them
37 limited educational chances, limited social interaction, virtually no mental health services, and
38 then release them to a world that won't hire them...

39
40 Sorry. Getting all worked up again. The fact is that the 2005 statistics are just that: numbers
41 over a decade old that tell us how things were, not how they are. Since 2005, numerous
42 programs have started to ease re-entry, and they have found success. When Dre Nash

43 contacted me to discuss working with them, one of the first things s/he asked was what made
44 offenders less likely to recidivate. It was the question I'd been waiting to hear for nearly a
45 decade. The answer is this: recidivism rates drop if inmates have mental health services (where
46 needed), education, substance abuse treatment (where needed), and real employment
47 opportunities.

48
49 So back in 2011, I became the Director of Screening and Mental Health Services – at a healthy
50 pay bump! – for 2nd Start. We worked for a year, setting up comprehensive programs in the
51 state and federal prisons. It was easy: the Wardens already knew and trusted me, and they
52 were happy to help break the cycle. We even got support from the Pennsylvania courts.
53 Everyone wanted 2nd Start to work, although of course nobody wanted it as much as Dre Nash
54 once s/he was on board. 2nd Start has been a smashing success, and I now spend eighty or
55 ninety percent of my time working on 2nd Start issues, screening inmates, counseling, and
56 managing our part-time social worker.

57
58 For the duration of their prison term, inmates who volunteered for the program took classes on
59 engineering, chemistry, and metalwork, and every week they had four hours of life skills
60 classes, helping them learn to cope with their emotions, build meaningful social relationships,
61 and the like. Back then, I gave most of those classes, and I performed comprehensive bio-
62 psycho-social assessments on every program member, including giving tests like the Minnesota
63 Multi-Phasic Personality Inventory, IQ tests, and the like. When those tests showed deeper
64 issues, I offered the inmates counseling services if they wanted to remain in the program.

65
66 Let me be clear: I was not any of these inmates' psychologist, and they knew that. There was
67 no psychologist-patient privilege, because I worked for 2nd Start. And so when I'm asked about
68 those conversations now, I have to talk about them. Not that I think Taylor would stop me;
69 s/he's proud of the progress we made! But so many of them had issues that had troubled them
70 but had never been diagnosed or addressed before. Our results were exemplary; pretty soon
71 we had a group of people who had been forgotten by society on the path to recovery. I've never
72 been a part of anything so meaningful and, well, good.

73
74 Taylor Edsel was a prime example. When I first met Taylor, of course, I knew her/his story.
75 Everyone in Wisawe did. But Taylor was a victim, too, a product of parental abandonment that
76 left deep scars. And I'm not going to lie, it wasn't easy to get Taylor to open up about what that
77 meant for her/his life. But once s/he did, it was a transformation. S/He went from being
78 withdrawn and sullen, staring hollow-eyed at me, to a participant in the program and ultimately
79 into one of our program leaders, guiding other inmates through the program and chairing group
80 sessions.

81
82 Look, I know what the statistics say on arsonists. And Leslie Duesenberg isn't wrong, as much
83 as I hate to admit that, about the fact that arsonists as a whole can be some of the hardest
84 criminals to reform. And, yes, historically, serial arsonists are likely to reoffend if faced with a
85 circumstance like the one in which they offended in first place. That's all true, and it's fairly well

86 supported in the clinical literature. Not all crimes are like that – in fact, most are very much not
87 – but arson’s a tricky one, psychologically.

88
89 With that said, though, the clinical literature is based on the world we have allowed to exist, a
90 world with prisons providing limited counseling and releases facing poor job prospects. What
91 Taylor Edsel got was exactly the opposite. We spent months breaking down her/his mental
92 health issues with her/him, treating them with counseling and therapy, and teaching her/him
93 coping mechanisms for her/his feelings of powerlessness. When Taylor first started meeting
94 with me, s/he was filled with rage... rage at the parent who abandoned her/him, rage at the
95 people who mistreated Effie, even rage at Effie for being a “failure” who “never stuck up for
96 her/himself.” And Taylor did not know what to do with that rage, so s/he exercised control the
97 only way s/he knew how: s/he lashed out with a tool s/he could watch, fire. It’s a classic – and
98 tragic – story.

99
100 But it is not the end of the story. Over our year at the prison and in the two years after her/his
101 release that Taylor was paying for private counseling with me, we were able to tear down so
102 many of her/his walls and teach so much. By the time Taylor was released, I was able to certify
103 her/him for work at the Nash Dash plant, and as I saw Taylor forging a strong bond with Dre, I
104 was able to tell Dre with absolute confidence that Taylor was essentially recovered. Taylor did
105 such a great job, that we even started using her/him in the promotional material for 2nd Start. I
106 mean, with Dre’s fame, to be able to promote the success of Taylor’s reformation was a huge
107 feather in our cap, not to mention a great story for fundraising purposes.

108
109 Did we reach the end of that path? That’s a great question. It’s impossible to know with
110 certainty, and it is better to discuss mental health issues as being “managed” rather than
111 “cured.” As Taylor became more involved with the Nash facility, there was less time to meet
112 with me, less time for counseling. I personally think everyone should have regular mental health
113 counseling – and not just for my checkbook! – so I’m probably the wrong person to ask. So
114 yeah, I would have liked to see Taylor continue to get counseling, and Taylor probably needed
115 that counseling more than most. Nonetheless, I’m utterly confident – well beyond even a
116 reasonable degree of psychological certainty – that by July 2016, Taylor Edsel was not
117 (psychologically speaking) the same person s/he was a few years before. Taylor had the
118 coping mechanisms necessary to deal with stress, and s/he assured me that if s/he was ever
119 feeling stress or the urge to burn things, s/he would let me know immediately. I never got a call.
120 For example, I knew it hurt that Taylor wasn’t allowed to be in the same room with Effie’s new
121 partner, but Taylor took this in stride, discussing it openly during one of our sessions and never
122 faltering from her/his recovery or setting a fire to get control of the situation.

123
124 The last time I saw Taylor was a couple days before the fire around June 28th or 29th, 2016.
125 S/He definitely seemed stressed, and I spent a few minutes with her/him, just chatting. S/He
126 had a tennis ball in one hand, and we had a good laugh about that. One of the techniques I
127 teach is biofeedback, using a stress ball for calming the body down. Taylor loved to use tennis
128 balls for that. S/He said it was a reminder of her/his past, and that using a ball this way was
129 better than the other. I definitely agreed with that, just like I suggested that s/he should turn

130 her/his grandfather's Zippo into a focus for meditation. Meditation has pronounced and
131 understood effects on the brain and can be a tremendous boon to anyone fighting depression or
132 anxiety. Most people meditate without a focus, but some people prefer to have one. Flames
133 are a kind of a "safe place" for Taylor, as hard as that is for us to imagine, and s/he suggested
134 using the Zippo to create a flickering flame that could not hurt anything. I was concerned; I was
135 afraid an open flame would prove too great a temptation or connection for her/him. I guess I
136 was wrong about that, because Taylor always reported that it was a fantastic calming influence.

