

MEPHISTOPHELEAN INSTITUTE OF TURPITUDE
Certificate of Really Really Evil Achievement

WE HEREBY LAUD AND RECOGNIZE

The Evil Midnight Bombers What Bomb At Midnight

REGARDING OUTSTANDING EFFORTS IN THE EVIL DISCIPLINE OF SELLING ONE'S SOUL

5
6 **WHEREAS** your team displayed that rare strength of character to embrace the principle of winning at any cost. Now that you've taken a **cursorly**
7 glance at this contract, take this moment to enjoy that newfound sense of accomplishment. After all, isn't it great to have that shiny new **penny**?
8 Heck, you can't exactly buy a gumball with a *soul*, now can you?

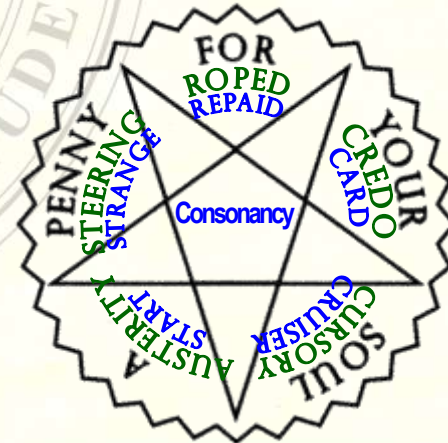
9 **WHEREAS** **your** team showed an impressive resolve in holding the line and **steering** clear of the temptation to be good. Who isn't tired of that
10 boring **credo** of righteousness from those pesky angels anyway? We bet you can't fly away from trouble on your little pigeon wings, right? Best to
11 kick those haloheads to the curb and enjoy the good times down here with us.

12 **WHEREAS** your team found itself without a hope in Hell of winning the Mystery Hunt. But wait! Hell is a very hopeful place! Merely by cashing
13 in something you were never going to use in **a** million years, you gained all the hope you needed to win! Beat that, Heaven!

14 **WHEREAS** your team was undergoing a painful hardship, the stark **austerity** of a life without certainty. But now you're certain you're going to
15 Hell! See how refreshing that is? Oh sure, there will be an *eternity* of hardship once you're through here, but **for** now, kick back and enjoy life.
16 What little you have left, anyway. We would like to assure you that once you're **roped** into one of our contracts, we'll make certain it's honored
17 as soon as possible. That's the Mephistophelean Institute of Turpitude guarantee.

18 IN LIGHT OF THESE COMPETENCIES, YOUR TEAM IS HEREBY AWARDED
19 **ITS VERY FIRST NOTCH ON ITS EVILOMETER™**
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REGARDING OUTSTANDING EFFORTS IN THE EVIL DISCIPLINE OF THE PERFORMING ARTS

5
6 WHEREAS your team took the phrase “Break a leg!” to be your surest way out of understudydom.

7 WHEREAS your team began your entertainment career doing stock theater productions of critically praised plays like the works of Isherwood,
8 Ibsen, and Pinter. You trembled every time you set foot on the stage. You began to conquer your stage fright once you started acting in things
9 people actually liked.

10 WHEREAS your team accepted an Oscar on behalf of Marlon Brando. You’re sure it wasn’t, like, stolen or anything.

11 WHEREAS your team signed on to assistant-direct a \$325 million Michael Bay stinkfest just so you could say, “Really, it could have made a
12 fortune in the hands of a competent director.” (Hey, I’m sure advice like that led the studio to give a hack like Bay his first break anyway.)

13 WHEREAS your team spent nine days memorizing the “Once more unto the breach” speech from Act III of Henry V, then discovered the director
14 decided to “modern it up” by replacing it with “Let’s get bizay!” He’s on a cloud in heaven right now. Good job, you.

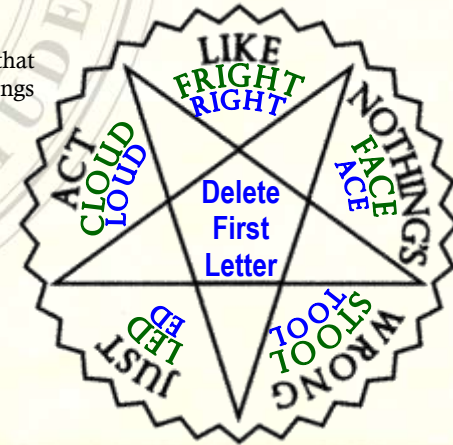
15 WHEREAS your team found that nothing’s scarier than an early morning script rewrite. But you never got flustered, not you. On the contrary, you
16 were able to keep a straight face, spew out the lines you already knew, and then threaten to walk if the scriptwriter wasn’t banned from the set.
17 Writers, man. Serves them right for tangling with the wrong thespian.

