

of the irony. This administration has worked to cut veterans benefits, tried to cut education services provided to military children by 172 million, cut the pay of soldiers fighting in Iraq, and exposed troops to depleted uranium without fully understanding the health dangers. It truly was ironic.

## Low Prices...Always—My Ass.

I have a moral conflict with shopping at Wal-Mart. I get a sense of foreboding when I drive into the cluster-fuck of a parking lot. Wal-Mart is the leviathan of corporate America. With 1.3 million workers worldwide, they are the largest employer in the world. And with 225 super-centers planned for this year alone, it doesn't look like the train is stopping. I always smile at the elderly greeter; probably working part-time to cover the cost of prescription pills. Wal-Mart works hard at the upkeep of their down-home-folks-next-door kind of image. But, their reputation has fallen a bit in the past year, with several lawsuits against them for discrimination, hiring illegal immigrants, and "lock-in" policies, and these are only the things they are charged with. However, this does not hurt the pocket books of the Waltons, heirs to the Wal-Mart Empire. Four out of ten of the richest people in America are Waltons. The five heirs have had their net-worth rise about \$9 billion within the past year from \$94 to approx. \$103 billion. Meanwhile about 96% of Wal-Mart "associates" who don't have second jobs, still qualify for some form of government assistance, however Wal-Mart discourages it's employees from applying for government assistance or from even joining a union. It's true, Wal-Mart offers great prices on merchandise, but what's the real cost? The cost is our local economy. Wal-Mart may bring jobs to an area, but in order to build and import their jobs to the community, they demand (or are offered) such high tax breaks, that it's practically free for them to set up shop in anyplace. To top it off, the jobs are minimum wage, with little or no benefits. Not only do they offer shit-wage jobs, they force the underpaid to patron their store, taking advantage of the lower prices, effectively driving local merchants out of business. These are just a few reasons I choose not to patron Wal-Mart. I haven't even touched on use of children and prisoners as cheap labor, or Wal-Marts censorship power, or their "Dead Peasants Insurance." On the way out of the store, I say, "have a nice day" to the cashier. I wonder if she knows her job will be obsolete by the year 2006 when radio-chip technology replaces the current bar code system. As usual it's a good time for the Empire, while the masses struggle to keep their bellies full and a roof over their heads.

## Wal-Mart By the Numbers

Wal-Mart and Sam's Clubs stores worldwide:	4300
# of Wal-Mart employees worldwide:	1,300,000
# of Wal-Marts unionized:	0
The Walton family fortune in dollars:	103,000,000,000
Average hourly wage paid to Wal-Mart cashiers:	6.10

## Bushisms



*"It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it."*

George W. Bush.

*"The vast majority of our imports come from outside the country."*

George W. Bush.

*"Rarely is the question asked: Is our children learning?"*

George W. Bush

*"They underestimated me."*

George W. Bush

## Bush is Beatable

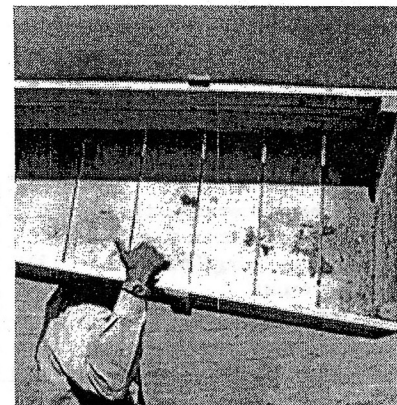
A recent Newsweek poll shows that 52% of voters don't want to see Bush reelected, 44% do. Yet, 78% of voters believe that Bush will get a second term. Have us liberals given up the fight already?

## Contact Us

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# The Red Pill

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An Iraqi undertaker reuses a coffin. (Photo: Yuri Kozyrev)

## The MLK We Don't See on TV

On the nineteenth of January, we as a nation celebrated Martin Luther King Day. It was like all the other holidays—banks were closed, and everyone else had to work. The evening news ran its stock file footage of Dr. King's life. 1963—Battling segregation in Birmingham; 1963—I have a dream speech; 1965—Voting rights march in Selma, Alabama; 1968—Lying dead on a Memphis balcony. What did King do in the last three years of his life? Why are the last three years of King's life a mass media blind spot?

