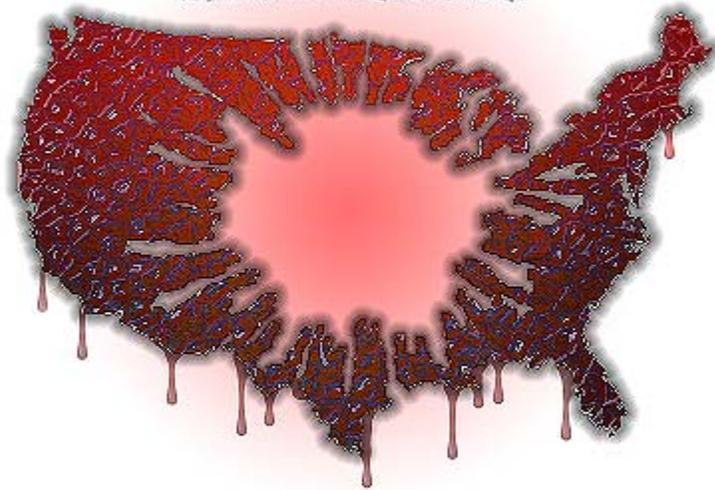


BLOGOSMEAR

MEDIA, MANIPULATION
(& THE MILITARY?)



AN INVESTIGATION



BY HART WILLIAMS

Blogosmear

21,341 words

NOTE: the Table of Contents (TOC) is given in blog format.
The posts are presented "as was."

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A Beauchamp Master List

August 14th, 2007 @ 5:36 pm

A Master List of my pieces in *The Democratic Daily*, as they relate to the Rightie blogosmear of Pvt. Scott Thomas Beauchamp and *The New Republic*.

In reverse chronological order:

- Post # 6391 2007-08-14 7:39:37 am
The Carolina Fabulist
<http://blog.thedemocraticdaily.com/?p=6391>
- 6383 2007-08-12 2:45:11 pm
Declaring Victory and Covering Their Tracks
<http://blog.thedemocraticdaily.com/?p=6383>
- 6373 2007-08-10 6:25:38 pm
The Smoking Pun
<http://blog.thedemocraticdaily.com/?p=6373>
- 6372 2007-08-10 4:45:21 pm
Sadists On Parade
<http://blog.thedemocraticdaily.com/?p=6372>
- 6363 2007-08-08 8:29:37 pm
The Media Drinks The Koolaid (Again)
<http://blog.thedemocraticdaily.com/?p=6363>
- 6354 2007-08-07 12:33:17 pm
Beauchamp - The Plot Thickens
<http://blog.thedemocraticdaily.com/?p=6354>
- 6346 2007-08-05 4:08:36 pm
Commander-In-Chief Slaps Combat Soldier?
<http://blog.thedemocraticdaily.com/?p=6346>
- 6343 2007-08-04 12:01:01 pm
Scandal! Pentagon or Blogosmear or Both?
<http://blog.thedemocraticdaily.com/?p=6343>
- 6340 2007-08-03 4:09:30 pm
Torquemada Goldfarb and the Fatwa Against Beauchamp
<http://blog.thedemocraticdaily.com/?p=6340>

- 6305 2007-07-29 9:07:17 am
Wingnut Smear on Columbia Journalism Review
<http://blog.thedemocraticdaily.com/?p=6305>
- 6297 2007-07-27 3:30:09 pm
Blogosmear, or, It's WAR!
<http://blog.thedemocraticdaily.com/?p=6297>

This represents my complete series of postings on the Private Scott Thomas Beauchamp Affair— thus far — the tale of a soldier in Iraq, who, writing anonymously for *The New Republic*, was ‘outed’ by the yowling of the top Right Wing blogs, and was investigated by the Army for UCMJ violations, at the behest of and choreographed blog firestorm by *Weekly Standard* BLOGGER Michael Goldfarb. [TWS is owned by Rupert Murdoch, and edited by FAUX Nooz regular William Kristol].

As of this writing, Beauchamp has not been heard from, according to the Army, by choice, but according to TNR (where his wife works) because he’s being held incommunicado with all communications to relatives monitored.

Courage.

Blogosmear, or, It's WAR!

July 27th, 2007 @ 3:30 pm

A Visit From Saint Michelle

*T'was the week before August
and all were deployed
in hothouse Iraq
no lives yet destroyed*

[**WARNING:** *This is a long piece. Read at your own literary peril.*]

The Battle of the Bulge is under way.

Parallel to the melt down of the Bush Administration (and their “High Noon” challenge to Congress, seemingly to FORCE a confrontation that the invertibrates of the two houses have been loathe to accept), a full-scale attack on the blogosphere and the left is under way, via The Usual Suspects.

The National Review is under a withering, focused attack via that horde of Zombie Kewpie Dolls from Hell that the Right has so carefully cultivated (see “Objective Journalism,” [Parts 1](#) and [2 for details](#)).

And Bill O’Reilly has launched a successful attack on **DailyKos**.

Neither institution seems to appreciate the coordination and zealotry of the forces arrayed against them, which is, frankly, the story of HOW the Left lost control of this country following the election of 1980. No matter how many times you hit these imbeciles in the face, they still don’t GET that it’s BARBARIANS at the gate, and not some esoteric question of table manners and etiquette.

The progressives of the modern era don't seem to "get" that our current mess won't be solved by the extension of the pinkie whilst drinking tea. We go to the mattresses.

Part 1. The Eloi and the Morlock

Since I wrote this once before, no need to rewrite it. From the [legendary Bruce Anderson](#)'s short-lived "AVA Oregon," [Vol 1 No. 4, November 25, 2004](#):

What's For Dinner?

According to Mr. H.G. Wells, the true postmodernists can be found in 802,701 A.D. Existing in a world freed from want, the Eloi live without conflict, disease, discomfort or pain, with everything they need to exist provided them. Wells' THE TIME MACHINE creates a future world split between two races, the childlike Eloi and the creatures of the darkness, the underground-dwelling, ape-like, albino, machine-savvy, light-averse Morlocks.

The Eloi, the Time Traveler learns, were once the princes of Earth, the aristoi, but without challenges, their powers of reason have atrophied. They are simply childlike, ineffectual, helpless and nearly emotionless. The Morlocks, on the other hand, were the servants, dwelling in darkness, tending the machinery. But things changed. Without broccoli, or other vegetables, the Morlocks became utterly carnivorous, and, turning to the simplest food supply, took the Eloi as their domesticated cattle.

Sadly, Mr. Wells was slightly off in his calculations, by approximately 800,701 years. Today, we call the Morlocks 'Republicans' and the Eloi are similarly denoted 'Democrats.' But on most other scores, Mr. Wells was entirely on beam: After generations of rule, utterly controlling the national debate, the Eloi's Prime Directive, 'Thou Shalt Not Offend,' became 'P.C.' while the Morlocks, living deep underground, plotted their ultimate takeover, as their rhetoric turned increasingly savage and filled with irrational hate.

Some say that the Morlocks turned away from reason to instinct, as did Mr. Wells' creations, vaguely recalling their last triumphant control of the government, in the Eisenhower Administration, when their entire raison d'etre was the hatred of 'Communists,' 'Reds' and 'Pinkos.' The depths of this irrationality can, perhaps, be seen in their gleeful embrace of the concept of 'Red States' — which would have seemed anathema to their forebears.

But, then again, the Morlocks are fueled by even older, half-understood hatreds and irrational grudges. The entire Republican leadership of the House, Senate and White House are [Dixiecrats] from the Old South, the loser in the long-forgotten Civil War, excepting the Morlock [then-Speaker of the House Dennis] Hastert, who comes from Illinois, that state that license plates itself 'The Land of Lincoln.'

But, in this case, the Morlock credo is 'With malice towards all, and charity for none.' Like their fictional counterparts, the new Morlocks feed on the ineffectual Eloi — whose powers of reason seem to have withered entirely, after generations in unquestioned power, just as their ability to counter or contend with the Morlocks seems a mere memory of another stage in their devolution....

Part 2. The Attack on Kos, or The Eloi Fight Back

This appeared on the [DailyKos front page](#) yesterday:

Fox Attacks! Blogger Edition Hotlist

by mcjoan

Thu Jul 26, 2007 at 03:37:25 PM PDT

We are all under attack. Daily Kos might be the biggest target, but we're certainly not the only one. But we can fight back.

Yes, with YearlyKos (the Kos Convention, which all Democratic presidential candidates have accepted invitations to attend, in contrast to the Democratic Leadership Council, the DLC, whose invitation NONE of the candidates have accepted) almost upon us, JetBlue got into a well, let's let that Kewpie Doll from Hell, [Michelle Malkin distort it for you](#):

July 19, 2006

Just got word that JetBlue has asked the YearlyKos organizers to remove its name from the nutroots convention's website. For its sponsorship deal, JetBlue apparently donated 10 travel vouchers to YearlyKos. I understand that there are no plans to revoke the vouchers. O'Reilly will be reacting to the decision tonight.

In a letter to O'Reilly, JetBlue says it is 'an airline' not 'a political organization.' Glad to hear it.

Guess we can add that other wing back to JetBlue's planes ...

"Nutroots," by the by, is the official Right Wing Smear term for us. We bloggers. We who have the temerity to write of Rightie wrongs. We, who might consider us civilized versus them what thinks kindergarten recess name calling is a legitimate debate tactic.

They ARE barbarians, and are not amenable to civility. And yet ...

And, having been choked by the 'Julia Child of the Morlocks' recipe, what does McJoan of **DailyKos** fight back with?

The folks at FOX Attacks are creating the tool to do just that—to build a database and a quick contact mechanism for all of FOX's local and national advertisers. You can help in the project by joining Fox Attacks' effort to not let Fox's lies stand. It's not a boycott, it's an effort to educate Fox's advertisers of just what it is that they are sponsoring. [ibid]

And What IS "[Fox Attacks](#)"?

Fight back! Become a Fox Attacker.

Fox is not a legitimate news channel. They consistently misrepresent facts, manufacture terror, and slander progressives.

We're fighting back by identifying and calling all of FOX's advertisers. All of them. Particularly local advertisers who probably have no idea the kind of hatred their money is supporting.

Already a FOX Attacker? Sign in here ?

This is not a boycott. We are simply calling advertisers and informing them about FOX. And making Bill O'Reilly's life a living hell.

Sign up, and get started now:

Sign in name (doesn't have to be your real name)

Hoo boy. That'll scare 'em. They intimidate your advertisers away, so you attack THEIR advertisers. (It's from Robert Greenwald's 2004 website for "Outfoxed" — his laudably innovative documentary that allowed progressives to hold house parties and fundraisers over the DVD).

Except, like "Progressive Talk Radio," the battle is utterly one-sided. Rupert Murdoch was willing to hemorrhage literally hundreds of millions of dollars* before the operation turned any profits. In "Progressive Talk," the top rated show has perhaps 100 stations. The top Rightie talkers? [Limbaugh 590 stations](#). Hannity [over 500 stations](#). Michael Savage (née Weiner) is syndicated [on over 400 stations](#) by [Talk Radio Network](#) out of Grants Pass, Oregon — an organization [eerily coincident with Joseph Farah's WorldNetDaily](#). Or, take a look at [THIS page](#), with the NUMBER of stations under each host's photo.

[* "... [News Corp](#) spent \$400 million to launch Fox News ..."]

It never occurs to them that they can afford to carry someone like an O'Reilly WITHOUT advertisers as a sort of ideological loss leader — good will from Rightie legislators on upcoming antitrust and media regulation legislation. EVEN if they stripped all the advertisers from, say O'Reilly, the impact on the News Corp.'s wide-ranging operations might well be nil.

That's fighting back? Well, one begins to understand, as a Progressive, how Lt. Col. G.A. Custer felt on a Montana hillside in the [Summer of 1876](#).

Part 3. My Sordid Case.

We've [been there](#). We've [done that](#). Onward.

Part 4. Michael Moore Gets Subpoena'ed.

Michael Moore says he's been served with subpoena

John Byrne

The Raw Story

Friday July 27, 2007

Filmmaker Michael Moore revealed on Thursday's 'The Tonight Show' with Jay Leno that the Bush Administration had served him with a subpoena regarding his recent trip to Cuba made as part of his new film, Sicko.

Moore told the audience that he was notified of the subpoena backstage.

'I haven't even told my own family yet,' Moore remarked. "I was just informed when I was back there with Jay that the Bush administration has now issued a subpoena for me.'

Moore declared that the subpoena was unwarranted, saying, "this was a work of journalism.'

'I was there to help them and now I'm going to face this further harassment from the Bush people,' Moore said, according to a transcript. 'Aren't they busy with something else?' [[more Moore](#)]

Part 5. The New Republic Soldiers On.

*but me and my messmates
securely embunked
had no Earthly inkling
I was about to be punked.*

It didn't take long for that Zombie Kewpie Doll From Hell to shift her attentions from embarrassing JetBlue, YearlyKos, and the unseen launch of the Attack of the Rightie Blogosphere (many of which, SURPRISE!, exactly correlate with the Rightie Attack Blogs that attacked me back around the Fourth of July).

Her brain-eating minions turned their attentions to an anonymous soldier's column in The New Republic. It is, perhaps, no accident that "Little Green Footballs" is tootled and triumphaled in sheerest braggadacio for its role in the rightie smear of Dan Rather's 60 MINUTES II document that led to Rather's dismissal, and the discrediting of the (true) story about how George W. Bush avoided military service in the Texas, Alabama and Massachusetts Air National Guard(s) even as he avoided ACTUAL military service in that war John Kerry served so disgracefully in.

These are MORLOCKS, kiddies. You cannot reason with them. And, as long as you think you can, they prey on you. Indeed, one begins to think that Wall Street Journal guest editorial by Ted Nugent, on July 3 (web-posted 12:01 AM July 4) was the Formal Declaration of War.

It began with a nasty fellow at the Rupert Murdoch/News Corp. owned magazine The Weekly Standard, named Michael Goldfarb, who launches an attack on his Weekly Standard blog on the credibility of TNR's columnist, the anonymous soldier.

Within days, various nasty bloggers have ramped up the screeching just like they did on the Rather story.

And Goldfarb then cites THEIR citations of his story to show how IMPORTANT his story is. The serpent bites its tail.

Get this straight: None of these bloggers would ever bother reading The New Republic. The issue of the story's 'integrity' is a MOOT point to them. No: it's an attempt to harass and intimidate, and a few days later, [Goldfarb trumpets the intrusion of the 'story'](#) into the MSM: an ABC story by Marcus Baram.*

[* from Media Bistro's '**Revolving Door**' June 29, 2006:

'Marcus Baram has been named editor of the Intelligence column at *Radar*. He had been an editor at *The Wall Street Journal*.']

