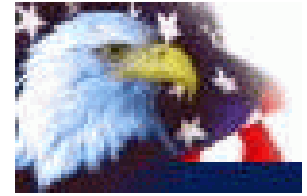




GREATER HOUSTON  
**PACHYDERM  
CLUB**



**NEWSLETTER**

**AFFILIATED WITH THE REPUBLICAN PARTY**

**HONORARY**

The Honorable Tom DeLay

The Honorable Kevin Brady

The Honorable John Culberson

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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**

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**PROGRAMS FOR JULY 2005**

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**Tuesday, July 5, 2005**



**No Meeting. Happy Birthday USA!**

We hope you had a fabulous 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend.

**Tuesday, July 12, 2005**

**Speaker: Bert Keller, Vice President-Sales, Nestor Traffic Systems**  
<http://www.nestor.com>



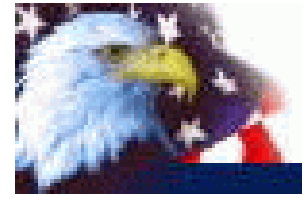
Former Houston City Council member serving District G, Bert now works for Nestor, an emerging leader in video-based monitoring products and services for traffic management and safety. Bert will tell us about some of the latest technology used in these innovative systems.

**Our Web Site: [www.greaterhpc.org](http://www.greaterhpc.org)**

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**Tuesday, July 19, 2005**

**Speaker: Dwayne Bohac, State Representative, District 138**  
<http://www.bohac.com>



Property tax reform, strengthening public education and neighborhood quality of life ranked at the top of Rep. Bohac's priorities for the recently completed 79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. He will discuss just what was accomplished and what the Texas Legislature hopes to achieve during the current Special Session.

**Tuesday, July 26, 2005**

**Speaker: Malcolm W. Browne, Chairman, Board of Directors,  
The Veterans Museum in Texas**  
<http://www.theveteransmuseumintexas.org>



After eight years of lobbying public officials about its merits, Malcolm's dream of building a national veteran's museum in South Houston may just become reality. Browne, an investment banker and former Marine who served during the Vietnam War, thinks Houston is a natural fit for a national museum honoring the American soldier. He will discuss the progress and current status of the project.

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For more information regarding our programs or speakers, please email Verdene Ryder at [verdene@earthlink.net](mailto:verdene@earthlink.net) or call (713) 686-4336

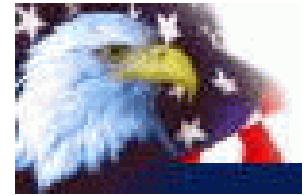
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# GREATER HOUSTON PACHYDERM CLUB



NEWSLETTER

## LEADERS OF THE PACH

### OPTIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST



– Bob Shults

McFall, Sherwood &  
Breitbeil, P.C.

In the aftermath of September 11, we in the United States find ourselves in the most unusual war in our history – the war on "terror." We are fighting a system and an ideology rather than a country or concrete enemy.

By attempting to install "democracy" in Iraq and Afghanistan, we are hoping and trusting that the vote will entice the citizens of these and other countries in that part of the world to abandon the rule of an Islamic autocracy. It is hoped by the United States and its allies that, through the growth of popular sovereignty, the grip of radical religious bigotry will be loosened and the populace will choose leaders who will move toward political equality for all, the education of women, economic improvement for the average family, etc. This may be difficult given the contradictions of the reality in the region – such as \$60 oil when the total GNP of the 22 countries in the region combined equals that of Spain.

This battle against an Islamic fascist belief promulgated by a

minority, largely protected by their society, is difficult for us to understand. It is frustrating to see people in the middle east who were terrorized by Saddam and the Taliban now cheer when terrorists "stand up to westerners" when these same terrorists kill thousands of their fellow citizens in the process. We can't seem to get a handle, not an easy one at least, on how to fight this type of enemy. It is as if we expended scores of thousands of lives to free the French from the control of Nazi thugs only to be shown scorn and a lack of appreciation – well, perhaps not the best example, but you get the picture.

