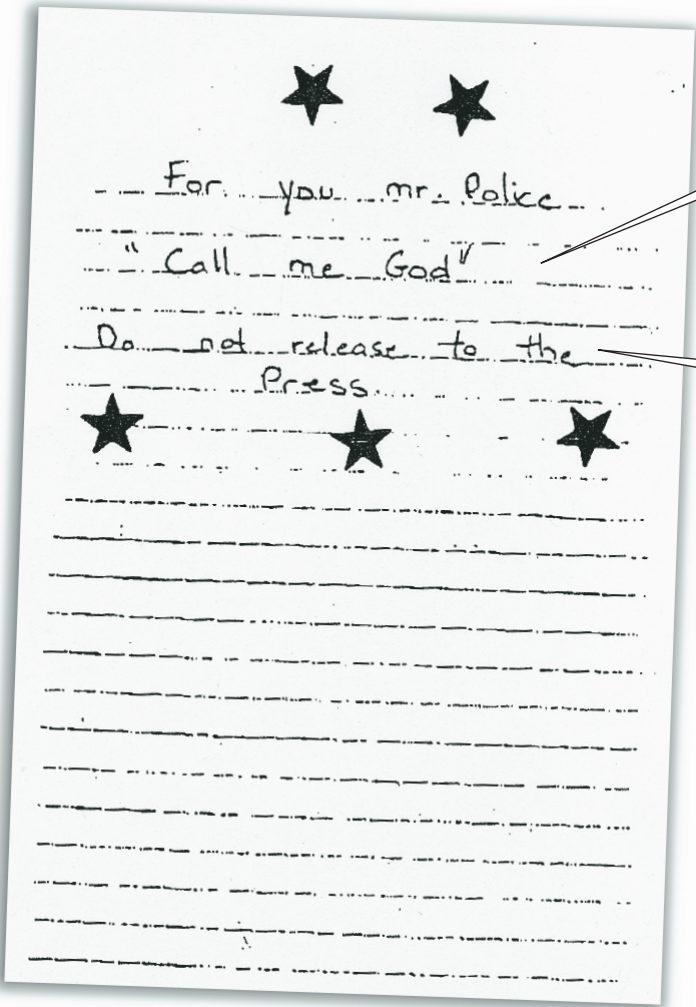


Ashland Sniper Letter

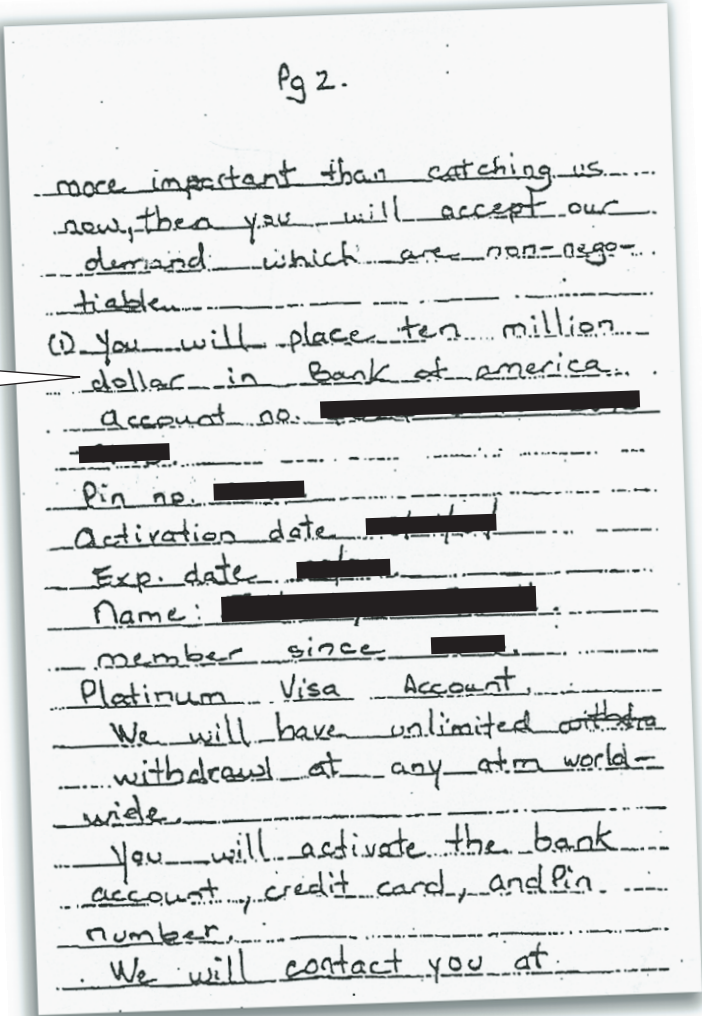
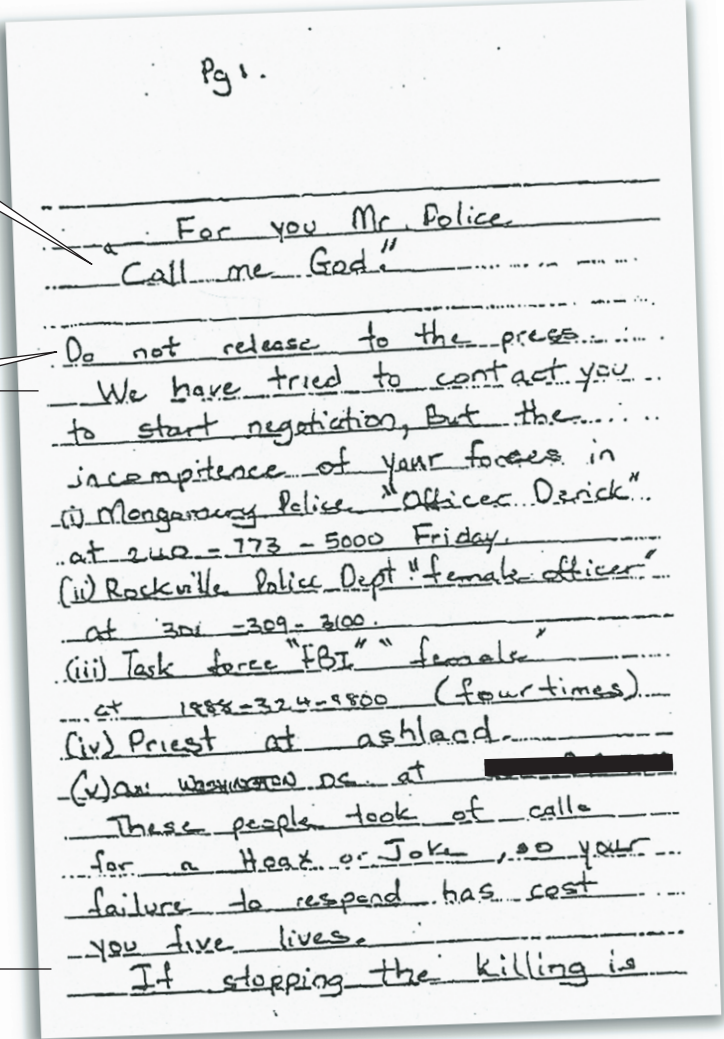
The sniper left a written communication at three of the crime scenes: a tarot card Oct. 7 near Benjamin Tasker Middle School, a three-page letter Oct. 19 near the Ashland, Va., Ponderosa restaurant and a shorter letter Tuesday near a Ride On bus staging area. The following is a copy of the first letter:



