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Michael Moore Makes the Same Movie Again ([Politics](#))

By [localroger](#)

Sun Jul 4th, 2004 at 05:07:47 PM EST



Something few people seem to have noticed about Michael Moore, whether they love him or hate him, is that he keeps making the exact same movie over and over. And surprisingly, it gets better every time.

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Poll

Best Michael Moore Movie

- Roger and Me 9%
- The Big One 0%
- Canadian Bacon 11%

I've finally seen [Fahrenheit 9/11](#), and for the record I loved it. But everybody either loves it or hates it, and by now that kind of opinion doesn't merit much more than a [flick] comment. Let me get the meaningful debate as it currently stands out of the way:

Is it factually accurate?

Meticulously so. Moore made F/911 knowing it would be dissected with an electron microscope and it shows.

Aren't these "accurate" facts chosen a bit selectively?

Definitely. But before you criticize it on this basis, you need to get the log out of your own eye.

Of course you can go into a lot more detail than this about those alleged facts and the selectiveness with which they were chosen or the context of the many images Moore uses to devastating effect. Many people are busy doing just that. I'd like to do something a little different here.

What I find interesting about F/911 is that it is essentially the same movie as [Roger and Me](#) and [Bowling for Columbine](#). And unlike many artists who keep doing the same thing over and over, Moore gets better at it each time.

In part it's because criticism of his earlier work has forced him to focus more attention on fact-checking and the impressions created by his editing style, but mostly it's because he is growing into more universally relevant topics.

So what is Moore trying to accomplish with these movies? Although he's made it clear he wants to help unseat George W. Bush in the next election, I don't think social change is a primary motivating factor. Whether or not you can still consider him a Joe Six-Pack himself, Moore's greatest resource is a powerful empathy with the common man, and the common man really doesn't believe in that kind of change. Moore catches himself demonstrating this perfectly in *Bowling for Columbine* when K-Mart agrees to stop selling

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- Bowling for Columbine 19%
- Fahrenheit 9/11 40%
- Michael Moore is a big fat liar /nm 19%

Votes: 42

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bullets. Moore and the Columbine victims mill aimlessly outside of K-Mart's headquarters, wondering openly that such a thing was possible, and then if it really accomplished anything.

Many critics of *Columbine* thought he was on an anti-gun polemic, but that doesn't stand up either. He goes out of his way to skewer his own theory that plentiful guns cause the violence, by going to Canada and pointing out that they have plentiful guns too, but not our murder rate. Although Moore leans far to the political Left because the Left generally voices the concerns of the common people, Moore's thinking isn't really rooted in politics at all. If he was toeing the liberal line he would never have included the Canadian segment in *Columbine*.

Moore is no analyst or wonk. Moore is no debate squadder. Moore is simply the little boy at the Imperial parade who is willing to wonder *very loudly* why that guy with the crown isn't wearing any clothes. Moore's motivation at this stage in his life may have more to do with ego and profit than childlike innocence, but the effect is the same.

The people who like Moore are the ones who have also noticed that the Emperor is naked and who welcome a voice brave enough to say it openly. The ones who dislike him are the ones who have some kind of investment in the fineness of the Emperor's raiment.

1. Roger and Me

It's likely that if Roger Smith had simply granted Moore an interview back in 1988, Moore would be known today as "Michael *who?*" Moore wanted to ask Smith a simple question: *Why did you kill my hometown?* Of course Smith and General Motors have a side to their story; it involves the usual corporate language of profit and loss and competitiveness and bottom lines. And if Smith had just done the interview, he would have probably looked a bit weaselly and fidgety as he peeled off the figures justifying his closure of the Flint, MI plant, but the result would have been just another forgettable CEO interview.

Instead, the irresistible force of Moore's determination ran up against the immovable object of Smith's wealth, power, and ability to isolate himself; and since it's all he had to work with, Moore chose to document that struggle. Interspersed with futile attempts to ask Smith the simple question, Moore documented the decline of his hometown in the wake of GM's departure.

The result was Moore making his point more forcefully than

he could have with any interview. That point could be taken straight from this summer's other blockbuster movie: *With great power comes great responsibility*. Roger Smith and GM, Moore tried to show us, had shirked their responsibility even after the common people of Flint gave them every concession they could have possibly wanted. In the end they couldn't even be bothered to explain themselves to the people they had screwed.

Here is Emperor Roger Smith, Moore shouted, and he ain't wearing any clothes.

Roger Smith forced Michael Moore to find a voice that was new and fresh and which resonated strongly in the blue-collar ranks. And those people buy a lot of movie tickets.

After *Roger and Me* met with its unexpected success Moore followed up the same idea several times, with the book [Downsize This!](#) and a [TV sequel](#) to *Roger and Me*, and [The Big One](#), a more general look at the imbalanced relationship between corporate and individual America. He would also do [Canadian Bacon](#), a politically charged fictional comedy, and the short-lived [TV Nation](#) television series which was oddly reminiscent of the more recent and more successful [Daily Show](#). But nothing would match the success of his first movie, until...

2. Bowling for Columbine

The impetus for *Columbine* is obvious enough; Moore spent a lot of energy documenting the decline of his hometown, and one of the things that happen when your community is impoverished is that the crime rate goes up. In America, that means the murder rate goes up because the country is awash in guns and citizenry willing to use them.

But then, far away from the growing slums of Flint, MI, two students in the affluent suburb of Littleton, CO decided to make the mass murder of their classmates the final school project of 1993, and Moore turned his attention to the event.

Finally Moore had a new question whose simplicity complemented his style: *Why is America's murder rate so out of whack?* Although this question would take him back to familiar themes like evil corporate responsibility-shirkers and his hometown of Flint, it also took him far afield of his previous work. One by one he put up potential answers to his question -- including the one he obviously favored going into the project -- only to knock them down with crisp counterexamples.

In the end he left no doubt that he finds the NRA's position,

shall we say, a tad *extreme*, and we were left to suppose that there must be at least a few blood specks on the hands of those who make so much cheap hardware and ammo for our nutcase neighbors. But when all is said and done he has no answer; once again the Emperor is naked, but this time he is us.

