Report: Unabomber frustrated in wish for sex change

By Seth Hettena
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - A prison psychiatrist's report on Theodore Kaczynski was released Friday, detailing the Unabomber's fantasies about mutilating a girlfriend, killing psychiatrists and having a sex-change operation.

The report, compiled in part from interviews with Kaczynski in his Sacramento County jail cell and from his own writings dating back to the 1960s, said Kaczynski's frustrated desire for a sex-change operation set him on the path to being a killer.

Kaczynski wrote that his 1966 visit to a psychiatrist to discuss his desire to become a woman was a major turning point in his life. He left the doctor's office without speaking of his fantasies, consumed with a visionary new hatred, according to psychiatrist Dr. Sally Johnson.

"Like a phoenix, I burst from the ashes of my despair," Kaczynski wrote. "My very hopelessness had liberated me because I no longer cared about death. I no longer cared about consequences and I said to myself that I really could break out of my rut in life and do things that were daring, irresponsible or criminal," he said.

The report, sealed since January, was released by U.S. District Judge Garland Burrell over defense objections following a legal challenge by the San Francisco Examiner and CBS News, which first reported Kaczynski's desire for a sex-change operation in April.

Johnson diagnosed Kaczynski, a former Berkeley mathematics professor and backwoods hermit, as a paranoid schizophrenic, but said he was competent to stand trial.

Kaczynski's mental state was a crucial issue during his trial, which ended in January when he confessed to being the elusive Unabomber, whose homemade bombs killed three people and injured 23 others between 1978 and 1995. He was sentenced to life without parole at a prison in Colorado.

Quin Denvir, Kaczynski's lead attorney, declined to comment on the report.
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