

WOFFORD COLLEGE

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February 13, 1995

Mr. Stephen Ambrose
Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis
88 College Ave.
New Brunswick, N.J. 08903

Dear Mr. Ambrose:

Enclosed are a few items that may be of interest to you since you were among those who so highly praised Gerald Posner's Case Closed. One item is a copy of a letter I wrote to Mr. Posner himself, detailing what the class I conducted this past January uncovered. Along with that letter I sent him a collection of student papers, including some documentary support, totalling over 150 pages, which demonstrate that his book is both seriously flawed and a patent fraud. I believe my students, mostly freshmen and sophomores, including only one history major, were able to demonstrate more critical, objective judgment than you demonstrated in your unfounded praise. You might be especially interested in the paper on Mr. Posner's defense of the single-bullet theory, which my students discovered was more a "tour de farce" than the "tour de force" in your own words.

Incidentally, since you were quoted as saying: "I'd like to see a law passed where nobody is allowed to write or publish another book on the assassination unless they've taken an exam to prove they understand the facts." (Wisconsin Capital Times, Oct. 11, 1993), I wonder if you think that should also extend to reviewers of such books. In which case, I have enclosed the final quiz my students took. Think you could pass it?

Sincerely,

Dr. Gerald Ginocchio

Interim #309
"Anatomy of a Fraud"
Final Quiz
2/2/95

- A. Answer all of the following questions. Read each question carefully, and answer each question as best you can.
1. Who is Dr. Renatus Hartogs? In what way does Posner misrepresent his testimony before the Warren Commission?
 2. What is the single-bullet theory, as put forth originally by the Warren Commission? How does Posner modify it? Identify any two problems with either version.
 3. Who is Rosemary Willis, and why is she crucial to Posner's account of the shooting? Identify any two problems with this aspect of Posner's case.
 4. In analyzing the Failure Analysis Associates reconstructions and diagrams (especially as presented in Appendix A of Case Closed), Mr. Weisberg suggests this is an example of "garbage-in, garbage-out" (GIGO). Briefly discuss and illustrate this point.
 5. In addition to misrepresenting or quoting selectively from testimony, Posner also ignores important contrary testimony. Give one example of this and tell why it is significant.
 6. Briefly discuss what I suggested was wrong (or Mr. Weisberg felt was "sick, sick, sick") about the Doonesbury cartoon on the JFK assassination I handed out in one of our meetings.
 7. Give two examples in which Posner himself violates his own rule that:
"Testimony closer to the event must be given greater weight than changes or additions made years later, when the witness's own memory is often muddled or influenced by television programs, films, books, and discussions with others." (p.235)
 8. Discuss as thoroughly as you can the basic findings of one group other than your own. The main groups were:
 - (a) Oswald's biography
 - (b) Alleged assassination rifle and Oswald's rifle capability
 - (c) Oswald's actions on Nov. 22, 1963
 - (d) Tippit murder
 - (e) JFK autopsy and Connally's wounds
 - (f) Single-bullet theory
 - (g) Posner's treatment of the critics (or "conspiracy community")