Columbine was very thoroughly trashed by the people who felt slighted by it, as Moore himself [explains](#). And in a couple of places the editing may really have left impressions that aren't readily justified. (A particularly glaring mistake was running the cartoon directly after the South Park interview, so that many people including myself thought the cartoon was made or endorsed by the South Park creators.) But the film forced Moore to expand his technique, raising the blend of absurdity and horror to new and scarcely imaginable levels.

As he was assembling *Columbine* Moore did [The Awful Truth](#), another TV series making more use of this new diversity of material. Then, as he was rolling out *Columbine* to the the warmest welcome in documentary history, a new topic was asserting itself for his next project, a topic which would require every skill and resource he had acquired since his first attempt to interview Roger Smith.

3. Fahrenheit 9/11

Following in the tradition of Roger Smith, George W. Bush may have pushed the Big Red Button on himself. Was it W. as governor telling Moore to get a *real* job, a moment captured in F/911, that set Moore off? Whatever the reason, sometime between the 2000 election debacle and the September 11 terrorist attack Moore started laying preparations to take on the President himself. *What the hell is this man doing in the White House?*

Like *Roger* and *Columbine*, F/911 is a rambly, sprawling collection of images and sound bites calculated to whipsaw the audience between amusement and horror. Unlike *Columbine*, though, F/911 has a point, which it makes with laser-like and devastating precision. In sequential order, we observe that:

- Bush shouldn't have become President;
- Bush was shaping up to be a terrible President;
- Faced with his own failure, Bush liked to slink off on vacation;
- At our nation's greatest moment of crisis he spent 20 minutes reading about a pet goat;
- All along his family has been best buddies with the

- family of the terrorist that attacked us;
- He didn't proceed effectively against the attackers, in part because the family-buddies problem kept Saudi Arabia off-limits;
 - When he did finally proceed against the attackers there was an ulterior motive involving a profitable pipeline deal;
 - We promptly quit our campaign against the attackers as soon as pipeline-friendly executives were installed;
 - The whole climate of fear was used to justify a sneaky eleventh-hour gutting of the Bill of Rights;
 - While our attackers regrouped Bush carefully built a sham case against someone totally unrelated;
 - Based on this lie we invaded a country that had never threatened us;
 - We didn't allocate sufficient resources to do any of this (begging the question of whether we should be doing any of it in the first place);
 - After spending billions of dollars and losing almost a thousand American lives and maiming thousands more and killing and maiming tens of thousands of Iraqis the people who attacked us remain free, and we have nothing to show for it except an enormous cash cow for those war profiteers close to the Bush administration.

Now you can argue with any of these points or with the presentation Moore uses to push them (and [people have](#)). But what comes across to the common person who is not parsing the discourse like a debate squadder is a damning sufficiency of things that undeniably speak for themselves. Bush's mugging, his malapropisms, his clear intellectual shallowness are all there in our faces, primary and undeniable. What possible spin could anyone put on *this*:

Uh, Karen Hughes is comin' over, we're workin' on some things. And uh, she'll be over here, we're workin' on these things. These matters. I'm workin' on some initiatives. We're uh... you'll see. There'll be some decisions I'm gonna make while I'm here and we'll be announcing them as time goes on. (looking around)

When I saw this in the theatre I said out loud, "And the dog ate my homework!"

No left-wing conspiracy forced Paul Wolfowitz to use his own spit as hair gel, one of several moments that make you wonder if these people were raised by wolves.

We all know from history and from the regular news that the

images of Iraqi carnage, of our soldiers being alternately sickened and bloodthirsty, are all reasonable. The carnage is actually used sparingly considering what Moore is trying to do.

Nobody denies the basic events of the morning of 9/11, as Bush sat frozen reading about a pet goat while we were under attack.

How many of Moore's points need to be valid for us to take his point? Not all of them, surely. Maybe James R. Bath's name really was crossed out on Bush's military record for innocent reasons. Maybe the Saudis don't really own 6% of the USA. Suppose it's only 2%? Is that really any better?

Indeed, Moore was kinder than he needed to be in many ways; some lefties have been wondering why he didn't put in the infamous [nose picking video](#), or his quip to the President of Brazil wondering if they had any black people in his country. The answer, if you've seen the film, is simple: He didn't need those things, and they weren't relevant. But if Moore was as evil as his detractors like to believe, those and other choice moments would surely have been in the movie.

Moore never asks, if Bush was reading about the pet goat on 9/11, who gave the order to shoot down uncommunicative planes. Why muddy the issue? Moore has more than made his case. One day if enough facts come out we may have another movie about 9/11 itself, but this one is about how our grief and rage over 9/11 were hijacked in order to justify an unrelated war nobody really wanted. And even if half of what Moore puts on the screen is hyperbole, what remains is damning.

5. Sicko

The [IMDB](#) reports that Moore's next film will be [Sicko](#), an examination of America's mental health care system. Given the frequency with which we are prescribed drugs like Ritalin and antidepressants, this promises to be a subject affecting us all even more directly than *Fahrenheit 9/11*, and the subject is certainly amenable to Moore's style of treatment. It looks like the next round of imperial nudity will be revealed in the medical profession; I for one can hardly wait.

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[Michael Moore Makes the Same Movie Again](#) | 148 comments (138 topical, 10 editorial, 1 hidden)

He he, (none / 0) (#148)

by [Sesquipundalian](#) on Mon Jul 5th, 2004 at 12:22:56 PM EST
(julian@mimsylogic.com.nospamplease) <http://www.mimsylogic.com>

he keeps making the exact same movie over and over. And surprisingly, it gets better every time.

So that means that "The quintessential Micheal Moore Movie" is some kind of fractal. I wonder what it converges on?

If you collided Micheal Moore and Andy Rooney in a high speed accellerator, would there be an huge explosion of pickinos and irritons?

Did you know that gullible is not actually an english word?

A rebuttal to Christopher Hitchens (none / 0) (#122)
by [GreyGhost](#) on Mon Jul 5th, 2004 at 10:20:57 AM EST

I have seen several references to Hitchens' tirade concerning this film passing as legitimate criticism - so I thought this would be a good essay to inject into the debate:

[UnUnFahrenheit 911](#)

My Rebuttal to Moore's Movie (2.60 / 5) (#117)
by [Distinguished Hero](#) on Mon Jul 5th, 2004 at 09:31:26 AM EST

Michael Moore is a "documentarian" in the same sense that [Leni Riefenstahl](#) was a "documentarian", and Fahrenheit 9/11 is a documentary in the same sense that [Triumph of the Will](#) was a documentary. (Both movies also won prominent French awards... coincidence?) Fahrenheit 9/11 makes Fox News seem like a bastion of journalistic integrity by comparison.

