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BETWEEN THE LINES *Patricia Hiltz*

Assassination Enigma Endures

That was quite an ad from Random House in a recent issue of the *New York Times* for Gerald Posner's "Case Closed" (see review on cover).

Garrison: "The JFK assassination was a homosexual thrill-killer," by five authors and a film maker (all three Stoakes), the inside-line announced. *Random* of course, was also fair and complete, but after reading it, well, all say, OK, that's the end of it — "Case closed."

But take the case of Failure Analysis Associates, the Menlo Park firm that used computer enhancement to reconstruct the JFK assassination for a 1992 study. Posner refers to that study repeatedly but does not explain that Failure Analysis was commissioned by the American Bar Association to create its reconstruction for the ABA's mock trial of Lee Harvey Oswald in San Francisco last year. The trial ended with a hung jury.

According to Angela Meyer of Failure Analysis, "Our job for the ABA was to provide evidence and expert witnesses for both the defense and the prosecution." Posner appears to draw from testimony for the prosecution's case, not the defense's case.

Although Failure Analysis was not asked to provide its own opinion of Oswald's guilt or innocence, the company's CEO, Roger McCarthy (who testified for the defense at the mock trial) offered what host Brian Baumiller called "a startling conclusion" during the TV program "On the Money" on July 31. Failure Analysis, announced Baumiller, "made a compelling argument that Lee Harvey Oswald did not act alone." According to McCarthy, the gunman

"gave up some awfully good shots to take some awfully bad shots" — to "drive the quarry into a second shooting" by other assassins.

Baumiller then remarked, "Few sharpshooters, much less Oswald, could hit a moving target taking aim as rapidly as Oswald supposedly did." He asked McCarthy, "Can it be done?" McCarthy responded, "I can't. In the best shot I know, I can do that." Baumiller concluded, "Thirty years later, no one, not even Failure Analysis, is ready to say conclusively who killed President Kennedy." Case open.

Patricia Hiltz is book editor for *The Chronicle*.

T.O. SYLVESTER

