

OCC offers class on JFK killing

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAW
STAFF WRITER

Tim Koerner remembers exactly where he was when President John Kennedy was shot. "I was in a French class when a student popped in unannounced and made the announcement," Koerner said. "We sat in silent shock." The French teacher said, "Oh my God, Johnson is president." Since then Koerner has studied the Kennedy assassination and has become a history teacher at Oakland Community College's Farmington Hills campus. Along with psychology professor J.J. Berry, a Farmington Hills resident, Koerner will teach OCC's first-ever course on the Kennedy assassination. Two sections of the three-credit course will be offered: 12:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesdays beginning Sept. 7 at the Royal Oak campus and 6-9 p.m. Mondays beginning Sept. 13 at the Farmington Hills campus. For now the course is a one-time-only offering, but college spokesman George Cartwright said that could change if the course is popular. "Our education is market driven," he said. "The Kennedy course may continue ad infinitum. It may well be a permanent offering." Berry and Koerner have been friends for 25 years and thought

the 30th anniversary of the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination would be a good time to offer the course.

"It's time for us to assess the story and present it to students who were born in the '70s," Koerner said.

Among the guests Koerner and Berry will bring to the class are:

- A photographer to examine and explain pictures of assassin Lee Harvey Oswald taken before the deed was done.
- A physicist to discuss the way Kennedy's body jerked when struck by the bullets.
- A lawyer to talk about legal aspects of the case.

Personally, Koerner has "immersed" himself in most everything written about Kennedy's assassination and has become "very skeptical of the Warren Commission report," which concluded that Oswald acted alone in killing the president.

"My reading has led me to be very, very, very skeptical that Oswald did it by himself."

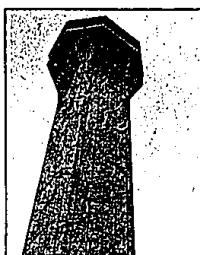
Koerner said the various theories about who really killed Kennedy and why will be discussed in the class. They'll also talk about other assassinations of the period, including those of Malcolm X, Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy.

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way to the taxiway that would take it to the international terminal, where the aircraft would block three gates while unloading its cargo of humanity.

Once the new terminal is complete, passengers will likely not step on the tarmac in aviation gridlock after a 10-hour flight from Japan. And the planes won't burn so much expensive fuel in getting to their parking places.

Later, Lab chautauqued the tour, in four-wheel drive no doubt, over a mammoth patch of lumpy ground to the subversive quarter-mile tunnel beneath a runway under construction.



Heart of it: Metro Airport's new control tower rises 10 stories into the air like a giant's fist punched up through the ground.

Harin will lie the "south access road," providing ingress and egress to the airport from its southern boundary. With a cost of \$128 million, you'd think the south access road would be paved with gold, but alas, most of the money is tied up in the existing tunnel and a second one yet to be created.

They're also planning to build yet another runway (for \$92 million), this one just a tad west and parallel to the current main runway.

On the more mundane side, an equipment maintenance building is rising on the airport's north edge, and a snow-plov garage, fire station and control tower have already been christened.

The new tower, sticking up in the air like a 290-foot-tall arm and fist, is the highest in the Midwest. The Federal Aviation Administration shelled out \$13 mil-

lion for the tower's construction last year.

Inside you'll find 10 ASR-9 radar repeaters that tell air traffic controllers everything about every aircraft within 66 miles, except when the last oil change occurred.

Up in the top of the tower, or cab in airport lingo, one can see for miles around in every direction. Marty White, who works in the tower, said that the tallest rise at Cedar Point is just barely visible over the horizon when the air is clear.

There is no truth to the rumor, however, that one may see forever on a clear day.

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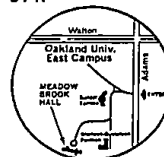
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