

Feb 3, 1994

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Doctor

edge, he is always cheerful, hopeful, helpful and encouraging.

I was one of his first patients, in Chatham, and have remained his patient for 19 and a half years, about a quarter of my lifetime.

Over this time he has consistently kept me in (or returned me to) the best of health, through sound advice, wise medication, and suggested regimen.

I expect there are many others who have also benefited from Dr. Mees, for "Lo, these many years."

George F. Bigelow
Chatham

Letter

else's gain. For this is a man that grants gain wherever he goes.

Dallas Jones
South Chatham

O'Neill's Views Shared By Teacher

Editor:

Last week, President Clinton opened his State of the Union address by praising former House Speaker Tip O'Neill. It was a fine gesture, but the president stopped too soon. It would have been appropriate if he revealed to the nation what Mr. O'Neill had been publicly saying for a long time now.

Speaker O'Neill spoke fondly of his friend President John F. Kennedy. Once upon a time, he even believed the Warren Commission finding that one lone assassin was the culprit in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. However, his belief about the events on that tragic day changed, and he went public with his thoughts.

In his book, The Man of the House, Mr. O'Neill tells of how two friends, Ken O'Donnell and Dave Powers, who were in Dallas with the president, told him that shots came from the front of the limousine.

On the syndicated television talk show, Larry King Live, he ap-

peared on Jan. 20, 1992, and the topic got around to the assassination and his book. Mr. O'Neill said, "So from that time on I always believed that there was a conspiracy and I always believed that there was somebody else."

Tip O'Neill is not alone. A recent CBS poll shows that 91 percent of Americans do not believe the Warren Commission Report. President Clinton can force the United States Congress, which found a conspiracy in its own investigation in 1976, to act upon a law recently passed by both houses of Congress (S 3006) mandating the release of all files currently being kept secret from the American people. Tip O'Neill would be proud, as he called for full disclosure before his death.

William Cheslock
Chatham

(Mr. Cheslock teaches a course on the assassination, and has been researching the events in Dallas for the past 28 years.)

Correction:

A letter to the editor in last week's paper was signed by Hattie and Ev. Hanlon of West Hartford, Conn. "Hattie our apologies" Ed.

Examining DEIR Analysis

Editor:

Dr. Lee Weishar's dismissal of my comments on the DEIR does not stand up to analysis. His comments do point out the central problems of the report.

An examination of the available coastal charts and additional maps for the period 1850 to 1914 support several conclusions concerning the movement of South Beach and the harbor inlet.

For the period 1850 to 1868:

- 1. South Beach decreased in width 50-70 percent the length of the beach.
2. The majority of the western shoreline of the beach did not move indicating that the erosion moved east to west.
3. The north end of the beach became established as a northwest spit as it has done since 1987.

4. The area between the north end of the beach and Aunt Lydia's Cove filled with shoals covering an area 2700 feet e/w and 3700 feet n/s.

For the period 1868 to 1886:

3. Joshua Nickerson relates in Days To Remember how CBI dug a channel across the outer beach turning the north end into an island.

4. John B. Paine bought the land north of the fish pier in 1912. The deed included beach and flats adjoining the bluff plus "right and title to any other land beach and flats beyond, if any, to the sea." Paine sold his rights ("if any") to the other land, by then known as Tern Island, as a bird sanctuary in 1926.

The DEIR is grounded on the argument that South Beach will break up into islands which will migrate to the west and weld onto the mainland. The report predicts the destruction of the north end of the beach exposing the Little Beach area to the open ocean resulting in devastating erosion.

If the DEIR's analysis is correct, then the Aunt Lydia's Cove shoreline should have suffered heavy erosion as the north end of South Beach broke up and North Beach moved south. The historical charts indicate a different course of events.



day with commercials you may have missed One will feature every movie Tony Curtis was ever in. There will be one that explains in detail how to build a submarine. (This alone will save four

Feb 17, 1994

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

or Patient

most. Most people agree that Dr. Mees has been a caring and good doctor to them. But his abusive behavior cannot be condoned, no matter how "good" he has been with everyone else. I wonder if Mr. Ellis would be so supportive of Dr. Mees if the young lady who was abused were his daughter. I doubt he would then consider the doctor's actions "a mistake."

When considering allegations of abuse, the "medical fraternity" is required to review just that — the allegations. It is not obliged to question his other patients, his behavior as a single parent, his contributions to the town. If it has been determined that the rules of that organization have been violated and the rights of the patient/client have been violated, the medical fraternity indeed has the right to take the action it did. They are judge and jury, as are the review boards of the legal, psychological, and religious professions. The proper authorities have fulfilled their obligation, and it is up to us to accept their decision, whether we think the punishment was too severe or not severe enough. My hope is that Dr. Mees uses his "time out" to reflect on his misdeeds. More importantly, I hope that his former patient finds support in this community to encourage her ongoing healing. She has mine.

