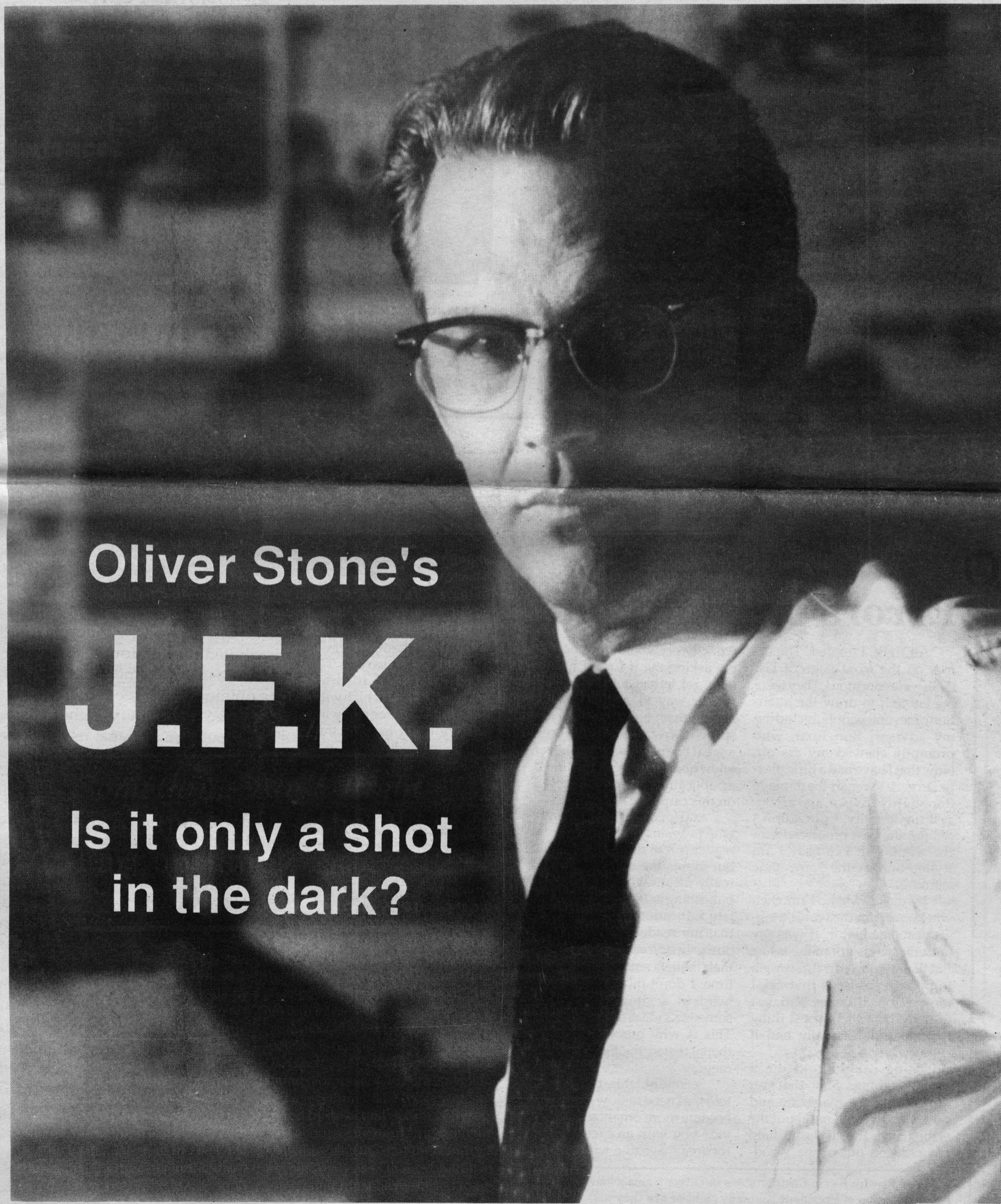


University of Southern Indiana

# Transitions

March 25, 1992  
Vol. 1, Issue 3

Student Magazine



Oliver Stone's

## J.F.K.

Is it only a shot  
in the dark?

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## Last Minute Details...

# Errors provide helpful insight

All right, I goofed. The errors on the front page of last issue were enormous. They were big enough to draw the attention of several people, including my advisor, Ron Roat, who promptly chewed my ass off. Now that I have had a little plastic surgery to repair the damage done by my advisor, and to conceal my identity, I can admit I am not the best proofreader in the world. But I can say I am trying, and at the same time learning.

If you know who I am, then you know I am the world's biggest procrastinator. It was my fault the errors got in the issue. But then again, I saw it as my job to publish the issue first. So, I took a few liberties and got caught. This was the best thing for me, and I actually had it coming.

Being caught told me a couple of things. First, that you are reading the magazine and care enough to tell me about the errors. Since the last issue, help has crawled out of the wood-

work. Everywhere I turn people are asking me if I need help. I now get letters telling me the proper way to spell *separation* and *vacuum*; both of which are spelled correctly here. It has been a great couple of weeks. I never knew how many people wanted a publication like this to succeed on this campus.

And for them I will continue with my *grand experiment*, as one reader put it, in the same style, but minus the errors, I hope. I really meant what I said about publishing issues that will stimulate educational thought and that my readers will take seriously. Everyone must stand for their beliefs and rights sometime. I don't mind putting my head in a sling to promote someone's ideas once in awhile. This is why our founding fathers created the First Amendment.

Secondly, this ordeal has told me I need to slow down and become more organized to provide you with an excellent, error-free magazine with contro-

versial and stimulating articles. Ones you will want to read. To help with this, I have tried to establish office hours which will be posted on my door. I will make every effort to keep the office open, provided that God does not intervene. (Yes, I do believe in God)

I have also hired a couple of copy editors to ensure this and future issues will have fewer errors. If you do find an error, bring it to my attention. (So I don't get a ton of letters. Again.)

I hope some of you will find this issue as stimulating as the last. Hell it is big enough. I have tried to put something in for everyone. From entertainment to athletics to editorials. Read it and tell me what you like and don't like. (And not the same people who sent all those letters about the last issue either. I just got done printing some of them.) I look forward to many more issues of *Transitions*.

Bob Wendt, Editor

**Cover Photo:** Kevin Costner stars in Oliver Stone's movie JFK. Are Stone's interpretations of the assassination of President Kennedy right or are they just a shot in the dark?

Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

# Transitions

Student Magazine

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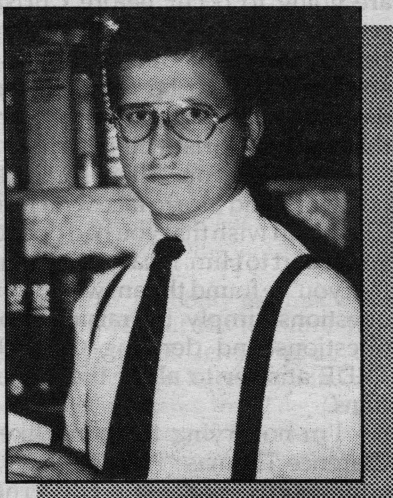
# Proving the existence of God is rather simple

To the Editor of Transitions:

If I descended to an unthinking, brutish response to Mr. Van Hoosier's attempt to undo the Christian's faith, I might impugn my own Christian character or, at least, give some credibility to his atheistic diatribe. I, however, shall take the high road and ground my arguments in the bedrock of solid truth and support my criticisms with a foundation of Christian charity.

Bold claims do not an argument make. Many of Van Hoosier's bold claims are so twisted, so much a distortion of fact, that unknitting them shall prove a formidable task, yet even his soul deserves such effort, so gracious is our God. And since my friend has begun with the existence of the God I serve, let me begin there also.

I want to thank my friend for two admissions that prove very detrimental to his cause: first, he admits the universe was **created** and, second, he admits there was "some force" (whether known or unknown will be answered later) that brought the world into existence. Perhaps he is not far from the kingdom of God after all. But my hopes, I think fade in the light of his further commentary, for he would have us believe that man created God. It is rather puzzling to me how my friend could believe the universe to be the product of **creation** by a "force," and yet maintain that God exists only in the mind of a deluded people. Never-



theless, we will accept his admissions and pray he realizes the logical end for which they cry.

My friend claims to be agnostic. An agnostic, in the general sense of the term, is someone who does not know whether God exists or not. Yet, as we have seen, he writes that a "force" brought about this **creation**, and he does so with the same emphasis with which he made his agnostic claim. Mr. Van Hoosier seems confused as to what an agnostic is and as to why he believes himself one. Let me help him know that God does, indeed, exist.

The existence of God can be proved in many ways (Ontological, Cosmological, Teleological arguments, etc.), but the following logical proof will suffice. Either God exists, or He does not. This strong disjunction exhausts the possibili-

ties. If God does not exist, then subjectivism is true. Subjectivism, however, implies logical contradiction. Since all logical contradictions are false, then subjectivism is false. But if subjectivism is false, then it is also false that God does not exist. Therefore, God must exist.

I realize that my friend will deny this proves the existence of God. But instead of making mere assertions, I implore him to prove his objection. If he can, let him either show the fallacy of the above argument or form an argument which proves that God does not exist.

