

... should he be impeached?



1. "Yeah it matters, for one: he's a dumb-ass for doing it in the first place, and two: him messing around shouldn't matter but it does."

2. "What's morality?...Yeah, I think it does because he's supposed to lead the nation."

James McMillan ▲
student



1. "No. I don't think that that affects his ability to lead the nation. What's problematic, though, is that he may have perjured himself. Sure, he may indeed have had an affair and that doesn't bother me a bit, but if he can perjure himself in one situation and not in another, when will we be able to trust him. So that's my take on it."

2. "It may depending on what moral issue you're talking about. But in this given instance I don't believe the immorality of committing adultery affects his ability to lead the nation. If it were a different moral question, I would answer differently."

Tim Schell ▲
English instructor



1. "Yes I do. The fact that he's married. It might reflect in his work, like his honesty."

2. "I don't think it affects his ability, but I do think it affects his ability to be honest. If he is found guilty I don't think he should be impeached, but he should be punished."

Debbie Planert ▲
student



1. "Yes, because he represents the United States and he also represents the integrity of the people of the United States. We'll have to wait and see if he's guilty."

2. "I think the scandal might affect his reputation, and so that might affect his ability to be a good President and the stress might affect his ability to be a good President."

Laurie McGinnis ▲
student



1. "No. I don't really care. I don't like him and I don't think he should be there anyway."

2. "If he's lying about it he shouldn't be President because he's obviously not trustworthy."

Garrett Johnson ▲
student

Is a lie enough to destroy a presidency?

BRAD ZIMMERMAN
Co-Editor-in-Chief

This was shaping up to be a good year. Sure, the economies of Asia aren't so hot and Iraq looks like it might cause some trouble but that besides those big problems, '98 was looking to be a good year. Now it looks like most Republicans' biggest dream could possibly come true: the impeachment of the President of the United States.

When the problems with Gennifer Flowers were an issue back in '92, no one cared too much. Clinton denied any wrongdoing and the media didn't really seem to care. Then Paula Jones came along. Again, there was some interest but nothing substantial.

Now, from out of the blue comes Monica Lewinsky. There are several reasons why the press has jumped all over Clinton this time. One, Lewinsky was 21 when the supposed affair occurred. Two, Lewinsky has already signed an affidavit stating that she did not have a sexual relationship with Clinton. However, now apparently she's saying that may not be the case, which leads to the third point. Lewinsky might have been pressured into lying. Finally, Clinton has already stated, under oath that he didn't have a sexual relationship with Lewinsky. If he did, he could be accused of perjury, which is a federal (and impeachable) offense.

The popular press is claiming they don't have a big problem with the fact that Clinton had an affair. Most editors and writers claim they knew he wasn't perfect back in '92. They say now, though, that if he lied it's way more serious.

The other night on OPB radio, three newspaper editors were interviewed. One editor was from Denmark; the other two (a man and a woman) were from Seattle and San Francisco respectively. The editor from Denmark brought up several interesting points, one of which was the fact that the only reason Clinton would have had to lie was because the media got interested in his private life.

Of course, I don't advocate extramarital affairs. Personally, I think if the extramarital charge is true, Clinton should take the blame for not being able to control himself. But there's so much more involved here than a simple affair and a possible lie.

Since '92 Clinton has helped lead the American economy into some of its best years since the mid '70's; he's worked with Congress to balance the budget. He's helped bring the situation in Bosnia under control. He's one of the most respected world leaders we've seen since John Kennedy. Of course, Kennedy had plenty of affairs.

Media people are claiming that the American people can't let someone lead them that has lied about his activities. This is ridiculous. Every president has lied about his activities since Washington. The American public, contrary to popular opinion, does *not* need to know every last detail. We're experiencing information overload as it is.

Of course, every media person is taking the moral high ground. It disgusts me. I don't think anyone is looking even a month into the future here, much less a few years into the future. The impeachment or early removal of a successful president, a president who's done so much for America and its citizens, will have a profound impact on the entire world. Is it worth it just to punish a lie?



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Brad Zimmerman
Co-Editor-in-Chief