Margaret G. Burroughs
Chatham

Questions Teacher's Direction

Editor:

I read with interest William Cheslock's peculiar letter of Feb. 3, in which he suggested that while President Clinton was praising Speaker O'Neill during his State of the Union address, he should have included speculation about President Kennedy's assassination.

Mr. Cheslock is described as one who has researched the assassination for 28 years and is teaching a course on this topic. If he is doing this instruction in Chatham High School it is probable that he is wasting our tax dollars in a harmful exercise at a time when every penny is needed for significant educational programs. In decades of dealing with persons who have collected notoriety and dollars by promoting a variety of speculations regarding the events in Dallas, archivists at the Kennedy Library have encountered only rarely such a specialized course being taught thoughtfully and fairly.

There are those who justify teaching this subject by claiming it is a device to stimulate the use of original source documents. Almost invariably this is nonsense because the zealots steer students toward highly speculative and even absurd papers rather than studies leading to the sad, logical but less sensational conclusion that there was no great conspiracy. To make matters worse, in many cases students are indoctrinated to have more faith in alleged plots than in the government that is, in the end, our own creation and

continuing responsibility.

A test of Mr. Cheslock's fairness would be a review of the reading list he assigns his students. If it does not include such effective challenges to the far-fetched as Gerald Posner's "Case Closed" or Jacob Cohen's work in Commentary, there is cause to worry. To quote from Mr Cohen's essay:

"For nearly thirty years, platoons of conspiracists have concertedly scavenged the record, floating their appalling and thrilling might-have-beens, unfazed by the contradictions and absurdities in their own wantonly selective accounts, often consciously, cunningly deceitful. They have refused to let go of any shred of their earliest suspicions, even when these have been demolished by decisive scientific findings... Small wonder that 85 percent of the American public thinks there was a conspiracy of some sort."

Another cause for worry about Mr. Cheslock is his call for President Clinton to force the United States Congress to act upon a law mandating the release of secret files. Force the Congress to do what? Congress passed the law and it is being obeyed.

If Mr. Cheslock's letter is any indication of the quality of his misdirected teaching, we and his students are in trouble.

Charles U. Daly
Chatham

(Charles Daly is director of the John F. Kennedy Library).

Be Aware Of Bat House Sales

Editor:

It is the season for gardening catalogues and many advertise BAT HOUSES. May I remind those who are

ting yourselves and your pets at risk from these notorious carriers of rabies.

George T. Bernard



WORDS



ustics?

bull, cow. Or ox." We have steers, bulls and cows--so where do we get "oxen"? I dunno.

But back to acoustics. Which is AC-DC. Here are some that are strictly AC:

Politics IS a field for frequent fraud.

Ethics. This pol's ethics IS non-existent.

Summons. The politician got A summons.

Mumps. I had IT when I was a kid. (One mump was insufficient?)

Molasses. Molasses is in the bottom of the barrel.

Physics. Physics IS a field in which I am a dummy. And astrophysics too, only more so (if possible.)

(Government) Customs. Customs IS a pest. THEY confiscated my drugs. How can Customs be both an IT and a THEY? Well, of course IT refers to the Gov't office and THEY are the noble souls who work there. Still and all, we're sort of lucky. Whether we use the singular or the plural, we say 'the.' The ox or the oxen. Many other languages change the 'the' to suit the noun that follows. Le jour. Les jours. Der tag. Die tagen. (And German has das and den und... wer weist?)

Just thought of another cutey. The talk is about musicians. You say that the string quartette IS rotten? Sure is, and that's because THEY don't play together. It's EACH man for HIM-SELF.

And you can also blame the acoustics. Today's words to ignore: "Toys 'R' Us." (A singular company.)

old Bedouin woman who was raped at knife-point at age 11 by her cousin was reviled as "dirt" about whom people were "gossiping" by her own mother.

The 1989 statement of rape

credit for bringing forth this concept in her letter of Feb. 17

Juliet R. Bernstein

Cape Cod Chapter

Fellowship of Reconciliation

Student Defends Teacher...

Editor:

I read with even more interest, Charles U. Daley's letter of Feb. 17. Mr. Daley suggests that classes instructed on the assassination of J.F.K. are "mis-directed", and that if Mr. Cheslock's letter is a reflection of his classes, "we and his students are in trouble." Well, Mr. Daley, I'm a student of Mr. Cheslock's one-year course. For five days a week and approximately 45 minutes each day, we look over official documents, and first-person witnesses telling us on tape what happened. Mr. Cheslock checks at least two sources, which are thoroughly researched, before presenting his information to the

class. He gives us both sides of the story: the conspiracy and the Warren Commission's version. Unfortunately, Mr. Daley, you can't speak of the truth on Mr. Cheslock's classes because you haven't come into one; you can only speculate. The real unfortunate part of the assassination is that our government says, "We've got nothing to hide," but yet they won't open the files until 2039. If I can present by the end of this year two sides to the assassination of J.F. K., Mr. Cheslock has presented his point, "Case Closed."