After the '64-'65 passage of civil rights laws, King began challenging this nation's basic beliefs. He maintained that civil rights were empty without human rights, including economic rights (rights the US still refuses to recognize). "True compassion," said King, "is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring." King was working on uniting the poor of this nation regardless of ethnicity. Called the Poor People's Campaign, King planned on leading "a multiracial army of the poor" to descend on Washington, and engage in civil disobedience until congress passed a poor people's bill of rights. Reader's Digest warned of "insurrection."

King had also become one the United State's harshest critics of both foreign policy, and the war in Vietnam. Little talked about in the mainstream media is King's 1967 speech "Beyond Vietnam," in which King called the United States "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today." King also said the US was "on the wrong side of a world revolution," questioning why the US was suppressing the revolutions "of the shirtless and barefoot people" in the Third World. Now, at the turn of the millennium, we are occupying not one, but two foreign countries. We actively keeping the worlds poor, poor, and if you have driven around Grand Junction lately you can see poverty is still rampant

here on the home front. I wonder what kind of world we would live in today if an assassin's bullet didn't kill Dr. King, effectively ending the Poor People's Campaign before its march to Washington? I wonder who fired the bullet? I wonder why we have heard little, if anything, about King's work with poverty?

## The State of Disunion

# of days Osama has been on the run:	810
# of names on State Department terror suspect list:	70,000
# of times US troops have deployed abroad, since 1776:	277
# of days without finding Iraq's missing WMD:	328
% of Americans with library cards:	3
Dollars spent by US on "defense" in 2002:	396,000,000,000
# of US troops killed in the "War on Terror:"	621
# of US citizens arrested for cannibis year to date:	47,310

### Myth vs. Fact, What Really Happened To Flight 93.

On the morning of 9/11, we watched in horror as two planes smashed into the World Trade Center, and another plane smashed into the Pentagon. A fourth hijacked plane crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. There were multiple cell phone calls to 911 made by passengers aboard that flight. The press and the spin-doctors in the white house spread the "Let's Roll Myth." The official story goes that terrorist hijack the planes with only box cutters, and the brave passengers of flight 93 wrestled control of the plane away from the terrorist, and nose dived into the Pennsylvania countryside.

Flight 93 passenger Edward Felt called 911 at 9:50am and told the dispatcher that the plane was going down, and that there was some kind of explosion, and that he could see white smoke.<sup>1</sup> Was there a bomb on board? Did a missile hit the plane? Todd Beamer, another flight 93 passenger, who is famously quoted with "let's roll," also said in his phone call to a representative of Verizon Airfone "Two of them have locked themselves into the cockpit, and one has a bomb strapped around his waist with a red belt."<sup>2</sup> The media and the spin-doctors latched on to Todd Beamer's "let's roll" but conveniently forgot the rest of his phone call. Was there a bomb? Did it go off?

The *Daily Mirror* in London reported that an unmarked military-style jet was seen in the vicinity of the flight 93 crash site at the time of the crash. The white jet was seen by at least six eyewitnesses. Even the Mayor of nearby Shanksville went on record saying: "I know of two people—I will not mention names—that heard a missile. They both live very close, within a couple hundred yards... This one fellow has served in Vietnam and he says he's heard them, and he heard one that day."<sup>3</sup>

Was it a bomb? Was it a missile? Or was it the passengers, like the authorities have said? The official story is that the

passengers crashed the plane, but the evidence does not fit the story. On September 14<sup>th</sup> *The Washington Post* reported that wreckage from flight 93 was being found as far away as eight miles. CNN reported "A second debris field was around Indian Lake about 3 miles from the crash scene." FBI Special Agent Bill Crowley confirmed that debris from Flight 93 was found as far a way as eight miles. He went on to say "An explosion has not been ruled out." The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported that residents of Somerset county collected bags-full of debris including human remains, and to top all of it off, a 1000 pound piece of one of the plane's engines was found over one mile away from the crater. The scattered debris fields that stretched for up to eight miles lends credence to the theory that Flight 93 was blown-up in midair rather than forced down by the passengers. Why does the Government neatly ignore this evidence? Why is myth more important than truth when it comes to 9/11?