Michael Moore's arguments lack a logical flow or any direction whatsoever. He seems to just string together a sequence of often unrelated anti-Bush/Iraq War arguments (which have the depth of talking points) hoping to rile up his already anti-Bush/Iraq War audience.

Moore builds his whole argument upon omissions, discarding any and all facts which are not in accordance with his world view. The claim that there are no factual inaccuracies in the movie is partly true; however, this is no great feat, as the movie is filled with omissions, innuendos, and logical fallacies (post hoc ergo propter hoc, etc). For example, I could very easily convince someone with no knowledge of 20th century European History that Hitler was a great guy, simply through omissions and without making one factually inaccurate statement i.e. Hitler was a great connoisseur of art; his love of art lead to him amassing a great art collection, spanning art from all over Europe. Hitler also implemented economic policies which restored Germany's shattered economy and made Germany into one of the most powerful economic powers of its time. He was much loved by his people, and took great pride in his heritage, etc, etc, etc. I'm sure my point has become evident, and I no

longer need to pursue this perverted example.

Moore is well known for his editing prowess, and I have no reason to believe that he does not continue using his "skills" in Fahrenheit 9/11. There are several well known instances of Moore's editing in Bowling For Columbine i.e. Heston's tie changing colours, the clip of Heston's speech not being the one he gave right after Columbine, but rather a different one altogether ([1st Google Result on Query](#)), etc. I'm sure there are many other examples in both movies.

Moore makes several assertions in Fahrenheit 9/11 which not only make no logical sense, but also contradict with other statements he made in the movie. Moore mentions the well documented effort on Saddam's behalf to murder George H. W. Bush (probably intended as an argumentum ad hominem), then he refers to the sovereign nation of Iraq, which had never threatened or harmed a single American life. Ok, let's see, Moore himself admits that Saddam tried to kill H. W. Bush. Furthermore, Iraq invaded Kuwait, and constantly threatened Saudi Arabia and Israel. First of all, there are plenty of Americans in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Israel. Furthermore, plenty of American lives were lost in Desert Storm, which was clearly in response to a war of unilateral aggression on Saddam's behalf (then again, Moore may very well oppose Desert Storm, as well as England and France declaring war on Germany when they invaded Poland... who knows). After the end of Desert Storm, Americans remained in the region and constantly flew sorties to enforce the no-fly zones in the north and south of Iraq and make sure they minimized the number of Kurds and Shiites massacred by Saddam and his gang of (Sunni) thugs. Anyways, the Iraqis constantly attempted to shoot down the American planes that were merely enforcing the UN sanctioned No-fly Zones. (Seems like threatening American lives to me.)

Ok, moving on... Moore attempts to make it seem like there is no link between Saddam and international terrorism, where in reality Saddam offered USD \$10000-20000 to the family members of Palestinian suicide bombers (what a great guy) ([Google Link, scroll down](#)).

The last part of the movie is designed solely to generate an emotional response in the viewer (a key element of propaganda). Moore makes no rational arguments, but simply chooses to focus on one person to illustrate how bad war is. The American casualties in the Iraq war are still far under 1000 (Much, much lower than WWII, but I don't see Moore making the same argument against American involvement in WWII, maybe I should give him a bit more time?), and the Iraqi civilian casualties are probably still far below how many people Saddam would have generally killed in the same time-span. Moore implies that the Iraqis are against the war and the American presence, yet he neglects to mention that the Kurds which make up most of northern Iraq are extremely happy that the US is there.

Moore complains that not enough troops were sent to Afghanistan, yet I'll give you one guess to what his original stance on the Afghanistan campaign was. If more troops had been sent, and a larger military operation had been undertaken, there would have been (guess what?) more casualties, which Moore would have probably bitched about.

Moore mentions the pipeline to connect the Caspian Sea through Afghanistan as the major reason the US administration went to war in Afghanistan, yet he declines to mention that the company that was supposed to build the pipeline, Unocal issued a [statement](#) on May 20, 2002 stating that "Unocal has no plans or interest in becoming involved in any projects in Afghanistan, including natural gas or crude oil pipelines." There is no evidence that their position has changed since then. I suppose More was either ignorant of this small fact, or

I'm smarter than the average bear.

my God ([none / 2](#)) ([#97](#))

by [the sixth replicant](#) on Mon Jul 5th, 2004 at 05:37:51 AM EST

Someone at K5 actually got BFC! Yes it is **not** an anti-gun movie, it is an anti-gun lobby movie and to make it even clearer : it's an anti-(gun lobby) movie.

In fact, it's a good way of weeding our reviewers who are too stupid to understand the actual movie they're watching. If a review starts off with "Michael Moore, know for his anti-gun movie Bowling for Columbine..." then I just read the next review. How stupid are people? It actually **changed** my mind about gun control!

Ciao

- [So what you are saying is](#) by peace out, 07/05/2004 08:52:05 AM EST ([none / 2](#))

See the movie before you trash it ([3.00 / 8](#)) ([#87](#))

by [raga](#) on Mon Jul 5th, 2004 at 03:39:42 AM EST

I am surprised at the number of people who are trashing F911 on the basis of what some one else has written/told them. Yes, I did see the movie. There were not many "facts" presented that I had not heard/read about beforehand. However, I felt that some "facts" have been presented in a manner designed to heighten the anti-bush tirade, and might lead to erroneous conclusions in the mind of the viewer (these were mostly "sins of omission".)

I also felt that in the first-third of the movie, the senate Democrats got their lashing from MM as well (not to the same extent as GWB, of course). What probably gets the Republicans in a tizzy is that MM is playing and beating them at their own game of slick "double-speak". My reaction is...kettle...teapot...black.

As for all the partisan bickerring re. the "lies" of F911, if only people were even half as skeptical of the PR they swallow from the administration as they are of MM's movie, the USofA would be a much better and stronger nation for it.

Thomas Jefferson once remarked that "It is every citizen's *patriotic duty* to question their government." F911 forces you to do just that, whether you like it or not. As it turns out in this case, the 'pubs don't like the questions, and the dems do.

