

# Balkinization

Sunday, April 08, 2007

## Another Enemy of the People?

Mark Graber

I am posting the below with the permission of Professor Walter F. Murphy, emeritus of Princeton University. For those who do not know, Professor Murphy is easily the most distinguished scholar of public law in political science. His works on both constitutional theory and judicial behavior are classics in the field. Bluntly, legal scholarship that does not engage many themes in his book, briefly noted below, Constitutional Democracy, may be legal, but cannot be said to be scholarship. As interesting, for present purposes, readers of the book will discover that Murphy is hardly a conventional political or legal liberal. While he holds some opinions, most notably on welfare, similar to opinions held on the political left, he is a sharp critic of ROE V. WADE, and supported the Alito nomination. Apparently these credentials and others noted below are no longer sufficient to prevent one from becoming an enemy of the people.

"On 1 March 07, I was scheduled to fly on American Airlines to Newark, NJ, to attend an academic conference at Princeton University, designed to focus on my latest scholarly book, Constitutional Democracy, published by Johns Hopkins University Press this past Thanksgiving."

"When I tried to use the curb-side check in at the Sunport, I was denied a boarding pass because I was on the Terrorist Watch list. I was instructed to go inside and talk to a clerk. At this point, I should note that I am not only the McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence (emeritus) but also a retired Marine colonel. I fought in the Korean War as a young lieutenant, was wounded, and decorated for heroism. I remained a professional soldier for more than five years and then accepted a commission as a reserve officer, serving for an additional 19 years."

"I presented my credentials from the Marine Corps to a very polite clerk for American Airlines. One of the two people to whom I talked asked a question and offered a frightening comment: "Have you been in any peace marches? We ban a lot of people from flying because of that." I explained that I had not so marched but had, in September, 2006, given a lecture at Princeton, televised and put on the Web, highly critical of George Bush for his many violations of the Constitution. "That'll do it," the man said. "

"After carefully examining my credentials, the clerk asked if he could take them to TSA officials. I agreed. He returned about ten minutes later and said I could have a boarding pass, but added: "I must warn you, they=re going to ransack your luggage." On my return flight, I had no problem with obtaining a boarding pass, but my luggage was "lost." Airlines do lose a lot of luggage and this "loss" could have been a mere coincidence. In light of previous events, however, I'm a tad skeptical."

"I confess to having been furious that any American citizen would be singled out for governmental harassment because he or she criticized any elected official, Democrat or Republican. That harassment is, in and of itself, a flagrant violation not only of the First Amendment but also of our entire scheme of constitutional government. This effort to punish a critic states my lecture's argument far more eloquently and forcefully than I ever could. Further, that an administration headed by two men who had "had other priorities" than to risk their own lives when their turn to fight for their country came up, should brand as a threat to the United States a person who did not run away but stood up and fought for his country and was wounded in battle, goes beyond the outrageous. Although less lethal, it is of the same evil ilk as punishing Ambassador Joseph Wilson for criticizing Bush's false claims by "outing" his wife, Valerie Plaine, thereby putting at risk her life as well as the lives of many people with whom she had had contact as an agent of the CIA. ..."

"I have a personal stake here, but so do all Americans who take their political system seriously. Thus I hope you and your colleagues will take some positive action to bring the Administration's conduct to the attention of a far larger, and more influential, audience than I could hope to reach. "

Posted 11:17 AM by Mark Graber [link]

## Comments:

If true, this is pretty outrageous.

Maybe someone can convince the Dems to investigate something worthwhile like this rather than the President's hiring or firing of his subordinates.

# posted by [Bart DePalma](#) : 11:33 AM

-

This post has been removed by the author.

# posted by [Someone](#) : 12:18 PM

-

I agree that if true, its ridiculous and the people should be fired.

[Front page](#)  
[Balkin.com](#)

Balkinization  
an unanticipated  
consequence of  
Jack M. Balkin

E-mail:  
*Jack Balkin:*  
jackbalkin at  
yahoo.com  
*Ian Ayres:*  
ian.ayres at yale.edu  
*Lee Epstein*  
lee-epstein at  
northwestern.edu  
*Mark Graber:*  
mgraber at  
law.umaryland.edu  
*Stephen Griffin*  
sgriffin at tulane.edu  
*Scott Horton*  
shorto at  
law.columbia.edu  
*Andrew Koppelman*  
akoppelman at  
law.northwestern.edu  
*Marty Lederman:*  
marty.lederman at  
comcast.net  
*Sanford Levinson*  
slevinson at  
law.utexas.edu  
*David Luban*  
david.luban at  
gmail.com  
*Kim Scheppele:*  
kimlane at  
princeton.edu  
*Dan Solove:*  
dsolove at  
law.gwu.edu  
*Brian Tamanaha:*  
tamanahb at  
stjohns.edu  
*Mark Tushnet:*  
mtushnet at  
law.harvard.edu

[The Anti-Torture  
Memos: Balkinization  
Posts on Torture,  
Interrogation,  
Detention, War  
Powers, and OLC](#)

[The Anti-Torture  
Memos \(arranged by  
topic\)](#)

Recent Posts

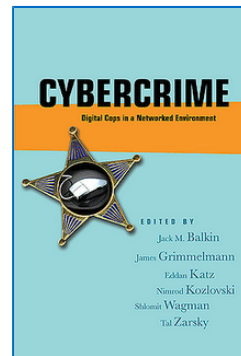
[Another Enemy of  
the People?](#)



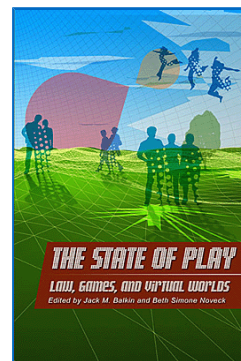
Just A Few Blogs

[ACS Weblog](#)  
[The Agonist](#)  
[Roger Ailes](#)  
[Alas, a Blog](#)  
[Eric Alterman](#)  
[Althouse](#)  
[Arts and Letters Daily](#)  
[Atrios \(Eschaton\)](#)  
[Bad Attitudes](#)  
[Bag and Baggage](#)  
[Ted Barlow](#)  
[Becker-Posner Blog](#)  
[Michael Bérubé](#)  
[Blackprof.com](#)  
[The Blotter](#)  
[Body and Soul](#)  
[The Buck Stops Here](#)  
[Buzzflash.com](#)  
[Buzz Machine](#)  
[CalPundit](#)  
[Cairns \(Beth Noveck\)](#)  
[Capitol Hill Blue](#)  
[Cato at Liberty](#)

Books by Balkinization  
Bloggers



[Jack M. Balkin, James  
Grimmelmann, Eddan Katz,  
Nimrod Kozlovski, Shlomit  
Wagman and Tal Zarsky,  
eds., Cybercrime: Digital  
Cops in a Networked  
Environment \(N.Y.U. Press  
2007\)](#)



[Jack M. Balkin and Beth  
Simone Noveck, The State of  
Play: Law, Games, and  
Virtual Worlds \(N.Y.U. Press  
2006\)](#)



[Andrew Koppelman, Same  
Sex, Different States: When  
Same-Sex Marriages Cross  
State Lines \(Yale University  
Press 2006\)](#)

[Anupam Chander](#)  
[Cobb, the Blog](#)  
[Juan Cole \(Informed Comment\)](#)  
[Concurring Opinions](#)  
[Connected Selves](#)  
[Cooped Up \(Jeff Cooper\)](#)  
[Copyfight](#)  
[Corante](#)  
[Corrente](#)  
[Susan Crawford blog](#)  
[Crescat Sententia](#)  
[Crooked Timber](#)  
[Cursor.org](#)  
[Daily Howler](#)  
[Daily Kos](#)  
[Brad DeLong](#)  
[Demosthenes](#)  
[Digby \(Hullabaloo\)](#)  
[Discriminations](#)  
[Dispatches from the Culture Wars](#)  
[Donkey Rising \(Emerging Democratic Majority\)](#)  
[Daniel Drezner](#)  
[Kevin Drum \(Political Animal\)](#)  
[Tim Dunlop \(The Road to Surfdom\)](#)  
[Electrolite](#)  
[En Banc](#)  
[Ernie the Attorney](#)  
[Fafblog](#)  
[Feminist Law Professors](#)  
[Michael Froomkin \(Discourse.net\)](#)  
[Glenn Greenwald](#)  
[GlennReynolds.com](#)  
[The Hamster](#)  
[Rick Hasen \(Election Law\)](#)  
[History News Network](#)  
[How Appealing](#)  
[Ignatz \(Sam Heidman\)](#)  
[The Importance of \(Ernie Miller\)](#)  
[Infolaw](#)  
[Instapundit](#)  
[Intel Dump \(Phil Carter\)](#)  
[International Economic Law and Policy Blog](#)  
[Jacob Levy](#)  
[Jesus' General Jurisdynamics](#)  
[Kausfiles](#)  
[Orin Kerr](#)  
[Kicking Ass](#)  
[The Kitchen Cabinet](#)  
[Mark Kleiman](#)  
[Law of War \(Kenneth Anderson\)](#)  
[Law Blog Central](#)  
[Law Blog Central](#)  
[Orbiter](#)  
[LawCulture](#)  
[Lawmeme](#)  
[Left2Right](#)  
[Legal Fiction](#)  
[The Lefty Directory](#)  
[Larry Lessig](#)  
[Lawyers, Guns and Money](#)  
[Liberal Oasis](#)  
[Brian Leiter's Law School Reports](#)  
[The Leiter Reports](#)  
[Many to Many \(Clay Shirky\)](#)  
[Marginal Revolution](#)  
[Maxspeak](#)  
[Memeorandum](#)  
[Metafilter](#)  
[Mirror of Justice](#)  
[Chris Mooney \(The Intersection\)](#)  
[MyDD](#)  
[Newseum](#)  
[The News Dissector \(Mediachannel.org\)](#)  
[No More Mister Nice Blog](#)  
[Open University \(The New Republic\)](#)  
[Opening Argument](#)  
[Orcinus](#)  
[Jack O'Toole](#)  
[Our Congress](#)  
[Pandagon](#)  
[Passport \(Foreign Policy\)](#)  
[The Plank \(The New Republic\)](#)  
[Political Theory Daily Review](#)

That said, I am VERY SKEPTICAL -- at least that it happened like that.

I think we all agree that someone shouldn't be on a terrorist watch list even if they participated in a peace march.

But, I find it very difficult to believe that people are added solely because of that. For example, some individuals associated with the sponsors of the so-called "peace marches" are affiliated with less than reputable organization that might warrant scrutiny. But more likely, he was added as a mistake -- which seems to happen far too often.

In the grand list of opponents to the administration, I'm sure the professor with his one "televised" and web available speech is FAR, FAR down the list. If they were going to start using such measures, there are hundreds of people that would be far more likely to have this done to them.

Prognosis: BDS (Bush Derangement Syndrome) or an accident.

p.s. Darn, I knew there was a conspiracy to "lose" luggage, now it all makes sense.  
 # posted by [Someone](#) : 12:19 PM

-

Okay, this is wierd. I sign into my "humblelawstudent" account, and it randomly seems to list my name as "Someone" when I post.  
 # posted by [Someone](#) : 12:23 PM

-

*Although less lethal, it is of the same evil ilk as punishing Ambassador Joseph Wilson for criticizing Bush's false claims by "outing" his wife, Valerie Plaine, thereby putting at risk her life as well as the lives of many people with whom she had had contact as an agent of the CIA.*

Repeating this lie and using it as an analogy hardly lends the professor credibility in his claim against the TSA.

Mr. Fitzgerald's [investigation](#) long ago reported that war critic Richard Armitage working at the State Department inadvertently revealed Plame's involvement with the Wilson trip to Niger over two weeks before the Wilson op-ed piece. Multiple reporters were pursuing this story in the interim between the Armitage leak and the Wilson op-ed.

