



Current: 82°
89° / 77°
Complete Forecast

Find the best sales at stores near you with **shopLocal**

Click here for sales, deals and specials in stores near you!

Do You Have a Legal Question?
GO

Great offers on the full line of Nissan vehicles.

moreinstore See the **extra** in-store deals not found in the printed Weekly Ad.

Go to **More In Store** >

Search Recent News Archives Web for

Welcome **Guest**
[Sign Up](#) | [Sign In](#) | [Member Benefits](#)

Welcome **Guest**
[Sign Up](#) | [Sign In](#) | [Member Benefits](#)

- [Jobs](#)
- [Cars](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Apartments](#)
- [Local Shopping](#)
 - ShopLocal
 - Newspaper Ads
- [All Classifieds](#)
 - Create an Ad
 - Find an Ad
- [Dating](#)

[Back to Home >](#)

Tuesday, Feb 07, 2006

Columnists

email this print this

Posted on Wed, Feb. 01, 2006

9/11 ATTACKS

Avoiding the hard questions

ROBERT STEINBACK

I was 8 years old when President John Kennedy was shot to death in Dallas in 1963. If grace favors me, I'll be 62 when documents related to the assassination are released to the public, and 84 when the Warren Commission's investigative files into the tragedy are finally opened.

That's a long time to wait for a chance to evaluate the purported truth.

It's a blot on the presumed sophistication of the people of the United States that any aspect of an event so dramatic and shocking should be kept from us. Perhaps it's true, to abuse the line from *A Few Good Men* yet again, that we can't handle the truth. But there cannot be genuine resolution as long as such critical information remains concealed.

Transformed by 9/11

Since Kennedy's assassination, Americans have lurched between demanding to know and plugging their ears: The Pentagon Papers, My Lai, the King assassination, Watergate, Iran-contra, the savings-and-loan debacle, Monicagate. Lately, however, it would seem the public's verdict is in: Don't tell us. Keep us in the dark. We don't want to know.

This is the worst possible time for probe-ophobia to grip us. Our nation was irrevocably transformed by 9/11 -- and yet there remain troubling questions about what really happened before, during and after that day. Rather than demanding a full and fearless vetting to hone in on the truth and silence the conjecture about 9/11, many Americans remain unwilling to peer into the microscope.

An online cottage industry of theorists, theory debunkers and debunker debunkers has flourished since 9/11. Sometimes the flimsy theories are easy to spot -- come on, if the four

CAU
Carlos Albizu University
Celebrating 25 years of Excellence

CAU is regionally accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

Accepting Applications for Fall 2006.
Call Now!

www.mia.albizu.edu 1-888-GO-TO-CAU
2173 NW 99th Avenue Miami, FL 33172

A PRIVATE, NON-PROFIT, FULLY ACCREDITED UNIVERSITY

Experience top-of-the-line home theater like never before.
New Magnolia™ Home Theater stores in select Best Buy™ locations.

FIND ONE NEAR YOU

MAGNOLIA
HOME THEATER

SECTIONS

TODAY'S EXTRAS

- News
 - Obituaries

- Sports
- Entertainment

- Business
- Tropical Life & Home
 - Health
 - Travel

- Opinion
 - Columnists

Visitor's Guide

ONLINE FEATURES

- Multimedia
- Today's Front Page
- Email Newsletters
- Message Boards
- Calendar
- Contests
- Special Publications
- Web Cams

- Traffic Reports
- SITE SERVICES**
- Place an Ad
- RSS feeds
- News via Mobile
- Contact Us
- Site Map
- Past Articles
- Advertise
- Newspaper Services

- PARTNERS**
- El Nuevo Herald
- WLRN | Miami Herald News
- CBS 4 WFOR-TV
- Newspaper in Education
- More Partners

passenger jets *didn't* crash where it appears they did, where did they go? More often, though, the cases aren't so obvious.

A group of experts and academicians "devoted to applying the principles of scientific reasoning to the available evidence, 'letting the chips fall where they may,'" last week accused the government of covering up evidence that the three destroyed New York City buildings were brought down that day by controlled demolition rather than structural failure. The group, called Scholars for 9/11 Truth, has a website, www.st911.org.

