OAKLAND TRIBUNE — Friday, February 7, 1992 E-7

Ranftel, 39, expert on JFK death

By Tribune staff

BERKELEY — Robert Gardner Ranftel, an expert on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy whose work pressured Congress to reopen the case, collapsed and died Jan. 29 near his home in Berkeley. He was 39.

Mr. Ranftel was one of several researchers who, in 1974, successfully pushed the Senate Select Committee on Assassination to reopen an investigation of Kennedy's shooting.

In 1977, Mr. Ranftel, through a series of Freedom of Information lawsuits, was able to persuade the FBI to release files on Kennedy's assassination.

Mr. Ranftel also wrote several books on Kennedy's assassination.

"The community of investigative reporters is small, and the losses are felt acutely. There are not enough people like Robert to go around," said longtime colleague and friend Julia Gilden.

According to friends, Mr. Ranftel was beginning to work on the plight of the homeless and mental-health advocacy.

"He is a person who overcame personal adversity to become a constant positive driving force in both his professional and personal life," said Gilden.

Information on survivors was not available.

Mr. Ranftel's body was flown to Syracuse, N.Y., where he was born. Memorial services were held there on Tuesday.

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THE GAY GUARDIAN — 2/5/92

THE TOPIC TONIGHT won't be whether Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone (at least it's not supposed to be), but I'd bet my last conspiratorial dollar that the question will come up during this public meeting sponsored by Socialist Action Forum. The featured speaker, **Hal Verb**, a freelance writer and ex-teacher of the SF State class "An Examination of the John F. Kennedy Assassination," talks about why Oliver Stone's *JFK* has drawn so much fire. 8 pm, 3425 Army, SF. $3. 821-6527. (C.E.)

S. F. CHRONICLE — 2/4/92

Judith Exner Talks About JFK, the Mob

GOSSIP
Liz Smith

Tonight Judith Campbell Exner — a woman central to the understanding of the Kennedy years, who was the intimate and onetime lover of President John F. Kennedy and also of Mob boss Sam Giancana — will be talking live to Larry King in a CNN exclusive.

Judith contends that her full story has yet to be told — partially because, fearing for her life in the years when Kennedy contemporaries fell in droves, she was not so forthcoming as she is now.

In her first full-length TV appearance in over four years, Judith will discuss with Larry the controversial film, "JFK," the Mafia's role in the Kennedy assassination, Marilyn Monroe's affair with the president and more.