

12 April 2019

This file contains two appendices providing “data” for Chapter 3: “Urban Legends and Rumors Concerning the September 11 Attacks” in William Aspray and James W. Cortada, From Urban Legends to Political Fact-Checking: Online Scrutiny in America, 1990-2015 (Cham, Switzerland: Springer, forthcoming late 2019, History of Computing Series). These appendices were not published in the book, but there are citations in the book to this file in case the interested reader wants to examine this data.

Appendix 3A: What snopes.com Said About 9/11 Rumors and Legends

The following table provides a summary of 176 legends and rumors related to the 9/11/2001 terrorist attacks (and related topics about terrorists) that have been discussed on the snopes website and are archived there today.

(<http://www.snopes.com/category/facts/september-11/>) Most of the wording in this table is taken verbatim from the snopes site. In particular, the name of the legend (column 1) and the evaluation (column 2) are almost always taken verbatim, while the description (column 3) is generally taken verbatim but occasionally amplified or slightly modified. To avoid clutter, single or double quotation marks are not used in these columns unless they were used in the snopes original. The notes (column 4) are primarily summaries of the detailed analysis given by snopes; quotation marks are used in this column in the few occasions where snopes is quoted verbatim and not simply summarized. On rare occasion some material or commentary from the author is given that did not appear in the snopes analysis. The chapter on 9/11 Legends (Chapter 3) provides analysis that is partly based on this appendix. The value of this appendix primarily is that it summarizes and pulls into one place the snopes analysis, which would otherwise require examining 176 web pages.

| Name | Snopes Evaluation | Description | Notes |
|---|--------------------------|--|--------------|
| Women Killed by Poisoned Perfume Samples? | False | Follow-up terrorist act to 9/11 that government hiding from the public | |
| Rubble Indemnity | Mixture | WTC leaseholder bought terrorism insurance 2 months before 9/11 – benefit from foreknowledge | |

| | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|--|
| | | claim – signed a 99-year lease 2 months before, had to have insurance, insurance policies then typically had no terrorism exception | |
| An Ode to America | Correct attribution | Romanian newspaperman Cornel Nistorescu penned a popular pro-America editorial immediately after the 9/11 attacks. | |
| 9/11 Tear Drop Memorial | True | A 100-foot tall New Jersey memorial to the victims of 9/11 donated by Russia | |
| Alibi Bye | Legend | The 9/11 terrorist attacks trapped a World Trade Center employee inadvertently revealing his adulterous activities to his wife. | |
| Texas Mattress Company Apologizes for Ad Mocking 9/11 | True | a Facebook Live commercial advertising their “Twin Towers sale” by making light of the 9/11 terrorist attacks | |
| Close Line | False | A store in a Houston shopping center closed on September 11, 2009 to honor one of the 9/11 hijackers. | It closed to honor a 7 th century religious figure. |
| Terrorist Cell | False | Anti-terrorism presentation warns | There was a public talk in Fresno, CA about recognizing |

| | | | |
|--|------------------------|---|---|
| Phones | | about women in burqas buying up cell phones. | signs of terrorism, but nothing in it about women in burqas with cellphones. |
| Steve Buscemi and 9/11 | True | Actor Steve Buscemi was once a firefighter and assisted the FDNY after the 9/11 attacks. | |
| ABC News Bans Flag Lapel Pins? | False | ABC banned on-air personnel from wearing American flag pins after 9/11. | It was a standard, longstanding practice to refrain from wearing symbolic items while on the air. |
| Angry Muslim Confronts Cashier Over Flag Pin | Legend | Iraqi woman in a U.S. grocery store is told off by another patron after disdaining America's bombing of her country. | |
| UPS Terrorists | False | Terrorists have acquired a large number of "missing" UPS uniforms. | \$32,000 of uniforms purchased, but no indication it was by terrorists. |
| Pershing the Thought | False | U.S. General John J. Pershing effectively discouraged Muslim terrorists in the Philippines by killing them and burying their bodies along with those of pigs. | Idea has floated around for many years and was suggested by the character Gary Cooper played in the movie <i>The Real Glory</i> , but Pershing did not do this. |
| Warning From Terrorist | False | A woman who performs a kindness for a stranger is rewarded by his telling her to avoid a certain place on a certain day. | |
| What is an American? | Incorrectly attributed | An article defining "What is an American?" was penned by an Australian dentist. | Actually written by a US law school professor. |
| Take a Gander | True | The Newfoundland town of Gander | |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|--|--|
| | | played host to thousands of airline passengers stranded there when American airspace was closed after the September 11 terrorist attacks. | |
| Pentagon 9/11 Daycare Corral | False | Forty Marines rescued children from a Pentagon daycare facility on 9/11, then enclosed them in a protective corral of cribs like a wagon train. | |
| Absent Without Leave | False | Four thousand Israelis employed by companies housed in the World Trade Center stayed home from work on 9/11, warned in advance of the impending attack on the WTC. | |
| Oliver Twisted | False | During the 1987 Iran-Contra hearings, Oliver North warned Congress that Osama bin Laden was "the most evil person alive" and that "an assassin team [should] be formed to eliminate him and his men from the face of the earth." | North did make similar claims about the Libyan terrorist Abu Nidal. |
| Atta Boy | False | Mohammed Atta, a convicted terrorist released by Israel at the insistence of the U.S., participated in the 9/11 terrorist attacks. | The 9/11 mastermind had the same name but was a different person who was in Israeli prison for a 1996 bus bombing. |

| | | | |
|---|--------------|--|---|
| Wingdings | False | Microsoft's Webdings and Wingdings fonts include hidden anti-Semitic and 9/11-referential messages. | It is a coincidence, as stated by Microsoft and the Anti-Defamation League. |
| False Prophecy | False | The 16 th century French astrologer Nostradamus predicted the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center. | The story was made up by a Canadian student to demonstrate how easily one could incorrectly read an interpretation into some vague imagery from the past. |
| Child Names After Robert Mathews, 9/11 Rescuer | False | A pregnant woman named her child after the rescuer who died while saving her and others at the World Trade Center on 9/11. | |
| This Bud's Not For You | False | A Budweiser employee who saw Arabs celebrating the 9/11 attacks at a convenience store pulled all the Budweiser product from that store. | One of many stores about reprisals against "Celebrating Arabs." |
| Are 11 Planes Missing from an Airport in Libya? | Mostly False | Eleven passenger planes [which could be used in a repeat of 9/11] are missing from an airport in Libya. | Some planes damaged or destroyed, others moved to Malta for safekeeping when the Zinta militia attacked the Tripoli airport in 2014. No planes are not accounted for. |
| London Underground Terrorist Warning | False | 2005, 2014: London police are warning against using the Underground, citing the threat of an imminent terrorist attack. | |
| The Coup Cover Art | True | The planned cover for a hip-hop album by The Coup due to be released in November 2001 depicted an | The artwork was changed after the 9/11 attacks. |

| | | | |
|--|-------|---|---|
| | | exploding World Trade Center. | |
| Taking Le Point | True | Image from a 1979 French advertisement for the Pakistan airline PIA shows the shadow of a jetliner on the World Trade Center. | Advertising its flights from New York to Paris and London. |
| Daisy Unchained | False | A dog named Daisy rescued hundreds of people from the damaged World Trade Center towers on 9/11. | However, guide dogs did guide their masters from the 71 st and 78 th floors of the WTC and won an award for doing so. |
| James Woods Saw the 9/11 Terrorists? | True | Actor James Woods said he observed and reported four suspicious men possibly making a hijacking trial run on an airline flight before the 9/11 attacks. | |
| Sesame Street Bert and Osama Bin Laden | True | Bert, the <i>Sesame Street</i> muppet, appeared on posters carried by supporters of Osama bin Laden. | Dino Ignacio, a San Francisco artist, had created a Bert is Evil series of posters, including one in the background of a picture of Osama Bin Laden. Ignacio stopped producing this series, but others continued the gag, and one of these later versions appeared on posters at a pro-Bin Laden rallies. |
| 2 Million Bikers to DC | True | The "2 Million Bikers to DC" group has been denied a "no-stop" permit for a Washington ride-through on 11 September 2013. | Somewhere between 10,000 and 75,000 bikers rode through DC that day to show support for those lost in 9/11 attacks, but the Park Service refused the permit that would have involved numerous street closures and large police escorts. |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| The Accidental Tourist | False | Photograph captures an unlucky tourist posing on the observation deck of a World Trade Center tower on 9/11, seconds before a hijacked airliner smashed into the building. | Numerous clues that it was photoshopped. |
| Budweiser Tribute | True | A video clip ("Respect") shows a Budweiser tribute to the victims of 9/11 that was only aired once. | During the 2002 Super Bowl. |
| Edward R. Murrow on Restraint | False | In 1941, newsman Edward R. Murrow penned a piece about the need for restraint in the U.S. response to the attack on Pearl Harbor. | It came from an article entitled "What If? Rethinking 1941 with Edward R. Murrow," which appeared in <i>National Review</i> . |
| Juval Aviv Terrorist Predictions | False | Israeli-American security consultant Juval Aviv correctly predicted upcoming terrorist attacks in 2005 against the U.K. and the U.S. | Many questions about the legitimacy of his credentials; no evidence that he appeared on television a week before the attacks to predict them. |
| Anthrax Mailings | True | In the autumn of 2001, fear of exposure to anthrax delivered by mail ran high. | |
| Osama bin Laden and Gum Arabic | Not any more (divested these holdings in 1996) | Osama bin Laden owns extensive gum arabic holdings, which is used in soft drinks and other products. Call for boycott of these products. | |

