

# Q&A: A crash course on the details of impeachment

JOEL P. SHERPENT  
Feature Editor

President Clinton's sex scandal has been on the lips of thousands of Americans these past weeks, from the media to the man (or woman) on the street. In an effort to counteract the tabloid mentality of America at large in this matter, *The Clackamas Print* sought the opinion of Political Sci-



TIMOTHY BELL / Clackamas Print  
**Dean Darris shares his political knowledge with the Print.**

ence Instructor Dean Darris for some solid facts on Clinton's current crisis.

**Clackamas Print:** Just what kind of trouble is the President in?

**Dean Darris:** I think the question is: "Are Clinton's activities—if proved—impeachable offenses?" The answer would be—to paraphrase Gerald Ford—an impeachable offense is whatever Congress says it is. Granted, the *Constitution* in Article II does define removable offenses as "treason, bribery, and high crimes and misdemeanors." But the founders employed such vague phrases as "high crimes and misdemeanors" on purpose. They wanted the whole impeachment procedure to be more than merely a legal question; rather it should be fun-

damentally a political question. In short, he's in as much trouble as the people think he is. And according to the polls, that doesn't seem to be very much trouble at all.

**Print:** It seems obvious Clinton did the things he's been accused of. Why wouldn't there be a legal conviction?

**Darris:** Now this is where it gets tricky. As Commander-in-Chief he falls under the jurisdiction of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which lists adultery as a crime. Moreover, in Washington D.C. there is an archaic law which defines adultery as a crime. Now, the D.C. law is so archaic that I doubt it would have much legal force, and very rarely is anyone going to apply the UCMJ to the President. Nonetheless, technically if there were sexual relations a crime was in fact committed.

Now if we apply the living law, then the most serious allegations are that Clinton suborned perjury and obstructed justice. And since none of these allegations have been proven in a court of law, we cannot claim—legally—that any crime has been committed.

These are serious issues, however, as the President is constitutionally the chief law enforcement officer of the United States—and it seems we should expect him to obey the laws he is charged with enforcing.

**Print:** Has any U.S. President been removed from office by impeachment?

**Darris:** No. But one has been impeached. Now this may seem contradictory, until one understands that impeachment and removal are not synonymous. Andrew Johnson was impeached but not removed. That is, he was impeached but was not convicted, as the Senate failed twice to get the necessary two-thirds vote needed to convict. Nixon resigned because there was ample evi-

dence he was not only going to be impeached, but convicted as well.

**Print:** What is the impeachment process?

**Darris:** The impeachment procedure is a two-step process. The first step, impeachment, is a political indictment generated by the House of Representatives. If a majority of representatives feel the President has acted improperly they draw up Articles of Impeachment and thereby indict the President—that is, they formally charge him with a political crime. From there, it goes to the Senate, which acts as a jury while the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court acts as judge, and if two-thirds of those present vote to remove, the President is thereby no longer President.

This does not, however, grant the ex-president any immunity to further criminal prosecution over said wrongdoing. It just removes him from office.

**Print:** Now, say I, "Joe Blow taxpayer," don't like the President and want to impeach him. What do I have to do?

**Darris:** Write your Congressman. If a majority in the House agrees, and two-thirds of Senators do as well, then you have impeached and removed a President. What this all illustrates is that the founders intended the impeachment process to be a political, not merely a legal act.

It is important to remember that the original *Constitution* allowed for no popular elections of a President. And technically even today we don't elect the president—the Electoral College does. Nonetheless, in the founders' time, there wasn't even a popular shroud around it. They were aware that the other way Colonial Americans would get rid of central authority was with a musket. Also notice originally the people didn't elect Senators either, so this allowed Senators to weigh the strength of the evidence.

What the founders hoped to accomplish was to let the people voice their displeasure peacefully, rather than as they had earlier under the crown with a musket, but not actually allow them to remove the President without the Senate approving.

# Web pages may get you fired

BRAD ZIMMERMAN  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

These days, personal Web pages are commonplace. The new twist, though, is that now you can get fired for content on your Web pages, as Cameron Barrett recently found out.

Barrett was hired by Knorr Marketing in Traverse City, Michigan, to teach computer technology. Barrett apparently suggested that his trainees check out his Web page, where he published his own fiction. Some women staff members did—and were shocked by his violent and sexually explicit passages.

They complained to their boss. Barrett was fired. A few other people around the country have said they've been disciplined or fired over the content of their personal Web pages.

Lizz Sommerfield, 23, said she quit her job at a small Virginia publisher after being ordered to remove any reference to the company on her Web page, where she calls herself "SexyChyck" and poses in leopard-print underwear.

And the U.S. Navy recently attempted to discharge Chief Petty Officer Timothy R. McVeigh after a Navy investigator improperly learned through America Online that McVeigh is gay.

