

tence composed in this way: The exquisite - corpse - will - drink - new - wine."

Chester has folded the paper so as to provide 49 scenes, each affording a brief glimpse of the apparent unfolding of the lives of the several members of the cast. The sketches are delightfully varied in style: some, for example, are cast in terms of fantastic allegory, others are elegantly contrived literary graffiti or pastiches of much that parades as realism in contemporary writing. I cannot tell exactly how many are included in the cast, but suspect that it matters not at all: the ambiguities of name, number and gender in this transvestite world serve as almost trivial reflections of other more nightmarish ambiguities. The frequently transmogrified procession includes one John Anthony, a maker and wearer of masks, who becomes

Baby Poorpoor who is called James Madison by the respectably suburban T. S. Ferguson, otherwise known (at least to James Madison) as the distinctly less than respectable John Doe who worries whether he will ever again be able to impersonate T. S. Ferguson, whoever he might be. The question arises then, not of how many constitute the cast, but whether there is, in any significantly human sense, any cast at all: each seems exclusively to be the fictitious invention of the other, and this other is no less a reductive fiction than his invention. This is quite spectacularly so in the occasional vignettes of the mothers, monstrously simple when they are not simply monstrous. The exquisite corpse, it will be recalled, was essentially a collaborative game. In one scene, when John Anthony is being Veronica, she runs into one of her ex-lovers, Julie, who is down on his luck and buys him a beer: Veronica sticks out her tongue at a vampire sitting on the roof of the Salvation Army marquee since "... nothing scared her any more except the full moon when she dreaded turning into a werewolf. And even this not so much as formerly, because Veronica was frank with herself, and unflattering as the thought was, she knew that any werewolf must just as much dread turning into her." Chester has succeeded admirably, even with a thoroughly ruthless precision, in portraying that absurdly reductive, almost hypochondriacal vision of the human condition that seems increasingly popular in our age. Nigel Dennis put it nicely when he wrote that "... we tend to believe nowadays that in studying an author's character we should look to the excrement if we are to find the fundament." Out of these manifold follies, Chester has made an appropriately unpleasant comedy which, like all good comedy, is never merely funny. I have noted, with some puzzlement, that Seymour Krim is quoted on the jacket as suggesting, if I understand him correctly, that the *Exquisite Corpse* is a work of searing intensity. Using terms like "authentic," "imperative" and "pitiful" he writes that "Chester holds nothing of himself back in this book." Taken seriously in this way, it seems to me that the whole exercise becomes merely funny, and that, I submit, is not funny at all.

## Correspondence

### How Many Bullets?

Sirs:

The single-bullet theory may strain credulity for some casual students of the Kennedy assassination, but it is the only answer consistent with all the available facts.

This conclusion is based on extensive impartial study of the evidence during seven months of preparatory work for four one-hour television broadcasts on successive nights last month comprising "A CBS News Inquiry: The Warren Report."

It is disappointing that a writer as knowledgeable as Alexander M. Bickel - no matter how "brilliant" or how "evasive and fatuous" he considered the various CBS News efforts - should add to the vast misinformation spread by irresponsible critics of the Warren Report. In his review in *The New Republic* issue dated July 1, 1967, Mr. Bickel makes one major error of fact and offers specious arguments against the single-bullet theory.

Look at the evidence:

Abraham Zapruder's film shows just how President Kennedy and Governor Connally were sitting when they were shot. The autopsy states the angle and direction of the shots through President Kennedy's neck and head. The three expended cartridges found on the Book Depository's sixth floor, plus one nearly intact bullet and two sizeable bullet fragments were all positively identified as having been fired from the rifle found on that sixth floor - to the exclusion of all other rifles.

The nearly intact bullet was found on a Parkland Hospital stretcher, most likely the one Governor Connally had occupied. The bullet fragments were found in the front seat area of the Presidential limousine. Other, much smaller fragments were found in the car later. . . .

Two bullets, meaning two shots, can account for all the wounds and all the damage. The case for a third shot rests primarily on the finding of three empty cartridge cases. This shot, whether it was the first one fired as CBS News suggests or the second one

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as the Warren Commission implied, almost certainly missed the Presidential limousine entirely. . . .

The single-bullet theory suggests that one bullet went through the President's neck, went through Governor Connally's chest ripping along one rib, exited tumbling, hit the Governor's wrist breaking bones and leaving lead particles, then came out base forward and made a puncture wound in the Governor's thigh.

This theory requires a longer reaction time for Governor Connally than for President Kennedy, but it is entirely possible according to a preponderance of experts in wound ballistics.

The critical point here is that any theory of separate bullets must explain what happened to the bullet that wounded the President in the neck. Arguments that the neck wound was inflicted from the opposite direction ignore expert testimony showing which way clothing fibers were bent by the bullet. To twist the path of the bullet upward so it would escape hitting anything else in the car not only challenges the autopsy report (very easy since the autopsy photographs are still withheld from impartial scrutiny), but it also is a far more tortured argument than that sarcastically attributed to proponents of the single-bullet theory.

Mr. Bickel's major error is his suggestion that there were more fragments left in Governor Connally than the stretcher bullet had lost.

One of the autopsy pathologists did say there were more particles "described" in the Governor's wrist than were missing from that nearly intact bullet. But it turned out the pathologist knew very little about the weight of particles in Governor Connally's wrist. Three particles were removed. The largest weighed half a grain. The other two and those left in his wrist were far tinier. There was also a tiny particle in his thigh. The total weight of lead particles in Governor Connally could easily be less than two grains. There were two or three grains missing from that bullet. So this did not disprove the single-bullet theory, nor prove it. . . .