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| High Fashion in the Mosque | Mixture | 9/11-themed shirts being sold in the Middle East. | The photo seems to be from India, not the Middle East. And wearers may not know the significance since there are also shirts being sold to innocent people bearing the likeness of Hitler and Stalin. |
| 9/11 Pepsi Can | Real photograph, inaccurate description | Photograph shows a Pepsi can with an illustration reminiscent of the 9/11 attacks. | It is a real can of Diet Pepsi manufactured in Dubai by Pepsi Arabia, but the image is of airplanes and skyscrapers on the Dubai skyline, not a 9/11 theme. |
| Sept 11 Lottery Coincidence | True | On 11 September 2002, the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks on New York's World Trade Center towers, the numbers selected in one of the New York state lottery drawings were 9-1-1. | Probabilistic argument shows that the odds are not all that high against this occurring. |
| NACEC Site | False | Military personnel should avoid the use of the NACEC.org web site, which collects personal information about individuals to use in times of emergency. | Claim was that it was not a government agency and could not be trusted. Turned out to be legitimate. |
| First Responders Not Invited to 9/11 Anniversary Ceremonies | True | First responders and clergy are not invited to the 2011 September 11 memorial ceremony at ground zero. | NYC Mayor Bloomberg said space constraints at the 9/11 site meant that only victim families could attend but first responders could meet in other places around the city; also, like previous years, no clergy or formal prayers at the ceremony. |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|---|---|
| Hands Found at WTC | Undetermined | In the wake of the assault on the World Trade Center towers, a bound pair of hands was found atop one of the neighboring buildings. | Several conflicting stories, no reliable information. |
| Osama bin Laden Sighted in Utah. | False | Dozens of reports to the FBI of bin Laden being sighted in the Salt Lake City area. | |
| Osama bin Laden's Body Washes Ashore | False | The body of Osama bin Laden has washed ashore in India, two days after he was killed and buried at sea. | Body weighted down and would never come ashore. |
| Osama bin Laden Death Photos | False | Photographs show the corpse of Osama bin Laden. | The photos were digitally fabricated. |
| Osama bin Laden Kidney Disease Rumor | Undetermined | Osama bin Laden was dying of kidney disease. | Many, somewhat contradictory reports of kidney disease; none confirmed. |
| Osama bin Laden Captured | False | Osama bin Laden was captured long ago, but the U.S. government is keeping this news under wraps until just before the 2004 Presidential election. | Spread by at least one prominent Democrat – Madeleine Albright - about President Bush, beginning in 2003. |
| Clear Channel Banned Songs | False | Clear Channel Communications banned their American radio stations from playing specified songs in order to avoid offending listeners. | Soon after 9/11, the Clear Channel management circulated a list of approximately 150 songs that might be sensitive or in poor taste to play because they were overtly violent or referred to events such as plane crashes; but the recommendations were |

| | | | |
|---|-------|--|---|
| | | | advisory, not mandatory to the 1000+ Clear Channel radio stations. |
| Flight 175 Tefillin Delay | | A United Airlines flight 175 (the plane that crashed into the South Tower of the WTC) passenger who insisted upon retrieving his forgotten tefillin (Jewish prayer boxes) delayed the doomed flight. | Records show that the plane was delayed in taxiing but was not delayed at the gate. |
| Naked Women Scare Terrorists Rumor | False | President Bush asked women to take off their clothes and scare terrorists! | It is hard to believe anyone could believe this story, but some people asked snopes if this was true. |
| David Wilkerson Predicts Imminent Catastrophe | False | David Wilkerson, the pastor of New York's Times Square Church, directed his church to prepare 2,000 sandwiches on 10 September 2001, in anticipation of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. | While the pastor has made generalized prophecies about fires and other calamities to be coming, he did not direct his church to prepare sandwiches and they did not prepare sandwiches in preparation for 9/11. |
| Hunt the Boeing! | False | The damage to the Pentagon on September 11 was not caused by a hijacked Boeing 757 but was instead staged by the US government. | The story is traced to Thierry Meyssan's book, <i>The Frightening Fraud</i> , which offers easily rebutted evidence for its claims. |
| John le Carre Gone Mad Essay | True | British spy novelist John le Carré authored an "America gone mad" essay accusing "President Bush of being driven to war by the thirst for oil and power." | It appeared on the website openDemocracy in 2003. |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|---|--|
| Todd Beamer and Jackie Robinson | False | Young Todd Beamer (later one of the heroes on United flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania after passengers tried to retake the plane from the terrorists) received pitching tips from baseball great Jackie Robinson. | Beamer was three years old when Robinson died. |
| Saucy Jack Letter | False | An expletive-filled letter circulated on the Internet in 2001 showed what life in Afghanistan was like for a US Marine serving there. | Many errors and inconsistencies in the story; it received prominence by being read by multiple talk-show hosts on air. The name of the letter may have come from the name of a science fiction musical performed in London in 2006, "Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens". |
| Red Thomas 'Real Deal' Letter | True | "The Real Deal," words of wisdom about gas, germs, and nukes, was written by Army veteran Red Thomas. | |
| Worry Words | Unproven | An American Airlines pilot penned an essay entitled "You Worry Me", expressing his anxiety about Muslims in the United States following 9/11. | Although there is an American Airlines pilot of the name attached to the essay, there is murkiness about the author and whether the essay was intended to express an individual's personal feelings. |
| Terrorist Halloween Candy Purchase | False | Terrorists purchased thousands of dollars of candy from Costco stores in New Jersey, and paid by cash, just before Halloween 2001. | The FBI investigated and found it was someone with immigration problems who bought candy for resale purposes from Costco and that all candy had been accounted for. |

