

Has JFK assassination really been solved?

Continued from Page 1D

And I think he's proven beyond a doubt that Oswald acted alone.

As for those who might remain skeptical, Ambrose groaned.

"Yeah, and you can still find people who believe the Earth is flat," he said. "I'd like to see a law passed where nobody is allowed to write or publish another book (on the assassination) unless they've taken an exam to prove they understand the facts."

That would be fine with David Wrono, the acerbic, crotchety, highly regarded history professor at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point — and one of the country's foremost experts on the JFK assassination.

And the first person he'd have take the exam is Gerald Posner.

Yeah, that's right, Wrono remains a skeptic. And he's livid. He not only thinks "Case Closed" is inaccurate, but that it borders on a "major hoax." It is, he said in a phone interview, "the worst piece of trash ever to walk down the road." And, as a scholarly investigative work, "it ranks right up there with Hitler's diaries."

What's more, it makes his blood boil, he said, that so many critics — Ambrose included — have been "suckered."

Then again, he noted, Ambrose is a biographer, not an assassination expert. And he obviously hasn't done the "nitty-gritty grunt work" that's necessary to expose such a "sloppy, reckless" work as Posner's.

"Why don't you call a carpenter over in Finland and get his opinion about Posner's book?" he said. "He'd have as much credibility on the subject as Ambrose does."

"I think Ambrose must have met some Hare Krishnas at the airport."

What in particular does Wrono take issue with?

Pick a page, any chapter, and you're bound to find something, he said.

For example, Posner wrote that Oswald walked quickly into the Texas Book Depository building that fateful day, carrying his rifle in a brown package, disguised as curtain rods.

That's false. It's just not true," Wrono said.

Warren Commission documents state that a depository employee named Jack Doherty came to work about 7 a.m. that day and sat at a table and went about his job of watching who entered

the building.

"Doherty said under oath that Oswald entered the building empty-handed," Wrono said. "And that's the only evidence that exists on that particular point."

There is no other. Posner, Wrono says, omits any mention of that.

It is one of countless omissions throughout the book. "I could go on and on."

Posner tries to build a case that Oswald was, in fact, on the sixth floor when the shooting occurred. To the contrary, Wrono says, most evidence suggests Oswald was exactly where he says he was — in a second floor luncheon room getting a Coke.

Critics were most impressed by Posner's contention that the same so-called "magic" bullet did, in fact, hit both Kennedy and Texas Gov. John Connally.

Posner cites frame 224 of the famous Zapruder film that shows the right lapel of Connally's suit flying away from his chest, moments after Kennedy was hit.

Well, fine and dandy, Wrono says.

Except there's one problem. The bullet hole in Connally's jacket was in the cloth to the right of the lapel — not in the lapel itself.

"So for (Posner) to say this proves the 'magic' bullet theory is a bald-faced lie. It's unbelievable."

Wrono says he's challenged Posner to a debate, but has yet to hear from him. He doubts that he will.

"I talked to him several times while he was researching the book," Wrono said, "and like a lot of people he interviewed, I've got some great tales to tell. But that's another subject."

"I mean, the guy's a former Wall Street lawyer. That's your first tip-off."

So what's a confused public to think? Well, it should keep in mind that no one has yet to come forth with a "single shred of solid evidence" that Oswald shot Kennedy, Wrono says.

And probably never will. At the same time, Wrono says, there's another book due out this winter by Harold Weisberg — one of the few assassination critics Wrono admires — which may provide some clues.

"It doesn't tell who killed JFK, but it will give people a pretty good idea of who organized the conspiracy."

Posner, Wrono suggests, should get the first copy.