137
138 I'm aware that Taylor made some comments that the prosecutors are saying were a threat or a
139 warning or whatever. That's hogwash. I know Taylor, and I've had the chance to observe
140 her/him for the past four years. Humor is one of Taylor's release mechanisms, a compensation
141 for stress, and a healthy one. Taylor's actually really funny, and Dre is, too. And they both are
142 well aware of where they have been and where they are going. As a result, they like to joke
143 about their time in the prison and their crimes. It's a way of coming to terms with who they are
144 now, while not feeling like they have lost touch with – or forgotten – their roots. I actively
145 encouraged this kind of humor, both in prison, where it could help defuse confrontations and
146 build social bonds, and afterward, where it can help relieve stress and alleviate the dissonance
147 that former inmates sometimes feel.

148
149 So there's no doubt in my mind that Taylor used a lot of language that echoes her/his past of
150 arson. Dre would always be dropping jokes about powder mountains and crossing borders, too,
151 but Dre hasn't touched drugs in a decade. I carefully observed Taylor early on, to see if there
152 were other factors playing into the humor. Eventually, I stopped, because Taylor was just fine.
153 Obviously, I'm not a mind-reader, but during the time I watched her/him, I saw none of the
154 clinical symptoms of deception. If I had, I would have let Dre know immediately.

155
156 I know that people are casting aspersions at Dre, too, suggesting that s/he might have put
157 Taylor up to this with some kind of off-hand comment. That's just as crazy as what they're
158 saying about Taylor. No, wait, it's even crazier. Anybody who knows Dre knows that s/he is
159 one of the most straightforward people in the world. In fact, I think that unwillingness to mince
160 words or to play with the truth is part of what keeps Dre grounded. Once, I asked her/him about
161 it, and s/he said, "There's no room for bull on the block." I knew what s/he was saying: on a
162 prison cell block, people are expected to be straightforward, and if other inmates believe that
163 you're lying, it can be problematic. If Dre had wanted Taylor to do something to the Flash
164 Factory – and that's absolutely ridiculous – he would have just said so. Dre doesn't know any
165 other way.

166
167 Look, it's sad to say, but the world is full of people like Leslie Duesenberg, who want to lock up
168 the "bad guys" and throw away the key. When Duesenberg reads those recidivism rates, that's
169 all they are to her/him: numbers. But those are human beings, each and every one of them,
170 and each one of them has been failed by the system. Most of them have been failed more than
171 once. They made bad choices, but sometimes nobody showed them a better choice to make.
172 What they need is a system that helps them, gives them the mental health care they need, gives
173 them a fair shot at a living wage, and treats them like assets rather than discarding them after a

174 single mistake. That's what 2nd Start provided, and that's why we had only a 20% rate of our
175 team committing a new crime after release. The rate of probation violations was probably twice
176 that, but it wasn't our real focus.

177
178 But there's another, broader point. Using terms like "whacko" demonstrates a profound
179 ignorance of mental health and its treatment as well as a deep lack of understanding of human
180 growth. Taylor had a terrible environment growing up, and s/he lashed out against the world
181 because s/he had no coping mechanisms. S/he was also a teenager. The frontal lobes of the
182 brain are connected with nerves, and those nerves don't fully develop in most people until their
183 mid-20s. So yes, it's literally, biologically harder to make great decisions as a teen. And that's
184 before we even mention hormones! But Taylor isn't a teenager anymore, her/his environment is
185 greatly improved, and s/he no longer lacks coping mechanisms. Suggesting otherwise is just
186 saying that no one can ever grow up, no one can ever mature, and no one with a mental illness
187 can ever learn to cope. That's not only wrong on the science, it's also the kind of thinking that
188 fills our prisons with people who could be productive if we were just willing to try harder for
189 them. I guess that's what happens when you decide people can't change based on a book
190 written 2500 years ago rather than modern science.

191
192 The other thing worth noting and what people didn't see is that Taylor wanted to make sure
193 others would not make the same mistake s/he did. As part of the 2nd Start program, s/he would
194 often visit schools in other parts of the state and tell about the pains of prison and the way s/he
195 failed to deal with stress. Even when there was stress in her/his life after prison, rather than
196 keeping it bottled up and erupting in flame, Taylor would talk to me about it and calm down. If
197 there really was an intent or desire to set fire to the plant, I would've known about it. On July 4,
198 2016, despite the troubles at the plant, Taylor was of sound mind and good intention.

199
200 The blow caused by this terrible act of industrial espionage is a serious one, but I know that 2nd
201 Start will be back, better than ever, and that other programs around this country will see what
202 we have done and follow our footsteps. Once the truth is known – that it was *not* one of our
203 reformed inmates who did this – people will realize that 2nd Start is the first, the first of a new
204 world of re-entry programs. We can do better, and we will. We're Americans, not American'ts.

EXHIBIT LIST

- Exhibit 1:** Photo taken of plant fire
- Exhibit 2:** January 2016 emails between Dre Nash and Taylor Edsel
- Exhibit 3:** Press release from Detroit Auto Classic
- Exhibit 4:** Wisawe Lark interview of Effie Edsel
- Exhibit 5:** CV Leslie Duesenberg
- Exhibit 6:** CV Alex Packard
- Exhibit 7:** Web History from Taylor's home computer
- Exhibit 8:** Amazon Orders from Taylor's Amazon account
- Exhibit 9:** Mass spectrometer results
- Exhibit 10:** Text message from Taylor Edsel to Dre Nash (July 4, 2016)
- Exhibit 11:** Text messages between Salve DeSoto and Taylor Edsel
- Exhibit 12:** 911 Transcript July 4, 2016

Exhibit 1



Exhibit 2

Mail

COMPOSE

Re: Production Inbox x

Taylor Edsel **January 6, 2016** 09:25:47

To: Dr. Dre

Happy NY to you too! I know it is going to be a great one!!! So, as far as production goes, I know boss and rest assured I have a plan, we'll light a fire under them!

