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STATE

THE BATTALION

Thursday, November 13, 2003

JFK anniversary rekindles interest in death theories

(AP) Here are a few of the unconventional conspiracy theories surrounding John F. Kennedy's assassination on Nov. 22, 1963:

— The president was about to announce the numerous UFO sightings in the United States were really secret military intelligence aircraft, so he had to be killed.

— His death was orchestrated by a jealous Joe DiMaggio, who objected to Marilyn Monroe's attraction to the president.

— A right-wing group of Texas oilmen wanting to rid the country of a left-wing Catholic had Kennedy killed.

— The assassination was actually a plot by Kennedy himself, who was ailing from Addison's disease, a rare hormonal disorder, and staged his own death to ensure a prime place in history.

— Texan Lyndon Baines Johnson, as Kennedy's vice president, grew bored as the No. 2 man, so he devised a scheme on his home turf to kill Kennedy, enlisting loyal Texas oilmen and warmongers who wanted to profit from Vietnam.

Lee Harvey Oswald, the presumed assassin, was one of his foot soldiers. — Oswald was actually aiming for Texas Gov. John Connally who, as secretary of the Navy, who had signed a letter to Oswald stating his dishonorable discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps would not be reviewed. Oswald is said to have voiced a grudge against

Connally. This was suggested by the Warren Commission report.

— Soviet leader Nikita Krushchev's secret KGB organization brainwashed Oswald then provided an Oswald double to pull off the assassination leaving Oswald as the party claimed to be.

"Johnson told his mistress several weeks after he was in on it... Nixon knew about it too."

— James Fetzer author of "Assassination Science: Experts Speak On the Death of JFK"

Science: Experts Speak On the Death of JFK.

"We estimate about 15 shooters. He was hit in the throat by a bullet that passed through the windshield. The driver actually brought the limo to a halt to make sure Kennedy was hit enough times to be killed. The Secret Service set him up and we have more than 15 indications of them doing that."

Fetzer has written and edited several books on the Kennedy assassination. He is a Princeton graduate and a professor at the University of Minnesota in Duluth. He holds a doctorate in history and the philosophy of science.

Other Fetzer theories: "The X-rays have been fabricated, another brain has been substituted for Kennedy's. The Zapruder film has been fabricated. The order of vehicles in the motorcade were wrong, that perhaps the most telling.

NEWS IN BRIEF

JFK, Bush share similar political histories

DALLAS (AP) — Pick the year: 1963 or 2003.

The man who occupied the White House came from a politically powerful family.

A product of elite Eastern schools, he had won the presidency three years before in one of the closest elections in history. The losing candidate had been the other party's two-term vice president, who appeared stiff on television.

With a tough re-election battle looming the next year, this commander in chief engendered equally strong passions among supporters and opponents.

Most Americans, it seemed, either loved him or hated him. If you answered 1963 and

John F. Kennedy, you would be right. If you answered 2003 and George W. Bush, you also would be right.

Forty years after the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination of Kennedy, historians and political scientists cite striking similarities — and obvious differences — between the president who was killed in Texas and the president who hails from Texas.

"To the extent that there is such as thing as a political dynasty, you'd look at the Kennedys and the Bushes as being the same thing," said Kenneth Stevens, a Texas Christian University history professor who teaches a course on the American presidency. "Of course, in America, any type of dynasty that you establish is always subject to the will of the voters."

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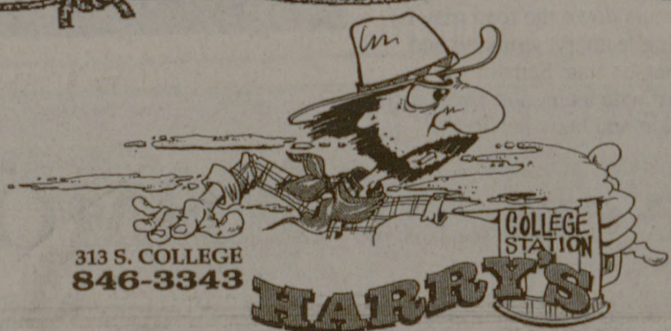


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