

WHY DIDN'T JUDY FLOG THE PURPORTED IRAQ- AL QAEDA CONNECTION?

President Bush's claim the other day that no one ever claimed a connection between Iraq and 9/11 got me thinking. Judy Miller reported extensively on Al Qaeda before 9/11—both the previous World Trade Center bombing and on terrorist financing. We know she tried to report on imminent threats from Al Qaeda in summer 2001.

CHRONOLOGICAL JUJITSU WITH THE BIOWEAPONS WHITE PAPER

Back in April, I speculated that Judy Miller had been leaked the CIA/DIA White Paper on the purported mobile bioweapons labs (MBL) to pre-empt the report of an expert team, the "Jefferson Team," sent to Iraq to investigate the trailers. Via Steve Aftergood and this report on the trailers (which I will follow-up with shortly and which lukery is busy working on as well), I found the White Paper itself.

I WONDER HOW DICK ANNOTATED THIS HERSH

ARTICLE?

We know that Dick reads—and probably annotates—Sy Hersh’s articles. No lesser source than Patrick Fitzgerald suggested as much in his filing describing which newspaper articles he’ll submit as evidence during Libby’s trial. You remember—the filing where he showed us Dick’s annotated copy of Wilson’s op-ed? Well, in the same filing, he revealed that a copy of Sy Hersh’s famous Stovepipe article circulated around OVP, and Libby and “others” had annotated the

REPUBLICAN FOREIGN POLICY: MAKE A PROFIT ON DESTRUCTION, MAKE A PROFIT ON RECONSTRUCTION

I can’t remember where I asked it, but several weeks ago I asked who was going to pay for Lebanon’s reconstruction. Some in the thread mused that we, the American taxpayers, would pay for it. Well, wouldn’t you know:

The Bush administration is scrambling to assemble a plan to help rebuild Lebanon, hoping that by competing with Hezbollah for the public’s favor it can undo the damage the war has inflicted on its image and

JUDY AND JOHNNY

It seems Arianna hasn't disbanded her impressive network of Judy Miller sources. She reports:

At 7:30 this morning, John Bolton was having breakfast at Oscar's at the Waldorf with Judy Miller.

Arianna wonders whether Bolton's nomination battle to be reappointed came up. But I'm not convinced. After all, we have good reason to believe that John Bolton is the only Neocon who has availed himself of Judy's particular talent for WMD porn since

THE QUESTION THEY DIDN'T ASK AND BUSH'S NEW PLAN C

You don't need me to tell you things are not going well in Iraq. The NYT surveys the state of affairs this morning, and the news is not good.

The number of roadside bombs planted in Iraq rose in July to the highest monthly total of the war, offering more evidence that the anti-American insurgency has continued to strengthen despite the killing of the terrorist leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

NEOCON JOE, THE FAILED LEBANESE

CAMPAIGN, AND LOSING BY WINNING

This is going to be a bit of a wandering post. But I'm going to cover the following and hopefully finish in enough time to go can peaches: Taking Joe at his word Hersh's portrayal of failure On how the Neocons may become winners out of losing

Taking Joe at His Word

Mark Schmitt asked the other day,

Can someone explain what Senator Lieberman could possibly mean when he says the following:

“I’m worried that too many people,

HOW TO LOSE

About one thing the squalling Neocon Democrats are consistent. They claim that their positions—centrism and hawkishness—are the winning positions. But they ignore that in both recent elections and recent wars, those “winning” policies brought Democrats and the US only failure.

Which is about all you need to know about Marty Peretz’ latest straw man op-ed, beyond the fact that is filled with nasty name-calling.

PAT LANG'S FOUR QUESTIONS AND

HEZBOLLAH

What a dirty trick Pat Lang played, sending his friends a list of four issues with the US-French peace plan, but not addressing those four issues himself. France and the United States are not at war with each other. They cannot agree to end the fighting. Hizbullah thinks it is winning both tactically and strategically. Why will it agree to anything other than a cease-fire in place? Such a cease-fire will be a victory

A SQUABBLE BETWEEN ROBERTS AND HIS MASTERS?

One of the most amusing bits from this article on the upcoming Phase II publication (I guess we have to call the stuff Roberts has delayed further, Phase II.2?) is its description of a dispute between BushCo and Senator Pat Roberts.

The Republican chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee lashed out at the White House on Thursday, criticizing attempts by the Bush administration to keep secret parts of a report on the role Iraqi exiles