F911 ends with a quote from Orwell's 1984. I don't remember exactly where the quote starts and ends, but I think you can find the entire text in [the body of Chapter 9 of 1984](#) (in the book "THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF OLIGARCHICAL COLLECTIVISM" that Winston is reading). It is re. the nature of warfare, and its need for the maintenance of a hierarchical society. I thought *that* was the message MM wanted his audience to leave the theater with. But then if you have never read [1984](#), you may not even comprehend what Orwell was talking about, and IMHO the central message of the movie would be lost.

Overall, slick and well done, and one I'd encourage every one to see. Be informed not just by Fox News, nor by F911 only. And read 1984.

cheers- raga

- [To Quote My Father-in-Law:](#) by CheeseburgerBrown, 07/05/2004 07:42:48 AM EST (none / 1)
 - [Make an Unauthorized Copy](#) by Alfie, 07/05/2004 10:25:20 AM EST (none / 1)

This movie is a tool (2.00 / 11) (#80)

by [findelmundo](#) on Mon Jul 5th, 2004 at 01:54:48 AM EST

that I'm using to separate the quasi-intellectuals from the true ones. I'm finding it comforting and horrifying at the same time.

The author of this post needs to learn what an assertion is and then edit this...thing. I feel like I'm surrounded by morons and manipulators and no one knows who is who. But this author in particular is exactly why I watched the movie at home instead of going to a theatre. I cringe at the thought of hearing righteous crap like "and the dog ate my homework" coming from some seat in front or behind me. You're so fucking clever and in the know. I bet you're the only person who wasn't able to hold back the witty asides bubbling around your gums and tongue. And your predictable reaction to some old guy who grew up in the 50's using spit on his comb to get his hair down...OH MY GOD THE

ANIMAL!!! Let's put a camera in Moore's bathroom shall we? And then we'll talk about people being raised by wolves...as if that has something to do with anything at all. I like how the dreaded 7 minutes has now become 20. And gosh, if those kids hadn't been reading about a fucking goat it all would've gone so much better.

Yes, Bush is the ultimate evil. No...he is the king of all that is stupid. Well which the fuck is it? And why do you feel the need to raise this man up to some god-status in order to digest what is going on in the world around you? The audience and posts like this are the only interesting part of this film's release. What makes me sick to my stomach is that all it took was a movie. Stupid flash mob crap is all this is. Well, its that and sad...and all of this is only going to lead to more of this crap come every election from here on out. HURRAH! I REALLY look forward to that! Thank you Moore!

I'm not voting for Bush. But this movie and all the people salivating over it have nothing to do with that. As I see it now, there's US and THEM and then there's all you freakin zombies out there who need movies like this to make you feel better about the poor excuse for individual thought that goes through your heads. When do we get to vote you wastes of time off the island so we can get back to real critical thought and truly argumentative discussions?

- [Well that was coherent](#) by GreyGhost, 07/05/2004 10:16:54 AM EST (none / 1)
- [Well...](#) by epepke, 07/05/2004 02:34:44 AM EST (none / 2)

I want to go see this movie (none / 1) (#78)

by [modmans2ndcoming](#) on Mon Jul 5th, 2004 at 01:51:49 AM EST

and even though I am sorry I voted for Bush in 2000, I live in Michigan so my vote for Bush did not matter since Michigan went for Gore, and other than Bush, I voted Democratic nearly down the line (but they were incumbent Senators and Reps who had a great deal of influence and who I thought were doing a good job (I vote on the person and issues, not the party).

Rest assured, I will be voting for Kerry, and I can only hope that Kerry kicks bushes butt like jackson kicked Q. Adams's butt.

BTW, My Neighbors think I am a nut case because I have a Kerry sign and the sign of a republican who is running for Supervisor of the township :-)

Sigged. (none / 1) (#77)

by [UCF BullitNutz](#) on Mon Jul 5th, 2004 at 01:48:27 AM EST
([bullitnutz<blargblahblahblah>AT<wawawawaw](#))

Wootz.

Now watch this drive.

You're going to hell for that logic. - [CaptainSuperBoy](#)

Sigged. (none / 1) (#74)

by [UCF BullitNutz](#) on Mon Jul 5th, 2004 at 01:44:46 AM EST
([bullitnutz<blargblahblahblah>AT<wawawawaw](#))

wootz.

Now watch this drive.

You're going to hell for that logic. - [CaptainSuperBoy](#)

bowling was better ([none / 2](#)) (#72)

by [Work](#) on Mon Jul 5th, 2004 at 01:31:25 AM EST
<http://themachine.2y.net>

at least in bowling, moore points out the canadian's have just as many guns, therefore one could logically conclude the real problem is elsewhere. But many moore fans tend to ignore that fact, even though its plainly there in the film.

F/911 doesnt include any counterpoints though. He presents things in a spin mastered way that plays up and massages facts in the context HE presents - which may in fact different from reality. Most critics are annoyed by the omissions of useful background facts and I have to say, that it annoys me as well. For example, Hamid Karzai wasn't just some guy they put in Afghanistan, he was a well known mujahadeen in the resistance of the 80s, and was the leader of Kandahar for several years after the end of the soviet occupation. He was later driven into exile by the taliban. None of this is ever presented though, and unless a person is well read on the particulars of the issue, they're not likely to know this.

Which comes to the next criticism - who is this movie aimed at? The showing I went to was essentially preaching to the choir - educated, left-leaning students. Moore claims he has made it for middle and low-income america, but it seems to me he gives them mere lip service. Suppose he is truly aiming the film at them - yet he omits key facts (like the background of Karzai) that an unread person would likely not know of.

Is that any better than the spin Bush & co. put on things?

Meh. Moore had the chance to truly elevate the anti-bush viewpoint to a moral highground, based on both facts and the systematic picking apart of the opposite side by not only acknowledging it, but taking it on directly. But no, its just the same old crap, with a different spin put on it. Its tunnel vision and simplistic presentation of world affairs is going to appeal to those who still think in black and white. I'm unimpressed.

-Agents, an amusing game of espionage and backstabbing. Web-based, no download or plugin required!-

Nobody else caught this? ([none / 0](#)) (#71)

by [JayGarner](#) on Mon Jul 5th, 2004 at 01:18:17 AM EST
(maverick1999@aol.com) <http://www.thesandbox.net/arm/rockford/>

Columbine happened in 1999, not 1993.

