

WHAT A BOTHER TO HAVE MY CIA CAREER PUBLICLY OUTHED BY KARL ROVE!



BRET FURTWANGLER | GRAPHIC ARTIST

■ Editorial

## Government must make education top priority

On July 1, 2005, the interest rates on student loans jumped 1.97 percent; producing a hefty 70 percent increase from last year's rate. As though the affordability of higher education were not in jeopardy enough: Already this year, President Bush has disallowed any increase in the Pell Grant (after being explicitly told that his action would result in an enrollment decline), while simultaneously plowing through the war in Iraq with whatever American tax dollars he can get his hands on.

Bush has already racked up a huge national deficit, making it likely that the problem of funding higher education will not be solved any time soon. It is not fair to college students that every time a budget shortfall occurs, we are the ones getting stiffed.

As important as it may be for the United States to complete its mission in Iraq, it is also the job of our government to figure out how to budget and spend wisely in order to create the best nation possible. Any good money manager knows that pouring resources into just one venture is never a good idea, as it will probably create an imbalance in final profit.

Every single mother in this nation knows that getting a weekly paint job on her SUV automatically means her family will not have food, much less a good education. Parents of all class levels almost always recognize the ultimate importance and weight that an education carries.

It is not sufficient for President Bush to say that there isn't enough money to allow lower and middle class students to attend college: George W. Bush signed up to do a job and create the best United States possible.

Tuition is steadily rising, and no one but the government has any power to make sure students without financial resources can still get an education. With smaller scholarships and higher tuition, even the smartest young students of this country will be unable to earn degrees. The students who do earn degrees will spend the rest of their lives paying off student loans, having that much less money to send their own children to college.

The higher loan interest rate increases the cost associated with getting a higher education and thus decreases the amount of people that are able to afford it. Taking money out of education funding and charging higher tuition and interest rates sends a dangerous message to aspiring college students: Your government doesn't think it's important for you to go to college. Not important enough for it to help you out, anyway.

The United States and the rest of the world has shown, time and time again, that a lack of education leads to poverty, crime, disappearances in equal rights, and a downfall in a nation's overall quality of life. If the United States truly wants to keep itself safe, political leaders ought to put more energy, and more funds, into building a nation of intelligent citizens. Every stand for education is a step in the right direction. President Bush should take a long look at his recent budget proposals, as well as the state of student loan interest rates, and evaluate the apparent priorities of this country.

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■ In my opinion

## The Rove reprimand: Where is it?

Political leaders are becoming a little too much like celebrities. Their pictures are in the paper each morning; their every action is monitored and reported by the media. With the kind of press coverage modern politicians receive, one would expect government officials to exude an extremely high level of accountability. And yet, just the opposite has occurred.

It has been all over national headlines that Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove was the confidential informant who gave journalist Matthew Cooper the identification of Valerie Plame as a CIA operative. Cooper spoke with Rove while putting together a story on Ambassador Joseph Wilson, vocal critic of the war in Iraq and husband to Plame.

It eventually became clear that Plame's post gave her the power to hire her husband, who went on to analyze reports on Saddam Hussein's possible tracking of Uranium. By revealing Plame's name, and therefore her earlier assistance in providing Wilson with the job of analyzing documents, Rove apparently hoped to de-value Wilson's professional conclusion that there was no solid evidence to attack Iraq.

Although some remain unsure of Rove's guilt, it was reported in the New York Times on Monday that Cooper almost went to jail for refusing to disclose the source from which he later discovered Plame's name. Yet, now that the source (Karl Rove) is out in the open, legal action in the Cooper/Plame matter has come to a screeching halt. How is it that Cooper could be imprisoned because Plame's identity was released, but absolutely no action has been taken now that the identity of Cooper's original informant is known? Because of



AILEE SLATER  
FURTHER FROM PERFECTION

his position as a prominent member of government, no one is willing to step forward and take real action against, or investigate Rove.

Bush promised that he would fire anyone in his administration who leaked classified information. Although there is some debate about Karl Rove's exact words, it is known for sure that Rove at the very least exposed the fact that Joseph Wilson's wife was an undercover CIA agent in Iraq. With any prior information about Wilson's life or with the help of a phone book, getting Valerie Plame's name would be an instantaneous task for any reporter.

Karl Rove has not been removed from his position as deputy chief of staff. The interesting thing is that as an appointed position, the deputy chief of staff cannot be impeached, only fired by the president himself.

The debate within the public and the government continues as to Rove's level of guilt; the only thing we can assume is that Rove is not now, nor will ever be, held truly accountable for his action. If Bush hasn't kept his promise of firing the leak by now, he probably never will. In fact, he even issued a revised statement: Bush now claims that he will fire anyone who has committed a crime. Because it has not yet been determined if Rove's action was criminal, Bush will

probably never have to worry about keeping either of his promises. Again, an influential politician who believes that he can say one thing, do another, and still hope to keep this country together.

Especially amusing is Bush's quote, "It's best if people wait until the investigation is complete before you jump to conclusions. I don't know all the facts." A peculiar position to take, considering Rove's strong stance in favor of a pre-emptive attack in Iraq without a full scale investigation into the country's true WMD threat. I guess justice is different when the potentially guilty party is a friend and co-worker.

In a democratic system such as the United States, it is of the utmost importance that politicians are held to the same (if not higher) standard that they promote. More importantly, members of the government must hold one another accountable: It is all too easy to develop political corruption when individual officials discover that they can get away with breaking the rules and have their friends cover for them.

The facts come down to these: Wilson was silenced when he attempted to disprove evidence for the war in Iraq, and his wife was put in danger by a man from the organization promoting the war. Whether Rove's compromise of Plame's identity was for spite or by accident, the deputy chief of staff must still face the consequences that come with having responsibility and making a mistake. Bush's decision to support Karl Rove is a poor show of character from himself to his country, and therefore his country to the rest of the world.

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