

Kennedy investigation: D.C. Everest High School students Mike Tallisch (left), David Osswald, Lisa Vogen and Corey Fuhl check reference materials in their continuing study

of the assassination of John F. Kennedy. The students are participating in a class project conducted by history teacher Paul Aleckson.

Everest students tackle murder clues

'We've touched hundreds of kids'

By Susan Pekar
Wausau Daily Herald

SHOFFIELD — A national tragedy 28 years ago has turned into a 15-year project in Paul Aleckson's American History Seminar class at D.C. Everest High School.

Seniors and college-bound students spend seven weeks studying the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination of president John F. Kennedy in Dallas.

"It's a great topic for kids to study because there are no answers," Aleckson said. "It's a mystery. It's a murder mystery and most murders are never solved."
Their lesson includes writing a 20-page

research paper in which they theorize who killed the president.

"We've touched hundreds of kids with this topic," Aleckson said. "It shows how the United States government failed to properly investigate the murder of its No. 1 citizen, the president of the United States."

Some students claim it was a Mafia hit, some say it was Cubans trying to protect Fidel Castro, but almost all agree that the Warren Commission missed the mark.

"It's difficult to find out who really did it," said Corey Furst, a senior. "It happened so long ago, a lot of the witnesses are dead and a lot of the documents and testimonies are classified information."

Students do their research at the Everest library and at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The Everest library has an entire section devoted to

the assassination. More than 200 books, thousands of magazine articles, and all 26 volumes of the Warren Commission's report fill the shelves in one corner of the library.

"Usually, almost every kid becomes disheartened in the government," Aleckson said. "They failed to follow up a lot of leads, leads that led to Cuba, a lot of them led to the CIA. A really good investigation never occurred."

Lisa Vogel, a student, agrees. "It's hard to believe what the Warren Commission says, even given the basic facts," she said.

Vogel's research paper postulated that Lee Harvey Oswald did not kill Kennedy, instead it was a gunman located on the grassy knoll.

Senior Tammie Wanta wrote her paper on the findings of New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, a topic explored by movie director Oliver Stone in "JFK."

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