A minor point, but still...

- [I caught it but just finished reading](#) by modmans2ndcoming, 07/05/2004 01:44:51 AM EST (none / 0)

An Unguided Missile (none / 0) (#60)

by [Alfie](#) on Sun Jul 4th, 2004 at 11:16:42 PM EST

(alfie@leaflock.homeip.net) <http://leaflock.homeip.net/~alfie/>

Here's an interesting article from a conservative point of view: [Alas, Michael Moore is an unguided missile.](#)

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"If they can get you asking the wrong question, the answers don't matter."

<http://www.moshersoteria.com/> <http://www.breggin.com/>

- [Good article, my take](#) by localroger, 07/05/2004 12:00:55 PM EST (none / 0)

weird (none / 1) (#56)

by [ShiftyStoner](#) on Sun Jul 4th, 2004 at 10:55:39 PM EST

http://www.cannabis.com/untoldstory/hemp_9.shtml

I can't believe I've never seen any movies moore has made. I really do need to see this one.

8==O 8===O 8====O() "Most people live in a fog that hides them from reality, I don't think I could breathe in that fog." -ShiftyStoner

Recapitulation (2.83 / 6) (#46)

by [sakusha](#) on Sun Jul 4th, 2004 at 10:15:33 PM EST

This article is perceptive, I've been telling people to compare F911 to Bowling for Columbine and compare the arguments. The core argument as I see it, is not that guns are bad, or that Bush is bad, but that American society as a whole has a corrupt element that keeps the population enslaved by keeping them poor, ignorant, and afraid. Moore said his film was targeted at the middle and lower classes that don't vote, it was not targeted at the liberals who already hate Bush and already plan to vote against him. But there is a sophisticated, less obvious argument made to the liberal audience.

SPOILER ALERT

Read no farther if you don't want to read spoilers. I highly recommend people see this film, without preconceptions, not even mine.

The film opens with a sequence, like a preface, "was it all just a dream?" implying that the

Bush presidency is a national nightmare that we must awake from. It recaps how Bush stole the election in Florida, but it hardly spends any time on this subject, it quickly glosses over events well known to Bush watchers. The majority of the opening sequence is the ending, a lengthy diatribe against Senate Democrats that refused to aid the Democratic Black Caucus in their attempt to call for an investigation and block the Electoral College ratification of Bush as President. Then we see the credits, of Bush, Ashcroft, etc. preening, clipping on their microphones, as they prepare for video appearances. These video clips are remarkably ugly on the big screen, big blocky pixels smoothed out for high-rez film, bearing little resemblance to their familiar appearance on TV. This is the first clue we are analyzing an artificial reality.

The bulk of the film is spent analyzing the Bush family relationship to the Saudis, the phony causes of the war, and how the military exploits impoverished communities like Flint Michigan to find their cannon fodder. In particular, we see one woman who was a supporter of both Bush and the war in Iraq, but we gradually see how she changed her mind after her son was killed while serving in the military in Iraq.

But none of this material is the essential, core message of the film. It is all merely setup, preparation for the denouement.

SPOILER ALERT: ENDING REVEALED!

IMHO, the entire film serves solely to deliver the final sequence where the mother of the dead soldier goes to Washington DC, to stand before the White House. She sees a war protester camping in a plastic tent, and talks to the protester, agrees with her, and explains how her own son died in Iraq. And as the two women are talking, a woman comes up and starts yelling at them, attacking them verbally, spouting all the conservative propaganda, and screaming at them to support the president. The mother runs off, and stands before the White House, collapsing in tears.

And THERE is the core message of the film. None of the other "factual" materials are important. What matters is that we have been duped, we have been living in a bad dream. We see what happens when the mother, now awakened by the tragedy of her son's death, is confronted by someone who, as she once was, is still living in that dream. And she is shattered by the experience.

It is significant that the film closes with video of Bush et al removing their microphones after they have finished their video appearances. It neatly matches the opening sequence, like parentheses around the majority of the film. And then Moore explicitly delivers the message, in a phrase from Orwell, about how permanent war is the means of the powerful to keep themselves in power. I've got to look up the exact quote, it was quite dramatic in this context. And then, as the final credits roll, we hear the song "Keep On Rocking In The Free World" by Neil Young. This is an explicit pop cultural reference, Young wrote this song as a critique of Bush 1 during the first Gulf War. The real War is against middle and lower-class America, by the rich and powerful upper class Americans, just as it was when in the first Gulf War. The war started with Bush 1 and continues even today.

In my opinion, F911 is a brilliant piece of filmmaking, even if you do not agree with the politics. Truffaut once said "filmmaking is the art of leading the thoughts and connotations of the viewer." Moore effectively leads us through his argument in a carefully structured path. Future generations of both filmmakers and presidential historians will view this film as a watershed, it gives new legitimacy to both documentary filmmaking as well as giving legitimacy to the voices of protest against Bush.

- [Helpful link](#) by DDS3, 07/05/2004 11:21:24 AM EST (none / 0)

- [Kind of scary](#) by jmzero, 07/05/2004 11:08:33 AM EST (none / 0)
- [an extra bit](#) by blue tiger, 07/05/2004 01:52:16 AM EST (none / 0)
 - [Uh... yeah.](#) by Badger Patrol Leader, 07/05/2004 02:36:11 AM EST (none / 2)
 - [Impossible!](#) by DDS3, 07/05/2004 11:11:25 AM EST (none / 0)
 - [All that notwithstanding...](#) by exppii, 07/05/2004 03:51:01 AM EST (3.00 / 4)
 - [A Quote from the Scene in Question](#) by Alfie, 07/05/2004 02:02:53 AM EST (none / 0)

the litany of lies (none / 1) (#40)

by [hardcorejon](#) on Sun Jul 4th, 2004 at 10:05:49 PM EST

Is it factually accurate?

Meticulously so. Moore made F/911 knowing it would be dissected with an electron microscope and it shows.

Aren't these "accurate" facts chosen a bit selectively?

Definitely. But before you criticize it on this basis, you need to get the log out of your own eye.