### Sources

1. Spangler, Todd. "United Jet Crashes in to PA.; Passenger Reports Hijacking" AP Sept. 11 2001.
2. Fink, Mitchell, Never Forget: An Oral History of September 11, 2001; HarperCollins 2002. Pg 196.
3. Bunch, Williams. "We Know It Crashed, but Not Why." *Philadelphia Daily News*, 15 Nov 2001.

### Bush's State of Union Full of Holes

If you missed Bush's State of the Union Address last week, you didn't miss much. The spin and lies came in this order: blah, blah, blah, economy is rock solid, public schools doing great, the PATRIOT ACT is working, Afghanistan is peachy, Iraq is free and we are safer, blah, blah, blah. I love freedom, I love god, and above all be scared—This is war.

There was little mention of the WMD that were at the heart of last year's state of the union. Last January, Bush frightened a nation to war by claiming Iraq had 26,000 liters of anthrax, 1,000,000 pounds of sarin gas, and uranium from Niger. None of which has materialized in the ensuing nine-month long occupation. Bush did say this year that "the Kay Report identified dozens of weapons of mass destruction related program activities, and significant amounts of equipment." He makes it sound like something has been found, but realizing the pressure this administration is under to turn up a WMD in Iraq, surely we would have heard about it on Fox news. Also, look closely at the words the president used "...related program activities." What the hell does that mean? Couldn't just about anything be a "related program activity?" Lastly, just days after the State of the Union Address, David Kay, the administration's lead WMD investigator in Iraq, has resigned. The Kay report will now not be due out until after the election. How convenient.

The president said, "Jobs are on the rise." But this is looking at the world through rose-colored glasses. This last

month has been the first month in which the US economy has added any jobs. The 10,000 jobs that were created pay less than the jobs lost, and doesn't compare to the 2.5 million jobs lost on Bush's watch. The president cited an explosive third quarter as evidence of a rebound, but much of this has been due to a refinancing boom that followed the lowering of interest rates. This is a short-term fix, prosperity bought on debt is not prosperity; it's a delay tactic. Our nation is operating under a huge trade deficit; we are spending more than we are making, and because of this and other factors, the US dollar has fallen significantly against the Euro. The economy will have rebounded when the street corners and missions are empty of the homeless.

According to Bush, Afghanistan "...has a new constitution guaranteeing free elections, and full participation by women...the boys and girls of Afghanistan are back in school." To some degree all of what the president said was true, but this turns out to be "cherry picked" information. Afghanistan is slipping steadily back into armed conflict. The Afghan president has survived a number of assassination attempts. The number of US deaths has reach one hundred, many of which have been killed in the last couple of months while world attention has been focused on Iraq. In the remote providences the Taliban is gaining strength. The opium trade is booming again. Osama still hasn't been found. The central government is weak and controls little outside Kabul. Afghanistan Central Army is only 8,000 strong. While, the warlords that made up the Northern Alliance rule most of the country; some of these warlords count 25,000 men in their personal militias and have heavy mortars and tanks. The Women still wear the burqua. The Afghan Supreme Court recently dismissed Afghan Judge Marziya Basil after being photographed without her headscarf in a photo-op with George Bush. The Kabul daily *Suhbat* declared that she was a "disgrace to the dignity of Afghanistan." A constitutions is useless without order; women's rights is irrelevant when you don't have enough food; girls and boys back in school means little during a civil war.

Bush claimed that Iraq is free, and we are safer. But today Iraq is far from free. Roadside bombs, suicide bombers, and mortar attacks continue. Helicopters continue to be shot down. Iraqis still suffer from unsafe water supplies, electrical outages, checkpoints, barricades, and nightly curfews. That doesn't sound like freedom.

Bush defended his "No Child Left Behind" bill, which has been under funded by 7 billion dollars to pay for war and instruments of death.

He trumpeted his Medicare reform, which cut benefits for many seniors, and throws billions of dollars to the big pharmaceutical corporations, who happen to be big Bush campaign contributors. The best part of the speech came when Bush praised the troops, and the job they have done in Iraq. The cameras then zoomed in on a group of young solders in the audience. They were unenthusiastically clapping and muttering under their breath, obviously aware