

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Supernatural Cases Division

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

PRECEDENCE: Urgent Seasonal
FROM: Agent 99
ATTENTION: All Agents

SYNOPSIS: Current intel regarding Holiday Conflict, inclusive of case developments

DETAILS: Previously stable levels are changing at alarming rates due to drastic increases in background magic, requiring an agency-wide update to procedural guidelines for handling supernatural activity caused by the annual Holiday Conflict. The following information will alter agent assignments for November, December, and January in our efforts to mitigate the Conflict's effects on the mundane population.

Red Faction: Santa Claus reached full magical status seven days ahead of schedule, likely in reaction to the early stage influence of Black Friday (see below). His avatars have been spotted at malls and grocery stores across the country, many of whom are manifesting complete abilities. Elf numbers are at an all-time low; Agent 97 has raised concerns about sustainable regeneration given lack of belief in Santa elves versus Faerie elves. Reindeer population remains stable.

Suggested action: Increased observation by rookie agents; ensure Santa avatars and imposters are accompanied by no less than one (1) elf when in public to increase race belief.

Black Friday: Rumor suggests this newcomer has achieved paragon status and acquired a body via personification. RCCC Lorekeeper insists this is not possible. However, Agent 66 suggests that the event's viral spread to multiple countries and increased calendar days combined with unprecedented background magic may have unanticipated consequences. Black Friday's meteoric rise in power and apparent alliance with Red Faction have tipped the balance of the Conflict. Red and Black together comprise fifty-

two percent of forces; this means that Shining Star is no longer in control (see below), requiring immediate action.

Suggested action: Investigation required; escort being to DC office for questioning and registration; encourage anti-Black Friday protests to reduce impact on Conflict.

The Coalition: Standard reconnaissance indicates that this alliance may be at the breaking point. Hanukkah remains strong, but Kwanzaa and Beltane appear to be weakening. Faction's impact on Conflict is wavering, and loyalty could be faltering. Danger of death or cannibalism high.

Suggested action: Monitoring of all three personifications; covert security detail on Hanukkah; notification to supernal hospice of potential new admits.

Shining Star: Jesus is continues to be MIA, and other members of the Secluded Council refuse to give information on his whereabouts. Statistics indicate this faction's power is slipping, allowing Red Faction and Black Friday to seize control of the Conflict. Given this information, in addition to Lucifer's reincarnation, Lorekeeper suggests Jesus may have left the Council for Perat or that he has died. Neither can be substantiated at this time. However, as either circumstance has major consequences for the magical ecosystem, the SCD is now required to investigate Jesus' absence.

Suggested action: One (1) agent from each office assigned to this case as Missing Persons; intelligence gathering on location and condition; to be escorted to DC office for questioning when found.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Agents, I understand that you are already over-assigned and worn thin in this stressful time of increased activity. However, this year's changes are notable for their potential to tip the tenuous balance of the Holiday Conflict from covertly manageable to all-out breach. It will take the effort of all agents to ensure the magical world is protected during this season of upheaval. Cooperation and compliance with agency directives will make peace possible. Do not lose hope, agents. We are all that stands between life and death, for supernaturals and mundanes alike.

"Memo: Holiday Conflict": A Forgotten Relics short story by Ellie Di Julio

Select your preference: Happy Holidays/Merry Christmas/Happy Hanukkah/Happy Kwanzaa/Blessed Beltane/ Happy Festivus/NA

Agent 99, Samir Patel, Assistant Director
(on behalf of Agent 100, Dora Boxer, Director)