BZZZZT! I call BULLSHIT. This film, in MANY ways, is NOT factually accurate. The "facts" are not merely presented selectively, they are presented with the purpose of intentionally deceiving the viewer:

- [56 Deceits in F9/11](#)
- [Chris Hitchens's review](#)
- [Bowling for Truth](#)
- [Filthy Critic's Review](#)

The biggest problem I have with the Bush Administration is this: no matter how correct the ENDS may be (say, a democratic Iraq), you cannot justify those ends via deceitful means (Iraq-al-Qaida link, WMD). I call Bullshit on the Bush Administration, as does much of the country.

But this is *exactly* the same problem I have with Moore -- even if I agree with his thesis (Bush presidency has been a disaster), I cannot throw my support behind someone who "proves" that thesis with deceit.

- jonathan.

- [Stating Facts, Implying Points](#) by CheeseburgerBrown, 07/05/2004 07:50:14 AM EST (none / 0)
- [So give a specific example of lie](#) by Big Sexxy Joe, 07/05/2004 01:17:34 AM EST (none / 2)
 - [It's hard to pin MM down](#) by peace out, 07/05/2004 06:05:38 AM EST (none / 1)
 - [Nope](#) by Big Sexxy Joe, 07/05/2004 06:35:09 AM EST (none / 0)
 - [Well](#) by peace out, 07/05/2004 07:21:02 AM EST (none / 1)
 - [UR CORRECT \[nt\]](#) by sinexoverx, 07/05/2004 10:12:57 AM EST (none / 0)
 - [OK then](#) by flimflam, 07/05/2004 09:03:08 AM EST (none / 1)

- [Well](#) by peace out, 07/05/2004 09:29:06 AM EST (none / 0)
- [one fact is indisputable](#) by Baldrson Neutralizer, 07/04/2004 10:22:27 PM EST (none / 0)
- [Lies](#) by sakusha, 07/04/2004 10:22:13 PM EST (none / 1)
 - [this is a strange comment](#) by Work, 07/05/2004 01:06:55 AM EST (none / 0)
- [BZZZT duplicate links](#) by localroger, 07/04/2004 10:15:13 PM EST (none / 3)

Slate: Unfairenheit 9/11 (none / 1) (#35)

by [dxh](#) on Sun Jul 4th, 2004 at 09:53:05 PM EST

An honest and factual anlysis of where Moore goes wrong from a fellow lefty. [Slate: Unfairenheit 9/11 - Moores lies](#)

- [Lefties everywhere agree...](#) by localroger, 07/04/2004 10:13:10 PM EST (none / 0)
 - [by whom?](#) by rmg, 07/05/2004 02:42:19 AM EST (none / 1)
 - [hehe](#) by DDS3, 07/05/2004 11:06:35 AM EST (none / 0)
 - [The problem with being a troll](#) by localroger, 07/05/2004 09:45:20 AM EST (none / 0)
 - [i am not read to believe you are serious.](#) by rmg, 07/05/2004 12:21:47 PM EST (none / 0)

Factual my ass.... (1.62 / 8) (#32)

by [dxh](#) on Sun Jul 4th, 2004 at 09:46:45 PM EST

This movie is full of more pseudo-intellectual-make-me-feel-pseudo-enlightend crap than the last 2 sequels to the Matrix. :)

Moore is talented, witty, and funny. But, he's also an off the deep end, loony conspiracy nut case.

[The docu-fantasy of Michael Moore](#)

[Generating more heat than light](#)

[NY Daily News: The movie is so bad it could help Bush](#)

[Liberal Michael Isikoff: More Distortions From Michael Moore](#)

[US NEWS: The company they keep](#)

Some of my favorite Michael Moore In Quotes

"There is no terrorist threat in this country. This is a lie. This is the biggest lie we've been told." -- Michael Moore, October 2003

*"(Americans) are possibly the dumbest people on the planet ... in thrall to conniving, thieving, smug pr*cks. We Americans suffer from an enforced ignorance. We don't know about anything that's happening outside our country. Our stupidity is embarrassing."*

"DO YOU FEEL like you live in a nation of idiots? I used to console myself about the state of stupidity in this country by repeating this to myself: Even if there are two hundred million stone-cold idiots in this country, that leaves at least eighty million who will get what I'm saying..." -- P. 85 of "Stupid White Men"

"(T)he dumbest Brit here is smarter than the smartest American". -- Michael Moore At London's Roundhouse Theater

"Should such an ignorant people (Americans) lead the world?" -- Michael Moore in an open letter to the people of Germany

There you have it..someone who hates his country...yeah he really is doing this movie for the good of the people.

How about on this July 4th we remember a little bit about what america has really stood for

Before you are so quick to rip America...

-- Name a country that has freed more people from tyranny?

-- Name another country that powers the world economy the way we do?

-- Name another country that has had our level of military superiority over the rest of the world that hasn't used it for conquest?

-- Remember which nation is standing between the Chinese and Taiwan?

-- Remember which nation is standing between South & North Korea?

-- Remember who's sticking with Israel against its genocidal neighbors?

-- Ask yourself which nation is the heart and soul of NATO?

-- Ask yourself which nation has done more to fight Communism or terrorism?

-- Name a country that has done more for the world than the United States?

The truth is that the United States has done **(and is doing today)** more make this planet a better place to live than any other 10 nations combined.

- [My guesses](#) by squigly, 07/05/2004 06:10:34 AM EST (none / 0)
 - [Weeeee](#) by DDS3, 07/05/2004 10:57:11 AM EST (none / 0)
 - [Communism](#) by squigly, 07/05/2004 11:07:25 AM EST (none / 0)
 - [reply](#) by DDS3, 07/05/2004 12:15:22 PM EST (none / 0)
- [I'll bite](#) by Eater, 07/05/2004 03:45:55 AM EST (none / 0)
 - [Huge distinction](#) by DDS3, 07/05/2004 11:04:32 AM EST (none / 0)
- [I am not a Liberal but I will learn.](#) by Roman, 07/05/2004 02:37:03 AM EST (none / 0)
 - [better formatted](#) by Roman, 07/05/2004 02:39:07 AM EST (none / 0)