Perhaps I can anticipate one objection my friend might make. One of the principal arguments those of Mr. Van Hoosier's persuasion offer is the objection from evil. It is said that if God is all-powerful, He can remove evil from the world and if He is all-good he would not allow evil in the world. But evil is in the world. Therefore, either God is not all-powerful or not all-good which, in either case, proves that God does not exist.

The answer to the previous objection to the existence of God is rather simple. An argument of this kind only works when all the possibilities are exhausted. This is not the case, however, in the above argument. Not only is God all-powerful and all-good, He is also all-knowing. It is at least possible that God, who is infinite in knowledge, may know something about evil that may mitigate against the above argument.

For example, what we call evil may ultimately work for our own good. Indeed, it often does. Therefore, the objection from evil fails.

Furthermore, the agnostic asks, "What kind of god would do this to anyone, to punish them for anything?" I ask what kind of God would not? Does this agnostic discipline his children for disobedience? If so, I fail to see what justifies his punishment but not God's. Verily, the legs of the lame are not equal. The audacity and arrogance of the agnostic is remarkable. The Christian is made out to be a horrible, hateful, ignorant monster and God the same, while the atheist and agnostic wear the halo. What a twist!

This God, whom I serve, has revealed Himself to mankind through that holy volume we call the Bible. I want to take up Mr. Van Hoosier's attack on the Scriptures in my next letter if I am permitted to continue my correspondence. But, before closing, I want to encourage my friend not to be drawn into a system of agnosticism or atheism by professors such as those which occupy seats at this university. The professors I have had here are loathe to respond to arguments as the one given above. Please do not fall into the ditch of ignorance by following some blind guide.

Personal regards,

Eric L. Padgett, Evansville.

## Reader challenges Van Hoosier's bold claims

Letter to Allen Van Hoosier,

If the Bible is indeed just a fairy tale, as you seem to suggest, then take this into consideration: The Bible was written over a time span of hundreds and hundreds of years by numerous, different contributors. Yet somehow, perhaps by some "unknown force," it all fits together in perfect harmony.

Could this be the same "unknown force" that allowed something to hit our sun, by one chance in a thousand, and allowed it to produce the planets? I suppose this would also be the same force that by another one chance in a thousand contributed the proper chemicals necessary for life, and the right temperature on one of these planets, so that matter on this earth could come to life.

This force then "allowed," by a very long series of chances, for these living creatures to develop into things like you and me, living, breathing, reasoning, intelligent human beings with a moral fiber uncharacteristic of any other creatures roaming this planet. Oh well, call it dumb luck.

In your article, you mentioned

being frightened about living in a country that is 93 percent Christian. What country is that? Surely you're not talking about the United States where things such as suicide, drug abuse, sexual immorality and murder dominate our newspaper headlines. The term "Christian" has been grossly misused and over-generalized by today's society, but let's not be hypocritical. The point is, why would 93 percent of 250 million people acknowledge that something exists when they've never seen it? The simple, observable fact is that a very small percentage of Americans are walking in their Christian faith day to day. Yet this same 93 percent, many of whom have never stepped foot inside a church, acknowledge that there is a God in heaven. Have these people been brainwashed? Oh, come on.

The Bible is full of prophecy that has been fulfilled over the years, and continues to be fulfilled today. Christianity has been under heavy fire in recent times, largely because of false prophets and others who take "the Word" out of context. That also, was prophesied. You suggested that, "The people who wrote this book are

close-minded, racist, sexist, judgmental hypocrites." The fact of the matter is that the people who wrote the Bible were whipped, stoned, publicly humiliated, beheaded and crucified, yet they still stood up for what they believed in. Do you consider this hypocritical behavior?

I'm very close-minded about Christianity, but I can afford to be. I'm right. I can't deny what I feel. I can't deny what I've seen the Lord do in my life and the lives of others. It's not just something that I read and accept, it's a relationship that I can feel. I'm a far cry from perfect, but I know where I can take my setbacks and adversities. My only

wish is that you could have the same inner peace and assurance that I feel.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Hillyard

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

—Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:10-12)

## Article set gears grinding

To Bob Wendt and Allen Van Hoosier

First, to Allen: Congratulations on attempting to tackle such a controversial topic as the separation of church and state. My views do not necessarily agree with yours entirely, but the piece piqued my interest. Suffice it to say, that it set the gears of my mind grinding against each

other. A brass-balls article, my compliments! And to Bob: Please continue with the eccentric and unconventional style of *Transitions*. Maybe with the right key, you'll open a few closed minds. Good luck with your grand experiment!

Sincerely,

Kyle Atkinson, Evansville.

# Van Hoosier needs to 'make the right choice'

Dear Editor:

My following comments are directed at Allen Van Hoosier. You make many strong comments in your article, but one that stuck out to me was, "Not an all loving and accepting God mind you, but a judgmental and condescending God." If God is not all loving, why did He send His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die for the sins of the world?

Someday, perhaps, you will have kids, and I imagine that it will be unfathomable to you to sacrifice your child for the sake of the world. You don't seem to have a very positive opinion of the world anyway, so I can't see you giving up your own flesh and blood for people's wrongdoing.

I am just appalled at the blasphemy and lack of respect that you have shown by even comparing yourself to Christ with the picture of you on the cross, complaining to the government. I feel like I'm the one who has been forgotten by my government because they have allowed for this type of journalism to be legal and published, and it kills me that nothing can be done to stop it.

Whatever has caused you to hate God so much? I know that many people in this world profess to be Christians. What was the statistic, 93 percent of America claims to be Christian? Well, there is a difference between claiming to be a Christian, going to church every Sunday, or even only on Easter, praying, giving money and all these other things people equate with religion, and having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

In answer to your question, no, the whole country is not going to heaven in a handbasket. In all actuality, probably very few people will go to heaven. They are fooling themselves into thinking that they can work their way into the pearly gates, but until people realize that all they have to do is ask Christ to come into their hearts and believe that He died and rose again in three days and is coming back, sooner than we know, they will never go to heaven.

Allen, many people claim to be Christians and then turn around and do things that make people like you wonder about Christianity. For example, Jimmy Swaggart, Jim Bakker, etc. Even on a smaller scale, you probably have friends who have done hypocritical things. I myself am guilty of doing things that don't coincide with my beliefs, but this goes along with being human. Yes, we were created in Christ's image, but we are still human and are still going to sin. That's just part of life.

What I believe has a lot to do with faith. If you have none, there is simply no sane way to believe what I do. Either I'm the biggest fool walking around, or what I believe is the absolute truth. I obviously feel it's the truth. You said in your article that the Bible is, "... nothing more than a story..." To believe what I do, you have to take the Bible very literally and believe that it's the whole truth.

As I just stated, I may be believing a total lie, but I have seen too many evidences in my life of God's love and His reality not to take this "holy" book for what it is, the truth.

Also, if you have ever studied the Bible you might be more apt to believe it because in the book of Revelation it talks about things that are going to occur before Christ's return. Many of them have happened, and many other prophecies are beginning to be fulfilled. One day they will all have occurred, and that's when Christ will return.

I promise you, Allen, some day you will stand face to face with Jesus Christ and wish that you had opened your heart to Him. Please don't think that you've found the answer to your questions simply by raising more questions and denying God, the TRUE answer to all of life's questions.

I'm not trying to sound like a Clarence Thomas "Holy Roller," in your words. I'm just a concerned Christian who doesn't want to see anyone go to hell. And there is a hell. Allen, God loves you even though you can't seem to believe that or believe in Him. He loves you and me and everyone, in spite of ourselves. That's what's so hard to comprehend.

The reason I was so upset when I read your article is because as you said, we Christians are, "hung up" on martyrdom, anyway." I would die for my God and my beliefs. You are just so casually degrading the one person who loves you more than anyone you could ever know. You are making light of such a huge issue to many, other than myself.

I agree with Bob that it is your first amendment right to print this kind of article, but I think this is much bigger than simply an issue of

rights. This is a moral and spiritual issue, but most of all, this is an issue about life and where you will spend yours eternally.

I've considered the things that you wrote. Again, please don't think that you could ever compare yourself to Christ. You or I could never imagine the pain He went through on the cross.

Please think long and hard when you are writing the refrain from lumping all Christians into the group of "Fascists." You are obviously asking others to consider your close-minded opinion, but I'm begging you to open your mind and heart and reevaluate the beliefs that you would die for.

Allen, I didn't mean for this letter to turn into a novel, and by no means am I condemning you or what you choose to believe. It is your right, just as it is my right to believe what I choose. I'm not trying to force my beliefs on you.

But, please don't further degrade those of us who do choose to believe in the things that you feel are so ridiculous. I know that if you would just give God a chance that He could really work in your life. He's amazing!

Thank you for reading my comments as I have yours. Remember John 3:16 — "For God so loved the world (you) that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life." Make the right choice.

Gail A. Bridgewater

## Writer feels that Van Hoosier is misleading

Mr. Van Hoosier,

Your article on our country, speaking from an American viewpoint, concerning God and his influence was very well written as well as eloquent. I'm happy to say, however, that eloquence is probably the only thing that you and I have in common.

