

From the Left

"In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act." - George Orwell

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Harriet Miers Replacement Is a Radical Rightwinger

October 31st, 2005

Connect Left has learned that Bush will nominate 3rd Circuit Appeals Court Judge Samuel Alito to the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition to being a fellow Yale graduate and a member of Skull and Bones, Alito's views are extremely radical — even for a Republican.

[ThinkProgress](#) has the facts:

ALITO WOULD OVERTURN ROE V. WADE: In his dissenting opinion in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, Alito concurred with the majority in supporting the restrictive abortion-related measures passed by the Pennsylvania legislature in the late 1980's. Alito went further, however, saying the majority was wrong to strike down a requirement that women notify their spouses before having an abortion. The Supreme Court later rejected Alito's view, voting to reaffirm *Roe v. Wade*. [*Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*, 1991]

ALITO WOULD ALLOW RACE-BASED DISCRIMINATION: Alito dissented from a decision in favor of a Marriott Hotel manager who said she had been discriminated against on the basis of race. The majority explained that Alito would have protected racist employers by "immuniz[ing] an employer from the reach of Title VII if the employer's belief that it had selected the 'best' candidate was the result of conscious racial bias." [*Bray v. Marriott Hotels*, 1997]

ALITO WOULD ALLOW DISABILITY-BASED DISCRIMINATION: In *Nathanson v. Medical College of Pennsylvania*, the majority said the standard for proving disability-based discrimination articulated in Alito's dissent was so restrictive that "few if any...cases would survive summary judgment." [*Nathanson v. Medical College of Pennsylvania*, 1991]

ALITO WOULD STRIKE DOWN THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL





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LEAVE ACT: The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) “guarantees most workers up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a loved one” The 2003 Supreme Court ruling upholding FMLA [Nevada v. Hibbs, 2003] essentially reversed a 2000 decision by Alito which found that Congress exceeded its power in passing the law. [Chittister v. Department of Community and Economic Development, 2000]

ALITO SUPPORTS UNAUTHORIZED STRIP SEARCHES: In Doe v. Groody, Alito agued that police officers had not violated constitutional rights when they strip searched a mother and her ten-year-old daughter while carrying out a search warrant that authorized only the search of a man and his home. [Doe v. Groody, 2004]

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POLL: Washington Post-ABC News, Bush’s Approval 39%

October 30th, 2005

It’s difficult to point the finger at just one thing in particular that can be blamed for Bush’s horrendous poll numbers. Perhaps, it’s the cumulative effect of all the seemingly endless bad news?

Record high oil prices? The Vietnam-esque Iraq war now resulting in more than 2,000 U.S. deaths? Hurricane Katrina and the poor Federal response?

Of course, Friday’s indictment of Vice President Cheney’s chief of staff I. Lewis “Scooter” Libby dealt another big blow to public confidence in the Bush administration.

According to a new [Washington Post-ABC News](#) poll. Bush’s approval rating fell to 39 percent — the lowest recorded by this poll in his presidency — and a majority of Americans said the charges signal broader ethical problems in the administration.

By a ratio of 3 to 1, those surveyed said the level of honesty in government has declined during Bush’s tenure.

Anyway you look at it, George Bush isn’t just a lame duck — he’s a dead duck.

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I. Lewis Libby: INDICTED!

October 28th, 2005

I. Lewis Libby, Vice President Cheney's Chief of Staff was indicted and has resigned.

5 counts: 2 Perjury; 2 Making false statements; 1 Obstruction of Justice.

Many links to cover this historic story:

[The New York Times](#)

[The Washington Post](#)

[CNN](#)

Isn't it good to know George Bush restored honor to the office of the president?

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Aide to Cheney Appears Likely to Be Indicted

October 27th, 2005

From [Pravda](#), comes this:

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27 - Associates of I. [Lewis Libby](#) Jr., Vice President [Dick Cheney's](#) chief of staff, expected an indictment on Friday charging him with making false statements to the grand jury in the C.I.A. leak inquiry, lawyers in the case said Thursday.

[Karl Rove](#), President Bush's senior adviser and deputy chief of staff, would not be charged on Friday, but would remain under investigation, people briefed officially about the case said. As a result, they said, the special counsel in the case, Patrick J. Fitzgerald, was likely to extend the term of the federal grand jury beyond its scheduled expiration on Friday.

