

Local / State

Program to re-investigate JFK's assassination

By NANCY WEATHERLEY
Battalion Staff
President John F. Kennedy was killed Nov. 22, 1963 in Dallas. Accused of the assassination was Lee Harvey Oswald.

But, whether Oswald or a spy taking Oswald's place killed the president has been the subject of debate. Recent events, such as the exhumation of Oswald's body, have only fueled the controversy.

Tonight at 8 in Rudder Auditorium, Harvey Yazjian, co-founder of the Assassination Information Bureau, will present an audio-visual presentation investigating the death of the president. The bureau is a public organization

whose members are investigating the assassination on their own.

Sponsored by the MSC Great Issues Committee, the show, entitled "Who Killed JFK?" will examine a film and slides taken at the time of the murder.

The Assassination Information Bureau has declared that the murder was the result of a conspiracy.

The bureau's release suggests several reasons why groups such as organized crime rings, the Cubans and the military might have wanted Kennedy dead:

- Organized crime wanted him removed because Bobby and

John Kennedy were attempting to rid this country of many underworld figures.

- The Cubans wanted Kennedy dead because earlier he attempted to kill Fidel Castro in the Bay of Pigs invasion.
- The military wanted him out of the way because Kennedy wanted to de-escalate the war in Vietnam.

The bureau claims Oswald had close ties with the underworld and with the Communists. Members of the bureau also say Jack Ruby, the man tried for the murder of Oswald, was not a Kennedy sym-

pathizer, but a gunman hired to kill Oswald.

However, a House Select Committee report on assassinations disputes the majority of the bureau's contentions.

The committee reported on the basis of evidence available to them that the murder was not the work of the Soviet government, the Cuban government, the Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency or the national syndicate of organized crime.

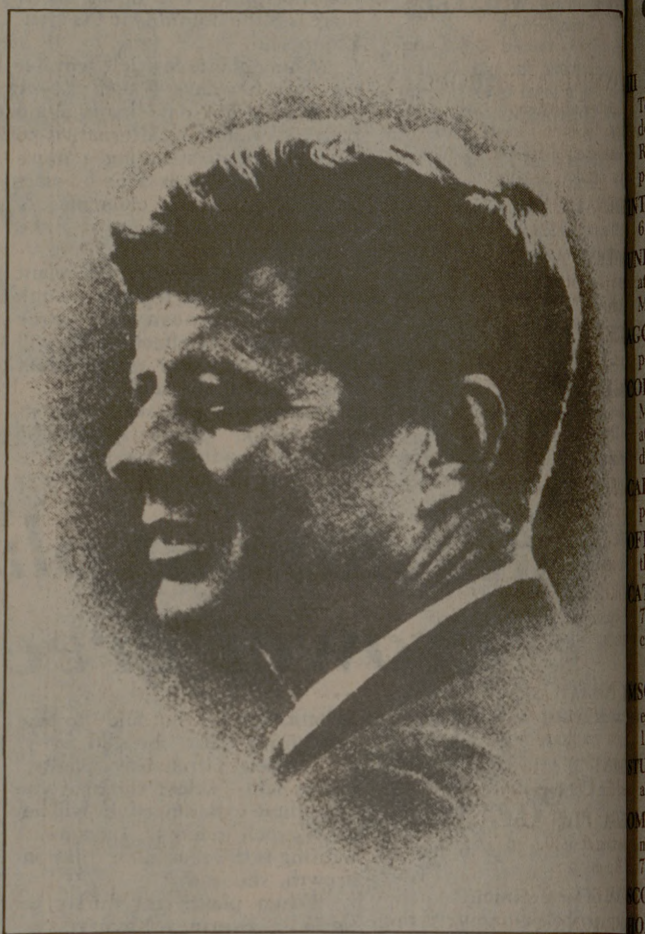
The committee report does allow, however, that individual

members may have been involved.

"John F. Kennedy was probably assassinated as a result of a conspiracy," the committee reported in 1978.

But the committee said they were unable to identify any gunmen besides Oswald or to determine the extent of the conspiracy. And scientific evidence available to them disproved some specific conspiracy allegations, the committee reported.

The presentation costs 50 cents for students and \$1 for non-students.



John F. Kennedy

Experts to release JFK study

United Press International
DALLAS — Last month, experts finally concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was buried in his grave. And Americans may learn

more next month when scientists release their findings on the number of gunmen involved in John F. Kennedy's death 18 years ago.

Questions surrounding the president's death have mounted since gunshots rang out in downtown Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

On Oct. 4 of this year, one question was answered. A panel of medical experts examined Oswald's exhumed body and concluded it was that of the accused assassin.

from a motorcycle policeman's microphone. The tape was recorded as the shots were fired in Dealey Plaza.