Anyone who has not had a frontal lobotomy can string a few sentences together in verbal harmony. However, to get to the purpose of my rebuttal, I will ask but only one question. What is it that you believe?

You've strung your thoughts on a clothesline and picked Christianity as a topic for a cult discussion. However, how can one judge something that he or she knows very little or nothing about?

You refer to the Bible as a handbook to the "close-minded racists" of Anglo-Saxon descent. However, the Anglo-Saxons are not God's chosen people. It is the Israelites, or Jewish nation, that God has looked after. If we, speaking as fellow Christians, were racists, would we not signify ourselves as the "chosen ones?"

Regarding your referencing Jesus Christ to other so called "eminent men," you overlooked one very important issue. Buddha, Romulus, or Alexander the Great never rose from the dead promising to return.

If, by chance, you could stomach your way through it, I suggest you read the Bible just a little bit more. I think you will find that it is not only a history of the past, but it is also a guide for the future. This book bases its *soul* purpose on a man that nearly 2000 years ago died for each and every one of us. This is what you call self-righteous and judgmental? What more could a person give in this life than to sacrifice himself for another human being? Could you be so compassionate and forgiving when your own race condemned you?

As far as God being "judgmental and condescending," I think that you were probably looking into your own heart instead of God's.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

This country has prospered and grew because we, the 93 percent, have believed in God and his son's promise. We might not be "self-righteous, fiery, boisterous, politically-active, bleeding-heart liberal agnostics," but we believe in a higher purpose. We know that there is a higher ground on which all men can stand equal in the sight of God. The kind of happiness and bliss that we can only dream of in our hearts shall be opened to those who believe.

On the other hand, until then, the world must be subject to the blasphemy that you refer to as literature. We must have our courts plagued with the American Civil Liberties Union's rendition of justice. We will have drug addiction, the AIDS virus, and abortion fester in our country as a label for free rights for those who do not want to search for God.

I sincerely hope that you have not got the wrong impression of this letter. I'm not condemning you; you have already taken care of that yourself. I'm just imploring to you that a "man is something that's real; it's not what you are, it's what you believe in."

## Student responds to Van Hoosier

Dear Mr. Van Hoosier,

You are my hero. I only wish that I were as intelligent and knowledgeable about the existence of God as you are; you have all the answers.

My problem is that I went to a parochial school for thirteen years of my life. They brainwashed me into receiving a quality education, respecting my parents and peers, and accepting other people's beliefs and values.

Christians are very different from what you describe. A true Christian would want you to feel the same happiness and peace that they have found through the love of Jesus Christ. If it appears that we are overbearing at times, I guess we consider a person's soul to be pretty important.

If I seemed to get off the subject of the government's trust in God, I was just following your lead. This was but a scapegoat for you to downgrade many people's beliefs.

I, for one, will not sit back and watch you misinform others.

Brian Dardeen, Evansville

Who knows, Allen, maybe with your leadership and guidance we can learn to be as politically correct as you are.

Sincerely,

John V. Goebel, Senior

\*P.S. I often find that arrogant, closed minded and self-righteous people do not recognize sarcasm, so I wanted to let you know that this is a sarcastic letter.

It's the year of the Olympics, a time in which world competition is at its highest, a time when the countries come together to compete in friendly games.

In the realm of politics, the tone of competition is quite different. While U.S. and Japanese athletes battle it out for the gold, their political counterparts playing the game of world economics are going for blood. The Japanese are taking a "no holds barred" approach to the U.S.

Using colorful political rhetoric as their weapon of choice, the Japanese are waging an all out verbal war against the United States.

It all started in January of this year when Japan's lower House Speaker Yoshio Sakurachi proclaimed that U.S. workers are lazy and partly illiterate. This statement sent a wave of disbelief and anger throughout the United States.

This was not to be the end, though. Two weeks later other Japanese officials joined the bandwagon. This list of officials ranged from the Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to former Minister of International Trade Kabun Muto.

Miyazawa told the Japanese Parliament on Feb. 3 that Americans are "losing their work ethic and the drive to live by the sweat of their brow." A former cabinet minister told a Parliament committee that the faltering American economy was due to the fact that "U.S. workers put in only three good days on the job each week."

Muto expanded this idea while discussing American auto workers. He stated that the workers are too preoccupied with the upcoming weekends on Fridays and that they can not put their whole effort into their work performance on Monday because they played too hard on Saturday and Sunday. One might assume that this leaves only Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to get anything out of the American workers.

Are these things true? Is the United States filled with lazy, unmotivated, illiterate workers? It is easy to spout accusations, but it is another thing to back them up.

Overheard in an unemployment line: *I'm thinkin' 'bout movin' to Japan for a job. I wonder if they need anybody to test remote controls or some of those new high-tech TV's?*

As the American recession plummets and unemployment rises, a scapegoat is needed to take the brunt of the failed responsibility. Our government and business can only handle so much of the blame. No need to look impotent. That is why we are looking to Japan, condemning them for ruining our economy and taking our jobs. For some reason, we are not criticizing them for their superior products or low prices, but for being crafty and unfair traders and for stealing our seat as the most powerful economic nation.

In recent months, despite diplomatic trade talks, Japan and America have exchanged insults about general population and businesses. This barrage continues as American leaders in politics and business are trying to even out the trade imbalance and are hoping to restore a little national face.

Japan has become our enemy, the equivalent of what Russia was a decade ago. Only this is an economic war.

The origin of the insults is next to impossible to trace, but politician Yoshio Sakurachi's comment fed the flames and received the most reaction. Sakurachi said "The root of the (trade) problem lies in the inferior quality of U.S. labor. The American worker doesn't work enough but wants higher pay. About one-third can't even read."

He should get his facts straight — the illiteracy rate in the work force is only 15 percent. As for the stinging remark of American laziness and greed, nothing hurts like the truth. Americans are lazy and greedy. We want the most we can get for ourselves for the least amount of effort.

According to some economists the charges the Japanese are making are based on so-called "half-truths." The United States is still the wealthiest and most productive country in the world. U.S. economic decline is greatly exaggerated. Prior to the 1980's, the Japanese economy was growing much faster than

## Point

By Jason Davis

the U.S. economy due to the fact that the Japanese economy was at rock bottom at the end of World War II and the U.S. economy was at one of its all time highs. The Japanese economy had all the room to grow.

The U.S. economy has made slow steady growth but has had little room for improvement. Jerry Jorden, chief economist for First Interstate Bancorp in Los Angeles, states that "the level of productivity among U.S. workers is definitely higher than among Japanese workers."

Jorden asks this question of Miyazawa, "Where does he get his evidence?" It apparently is not from very reliable sources. According to many studies and statistics the average American worker is a hard worker. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics showed the average workweek in American manufacturing was 40.8 hours in 1990, up from 39.7 hours in 1980.

"Americans are starving for time," said researchers at the Washington-based Economic Policy Institute. The study, conducted by Juliet Schor of Harvard University and Laura Leete-Guy of Case

Western University, shows that the average U.S. worker puts in 140 more hours on the job per year than he did two decades ago.

Figuring in the rise in work hours, commuting time and the decline of time off, the economists said that Americans are spending 158 hours more each year on work. That is equal to an extra month of work each year. "The Japanese statements about Americans being lazy and not wanting to work are not based on fact," Leete-Guy said.

Cynthia Latta, a senior financial economist at DRI-McGraw Hill stated, "The (Japanese) comparison is really in number of hours worked, not in productivity per se. That may be why the Japanese are saying Americans are getting soft and lazy."

Americans are working more than ever, out producing the Japanese, yet the Japanese still complain.

Perhaps it is all of the leisure time Americans take that is upsetting the Japanese. The same study that showed Americans were working an extra month per year also showed that they were taking less vacations, holidays and personal days. Paid time off fell approximately 15 per cent in the 1980's. Americans had an average of 16.1 days off in 1989. In contrast, the study cited many European countries where workers received up to five weeks of paid vacations. If Americans are taking less time off and spending more time working, then why do the Japanese still complain? It may well be because Japanese workers make only 85 per cent of the wages of their American counterparts. According to the U.S. Labor Department, the average cost of labor in the United States was \$14.77 in

1990. The Japanese were not far behind with an hourly cost of \$12.64 for labor. Not bad considering that U.S. workers made 31 per cent less than their counterparts in West Germany, who made \$21.53 per hour in 1990.

Other European countries average more than \$20 per hour including Switzerland, Sweden and Finland. Workers in Canada, France and Italy all made more than \$15 per hour. Clearly the Japanese cannot complain about America's wages being too high.

What should Americans do in response to these unfair and untrue accusations? Some believe we should *Buy American*. This is a great idea but is a hard one to practice.

For instance, I support the buying of American products all the way, so when I went to buy a car I bought an all-out American automobile: a Dodge. Imagine my surprise when I went to change the oil only to discover that all the nuts and bolt were metric. Why were they metric? Because my engine is a Japanese-built engine with a design based on the metric system.

Come to find out my car was built in the good old USA, but with parts shipped from Japan.