Gee. The Wall Street Journal.

And then the flood. In the last 24 hours, the story has exploded into the press. [CBS](#):

Jul 26, 2007

(Political Animal) SCOTT THOMAS....Have you been following the Scott Thomas story? He's a pseudonymous soldier in Iraq who wrote a couple of columns for TNR describing the ways in which war robs us of our humanity. One soldier dug up a skull and wore it on his head. Another one amused himself by running over dogs in his Bradley. Thomas himself mocked a woman who had been disfigured by an IED.

Conservative sites went crazy. Thomas didn't really exist. His stories were made up. The left hates the troops. Etc. etc.

The whole thing has been kind of weird. Needless to say, Thomas does exist (he went public this morning on TNR's blog) and so far nobody has any evidence that he's made anything up. ...

Here's from one of WEEKLY STANDARD Goldfarb's [recommended blogs; a 'milblog'](#),

[The Mudville Gazette:](#)

But allow me to shock you: There probably have been dogs struck and killed by vehicles in Iraq. There probably have been people insulted in DFACs. And there are assholes in the US Army. The New Republic wants people to believe those assholes are typical soldiers. I suggest my bottom line comments from my first take on the story might be useful.

I for one would like to know whether "Scott Thomas" and his buddies are the sick little pieces of shit described in The New Republic or simply figments of some other sick little piece of shit's imagination.

I don't know the answer yet. Of course, if this guy is a soldier he's a pathetic excuse for the real thing, and he's going to face some repercussions for his actions. He either did what he says he did, and is an asshole, or he didn't and is fabricating stories, and is an asshole ... If he's actually in the military and he's lying, then words aren't sufficient to describe the sort of low life scumbag he is.

If he (or she) is not in the military and is simply demonizing U.S. Soldiers for fun and profit, then he (or she) is simply doing what so many reporters find irresistible these days - providing gullible Leftists with what they are eager to believe ... So lets make one thing clear. For the record - and for

what it's worth - I hereby call on The New Republic to stop covering for this little dirt bag and turn him in to proper authorities. The New Republic's new "war hero" is not exposing bad behavior of others that's condoned by his seniors - he's confessing to that behavior himself. Since the New Republic won't release his identity, we can only conclude that either they support this sort of behavior by US troops or know that he isn't one. Neither option speaks well for anyone involved.

I further urge my fellow bloggers - and anyone else interested in the truth in this matter - to follow suit.

There is something chilling in this. The Righties were screaming for the 'outing' of this soldier by claiming that he didn't actually exist. The implications that fuckwits like 'Mudville' in the military would 'get' 'Scott Thomas' whether via court martial or in a dark alley becomes chilling clear in retrospect.

These irresponsible catcalls from hell could well spell death, imprisonment or something in between, should 'Scott Thomas' turn out to be real. Certainly, the soldier's desire for anonymity in his writings becomes grimly understandable.

It is a ghoulish comprehension. These bastards not only know that real human beings can be harmed, REALLY harmed via their Morlockian rhetoric, they seem to actually relish the possibility.

Here's from Michelle Malkin's 'Hot Air' videoblog/blog website, [by Allahpundit](#)

'Scott Thomas': A psychological profile;

Update: Rigorous fact-checking, says Foer

Update: Bryan weighs in on the whole 'woman in a FOB' question posted at 1:02 pm on July 25, 2007 by Allahpundit

More exactly, a semiotic profile. The link is going around thanks to the author's hard knock on TNR editor Franklin Foer at the end but the tasty part is in the middle where he dissects Thomas's style. Verdict: He's probably a grad student with military but not combat experience who fancies himself the Dangerous Guy with Chops. Heavy on the physical detail, devoid of emotional judgment, he needs you to know that (a) he's been there and (b) he's farking crazy, man, beyond good and evil, and he's willing to use every 'sinister' stylistic affectation he can find to communicate those two facts. Which tends to suggest that he's not beyond good and evil at all or else he wouldn't be straining so hard to affect evilness.

Even so, it doesn't always work out:

4) Physical detail is mildly slanted toward the refined senses (sight and sound) rather than the vulgar senses (smell, taste, touch, and kinesthesia); the refined-sense details tend to be more specific, and the vulgar-sense details tend to be alluded to more than specifically named. (I think this is caused by a lack of actual experience; in actual experience the vulgar senses are the strong ones, but in library research the refined senses are the ones easier to paraphrase to avoid being caught in plagiarism).

He's a poseur, in other words, albeit perhaps one with enough experience to make a facially plausible case of combat duty....

Or, one more 'reasonable' Rightie site cited by Goldfarb:

Mackubin Thomas Owens (their Military anything-but-Commentator) at [National Review Online](#):

Nonetheless, the 'Diarist's' stories remind me of the sort of shocking and outrageous statements young men like to tell to credulous listeners. As the late Harry Summers, a veteran of two wars once remarked, such stories are intended to have the same impact as the sight of two Hell's Angels French kissing in front of a group of bystanders: shock and awe. They also remind me of the predisposition of the American press to believe the worst about American soldiers, a predisposition that dates to the Vietnam War...

And we never saw it coming, as in my case, as in DailyKos' case, because we HAVE NO WINDOW into the Right Wing Media world. When these stories finally appear, they appear fully grown and armored, like a leprous Athena from the Forehead of a diseased Zeus. *It is a coordinated attack, ginned up by a well-oiled smear machine. Do you doubt it? Check any of the citations in this article for cross connections, and be sitting down when you do.

[*case in point: [Ace of Spades](#)* another WEEKLY STANDARD recommended post:

NYT Breaks TNR Lt. Stephen Glass Story, A Week After Everyone Else

Just noting it for the record; there's nothing here new or worthy of your time.

Well old news **INSIDE** the Right Wing Bubble of Derision, perhaps.]

And, since you're probably not a regular viewer, Michelle Malkin has pretty much made herself a regular on O'Reilly's FAUX NOOZ show. Will FAUX cover this 'controversy'?

Was the Pope a Hitler Youth?

[MRC/NB's Bozell on Hannity & Colmes About Magazine's Derogatory Soldier Tales](#)

By NB Staff

July 24, 2007 - 22:26 ET

Brent Bozell, President of NewsBusters parent the Media Research Center, appeared Tuesday night on the Fox News Channel's Hannity & Colmes. Topic: Swirling questions about the accuracy of The New Republic's "Baghdad Diarist," writing under the pseudonym "Scott Thomas," a presumed soldier who has penned derogatory stories about the behavior of U.S. soldiers in Iraq running over dogs, ridiculing maimed Iraqis and playing with the skulls of kids.

Bozell pointed out how the New Republic only says 'they know who he is with near certainty,' which is like saying you're 'almost pregnant.' Noting

that the magazine's editors now promise to look into the accuracy of the stories, Bozell wondered: 'Ought not they not to have done that before?'

I will pass without comment the fundamental irony of FAUX NOOZ demanding that a journalistic endeavor be able to quantify their reporting with facts. But [from the same NewsBusters](#) ('Exposing and Combating Liberal Bias In The Media') post:

The Weekly Standard's "Worldwide Standard" blog has the best day-by-day updates on developments.

An excerpt from Tuesday's posting by Michael Goldfarb ...

Well, DUH! The snowball was started and is being pushed **BY** (Murdoch employee) Goldfarb. No wonder it's *'the best'*! How's that for 'liberal media bias'? More importantly, how incestuous is all of this?

*When out in the blogosphere
there arose such a clatter
that I outed myself,
to put an end to the matter*

But what had 'Scott Thomas' done?

Well, he had reported that all was not peaches and cream in Iraq. And in the face of this unrelenting attack from the Right, The National Review's Editor did what anyone who wants to jeopardize the life of their undercover reporter does:

Outs 'Scott Thomas.' (Oh, I suppose the tale that ST wanted the following statement posted might have credibility. But, knowing the Morlockian jeopardy the soldier might be put in, had I been the TNR editor, I'd have insisted that the soldier keep his big trap shut, and told Michelle Malkin, Sean Hannity, Brent Bozell, and ESPECIALLY Michael Goldfarb to GO FUCK YOURSELVES!

Ah, but that is not the Eloi Way.

07.26.07

[A STATEMENT FROM SCOTT THOMAS BEAUCHAMP:](#)

As we've noted in this space, some have questioned details that appeared in the Diarist "Shock Troops," published under the pseudonym Scott Thomas. According to Major Kirk Luedeke, a public affairs officer at Forward Operating Base Falcon, a formal military investigation has also been launched into the incidents described in the piece.

Although the article was rigorously edited and fact-checked before it was published, we have decided to go back and, to the extent possible, re-report every detail. This process takes considerable time, as the primary subjects are on another continent, with intermittent access to phones and email. Thus far we've found nothing to disprove the facts in the article; we will release the full results of our search when it is completed.

In the meantime, the author has requested that we publish the statement below. -The Editors

My Diarist, “Shock Troops,” and the two other pieces I wrote for the New Republic have stirred more controversy than I could ever have anticipated. They were written under a pseudonym, because I wanted to write honestly about my experiences, without fear of reprisal. Unfortunately, my pseudonym has caused confusion. And there seems to be one major way in which I can clarify the debate over my pieces: I’m willing to stand by the entirety of my articles for the New Republic using my real name.

I am Private Scott Thomas Beauchamp, a member of Alpha Company, 1/18 Infantry, Second Brigade Combat Team, First Infantry Division ... [\[more\]](#)

I suggest you [read the comments](#) to divine whether the mindset of this fake ‘controversy’ is a clear and present danger to poor Scott Thomas Beauchamp.

But, of course, this was pooh-pooh’ed by the screeching Right. And the Leftie blogosphere is ill-prepared and mostly unaware of it. As per usual, the victim of the Rightie slime campaign is exposed, without so much as covering fire. His survival chances just dropped about 75%.

But the Editor is going to rigorously RECHECK all the facts! Which means that TNR just lost. You can’t be civil with barbarians. The barbarian won’t like it, and you’ll end up smelling like a pig. The Morlocks successfully intimidated the beleaguered Eloi Editor. No matter WHAT he comes up with, it won’t matter now. And they’ve ginned the ‘Legitimate’ Media into acting like this is a story (205 Google News hits this morning).

*And then they appeared
their masters called them by name,
O’Reilly, and Malkin, and
Goldfarb screamed blame.*

But [Michelle Malkin](#) could smell fresh brains for supper, and evinced the Morlock equivalent orgasm:

[‘Scott Thomas’ steps out of the shadows](#)

Update: The blog of ‘Sir Real Scott Thomas’

Update: His MySpace page

Update The soon-to-be wife of Scott Thomas Beauchamp?

By Michelle Malkin

July 26, 2007 08:35 AM

(Privacy? You don’t get no stinkin’ privacy. We don’t like what you wrote, so whatever we can dig up is fair game! What’s HILARIOUS is that, on the same DAY, Malkin sniffs self-righteously about how [she’s NOT a hater](#). That’s just HATEFUL of you, calling her that!)

Get it? They don’t just want to ‘out’ our soldier serving in the illegal war in 120 degree summer days. No. They want to dig into every nook and cranny to find anything to smear him. Since he’s serving in a combat zone, I guess the contempt of the Rightie blogosphere is going to make his life safer, right? That’s supporting the troops.

(Oh, and from those screaming that a resumption of the ‘Fairness Doctrine’ would be tantamount to censorship.) Without shifting gears, Scott Thomas Beauchamp has gone from a ‘fraud’ who doesn’t know what a ‘Glock’ firing pin is to a traitor, and (GASP!!!!) a PRIVATE!

(Nothing like a little class war from the *Übermenschen*, eh?)

Here’s a little ‘proof’ that Beauchamp is AUTOMATICALLY suspect, from Goldfarb the schmeermeister his-own-self:

Thursday, July 26, 2007

Beauchamp: “An ideological battle that I never wanted to join...”

Just doing a little digging on Scott Thomas Beauchamp and we stumble across this piece from the *Missourian*:

‘Glenn is completely submerged in politics on campus. It is honestly impossible to think about politics at MU without thinking of Glenn,’ says Scott Beauchamp, editor-in-chief of Prospectus, a liberal campus news magazine. Beauchamp and Rehn met one year ago while campaigning for Howard Dean. (no close quote= sic)

Riehl World View has more on the connection to Rehn. But I’d encourage readers to read the whole article from the *Missourian*, there’s a lot more there.

Posted by Michael Goldfarb at 04:30 PM.

(Ooooh. He was FOR KERRY! Traitor! Leftie! Al Qaeda sympathizer! The mindset of this bigot reveals himself by the ‘obvious’ point that we’re supposed to take away from his commentary and ‘reporting.’)

Yeah. Here’s some of the commentary, from a website Goldfarb touts in today’s blog, **Little Green Footballs** (that Dan-Rather-font-attacking blog)

New Republic Editor Continues Stonewalling

Howard Kurtz interviews New Republic editor Franklin Foer, and Foer has chosen to continue distorting and misrepresenting the controversy over ‘Shock Troops.’ Army Private Discloses He Is New Republic’s Baghdad Diarist.

As conservative bloggers yesterday continued to challenge the veracity of Beauchamp’s accounts, Foer said: ‘It is really unfortunate that someone like Scott, who was really only trying to tell his particular story, has become a pawn in the debate over the war and the Weekly Standard’s efforts to press an ideological agenda.’

Of course, it’s not about an ‘ideological agenda,’ and Foer knows that. This is a smokescreen, intended to cover up the real issue — the veracity of the events described in the article. Foer’s reaction may play well to the Nutroots crowd, but it’s nothing more than transparently obvious misdirection....

I fear for Scott Thomas Beauchamp's life. They have roused every kind of rage: army rage, bureaucratic rage, radio wingnut rage. And for what? For reporting the facts of his experience, as he saw them. He was a journalist in college, but the report has to be utterly discredited, along with its author, its publisher, and anyone who reads it. I don't know why the hell TNR 'outed' their writer, but don't be surprised if he vanishes into a Pentagon hell.

Because we can't be allowed to see all those flag-draped caskets coming back. This is the 'HAPPY' War. The bloodless war. The 'no sacrifices, no draft' war. Shut that private up!

Revealing his name garnered Beauchamp no friends in Rightie Meanie Land (Another [Goldfarb/WEEKLY STANDARD recommended blog](#) entry!):

[Private Beauchamp- Requiem for a dung beetle](#)

Posted By Uncle Jimbo

UPDATE: It appears that even dung beetles have fellow travelers, clown prince John Cole of Balloon Juice disparages me, poorly. But you know me, I will savage him manana.

Because some people enjoy projecting their weaknesses on me, I do not advocate that anyone hurt the pissant, let alone frag him. Give me a break people, he slimed his whole unit as scum and I pointed out that he might should watch his ass. Really, 'Ya think? ...