TE

Dr. Dre **January 6, 2016** 08:53:13

To: Taylor Edsel

Hey, TE, hope the start of the new year is treating you well. Listen, we have some serious issues going on in production and I am very worried that 2016 is going to go up in a blaze, if you know what I mean (not kidding). Sorry, couldn't help myself, but you get it... we need solutions for issues that have no solutions. It is a software thing and beyond my area of expertise. I know you will not really get it, but please do what you can to support me and keep me in line. I do not want to add stress to an already stressful situation. I have already been up for 3 days straight!

0% full
Using 0.29 GB of your 30 GB

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Last account activity: 3 days ago
[Details](#)

COMPOSE

Re: Software Glitch

ox x



Inbox (1,004)

Starred

Important

Sent Mail

Drafts (6)

More

Search people... with contact icons



Taylor Edsel

To: Dr. Dre

January 10, 2016

11:03:10



Boss, do you want me to "fire" the software engineers, ha, ha! Not kidding!



Dr. Dre

To: Taylor Edsel

January 10, 2016

10:47:27



Edsel, the problem with the software is way worse than anticipated. We are talking massive recalls as well as total production slow down. This is something we might not recover from. And, no, this is not me being nervous and hyperbolic, this is serious – way serious.

Exhibit 3

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 19, 2015

Contact: John S. Gray, Automotive Driver Monthly, 15 Fiesta Way, Dearborn, MI

57th Detroit Auto Classic: Another Year in the Books!

Detroit, Michigan - The 57th Annual Detroit Auto Classic, held October 15-18, 2015, is in the books. After all those years, it is hard to imagine a more successful, eventful DAC! Leaders from across the auto industry assembled in Detroit to talk shop, trade ideas, and showcase the future of the industry. Both major manufacturers and innovators came together to highlight what the car of the future will look like.

This year's conference will not be remembered for all of the pomp and pageantry, but for DAC's presentation of the 57th Lifetime Achievement award to Stu D'Baker. It is hard to imagine a more controversial figure receiving this recognition. D'Baker is a legend in his own right. For over fifty years, his tough, hard-nosed style has led him to steward some of the greatest changes the industry has seen. His designs are cutting edge and his automobiles are among the elite. His business acumen and foresight made him a titan in the automobile industry.

But with D'Baker's successes has come failure. Many have not forgotten D'Baker's emissions scandal in the late 1990s, where he was forced to admit he lied about his vehicles' admissions standards not complying with federal law. Nor have industry insiders forgotten his infamous role in the auto industry's collapse resulting in a government bailout, which landed him in federal prison in 2008.

Many considered D'Baker nothing more than a footnote in history, but after his release in 2009, he returned with the same vigor that made him a legend. And rather than reminiscing about the past and thanking those that made his success possible, D'Baker used his acceptance speech as an opportunity to take aim at his newest enemies.

Sure, D'Baker talked about the Celetric, his soon to be unveiled fuel cell driven automobile. Describing it as "the best in its class" – D'Baker said it would reinvent the way people not only see cars, but how they get around. D'Baker even went so far as to say that the Celetric would, "set the auto world on fire." But simply alerting the industry that he was back was not enough. D'Baker turned his attention on Dre Nash, the up-and-coming rock star in the fuel cell sector and renowned creator of the Nash Flash. D'Baker reminded the world that he "had white papers out as early as 1985 discussing the need for fuel

cell based cars.” D’Baker all but accused Nash of stealing his ideas, before proclaiming “watch out, I’m back and nothing is going to stop me now. I am the greatest. Nobody better get in my way.”

The industry is on notice – at 70-years old, the King of Cars, Stu D’Baker, is back and ready to rock!

Exhibit 4

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The Wisawe Lark – A Blog for the Bog

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“Taylor’s a Devil”: Parent of Arsonist Taylor Edsel Tells All

By: M. Kaplan / 5.23.2007

Fire engines screamed to the home of Effie Edsel from all corners of Laurel County yesterday afternoon. In what is normally a sleepy corner of our already sleepy town, police, firefighters, news crews, and onlookers watched in awe as Effie’s house quickly burned to the ground. There has not been a blaze of this size in the county for over 20 years, according to police on scene.

But, what is most unusual about this fire is the way its cause was discovered.

Initial reports of the fire being accidental were quickly dismissed by Effie her/himself. Apparently, it was Taylor Edsel, her/his teenager, who started it. There has been a lot written in the papers and said on television, but I was fortunate enough to get the straight story from Effie her/himself. Rather than report her/his statements, the transcript of our discussion speaks volumes in its own right. On the smoldering ashes of Effie’s home, just moments after Taylor was taken away in handcuffs by the police, the following conversation occurred – word for word:

MK: I’m so sorry for the loss of your home. How do you feel about Taylor being the prime suspect for setting the fire?

EE: Taylor’s not a suspect – s/he did it all right. No doubt about it.

MK: How can you be so sure?

EE: It’s not like this is the first time Taylor’s lit something up when things weren’t going her/his way. This is her/his thing. S/He is obsessed with fire. When Taylor got jealous of our dog, Muffin, a few years ago s/he lit Muffin’s dog house on fire. Poor old Muffin was still in the dog house. Taylor didn’t care. S/He threw six or seven flaming tennis balls in the dog house and walked away. The dog died along with a part of me that day.

MK: Tennis balls?

EE: Yeah, that’s Taylor’s thing. Taylor cuts a little hole in the tennis ball, fills it with a wad of cotton and some lighter fluid and lights them on fire.

MK: Do you know if the police found any tennis balls on the crime scene today?

EE: Of course they did – along with Taylor. When I got home right before Taylor was arrested, s/he was sitting on the ruins of my house, tossing a burned tennis ball in the air.

MK: Wow! This is hard, but even though Taylor is your child, what do you think will happen to her/him?

EE: Listen, no one knows Taylor better than I do. Taylor's a menace, a devil. S/he should be locked up for a long time, but I'd be worried s/he'd burn the prison down too. S/He's gotta go away somewhere, though. I'll never feel safe if s/he's nearby.

There you have it dear readers. Case closed. All we can hope is that Effie is right and Taylor is given the punishment s/he rightly deserves.

Exhibit 5

LESLIE DUESENBERG

1926 Daimler Ave., Vienna, VA 22183

EDUCATION

University of Phoenix, M.A., Criminology, 2005

Pennsylvania State University, B.A., Criminal Justice, 1999

Lake County Community College, A.D. Psychology, 1996

WORK EXPERIENCE

U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives Special Agent, 2005-Present

Special Agent assigned to Predictive Science Department in Washington, D.C. Certified arson investigator. Representative cases:

United States v. Iacocca – Profiled serial arsonist as alcoholic male in late 40s frustrated with work based on pattern of every other week fires demonstrating little planning but great anger. Suspect was arrested at a bar on his pay day, with a gallon of gasoline in his truck.

