

Mr. Bruce C. Franklin
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2/11/01

Dear Bruce,

Even though he dropped that first pass that would have been a touchdown and could have changed the entire game, and even though he dropped several others that could have had the same results, I believe that fine young man Gary remains very popular there so, if you want to stay in good with the students, you'd best remember that he is Clark and not Carter!

Odd but K'd been thinking about writing you about football. For real, as you'll see, but first about possible articles. How about the other side of communicating, not communicating, and what is not communicated when it should have been?

As an example, those excess transcripts. First of all, the Commission had no right to classify, then what it classified did not meet the requirements. But it classified even what it was to publish. And then the stuff it wanted to suppress it handled in the executive sessions. So, why not go through them and pick out some of the hairiest stuff and do an article on that?

A variant is how it issued its Report and the 26: under conditions that precluded adequate reporting. The result is that AP used the first chapter as its story! They and others had page proofs restituted until 11/27 but who could do much with 900 pages in 2-3 days? They allowed 5 days for the 26! All at once with both amount to foreclosure for the daily media.

There is another good case with the FBI but I've given that to another writer who plans on using it. But how the FBI manipulated the Commission with its leaking could make a good piece. That fits in with what the Commission said about that leaks and the FBI in the ex. sessions.

We now are not that far away so why not think about coming up when you can and see if something emerges if we talk about it.

The football I'd intended writing you about is JMU football and the possibility that a young man who recently befriended me might be there. His name is Eddie Jean. He took his SATs during the worst of the recent snowstorms and when he was overly tired and things he didn't do well with English but did with the rest, as I recall. I don't understand how those things work but from what he said he had offers from six schools and favors two, the other my Alma Mater, Delaware. Where I now know nobody. Not his father's alma mater, William & Mary, but JMU and Delaware. I learned about his prowess by accident last summer. His brother, younger, is one of two boys who had been doing the mowing, etc., for me. My driveway needed some patching and I'm not now up to it. So I asked them if they knew someone who'd had some experience. My brother, one said. Only his arm is broken. So I phoned and spoke to Eddie and asked him if he though his arm would be better in time. We had a chat then about his hopes to do well enough, I think as linebacker, to attract interest because he needs help with college. It turned out that his experience had been working for "il's nephew who has a paving business down below. It happened through athletics. "il's greatnephews put the local mat program in and he was into wrestling with them and thus he got the offer of summertime work. (Nephew will recast the driveway this coming summer and I got another to make the repairs, which seem to have held.)

With the first of the snows the boys didn't come but the older brother of the other one, who happens to be good friend with Eddie, came and cleared us out. The next snow I phoned that boy, who said he'd come and didn't, so I phoned Eddie's brother, who also said he would and didn't, and when I phoned back Eddie answered the phone and said those two were in their lazy stage and he'd come. He did, did a fine

job and did the same thing the next big snow. He'd never used my snowblower but when he was younger and the other brother had been doing my work, he'd come to help and had seen how it works, so he had no trouble with it even after not seeing it for 3-4 years. First time he knew where he could get help, so he got a friend to come with him and shovel when the blower could not get to. Result: we were never snowed in. We had to stay home because the roads were not safe but we could get in and out and others did for us. Eddie also told me that when it snows again I'll not have to depend on the younger kids who are having trouble growing up and are in that lazy, self-indulgent stage. Happily we've not needed him, although we may tomorrow from today's reports. But what I'm saying is that he is a pretty good person and the neighbors I've spoken to all have that opinion of him. If you remember the fork just before you get to our lane, that fork goes to a better housing development and the boys and these neighbors all live in it. Not large, nice homes with a little land, one of the better addresses around here. I've a friend hoping someone moves out so he can buy in, it is that good. Mostly very good people, too.

As I say, I don't know how those things work, what kind of assistance he's been offered by JMU or Delaware, know he's not lazy and has been working to save up to help, etc. So, what I was going to ask you is, if he decided he wants to go there, is there anything you can do to help him? I presume you have no contacts with the athletic dept., but I thought I'd ask. And if there is no way of helping him and he does go there, would you mind if he has the need to talk to an older person about anything at the univ., would you find time for him?

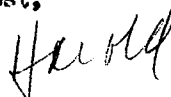
A former Maryland football player, Dick Shipley, lived near the Jeans. Dick died of a heart attack while hunting a year ago. Eddie sort of looks out for what needs to be done at his home for his widow. Dick was on the board of education and he'd managed the local Frederick Falcons football team. So, I'm saying that Eddie is a pretty good person and out to be a valuable citizen in any univ. environment.

Unfortunately, his good works coincided with the SAM.

I was aware of the Showtime thing, from the first, when they phoned from London to get my books. Then I heard from Redhead, the honcho on the project, and I told him I'd help in any way I could short of taking more conjecture to the people. So, I never heard from him again. And from what I hear they managed to avoid the "new" evidence that is probative. I don't have cable and wouldn't have looked at it if I did because if there had been nothing worthwhile on the tube I'm enjoying reading again now that perforce I have time. I don't believe I ever knew the format.

Hope you are well and happy there and that at least some of the students make it worthwhile.

Best,





James Madison University
Department of Communication

February 11, 1987

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7527 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

As you can see from the letterhead, I am now working for James Madison University. I apologize for not having written in such a long time. I still am very much interested in the Kennedy assassination, though the majority of the students in my classes have no idea of all the problems with the Warren Report (most of them don't even know what the Warren Report is, let alone understand its tragic flaws).

I don't know if you were able to watch the "Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald" on the cable via Showtime. I was very disappointed. The man who "defended" Oswald really knew very little of the case or he was completely inept. I doubt if he did that much background research on the topic. I am sure Howard Rofman would have done a much better job--he is a lawyer now, isn't he (I still marvel at the excellent work he did when he wrote Presumed Guilty at such a young age)? The one satisfaction I got from viewing the mess was even after Oswald was found "guilty," 85% of those who called in still felt there was a conspiracy in Kennedy's death. Hopefully someday murder will out.

I was disappointed when the Redskins lost to the Giants. It's hard to live in Harrisonburg and teach at James Madison University without being a 'Skins fan due to Gary Carter. There was a collective groan all over JMU when Carter couldn't hold on to that pass early in the game which would have probably been a touchdown.

The paper I wrote from my dissertation did not win the award of the best dissertation in my field for the 1985 year, but I did get an article from it accepted to be presented at the next convention of the Eastern Communication Association in Syracuse next May. I am waiting to hear from a "scholarly" journal I submitted the same article to for publication.

I have been looking over all the material I xeroxed from your files and am trying to come up with another angle for a paper on the assassination dealing with communication. Any ideas? I am a little closer to Frederick now than when I was at Penn State, so if you have any things that might be useful in your files dealing with the communication aspect of the tragic event I would be up to your place in a minute. Of course I realize as a scholar I need to find out for myself. It still depresses me when I look at what has happened to our country since November 22, 1963. It depresses me even more when I look at our current president. Of course LBJ and Nixon weren't prizes either. And then we shouldn't forget the former member of the Warren Commission who finked for the FBI and lied about the Top Secret documents published in his book Portrait of the Assassin. I have heard it said once that the older you get, the more cynical you become. Oh well, c'est la vie. Best wishes to you and your wife for a good 1987.

Sincerely,

Bruce C. McKinney

Bruce C. McKinney
Assistant Professor