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Harriet Miers Pulls Name from Nomination

October 27th, 2005

As predicted on Connect Left, Sunday, October 23, 2005, US Supreme Court nominee Harriet Miers, pulled her name from the nomination process this morning.

Facing a massive revolt from within the Republican party, coupled with charges of cronyism and incompetence, Miers failed to dazzle Senators and convince them that she was qualified for a lifetime slot on the High Court.

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BLOG STATS





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Twass the Night Before Fitzmas

October 26th, 2005

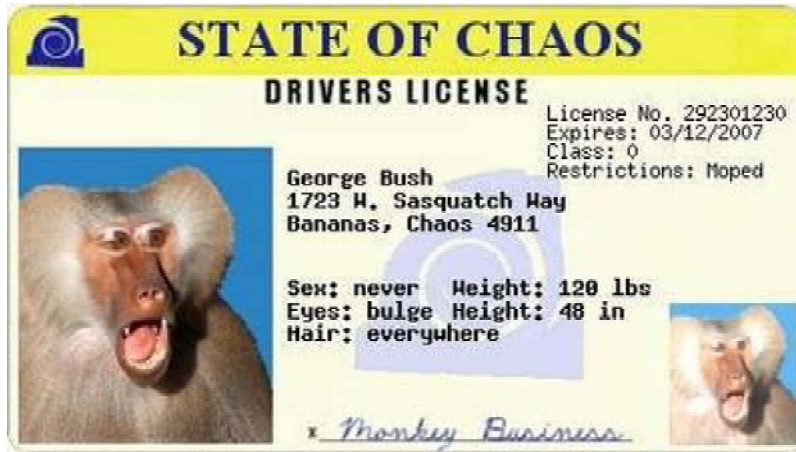


On the night before Fitzmas and all through DC, not a creature was stirring, not even a banana Republican!

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George W. Bush's Drivers License

October 26th, 2005



Shout out to [pottersvillenews](#) for this hilarious item.

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Indictments in CIA Leak Case 'About to be Handed Down'

October 25th, 2005

The conservative [Financial Times](#) reports indictments in the CIA leak investigation case are expected to be handed down by a grand jury on Wednesday, bringing to a head a criminal inquiry that threatens to disrupt President George W. Bush's second term.

On Tuesday night, news reports, supported by a source close to the lawyers involved in the case, said that target letters to those facing indictment were being issued, with sealed indictments to be filed today and released by the end of the week.

Those in legal jeopardy may include Lewis "Scooter" Libby, vice-president Dick Cheney's chief of staff, and Karl Rove, Mr Bush's chief political strategist.

Mr Cheney himself has also been linked to the inquiry into the leaking of the name of an undercover CIA operative, according to a story in Tuesday's New York Times.

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Soon It Will Be Fitzmas Time

October 25th, 2005

Fitzmas is almost here! [The Washington Note](#) reports indictments are coming and target letters sent.

See below:

An uber-insider source has just reported the following to TWN (since confirmed by another independent source):

- 1. 1-5 indictments are being issued. The source feels that it will be towards the higher end.*
- 2. The targets of indictment have already received their letters.*
- 3. The indictments will be sealed indictments and "filed" tomorrow.*
- 4. A press conference is being scheduled for Thursday.*

Who wants to make a bet the recipients of the target letters are the following suspects: Karl Rove, I. Lewis Libby and Dick Cheney?

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We Have 2 Reasons to Wince When Seeing "2000."

October 25th, 2005

BAGHDAD (AFP) - The US death toll in Iraq reportedly hit 2,000 amid a sharp spike in violence that killed 14 Iraqis as the nation awaited results of a key vote on a charter aimed at curbing sectarian violence.

The US network [CNN](#), quoting Pentagon sources, reported Tuesday that the number of soldiers killed since the March 2003 invasion of Iraq had reached 2,000 with the deaths of two more soldiers, a toll likely to add pressure on the US administration over its role in the violence-wracked country.

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A New Day, Another Bad Poll for Bush

October 25th, 2005

THE HARRIS POLL

Majority of Americans Say Military Action in Iraq Was Wrong, Poll Finds

For the first time, a majority of Americans (53%) feels that military action in Iraq was the wrong thing to do, according to the survey of 1,833 U.S. adults, compared with 34% who feel it was right.

At the same time, 66% of U.S. adults now say President Bush is doing a “*poor*” or “*only fair*” job of handling Iraq, while 32% say he is doing an “*excellent*” or “*pretty good*” job. That’s little change from a September Harris poll that found 65% rated Mr. Bush negatively and 34% rated him positively.

