

THE CASE OF BILLY MILLIGAN

Known as the 'Campus Rapist', Milligan came to the public attention because he was arrested after a series of three rapes carried out in 1977 at Ohio State University. The evidence against him was overwhelming - handcuffs and weapons were found at his flat, as well as the credit cards of victims, and he was identified from fingerprints and mugshots. Initially, he was diagnosed as having schizophrenia and had an IQ of 68 (low level of intelligence). He was therefore considered unfit to stand trial for his crimes. A psychiatrist, Dr Cornelia Wilbur, was called in and diagnosed him with Dissociative Identity Disorder (multiple personality disorder). Milligan entered a plea of not guilty on the grounds that one of his 'alters' (Adalana, the lesbian) had committed the crimes. He reported 24 different personalities, three of whom were female, with nationalities that included Australian, British, and Yugoslavian, and backgrounds ranging from criminal to weapons experts and lesbian poets. Others, were felt to be undesirable and were suppressed by Arthur, the dominant alter who decided who should be allowed to "hold the spot". *Some of Billy Milligan's alters:*

BILLY (26): the core personality, a high school drop-out

ARTHUR (22): English, rational, emotionless, wore glasses and read Arabic. A capitalist and an atheist. He dominated the others (except when the situation was dangerous) and decided who will 'come out'.

RAGAN (23): Yugoslavian, could speak English only with a Slavic accent, and had a dropping moustache. Read Serbo-Croatian, did drawings, was a karate and munitions expert with a criminal record. He was a communist and an atheist. His role was to protect the other, and he was predominant when there was danger.

ALLEN (18): the only right-handed alter, smoked cigarettes and parted his hair on the side. Played the drums and was a manipulative con-man.

TOMMY (16): played the saxophone, painted and was knowledgeable about electronics. Generally, antisocial. An escapologist who demonstrated his ability to escape from straightjackets while on remand.

CHRISTENE (3): a British girl who drew butterflies and flowers.

ADALANA (19): a shy lesbian, who wrote poetry and liked cooking and housework.

DAVID (8): small, highly sensitive. His job was to absorb all the pain felt by the others.

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Some of these personalities consented to take IQ tests, making it possible to compare their scores. These ranged from a low level of intelligence (David) to superior intelligence (Allen). Milligan claimed to have been abused as a child by his step-father, who threatened to bury him alive if he talked about it to anyone. At one stage of the trial, his brother was able to partially corroborate the allegations of abuse.

Pre-trial treatment was given for a period of 3 months to partially fuse the personalities, so that Milligan would be fit to stand trial. He was found not guilty of rape and kidnapping by reason of insanity. He was admitted to a psychiatric unit and eventually released in 1988 with his personality alleged fused. Subsequently, he was arrested for another crime in 1996, but there was no claim of multiple personality disorder.

In terms of legal implications, Cave (2002) reports that Milligan was the first person in the USA to be acquitted of a major crime because of an insanity plea based on multiple personality disorder.

Multiple-Personality Figure Allegedly Threatens Judge in San Diego

June 25, 1996

SAN DIEGO (AP) - An Ohio man found innocent of rape in 1978 after claiming he had multiple personalities has been jailed in California for allegedly threatening a judge.

Billy Milligan, who is awaiting a psychiatric evaluation, also has been found incompetent to manage his own affairs, The Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch reported today.

Milligan, who moved to California from Columbus several years ago, was being held without bail in the federal Metropolitan Corrections Center on criminal contempt charges. Milligan's court-appointed attorney, Gretchen von Helms, said Milligan allegedly referred to strapping explosives to his chest to get attention. He also allegedly talked about banging on a judge's door and robbing a bank, the newspaper said.

Ohio officials remain interested in Milligan because they want to tap into royalties from a book deal to help pay part of the \$453,000 bill for his 11-year stay in state mental hospitals.

Ohio Attorney General Betty Montgomery, acting through special counsel Larry Branch, a San Diego attorney, is seeking \$150,000 from the proceeds of foreign sales of "The Minds of Billy Milligan," a book Milligan wrote with Daniel Keyes. The book did not sell well in the United States but did well in Japan, The Dispatch said.