- [Ah yes by peace out](#), 07/05/2004 07:43:46 AM EST (**none / 0**)
- [Conquest? CONQUEST? You are an idiot.](#) by Kasreyn, 07/05/2004 12:36:32 AM EST (**none / 3**)
- [No terrorist threat: True](#) by lowmagnet, 07/05/2004 12:17:07 AM EST (**3.00 / 4**)
- [Israel is a genocidal nation](#) by crunchycookies, 07/04/2004 11:11:53 PM EST (**none / 1**)
 - [Um, actually](#) by CaptainSuperBoy, 07/04/2004 11:44:56 PM EST (**none / 1**)
 - [enclave of democracy?](#) by kamera, 07/05/2004 04:25:16 AM EST (**none / 0**)
 - [I seems to be non-racist to me](#) by peace out, 07/05/2004 09:05:44 AM EST (**none / 0**)
 - [When I find myself seeking a position](#) by Shren, 07/05/2004 03:45:22 AM EST (**none / 0**)
- [I do believe the man is serious...](#) by interactive_civilian, 07/04/2004 10:06:23 PM EST (**none / 0**)
 - [But, communism is in fact evil.](#) by Hide Teh Hamster, 07/05/2004 10:43:58 AM EST (**none / 0**)
- [Man](#) by CaptainSuperBoy, 07/04/2004 09:53:20 PM EST (**none / 2**)
 - [whatever, troll](#) by shokk, 07/04/2004 10:07:02 PM EST (**none / 2**)
 - [Anti-Semitic?](#) by CaptainSuperBoy, 07/04/2004 10:31:54 PM EST (**none / 0**)
 - [Let me give it a try.](#) by crunchycookies, 07/04/2004 11:24:56 PM EST (**none / 0**)
 - [Oh man, you're such a Nazi](#) by CaptainSuperBoy, 07/04/2004 11:42:08 PM EST (**none / 0**)
 - [You said "Nazi"...](#) by ralmeida, 07/05/2004 04:58:36 AM EST (**none / 0**)
 - [But the thread continues regardless n/t](#) by brain in a jar, 07/05/2004 05:51:11 AM EST (**none / 0**)

swiss-cheese (**none / 3**) (#27)

by [shokk](#) on Sun Jul 4th, 2004 at 08:49:54 PM EST

<http://www.shokk.com>

Michael Moore's film is captivating audiences with FUD on an unprecedented level. The falsehoods are staggering and had something like this been put out about a Democrat, the lefties would be screaming for Republican heads to roll.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,124079,00.html>

"Beware of he who would deny you access to information, for in his heart, he dreams himself your master."

- [I see this a lot...](#) by bloog, 07/05/2004 05:19:40 AM EST (**none / 0**)
 - [Yes.](#) by Alfie, 07/05/2004 10:18:38 AM EST (**none / 0**)
 - [About democrats.](#) by Ranieri, 07/05/2004 07:41:38 AM EST (**none / 0**)
- [Actually, he's trying to expose FUD](#) by Shren, 07/05/2004 03:51:27 AM EST (**none / 0**)
- [The falsehoods are staggering?](#) by misanthrope112, 07/04/2004 09:34:58 PM EST (**none / 3**)
 - [heh](#) by shokk, 07/04/2004 10:46:32 PM EST (**none / 2**)
 - [misanthrope112 comment, the cliff notes](#) by godix, 07/04/2004 09:56:12 PM EST (**none / 1**)
 - ["stupid" is your word, not mine](#) by misanthrope112, 07/05/2004 04:56:49 AM EST (**none / 0**)

Moore's stated intention (2.50 / 6) (#18)
by [epepke](#) on Sun Jul 4th, 2004 at 08:19:53 PM EST

From [ABC News](#): "It's an op-ed piece. It's my opinion about the last four years of the Bush administration," Moore said Sunday. "I'm not trying to pretend that this is some sort of, you know, fair and balanced work of journalism."

The truth may be out there, but lies are inside your head.--Terry Pratchett

i have seen the film. (1.50 / 4) (#17)
by [the77x42](#) on Sun Jul 4th, 2004 at 08:18:24 PM EST
([d@ve.smells](#))

... the first 30 minutes are the best part. i don't see why we had to be there as that fat chick at the end got even fatter and read letters about her dead son. it's way too forced and i'd rather have anti-bush quotes and clips shoved down my throat than some sentimental tripe. i didn't like the movie because of this, and i have no faith in the emporer.

micheal moore: he tells it like it is. no wonder americans can't stand him.

I hate sigs. - [Me](#)
[Dude are you accusing me of telling a rusty?](#) - Tex Bigballs

- [twice wrong?](#) by DDS3, 07/04/2004 08:24:25 PM EST (none / 3)
 - [you know...](#) by bradasch, 07/04/2004 08:52:28 PM EST (none / 1)
 - [My definition???](#) by DDS3, 07/05/2004 11:38:11 AM EST (none / 0)
 - [Which it sort of does](#) by epepke, 07/04/2004 09:21:52 PM EST (none / 0)
 - [I agree to some extent](#) by bradasch, 07/04/2004 09:47:59 PM EST (none / 0)
 - [That's an interesting point](#) by epepke, 07/04/2004 10:04:22 PM EST (none / 0)
 - [The political compass](#) by bradasch, 07/05/2004 07:15:33 AM EST (none / 0)
 - [Ironically...](#) by epepke, 07/04/2004 08:49:04 PM EST (none / 2)
 - [cheap shots?](#) by DDS3, 07/05/2004 11:40:36 AM EST (none / 0)

Slashdot (1.20 / 5) (#15)
by [DDS3](#) on Sun Jul 4th, 2004 at 08:08:30 PM EST

While I've not seen the film, I think the the semi-recent appearance on /., pretty well tore the film up. Which, chancers are, represent a much more balanced and diverse group then exist here. Seriously. The results of the /. article is that most consider his film to be more

propaganda rather than a documentary. Furthermore, it appears that many of his segments were taken out of context. I should also add that someone also posted a review/rebuttal of MM's recent film. It clearly gave the impression that the film is a farce and should not be viewed as a documentary.

Others compared it to nazi propaganda, whereby, sure some facts are true, but they've been taken out of context and spun for political purposes.

Once again, I HAVE NOT SEEN THE FILM, but from what I've seen and read of it, it's nothing more than a fantasy propaganda film with one half truth after another.

From what I've been told, here is one excellent example of how crappy and out of context the film is. Remember the seen where Bush states some position and then says, "watch this shot", whereby, he then proceeds to hit a golf ball? The purpose of that is to show Bush as a crackpot. In reality, what do you expect him to say when he's followed to the golf course and hounded by the press? He did a favor to the press by answering their questions in spite of his obvious purpose of being on a golf course to play golf. From what I've seen, such abuse and out of context film making is exactly why the film is nothing but propaganda with many facts taken completely out of context.

