

LA Times
1-5-92

Stone's Not Alone

When I read the first letter in last Sunday's Calendar, I trembled with fear. You actually printed something that didn't attempt to stomp Oliver Stone into the muddy offal of popular journalism. After weeks of Op-Ed savagery coupled with the unrelenting efforts of virtually every columnist in the major media to send "JFK" to an early grave, I was unprepared for a positive disposition toward such an obviously unpalatable subject.

My faith in the objectivity of The Times' objectionable journalism was restored when I realized that you had vindicated the official policy of the popular media by printing every other letter as a response to any positive notions one might have mistakenly garnered from reading the first letter. I even got the impression that some of your Stone critics had

seen the film.

But obviously, that is unnecessary. Character assassination requires nothing more than blind hatred and in the media's case a typewriter and paper, as opposed to political assassination, which demands visual acuity and superior aim, which all available evidence suggests that Lee Harvey Oswald was sorely lacking.

CRAIG SIMMONS
Van Nuys

A moviegoer both attracted to and repelled by the heavy-handedness of Stone's previous work, I must say I fairly staggered out of the theater one recent Friday night after experiencing "JFK."

The three-hour film reclaimed what I had lost to 27 years of media vulgarization and trivialization of the Kennedy assassination. The rot lifted from my soul, the viscera laid bare, I walked home, imagining what Russian citizens in the 1920s must have felt after seeing "Battleship Potemkin."

A pox upon those who have discredited Stone's demand for justice with unspecified allegations of historical fraud, or worse, without having seen the film at all. Methinks thou dost protest too much. Bravo, Oliver!

ANDREAS SAMSON
Hollywood