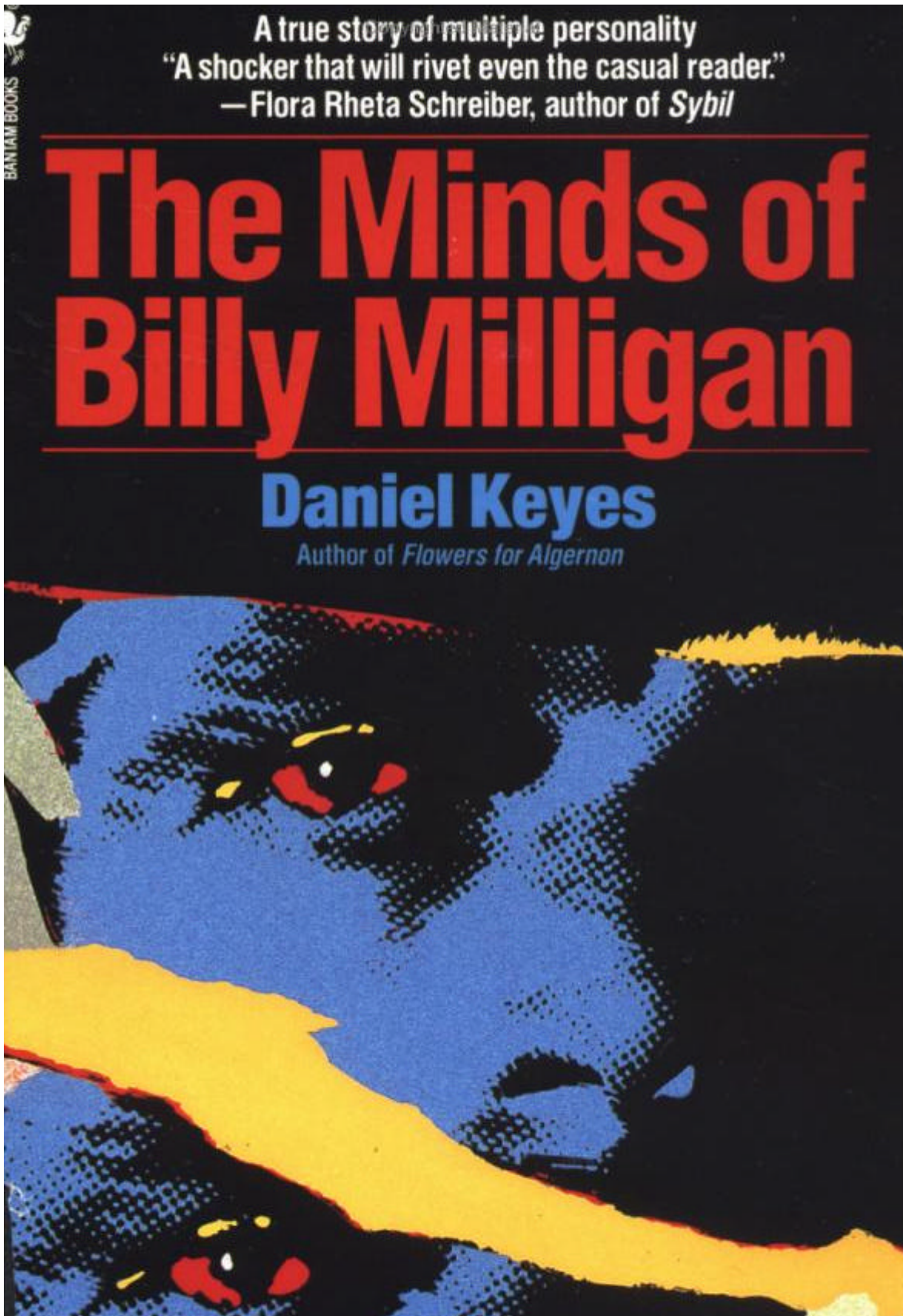
Once Ohio officials tried to claim his assets, his troubles returned, Milligan told The San Diego Union-Tribune. "Everybody's gotten a piece of me, but I didn't get anything," Milligan told the newspaper. "Now they're all trying to make me sick again so they can take away my money."

Milligan was found innocent by reason of insanity on charges that he kidnapped, raped and robbed three women in the Ohio State University area. He was released in 1988 after spending a decade in mental hospitals. Psychiatrists said Milligan's 24 personalities had merged into one and that he no longer posed a threat to himself or the community.

The state says Milligan owes \$303,000 for hospital stays and \$150,000 in interest on the debt, bringing the total to \$453,000. He has paid \$9,000 of that amount.

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Find out more about Billy Milligan:



Nicole Letch 2004, adapted from Cave (2002)