As for the gelatin tests conducted for CBS News by Dr. Alfred G. Olivier, chief of wound ballistics at the Army's Edgewood Arsenal, it was Dr. Olivier's

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conclusion, as he stated in the second broadcast, that these tests "very strongly show that this one bullet could have caused all the wounds." . . .

The full basis for that conclusion, which we did not explore on the air, was this:

Dr. Olivier felt that the "very little more velocity" needed for a test bullet to penetrate the block simulating the Governor's thigh could be supplied in at least two ways.

The gelatin blocks were deliberately made slightly larger than the anatomy they were simulating so that any error would make the single-bullet test more difficult rather than easier. We could have shaved the simulation blocks until we got a perfect result, but we did not think that would be scientifically valid.

Also, to insure hitting the first block, simulating the President's neck, with pinpoint accuracy so as to keep the bullet in line with the successive chest, wrist and thigh blocks, the bullet was not fired from 180 feet or so away - as in Dealey Plaza - but from about 20 feet away. The powder in the car-

tridge was reduced so that the impact velocity approximated that at 180 feet, but this short range introduced a slight "muzzle yaw" - the bullet was not as stable after traveling only 20 feet as it would be 180 feet from the muzzle. The difference, Dr. Olivier decided, could be the difference between bouncing off the thigh block and penetrating it. . . .

Mr. Bickel erred, as did the CBS News transcript from which he apparently took his information, in attributing doubts of the single-bullet theory to William F. Enos, a pathologist at Northern Virginia Doctors Hospital. Dr. Enos said this type of military bullet could indeed have gone through two men without deforming. It was Dr. Cyril Wecht, a Pittsburgh pathologist speaking after Dr. Enos, who thought it "highly improbable."

We never deluded ourselves that this CBS News Inquiry would satisfy people who for one reason or another choose not to believe the basic conclusions of the Warren Report. . . .

If Mr. Bickel is looking for a weak

point in the case against Lee Harvey Oswald, let him concentrate on the lack of proof that Oswald himself actually pulled the trigger of his rifle.

Walter Lister

CBS News Special Reports

In reply . . .

I was trying to deal in print with "irresponsible critics" and "vast misinformation" before CBS deigned to consider the problem of the Warren Report airworthy, and I do not take kindly, therefore, to insinuations about "people who for one reason or another choose not to believe," or to *ex cathedra* pronouncements about criticisms unsupported "by any rational evidence."

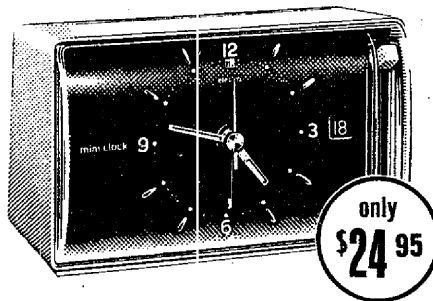
That a third shot missed the Presidential limousine may be true, but that it "almost certainly" did so is sheer assumption. All the evidence Mr. Lister recites tends to show that the single-bullet theory is possible. I have never denied that it is. I have never credited notions that the neck wound was inflicted from the front, and early pointed out that fibers in the President's shirt collar proved that his throat injury was an exit wound. And I have never challenged the physical findings of the autopsy report.

But Dr. Humes himself - the chief autopsy surgeon - said that the nearly intact bullet could not have caused all of Governor Connally's wounds. The Commission's other expert, Dr. Finck, a well-known forensic pathologist, was of the same opinion. The question is one of distortion and of loss of fragments. This is testimony forming a rational basis for grave doubt, and no adequately unambiguous refutation of it has been produced from equally qualified sources. I thought it and think it an evasion for CBS to have omitted consideration of this crucial point. The hypothesis of a hit to the President's back by the first shot is no less possible than the single-bullet theory, and may be less difficult, although it is, as I said, not without difficulties, which I wish CBS had explored. The vast resources and the vast audience CBS commands impose certain obligations.

I see that my characterization of Dr. Olivier's tests was accurate. They proved nothing, whatever Dr. Olivier's speculations.

I am sorry I was misled into calling

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Dr. Enos by Dr. Wecht's name. I had insufficient confidence in my memory of the program to correct the CBS transcript on my own authority. Let us be clear, however, that Dr. Enos was not speaking about the particular bullet in question having caused the particular wounds of both men. He was merely saying that a theoretical bullet could go through two theoretical men—a judgment of possibilities I am prepared to accept.

Alexander M. Bickel

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**Kauffmann**, from page 22

New York) and that—as we can still see in London stations—they were always filthy. And how, in reason, can Silver deplore the removal of a building he himself calls magniloquent until he sees the still-unfinished replacement?

The author seems to be of mixed minds on his subject. Writing more recently than in this book, Silver, now in England, said in the July 28 *New Statesman*:

“The profession of architecture is moving from a predominantly fine arts orientation to a predominantly social science orientation. And please reflect before throwing a rock at the [Royal Institute of British Architects] building. As fine artists, architects are currently managing to accomplish about 5 percent of all the building that needs to be done. Since it seems that we will have to double the size of the man-made world in the next 40 years, should we go on saying with some art historians, that there are elevated and base works, and architecture is only about the former?”

He goes on to say that architects ought to help “take responsibility for the entire normal human state.” With this burden on them, then, with the accompanying need to double the size of the man-made world in 40 years, how much of the old shall be preserved? Obviously the architect's task does not absolutely rule out the preservation of heritage, but it does make necessary some lucid statements that will safeguard the valuable past without ham-