State v. Soichiro – Profiled serial arsonist as money-seeking individual in mid-20s with experience in fire science. Local seasonal firefighter seeking additional overtime convicted.

Commonwealth v. Kia – Profiled serial arsonist as power- or thrill-seeking. Defendant convicted after photos from scenes showed her in crowd at or near each fire, watching police and fire crews attempt to extinguish blaze.

Pennsylvania State Police

Trooper, 1999-2005

Stationed at the Lake County barracks. Performed reactive investigations, searches, seizures, and highway traffic stops. Received training in various areas of policing.

Wisawe Police Department,

Volunteer Crowd Control Specialist, 1996-1999

Assisted Wisawe Police at public events. Trained in crowd control and customer service techniques.

Blart Security

Security Officer, 1996-1999

Performed reactive observation and investigation in retail environment.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, 2015-Present, teaching periodic classes on basic arson investigation and the Criminal Mind

Guest Instructor, Federal Bureau of Investigation Behavioral Analysis Unit special agent training, lecture on arson profiling

Guest speaker, Sentencing Law and Policy clinic, American University School of Law

Exhibit 6

Alex Packard

1947 Enzo Way, Marnello, PA 18501

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, PhD, Clinical Psychology, 1992

St. Joseph's University, M.S., Child Psychology, 1989

University of Pittsburgh, B.S., Psychology, 1987

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Packard LLP, President, 1994-97, 1998-Present

Packard LLP provides a full range of psychological counseling services to private clients and to industry, especially in the correctional and juvenile correctional field. Clients include the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, and dozens of local corrections facilities. Services include individual counseling, correctional officer screening and counseling, training services for correctional counselors, and a range of classes for inmates and their families.

Since 2010, Packard LLP has been the chief provider of psychology and counseling services to 2nd Start, a Pennsylvania non-profit organization aimed at providing re-entry systems and reducing recidivism rates in Pennsylvania and, ultimately, nationwide. 2nd Start has received grants from the William and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Citizens for a Prison-Free World. Packard LLP staff serve as the directors of screening and mental health services, responsible for all inmate intake, training, and mental health services for the 2nd Start program.

Greater Wisawe Health Action, Inc., Staff Psychologist, 1992-1994

Provided psychological services for federally funded health clinic in low-income area of Wisawe, PA.

Licensed Psychologist, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 1994-Present, except 1997-98, when license was suspended for statements to state regulators relating to completion of Continuing Medical Education credits that the regulators deemed less than forthright.

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

American Psychological Association, Member, 1994-Present

Pennsylvania Psychological Association, Member, 1994-Present

PUBLICATIONS

Cognitive Development in Teenagers: New Research Yields Surprising Results, *Parenting*, June 1993

Solitary Confinement and Personality Disorders, *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, Jan. 1998

Rehabilitative Psychology: Addressing Unmet Inmate Needs Through Counseling, the 2nd Start Experience, *Corrections Today*, September/October 2015

Exhibit 7

The screenshot shows a Google search for "arson and accelerants" on a laptop. The browser address bar shows the URL: https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=arson+and+accelerants. The search results page displays approximately 38,300 results in 0.45 seconds. The top result is a Wikipedia entry titled "Fire accelerant - Wikipedia" with the URL https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fire_accelerant. The snippet reads: "Many accelerants are hydrocarbon-based **fuels**, sometimes referred to as **petroleum distillates: gasoline, diesel fuel, kerosene, turpentine, butane**, and various other flammable solvents. These accelerants are also known as **ignitable liquids**. **Ignitable** liquids can leave behind tell-tale marks in the fire debris." Below this is a snippet from InterFire titled "Fire and Arson Accelerants - InterFire" with the URL www.interfire.org/res_file/aec_201g.asp. The snippet states: "A highly flammable, blended liquid composed of more than 300 volatile hydrocarbon compounds manufactured from the fractionation or distillation of petroleum. Gasoline is the most commonly identified ignitable liquid accelerant reported by American forensic laboratories." A "People also ask" section contains four questions: "What is a fire accelerant?", "What is an arson investigation?", "What is an ignitable liquid?", and "How hot does acetone burn at?". At the bottom, another Wikipedia entry is visible: "Detection of fire accelerants - Wikipedia" with the URL https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Detection_of_fire_accelerants. The snippet reads: "Detection of fire accelerants is the process that a fire investigator uses to determine if fire". On the left side of the browser window, a "Favorites" sidebar is open, showing a list of bookmarked sites including amazon, arsonmachine, atf, burningwheel, crime-scene-investigator, csitechblog, firearson, firechief, firefalcon, fireinvestigatorsupply, firepenny, firerescue1, forums.firehouse, freepressnewspapers, google, mdattorney, nvfc, sirchie, thefirestore, and victimsofcrime. A "Turn on Suggested Sites..." button is located at the bottom of the sidebar.

Accessed: July 4, 2016 – Taylor Edsel's Personal Laptop

Exhibit 8

The screenshot shows the Amazon.com 'Your Orders' page. The browser address bar displays 'https://www.amazon.com/gp/css/order-history/ref=nav_youraccount_orders'. The page header includes the Amazon Prime logo, a search bar, and navigation links like 'Departments', 'Browsing History', 'Today's Deals', 'Gift Cards & Registry', 'Sell', and 'Help'. A banner for 'NEW & INTERESTING FINDS ON AMAZON' is visible. The main content area is titled 'Your Orders' and includes a search bar for orders. Below this, there are tabs for 'Orders', 'Open Orders', 'Digital Orders', and 'Cancelled Orders'. A filter indicates '73 orders placed in past 6 months'. Two orders are listed:

ORDER PLACED	TOTAL	SHIP TO	ORDER #
July 2, 2016	\$69.99	Taylor Edsel	108-5695752-9905042
June 30, 2016	\$23.78	Taylor Edsel	107-5592265-5838634

Order details for the July 2, 2016 order:

- Arriving Monday** (Not yet shipped)
- Item: Briton Tennis Balls with Mesh Carrying Bag, 60 Pack
- Sold by: Excellent Products Inc
- Price: \$69.99
- Buttons: Track package, Cancel items, View or edit order, Archive order, Buy it Again

Order details for the June 30, 2016 order:

- Arriving tomorrow by 8pm** (On the way)
- Item: elope Where's Waldo Adult Costume Kit, Red/White, Small/Medium
- Sold by: Amazon.com LLC
- Price: \$22.43
- Buttons: Track package, Return or replace items, Archive order, Buy it Again

Accessed: July 4, 2016 – Taylor Edsel's Personal Laptop

Exhibit 9

Background: What IS Mass Spectrometry?