Victor Davis Hanson has pointed out the main ways that this weak enemy has to meet the overwhelming military and economic strength arrayed against it.

First is the simple denial of responsibility. The "legalistic world" of the United Nations gives the Islamic radicals and their "sponsors" reason to hope that they will not be held accountable. Syria and Iran simply deny that they give aid to terrorism and demand that we prove it before a body like the UN whose membership is composed mostly by states not democratic themselves.

Second is oil. Between a third to a half of the world's reserves lie in this region. Until recently, no state in the region was democratic. Most of the population in the region is traditionally poor and the Islamic fascists foster the popular belief that

the West is responsible for that fact.

Third is the belief of many in the United States that the world has evolved beyond the use of force. Education, aid, discussion and good will can achieve more than force. Many in the US actually believe that the people in the region live and think in a way similar to our own.

Fourth is the cynical view of the terroristic sponsors that the world will support them because they are the underdogs. To quote Hanson, "Europeans march with posters showing scenes from Abu Guraib, not of the beheading of Daniel Pearl or the murder of Margaret Hassan . . . they find psychic satisfaction in seeing the world's sole superpower tied down . . . How else can we explain why Amnesty International claims that Guantanamo – specialized ethnic foods, available Korans, and internal observers – is comparable to a Soviet Gulag . . . ?"

Our strategy to fight the terrorists has been designed for the long term – kill the Islamic fascists, remove the worst governments that sponsored terrorists and plant the seeds of democratic government.

Where do we go from here? The choices are not simple, but they are likewise not numerous.

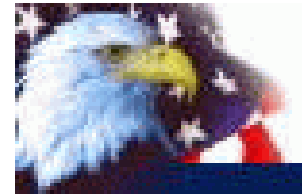
We can wind down, pack up and choose, like the Clinton administration, to treat terrorism as a criminal matter. This will lead to more attacks on the United States.

We can continue to fight in Iraq

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**NEWSLETTER**

and hope that democracy "catches on." This might work, but only if the American people have more patience and resolve than they seem to now.

We can "press on" as Hanson says. We tell Syria to stop giving sanctuary to terrorists and tell Iran to give up its nuclear program or face air strikes against the program. The Israelis may spare us that eventuality if our resolve weakens.

The only real hope may be that democracy and the education and pluralism it brings will grow faster than Islamic fascism. And we must also hope that this race will be won by democracy before, as Hanson says, "America throws up its hands and sighs, "These crazy people simply aren't worth it," and goes home." If so, there will be another September 11.

## HOW AFRICAN LEADERS SPEND OUR MONEY

— Aidan Hartley

'Oh Lord, won't you buy me a Mercedes-Benz,' prayed Janis Joplin, and the Lord obliged. With or without divine intervention, the late Pope had one. So does the Queen. Erich Honecker hunted at night by dazzling the deer in his Mercedes jeep's headlights until he got close enough to blow them away. Mao Tse-tung had 23 Mercs. Today Kim Jong II owns dozens, all filled to the gunwales with imported Hennessy's cognac. Hitler, Franco, Hirohito, Tito,

the Shah, Ceausescu, Pinochet, Somoza — they all wore by Mercedes. Saddam Hussein like them so much he probably had shares in the company.

Today, though, there is one man who is doing more than the Lord himself to buy a Mercedes-Benz for the leading creeps of the world. That man is of course Bob Geldof, the spur to our global conscience. Africa's leaders cannot wait for the G8 leaders — hectoring by Bob and Live 8 into bracelet-wearing submission — to double aid and forgive the continent's debts. They know that such acts of generosity will finance their future purchases of very sleek, customized Mercedes-Benz cars, while 315 million poor Africans stay without shoes and Western taxpayers get by with Hondas. This is the way it goes with the WaBenzi, a Swahili term for the Big Men of Africa.