# posted by [Bart DePalma](#) : 1:30 PM

-

"Bart" DePalma tries the "fallacy of bifurcation" once again:

*Maybe someone can convince the Dems to investigate something worthwhile like this rather than the President's hiring or firing of his subordinates.*

Who says we need to choose, "Bart"? It's kind of like the intercourse between you and me here, "Bart": You keep shovelling out falsehoods, miscites, and specious logic by the ton, and there's gonna be lots of responses from me. Keep it down to one a day, and I can manage with one response.

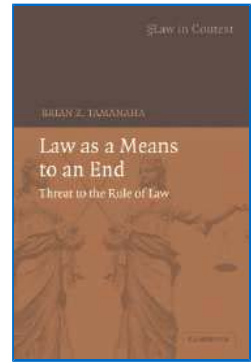
Similarly with the maladministration: They want only *one* investigation? Well, then stop breaking or circumventing so many laws and prudent policy practises....

Cheers,  
 # posted by [Arne Langsetmo](#) : 2:38 PM

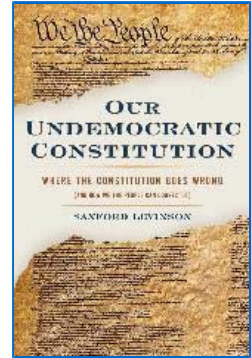
-

There is a podcast of the Sunday September 19, 2006 Madison lecture Walter Murphy delivered at Princeton entitled Wanted Constitution Dead or Alive. Besides the rhetorical flourish of that talk, perhaps to be expected in a speech to youthful lawstudents to entice their interest, there is reportage on the internet of the revered emeritus prof Murphy's having taken public exception to the policies that expanded government eavesdropping. That speech occurred, as well while the drubbing in the election the president's party endured was still a stinging memory. Additionally, the processes which produced the MCA rewrite of DTA were churning over those few weeks following the speech until the end of that year of 2006. Because of my own business entity's configuration limitations, I was reluctant to reset preferences to install the software for listening to the podcast of the speech, but it is archived, I believe, [there](#). Which is far from aligning my own views with TSA's on the lost luggage question and surrounding imputations echoed in the post by the host author, above. Rather, it is likely, from my perspective, that the government's profiling systems were working as designed when they netted the esteemed emeritus professor; that computer likely had no knowledge that the administration, rather than being suspicious of the libertarian streak in this renowned and conservative professor, should have added an expedited processing attribute to the plus side of his profile, given his historical efforts to train the conservative now Associate Justice on the US Supreme Court, Samuel Alito. It is unfortunate that cyberprocesses are so humiliating and dehumanizing, and that the professor was disturbed in his travel and flagged as suspicious by the software. I suspect it is a case of garbage-in, garbage-out; that the humans who examined prof Murphy's records missed his place of respect in the legal community. Further, if one is capable of stripping the partisanship of the current congressional oversight committee investigations from their immediate effects in DoJ, it seems that the transitory result of serving as a balance for processes that need refinement is opportune and welcome in circles which extend far beyond government and academia. Yet, I have a tendency to see beyond the incidents and issues, the mechanics and quotidian results; instead I favor examination of process. Indeed, much of the message which Murphy conveys has to do with keeping governance within its definitions. Regrettably, much of the defense of the country in facing the nebulous stateless ideologic problems posed by various terrorists, sacrificed chinks of the bill of rights in order to plug gaps quickly, and deal with due process in followup. The difficult transom to pass through is just this followthrough, however; because, having set aside the checks and balances in order to achieve instantaneously effective results, there is a challenge in dislodging entrenched interests of both bureaucratic and volatile political sorts, as power, like nature, abhors a vacuum, and attempts to fill that unclaimed territory. The constitutional refinements which Murphy holds dear are important. Putting the most optimistic facade on the story, I would hope the glitch merely was a bulk processing of biographical information fed into a software filter that knew only the instructions to which it was programmed. So far, we have yet to invent the perfect constitutional law machine.

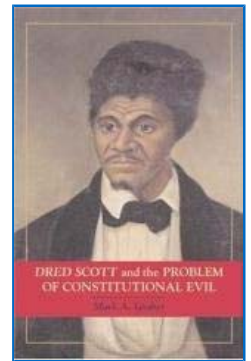
# posted by [John Lopresti](#) : 2:39 PM



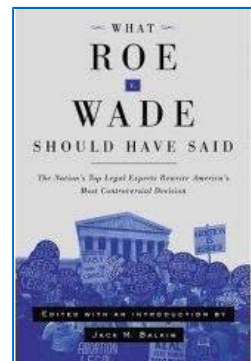
[Brian Tamanaha, Law as a Means to an End \(Cambridge University Press 2006\)](#)



[Sanford Levinson, Our Undemocratic Constitution \(Oxford University Press 2006\)](#)



[Mark Graber, Dred Scott and the Problem of Constitutional Evil \(Cambridge University Press 2006\)](#)



[Jack M. Balkin, ed., What Roe v. Wade Should Have Said \(N.Y.U. Press 2005\)](#)

[Political Wire \(Taegan Goddard\)](#)  
[The Poor Man](#)  
[Virginia Postrel](#)  
[Prawfsblawg](#)  
[Jonathan Rauch](#)  
[Raw Story](#)  
[Redstate](#)  
[Reporters Committee](#)  
[For Freedom of the Press](#)  
[Reproductive Rights Blog](#)  
[Respectful of Otters](#)  
[The Rittenhouse](#)  
[Review](#)  
[SCOTUS Blog](#)  
[SCT Nomination blog](#)  
[Seeing the Forest](#)  
[Clay Shirky](#)  
[The Shifted Librarian](#)  
[The Situationist](#)  
[Larry Solum \(Legal Theory\)](#)  
[Andrew Sullivan](#)  
[Tacitus](#)  
[Talking Points Memo](#)  
[TPM Cafe](#)  
[TPMmuckraker.com](#)  
[Talk Left](#)  
[Tapped](#)  
[Tbogg](#)  
[Tech Central Station](#)  
[The Paper Chase \(Jurist\)](#)  
[Tom Paine](#)  
[Tom Tomorrow \(This Modern World\)](#)  
[The Truth Laid Bear](#)  
[Eve Tushnet](#)  
[Uggabugga](#)  
[University of Chicago Law School Faculty Blog](#)  
[Unqualified Offerings](#)  
[The Volokh Conspiracy](#)  
[War and Piece \(Laura Rozen\)](#)  
[Wampum](#)  
[Whiskey Bar \(Billmon\)](#)  
[Oliver Willis](#)  
[Wonkette](#)  
[Matthew Yglesias \(TPM Cafe site\)](#)  
[Matthew Yglesias \(personal site\)](#)  
[Yin](#)

someone:

*In the grand list of opponents to the administration, I'm sure the professor with his one "televised" and web available speech is FAR, FAR down the list....*

It's a *big* list. ;-) )

Don't look now but....

Cheers,

# posted by [Arne Langsetmo](#) : 2:40 PM

-

"Bart" DePalma:

*Mr. Fitzgerald's investigation long ago reported that war critic Richard Armitage working at the State Department inadvertently revealed Plame's involvement with the Wilson trip to Niger over two weeks before the Wilson op-ed piece. Multiple reporters were pursuing this story in the interim between the Armitage leak and the Wilson op-ed.*

Do you deny that Plame was outed? Do you deny that the maladministration did it? Do you deny that Libby and Rove *independently* leaked this information, *before* Plame was publicly outed?

I just wanna know why Rove still has a *job*, much less security clearance. The answer, of course, is that the maladministration doesn't care about law-breaking ... or anything else. All it cares about is protecting its *own* a\$\$.

Cheers,

# posted by [Arne Langsetmo](#) : 2:45 PM

-

Arne Langsetmo said...

"Bart" DePalma: Mr. Fitzgerald's investigation long ago reported that war critic Richard Armitage working at the State Department inadvertently revealed Plame's involvement with the Wilson trip to Niger over two weeks before the Wilson op-ed piece. Multiple reporters were pursuing this story in the interim between the Armitage leak and the Wilson op-ed.

*Do you deny that Plame was outed?*

In the manner you and the Professor suggest, yes. No one "outed" Plame to gain any sort of political revenge against Wilson. That is simply another in a long line of Mr. Wilson's self serving lies.

*Do you deny that the maladministration did it? Do you deny that Libby and Rove independently leaked this information, before Plame was publicly outed?*

Yes. Leaks are an affirmative act where the source contacts the reporter to anonymously reveal information to achieve the purpose of the leaker. In this case, Novak discovered Plame's connection with the Niger trip inadvertently by interviewing Armitage and then other reporters learned of this connection and contacted Rove and Libby to confirm the story.

# posted by [Bart DePalma](#) : 3:04 PM

-

Single incidents don't tell me much, esp. secondhand, nor does single comments, but 'someone' does interest me a bit.

"I think we all agree that someone shouldn't be on a terrorist watch list even if they participated in a peace march."

Well, sure, "even if" ... I will try not to be sarcastic here since sadly "we all" is probably being generous.

"affiliated with less than reputable organization that might warrant scrutiny"

I'm not sure what "affiliated" and "less than reputable" means. I guess avoiding events/marches sponsored by them might be a good thing for travelers.

The "that would do it" bit mentioned in the main post is a flag that incompetence is a useful thing. Imagine if the 'maladministration' (nice one) was able to do all this damage in a more skillful fashion. Ouchie.

# posted by [Joe](#) : 3:26 PM

-

Everybody knows that Valerie Plame sent her lucky-ducky husband Joseph Wilson on a vacation junket to Niger. That trip was a completely government-funded boondoggle. Likely as not, Joseph Wilson spent his entire trip sipping cool juices on the verandas of colonial villas while being fanned by the lovely women of Niger. What's some "former ambassador" going to know about gather intelligence? Nothing, that's what. Hence the juices and gals.

Oh, and every right-thinking person knows that Richard Armitage unknowingly and without the slightest criminal intent let slip Valerie Plame's name a good, you know, 3-9 days before His Hoary Eminence Robert Novak ever heard about her from that innocent victim of a partisan witchhunt Scooter Libby.

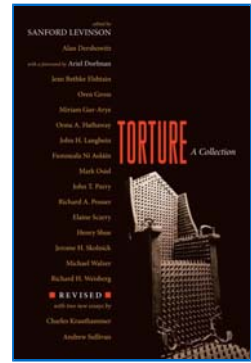
# posted by [Bart Depalma Jr.](#) : 3:57 PM

-

*Although less lethal, it is of the same evil ilk as punishing Ambassador Joseph Wilson for criticizing Bush's false claims by "outing" his wife, Valerie Plaine*

I'd have a bit more respect for the good professor if he was not repeating long disproven nonsense such as this. It makes me wonder about his concern for the facts in other cases, such as his encounter with the TSA.

# posted by [flenser](#) : 4:39 PM



[Sanford Levinson, ed., Torture: A Collection \(Oxford University Press 2004\)](#)

- Archives -

[Balkin.com homepage](#)  
[Bibliography](#)  
[Conlaw.net](#)  
[Cultural Software](#)  
[Writings](#)  
[Opeds](#)  
[The Information Society Project](#)  
[BrownvBoard.com](#)  
[Useful Links](#)  
[Syllabi and Exams](#)

Your Choice of Feeds

1. [XML](#) powered by [Listed @ 2RSS.com](#)

2. [Atom Feed](#)

3. [SUB](#) [BLOGLINES](#)

-  
*One of the two people to whom I talked asked a question and offered a frightening comment: "Have you been in any peace marches? We ban a lot of people from flying because of that." I explained that I had not so marched but had, in September, 2006, given a lecture at Princeton, televised and put on the Web, highly critical of George Bush for his many violations of the Constitution. "That'll do it," the man said.*

That part of the story seems a little over the top to me. I just can't imagine anyone affiliated with the airlines or with security saying "we ban a lot of people from flying because of that." I don't think they would have a job for very long, and for that reason, I don't believe it was said. It makes the whole story somewhat unbelievable, IMHO. Not to say it didn't happen, but it is hard to believe.