18 WHEREAS your team produced a body of work so pungent, so vile, so utterly devoid of quality, that
19 you’ve got a permanent stool with your name on it at the Hellzapoppin’ Bar. Meanwhile, nightly showings
20 of your oeuvre are playing at the Hell Plaza Octoplex. Keep up the good work!

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REGARDING OUTSTANDING EFFORTS IN THE EVIL DISCIPLINE OF SPORTS

5
6 **WHEREAS** your team often says that it's not whether you win or lose, but whether you've signed your guaranteed contract first. As any red-shirt
7 freshman knows, you **can't** spell PLAY THE GAME without PAY ME.

8 **WHEREAS** your team knows that it's always three strikes and you're out. Of course, if the **last** pitch is a passed ball, the runner at third advances to
9 home plate, as perhaps **do** other runners. And if the throw from home winds up in the outfield....

10 **WHEREAS** your team is aware that one *can* study thermonuclear **fission** dynamics in college, you know that the sorority babes are more likely to
11 put out for the Phys Ed major than the Physics major.

12 **WHEREAS** your team would gladly miss practice to film a Chunky Soup commercial. You'd probably miss the Super Bowl to do so.

13 **WHEREAS** your team values muscles, it's **those** dedicated sports players **who** commit themselves to having a modicum of finesse that will break
14 away from the pack. You need to develop a **soft** touch and be **light** on your feet. That'll get you on *Dancing With The Stars* like Jerry and Emmitt.

15 **WHEREAS** your team believes a little pine tar or stickum never hurt anyone. If you're not gonna **cheat** at something, you just don't care if you win.

16 **WHEREAS** your team knows those who work hard will grow swift and **strong**, but not as much as those who
17 have a good pharmacist.

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REGARDING OUTSTANDING EFFORTS IN THE EVIL DISCIPLINE OF CRIME

5
6 **WHEREAS** your team showed that possession is nine tenths of the law, but you're working on the other tenth.

7 **WHEREAS** your team demonstrated not merely a healthy disrespect for the law, but mocked it openly so that **no men** would follow such freakin'
8 nonsense.

9 **WHEREAS** your team showed accomplishment in the planning, administration, and execution of gang hits and turf **wars**. The **city** streets run red
10 with the blood of your enemies!

11 **WHEREAS** your team evinced an innate ability to spew out fairy **tales** on the witness stand, while looking into the camera and smiling like a
12 goddamn girl scout.

13 **WHEREAS** your team showed a superior talent for spending **days** hanging out with the boys, while spending nights cleaning out warehouses.

14 **WHEREAS** your team demonstrated the ability to not only dominate men, but to maim them in really creative ways. So that they wish they
15 were **dead**. So that their own mothers can't even **tell** who they are. Yuck.

16 **WHEREAS** your team wasn't content with just hitting your **target**, but really smacking it. Hard. With a
17 four **wood**. In the temple.

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REGARDING OUTSTANDING EFFORTS IN THE EVIL DISCIPLINE OF WRITING

5
6 **WHEREAS** your team proved that sometimes, a blank piece of paper is the best it's ever going to be.

7 **WHEREAS** your team was assigned to **work** on an exhaustive treatment of the development of the Mayan matriarchy, and made your primary
8 source your bookie in Tijuana.

9 **WHEREAS** your team spent a **week** knocking out your latest novel, then claimed **you** needed a three year research trip in the Bahamas to **get** the
10 sequel done. It's for the fans. Trust me, *Harry Potter and the Shortage of Sun Umbrellas* is a great title.

11 **WHEREAS** your team could **write** under pressure, valuing the achievement of a deadline far more highly than quality, accuracy, or originality.
12 "The pen is the window to the soul" is just a **phase** you'd like to forget from junior high. (Oooh, memoir topic!)

13 **WHEREAS** your team demonstrated the propensity for blowing your advance on prostitutes and beer **when** on a national book tour, without
14 telling your agent first. But Jesus Christ on a plate of noodles, who knew the minibar at the Embassy **Suites** had a never-ending supply of
15 Fluffernutters?

