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As Houston Islamic Center Burns,

Firefighter Posts, "Let it burn...block the fire hydrant."

by David Harris-Gershon

I will skip over the opening two paragraphs as I am not interested in the idiotic Houston firefighter, but I want to concentrate instead, on what Gershon said after that.

*This arson attack happened in the wake of the execution of three Muslim-Americans in Chapel Hill, a likely hate crime*

David, jumping to conclusions again are we?

According to investigators, the most likely motive for this violent act was a dispute over parking spaces. Neighbors have stated that the suspect fought with all his neighbors over parking, no matter what their race or religion. They even said that the towing company stopped responding to his requests.

On your side of the debate is the father of two of the victims. But even his own son disputes his father's assertion that this act was based on religion. Even he acknowledges the obvious facts. But you have never displayed an interest in actual facts, unless you think you can twist them to support your prejudices, as we have seen in your essays on Ferguson and Gaza ... so why change now.

*which has shaken a Muslim-American community already reeling from an uptick in anti-Muslim hate crimes and speech since the premier* [SIC] *of American Sniper.*

David, you wouldn't happen to have supporting data for that claim would you?

I'm not saying you're wrong, but I would like to see evidence before accepting your claim.

*Of course, this uptick must be placed within the backdrop of growing Islamophobia which continues to spread throughout American society since 9/11.*

David, according to Dictionary.com, Islamophobia is defined as: "Hatred or fear of Muslims or of their politics or culture."

Liberals use the word "Islamophobia" as an insult, the same way they use the word "Homophobia." But the definition says nothing about whether that fear is justified or not. If that fear is justified, then calling those with whom you disagree "Islamophobic" is nothing more than childish name-calling. Only if that fear is not justified, as in the case of homosexuals, can it be equated with Homophobic and be used as an insult.

*Indeed, in the 13 years since 9/11, anti-Muslim hate crimes have been occurring at a steady and alarming rate.*

David, if you tune in to news from around the world you might discover that Muslim hate crimes have also been occurring at a steady and alarming rate. In fact, ISIS is an entire army of barbaric, murderous savages who kill in the name of Islam ...

not in the name of parking spaces.

*Today, Muslim-Americans are five times more likely to be targeted for such a crime than before the "war on terror" and the Islamophobia which now runs rampant in America.*

David, to blind yourself to the horrors of radical Islam, you would have to stab yourself in the eyes with a table fork.

Apparently, this is something you have already done.

David, there is a reason why Americans are not "Buddhaphobic."

It is because they have little reason to be.

And there is a reason why many Americans are Islamophobic. It is because, if they watch the news and read about world events ... they have good reason to be.

Being Islamophobic is not the insult you seem to think it is, David.

*The figures shown above are believed to be drastically underrepresented, since reporting is voluntary and the Muslim-American community is deeply wary of law enforcement.*

Well David, it is obvious that you desperately want the data to show rampant Islamophobia. But since it doesn't, you simply claim that it exists, and provide mysterious, unverifiable excuses for why the numbers don't back you up. That is so convenient.

*Is it any wonder, given that innocent Muslim citizens and communities have been the target of illegal spying and surveillance by U.S. police*

David, if the spying and surveillance were illegal then it should be handled by our judicial system. Maybe a more accurate statement would have included your wish that the spying and surveillance be made illegal?

*and are routinely profiled on the streets and in airports?*

David, profiling is how police officers operate. When they get a call of a "black man in his mid-twenties" they don't start pulling over old ladies, Muslims, or long-haired hippies; they use the profile they were given and focus on black men who appear to be in their mid-twenties. In airports, it doesn't make much sense to strip search 80-year-old disabled women, while ignoring the guy standing behind her with the bushy beard, bulge in his waistband, and wearing a "Death to America" T-shirt.

*Muslim-Americans in Houston, shaken by this attack, were already shaken not just by the Chapel Hill shooting, but by the bigoted rush of white Americans arguing that the execution of three Muslim-Americans was really just about a parking dispute.*

David, so anyone who ignores the facts as given by all the neighbors and witnesses, and doesn't buy into your theory ...

is a bigot?

Well, I guess that's what you just said, wasn't it?

*They were already shaken because they know to be true what* [SIC] *family of the victims understand: that this wasn't about parking, but the same hatred which ignited their place of worship in Houston.*

David, when you referred to the "family" you only used the opinion of the father, who supports your belief. You completely ignored his son's statement to the contrary.

That isn't very honest reporting David. In fact, I would say that if Fox News gets ahold of this essay ... you might be looking at a job offer.

*They were already shaken by the brutality of the crime in Chapel Hill — leaked information indicates the three young citizens were lined up on the ground, kneeling, and shot in the back of their heads execution style. And they were already shaken knowing that, had a Muslim perpetrated this crime, it would have been proclaimed a terror attack.*

David, if the evidence indicated a terror attack, like at Fort Hood, then yes. If the evidence did not indicate a terror attack, like at Chapel Hill, then no.

David, see how simple it is ... when you are honest?

No. I guess you don't.

*Erica Williams Simon addressed this hate in a spot-on commentary on the 'parking dispute' fervor:*

David, "spot-on" must mean she agrees with you. Okay, let's hear it.

*I want to someday live in a world where, when a senseless thing like this happens, thinking that bias was the cause seems as absurd as a parking dispute. I want to live in a world where we all feel the safety, community and love that 19-year-old Abu-Salha felt when she told public radio in an interview last summer: “It doesn’t matter where you come from. There’s so many different people from so many different places of different backgrounds and religions. But here we’re all one — one culture.”*

David, that world is a long way off. One reason is that we are heading in the wrong direction. For example, our unofficial motto used to be "E Pluribus Unum" (out of many ... one). Then Christians changed it to "In God We Trust" which immediately excluded 25% of all Americans. See the problem, David?

