

## The Wolf at the Door:

As you probably know Paul Wolfowitz is the President of the World Bank. It's a big job with a very important organization. Whether you like their policies or not the World Bank is extremely influential in global financial matters. The Bank pretty much determines the fate of developing economies around the world.

One of Mr. Wolfowitz' stated goals in winning the new job was to end corruption and cronyism at the Bank. Well, it turns out that Paul has been placing friends, and his lover, in positions at the Bank and in the US State Department (paid for by the Bank) at hugely inflated salaries. Needless to say, this sort of thing makes many of his colleagues and subordinates very angry.

Mr. Wolfowitz says that he made the moves with the Board of Directors' approval. They say he never talked to them. Paul's response to this crisis in confidence is to find out who ratted on him so he can fire them. That should help morale.

Paul is a darling of the new conservative movement in America, a neocon. He is one of the geniuses who conceived of invading, occupying and transforming Iraq. The overwhelming success achieved by these policies apparently qualified him to run the World Bank. You know the old adage, "Destroy a country, try your hand at banking." I suppose if you're a miserable failure at Government there aren't too many other places to go.

It's a problem when your resume is full of dead soldiers, dead civilians, destroyed families, mangled infrastructure, ruined diplomatic credibility and new lows in world respect. Where do you go for your next job? I mean, once he's done messing up at the World Bank, what's out there for Paul?

There's the Don Imus opening at CBS. Paul might be a natural as a shock jock. Having *done* completely outrageous things it should be easy for him to just *say* completely outrageous things. I can just hear him referring to Iraqis as "towel headed terrorists" in an effort to be funny. No offense meant. He's a nice guy. Just like Don.

There's an opening for a cashier at the local Home Depot. But that store has a pretty thorough personality test and background check. Anyone who has wrecked a whole country might have trouble glossing it over.

Anyone who forks out \$60,000 in raises (even if she is your girlfriend) when \$20,000 was the maximum allowed may not have the math skills necessary for cashiering.

He could start a consulting firm with Jack Abramoff and Scooter Libby. Jack will be back on the street in a while and Libby will probably get pardoned. The three of them together know a lot of stuff. Washington inside stuff. Let's see, Felons Three, LLC has a nice ring to it. They could have two closets outside their offices. One for coats and the other for integrity. That way a client could leave both his cashmere and his ethics before going in to do business.

I guess it could be said that PW's strongest suit is arrogance. Is there a way to sell arrogance? Can you do a business that somehow makes money simply because the owner is arrogant? Is there a place for a high powered personality who can state his operating principle, violate the same principle within a week and then go after the people who brought his transgression to light? The Mob comes to mind, or Hollywood. He might be a good fit there.

I'm trying to imagine Paul Wolfowitz walking into the D.C. Unemployment Office to fill out the forms required to qualify for unemployment compensation. You know, work history, skills, salary requirement, places you've called on to apply for work. I'm trying to imagine his counselor sitting down with Paul to discuss where he might fit best.

"Mr. Wolfowitz, I've run your data again and again. It keeps coming up the same, every time. What with the killing and the lying and the funny money and, oh yes, the arrogance, I'm not finding a whole lot for you. Unless, do you suppose the Bush Administration might take you back?"

My friend Pearl knows how people work. She has a knack for managing personnel. She has an idea for Paul's next job. It's an idea appropriate to his resume and his ego. She thinks Paul should be in charge of transforming the U.S. prison system...from the inside. Maybe she's right.