

## **A Homosexual Thrill-Kill?**

By Adam Gorightly

“Kerry, you know, the one whose picture was on the cover of Life with Lee Oswald’s head super-imposed upon it? Kerry had the little spider-like hands and arms and narrow hips, not Oswald, just ask his wife.” — Rev. Raymond Broshears, 1968

On November 22nd, 1963 (JFK Assassination Day), the New Orleans District Attorney’s office received information that a French Quarter denizen, David Ferrie, was holed up at a skating rink in Houston, Texas, poised to serve as a getaway pilot in a JFK assassination plot. Upon Ferrie’s return to New Orleans, Garrison immediately arrested Ferrie and notified the FBI. The FBI, in turn, informed Garrison that Ferrie had “checked out” and was not considered a suspect, which seemed curious given the fact that JFK’s corpse hadn’t even cooled. Taking the Feds at their word, Garrison released Ferrie from custody.

In the early sixties, Ferrie worked as a private investigator and pilot for New Orleans Mob boss Carlos Marcello, an avowed Kennedy clan enemy, and in fact it was Ferrie who flew Marcello back to New Orleans after Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy had him deported from Cuba following the collapse of the Batista regime. During this period, the Mob and the CIA shared a vested interest in overthrowing Castro, and so Ferrie meshed well within this murky milieu, having worked as a CIA contract pilot, in addition to training paramilitary troops at Lake Pontchartrain, all part of an anti-Castro CIA-funded operation. Ferrie, it so happens, also worked for Guy Banister out of the 531 Lafayette Street office, and it was there, in all probability, that he associated with Lee Oswald.

During the 1950s, Ferrie served as a youth group leader in a branch of the Louisiana Civil Air Patrol (CAP). During Garrison’s investigation, one of Ferrie’s former CAP cadets, John Ciravolo, came forward with a photo showing Oswald with a group of other youths at a CAP outing in David Ferrie’s presence, which was indeed curious as under Garrison’s questioning Ferrie had repeatedly denied any relationship with Oswald. During the course of his CAP career, Ferrie gathered a group of young men around him, including cadets from his unit, and on occasion had taken nude photos of the boys and exposed them to pornographic movies. One of these young men—upset by Ferrie’s sexual advances—filed a suit against him, which eventually led to Ferrie’s dismissal from Eastern Airlines where he was employed during the late 1950s. **1**

Following JFK’s assassination, Ferrie’s library card was discovered among the contents of Oswald’s wallet, further evidence that the two had maintained some sort of clandestine relationship over the years. Given these connections, in late 1966 Jim Garrison launched a formal investigation with Ferrie as his key suspect. However, before Garrison could bring the case to

trial, Ferrie died under what some considered curious circumstances. The coroner's report stated that he succumbed to a brain aneurysm, although detectives at the scene discovered two unsigned suicide notes. Garrison speculated that Ferrie had been force-fed a fatal dose of Proloid, a medication he had been prescribed for a thyroid condition. [2](#)

With Ferrie out of the picture, Garrison shifted his focus to Clay Shaw, director of the New Orleans International Trade Mart, whom he indicted in early 1967 based on witness testimony placing Shaw in the company of Ferrie and Oswald at meetings where a JFK assassination plot was purportedly hatched.

Garrison identified Shaw as a former CIA agent involved with Latin American and Italian operations, information later confirmed by former executive assistant to the deputy director of the CIA, Victor Marchetti. Running parallel to these clandestine activities, Shaw was reputedly known as the "Queen Bee" in the New Orleans gay community and, according to Garrison, was part of a ritualistic homosexual fraternity that included Ferrie and Oswald. According to journalist James Phelan:

In an effort to get Garrison's story into focus, I asked him the motive of the Kennedy conspirators. He told me that the murder at Dallas had been a homosexual plot.

"They had the same motive as Loeb and Leopold, when they murdered Bobbie Franks in Chicago back in the twenties," Garrison said. "It was a homosexual thrill-killing, plus the excitement of getting away with a perfect crime. John Kennedy was everything that Dave Ferrie was not—a successful, handsome, popular, wealthy, virile man. You can just picture the charge Ferrie got out of plotting his death."

