



GREATER HOUSTON
**PACHYDERM
CLUB**

NEWSLETTER

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**PACHYDERM
LUNCHEONS
EVERY TUESDAY**

Double Tree Guest Suites
5353 Westheimer (two blocks west of the Galleria)
Noon-1:15 p.m. \$14.00 per person
No Reservations Required Visitors Welcome
PARKING \$1.00

PROGRAMS FOR FEBRUARY 2005

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

**Speaker: Court Koenning, Executive Director
Harris County Republican Party**

Court will relate the "Ups and Downs" of planning and executing the successful trip of Harris County Republicans, to the Inauguration of President George W. Bush, and Vice President Dick Cheney.

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

**Speaker: Jessica Colon, President
Houston Young Republicans**

Jessica attended the Inauguration and will give us her impressions of the Inauguration and what it means to be a young Republican as we look forward to the future.

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

**Speaker: Frank Michel, Director of Communications for
Houston Mayor Bill White**

Frank Michel will speak on the issues involving the Safe Clear Towing Program created by Mayor Bill White to solve the traffic problems for the City of Houston.

Tuesday, February 22, 2005

**Speaker: Bob Lemer, Chairman
Citizens for Public Accountability**

Bob Lemer will detail the Harris County's Motorist Assistant Program, or MAP which is already in existence but which the city declined to participate in when Lee P. Brown was head of the Houston Police Department.

Our Web Site: www.greaterhpc.org

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ISLAMICISTS HATE US FOR WHO WE ARE, NOT WHAT WE DO

As the third recent Middle East election nears in Iraq, Americans are still puzzled over why well-off Islamic fundamentalists crashed planes into skyscrapers and now send mercenaries to the Sunni Triangle to slaughter us as we sponsor democracy. Yet since Sept. 11, we have grasped that Muslim fascists understood that the course of American-led world history — democracy and globalized capitalism — was leaving them behind. Thus they strike the United States before they are made irrelevant.

America symbolized the onset of a hated modernism and its breakdown of religious, gender and ethnic hierarchies that were so treasured by Islamicist patriarchs. As this war wore on, we also fathomed the pathological partnerships of tyrannies in Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Syria with al-Qaida and other terrorist cadres. Both groups scapegoated the superpower United States for their own failures. In addition, killers in bin Laden's mafia and other terrorist planners from Iran to the West Bank turned out not to be the impoverished, but more often the pampered of the middle class — like the Audi suicide zealot who just blew up Americans in Mosul.

Yet in the gloom over postwar Iraq, ex-CIA agents and moody public intellectuals have recently doubted this "They hate us for who we are" explanation. Instead, they have reintroduced the notion of "They hate us for what we do" — as if there are legitimate grievances that logically earn such violent attacks organized by petro-heirs, doctors and crackpot mullahs. Even a toned-down bin Laden is quoted as witness. He recently joked that al-Qaida is going after America, not liberal Sweden: had we just shrunk to the stature of the politically correct Scandinavians, then our problems would vanish.

But would they?

Not at all. First, the Islamofascists of the Middle East, like all autocrats, cannot be believed since

they neither allow criticism nor tolerate self-reflection. Lying is their bible. Did poor Tojo and Hitler really have cause to gobble up their neighbors? Was Stalin's postwar Soviet union that overran Eastern Europe unfairly stigmatized because of purported anti-communist frenzy? Of course not. Second, alleged sins against Islam transform monthly. Americans

have been murdered with near impunity all over the Middle East for a near quarter-century on a variety of pretexts. Sometimes fatwas and infomercials cited the "loss" of Jerusalem. Then there were the U.S. troops in the Land of the Holy Shrines or the U.N. embargo of Iraq — such gripes still persisting long after withdrawal of American soldiers from Saudi Arabia and massive aid to, not boycotts of, Iraq. Do not forget hurt over the expulsion of the Moors from Spain or the Crusades — as if the Islamicists alone can nurse centuries-old wounds. What unites this tired victimization is never logic, but always a preexisting antipathy toward Western liberalism, tempting and repelling the fundamentalists all at once.

Third, bin Laden and various mujahideen distort history. American beneficence — saving Kuwaitis, protecting Bosnians, feeding Somalis, or billions in aid for Egyptians — means nothing, while Islamic internecine murder is excused. The unspoken truth is that the killers of the Middle East have mostly been other Middle-Eastern Muslims: The Kurdish holocaust, millions butchered in the Iranian-Iraqi war, Iraq's rape of Kuwait, Syrian obliteration of Hama, Algerian massacres or the genocide in the Sudan. Land, oil, religion or ethnic hatred — not America — prompted such slaughter.

