

“Bull manure”: Report details Unabomber’s prison letters

CBS & AP News

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FLORENCE, Colo. — In handwritten letters to hundreds of supporters and curiosity seekers, Unabomber Ted Kaczynski expressed shock over the 9/11 attacks and wrote that he preferred Hillary Clinton over Barack Obama in the 2008 Democratic presidential race.

Kaczynski also wrote to pen pals from federal prison in Colorado asking for more information about Osama bin Laden and the origins of al Qaeda, and has relied on others to inform him about the rise of the Internet and social media.

The correspondence was described in a report published by Yahoo News early Monday. Yahoo News reporter Holly Bailey spent several weeks looking through Kaczynski's letters, which now fill more than 90 boxes at the University of Michigan Library.

The Labadie Collection, a special division of the library that documents the history of social protest movements, contacted him after his arrest to see if he would consider donating his writings. Kaczynski did not respond to a letter from Yahoo News asking why he has maintained the archive through the library.

However, in a 2001 letter, Kaczynski why he donated the papers to the university.

"I don't especially hope that scholars will learn anything from me. My main reason for donating my papers to the University of Michigan is a personal one," Kaczynski wrote, according to Yahoo News. "I am not at all happy about the bull manure that the media have propagated about me, and I want the truth to be on record. The truth, or the principal part of it, is contained in the documents."

Kaczynski's 35,000-word anti-technology manifesto was published in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* in 1995. He was arrested in April 1996 and convicted in 1998 after planting or mailing bombs that killed three people and injured more than two dozen others over several decades.

Now 73, he is imprisoned at the Federal Correctional Complex in Florence, Colorado, known as Supermax.

Writing about the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks, he wrote: "It took me by surprise."

In 2010, Kaczynski engaged in a long back-and-forth with students at Huntingdon College in Alabama about the power of Facebook and how public figures like WikiLeaks' Julian Assange and the late conservative commentator Andrew Breitbart used the Internet to gain influence. But he admitted he didn't know what YouTube was or what it meant to go "viral."

The papers reveal that Kaczynski remains strongly opposed to technology. Yahoo News reports that he is not allowed access to the Internet, but he still solicits email addresses from letter writers to share with others as part of his efforts to create an anti-technology movement.

The letters also show he fell in love with one of his early pen pals, Joy Richards — whom he called his "Lady Love" — and they suggest Kaczynski and Richards explored the idea of getting married. Richards died of cancer in late 2006, and Yahoo reports that some of the most anguished letters in the collection deal with the pain Kaczynski felt over her illness.

Kaczynski has not corresponded with his brother since learning that he was the one who turned him into authorities, according to Yahoo News. Kaczynski also “ignored repeated desperate overtures from his mother, Wanda, who wrote him constantly until she died in 2011.”

The Ted K Archive

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