I asked how he had learned that the murder was a homosexual plot.

"Look at the people involved," Garrison said. "Dave Ferrie, homosexual. Clay Shaw, homosexual. Jack Ruby, homosexual."

"Ruby was a homosexual?"

"Sure, we dug that out," Garrison said. "His homosexual nickname was Pinkie. That's three. Then there was Lee Harvey Oswald."

But Oswald was married and had two children, I pointed out.

"A switch-hitter who couldn't satisfy his wife," Garrison said. "That's all in the Warren Report." He named two more "key figures" that he labeled homosexual.

"That's six homosexuals in the plot," Garrison said. "One or maybe two, okay. But all six homosexual? How far can you stretch the arm of coincidence?"

I told him that was an intriguing theory, but it wasn't evidence he could present to a court. [3](#)

While nothing in the Warren Report definitively confirms Garrison's accusation that Oswald was gay, a couple of Oswald's fellow Marines at El Toro did state their suspicions that he might have been gay.

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Although Garrison listed several witnesses in his case against Thornley, the only two who went on record and signed depositions were Barbara Reid—whom some considered a less than reliable source—and the “Reverend” Raymond Broshears, an even sketchier sort.

In his deposition, Broshears—who claimed to have once roomed with David Ferrie in New Orleans—testified that Ferrie, Shaw, Oswald and Thornley were all part of a homicidal-homosexual clique that conspired to kill Kennedy. According to Broshears, he was introduced to Thornley by Ferrie and claimed that he'd had sex with Kerry and knew well “his slender hips.”<sup>4</sup>

While it can't be denied that Thornley possessed slender hips, I've never come across anything to suggest that he was homosexual (or bisexual, for that matter) although Kerry was extremely open-minded in regards to sexual experimentation. He married once, and had a long string of girlfriends over the years, but never once did I hear of any same-sex dalliances, aside from the seemingly spurious remarks of Reverend Raymond Broshears.

In August 1968, Garrison staffer James Alcock recorded Broshears' deposition, of which the following is an excerpt:

Q. Do you recognize this man in the picture here?

A. That is the man whom David Ferrie constantly referred to as Kerry Thornley.

Q. And this person here?

A. That is Kerry Thornley.

Q. Where did you meet him?

A. At Lafitte's in Exile. And I don't know what—he always maintained that he was not a homosexual. . . David (Ferrie) has told me numerous times that Kerry Thornley maintains he is not a homosexual. But I say he is and I say to the whole world if he is not a homosexual why was he in homosexual bars, why if he is not? And his resemblance to Lee Harvey Oswald is rather frightening . . .

To suggest a resemblance between Oswald and Thornley is “frightening” seems a stretch. Unless, of course, Broshears based his observations of this supposed Thornley/Oswald likeness on Harold Weisberg's set of fabricated photos. (See Chapter 11, “Photographic Tomfoolery”, for more on Weisberg's photos.)

Another reason Broshears' testimony should be called into question concerns an incident in November 1965 when he was investigated by the Secret Service for making a death threat on President Lyndon Johnson's life. Broshears later escaped prosecution by basing his defense on mental illness, which probably wasn't too far from the truth. In 1975, Broshears surfaced once again in the investigation of an assassination attempt on President Gerald Ford.<sup>5</sup>

Researcher David Blackburn (a.k.a. Stephen Roy) interviewed Broshears in the late seventies and discovered inconsistencies in his story. Although Broshears claimed to have been Ferrie's roommate, another Ferrie roommate from the period had never heard of the good Reverend. When Blackburn questioned Broshears regarding the layout of Ferrie's apartment, he was unable to describe it accurately, and was just as confused about the layout of the streets in the French Quarter, which suggested to Blackburn that Broshears had never actually lived there at all, and had fabricated his entire association with Ferrie. <sup>6</sup>

