

NEWS/OBITUARIES

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Reporter testifies in CIA leak case

Miller key witness in special prosecutor's case against former aide Libby

By MATT APUZZO
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

Former New York Times reporter Judith Miller testified Tuesday that former vice presidential aide I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby first discussed a CIA operative with her weeks before he told investigators he believed he first heard it from another reporter.

Miller spent 85 days in jail for refusing to cooperate with Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald's investigation into who leaked the CIA operative's identity to reporters. She had refused to disclose conversations she had with Libby.

Libby is charged with perjury and obstruction of justice. Fitzgerald says Libby discussed CIA officer Valerie Plame with reporters, then lied about those conversations.

Miller ultimately agreed to cooperate with authorities, saying Libby had given her permission to



Former New York Times journalist Judith Miller, center, and attorney Robert Bennett, left, arrive at U.S. District Court in Washington on Tuesday.

do so. She is a key witness in Fitzgerald's case because she describes two conversations with Libby regarding Plame before Libby told investigators he was surprised to learn about Plame from NBC reporter Tim Russert.

Miller testified Tuesday that Libby discussed the CIA officer on June 23, 2003. He said Wilson's wife worked for the "bureau,"

Miller recalled. She was confused about that at first, she said.

"Through the context of the discussion, I quickly determined it to be the CIA," she testified.

The discussion occurred amid a growing controversy about intelligence failures leading up to the war in Iraq. Plame's husband, former Ambassador Joseph Wilson, said he debunked some of the intel-

ligence that was used to justify the war and said Vice President Dick Cheney should have known it.

Miller also discussed a second meeting with Libby, this one on July 8, 2003. She said Libby mentioned that Wilson's wife worked for a CIA division specializing in weapons of mass destruction.

Libby says his discussion with Russert occurred on July 10, 2003.

Journalism groups have criticized Fitzgerald for calling reporters as witnesses and demanding they discuss conversations with sources. Miller's notes likely will be used as evidence, and Fitzgerald is expected to call two other reporters, Russert and Matthew Cooper of Time magazine, during the trial.

Earlier Tuesday, David Addington, who served as Cheney's legal counsel during the CIA leak scandal, described a September 2003 meeting with Libby around the time that an investigation into the leak began.

COLUMBUS

Christopher L. Burton

Christopher L. Burton, 19, died Monday, Jan. 29, 2007, at Columbus Regional Hospital. He was a resident of Columbus.

Survivors include his mother, Tamara J. Burton.

The Rev. Lewis Burton will conduct a funeral service at 11 a.m. Thursday at Who So Ever Will Community Church, 623 S. Eisenhower Drive, Edinburg. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the church. Burial will be at Rest Haven Cemetery in Edinburg.

Arrangements are being handled by Eskew-Eaton Funeral Home in Edinburg.

INDIANAPOLIS

Louetta Faye Probst

Louetta Faye Probst, 56, died Monday, Jan. 29, 2007, at St. Francis Hospital Indianapolis. She was a resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include her husband, Patrick D. Probst; two children, Albert E. (Cindy) Shields Jr. of Beech Grove and Debra Sue (Aaron) Monday of Beech Grove; three brothers, Edward (Grace) Wolfington of New Whiteland, Richard (Billie) Clayton of Atlanta, Ga., and Ronnie Clayton of Indianapolis; two sisters, Jane (Joseph)

Indianapolis

Louetta Faye Probst, 56
Elsewhere
Christopher L. Burton, 19

Stewart of Westville, Fla., and Linda (Ray) Buckallev of Martinsville; and six grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles H. and Ina Marie (Dewitt) Clayton.

A service will be conducted at 1 p.m. Friday at Forest Lawn Funeral Home, 1977 S. State Road 135 in Greenwood. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

Memorial contributions may be made to Fletcher Place, 1637 Prospect St., Indianapolis, IN 46203, or at www.fletcherplacecc.org.

