

Letter to the Editor of the Mt. Desert Islander, published October 3

(in response to Dick Atlee's letter of the week before announcing the showing of the film in question at the Southwest Harbor Public Library on October 10.)

Everybody loves a conspiracy theory.

As a former science teacher, I welcome letter writer Dick Atlee's invitation to examine the film "9/11: Explosive Evidence -- Experts Speak Out."

What you will find is textbook conspiracy theory characterized by a backward approach to the scientific method. Just throw out the ample evidence that does not support the conspiracy theorist's claims. Selectively use experts (some of whose statuses are suspect), and substitute answers with questions. Then ignore the overwhelmingly low probability that the hundreds if not thousands of people required to bring down the towers with explosives in coordination with airplane strikes could keep it a secret after twelve years -- every last one of them!

It is akin to believing in conspiracy theories that the moon landing was fake.

This just scratches the surface of the problems with the production's thesis. It is imperative that people learn to use the proper tools to evaluate information in the popular media so that they don't get pulled in by such slick and seductive docudrama posing as science.

If you are open-minded you may want to see this production and then examine the copious criticisms of it as a quintessential exercise in true, critical thinking.

B.H. *[name withheld here for privacy reasons]*
Bar Harbor

Dick Atlee's unpublished response:

I was hoping that BH would come to the presentation. I was looking forward to engaging him in a discussion of his allegations of suspect experts and the need for hundreds of thousands of people and the problems of coordinating planes and explosions. Those are interesting topics for debate, though his use of the word "slick and seductive docudrama" for a non-drama series of citations of scientific evidence seemed a bit off the mark. It seemed to me that having a former science teacher (like David Chandler, one of the principal and effective thorns in the side of the government "scientific" reports) address the scientific observations in the film would have undoubtedly generated some useful discussion.

As I said at the showing, there are many attacks against the film and other work on the topic. I did my best to encourage the kind of "true, critical thinking" BH proposed, providing everyone at the showing with a handout linking a web page with links to many such "debunking" websites (available on this site at <http://dickatlee.com/issues/911/resources>).

Regrettably, BH either didn't show up, or if he did, he was remarkably silent for such an outspoken antagonist of the idea that 9/11 wasn't as we were told. Definitely a lost opportunity for all concerned.