One thing I did walk away with is, even though the film is a pure propaganda piece, if you walk away from seeing it and ask questions, it's still doing a community service. Hopefully some of those questions will be asked to get at the truth, which is not what the film appears to be about.

- [You think Slashdotters are balanced and diverse?](#) by Kasreyn, 07/05/2004 12:41:39 AM EST (3.00 / 4)
 - [Depends on the area of knowledge](#) by squigly, 07/05/2004 06:31:58 AM EST (none / 1)
- [Presidents shouldn't be playing golf!](#) by D Jade, 07/04/2004 08:33:42 PM EST (none / 1)
 - [get to work](#) by shokk, 07/04/2004 09:08:09 PM EST (none / 0)
 - [Long breaks](#) by egeland, 07/04/2004 09:52:24 PM EST (none / 0)
 - [summer reading](#) by shokk, 07/04/2004 10:26:59 PM EST (none / 0)
 - [Possibly](#) by qbwiz, 07/04/2004 10:20:51 PM EST (none / 0)
 - [LOL!](#) by DDS3, 07/04/2004 08:35:54 PM EST (none / 2)
 - [No more jokes.](#) by D Jade, 07/04/2004 10:50:28 PM EST (none / 0)
 - [one opinion...](#) by DDS3, 07/05/2004 11:43:57 AM EST (none / 0)

+1 topical, good writing, well argued thesis. (2.50 / 6) (#13)
by [badSample](#) on Sun Jul 4th, 2004 at 05:45:42 PM EST

I think K5 is due for an article on F9/11. The movie is getting a lot of buzz on the street where I live and in the media.

I would be more comfortable if this site could also have an article with an obvious negative spin on the movie. But I wonder if it would have to be written by a troll.

Hope not.

- [It's already been tried](#) by godix, 07/04/2004 10:08:21 PM EST (none / 2)
 - [Hmm](#) by truth versus death, 07/04/2004 10:54:02 PM EST (none / 2)

It's interesting (2.80 / 5) (#10)

by [Big Sexxy Joe](#) on Sun Jul 4th, 2004 at 04:13:29 PM EST

Michael Moore is always accused of being a liar. But the accusations never stick and his accusers have to resort to lies to bolster their claims that Moore is liar. He started the "Wacko Attacko" section of his site to defend himself against false accusations.

For example, a popular rumor was that the Littleton, Colorado Lockheed Martin plant didn't make weapons. On his site Moore reaffirms that they do make weapons and points out that there was a missile in the background during interview. He asks if the right wing lunies think his crew snuck in the night before and put it there.

On an unrelated note, I don't agree that it is the same movie. His earlier movies focused on him harassing important people and their security guards. Some of that is in Fahrenheit, but it's mostly Moore narrating over various footage.

Also, I would amend the last bullet of your summary. He shows that what we have to show for the war is a number of dead and handicapped soldiers. I think one of the best points of the movie is that it is always the people who are on the bottom of the economic ladder who sign up to protect us and all they ask in return is to not be put in harms way unless it is necessary.

Other people's pain is funny.

- [Beautiful, beautiful harassment](#) by Shren, 07/05/2004 04:03:34 AM EST (none / 2)
- [facts and truth](#) by DDS3, 07/04/2004 08:16:49 PM EST (none / 2)
- [d00d](#) by I11111111111111111111, 07/04/2004 06:03:46 PM EST (3.00 / 4)
 - [The rocket had US Air Force painted on it](#) by nebbish, 07/05/2004 10:37:17 AM EST (none / 0)
 - [and?](#) by DDS3, 07/05/2004 11:25:32 AM EST (none / 0)
 - [And? And it has a military use](#) by nebbish, 07/05/2004 11:54:55 AM EST (none / 0)
 - [The point is...](#) by DDS3, 07/05/2004 12:02:05 PM EST (none / 0)
 - [But they do make weapons there](#) by Big Sexxy Joe, 07/04/2004 11:07:12 PM EST (none / 1)
 - [okay...](#) by DDS3, 07/05/2004 12:04:26 PM EST (none / 0)
 - [Not so clear](#) by epepke, 07/04/2004 08:24:34 PM EST (none / 3)
 - [with the exception of spaceship one...](#) by Work, 07/05/2004 01:09:49 AM EST (none / 1)
 - [Indeed](#) by epepke, 07/05/2004 01:33:49 AM EST (none / 0)
 - [Satelites](#) by D Jade, 07/04/2004 08:23:41 PM EST (none / 3)
 - [You're both right.](#) by Badger Patrol Leader, 07/04/2004 08:23:01 PM EST (3.00 / 5)
 - [read on /.](#) by DDS3, 07/04/2004 08:34:13 PM EST (2.50 / 4)
 - [Now let's do it again ...](#) by Ranieri, 07/05/2004 07:32:35 AM EST (none / 0)
 - [Doh!](#) by DDS3, 07/05/2004 11:28:41 AM EST (none / 0)

Roger and Me was obviously the best film... (none / 1) (#8)
by [Russell Dovey](#) on Sun Jul 4th, 2004 at 01:51:40 PM EST
(anarchist@sluggo.net) <http://www4.tpgi.com.au/users/e1aurian/>

...because it allowed Michael Moore to make all the rest. A legend in our own time.

Spugnug bluzkak! Ig! Kaspoom! - [K5 ASCII reenactment players](#)

Where you been LR? (none / 3) (#6)
by [nlscb](#) on Sun Jul 4th, 2004 at 12:07:52 PM EST
(nlscb2@yahoo.com)

You were gone for [two weeks](#). I for one was getting worried.

Group hate hug, everyone! - [epepke](#)

Know your [K5 history](#).

- [Just Work](#) by localroger, 07/04/2004 05:36:17 PM EST (none / 3)
 - [+3, Spaceships \[nt\]](#) by CheeseburgerBrown, 07/05/2004 07:55:02 AM EST (none / 0)
 - [Another story?](#) by egeland, 07/04/2004 09:56:57 PM EST (none / 1)

[Michael Moore Makes the Same Movie Again](#) | 148 comments (138 topical, 10 editorial, 1 hidden)

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