Dr. Mikado Pinafore, Ph.D.

The California Institute of Technology

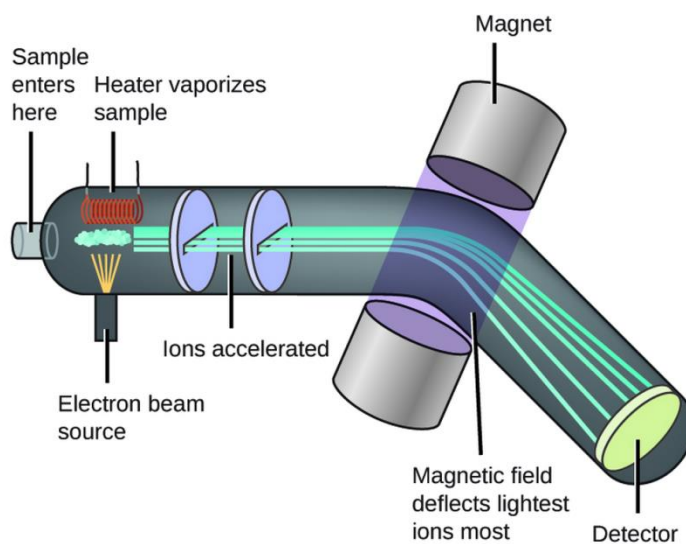
Mass spectrometry is a relatively simple technique used by chemists and forensic scientists to answer one of science's most basic queries: what IS this? Developed over a century ago, this well-used practice employs particle physics in the most exquisite way, all within a simple, bent tube.

A small amount of the sample in question is put into the machine, whereupon it is vaporized and accelerated down the tube as individual, negatively charged ions. Slit discs on the tube render the beam planar by blocking all particles save a small linear aperture.

As the ions approach the bend of the tube, they are subject to a magnetic field (the vector calculus I won't detail in this description). This causes the beam to bend along the bend of the tube. However – and this is the beautiful part – differently sized particles are affected differently! This causes smaller particles to have their paths bent more than those of heavier ones.

At the end of the tube is a detector that registers where the particles hit. This gives the scientist a graph of the positioning of various particles in the original substance. Over the years, scientists have assembled a large amount of information regarding mass spectrometry results. This enables us today to translate graphs into conclusions, i.e., to tell what a substance is based on the graph produced.

N.B. Naturally, in cases of criminal investigations, there needs be enough sample that not ALL of it gets burnt (because what use would it be to know what you just destroyed forever?). In most cases, though, such as a bone or a shirt or even a stain on a dress, a very small amount can go a long way. That being said, one must be certain one is using the right sample!



A simplified diagram of a spectrometer.

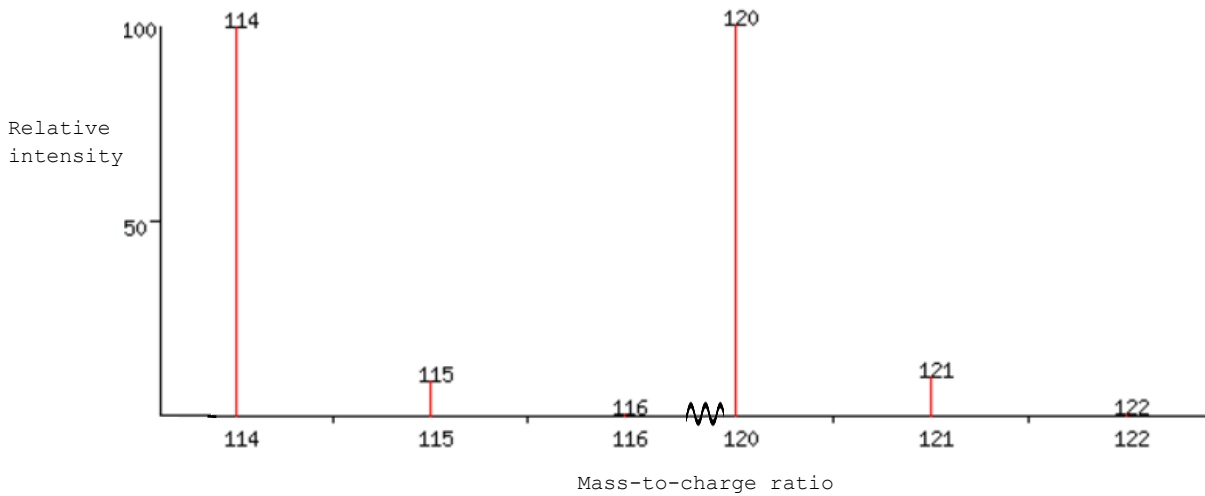
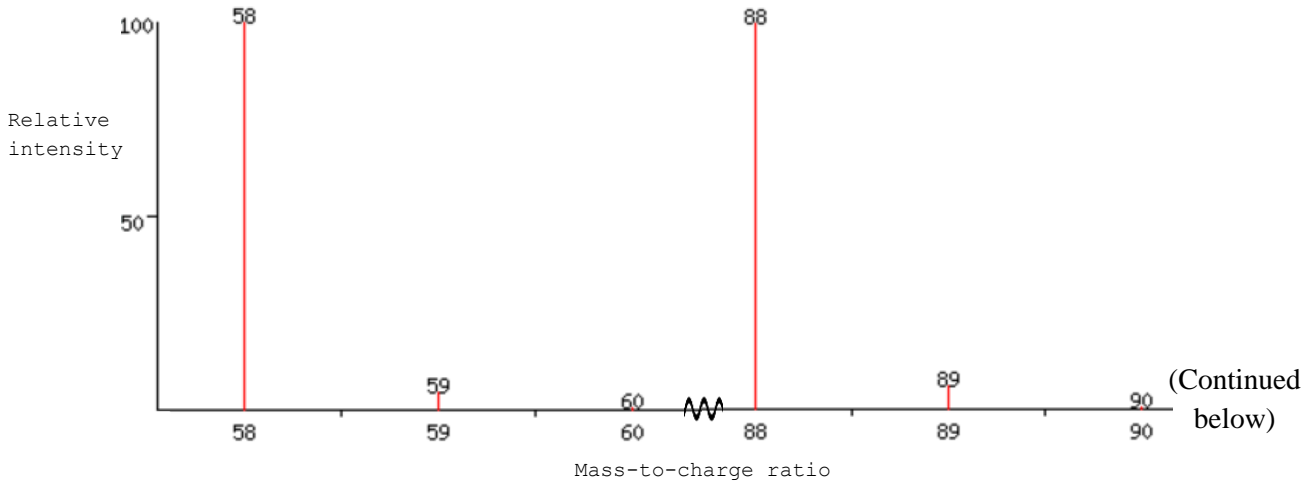
Mass Spectrometry Result 1/2

Date Requested: 7/11/2016

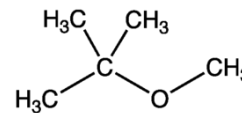
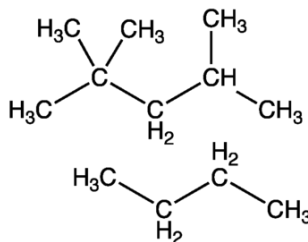
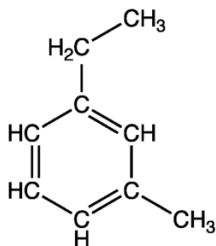
Requested By: L. Duesenberg

MS Carried Out By: Dr. Iolanthe Penzance, Ph.D.

