

MANY PEOPLE ARE OBJECTING TO

"UNITED 93" ...

...BECAUSE, they say, it commercializes the tragedy of September 11th. They say *United 93* seeks to profit from the misery, blood, sweat and tears of the people who died in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania. Think of all who still pay the price of losing their loved ones, of lasting trauma and, in too many cases, of poisoning from toxic dust at Ground Zero. We understand why some people say even a trailer is too disturbing, that the horror is still too fresh for entertainment made in Hollywood.

On the other hand, you may be lining up to buy tickets, and the fact is, we also sympathize with the desire to see *United 93*. We all want to understand the forces that affect our lives. And we need it all the more after the shock and awe of 9/11. Art, turning tragedy into drama, seeking catharsis... these are ancient, honorable ways for people to make sense of loss, to seek purpose out of chaos. People need stories.

The real problem is that *United 93* is a dramatization, but one presented like a documentary: *You Are There*. Yet most of its story is borrowed unchanged from the claims of the US administration and of *The 9/11 Commission Report*. The film never hints that these official stories are under serious dispute.

United 93 is not only about what may have happened on one flight. Implicitly, it endorses the entire "official story" of the 9/11 events: The plot came from "al-Qaeda" alone. Only the terrorists knew what was coming. No one in the government could have prevented it. The correct identities of all of the perpetrators are known. A failed Cessna pilot pulled off the difficult aerobatic maneuver that struck the Pentagon.

Yes, standard air defense procedure went unheeded, and official statements disagree radically about how that happened. Yes, maybe, evidence was suppressed (like the government's denial it found the airline black boxes at Ground Zero). But in the world of the official story and of *United 93*, all this can only have been due to mistakes, confusion or, at worst, negligence.

How we understand September 11th is not an academic matter; it is deadly serious. The government's official story became the excuse for a perpetual, global "War on Terror." It was the reason given for the USA PATRIOT Act, for the new executive power to

detain citizens for years without charges, and for other assaults on our natural rights and liberties. 9/11 gave us the "Code Orange" system for creating constant panic among the people, and the disastrous invasion of Iraq (although that country had nothing to do with 9/11). Who knows how many wars are yet to follow, all because of 9/11? Even our grandchildren are affected, for they will be paying for the multi-trillion dollar costs. The 9/11 story matters – to everyone.

You may know that relatives of the dead raised hundreds of unanswered questions about what really happened. People like the "Jersey Widows" fought the White House for 14 months before they finally got their demand for a "9/11 Commission." The Commission promised them it would use their questions as its bible.

But did you know that the Commission completely ignored the majority of those questions? Last July on Capitol Hill, two of the Jersey Widows delivered a public rejection of *The 9/11 Commission Report*, calling it a whitewash, a cover-up by a body of politicians with grave conflicts of interest. As their first of many points, Mindy Kleinberg and Lorie Van Auken noted the Commission's bizarre insistence that Flight 93 crashed at 10:03 am, although all prior reports timed the crash to 10:06, when a seismic event typical of a plane crash issued from the same area. The Commission's claim that the tremor was unrelated to the crash is like saying that lightning *coincidentally* struck the dead body of a man, 3 minutes after he was electrocuted by some other, mysterious means.

We want to know why the Commission wants to hide what really happened in the final 3 minutes of Flight 93—whatever it was. We want the facts about 9/11 that a democratic people need, if we are to make informed decisions about the future. Our country can bear no more omissions and distortions, gag orders on whistleblowers, or media censorship. We need the truth about 9/11.

See our *United 93* page at 911truth.org/u93

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