# posted by [Allen](#) : 5:12 PM

-  
*I'd have a bit more respect for the good professor if he was not repeating long disproven nonsense such as this. It makes me wonder about his concern for the facts in other cases, such as his encounter with the TSA.*

I'm curious where and how you believe that "this" -- i.e., the outing of Plame in order to punish Wilson for his criticisms of the Administration -- was "disproven".

# posted by [Mark Field](#) : 5:49 PM

-  
Mr. depalma

If you are so knowledgeable of the Plame case then perhaps you also know that Valerie Wilson DID NOT send her husband to Niger. She was asked to sound him out about going by other CIA officials.

Wilson had experience in Niger and it was thought he would be able to obtain any information about Iraq trying to buy yellow cake.

You must also know Valerie Wilson was pregnant at the time and would not want her husband gone if she could help it.

You would also be knowledgeable of how it came to be perceived that she sent her husband on the trip..a perception not investigated by either Rove or Cheney they just decided using this to discredit Wilson was more important than being truthful...something they excel at.

It appears you have selectively studied the case and the facts.

# posted by [Legerdmain](#) : 6:22 PM

-  
Mark Field said...

*I'm curious where and how you believe that "this" -- i.e., the outing of Plame in order to punish Wilson for his criticisms of the Administration -- was "disproven".*

Novak and his colleagues discovered the information about Plame weeks before Wilson lied in his NYT op-ed about finding no evidence in Niger that Iraq was seeking to buy uranium.

Novak and his colleges initiated the contacts with the Bush Administration, not the other way around.

Novak's initial source was a state department war critic who had no ax to grind with Wilson.

# posted by [Bart DePalma](#) : 7:13 PM

-  
Legerdmain said...

*Mr. depalma, If you are so knowledgeable of the Plame case then perhaps you also know that Valerie Wilson DID NOT send her husband to Niger. She was asked to sound him out about going by other CIA officials.*

This is in dispute. The initial CIA source who claimed that Plame recommended her husband changed his story later on. Plame did not comment on her role for a long time and has recently testified to Congress under oath that she did not recommend Wilson.

In any case, what got the VP's office so ticked off was that Wilson lied about being sent by the VP's office to Niger. Why would Wilson make up this story if not to protect the person which did send him? If that person was a simple functionary at the CIA WMD office, the lie makes no sense. If it was a case of nepotism by his wife, the lie makes much more sense.

*Wilson had experience in Niger and it was thought he would be able to obtain any information about Iraq trying to buy yellow cake.*

Wilson was and is a political operative who had no background in WMD. The fact that Wilson was unqualified for the job and a Dem political operative was what caused Novak to wonder why the Bushies would have sent Wilson in the first place.

*You must also know Valerie Wilson was pregnant at the time and would not want her husband gone if she could help it.*

Right. And that is why she either recommended Wilson or at the very least helped recruit him.

You need to take what Wilson and Plame have with an enormous grain of salt.

Wilson is a political partisan with a long track record of self serving lies.

Plame has been assisting him in this smear campaign so her political motives are also suspect.

Plame and Wilson are parties to a lawsuit against members of the Bush Administration seeking money damages.

# posted by [Bart DePalma](#) : 7:32 PM

-  
*I'm curious where and how you believe that "this" -- i.e., the outing of Plame in order to punish Wilson for his criticisms of the Administration -- was "disproven".*

# posted by [Mark Field](#)

Flenser has Stop The ACLU on his blogroll and reads The Anchoress.

Don't wear all black in D.C.

[FBI Collected Intel on War Protesters in D.C., Lied About It](#)

Where were all these skeptics back in 2003 before we invaded Iraq illegally based on lies?

El Cid's advice to us over at Glenn Greenwald's regarding Shooter 242, Bart's smarter brother:

*[Is this what people need to be filling up these pages with?](#) Debating with someone who actually perceives a risk that the U.S. is in danger of 'surrendering' to an Islamic Caliphate and we risk in 50 years being forced to pray to Mecca 5 times a day?*

*If someone here raises a truly interesting point worthy of debate, then by all means, debate it.*

*But if someone declares in a snide aside that "What are you liberals going to do when the mole-men hatch from their lava eggs and start forcing the human women to bear their larval children?", do the readers of this blog really have to fill up 50 pages to respond to such mentally ill paranoia?*

Heh.

# posted by [JT Davis](#) : 7:37 PM

-

bart, the dems will do you a big solid and investigate this along with all the other crime your "leaders" have engaged in, including stolen elections. Very few will escape without the moron-in-chief exercising pardon powers that won't extend to himself. You're in for a bad time, as supporters of criminals and torturers should be.

# posted by [Ron](#) : 7:38 PM

-

People should know that there is no purpose served in discussing these things with bart depalma. Clearly he suffers from a personality disorder that prevents him from noticing obvious things. He could probably be standing on a beach and insist that there was no ocean.

I don't quite understand why he thinks "hiring or firing" subordinates shouldn't be of interest to Congress, when the people who tasked to defend these decisions have repeatedly lied to Congress. Lying to Congress is a crime, after all.

It is interesting to see somebody so blithely uninterested in the idea that a US federal prosecutor could be fired because he refuses to engage in politically-motivated prosecutions during election season, or another prosecutor fired because she has been systematically indicting and convicting a Republican congressman and his cronies. But depalma is an intellectual lightweight. He problem thinks that the prosecutors were fired because of performance issues.

It's not an explanation that bears up under scrutiny, but scrutiny is not something that a person like mr. deplama does well.

# posted by [whispers](#) : 8:07 PM

-

depalma

Wilson was sent to Niger to investigate yellowcake sales not WMDs, ust yellowcake. He is and was familiar with Niger since all his diplomatic postings were in Africa.

I am also curious as to why a career CIA officer whose current job at the time of your nepotism accusation was about WMDs would send her husband on a boondoggle to Africa? I know, even though she had been covert for many years she was secretly plotting the destruction of the Bush administration.

Do you know why Cheney and Rove jumped on the boondoggle angle? Because someone from another agency wrote a memo about the Joe wilson debriefing meeting at the CIA. This guy came in late and asked who had chaired the meeting and was told Wilson's wife introduced him...which it turned out is all she did as she left and went back to her job.

You have nothing credible to substantiate your allegations but like so many others it isn't a dispassionate analysis of facts you are interested in, just dogma and agenda.

# posted by [Legerdmain](#) : 8:09 PM

-

How much is Bart DePalma being paid to divert our attention from the issue of the misuse of the terrorist watch list?

After all, none of the things he brings up have to do with the topic of the post, which is a clearly sourced story that illustrates how the Constitution is being dismantled by the Bush Administration.

Further, wasting the TSA's time harassing an "enemies list" is not the way to fight the real threat of terrorism. And why does "Brad" want us not to focus on this? Is Brad actually writing from Pakistan?

# posted by [Mark](#) : 8:10 PM

-

Holy crap Bartman, where'd you find these people.

Stop dredging them up from the musty backrooms of CPUSA.

And I used to think Arne was bad . . .

# posted by [Someone](#) : 8:16 PM

-

This post reminded me of [this one](#) from about a year ago. Apparently this stuff has been going on for some time now.

# posted by [Red Right Hand](#) : 8:44 PM

-

Something that I never see addressed: Why is it that there is a no-fly list? If the security measures in place are properly enforced, why would it hurt (from this particular perspective only) for Osama himself to get on a plane?

In other words, the bad people should be impotent, so why create a list to hassle peaceniks and government critics? It might have made some sense immediately after 9/11 (though I doubt it), but why now?

# posted by [A Tabla Rasa](#) : 8:58 PM

-

If true, and unfortunately I find it all too unlikely, then it is precisely of a part with the firing of US Attorneys. "Bart Depalma"--Can you not see this such as abuse flows from the politicizing of government? Government should be used to reward loyal Bushies and punish those who dare to disagree with King George?

How low have we sunk as a democracy that "someone" can write such drivel with a smug sense of righteousness: "I think we all agree that someone shouldn't be on a terrorist watch list even if they participated in a peace march." Yes, even if.

"But .... some individuals associated with the sponsors of the so-called "peace marches" are affiliated with less than reputable organization that might warrant scrutiny."

A selective police state. Marvelous.

Why oh why do you hate us for our freedoms?

# posted by [Tara](#) : 9:27 PM

-

It is, of course wrong for this to happen.

If you're a republican voter, however, then I have no sympathy for you. One deserves what one votes for.

Of course, my lack sympathy is very different from it's being wrong.

# posted by [sherifffruitfly](#) : 9:27 PM

-

Meant to write that this account of what happened to Professor Murphy seems only too likely.

# posted by [Tara](#) : 9:30 PM

-

I've seen a lot of comments about a lot of different issues but Mr. DePalma's deranged drivel about The Plame Affair may take the prize.

Not one assertion true.

A sense of pathetic outrage that 'folks' won't 'believe' the way the Fascist Scum Cheney and Bush want them to.

The man must be scared witless.

# posted by [A. Citizen](#) : 9:34 PM

-

What *is* the constitutional basis for the No-Fly List?

It reminds me of a friend, a gregarious and charming man who is congenitally incapable of heeling to authority. As a result, he always had the habit, stopped by such (say, camping in a wilderness area without the appropriate permit), of responding in his impeccable, fake-German accent, "papers? But at the border they told me this was a free country."

He now flies all over the world for his work, so it is my supposition that he has had to tone down his joke. Too bad. His delivery was amazing.

On-topic, I absolutely believe the story as related. The question is not whether our intrepid reporter was on the list: the question is why (no data), whether his interlocutor was right about peace marches (some data, all supporting the conclusion) and whether his anti-Bush speech may have placed him on the list (little data, mostly supporting the possibility but suggesting its improbability).

Off-topic, but the local trolls have gotten really bad. I suggest the judicious use of comment deletions for the next little while. They are getting far too much attention, and succeeding at their apparent goal of hijacking your discussions.

# posted by [wcv](#) : 10:02 PM

-

If we can't keep a ex-Marine law professor from flying around dissing GWB then the terrorist will win!

# posted by [Dick Durata](#) : 10:15 PM

-

Or even two or more of them, all victorious.

# posted by [Dick Durata](#) : 10:16 PM

-

Legerdmain said...

*I am also curious as to why a career CIA officer whose current job at the time of your nepotism accusation was about WMDs would send her husband on a boondoggle to Africa?*

It is a good question why anyone from CIA's WMD division would send Wilson to Niger. It doesn't make much sense. What were the agendas involved? Maybe we might learn some more when discovery gets under way in Plame's lawsuit.

# posted by [Bart DePalma](#) : 10:30 PM

-

Bart bumbled, "Maybe we might learn some more when discovery gets under way in Plame's lawsuit."

Well, someone may learn in such a situation but Bart, my boy, your posts indicate that it will not be you. Congenital idiocy tends to be an impediment to learning, but then you've already demonstrated that amply in this forum...

# posted by [John](#) : 10:44 PM

-

Ah, the idea that prior service as a Marine would exempt you from accusations of being a terrorist sympathizer once you crossed over into political criticism of the president... simply *adorable!*

# posted by [Kagro X](#) : 10:50 PM

-

Mark said...

*How much is Bart DePalma being paid to divert our attention from the issue of the misuse of the terrorist watch list?*

Actually, regardless of whether Professor Murphy's story is true, Congress really ought to look at how the terrorist watch lists are created, maintained and used.

I suspect that the government is creating an enormous data base with every possible lead and they are afraid of discarding any of them for fear of being blamed for missing the next 9/11.

I wonder whether the government is using this entire data base to create its No Fly List or is attempting to use some methodology to assign some confidence level to the names on the list.

Congress really ought to look into this, but I fear that in this toxic political environment that Congress will be less interested in improving the list and instead use it as a partisan weapon.

# posted by [Bart DePalma](#) : 10:52 PM

-

please forgive me for a little self-indulgence, but, if the NSA, et al are inclined to tag this good prof, then they're probably reading the blog.

so I'd like to clarify that when in the past I have called Bush an incompetent, moral coward, I was just getting carried away.