There are still many cards to be played in this economic game with Japan. We seem to have a good hand, but we should never underestimate our opponent.

This statement appeared in a 1958 issue of *Business Week*: "With over 50 foreign cars already on sale here, the Japanese auto industry isn't likely to carve out a big slice of the U.S. market." As a matter of fact the Japanese have spent more than \$9 billion on U.S. car plants, creating more than 110,000 jobs for Americans. While the Japanese are trying to help create jobs for Americans, they seem to be doing more harm than good.

Buying American first is an excellent idea. We need to break away from our dependence on Japanese and other foreign manufactured items. It is our lust for these items that is leaving us starving at home.

UNCENSORED

# Crossfire

Should Americans give the country to Japan or should we try *Buy America*?

Who wants to work 60 hours a week, with low pay, for the glory of the country? Not us. Americans want to work...no, take that back — Americans do not *want* to work, but are forced into it to sustain themselves. We prefer to work the least amount of hours for the greatest amount of personal benefits and money.

Aside from a sumo wrestler, how many beer-belly Japanese men do you see?

So now, in America's holier-than-thou reaction, we are traitors and scum if we support Japan by buying their

## Counterpoint

By Matt Maxwell

products. In Greece, N.Y., the town board voted not to buy a \$40,000 excavating machine from Japan. Instead, they bought a \$55,000 John Deere. In Los Angeles, the county officials repealed a \$122 million contract with a Japanese firm to build public railcars. Several Ford plants are forcing employees with foreign cars to park in the rear lot or face towing. It is all part of the *Buy American* anthem.

It is harder to buy American than it looks. Ask the people in Greece, N.Y. The engine in the John Deere came from Japan; the machine they turned down was made in the U.S.

But what is the point of Buying American? Keeping the economy from

stagnating? Preserving jobs?

Okay, those are noble and wise intentions, but where is the wisdom when American products cost more than Japanese counterparts and the quality sucks? Who is being protected by inferior, high-priced products?

A money-conscious person, as most Americans are, logically buys the best, longest-lasting product with the lowest price. And right now that just happens to be Japanese imports.

It is our own fault, no matter how much we cry, whine and throw-up on dignitaries. American products suck and the prices are outrageous. We can not blame the Japanese for our own deficiencies. Their national character made them superior.

Americans work to live; Japanese live to work. Americans want fewer hours and higher pay; Japanese work for the benefit of the country. American workers are expendable assets; Japanese treat the government, the businesses and its people as one.

The Japanese also know how to control imports for the protection of the people. They do not want fatal car accidents instigated by inferior American automobiles. They are not dumb. They are protecting their citizens. Our government sure as hell does not do that.

And how can we blame the Japanese for our recession, our unemployment, our losing the highest perch in the world when we made them what they are? After World War II, we helped them out to the best of our abilities; we

organized the rebuilding of their cities; we built steel mills and plants. We taught them capitalism. We created a new Japan.

They used to idolize us for what we gave to them, but now, well, they think it is time for us to look up to them. Their country is safer for their people, their economy is not in a recession and their products are better and cheaper.

We became complacent sitting in our recliner, a beer in one hand and a bag of chips in the other with the large Japanese television showing two different channels and a remote control that only a genius could figure out (except the average Japanese adult has no problem with it). We thought our powerful roost would always last and America would always be number one. No way could a bunch of slant-eyes surpass good-ole-boy American know-how.

Well, our eyes are just now beginning to open and realize that those timid foreigners are whipping our asses and there is little we can do. We rely on Japan and their products.

Japan sits in the driver's seat, and the wisest thing we can conjure is *Buy American*. How is Japan going to react to fanatic American patriotism and Japan-bashing? By tightening their import doors on already-inferior products. And where does that lead the cleansed America? With the trade deficit greater than the present exorbitant price tag of \$46 billion.

Those Japs are not dumb. They have got us figured out.

How much do we know of them? Let's keep bitchin', whinin' and flippin' remote controls and we are bound to find out.

Just give it a few years, Saki will out sell Coke, McDonald's will introduce a McSushi Sub and Domino's will make rice pizzas.

# A Shot in the Dark

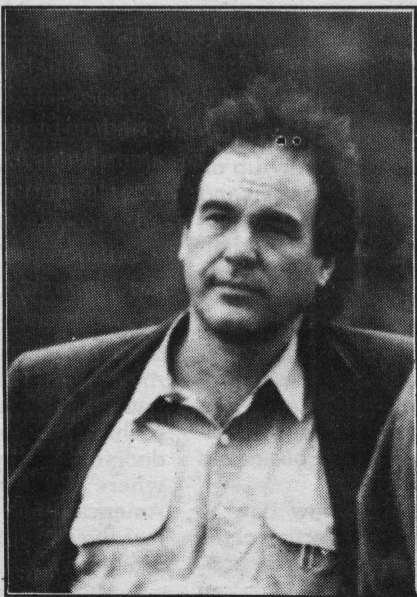


New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison (Kevin Costner) goes over a model of the murder scene to provide the court with evidence to prove the Warren Commission's findings of a lone assassin false. Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

# J.F.K.

by Chad L. Williams

Where were you on November 22, 1963, between noon and 12:30? For the majority of the students here at the university, most of us didn't even exist. Yet for some, the day Lee Harvey Oswald assassinated John Fitzgerald Kennedy is a moment that has never been forgotten.



Oliver Stone

At the time, Americans were first shocked, then outraged. And that rage demanded a victim; someone on whom to place the blame. Our government gave us Oswald, a lone assassin whose past affiliation with Communism gave us what we wanted: a simple, easy answer.

Can we ever forget? No, and we shouldn't forget. Though his career as president was short,

Kennedy gave many dramatic speeches. The speech that he gave at American University in June 1963 strikes a chord with me: "...if we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity. For, in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal."

Most of us are now the children of that future Kennedy predicted. The nineties have slowly proved him right. Sometimes we wonder, "What would have happened if he hadn't died?" Some say Vietnam wouldn't have happened. Others say the Cold War would have ended much sooner. Whatever the reason, the Kennedy assassination has brought forth a new generation of thinkers, people who will not let history pass by and remain unanswered.

Take Oliver Stone's recent exploration into the unknown. *JFK* is based on the 1988 novel, "On the Trail of Assassins" by Jim Garrison and the book "Crossfire: The Plot that Killed Kennedy" by Jim Marrs.

Basically, *JFK* chronicles Jim Garrison's investigation into the

assassination—as District Attorney of New Orleans—and the prosecution of New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw (who later was revealed to be working for the CIA) for conspiracy in the murder. The film also utilizes public sources and other information which has surfaced in the past two decades, including recent material from the investigations by the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

But before I dwell on the aspects of the movie, let's review the past as it has been written.

History deemed the murder of President Kennedy a simple crime to solve. An angry and saddened nation watched as Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested for the murder of a Dallas police officer, then implicated in the assassination of the President less than two hours after Kennedy's murder. Within 24 hours, Oswald himself was murdered while being escorted through the parking garage at the Dallas Police Headquarters by a minor hood named Jack Ruby. From the time of his arrest until his death, Oswald had steadfastly maintained his innocence, declaring to the police and press, "I'm just a patsy."

President Lyndon Johnson,

anxious to avoid controversy and for promptly for the Commission, Justice Earl Warren the assassinati

The Commission to Chief Justice Warren, Congressman Hale Boggs, Leader in the House Ford (R-Mich.), former director had been fired Kennedy after (asco), Congressman Leader Hale Boggs, Richard Russell Sherman Cooper McCloy, a New

After ten years of investigation, which included scores of actual events, the mission upheld Oswald as the lone assassin. Throughout the decades, however, and methods were questioned by critics and investigators. The Commission's point for their investigation into Kennedy's

The movie is entirely on Jim Garrison. The book was not, but I felt Garrison's of his allegations say and circum

For instance, the Trial of As

"Five days after the assassination, the New Orleans received a telexed attempt would be the President in the week. The Bureau the warning to other authorities assassination, removed from New Orleans o

Both Garrison received this as Stone actually one removing from the files was negligent warning and a message to avoid. How many do think a public daily, weekly FBI may be enforcement sources and mited and cannot crackpot call conspiracy. People dent all the time do anything a

Which led Stone uses his to bring all the jigsaw together. matic Kevin Garrison was Costner is still larity of *Robin* winning *Da* Costner's stag an Academy

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ntial evidence.  
nsert from "On  
ins"):

self for *Coal Miner's Daughter*,  
brings forth her image of the bal-  
anced domestic wife. With re-  
spected actors from an older gen-  
eration - Jack Lemmon, Walter  
Matthau and Donald Sutherland  
plus those of a younger genera-  
tion - Joe Pesci, John Candy, Gary

Oldman, Tommy Lee Jones and  
Kevin Bacon - Stone fuels his film's  
arguments by attracting movie-  
goers of all ages. This was excel-  
lent marketing strategy, pure and  
simple. How do you sell a film  
that's mostly a dramatic document-  
ary? Use actors with established

reputations who share your views.  
Genius or cheap ploy? Take your  
pick.

