



# GREATER HOUSTON PACHYDERM CLUB



**NEWSLETTER**

**AFFILIATED WITH THE REPUBLICAN PARTY**

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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**

## **PROGRAMS FOR SEPTEMBER 2005**

**Tuesday, September 6, 2005**

**Speaker: Martha Wong, Texas State Representative, District 134**

<http://www.marthawong.com>



**MARTHA  
WONG**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 134

Securing property tax relief for homeowners, creating a more competitive educational environment for public school children and better flood control for vulnerable areas were just a few of Rep. Wong's priorities in the recently completed 79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Sessions. Her previous accomplishments include support for insurance reform, governmental reorganization and more stringent environmental protection regulations. Rep. Wong will discuss some of the meaningful accomplishments by lawmakers this year and the possibility of another special session.

**Tuesday, September 13, 2005**

**Speakers: Tim Miller, Director and Joe Huston, Search Director, Texas EquuSearch Mounted Search and Rescue Recovery Team**

<http://www.texasequusearch.org>



Started in 2000, Texas EquuSearch was formed to provide volunteer horse-mounted search and recovery for lost and missing persons. Made up primarily of experienced horse owners, the team's existence and purpose are dedicated to the memory of Laura Miller, the daughter of its director, Tim Miller. Mrs. Miller was abducted and murdered in Galveston County in 1984. Most recently, the organization has been in Aruba aiding the search for Natalee Holloway. Time and Joe will discuss some of their experiences there.

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

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**Tuesday, September 20, 2005**

**Speaker: John Elford, Candidate for  
Houston City Council At-Large, Position 2**

<http://www.johnelford.com>



A graduate of the University of Houston, John is a business and community leader that is much needed on Council to continue our city's growth and prosperity. A 44-year resident of Houston, John has literally built our city through his work in the fields of architecture, engineering and construction. He has also spent 15 years in environmental remediation and consultation. John will discuss his solutions for streamlining inspections and the building permitting process and, ideas on ways to expand the tax base thereby allowing room for much needed tax roll backs.

**Tuesday, September 27, 2005**

**Speaker: Neil Bush, Chairman & CEO, Ignite! Learning Products**

<http://www.ignitelearning.com>



Son of former President George H.W. Bush and younger brother of both our current president (W.) And the governor of Florida (Jeb), Bush heads up Ignite! Learning, an academic publisher offering comprehensive middle school curriculum solutions. Customized to state and local priorities, Ignite! Learning products and services deliver meaningful academic results through multimedia rich courseware and qualified professional support. Neil will update us on the progress of Ignite! And share some success stories from school districts who are using the products.



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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**NEWSLETTER**

## **LEADERS OF THE PACH**

### **COUNTING THE COST OF RUNNING FOR PUBLIC OFFICE**

**– Jay Karahan**

Judge of County Criminal Court at Law  
No. 8 of Harris County



Maybe you're considering a run for public office. I'm often asked questions like - "What's it like running for judge?" "How has it changed your life?" "You're running

for office? – Are you ill, do you have a fever?" Read on for answers to these questions and more.

**Your life is open to inspection.** From the moment you declare your candidacy, and forward into the future if you win, the world inspects your life. Inquiring minds want to know about you as a person, your values, your qualifications, your reasons for wanting the office, reasons why you should be elected to the office, and why you should be paid taxpayer dollars in salary and perks. These questions will be asked repeatedly and in many ways.

**Who are you?** Voters want to get to know you. Where you're from, how you earn a living, how you spend your spare time, your community service history, your worship life, your

family, your commitment to family, your family's commitment to you, your reputation in the community, others' support of your campaign, and generally what your life plans are. Voters want to know, like and appreciate the person they elect to public office. They want to know that the candidate is strong and trustworthy.

**What are your values?** Voters want to elect someone who shares most of their core values. Much of this can be gleaned by the "who are you?" questions above. But the candidate must go beyond this to talk about values that relate specifically to the job description. Integrity and commitment to public service should be central to this discussion.

