

THE PALINS MEET MRS. MCCAIN

Lots of people are talking about Jane Mayer's description of how some horny neocons took a cruise to Alaska and discovered Sarah Palin there. But that's by no means the best part of the article.

The best part is the last paragraph:

Palin initially provided the McCain campaign with a boost, but polls now suggest that she has become a liability. A top Republican close to the campaign said that McCain's aides have largely kept faith with Palin. They have been impressed by her work ethic, and by what a quick study she is. According to the Republican close to the campaign, **she has sometimes discomfited advisers by travelling with a big family entourage.** "It kind of changes the dynamic of a meeting to have them all in the room," he told me. John McCain's comfort level with Palin is harder to gauge. In the view of the longtime McCain friend, "John's personal comfort level is low with everyone right now. He's angry. But it was his choice."

Update: Ut oh. Apparently the McCain campaign is not alone in its surprise at having to deal with the extended Palin family.

As governor, Palin justified having the state pay for the travel of her daughters – Bristol, 17; Willow, 14; and Piper, 7 – by noting on travel forms that the girls had been invited to attend or participate in events on the governor's schedule.

But some organizers of these events said they were surprised when the Palin

children showed up uninvited, or said they agreed to a request by the governor to allow the children to attend.

In case you're wondering, this includes Bristol Palin's trip to NYC on the Alaska taxpayer's dime.

In October 2007, Palin brought daughter Bristol along on a trip to New York for a women's leadership conference. Plane tickets from Anchorage to La Guardia Airport for \$1,385.11 were billed to the state, records show, and mother and daughter shared a room for four nights at the \$707.29-per-night Essex House hotel, which overlooks Central Park.

The event's organizers said Palin asked if she could bring her daughter.