I apologize. My doing so was mean and hurtful I regret it.

# posted by [redwood](#) : 11:02 PM

-

Bart...buddy...

Is that you from the old Greenwald blog? The right wing slobbering seems so familiar...

I think I'm choking up...I missed your spewings so much, the same way I miss the "Anna Nicole Smith" show...

# posted by [Indianabob](#) : 11:15 PM

-

Legerdmain says Valerie Plame Wilson was pregnant when Joe was being tapped for his excellent adventure in Niger. It's not relevant to anything, but I wonder if this is true.

A quick search indicates the couple has twin children, born in early 2000.

Was there a subsequent pregnancy at age 40?

# posted by [Terry Ott](#) : 11:31 PM

-

There is something fundamentally wrong with a "no-fly list" that nobody but secretive government officials can access. There are many ways to prevent airborne terrorism, including bolting cockpit doors, x-raying baggage and x-raying people. The first, in particular, would have prevented 9/11. A no-fly list is pure Kafka and un-American.

# posted by [Emily](#) : 11:49 PM

-

Yeah, those violent marches....hate it when people are prevented from driving to the Gap on a Saturday....if they can't, does Osama smile a bit? Jeez...this is disgraceful. Not necessarily surprising, but disgraceful

# posted by [Todd](#) : 12:01 AM

-

"Bart" DePalma:

*[Arne]: Do you deny that Plame was outed?*

*In the manner you and the Professor suggest, yes. No one "outed" Plame to gain any sort of political revenge against Wilson. That is simply another in a long line of Mr. Wilson's self serving lies.*

And you know why they outed Plame how?!?!?

*[Arne]: Do you deny that the maladministration did it? Do you deny that Libby and Rove independently leaked this information, before Plame was publicly outed?*

*Yes. Leaks are an affirmative act where the source contacts the reporter to anonymously reveal information to achieve the purpose of the leaker.*

Oh, BS. Leaks are an affirmative act where the leaker deliberately gives out the information, regardless of who called who. Care to explain *why* Libby, Rove, Armitage, and Fleischer were all *peddling* this stuff? Accident? Coincidence? I think not. Armitage may not have been doing so

deliberately, but he may well have been duped into spreading this *meme* by Cheney *et al.*. BTW, pretending that Armitage was some leftist, anti-war guy is nonsense, so don't even try.

Cheers,  
# posted by [Arne Langsetmo](#) : 12:09 AM

-

allen:

*That part of the story seems a little over the top to me. I just can't imagine anyone affiliated with the airlines or with security saying "we ban a lot of people from flying because of that."*

I dunno. I'd say a fair number of TSA folks are pretty reasonable (they *did* let him fly). I wear my political T-shirts on plane flights (and I fly a lot), and I get "nice T-shirt" comments a smiles from the TSA folks (as well as one INS/DHS guy coming back one time). But they *do* have to follow the "rules" their bosses give 'em too. These people may well have just been honest working Joes.

Cheers,  
# posted by [Arne Langsetmo](#) : 12:14 AM

-

Terrorist in charge and his cronies, are have done well to terrorize the masses. You know the establishment, the one John Lennon was against. It is still is much alive and kicking, like horse I might add.

The establishment, went beyond mad, into hyper raving mad, since they want to impose as much harm on to US as they can, for loss during civil war, and his cronies reaffirming Israel's rights to be "legitimate" nuclear rogue power.

Please American people please bring in Democrats and give a dose of good caning to misbehaving punk of the chief whoever he calls himself and his criminal cronies.

# posted by [perlpimp](#) : 12:16 AM

-

"Bart" DePalma is confuzzed and stoopid:

*[Mark Field]: I'm curious where and how you believe that "this" -- i.e., the outing of Plame in order to punish Wilson for his criticisms of the Administration -- was "disproven".*

*Novak and his colleagues discovered the information about Plame weeks before Wilson lied in his NYT op-ed about finding no evidence in Niger that Iraq was seeking to buy uranium.*

Aside from the scurrilous characterisation of Wilson as having "lied", what does this prove WRT whether there was an attempt to discredit/punish Wilson by outing his wife? *They* (the maladministration) obviously knew who Wilson was, who his wife was, and what he did and said. That's why "GFY" Cheney was so steamed.

*Novak and his colleges initiated the contacts with the Bush Administration, not the other way around.*

Covered above. Are you *really* that stoopid, that you fall for this ridiculous 'argument', "Bart"?

*Novak's initial source was a state department war critic who had no ax to grind with Wilson.*

So? Also covered above. Nonetheless, while Novak was the only big enough putz to *publish* the information, Libby and Rove had revealed this information to other journalists as well (and well before this). How's that fit with your stoopid "It's Armitage! Armitage, I tellya" theory?

Cheers,  
# posted by [Arne Langsetmo](#) : 12:22 AM

-

"Bart" DePalma throws out another "red herring":

*In any case, what got the VP's office so ticked off was that Wilson lied about being sent by the VP's office to Niger.*

Well, Wilson *did* get sent to Niger by Cheney ... indirectly. Cheney didn't say: "Send Wilson". Cheney said (AFAWK) "Go find out more about this". His inquiries to the CIA caused them to send Wilson to check out the story. Wilson said no more than that; he said his trip was at Cheney's office's request. It was.

Cheers,  
# posted by [Arne Langsetmo](#) : 12:26 AM

-

We can "out" him now: "Bart" is a secret operative from the CIA/NSA/NSC/maladministration sent to spread misinformation here:

*Wilson was and is a political operative who had no background in WMD.*

And you know this exactly *how*, "Bart"?!?!?

Cheers,  
# posted by [Arne Langsetmo](#) : 12:28 AM

-

And just in case it was missed... Wilson never claimed that Cheney sent him, he said that the CIA told him that *they* were acting in response to an inquiry from the Vice President's office.

One more time: Wilson never claimed Cheney wanted him to do anything, only that Cheney's office had asked the CIA to find out about this whole yellowcake thing.

Got it? No?

[Read his Op Ed again.](#)

# posted by [StealthBadger](#) : 12:34 AM

-

someone [a/k/a humbelelawstudent]:

*Holy crap Bartman, where'd you find these people.*

*Stop dredging them up from the musty backrooms of CPUSA.*

*And I used to think Arne was bad...*

CPUSA? Uh, "Commies! Commies under my *bed!*" really doesn't peak well for you.

Thes are just more people ticked off with the lies, misdirections, and slanders that "Bart" keeps shovelling.... Deal with it.

Cheers,

# posted by [Arne Langsetmo](#) : 12:34 AM

-

"Repeating this lie and using it as an analogy hardly lends the professor credibility in his claim against the TSA."

That's rich, some nobody troll with a braincase filled with sawdust talking about the credibility of the McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton and recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross for his service as a Marine in Korea. Perhaps, unlike you, he's familiar with the testimony at the Libby trial. In addition to Libby's passing on to reporters the information about Plame that he had received from Cheney -- something that he claimed he "forgot" -- there's also his fine patriotic outing -- at the president's order -- of critical contents of a NIE to Judith Miller.

# posted by [ts](#) : 12:37 AM

-

emily:

*There is something fundamentally wrong with a "no-fly list" that nobody but secretive government officials can access. There are many ways to prevent airborne terrorism, including bolting cockpit doors...*

And AFAIK, Gore's panel had recommended this. It got shot down by the airline industry, in part.

Cheers,

# posted by [Arne Langsetmo](#) : 12:41 AM

-

Interesting flame-war/trolling you've got here...

Anyway, there are lots of stories like this, enough to lead me to believe that the various "no fly" lists have been subject to the same petty, ineffectual politicization as so many other public services under the Bush Administration.

It's always just the whiners and the troublemakers, until it happens to you. And even when "it happening" is just lost luggage or a flight delay, it's a wake-up call.

It shouldn't be like this.

# posted by [Outlandish Josh](#) : 12:43 AM

-

"Novak's initial source was a state department war critic"

It helps to remember that Richard Armitage (along with Paul Wolfowitz, Donald Rumsfeld, Richard Perle, William Kristol, John Bolton, William Bennett, Elliott Abrams, and others of that ilk) was one of the signers of the "Plan for a New American Century" letter to President Clinton in 1998. The claim that he's a "war critic" is yet another of Bart's fabrications.

# posted by [ts](#) : 12:49 AM

-

"I just can't imagine anyone affiliated with the airlines or with security saying "we ban a lot of people from flying because of that."

That's a fallacy known as argumentum ad ignorantiam. Just because you're incapable of imagining something doesn't mean it isn't true.

"I don't think they would have a job for very long"

They could simply say "C'mon, I would never say that!" and if their boss has the same incapacity you have, their job would be safe. OTOH, you have no way of knowing that they *didn't* lose their job. Not that I think they would, having had plenty of experience with cops, DAs, and others who talk freely -- when they aren't being recorded -- about the corruption of the system they are part of.

# posted by [ts](#) : 1:00 AM

-

WCW said:

*whether his interlocutor was right about peace marches (some data, all supporting the conclusion) and whether his anti-Bush speech may have placed him on the list (little data, mostly supporting the possibility but suggesting its improbability).*

and

*the local trolls have gotten really bad*

You said exactly what I wanted to say.

I will add that as a practical matter, Congress only has so much time to do things, and if the Dems want to stay in power they have to balance investigation with legislation. To expect them to do more than they are doing now is to ask them to surrender power, so I don't think it is unfair to ask them to shift their focus.

The Federal Prosecutor investigations seem unlikely to turn up more than the fact that the Bush administration is populated by incompetent, politically non-adept, two-faced cronies who have few scruples and little respect for the jobs they are doing. I already knew that.

If it is really true that the Bush administration is putting political opponents on the No-Fly list, either out of malice or out of the manichean belief that they really are dangerous, I'd like to know that. I can't say I'd be shocked anymore, but I'd be angry.

# posted by [JimM47](#) : 1:01 AM

-

Bart dePalma ought to learn some history and then he would know that Joseph Wilson was a diplomat to Iraq and Africa for George Herbert Walker Bush's administration. Regardless of whom in the CIA recommended him for the task of investigating the possible Iraq-Niger yellowcake connection, he was eminently qualified to go.

Portraying Wilson's investigation as nepotism is an fraudulent and unethical way to attempt to discredit him and thus avoid giving credence to his findings: that the Bush Administration was lying about Iraq's nuclear capability in order to justify entering an immoral and illegal war.

# posted by [elissa feit](#) : 1:09 AM

-

"Congress really ought to look into this, but I fear that in this toxic political environment that Congress will be less interested in improving the list and instead use it as a partisan weapon."

In other words, your faux concern about the no-fly list is just another opportunistic moment to ding the Dems and insert this bogus meme. Here's the formula, which all good little right wing authoritarians, as well as nearly every member of the mainstream press (and there's considerable overlap) has down pat: If a Republican is being investigated or criticized, the investigation or criticism is partisan. And if a Democrat is investigating or criticizing, the investigation or criticism is partisan. That comprises the entire set of possibilities. Partisan acts by Republicans and non-partisan acts by Democrats (unless completely outside the political sphere, although often not even then) are simply unthinkable, perhaps even ungrammatical.

# posted by [ts](#) : 1:12 AM

-

Some leftist site must have linked here. I've never seen so many moonbats outside of a cave before.

# posted by [Someone](#) : 1:13 AM

-

"The Federal Prosecutor investigations seem unlikely to turn up more than the fact that the Bush administration is populated by incompetent, politically non-adept, two-faced cronies who have few scruples and little respect for the jobs they are doing. I already knew that."

Uh, talking about incompetent and non-adept, your mental capacities are seriously suspect. The Federal Prosecutor issue is a goodly part of Rove's attempt to create a one-party system; the prosecutors who were fired are the ones who a) went after Republicans such as Duke Cunningham and b) refused to indict Democrats for "vote fraud" just before the election -- intended not only to swing those elections to Republicans but to turn the world topsy turvy, simultaneously legitimize the Republicans' corrupt voter intimidation methods and criminalizing those who refused to be intimidated. But hey, maybe you *didn't* already know that.