| | | | |
|--|-----------|---|---|
| Flag Ban | True | A U.S. company banned its employees from displaying American flags. | The company, the National Council of Compensation Insurance, did tell its employees three days after 9/11 not to display American flags because “Divisive statements or actions, political or religious discussions and anything else that could be divisive or mean different things to different people are not appropriate in our work environment.” Company management changed its mind a few days later, at the urging of Florida Governor Jeb Bush. |
| George Bush Nobel Prize Nomination | Mixture | President George W. Bush was nominated to receive the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize. | Bush came into office only 11 days before nominations for the prize were due, on February 1, 2001 – months before the 9/11 attacks in response to which he would receive consideration for a peace prize. However, there is some indirect evidence that Bush’s name was on a long list of possible candidates. |
| Fly the Flag on September 11, 2009 [also 2005, 2006, and 2008] | No rating | Patriot Day was declared as a day of remembrance for those lost on 9/11 in proclamations by both President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama, but there was nothing mandatory about it. | |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|---|--|
| Rambo Tackles Osama bin Laden | False | Sylvester Stallone will tackle the Taliban and Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan in an upcoming <i>Rambo</i> film . | While there had been talk since 2002 of a <i>Rambo IV</i> film with Sylvester Stallone travelling to Afghanistan to battle the Taliban, sometimes with Jackie Chan as co-star. When <i>Rambo IV</i> came out in 2008, it was about rescuing Christian aid workers on the Myanmar border. The Afghanistan/Stallone/Taliban rumor resurfaced in 2009 about a putative <i>Rambo V</i> film. |
| 'Hijack This' Photo | True | Associated Press carried a photo showing a sailor on the USS <i>Enterprise</i> , one of the ships attacking Afghanistan, signing a bomb with the words "HIGH JACK THIS FAGS." | This photo was carried briefly by Associated Press in October 2001 but was removed following complaints from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and the Human Rights Campaign. |
| Clinton Administration and Terrorists | False | The Clinton administration failed to track down the perpetrators of several terrorist attacks against Americans. | The Clinton administration used the courts to act in six major terrorism cases, ordered missile strikes against bin Laden, and tripled the budget for anti-terrorist activities. |
| Brian Shul Speech | True | Vietnam veteran Brian Shul delivered a rousing patriotic speech in Chico, California, following 9/11. | |
| September 11 Monies | True | Not all of the money donated to various charities to benefit victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks is being distributed directly to those | This was because of the administrative overhead of the numerous charities involved, bureaucratic red tape, and diversion to other funding priorities of some of these charities. The Red |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| | | victims and their families. | Cross and United Way came in for particular criticism. |
| Condemned Taliban | True | 2001: American propaganda broadcasts are telling the Taliban that they are 'condemned' and instructing them in how to surrender. | |
| Tom Parsons Chides Brits | True | British journalist Tony Parsons penned an article chiding Brits for their attitude towards the September 11 attack on America. | It appeared in <i>The Daily Mirror</i> on the first anniversary of 9/11. |
| Sunrise Over Manhattan | True | A striking photograph shows sunrise through the World Trade Center towers. | This photograph was taken by a passenger on a cruise ship in July 2001. |
| Jamie Symington Suspension | True | Canadian policeman, Jamie Symington, was suspended after traveling to New York to help search for survivors of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. | He traveled from Halifax with a retired police dog to help with 9/11 search-and-rescue missions, was seen on television, and suspended because this work violated the conditions of the medical leave he was on with his regional police service. |
| Automaker 9/11 Contributions | Mixture of truth, falsity, and outdated information | October 2001 email examines various automobile manufacturers' contributions to September 11-related relief efforts, arguing most made no contributions but Ford, General Motors, Hyundai, and Volkswagen did. | Incomplete fact-checking of automobile manufacturers by simply looking at their websites and not contacting them - in 2008 - updated the list of charitable contributions to include in addition to those already listed: Audi, BMW, Daimler, Honda, Isuzu, Nissan, Porsche, Subaru, Suzuki, Toyota, and Volvo. |
| 7-Eleven Warning | False | Terrorists are planning to launch attacks from 7- | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---|--|
| | | Eleven stores on July 11, 2002. | |
| September 11 Mural | True | A mural in Iraq depicts an airplane slamming into buildings resembling the World Trade Center towers. | U.S. Marines searching Iraqi military headquarters in Nasiriya. It is not known whether it was painted before or after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. |
| 911 Fireman Ice Sculpture | True | Ice sculpture depicts an angel leaning on the shoulder of an exhausted New York City firefighter. | Created in 2002 by Canadian artist Darlene Racicot for the South Porcupine-Porcupine Winter Carnival Ice Sculpture competition in Ontario; inspired by a photoshopped image she received online of a firefighter at Ground Zero with an angel added. |
| WTC Cross | True | Clean-up workers at the World Trade Center found two metal beams in the shape of a cross a few days after the attack. | |
| Mohammed Atta Sat in My Jump Seat | Undetermined | A retired Delta pilot, Pat Gilmore, described in 2006 an event in July 2001, in which 9/11 hijacker Mohammed Atta rode along in the cockpit of a commercial flight that Gilmore was commanding. Atta was wearing an American Airlines uniform and had phony credentials supporting his claim to be an AA pilot. | Information about Atta's whereabouts prior to 9/11 do not match with this account, but that information is incomplete. |

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Headlight Memorial for 9/11 Victims | Not rated | E-mail exhorts Americans to drive with their headlights on during daylight hours on September 11, 2007, as it had on September 11 each year since 2002. | Of course, many cars have daytime running lights, so it is hard to know the extent of participation. |
| Dunkin Donuts 'Celebrating Employees' Rumor | False | Employees at Dunkin' Donuts outlets desecrated American flags and celebrated the 9/11 terrorist attack on America. | |
| 911 Hijackers and Cell Phones | Not rated [presumably undetermined] | A text message began to circulate among terrorist sympathizers showing an image of a plane crashing into a skyscraper and stating, in Arabic, "it hit and did not miss." | The source and the distribution path of the message is not known. |
| FBI Looks for Six Arabs | False | Six men of Middle Eastern appearance were stopped by police in the Midwest but released, even though they possessed Israeli passports and photographs and descriptions of a nuclear power plant in Florida and the Trans-Alaska pipeline. | The Knight-Ridder reporter who broke the story in October 2001 could provide no details and this may have been conflated with other incidents checked out by the FBI and reported as unfounded. |
| WTC Survivor Dies on AA | True | Hilda Yolanda Mayol, who worked in WTC and survived the | |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|--|---|
| Flight 587 | | 9/11 attack, died on American Airlines Flight 587 just two months later when the plane she was on crashed in Queens, New York. | |
| Faces in the Crowd | Legend | Images of the World Trade Center fire reveal the face of Satan. | This is an incident of pareidol. However, others photoshopped images of 9/11 to add images to the fire. |
| Megan Hallinan Letter | | U.S. naval officer's letter describes a 'manning the rails' ceremony performed by a German destroyer. | |
| Billy Graham's Daughter's Speech | Not Quite | On NBC's <i>Today</i> program, Billy Graham's daughter (Anne Graham Lotz) said to Bryant Gumbel that "We need to make up our mind — do we want God or do we not want Him . . . We cannot just ask Him in when disaster strikes." | The show was actually the <i>CBS Early Show</i> and the interviewer was Jane Clayson, but the gist of the quotation is correct. |
| Muzaffar Mandawi Paintings | False | Coded images in oil paintings by the Baghdad-born artist Muzaffar Mandawi reveal plans for an upcoming "massive germ attack on the U.S." | The source is Robert Koontz, who describes himself as an experimental nuclear physicist, who bases his claim on thin evidence on a Lebanese singer's fan site. Mandawi's art is focused not on 9/11 but on destruction to Baghdad caused by Iraq's war with Iran. |
| U.N. Petition | False | Sending a petition to the United Nations will help prevent a | This email began circulating shortly after 9/11. The UN has stated that it is not soliciting or collecting |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|
| | | war between the U.S. and Iraq. | petitions; moreover, there is little reason to believe that such petitions would have any effect. |
| Tony Kern Letter | True | Dr. Tony Kern, a former USAF Lieutenant Colonel, authored a letter about what America can expect in a war against terrorists. | This former Air Force Academy professor used military history to set the 9/11 terrorist attacks in context, comparing them to Pearl Harbor and Vietnam. |
| No taxis at WTC | False | Prior to the terrorist attack on the morning of September 11, no cabs could be found around the World Trade Center. | |
| September 11 False Victims Scam | True | False reports of loved ones lost in the attack on the World Trade Center have been filed by those looking for attention and sympathy. | At least five cases have been identified. Those making false reports were sometimes doing so for financial reward from an employer or insurance company, sometimes for attention or sympathy. |
| Man at WTC Survives Fall | | A man caught in the explosion of one of the World Trade Center towers rode bits of the falling building down to safety. | There are claims about numerous people. The only story that seems to have credence is of Pasquale Buzzelli and Genelle Guzman-McMillan, who were walking down the stairs of the North Tower from the 64 th floor and the building collapsed when they were part way down (13 th or 22 nd floors, stories inconsistent). |
| Bodies in Airplane Seats Found | False | Bodies still strapped into their airplane seats are discovered in an apartment near the World Trade Center. | |
| James McCaffrey | True [that letter was | New York fireman writes letter asking | Letter was published in New York <i>Daily News</i> in November |

