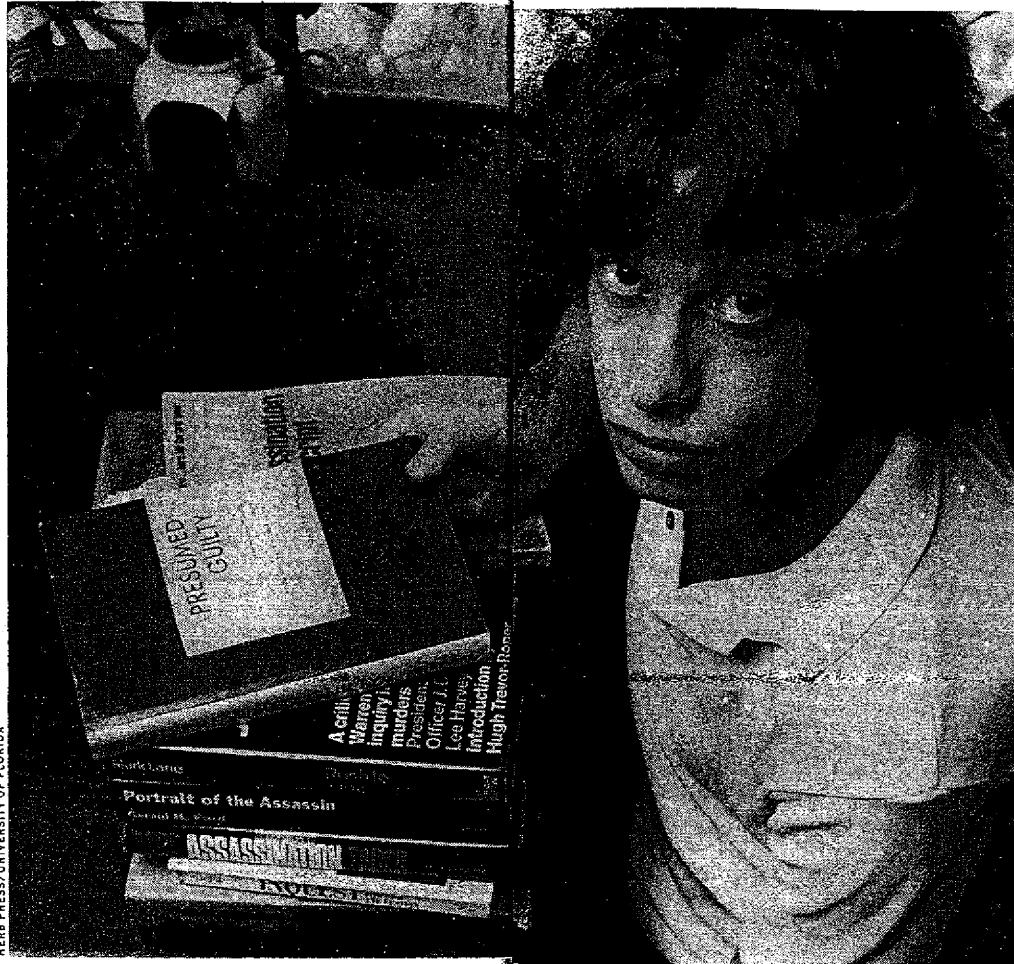


## It all began in a junior high class

For Harold Roffman, it all began in 1967 with a junior high school English assignment. Instructed to read three books on the same subject, the 14-year-old drapery salesman's son chose Richard Popkin's *The Second Oswald*, Edward J. Epstein's *Inquest*, and *Whitewash*, by Harold Weisberg. All are sledgeham-

His friends considered his interest eccentric—"They had a problem getting me to shut up about it," Roffman says—but his parents were solidly behind him. "They decided what I was doing was worthwhile and productive," he says, "and they thought there was no need to force me to go out and find summer jobs. Instead, I would get up early and go to work in my bedroom office." This fall their patience was

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mer attacks on the Warren Report.

His appetite whetted, Roffman began to scour up everything he could on the subject. He bought the 26 volumes of the Warren Report (\$76), studied evidence at the National Archives (after presenting a letter of certification from the principal of his Philadelphia high school) and made several trips to talk to Weisberg, a Maryland journalist. By 11th grade, Harold had decided to write his own book. His proposed thesis: that the case against Lee Oswald was hopelessly flimsy, but that the Warren Commission had stuck with it because politically it was the most acceptable.

Spurred by his suspicions, Roffman began plugging away at his manuscript.

rewarded with the publication of *Presumed Guilty*, a slimmed-down version of their son's original doorstep first draft.

Although Roffman believes there was probably more than one gunman, he says little evidence exists which might help identify the killers. Most disturbing to him, he says, was his conclusion that the falseness of the Warren Report was too extensive to be accidental. "I'm a strong believer in the principle of government accountability," says Roffman, now 22 and a University of Pennsylvania graduate studying law at the University of Florida. "I can't think of anything more threatening than when the government lies about the murder of its leader." □