And then 'Uncle Jimbo' quotes HIS OWN HATRED(!?!)

So he is unmasked, kudos to JD Johannes who had him pegged down to Company level. I just wonder how the other members of A Co. 1/18 feel about how their buddy Beauchamp described them. And just to note, I had this to say about this POS when this came up.

- **Scott Thomas is a lying sack of shit. Every unit has a Scott Thomas, the whiny pissant whose brilliance is never recognized and who is always being abused by the chain of command for stuff that's not his fault. It would be normal to hear folks telling him to STFU and do his damn job.**

Well just take a look at this little pissant's previous literary efforts, and I'll be honest I would pay good money to knock that freakin' smirk off his face.

For fun, check out HOW MANY times these blogs reference each other. This is coordinated. This is interlinked to the point of bloggish incest. And what integrated force is opposing them? The backbiting leftie blogosphere? DailyKos? Me? (Well, actually, YES, me). Who?

I know the tremendous loneliness of Scott Thomas Beauchamp. I spent the last couple of weeks in it. A handful defended me a couple of times. Most of the leftie bloggers picked

up on the Media Matters talking point that I was a completely obscure liberal blogger (yes, but belittling me helps how?). I am equally certain that 'Leftie' defenses and comments will obligingly crap on JT Beauchamp's prose, and engage in 'civil' conversations about Glock firing pins and the Uniform Code of Military Conduct, while they railroad Beauchamp into either a jail cell or an early grave.

And that's just ONE front of this 'War on Terra,' (never mind the climate or clean air and water). There is a push to intimidate and silence the blogosphere. Perhaps to provide cover for the next link in the chains of fascism that this country is descending into. (Ask not for whom the chains are forged, Lefties. They are being forged for thee.)

Welcome to the battle of the bulge. The Morlocks are out for brains to eat, and if you're reading this, probably brains like yours. Morlocks get very hungry with all that strenuous blogosmearing. Michael Moore, Scott Thomas, Daily Kos, Me, The New Republic, and there are more. The offensive (in both literal senses) is under way. Will we defend? Will we curl into a fetal position and whimper? I'll not hazard a guess. But if ever there were a time

(For some odd reason, WorldNetDaily has not devoted *a word* to the story, so far. But then again: *so many targets, so little time.*)

*And I heard them to shriek
between conniption fits
we hate you all and
to all a Happy Apocalypse.*

America is a nation waiting for a John Brown. Let's hope that it's a longer wait than I fear it will be.

Courage.

[NOTE: This represents — to the best of my knowledge — the first rhyming of *conniption fits* and *apocalypse* in the Western canon. - HW]

[Wingnut Smear on Columbia Journalism Review](#)

July 29th, 2007 @ 9:07 am

As a follow-up to my Friday post on the "[Blogosmear*](#)," the Wingnuts of the rightie hate machine have launched a typically mindless, reflexive attack on the Columbia Journalism Review for having the temerity to toss some water on the bonfire of the vanities that the "milbloggers" and the drooling wingnuts are up in arms about: the 'high tech lynching' to discredit, destroy and either jail or frag Private Beauchamp, [who reported on the situation on the ground in Baghdad](#) in *The New Republic*.

(* See part 5 of "[Blogosmear](#)" for full details. Heck, it was meant as a weekend feature, so read the whole thing, *if you dare.*)

More Beauchamp! (sorry...)
Why do conservatives hate the troops?
[By Paul McLeary Fri 27 Jul 2007 01:12 PM](#)

This is great. The conservative blogosphere and it's kissin' cousin, the milblog community—who always criticize the left for not supporting the troops—is engaging in some troop hating of its own. Their target, of course, is Pvt. Scott Thomas Beauchamp, of TNR fame, and he's taking a beating by critics who apparently have nothing better to do than furiously Google his name all night long and troll his MySpace page.

This childish game of name-calling, mostly led by the know-nothing Michelle Malkin's (sic) of the world—anyone remember the [Jamil Hussein embarrassment](#)—has been going on for the better part of a week. Now the Weekly Standard's Michael Goldfarb [dug up](#) some particularly damning evidence against the young soldier:

“We do know that Beauchamp worked on Howard Dean's presidential campaign, that he edited a liberal student magazine in college, and that he marched with pro-choice demonstrators in 2004....”

The CJR was immediately attacked by [Little Green Footballs](#) (whose claim to fame is as the font-attacking Dan-Rather-smearing blog) and linked to another slimy infester (emphasis on 'fester') of the rightie blogosmear (sic), [Baldilocks](#) — another little [example of incestuous rightie blogging](#).*

[* “UPDATE: Welcome LGF readers (et al.)!”]

As usual, the CJR's McLeary isn't attacked for his main thesis, but for a questionable side-issue. [LGF](#):

CJR: Milbloggers = Chickenhawks

In another ridiculous attack on bloggers covering the New Republic Scott Beauchamp incident, Paul McLeary of the partisan hack outlet the Columbia Journalism Review says milbloggers are chickenhawks.

Maybe the AP should publish a Blog Terminology Dictionary, like their Style Guide, so that idiots like McLeary have a chance to avoid embarrassing themselves. If you've ever wondered why the reputation of journalism is at such a low ebb, look no further than the Columbia School of Journalism, which turns out agenda-blinded fools like this by the dozen.

Finally, [wallowing in this corrosive hatred](#) 24/7 is going to severely screw up somebody's health. Hopefully, it'll be the haters, but the possibility exists that it may end up being us.

Either way, an investment in Maalox or bandage stocks ought to be a smart move.

Take THAT, [Wall Street Journal](#)!

Courage.

[Torquemada Goldfarb and the Fatwa Against Beauchamp](#)

August 3rd, 2007 @ 4:09 pm

The freelance McCarthys and Torquemadas of the Rightie blogosphere are literally in a feeding frenzy. From the roiling of the waters, you'd think someone was dumping chum into a tank of piranhas that hadn't eaten in a week.

Except that I have far too much respect for piranhas to humiliate them with a comparison to the Rightie blogs, led by Michael Goldfarb (of Murdoch's *Weekly Standard*) and Michelle Malkin (a regular and paid contributor on Murdoch's FAUX Nooz). Piranhas deserve some scintilla of respect. They do not do what they do from malice, evil, or the delight in killing. They kill to eat, in contrast to Goldfarb, Malkin and their (usually anonymous) ilk, who eat to kill. Character assassination builds a powerful appetite, one is forced to conclude.

Check [this archived page from Memeorandum](#). You would think that the THIRD MOST IMPORTANT STORY IN AMERICA* was the Private Scott Thomas Beauchamp affair, and that the very future of the republic was at stake. This is less important than the near-breakdown of the House, and a ginned up "scandal" about John Edwards, but FAR MORE important than the bridge collapse in Minneapolis, Minnesota. (Priorities? What priorities? It's all about the hate, you know.)

[* **UPDATE: 4PM PDT 7PM EDT:** It is now the NUMBER ONE STORY, [the MOST IMPORTANT story](#) in the blogosphere. Er, the Rightie blogosphere.]

The Righties have issued [an unstated Fatwa](#) against Private Beauchamp, except, were this [Salman Rushdie](#), he'd be working in the Ayatollah Khomeni's circle, in Tehran, with no possibility of escaping or hiding. How long do you think Rushdie would have lasted in that environment with Khomeni's call for his death hanging over his head?

And how long can Beauchamp survive in a war zone, after the Rightie bloggers — who screamed for a week with UTTER CONVICTION that [Beauchamp DID NOT EXIST](#), that he was a liberal back here in the [states ginning up a completely fictional story](#) — after Rightie bloggers have turned their entire attention to him. I've been watching Memeorandum for some time, and I've rarely seen ANY story [get the kind of coverage](#) this one has. Hungry demons in a feeding frenzy couldn't be worse to watch than these.

Except it's all from the Right. There are virtually no leftie blogs or journals defending our potentially doomed soldier. At best, there's the "objective" "What's all this then?" from Howie Kurtz, and other MSM'ers. However, the (very) brave blogger Libby Spencer has injected some of the only sense in this nonsense and is well worth reading on the subject, as she addresses that sleazy, cowardly Bob Owens who calls himself **The Confederate Yankee**:

from [Newshoggers](#), Spencer writes:

... We've had this conversation before. You won't take the word of a publication that has largely been on your side about the occupation and has no known history of outright fabrications but you're willing to take as gospel, the spokespeople of the military brass? As if the military has never lied to us? Are you forgetting something as recent as Tillman?

Sorry, but you guys were wrong when you said Beauchamp wasn't a soldier and you made a huge deal out of something that doesn't even matter — one can only think to avoid talking about the things that really do matter. Like how badly this surge is failing. Nobody would have read the stupid piece if you folks hadn't made a federal case out of it.

I'm even willing to believe the guy made the whole thing up, out of thin air. So effing what? What have you accomplished here except making trouble for one soldier who is fighting in the sandpit, no matter what his political views are?

And the stunning clarity of Libby's argument will be IGNORED. Why? Because she is stolidly clear-eyed sane. And, as sad experience dictates, sanity is not welcome in this rhetorical dog pit. Only blood is.

Alas, a breath of sanity in this *auto-da-fé* is a mere fart in a windstorm. As per usual, the malicious Michael Goldfarb is head cheerleader for the lynching frenzy he seems to delight in having whipped up. (Goldfarb had better pray that karma is a complete fiction. Because in any just Universe, he would have a price to pay for this sheer malevolence that few would be willing to pay. I note that Goldfarb doesn't face death every day from his enemies — *let alone from his friends*. How 'brave' you are, Goldfarb. What an example you set for all writers, everywhere!)

Listen to his [WEEKLY STANDARD blog](#):

We now know that, at the very least, the New Republic's Scott Beauchamp lied about the timing and location of the ridiculing of a disfigured woman in a U.S. mess hall—the incident, if it happened, took place in Kuwait, Beauchamp now says, before he had the opportunity to experience the “morally distorting” effects of war. But the New Republic, for some reason, finds Beauchamp's new story just as credible as the old one. We continue to have our doubts.

The Righties are out to [smash *The New Republic*](#) magazine (a magazine that NONE of them read, have read, or *EVER WILL* read) over a supposedly fictional author who turns out to NOT be fictional, and, having made *MORE factual errors in their attack* than they can claim in the story, their hypocrisy yet knows no bounds. As they know no shame.

Because we have to be PERFECT, or else they, whose errors are so manifest that no one can even KEEP UP with them, they, moral pricks will CRUCIFY us if we make the slightest error, or, worse, say anything that can be MISCONSTRUED.

Right, Ted Nugent? Mere weeks before implicitly [accusing me](#) of terrifying his family and explicitly

COLMES: ... you said, for your own purpose (ph), it makes you feel important that some guy wants to assassinate you. He doesn't want to assassinate you. You don't really believe that, do you?

NUGENT: Yes, I do. My family takes it very seriously. They're very concerned about it. And I think just the use of the word assassination. And the hate speech that this guy spews is of great concern.

Nugent was saying in an interview that he was in favor of dog fighting. He waves a rifle over his head at an NRA convention and screams forget the police! Shoot crooks! Shoot child molesters! Shoot Shoot Shoot!

HE gets to parse me?

It's their technique, and now Private Beauchamp is in extraordinary physical danger. He is under a complete communications blackout, while his command's Public Relations Officer — a National Guard Lt. Col. from Colorado — gets to say whatever he's told to say by Pentagon/Administration brass.

Do you get it? Do you understand why these little Joe McCarthys MUST be opposed? Do you understand the danger that Michael Goldfarb and his self-appointed inquisitors have placed Scott Thomas Beauchamp for having SPOKEN? For telling us about a war whose COFFINS are shrouded less in flags than secrecy, because this "government" doesn't want us to see the children, the sons, daughters, fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers that are being killed in a relentless fashion by the inhabitants of a country that we invaded to supposedly return to them, after removing Saddam Hussein.

So why in hell are we STILL there? And what is our moral justification for anger at THEM for killing their occupiers. Were the situation reversed, I'd be killing occupying troops, too. No matter whether their propaganda machine called me an "insurgent," a "rebel," a "guerilla," a "terrorist," a "christianist" or whatever. Sticks and stones may break our bones, but IUDs are really tough to stop.

Sorry if that's too real for some.

THEIR *outrageous* errors don't faze them: the errors of their chickenhawks, of their pathetic arm-chair quarterbacks, and, worst of all, their military morons who think that merely because they've worn the uniform, they and THEY ALONE, know anything at all about a war that they've **BEEN COMPLETELY AND CONSISTENTLY WRONG ABOUT FROM DAY ONE**, and continue to be wrong about ... but ...

Hey, it was the liberals who sold us good conservatives out on Vietnam.

One admission of error in a relatively inconsequential story in a small circulation liberal magazine — sorry TNR — is their wedge to crucify [THE NEW REPUBLIC and Private Beauchamp](#). TNR will survive. But if one hair of Beauchamp's head is harmed, it will be upon their heads. Still, TNR thinks it's a Christian in the Colosseum, and refuses to defend itself in any meaningful ways against the trained jackals of the arena.

What is this, [Zardoz](#)?

And you still think that we can [COEXIST with these barbarians](#)?

On a humorous note, the depth of these buffoons' hypocrisy can be seen in [the defense of Matt Sanchez](#)*, whose credibility some [misguided idiots from the Left](#) have attacked for [Sanchez](#)' having been a [GAY PORN STAR](#), prior to becoming another Jeff Gannon/Guckert darling of the Rightie blogosmear. "Morality" and "truth" and "credibility" only matter, one concludes, when they can be used as offensive weapons. But if the kettle notes that the pot is FAR BLACKER, the mangy hackles rise on their leprous spines, and they screech like banshees that they are not demons, but *angels*.

[* see the [UPDATE](#)]

YOU are the demon, for having innocently noted that leather wings and claws dripping with blood are NOT standard angelic issue. (Shame on you!)

It would seem that many of the same folk who tried [to raise the *ad hominem*](#) that my writing [couldn't be trusted because I worked for HUSTLER 28 years ago](#), NOW are defending [Sanchez](#) (who is [working for Murdoch](#)'s THE WEEKLY STANDARD and is a face for Murdoch's FAUX NOOZ), even though they ["hate" pornography and gayness](#). But, to paraphrase scripture, "With Fanaticism, all things are possible."

Were I not actually watching this, I'd not believe it. And where is the "liberal" press as a U.S. serviceman serving in combat is being fed to the blogosmear dogs? Where is the liberal blogosphere?

Somewhere West of Altoona and East of Betelgeuse, I'd imagine. Second star to the left and straight on 'til morning.

Courage. ESPECIALLY Beauchamp.