| | | | |
|---|------------|---|--|
| Letter | published] | former President Clinton to stay away from September 11-related FDNY events. | 2001. Likely that author, James McCaffrey, was a fireman, as stated. Uncertain as to whether his views express those of most of the fire department, but some evidence that both Clintons were unpopular with firefighters. |
| Starbucks Charges 9/11 Rescue Workers \$130 for Water | True | A New York City Starbucks outlet charged 9/11 rescue workers \$130 for three cases of water. | Eventually, Starbucks returned the money and issued an apology, but they did not handle the matter well. |
| Charles Stanley Letter | False | An "Open letter to terrorists from an American grandfather" was written by Dr. Charles F. Stanley, the Atlanta pastor who appears on the "In Touch" national radio and television broadcasts. | This letter was written by a different pastor (actually, former pastor) of the same name as the well-known In Touch broadcasts. |
| Osama bin Laden Owns Snapple | False | Osama bin Laden owns Snapple. | Snapple and many other companies' drink products were distributed in the Middle East by the Saudi Binladen Group, which was owned by relatives of Osama. However, the Binladen family is extremely large and wealthy, the Binladen Group management claimed they had no connection with Osama and did not fund him, which Snapple believed but nevertheless terminated its |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|---|--|
| | | | agreement with the Binladen Group. |
| "Murder in a Small Town' Death | True | The winner (Angel Juarbe) of the FOX reality TV show "Murder in Small Town X," a New York city firefighter, was killed during rescue efforts at the World Trade Center after the September 11 terrorist attack. | |
| 22 September 2001 Terrorist Attack | Undetermined | Further terrorist attacks were planned for 22 September 2001. | While there was a widely circulated "heard in a bar" story about a forthcoming attack, which was probably just rumor, there was other highly circumstantial evidence of a possible attack for the 22 September weekend. |
| Ryder Trucks Stolen by Terrorists | False | Thirty Ryder, Verizon, and U-Haul trucks have been stolen recently, presumably by terrorists who will use them in the ongoing attack on America. | All three companies denied they were missing trucks. |
| American Airlines Flight 587 Crash | False | A NYC firefighter's dare to Osama bin Laden brought about the crash of American Airlines Flight 587 (into the firefighter's neighborhood in Queens). | The National Transportation Safety Board found that pilot error, flawed training by the airline, and poor rudder design caused the accident. The plane landed in a neighborhood that was in the regular flight path from |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|--|---|
| | | | Kennedy Airport, which just happened to be where Michael Moran (who had taunted bin Laden during a televised fundraiser) and many other firefighters happened to live. |
| Reuters Proscribes 'Terrorist' | True | The Reuters news agency has proscribed the use of the word 'terrorists' to describe those who pulled off the September 11 terrorist attacks on America. | It did not square with their "long-standing policy against the use of emotive terms, including the words 'terrorist' or 'freedom fighter'." A number of other news organizations were critical of Reuters's decision. |
| National Day of Reconciliation | True | A Congressional resolution has established a National Day of Reconciliation. | Agreed to in November 2001 by the US Senate. This goes along with other resolutions to encourage US citizens to fly the flag, condemn bigotry and violence against Arab-Americans, and honor the policemen, firefighters and others who worked in response to 9/11. |
| September 11 Put Call | False | In the days just prior to 11 September 2001, large quantities of stock in United and American Airlines were traded by persons with foreknowledge of the upcoming 9/11 attacks. | The 9/11 Commission noted usual trading in these airline stocks prior to 9/11 but concluded that it did not involve insider trading by those with foreknowledge of the 9/11 attacks. |
| Tomaselli | | 2002: Texas doctor pens opinion piece about the treatment | A Texas chiropractor has written a letter indicating the |

| | | | |
|--|--------------|--|--|
| Letter | | of prisoners captured in Afghanistan. | lives of detainees in Afghanistan is not so bad. The letter was never published but did receive wide circulation. The US had received international criticism for not calling these detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba “prisoners of war” under the Geneva Convention. In 2002, the US modified its policy and desingated members of the Taliban but not members of al-Queda as coming under the Geneva Convention, allowed the International Red Cross to interview some of the prisoners, and relaxed a few prison rules. |
| Dallas Schoolboy Predicts September 11 Attacks | Undetermined | A Dallas schoolboy predicted the start of World War III one day before the terrorist attacks on America. | Very general comments by this 5 th grader with no mention of hijackings, plane, or NYC. The FBI interviewed the student’s teacher and decided to take no further action. |
| Presidential Prayer Team | False | 2001: President George W. Bush has sponsored the creation of a Presidential Prayer Team. | While President Bush did declare a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance, he did not establish a Presidential Prayer Team. A Presidential Prayer Team was created by a private foundation, and they had a website that was |

| | | | |
|---|-------|---|--|
| | | | (intentionally?) similar to a federal site and confused people. Several weeks after 9/11, they posted a statement on their website indicating they were private, not part of the government. |
| Terrorists Poison Coke | False | Al-Qaeda terrorists have poisoned one in five cans of Coca-Cola with anthrax and arsenic. | This email message began circulating in 2005, claiming to be a press release from CNN, but it was a hoax. |
| Terrorists Funded Through Telemarketing | False | 2002: Terrorists are funding their operations through a telephone scam that lures the unsuspecting into staying on the line by promising information about a nuclear attack on the USA. | Completely unfounded. Supposedly this warning was sent by the Georgia National Guard, but they disavow it. |
| Pilot's Advice | True | 2001: A United Airlines pilot delivered a pre-flight speech in which he instructed passengers how to overpower any hijackers that might be aboard. | Apparently, it occurred on a UA flight from Denver to Washington four days after 9/11. |
| Outback Steakhouse Feeds U.S. Troops | True | Outback Steakhouse brought steak dinners to American troops serving in Afghanistan. | In June 2002, "The folks from Outback brought [to the 101 st Airborne Division] 6,700 steaks, 30,000 shrimp, and 3,000 giant onions with them. Broccoli, rolls, french fries, and cans of O'Douls (a non-alcoholic beer) completed the meal. For dessert, Jeff's Gourmet Pies |

| | | | |
|---|-------|---|---|
| | | | of Tampa donated 6,600 slices of cheesecake.” |
| Rather Do Business with 1000 Terrorists Tale | | A business in Philadelphia posted a notice that it would rather do business with 1,000 terrorists than with one Jew. | It was meant as a joke since the business was a (presumably Jewish) funeral home. Nevertheless, some people did not get the joke and inquired with snopes. |
| Oct. 26 Terrorist Attack on Los Angeles Rumor | False | Los Angeles has been targeted for terrorist activity on 26 October 2001. | |
| NY Subway Warning | True | Officials announced a credible threat was received that New York’s subway may be the target of a terrorist attack Oct. 7-10, 2005 | The threat of suitcase bombs placed in the subway was received from an Iraqi informer on October 3 and announced to the public by the mayor and police commissioner on October 6. There were no bomb attacks. |
| Al-Qaeda Plants Nuclear Bombs in the U.S. Rumor | False | A high-ranking member of al-Qaeda revealed that the terrorist organization has already placed nuclear weapons in seven large American cities. | This article is a hoax, but it was seen by many and given credence by appearing for a while in late 2002 on the website of <i>Asia Times</i> . |
| 2004 Black Friday Long Island Rumor | False | Minutes of emergency response agencies’ meeting reveal that on 26 November 2004 four Long Island shopping malls will be hit in a terrorist attack using chemical weapons. | Police and FBI checked out this threat and found no substance to it. |

| | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---|--|
| <p>Feb 2003 Terrorist Attack in New York Rumor</p> | | <p>Devastating terrorist attacks are planned for the USA, especially in and around New York, during the weekend beginning 14 February 2003.</p> | <p>Multiple email messages about an imminent threat began to appear the week of February 7, 2003, just after the National Threat Assessment Level was increased from Yellow to Orange. No terrorist activities occurred in New York at that time.</p> |
| <p>MSNBC Ad</p> | <p>Undetermined</p> | <p>MSNBC's web site displayed unfortunate ad placement after the September 11 terrorist attacks.</p> | <p>Running on the same page with headlines for the 9/11 terrorist attacks was an ad for earning United Airlines frequent flyer miles. snopes could not verify the authenticity of this screen shot of the web page.</p> |
| <p>Tony Mitchell Blood Bath Letter</p> | <p>Undetermined</p> | <p>An Air Force officer named Tony Mitchell sent his wife a message from Afghanistan asking her to enlist Christians to pray in support of U.S. soldiers engaged in a "blood bath."</p> | <p>Circulated by email in 2002. snopes could not uncover the source, but it is not uncommon for military forces to call upon their religion to help them in their battles.</p> |
| <p>NYC Firefighters Memorial Inaccuracies</p> | <p>Was true but not anymore.</p> | <p>A memorial to New York City firefighters will be rendered in a historically inaccurate way.</p> | <p>There was an iconic photograph of firefighters raising a flag on the WTC site after 9/11, similar to the famous WW2 Iwo Jima photograph. The plan to memorialize the 9/11 firefighters in a bronze sculpture became mired in battles over whether there</p> |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|--|---|
| | | | should a Black, a Hispanic, and a White or all Whites as in the actual photograph and the fact that there were few Black or Hispanic firefighters in New York City. The controversy caused the plans for this sculpture to be retired. |
| Adam Mayblum Tower Escape | True | World Trade Center attack survivor Adam Mayblum gave a first-person account of his harrowing escape from one of the doomed towers. | This account provides a poignant reality of being in the WTC on the 87 th floor, helping people, navigating through smoke, trying to use telephones, not knowing what was happening, and knowing of the death of people left behind. |
| Osama bin Laden as Man of the Year | True | <i>Time</i> magazine considering designating Osama bin Laden as its “Man of the Year” for 2001. | The magazine wants to give the award to the most influential, not the one who did the most notable good works. For example, both Hitler and Stalin had been their Man of the Year in the past. There was outrage that the magazine was considering bin Laden. In the end, the magazine labelled bin Laden as a “garden variety terrorist” and chose NYC Mayor Rudy Giuliani as the Man of the Year. |
| Halloween Mall Attack | False | 2001: Girl receives letter from her disappeared Afghani | Widely circulated email, but FBI checked it out and it was |

| | | | |
|---|--------------|--|--|
| Rumor | | boyfriend saying terrorists are going to strike at U.S. malls on Halloween. | a hoax. It is a variation on the "Compassionate Arab" legend, of which there were many different versions. |
| 911 Days Between Madrid bombings and 9/11 | True | The 9/11 terrorist attacks on the U.S. in 2001 and the train bombings in Madrid, Spain, in 2004 were separated by a total of 911 days. | Or by 912 days, depending on how you count. And it is not clear that the Madrid terrorists had a connection to al-Qaeda, but numerology is powerful in the face of uncertainty and fear. |
| Sept11 Funds Help Terrorists Rumor | False | Monies given to the September 11 Fund are being used to defend suspected terrorists. | All funds from the September 11 th Fund were "used for civil legal assistance for families affected by the tragedy who needed help getting access to wills, bank accounts, and insurance. The society also helped staff a family assistance center and provided consultation on a telephone hot line." Confusion over the use of these funds came through a chain of newspaper articles that misinterpreted events. |
| June 11 2004 Terrorist Rumor | False | Terrorists are planning to strike the U.S. on 11 June 2004. | Yet another rumor of many in the same genre. The New York City Police claimed the threat was not credible, and indeed no terrorist action occurred. |
| Mohammad Junaid | Undetermined | The son of a woman rescued from the World Trade Center decided to join the Taliban. | Appears to have left job as a Java programmer in NYC in October 2001 to go to Pakistan to join the Taliban. Hard to confirm details. |

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|--|--|
| Bishop Jakes Advisory | Not quite | Based on information from a meeting with President Bush, Bishop T. D. Jakes of Dallas told his congregation to stock up on supplies in anticipation of a "chemical war." | The religious leader and the president met privately, and afterwards Bishop Jakes did recommend stocking up on supplies, but the two events were at most loosely connected and there was apparently no specific information from the president about a possible chemical war |
| American Taliban | True | <i>Boston Globe</i> columnist Jeff Jacoby wrote an opinion piece condemning American Taliban John Walker Lindh's parents for their over-permissiveness. | The Lindhs are a wealthy California family whose son joined the Taliban to fight in Afghanistan; whether permissive raising of John Walker occurred and was the reason are both unclear. But Jacoby did write an op-ed article in December 2001 on this topic |
| Jackie Chan WTC Escape | Undetermined | Actor Jackie Chan was scheduled to begin filming a movie at the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11 but changed his plans because the screenwriter failed to deliver the script for the planned scene on time. | Chan's plans to start on a different film – in Toronto – on September 10 had presumably been arranged as early as July. However, it is a stirring coincidence that filming for <i>Nosebleed</i> , in which Chan was to be a window washer on the WTC and involved in battling terrorists set out to destroy the Statue of Liberty, was originally planned to begin filming at WTC at 7 AM on |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|---|--|
| | | | 9/11. |
| Ironing Kills Anthrax | False | Ironing your mail will kill off any lurking anthrax spores. | Although it was suggested in Congressional hearings that a hot steam iron can kill anthrax spores, it turns out that anthrax can survive at temperatures less than 318 degrees F; also, it can live for a few days before succumbing to sunlight. No easy household way to kill off anthrax was offered. |
| Dick Hawley Speech | False | Former USAF General Dick Hawley delivered a caustic speech about “thoughts of such surpassing stupidity that they must be addressed.” | While Gen. Hawley commanded the USAF Air Combat Command until his retirement in 1999, this supposed speech was written by humorist Larry Miller and published in <i>The Daily Standard</i> in 2002. |
| Hackers Pursue bin Laden | False | 2001: You can aid the search for Osama Bin Laden by donating money to a band of hackers | “Given the obvious humor of this piece (e.g., a salutation of “Dear Human”), we’re assuming (or at least hoping) this is a deliberate piece of dark satire and not a real attempt to dupe well-meaning and concerned victims out of some cash.” |
| ‘God Bless America’ Banner Removal | Sort of | Schools and other municipal agencies have been ordered to remove banners displaying the phrase ‘God Bless America.’ | In Broken Arrow, OK and other communities around the country there are battles between those who favor using the phrase in public settings such as in public schools, and others who want the phrase avoided because of |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| | | | the separation of church and state. The battles are a common pattern, the outcomes have been varied. |
| John Glenn Polemic | False | Astronaut John Glenn authored a piece expressing outrage at how the U.S. military has been hampered and ignored in recent years. | While the author has not been identified, it is definitely not Glenn. |
| Garlic and Anthrax | False | Garlic and oil of oregano are proven to be effective treatments for anthrax. | While Harry Preuss of Georgetown University has shown that garlic and oregano oil can work effectively as antibiotic medications, there is no evidence that they are effective against anthrax. |
| Free Air Travel Sept 11 2002 | False | Airlines are offering free air travel on 11 September 2002. | Spirit Air and National Airlines had big promotions for that day, but the main players in the industry did not offer such promotions. |
| Wheel of Fortune | Not explicitly graded, but false | The September 11 terrorist attacks on America were a failure from a statistical standpoint. | The argument is that only 10% of the workers in the WTC and only 0.5% of the workers in the Pentagon lost their lives, so maybe the 9/11 attacks should be regarded as a failure. However, the attacks did "kill people, destroy property, and sow fear and terror... on a grand scale." |
| Flights of Fancy | False | Secret flights whisked bin Laden family members and Saudi nationals out of the U.S. immediately | The 9/11 Commission has shown this claim is false. The only flights allowed for the next several days after 9/11 |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|--|---|
| | | <p>after September 11 while a general ban on air travel was still in effect, and before the FBI had any opportunity to question any of the passengers.</p> | <p>were military flights and FAA-sanctioned medical emergency flights. After airspace reopened, there were a series of charter flights for government officials and wealthy individuals back to Saudi Arabia. One flight, on 9/26, was chartered to take members of the large bin Laden family back to the Middle East. The FBI interviewed almost everybody on that flight, and everyone claimed to have no recent contact with Osama and no connection to terrorism. The FBI was satisfied and let them travel.</p> |
| <p>'Five Men' Terrorist Hunt</p> | <p>Not any more</p> | <p>Late 2002: The FBI is asking for the public's assistance in locating five men who supposedly entered the USA illegally on 24 December 2002.</p> | <p>This was based on a warning from the FBI on 12/29/2002, which turned out to be based on false information provided by a forgery suspect, Michael John Hamdani, in Canada.</p> |
| <p>National Firefighters Day</p> | <p>True</p> | <p>E-mail petition started by the son of a New York firefighter seeks to establish a National Firefighters Day.</p> | <p>This was one of several email petitions circulated soon after 9/11 calling for a National Firefighters Day. While the petitions received some notice, no official firefighters day had been established.</p> |
| <p>WTC Survivor Ferry Death</p> | <p>True</p> | <p>A survivor of the September 11 terrorist attacks on</p> | <p>Two people who had survived the WTC terrorist attacks died in an October crash of</p> |