# posted by [ts](#) : 1:21 AM

-

"Some leftist site must have linked here. I've never seen so many moonbats outside of a cave before."

Ah yes, intelligent thoughts must be quite foreign to "someone" who has never had one.

# posted by [ts](#) : 1:22 AM

-

oh darn it, I'm about to feed a moonbat. Probably the last mistake I'll ever made, but here goes.

elissa feit,

Your statement is utterly ignorant. If you can pay attention long enough, I'll explain why.

The CIA, the joint Senate intelligence committee report, and the British Butler report explain that Bush wasn't lying and that Joseph Wilson's actual report he gave to the CIA actually BOLSTERED the case that Iraq had sought yellowcake uranium from Niger.

For the Butler report's findings see [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/politics/3892809.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/3892809.stm) for a summary or <http://www.butlerreview.org.uk/>

For a summary of the joint (as in BI-PARTISON) Senate intelligence committee report on the affair, see <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A39834-2004Jul9.html>

See this WP editorial for a nice summary of the whole affair. The Bush administration isn't blameless, but it is hardly the only blameworthy party.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/08/31/AR2006083101460\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/08/31/AR2006083101460_pf.html)

p.s. The rest of you really should read the linked to material if you ever want a claim to intellectual rigor of any sort -- not that it stops your types generally.

# posted by [Someone](#) : 1:23 AM

-

Thanks TS for establishing beyond a doubt that you are part of the group!

# posted by [Someone](#) : 1:24 AM

-  
"Thanks TS for establishing beyond a doubt that you are part of the group!"

What is well established here, with comments like that, is that you are a moron. And your next comment will further support that, and the one after that ...

# posted by [ts](#) : 1:29 AM

-  
Since some one moron is too incompetent to post a live link supporting his claims, I'll provide one:

<http://www.factcheck.org/article222.html>

One must read it *carefully* (that would take the sort of intellectual rigor that "someone" apparently lacks) to evaluate someone's claim that "Joseph Wilson's actual report he gave to the CIA actually BOLSTERED the case that Iraq had sought yellowcake uranium from Niger".

So what actually does that page actually say actually happened?

*But the Intelligence Committee report also reveals that Wilson brought back something else as well -- evidence that Iraq may well have wanted to buy uranium.*

*Wilson reported that he had met with Niger's former Prime Minister Ibrahim Mayaki, who said that in June 1999 he was asked to meet with a delegation from Iraq to discuss "expanding commercial relations" between the two countries. Based on what Wilson told them, CIA analysts wrote an intelligence report saying former Prime Minister Mayki "interpreted 'expanding commercial relations' to mean that the (Iraqi) delegation wanted to discuss uranium yellowcake sales." In fact, the Intelligence Committee report said that "for most analysts" Wilson's trip to Niger "lent more credibility to the original Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) reports on the uranium deal."*

*The subject of uranium sales never actually came up in the meeting, according to what Wilson later told the Senate Intelligence Committee staff. He quoted Mayaki as saying that when he met with the Iraqis he was wary of discussing any trade issues at all because Iraq remained under United Nations sanctions. According to Wilson, Mayaki steered the conversation away from any discussion of trade.*

*For that reason, Wilson himself has publicly dismissed the significance of the 1999 meeting. He said on NBC's Meet the Press May 2, 2004:*

*Wilson: ...At that meeting, uranium was not discussed. It would be a tragedy to think that we went to war over a conversation in which uranium was not discussed because the Niger official was sufficiently sophisticated to think that perhaps he might have wanted to discuss uranium at some later date.*

Despite the fact that Wilson's report did not *actually* bolster the case, "someone" says that it *actually* did. Because, after all, "But that's not the way the CIA saw it at the time." That's right, the CIA that was under great pressure to "see" things just the way Cheney et. al. wanted them seen.

# posted by [ts](#) : 1:50 AM

-  
I thought this post was about the TSA and abuse of the terrorist 'no-fly list' by the Bush administration. Why are you folks rehashing the Plame affair? The jury is in on that one and the verdict is GUILTY on 4 out of 5 counts if I remember. You could google Scooter Libby to get that info if you care to. As far as the TSA incident, let me get this straight, should I believe a war hero who happens to be a nationally recognized Constitutional scholar who is only relating his personal experience without even putting it in a political perspective or the drivel spewed by some anonymous right wing shills on a blog whose only contribution to this discussion has been regurgitating off topic Rush Limbaugh talking points? I'll have to ponder that one....

# posted by [Les Izmore](#) : 2:33 AM

-  
As far as the other lame brain red herring, slightly less off topic due to its contemporaneity;

"The Federal Prosecutor investigations seem unlikely to turn up more than the fact that the Bush administration is populated by incompetent, politically non-adept, two-faced cronies who have few scruples and little respect for the jobs they are doing. I already knew that."

The question has now become lying, for you Republicans that is 'misspeaking, or 'can't recalling,' to Congress. I seem to remember that activity being a violation of all we hold sacred as a nation back in the 90s when it concerned consensual sex between two adults. If I recall it even led to impeachment hearings... I guess everything has changed since 9/11.

# posted by [Les Izmore](#) : 2:51 AM

-  
Perhaps if the investigation took place, than maybe the government would like into funding. However, the [Australian law](#) policies are far different. Sometimes to persuade bodies to investigation media leverage should be used to build on social awareness on legal matters such as this.

# posted by [needstobesmashed](#) : 2:56 AM

-  
[糖尿病](#) [中国糖尿病网](#) [心脑血管](#) [文秘](#) [糖尿病症状](#) [糖尿病饮食](#) [糖尿病治疗](#) [妊娠糖尿病](#) [糖尿病症状](#) [糖尿病并发症](#) [妊娠期糖尿病](#) [2型糖尿病](#) [糖尿病足](#) [糖尿病中医治疗](#) [糖尿病药物](#) [低血糖](#) [胰岛素](#) [血糖仪](#) [胰岛素泵](#) [糖尿病常识](#) [糖尿病食谱](#) [什么是糖尿病](#) [糖尿病的预防](#) [糖尿病人饮食](#) [糖尿病肾病](#)

# posted by [糖尿病](#) : 3:24 AM

-  
Unconscionable and un-American (or it should be). An abuse of power. Participating in a *peace* demonstration is not cause to be put on a terrorist watch list, and daring to criticize the government is definitely not! I don't see why people find this hard to believe, given the news in the past couple years of the Pentagon's surveillance and illegal retention of records on peace

groups and the like — not to mention the entire record of the Bush administration.

# posted by [Batocchio](#) : 4:36 AM

-

It was good for me to be reminded that right-wingers will make up silly stories, like that Richard Armitage is a war critic. He's a neocon Iran-Contra player that works for big oil and war profiteers!

# posted by [Rich](#) : 5:16 AM

-

How did everyone let themselves get carried away again... This thread was about putting people on no fly lists for no apparent reasons but policital ones.

Let me just quot a (not so) wise man who just recently said: "If true, this is pretty outrageous"

# posted by [Anne](#) : 5:50 AM

-

Dear Karl Rove,

stop posing as Bart DePalma.

# posted by [Morten](#) : 6:26 AM

-

"What is the constitutional basis for the No-Fly List?"

What is the constitutional basis of the war on drugs, campaign finance 'reform', federal gun control laws, and 23 million other things? The federal government does so many things it's got no genuine grant of authority to do, that the question has essentially become moot. The 'constitutional basis' is that the Supreme court stopped enforcing constitutional limits on federal power sometime back in the 1930's, in case you didn't notice.

# posted by [Brett](#) : 6:50 AM

-

Allen, seems your in La La land.

Recently AA had stopped a flight because a child of 9 months had a similiar name as a Al Qudia terrorist.

saps abound in USi, By the way, \$millions of goods are stolen by baggae checkers at all airports and sad part is they get promoted to security.

Suckers!

# posted by [ISRAOIL](#) : 8:04 AM

-

Hey Bart, why should the party of the [Seditious & Sleazy](#) be allowed to do anything other than sit in jail for their treasonous rantings?

Now my favorite here is the barking moonbat is this, '[Arne Langsetmo](#)' clown...

I mean who but a raving [libtard](#) with at best a tenuous grip on reality rants the following?

*"Do you deny that Plame was outed? Do you deny that the maladministration did it? Do you deny that Libby and Rove independently leaked this information, before Plame was publicly outed?"*

*I just wanna know why Rove still has a job, much less security clearance. The answer, of course, is that the maladministration doesn't care about law-breaking ... or anything else. All it cares about is protecting its own a\$\$."*

Hey [Arne](#), let me guess but I'm thinking you also swallowed the [myth of human induced global warming](#) too, right?

# posted by [juandos2](#) : 8:05 AM

-

Well at least it is clear that the story is picking up steam in the blogosphere wingnuts from both sides are pouring in and leaving their filth on the forum.

# posted by [Anne](#) : 8:35 AM

-

I am an undergraduate college student and am very seriously considering leaving this country because apparently we are not any longer free to think what we want without suffering unjust and immoral consequences.

This professor had every right to criticize the constitutional overreaches of President Bush.

What kind of society criminalizes belief that is critical of the establishment, when the establishment refuses to play by the rules that we elect them to play by?

# posted by [Mike](#) : 9:12 AM

-

ts said...

*Wilson reported that he had met with Niger's former Prime Minister Ibrahim Mayaki, who said that in June 1999 he was asked to meet with a delegation from Iraq to discuss "expanding commercial relations" between the two countries.*

*Based on what Wilson told them, CIA analysts wrote an intelligence report saying former Prime Minister Mayki "interpreted" "expanding commercial relations" to mean that the (Iraqi) delegation wanted to discuss uranium yellowcake sales." In fact, the Intelligence Committee report said that "for most analysts" Wilson's trip to Niger "lent more credibility to the original Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) reports on the uranium deal."*

*The subject of uranium sales never actually came up in the meeting, according to what Wilson later told the Senate Intelligence Committee staff...*

Mr. Wilson's only dossier in Niger was to discuss the subject of uranium with local officials. It is interesting that he now claims that he never brought up uranium with the former PM of Niger. One has to wonder if he discussed uranium with anyone else.

# posted by [Bart DePalma](#) : 9:16 AM

-

in the afterlife, bush/chenev, and this administration, and all those who supported them, will be feasted upon by the half million wardead. their livers will be eaten with fava bean and a fine chianti. the geneva convention is a "quaint" document in hell.

and all those with a soul, who think and feel, will be reincarnated into souls, who think and feel, and are able to love life and the planet we live upon, as well as one's fellow man.

bush better pray there is no god.

sa

# posted by [sa](#) : 10:02 AM

-

ts,

This will be my last (only?) response to you. As much as I like wiping out easy targets, you are a complete waste of time.

Let this "moron" explain.

First, I greatly apologize that Blogger dropped the end of the website address. But, two of them worked as listed, in particular the first WP article which explains my position. So, evidently, you didn't bother actually reading more than one -- I guess it's more that you can handle at once.

Just add .stm to the end of the BBC link and .html to the other WP link, and they work fine.

The Factcheck.org report you cite itself, says

"Wilson's trip to Niger "lent more credibility to the original Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) reports on the uranium deal."

and

"But that's not the way the CIA saw it at the time. In the CIA's view, Wilson's report bolstered suspicions that Iraq was indeed seeking uranium in Africa. The Senate report cited an intelligence officer who reviewed Wilson's report upon his return from Niger:

Committee Report: He (the intelligence officer) said he judged that the most important fact in the report was that the Nigerian officials admitted that the Iraqi delegation had traveled there in 1999, and that the Nigerian Prime Minister believed the Iraqis were interested in purchasing uranium, because this provided some confirmation of foreign government service reporting."

So, the articles do support my assertion. It takes someone like you to say because X says A, that means Not A is true. lol.