Results:



Conclusions: This data shows evidence of traces of isooctane, 3-ethyltoluene, butane, and methyl-tert-butylether, the four main components of lighter fluid (structures below)



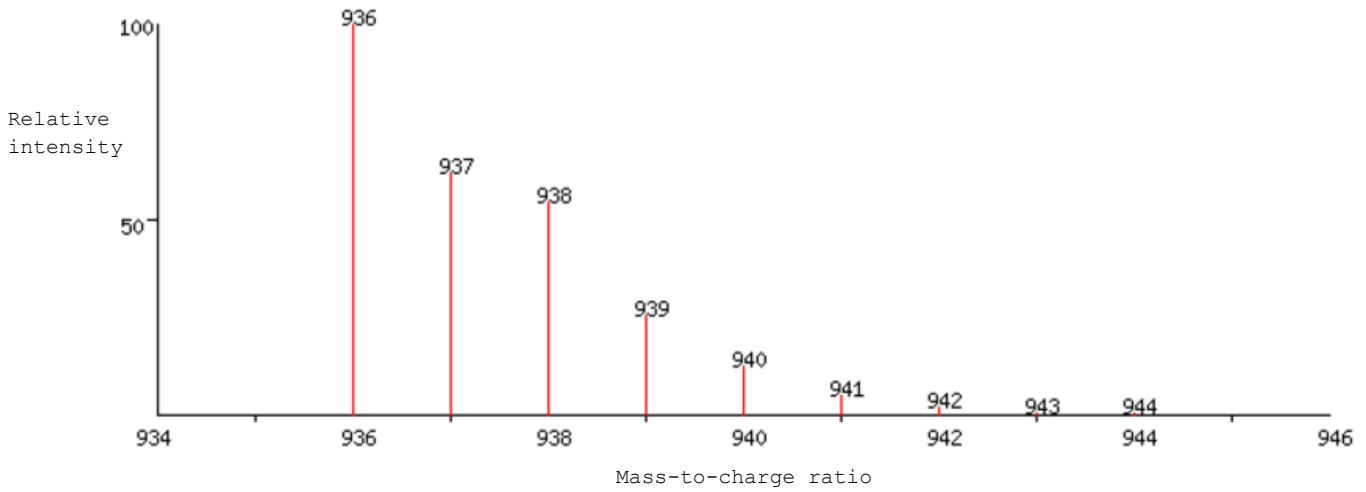
Mass Spectrometry Result 2/2

Date Requested: 7/11/2016

Requested By: L. Duesenberg

MS Carried Out By: Dr. Sullivan Gilbert, Ph.D.

Results:



Conclusions: This is the unequivocal chemical signature of vulcanized rubber (structure below).