| | | | |
|---|-------|---|--|
| | | the World Trade Center died in a ferry crash. | the Staten Island Ferry, one (Darius Marshall) who had been injured at the WTC and another (John Healy) who was late to work and missed the attack because he was taking his daughter to work. |
| Falwell and Robertson Blame Liberal America | True | Television evangelists Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson said that liberal civil liberties groups, feminists, pagans, homosexuals, and abortion rights supporters bear partial responsibility for the terrorist attacks on the USA because their actions have turned God's anger against America. | On 9/13/2001, on the 700 Club television program. They received a lot of pushback for these statements and backpedaled. |
| Yo Duh | False | Significance can be found in numbers relating to the September 11 terrorist attacks on the U.S. | Puerile numerology |
| University Peaceniks | False | 2001: University peaceniks are chased from a restaurant by patrons singing God Bless America. | In contrast to the false dichotomy between the patriotic American who had served his country and the peace-loving college professor, which had according to this email chain occurred near the campus of the University of Idaho, the campus had itself taken part in helping the local community of Moscow to understand the 9/11 attacks |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|---|--|
| | | | and heal from them. |
| Duct Tape Advice | True | Three people died of suffocation after sealing their home with plastic sheeting and duct tape. | In 2003 Homeland Security encouraged American citizens to create a safe zone from chemical and biological attacks using plastic sheeting and duct tape. Some people argued that the cure may be worse than the disease, and people might die from suffocation in their safe rooms. A month later, three Israelis died of suffocation from suffocation, having sealed a room in their home from possible Iraqi chemical attack. |
| 9/11 Domain Registrations | False | Several domain names related to the September 11 terrorist attack on America were registered before the attack. | None of the alleged foreknowledge domain names had all of the information, e.g. if they had the date, they did not NY or WTC. Moreover, there had been a previous attack in 1993 on the WTC, which led to some of these domain names being registered. After the 9/11 attacks, there was a rush to register and/or auction off relevant domain names. |
| Dec. 11 Memorial | True | The President of the United States of America has asked the nations of the world to | Those nations participating were asked by President Bush to play their national anthem or other appropriate music as |

| | | | |
|--|---------|--|--|
| | | mark December 11, 2001 with expressions of remembrance of the September 11 attacks. | part of the remembrance. |
| Cyanide Truck Hijack | Sort of | A truck carrying ten tons of cyanide was hijacked in Mexico, and some of the cyanide is still missing. | The truck was hijacked in May 2002 in central Mexico and found by the police six days later, a little south of where it had been kidnapped. Most of the drums of sodium cyanide had been dumped on the side of the road, but 6 drums were still missing. |
| Mississippi Crop Duster | False | A crop duster sprayed boats on the Mississippi with a harmful substance on 19 October 2001, and another plane sprayed a Coast Guard post in Natchez on October 22. | These two incidents, three days and 170 miles apart, caused concern. The first incident was simply a smoke salutation from the plane to the boat captain (a kind of friendly greeting sometimes given by crop dusters to those on the ground). In the second case, the particulates were already in the air from a pulp-processing plant and the plane simply flew through the particulates. |
| Starbucks' 'Collapse into Cool' Campaign | True | Starbucks recalled 'Collapse into Cool' promotional posters due to complaints that they contained imagery reminiscent of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. | The poster showed two glasses standing side by side filled with the company's new Tazo Citrus drinks, with a dragonfly heading directly for one of the glasses. The picture is eerily reminiscent of the Twin Towers, and the title |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|---|--|
| | | | include the word 'collapse' as part of the phrase 'Collapse into Cool.'" The company pulled the posters after they were discussed on ABC's show <i>Politically Incorrect</i> . |
| 9/11 Coincidences | False | Eerie coincidences pertaining to September 11 involve elevens, a Quran verse and Microsoft's Wingdings font. | This was a 2005 email chain that compiled three rumors from 2001 and received wide distribution. All three rumors had been previously debunked by snopes. |
| Coca-Cola Warning | False | Person who performs a kindness for a stranger is rewarded by the stranger's telling her to avoid drinking Coca-Cola or Pepsi after a certain day. | This is simply another example of the Grateful Stranger legend that has appeared in many guises over thousands of years. Coincidentally, as these rumors continued to surface and resurface during 2002, three Palestinians were arrested in Jerusalem for trying to poison pitchers of Coca-Cola in a café. |
| Palestinians Dancing in the Street | False | CNN used old footage to fake images of 'Palestinians dancing in the street' after the terrorist attack on the USA. | Both Reuters and CNN confirmed that the news footage was from 9/11/2001. Also debunked was a later myth that this footage had resulted from the Israeli Defense Agency handing out candy to Palestinians. |
| Charlie Daniels 'Rag' Ban | True | Singer Charlie Daniels pulled out of a scheduled benefit | The benefit was the CMT Country Freedom Concert for the Salvation Army, for 9/11 |

| | | | |
|--|--------------|---|---|
| | | concert appearance because the organizers barred him from performing a certain song. | victims. The song, "This Ain't No Rag, It's a Flag" was regarded by the concert organizers as offensive. When the song was released, it was popular but some did find it anti-Muslim. |
| Bin Laden Cave Memo | False | A memo from Osama bin Laden to his cave-mates decries the theft of a box of Cheez-Its. | This satire came from the NPR show <i>Rewind</i> . |
| Cats Living in WTC Rubble | Undetermined | A mother cat and kittens were found living in the basement of a restaurant beneath the rubble of the World Trade Center. | While the cat and her three kittens were living in a carton of napkins in the restaurant, there is no evidence that she was there when the building collapsed and did not go there later. |
| Satellite Photo of Candles | False | 2001: The U.S. is requesting Americans to light candles for a satellite photo tonight. | A satellite could not pick up candle light with all the other light. There was, however, a candlelight vigil on September 14, which was widely observed in the US. |
| President Bush 'Camel' Quote | True | President George W. Bush said, "I'm not gonna fire a \$2 million missile at a \$10 empty tent and hit a camel in the butt." | Eloquently stated on 9/13 in the Oval Office. |
| Terrorist Threat to California Bridges | True | California governor Gray Davis announced that a credible threat existed about planned terrorist activity | Warnings for November 2-9, 2001 from the FBI based on unconfirmed information. |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---|---|
| | | against major bridges in California. | |
| 'The Binch' | Not quite | A writer named Rob Suggs penned the poem "The Binch" in order to help explain the World Trade Center attacks to the children at an Atlanta hospital for whom he performs story-telling therapy. | A parody of Dr. Seuss's <i>The Grinch who Stole Christmas</i> , 'The Binch' was written by Suggs, but for adults rather than children, and not for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, with which he had no association. |
| Unburned Pentagon Bible | False | An unburned Bible was found amidst the charred wreckage of the Pentagon after the September 11 terrorist attack. | There was an unburned book in a heavily damaged portion of the Pentagon; it was a dictionary. |
| Berkeley Fire Truck Flag Ban | Sort of | The fire chief of Berkeley, California, ordered the removal of American flags from city fire trucks. | The flags were ordered to be removed temporarily from the fire trucks because the fire department did not want to be the source of flags or incite violence at a protest on the Berkeley university campus, a site of numerous flag burnings. |
| Post 9/11 Baby Boom | False | Hospitals experienced a sharp increase in births nine months after September 11. | Maternity wards geared up for an increase in business, but it never came. |
| Letter from an Afghan-American | True | A writer named Tamim Ansary penned an essay from the perspective of an Afghan-American. | Written on 9/14/2001 about the differences between the Taliban and the Afghani people generally. Posted on salon.com |
| Amazon.com and | Not any more | On-line bookseller Amazon.com is partnered with the | Intifada.com was an associate of Amazon, earning commissions for directing |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|---|--|
| intifada.com | | web site Intifada.com (associated with the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation). | traffic to Amazon to make purchases. Amazon suspended its relationship with intifada.com. |
| Thanks for Sharing | False | Muhammad Ali offered a pithy quote about religion while visiting the World Trade Center site after 9/11. | He did visit NYC on 9/20/2011 and spoke to reporters. It is incorrect that he said, in response to being asked how he felt about the terrorists sharing his faith, "How do you feel about Hitler sharing yours?". He did make some general comments about Islam as a religion of peace and asking for tolerance and understanding of the differences between people and religions. |
| General Chong Letter | False | Essay by retired Air Force general analyzes the war on terrorism. | There is a retired AF General Chong, but he forwarded and did not write this letter. This was instead written by an attorney in 2004 to his sons. |
| \$20 Bill Folding | Legend | A properly folded U.S. \$20 bill reveals images of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. | Given that all US currency has buildings on it, it is not surprising that some currency could be folded to give a 9/11-themed image. The current \$20 bill was designed three years before 9/11, and any hidden 9/11 images are coincidental. |
| Briefcase Terrorist at North Hills | False | A group of Muslim women clutching briefcases and text | The Raleigh police checked this out. The woman was there alone, not with a group |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--|--|
| Movie Theater | | messaging during films were spotted making a terrorist attack “dry run” in a Raleigh, North Carolina theater. | of other women. See had a purse rather than a briefcase on her lap. She was texting, but so do many other people in a movie. The police found no reason to believe this was a trial run at a new attack. |
| John McCain | True | Senator John McCain delivered a speech about a Vietnam POW who was beaten for sewing an American flag into his shirt. | McCain told on many occasions the story of “Mike Christian, a Navy navigator who had been shot down in Vietnam six months before McCain and who used a bamboo needle and scraps of colored cloth to sew an American flag inside his shirt” |
| World Trade Center Stamp | False | 2002: Artwork shows image of the World Trade Center to be used on a new USPS postage stamp. | It circulated online in 2002 that the painting entitled “Forever in God’s Hands” by Danny Hahbohm, which included strong patriotic and religious themes, was being considered for a stamp, but it was not selected. As of 2006, the USPS had authorized one stamp in the Heroes series that showed the famous image of three fireman hoisting an American flag on the 9/11 site. |
| Dalai Lama Letter | False | His Holiness the Dalai Lama composed a letter in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks in which he urged the people of the world to | The letter is a fake. The Dalai Lama did send letters of condolence to President Bush and Mayor Giuliani, plus a check for \$30,000 to help with the 9/11 relief efforts. |

