

SMU to dedicate RFK assassination archives

DARTMOUTH — The Robert F. Kennedy Assassination Archives — the only collection of its kind in the country — will be dedicated Wednesday at SMU's Library Communications Center.

The public program, scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m., will include an overview of the collection's importance, a slide show and a ribbon-cutting ceremony. After the ceremony, the archives, on the fourth floor of the library, will be officially opened.

Guest speakers will be SMU President John R. Brazil, Dean of Library Sciences Janet L. Freedman and political science professor Philip H. Melanson. They will briefly discuss the importance of the archives to SMU's faculty, students and

the public as a record of a tragic period in American history.

Before their remarks, Alyson Wihry and Deanna Perry, Southeastern Massachusetts University students of political science, will introduce the archives with a slide show they produced. That program and follow-up commentary will be presented in the library's first-floor browsing area.

The dedication is sponsored by the SMU Library Associates and the SMU Alumni Association.

The RFK Assassination Archives contain books, documents, articles, audio tapes, photographs, exhibits and the 10,000-page transcript of the trial of Sirhan Sirhan, Sen. Kennedy's convicted

assassin.

The collection also includes photos and negatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and 40,000 pages of newly released FBI documents; the taped interviews, transcripts and documents from the Los Angeles district attorney's office, and the papers of journalist Robert Blair Kaiser, who wrote, "RFK Must Die!"

In addition, the archives — which are still growing as a result of the information being made public under the Freedom of Information Act — contain more than 5,000 indexed and catalogued newspaper clippings; selected papers from the Greg Stone-Allard K. Lowenstein collection; the papers of Dr. Melanson; and 700 hours of audio tape from radio coverage.

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