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UD HISTORY PROFESSOR QUESTIONS MEDIA'S HANDLING OF JFK ASSASSINATION

The media turned into an adversary during the Watergate scandal to make up for "blowing the biggest crime of the century"--John F. Kennedy's assassination 25 years ago this month.

That's the view of Larry Schweikart, a Miamisburg resident and assistant professor of history at UD who has researched Kennedy's assassination.

"An American president was shot in broad daylight in front of dozens of witnesses, in an event captured by still photography and motion picture cameras, and yet to this day, there remains grave doubts about the identity or identities of the assassins or their motivations," Schweikart contends. "After two official examinations of the evidence, crucial questions raised immediately after JFK's death are no closer to being answered than 25 years ago."

Reporters were more respectful in their dealings with authority figures in the early 1960s than today, the Kennedy administration received "such extremely favorable coverage" that the media lost their objectivity and "like many Americans, the media probably feared the truth," Schweikart says.

What is the truth? Because the media readily accepted the findings of the official investigations, "a cloud obscures the truth," according to Schweikart, who doesn't rule out foreign involvement or an "inside" job.

For media interviews, contact Larry Schweikart at (513) 229-2804.

NEW BOOK STUDIES THE IMPACT OF UNEMPLOYMENT ON THE EMOTIONAL STATE OF FAMILIES

Among men who participated in a University of Dayton survey on the effects of economic distress on family life, a family's attempt to cope with unemployment by shopping at a food co-op, buying used goods or having a member taking a second or third job tends to intensify economic distress and lower the quality of family life. Among women, "family coping behaviors" such as these do not negatively affect their marital/family satisfaction.

Those are among the findings of a study conducted by Patricia Voydanoff and Brenda W. Donnelly included in the recently published book, "Families and Economic Distress: Coping Strategies and Social Policy." Edited by Voydanoff and colleague Linda C. Majka, the book is based upon a 1985 symposium sponsored by UD's Center for the Study of Family Development. The book documents the pain in families that results from economic instability and demonstrates the "chain reaction" effects within families and communities when family resources fail to protect members from economic distress and the local economy and community institutions are increasingly unable to respond to hardships. Voydanoff, of Kettering, directs the center.

The UD study, conducted in 1984, is based on a probability sample of 630 adults between the ages of 18 and 65 living in Dayton, Ohio.

For media interviews, contact Patricia Voydanoff at (513) 229-4614.



The University of Dayton