[Scandal! Pentagon or Blogosmear or Both?](#)

August 4th, 2007 @ 12:01 pm

As you in the blogosphere might know, and as you in the blogosmear are fully complicit in, Confederate Yankee ("Bob Owens") now claims that Pvt. Beauchamp is [completely discredited](#):

Col. Steven Boylan, Public Affairs Officer for U.S. Army Commanding General in Iraq David Petraeus, just emailed me the following in response to my request to confirm an earlier report that the U.S. Army's investigation into the claims made by PV-2 Scott Thomas Beauchamp made in The New Republic had been completed.

I know that's what they WANT to prove, and the coordinated blogs (wonder how many were included in the "Executive Privilege" strategy conference call from the White House last week, called for by Captain's Quarters blogger Ed Morrissey?*) have all jumped on the "story."

[* ['White House, Bloggers Plot Privilege Defense'](#)]

Except: WHY is a private citizen (with a very specific agenda) receiving emails straight from General Petraeus' Public Affairs officer, UNLESS this is all of a whole cloth?

Let's take this a step further: WHY would Petraeus' Public Affairs officer respond to a blogger's email request for information that discredits a private in a political scandal with a pro-Administration spin unless the Administration was in on it? Does anyone seriously think that if I emailed for confirmation of the opposite I'd get a reply? No: the lid would be clamped down if the opposite result had been "revealed" by that internal investigation. It's entirely too political for the Pentagon to touch, UNLESS they were playing politics with full White House approval.

The Army does NOT make its internal investigations public without a court order, as a rule, and it CERTAINLY doesn't release the information through a sympathetic blogger ... *unless this is being coordinated from the top*, and is a White House policy.

Or, do you believe that Petreus is running a "rogue" operation?

Come on. There is a scandal here, all right.

Tinker to Evers to Chance: White House to Petreus to Confederate Yankee and blogosmear.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you the swiftboating of Private Beauchamp by the commanding general of the Iraqi forces, almost undoubtedly on direct orders from the White House. Let them answer the charge, or stand convicted by their very silence.

Because commanding generals in theater DO NOT pursue their own media campaigns, at least since Douglas MacArthur.

So, *either* they've screwed up and let the mask slip, or else Confederate Yankee is a pathological liar, and the rightie blogs that cite him are credulous and gullible as hell. (Which might explain their almost rabid defense of an illegal, failed Iraq war.)

And *The New Republic* has credibility problems?

More to come.

Courage.

Commander-In-Chief Slaps Combat Soldier ?

August 5th, 2007 @ 4:08 pm

Was the West Wing of the White House the originator of this multi-pronged attack against a private serving in combat in Iraq?

Bob Owens, the current torch-bearer in *The Weekly Standard's** blogger-cum-editor Michael Goldfarb's orchestrated attack on *The New Republic*, is now getting to the real meat of the crucifixion: bloodying and perhaps destroying *The New Republic* — who will have to, at a minimum, either fight back against this swiftboating, or else sacrifice editor or editors. One is named in today's "exposé" — horrifically reminiscent of what they did to Dan Rather (Little Green Footballs, who led that charge, is [in on this one, HERE](#)). From [the Confederate Yankee](#) (sic, I believe he means "Yanker"):

[*owned by Rupert Murdoch]

It's quite interesting that in publishing the findings of an investigation in which the magazine's very reputation hangs in the balance, that *The New Republic* somehow forgot to cite the names and positions of the experts who corroborate their magazine's printed claims. Typically, the providing of such information is viewed as lending credibility to the organization attempting to defend itself.

Fortunately for The New Republic, I was able to find one of their experts, and the conversation I had with her was enlightening, to say the least.

[...]

In a response posted on August 3rd, [Major Renee D. Russo, Third Army/USARCENT PAO at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait] stated:

Mr. Owens,

We have received other media queries on the alleged incident, but have not been able to find anyone to back it up. There is not a police report or complaint filed on this incident during that timeframe. Right now it is considered to be a Urban Legend or Myth.

I am still researching the incident and will have to get back with you later with any new developments.

This statement was viewed by many as quite problematic for the credibility of The New Republic and Beauchamp; not only had they been put in a position where they felt compelled to retract a key element that established the tone of narrative in “Shock Troops”—and one that fatally undermined Beauchamp’s premise that the horrors of combat had caused him psychological trauma, as he had not yet been to war—it also cast serious doubts on the claimed event having occurred at Camp Buehring as well, or perhaps at all.

After publishing the information above, that the Beauchamp story is “considered to be an urban legend or myth,” I asked Major Russo if she had been contacted by Franklin Foer or any other reporter or editor from the New Republic attempting to verify their new Camp Buehring claim.

Gosh! Too bad the Confederate Yanker can’t live up to his own high standards of truthiness, but that’s not the point. Having erred in their claims that the soldier in question did not, in fact, exist, they press shamelessly on, perhaps needing [a coordinated attack to smokescreen](#) this, reported today:

[By Ryan Lenz](#)

[Associated Press](#)

Sunday, August 5, 2007; Page A14

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky., Aug. 4 — A soldier convicted of rape and murder in an attack on a 14-year-old Iraqi girl and her family was sentenced Saturday to 110 years in prison, with the possibility of parole after 10 years.

The sentence was part of a plea agreement ... Spielman, 23, of Chambersburg, Pa., received the longest sentence of four soldiers who have been convicted. Three other soldiers pleaded guilty under agreements with prosecutors for their roles in the assault and were given sentences ranging from five to 100 years... The case stemmed from the March 12,

2006, rape and slaying of Abeer Qassim al-Janabi, 14, and the killings of her parents and sister in Mahmudiyah, about 20 miles south of Baghdad.

Or, this, from today's [*Salem \(Ore.\) Statesman-Journal*](#):

Anyone who joins the Armed Forces gives up a lot and risks a lot. That certainly was true for Pat Tillman, who left a lucrative career in the National Football League to join the Army Rangers.

Tillman was killed by his fellow Rangers in Afghanistan in 2004. Three years later, his family still is trying to find out what really happened.

Their fight is America's fight.

In the days after Tillman's death, the military placed him on a pedestal, lauding him as a courageous hero in battle against the Taliban and awarding him the Silver Star — while concealing what actually took place that day. ... Was this a homicide, not a tragic accident?

Three bullet holes in Tillman's forehead indicated that he was killed by M-16 fire from only 10 yards or so away, according to Army documents obtained by The Associated Press.

There was no evidence of a Taliban attack — or any enemy fire — on Tillman's unit. The very placement of his platoon should have raised suspicions.

Medical examiners tried to get the Army to investigate his death as a crime. The military initially stalled, finally conducted a criminal inquiry and declared that Tillman died of accidental friendly fire.

The irony in all of this, is that the Rightie blogosmear has been hounding *The New Republic* over a story in which the anonymous Baghdad soldier, outed and exposed to the hazing of the locker room, [to fragging](#), to the displeasure of his chain of command via the blogosmear's yowling, delineates THREE incidents that the Righties insist OUR soldiers couldn't have possibly engaged in:

1. The taunting of a disfigured woman
2. A soldier's macabre play with the skull of a dead child
3. A humvee driver running over dogs for fun

That's nothing close to the friendly fire death of Pat Tillman, nor of the horrific rape and murder of a FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL and then the murder of her family in their home. So I guess I don't understand what all the outrage was about. Our soldiers rape and murder underage girls. What's so "scandalous" about running over dogs? Unless, of course, it's another disinformation scam. Like the ["uniformed soldier" at the YearlyKos convention](#), which has made it to [the front page of DailyKos](#), and has become the "controversy" that the selfsame Rightie bloggers (many of whom teleconferenced with the White House last week, to coordinate) intended.

And it's an astonishing "burden of proof" to lay on TNR, when every blogger who has attacked has severe-to-unbelievable credibility problems of their own.

It's the same strategy — using more sophisticated means — that they used to hamstring the Clinton White House, and, therefore OUR governance for eight years. (Aided and abetted by **The Wall Street Journal's** editorial page, among others.)

Without asking "Freedom Rapture," since I have no way of doing so, I'll quote from his/her comment on my [DailyKos posting yesterday](#) on the concerted smear of YearlyKos that's **simultaneously** under way.

- **I noticed the attack spearheaded by Drudge**

(from "FreedomRapture"):

These guys are fanatical. I noticed Drudge was hyping the story and then Malkin and all the other nuts went berserk. First they literally threatened Beauchamp's life. Now they want to lionize this Bush soldier for violating UCMJ. No doubt gay porn star Matt Sanchez will join in soon enough.

Sadly, the right-wing own the media framework simply because people respond to hate. I could find a homeless hispanic immigrant living under a freeway overpass, and he could be hyped up to join these freaks because racism, scapegoating, and prejudice are so juicy and invigorating. The whole Right-Wing blogosphere is buzzing with delight at the confrontation and the soldier is going to be featured all week on FOXnews.

Why the hell can't our side get dirty like these Republican pigs. I'm telling you, it's the only thing to combat their viscousness. (sic) We have got to get black ops specialists, propaganda geniuses, and dirty-tricksters. The Repukes will win again and again because they know how to slime someone in an instant. I will never forget what they did to Howard Dean - over one goddamn weekend - over an enthusiastic holler. Unbelievable!

by [FreedomRapture](#) on [Sat Aug 04, 2007 at 08:50:57 PM PDT](#)

- **You're prescient, but late**

(my reply)

Matt Sanchez jumped in with both feet, traveling to FOB Falcon (?) the base that Beauchamp is at. While Beauchamp had been stripped of cel phone, internet or any ability to communicate with the outside world, Sanchez was interviewing soldiers there, putting video on his BRAND NEW blog site (Mattsanchez.com) switched over from <http://mattsanchez.blogspot.com/> on July 1, and was

touted on ALL the Pajamas media sites, Malkin, Malkin's "HOT AIR," etc. and, I'm fairly sure, on FAUX NOOZ.

- o (from mattsanchez.com):
July 31, 2007

Beauchamp

After a helicopter ride around Baghdad, this afternoon I arrived at Forward Operating Base Falcon, where the mood was somber. The Army has begun an official investigation into The New Republic articles of the "Baghdad Diarist", Private Scott Thomas Beauchamp. Officials at the Army Public Affairs Office (PAO) pointed out that until the initial allegations are investigated, there will be little or nothing to add to what has already been publicly released. Still many questions about facts, accountability and credibility remain.

Update: Nice to see how others report the story,

[The Weekly Standard](#)

[Michelle Malkin at Hot Air](#)

Michael Goldfarb of [The Weekly Standard*](#) (owned by Rupert Murdoch), you will recall, STARTED and has orchestrated the attack on *The New Republic*, as their fellow print media have stood by, dumbly, in the way that all television newsmen and newswomen stood by and watched Dan Rather crucified.

First they came for Bert and Ernie

**and I said nothing
because I was not a Muppet.**

**Then they came for Tinky Winky
and I said nothing,
because I was not a Teletubby.**

**Then they came for SpongeBob
and I said nothing,
because I was not an asexual cartoon sea creature.**

**Then they came for me
and there was no one left to speak up.**

— Bugs Bunny (*attributed*)

Will the KOSsacks do the same? Or continue to belie their name?

Every new opinion, at its starting, is precisely in a minority of one.

— Thomas Carlyle

by [harto](#) on [Sun Aug 05, 2007 at 01:02:56 PM PDT](#) • [Permalink](#)

The disinformation attack is finally, laughable, when you consider that two years ago [FAUX NOOZ won an appeal](#) of a jury award to two reporters who were **fired for REFUSING TO FABRICATE FACTS!**

[Fox News Continues Persecution of Reporters Who Exposed Network Lies on Monsanto's rBGH](#)

8/23/2004

(TAMPA) ... After a five-week trial in 2000, a jury decided unanimously that [fired reporter] Akre was fired solely because she threatened to blow the whistle to the FCC the broadcast of a false, distorted or slanted news report. The panel that found in Akre's favor awarded nothing to [fired reporter] Wilson who represented himself at trial.

The Fox appeal was largely on an argument that it is not technically illegal for a broadcaster to deliberately distort the news on television.

See? *The New Republic* **doesn't HAVE to print the truth at all**, if it doesn't want to. *Fox has proven THAT in court*. TNR can, legally, say anything it damned well pleases unless it prints libelous or other actionable material (e.g. "wilful malice"). Get that? The facts **DO NOT matter**. So it's a question of ethics. And them what gots none OUGHT to keep their cake holes shut about them what do.

As Rightie Blogosmear current torch-bearer Bob Owens proves. [Who will bear the torch next?](#) And how soon before Michael Goldfarb CITES this latest posting on his *Weekly Standard* blog? (The serpent, as I've noted, loves to bite his own tail.)

But, finally, this is all about coordination, and I've got to ask this, in light of Bob Owen's seemingly-cozy relationship with the Iraq military public relations machine, and in light of the endless cross-linking of this whole, artificially whipped up firestorm: Was the West Wing of the White House the originator of this multi-pronged attack?

Who would have read [the New Republic's piece](#), had this tempest in a teapot not been whipped into a fine froth by Michael Goldfarb at *The Weekly Standard*? Because it "didn't 'smell good' the first time we* heard it." Unquote.

[*The "we," one presumes, being Twain's editorial tapeworm: Goldfarb wrote the words. But FAUX NOOZ regular William Kristol IS the editor of *The Weekly Standard*, so he might be the actual tape worm. And we all know how completely disconnected FAUX NOOZ is from the White House, what with Tony Snow being the press secretary after serving as a FAUX NOOZ anchorman, and undoubtedly to serve as one AGAIN after he's either fired or Bush leaves the White House.]

Since Michael Goldfarb undoubtedly knows jack shit about serving in combat, one presumes that the smell was detected by his masters as a means of deflecting attention

from Tillman and the rape/murder of a teenaged Iraqi girl. No! Our soldiers don't do that kind of Abu Gharib, Guantanamo Bay stuff. This soldier's a FAKE! OK. He's real. But he's a LIAR! OK, the ARMY PR officer serving under General Petraeus tells Rightie blogger Bob Owens the the formal investigation turned up NO soldiers who were willing to tell the Army that they'd committed the crimes (under Army rules) delineated in the anonymous Baghdad Diary.

That's every bit as credible as the principal of your high school questioning the football team about the "mooning" incident. Do you really think that any of them would do other than deny everything? And do you think Beauchamp is now in physical danger for his life in combat in Iraq? Because that's where Goldfarb's plea for this firestorm has put him.

Did the White House initiate this attack on *The New Republic*?

Because that would mean that a private in the army, serving in combat, is being bitch-slapped (back door) by the White House so that it can "get" *The New Republic* magazine, like they "got" Dan Rather at CBS News.

Or do you believe that [Little Green Footballs](#) was acting completely on his own in muddying the waters about George W. Bush's shameful dereliction of duty during the Vietnam War?