Furthermore, if you want to talk about Joe W's credibility here's something interesting from the WP.

The WP, "The report also said Wilson provided misleading information to The Washington Post last June. He said then that he concluded the Niger intelligence was based on documents that had clearly been forged because "the dates were wrong and the names were wrong."

Okay, so wait, wait for it...

""Committee staff asked how the former ambassador could have come to the conclusion that the 'dates were wrong and the names were wrong' when he had never seen the CIA reports and had no knowledge of what names and dates were in the reports," the Senate panel said. Wilson told the panel he may have been confused and may have "misspoken" to reporters. The documents -- purported sales agreements between Niger and Iraq -- were not in U.S. hands until eight months after Wilson made his trip to Niger."

Wow, Joseph Wilson has the ability to know when documents are wrong before even knowing what it is them!!! Awesome!

Here the WP sums up:

"Nevertheless, it now appears that the person most responsible for the end of Ms. Plame's CIA career is Mr. Wilson. Mr. Wilson chose to go public with an explosive charge, claiming -- falsely, as it turned out -- that he had debunked reports of Iraqi uranium-shopping in Niger and that his report had circulated to senior administration officials. He ought to have expected that both those officials and journalists such as Mr. Novak would ask why a retired ambassador would have been sent on such a mission and that the answer would point to his wife. He diverted responsibility from himself and his false charges by claiming that President Bush's closest aides had engaged in an illegal conspiracy. It's unfortunate that so many people took him seriously."

Okay, now I promise to stop feeding the moonbat frenzy.

p.s. Don't worry, I'll still respond to you Arne. ;) (u're grandfathered in) heh

# posted by [Someone](#) : 10:05 AM

-

Occam's Razor...sorry, but I've had my bag lost by the best of them, and that ain't AA...as much as I want to stick my "I believe" bumper sticker that Fox Mulder gave me on this conspiracy theory, I have to go with my first thought, that American Airlines is just as much of a bunch of inept fuckups as Delta, Northwest, and US Airways, all of whom have lost my luggage over the last 10 years.

# posted by [YatPundit](#) : 10:21 AM

-

*It is unfortunate that cyberprocesses are so humiliating and dehumanizing, and that the professor was disturbed in his travel and flagged as suspicious by the software. I suspect it is a case of garbage-in, garbage-out; that the humans who examined prof Murphy's records missed his place of respect in the legal community.*

What are you saying, Mr. Lopresti? That if a person had given a critical speech, but not had Prof. Murphy's "place of respect in the legal community", it would have been fine for the "humans" to flag that person as a terrorist suspect?

How chilling.

# posted by [ondelette](#) : 10:38 AM

-

Right-wing retards are the same the world over.

As soon as ANYONE brings the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence's report into the Plame-Wilson discussion, alarms should go off.

AS most everyone who has followed this case knows, THAT report made no mention of Wilson.

There was, however, an APPENDIX inserted that was so disgusting, so political, and so Dick Cheney that only 3 out of the 18 members, including 9 GOP, were forced to or found the balls to sign on to.

That appendix shredded the good name and reputation of a lifelong servant of the Constitution, Ambassador Joseph Wilson, the Hero of Baghdad.

It is a SURE wingnut-troll alert when THAT particularly shameful chapter of Roberts' tenure as Chair is brought out, as though it lends legitimacy to the ongoing efforts to denigrate, demean, and destroy anyone who actively opposes this maladministration.

# posted by [Wellstone](#) : 10:41 AM

-

ts: apparently you do not believe in understatement as a rhetorical device. You might be more persuasive if you responded to people in good faith. If you think I am defending Alberto Gonzales or am ignorant of impropriety, then you have not read my comments accurately.

But, so long as Congress must prioritize its actions, I may critique those priorities. In my opinion, the enormity of the actions Murphy thinks the administration might have taken, mean that any credible allegations should be a Congressional priority. Yes, my opinion is open to critique, but calling me names isn't critique.

# posted by [JimM47](#) : 10:46 AM

-

les izmore: Point taken on the red herring thing; I paid too much attention to the comments vs. the initial post. As for the perjury thing: I'd be a lot more excited about that scandal if I thought it would end in anyone getting impeached, but my prediction is that it will be dragged out, not do the Democrats much good, not actually do anything to investigate the cases the dismissed prosecutors were pursuing, and maybe not even increase the chances of a Gonzales resignation. I admit I might be wrong, but I just feel like they are trying to make a mountain out of a mole hill when if they'd turn around they'd probably see the Himalayas.

# posted by [JimM47](#) : 10:47 AM

-

Wellstone,

You wrote, "AS most everyone who has followed this case knows, THAT report made no mention of Wilson.

There was, however, an APPENDIX inserted that was so disgusting, so political, and so Dick Cheney that only 3 out of the 18 members, including 9 GOP, were forced to or found the balls to sign on to."

Lol, have you actually read the report? I promise you that you haven't. Because, IF YOU DID, you would see that the information ISN'T in the appendix. Its in the ACTUAL report.

The appendixes contain nothing relating to the controversy.

The discussion of Niger and the Joseph Wilson start on pg. 36 of the report.

Seriously, at least make it a challenge.

Here it is <http://intelligence.senate.gov/108301.pdf>

p.s. Crap, I just can't stop it. It's so easy.

# posted by [Someone](#) : 11:16 AM

-

I actually had a similar experience in JFK airport. I was flying from London last week to go to Princeton University and (i) I had to wait in a large white room waiting for an interview even though I come from a top French university, I have been invited by a professor of the Woodrow Wilson School in Princeton (ii) my luggage was 'lost'. I think the clue here is that I have a Moroccan name -- and by the way I'm not muslim. Racial profiling is a daily practice in American airports. Let us hope that the next president will be from the other party.

# posted by [Amine](#) : 11:35 AM

-

*Hey Arne, let me guess but I'm thinking you also swallowed the myth of human induced global warming too, right?*

*posted by juandos2 : 8:05 AM*

This cretin Jaundice haunts Misha's [Anti-Idiotarian](#) Rotwhiner, (link does not go to Misha's.) I

wouldn't even do that to someone formerly known as a Law Student, and Jeebus, we have seen some real winners here who managed to pass the bar. The reason I had to interject is the link he included Re. Global Warming as Pseudo-science, the Aurora Biophysics Research Institute and these two wingnuts:

Dr. Paulo Correa and Alexandra Correa

[http://www.aetherometry.com/global\\_warming/gw\\_index.html](http://www.aetherometry.com/global_warming/gw_index.html)

*Mallove was a member of the Aurora Biophysics Research Institute, one of the founders of the International Society of the Friends of Aetherometry, a member of its Organizing Committee, a co-inventor of the HYBORAC technology and one of the main evaluators of ABRI technologies.*

*His alternative energy research included studying the reproduction and subsequent improvement of Wilhelm Reich's Orgone Motor by Dr. Paulo Correa and Alexandra Correa, as well as the anomalous evolution of heat in the Reich-Einstein experiment. He was among the scientists and engineers who confirmed the output of excess electric energy from tuned pulsed plasmas in vacuum arc discharges.*

*Mallove's combative stance against what he saw as the hypocrisy of mainstream science gave him a high profile. Among other things, he was a frequent guest on the American radio program Coast-to-Coast AM.*

*He is also credited as a 'cold fusion technical consultant', for providing his highest expertise to the producers of the movie The Saint from 1997, with a plot revolving around cold fusion formulas.*

Isn't that the Art Bell Radio show? Orgone Generators? You just can't make this shit up!

"Someone" should STFU now because he's been barking at the moon a helluva lot longer than the rest of us non-wingnuts.

# posted by [JT Davis](#) : 11:51 AM

-

i was born in the wagon of a traveling show. my momma used to dance for the money they'd throw. papa would do whatever he could: preach a little gospel, sell a couple bottles of dr. good.

whoops. someone take the wheel.

out.

sa

# posted by [sa](#) : 12:02 PM

-

There was never supposed to be a "political police" in Amercia, although segments of the FBI have always performed that function subrosa. There is now and it's quite disturbing. I do not think change will be all to easy, amine.

As Atrios observed yesterday, linking to Josh Marshall noting that the politicization of the DoJ is much worse than we yet know:

[Nuts](#)

*A sad fact of the current state of our democracy is that anyone who wants to be president has to be by any reasonable definition completely insane. The fact that they are insane doesn't necessarily prevent them from being good presidents, but nonetheless they are completely bonkers.*

*This is doubly true now, as any president is not only going to have to deal with this disaster in Iraq, but also a federal government which has been staffed from top to bottom with [career ideological Bushies](#) who will fully understand that their job in a Democratic administration is to take it down.*

*Depressing, really.*

# posted by [JT Davis](#) : 12:05 PM

-

jimm47:

*The Federal Prosecutor investigations seem unlikely to turn up more than the fact that the Bush administration is populated by incompetent, politically non-adept, two-faced cronies who have few scruples and little respect for the jobs they are doing. I already knew that.*

But lots of people don't. They have *no* idea how corruption, nepotism, cronyism, and such have resulted in the various maladies we see, from the dysfunctional FDA, to the politicised CPB and the crook Tomlinson, to Katrinagate, to the mess in Iraq detailed in "Imperial Life in the Emerald City" [which while incompetent was also totally unnecessary], to the U.S. Attorneys scandal [like the Minnesota prosecutors demoting themselves rather than having to report to Dubya's political hack], to folks like Safavian, that guy that was ripping off Target, Miers, Abu Ghriab, to the Custer Battles and Halliburton rip-offs, anonanonanonanon....

Lay out the scandals. Make sure the public understand how deeply and indelibly *corrupt* the maladministration *and* the Republican party is, and make sure they're never left within ten miles of even the smallest lever of power again.

A weekly read (and a browse thourgh the archives) of [Democratic Underground's Top Ten Conservative Idiots](#) and a daily read of [Think Progress](#) should be mandatory for anyone who wants to know what's going on.

Cheers,

# posted by [Arne Langsetmo](#) : 12:26 PM

-

Oh this is ridiculous. I worked in the airline industry as a check in agent and let me tell you that it doesn't work like this. A) we dont' know why you're on the list, and b) we aren't allowed to speculate. You're put on the list if there's a warrant out for your arrest, or if theres probable cause, from what i've seen. It averages out to probably one person on every flight is on the no fly list, but 10/10 times that i experienced it, it's because someone has the same name, or a

similar name, or some sort of alias resembling whomever they're looking for. I think that the check in clerk that checked this guy in is a gossipy drama queen, and that this professor is paranoid and looking for something where nothing is to be found.

This is evident b/c he got a boarding pass no problem on the return flight - meaning that this individual person had been cleared from the list, because the documents had been xreferenced. Besides that, do you really think that 'security officials' went through the luggage sortation system, pulled some guys luggage? occurs razor, its sitting underneath a cart in some airport b/c some nimwit forgot to put it on the flight.

# posted by [X](#) : 12:28 PM

-

It's been 2,030 days since WMD said he'd catch Nine Eleven Conspirator UBL uh dead or alive?

Greetings from Albuquerque. I just don't fly. They can put me on all the damn lists they want. I was detained by Homeland Security S.S. Agents on the University of New Mexico Campus a few years ago. After the Jerusalem Post printed an editorial titled KILL ARAFAT, I sent the editor a letter saying I was cool with that, but don't forget that butcher Sharon. Anyway they flushed my weed, finger printed me, took some poloroids, and told me they'd be watching. The American People have been pretty stupid about everything forever, but I bet the S.S. has been busy. We are in for such a shit storm, I'd stock up on canned goods. Good luck everyone. regards.