Unanswered questions

The reflexive first reaction is incredulity -- how, one asks, could anyone even contemplate, never mind actually do such a barbaric thing? But before you shut your mind, check the resués -- these aren't Generation X geeks subsisting on potato chips and PlayStation. Then look at the case they present.

"I am a professional philosopher who has spent 35 years teaching logic, critical thinking and scientific reasoning," group co-founder and University of Minnesota professor James H. Fetzer told me. "When I come to 9/11, it's not hard for me to determine what is going on. This is a scientific question. And it is so elementary that I don't think you can find a single physicist who could disagree with the idea that this was a controlled demolition."

The group asks, for example,

- **How** did a fire fed by jet fuel, which at most burns at 1,700 degrees Fahrenheit, cause the collapse of the Twin Towers, built of steel that melts at 2,800 degrees? (Most experts agree that the impact of airliners, made mostly of lightweight aluminum, should not have been enough alone to cause structural failure.) How could a single planeload of burning jet fuel -- most of which flared off in the initial fireball -- cause the South World Trade Center tower to collapse in just 56 minutes?
- **Why** did building WTC-7 fall, though no aircraft struck it? Fire alone had never before caused a steel skyscraper to collapse.
- **Why** did all three buildings collapse largely into their own footprints -- in the style of a controlled demolition?
- **Why** did no U.S. military jet intercept the wayward aircraft?
- **Why** has there been no investigation of BBC reports that five of the alleged 9/11 hijackers were alive and accounted for after the event?

Our current probe-ophobia is due in part to the political landscape: When one party holds all the cards, any call to investigate an alleged abuse of power or cover-up -- no matter how valid -- will look like a partisan vendetta. Those in power never want to investigate themselves.

Maybe that's politics; he who holds the hammer drives the nails. But the outrage of 9/11 transcends party affiliation.

We need all the outstanding questions answered -- wherever the chips may fall.

 [email this](#)  [print this](#)

SUBSCRIBE TODAY	SUBSCRIBE TODAY
 GET HOME DELIVERY OF THE MIAMI HERALD	 GET HOME DELIVERY OF THE MIAMI HERALD

Experience top-of-the-line home theater like never before.
New Magnolia™ Home Theater stores in select Best Buy™ locations.

FIND ONE NEAR YOU





MAGNOLIA
HOME THEATER



- MORE NEWS FROM** **TOPIX.NET**
- [Folk](#)
 - [The Kennedys](#)
 - [Discuss The Kennedys](#)
- MORE NEWS FROM** **TOPIX.NET**
- [Folk](#)
 - [The Kennedys](#)
 - [Discuss The Kennedys](#)
- MORE NEWS FROM** **TOPIX.NET**
- [Folk](#)
 - [The Kennedys](#)

Ads by Google
<p>Military Schools Academic, disciplined environments Information on schools and programs www.globalinfoexchange.com</p>
<p>Study Politics at Surrey Wide range of courses available BAs, MAs and PhDs www.surrey.ac.uk/politics</p>
<p>Lobbying Powerhouse Cassidy & Associates, Washington's most powerful lobbying firm. www.cassidy.com</p>

Ads by Google
<p>Fair Trade Skin Care Anti-Poverty. Beautiful Body. Fair trade soaps and skin care www.anti-body.com</p>
<p>As A Man Thinketh Free Get Your Free Copy Of James Allen's As A Man Thinketh. Right Here! www.YourMindPowers.com</p>
<p>Rubbish Hauling, Disposal We Fight Poverty - We Work Serving the San Fernando Valley www.larrytherubbishman.com</p>

Ads by Google
<p>Fast Disaster Relief Finally the UN has a fund for rapid disaster relief. Read the story. ideaexplore.net/news</p>
<p>Hurricane Survival Tips The Followings are Free Tips on How To Prepare for a Hurricane www.SelfProtectionTips.Com</p>



[About Herald.com](#) | [About the Real Cities Network](#) | [Terms of Use & Privacy Statement](#) | [About Knight Ridder](#) | [Copyright](#)

