

Heedful things keep us guessing

Matt Hunt
Capital Times Staff

I was talking to my friend Bubba the other day. He had just visited the National Archives where 800,000 documents relating to the JFK assassination were made public recently.

"It's a mess. All those people tryin' to figure out who picked the right conspiracy theory. And none of 'em have a clue that they're wasting their time."

So you believe that Oswald acted alone.

"Naw, that ain't what I mean. See, it don't matter whether or not there was a conspiracy, never mind what Ollie thinks about it."

Ollie?
"You know, Ollie Stone?"

Do you mean Oliver Stone?
"Yeah, that's him. Ya know, he did that flick about Jim

Garrison."

Ah, you mean JFK. Yes, I suppose he was a bit preachy.

"I don't know about that, but he

MY FRIEND BUBBA

did stir up some trouble. See, he got all these people fired up about figuring whether or not Oswald acted alone. Pretty soon everyone's convinced life shouldn't go on unless the files are opened."

But don't you think people should know the truth. I mean, don't we have the right to know who killed our President?"

"What's it matter who killed him. He's dead. I mean, if we find out Castro had him killed, is that gonna make eggs taste like steak?"

I think you're missing the point, I told him. This is important. The president of the United States was

killed.

"Can't you get over what happened thirty years ago? He's dead. So are lots of people these days. The president is just one man. In case you haven't noticed, we've a few other presidents since then. Come to think of it, life has managed to go on since then."

But if nothing else, we ought to know who killed him, for the sake of history.

"What about Roanoke?"

Roanoke?
"Way back when this was the New World, and everyone and his mother wuz settin' up colonies. There was a colony in Virginia called Roanoke."

Ah, yes, I remember that now. And the whole colony disappeared.

"Right. And no one ever figured out what happened to them."

Right. So?

"So, the fact that there's a few mysteries like Roanoke doesn't bother history. Not many people get all hot and bothered about that, why should we now start getting bothered because a bunch of people are convinced that a lone man couldn't have killed Jack Kennedy?"

But he's the president.

You keep sayin' that like that makes him more important than anything else. It's not like he's king or anythin'. The president is just one man. We live a democracy where everyone counts. Ya know, majority rule and everythin'.

You're trying to cloud the issue, I said. I think everyone has question about whether or not the government is covering something up. Maybe the CIA had him killed. Don't you think that's something we should know about?

"I guess I hadn't thought about

it like that. But then, suppose we do figure that out, is that gonna comfort us? I mean, do we want to know that our government can't be trusted."

But then you're suggesting that we look away from the truth when it gets scary.

"No. I'm just sayin', we're spending a lot of time with someone who's been dead a long time. Same thing with Elvis. We get these people fixed in our minds and they become symbols. I think we forget that they're just men."

I still think you're clouding the issue here. The truth ought to be known. Thomas Jefferson once said, "There is no truth existing which I fear or would wish unknown to the world."

"That there's some deep words from one important guy, I'll give ya that. Let me throw some more of his words back at ya. The world

of the living should not be concerned with the dead."

But if the conspirators are still alive shouldn't they be punished?"

"And ya think if you look through those documents you'll find it? Look let me explain it to ya simply. I don't think you're gonna find the smoking gun in those government documents."

But they're a start. Maybe they'll lead us to the answer.

"If we need one. You talk about history needin' to know the truth. I think all the truth we need is that a man died. Come to think of it, the fact that we have some uncertainty tells us something far more important than one guy dyin'."

What's that?

"We don't know everything and some things we can't figure out. The universe ain't orderly or safe. Maybe that's somethin' we need to be reminded of once in a while."

Stand up and fight for your future

Michael Reteneller
Capital Times staff

Here is a little PSH trivia. Sixty-one percent of PSH students are part-time, and the average age of undergraduate students is 27.

Sixty percent of the student population are undergraduates, and the other 40 percent are working towards a master's degree.

PSH is by no means a traditional college, placing the full-time students at a disadvantage.

Some consider our campus a separate entity from University Park, I disagree. Upon graduation we will receive

a Penn State University degree which is well respected in the workplace. I encourage students to

RET'S RELEASE

feel proud of this college, after all, we work just as hard as students from other commonwealth campuses.

We pay for classes at PSH, and we work towards a degree that is respected out "there."

Wake up PSH, our money is going to another program in another school.

Penn State University wants money from all of its branches. Guess what? We are one of them. We are recognized as part of the institution when it wants the almighty "BUCK."

We were instructed to cough up 10 percent of our budget back up to University Park. That's \$1,312,619 to you and me. This order fills the requirements under the university's reallocation budget plan.

After this money reaches State College, university "heads" will assess what schools will get their funding back.

Provost Leventhal and her staff had the disheartening job of

determining what programs weren't prospering. Who will get the ax?

Total student enrollment is up 19 percent over the last five years.

Student credit hours go as follows for the different departments: Public Affairs +69%, Behavioral Science and Education +44%, Humanities +37%, Science, Engineering and Technology -19%, Business Administration -2%.

The four major areas targeted for cut backs go as follows:

1. \$632,165 taken from selected academic programs.
2. \$343,869 reductions of maintenance and operations.
3. \$184,231 streamlining student services.

4. \$152,354 redesigning technical services to University Park.

These steps affect us in this way. The first step, selected academic programs, eliminates some faculty positions and plans for larger class sizes.

The second step, reductions of maintenance and operations, explains specifically that the trash will be emptied less, and the grass will be cut less frequently.

The third step, streamlining student activities, eliminates certain student activities, and services.

The fourth step, redesigning academic support, entails the plan to transfer some of our library

Provost Leventhal has petitioned State College to reallocate much needed funding to our school in the sum of \$328,155.

This is 2.5 percent of our permanent budget and will place funding into the school of Science, Engineering and Technology, as well as improving undergraduate education and classroom instruction.

You now have the knowledge. Fight for your future, our future.

Petition State College, let your voice be heard. Show them they can't take away our future.

STAIRWAY TO HELL

by Trev Stair

