

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Garrison's Story

Editor — I doubt whether last Friday's editorial, with its crocodile tears over Jim Garrison's cruelty to the defenseless Lyndon Johnson and J. Edgar Hoover will cure many of the "millions of people all over the world who are afflicted by a compulsion to believe that the murder of President Kennedy was the work of a conspiracy."

No doubt you are too busy to read the numerous critiques showing that the single-assassin theory is belied by the Warren Commission's own published evidence, but perhaps you might spend an hour with the January Ramparts, where Garrison's argument is cogently outlined. Garrison may be wrong on details, but his case already appears more substantial than the "official" version which The Chronicle blindly recommends...

FREDERICK CREWS.

Berkeley.

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Editor — "Garrison's Wild Conspiracy Tale" may be wrong — but it might also be right.

If Mr. Garrison is wrong, his investigation will fall of its own weight.

If he is right, he should be heard and his findings acted upon.

We don't know if he's right or wrong yet and we'll never know if he's denied the right — and access to material — to prove himself wrong or right, as the case may be. Certainly we have nothing to lose.

I might add, that as a professional researcher, I am impressed with the depth and quality of Mr. Garrison's research. Unfortunately, I can't say the same of the work going into the Warren Report.

DEL BEHREND.

Mill Valley.

## L.A. and S.F.

Editor — Those, like one of your recent columnists, who indulge in the sport of writing snide comments on Los Angeles, are missing the point...

noisseurs of urbanism (among whom I include myself) is that Los Angeles is America's dream city, the city America always wanted. Two-thirds of those who come to California go to southern California. Los Angeles is the easiest city in the United States — the easiest to find a job or house in, the easiest to get around in a car in, the easiest for shopping and recreation, the easiest climate — and that is what America wants most of all, an easy life, all fun, no trouble, no problems. The facts that Los Angeles is a mediocre environment, that it has smog and various other annoyances, are irrelevant. They are not strong enough or persistent enough to overthrow the illusion of the good (easy) environment.

There are probably at least as many and as strong creative cultural forces in L.A. as in the Bay Area. Los Angeles is the second greatest art market in the U.S. after New York. Where do we stand?

The East Bay, the Peninsula and San Jose are indistinguishable from typical parts of Los Angeles, except that hills and water have prevented their spread into the typical Los Angeles endlessness. The same forces are at work here. If the controls on Bay fill are ever removed, San Francisco Bay will look like Los Angeles in ten years.

It is time for us to stop congratulating ourselves on being better than Los Angeles, and begin to plan how to prevent the Bay Area from becoming another. My life has been fairly equally divided between north and south. I like it better here. But I'm not sure how much better it is.

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Chairman,

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## Memo to Youth

Editor — This is intended for all the young adults who seem to be so angry at the world, throughout the world, not just here in the United States.

years old, I can feel their plight sadly. What I truly don't understand is their "fear" of world conditions at their tender and yet adult age.

If I may bring myself into the picture, may I say that, at age 22, I wished to be a test pilot for the U.S. Air Force. When war threatened this country, I volunteered along with more than 80 other qualified persons to retaliate against Japan by bombing Tokyo and other major cities. We did so very early in the war mainly to buy this country a little time to prepare itself and at the same time to raise the morale of our people after what seemed to be nothing but devastating losses. Our raid naturally had a demoralizing effect on the Japanese.

Unselfish? Perhaps not in the usual manner, but rather selfish in that I wished to belong to a part of humanity and be with close friends, the other volunteers, more than life itself.

I paid for my services as I lost a leg in China at age 25 and for another 25 years I have had almost continuous pain as a reminder, but no person will tell me it was not worth it as I know better.

We must all stand and be counted. Are we afraid? Yes. But how afraid? You must ask yourself — are these my ideas or others' ideas? I have kept close track of the young people and they are indeed very interested in life — their life, and they wonder how they can possibly survive even making a living. "Leave us alone and we'll make a living," they say, but "Help us and you're helping yourself."

If only we would see the value of this country pulling together and therefore not giving aid to the enemy, any enemy, we would have a double blessing in that there would not be enemy and friend alike killing on such a large scale.

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Major, USAF (Retired).

Chico.

Major Lawson is author of the best seller, "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," written shortly after the