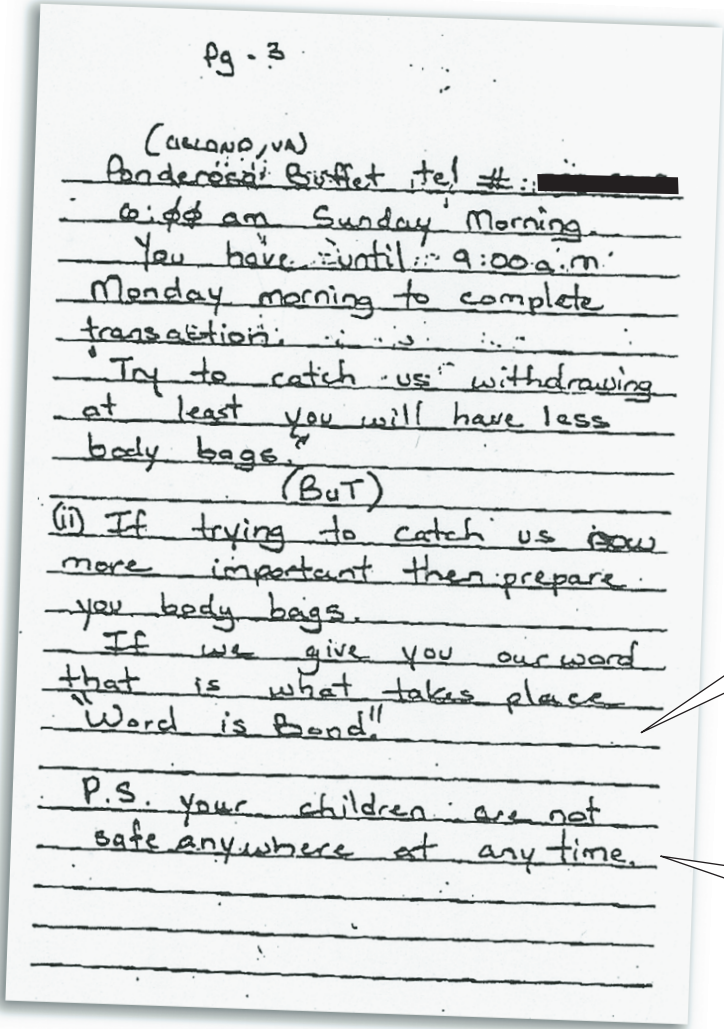
A similar phrase was also written on the tarot card left at the Oct. 7 shooting at Benjamin Tasker Middle School.

Sniper instructs authorities not to release this message to the media.

Sniper voices frustration over failed attempts to contact authorities and a failure on authorities' part to take the sniper seriously.



Sniper instructs authorities to transfer \$10 million into a Visa credit card account. The account belongs to a woman who reported the card stolen in California. The card was later used in Tacoma, Wash.



Montgomery County Police Chief Charles A. Moose uses the phrase "our word is our bond" during a message to the sniper Wednesday night to echo the language "word is bond" in the letter.

Threat against children appears in both letters.

LETTER26
PROOF 2

Desk: metro
Run Date: 10 / 26 / 02
CCI suffix: AAA
Size: 59 p8 x 12.5"