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Rove and Traitorgate: Now "The New Yorker" Gets It Wrong

by Michael in New York on [7/27/2005 10:07:00 AM](#)

I wrote yesterday about the MSM and how I'd seen creeping examples of talking about Karl Rove and Traitorgate in terms that downplay the importance of the issue or portray it just as "gotcha" politics with the Dems taking advantage of an opening to pound Bush. My last example was The Wall Street Journal. Today it's **The New Yorker**.

In the lead Talk of the Town item -- "Roe v Rove" -- writer Hendrik Hertzberg mostly discusses Supreme Court nominee John Roberts, what he's like and how Bush moved up the announcement to try and get Rove's possibly traitorous actions off the front page.

But in listing the cast of characters that have made Rove and Traitorgate such a compelling story, this is what The New Yorker wrote:

It had a colorful supporting cast, including the spy herself (an attractive blonde whose neighbors thought she was just another working mom), her husband **[Joe Wilson] (a flamboyant ex-diplomat whose secret mission and subsequent apostasy set the stage for skullduggery)**, and a Times reporter jailed for her refusal to talk.

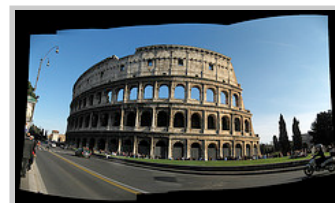
My Random House dictionary defines apostasy as "a total desertion of or departure from one's religion, principles, party, cause, etc." It's a very negative term -- early Christians were apostates when they denied their faith to save their necks during Roman persecution. Understandable, but not admirable. Apostates are weak, unprincipled, feckless and -- at best -- to be pitied and more likely hated and condemned for tossing their principles overboard when the going gets rough. (I won't even get into the more subtly derogatory description of Wilson as "flamboyant," ie., someone not to be taken seriously.)

Does The New Yorker really believe Joe Wilson committed apostasy? By what possible standard could he be accused of this? Joe Wilson is a brave American, described as "a hero" by Bush Sr. He came forward because he knew President Bush had lied to the American people in the State of the Union address during the buildup to war. Bush made a claim that had been investigated and proven to be false -- not only didn't Bush know it to be true he had every reason to believe it was false to pretend Hussein was trying to buy uranium in Niger.

Wilson came forward even though he knew he would be attacked and smeared just like everyone else from the Administration who came forward and spoke the truth. And Wilson was smeared and attacked and belittled. His wife was smeared and attacked and belittled. His children were put in harm's way. National security was weakened and people around the world who risked their lives by working with the US to spread democracy and freedom might very well be dead.

How did this all happen? It happened because Karl Rove, Scooter Libby and perhaps at least one other White House figure outed a covert CIA agent -- the first time in history that an agent has been outed by political operatives -- just to provide payback against Wilson. If anyone should be accused of being an apostate, it's Rove and Scooter and Bush.

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