Alison Gage
South Chatham

... Classmate Agrees

Editor:

I read with a great deal of disgust Charles U. Daley's rebuttal to my teacher William Cheslock's letter! Not only did he outright insult my teacher but he insulted me and each of my classmates. To insinuate that students of our age are as easily led as he believes is to say that we cannot think for ourselves! Mr. Cheslock presented us with all of the facts from each side and let us come to our own conclusions. I would also like to point out that Mr. Cheslock has included Gerald Posner's

Case Closed in our curriculum!

For a man who has never seen Mr. Cheslock teach he sure seems to think he knows a whole lot! I for one could never say something as zealously as he does about students and a teacher he has never even met. If Mr. Daley feels so strongly that Mr. Cheslock's students are being led under false pretenses perhaps he should sit in on one of our classes!

Sarah Israel
Chatham High School Junior

Letters To The Editor
Deadline:
Monday At Noon

West Dennis and Whitman & Howard, Inc. Of Wellesley. Since Whitman & Howard is the consulting engineer for the water department and was the higher bidder, the board chose to award the contract for the study to Consultants to Management, Inc, ensuring that results of the water and sewer rate study were based strictly on practices

no control over these mandatory regulations.

James Cooper
Robert Snow
Robert Geist

Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners
Chatham

Teacher Dutifully Instructs Students

Editor:

Twice, once in each of the past two years, Mr. William Cheslock has invited me to participate in his Chatham High School class about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. My task was to provide background information about what it was like to live in Hyannisport, as a visitor, at the head of the Kennedy Compound during the years of Mr. Kennedy's presidency, summer by summer. Mr. Cheslock wanted his students to get a feel for the excitement and the hope of that time and to have some idea of how thoroughly human the Kennedys have always been. Mr. Cheslock wanted his students to experience, as best they could, the setting against which the calamity occurred. His approach was, and is, completely rational, objective, balanced, as scholarship should be, especially in a teaching situation in a high school classroom. At no time did I ever hear Mr. Cheslock voice his own opinion about the murder in Dallas; but I did hear him tell me not to reveal his view. Personally, I do not share Mr. Cheslock's conclusion; but I have listened to his reasons carefully. He is not the kind of person who would assault anyone with his view, nor would he insist that a student accept his bias. He is not that kind of a scholar; he is not that kind of person.

Mr. Cheslock does want his students to explore primary source material, to the extent that such is available. He does use the murder of John F. Kennedy on a street in Dallas, Texas, as a means to have his students do so. He and I have discussed ways in which to broaden the source material in order to achieve that educational goal. There are quite a number of puzzles in the history of the United States of America about which there are opposing views: the election of 1824; the election of 1876; the battleship *Maine* incident; the Panama incident of 1903; the entry of the United States into World War I; the Pearl Harbor incident; the use of nuclear weapons against Japan; the Bay of Pigs incident, and the Gulf of Tonkin incident - to name but a few. Most of these "puzzles" have been studied extensively, but retain their capacity to stimulate students to think in a high school his-

tory class. Mr. Cheslock could see right away how the Dallas incident would fit into a workbook which contained all of these historical "puzzles" and more. An unfair professional educator who was out to waste our tax dollars would not even entertain the idea of broadening the scope of source material which would reduce the object of his primary interest to but one in a series of historical items to be studied. However, Mr. Cheslock's primary concern is the intellectual growth of his students and not the promulgation of his view.

Abraham Lincoln, when a Congressman, did not have much faith in the official version of the government of the United States about the start of the war against Mexico. His "Spot Resolutions" of Dec. 22, 1847 make interesting reading. The recent revelations of the use of United States citizens in medical experiments during World War II make interesting reading, too. Students need to be encouraged to have a healthy skepticism about "the government that is, in the end, our own creation and continuing responsibility," as Mr. Charles U. Daly put it in his letter of Feb. 17, 1994 in *The Cape Cod Chronicle*. Mr. Cheslock, who is one of the world's most kind, considerate, decent people, surely has the implantation of such skepticism as one of his goals in his teaching of high school students, for which the community should be grateful.

One way in which to assure balance in the academic consideration of such items as the murder of President Kennedy is to present the other side of the case. Mr. Charles U. Daly could volunteer to do just that presentation and add to the intellectual excitement of the study of history which study is often equated with a long sleep in a graveyard. I wish that Mr. Daly had done so - by a quick telephone call. What Mr. Cheslock is doing is not a "harmful exercise" nor is he "wasting our tax dollars." Mr. Cheslock is trying to coach students to think just as they are of an age to become voting citizens

Robert L. Hyde
Chatham

March 3, '94

ters of general concern or interest are expected to be acted upon should be announced well in advance; the proposal should be available to any interested citizen in advance; and the members of the appropriate board or committee should be present in sufficient numbers to present the subject proposal to those in attendance.