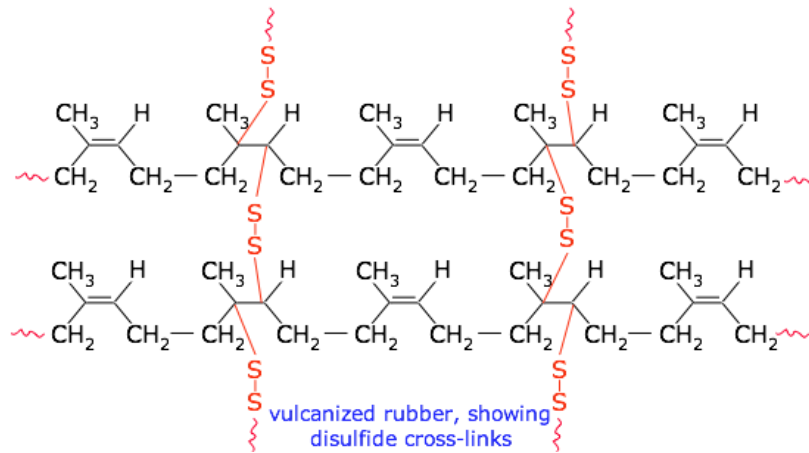


Exhibit 10

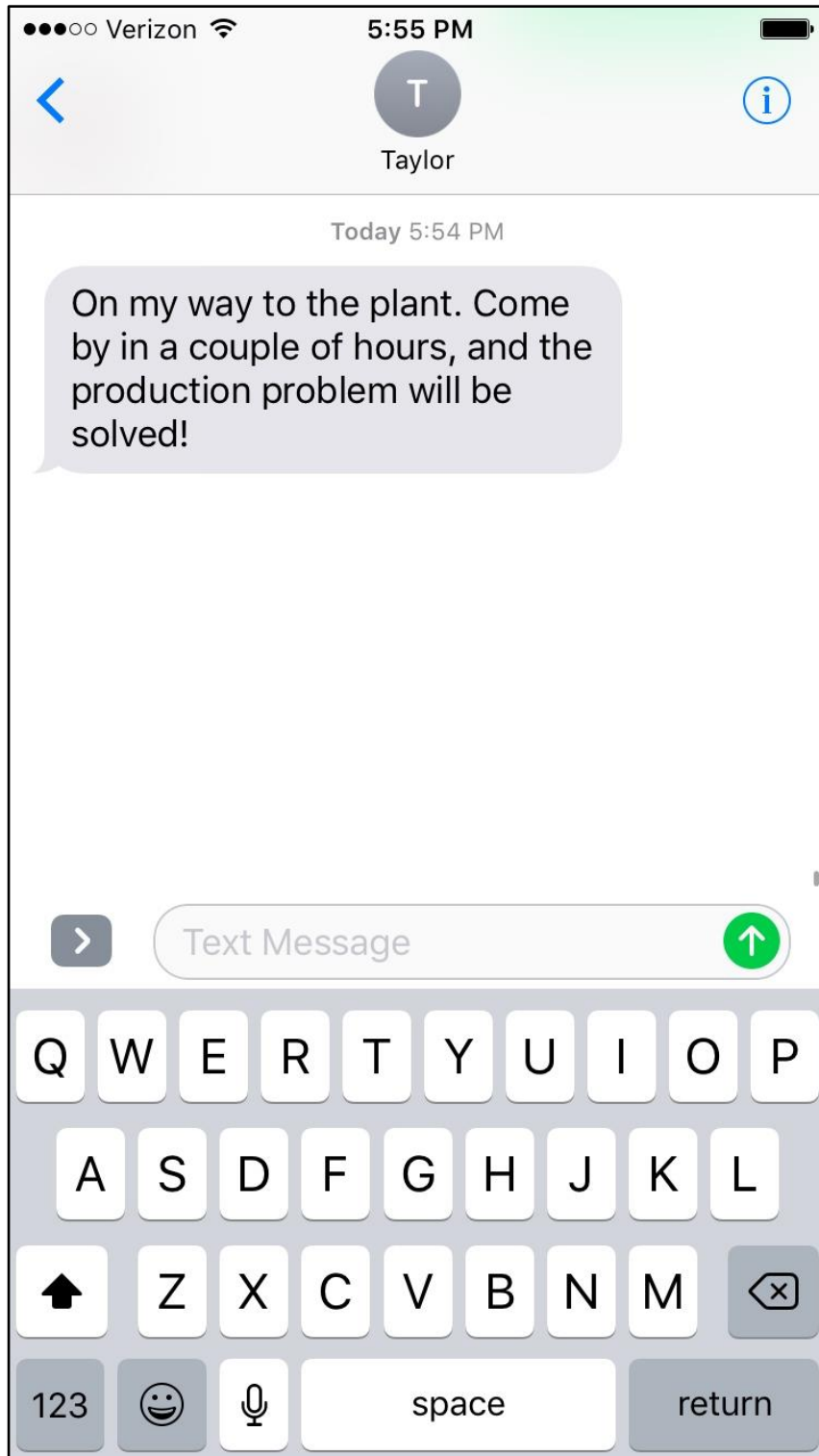
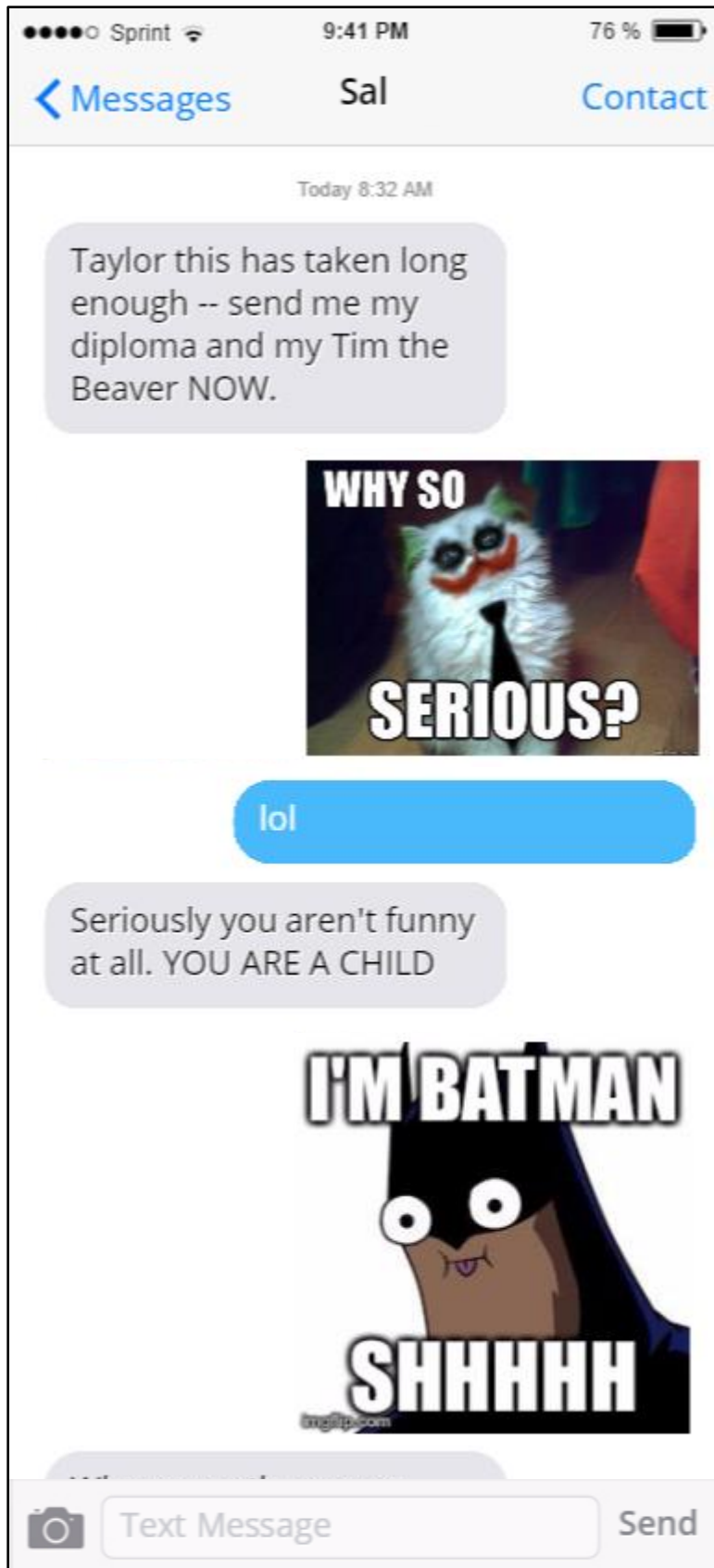
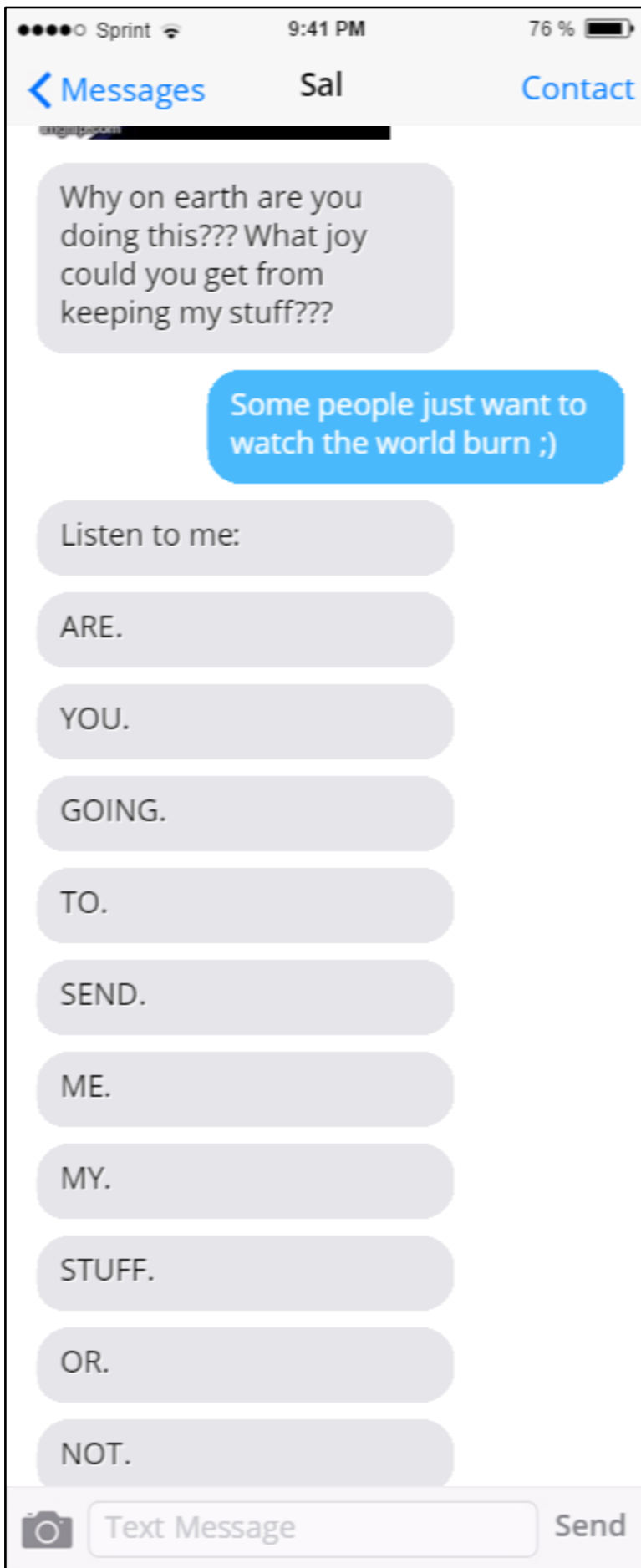