**What are your qualifications, reasons for wanting the office, reasons you should be elected and paid taxpayer dollars for holding office?** For a political candidate, voters are prospective employers. The candidate should have the requisite depth of professional, political and personal experience to be able to successfully handle the ultimate in job interviews – the political campaign. The candidate should have sufficient qualifications and reasons to attract critical endorsements. Qualifications and good reasons for your candidacy bring endorsements, and endorsements bring votes and funding. Now, about money.

**A successful political campaign requires money and**

**financial planning.** This means having sufficient savings, commitments for contributions and financial support, and personal earning capacity to weather the financial storms that come during a campaign. Campaigns are expensive – the cost of printing, postage, and mail handling alone increases yearly. You may have a wonderful job right now that you thoroughly enjoy, prosper and succeed at. But once the campaign begins it will tug you away from job and family commitments. You should expect a decrease in revenue if you are in business for yourself. You should expect to periodically take time off from a job, and your employer should be supportive of this. Your family must be absolutely supportive.

### **So, you want to run for office?**

Be ready for disclosure, criticism, cross-examination, support, no support, joy, sorrow, losses, gains, answered and unanswered prayers, and most assuredly the experience of a lifetime. You will find out who your real friends are, too. You will learn to be graceful during setbacks. You will even learn how to love your enemies! If you decide to give it a try, just know that win or lose, you will learn a lot about yourself, your limitations, the depth of your faith, the strength of your relationships, and your ability to really connect with people. And if you do it right, with preparation, community support, and integrity, you will most certainly have some fascinating stories to share over the years with family and friends, most of whom will be very proud of you!

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## APARTHEID IN IRAQ

— Bob Shults



McFall, Sherwood  
& Breitbeil, P.C.

In a society such as the United States, there is an inherent tendency to always try to see the best and most positive aspects of our culturally, religiously and racially diverse neighbors. We try to see the good so that we may find common ground and live happily and harmoniously in peace. However, as Bruce Thornton has written, “one of the greatest impediments in our war against jihadist terrorism is the misinformation, half-truths and outright lies about Islam entertained by many of our public intellectuals.” As the new Iraqi Constitution begins to see the light of day, one issue needs to be seen directly, clearly and without blinders. The role of women in the public and even private life of post-constitutional Iraq must be squarely faced. President Bush has said as much when he stated that, “young women across the Middle East will hear the message that their day of equality and justice is coming.” The direct question is, however, “will it come to Iraqi women through the vehicle of the new Iraqi Constitution?”

What is the current plight of women in Iraq? As in most Islamic societies and countries, it varies. Much has been made of the Islamic concept of

“*Sharia*.” Loosely described, *Sharia* is a principal dealing with the rights and responsibilities of Islamic women. What it is not is a single set of fixed Koranic scriptures to be placed, like a grid, over Islamic countries as a guiding, uniform code. While it does contain texts from the Koran, it also contains appendages attached from the Middle Ages forward and is interpreted, and perhaps expanded, by the pronouncements of Islamic religious readers and scholars. This has resulted in a significant variation from country to country among “Islamic societies,” all of which believe they live under the laws of *Sharia*. For example, one passage in the Koran allows men to take up to four wives at a time, while another describes how it is impossible for a man to treat multiple wives equally. Therefore, Tunisia outlaws polygamy while Saudi Arabia states that it is the man’s prerogative. And if Saudis find in the Koran a reason to ban women from driving automobiles, other “Islamic” countries laugh at the idea that this policy is required by *Sharia*.

We, in the Judeo-Christian West, have had to deal with our own set of issues from religious texts written long ago in radically different cultural settings. “Let the women learn in silence with all subjection...suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.” I Timothy 2:11-12. The United States should also remember that women were not guaranteed the right to vote until the early twentieth century, when Republicans championed this right and

the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Most Democrats in Congress routinely voted against expanding the vote to women.

