

Slate

Opening Act: Wintry Mix

By: David Weigel – March 6, 2013

It's barely snowing in D.C., but it's wet enough to rescue Jeb Bush from another stop on his "no, wait, what I meant to say was" immigration book tour. He was scheduled to appear at the generally pro-immigration, pro-amnesty libertarian Cato Institute.

Zev Chafets, an old-school hang-around-and-let-em-talk reporter, pals around with Roger Ailes.

[Spokesman Brian] Lewis then read Ailes a summary of the flap over Democratic operative Hilary Rosen's comment that Ann Romney, mother of five, had never worked a day in her life. Ailes spun it without hesitation. "Obama's the one who never worked a day in his life. He never earned a penny that wasn't public money. How many fund-raisers does he attend every week? How often does he play basketball and golf? I wish I had that kind of time. He's lazy, but the media won't report that."

He also calls Newt Gingrich a "prick," but the Gingrich-Fox contretemps is now well known.

As National Review's Daniel Foster says, the death of a left-wing dictator is a good opportunity to reset your "useful idiot"-monitor. Andy Sullivan explains why Democrats depend on Republican intransigence to save entitlements from the scythe of a "grand bargain."

Jonathan Martin explores how the GOP's politicians are ignoring the small but loud population of wonky writers.

Jindal, for example, has called on the GOP to be more populist to avoid the party-of-the-rich caricature that has been so poisonous at the polls. But when asked whether he'd be for changing the way carried-interest income for hedge funders and private equity managers is taxed, he would only go so far as saying it should be on the table.

The Jihad Watch blog wins a prize at CPAC but won't be able to receive it—all that nasty Jihad-watching stuff.