Another problem with *JFK* is  
the assumptions Stone makes  
when setting up a scene of what  
may have happened. When the  
trial of Clay Shaw was in full force,

Garrison challenged the so-called  
"Magic Bullet Theory." This  
theory contends that the Texas  
Governor John Connally, riding  
in the front seat of the President's  
car, was hit by the same bullet that

continued on next page



Lee Harvey Oswald (Gary Oldman) tells a shattered nation through the media that he was only a "patsy". Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

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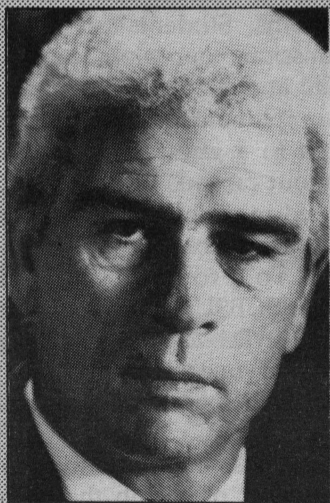
## The Cast



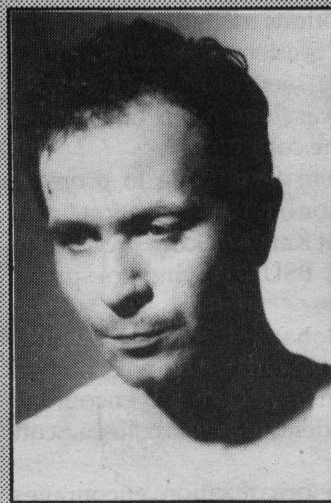
Sissy Spacek as  
Liz Garrison



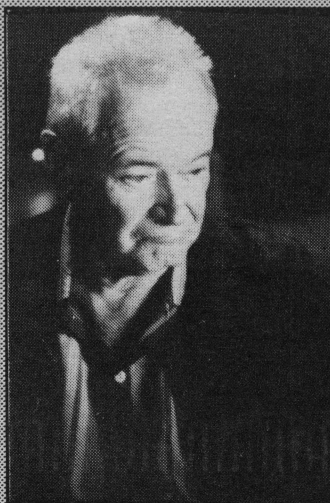
Joe Pesci as  
David Ferrie



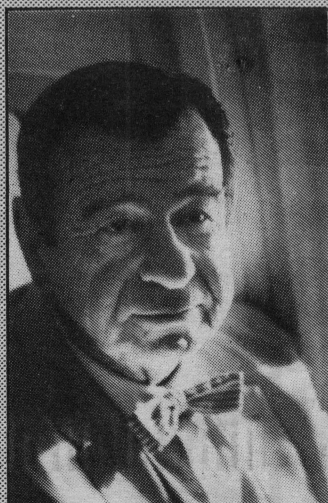
Tommy Lee Jones as  
Clay Shaw



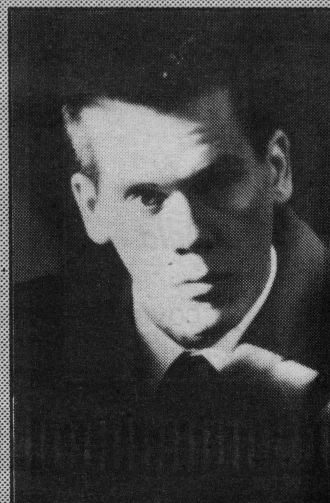
Gary Oldman as  
Lee Harvey Oswald



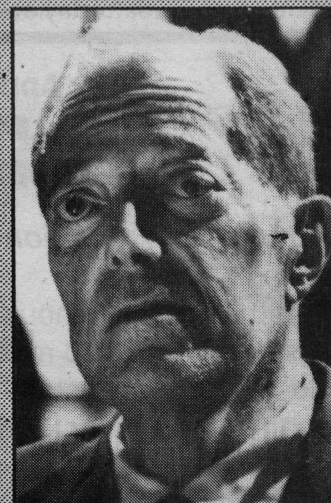
Jack Lemmon as  
Jack Martin



Walter Matthau as  
Senator Russell Long



Kevin Bacon as  
Willie O'Keefe



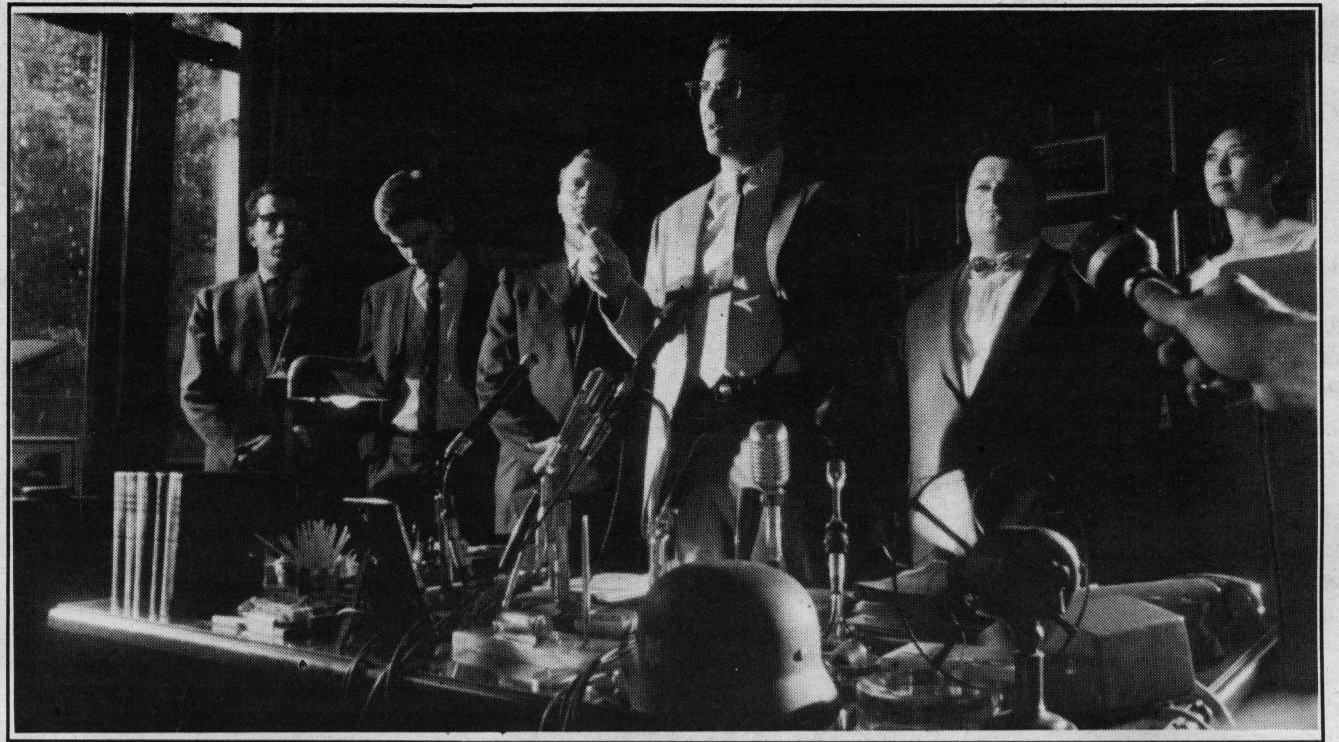
Jim Garrison as  
Chief Justice Earl Warren

**JFK - continued**

pierced President Kennedy's neck. Garrison, and many experts at the time, contend that the path of the bullet would make it highly unlikely to have caused all the damage that it did to both men. The fact that it appeared in pristine form beside Governor Connally at the hospital makes it impossible.

The Warren Commission had concluded that the two men were hit less than 2.3 seconds apart. But Oswald's rifle, a single-shot Italian model, was found by the Commission to be incapable of firing faster than one shot every 2.3 seconds. Thus, unless the same bullet went through both the President and the Governor, they had to be shot by two different gunmen.

The "Magic Bullet Theory" may have some scientific basis, but evidence seems to document support that Oswald had help, which gives merit to the theory of a second gunman located on the "grassy knoll." Whether or not there was more than one gunman is beside the point. Stone uses this information as the basis of his interpretation, portraying the assassination as one big conspiracy, filming his movie in the same section of Dallas in which Kennedy was killed. He uses his dramatic license on the assumptions, not the facts, of the assassination scene. Using the conspiracy angle, Stone used four



New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison (Kevin Costner) reveals to the press his plans to prosecute Clay Shaw for the conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy. Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

gunmen at probable locations and, step by step, reconstructed a possible logical answer to the assassination.

I would be the first to admit I was impressed by the explanation. That's the problem. The audience was actually believing Stone's version of the assassination. History was being rewritten before our eyes on the big screen and there's nothing anybody could do about it. Stone's First Amendment privileges give him the right to do whatever he sees

fit. Fine, there's nothing wrong with Stone expressing his dramatic views on film, but I question any film that portrays "facts" built on hearsay and circumstantial evidence.

And until the federal government lifts the 75-year concealment of the Warren Commission evidence, the assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy will remain as history has been dictated: Lee Harvey Oswald, a lone assassin, shot and killed the President of the United States in 1963,

and Oliver Stone, today, is a director of fiction.