Perhaps, the best thing Bush could do is resign? He certainly wouldn’t be missed.

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Cheney Told Libby of CIA Agent Valerie Plame

October 24th, 2005

During tonight’s CBS national news, a reference was made to the source of the leak of Valerie Plame’s identity as someone above both Rove and Libby, a so-called “Mr. X.”

Was this a nod to Vice President Dick Cheney?

According to the [New York Times](#), I. Lewis Libby Jr., Vice President Dick Cheney’s chief of staff, first learned about the C.I.A. officer at the heart of the leak investigation in a conversation with Mr. Cheney weeks before her identity became public in 2003, lawyers involved in the case said Monday.

Notes of the previously undisclosed conversation between Mr. Libby and Mr. Cheney on June 12, 2003, appear to differ from Mr. Libby’s testimony to a federal grand jury that he initially learned about the C.I.A. officer, Valerie Wilson, from journalists, the lawyers said.

The notes, taken by Mr. Libby during the conversation, for the first

time place Mr. Cheney in the middle of an effort by the White House to learn about Ms. Wilson's husband, Joseph C. Wilson IV, who was questioning the administration's handling of intelligence about Iraq's nuclear program to justify the war.

Lawyers said the notes show that Mr. Cheney knew that Ms. Wilson worked at the C.I.A. more than a month before her identity was made public and her undercover status was disclosed in a syndicated column by Robert D. Novak on July 14, 2003.

Mr. Libby's notes indicate that Mr. Cheney had gotten his information about Ms. Wilson from George J. Tenet, the director of central intelligence, in response to questions from the vice president about Mr. Wilson. But they contain no suggestion that either Mr. Cheney or Mr. Libby knew at the time of Ms. Wilson's undercover status or that her identity was classified. Disclosing a covert agent's identity can be a crime, but only if the person who discloses it knows the agent's undercover status.

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Robert Novak: Flipper?

October 24th, 2005

What a shocking concept.

But we now learn that rightwing columnist and bloviator, Robert Novak, played a key role in the work of special prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald's investigation into the Valerie Plame leak case currently winding down after 2 long years.

Consider this paragraph from today's [Washington Post](#):

A critical early success for Fitzgerald was winning the cooperation of Robert D. Novak, the Chicago Sun-Times columnist who named Plame in a July 2003 story and attributed key information to "two senior administration officials." Legal sources said Novak avoided a fight and quietly helped the special counsel's inquiry, although neither the columnist nor his attorney have said so publicly.

So, it appears that Novak "flipped" on his good friend Karl Rove. The tireless champion of journalistic integrity simply folded and withered before the might Fitz.

Novak engaged in one of the oldest games humans play: CYA.

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Irving

October 24th, 2005

As indictments are expected this week in the Valerie Plame investigation case, many are wondering who is the man at the center of the firestorm — I. Lewis Libby?

Libby is the secret undisclosed side to Vice President Dick Cheney. And like the vice president he works for, Libby prefers to work on policy in the shadows and leave the politics to others.

[Slate](#) magazine has an interesting portrait of the mystery man described as Cheney's Cheney.

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Bush's Psychological Problems Worsening

October 24th, 2005

Confirming rumors swirling around Bush for months, the [New York Daily News](#) reports the president's psychological problems are worsening.

Facing the darkest days of his presidency, Bush is frustrated, sometimes angry and even bitter, his associates say.

With a seemingly uncontrollable insurgency in Iraq, the White House is bracing for the political fallout from a grim milestone that could come any day: the combat death of the 2,000th American G.I.

This week could also bring a special prosecutor's decision that could shake the foundations of the Bush government.

The President's top political guru, Karl Rove, and Vice President Cheney's right-hand man, Lewis (Scooter) Libby, are at the center of a two-year criminal probe into the leak of a CIA agent's identity.

Many Bush staffers believe indictments are likely.

Earlier this year, rumors swirled inside the Beltway that Bush was taking anti-depressants to control mood swings and allow him to

carry out the duties of office.

With today's report, many are asking, is Bush fit to remain in office?

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The Trouble with Harry

October 23rd, 2005

Harriet Miers, Bush's mash note writing selection to replace Sandra Day O'Connor on the US Supreme Court will not have confirmation hearings because she will pull her name out of contention. Sources close to Miers are reporting.