It is humane to send massive aid to Southeast Asia after the tsunami. Yet the idea that the fundamentalist Muslim world in recompense will temper its hatred of the United States because we give far more than

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Saudi Arabia or China is sadly mistaken. If Israel were to disappear, or America were to give the Middle East \$100 billion, the deductive hatred from radical Islam would persist.

The United States has adopted a rational strategy against Islamic fascism: kill the terrorists, remove illegitimate regimes that aid the extremists, foster democracies in their places and alter American policy from tolerance of the corrupt status quo to calls for reform. Yet we cannot finish the Islamicists' war unless we understand why they started it. For that answer, look at who Americans are and what they represent — not at what we supposedly have done.

— Victor Davis Hanson
Chicago Tribune

GOOD NEWS FROM THE IRAQI CAMPAIGN

A time is approaching when those who speak so glibly about Muslim grievances and Muslim feelings are going to have to make up their minds. In Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi has now issued two statements denouncing the very concept of “democracy” as a blasphemous Greek term alien to the Arab and Muslim world and inviting anathema and murder on all those who even rehearse for it. For good measure, he denounces Shiite Islam as a detestable heresy in itself. And for convenience, he names his organization “Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia,” with what seems like the endorsement of Osama Bin Laden.

On the other side of this battle, senior Shiite clergy have described voting as a religious duty, have foresworn personal revenge on Sunni and Baathist elements, and have made public assurances that they do not wish for a Khomeini-style theocratic regime in their country. I don't think that voting is at all a religious duty, but in this context I see what they mean.

More and more, the media mantra about Iraq being divided among Sunni, Shiite, and Kurd is looking illogical and asymmetrical. It reminds me of that other misleading shorthand about Bosnia a decade or so ago, where the contending forces were identified as Serb, Croat, and Muslim. Obviously, one of these three categories is not congruent with the other two. In the Bosnian case, the “Muslims” were not ethnically or confessionally fundamentalist, whereas the Catholics, and Orthodox Christians, or at least their leaderships, were. In the case of Iraq, it is scarcely ever pointed out that the majority of Kurds—20 percent of the population—are formally Sunni, while the

“insurgents” are based on a minority of a minority—the Tikriti and other clan groups who were the clientele of the Baathist regime. No “insurgency” based on a minority of a minority has ever succeeded militarily, even if regularly resupplied from a friendly neighboring state. And this group has further isolated itself by making an alliance with imported Bin Ladenists: an alliance that (however often it is denied) was in fact the signature of the declining days of the Saddam dictatorship.

The extraordinary and undeniable thing is that, in a country that was dying on its feet and poisoning the region a couple of years ago, there is now a real political process that has serious implications for adjacent countries. The way back to Baathism and personal despotism is blocked, and the task of the clerical fanatics is in the long run an impossible one. (Ask yourself: When was the last time you read about Muqtada Sadr's supposedly unstoppable “mahdi Army?”) Crudely but firmly, the coalition forces are meanwhile acting as the militia for those who have no militia. Whatever happens next week, this is some cause for pride.

— Christopher Hitchens

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WISHES FOR OUR CHILDREN

We tried so hard to make things better for our kids that we made them worse. For my grandchildren, I'd like better.

- *I'd really like for them to know about hand me down clothes and homemade ice cream and leftover meat loaf sandwiches. I really would.*
- *I hope you learn humility by being humiliated, and that you learn honesty by being cheated.*
- *I hope you learn to make your own bed and mow the lawn and wash the car.*
- *And I really hope nobody gives you a brand new car when you are sixteen.*
- *It will be good if at least one time you can see puppies born and your old dog put to sleep.*
- *I hope you get a black eye fighting for something you believe in.*
- *I hope you have to share a bedroom with your younger brother/sister. And it's all right if you have to draw a line down the middle of the room, but when he wants to crawl under the covers with you because he's scared, I hope you let him.*
- *If you want a slingshot, I hope your Dad teaches you how to make one instead of buying one.*
- *I hope you learn to dig in the dirt and read books.*
- *May you skin your knee climbing a mountain, burn your hand on a stove and stick your tongue on a frozen flagpole.*
- *I don't care if you try a beer once, but I hope you don't like it. And if a friend offers you dope or a joint, I hope you realize he is not your friend.*
- *I sure hope you make time to sit on a porch with your Grandma/Grandpa and go fishing with your Uncle.*

● *May you feel sorrow at a funeral and joy during the holidays.*

● *These things I wish for you - tough times and disappointment, hard work and happiness. To me, it's the only way to appreciate life.*

— Paul Harvey

E-Mail Delivery

Some of you received this month's newsletter at the e-mail address listed in the Pachyderm roster. If we can send the newsletter to you by e-mail, it saves printing and mailing costs. However, if you would rather continue to get a mailed copy, please call me at 713-590-9367 or, preferably, notify me by e-mail at bshults@mcfall-law.com

— Bob Shults

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