

# **IT'S PALIN! BECAUSE THEY COULDN'T GET GERALDINE FERRARO...**

Well, the big news of the morning appears to be that John McCain has picked Palin as his running mate. I see this as a brilliant move; one sure to baffle Democrats and lead to victory for the Republicans in November. Palin is a fantastic writer, and his ribald sense of humor will surely offset the growing tendencies of John McCain to be a total angry, old prick. Oh, wait, I am being told it is Sarah Palin, not Michael Palin. Who the heck is Sarah Palin?

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## **RACING INTO THE WIND**

With this joyous day for all, comes personal sorrow for one. The death of my friend and hero, Phil Hill.

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## **JOHN MCCAIN PROVES CACTUS IS NOT THE BIGGEST PRICK IN THE DESERT**

John McCain is famous for his symbiotic love affair with the national press. But the bloom may be coming off the faded, old, wrinkly rose. The new Time article from Jay Carney and Michael Scherer really shows how dramatically the relationship between McCain and the press has changed.

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# **TORTURE AT THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION**

We are now on the third day of the Democratic National Convention (DNC). I have watched most all of the major prime time speeches, thanks to the straight up coverage of CSPAN. Save for a fleeting reference by Dennis Kucinich, the issue of torture as has not been particularly mentioned at the DNC. At another convention, however, the American Legion was fostering a discussion on torture and the “war on terror” that Dick Cheney and Jim Webb were having to address.

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# **ENHANCED SURVEILLANCE TECHNIQUES AND THE POLICE STATE**

Two things have caught my eye this morning. Both have to do with security surrounding the two political conventions. Are the enhanced surveillance techniques just rolled out by the DOJ and Mukasey already exhibiting their heavy hand?

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# **WE HAVE MET THE WMD TERRORISTS, AND THEY ARE US**

The Bush Administration leaned on the Swiss government to destroy crucial evidence in a broad investigation into the nuclear proliferation network of AQ Khan because the information would implicate the CIA and US Government in a web of entangled activities. As a result, innumerable criminal investigations have been compromised, if not destroyed altogether. And Khan and the others walk free.

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## **SO, WHY WERE THE US ATTORNEYS FIRED?**

For so long now we have been eagerly awaiting the results on the DOJ IG/OPR investigation into the curious and unprecedented firing of nine US Attorneys by the Bush Administration. Today the Washington Post has a report out that gives the lie to the Bush Administration's previously stated reason for firing Arizona US Attorney Paul Charlton. If the reasons stated on the record are not accurate, why were the US Attorneys fired?

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## **WHEN THE LEVEE BREAKS**

In the face of what ought to be the most serious and profound Presidential election in the last 75 years, and with the opening of the Democratic

Convention on the brink, it seemed appropriate to recalibrate for a moment. Hurricane Katrina formed over the Bahamas on August 23, 2005. Three years ago to this very day. And it is being forgotten in the inane headlong rush to argue over tangential trivia.

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## **MALEVOLENCE IN MISSISSIPPI**

Ill winds have been blowing through the Mississippi political and legal scene for a long time now. There is Trent Lott and his son-in-law Dickie Scruggs. A real soap opera there. There is a never ending list of of political takedowns being performed in Mississippi, and neighboring Alabama, on Democratic attorneys and politicians at the hand of the politicized Bush Department of Justice.

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## **FISA REDUX AGAIN: THE SLIPPERY SLOPE LEADS DOWN A RABBIT HOLE**

Five days ago, in the post we discussed the new set of domestic spying protocols that the Bush Administration is determined to entrench into law and practice before leaving office, and learned that Attorney General Mukasey would release new guidelines within weeks to streamline and unify FBI investigations of criminal law enforcement matters and national security threats. Well, that didn't take long; they're here, and it is a chilling grab by the Bush Administration of unheard of domestic

police state powers, emasculating the  
Constitution in the process.