Didn't General Patton get in trouble for something like this?

Courage.

[Beauchamp - The Plot Thickens](#)

August 7th, 2007 @ 12:33 pm

The Rightie blogosmear has gone KARAZEE!

[Michael Goldfarb at Murdoch's WEEKLY STANDARD claims](#) that an anonymous Army source says Private Beauchamp has signed a statement repudiating all of his statements, charges, articles, etc. etc.

The high-fiving throughout the Pajamas Media related blogs who have coordinated with Goldfarb and the WEEKLY STANDARD has been ... well, you'd think it was VE Day and VJ Day all rolled into one.

But wait just a minute! Eager to accept the truth of an anonymous source about their three-week-long attack on The New Republic's anonymous diarist (and his "factuality"), the Righties may have just jumped the gun (if not the shark):

The New Republic has just [released THIS statement](#):

08.07.07

A STATEMENT ON SCOTT THOMAS BEAUCHAMP:

We've talked to military personnel directly involved in the events that Scott Thomas Beauchamp described, and they corroborated his account as detailed in our statement. When we called Army spokesman Major Steven

F. Lamb and asked about an anonymously sourced allegation that Beauchamp had recanted his articles in a sworn statement, he told us, “I have no knowledge of that.” He added, “If someone is speaking anonymously [to The Weekly Standard], they are on their own.” When we pressed Lamb for details on the Army investigation, he told us, “We don’t go into the details of how we conduct our investigations.”

–The Editors
posted 2:32 p.m. [EDT]

I guess facts and anonymous sources are only to be questioned if they disagree with you.

Gee, I sure hope this doesn’t boomerang on Goldfarb. I mean, WHO has demonstrated a grander committment to facts and accuracy?

Courage.

[The Media Drinks The Koolaid \(Again\)](#)

August 8th, 2007 @ 8:29 pm

[**Correction 2PM PDT 9AUG07:**[Pajamas Media co-founder Roger L. Simon](#) is NOT, as noted below, connected with Powerline. Tip of the Hart Chapeau to J. Rosen.]

This will probably be my last post on the subject of the coordinated attack on *The New Republic* magazine and Private Scott Thomas Beauchamp by Michael Goldfarb and his employer, the Rupert Murdoch-owned publication, *The Weekly Standard*.

Not because I have ceased to be interested in this almost textbook smear campaign, nor because I believe that the blogosmearers’ camp has either lived up to the bar height for truth that THEY demanded, nor because I am convinced that any stunning new information has “nailed it” — as nearly as I can tell, in the epistemological sense of truth, of proof, of facts, the issues still stand at deuce — but mostly because I get the feeling that you don’t give a shit, that progressives don’t give a shit, that journalists don’t give a shit, and, frankly, because there’s nothing I can do to stop this lynching any more than Henry Fonda’s character could in 1943’s *The Ox-Bow Incident*, which is what this all reminds me of — minus, of course, any remorse.

Except that a crime had actually been committed in the movie and book. They just strung up the wrong men. Here, we just have the lynching. (By the usual suspects.) And they are stringing up EXACTLY who they intend to lynch.

Oh, I understand why the pussified mainstream press has ignored the story until today. And I understand why, when the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* declare “game over,” the “common wisdom” will now claim that the smear is now “fact.”

I learned that lesson with Gary Webb:

On [December 18, 1997](#), *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* reported that CIA Inspector General Frederick Hitz’s investigation found no links between the CIA and the cocaine traffickers.

Webb alleged that the 1997 backlash was a form of [media manipulation](#). “The government side of the story is coming through the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*,” Webb stated. “They use the giant corporate press rather than saying anything directly. If you work through friendly reporters on major newspapers, it comes off as the *New York Times* saying it and not a mouthpiece of the CIA.”

James Aucoin, a communications professor who specializes in the history of investigative reporting, wrote: “In the case of Gary Webb’s charges against the CIA and the Contras, the major dailies came after him. Media institutions are now part of the establishment and they have a lot invested in that establishment.” [[Wikipedia](#)]

But, like I said, you don’t seem to give a damn, so why should I?

Here’s what the [New York Times](#) says :

Army Says Soldier’s Articles for Magazine Were False

By PATRICIA COHEN

Published: August 8, 2007

An Army investigation into the Baghdad Diarist, a soldier in Iraq who wrote anonymous columns for *The New Republic*, has concluded that the sometimes shockingly cruel reports were false.

“We are not going into the details of the investigation,” Maj. Steven F. Lamb, deputy public affairs officer in Baghdad, wrote in an e-mail message. “The allegations are false, his platoon and company were interviewed, and no one could substantiate the claims he made.”

The brief statement, however, left many questions unanswered. Just last week *The New Republic* published on its Web site the results of its own investigation, stating that five members of the same company as Pvt. Scott Thomas Beauchamp, who had written the anonymous pieces, “all corroborated Beauchamp’s anecdotes, which they witnessed or, in the case of one soldier, heard about contemporaneously. (All of the soldiers we interviewed who had first-hand knowledge of the episodes requested anonymity.)”

...Private Beauchamp is married to a reporter-researcher at the magazine, Elspeth Reeve. [NOTE: *WHY this is important, I don’t know. Kurtz in the Washington Post ALSO seems to find this valuable, indicating, perhaps they’re reading the same press releases – HW*].

Michael Goldfarb, the online editor at *The Weekly Standard* who had initially raised doubt about the columns, wrote yesterday that *The Standard* had learned from a source close to the Army investigation that ... *

[From [NYU Professor of Journalism, Jay Rosen](#):

In fact, there is a gentleman’s agreement among journalists not to investigate each other’s confidential sources. Whenever I have asked

about this, I have never heard a reporter try to justify the arrangement. (I don't think it can be done) Nor do they deny it. Good question for Howard Kurtz to ask on "Reliable Sources."]

And, speaking of Howard Kurtz, the rather gullible "media critic" at [The Washington Post](#) [chimes in](#), completing the two-paper trifecta:

Army Concludes Baghdad Diarist Accounts Untrue

By Howard Kurtz

Washington Post Staff Writer

Wednesday, August 8, 2007; Page C01

Army investigators have concluded that the private whose dispatches for the *New Republic* accused his fellow soldiers of petty cruelties in Iraq was not telling the truth.

The finding, disclosed yesterday, came days after the Washington-based magazine announced that it had corroborated the claims of the private, Scott Thomas Beauchamp, except for one significant error.

"An investigation has been completed and the allegations made by Pvt. Beauchamp were found to be false," an Army statement said. "His platoon and company were interviewed and no one could substantiate the claims."

But *New Republic* Editor Franklin Foer is standing his ground. "We've talked to military personnel directly involved in the events that Scott Thomas Beauchamp described, and they corroborated his account," Foer said. The magazine granted anonymity to the other soldiers it cited.

A military official, **who asked not to be identified because the probe is confidential** ...

Whooh. SOME confidential. Can you say "intentional leak"? Naw. No media manipulation here. Move along. Move along.

Besides the heaping helpings of quotes from Michael Goldfarb (in both newspapers, you'll note), in the story, here's a FAUX NOOZish paragraph in [Kurtz' story](#) that neatly accuses TNR through another's words (for you collectors), AND snarkily *revives* the old Glass scandal that the blogsmear is HOT to tar TNR with, anew:

The Army probe provides ammunition to conservative critics who have accused the liberal magazine of publishing Beauchamp's "[Baghdad Diarist](#)" essays without adequate checking and being too quick to believe that American soldiers would engage in questionable conduct. It also revives fading memories of the magazine's 1998 fabrication scandal involving writer Stephen Glass.

But even Howard Kurtz is uncomfortable with this whole mess (and it's 'confirmation'), so he stages a little "debate," acting as puppeteer:

[*New Republic* Editor Franklin] Foer said the *New Republic* had asked Maj. Steven Lamb, an Army spokesman, about the allegation that Beauchamp had recanted his articles in a sworn statement, and that Lamb had replied: "I have no knowledge of that." Before going incommunicado,

Beauchamp “told us that he signed a statement that did not contradict his writings for the *New Republic*,” Foer said.

“Thus far,” he added, “we’ve been provided no evidence that contradicts our original statement, despite directly asking the military for any such evidence it might have.”

But *Weekly Standard* writer Michael Goldfarb said: “We have full confidence in our reporting that Private Beauchamp recanted under oath.”

It is not clear whether investigators might have pressured Beauchamp into disavowing the articles...

But Kurtz wants us to understand how an inquisition works, so he tosses this charge and this explanation into the Punch & Judy Show:

The [Weekly Standard](#), the conservative magazine that has led the charge against Beauchamp, cited an unnamed military source yesterday as saying that Beauchamp had signed an affidavit acknowledging that his three articles were filled with exaggerations and falsehoods. That could not be independently confirmed, but it is common practice for the subject of an investigation to sign a statement confirming or denying the conduct in question.

And he concludes with the old trick of having *someone else* come to a conclusion:

Mark Feldstein, a journalism professor at [George Washington University](#), called the Army’s refusal to release its report “suspect,” adding: “There is a cloud over the *New Republic*, but there’s one hanging over the Army, as well. Each investigated this and cleared themselves, but they both have vested interests.”

[NOTE: this is not a ‘Fisking’ of Kurtz. But considering the “weight” that the appellation ‘**The Washington Post says**’ carries, it’s worth taking a moment to look at the writing critically. It’s still a “he said/she said” story, advanced not a whit, but now is taken as THE GOSPEL, because of the two papers.]

Of course, behind the scenes, the media manipulation continues, now that they’ve got the brand names to bash with. Here, from Brent Bozell’s “Newsbusters” (“Exposing and Combating Liberal Bias in Media”):

[New Republic Refuses to Retract Thomas ‘Reports’](#)

NewsBusters

By Bob Owens | August 8, 2007 - 13:37 ET

In an e-mail message, Mr. Foer said, “Thus far, we’ve been provided no evidence that contradicts our original ...

Gee. That’s funny. Bob Owens, who supposedly received the first Army email from [General Petraeus](#)’ official mouthpiece, P.R. Officer Lt. Col. (now Col.) Stephen Boylan (but the *New York Times* and *The Washington Post* and *The New Republic* only get Major Lamb, Boylan’s deputy) which forms the BASIS of this story, along with Michael Goldfarb’s evident pushing in BOTH the media and the blogosphere (remember, he

CALLED for this firestorm, back in mid-July). Bob Owens, “Confederate Yankee,” calls for, I guess, the public castration of *The New Republic* by quoting the NYT and WashPo stories — stories in which he’s not mentioned, but of which he was an architect, and Newsbusters has the GALL to talk about “liberal bias”?

So, is Owens a partisan,* or is he a journalist, or is he engaging in media manipulation? None of the above? Or all of the above?

[*A [Pajamas Media](#) blogger — Pajamas Media having been founded by Little Green Footballs’ [Charles Johnson](#) and mystery writer (e.g. “Fabulist”) [Roger L. Simon](#), a Powerline(blog) partner. LGF is proud of his part in a similar smear on Dan Rather. Powerline is prominent in this smear, as were they prominent in MY smearing last month at about the time this whole Beauchamp affair was whipped up.]

But then, Col. Stephen Boylan, General Petraeus’ top Public Relations flak answers HIS emails. So he’s got to be SOMEBODY. (As opposed to the NYT, WashPo and TNR, who only get his deputy Maj. Lamb).

Gee, do you suppose that this campaign was looking for a victim, jumped over me (after finding out that I was “an obscure blogger”) and landed on *The New Republic*? Naww. Or perhaps this was a campaign looking for PR cover for the Pentagon, what with the rape-murder convictions, continued Gitmo controversies, and the Pat Tillman story? You know, if they could push THIS story into the news cycles, it would help obscure the aforementioned scandals? Of course not! That would smack of media manipulation, and, as we all know, NOBODY in the Bush administration engages in active manipulation, disinformation and intimidation of the press. Heaven forbid the very notion! Why, just today, [General Petraeus attributed](#) the 190,000 missing weapons in Iraq to “[clerical errors](#).” (And “Bookkeeping deficiencies” according to [the Washington Post’s story](#) on “in an interview broadcast last night on Fox News Radio’s ‘Alan Colmes Show’.”)

But it’s kind of strange how we find Brent Bozell’s looking-glass version of MediaMatters less concerned with “accuracy” in reporting than in advancing the ball up the field.

[The “article”](#) on liberal bias that ends with this tag:

Cross-posted at [Confederate Yankee](#).

The article that reads like the final Affirmative rebuttal in a debate. Except that this hasn’t been so much a debate as an inquisition. (Which quotes the NYT and WashPo articles as its PROOF that the case is true. The case that was shoved down the NYT and WashPo’s throats, it should be noted.)

[Old Bob’s a busy ‘journalist’ today. In addition to his summation of the Case Against Heretic Beauchamp, he’s going after Reuters [for ‘falsely’ reporting a massacre](#), aided by, mysteriously, [Maj. Rob Parke](#), an Army Public Relations officer in Iraq:

Ho-Hum: Yet [Another False Media-Reported](#) Massacre In Iraq

On Sunday, [Reuters reported](#) that the scene of a large massacre had been discovered near Baquba:

BAGHDAD, Aug 5 (Reuters) - Iraqi police said on Sunday they had found 60 decomposed bodies dumped in thick grass in Baquba, north of Baghdad. There was no indication of how the 60 people had been killed, police said. Baquba is the capital of volatile Diyala province, where thousands of extra U.S. and Iraqi soldiers have been sent to stem growing violence.

Why did the police have such a hard time providing an indication of how the 60 people had been killed? Probably because there were no bodies to examine.

Via email from Major Rob Parke, U.S. Army:

Bob, This story is false. We have had coalition soldiers looking for the last two days at the locations that IPs reported these bodies. We've asked all the locals in the area and they have no idea what we are talking about. We've gone to areas that might be close, gone to suspicious locations, all turned up nothing.

Most of the news stories all say the report stated decomposing bodies which would indicate if it was true, it happened before we arrived. Considering we discovered an Al Qaeda Jail, courthouse, and torture house in western Baqubah, it wouldn't surprise me if there were 60 bodies buried out there somewhere. Bottom line is we have done some extensive looking and found nothing.

This is the second large-scale massacre reported in major wire services in less than six weeks that seem utterly without merit; both Reuters and the Associated Press were duped by insurgents posing as police officers who claimed 20 beheaded bodies were discovered near Um Al-Abeed on June 28.

[That was also false.](#)

As we can all clearly see, Bob Owens "private citizen" is a completely independent voice, whose veracity is beyond doubt. Glad to know that Reuters is lying to us. Good catch Bob! Onward.