Key to her decision is this:

Harriet Miers's tenure as chairwoman of the Texas Lottery Commission enjoyed had a dual role with the lottery commission and with the re-election campaign of then-Gov. George W. Bush. While Miers was chairwoman of the commission, the former executive director filed suit, claiming that he was fired to ensure that allegations were not made public that then-Gov. Bush had gained acceptance into the Texas Air National Guard in 1968 as a result of political favors. At roughly the same time — and also during her tenure as chairwoman — Miers was paid by Bush's re-election campaign to investigate Bush's Guard record in order to deflect allegations that Bush received preferential treatment.

Miers' personal history at the Texas Lottery Commission is indefensible and no amount of making google eyes at male Senate Judiciary members will make it go away.

This nominee's name must be pulled from consideration.

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Office of Special Counsel Patrick J. Fitzgerald Launches Website

October 21st, 2005

Could this be the signal that the endgame in the Valerie Plame CIA leak investigation is almost here?

Office of Special Counsel

Patrick J. Fitzgerald
Special Counsel

Some of the documents available on-line include:

Appointment of Special Counsel

[August 12, 2005 Memorandum of Deputy Attorney General](#)
[February 6, 2004 Letter of Deputy Attorney General](#)
[December 30, 2003 Letter of Deputy Attorney General](#)

News

[June 27, 2005 Statement of Special Counsel Patrick J. Fitzgerald](#)
[February 15, 2005 Statement of Special Counsel Patrick J. Fitzgerald](#)

Legal Proceedings

In Re: [Special Counsel Investigation](#)

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A Palpable Silence at the White House

October 21st, 2005

[Washington Post](#) reports few ready to face effects of leak case.

With special counsel Patrick J. Fitzgerald driving his CIA leak investigation toward an apparent conclusion, the White House now confronts the looming prospect that no one in the building is eager to address: a Bush presidency without Karl Rove. In a capital consumed by scandal speculation, most White House senior officials are no more privy than outsiders to the prosecutor's intentions. But the surreal silence in the Roosevelt Room each morning belies the nervous discussions racing elsewhere around the West Wing.

"People are very demoralized and unhappy," a former administration official said. "The leak investigation is [part of it], but things were not happy before this took preeminence. It's just been a rough year. A lot has gotten done, but nothing is easy."

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The Most Important Criminal Case in American History

October 20th, 2005

Blogging at [Huffington Post](#), James Moore, the Emmy-winning former television news correspondent and the co-author of the bestselling, *Bush's Brain: How Karl Rove Made George W. Bush Presidential*, makes the case that special prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald has before him the most important criminal case in American history.

Moore writes, "If special counsel Patrick Fitzgerald delivers indictments of a few functionaries of the vice president's office or the White House, we are likely to have on our hands a constitutional crisis. The evidence of widespread wrongdoing and conspiracy is before every American with a cheap laptop and a cable television subscription."

If Moore is right, "We may stand witness to a definitive American moment of democracy. "

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Rove Told Jury Libby May Have Been His Source In Leak Case

October 20th, 2005

Oh, what a tangled web they weave.

Bush's "brain," Karl Rove, told the grand jury in the CIA leak case that I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, Vice President Cheney's chief of staff, may have told him that CIA operative Valerie Plame worked for the intelligence agency before her identity was revealed, a source familiar with Rove's account said yesterday.

In a talk that took place in the days before Plame's CIA employment was revealed in 2003, Rove and Libby discussed conversations they had had with reporters in which Plame and her marriage to Iraq war critic Joseph C. Wilson IV were raised, the source said. Rove told the grand jury the talk was confined to information the two men heard from reporters, the source said.

If true, the question now becomes one of why would these two high-placed administration people have a conversation about Valerie Plame to begin with? Unless it was their intention to coordinate their efforts to discredit her husband, former ambassador Joseph Wilson for writing his scathing New York Times op-ed piece that suggested allegations Saddam had tried to obtain yellowcake uranium were bogus.

SOURCE: [The Washington Post](#)

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Texas Court Issues Warrant for DeLay

October 19th, 2005

The party is over for The Hammer.

A Texas court on Wednesday issued a warrant for former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay's arrest, and set an initial \$10,000 bail as a routine step before his first court appearance on conspiracy and state money laundering charges. Travis County court officials said DeLay was ordered to appear at the Fort Bend County, Texas, jail for booking, where he'd likely be fingerprinted and photographed. DeLay's lawyers had hoped to avoid such a spectacle.

