

David Williams, Associated Editor
People [sic] and the Pursuit [sic]
of Truth [sic]
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Dear "it was just a gig...Maybe make a little money,"

On reading your blessedly short contribution to that it in which "PERSIST" rather than "Truth" is capitalized, appropriately, I add, I am taken with what gives me limited choices: facing the state of my own ignorance or confirmation that you and yours are, religious ~~frank~~ or not, bullshits as well as ripoff artists.

Not that more confirmation was needed.

Headed "New Developments" in the August, 1975 issue there is, "Dr. Cyril Wecht, coroner of Allegheny County, Pa., and a renowned forensic pathologist, and Researcher Harold Weisberg have filed many, many suits through the Freedom of Information Act in an attempt to get at this information. Their persistence has begun to yield some results. In recent weeks some of the autopsy test results have been turned over to Weisberg, Dr. Wecht and others..."

Where there is this confessed ignorance or the alternative has to do with Wecht's having filed a single suit. Pray tell me when and where. I am aware that he talks and in general of what he says but that he had spent a cent or taken a moment to file a suit I did not know. (Talk, as you know, can pay. Filing suits doesn't.)

Even that more than five years ago he had agreed to be an expert witness for me in one of mine I well remember, as I do his backing out, on the ground that he was making too much money to afford the time.

Of course I also know that as soon as I file one of these "many, many" suits anyone, "renowned forensic pathologist" or others, need only invest a dime and write a letter and obtain what results from these suits. The exception is that of which I do not know. Perhaps you can enlighten me? The "their" part. On "persistence."

"They [sic] have so far withheld comment on what the tests [sic] reveal [sic] until [sic] a complete [sic] disclosure [sic] had been made by the FBI and"

Because you have been generous enough to include me among the "they" who filed my suit I find that I must have had my jaw locked when all the time I thought I was talking and to many audiences, from students to the press (all forms).

But when I am confronted with "truth" in your publication's name do I not have to ask myself if I imagined it when I thought I saw microphones, though I heard my own voice later on radio, thought I spoke to reporters and later saw their articles in print?

Can it be that I am somehow blighted by not having had the benefits of a religious education and all I can see that means in others? (Not that I should not confess a liking of Ecclesiastes, as in "Vanity oh vanity"; or the Song of Solomon, as in the keeping of vineyards and their non-keeping; or Luke and those stones crying out.)

Don't take time from your gig to tell me more about that Wecht press conference in Washington, the one in which he announced in advance that he would be giving away copies of what I had gotten by my suit. (Do you suppose my presence discouraged him?) But in your personal "PERSIST of Truth" I'd appreciate it if you'd spare a few minutes from the "Maybe make a little money" to enlighten me about the suits filed by Wecht and those unnamed "others" about "their persistence" and the "results" it "has begun to yield."

If I'm not happy about all the "pursuit" I can be yours for "people" and "truth."

Harold Weisberg

U.S. Needs Answer on JFK Killing; Oglesby

Radical author Carl Oglesby said today if people want to return to real democracy in America, the nation must purge itself of the questions that still surround the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Oglesby is in town as part of a symposium on the assassination and CIA involvement in American politics. He was interviewed by Capital Times staff members this morning. A transcript of that interview will be printed in the March 20 Monday section of this paper.

The Jack Kennedy killing is the essential question here because that killing tells you more about the deterioration of government than any other single event and poses in the utmost clarity the need for democracy to assert itself," Oglesby said.

He contended that the questions surrounding the assassination were not simply liberal or conservative issues.

"Anyone who has the slightest regard for the basic traditions and customs of doing politics in this country — right, left, center, up, down or whatever — has a profound reason to want to get at the bottom of the Kennedy killing," he said.

He said there did not need to be much argument over whether it was a left wing conspiracy or a right wing conspiracy as long as everyone could agree that there were unanswered questions.

"As long as that's true, until we do know, the whole system is poisoned and we're like Hamlet in Denmark with this putrescence rotting away underneath the state, unburied kings underneath the stairs, usurpers on the throne and we, the Hamletine people, really not able to look what we have to do in the face — afraid of trying to find subtle ways to make things get better," he said.

Oglesby said he did not think trying to guess the names of the



Carl Oglesby

Kennedy assassins — assuming one believes Lee Harvey Oswald did not act alone — was a useful pursuit for conspiracy buffs.

"The available information doesn't warrant naming names of the assassination cabal," he said.

"I will generalize about the politics of the assassination," he explained, "and will talk about what Kennedy was doing in the period of the New Frontier and who he offended and the terrain at which he gave these offenses."

Among the examples Oglesby gave were the attempts by Kennedy to reform the CIA, his support for Martin Luther King, his challenges to big steel companies.

He said he did not think the assassination was perpetrated by the CIA or FBI or Secret Service, as some theorists allege.

"I believe there is some assassination cabal that exists behind individual agents who have penetrated the FBI or the CIA much as ordinary mobsters would penetrate the local police," he said.

Oglesby predicted several

layers of confusion that will exist when investigation gets under way. "It's not as if there's just one coverup that we can shatter and see through to the realities," he said.

He said once national consciousness accepted the notion of a conspiracy at Dallas, some would argue it was a communist conspiracy, others would argue it was the Rockefeller conspiracy and others would argue it was the CIA.

But Oglesby indicated he believed it was worth the confusion and the pain of probing back into the assassination to get at the truth.

He covered a variety of other topics during the interview, discussing his theory of American elites as composed of northeastern Yankees and southwestern cowboys struggling with each other, the pricing of Watergate and the future of the radical movement in America.

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