So, since I'm finished with this story, like you, I will just note that on Sunday, I went to the official [Iraq Coalition webpage \(Army*\)](#) and got [the official press](#) contact (a generic address, and *not very easy to find* on the "press" website) and I wrote them this:

[* For some *weird* reason [the website for the Coalition](#) is a DOT com, [registered through Tucows](#). *What?* The Pentagon *has their own Top Level Domain!* (.mil). They INVENTED the bloody internet. So WHY are they paying for a dot COM registered site? What the hell kind of insanity is that?]

from: Hart Williams Aug 5 (3 days ago)
to: cpicpressdesk@iraq.centcom.mil
date: Aug 5, 2007 12:08 PM
RE: Investigation policy

To whom it may concern:

I am a freelance journalist in the USA. What is official policy on releasing the results of internal investigations?

And,

What information can you release to me regarding the investigation of Private Scott Thomas Beauchamp vis a vis a “Baghdad Diary” published in THE NATIONAL REVIEW, and the subject of much press speculation stateside?

Bests,

H. Williams,
journalist

Oddly, unlike blogger Bob Owens, and Michael Goldfarb at *The Weekly Standard*, I have received no response to my query. I was under the impression, of course, that the U.S. Army responds to ALL media requests in an equitable manner, but I guess maybe blogger Bob Owens and Michael Goldfarb’s clearly stated agenda –to punish *The New Republic* and, oh, now that we know who he is, to crush Pvt. Beauchamp in the press, a sort of “anti-Jessica Lynch” — more closely conforms to the Administration’s agenda than does the modest query of one freelance journalist. That’s ungentlemanly of me. I’m sure that Owens and Goldfarb aren’t in [cahoots with the Pentagon](#). They’ve got nothing to hide, and certainly [don’t manipulate the press](#) as part of their mission.

No reply. Three days later and counting on a “hot” story that the Army recognizes is hot ENOUGH that they’ve been burning through the tubes of the internets to get their confirmations (that refuse to divulge details) and via anonymous Army sources that the story has been RECANTED.

It is entirely fit and proper that we use the language of inquisition to denote this result. Beauchamp has RECANTED. His statements “exaggerations and falsehoods — fabrications containing only ‘a smidgen of truth’,” according to *New York Times* writer Patricia Cohen QUOTING Michael Goldfarb’s blog report on his orchestrated and oftentimes self-referential story.

The point being that I was curious as to how come it was that this North Carolina blogger, Bob Owens, was getting earth-shaking emails from the Army officer in charge of [ALL embedded media](#) in Iraq, [Col. Stephen Boylan](#)? I would have settled for less.

And how come the story has now been shuttled down the chain of command to Public Relations officer Major Stephen Lamb?*

[*See [Online Journal’s report](#):

The Pentagon’s ‘thought police’

By Linda S. Heard

Online Journal Contributing Writer

Jan 11, 2006, 02:16

The Pentagon’s “Media Engagement Team” has set up shop in the region. Its members, consisting of military personnel and contractors approach various publications and ask for an appointment, whereby owners and editors are urged to publish “positive” stories concerning the US military’s activities in the area.

On some occasions, the team receives a polite hearing. On others, it is shown the door. I find this Orwellian behaviour offensive on many different levels...

Mostly because you *won't hear a WORD* questioning the Pentagon in all of this.]

What was the news today? Only a confirmation that Goldfarb and Bob Owens' quoted letters were real, and not forgeries (which, you'll note, I did not question in my prior posts as authentic, even though the sheer concord between the Army emails and the bloggers' agendas EXACTLY coincided.0

Which tells us nothing new, except that the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* have now drunk the Koolaid, and the story has achieved the status of "fact."

NOTHING new has transpired, except that 'anonymous' Army officers confirm, and, perhaps the Goldfarb letter was sent to the New York Times reporter who either confirmed its contents with the official Pentagon Press Officer, or else didn't. (The NYT, remember, has been [guilty of journalistic crimes](#) at LEAST as egregious as *The New Republic's* [Steven Glass scandal](#) — which the Goldfarbs and Owens are harping on as "proof" of some nefarious intention of TNR to fake stories between 1998 and 2007.)

Howard Kurtz, on the other hand, sounds like a bit like a reporter who's drunk the Koolaid only after his jaws were pried open and a tube shoved down his esophagus. But, with the WRITER of the piece in question SILENCED and unable to defend himself, the debate can now conclude. Fair and Balanced. Balanced and Fair.

Sure am glad that those "Newsbusters" are there to expose and combat bias in the media. Liberal bias, I mean. Good going, Brent Bozell. And I'm glad that Michael Goldfarb can orchestrate a three-week concerted effort to silence, expose, smash and humiliate a young writer serving in the Iraq war. And I'm really proud that a thousand Rightie bloggers can strut and preen and posture and, being the sore winners that they are, swagger into mainstream blogs to bitch-slap non-complicit journalists:

From [The Atlantic \[Magazine\] Online](#):

The Atlantic Online

Ross Douthat

Of my conversation with Jon Chait this morning - in which I argued that TNR probably shouldn't have run the Scott Thomas Beauchamp pieces, but also contended that the right-wing blogosphere's reaction has often run well over-the-top - Ace of Spades writes:

- Okay, Ross. You keep earning your reasonable stripes by basically **kissing your liberal pals' asses** while meanwhile saying nothing at all — except to the extent you just agree with what your betters have figured out before you did. On the other hand, it gets rather good here. Here Douthat notes what was pointed out to him by the "ludicrous" "Michelle Malkin slash Ace of Spades front"

– namely, that Beauchamp seems to have most likely lied, and not made an “error,” in claiming the Burned Woman mockery occurred in Iraq rather than Kuwait – and Jonathan Chait admits that it does seem reasonable to conclude Beauchamp did not make an “error” but rather deliberately lied. Remember, though, Douthat, who did nothing on this story, is superior to any of us rightwing crazies simply by parroting what we have written.

Equally ludicrous is the amount of attention - thousands upon thousands of words of speculation and vituperation - paid by right-wing blogs to a story that, while interesting and worth investigating, tells us nothing all that significant about the media except the obvious truth that magazines often run ill-chosen, under-vetted pieces, particularly in the less-frequented pages of an issue, particularly when the author of the piece has a personal connection to someone on staff, and particularly when the subject matter is largely “on author” and therefore difficult to fact-check. (I tried to make this point in the dialog with Chait, but I’ll make it again: a lot of people in the blogosphere seem to think that magazines have infinite time and resources with which to fact-check their pieces, when in fact there wouldn’t be any political magazines if they all lavished the kind of care on fact-checking that the *Atlantic* and *New Yorker* can lavish on a story.) TNR certainly deserved to be called out, by Mike Goldfarb and others, for running a piece that seemed fishy, and nothing that’s followed has altered my sense that Beauchamp’s tales seemed at least touched by exaggeration. On the other hand, nothing that I’ve seen has convinced me that he’s a [Stephen Glass](#)-style fabulist, either, and **I don’t think that Beauchamp’s recantation to his superiors settles anything one way or another**; given the threat of court-martial involved in standing by his stories, he seems at least as likely to be lying to his superiors as to be lying to TNR...

[HW note: links and emphasis added]

Media manipulation? Perish the thought. The rightie blogosmear being held to the same bar of truthfulness that their victims are held to? Don’t make me laugh.

Like I said, nobody gives a damn. But, if you read “[Air On A G-String](#)” you might recall my citation of [Jay Rosen’s essay “Rollback.”](#) The thesis is important here:

No more honest brokers; claims take the place of facts. Disguised by the culture war’s ranting about media bias, these very things are happening all around us today. Limits on what liberties could be taken with the factual record without triggering a political penalty are being overcome.... I should add that rollback intersects with trends in journalism that, as Tom Rosenstiel notes, are promoting a ‘journalism of assertion’ (cheap, easy,

safe) over the discipline of verification (expensive, hard, and certain to spur more attacks as the culture war wears on.)

But now the event has acquired the authority of the printed word (e.g. the NYT and the WashPo) and thus, the battle is over. NOW they crush those that opposed them, and force the editor of *The New Republic* to walk [The Plank](#).

As the sharks rejoice.

Courage.

Sadists On Parade

August 10th, 2007 @ 4:45 pm

[**Language Warning:** *If easily offended, please stop reading now. OK, you've been warned.* – HW]

If ever the casual viciousness of the Right were on public display for all to view — and gape with astonishment at — it is now. With all the self-awareness of the sadistic boy who delights in pulling the wings off of flies and butterflies, sticking firecrackers in frogs' mouths and bludgeoning prairie dogs to death, the Right is now piling onto the Beauchamp story, having declared victory, so that pussies like Charles Krauthammer can come along and “discover” the story — as if it weren't all-but-plagiarized on Page A-13 of today's *Washington Post*:

The Baghdad Fabulist

By [Charles Krauthammer](#)

Friday, August 10, 2007; Page A13

For weeks, the veracity of the [New Republic](#)'s [Scott Thomas Beauchamp](#), the Army private who has been sending dispatches from the front in [Iraq](#), has been in dispute. His latest “[Baghdad](#) Diarist” (July 13) recounted three incidents of American soldiers engaged in acts of unusual callousness. The stories were meant to shock. And they did....

After some commentators and soldiers raised questions about the plausibility of these tales, both the Army and the New Republic investigated. The Army issued a statement saying flatly that the stories were false. The New Republic claims that it had corroboration from unnamed soldiers. The [Weekly Standard](#) quoted an anonymous military source as saying that Beauchamp himself signed a statement recanting what he had written.

Amid these conflicting claims, one issue is not in dispute. When the New Republic did its initial investigation, it admitted that Beauchamp had erred on one “significant detail.” The disfigured-woman incident happened not in Iraq, but in [Kuwait](#)....

Alas! Krauthammer's descriptive powers fail him. His "*After some commentators and soldiers raised questions about the plausibility of these tales...*" deserves an "Honorable Mention" in the Palace of Lies' *Hall of Shame*.

More accurately, the Jingo Monkeyhouse went bugfuck CRAZY, with the shrieking of the chimps at a fever pitch, and feces being flung in all directions. But I don't need to tell YOU that, gentle reader. I've chronicled the "raising of questions" by those "commentators." and the vitriol that's been spewing nonstop for almost a month now. We expect this sort of puling, plagiaristic "me-too"ism from fading roué of the Right Krauthammer. The casual sadism and phony self-righteousness are nothing new, so we turn instead to the *Washington Post*-owned SLATE "Magazine" (quotations since it only exists online) [for this](#):

I am deeply skeptical about the veracity of Beauchamp's dispatches, particularly the last one, but disinclined to offer definitive pronouncements at this time. Partisans on both sides of the political spectrum seem to harbor no such doubts. Based solely on the content of these dispatches, some were happy to leap to conclusions about the author's veracity without regard for the facts. And as the argument grows louder, each side turns toward the troops, using them to stand in for their own preconceived ideas about this war...

Gee, you think you could be MORE effete? Stare down your nose at EVERYBODY a little more? (But watch out, your eyes might permanently lock in the crossed position that this article seems written from).

The author is one "Phillip Carter" a fellow who seems to think that standing by, effete 'tsk tsk'ing that "this isn't cricket, boys" while the witchburning continues in all of its obscene glory. 'Flaccid' is the term that comes to mind.*

[*To be fair, according to his tagline "*Phillip Carter, an Iraq veteran, is an attorney with McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP and a principal of the Truman National Security Project.*" One presumes from his prose that he served in the Tea Service Division, enforcing 'extended pinkie' regulations.]

Excuse me, but has ANY literary work of the 21st Century received this kind of microscopic examination and "semiotic analysis" by would-be literary critics, sleuths and folk-with-axes-to-grind? Could ANY author withstand this sort of agenda-driven parsing?

What is most disturbing is that the effete, Olympian distancing, the "I'll only touch this with surgical gloves on" prissiness of the prose is exhibited by **BOTH** Krauthammer and Carter. Literary Viagra™ seems in short supply — within the "mainstream media," at least, who are only NOW rousing themselves from comatose somnambulism with a "what's all this then!" red-nosed snort and belch.

A month has passed, idiots. Where were you? (And they wonder why respect for the MSM [has fallen to new lows?](#)) The tail wags the dog.

And that's a **huge** part of this story. This tale was ginned up in the Rightie blogosmear, and, as it emerges into the mainstream, it does so WITHOUT an opposing viewpoint. The

Right has all their ducks in a row, and the Left is left to their traditional position on such questions: ducking. (And were taken by surprise as it emerged, fully formed).

Why? Because TNR and Beauchamp aren't PERFECT.* And, therefore can't be defended without long, fey sniffs, a la Mr. Carter, et al, etcetera, *ad infinitum*, *ad nauseum*. They expect us to pussy out, and, fulfilling those expectations, we do.

[Could the Righties live up the standard they push forward? One doubts it.]

For a solid month, now, *The Weekly Standard* (A News Corporation publication) and Michael Goldfarb's minions — by whose open solitication, the blog-attacks on TNR began, and were then PUBLICIZED in Goldfarb's official TWS blog — have been stomping on Beauchamp, have been looking under every stone and stoning every dissenter to crucify Beauchamp and *The New Republic* and its editor Franklin Foer. Indeed, the drumbeat for Foer's firing is so widespread and so insidious, one wonders what girlfriend Foer stole from Goldfarb in a D.C. bar that such a stealth campaign to wreck his career is being pursued.

Because, make no mistake, this whole episode bears the overt stamp of a personal vendetta against Foer by Goldfarb, and an attempt to destroy *The New Republic* by *The Weekly Standard* — which seems odd, given that their audiences overlap not a whit.

Fortunately, one puff of wind in this fartstorm has arisen today, in the form of The New Republic's statement 2 hours ago (as I write this), which attempts to present the other side of a story that no one's willing to even lend credence to. The sheer weight of numbers (and oh-so-precious sniffers, like Mr. TK and his "disinclined to offer definitive pronouncements at this time" — who gives a FUCK what you think, pal? Talk about an Olympian overestimation of one's own place in the Universe!) merely confirms what I told you two days ago:

The lie that "TNR lied" is now a "fact" and the piling on has begun in earnest. In this battle for rhetorical "reality," two plus two now equals five, and Beauchamp continues his assignation at the Ministry of Love, while the Ministry of Truth gleefully tears off another gossamer wing.

Here is what the editors [of *The New Republic* wrote](#) in defense:

... we continue to investigate the anecdotes recounted in the Baghdad Diarist. Unfortunately, our efforts have been severely hampered by the U.S. Army. Although the Army says it has investigated Beauchamp's article and has found it to be false, **it has refused our—and others'—requests to share any information or evidence from its investigation. What's more, the Army has rejected our requests to speak to Beauchamp himself, on the grounds that it wants "to protect his privacy."**

At the same time the military has stonewalled our efforts to get to the truth, it has leaked damaging information about Beauchamp to conservative bloggers. Earlier this week, *The Weekly Standard's* Michael Goldfarb published a report, based on a single anonymous "military source close to the investigation," entitled "Beauchamp Recants," claiming that Beauchamp "signed a sworn statement admitting that all

three articles he published in the New Republic were exaggerations and falsehoods—fabrications containing only ‘a smidgen of truth,’ in the words of our source.”

