

Foley fiasco is not a sex scandal

Does the media ever jump to unproven and supported conclusions? Oh, I don't know. Let's ask Gary Condit.

What was his relationship with Chandra Levy? Was it intimate? Was it inappropriate? Was it just plain creepy? Yes. Yes. And, yes.

Did he murder her? No. But he was driven from office by innuendo.

What was Bill Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky? Everyone remembers the famous finger jabbing, slowly-delivered, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky."

He served two full terms as president of the United States and makes more money in a year now than was in the bank in Hope, Arkansas when he was a boy.

What was Gary Hart's relationship with Donna Rice? Two decades after the incident, only the two of them know for sure.

Would he have been president had not he dared the media to "put a tail on me?" Would he have survived if the story were only about a young woman staying in his town home, possibly all night and all the following day, if the picture of Donna Rice sitting on his lap on the yacht, Monkey Business, had never been published?

Reviewing news stories of that incident and his self-destruction in the 1988 presidential campaign, you just don't find references to his relationship with Ms. Rice as a "sex scandal." It is alternately described as a scandal and suggested that he was involved in "infidelity" or having "extramarital" affairs - but no use of the term "sex scandal."

By testimony and photography, Bill Clinton and Gary Hart had physical contact with the person they were accused of being involved with.

Up to the point of writing this story, Mark Foley has not been even accused of having physical contact with any of the pages with whom he had inappropriately (and disgustingly) communicated.

The difference in the three aforementioned scandals and the present one with Florida Representative Mark Foley is the political party to which each belonged. The three other men, Condit, Clinton and Hart, were, and probably still are, Democrats.

And while their "partners" in the controversies were much younger than they, the females were all of legal age.

Mark Foley has claimed to be a conservative Republican. He has supposedly championed the protection of minors from internet predators like himself. Interestingly, that is the same thing that Donna Rice now does for a vocation. She's probably a lot more sincere in her efforts than Foley was in his.

Even though Foley had a lot of face time on television, and even though he entered the US House in 1994 with Barbara Cubin, she now says she didn't really know him. Right, and Bill Clinton didn't really know Gennifer Flowers.

You can admit you know somebody whose done wrong without it tainting your own reputation.

Dennis Hastert, the portly Speaker of the House from Illinois, doesn't recall being told that there might have been inappropriate communications between fellow Republican Mark Foley and current and former pages. Mrs. Cubin supports Hastert. Doesn't think he should resign or be removed from his lofty position. Now there's a shocker. Barbara Cubin doesn't think that someone who isn't doing their job should leave Congress. Campaign contributions perhaps?

Didn't Hastert recently visit Casper to prop up Cubin's flagging candidacy after political newcomer, retired Navy Captain Bill Winney, nearly beat her in her hometown, and did beat her in the state's largest county and center of government?

Foley, once busted, began to bare his soul in the hope of eliciting sympathy. All of a sudden, after 12 years in the House with Barbara Cubin, he (his lawyer, that is) announced that he (Foley, not the lawyer) was gay. As though that had something to do with his conduct. Maybe his choice of victims was based on his sexual orientation, but not his conduct.

He now discloses that he was the victim of sexual abuse by an unnamed clergyman of an unnamed faith.

He also claimed he was an alcoholic (no one saw him drink) and had checked into an undisclosed treatment center.

It would not have been surprising had Foley claimed to be a bipolar manic depressive; to having recently been diagnosed with a terminal disease; to having suffered massive head trauma in the past 12 years; and, further, that he also was the victim of repressed memory.

His real problem is that he is another conservative Republican who was guilty of shameful and inexcusable behavior. But a sex scandal? Without physical contact? By words only? Can that be?

He is a poster boy for the "Too" phobia. Anyone who is "too" anything is not to be trusted. Too honest, too faithful, too religious, too ambitious ... too anything.

Radi-evangelists have pretty much faded from the screen. Jimmy Swaggart, Jim Bakker, Oral Roberts, Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell - and the lesser lights like David Koresh and Jim Jones.

Foley, as they, had pretended to be something he wasn't. Eventually it came out. Good riddance to Mark Foley. But anyone who thinks he's the only one in Congress with behavioral problems is mistaken. Badly, badly mistaken.

Thanks for the lift, Boulder

John Mark Carr, he of the airlift from Thailand to Boulder, was recently freed from a California jail. Charges dismissed.

As stated on these pages at the time, Carr played Boulder D.A. Mary Keenan Lacey for a sucker by confessing to a crime he had no part in and then the latest incarnation of dopey D.A.'s in Boulder treated him to a business class flight back to the U.S. - ultimately to Boulder. For Carr, it was likely the first and only time he's ever been in Boulder.

Even his confession was couched with language like the death of Jon Benet Ramsey "was an accident" and that he "was present" - not that he actually committed the heinous crime.

Still the good residents of the People's Republic of Boulder had to spring for a one-way ticket back home for the creep.

Not to be outdone by Boulder's ineptness, the California city from which Carr had fled with charges pending against him, lost the computer that allegedly held the evidence that would convict him of child pornography.

One would assume that after the comedy of errors on the part of Boulder, Colorado and Sonoma, California, that they might now forever link themselves as "Sister Stupid Cities" or the like.


Reluctant to end his 15 minutes of fame, the little twerp was determined to peer into the windows of a grade school. He and his ABC goofball escorts were presumably going to film some kind of story to continue the sorry saga of his pitiful pursuit of the limelight.

Who gets the last laugh? The Boulder D.A. has been lampooned by the national media and has to live with the fact she was played for a fool by a fool. The Sonoma D.A. looks worse. For years, he was hopeful Carr would be caught and returned to face justice. When Carr was, they had lost the key evidence to support charges he fled to avoid.

Wyoming Public Television Candidates Forum Schedule

Sunday, October 22, 2006	Tuesday, October 24, 2006
7:00 pm - U.S. House	7:00 pm - State Treasurer
8:00 pm - U.S. Senate	7:30 pm - State Auditor
Monday, October 23, 2006	
7:00 pm - Governor	
8:00 pm - Sup'tend't of Public Instruction	
9:00 pm - Secretary of State	


The U.S. House and U.S. Senate Candidates Forum will be rebroadcast 10/31 at 9 pm



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Renew the Lodging Tax

Yard signs are popping up around town, imploring voters to renew the lodging tax.

At best, that statement is inaccurate.

At worst, it is dishonest.

Voters are not being asked to renew the lodging tax - a tax that is mostly paid by visitors to Cheyenne - those who stay in motels, hotels, campgrounds, etc. Locals need not concern themselves with a tax on others has long been the message. When we travel and get socked with a similar tax of far greater percentage, that is a different matter in our thinking.

Voters will not be renewing the existing lodging tax. They will be increasing it 33 1/3%, not long after increasing it by 50%. We will then be red-lined. They could have just asked voters to "Approve a 4% Lodging Tax." Honesty is often still the best policy.