

EMPTYWHEEL'S FAMOUS FOOTBALL TRASH TALK THREAD* - DIVISION PLAYOFF EDITION

We are now down to genuine pro football. No more Cinderellas; the teams that ought to be here are here. Who you taking? Why? The tundra is frozen, time to get it on!

MARK FOLEY FALLS INTO PELOSI'S LAP

Not literally, of course. She's not his type. But the Blotter is reporting that Florida investigators have asked the Speaker's help in accessing Foley's Congressional computer, which they had been prevented from subpoenaing because of the William Jefferson ruling extending Speech and Debate to Congressional materials.

Florida law enforcement officials investigating former Republican Rep.

DICKIE SCRUGGS TIMELINE

A link to a great timeline on the Dickie Scruggs' case.

STUPID DOJ TRICKS: DON'T WATCH THIS BUSH AD

I have to admit. I find this ad totally unappealing. While Bush comes off as the same kind of mob-inciting thug as George Allen did in Macaca, Geoffrey Fieger's smug delivery doesn't make me want to have him represent me in any lawsuits. Still, it's marginally more subtle than most trial lawyer advertisements.

EMPTYWHEEL'S FAMOUS FOOTBALL TRASH TALK THREAD - WILDCARD WEEKEND EDITION

At long last, the playoffs are upon us. Well, the playoffs are upon us for the NFL anyway; there are still no playoffs for major college football, so we will once again have to settle for a BCS title game with arguably the wrong participants. I am thinking you folks may have some opinions on all this. Do tell.

THE "OTHER" PROVISION OF THE RECORDS ACT

It appears the fluid and constantly evolving rationalization of the Bush Administration for their destruction of the torture tapes may be

starting to congeal in an operative theory relying, at least in significant part, on a provision of the Federal Records Act allowing destruction of certain records located outside of the United States during wartime. Does it hold up?

THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Top of the morning to one and all. As Marcy and family hit the road on their much delayed Christmas expedition, it occurs to me that it is time to grease the wheels of justice and get them rolling down the road of accountability. EW and Mad Dog are right about the implications of the new AP article.

“TRENT LOTT CALLED”

It sure looks like there is solid evidence that Trent Lott only returned to the Senate this term to “get” State Farm. Which would sure suggest that his realization that such efforts were falling apart might explain his hasty retirement.

SCRUGGS UPDATE: BALDUCCI DID FLIP

Balducci’s plea agreement tells us what we all suspected about the Dickie Scruggs case: Balducci, the guy who originally offered the bribe, did flip on the other alleged co-

conspirators.

WHY WOULD ORRIN HATCH NEED A DEFENSE FUND?

Most of the Members of Congress that CQ describes as having a defense fund make sense. But why does Orrin Hatch need one?