The House Select Committee on Assassinations ruled in late 1978 there was probable evidence of a conspiracy to kill Kennedy because of four sound "pulses" on the tape, consistent with the firing of four shots.

Virtually every assassination expert agrees that three shots could have been fired from the Texas School Book Depository overlooking Kennedy's motorcade route, but four shots would have been impossible. If the 12-member National Academy of Sciences team concludes four shots were fired, the American public would be presented with more persuasive evidence of a second gunman.

1963 and buried him; Baumgardner, then 22, was his apprentice.

Groody and Baumgardner recalled the confusion among law officials at the funeral home after Oswald was shot. The morticians said two weeks after Oswald was buried, Secret Service agents returned to question them in detail about whether they had noticed scars on Oswald's body. Both men said they didn't notice these scars while embalming the body.

Groody and Baumgardner said that during the exhumation, they were startled that the sealed lid of the vault popped off easily and that the bottom of the vault had cracked.

Normally, a seal tightens and makes it difficult to open vaults,

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It took more than two years of legal battles before Oswald's widow, Marina Oswald Porter, was able to have the grave opened to disprove British author Michael Eddowes' theory that a Soviet imposter was buried there.

The National Academy of Sciences is completing a report on the methods used in an acoustical analysis of a tape recording made

Barbara Jorgenson, a spokeswoman for the NAS in Washington, D.C., said the committee's report has been completed and is undergoing internal review. She said the NAS hoped to release it by the end of the year.

The report was originally due in January but, she said, "it was a very tough subject, and the committee wanted to make absolutely sure that its analysis was right."

The draft report was approved last week, but Jorgenson would not say how many shots the panel concluded were fired.

Some of the men affected by the assassination recall the events as if they occurred yesterday.

Paul Groody and Allen Baumgardner have buried Oswald twice — on Nov. 25, 1963 and Oct. 4, 1981. Groody was the mortician who embalmed Oswald's body in

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but Groody said the seal apparently was broken because the vault was cracked. They could not explain why it was cracked.

"The seal is normally quite difficult to break," Groody said. He said a portion near the top of the casket — where Oswald's head was resting — had fallen inside the casket, making the head visible.

Groody said the metal had rusted away, allowing a part of the casket to collapse.

They said it was possible that the casket had been tampered with before the exhumation, although they couldn't be certain.

"It is a lot more possible that there was tampering than it would have been if the vault was (tightly) sealed," Groody said.

a cremation. Lankford and Secret Service agents guarded Oswald family after the assassination.

Lankford, now 60 and living in Mount Dora, Fla., said cremation was an alternative offered by officials to the Oswald family, the brother, wife and mother didn't want to do it. He said (cremation) papers were signed.

The man who signed Oswald's death certificate, Pierce McBride was the Justice of the Peace by Dallas police to view Oswald's body after he was shot by the nightclub operator Jack Ruby.

"I pulled the sheet off the casket at Parkland Hospital," McBride said. "His right hand was clamped off the cot. I signed the death certificate."

McBride, who retired in 1978 and is 82, said he was never contacted about authorizing a cremation.

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United Press International
DALLAS — A politically active priest who was forced by Pope John Paul II to vacate his congressional seat, said he will help raise about \$200,000 to help re-elect "our friends" in Congress.

"This is a miniscule amount compared to the amount raised by the right wing, an amount in the millions of dollars," said Father Robert Drinan, president of the 55,000-member Americans for Democratic Action. He was in Dallas during the weekend to promote a new chapter of the liberal lobby organization.

On other matters, Drinan said U.S. Rep. Phil Gramm, D-

Priest wants 'friends' in Congress, not Gramm

College Station, who led congressional efforts to approve the Republican budget, was one congressman targeted for removal by the ADA.

"Phil Gramm is a nice Republican," Drinan said. "But there will be a great struggle over his destiny in the next Congress."

Drinan also termed political activism by the Moral Majority inappropriate and offensive, and said his own activities were different because they were nonpartisan.

"They (members of the Moral Majority) as church people have the right to do these things, but they do them in inappropriate

ways," he said. "They oversteer their membership and they claim their powers to change political process."

"I find it offensive when (Moral Majority founder) Falwell) says God wanted the vate enterprise system of communists are the anti-Chris-

Drinan, who served as a Massachusetts congressman for years, also predicted that Reagan economic plans would lead to a recession, and said comments by White House economic planner David Stockman prove that the Administration doesn't believe supply-side economics work."

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