prove his manhood to the [illegible] satisfied wife Marina (Mo Malone) that he enters into a fatal covenant without truly understanding either his partners or the stakes.

To hype suspense over the trial's outcome, ABC held back the film's verdict scene from its screenings for critics. The network, however, may have tipped its hand. In a future issue of TV Guide, ABC will poll viewers on their personal verdicts after they have seen "The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald." Respondents will not only be asked whether they believe Oswald was guilty, but whether, as the mail-in ballot puts it, "he acted on his own." Expect the show's denouement to answer the first of those questions in the affirmative and to leave the conspiracy question ambiguously unresolved—at least for the record.

Shotgun Wedding: Producer Richard Freed has been trying to peddle his own Oswald show for more than a decade. Four major movie studios turned down the project in 1966, and all three television networks rejected it in 1972. ABC apparently decided that the time was finally right because, in Freed's view, "there's been an increased public awareness as a result of the things we learned about Watergate and the Vietnam war." In short, the legacy of public distrust that was spawned by actual abuses of governmental power can now be safely exploited by a shotgun wedding between history and hypothesis.

CBS also has a docu-drama in the works on the Kennedy tragedy, but its approach promises to be significantly different. "Ruby and Oswald" will confine itself almost entirely to sworn testimony before the Warren Commission and the script will be checked for accuracy by the network's news division. In fact, CBS has even considered hiring a full-time history specialist to review all of its upcoming docu-dramas. NBC also seems to be having some second thoughts about the genre, albeit not entirely of its own volition. Last week, NBC announced that it was shelving a docu-drama about the real-life 1972 mining disaster at Buffalo Creek, W. Va., after some of the survivors started new litigation against the coal company.

Unanswered Questions: Television has long been accused of timidity in tackling provocative issues, and it may well be to its credit that it now dares to deal with so sensitive an event as the Kennedy assassination. The Warren Report is not Holy Writ; the 26 volumes contain unanswered questions and apparent contradictions. The problem is whether the docu-drama form, with its penchant for showmanship at the expense of authenticity, is the proper vehicle for revisionist excursions. A full one-fourth of the U.S. population today is too young to remember what happened in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. For their sake alone, the story of Lee Harvey Oswald would be better left to the history books.

—HARRY F. WATERS

Rolling Stone's New Trip

Rolling Stone magazine will be ten years old in November, and the quintessential counter-culture child has put on a suit, straightened up its act and begun hanging out with a different crowd. The biweekly tabloid just moved from a refurbished warehouse in San Francisco to plush offices in New York City—a move that ratified its shift in emphasis from rock stars and political dissidents to show-business and political celebrities. Some people think that the new moves are blurring Rolling Stone's identity and that the magazine risks losing the young, music-oriented readers who propelled it to success. But founder and editor Jann Wenner, 31, disagrees. "Music is more broadly defined now—the President can quote Bob Dylan—and Rolling Stone is about modern American culture," he says. "As we've grown, the magazine has just gotten better and more professional."

Ron Galella

Wenner and Caroline, Bella cover: Hello New York

Rolling Stone has always been a mirror of its creator's interests. Now Wenner has the resources to pay lavishly for the projects and writers that most intrigue him—and the magnetism to attract them. Richard Avedon was paid $25,000 for a special issue of portraits he did last fall, which won Rolling Stone a National Magazine Award. Watergate sleuth Carl Bernstein received more than $30,000 for his story about journalists who worked with the CIA. And success has only fueled Wenner's ambitions. Last month, he launched a glossy new monthly, Outside, devoted to the outdoors. In November, CBS will broadcast his first foray into television, a two-hour, prime-time variety show, "Rolling Stone: The 10th Anniversary."

Star-studded: As Wenner prospers, he tends to gravitate toward money and power. He made his splashy debut in New York society in July 1976 by throwing a star-studded party for Jimmy Carter's campaign staff, and this summer he entertained fashionable friends at a Long Island home he rented for a reported $27,500. Wenner now frequents the city's leading celebrity canteen, Elaine's, and he showed up last week at a film screening with no less a trio than Jackie Onassis and Caroline and John Kennedy. Such socializing has made him the target of gentle ridicule in Doonesbury, the Garry Trudeau comic strip, where he is characterized as "Yawn."

Wenner's new friends have also begun to people Rolling Stone, as subjects, contributors or both. In the past months, the magazine has run profiles of such once-unlikely choices as Princess Caroline of Monaco and fashion priestess Diana Vreeland. Jack Ford was a cover subject a year ago, before becoming an executive