| | | | |
|--|------|--|---|
| | | become “spiritual activists.” | |
| The Psychology Behind Suicide Bombings | True | E-mail reproduces interview with documentary filmmaker Pierre Rehov about the psychology of terrorism. | This is the transcript of his comments on the MSNBC show <i>Connected: Coast to Coast</i> in 2002. Rehov had made a series of films about the Intifada in Palestine. |
| Charlie Went Down to Gitmo | True | Charlie Daniels penned “The Straight Scoop,” an essay about the al-Qaeda and Taliban prisoners being held at Guantanamo Bay. | This was based on a 2002 trip to entertain the troops. He described the spartan but humane treatment the prisoners received and posted this description on his website. |

Appendix 3B: 9/11-Related Threads on alt.folklore.urban (Sept. 11 – Oct. 10, 2001)

| Thread title | posts | posters | End Date |
|---|-------|---------|----------|
| | | | |
| Give Blood | 2 | 2 | 9/11 |
| Prayers out to victims and families | 1 | 1 | 9/11 |
| Such a long day | 2 | 2 | 9/11 |
| WTC attack suspects identified | 1 | 1 | 9/12 |
| NCSEA on WTC collapse | 1 | 1 | 9/12 |
| AFU Inc? | 2 | 2 | 9/12 |
| World War 3??? | 21 | 14 | 9/13 |
| Delurking to say Thanks | 1 | 1 | 9/13 |
| NY Times Foundation Raising Money for Victims | 1 | 1 | 9/13 |
| Visible from Space | 2 | 2 | 9/13 |
| ‘Purge our society’ online bigots shout | 13 | 8 | 9/13 |
| Okla. Gasoline station rolls back \$5 price | 5 | 4 | 9/13 |
| WTC “forward to everyone you know” email | 4 | 4 | 9/14 |
| Alt.folklore.urban | 2 | 2 | 9/14 |
| EBay cancels auctions of Attack-Related Items | 8 | 8 | 9/14 |
| Would that it were UL: charity scammers | 1 | 1 | 9/14 |
| Falwell/Robertson | 5 | 5 | 9/14 |

| | | | |
|---|-----|----|------|
| Any merrit [sic]? Re: MEDIA LIES about celebrating Palestinians?! | 4 | 4 | 9/14 |
| Hasidic Jew helps Pakistani Muslim escape WTC | 1 | 1 | 9/15 |
| Please help authenticate | 1 | 1 | 9/15 |
| A NY article which doesn't mention the WTC | 6 | 5 | 9/15 |
| Sympathy Email | 6 | 6 | 9/15 |
| And so the folklore starts | 68 | 45 | 9/15 |
| Apology | 5 | 4 | 9/15 |
| OT: NYC Attack Coincidence | 4 | 4 | 9/15 |
| Yet another thing visible from space | 6 | 5 | 9/15 |
| Man survives fall of WTC | 1 | 1 | 9/16 |
| Enemies | 31 | 18 | 9/17 |
| Proposal for the Group | 4 | 3 | 9/17 |
| Just got this: Tonight at 10:30 EST | 1 | 1 | 9/17 |
| It had to happen | 44 | 31 | 9/17 |
| OT: Osama Bin Laden Anagrams | 2 | 2 | 9/17 |
| [INFO] New at TAFKAC | 37 | 20 | 9/18 |
| Planes | 178 | 80 | 9/18 |
| Man survives fall of WTC? | 4 | 3 | 9/18 |
| Adam Mayblum letter - ATC "survivor" | 2 | 2 | 9/18 |
| More on Nostradamus | 2 | 2 | 9/19 |
| OT - Long Island | 14 | 8 | 9/19 |
| NY rumor that bin Laden "shorted" airline stocks | 2 | 2 | 9/19 |
| Klingerman Redux | 1 | 1 | 9/19 |
| Nostradamus in the Boston Globe | 4 | 3 | 9/19 |
| [INFO] Still More New at TAFKAC | 2 | 2 | 9/19 |
| CNN footage of celebrating Palestinians a Hoax? | 10 | 10 | 9/19 |
| Possible WTC UL?? | 1 | 1 | 9/19 |
| Old footage of Palestinians | 3 | 2 | 9/20 |
| Bin Laden has pancreatic cancer? | 7 | 5 | 9/20 |
| Futile airline security measures | 91 | 44 | 9/20 |
| Gasoline prices skyrocket in some parts of the country | 78 | 40 | 9/20 |
| Satellite picture of candlelight | 14 | 10 | 9/20 |
| WTC, Impact Loads | 43 | 27 | 9/20 |
| The day the Earth stood still: NASA | 1 | 1 | 9/20 |
| Sing | 2 | 2 | 9/20 |
| CSICOP track misinformation and hoaxes | 1 | 1 | 9/20 |
| We the People? | 5 | 4 | 9/20 |
| Brazil, planes, guns | 6 | 6 | 9/20 |
| WTC: Fewer Calls than Reported? | 31 | 24 | 9/20 |
| The next big thing? Was Re: CNN footage of celebrating | 2 | 2 | 9/21 |

