



I graduated in:

- 1996
- 1986
- 1976
- 1966



SFGate.com

SFGATE HOME • BUSINESS • SPORTS • ENTERTAINMENT • TRAVEL

JOBS • REAL ESTATE • CA

Search

SFGate News

Web by Google™

San Francisco Chronicle

OUT LOUD AN INSIDE JOB? David Ray Griffin: Theologian scuffed at 9/11 conspiracy theories, then looked closer

Reyhan Harmanci

Thursday, March 30, 2006



When **David Ray Griffin**, noted theologian and professor emeritus at the Claremont School of Theology, first heard someone say that Sept. 11 was an inside job, he scuffed.

"I can remember my exact words. ... I said, 'I don't think that even the Bush administration could perpetrate such a thing,' " said **Griffin**, who has since written two books, "The New Pearl Harbor: Disturbing Questions About the Bush Administration and 9/11" and "The 9/11 Commission Report: Omissions and Distortions," which dispute the official version of events. Specifically, **Griffin** believes that the U.S. government orchestrated the attacks.



[Printable Version](#)
[Email This Article](#)

Entertainment

- ▶ **Food & Dining**
 - Search Restaurants
- ▶ **Wine**
- ▶ **Movies**
 - Showtimes
- ▶ **Music & Nightlife**
- ▶ **Performance**
- ▶ **Art** ▶ **Events** ▶ **Books**
- ▶ **TV & Radio** ▶ **Gay**

on sale

Donate a car to Habitat for Humanity

Your car donation helps build homes for families in need.

Habitat for
Humanity Cars
for Homes
Bay Area

[Place an
OnSale ad
About OnSale
View All
OnSale Ads](#)

Griffin began to delve into 9/11 conspiracy theories after looking at a time line of the events of Sept. 11, 2001 (by Paul Thompson, who later

turned it into a book) on the Internet. He found himself swayed by the catalog of inconsistencies and strange coincidences.

When asked what the most compelling facts are to make the case that the U.S. government was complicit in the attacks, **Griffin** names three things. The behavior of Bush at the schoolhouse in Florida ("Secret Service should have whisked him out immediately if we're under attack but he stayed over 30 minutes. ... It's pretty clear evidence that they knew they wouldn't be attacked"), the strange pyrotechnics that brought down the World Trade Center ("fire has never brought down a steel high-rise building") and the poorly planned targeting of the West Wing of the Pentagon ("all the important people are in the East Wing -- it doesn't make any sense").

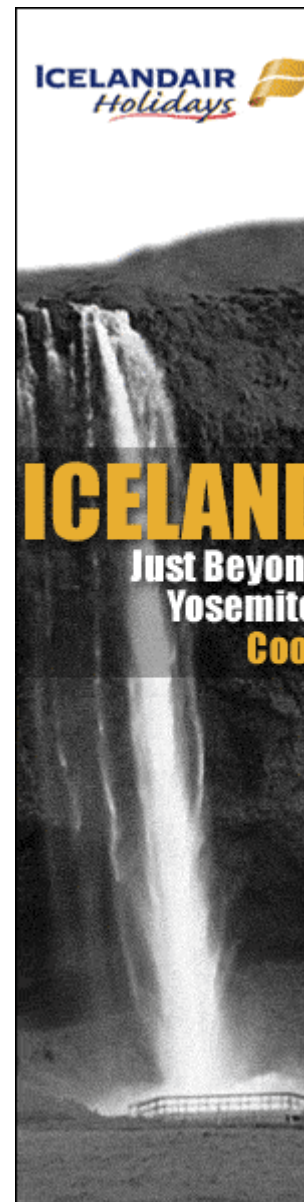
Not only that, **Griffin** points to historical evidence that the U.S. government would be capable of such a thing. Operation Northwoods, a plan concocted by the Pentagon in the '60s as a way of taking Castro from power, included ideas about how a terrorist attack on U.S. soil could provide a pretext for military action.

But why now? **Griffin** names the neoconservative think tank the Project for the New American Century as a motivating force. "Once you look at it, they have lots of motivation," he says. "It's what the neocons have been salivating about."

"The goals would be to get control of the world's oil and establish a new doctrine of pre-emptive warfare. That was a difficult sell before 9/11."

While many conspiracy theories have been passed around, it's been very easy to dismiss many of the theorists as, well, crazy. But **Griffin** comes to his controversial conclusions with lucidity and calm. He even sees a connection between his long-standing work as a theologian and his new position as a political writer.

"In both cases, the concern is for the good of the world as a whole. Those of us who believe in God believe that trashing the world is not what God wants."



David Ray Griffin speaks on "9/11: The Myth & the Reality." 7 p.m. today, Grand Lake Theater, 3200 Grand Ave., Oakland. (510) 452-3556. He also appears at 11:30 a.m. Mon., Commonwealth Club, 595 Market St., S.F. (415) 597-6700. www.commonwealthclub.org. \$15.

Reyhan Harmanci, rharmanci@sfchronicle.com

Page H - 24

Ads by Google

[What's This?](#)

Stress Management

Up to date Articles w/BRW incl back issues, directories & more
www.brw.com.au

Panic Attacks

A new trick to end panic attacks before they can begin!
PanicPortal.com

13 Signs Of Burnout

Avoiding Stress, Depression and Burnout by expert Henry Neils
www.assessment.com



[Get up to 50% off home delivery of the Chronicle for 12 weeks!](#)

[Back To](#)

San Francisco Chronicle Sections

Go

[©2006 San Francisco Chronicle](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Feedback](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Site Index](#) | [Contact](#)