The charges against the Texas Republican stem from allegations that a DeLay-founded Texas political committee funneled corporate money into state GOP legislative races through the National Republican Party.

SOURCE: [ABC Channel 7](#)

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A New Tidbit on the Plame Affair

October 18th, 2005

OK. This is one of those stories that winds its way through the blogs and sometimes turn out to be false. However, sometimes stories like this turn out to be spot-on accurate.

Let's hope it's the latter.

By way of Atrios comes a blogger named Larry C. Johnson. Johnson makes the astonishing claim on his blog, [No Quarter](#):

Had lunch today with a person who has a direct tie to one of the folks facing indictment in the Plame affair. There are 22 files that Fitzgerald is looking at for potential indictment . These include Stephen Hadley, Karl Rove, Lewis Libby, Dick Cheney, and Mary Matalin (there are others of course). Hadley has told friends he expects to be indicted. No wonder folks are nervous at the White House.

Wow! Fitzgerald has 22 files he's looking at for potential indictment? If Fitzgerald only issues half — or 11, the question becomes, will anyone be left in the Bush administration to run the government?

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White House Watch: Cheney Resignation Rumors Fly

October 18th, 2005

Sparked by today's Washington Post story that suggests Vice President Cheney's office is involved in the Plame-CIA spy link investigation, government officials and advisers passed around rumors that the vice president might step aside and that President Bush would elevate Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

SOURCE: [US NEWS.com](#)

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Democrats Want Explanation on Miller's Security Clearance





October 18th, 2005

Two senior Democrats have called on Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to explain an apparent "top secret" clearance given to New York Times reporter Judith Miller while she was on the hunt for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

The congressmen's letter can be read in it's entirety here:

[RawStory.](#)

As usual, no word from Senators' Kerry, Clinton or Biden on the matter.

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Rice Lies on Meet the Press

October 17th, 2005



This past Sunday on Meet the Press, Condi Rice repeated the long discredited lie about a connection between Saddam Hussein and the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Will someone please get this stupid woman new talking points?

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Cheney the Focus of CIA Leak Investigation

October 17th, 2005

Confirming what was reported here months ago, [Bloomberg](#) reports Vice President Dick Cheney is now the focus of the investigation into who leaked the identity of CIA undercover agent Valerie Plame.

Bloomberg reports,

The special counsel, Patrick Fitzgerald, has questioned current and former officials of President George W. Bush's administration about whether Cheney was involved in an effort to discredit the agent's husband, Iraq war critic and former U.S. diplomat Joseph Wilson, according to the people.

Fitzgerald has questioned Cheney's communications adviser Catherine Martin and former spokeswoman Jennifer Millerwise and ex-White House aide Jim Wilkinson about the vice president's knowledge of the anti-Wilson campaign and his dealings on it with Libby, his chief of staff, the people said. The information came from multiple sources, who requested anonymity because of the secrecy and political sensitivity of the investigation.

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Prediction of Indictments from the Right

October 16th, 2005

[ThinkProgress](#) reports Bill Kristol, editor of The Weekly Standard, commenting on Fox News Sunday about the leak scandal:

KRISTOL: *But talking to people pretty close to both Libby and Rove outside of government, who therefore can talk about it, I think they expect the worse now. I think they that both Libby and Rove will be indicted, not for what the original referral was about but for some combination of disclosing classified information or perhaps failing to be fully candid with federal investigators or with the grand jury.*

October is turning out to be the most dangerous month for the Bush gang.

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If Indicted, Rove Will Resign

October 16th, 2005

Karl Rove would immediately resign or go on unpaid leave if indicted in the CIA leak case, sources familiar with the White House tell [TIME](#), Inc.

Karl Rove has a plan, as always. Even before testifying last week for the fourth time before a grand jury probing the leak of CIA operative Valerie Plame's identity, Rove—who as senior adviser and deputy chief of staff runs a vast swath of the West Wing—and others at the White House had concluded he would immediately resign or possibly go on unpaid leave if indicted, several legal and Administration sources familiar with the thinking tell [TIME](#).

The same scenario would apply to I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, the Vice President's chief of staff, who also faces a possible indictment. A former White House official says Rove's break with Bush would have to be clean—no "giving advice from the sidelines"—for the sake of the Administration, [TIME](#)'s Viveca Novak and Mike Allen report in this week's issue of [TIME](#) (on newsstands Monday, Oct. 17).

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