

Which affair do you regret, Congressman Mahoney?

If it weren't for the Tampa Bay [Devil] Rays, Florida wouldn't have much to cheer about. Their other baseball team, the Florida Marlins, had a mediocre season and their Miami Dolphins probably couldn't take down the old Seton High School team - which there wasn't. The Bucs would do well enough if they could play all their games at home.

In politics, Republican Mark Foley sent very disgusting e-mails and instant messages to male pages and had to give up his seat in Congress. But, alas, he did it too late for his name to be removed from the ballot in 2006 so the replacement Republican candidate could only receive votes under Mark Foley's name. Not much of a handicap there, do you think?

Recently concluded investigations determined that Mark Foley broke no laws and no criminal charges were filed. Foolish and a whole bunch stupid but nothing illegal to charge him with.

The 16th District in Florida had always had a Republican Congressman. In 2006, that changed. The eventual Republican candidate, Joe Negron, did not have his name on the ballot. Votes for Foley counted as votes for Negron. Negron lost to his Democratic opponent, Tim Mahoney, by a 4,417 vote margin - 47.7% to 49.5%.

Mahoney obviously knew his behavior had to be exemplary to remain in office. In the 35 years of this House District, he was the first Democrat elected. And he had seen his predecessor, Mark Foley, run out of office for improper behavior.

If you want to assume that someone like Mahoney might have been guilty of misbehavior in the past, please do so. But he certainly would know better than to continue any behavior that could reflect poorly on himself. Wouldn't he?

Nope.

It just came to light down there, less than three weeks before the election, that Tim Mahoney was a bed jumper of the first degree. Similar to Newt Gingrich's infidelity at the time he was pushing to

impeach President Bill Clinton for inappropriate sexual conduct that led to his lying to a grand jury, Mahoney ran on a platform in opposition to "corruption" such as that for which Foley was accused.

Like happens to so many hypocrites, Tim Mahoney's house of cards has collapsed.

On October 13, 2008 it was disclosed that Mahoney had paid a mistress he had met during his '06 campaign - and subsequently hired as a staffer - \$121,000 to keep her from going public with their affair. Mahoney said he had broken no laws and would not resign or drop out of the race for re-election.

Then his second affair during the past two years surfaced, this one with an official whose county may have benefitted from the illicit relationship.

Mahoney, like so many of these creeps who are caught, said he regretted his actions and would work to save his marriage and to protect his teenage daughter. After the disclosure of the second affair, he said he regretted that one, too.

Questioned at a news conference whether he had committed both affairs, he said he had. Asked if there were any more, he wondered if the question pertained to during his term in Congress. Told, no, the question meant at any time during his marriage. Had he been unfaithful to his wife at any other time?

"You mean ever? Like, have I ever had another affair?" That's what was meant.

Yes, I have, Mahoney told the gathering.

How many, he was asked.

"You mean, like an exact number? Like you want me to give you an exact number of affairs that I've had during my marriage?" Yeah, that would do.

I'm not going to be specific, he said. Just, "multiple times."

On October 20, 2008 his long suffering wife filed for divorce.

Is Gov Dave a day late and a dollar short?

If Dave would have waited just a little longer, maybe no Republicans would have been upset with him for finally and tepidly endorsing the only Democrat in the state who rivals his own popularity with voters, Gary Trauner.

Dave behaves like the high school senior who doesn't want to teach his younger teammates how to throw a curve ball for fear they will replace him in the rotation.

Dave Freudenthal does the bare minimum for other Democrats. Had he been more supportive of Gary Trauner in 2006, there is little doubt Gary would have made up the shortfall in the votes he needed to replace Barbara Cubin in Washington.

Probably the only reason Freudenthal even belatedly came out in support of Trauner this time around is his dislike for Gary's opponent, Cynthia Lummis. Remember, Cynthia is the only Republican who came to the defense of Trent Blankenship when Trent told the story of Freudenthal threatening to cut off his head, etc., etc. The two Republican mutes named Meyer and Maxfield both said "we didn't hear nothing."

Wyoming Democrats have no farm system and Dave Freudenthal is just fine with that. Better to be a big fish in a small pond than one of many fishes in a big sea.

It appeared that Trauner was reluctant to accept the endorsement. Not that it wouldn't help his quest but he must be kind of disgusted that the Governor has jerked him around again this time.

The day may come (and soon) when Gary Trauner is the most important elected Democrat in Wyoming. Then the Gov may regret his cavalier behavior toward Trauner while *he* was the Big Kahuna.

The governor waited long enough to publicly state that Cynthia Lummis has exaggerated her role in the growth of Wyoming's investment funds. Gee, the Cheyenne Herald and the Winney for Congress campaign said that several months back. Not that the governor was expected to do anything to help a Republican candidate against Lummis but he could have come forward with words that would have diminished the effectiveness of the Lummis campaign advertising and helped Gary Trauner a few weeks earlier.

How hard will Dave campaign on behalf of his Democratic rival for the hearts and votes of Wyoming voters? The prediction here is that he will not risk alienating Republicans who may contribute to his campaign and vote for him in elections - or who have done so in the past. Madonna will demonstrate more support for Guy Ritchie than Dave does for Gary.

WT-E "critique" of yard signs

Oh, boy! They never disappoint.

I try to hold a little space in the Herald into Sunday morning, in case the WT-E publishes something that needs a response. This Sunday was no exception.

The McCracken daily commissioned a couple pointy-headed artistes to comment on some yard signs seen in this fall's campaign. One works at WYDOT and other for UW. Wonder if the first gal had anything to do with the goofy border entry signs of a few years ago? "Like no place on earth," didn't work out too well, did it? The other gal might have been a part of selecting new UW colors. "Vomit Gold" went over like a lead balloon, didn't it? It took Floyd Esquibel and the Wyoming Legislature to bring back the acceptable and long-established school colors.

On this day, on the front pages of two different sections of the barely readable daily newspaper, eight yard signs were chosen for the artistes evaluation.

One purported to be able to tell that two of the yard signs belonged to the youngest candidates in the field. Sure she could. She could tell those candidates were young because it's been extensively reported everywhere. Duh!

These gals' assessments of yard signs are similar to the Kalispell, Montana pollsters the WT-E used to hire. Nary a clue!

And, if they really wanted to know why certain designs were created and why certain colors were chosen, they could have called me. Hell, Jack Spiker even acknowledged (without naming me) that I designed his first yard sign back in 1996 (and in 2000) and I'm proud that he remembered why I used that style and color.

I designed a good share of the yard signs critiqued today. Allow me to educate the artistes: A yard sign's purpose is to get recognition for the candidate. You can do that with the design itself and you can do that with the color(s) chosen. Slogans are harder to incorporate onto small yard signs, but Jack's in 2000 was "**FOR A CHANGE**" and voters responded.

Using a single color, in reverse, saves money. Single color yard signs cost about 2/3 what two color signs run. So, the candidate can either save money to use for more print advertising in the Cheyenne Herald or they can order more signs because the cost per sign is lower. Running the letters at a diagonal allows room at the upper and lower corners for a first name and the office being sought.

Sometimes, yard signs are designed to be adaptable for billboards and larger "highway" signs. Slogans work on those because of the additional space. Next time, WT-E, get someone who has actually designed a number of yard signs, not artistes with no experience.

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