I run a suite of Web pages and assume that somewhere, someone is going to be offended by the content. That's why I only give the address out to friends and people who specifically ask for it. Everyone else can just wander onto it.

I think that it is foolhardy in the extreme to be in a position of power or instruction and to give out any personal information, much less run a Web site and tell people, even just once, to take a look at the site. The United States is a diverse country, and its citizens have a broad range of individual feelings and opinions on every subject. You can be guaranteed that, unless you have a team of lawyers sanitizing your Web pages, someone will be offended sooner or later.

For whatever reason a lot of people seem to think that they're anonymous on the Web—that the Web and "real life" are different or separate. But, as people are beginning to find out, that is not the case.

Companies can fire people for comments deemed inappropriate, and experts warn that personal Web sites, even those set up and maintained at home, are public venues that employers can use to determine who is suitable for the company.

People now and in the future need to take some discretion in what they put on their Web pages, or at the very least, maintain two suites of Web pages—one "clean" suite and one more personal or open suite.

The First Amendment protects free speech. However, it only protects free speech from being stifled by the government, not private employers.

The First Amendment also assumes people have some control over what they say. If you think that you might not, don't produce a Web site. Most pages these days are fluff or an attempt to placate one's ego, so it's no big loss to the rest of the world, anyway.



*Unless you have a team of lawyers sanitizing your Web pages, someone will be offended sooner or later.*

**Brad Zimmerman**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

## NEWS BRIEFS

**The deadline for the writers' club contest** is Feb. 18. Students may submit up to three poems, one essay, and one piece of fiction. Submit entries to Allen Widerburg in M233 or call ext.2359 for more information.

**Winter term Authors' Night** will be held in the McLoughlin Hall Theater tonight at 7 p.m. Three Oregon playwrights—Charles Deemer, DMay Roberts and playwrighting instructor Sue Mach—will be featured. For more information, contact Allen Widerburg at ext. 2359.

**Two free job search workshops** will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in CC127. "Resume Writing Tips"-Tuesday, February 10, and "Interview to Hire"-Tuesday, February 17.

**Clackamas County Recycling Partnership** is looking for volunteers to help with a recycling audit. For more information, contact Amy Lundy in High School Relations, ext. 2690.

**The following recruiters are scheduled to be on campus** in the Community Center: Today, Harry Ritchie Jewelers; Thursday, Feb. 5, Wells Fargo; Monday, Feb. 9, Olsten Temps; Tuesday, Feb. 10, Mt. St. Joseph Care Center; Wednesday, Feb. 11, Volt Services Group; and Thursday, Feb. 12, UPS.

### The Clackamas Print Staff

19600 S. Molalla Ave. Oregon City, OR 97045  
(503) 657-6958 ext. 2309  
ccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us

|                             |                                  |                            |               |                   |             |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|
| <b>Co-Editors-in-Chief:</b> | Christina Mueller<br>(ext. 2576) | <b>Copy Editor:</b>        | Mike Garcia   | <b>Advisor:</b>   | Linda Vogt  |
| <b>Feature Editor:</b>      | Joel P. Shempert                 | <b>Photo Editor:</b>       | Timothy Bell  | <b>Secretary:</b> | JoAnne Gale |
| <b>Sports Editor:</b>       | John Thorburn                    | <b>Co-A&amp;E-Editors:</b> | Jared Bezzant |                   |             |
| <b>Business Manger:</b>     | Mairin-Anne Moore<br>(ext. 2578) | <b>Cartoonist:</b>         | Alex Mahan    |                   |             |
|                             |                                  |                            | Mark Hoffman  |                   |             |

**Staff Writers and Production:** Laura Armstrong, Kristina Brooks, Adam Crum, Eric Eatherton, Kim Harney, Toni McMichael, Jeremy Stallwood, and Robert Schoenberg.

The Clackamas Print aims to report the news in an honest, unbiased, professional manner. The opinions expressed in The Clackamas Print do not necessarily reflect those of the student body, college administration, its faculty or The Clackamas Print advertisers. Products and services advertised in The Clackamas Print are not necessarily endorsed by anyone associated with The Clackamas Print. The advertising rate is \$2.50 per column inch. All signed letters to the editor will be considered for publication and must be submitted by 1 p.m. the Friday prior to publication. The Clackamas Print is a weekly publication and is distributed every Wednesday except during finals week.

A Member-Owned Financial Cooperative

### Clackamas Federal Credit Union

Where Ownership Has Its Advantages

All Staff & Full-Time Students are Eligible to Join.

- ❖ **Dividend Bearing Checking; No Minimum Balance, Monthly Fee or Per Check Charge, VISA Debit/Check Card.**
- ❖ **Free Notary, Free Travelers Checks & Free 24-hour PC & Telephone Access to Your Account**
- ❖ **Money Markets, Certificates, IRA's, VISA's, Loans & Lines of Credit.**

Oregon City  
656-0671

**Join Today**

Milwaukie  
653-7788