**Sources:**  
Warner Bros. Publicity Dept. "On the Trail of Assassins" by Jim Garrison, 1988. JFK directed by Oliver Stone. The Dallas Morning News. Sunday, April 14, 1991. "JFK: The Mystery Becomes a Movie."

**BSU promotes black awareness**

by Lara Sears

The Black Student Union (BSU) is one of more than 70 clubs and organizations registered with the Office of Student Life. The goal of its 26 active members is to promote black awareness, both on campus and in the community.

"We're also trying to promote recognition of the organization," said President Karlissa Scott. According to Scott, BSU is trying to spread culture.

BSU has sponsored several dances at local high schools, both to recruit members and to encourage more students to attend college, Scott said.

The organization encourages high school students to attend college by sponsoring an annual Pride Fair. Students spend a Saturday at

USI. After registering, the students talk to recruiters at information booths. Students can talk with admissions counselors about financial aid and class requirements. After a complimentary dinner, students listen to a guest speaker who talks about campus life and how to succeed in college. The evening ends with a dance.

To promote Black History month, BSU held a Black and White Ball on Feb. 21. This dance was open to everyone on campus. The money raised helped fund the annual Pride Fair.

Those interested in becoming a member of a club that works not only with the campus, but also with the community, call the Office of Student Life at 464-1872.

**Apply for Editor**

of *Transitions* or *The Shield*

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, a resume, and copies of no more than six pieces of writing to Ronald C. Roat, assistant professor of journalism and chairman of the Student Publications Committee.

**Materials must be submitted by 10 a.m. Friday, March 27, in Roat's mailbox in the School of Liberal Arts.**

**Wayne's World Glossary of Terms**

Word	Meaning
Excellent!	Remarkably good.
Party time, Excellent!	Occasion for celebration. Remarkably good.
Not!	Used at the end of a statement of fact, expressing denial, negation or refusal. (Similar to how a negative symbol at the beginning of a mathematical subset renders that subset negative regardless of any possible positive integer within said subset.)
Extreme Close-up!	Drastic camera angle.
You're pail. You're bucket	You are bad. You are awful.
I'm not worthy!!	I am not deserving!!
Ka-boom!	Resounding explosion.
Take a pill!	Unwind, luxuriate.
Good work my friend.	You should be lauded for your labor.
Unnecessary Zoom!	Superfluous camera angle
Silent Scream!	Voiceless bellow
Schwing!!	My word she is attractive!!
He Shoots! He Scores!	He is victorious. He is successful.
Shyeeeeeaaahh! RRiiiggghhht!	Certainly! Of, course!
Party On Wayne! Party On Garth!	Celebrate Wayne! Celebrate Garth!
I think I'm gonna hurl!!	I believe the possibility exists for me to vomit.
And monkeys might fly out of my butt!	The chance of something like that happening are less than if primates were to soar from my backside!
Aurora Rocks!	Aurora is indeed a lively city.
It sucked	I must admit, it was not very good.
A chick movie	A film geared towards a redominantly female audience.
Rrrreggle!	An onomatopoeic utterance pioneered by Jerry the Dentist on TV's <i>The Dick Van Dyke Show</i> .

Courtesy of Reprise Records





Photo by Bob Wenet

Coach Dugan discusses strategy during a game against Kentucky State

# Taking the Right Chance

Coach Chancelor Dugan is on the road to victory

By Trisha Kempa

**A**t the sound of the buzzer, the Lady Eagles were down by four points. Despite the defeat, think of it as "not getting beat, just running out of time." These are the words of USI's newest asset, Coach Chancelor Dugan.



Taking over the women's basketball team must definitely be a challenge. With many talented young women on the team, the challenge is to get past the hardships of the last couple of years and move on. Basically, to get the girls to love the sport again.

The 6-foot-2 Dugan is a native of Louisville, Ky. In high school, she excelled on the swim team, but never played basketball. During the first semester of her freshman year at Bellarmine College, she was on the swim team, but still she did not play basketball.

Why not? Because she had developed knee trouble from growing six inches in one year. She always wanted to play basketball, but did not begin to play until the second semester of her

freshman year at Eastern Kentucky University.

The summer between her freshman and sophomore year proved to be a challenge that required dedication. "Chance" worked out in a gym eight hours a day to become the best player she could possibly be. During this time, her performance increased, and for the next three years, she was a starting player on the team. Not only was she a starting player, but she also became the leading rebounder and the second highest scorer.

After graduation, she filled the position of head coach in George West, Texas, and assistant coach at the University of Alabama, Morehead State, and then at Eastern Kentucky University for two years.

When the position opened at USI for a women's head basketball coach, Dugan viewed it as a "great opportunity and job." What does all this add up to? A lady who is where she is today through dedication and optimism.

How does she feel about coaching the Lady Eagles? She is extremely optimistic and looks to bring out the talent in each player. Dugan finds it difficult to instill a positive attitude and believes, "nothing will ever get done if a person doesn't set aside the time to do it — always be positive."

She spoke of athletes not having as much

dedication as they used to because of peer pressures or not being focused on just one sport. Dugan encourages "school first."

In speaking of her players, she says no two are alike. She wants them to always work hard and thinks of the team as a close-knit group. Dugan describes herself as very honest — someone who does not play mind games with the players. Because of her open-door policy, Dugan gets along well with her players and is always willing to listen if they need to talk.

"The whole team loves her and has a lot of respect for her. She is on the right track to turn the team around," said Heidi Bullock, USI sophomore guard.

Many of the other team members said Dugan has put the fun back into basketball and made it exciting again. Dugan has invested much effort and made a great deal of progress with the women's program.

"There's no comparison to last year — the atmosphere is very positive," said Sharon Gentry, sophomore guard. Other members of the Athletic Department have nothing but positive comments for the new coach.

What is her coaching philosophy? "To prepare as best we can be prepared for whoever we play." Dugan does not have many rules except to live and learn. Her coaching centers around three-pointers, all-over pressure defense and an up-tempo pace during a game. Dugan feels defense has carried them, but that both offense and defense need to be consistent. She views the team as young, but very talented. Dugan positively feels we will see a vast improvement between this year's team and next year's team.

Dugan does enjoy life outside basketball. She is single and has always opted for a career first. She likes being single, but also likes to date and have fun. Dugan likes life and doing what she wants. She likes workouts, step aerobics, golf, riding horses and three on three tournaments. Basically, she likes anything to do outdoors.

Dugan loves USI, "Everyone involved has been great and very respectful."

# She preserves past for future

Step into Marjorie Melvin Jones' office and be swept into the past.

The interior, at first glance, is the aftermath of a tornado. But closer inspection reveals carefully washed and sorted pot shards, chert arrowheads, stone drills and hand axes awaiting classification and storage. On the walls hang pictures offering glimpses of other lands, other cultures.

In the midst of all this sits Marjorie Jones wearing a black suit, white blouse and red Indian beads. Affectionately known as Marge to her University of Southern Indiana anthropology, archaeology, and Spanish students, she is always busy.

Waving her hand, she says, "Sit down anywhere. I'll be back as soon as I get this student started on his make-up test." She zooms out the door with a non-traditional student in tow.

Laughter, directed at both herself and the world at large, punctuates her conversation.

This self-described "early baby boomer" was born in Mattoon, Ill. Her parents, Marlowe and Ruth Melvin, made no distinction between Jones and her two brothers. They were encouraged to do what they wanted and be successful. She says that both her parents are successful human beings who may envy her interesting life a little.

Jones took her bachelor's degree in anthropology from Indiana University and her master's from the University of Arizona.

This divorced mother of four has managed to squeeze some of her extensive doctoral dissertation research on elites, ritual and political power in Evansville, into teaching, rearing three sons and a daughter and being politically active to the point of arising before dawn to work at the polls on election day.

She is also involved in cleaning some Hopewell Indian artifacts donated to the university for teaching aids and re-boxing historical artifacts from digs in New Harmony.

At USI during the fall semester, she taught an archaeology class, an anthropology class and two Spanish classes.

This "world's oldest graduate student" stresses how much she enjoys teaching at USI, where she hopes to finish her career. Jones says she particularly enjoys the greater variety of people present in the student body of USI.

"Anthropology is particularly important to universities in the Midwest, where student bodies haven't had the opportunity to travel," she said. "Although it doesn't substitute for foreign travel, it exposes students to foreign cultures, societies and people."

Jones has traveled more than most. She spent a year and a half in Sweden, where she attended the University of Uppsala and the University of Stockholm. She then toured Europe with her family, went to Rome to visit her grandfather and traveled to Mexico and Bolivia.

When speaking on the subject of looting of archaeological sites, her smile fades and her laughter dies. She becomes intense.

"Unscientific looting destroys the sites," she said. "The scientists cannot reconstruct what happened in the past, even if a person takes careful notes. This type of activity is very destructive. It's just greed, always justified as interest."

She became even more intense as she spoke about the indictment of Arthur Gerber of Tell City in July for transporting, receiving, buying and selling of artifacts across state lines and conspiring to do this.

