

Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics  
The Johns Hopkins University

SEMINAR

Cliff Spiegelman  
Department of Statistics  
Texas A&M University

October 11, 2007  
**205 Krieger Hall**  
Refreshments: 3:30 p.m.  
Seminar: 4:00 p.m.

**CHEMICAL AND FORENSIC ANALYSIS OF JFK ASSASSINATION  
BULLET LOTS: IS A SECOND SHOOTER POSSIBLE?**

ABSTRACT

The assassination of JFK traumatized the nation. In the talk, we show that evidence used to rule out a second assassin is fundamentally flawed. This talk discusses new compositional analyses of bullets reportedly to have been derived from the same batch as those used in the assassination. The new analyses show that the bullet fragments involved in the assassination are not nearly as rare as previously reported. In particular, the new test results are compared to key bullet composition testimony presented before the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA). Matches of bullets within the same box of bullets are shown to be much more likely than indicated in the HSCA testimony. Additionally, we show that one of the ten test bullets is considered a match to one or more assassination fragments. This finding means that the bullet fragments from the assassination that match could have come from three or more separate bullets. Finally, we present a case for reanalyzing the assassination bullet fragments and conducting the necessary supporting scientific studies. These analyses will shed light on whether the five bullet fragments constitute three or more separate bullets. If the assassination fragments are derived from three or more separate bullets then a second assassin is likely, as the additional bullet would not be attributable to the main suspect, Mr. Oswald.

(This is joint work with Bill Tobin, Dennis James, Simon Sheather, Stu Wexler, and Max Roundhill.)