

Failure Analysis insert, where I say Posner pretended it gave no other side

Ever the practitioner of saying what at any time then appeared to serve his purpose, regardless of truth or fact, Posner told Kathy Rose, who wrote in the New York Times Sunday Book Review, "The biggest story would have been to come up with incontrovertible evidence of a conspiracy," he said. 'I applied the same standards of evidence to both sides.'" (issue of 11/21/93)

That from the man who, ~~in~~ taking Failure Analysis work and presenting it as his own, in doing that suppressed from his book that ~~there was only one side~~ ^{the one side he took was} of two sides of a presentation to a mock trial by the American bar Association ^{Convention. He} ~~was the only side there was and~~ also suppressed from his book that it was the other side that prevailed, the jury refusing to convict on that one side he uses as the only ~~side, the~~ evidence in his book.

Of America through the facts of Rogers' life

...His meteoric rise from Indian cowboy — he was one quarter Cherokee — to the national figure eulogized on the floor of the U.S. Senate at his death, makes for a fascinating story [and] Ben Yagoda tells it right."
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ways outweigh the man accused of committing it. No one can ever establish beyond a reasonable doubt that however weird Oswald was, he wasn't actually doing someone else's bidding when he carried the paper parcel containing his rifle to the sixth floor of the Book Depository, or that something other than personal demons didn't drive Ruby

the passing years over those first told when details were fresh, libeling the safely dead. Shame is out of fashion these days, but perhaps it's not too much to hope that one or two of the authors Mr. Posner exposes — along with the editors and publishers who have profited from peddling their irresponsible wares — might suffer at least a momentary pang of embarrassment. □

Still an Unthinkable Thought

When Gerald Posner decided to write a book about the assassination of John F. Kennedy, he wanted to identify the issues that were still outstanding almost 30 years later.

"The biggest story here would have been to come up with incontrovertible evidence of a conspiracy," he said. "I applied the same standards of evidence to both sides." It was only after Mr. Posner, who once was a Wall Street lawyer, spent close to 16 months combing the written record and then conducted some 200 interviews that he was convinced he "could reach a conclusion" — that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone.

That is why Mr. Posner was so surprised at the reaction to "Case Closed." In the two months since it was published, he has had letters accusing him of being a C.I.A. agent or of being on the Federal payroll. Someone has taken the trouble to find out his interview schedule and to fax belittling letters to radio stations. A computer network has asked members to try to discredit the book. In Boston, a group of demonstrators gathered in front of his hotel with signs saying "Case Still Open — Posner's a Dupe."

He also has been surprised by the telephone calls in the middle of the night. Some have



ERHMAN/PHOTOGRAPHY HOUSE
Gerald Posner.

been accusatory, some taunting, some obscene. And he was surprised that much of the discussion of the book has centered on his account of what happened in Dealey Plaza, not his detailed profile of Oswald. And he was surprised at how little reaction greeted his interview — the first ever — with Yuri Nosenko, a K.G.B. agent who was kept by American authorities in solitary confinement for two and a half years after he defected. But most unsettling have been the efforts to discredit him. "Perhaps my title is fighting words," he said. "It tells people who spent 20 or 30 years on the case that they wasted their lives."

Mr. Posner pondered the national obsession with the assassination. "This is viewed as the great unsolved murder mystery of the generation," he said. "It is hard for many to swallow the notion that a misguided loser with a \$12 rifle could end Camelot."

KATHY ROSE

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