# posted by [crusader bunnypants](#) : 12:31 PM

-

Your papers please....welcome to the United Snakes of Amerika

# posted by [robt](#) : 12:32 PM

-

someone (a/k/a humblawstudent):

*The CIA, the joint Senate intelligence committee report, and the British Butler report explain that Bush wasn't lying and that Joseph Wilson's actual report he gave to the CIA actually BOLSTERED the case that Iraq had sought yellowcake uranium from Niger.*

Nonsense. His report says they didn't seek yellowcake. He said there was no evidence of such. The *best* "evidence" you might wring out of that wet towel is that *one* Nigerian diplomat speculated that the only reason the Iraqis might have had for visiting in the late '90s was to seek such a deal, but this is just speculation and *argumentum ad ignorantiam*, not to mention that there *were* other possibilities for the trip, including just a "good will" trip, as the Iraqis were 'making the rounds' of African counties on that trip.

Cheers,

# posted by [Arne Langsetmo](#) : 12:34 PM

-

These comments are the low grade civil war simmering in the US Homeland, not Iraq. Pat Tillman was assassinated for preparing to speak out against the POTUS and the failure in Iraq. Valerie Plame was a covert CIA black op specializing in the Proliferation of WMD in rogue states, her cover was blow for speaking out against the lies the Pentagon's office of special plans and Israel disemenated about Iraq. Former US Attorney David Iglesias was an American Veteran, Republican, Christian, who was the basis for Tom Cruise's Character in a few good men, and was swift boated for not going along the RNC 2008 national strategy. It's a scandal!

# posted by [crusader bunnypants](#) : 12:36 PM

-

To ond: there was more to my remark, which was far from a justification; call it making a polite excuse for the invasive and mistaken behavior of some kludged software program, meanwhile an inspector's chitchat appears outrageous but might indicate that the software algorithms actually would search for individuals with illicit opinions. Later in my one paragraph contribution I highlighted the counterbalancing effect of congress in the aftermath of the initial Patriot measures. I think this new congress appreciates that is one of its strongest mandates during its two years duration. If there is a lot to the WMurphy misadventures that needs evaluation, there are some advocacy organizations which might have the investigative experience and interests to add their counsel in the processes seeking to reveal what happened in this incident. It is best to keep the tenor respectful of the unfortunate prof, and hope as facts emerge according to his interests and requirements, remedies can be reached; maybe even congress will take an interest, as he clearly would be a witness of remarkable integrity.

This is a congress which was too encumbered to rewrite FISA; and some of the sunset provisions in Patriot may yet be up for rewrites; congress cobbled together a conflicted DTA, but reworked it into an MCA that has yet to survive a Supreme Court challenge, unless one counts the remand recently in Boumediene. I ascribe the latter to a temporizing by Scotus as much as to Scotus' instructional mode telling the DC court to attempt to make linear sense of MCA as written. After we read some Murphy reference works our conversation would be more germane.

# posted by [John Lopresti](#) : 12:47 PM

-

"Bart" DePalma:

*["ts", quoting an article]: Wilson reported that he had met with Niger's former Prime Minister Ibrahim Mayaki, who said that in June 1999 he was asked to meet with a delegation from Iraq to discuss "expanding commercial relations" between the two countries.*

*Based on what Wilson told them, CIA analysts wrote an intelligence report saying former Prime Minister Mayki "interpreted 'expanding commercial relations' to mean that the (Iraqi) delegation wanted to discuss uranium yellowcake sales." In fact, the Intelligence Committee report said that "for most analysts" Wilson's trip to Niger "lent more credibility to the original Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) reports on the uranium deal."*

*["ts", more quote]: The subject of uranium sales never actually came up in the meeting, according to what Wilson later told the Senate Intelligence Committee staff...*

*Mr. Wilson's only dossier in Niger was to discuss the subject of uranium with local officials. It is interesting that he now claims that he never brought up uranium with the former PM of Niger. One has to wonder if he discussed uranium with anyone else.*

"Bart": You need to earn to *read* for comprehension (or research). The "meeting" referred to is the Iraqi meeting with the former PM. If you were following the discussions on this topic, you'd

know this.

Cheers,

# posted by [Arne Langsetmo](#) : 12:49 PM

-

If the distinguished Col. Murphy is on the no-fly list, it would be my honor to be added to the no-fly list, too.

We should all volunteer to join the no-fly list.

# posted by [Jonathan](#) : 12:54 PM

-

One commenter said "I find it very difficult to believe that people are added solely because of that", referring to participating in a peace march. Well, I used to find it difficult too. The worst thing is, once you're on a terrorist list watch, you (any American) have no right to be told why, to challenge the facts in any legal way, to clear your name. Anyone who would install those conditions is not beyond putting you on a list because you participated in a peace march. It's time for those of us who are naive to the tactics of unbridled, power-grabbing despots to see the light. I did, and not so long ago.

jo

# posted by [Jo](#) : 12:59 PM

-

X said...

*Oh this is ridiculous. I worked in the airline industry as a check in agent and...*

That's interesting. So does/did this guy but I think he was a baggage handler.

*Juandos2 @ 8:5am*

*Age: 55*

*Gender: Male*

*Astrological Sign: Cancer*

*Zodiac Year: Rabbit*

*Industry: Transportation*

*Occupation: airline*

*Location: Overland : Mo : United States*

Do you listen to Art Bell's radio show, too? Do you own an Orgone box? Perpetual motion machine? Velvet Elvis?

# posted by [JT Davis](#) : 1:00 PM

-

I'm with Anne here. The quantity of comments here is extraordinary, but the quality is the lowest I have ever seen on this blog.

# posted by [Enlightened Layperson](#) : 1:00 PM

-

Bard DePlame... err, I mean DePalma said:

*Mr. Fitzgerald's [investigation](#) long ago reported that war critic Richard Armitage working at the State Department inadvertently revealed Plame's involvement with the Wilson trip to Niger over two weeks before the Wilson op-ed piece. Multiple reporters were pursuing this story in the interim between the Armitage leak and the Wilson op-ed.*

I followed the link provided and found the following relevant passage regard Armitage:

*First known outing to reporters: Armitage tells Woodward. Washington Post reporter Bob Woodward interviews Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage for his book. **Armitage tells Woodward that Wilson's wife works for the CIA on weapons of mass destruction as a WMD analyst***

Two things about that. First, it doesn't appear that Armitage said she was undercover and, more importantly, it doesn't sound like he gave up her name. That, though bad enough, in and of itself doesn't sound like THE outing to me.

Take a look at the transcript and you'll find that there is no direct reference in that conversation to the person of Valerie Plame. There certainly is no grand announcement of her name and undercover status in a major daily newspaper there as there was in the Novak column, THE outing.

# posted by [EP](#) : 1:03 PM

-

somebody (a/k/a humblelawstudent):

*Here the WP sums up:*

*"Nevertheless, it now appears that the person most responsible for the end of Ms. Plame's CIA career is Mr. Wilson. Mr. Wilson chose to go public with an explosive charge, claiming -- falsely, as it turned out -- that he had debunked reports of Iraqi uranium-shopping in Niger and that his report had circulated to senior administration officials. He ought to have expected that both those officials and journalists such as Mr. Novak would ask why a retired ambassador would have been sent on such a mission and that the answer would point to his wife. He diverted responsibility from himself and his false charges by claiming that President Bush's closest aides had engaged in an illegal conspiracy. It's unfortunate that so many people took him seriously."*

Oh, the WaPo Op/Ed. Yeah, that was a [piece of work](#).... Fred Hiatt fears for the loss of his cocktail weenies, and has [signed on full time with the maladministration](#).

Cheers,

# posted by [Arne Langsetmo](#) : 1:04 PM

-

jimm47:

*I admit I might be wrong, but I just feel like they are trying to make a mountain out of a mole hill when if they'd turn around they'd probably see the Himalayas.*

As they say, it's a "target-rich environment". DO you recommend we withhold fire?

Cheers,

# posted by [Arne Langsetmo](#) : 1:07 PM

-

What do you expect from a frat rat administrator. Underware for hats required for the professor to board?? If he deserves such treatment for any reason, let be his support for Aillito, and the unitary executive theories. The "we must support the leader no matter what" gang should be excluded from the high court. Can't we impeach Roberts for his conspiracy with the administration to circumvent Title 18 USC SS441- Warcrimes?? What we really need is an unitary nonexemption to executive illegality! Thanks

# posted by [Thomas](#) : 1:12 PM

-

From 3/26:

### [Terror Database Has Quadrupled In Four Years](#)

*U.S. Watch Lists Are Drawn From Massive Clearinghouse*

By Karen DeYoung  
Washington Post Staff Writer  
Sunday, March 25, 2007; Page A01

*Each day, thousands of pieces of intelligence information from around the world -- field reports, captured documents, news from foreign allies and sometimes idle gossip -- arrive in a computer-filled office in McLean, where analysts feed them into the nation's central list of terrorists and terrorism suspects.*

*Called TIDE, for Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment, the list is a storehouse for data about individuals that the intelligence community believes might harm the United States. It is the wellspring for watch lists distributed to airlines, law enforcement, border posts and U.S. consulates, created to close one of the key intelligence gaps revealed after Sept. 11, 2001: the failure of federal agencies to share what they knew about al-Qaeda operatives.*

*The intelligence community's system of compiling and distributing names for watch lists has plenty of critics, but Russ Travers of the National Counterterrorism Center in McLean says: "What's the alternative?"*

*Feeding the Terrorism Clearinghouse*

*Each day, waves of new information are fed into terrorism-suspect databases, and some intelligence analysts fear the quantity of information will overtake the human capacity to manage it.*

*But in addressing one problem, TIDE has spawned others.*

*Ballooning from fewer than 100,000 files in 2003 to about 435,000, the growing database threatens to overwhelm the people who manage it. "The single biggest worry that I have is long-term quality control," said Russ Travers, in charge of TIDE at the National Counterterrorism Center in McLean. "Where am I going to be, where is my successor going to be, five years down the road?"*

*TIDE has also created concerns about secrecy, errors and privacy. The list marks the first time foreigners and U.S. citizens are combined in an intelligence database. The bar for inclusion is low, and once someone is on the list, it is virtually impossible to get off it. At any stage, the process can lead to "horror stories" of mixed-up names and unconfirmed information, Travers acknowledged.*

*The watch lists fed by TIDE, used to monitor everyone entering the country or having even a casual encounter with federal, state and local law enforcement, have a higher bar. But they have become a source of irritation -- and potentially more serious consequences -- for many U.S. citizens and visitors.*

*In 2004 and 2005, misidentifications accounted for about half of the tens of thousands of times a traveler's name triggered a watch-list hit, the Government Accountability Office reported in September. Congressional committees have criticized the process, some charging that it collects too much information about Americans, others saying it is ineffective against terrorists. Civil rights and privacy groups have called for increased transparency.*

*"How many are on the lists, how are they compiled, how is the information used, how do they verify it?" asked Lillie Coney, associate director of the Washington-based Electronic Privacy Information Center. Such information is classified, and individuals barred from traveling are not told why.*

*Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) said last year that his wife had been delayed repeatedly while airlines queried whether Catherine Stevens was the watch-listed Cat Stevens. The listing referred to the Britain-based pop singer who converted to Islam and changed his name to Yusuf Islam. The reason Islam is not allowed to fly to the United States is secret.*

*So is the reason Maher Arar, a Syrian-born Canadian, remains on the State Department's consular watch list. Detained in New York while en route to Montreal in 2002, Arar was sent by the U.S. government to a year of imprisonment in Syria. Canada, the source of the initial information about Arar, cleared him of all terrorism allegations last September -- three years after his release -- and has since authorized \$9 million in compensation.*

*TIDE is a vacuum cleaner for both proven and unproven information, and its managers disclaim responsibility for how other agencies use the data...*

*Thousands of Messages*

*Every night at 10, TIDE dumps an unclassified version of that day's harvest -- names, dates of birth, countries of origin and passport information -- into a database belonging to the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center. TIDE's most sensitive information is not included. The FBI adds data about U.S. suspects with no international ties for a combined daily total of 1,000 to 1,500 new names....*

A Process Under Fire

*A recent review of the entire Terrorist Screening Center database was temporarily abandoned when it proved too much work even for the night crew, which generally handles less of a workload. But the no-fly and selectee lists are being scrubbed to emphasize "people we think are a danger to the plane, and not for some other reason they met the criteria," Kopel said.*

*A separate TSA system that would check every passenger name against the screening center's database has been shelved over concern that it could grow into a massive surveillance program. The Department of Homeland Security was rebuked by Congress in December for trying to develop a risk-assessment program to profile travelers entering and leaving the United States based on airline and financial data.*

*Kopel insisted that private information on Americans, such as credit-card records, never makes it into the screening center database and that "we rely 100 percent on government-owned information."*

*The center came in for ridicule last year when CBS's "60 Minutes" noted that 14 of the 19 Sept. 11 hijackers were listed -- five years after their deaths.*

# posted by [JT Davis](#) : 1:15 PM

-

If anyone harbored doubts that we now live in a police state, this experience should put them to rest.