However, this is a different time with more understanding and less tolerance for unequal protection and political treatment. The world rose up in opposition to apartheid in South Africa. While some considered that bankrupt system to be “cultural,” the truth was that it became officially the law only after the Reunited National Party won the white minority elections in 1948. Shortly thereafter, a system of “Bantu” (meaning “low level” or “gutter”) education became mandatory and was clearly aimed at directing non-white youth to the unskilled labor market. Other policies, such as the “Black Homeland” provisions were enacted, and the civilized world took aim at this openly hateful system until its downfall.

It is difficult to argue that a new political system in Iraq that treats women unequally in inheritance allows polygamy for males, does not prohibit beatings and spousal abuse, denies free and open voting for women and relegates women only to “religious courts” for redress of legal wrongs is not a system that provides “equal rights” for women. And equal rights for women are precisely what Zalmay Khalilzad, the new United States Ambassador to Iraq, has stated is a “fundamental requirement of democracy.”

Yet Hamam Hamoudi, the head of Iraq’s constitution committee, refuses to discuss how far proposed articles included in Iraq’s constitution would extend in regard to the protection of the

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edicts of *Sharia*. Chapter One, Article (2)(a) of the Iraqi Constitution just released states that “No law can be passed that contradicts the undisputed rules of Islam.” No one knows what parts of the “rules of Islam” qualify as “undisputed.” Further, the Second Section of Part Two of the Constitution provides that, “The Supreme Federal Court (*the highest court established by the Constitution*) will be made up of a number of judges and experts in *Sharia* and law, whose number and manner of selection will be defined by a law that should be passed by two-thirds of the parliament members.” Clearly, at a minimum, the Constitution defines law and *Sharia* as a separate body of regulation and seems to contemplate that the regulations of *Sharia* are supreme Islamic rules that cannot be modified nor abrogated by the Parliament or Courts.

The civilized world would not tolerate racial apartheid in South Africa. Neither it, nor specifically the United States which has sacrificed numerous of its sons and daughters to “free Iraq,” should stand by while the newly empowered Shiite majority institutionalizes sexual apartheid in Iraq. In the words of the musical, *The Civil War*, too many of our children have “...spent their youth so the truth could grow older.” The truth is that the Iraqi constitution must guarantee equal political and social rights for women. To the extent that Iraqi’s Muslim

women chose to live under *Sharia*, well -- that’s the beauty of a free society.

## 60 YEARS LATER CONSIDERING HIROSHIMA

— Victor Davis Hanson

For 60 years the United States has agonized over its unleashing of the world’s first nuclear weapon on Hiroshima on August 6, 2005. President Harry Truman’s decision to explode an atomic bomb over an ostensible military target — the headquarters of the crack Japanese 2nd Army led to well over 100,000 fatalities, the vast majority of them civilians.

Critics immediately argued that we should have first targeted the bomb on an uninhabited area as a warning for the Japanese militarists to capitulate.

Later general’s Hap Arnold, Dwight Eisenhower, Curtis LeMay, Douglas MacArthur, and Admirals William Leahy and William Halsey all reportedly felt the bomb was unnecessary, being either militarily redundant or unnecessarily punitive to an essentially defeated populace.

Yet such opponents of the decision shied away from providing a rough estimate of how many more would have died in the aggregate Americans, British, Australians, Asians, Japanese, and Russians — through conventional bombing, continuous fighting in the Pacific, amphibious invasion of the mainland, or the ongoing onslaught of the Red Army had

the conflict not come to an abrupt halt nine days later and only after a second nuclear drop on Nagasaki.

For the immediate future there were only two bombs available. Planners thought that using one for demonstration purposes (assuming that it would have worked) might have left the Americans without enough of the new arsenal to shock and awe the Japanese government should it have ridden out the first attack and then become emboldened by a hiatus, and our inability to follow up the attacks. As it was, after Hiroshima and Nagasaki, General Tojo’s followers capitulated only through the intervention of the emperor. And it was not altogether clear even then that Japanese fanatics would not attack the Americans as they steamed into Tokyo Bay for the surrender ceremonies.