Obituary policy

All obituaries must be verified with funeral homes before publication. The deadline for submitting obituaries to the Daily Journal is 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Sundays, the deadline is 1 p.m.

Merck lobbies states to require cancer vaccine

By LIZ AUSTIN PETERSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN, Texas

Merck & Co. is helping bankroll efforts to pass state laws requiring girls as young as 11 or 12 to receive the drugmaker's new vaccine against the sexually transmitted cervical-cancer virus.

Some conservatives and parents'-rights groups say such a requirement would encourage premarital sex and interfere with the way they raise their children, and they say Merck's push for such laws is underhanded. But the company said its lobbying efforts have been above-board.

With at least 18 states debating whether to require Merck's Gardasil vaccine for schoolgirls, Merck has funneled money through Women in Government, an advocacy group made up of female state legislators around the country.

"Cervical cancer is of particular interest to our members because it represents the first opportunity that we have to actually eliminate a cancer."

Susan Crosby
Women in Government president

An official from Merck's vaccine division sits on Women in Government's business council, and many of the bills around the country have been introduced by members of the group.

"Cervical cancer is of particular interest to our members because it represents the first opportunity that we have to actually eliminate a cancer," Women in Government President Susan Crosby said.

Gardasil, approved by the federal government in June, protects girls and women against strains of the human papillomavirus, or HPV, that are responsible for most cases of cervical cancer. A government advisory panel has recommended that all girls get the shots at 11 and 12, before they are likely to be sexually active.

But no state has yet to add Gardasil to the list of vaccinations youngsters must have under law to be enrolled in school.

Merck spokeswoman Janet Skidmore would not say how much the company is spending on lobbyists or how much it has donated to Women in Government. Crosby also declined to specify how much the drug company gave.

But Skidmore said: "We disclosed the fact that we provide funding to this organization. We're not in any way trying to obscure that."

The New Jersey-based drug company could generate billions in sales if Gardasil, at \$360 for three shots, were made mandatory across the country. Most insurance companies now cover the vaccine, which has been shown to have no serious side effects.

Cathie Adams, president of the conservative watchdog group Texas Eagle Forum, said the relationship between Merck and Women in Government is too cozy. "What it does is benefit the pharmaceutical companies, and I don't want pharmaceutical companies taking precedence over the authorities of parents," she said.

Adams said Merck's method of lobbying quietly through groups like Women in Government in addition to meeting directly with legislators are common in state government but still should raise eyebrows. "It's corrupt as far as I'm concerned," she said.

School to test students for alcohol use

By XXXXX XXXXX
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PEQUANNOCK, N.J.

Teens who drink alcohol could be caught three days later under a high school's new testing policy for students.

The test, which will be given randomly to students at Pequannock Township High School, can detect whether alcohol was consumed up to 80 hours earlier.

Pequannock Superintendent Larrie Reynolds said the policy approved last week should be a deterrent to students who feel peer pressure to drink.

Under the program, students who test positive will not be

kicked off teams or barred from extracurricular activities, Reynolds said. Instead, they will receive counseling, and their parents will be notified.

"Most kids who think they can get away with it might be tempted to stop and think about it," he said.

The test costs will be paid by federal grants, Reynolds said.

Urine screenings look for ethyl glucuronide, produced by the body after it metabolizes alcohol. School officials acknowledge the test is sensitive, and false positive readings can be the result of using products containing ethanol, including mouthwash and Balsamic vinegar.

But Reynolds said in order for students to test positive, they would generally have had to consume the equivalent of one or two drinks.

Other districts already use the test. Middletown began using it last spring for students suspected of using drugs and alcohol. This month, the district expanded it to include a random pool of about 1,800 students.

Critics have said the testing does not work and invades students' privacy.

"Medical care and treatment are issues between parents and children," said Deborah Jacobs, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey.

KEEPSAKES

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DAILY JOURNAL

Rachael Hope Valentine

To all your friends who watch for this tribute each year:
Thank you for remembering. If you are Rachael's friend, please light a candle for her tonight.

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Mitch Daniels

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