Let us take Zimbabwe, where millions of people are starving, 3,000 die weekly of Aids and life expectancy has fallen to 35 years. In 2005 Britain will give Zimbabwe £30 million in aid, making it one of the three biggest donors. The government will say this money funds emergency relief. Try telling that to the hordes of people whose homes have been burned down and bulldozed in recent weeks. Giving corrupt governments, money frees up budgets to squander on cars.

Of course, not all Africans who own Mercedes cars are WaBenzi and nor am I suggesting DaimlerChrysler are at fault in any way. Thanks in large part to anti-state corruption

drives by the World Bank, a middle class of hard-working, talented entrepreneurs has emerged in Africa in the last two decades. Africa's future depends on these young entrepreneurs, and they want to buy quality cars for the same reason successful Westerners do.

No corner of Africa escapes the WaBenzi effect, including South Africa. Mercedes gifted Nelson Mandela one, and he accepted it. In 2001 the ANC chief whip Tony Yengeni was charged and later jailed for accepting a Mercedes ML320 at a 48 percent discount in return for lobbying on behalf of DaimlerChrysler companies in the European Aeronautic Defense and Space consortium (Eads). At the time Eads was bidding for huge defense contracts, and Mercedes-Benz unilaterally admitted making dozens of cars available at discount prices.

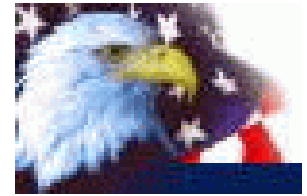
Ministers say they should be paid so well because it stops them taking bribes. But the British High Commissioner to Nairobi, Sir Edward Clay, last year denounced the ruling 'Mount Kenya Mafia' as gluttons who were so overfed they left the signs of their theft in their trail as clearly as if they had puked up. He said, 'The evidence of corruption in Kenya [amounts to] vomit, not just on the shoes of donors but also all over the shoes of Kenyans . . . and the feet of those who can't afford shoes.'

It doesn't have to be like this. Africans themselves have always seen the WaBenzi as the symbol of Africa's ills. The first martyr for the cause was

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NEWSLETTER

Thomas Sankara, the Burkina Faso president who forced his ministers to swap their Mercedes for Renault 5s. He also made them go on runs. Sankara was overthrown and executed in 1987 by Blaise Campaore, who remains in power today. In 2001 Sam Nujoma of Namibia traded in his Mercedes for a Volvo. He said if all ministers did likewise it would save £550,000 annually. 'We are servants of the Namibian people,' he said. 'It is high time that we start behaving as such.' What a party-pooper — at least he was until this year, when as part of his huge retirement package he got an S500 worth £80,000 plus two other cars.

'Get off the corruption thing,' says Bob Geldof. The point is that nobody has got on to it properly yet. Aid-giving nations pretend to be tough on corruption, while African leaders pretend to change. Aid bureaucrats care less about financial probity than the press releases claiming that an economy is on a positive reform track. They are not helping Africa's young entrepreneurs. By throwing fiscal discipline to the wind and shoveling aid at Africa, the international bureaucrats will fuel a new renaissance in corruption.

Western pundits say the WaBenzi still exists because African culture is inherently sick that black Africans can't help but admire the Big Men. This does ordinary Africans an

injustice. The West needs to help them get better leaders before it increases aid. Make the WaBenzi declare their wealth to their electorates and donors. Name and shame those who drive expensive cars while their people starve. Encourage policies that will create wealth so that the only Africans buying Mercedes-Benzes are honest men and women. Unless this happens, Africa's new aid package will not alleviate poverty, disease and ignorance. What it will definitely mean are more flashy limousines.

## CHURCH, NOT STATE, MUST ADVANCE MORAL AGENDA

— Cal Thomas

Former Senator and U.N. Ambassador John Danforth has performed a valuable service between elections by writing about a Christian's role in contemporary American society. In an op-ed for The New York Times last Friday, Danforth, an ordained minister, observed: "Many conservative Christians approach politics with a certainty that they know God's truth, and that they can advance the kingdom of God through governmental action."