Here’s what we know: On July 26, Beauchamp told us that he signed several statements under what he described as pressure from the Army. He told us that these statements did not contradict his articles. Moreover, on the same day he signed these statements for the Army, he gave us a statement standing behind his articles, which we published at tnr.com. Goldfarb has written, “It’s pretty clear the New Republic is standing by a story that even the author does not stand by.” In fact, **it is our understanding that Beauchamp continues to stand by his stories and insists that he has not recanted them. The Army, meanwhile, has refused our requests to see copies of the statements it obtained from Beauchamp—or even to publicly acknowledge that they exist.** [*emphasis added*]

But those technically correct debate points are meaningless in a rhetorical arena driven by the paranoid fantasies and ‘fan fiction’ of the true fabulists of this story. Listen to the triumphalism posted at 5 AM (EDT) by [the National Review Online](#):

Embedded Hostility

A case of “Beauchamping.”

By Jeff Emanuel

Baghdad, Iraq — The Scott Thomas affair has, for all intents and purposes, come to a close.

Questionable from the very start, the stories penned by the then-pseudonymous Scott Thomas Beauchamp have now been declared false. *The New Republic*, which published the pieces by the Baghdad Diarist, defended them vigorously when their author came under fire. But according to Mjr. Steven F. Lamb, the deputy public-affairs officer for Multi National Division-Baghdad, “an investigation has been completed and the allegations made by PVT Beauchamp were found to be false. His platoon and company were interviewed and no one could substantiate [his] claims.” ...

Remember what I said? They’ll declare victory and move on AS IF the issue were resolved? Well, call me Cassandra. Listen to the patently bullshit “magnanimity” of the “victors” as the Declaration of Victory continues:

What they published was shown not to be simply “inaccurate” or “exaggerated,” but false — and *TNR*, along with its defenders, went to the mat for it.

The motivation for this is likely not as sinister as some ascribe to *TNR* — it is highly doubtful that they went to press with a story that they knew to be false, from a source they thought untrustworthy. In all likelihood, they simply found a story that validated their views about the “morally and emotionally distorting effects of war,” which also served as “a startling

confession of shame about some disturbing conduct, both [the author's] and that of his fellow soldiers." Thinking the source unimpeachable, they ran with it.

A massive part of the problem with *TNR* and others who seek to run to press with the first available scandal is that, to them, such behavior is the *rule* in the United States military, rather than the *exception* (as it is in reality).

Oh, and the tag? Why, this Jeff Emmanuel is Mr. Macho! (And not some faggoty little puke like me):

— [Jeff Emanuel](#), a columnist and special-operations military veteran, is currently embedded in Iraq and will be reporting from "[Inside the Surge](#)" throughout August and September.

OK, let's get this straight. WHO says that Beauchamp was lying? The Army. You know, the same Army in which Beauchamp's theater Commanding Officer says that 190,000 weapons that are *missing in Iraq* are the result of "clerical errors," according to Gen. Petraeus. (110,000 AK-47s and 80,000 pistols, IIRC).

The same Army who's covering up the death of Pat Tillman by "friendly fire" in Afghanistan with a blizzard of "I don't know" and this bizarre situation:

[Censured general evades subpoena to appear before Tillman hearing](#)

Michael Roston

Published: Wednesday August 1, 2007

Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) revealed in a Wednesday hearing that Lieutenant General Philip Kensinger, who was censured Tuesday by the Army for deceiving investigators regarding the announcement of the death of Army Specialist Pat Tillman, has evaded a subpoena issued by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

"General Kensinger refused to appear today," Chairman Waxman said in his opening statement. "His attorney informed the committee that General Kensinger would not testify voluntarily, and if issued a subpoena would seek to evade service. The committee did issue a subpoena to General Kensinger earlier this week, but US Marshals have been unable to locate or serve him."

Whose lawyer, [today, sent RAW STORY an email excuse](#) that sounds *eerily* like what I reported yesterday in "[Wrong is Right](#)"? THAT Army is the "credible" one, and *The New Republic* is the INcredible one? Gee, Righties. What happened to that microscopic parsing? That stratospheric high bar for accuracy? Where did all that skepticism go? Hmm. The Army is lying to congress, stonewalling, has admitted to a cover-up in the death of Tillman, and NOW their leaks and statements (without any details, and with Beauchamp in information blackout) THOSE are credible, but *TNR* is full of it?

Good God.

Now, I will reiterate the charge that "[Confederate Yankee](#)" (and first recipient of Iraq Central Command emails claiming Beauchamp lied) Bob Owens so "witheringly"

[attempted to debunk](#): this sort of focused, agenda-driven story doesn't appear by accident. And, if not by accident, then certainly not without a specific PURPOSE.

And it doesn't enter the mainstream via "military leaks" without the direct complicity of the White House. If only because they'd shut it down, otherwise.

A solid month has been spent on this non-story.*

Is Beauchamp Hemingway? Because that's the kind of literary attention that's been given to his prose. Sadly, a writer receiving that kind of universal, negative acclaim often commits suicide. As a soldier serving as a private in one of the heaviest combat zones in Iraq, if he got killed by, say, one of those AK-47s that are missing, we'd all understand.

These pricks, these would-be defenders of fucking freedom have decided that Beauchamp is "dishonoring" the defenders of fucking freedom, and focus every possible energy at killing the kid. THAT is what we're talking about, after all. Jesus H. Christ what insane and sadistic crap has been focused on him, on his writing, and on his wife. And he's in the fucking Army in fucking Iraq with the fucking Army PISSED off at him.

If Private Beauchamp survives this shit, he will have the biggest balls of anybody who's ever lived. I'm with you, kid. It doesn't matter what you wrote. You never deserved to be treated like this.

And these pricks call themselves "Christians."

Jesus H. Christ.

Let me say that again: this information is not released to the media without the direct complicity of the White House. Oh, there may be "plausible deniability," but in the court of public opinion, I put it to YOU, jurors: Could this transpire without White House approval? Would the fingerprints of anonymous officers and confirmations and the insistence on "secrecy" and "privacy" come from the Pentagon or from the West Wing?

When the malefic muppets of the Right are finally reduced to the hands that moved the lips, the buck stops at the top. Not with Michelle Malkin. Not with Michael Goldfarb or even William Kristol. Not with Charles Krauthammer or with Major Lamb, Colonel Steven Boylan or General Petraeus.

The "frame" is precisely what the White House wants to push, it's a classical "[forking attack](#)" (As I noted [HERE](#)), pinning Democrats as "defeatocrats" and no one on the Left dare touch it. It was "confirmed" via official Army leaks at the highest level, but is being STONEWALLED by claims of "confidentiality," and concern for the "privacy" of the silenced soldier, Private Beauchamp.

Where did TNR make their mistake?

First of all in "outing" Private Beauchamp (whether by his decision or by theirs). Nothing has come of it, save for attacks on his character, a microscopic analysis of his life, his blogs, and even the accusation that something was "WRONG" because his fiancée (now wife) worked for TNR*.

[*This implicit charge of nepotism was, weirdly, repeated by Howard Kurtz in the *Washington Post* — a newspaper who have never had the slightest public problem with the fact that columnist Sally Quinn was sucking Editor Ben Bradlee's COCK while

everyone pretended that the office affair wasn't going on, and then MARRIED the sonofabitch and are now the Regal Couple of D.C. Where were the nepotism charges then? Implicitly OR explicitly? If there were any, I sure as hell haven't seen them. And no comment AFTER the couple outed themselves! I apologize if this seems gross, or grotesque, but I would suggest that you take your high dudgeon to Bradlee, Quinn and the *Washington Post*, whose slimy, sordid business it either is, or else, whose mouth OUGHT to remain shut on such matters. Journalists, I have found, NEVER hold themselves to the same sort of scrutiny that they would hold others to.]

Secondly, by getting TNR to "fact check" and they, stupidly and honorably, admitting to an error of PLACE (which may have been intentional on the writers' part to PROTECT THE perpetrators and the victim), they opened themselves up to amateur literary analysts like Krauthammer who use the "error" as a brush to tar EVERYthing with.

And we must ask: was this an aberration? A fluke? A "weird" story that showed up in the traditional summer's season of slow news days and low readership?

No: this either came from the top (remember, the White House and/or Rove has been in open collaboration with bloggers and talk show hosts — calling both last week for powwows on how to defang the Alberto Gonzales perjury charges), or else it was ENABLED from the top. Keep your eyes on the pea.

As usual, the shells move with bewildering speed.

This is coordinated. This relies on Usual Suspects (Little Green Footballs, Michelle Malkin, et al). This is being run THROUGH a Rupert Murdoch right-wing rag that happens to be run by a FAUX NOOZ regular, William Kristol, and is aided and abetted by OTHER FAUX NOOZ regulars — Michelle Malkin, Matt Sanchez, etc.

It covers up the Pat Tillman affair. It provides a smokescreen for the rape-murder convictions of several soldiers regarding a 14-year-old girl, and her family. It raises the red flag of "Lefties don't support the troops!" It silences Beauchamp. At a minimum, it chills TNR, and — they seem to hope — gets Franklin Foer, TNR's editor fired (as they are, increasingly and openly calling for).

And while you're at it, Google "Franklin Foer" if you want to see who's being set up to take the fall. (Google news: 200 hits) Hugh Hewitt's lackey Dean Whatsisname even posted this vile piece of tripe three days ago on Hewitt's Townhall dot com blog:

[Place Your Bets! Introducing the Franklin Foer Dead Pool!](#)

Town Hall, DC - Aug 7, 2007

SO WHAT ELSE HAVE WE to do but form a **Franklin Foer** Death Pool?

At this point, I don't care about whether or not Beauchamp was utterly truthful, or pulling it all out of his ass. The response has been disproportionate, unfair, uncivilized and filled with a casual viciousness that makes one question whether these sadists are actually human beings at all, or merely demons from the pits of hell sowing destruction, disease and death.

The death of truth, that is: the "reality by assertion" riff that's killing democracy in the USA. Or, as Tomm writes (*reproduced with permission of*):

There is supposed to be a “disaster fatigue,” where too many catastrophes — the Utah mine disaster, the Manhattan flooding (which I barely missed during my visit last month), the missing weapons in Iraq (who was in charge? Why, General Petraeus!) — but the outrage fatigue is greater. We are doomed. Television is again beating the drum for war and persists in refusing to expose the level of filth and malice and evil from these bastards. They go on Fascist Radio to score their points. They organize smear campaigns against ordinary soldiers and translators and other citizens trying to do their jobs.

And meanwhile, power is increasingly concentrated in the hands of the few and fewer and the middle class is wiped out, tuition is unaffordable, health care is destroying our morale and misery is rising around us like the temperature at the North Pole as hope evaporates like ice at the North Pole and we are all polar bears drowning....

OK, Krauthammer, why don't you finish this all off [with a pissy tagline?](#)

We already knew from all of America's armed conflicts — including Iraq — what war can make men do. The only thing we learn from Scott Thomas Beauchamp is what literary ambition can make men say.

Good attack dog; here's [your Scoobie snack](#).

Courage.

[The Smoking Pun](#)

August 10th, 2007 @ 6:25 pm

I have spoken of the manner in which Michael Goldfarb has orchestrated this blog “scandal” by calling for pieces, then quoting said pieces, lather, rinse, repeat. OK. Easy as 1,2,3.

1. Goldfarb is the center of the scandal hoohaw:

[Talking Points Memo](#)

By Josh Marshall

08.10.07 — 3:29PM

If you've been following the Scott Thomas Beauchamp Affair, I strongly recommend reading the latest update from *The New Republic*. The short version is that the Army's investigation of the case appears to be confined to a) releasing no information about their investigation or details of its findings, b) leaking alleged details to the *Weekly Standard*, which no one will confirm on the record and c) keeping Beauchamp himself in communications lockdown where no one but family members in monitored conversations can communicate with him.

2. Goldfarb gives the sound bite

OK. On August 9:

Tall Tales?

The New Republic is standing by a disturbing account written by a GI in Iraq, even as the Army says the stories are not true.

WEB EXCLUSIVE

By Dan Ephron

Newsweek

Updated: 3:54 a.m. PT Aug 9, 2007 "I think this story fits really well into their narrative and the left's narrative of the soldier as both victim and perpetrator of the war," Goldfarb told me in a phone interview from his home in Boston.

3. Krauthammer repeats the sound bite

August 10:

[By Charles Krauthammer](#)

The Washington Post

Friday, August 10, 2007

Because it fits perfectly into the most virulent narrative of the antiwar left. The Iraq war — "George Bush's war," as even Hillary Clinton, along with countless others who had actually endorsed the war, now calls it — has caused not only the sorrow and destruction that we read about every day. It has, most perniciously, caused invisible damage — now made visible by the soul-searching of one brave and gifted private: It has perverted and corrupted the young soldiers who went to Iraq, and now return morally ruined.

Funny how they use the same language and all.

Gee, you don't suppose they're in cahoots, **GUNNING** for *The New Republic*? Hmmm. Courage.

[Declaring Victory and Covering Their Tracks](#)

August 12th, 2007 @ 2:45 pm

Funny. After yowling like coyotes on a full moon, the literary micro-parsing has continued in the blogosmear. *The New Republic* and Private Beauchamp continue to be the favored whipping boy of the fake media, as the attempt to port the 'controversy' into the mainstream media continues, with Rush Limbaugh vacation fill-in host and ex-Canadian arts critic [Mark Steyn](#) writing in his syndicated column (From [the Orange County Register](#)):

Warm-mongers and cheeseburger imperialists

by Mark Steyn

... According to *the Weekly Standard*-, army investigators say Pvt. Beauchamp has now signed a statement recanting his lurid anecdotes.

Gee. The Rupert Murdoch-owned, [William Kristol](#)-edited *Weekly Standard*, whose blogger Michael Goldfarb's anonymous confirmations and Army PR Officers' emails seem to have provided the basis for **both** the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* pieces? THAT *Weekly Standard*?

Well, suddenly and for the first time, Saturday, A DIFFERENT staffer posted a letter from Col. Stephen Boylan, General Petraeus' InfoWar officer (the one responsible for making sure the right stories get in the right places, for "embedding" journalists, etc.)

