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## WAR ROOM

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Turns out that one protester battling the removal of Schiavo's feeding tube was a former military intelligence officer who served in Iraq -- and who defended torture at Abu Ghraib.

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Fallout from the exposure of propaganda videos used by the Bush administration has tarred journalists on both ends of the political spectrum.

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Lawmakers are anxious to beef up the overburdened, all-volunteer U.S. military. They might start with the 10,000 people who've been kicked out due to their sexual orientation.

[How close were Bush and John Paul II?](#)

Reporters note how Bush adopted some of the pope's teachings, but there were differences between the men as well.

[More Bad News for DeLay](#)

Houston Chronicle poll

**A homerun for privatizing Social Security?**

With President Bush's privatization scheme having all but struck out, his supporters are calling in an unlikely relief pitcher: [Tommy Lasorda](#). Yep, you read that right: The legendary former L.A. Dodgers skipper, [dugout philosopher](#) and onetime Ultra Slim-Fast spokesman has joined the pro-privatization roster at the [Progress for America Voter Fund](#), lending his all-star voice to the organization's robo-call blitz promoting the White House's plan.

Early reports indicate that there are still some bugs to be worked out -- one call recipient in Arizona informed [Talking Points Memo](#) that a recording of Lasorda's voice asked him to put pressure on Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa. (A knuckleball, or just plain out of the zone: "Why would Grassley listen to me -- I'm not an Iowan!" pointed out the Arizonan.)

Apparently the group's telemarketing effort is focused on one partisan team; tireless Social Security watchdog Josh Marshall points out that Lasorda primarily is asking callers to urge their Republican representatives to support the Bush plan. And maybe a desperate Bush administration, having whiffed when it comes to public support for dismantling the New Deal, thinks it can do better by enlisting an American-as-apple-pie icon of baseball. (Even if that's fat-free pie.)

Meanwhile, the young journalists over at California's University of LaVerne appear to have scored a serious scoop. Earlier this month, the university's [Campus Times](#) ran an opinion piece condemning Congress' steroid hearings, which closed with a quip that, just a few weeks ago, might have seemed absurd: "But if this is grandstanding on Congress' part, why would they think anyone with half a brain would vote for someone who puts the sanctity of a game ahead of social and economic issues that affect exponentially more people? Get back to us if you can come up with a reason. In the meantime, we will be asking Tommy Lasorda what he plans to do to fix Social Security."

-- Page Rockwell

[20:16 EST, April 4, 2005]



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► **Quote of the day**

"We were sometimes too loud, too direct, perhaps we made too much noise."

-- Former Secretary of State [Colin Powell](#) on the Bush administration's arguments for war in Iraq.

► **Tips or comments?**

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[The Daou Report](#) Salon's opinionated guide to the political blogosphere

[Altercation](#)

[AMERICAblog](#)

shows support slipping for Rep. Tom DeLay at home.

[All pope, all the time](#)

With the media's pope marathon in full swing, the White House might want to release any bits of bad news.

[Hawks for hybrids](#)

Environmentalists get a big boost from an unlikely source: national security hawks, who say a thirst for foreign oil puts America at risk.

[Pentagon bans casket photos](#)

When Karen Meredith lost her son to a sniper in Iraq, she wanted a photo of his casket at Dover Air Force Base, but was not permitted to take one.

[A military draft in 2006?](#)

One reason you may soon hear the words "Iraq" and "Vietnam" again being uttered in the same breath: the return of the draft.

[Was DeLay's threat a crime?](#)

Sen. Frank Lautenberg says DeLay may have committed a felony when he threatened judges in the Schiavo case.

[Salvation for Bush? Not in the jobs report](#)

New employment numbers are the worst in eight months.

[The price of ignoring dissent](#)

The Bush administration has little tolerance for opposing views. Two new reports show the consequences of not listening.

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[Tom DeLay's threat](#)

If the House majority leader wasn't calling for vigilante justice in the Schiavo case, Ted Kennedy says he'd better say so.

[Vindication on Iraq?](#)

[Not exactly](#)

The commission assigned to investigate intelligence failures on Iraq says that political pressures from the White House didn't change analysts' views. But that's only half of the story -- or less.

[Southern discomfort](#)

[for DeLay](#)

Tom DeLay may have endangered his re-election chances with his stance on the Schiavo affair and his ongoing ethics imbroglios.

[And now, a word from](#)

[Mel Gibson](#)

Fox News digs deep for expert commentary on the Schiavo case

[Bringing down the](#)

[House](#)

Two PACs are running ads attacking Tom DeLay for his actions in the Terri Schiavo case and alleged ethics violations.

[The president moves on](#)

The public isn't happy about your involvement in the Terri Schiavo case? It must be time to talk about 9/11.

[A special kind of eulogy](#)

Ann Coulter shares her thoughts on what Terri Schiavo's demise might mean for the land of liberal Hollywood.

[A threat from Tom](#)

[DeLay](#)

The House majority

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leader says that "the men responsible" for Terri Schiavo's death will pay, and his allies on the religious right plot their revenge.

### [The death of Terri Schiavo](#)

The fight to save her is over. The political repercussions have just begun.

### ["Dead wrong" on WMDs](#)

George W. Bush resisted calls for a commission to investigate intelligence failures that led to the Iraq war. With the report out today, it's easy to see why.

### ["Demonstrably at odds" with the Constitution](#)

As Schiavo's parents run out of legal options, a Republican appellate judge says Congress and the president exceeded their powers in adopting legislation to "save" Terri Schiavo.

### [The growing American gulag](#)

A new report says the number of prisoners in U.S. custody in Iraq has doubled since October -- many of them held in nothing more than "trailers surrounded by barbed wire."

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101 Spear Street, Suite 203

San Francisco, CA 94105

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