Jones said the importance of this case was two-fold. First, it established a precedent that such laws do apply to artifacts taken from private lands. Gerber's attorneys argued that the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) was too vague and didn't apply to private lands. The judge ruled that the ARPA was not too vague and does, indeed, apply to private lands.

Second, the indictment of one of the major dealers of artifacts (well-known and outspoken) tells the public that this is not an acceptable activity. Those engaging in such activities will be indicted and prosecuted.

Gerber's trial is set for late April. Even though Jones condemns this type of activity, she takes advantage of any opportunity to talk to looters. Their first-hand knowledge of what they have seen and uncovered is all that is left of many archaeological sites. This kind of knowledge is better than nothing, and she tries to obtain as much information from them as possible.

As most parents do, Jones wor-



Photo by Greg Wolf

"I think they (the children) have lesser chances because of the diminished prospects of our country. I find that regrettable."

**Marjorie Melvin Jones**

ries about her children, about the adjustments they have had to make to her divorces and their futures. She said the kinds of futures the children can have are less than her generation's due to the "decline of the American Empire."

"We (the United States) are on the way down. I think they (the children) have lesser chances because of the diminished prospects of our country. I find that regrettable," she said, shoving her glasses higher on her nose. "People today are cynical about politics, government and service to the community."

"During the civil rights era, we had to brave real danger to work with other people. We were willing to commit to something, a cause," she said, shaking her head. "People today are not inclined to take risks. Solutions to problems in the city, state, country and the world are more difficult to see and make happen, more subtle. The drama is missing. I think the complexity of

the problems makes people feel helpless."

She said that with the economy worsening and no external enemies looming over us, we will turn on ourselves. Leaders will feed on prejudices and worse ideas. On the national scene, modern politics will play on the worst aspects of people's nature and fan the flames of bigotry for short-term political gain.

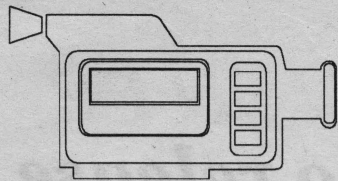
"In the long term, we will pay a heavy price," she said. "The price is someone like David Duke."

She said anthropology is what she wanted to do for most of her life. At the age of eight, she wanted to be a paleontologist, but she gradually shifted to anthropology. Paleontology involved a lot of geology.

"I'm no damned good at math," she said, laughing.

"You're lucky if you can manage to do something you want to do and be able to talk to someone into paying you for doing it," she said, grinning. "I've been lucky."

**By Margie Drennan**



## Video Review

# Spike Lee exceeds himself in *Jungle Fever*

by Lisa Smith

*Jungle Fever* is not a movie entirely about interracial relationships. Although much of its initial publicity centered around the issue, focusing entirely on that aspect of Spike Lee's latest masterpiece would be distorting the most important issue of this film.

*Jungle Fever* is about people. Not just black people either. But people as human beings with problems. Most of Lee's attention is focused on an upwardly mobile African-American man trying to live his life and raise his young daughter the best way he knows how. Flipper (Wesley Snipes) and his beautiful wife, Drew (Lonette McKee), have a wonderful marriage and an equally wonderful daughter. Flipper is a rising talent in a large architectural firm, which he helped to create.

His wonderful life is not without its problems, though. Flipper's brother, Gator (Samuel L. Jackson), does not aspire to the high hopes that his brother holds. In fact, the only high Gator is interested in is the kind he gets from a crack pipe. Gator is an incorrigible, grade-A crack

head. The only time he speaks to Flipper or his parents is when he needs money. Flipper and his family have a weakness for Gator's sweet-talking and usually give him the money, all the while wishing he would help himself.

Gator is one of Flipper's weaknesses, the other is curiosity.

Curiosity enters the picture in the form of Angela Tucci (Annabella Sciorra), a beautiful Italian woman who is hired to replace Flipper's secretary. At first, Flipper complains because his requests for an African-American secretary were ignored, but eventually he accepts Angie as a replacement.

Meanwhile, Angie tries to survive in her Bensonhurst neighborhood, making dinner and waiting hand and foot on her father and two brothers. Her relationship with the soft-spoken Paulie (John Turturro) is sketchy at best, and not actively encouraged by her family.

Amid all of this, Lee finds time to look at Paulie's life as well. Paulie lives with his aging father, a crabby man obsessed with his dead wife.

Paulie cares for his father and helps run his family's neighborhood candy store. Paulie is a cute, nerdy, incredibly politically correct type who is constantly harassed by the neighborhood racists, who taunt him for politeness to blacks. Needless to say, Paulie seems a little distressed.

Our wonderful characters' paths become hopelessly crossed when Flipper and Angie realize their attraction to one another and do the nasty in Flipper's office. Flipper's guilt is overwhelming and he confesses the dastardly deed to his best buddy, Cyrus (Spike Lee). He swears Cyrus to secrecy, but if nobody had blabbed, the rest of the movie would have been boring.

Drew finds out about Angie and commences throwing Flipper's belongings out the window. To make matters worse, Drew is mixed (half-white, half-black), and has always been self-conscious about her color. After Flipper cheats on her, she believes that he always wanted a white girl and not her. Major problem for Flipper, because Drew is very angry when he tries unsuccessfully to apologize.

Angie's family isn't very sympathetic about her relationship with a black man either. Her father beats her and then throws her out.

To make a bad situation worse, Flipper asks for a much deserved raise and is denied, which he believes is on the basis of color. Irrate, he hands them his resignation.

Flipper and Angie find an apartment and decide to cohabit, after Angie breaks the news to Paulie. To make things worse for a not-too-happy Paulie, he is subjected to endless racist remarks by the neighborhood Neanderthals.

After much introspection, along with a mistaken attempt by police to arrest Flipper for assault, he decides he is in over his head. He cannot deal with his relationship with Angie and wants to try to patch things up with

Drew.

There is quite a bit more that develops at the end, but I'm not going to give it away, except to say it is pretty shocking.

Spike Lee seemed to focus on people. The characters are all entwined and their attempts to deal with the situations they have been thrust into combine to make this a compelling look at people's feelings about family and relationships. The interracial aspect of Flipper and Angie's affair is not as distressing as the affair itself. Drew, in a hilarious, true-to-life girl talk session, says it is not so much that he did it with a white girl; it is just that he did it.

The only beef I have with this movie is the lack of sympathy toward Angie. In one scene, Flipper says their affair was only curiosity about each other's race. Maybe in his case, but I get the distinct feeling Angie's motives may not have been entirely racial.

It is nice to see that a pro-black filmmaker such as Spike Lee can maintain objectivity while addressing problems within the African-American community. White filmmakers haven't been able to be objective about blacks for years (watch *Buckwheat* once and then try to argue with me), so it is great to see a fresh approach.

It is also great to see that Spike understands people as a whole have problems, and a little understanding between people can go a long way.

I have seen *Do the Right Thing* and *Mo' Better Blues*, and I cannot say that I was a fan of either. But Spike has really outdone himself with *Jungle Fever*. It is a well-written, powerfully-performed film that really gets the point across without rubbing your nose in it.

Rent it and watch it with an open mind. You might be surprised at what you learn about yourself.



**Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19):** You will have a new love in your life that will give you a warm, fuzzy feeling. You will have to visit your doctor for antibiotics to rid yourself of that "fuzziness." Hope you have no allergies!

**Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20):** Women watch out, the men will be suffering from rapid brain drain. For some men, this is a permanent condition. They will not be thinking with what's above their shoulders. Some of you will not mind this.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21):** You are beside yourself. Your significant other will not mind this problem. It's like going out with two people without cheating. So enjoy both of you, or should I say, all three of you!

**Cancer (June 22-July 22):** Since you were at the top for awhile, now it is your time at the bottom. A change in positions keeps you humble and also prevents certain discomforts.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):** This month is good. A lion's roar can be heard throughout the jungle. Purring can only be heard if one is intimately close. There will be purring in your very near future.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** This is not a sign you have to live up to, but if you do, you're a better person than me! For those who don't want to live up to this, listen for the roar.

## Madame Fortune's



**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23):** Your social life sucks. I suggest you should increase your literary diet. Try Masters and Johnson.

**Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21):** This month will be a unique month. Strange things will be happening to your person. There will be times you will not

know who you are, and times you will not know where you are. Face it, you are not in Kansas anymore, or are you?

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You will crave pineapple juice. This will make your life, and other things, sweeter. Your significant other will get a taste of the good life. Enjoy!

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You have a feeling others can read your mind. This is because everyone around you is smiling. We all know what type of thoughts you have. Keep up the good work!

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** The moon is in the seventh house. Jupiter is aligned with Mars, and Venus will come crashing down to Earth. Watch out for falling rock!

**Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20):** Beware, we will soon be heading into spawning season. Fishing season will follow. Some synthetic lures will not be all they promise to be.

*Madame Fortune would like to know if you like her column. Is it too daring, or daring enough? Remember, she will dare to try anything — once. (O.K., maybe twice).*

# David Byrne

## Ex-Talking Head scores with latest solo release

David Byrne is weird. Yes, that David Byrne. The one from the legendary Talking Heads. The spastic, nerdy singer in the big white suit. That David Byrne. After hearing the first song from his latest solo slab, *Uh-Oh*, I am convinced that David Byrne looks at the world through somewhat cracked lenses.

