

# Counterpunch

## Warren Commission Report Is Proving True

By RICHARD M. MOSK

A anniversary of the assassination of President Kennedy, as it every preceding five-year interval, there were a number of television programs about the assassination. In a recent Los Angeles Times review of one of the programs, a PBS report on Lee Harvey Oswald ("PBS' Oswald: A Riveting 'Frontline,'" *Calendar*, Nov. 16), Robert Koehler suggested that recent works concluding that Oswald acted alone in assassinating President Kennedy may be correct, but nevertheless, referred to the Warren Commission Report, which came to the same conclusion 29 years ago, as "discredited."

This year, unlike at previous anniversaries, there are serious works that suggest that the Warren Commission was right. Recent scientific evidence not available to the Warren Commission, as well as reviews of the X-rays of the President's body by pathologists, have confirmed the Warren Commission's conclusions on the physical evidence—including the source, number, trajectory, timing and effect of the bullets.

In 30 years, no credible, direct evidence of a conspirator has emerged. Not one among several hundreds, if not thousands, of the supposed parties to imagined conspiracies has ever surfaced—even in a deathbed or testimony statement—to admit participating in the alleged plot. The recent release of previously withheld documents, the President Johnson tapes and the KGB files have produced no "smoking gun." That the CIA and FBI wrongfully withheld some information from the Warren

### TVREVIEWS

#### PBS' Oswald 'Frontline'

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Commission does not reflect on its report, for that information would not have affected the commission's conclusions.

In a relatively short time, the Warren Commission assembled the material evidence, covered almost every conceivable aspect of the lives of Oswald and Jack Ruby, utilized available scientific techniques, explicitly dealt with every rumor and theory that then

existed, released an 888-page report, and 26 volumes of evidence, and came to the correct conclusion—a conclusion that is responsible authorities if not public opinion, and in time, will be viewed as established. Many who have not even read the report state that it was inadequate, without specifying why and by ignoring the fact that its conclusions were

accurate.

Historians some day may find the report to be more interesting than the actual events of Nov. 22, 1963. The Warren Commission Report was widely accepted shortly after its release.

Thereafter, thousands of books, films and articles came out espousing various conspiracy theories. Even though it should have been apparent that writers, book publishers and film companies had an economic incentive to promote conspiracy theories, these works appear to have reversed public opinion.

Throughout history, Americans have been prone to believing in the existence of conspiracies—including with respect to past assassinations and to various religious, ethnic and political groups. Certainly, revelations about the activities of some government agencies have justified skepticism about their integrity. Thus, the conspiracy promoters had a receptive audience.

Understand that it does not seem reasonable that a man who commanded the greatest power in the world can be destroyed by a pathetic man who commanded nothing. The idea of a lone assassin is not enough to explain such a nationally traumatic event. People need a cause to match the effect and therefore a conspiracy is simply more satisfying.

But public opinion polls cannot create reality.

The propagation of false history and the resulting obsession with a myth can be harmful. The living and the dead are wrongfully accused and maligned. Also, if we believe there is a secret government killing our leaders and covering up the truth, then many might conclude that there is no



### Author Vows to Lead Way to Paint L.A. Beautiful

By RAY BRADBURY

The article detailing the lecture appearance of some graffiti polluters at UCLA ("Tag Lines," *Metro*, Nov. 18) caused me to grind my teeth into a fine powder.

May I suggest a creative substitute? At some time in the immediate future shouldn't Mayor Riordan declare an anti-graffiti day? On that day, everyone in the Los Angeles area would buy a half-pint of paint and a small brush and paint out the graffiti on their own score or housefront or wall. Thus, in one day, in a few hours, with millions of people busy on the best cover-up, we could eliminate the cosmetic destruction of L.A.

It seems to me that a simple mass effort of this sort would redemptive all of us to the beauty of Los Angeles. I would be glad to show up as No. 1 painter for a day, and follow Mayor Riordan minutes, all in a few hours.

What say? Let's do it!

Bradbury, a Los Angeles resident, is the author of "The Martian Chronicles" and numerous other works.

### Tag Lines

Two Graffiti Practitioners Prof Craft to a Class of UCLA Undergrads

As we all know, the graffiti on the walls of Los Angeles is a major problem. It is a problem that has caused the city to spend millions of dollars to clean it up. But what if we could teach the graffiti artists to paint in a way that would be beautiful to look at?

That's the idea behind a new class at UCLA. The class, which is being taught by two graffiti artists, is designed to teach students how to paint in a way that is both artistic and functional. The class is open to all students, and is a great way for students to learn about graffiti and to improve their painting skills.

point in following or being involved in public affairs. This is not conducive to solving today's problems. If for-profit producers and publishers can get people to accept unfounded speculation about the Kennedy assassination, what will they get the people to believe next time? The public should be just as skeptical of such producers and publishers (and even of reviewed government).

Mosk is a Los Angeles attorney who served on the staff of the Warren Commission. He was also a member of the Christian Anti-Communist League and a judge on the *From-U.S. Claims Tribunal*.