

**December, 2005**

### **Iraqis Need to Fend for Them Selves**

While reading the Washington Post article dated December 2, 2005, "Ramadi Insurgents Flaunt Threat," I couldn't help wondering...as I have many times before...what I would do if armed insurgents paraded their way through my town. I'd like to think that I'd get some people together and shoot the bastards down.

Of course we don't have an AK-47 in every house as is often reported to be the case in Iraq. If we did, or had something similar, we'd certainly have the fire power to go after the insurgent maggots. Accordingly, I was glad to note in the article that "... nine community leaders at the meeting in Ramadi pledged to kill any armed man who appeared on the streets of Ramadi after a withdrawal, Mihana said. Tribes of those men would be barred from seeking blood money or revenge..." The meeting referred to was held on Monday to formulate a plan for withdrawing U.S. Marines from Ramadi.

#### **Bad Washington Post Travel/Food Articles**

I read two bad travel/food related articles in the Washington Post recently:

##### **Hungry in Helsinki? Go Ahead and Chew on This**

In this article, Edward Schneider, stands up for the Finns and their native cooking against a comment by Jacques Chirac at the Gleneagle summit of the Group of Eight. In general, Chirac said that Finnish cooking was marginally better than that of Britain.

Mr. Schneider and his wife's reviews of Finnish dishes hardly tempt me to come to the table. For instance, let us try this "Vendice (or vendace -- tiny fish in the salmon family) baked into an open tart, also based on rye flour -- bland and mouth-desiccatingly dry, with the fish monumentally overcooked." Where's the Aquavit?

##### **U Rock, U Roll**

Here the author reviews the Rock and Rollness of three college towns; Charlottesville, VA (University of Virginia and birthplace of Dave Matthews, who cares about the Phil Collins wants to be style), Chapel Hill, NC, and Athens, Georgia. Nothing about the bands, the scene musical or food turned me on.

Read the articles and let me know if I am off base.

##### **Big Brother Is Watching**

Thanks to terrorism threats, perceived or real, we can expect to find ourselves in this "free, democratic" country of ours, under more and more surveillance. According to the 14 December, 2005, Washington Post article "Marshals to Patrol Land, Sea Transport, air marshalls will be "patrolling bus and train stations, ferries, and mass transit facilities across the country this week....."

They'll be looking for people acting nervous, suspicious, or trying to move out of obviously patrolled areas. This is going to be a take off on the situation where the policeman asks you why you are nervous. " Well, duh, you're talking to me!"

They will also be training transit employees to look for suspicious activity. There is a scary thought. Seriously under paid, educated, and trained airport employees psychologically profiling transit passengers. "Excuse me sir...please step out of the line...you look nervous." Well, yes, I have a big presentation to do for the board of directors and my flight is running late. Now get out of my face!"

##### **U.S. Government's Best Intentions**

According to the Washington Post on 15 December, 2005, the House of Representatives voted to support a ban on certain torture techniques.

##### **House Endorses Torture Ban**

That's all well and good. It helps to bring us in line with international standards of humanity and the Geneva Convention. But why the sudden outpouring of support? According to Rep. John P. Murtha (D-PA), "We cannot torture and still retain the moral high ground."

The Washington Post says "The vote sends a clear signal to the Bush administration that both chambers of Congress support the anti-torture legislation and want the government to adopt guidelines that aim to prevent damage to the U.S. image abroad." So if it wasn't damaging to our image, torture would be okay? And I thought we were doing the right thing for the right reasons.

##### **R Not Me**

I note that, according to my brother, my blog has tons of links, under the sections, to porn sites. I have no relationship to these links nor do I approve or condone them. I will be removing these links and searching for a way to prevent them from returning. My apologies should I have offended anyone.