

over whether the giant crescent really is oriented on Mecca. In response, the Memorial Project has decided to deny that there is any such thing as the direction to Mecca, and Pittsburgh's two major newspapers are both backing up this transparent falsehood. Professor Daniel Griffith, who is serving as a consultant to the Memorial Project, [told the Post Gazette](#) that: "anything can point toward Mecca, because the earth is round." He made [similar statements](#) to the Pittsburgh *Tribune Review* and the Johnstown *Tribune Democrat*. None of these papers asked for a second opinion from any of the one billion Muslims who face Mecca five times a day for prayer, and it isn't that the media has been duped by Griffith. Editors and reporters at both the *Post Gazette* and the *Tribune Review* are fully aware that [a host of bloggers](#) have [independently verified](#) the [Mecca orientation](#) of [the crescent design](#). It was actually the *Tribune Review* that first commissioned Professor Griffith to analyze the blogosphere's Mecca-orientation claims. Alec Rawls, who has [written a book](#) about the many Islamic and terrorist memorializing features in the crescent design, has a copy of Griffith's report for the *Tribune Review* [posted online](#). The first thing Griffith does is calculate the direction to Mecca:

I computed an azimuth value from the Flight 93 crater site to Mecca of roughly 55.20°,

"Azimuth is the technical term for direction, measured in degrees clockwise from north. Now Griffith is denying that there is any such thing as the direction to Mecca, and the *Tribune Review* refuses to tell its readers that Griffith is contradicting the report that he wrote for them.

The *Post Gazette* is even more outrageous. Rawls was told by *Post Gazette* reporter Paula Ward that she and her editors saw all the blog posts on the Mecca orientation of the Crescent of Embrace back in September 2005 and decided not to publish this explosive information. (*Crescent of Betrayal*, [download 3](#), p. 108.) At the same time, the *Post Gazette* was running editorials that called critics of the crescent [paranoid bigots](#):

But like those who look at innocent kids trick-or-treating at Halloween and see only the devil's work, a few small and suspicious minds couldn't look past the crescent to see a remarkably sensitive design.

When Tom Burnet Sr. [asked the American people](#) last month to please take his and Mr. Rawls' warnings about the crescent design seriously, the *Post Gazette* responded with an [editorial](#) titled: "Efforts to sully Flight 93 memorial deserve scorn."

What is the significance of a crescent that a person faces into to face Mecca? Such a structure is called a [mihrab](#), and is the [central feature](#) around which every mosque is built. That is why the surrounding trees added in the Bowl of Embrace redesign do nothing to alter the Islamic significance of the design. You can plant as many trees around a mosque as you want and it will still be a mosque.

One local paper actually did fact-check the orientation of the giant crescent and validated the Mecca orientation claim in print, but the larger papers are all refusing to pass this fact checking on, or to do their own, even though it is simple [one-two](#) operation. All that *Tribune Democrat* reporter Kirk Swauger had to do was use the [Mecca direction calculator](#) at Islam.com to print out a graphic of the direction to Mecca from Somerset PA, then place this print out over the Crescent of Embrace [site-plan PDF](#) on his computer screen:



40 MEMORIAL GROVES

What was Paul Murdoch, the design's architect, thinking? What was his ulterior motive? When controversy over the original name "Crescent of Embrace" and the bald Islamic symbol planted on the crash site brought a public outcry, the entire memorial was hastily re-titled "40 Memorial Groves."

As Alec is apt to do, he's having some fun with this: [So why only 38 Memorial Groves?](#)

His answer should appear today at Error Theory, go check it out!

Trackedback @: [Cao's Blog](#) and [Error Theory](#)

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