

WALTER GHOLSON

Americans live in conspiracy

A general definition of "conspiracy" holds that at least two people plan to commit some act considered evil.

However, some people would prefer to think that any suggestion of a planned act against these groups is, at best, paranoia.

And if we accept this reasoning, we must believe that there was no conspiracy to exclude the accomplishments of the American Indians from the history of America; it just happened.

The systematic destruction of a majority of the first inhabitants of North America was not just happenstance, with no active involvement by those who said they "discovered" America.

Similarly, this conspiracy theory leads to the conclusion that the importation of Africans to America was the result of a diabolical plot to enslave them.

According to those who balk at the implications that two or more persons planned these evil deeds, historical facts should be attributed to misinformation and misjudgment, excused with a simple "sorry about that."

We cannot afford to accept ignorance as the only excuse for a history of genocide, slavery and racism that still seems to find a forum in today's conservative circles.

The recent debate concerning proposed revisions of the education system to pay tribute to ethnic groups whose history has been neglected in American education has brought forth all kinds of objections.

Much of this criticism continues because of the inability or reluctance of some scholars to accept well-documented facts explaining the real story of not only this nation's heritage, but that of Western civilization.

They often resort to publishing pages of academic jargon that when translated into standard American English means: We aren't about to admit how we conspired to cover up our war crimes against non-white people.

Unfortunately, this seems to be an American custom and a major flaw in a country that boasts of truth, justice, liberty and equality.



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One glaring example of this characteristic surfaced last Friday night on the Arts and Entertainment Channel in a show entitled "Investigative Reports: The Men Who Killed Kennedy."

In the premiere of this series, Bill Curtis hosted a program presenting evidence from witnesses who, after 27 years, have ended their silence to reveal startling information about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

For years, Americans have reluctantly swallowed the Warren Commission's "lone nut" theory, which says that one deranged man, Lee Harvey Oswald, was able to fire three shots in seven seconds, killing John F. Kennedy as his motorcade moved down a Dallas street.

Ever since the Warren Commission's anti-conspiracy theory was announced, several questions have been asked — questions the commission never addressed and the Federal government never investigated.

The answers to these questions provide too much information suggesting that there was another gunman in the same area. This new information would account for the direction Kennedy's head moved after the

fatal shot. During the course of "The Men Who Killed Kennedy," Curtis interviewed experts who gave details of altered autopsy photographs and falsification of autopsy reports.

In the same light, questions have also been posed concerning the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

Last year PBS aired a special entitled: "The King Assassination." The show posed questions such as: Why were Secret Service officers absent from the area during the murder? Why was local police protection for King called off minutes before he was killed? How could James Earl Ray, a man not known for his sharpshooting abilities, accurately fire one fatal shot from his vantage point?

Despite these lingering questions, the American public has swallowed an anti-conspiracy theory about the King assassination, just as it did about the Kennedy assassination.

The same holds true for the cocaine trade in America.

Following an anti-conspiracy theory, we will have to presume that cocaine finds its way into poor neighborhoods because there's a large consumer base there with a need for their community to become violent drug markets.

And, of course, we must reject the possibility that two or more persons planned these operations. We must conclude that these conditions are wanted because these people have nothing else to do other than take drugs and kill each other.

Should we be insulted by the suggestion that conspiracy claims are only figments of our paranoid imaginations? No.

But what really gets me piqued is the continued growth of a narrow-minded, misinformed group of people who still live in isolation in an American fantasy land — a place that seems only to exist on the pages of the comic strips that have for centuries served as history books.

America was discovered the way robbers get money from banks. They didn't just happen to walk into a bank; they planned their entrance.

Gholson is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

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