16 **WHEREAS** your team showed that when you are paid by the word, you will write the friggin' dictionary.

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REGARDING OUTSTANDING EFFORTS IN THE EVIL DISCIPLINE OF GETTING RICH QUICK

5
6
7
WHEREAS your team supported the notion that all citizens of this great nation, regardless of race, creed, or age, are accorded the inalienable right to be fleeced. There's nothing so patriotic as a busful of senior citizens handing you twenties like they're going out of style.

8
9
WHEREAS your team believes there's a sucker born every minute. Seriously, hit the neonatal wards. Conning a newborn out of a pacifier on his first day on earth is every fast talker's first job. It's like taking candy from... well, you know.

10
WHEREAS your team wooed an heiress for weeks, pretending to be a lover of the ballet. Okay, if it's in a strip club....

11
12
WHEREAS your team, after taking prepaid orders to outfit the local tykes with musical instruments, had to get out of town in a hurry. That's trouble with a capital "T," and that rhymes with "P," and that stands for "Prison."

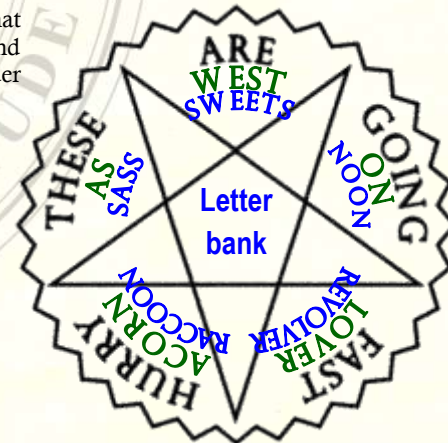
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14
WHEREAS your team could sell a squirrel an acorn in his own oak tree. Do you think the lady squirrels are looking for a male who hoards ordinary acorns, Mr. Puffycheeks? No, I didn't think so.

15
WHEREAS your team bought a dream house in West Palm without putting a penny down. How'd I do it? Buy my book and I'll tell you.

16
17
18
19
WHEREAS your team, at the impressionable age of seven and a half, cried to your respective mothers that you really really oh my god really needed these cereals and not those, because if you got those cereals and not these, you wouldn't get as many Honey Smacks boxtops as you needed to get your Dig 'Em Decoder Ring, that, I'm sorry, needs to be able to decode more than "Eat more cereal!" I mean, come on.

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REGARDING OUTSTANDING EFFORTS IN THE EVIL DISCIPLINE OF LAW AND GOVERNMENT

5
6
7
WHEREAS your team sought power for power's sake, rather than any policy goals. You'd gladly chair the Subcommittee on Livestock and Horticulture, without really knowing what horticulture is, or for that matter what subcommittees are. But hey, those guys get the best fried chicken.

8
9
WHEREAS your team would vigorously defend a vicious lowlife accused of filleting a schoolteacher with a traditional Finnish puukko knife, knowing you had only the sparsest possibility of acquittal. That is, as long as Court TV was there.

10
11
WHEREAS your team demonstrated an unyielding adherence to the governing principle of "One Man, One Vote." After all, a good Diebold machine can make any number of men out of a string of ones and zeroes, so one vote each should be fine.

12
WHEREAS your team, upon its ascension to office, was sworn in to hold up the laws of our country. I mean, "uphold." Yeah, that's the ticket.

13
14
WHEREAS your team believes the children are our future. Teach them well and let them lead the way... into hostile territory. You can always get more children.

15
16
17
WHEREAS your team, like Judi Dench's *Casino Royale* character, misses the Cold War. Back then, every harebrained scheme under the sun could be justified by a simple "Better dead than red!" mantra. Back then, you could get Americans to support giving a Congressional Medal of Honor to Pol Pot if he'd just killed the Commies first. Y'know, if he wasn't one.

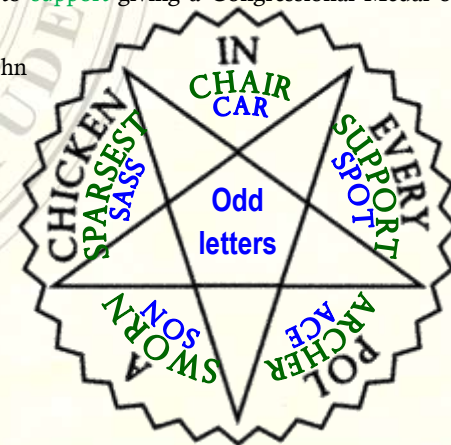
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19
WHEREAS your team believes politics should be like a Jeffrey Archer potboiler, and law like a John Grisham thriller. Good works may be ephemeral, but scandal lasts forever.