Funny that the *Weekly Standard* continues to be the central clearinghouse for this story, after literally CALLING for the blogosmear to rip the THR/Beauchamp story to shreds. But I guess that they want to diffuse the personal vendetta against Franklin Foer, editor of the *New Republic*, whose head is specifically being called for as the specter of a scandal is raised that took place NINE years ago, BEFORE Foer ever had anything to do with the magazine? (The *Stephen Glass* scandal.) Er, how is he responsible, or culpable for a scandal that occurred before he began working for the *The New Republic*? Why they even got the story onto [NPR \(National Public Radio\)](#) Thursday. Complete with reference to the Glass scandal. Hmmm.

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, for the first time, ever, S OMEBODY else posted this excerpt from a letter to HIM from Colonel Boylan. Gee, the *Times* and the *Post* could only get Maj. Lamb, Boylan's deputy to talk to THEM. And the AP could only get a sergeant that one of their reporters knew from Kansas. But *The Weekly Standard's* BLOG and private "Laz-Y-Boy" blogger Bob Owens get the Commanding General's P.R. Deputy making semi-official statements on the case. What's wrong with this picture? Here's [from Saturday](#):

Posted by Bill Roggio

The Army Responds

I recently emailed Col. Steve Boylan asking for whatever information he could provide regarding the status of the investigation of Scott Thomas Beauchamp. Here is his response:

His command's investigation is complete. At this time, there is no formal what we call Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) actions being taken. However ... (sic)

Hmmm. The gist of it — aside from Boylan's appalling use of syntax — is that Col. Boylan specifically denies *The New Republic's* statement of Friday that the Army wasn't allowing Pvt. Beauchamp to speak with them. And, for the first time, SOMEONE else posted, perhaps to cover the tracks of a very personal-seeming vendetta. After all, the media shell game of quoting either the reviewer's name or the reviewer's newspaper is well known to all critics. *The Weekly Standard* sounds so much more authoritative than "Michael Goldfarb." Or, now, his amanuensis du jour, Bill Roggio.

One, naturally wonders what "recently" means, since "recently" as in "I emailed Gen. Petraeus' PR Officer as soon as TNR's latest statement came out on Friday" would mean

one thing. And if “recently” means “I received this reply but have been waiting for the propitious time to publish it,” I suppose that would mean something else.

And, Saturday, naturally, [the piling on talking-point](#) of the Rightie blogosmear was now about how the “liar” Pvt. Beauchamp was in the final phases of the kind of lying scandal the way that the Stephen Glass scandal had been played out and was refusing to answer his phone, the lying weasel. (The serpent bites its tail.)

(Oh, and that other talking point: Beauchamp will now get a book deal and a best-seller, which, by implication, had been his nefarious scheme, or, as has been noted before, the awesome spectacle of Republican ideologues being against capitalism, the free market, and the profit motive. If, as when Justice John Roberts used the same argument [to prove two opposite conclusions](#) in two cases at the end of the last Supreme Court term, surely “capitalists against capitalism” isn’t that much more of a stretch. Sort of like the anti-global warming “scientists against science.” In this case it’s that [old Roman army tactic](#) of killing the inhabitants, poisoning the wells and salting the earth so that no one could live there again. The campaign to destroy Private Beauchamp is now personal. [Jules Crittendon deserves censure](#) by all professional journalists for his most egregious attempt at this practice.)

No focused talking points. No specific targeting of Franklin Foer by *the Weekly Standard*’s blog. Certainly no test run of a disinformation machine prior to a presidential campaign. That’s for damn sure.

But, as I said, having declared victory they will have to move on. The other half of Mr. Steyn’s column today is the gleeful and uncritical acceptance of the refutation of global warming last week. ([Others have dealt at length](#) with the “refutation”). This, naturally belies last week’s [Newsweek cover story](#) on the denial campaign.*

[* Since the late 1980s, this well-coordinated, well-funded campaign by contrarian scientists, free-market think tanks and industry has created a paralyzing fog of doubt around climate change. Through advertisements, op-eds, lobbying and media attention, greenhouse doubters (they hate being called deniers) argued first that the world is not warming; measurements indicating otherwise are flawed, they said. Then they claimed that any warming is natural, not caused by human activities. Now they contend that the looming warming will be minuscule and harmless. “They patterned what they did after the tobacco industry,” says former senator Tim Wirth ... [MORE](#)]

Which, in turn, has nothing to do with *the Weekly Standard*’s campaign against *The New Republic*, Michael Goldfarb’s stealth vendetta against Franklin Foer or the Army’s campaign (OK, General Petraeus’ campaign) against Private Beauchamp.

Which remains a secret, according to their latest press release.

Denying Friday’s TNR statement that the Army was holding Beauchamp incommunicado.

Etcetera.

Meanwhile, Beauchamp, who the Army's TOP Information/Disinformation Officer in Iraq said could be reached for comment couldn't be reached for comment.

Those are the facts, as nearly as I can recount them. Happily, if I made ANY errors, I'm sure to hear about them.

Courage.

UPDATE: The National Review Online — which has been happy to go along with *The Weekly Standard* in this — has Col. Boylan's letter [excerpted today in their blog](#). The author? Mark Steyn.

[The Carolina Fabulist](#)

August 14th, 2007 @ 7:39 am



[**OUR STORY SO FAR:** This refers to the ongoing *New Republic*/Pvt. Scott Thomas Beauchamp “controversy” that has raged in the Rightie blogosphere since the Rupert Murdoch-owned, William Kristol-edited *Weekly Standard*'s [BLOG](#), run by Michael Goldfarb, called for, [on July 18](#), “Fact or Fiction? A mission for milbloggers:” and then used the blog as a central clearing house for the top Rightie blogs — [Michelle Malkin](#), [Little Green Footballs](#), [Powerline](#), Captain's Quarters, etc. — to pile on to a series of “Baghdad Diaries” written by an anonymous soldier. First, they disputed whether the ‘soldier’ even existed. Then, when the soldier revealed himself, dug up every old blog posting they could find on the internet. They found that he had been for Howard Dean at the University of Missouri in 2004. They “found” that his wife worked at the magazine. They catalyzed an Army investigation of the soldier, who is currently either being held incommunicado — if you believe the magazine that his wife works for — or else is incommunicado by choice, if you believe [the chief PR officer in theater](#), Col. Boylan, whose confirming letter that, supposedly, Beauchamp *had recanted all* [was received by Bob Owens](#), the Confederate Yankee, trumpeted by Michael Goldfarb, and [was the basis](#)

[for both](#) the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* stories on this sordid mess last week. Now, *the story continues ...*]

Well, they tried. Really they did. Yesterday, amidst the complete slam that the Rove resignation put on the blogosphere, *The Weekly Standard's* blog (Michael Goldfarb) and The Confederate Yankee, Bob Owens, tried to buttress their increasingly shaky declaration of victory.

Five days shy of their first month of hyper-parsing and ultra-critical textual reading of The New Republic's "Baghdad Diarist" Private Beauchamp, the Yanker thought he'd caught a [BIG LIE in a prior article](#) According to *The Weekly Standard's* blog:

(Updated) Another Beauchamp Story Debunked

Bob Owens, the Confederate Yankee, [had debunked another claim](#) made by Private Beauchamp in his columns for the New Republic. This is from Beauchamp's second dispatch, titled "Dead of Night":

As we slowly started moving back toward the Humvee, we could hear the dogs filling in the space behind us. I turned around and saw their green eyes flashing in the deep shadow where we'd left the body. Part of me thought we should have shot the dogs or done something to keep them from eating the body, but what good would it have done? We only would have been exposing ourselves to danger longer than we needed to.

Back in the Humvee, Hernandez started talking to me without looking in my direction. "Man, I've never seen anything like that before," he said.

"What? A guy killed by a cop?" I asked.

"No, man, zombie dogs. That shit was wild," he said, laughing.

Something inside of me fought for expression and then died. He was right. What else was there to do now but laugh?

"I took his driver's license," I said.

"You did?" questioned Hernandez.

"Yeah. It said he was an organ donor."

We chuckled in the dark for a moment, and then looked out the window into the night. We didn't talk again until we were back at our base.

Owens sent a couple of quick emails and was able to discover that the Iraqi DMV does not, in fact, provide driver's with the option of donating their organs. Owens quotes from an exchange with Hassan Elsaadaoui, a CPATT liaison with the Iraqi Interior Ministry in Baghdad:

I think in the Iraqi or Muslim tradition they don't accept this practice of donating organs. Maybe in the future, it will be possible. There is

no indication now on the back side of Iraqi driver's license. Also our medical system and doctors are not ready for this type procedure, because of the situation. They do not have the equipment and many of the very good doctors are now outside the country.

Owens has other experts saying the same thing...organ donation is not common in Iraq, and there is certainly no indication of organ donation status on the Iraqi driver's license. Go read the whole thing. Was Beauchamp's buddy just joking? Was the whole story a joke?

Update: Owens now wonders if the whole thing isn't a joke...I read it that way, too. But I think his update pretty much captures my sense of the thing:

I think in the Iraqi or Muslim tradition they don't accept this practice of donating organs. Maybe in the future, it will be possible. There is no indication now on the back side of Iraqi driver's license.

[Gee, you suppose that Owens could debunk THIS? Here I'll start it out: *These three soldiers stop at an Iraqi farmhouse. The farmer says, you can spend the night, but you'll have to sleep with my daughter. Now, the first soldier*]

All right, there is serious intent here. Bob Owens is now the "point man" for the debunking squad, the fellow who Petraeus' top PR officer, Col. Boylan [sent the "confirming" email](#) that led to the declaration of victory last week that the blogosmeaters seem to feel increasingly needs buttressing like, oh, debunking jokes. (It WAS a joke, for those of you, like Goldfarb and Owens, who are paranoid and utterly lacking any sense of humor, or the gallows humor that characterizes extremely stressful situations ... like combat, for instance.)

And Owens himself must be held the the standard that he holds up so proudly. Let's see how *he* scores.

In late 2005 Crooks and Liars named Bob Owens, The Confederate Yankee for the prestigious [WORST POST OF THE YEAR*](#) non-award for what can only be described as paranoid rightie fabulism. (* tip o' the hat to Scott Lemieux at [Lawyers, Guns and Money](#))

Bob Owens' winning post? "[Google Mocks Christ on Christmas Eve.](#)" (12-24-05)

Again, there is serious intent here. Remember, Owens is now the "Woodward & Bernstein" of Goldfarb's vendetta, and the vendetta is about "fabulism." Let's see how he stacks up as a fabulist. Putting two and two together, Owens comes up with five:

While trying to find a nativity image for my last post before Christmas, I did an (sic) search for "baby jesus" on Google.

This is the result. ([Screen capture](#)).

Notice that the top search result is for a sex toy that mocks Jesus. [NB: "Baby Jesus Butt Plug" — HW]

Other results on this search results page have more link traffic. A quick review of page's code shows no HTML meta information that should give it a favorable ranking. The page itself has a raw relevance ranking (search word divided by total words) of less than five percent. The only conclusion I can draw is that this page position ranking was done manually by a Google staffer.

Google's message to the Faithful seems obvious:

"Merry Christmas, assholes."

Google? Right. Like the search engine consciously intends to alienate a huge segment of its audience, lose money and market share, just to serve their master, Satan. This is rather insanely paranoid, but now that Bob's got the bad idea in his cranium, he can't seem to get it out, and becomes increasingly defensive and paranoid:

Update: Some folks have made the argument that this is the result of Googlebombing or other SEO tricks. Others say that it is merely the result of Google's search programs. They would absolve Google of all responsibility.

I do not.

Google's algorithms are man-made, coded by human programmers, as are any exclusionary protocols. These *people* ultimately decide if search results are relevant. I think it is fair to say that a butt plug is not a relevant search result for 99-percent of Google users searching for information on Jesus Christ as a baby.

So either Google has manipulative coders, or a fouled algorithm in their baseline technologies that suggests their massive capitalization is based upon a a house of cards. (sic) I'll leave individual readers and investors to make the call.

Yes, the 'baby Jesus butt plug' is the result of manipulative liberal algorithm coding. Er ... really? (I admit that the techno-mumbo is hard to follow. But the braiding in of paranoia and preconceived conclusion is present as well.) OK. [Crooks and Liars points out](#) the inherent absurdity of this fabulism. Bob's response?

Update 2: *Crooks and Liars* calls this post [2005's Worst Post of the Year](#). Coming from such a den of delusion and paranoia (not to mention abject political failure), I consider it a compliment.

Also, I guess he didn't [see this](#), though technically it isn't a blog post, just the worst idea of the year.

I'll save you the click. Some group named Louis Farrakhan their 2005 "man of the year." This, to racist and/or religious bigot Bob, is so incredibly, laughably absurd (since Farrakhan is both Black AND Muslim) that he offers it as an absolute DEFENSE of his insane post. Which is, in itself, a rather stunning self-indictment of Bob's objectivity, his powers of analysis, his deep paranoia, and steadfast refusal to admit that — no matter how absurd his proposition — he CANNOT be wrong.

And he's accusing Beauchamp of ... what? Fabulism?

But it gets worse. Bob is also DOGGEDLY wrong. He can't let this go, and finishes this masterpiece of paranoid misinterpretation with this, evidently from the following spring (and HE QUOTES HIMSELF):

Good Friday Update: As I said previously:

Google's algorithms are man-made, coded by human programmers, as are any exclusionary protocols. These *people* ultimately decide if search results are relevant.

A current Google search reveals that Google has changed their search algorithm to exclude the sex toy site from at least their top 50 results in a unfiltered search. (sic) I was right, *liberals were wrong*.

Not that this comes as a shock to anyone...

"I was right, *liberals were wrong*."

Which is exactly what Owens is trying to maintain today, *vis-à-vis* his attacks on Beauchamp. But there's enough blame to go around. Goldfarb, the primary source and svengali of all the media hoohaw thus far, NOW uncritically quotes the Confederate Yanker's latest absurdity, even **adding** Owens' increasingly paranoid and weird formulations, 'analysis,' and justifications — even though they now **ADMIT IT WAS A JOKE**. It is an almost pathological need to be 'right' — even after the premise of the attack is proven false, somehow, the attack is still justified, and **WE CONTACTED THE IRAQ DMV, you GOT THAT?!?!?!?**

Oh.

So who are the REAL fabulists here? And, can they stand the sort of rigorous critical scrutiny that they demand from *The New Republic* and Private Beauchamp?

Don't make me laugh.

Courage.

UPDATE: 10:10 AM PDT: Old Bob's at it again. If it weren't enough that he's a "[Newsbusters](#)" media "[critic](#)" [today's posting screams](#) about lies, and why *The New Republic* owes an apology or a firing, or execution at dawn by a firing squad. Increasingly, the shrill tone of these posts belie any belief in the so-called "repudiation" theory allegedly advanced by the Army. I thought they said they'd "won." Hmmm. BTW, there's a hilarious "analysis" of Owens' latest screed [HERE](#).

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