We are going the wrong way; and as long as terrorist apologists, like you, keep stoking the flames instead of facing, and dealing with the real problems ... things will not likely get much better.

*But until that day, crimes that look, smell and feel like hate will continue to be called hate by those who regularly experience hate.*

David, and by people like you who feed on hate, and cultivate that hate, and spread that hate ... even when the facts point in another direction.

*And for those who don’t understand that experience, a simple suggestion:*

*As investigators work to solve the crime, do something to solve the hate.*

David, one thing that could be done, would be if someone could get a restraining order, keeping you at least 100 feet away from any computer keyboard.

*Actively work to change the unwelcoming, dangerous and prejudiced society that Muslim Americans – and many others – live and die in every single day.*

David, you are too blind to see that *you* are one of the reasons we all have to live in such a cesspool. Apologizing for terrorists, by pointing to good people of the same faith (like the victims at Chapel Hill) does nothing to solve the problem of religious violence. You lack the courage to face violent, evil thugs; so you compensate for that flaw by attacking those who do have the courage, because you know you have nothing to fear from them.

*That will be an honor to these victims. That will be an honor to us all.*

David, I've already starting working on the restraining order.

You can expect a visit from the Marshalls, probably by next week, to confiscate your keyboard.

*The first thing we must do to 'solve the hate' is to admit, loudly and fervently, that this hate exists.*

David, we all know that hate exists. The KKK still exists. Republicans still exist. But the problem in this case is that you ignored facts that didn't support your presupposition. This was no different from your essay supporting the terrorist organization, Hamas. You will only accept those facts which help you promote your ideology.

David, you have all the makings of a huge star ... at Fox News.

*And that this hatred is perpetrated by the the* [SIC] *dehumanization of Muslim-Americans in the media, on the screen, and in society at large.*

David, radical Muslims have dehumanized themselves by murdering thousands of civilians in the most brutal fashion (most of them Muslims). Reporting these atrocities is not dehumanizing them ... it is exposing them for the monsters they truly are.

David, if you ever get your head screwed on straight (which is highly doubtful) then maybe you can start working on creating a better world, instead of contributing to the demise of this one.

*Only then will Mosques stop burning.*

David, give us a list of Mosques that have been burned. Oh that's right, there is a long list of them aren't there?

Most of them burned ... by Muslims.

And then I'll give you a list of all the beheadings and bombings perpetrated by Muslims - and we'll see who runs out first ... sound fair?

I didn't think so.

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2015/02/14/1364404/-As-Houston-Islamic-Center-Burns-Firefighter-Posts-Let-it-burn-block-the-fire-hydrant?detail=email>

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THE SCIENCE SEGMENT

Clocks become ever more accurate

Researchers have demonstrated two cryogenically-cooled optical lattice clocks that can be synchronized to an amazing degree: they would only go out of sync by one second in 16 billion years. That is greater than the age of the universe, and is nearly 1,000 times more precise than the current international timekeeping standard cesium atomic clock.

The development of this clock could be pivotal in opening the path to a long-held dream, clock-based geodesy, or as it is also known, relativistic geodesy. It is a new way of making measurements of the shape of the Earth by taking advantage of Einstein's general theory of relativity. Clocks in a strong gravitational field will tick more slowly than those in a weaker one. As a result, a clock that is located slightly further away from the center of the Earth will run a little faster than one closer to the center.

Optical lattice clocks are so fantastically precise that they offer the prospect of creating a new role for clocks beyond their traditional role as timekeepers by making measurements of the strength of the gravitational potential at different locations in the Earth and at different times. This would make it possible to use clocks to take measurements of how different parts of the Earth are moving, upward or downward, relative to other parts, and thus could contribute to a better understanding of geological processes such as those that lead to earthquakes.

To perform the feat, the group developed two optical lattice clocks, with atoms of strontium held in a laser-generated optical lattice at a special wavelength, that allows precise measurement. At this wavelength, the laser-generated optical lattice does not affect the atoms. To eliminate perturbations from one of the principle sources of disturbances for the experiments, blackbody radiation, the containers were cooled to about -180 degrees Celsius using a special refrigerator, and the insides were coated in black to prevent reflections from even the small amount of light seeping into the experiment through tiny holes that were opened to allow in the atoms, and the lasers necessary to trap them. The strontium atoms were then inserted into the optical lattice, and the electronic transition frequency was compared between the two clocks for a period of a month.

It could have useful applications, since tiny fluctuations in gravitational potential could be used to detect underground resources, underground spaces, and the movement of lava. Researchers also hope that in the future, this will accelerate the movement toward a new definition of the international second, based on optical lattice clocks, to an even more stringent standard than the current definition of the second, which is based on cesium oscillation.

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FAMOUS QUOTES

Golda Meir (1898 – 1978) 80 years

She was an Israeli teacher and politician. and the fourth Prime Minister of Israel. After serving as the Minister of Labor and the Foreign Minister, Meir was elected as the fourth Prime Minister of Israel in 1969. Israel's first, and the world's fourth, woman to hold such an office. She was often portrayed as the "strong-willed, straight-talking grandmother of the Jewish people." Meir resigned as prime minister in 1974, the year following the Yom Kippur War. She died in 1978 of lymphoma.

“We can forgive the Arabs for killing our children.

We cannot forgive them for forcing us to kill their children.

We will only have peace with the Arabs

when they love their children more than they hate us.”