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Crushing the conspiracy theories of the right-wing blogosphere, an aide for a Republican senator admits he crafted a memo calling the Schiavo case a "great political issue" for the GOP.

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Hillary vs. Jeb? The former president vs. the incumbent? Either way, it's a W for Democrats in the Democracracy Corps poll.

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A blogger debunks fellow right-wingers' conspiracy theory that an AP photographer -- now a Pulitzer Prize-winning one -- colluded with terrorists in Iraq.

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Nearly four years after the postal anthrax attacks, the U.S. still looks alarmingly exposed to bioterrorism.

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Undocumented

Banking on illegal labor

Those who argue that illegal immigrants do more harm than good to the U.S. economy may want to reconsider based on what the legions of low-paid workers, many of them Mexican, contribute through the nation's tax system. According to an article in Tuesday's [New York Times](#), illegal workers are to thank for billions of dollars in payroll taxes each year: They generate as much as \$7 billion annually in Social Security taxes, and \$1.5 billion annually in Medicare taxes -- contributing to just about everyone's benefits but their own.

At rates like that, undocumented workers -- who are forced to register fake Social Security numbers to find work, and thus pay taxes -- are among the county's most reliable contributors. "Our assumption is that about three-quarters of other-than-legal immigrants pay payroll taxes," Stephen C. Goss, Social Security's chief actuary, told the Times. He estimated that without them, Social Security's long-term deficit over 75 years would increase by 10 percent. While President Bush continues campaigning to save Social Security from a revenue "crisis," at least he supports immigration reforms more favorable to [guest workers](#).

But it still suits some hard-line Republican lawmakers to continue to paint illegal workers as a menace. And with new legislation designed to [reinforce](#) the U.S.-Mexico border and make it more difficult for illegal immigrants to [obtain IDs](#), they may have the upper hand.

-- Julia Scott

[15:36 EST, April 6, 2005][Print this page](#)[War Room RSS feed](#)

► Quote of the day

"The courts of this land have become the tool, in the hands of the devil, by which the culture of death has found access."

-- Operation Rescue director Flip Benham.

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workers in the U.S. generate billions of dollars in payroll taxes each year -- and don't see a single benefit from it.

[The right-wing version of reporting](#)

The right continues to chase a novel conspiracy theory about a Schiavo talking points memo for Republicans.

[More polling woes for Bush](#)

A new USA Today/CNN poll brings more bad news for the White House.

[The roof collapses on Tom DeLay](#)

Articles in the Washington Post and New York Times raise yet more ethical questions about the Hammer.

[A right-wing run on the border](#)

Arizona's "Minuteman" group of border vigilantes is small potatoes, but has cooked up some big hype.

[Red-taping political bloggers](#)

Is San Francisco, of all places, poised to crack down on Web politicking?

[Trophy hunting by remote control](#)

Interested in picking off a wild boar or gazelle from the comfort of your own home office?

[It's lock 'n' load at U.S. Fish and Wildlife](#)

Is it really the best idea for the Bush administration to appoint a former trophy-hunting advocate as acting

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director of the department?

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Bloggers try to link the phony White House correspondent with an Iowa missing persons case.

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Al Gore's new TV channel launches in August, but it's not targeting Fox News

[GOP justifies attacks on judges?](#)

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, ups the judge-hating rhetoric for the GOP

[A homerun for privatizing Social Security?](#)

Tommy Lasorda has come out of retirement to go to bat for President Bush's humdinger of a plan.

[Truly tortured over Terri Schiavo](#)

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.

[Who pays for the news](#)

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

[Be all you can be](#)

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.

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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 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.

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