

'Army of God' says it bombed gay nightclub, abortion clinic

ATLANTA (AP) — The FBI received a letter Monday claiming responsibility for both the abortion clinic bombings in Atlanta last month and Friday's bombing at a gay and lesbian nightclub.

The letter, purportedly from a group called the Army of God, was mailed to the Reuters news agency Saturday and was turned over to the FBI on Monday.

FBI spokesman Jay Spadafore would not comment on the authenticity of the letter. Robert Basler, Reuters' domestic news editor in Washington, D.C., described it as "handwritten, 2½ pages long, and unsigned."

The letter threatened "total war" against the federal government, said abortion would not be tolerated and promised future attacks on homosexuals.

It also sought to set up a system so that claims of responsibility could be confirmed after future bombings.

"We're taking it seriously. We're looking into the validity of the letter and the claims that they're making,"

said Pamela Swanson, a spokeswoman for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

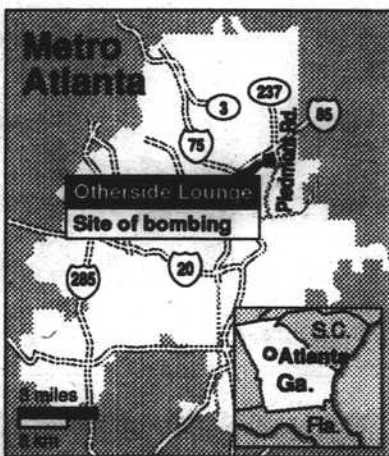
The Army of God has produced an underground manual that describes how to blow up abortion clinics.

A nail-laden device exploded Friday on a rear patio area of The Otherside Lounge, injuring five people. Police found a second bomb shortly after arriving at the scene. It was detonated with a remote-controlled robot.

Authorities continue to investigate possible links between the nightclub bombing, the two blasts at a Sandy Springs abortion clinic on Jan. 16, and a bomb explosion at Centennial Olympic Park last summer.

Shrapnel and parts of the bomb were being discovered several hundred feet away from the nightclub, including on the tops of buildings, said Bobby Browning, spokesman for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

"I know it's obvious to everyone, so I will go ahead and confirm it:



There were nails in some of the bombs in all three incidents. There were not nails in every device, but there were nails in at least one at each incident," Browning said.

More than 50 federal agents have been assigned to the case, including the same task force that investigated the bombing at the Atlanta Northside Family Planning clinic.

Brave Ewe World? Clone a hairy issue

News Analysis

NEW YORK — Around the world, biologists gathered at laboratory water coolers Monday to assess the latest installment in a gripping biotech soap opera — the creation, as if by magic, of a wee lamb named Dolly.

Scottish scientists have revealed that they used a mammary cell from an adult ewe to create little Dolly in the spitting genetic image of its mother. They've successfully repeated the experiment eight times since then.

The achievement raises countless questions about fate, immortality and the nature of self. But none of that will apply to humans or anything else unless scientists can duplicate their feat in other creatures.

Years of failed experiments suggest that won't be easy.

"There's certainly no way to rule out the possibility, but I wouldn't wager an awful lot that it would ever be successful in humans in the foreseeable future," said David Kirk, an embryologist at Washington University.

Even if it is, experts are split on how similar a human clone would be to its progenitor. A clone would look almost identical to the person who spawned it, biologists said, but personality or susceptibility to some diseases could still vary quite a bit. Childhood nutrition and even a mother's experiences dur-

ing pregnancy can affect how a person turns out just as much as genes do.

That means the chances of evil Nazis reproducing dozens of little Hitlers with blood from a handkerchief, as they did in the 1978 movie "The Boys from Brazil," are pretty remote. Never mind the fact that blood cells don't have nuclei, so there's no genetic material in them to clone.

So it's a bit too early to mourn the end of sex and declare a "Brave New World" in which people have first names and model numbers.

In fact, there seems to be something unique about sheep that makes them especially suitable for cloning. Researchers have tried for decades to do the same trick with frogs and mice, with no luck. Frogs cloned from adults die in the tadpole stage. And cloned mice don't develop far beyond an undifferentiated ball of cells.

So what is it about sheep? Nobody knows. But if someone can figure it out, they may be able to extend the cloning process to pigs, cows, maybe even people.

That would be a boon to the biotechnology industry, which could use the Scottish cloning process to make specially designed pigs and cattle for organ transplantation.

Shooter leaves note blaming U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) - The Palestinian teacher who went on a fatal shooting rampage atop the Empire State Building carried a note blaming the United States for using Israel as "an instrument" against his people.

The note, found in Ali Hassan Abu Kamal's pocket, contains "rambling, angry stuff," a high-ranking police source said Monday night.

Written in English and Arabic, it also expresses animosity against France and England and indicated that Abu Kamal planned to vent that anger at the Empire State Building, the

source said. The man's family claimed the shooting had nothing to do with politics.

The landmark building was fitted with an airport-style baggage scanner and two metal detectors Monday. The mayor blamed the shootings on laws that allowed the man to buy a gun just weeks after he came to America.

Seven tourists were shot Sunday, one fatally, on the 86th-floor observation deck of the famous landmark, long a symbol of romance and tour-

ism. The gunman, Ali Hassan Abu Kamal, then killed himself.

That Abu Kamal — a 69-year-old Palestinian in the country only two months — could buy a Beretta semi-automatic handgun "is totally insane," Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said at a news conference.

An anti-terrorist task force was still part of the investigation, Police Commissioner Howard Safir said, but so far it had found no evidence that Abu Kamal was aligned with any terrorist group.

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Questions? Comments? Ask for the appropriate section editor at 472-2588 or e-mail dn@unlinfo.unl.edu.

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