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REGARDING OUTSTANDING EFFORTS IN THE EVIL DISCIPLINE OF MASS MANIPULATION

5
6 **WHEREAS** your team gained control of the airwaves and riled the populace with a staged Martian invasion on Halloween. This was a fine
7 diversion from your *real* Martian invasion, which **won't** happen till Earth Day. Got to keep those SETI freaks distracted.

8 **WHEREAS** your team won the hearts of its followers with a steely **gaze** and a hand on the Good Book. Well, okay, it was the latest Jackie Collins
9 novel, but who's gonna know **this**? They only look behind the pulpit when they think you've got a stripper stashed there.

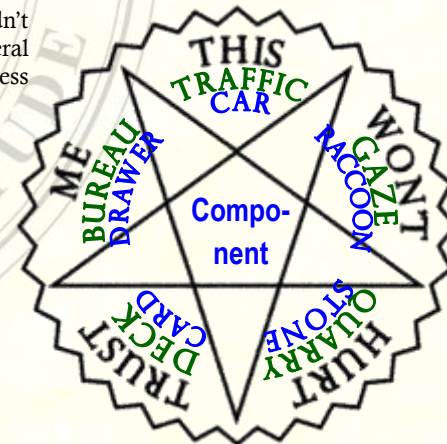
10 **WHEREAS** your team, just for a lark, rewired all the **traffic** signals in town to flash in Morse code, spelling dash-dash-dot dash-dash-dash on red
11 lights and dot-dot-dot dash dash-dash-dash dot-dash-dash-dot on green lights. Hey, a little clean fun never **hurt** a soul.

12 **WHEREAS** your team launched a TV show where viewers can help track down criminals. They thrill as you hunt down your **quarry** and beat him
13 to a pulp. And there are so many criminals these days. All these journalists and regulators and people in your own organization who don't **trust**
14 you to think for them. Who loves you and who do you love?

15 **WHEREAS** your team began playing "Silent Night" and "**Deck** the Halls" in July. Christmas carols make bikini shopping much more festive.

16 **WHEREAS** your team swore it would be struck down by the wrath of a vengeful God if viewers didn't
17 send in \$59.99 to your toll free number. Apparently "Show **me** the money!" is not something the federal
18 government wants to hear from a televangelist. Word is, you set a record for calls to the Better Business
19 **Bureau** before the end of a telecast. Well, no matter. Faith doesn't give refunds, baby.

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REGARDING OUTSTANDING EFFORTS IN THE EVIL DISCIPLINE OF ADVANCED WORLD DOMINATION

WHEREAS your team beat back all challengers to become the most powerful force in the world. More powerful even than Oprah.

WHEREAS your team gained control of all of the **world's** governments and religions through a strict regimen of malevolent effort that is unparalleled throughout human history. During your meteoric ascension, each dark **deed** has been meticulously planned, efficiently executed, and ceaselessly advertised. Heaven may have the miracles, but **Hell** has the best marketing firms.

WHEREAS your team composed an Evil World Anthem to be sung by schoolchildren and military choruses everywhere. The instrumental **banjo** and theremin version replaces all school fight songs, and the a cappella version is the only song permitted **to** be performed by barbershop quartets. Wait, scratch that. Whatever a barbershop quartet sings will be evil anyway.

WHEREAS your team drafted a rough **layout** for a Middle East Peace Plan. Everybody gets kicked off the land except for the employees of your oil company. Presto, instant peace.

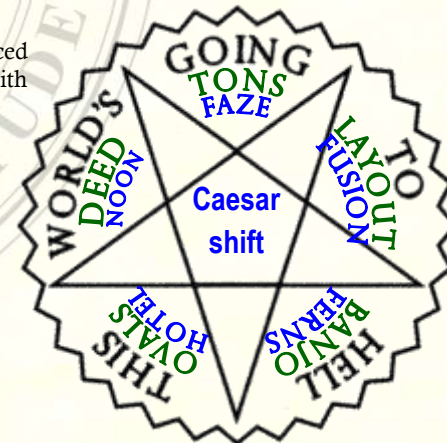
WHEREAS your team wasn't satisfied with keeping the military industrial complex **going** at full strength. That's too challenging for the drooling drones. Your new military industrial **simplex** will be taught in the world's kindergartens. Thus, **tons** of ordnance will be stamped out each day before naptime. You put down that arming mechanism **this** minute, Billy Patterson!

