

# GEORGE BUSH OBSTRUCTS JUSTICE

Well, George did it. Made sure that Scooter wouldn't flip rather than do jail time. He commuted Libby's sentence, guaranteeing not only that Libby wouldn't talk, but retaining Libby's right to invoke the Fifth.

This amounts to nothing less than obstruction of justice.

Here's Bush's statement, in which a guy who is pushing to restore minimum sentencing laws says that Libby's sentencing—which was the minimum according to the guidelines, was too tough:

Mr.

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## MORE FUNNY BUSINESS WITH RECORD-KEEPING?

Holy Shit. Remember TALON and CIFA? Here's a description I wrote in April:

It was designed to gather intelligence on threats to defense installments in the United States—to try to collect information (in the TALON database) on threatening people scoping out domestic bases. But it ended up focusing on peace activists and the lefty blogosphere's own Jesus' General.

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## THE REPORT FROM

# WILSON'S TRIP, AGAIN

Once upon a time in a land called Plameology, I was utterly obsessed with the CIA report on Joe Wilson's trip. As I pointed out some time ago, the trip report, in addition to Valerie's identity, was classified at the beginning of leak week. And as I pointed out over the weekend, it is crystal clear that Libby, at least, leaked material from this, knowing it was classified, with no claim

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# INMATE 28301-016

The Appeals Court decision not to grant Libby bond pending appeal, along with last week's Cheney series, may well ensure that Libby does some jail time, however short.

Appellant has not shown that the appeal raises a substantial question.

I'm not holding my breath yet, mind you. But it's going to have to be an untimely pardon or commutation ...

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# DID THEY TRY TO REPLACE IGLESIAS WITH ROGERS?

McClatchy has a story that shows that Pat Rogers, one of the key players behind the firing of David Iglesias, was an officer in the voter fraud group American Center for Voting Rights.

Iglesias said he only recently learned of Rogers's involvement as secretary of the non-

profit American Center for Voting  
RightsLegislative Fund – an activist group that  
defended tighter voteridentification  
requirements in court against charges that they  
weredesigned to hamper voting

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## **CLASSIFICATION IS NOT DECLASSIFICATION**

Frank Rich has a column out that means well—but repeats a Cheney talking point in a way that does more harm than good. He focuses on the connection between Bush's revised Executive Order on classification and the CIA Leak argues that, when Bush gave Cheney classification authority equivalent to his own, he also gave him declassification authority equivalent to his own.

But few noticed another change inserted five times in the revised

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## **THE SILENCE SURROUNDING NOVAK'S TESTIMONY**

This post follows on my wildarsed guess that one of the things that appears in the two-page gap is discussion of Libby's and Novak's super-secret July 9 meeting. I'd like to point out—and speculate on—several weird bits in Novak's trial testimony. Full credit: Jeff Lomonaco identified several of these in a conversation with me, but I happen to know he's at an undisclosed location with crappy Toobz access, so I'm going

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## KONTOGIANNIS' SEAL

Laura asks why the government (and Kontogiannis, in a filing submitted yesterday) would fight to continue to seal the transcripts from his four hearings before Judge Larry Burns.

In an unusual step, Kontogiannis' guilty plea was done in a secret, closed hearing. The plea agreement was unsealed earlier this month, and last week Burns ordered that transcripts of four hearings related to the plea also be made public.

Federal prosecutors objected in motions filed under seal

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## MIND THE GAP: THE LIBBY-NOVAK CALL

You wouldn't think that I—after babbling about this for two years and beating up the press for ignoring it—would miss an opportunity to highlight the super-secret Libby-Novak meeting, do you? Only that's what I did yesterday, when I was puzzling through the remaining two-page gap in the Tatel opinion. Duh.

My post yesterday made the argument that, in addition to laying out the background for the Cooper-Rove conversation (and Rove's prevaricating about

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# **ACTUALLY, TWO DOJ EMPLOYEES QUIT THIS WEEK**

It's funny how, now that we're so attuned to BushCo's Friday news dumps, something reported on Friday attracts more notice than something reported on Thursday.

On Friday, we learned that Rachel Brand, one of the last remaining DOJ clique-members (and a tangential one at that) will resign on July 9.

Rachel Brand, the assistant attorney general in the Office of LegalPolicy, will step down July 9, the department said in a statement.