

Stone, Garrison and Pollard snuck up on the truth

IN THE MOVIE *JFK*, New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison (Kevin Costner) turns to a group of reporters from atop the courthouse steps and apocalyptically warns: "Let justice be done or the heavens fall." Yet a recent poll conducted by *Time Magazine/Cable News Network* showed that 72 percent of those interviewed still believe they have not been told the whole truth regarding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

And nearly three decades later, when asked about the possibility of a conspiracy to kill our nation's 35th president, many Americans simply shrug their shoulders. "We'll never know what really happened," they say, sounding more like pre-Gorbachev Russians than they do citizens of the world's most enlightened democracy.

I believe these doubters — who perhaps have forgotten what a democracy should be all about — are wrong. I suspect that the truth will some day be told. And I believe that director/screenwriter Oliver Stone snuck up as close to the truth as a reasonable person could possibly get, considering the impressive number of lifeless bodies and silenced witnesses that his protagonist, Garrison, was forced to climb over. As Garrison quickly learned, it can be awfully tough to prove certain things in a court of law when key records keep disappearing. It's even tougher when the witnesses you're counting on to make your case keep disappearing along with those records.

Like the tough guys used to say in the old mobster movies: "The dead don't talk."

Perhaps it's no surprise, therefore, that while making his waves Stone also made some impressive enemies. Syndicated columnist R. Emmett Tyrell, Jr., summing up the feelings of many in the anti-conspiracy camp, rolls all over Stone. In a recent article he writes: "In *JFK*, Stone tells the dopes (that means those of us who don't agree with the findings of the Warren Commission) that President Kennedy was the victim of a conspiracy that included a group of New Orleans homosexuals, Cuban exiles, the FBI, the CIA, the American military, and the martyred president's successor, Lyndon Johnson."

Sounds plausible to me.

Still, there are those who have maintained all

VIEWPOINT

By Elliot Goldenberg



along that Garrison was one of those mentally unbalanced types who sees conspiracies and bad intentions like a drunk sees pink elephants. Convicted spy Jonathan Pollard, whose exploits I am now writing a book about, no doubt is the kind of conspiracy nut who also fits into that category. Just ask Wolf Blitzer, author of *Territory of Lies*, the whitewashed Pentagon version of the "facts" in the Pollard case.

All this paranoid cloak and dagger stuff brings to mind the first scene in "JFK," the one which shows footage of President Dwight D. Eisenhower's farewell address during which "Ike" warns the American public to guard against what he calls the "growing threat of the military-industrial complex."

After all, while he was working as a Navy Intelligence analyst, Pollard believed in the ridiculous notion that there were actually people in the Reagan administration, such as Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who were willing to sell out the State of Israel for the price of Saudi oil. True, it was Pollard who warned the Israelis about the Iraqi poisonous gas manufacturing which was going on right under the noses of officials in the Reagan administration, not to mention the CIA. But remember, Pollard was a "spook" (i.e., spy) who took money for what he did. So what if he spent much of that money to entertain his friend, a high-level Saudi official, then use him as an unsuspecting Israeli "mole?" Like Garrison, Pollard was beset with "conspiratoritis."

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HERE IS AN OTHER COLUMNIST OF THE JEWISH WORLD WITH
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Will Northrop is another "looney-tune" who apparently has this same disease. Northrop was a special forces officer in Vietnam who carried out what were called "special operations" for the United States. When the Vietnam War ended, Northrop "dropped out of sight" for awhile, but, in the early 1980s, began working in conjunction with his old friend, William Casey, then-director of the CIA. A few years later, Northrop was in Israel where his job was to run the Israeli end of what would later be known as "the Iran-Contra Affair."

After that operation was compromised, however, blame had to be shifted, of course, and there were those who had to take the fall. So following his being set up, arrested, and finally let out of jail, Northrop — whose family built the multi-million dollar aircraft company that bears its name — found he was becoming increasingly fascinated with the spy Pollard, a kindred spirit whom he had never met.

Recently, Will Northrop and I decided to compare notes.

Among other things, Northrop said the Pollard affair continues to fester because it "still threatens to expose a secret, potentially controversial U.S. Middle East policy."

According to Northrop, this policy, the "Level Battlefield Doctrine," was an attempt by the Reagan administration (and it has apparently continued on with the Bush administration) to "even" the odds against Israel should another war break out between the Jewish state and its Arab neighbors. That doctrine, Northrop and Pollard both insist, has its roots in the concept that (Israeli) blood is not thicker than (Arab) oil.

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Geez, I don't know about any of you, but I'm starting to get just a little bit tired of all these conspiracy nuts who keep popping up out of the woodwork.

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