Exhibit 11







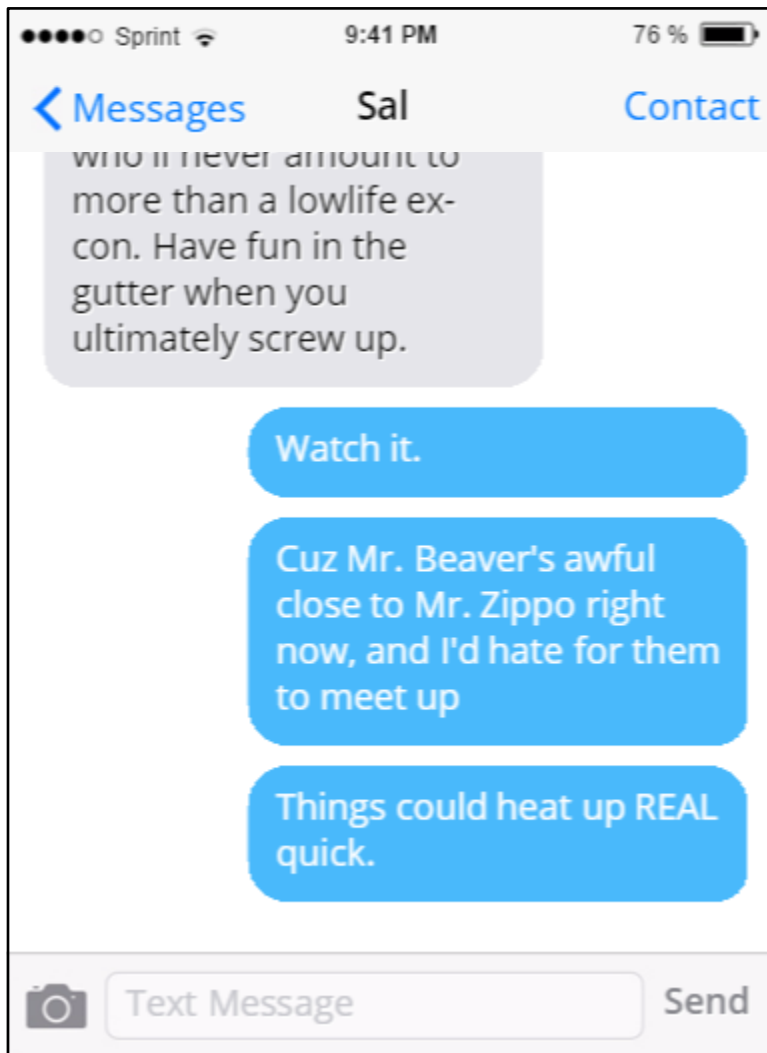


Exhibit 12

E911 Transcript Laurel County

July 4, 2016

21:37:35

Dispatch: 911, what's the address of the emergency?

Taylor: I'm at the Nash Plant – it's on fire!!

Dispatch: Ok, tell me exactly what happened?

Taylor: Came here to do some work on a project and I saw the smoke. I tried to put it out, but the fire, fire, it's so hot, so big, too hot!!!

Dispatch: Are you ok, are you harmed?

Taylor: I'm ok, I still have a ball left, my jeans were on fire. Yeah, yeah, I'm ok, but hurry, the plant, the plant is on fire!!!

Dispatch: Is there anyone in the building?

Taylor: I don't think so. Please hurry, it is burning, everything will be lost. We will not be able to make the deadline. This is important. It means too much to Dre, to me, to everyone!!

Dispatch: The fire station has been alerted. What is your name?

Taylor: My name, what does my name matter, hurry, can't you see this is an emergency!!

Dispatch: Please tell me your name.

Taylor: Everything will be lost, don't you understand. I didn't do this, I was trying to stop it. I didn't want it to end this way. I, I mean we, have been working so hard. I don't want to get fired. Not another fire! Not on my watch, not this time. I'm different. Believe me, I'm different!

Dispatch: Please try to calm down, help is on the way. I am going to stay on the line with you until the medics and fire department arrive.

Taylor: I am not sticking around. They are going to blame me. I didn't do it, I promise I didn't do it. There is no way this should've happened. Send help before it's too late!

Dispatch: Please calm down, it will be ok . . . Are you there . . . are you there . . . Please respond so I know you are ok . . . Are you there? . . . Are you there?

<<<<< END 911 Transcript >>>>>