Hiroshima was not the worst single-day loss of life in military history. The Tokyo fire raid on the night of March 9/10, five months earlier, was far worse, incinerating somewhere around 150,000 civilians, and burning out over 15 acres of the downtown. Indeed, “Little Boy,” the initial nuclear device that was dropped 60 years ago, was understood as the continuance of that policy of unrestricted bombing its morality already decided by the ongoing attacks on the German and Japanese cities begun at least three years earlier.

Americans of the time hardly thought the Japanese populace to be entirely innocent. The Imperial Japanese army routinely butchered civilians

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abroad some 10-15 million Chinese were eventually to perish — throughout the Pacific from the Philippines to Korea and Manchuria.

Our own generation has more recently once again grappled with Hiroshima, and so the debate rages on in the new age of terrorism and handheld weapons of mass destruction, brought home after an attack on our shores worse than Pearl Harbor with more promised to come. Perhaps the horror of the suicide bombers of Japan does not seem so distant anymore. Nor does the notion of an extreme perversion of an otherwise mainstream religion filling millions with hatred of a supposedly decadent West.

The truth, as we are reminded so often in this present conflict, is that usually in war there are no good alternatives, and leaders must select between a very bad and even worse choice. Hiroshima was the most awful option imaginable, but the other scenarios would have probably turned out even worse.

## THE AMORPHOUS WORLD OF HILLARY CLINTON

— Kathleen Parker

The conventional wisdom is that Sen. Hillary Clinton has moved right, becoming hawkish in war, socially centrist and tough on immigration as she prepares for a presidential bid in 2008.

No, wait, the conventional wisdom is that Sen. Hillary Clinton has

always been a social moderate and is just reiterating positions she's always held.

No, scratch that. The conventional wisdom is that Sen. Hillary Clinton is a socialist ideologue who secretly hates the military and wants to create a nanny state through universal health care and government-run day care.

Which of these is true principally depends on which you want to be true, as one can find some evidence for all. Clinton is, if nothing else, reliably flexible. What she personally believes seems to depend largely on the audience.

That's both the beauty and the problem of Hillary Clinton. She's whatever she needs to be to advance the only agenda to which she is unwaveringly loyal: the power of Hillary Clinton. She puts one in mind of a delighted self portraitist, always discovering new textures and palettes. And like all politicians, she benefits from the Uzi-style news cycle that numbs Americans into sensory exhaustion and glazed-eye passivity.

Illegal immigration, one of the issues Clinton glommed onto after Sept. 11, is a case in point. If you caught Clinton's WABC Radio interview back in February 2003, you heard her say that she is "you know, adamantly against illegal immigrants."

Now, if you were Sen. Hillary Clinton and were, you know, adamantly against illegal immigrants, you might

do everything in your considerable power to tighten our borders. Instead, one week after the London bombings, Clinton voted against amendments to the Department of Homeland Security spending bill that would have paid for more border agents and more detention beds in fiscal 2006.

More telling than a particular vote may be Clinton's mid-July speech to the National Council of La Raza, a Hispanic human rights organization. Speaking to thunderous applause, Clinton mentioned nary a word about immigration and all but launched into a hat dance while pushing every hot button near and dear to Hispanic (and especially Mexican) hearts.

She promised improved education and health care (hard to believe, I know) as well as help with lead paint and childhood asthma and teen acne and bad breath. OK, I'm joking on the last two, but it's still early. Meanwhile, she did vow support for the DREAM Act (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minorities Act), which, if passed, would guarantee in-state college tuition rates for the children of illegal immigrants, as well as amnesty to some 65,000 illegal immigrant students who graduate from U.S. high schools each year.

If Hillary Clinton is serious about being president of the United States, she'd better makeup her mind.

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