And that cracked view is refreshing in a world filled with assembly line, "dance to my insipid music while I make money" recording acts.

While I have never been a major fan of the Talking Heads, I always liked their rather silly approach to music. This aspect of David Byrne's personality has continued in his third solo album, the first since the official break-up of the Talking Heads. He sings about various strange subjects, including sex changes, annoying neighbors and your typical teenage mall rats. See what I mean? Not exactly your ordinary subjects for easy listening, huh? As Byrne himself describes them, they are about, "Bad attitudes, bad news and dumb stuff." That pretty much sums it up.

Byrne's musical style itself has undergone some drastic changes since his days with the Talking Heads. Straying from the trademark synth sound of the Heads, Byrne adds a distinct Latin flavor to the basic funk rock sound from his days with "the band." For this unique sound, Byrne enlisted the help of Latin percussionists Hector Rosado and Cafe, along with Miami-based drummer Oscar Salas. To hold down the bass end of things, George Porter, Jr., of the New Orleans classic funk band, The Meters, was brought into the picture. And to keep the sound fresh and oh, so modern, Byrne called upon respected Australian keyboardist Ashley Cadell, best known for his work with fellow Aussie popsters INXS. Angel Fernandez, Byrne's co-writer and horn and string arranger, lends the rhythmic salsa flavor that prevails throughout most of the album. Mix all of these spicy musicians together and put them into a studio with noted producer Nick Launay, and you have got one red hot dish of musical eclecticism. Yummy!

Upon first listen, I didn't know whether to love it or hate it. After a few listens, however, I knew this was one bad burrito! My foot started tapping and I had an inexplicable craving for tortilla chips. Byrne's Latin influences made my feet want to mambo.

Although no one could ever accuse me of loving Byrne's nerdy-guy-meets-mental-patient type

voice, his ever-so-strange vocal style start to catch on when mixed with Byrne's sinevitably warped lyrics. He may have a weird voice, but weird would be a mild word to use to describe his lyrical content. Bizarre might be a better choice of words.

*Now I'm Your Mom*, one of the most infectious grooves on the al-

bum, is an up-tempo little ditty about a guy having a sex change. The guy is truly twisted. Check these lines out: "I am a boy; you

are a girl / And you will always stay that way. / But there are people in this world / Who'd like to change what nature made. / And if you take that decision / Then they will make that incision." Enough said?

Byrne tackles the simple things in life, too. *A Million Miles Away* is a simple tune about quitting your job, while the rather Paul Simon sounding *Something Ain't Right* is, in Byrne's words, "a rant against the Old Fart upstairs."

*Girls On My Mind* is pretty self-explanatory, but the music takes kind of a loping, country turn. It meanders along at its own pace, inviting you to amble along with it.

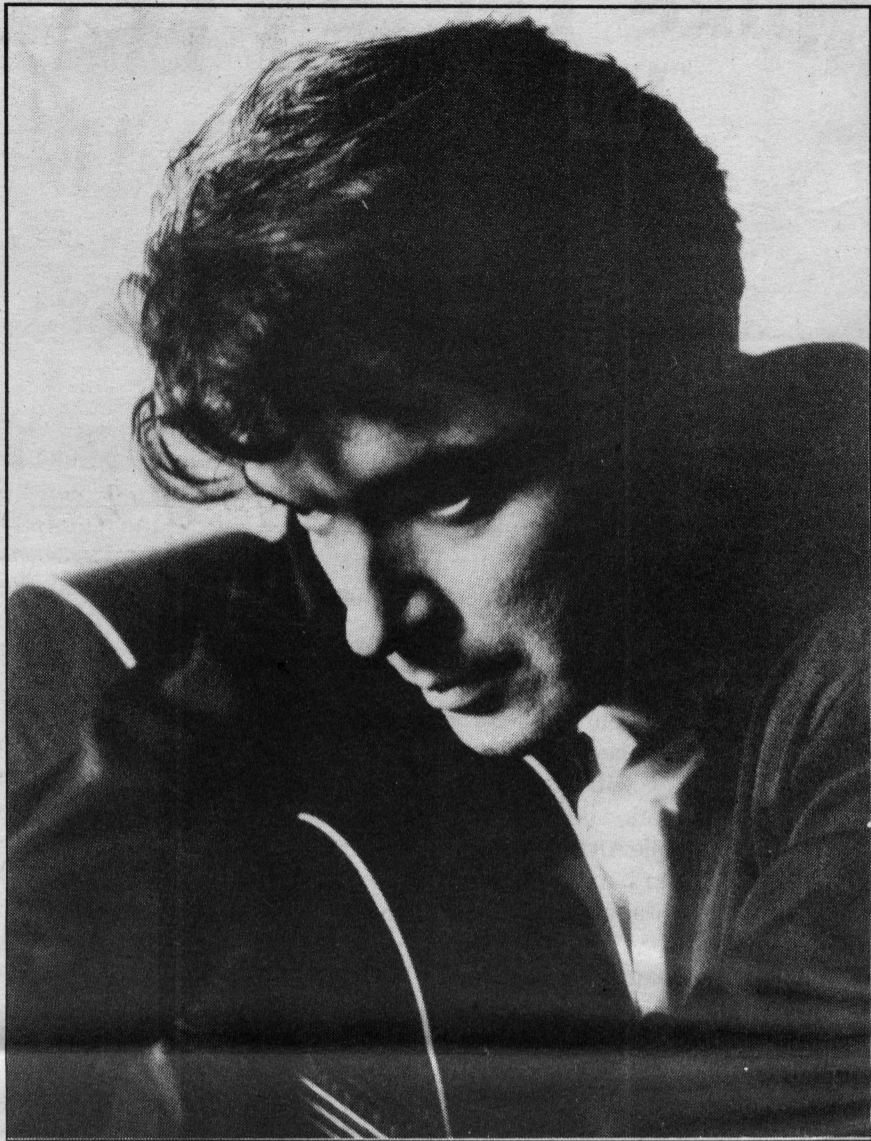
With its tribal rhythms, *She's Mad* gives a pretty strange view of an obviously tumultuous domestic life. I'd hope for his sake that it isn't Byrne's, because if it is, I'd feel sorry for the guy. Even if it is autobiographical, he obviously gets away by spending a lot of his time at the mall observing the local mall species. *Hanging Upside Down* is about your everyday mall vermin, "Mallus Rattus." You know the scene: everybody "just hangin'?" Yep, that pretty

**m u c h  
d e -  
scribes  
Byrne's  
view.**

**A  
Walk In  
The  
Dark** is a dark, gloomy ride

into weirdness. It sounds like an introspective ode to mental illness. I don't think I'd ever want to walk in the dark with this guy. Uh-uh, no thank you; this man's just a little warped.

The sophomore side of *Uh-Oh* starts off with one of the more modern-sounding tunes. A bit more keyboard-oriented than the rest, it gives your feet something to move to with its club beats. *Twisting In The Wind* sounds like Byrne was in the disco mood when he wrote it. I don't know what kind of mood he was in



when he wrote the next song, though. None of the verses of *Cowboy Mambo* (*Hey Lookit Me Now*) really seem to connect with each other. Byrne sounds like he was just rambling out loud when he wrote it. There's one spiffy verse at the end, though: "Green grass grows around the backyard shithouse / That is where the sweetest flowers bloom. / We are all flowers growing in God's garden /

**Something Ain't Right  
is a rant against the Old  
Fart upstairs!**

**- David Byrne**

And that is why He spreads the shit around." Pretty inspired, actually. Byrne himself considers it one of his favorite lines from the album, "It was one of the truer statements I think I've written." I'd have to agree.

Musically, I'd have to list *Monkey Man* as one of the best grooves on *Uh-Oh*. It's got a really modern jazz sound, complete with brass section and everything. The lyrics were inspired by an actual dream of Byrne. "It's about a guy returning from the war and seeing the state the country's in. His analysis is that evolution at some point must have started to reverse itself." Hmmm.

Byrne's studio band made use of almost every Latin instrument available to make this album sing with spicy rhythms, while maintaining Byrne's trademark goofiness. Bongos, congas, maracas, tamboras, timbales, tamales, burritos, tortillas...oops, well you get the general idea. While I was listening to this, I felt like I should be dancing around with a pineapple on my head, coconuts in my hands and an ugly tropical print shirt on my back. Let me put it this way, if you were lounging on a faraway beach soaking up the rays and grubbing on pu-pu platters, this would be the perfect piece of plastic to pop into your trusty tape player. Or maybe it could replace those stale elevator tunes they always play at the local Mexican restaurants. Any way you look at it (or listen to it), David Byrne's foray into Latinoland is a feast for the ears (and the feet, if you also happen to mambo well). If you like it spicy, I guarantee you'll groove to this.

P.S. I also give Dave a thumbs up for the neat red cassette shell. Spiffy.

**Next Month:  
Echo and the Bunnymen  
star Ian McCulloch rocks  
with long-awaited solo.**