WHEREAS your team, after a long night of drinking, decreed that perfection was obsolete. You replaced all circles with **ovals**, all perfect squares with the square root of negative one, and Scarlett Johanssen with Roseanne.

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REGARDING OUTSTANDING EFFORTS IN THE EVIL DISCIPLINE OF GOING STRAIGHT TO HELL

5
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9
WHEREAS your team has proved its ability to *get it done*. You're able to accomplish any task, at any time. In fact, the less qualified you are, the more fun it is—snap, the job's **a** game! Whatever the role is, you are the consummate impostor. Whether **it's** an archbishop ("Pray, Lord, not of thee but for thine bell to **toll**, amen.") or a surgeon ("Give me fifty ccs of Ofukitol, **stat!**"), improvisation is your forte. Except for that time you tried to fly the space shuttle—close, **but** no cigar.

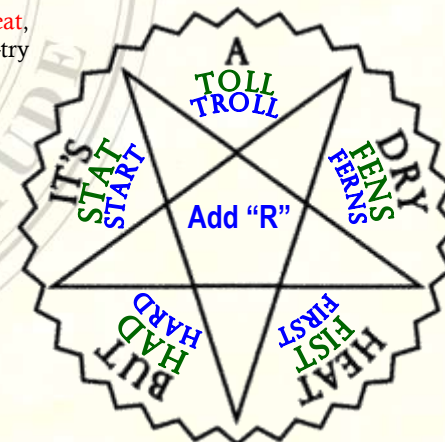
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13
WHEREAS your team has established your reputation throughout the evil community. Whatever low opinion of you they might once have **had**, they're sure scared of you now. You make Capone look like Bambi—no baseball bats for you; you weed out the slackers with your trusty bazooka. Now *that* inspires teamwork. Not that you haven't shown a softer side. When you begged that judge for *just one more chance*, there wasn't a **dry** eye in the house. "Oh, the poor man." Suckers.

14
15
16
WHEREAS your team has finally moved out of your stepmom's basement apartment down by the **Fens**, and come to live downtown (and I mean *way* down) where the action is. Welcome to Mephistopolis, my friends—don't mind that sulfur stench. Pretty soon, you'll come to enjoy to its oaky subtlety. I love the smell of brimstone in the morning; it smells like *villainy*.

17
18
19
WHEREAS your team seems really anxious to step up to the table, roll up your sleeves, turn up the **heat**, pull out the stops—and actually get something done around here. But maybe you're a bit *too* anxious—try not to put your **fist** through the boss's door when you finally get to knock on it...

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IN LIGHT OF THESE COMPETENCIES, YOUR TEAM IS HEREBY AWARDED
AN IMPORTANT STACK OF PAPERWORK
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REGARDING OUTSTANDING EFFORTS IN THE EVIL DISCIPLINE OF BEING A DAMNED NUISANCE

5
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8
WHEREAS now your team has really crossed the line. You probably even think you're evil enough to replace me. You think that evil is as easy as putting on a devil costume and waving a pitchfork around? You think it's as simple as serving up three quarts of lima bean soup with a loaded diaper lurking in the pot? You are all amateurs.

9
10
11
12
WHEREAS your team thinks you're due for some kind of reward. You rats may have scurried about these last few days acting like good little henchmen, learning your little evil lessons and ascending the ranks of the incompetent, but why should that earn you anything? I am the Devil; Lord knows I've been at this for an eternity and my only payoff is having to endure upstarts like you. If I want goodies, I have to go loot the Vatican.

13
14
15
16
WHEREAS your team thinks my motto ought to be, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." Well here's a new one for you: "Get your lazy asses back to work." After all, you are in HELL—a coffee break would pretty much defeat the purpose, now, wouldn't it? Oh, and if by any chance you might be hoping for a promotion, I'd say a snowball has a better chance in here than you have of making it past Assistant Devil. But, hey, maybe in four eons—five, tops—you'll finally earn that pointy tail you've had your eye on. Neat-o.

17
NOW GET TO IT!

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IN LIGHT OF THESE INCOMPETENCIES, YOUR TEAM IS HEREBY AWARDED
AN ETERNAL POSITION AS ASSISTANT DEVIL
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