

# Why stall around in high school?

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## Arkansas Album

**KNOXVILLE**—James Moore, 37, of  
 near's old, a child of the times,  
 what a time. What's child?

Moore plans to be president of the  
 United States someday. Moore's tim-  
 able is so definite that he must skip his  
 senior year of high school and graduate  
 from college in an election year.

Before he takes that on, he wants to  
 find out who killed President John F.  
 Kennedy. He intends to prove that Lee  
 Harvey Oswald didn't do it himself. To  
 that end, Moore has traveled to Dallas  
 three times to interview witnesses to  
 the killing.

What kind of nut is this?  
 "I guess you could say I'm a conspira-  
 cy nut," Moore said. "Then I hear  
 about something, I start thinking that  
 there must be a conspiracy."

Moore, an A and B student at nearby  
 Lamar High School in Johnson County, is  
 no kind of nut. He, like all of us, is a  
 product of the times.

Of the year, he was born a main inmate  
 Fidel Castro was seizing power in Cuba.  
 When Moore was 4, Kennedy was killed.  
 Neil Armstrong was setting foot on the  
 moon the year Moore turned 10. Presi-  
 dent Richard Nixon became the first  
 president to resign in Moore's 15th year.

And Moore has tried to follow the  
 woods and warps of his world.

Moore spent three years of his life  
 trying to learn everything he could about  
 Baron Manfred von Richthofen, the  
 World War I German flying ace. He took  
 a year off so on Harry Houdini, the escape  
 artist and magician.

"I've always been interested in odd  
 things," Moore said.

But his interest in the Kennedy assassi-  
 nation is not passing fancy. Moore has  
 chewed and digested books and  
 pamphlets detailing the various theories  
 of conspiracy. He has studied ballistics  
 reports, examined handwriting samples  
 and talked to witnesses with a grim sense  
 of purpose—unusually grim, amazingly  
 serious, for a 17-year-old.

It's important to me because, if we  
 can prove that the government has lied to  
 us, then we can assume there have been  
 other incidents of deceit that have yet to  
 be uncovered," Moore said. "I have  
 become quite cynical of everything the  
 government has done."

Cynicism comes easily, even natu-  
 rally, for Moore.

I am cynical of the men that run gov-  
 ernment, disbelieving of their actions,"  
 he said.

And does he wonder sometimes if his  
 life is too serious, not enough play and too  
 many plots?

"I like to think I am serious," he said.  
 "I can't see that I'm missing too much in  
 being serious. Maybe someday I'll look  
 back and be sorry, but I don't think so."

Moore's conspiracy theories—whether  
 they are given any credence or not—are  
 interesting to grow up with.

"My father told me that one of these  
 guys (the visitors that come to interview  
 Moore) will knock on the door with a  
 slot gun someday," Moore said.

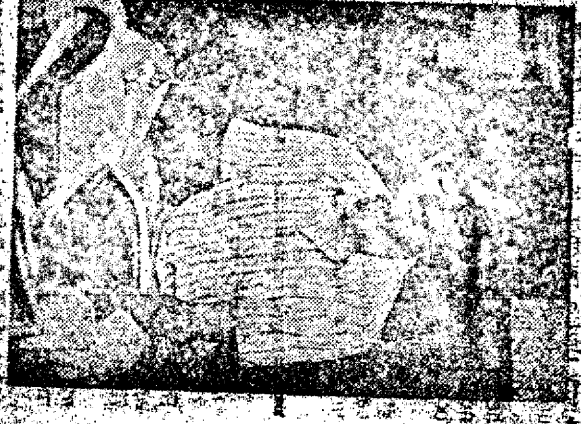
But, at least for a moment, Moore  
 smiled.

"I don't believe anyone is going to  
 drive this far to shoot me," he said.

He lives in an isolated spot at the end of  
 a road that stops at his front door.

His interest in politics seems a hopeful  
 sign in a young man who believes govern-  
 ment cannot be believed. It is the people  
 who are in office that are the problem,  
 not the system.

Moore sounded like a politician when he  
 talked of his plans. "I want to be  
 president of my state and then I want to  
 be president of the United States," he  
 said, and then immediately seemed to  
 regret his words. "People think you are



an egotist if you say you want to be presi-  
 dent."

I want to start in local politics and  
 gradually work up to state and federal  
 offices, he said.

So he is trying to enter Arkansas  
 Polytechnic College at Russellville this  
 fall.

"I can't see any use of waiting around  
 for my senior year in high school," he  
 said. "I want to get started."

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