Furthermore, anyone giving testimony at such a public meeting must be accorded the respect and courtesy due any person in everyday affairs; and those who violate such standards of conduct should be properly

More Letters On Page 18

SPEAKING OF WO

by Henry Morgan

Hi, Ma!

Well, the time has come. This country, at last, has recognized that a one-parent family isn't necessarily a dreadful thing to contemplate. Therefore, we now can say right out loud that, uh, (OOps—I almost lost my nerve)...we can say OUT LOUD that Mother Nature never got married. This is not to say that she didn't have a, welllll, collaborator... we just don't know much about it. Nothing, in fact. I mean, you never heard of Papa Nature, right? So in other, (maybe shocking) plain words, just about every tree, plant, thunderstorm and drought is the child of a single parent. This tireless person carved out the Himalayas, dug a six-mile deep trench off the coast of the Phillipines, created the Sahara and the Gobi and gave birth to mosquitoes. What a Mom!

Next problem. Fella says, "I'll be there in two shakes of a lamb's tail." Lambs were created by Mother N. so I became interested. Two shakes of a lamb's tail, eh? Well, I went to a farm that's not far from where I live and asked could I spend an hour with a lamb. I had a stopwatch with me and I was able to time what went on. In that whole hour the lamb shook its tail, or wiggled it, only once. I am the first to admit that testing only one lamb isn't very scientific and this particular lamb turned around a lot and it would seem that to get a good timing by watching, say, a hundred turning lambs would take at least a hundred scientific types. Well, I called both my friends and neither seemed to be terribly interested in

The Cape Cod Ch

NIGEL HAMILTON

JFK Library needs opening

The resignation of Charles Daly as director of the John F. Kennedy Library ends a volatile reign at Columbia Point.

Daly was not a man of many words. When he did speak it was often hard to catch what he said, for he tended to spit words (and expletives) in a manner that reflected his service in the Marines: testy and uncomfortable in the world of scholarship.

He let me down badly by tacitly approving the breaking open of my mail at the Kennedy Library; he sought to exclude me from an international gathering of Kennedy scholars; he has for a year and a half banned my book at the library — even though it was being read by millions of Americans and became an ABC mini-series.

From an uneasy *modus vivendi*, we drew further apart until we were separated by an iron curtain: he the spokesman for the Kennedy family and its interests, I the revisionist historian, attempting to blow away the mythic Camelot cobwebs and depict JFK as he really was: that strange mixture of charismatic brilliance and haunted, suffering addiction.

Daly's last contribution to the library was the remodeling of its museum, dedicated by President Clinton last October.

Seldom has \$4 million of tax-

payers' money been so wasted. Embarrassed by accusations of Kennedy-family deification, Daly decided to recast it in a more sober, even somber style. Visitors are now treated to flickering screens playing endless black-and-white tapes of yesteryear. The soul of the youngest-ever elected president is entirely missing. Why?

The problem — and it is a problem the Kennedy Library *must* address — is one of one-sidedness. Without debate, there is vacuity. The John F. Kennedy Library is an insult to the nation because it conveys nothing of John F. Kennedy's personality, his love of ideas and argument, or the difficulties and trials which made his life so genuinely heroic.

The idea behind the presidential libraries was to devolve archival records and artifacts away from Washington, D.C., the seat of the National Archives, and to make each White House administration's records more stimulating and more accessible by creating an archive in the "home" town of each former president.

The JFK Library has, sadly, sunk to the bottom of the presidential library pile. Its problem has always been the traumatic nature of his death, and the burden of a Camelot legend that obscures any real discussion or

reconstruction of his life and times. As veterans of the Kennedy administration pass away, and even those of us adult at the time of his assassination thin out, the task of projecting JFK's extraordinary charismatic and challenging leadership becomes more and more difficult. Older people cling to their shibboleths, while younger folks find the one-sided banging of JFK's drum unreal. Thus, the Kennedy Library has become increasingly out of tune with the vibrant interplay of ideas and opinions that make the United States the most exciting democracy in the world.

Charles Daly's unhappy tenure as director of the Kennedy Library marks the last act in an overlong defiance of democracy — the attempt to stop the library from becoming accountable to the taxpayers who finance it.

A new director is wanted who will not feel required to lick Kennedy family boots. By opening the doors, there is a chance the library will fulfill the hopes that Jackie Kennedy invested in it 30 years ago: "Fermenting, and alive and attractive above all to Youth."

Nigel Hamilton is a fellow of the John W. McCormack Institute at UMass-Boston and author of JFK: Reckless Youth.