

## Discussions / Live Q&A's

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APRIL 29, 2011, 12:02 P.M.

### Dana Milbank Live

Dana Milbank Live is your weekly opportunity for a give and take with Dana centering on the latest [political news in Washington](#) and [his recent columns](#).

Each chat also features your responses to Dana's **Etch-a-Sketch requests** -- his lazy attempt to get you to do his work for him by seeking your best lines about the week's political oddities.

### The Discussion

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#### DANA MILBANK :

It is a storybook wedding, a marriage made in heaven and a ceremony for the ages. I write, of course, of this weekend's White House Correspondents Association dinner and its satellite parties, where Washington journalists, Hollywood celebrities and political power players unite as one. I, however, will be dining with my wife at a new restaurant in Bethesda, Newton's Table.

The Atlantic's Josh Green is the winner of my request for new conspiracy theories that could be pinned on Obama now that the birther thing has gone bust. He suggests we blame Obama for stealing the socks from our dryer. I have noticed that, but he only seems to steal the black ones. Why does he only like the black ones? This is very sinister indeed.

Other thoughts, questions?

– April 29, 2011 12:01 PM

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#### TOO SMART?

If I understand your column from earlier this week, Obama is a poor president because he's too smart. Really?

– April 29, 2011 11:46 AM

#### DANA MILBANK :

No. I wrote that Obama is "integratively complex" in psychological terms as opposed to "integratively simple." This means he has a lot of competing ideas in his head at the same time and sometimes gets muddled. As I wrote in the column, complexity/simplicity is not a measure of intelligence, but thinking style. Some of the more, er, simple readers appear to have missed this point.

– April 29, 2011 12:03 PM

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#### ONLY TATE'S NEXT TARGET....

Obama's draft registration, on The Last Word Wed evening. Off the road into a ditch, and keeps on digging.

– April 28, 2011 2:46 PM

#### DANA MILBANK :

I called Orly Taitz immediately after hearing the long form birth certificate had been released. She answered the phone herself and said "I'll call you right back." I'm still waiting. I guess she had a patient in the dental chair. . .

– April 29, 2011 12:05 PM

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#### NERD PROM AND HOOPLA

Dana: Great column today, but it made me wonder. What if, instead of a Johnnie Walker tent with cigars, journalists had the opportunity to go to a tent where they could hang out with unemployed families or uninsured sick children? What if the journalistic dinner was a chance to hear from actual economic experts speaking about impacts of deficits or spending cuts? This is one more outrageous example of how segments of our decision making groups (politicians and journalists alike) live in bubbles that make it hard for them to deal with the situation at hand. Would an annual conference be better than a black tie dinner?

– April 29, 2011 11:20 AM

#### DANA MILBANK :

Please don't make me go into a tent with economic experts. Or if you do make me go in there, and Mark Zandi is lecturing, I will require my own personal 1.75 liter bottle of Johnnie Walker.

Your idea is a fine one.

In general, I don't begrudge journalists and (particularly) politicians the chance to speak with each other in an informal setting; it would probably do us some good to see each other as people rather than demons. But on WHCA weekend, nothing succeeds like excess.

– April 29, 2011 12:10 PM

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#### THE CORRESPONDENTS DINNER AND ONE OTHER MATTER

Dana: Thank you for your column today. The Post's invitation to Trump is grotesque and only serves to highlight that today's press, far from seeing itself as "ink stained wretches" now sees itself as stained by Beluga caviar, bought and paid for by K Street lobbyists. And continuing that theme, have you ever devoted a column

#### ABOUT THE HOST



#### Dana Milbank

Dana Milbank reviews the political theater of the nation's capital in his editorial-page column. His most recent book is "[Tears of a Clown: Glenn Beck and the Tea Bagging of America](#)"; his other books are "Homo Politicus" (Doubleday, 2008) and "Smashmouth" (Basic Books, 2001). Milbank joined The Post as a political reporter in 2000 and wrote the "Washington Sketch" column for nearly six years. He lives in Washington with his wife and daughter.

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