U.S. Department of Justice

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<u>**AUTHORIZED FOR RELEASE**</u>

Dear Kryptos Consultant:

As you may have read in the news, a lucrative business has arisen around falsifying college admission information in order to help individuals gain entrance to our nation's most prestigious universities. One part of this multi-pronged scheme involves computer hacking at its most elementary level: breaking into secure sites and modifying data like grades and test scores. We believe a hacker named Claudia PROUST was responsible for a lot of this work, but there is scant evidence to prove this. Government authorities have managed to retrieve some documents from her personal laptop that they believe will give them the evidence they need to convict Claudia and lead them to other conspirators in this operation. One of the documents obtained appears to list usernames and passwords for a variety of websites. We believe one website in particular was used by Claudia to store documents and files related to her role in the college admissions scandal (perhaps she had plans for blackmail later?). Of course, she appears to have recorded her passwords in some sort of cipher that we have been unable to break. We desperately need you to help beak her cipher and give us the username and password she used for the website dirtydeeds4u.com

As with most people, Claudia probably chose her usernames and passwords based on past life experiences. Unfortunately, we do not know much about Claudia or her life up until now, but we have put together a brief dossier containing the few facts we managed to verify. We have, of course, tried to guess a few passwords based on her birthday etc., but we have had no luck. We do not want to make any more guesses as these servers may then alert her to our surveillance. We really need to break her confounding cipher to make any progress. We hope you can help us.