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So what are we to make of this homosexual thrill-kill theory? In the aftermath of Oswald's shooting, Rose Chermie, a stripper at Jack Ruby's Carousel Club, stated in reference to Oswald and Ruby: "Them two queer sons-of-bitches, they've been shacking up for years." Chermie also confirmed that in the Dallas homosexual community, Ruby's nickname was "Pinky" and that she had seen Oswald and Ruby together on several occasions. But alas—like a lot of poor souls with intimate knowledge of JFK's assassination—Chermie somehow managed to receive a fatal bullet in the head on September 4th, 1965, prior to being run over by an automobile. <sup>7</sup>

According to Dave Reitzes: "In March 1967 Garrison stated to reporter Nicholas Chriss that homosexuals and masochists were involved in the assassination plot." In this same article, Garrison informed journalist Lawrence Schiller that he "...thought Breck Wall had ordered Ruby to kill Oswald." <sup>8</sup>

As for Breck Wall, he was a transvestite who appeared in a cross-dressing revue called Bottoms Up that played at the Adolphus Hotel, which was located across the street from the Carousel Club. Quoted in Reitzes' article was Daniel Kusner who said that following Ruby's arrest, "Wall had to lay down in a backseat of the squad car as [it] slowly snaked its way to the police station where policemen escorted Wall to Ruby's cell." Three years later, Wall was the last person to speak with Ruby prior to his death.

One of the more colorful JFK assassination theories is explored in James Shelby Downard and Michael Anthony Hoffman's "King Kill 33°" in which the authors contend that Kennedy's assassination was orchestrated by Freemasons along the 33rd degree latitude to correspond with the ancient "Killing of the King" fertility rite.

Another central theme in “King Kill 33<sup>o</sup>” is the use of twilight language, a form of wordplay wizardly employed to provide clues to the true (occult) nature of the crime. In *JFK’s Gay Slayers*, author Victor Thorn notes similar twilight language in relation to the homosexual thrill-kill theory:

... For instance, the most flaming homosexual profiled within these pages was curiously named David Ferrie (fairy). Moreover, Jack Ruby sported the nickname “Pinky,” while Clay Shaw and Oswald both rented office space on “Camp” Street in New Orleans.

Continuing this theme, it’s a given that Lee Harvey Oswald didn’t pull the trigger from a perch on the sixth story of the Texas School Book Depository. Thus, the architects of this political killing could then place any type of weapon that they so desired into the alleged hands of Oswald. As such, what type of gun did they select: a Mannlicher (man-licker) rifle. Not only are rifles an obvious phallic symbol, but why a “man-licker”?

In this sense, the Kennedy shooting represented a rape of the presidency—a killing of the king by anonymous, hidden murderers. But then, only two days later when Jack Ruby approached his possible gay lover Lee Harvey Oswald in the basement of Dallas’ police station, the act was more intimate. At that moment, Ruby-Pinky whipped out his short-barreled .38 revolver (a phallic object) and thrust it violently into Oswald’s midsection, discharging his ammunition (load) directly into the patsy’s (or punk’s) body.

Ironically, to convince the Warren Commission that Lee Harvey Oswald was the shooter, those lurking in the shadows produced a doctored photo of Oswald standing in his backyard holding the Mannlicher rifle (see back cover). When viewing this historic image, take notice of where the forgers placed the “man-licker’s” gun barrel and—as such—what it represents as it extends erect from Oswald’s groin (obviously another huge phallic symbol).

2. Davy, William. *Let Justice Be Done: New Light on the Jim Garrison Investigation*. Jordan Publishing, 1999.
3. Phelan, James. *Scandals, Scamps, and Scoundrels*. Random House, 1982. (pp. 150–151)
4. Mellen, Joan. *A Farewell to Justice: Jim Garrison, JFK's Assassination, and the Case That Should Have Changed History*. Potomac Books, Inc., 2005. (p. 123)
5. Fensterwald, Bernard, Jr. *Assassination of JFK By Coincidence or Conspiracy*. Zebra Books, 1977. (p. 475)
6. [www.jfk-online.com/dbraybropost.html](http://www.jfk-online.com/dbraybropost.html)
7. House Select Committee on Assassinations 1979 report.
8. Reitzes, Dave. "Assassination a Homosexual Thrill Killing," [mcadams.posc.mu.edu/jimloon5.htm](http://mcadams.posc.mu.edu/jimloon5.htm)