He writes that the "only absolute standard of behavior is the commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves." One can quibble over where Danforth's "absolutist" position may lead politically (and I do, given

the position of religious moderates and liberals when it comes to a host of other issues in which they are engaged — from anti-war activism and the environment, to civil rights and same-sex "marriage"), but his central thesis is correct: Christians are limited in what government can do for them and for an earthly agenda.

That does not mean government can't do some things. It simply means it cannot advance a moral and spiritual agenda, because it is the church, not the state, that is commissioned to preach and observe God's message.

That much of the country is preoccupied with materialism and pleasure further limits the state's capabilities in this area. Conservative Christians, while seeking to enact legislation that reflects their moral views, increasingly have found it difficult to impose their morality on themselves.

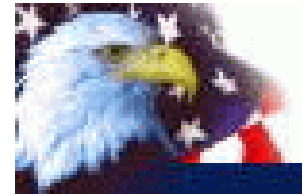
But the ordained and self-appointed conservative Christian leaders do not seem to preach as much to their own about these shortcomings (or, if they do, they are not heeded) as they do to the rest of the country about theirs.

Wouldn't these conservative Christians have greater moral power if they put their own houses in order before trying to cure the disorder in other houses? Isn't that the principle behind Jesus' story about noticing a speck in the other fellow's eye, while

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**NEWSLETTER**

ignoring the beam in one's own eye?

The social ills confronting us have not produced our collective indifference to a moral code. They reflect that indifference. Fixing social ills does not begin in the halls of Congress or Supreme Court, but in individual human hearts.

Government can't go there. God can. But if God's servants prefer government to God, or seek to attach God to political parties and early agendas, they are doomed to futility.

Danforth notes that Jesus sat with "tax collectors and sinners" and sees these acts as part of Jesus' "tolerance" and inclusiveness. But his purpose was not to justify their often corrupt tax-collecting practices and other sins. It was to lead them to repentance and faith in himself. He told the woman taken in adultery that while he did not condemn her, she was to "go and sin no more." To a moderate, I guess that was intolerant.

These concerns were never raised when religious moderates and liberals had the public square to themselves. They're upset because they have been marginalized. Still Danforth is right about where true power to change people comes from, and it isn't from the state.

## BEAUTY SCHOOL BEAT DOWN

A man who allegedly tried to rob a Shreveport beauty school was confronted by a group of nearly 30 women and one man, some of whom beat him with sticks and curling irons. The bloody suspect left the scene by ambulance. "I put something on him, baby," said instructor Dianne Mitchell. "He wasn't coming up in here and telling nobody he robbed us and got away with it."

Shreveport police were called to Blalock's Professional Beauty College, 5410 Mansfield Road, at 11:59 a.m. Tuesday. Witnesses say a man walked into the school and pointed a gun at an instructor. He allegedly demanded money from the business as well as the purses of the nearly 30 students and staff members inside. As the suspect grabbed the only other male inside, a student, and escorted him to the back of the building, Mitchell says she tripped the suspect. A group of women then grabbed curling irons and sticks and began to beat the man, police said. "The suspect was trying to get out of the business and, as he was trying to get out, they kept pulling him back in and beating him," said police spokeswoman Kacee Hargrave.

Paramedics transported the suspect from the scene by ambulance.

The truck of a Shreveport police car where officers handcuffed the suspect, was covered in blood. "He's going to need some stitches," said Officer Eric Swartout. "He had some really good swelling and knots on his head and a lot of lacerations on his face," Officer Swartout said. Police later identified the suspect as Jared Gipson, 24, of Shreveport. Gipson was charged with armed robbery. Police say the suspect was listed in good condition at LSU Hospital in Shreveport.

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