



## Speaker System

TODAY'S BLOGS: THE LATEST CHATTER IN CYBERSPACE.

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By Doree Shafrir

Bloggers dissect who knew what in the Mark Foley scandal. They also buzz about the publication of excerpts from former Hewlett-Packard head Carly Fiorina's forthcoming memoir and analyze last night's season premiere of *Lost*.

*Speaker System*: Mark Foley's former Chief of Staff Kirk Fordham [resigned yesterday](#) after alleging that he told House Speaker Dennis Hastert more than three years ago about his boss' proclivities for young male pages. Hastert denies that Fordham ever approached him about Foley. Conservative bloggers question whether what Foley did was actually illegal, while left-wing bloggers anticipate more high-profile resignations.

Justin Gardner of the centrist [Donklephant wonders](#), "Is Kirk Fordham telling the truth or just trying to cover his ass? That question could literally make or break Dennis Hastert's chances of holding onto his credibility and job."

On [Daily Kos](#), commentator DemFromCT doesn't see the fallout [ending anytime soon](#): "The other point that [Paul] Weyrich himself made on CNN this am is that it becomes a 'feeding frenzy' and where does it stop? Yep, Paul. That's the problem. The concern for their own selves and not the kids that needed protecting is what got you here, so keep on keeping on. My humble opinion is that the R's in DC are still underestimating its effect on Main Street, and that national Democrats are doing the right thing by letting the GOP continue to do each other in. I don't underestimate the GOP's ability to get nasty, but right now, the scandal's entirely one of their own making, and one beyond their ability to manage."

**Conservative blogger GayPatriot [mostly agrees](#) with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's criticism of allegations that a "gay cabal" that includes Fordham conspired to keep the Foley allegations secret: "Now this blog has never been friendly to Foreman or the NGLTF, and I'm not surprised at their predictably liberal-take on the witchhunt. It is especially disappointing given the fact that they know 'The List' was compiled and has been used by Gay Liberals for years now. But at least they are asking their Democrat masters to help stop this witchhunt."**

Nico at the left-leaning [Think Progress](#) blog [writes](#), "Anyone who shirked responsibility or withheld evidence or participated in a cover up should be held accountable. But it's grossly irresponsible for the right-wing to use the Foley scandal to launch an anti-gay witchhunt."

Charles Johnson at the right-wing **Little Green Footballs** [argues](#) that the dalliance is getting blown out of proportion, and **Andrew Sullivan** [concurs](#): "We have no evidence (yet) of any actual sex; if we did, and it had happened in D.C., it would not have been legally under-age, because the age of consent is 16. From what I can tell the only illegality rests on the online predation bill championed by Foley."

[Read](#) more about Kirk Fordham.