

Grant Flagellate Teaches How to Make a Bomb

By Jason Klus

The Special Agent talks to FBI Supervisor

Special agent Frank Excursus entered FBI Supervisor Ardor Dragoon's office. The supervisor kept reading the paper in front of him for a few seconds before looking up.

"What can I do for you today Frank?"

"Well, Ardor, we just found out that an American citizen has just posted detailed instructions on how to make a homemade bomb on the internet."

"That is not illegal. However that is stupid and childish but how is that different from the countless others that are already online?"

"I have been assured that these particular instructions are carefully designed to kill anyone who tries to follow them which make it attempted murder."

"Shut down the site and bring the perpetrator in. What is the perpetrator's name?"

"His name is Grant Flagellate."

The Arrest

Grant Flagellate sat in front of his computer playing a video game when he saw a clearly unmarked police car pull into the lot. Two men in cheap suits got out of the vehicle and started heading toward his door. He quickly saved his game so as not to lose his hard work and grabbed his windbreaker. After all it was quite blustery out. As one of the men raised his fist to knock on the door, Grant pulled the door open and leaned out.

"Hello gentlemen. Can I help you?"

"We are looking for Grant Flagellate. Are you him?"

"Why yes gentleman, I am."

The two men looked briefly at each other and then the older man pulled out his badge.

"FBI agent Sanchez. You are wanted for the crime of attempted murder. Turn around and on your knees so we can kuff you."

Grant did exactly as he was told and got into the car without any protest. When they reached their destination, Grant was escorted to an interrogation room where he sat and waited patiently.

The Interview

FBI agent Frank walked into the interrogation and looked across the table at the mousy little man seated across from him.

“Mr. Flagellate, I am agent Excursus but for the purpose of this interview, you can call me Frank. Do you know why you are here?”

“Well Frank, It could be so many things that it might be faster if you just told me. All I know is that your men stated I attempted to murder someone which I find to be a little shocking.”

“You have been read your rights and I am told you have vocally reserved your right to a lawyer for now. Do you think this is wise?”

“I have a feeling that if I was wise then I wouldn’t be here, Frank.”

“I am afraid I have to agree with you. Did you write the following document?”

Frank handed over a copy of the instructions to build a bomb that was taken from Grant’s website.

“Yeah, I did write this.” responded Grant because in fact he had.

“Are you aware that each and every step has a part embedded in it that is almost certain to kill or maim. For example on the first step where you are boiling cleaning products, you recommend that the person seal all ventilation in the kitchen so no one can tell what the person is doing. I have been assured that the likely outcome of this is surely the death of the reader.”

Grant smiled, “Yes, I am aware that the plans I have offered contain certain flaws.”

“Are these flaws intentional?”

“Yes, they are. However this plan is speech and I believe I am afforded the right of free speech, am I not?”

Now it was Franks turn to smile. “You are indeed afforded that right as long as you are not *‘knowingly making a false statement of fact which can almost always be punished.’* In fact you indeed just admitted to making a false statement with an intention to kill or maim. To me this means that this document isn’t just words but it is a murder weapon. I intend to put you away for a long time. What if a kid attempted this and killed himself? “

“Killing children would certainly have been an unintended outcome but in some very dark ways, it might have strengthened society a bit. Do you think you can control what is online for the entire world when most of the world isn’t in your jurisdiction? I think a child attempting this would lead to every adult sitting down and talking to their children about the dangers that lurk in the marketplace of ideas.

Already it seems like half of America is willing to digest anything said in the press whether it is truth or falsehood surrounded by false or massaged statistics. I think it would be a good reminder to society that free speech isn't free but it comes at the price of being faced with risk."

Frank's jaw dropped at the cold calculatedness of the small figure in front of him.

"I thought you were an idiot trying to annoy the government to see what it would do but instead you really are a monster."

"No sir, I am not a monster. I hoped that the result would not be the death of someone trying to make a bomb for fun but I realized the possibility exists. As for whether I wind up in jail that is a matter for the courts not us. You take away my free speech defense but that is a defense I have no intention of using. There are two facts that are glaring, the first is that it is illegal to make a homemade bomb in the US and second we have the right to self-defense. The person making the bomb illegally could very well intend to use it on me or someone else. As you know the right to self-defense includes defending others. The only person that weapon you hold in your hand is dangerous to, is someone breaking the law who also has a high potential to be out to hurt innocents. Maybe even an innocent such as myself."

"Grant there is no way that defense will fly."

"You don't understand. The goal shouldn't be the limiting of what people can write but teaching people how to be safe in an environment that you can't make safe. You can try to run around and take out all the Grants in the US and have the end result of living with all the Grants that live around the world. You will in essence have spent massive amounts of energy with the end result being you have achieved nothing. The other way to go is to educate your citizens so that your citizens can appropriately choose in the marketplace of ideas. It is the government's call. You know what I find scary?"

"What is that?"

"If I had released plans for a homemade bomb that could kill hundreds and somebody executed those plans and successfully killed hundreds, I would be completely within my rights according to the individuals who make and enforce the law. However, attempting to curb people from making bombs and doing whatever they read on the internet could lead to life in jail."

Two Weeks Later

Special agent Frank Excursus entered FBI Supervisor Ardor Dragoon's office. The supervisor kept reading the paper in front of him for a few seconds before looking up.

"What can I do for you today Frank?"

"Grant Flagellate posted bail three days ago."

"So what, Frank?"

“This morning he posted instructions on how to make a meth lab and it is abundantly clear that the instruction will lead to the death of anyone who tries to execute them.”