| | | | |
|---|-----|----|------|
| Palestinians a hoax? | | | |
| Federal air marshals | 1 | 1 | 9/21 |
| UK Losses | 8 | 7 | 9/21 |
| [INFO] Yet more new at TAFKAC | 1 | 1 | 9/21 |
| Who Done IT | 62 | 27 | 9/21 |
| Inspiring but unconfirmed story re: flight to Dulles 15Sep2001 | 7 | 7 | 9/21 |
| WTC – Face in Smoke? | 19 | 13 | 9/21 |
| Po-8 Blames America | 1 | 1 | 9/21 |
| Made in USA (was Re: ‘Cowardly’ doe people who hijack planes?) | 6 | 5 | 9/22 |
| Tamim Ansary message: real or UL? | 38 | 24 | 9/22 |
| When debunking ULs has this happened to you...? | 42 | 26 | 9/22 |
| A Statement by an American Muslim (UL?) | 8 | 7 | 9/22 |
| UFO seen in WTC Tragedy | 10 | 9 | 9/22 |
| Real? Hoax? | 7 | 7 | 9/22 |
| The search for intelligent life on the Internet | 2 | 2 | 9/23 |
| New cannon fodder | 3 | 2 | 9/24 |
| REPOST: Urban Legends Newsresearch | 1 | 1 | 9/24 |
| Snopes in Deutschland | 7 | 3 | 9/24 |
| Post WTC Vanishing Hitchhiker variant sighting | 5 | 2 | 9/24 |
| Nostradamus folklore | 82 | 40 | 9/24 |
| Tamim Ansary letter: versions | 1 | 1 | 9/24 |
| REPOST: The search for intelligent life on the Internet | 1 | 1 | 9/24 |
| Flight number – sounds ridiculous to me | 42 | 27 | 9/24 |
| Reflections on a date which will live in infamy | 175 | 69 | 9/24 |
| [INFO] Yet another WTC update at TAFKAC | 1 | 1 | 9/24 |
| Bin Laden UL | 30 | 18 | 9/24 |
| e-mail from the rubble: a UL in the making? | 9 | 9 | 9/24 |
| NYT on WTC rumors | 1 | 1 | 9/24 |
| USPS restrictions on US mail | 37 | 19 | 9/25 |
| GLURGE Alert: Peace on Earth | 1 | 1 | 9/25 |
| I’ve checked snopes.com, urbanlegend.com and google... | 2 | 2 | 9/25 |
| Urban Legends Newssearch – 9/23/01 | 37 | 19 | 9/25 |
| Man Survives Fall of WTC | 27 | 26 | 9/25 |
| Rush to Judgement, or More Material For Al Franken's Sequel | 5 | 4 | 9/26 |
| "Fell with the building" sighted downstream | 1 | 1 | 9/26 |
| CNN Footage of Palestinians Celebrating 9-11-2001 from 1991? | 10 | 10 | 9/26 |
| Richard Roeper weigh in on some current ULs | 30 | 21 | 9/26 |

| | | | |
|--|----|----|------|
| NY Post's ISP to be very upset soon | 1 | 1 | 9/26 |
| CIA | 41 | 26 | 9/26 |
| Urban Legends Newssearch - 9/25/01 | 5 | 3 | 9/27 |
| Taleban Legend? | 20 | 12 | 9/27 |
| Can a FOAF Story Be True? Ever? | 7 | 5 | 9/27 |
| WTC: Face of Dianne Feinstein appears in smoke | 1 | 11 | 9/27 |
| US banned music legend | 28 | 14 | 9/27 |
| WTC Victim's Parents Anti-War | 6 | 5 | 9/27 |
| Klingerman Mail Virus - Gotta be an UL... | 3 | 3 | 9/27 |
| Poster of NYC Skyline?? | 2 | 2 | 9/27 |
| Not sure if this is a UL or just a nasty (NAZI?) chain | 11 | 10 | 9/27 |
| Tamim Ansary letter: versions | 15 | 8 | 9/28 |
| Variation on "'They' were mysteriously missing that morning..." | 7 | 7 | 9/28 |
| Unpatriotic Wal-Mart??? | 23 | 17 | 9/28 |
| NJ man with heartbreaking tale of loss arrested | 2 | 2 | 9/28 |
| What a Nightmare... | 2 | 2 | 9/28 |
| REPORTER SEEKS URBAN LEGEND EXPERTS | 8 | 8 | 9/28 |
| Search Cats! | 25 | 21 | 9/29 |
| BOJJ, etc | 75 | 38 | 9/29 |
| AFU on front page of Kansas City Star | 2 | 2 | 9/29 |
| Requesting help from an historian, please | 18 | 13 | 9/29 |
| Microsoft = Anti-Semitic | 2 | 2 | 9/29 |
| WTC precog? | 11 | 8 | 9/29 |
| Urban Legends Newssearch - 9/29/01 | 1 | 1 | 9/29 |
| Urban Legends Newssearch - 9/27/01 | 8 | 6 | 9/30 |
| "I stand by that column, even though it's wrong..." | 6 | 5 | 9/30 |
| Brave New World Airlines- A Bumpy Flight to the Future | 3 | 3 | 9/30 |
| New UL and/or catalyst? | 5 | 5 | 10/1 |
| Q33NY | 9 | 9 | 10/1 |
| Halloween apples | 24 | 20 | 10/1 |
| Dunkin Donuts Anti-American | 8 | 7 | 10/1 |
| [INFO] More New at TAFKAC | 1 | 1 | 10/1 |
| this isn't true is it? | 25 | 19 | 10/1 |
| Urban Legends Newssearch - 9/30/01 | 4 | 4 | 10/1 |
| Terrorists drink and carouse at titty bar night of September 10? | 2 | 2 | 10/2 |
| Urban Legends Newssearch - 10/1/01 | 4 | 4 | 10/2 |
| Lo cal [intentional misspelling] targets in USofA | 38 | 29 | 10/2 |
| The bin Laden connection to Snapple and Cadbury candy bars? | 9 | 7 | 10/3 |

| | | | |
|--|-----|----|-------|
| Urban Legends Newssearch - 10/2/01 | 2 | 2 | 10/3 |
| Greyhound says: "Me too!" | 1 | 1 | 10/3 |
| [INFO] TAFKAC ailing | 12 | 9 | 10/3 |
| Picture on top of WTC | 73 | 48 | 10/3 |
| greyhound terrorists? | 7 | 6 | 10/3 |
| Eleven eleven | 131 | 67 | 10/3 |
| Hunting Bin Laden | 14 | 14 | 10/4 |
| Muslim Dead in WTC | 5 | 4 | 10/4 |
| A Reply to Tamim Ansary's article on Afghanistan | 24 | 12 | 10/4 |
| Rural Reality: Flight 93 Shot Down | 247 | 72 | 10/4 |
| Urban Legends Newssearch - 10/3/01 | 2 | 2 | 10/4 |
| Cell Phone Gun....facts? | 22 | 17 | 10/4 |
| Clear Channel will protect your tender sensibilities | 116 | 57 | 10/4 |
| WTC Bombing | 27 | 20 | 10/4 |
| "Bush Start Here," soon to be a UL near you | 1 | 1 | 10/4 |
| True False? | 8 | 8 | 10/4 |
| Pilot's comments are WTC | 29 | 23 | 10/4 |
| Future Urban Legend: 911 | 46 | 27 | 10/5 |
| Stolen Verizon Trucks: Latest hoax/legend? | 115 | 43 | 10/6 |
| Osama trained at Ft Benning? email | 5 | 5 | 10/6 |
| Irony | 7 | 6 | 10/7 |
| REPOST: Snopes in Deutschland | 18 | 8 | 10/8 |
| New sighting? | 47 | 37 | 10/8 |
| FWD: The media, Al-Qaeda, and the Internet | 3 | 3 | 10/8 |
| George Bush JR AntiChrist?! | 10 | 9 | 10/8 |
| Klan in WTC | 16 | 9 | 10/9 |
| Klingerman copycat or reality? | 8 | 7 | 10/9 |
| "Flight 564" UL? | 54 | 37 | 10/9 |
| Non-UL, so far - Well, it started | 4 | 4 | 10/9 |
| pic of a guy atop wtc before crash | 13 | 13 | 10/9 |
| Leno's WTC math | 15 | 12 | 10/9 |
| ...and everyday the paperboy brings more | 1 | 1 | 10/10 |
| 500,000 Iraqi babies | 15 | 11 | 10/10 |
| T&A-liban | | | |
| 10/5 a big day in U.S. for births? | 28 | 22 | 10/10 |
| new email circulating: Stay away from Malls on 10/31/01 Especially you that have kids | 1 | 1 | 10/10 |
| [INFO] That Halloween Warning | 1 | 1 | 10/10 |
| this isn't true -- is it? | 4 | 3 | 10/10 |
| Dirty Coke Advert | 10 | 7 | 10/10 |

| | | | |
|---|----|---|-------|
| Mall warning: Halloween 2001 | 11 | 9 | 10/10 |
| Terror Babies | 3 | 2 | 10/10 |
| Volt.com denies any knowledge of terrorist attack | 1 | 1 | 10/10 |
| Psst. Hey Friend. Stay out of AFU Plaza on Thanksgiving | 3 | 3 | 10/10 |
| Truth Puts On Her Shoes | 1 | 1 | 10/10 |

Source: Google Groups alt.folklore.urban