I have no doubt that plans to further tighten the noose are going forward now. In the near future we will likely have paid block-level informants reporting to the security apparatus and the construction of large-scale additions to the American gulag, just as were used in the former Soviet Union and their puppets.

The window through which we can still retake control of the government is fast narrowing, probably too quickly to stem the totalitarian tide.

# posted by [Sam Thornton](#) : 1:20 PM

-

*Enlightened Layperson said...*

*I'm with Anne here. The quantity of comments here is extraordinary, but the quality is the lowest I have ever seen on this blog.*

Welcome to the hardcore wingnut "base". It's about 20 to 25, maybe even 30% of the population at this point. You cannot reason with it. You cannot ignore it. Any suggestions?

# posted by [JT Davis](#) : 1:24 PM

-

In the comments here, once again I see the words "junket" and "boondoggle" used to describe Joseph Wilson's trip to Niger. Since Valerie Plame's CIA role was exposed by Robert Novak, he and other Bush sycophants in the mainstream media have continued to portray Wilson going to Niger on a pleasure trip arranged by Plame, his wife.

Evidently, these journalists and TV talking heads have never been to Niger, or even read about the country. It is a land-locked hell-hole in north central Africa. No beaches. No fancy resorts. Not much of anything, except dysentery, malaria and mosquitos that have become resistant to insecticides. Visitors are advised not to eat vegetables that have not been rinsed in chlorine bleach.

So, if you were sent to Niger, would you consider such a trip a "junket" or a "boondoggle"?

# posted by [Ken](#) : 1:30 PM

-

george bush swift boated my anus.

sa

# posted by [sa](#) : 1:38 PM

-

ep:

*Two things about that. First, it doesn't appear that Armitage said she was undercover and, more importantly, it doesn't sound like he gave up her name. That, though bad enough, in and of itself doesn't sound like THE outing to me.*

Novak took the Armitage info and looked up Wilson's wife on Who's Who.

There is no reason for Armitage to say Plame was undercover because she was not. Plame lived quite openly and publicly under her given name.

Novak confirmed that Plame was CIA simply by calling the CIA.

There never was any intentional "outing."

# posted by [Bart DePalma](#) : 1:43 PM

-

In case y'all hadn't noticed, this blogpost is about a VETERAN, a CORPORAL at that, being placed on the Terrorist Watch List for simply saying something bad about Bush.

Noise machine indeed. Let's just ignore the fat purple elephant in the room while we argue about semantics about who is ultimately responsible for TREASON (outing a CIA operative is TREASON, end of discussion. Do not pass go, go straight to the hangman's noose, eh?)

# posted by [B.E.](#) : 1:53 PM

-

"If true..." must have been what someone said when the concentration camps were reportedly set up for the mentally retarded, Russian POWs, homeless, political enemies, gays, swing band

enthusiasts, and Jews etc.

Get your head out of yer butts folks it is real and is happening every day. Only difference is the ragheads are not doing it - we are to us. We are the enemy of the Far Right and now that Bush is in charge and until he is removed from office it will keep happening.

Personnaly, the sooner he is out of office the better no matter how it is done.

# posted by [Jims12N12](#) : 2:06 PM

-

I think they meant to send a message by placing the professor on the Terrorist watch list. That message being essentially this:

This is no longer the land you fought to protect. It is not the land of the free, or the brave. This country is not your America. It is theirs...

and they will do with it, and you, whatever they want. Because no-one will stop them anymore.

# posted by [John Kincaid. last man standing](#) : 2:29 PM

-

"Someone" said,

"The CIA, the joint Senate intelligence committee report, and the British Butler report explain that Bush wasn't lying and that Joseph Wilson's actual report he gave to the CIA actually BOLSTERED the case that Iraq had sought yellowcake uranium from Niger."

I looked at the Butler Report links Someone left us and found: (1) the first link (a summary) doesn't mention Wilson or Niger, (2) the full report mentions Wilson only in a short footnote, and (3) paragraphs 501-503 (pp. 138-139) of the report details Wilson's conclusions, that the documents were forged, without mentioning Wilson.

I suspect Someone's other claims are equally unsubstantial.

# posted by [DrMajorBob](#) : 2:38 PM

-

jt davis said:

"welcome to the hardcore wingnut "base". it's about 20 to 25, may even 30% of the population at this point. you cannot reason with it. any suggestions?"

yes, jt, i have a suggestion. while i to am impressed with the quantity of responses to the original post, the quality is deplorable, as usually happens when the original subject of the post is changed, and when the comments veer off into babyish name calling, as has, unfortunately occurred herein. i have found in the past, that a comment is completely off point, is needlessly vicious (as any vicious post is), or comes from somebody who is absolutely wrong on facts, law and anything else you can think of, but is just looking for an argument, if i simply ignore it, forego further comment and go on to the next post, i feel better, there are fewer ignoramous entries (including mine), and i can wait for another more meaningful post from one of the professors. it's amazing how it usually works.

# posted by [phq](#) : 2:41 PM

-

What I am about to say is flagrant imputation...and probably mean-spirited.

-The Good Professor is reaping the whirlwind.

You can't be in two places at once.

-As involved in the Alito elevation as he apparently is; he must have known something of the crowd with which he was about to run.

Or if he didn't, here's just generic blowback and sad at that.

These people will stop at nothing to consolidate power...often, lucky for us, stupidly.

With that good Irish name, his support of forced birth legislation and the 'Alito-Connection', a certain fundie Catholicism probably in play....and thus drawn some to the right in politics.

All that said...I have not the slightest doubt that what happened was as he reported happened and I am ashamed that he was thus...mistreated.

But then, I've been pretty ashamed of What-America-Has-Wrought for some years now

\*also ex-Marine here\*

# posted by [jasé](#) : 2:43 PM

-

Bart DePalma said: *No one "outed" Plame to gain any sort of political revenge against Wilson. That is simply another in a long line of Mr. Wilson's self serving lies.*

.

.

Just ban this rightwing blowhard troll, "Bart DePalma". There is absolutely nothing to gain from allowing his comments to be posted.

# posted by [Morton](#) : 2:55 PM

-

Here's what makes me skeptical: I've never heard of someone being told *why* they're on the no-fly list.

They still haven't told Cat Stevens why he can't come into our country. Why did they tell Walter F. Murphy?

# posted by [ThomasLB](#) : 3:08 PM

-

Ah, the idea that prior service as a Marine would exempt you from accusations of being a terrorist sympathizer once you crossed over into political criticism of the president... simply adorable!

-----

Wait ? are you SERIOUSLY implying that enacting my FIRST AMENDMENT rights as ACTUALLY INTENDED qualifies me as a terrorist sympathizer? You do realize the whole POINT of free speech is not so you can say anything you want. The 1st and 2nd amendments were DESIGNED as being important in a fight against an UNLAWFUL government.

First Peace THEN War

1st The RIGHT to criticize your government. its a intrinsic right that the government is BARRED from infringing upon. Putting you on a terror list for criticizing your president IS a DIRECT violation of your first amendment rights. Thats is the WHOLE REASON that part of the 1st amendment is there!!!

It is your patriotic DUTY to criticize your government when it does something it should not be doing.

That is about as PRO American as you can get!

Now putting him on a terror list because of his exercising that right. THAT is about as close to sympathizing with terrorism as you can get without actually physically doing it.

ABSOLUTELY NOTHING is more important than freedom. EVEN LIFE itself is second to freedom for what is the point of life if your not free.

# posted by [Nerys](#) : 3:10 PM

-

...maybe I'm stupid but I'm pretty sure that American airlines doesn't add people to watch lists. They're called "American Airlines", but they're not part of the government. I think the clerk was just messing with this guy because he was a jerk. "That'll do it." A ticket clerk at the airport has about as much insight into how the TSA works (or fails to) as a baggage handler does about the design of jet engines. While I don't deny that this was a mistake and may well have been caused by horribly oppressive and intrusive government policies, the statements by the clerk at the airline have almost no relevance to the issues at hand.

# posted by [Mark](#) : 3:17 PM

-

*phg yes, jt, i have a suggestion...*

Fair enough. I'm a bit more concerned about my country than my own personal blogging experience here or any place else, phg. To each his own.

Morton,

There is no way to ban anyone, (not that I am aware of) in blogger's comment format. And banning just moves him some place else. Like giving a bus ticket for CA to some crazy homeless man in Maine. Eventually these people will need to be dealt with. They won't like a Hillary presidency, (or any other Democrat), at all.

If only 20% of the population thinks like this, we have serious trouble coming, (and this guy is mild by comparison, semi-literate and almost coherent):

*[I am a veteran of the armed forces](#) and retired after 24 years of service to this country (ten years of active duty and 14 years in the national guard).*

*I believe this country is great because our ancestors were not afraid to stand up and fight for what they considered right. We are the land of the free because we are the home of the brave as demonstrated by America's next great generation who is out on the front line of freedom.*

*I can not stand liberalism and feel it is a disease that eats away, like a cancer, at the fabric of our society. I also believe that if this country does not stop pandering to special interest groups and does not stop taking away the rights guaranteed under our Constitution, and if they do not stop creating a welfare class of dependent people, there will be another civil war. It will start as an uprising to take the government over from the politicians who have lost all touch with the core values of this country. Then anarchy will set in followed by civil war.*

*So it is up to us to eradicate liberalism so we can prevent the next civil war.*

*Warmest regards,  
Big Dog*

At least he'll mail you anthrax with the "warmest regards".

You should hear the callers on CSPAN certain mornings. Or try visiting LGF sometime.

# posted by [JT Davis](#) : 3:18 PM

-

Reading comprehension...

Far too many children left behind.

# posted by [JT Davis](#) : 3:20 PM

-

I am not quite sure of the sincerity of the author. Although it has become more common to hear one say a U.S. President's name without his title, it is disrespectful of the position if not disrespect of the American people (remember, they elect the President). Even the media will typically say "President Bush" in an article before following up with "Bush [this]" or "Bush [that]." It is strange to me (also a Ph.D. and former Marine), to hear a fellow academic and former Marine make that disrespectful remark. I wonder if there is more of a story beneath this dramatic and perhaps sensationalized blog entry.

# posted by [Fred](#) : 4:06 PM

-

Fred:

*I am not quite sure of the sincerity of the author. Although it has become more common to hear one say a U.S. President's name without his title, it is disrespectful of the position if not disrespect of the American people (remember, they elect the President). Even the media will typically say "President Bush" in an article before following up with "Bush [this]" or "Bush [that]." It is strange to me (also a Ph.D. and former Marine), to hear a fellow academic and former Marine make that disrespectful remark. I wonder if there is more of a story beneath this dramatic and perhaps sensationalized blog entry.*

OIC. The *real* crime here is that Stephen Griffin was not obsequious enough to refer to Dubya as "Preznit Bush"... All hail Der Führer! Sieg Heil!

Cheers,

# posted by [Arne Langsetmo](#) : 4:15 PM

-

Correction to my last post: It was not Steven Griffin (wrong post even, my bad), but Prof. Murphy, who used the words "George Bush" and "Bush" when referring to The Deciderator-In-Chief.

Nonetheless, my point remains.

Cheers,

# posted by [Arne Langsetmo](#) : 4:21 PM

-

[Post a Comment](#)

[Home](#)

