

IMPEACHABLE QUESTIONS FROM PAGE 1

Tom Deufel, bartender at the famous Desdemona Club, says Clinton should be impeached "because he's lied all along." He thinks the Iraq attack "was pretty much inevitable," but asked: "How many brown skinned people is he willing to kill to stay in office? How many American lives is he willing to put in jeopardy to save his sorry butt?"

Ellen and Richard Bishop believe Clinton shouldn't be impeached. "I think it's a witchhunt," she says. "I think impeachment is unwarranted though Clinton has done many untruthful things," he says.

"The country is far better off after almost six years of his Presidency," Richard said. "We as a people need a President we can believe in and Clinton challenges us to accept his fallibility and yet achieve the goals we are able to under his leadership." Ellen said, "Bill Clinton has done wonderful things for this country and if he could be elected to a third term I would vote for him."

The Bishops also think Saddam Hussein "has to be dealt with."

"Having lived through a few wars and serving in one (Vietnam), I recognize the horror Saddam Hussein is more than willing to perpetrate upon the Middle East and the rest of the world," Richard said. "The longer we allow this maniac to accumulate weapons that are capable of vanquishing more than 50% of this planet, the greater jeopardy all of us are faced with. The U.S. has no choice but to deal with a tyrant in the only means he recognizes. No one else in the world wants to step up to the plate to do this."

Janet Keim, horse rancher and former Astoria Downtown Caretaker, thinks the "real crime is the amount of taxpayers' money spent investigating the President since he was first elected. I don't think he should have lied but I question his actions are impeachable offenses." However, she admits that the timing of the bombing of Iraq "is suspiciously coincidental."

Pam Jenkins, Residential Wing Supervisor at Tongue Point Job Corps Center, is convinced impeaching Bill Clinton is purely partisan. "It looks like the far right has been successful in its efforts to hunt him down without caring about the expense or the future of our country," she said. "I support President Clinton. I do not support impeachment or censure. My mother still supports him. She's a 79 year old woman, Democrat and very active in her church. She would 'rattle (Clinton's) cage until his teeth shook', but she supports him." And the raids over Iraq "were planned and necessary."

"This is a great country because we can conduct a war and impeach a President at the same time," Columbia River Bar Pilot and local radio personality Paul Jackson said. "I think it's a good idea to impeach a President every 50 years on general purposes just to show the people are in charge."

"The House of Representatives vote to impeach Bill Clinton is the correct vote," says Willis Van Dusen, who was recently elected to a third term as Astoria's mayor. "I feel a great sadness for the whole country that our President has to go through an impeachment trial, but I think our representatives have an obligation to vote to impeach him. I am truly puzzled the vote is so partisan. That baffles me. When the impeachment trial in the Senate is over I hope President Clinton is not removed from office. I believe the impeachment process is very important to the country — but I would not vote to remove him from office."

As for the attack on Iraq, Mayor Van Dusen said it was inevitable. "I support the attack on Saddam Hussein's military government 100%," he said. "However, the timing of both the attack and cease fire (the same day he was impeached) were made to help Bill Clinton's political career."

"If indeed Bill Clinton ordered the raid on Iraq to detract the public from his impeachment, he should be impeached," Rokeby Scott, who lives in Warrenton but works at Bikes & Beyond in Astoria, said. "Other than that, I would say he shouldn't be impeached."

Pierce Christi, musician, KMUN-FM radio blues-jock and owner of Malalternative Music Exchange, says "the whole (impeachment and bombing) business is politics at its worst — I hope. I hope it doesn't get uglier."

Neither Robert nor Marjorie Fomess feel Clinton should be impeached. "I don't think his personal life is involved in his politics," Marjorie says. "I think he's had a brilliant career. He has accomplished what no one else has. I think he's being railroaded by the Republicans — and I am a Republican," she said. "I think it's unfair."

Her husband Robert, retired from the Post Office, agrees. "His personal life shouldn't have any bearing — if it's proven he has misled the country, he should be impeached. If not, he shouldn't be. He was elected by the people and we usually stand up for our leaders in times of crisis." Both said the Iraqi bombing has been "talked about for a long time" (Marjorie) and that such acts against another country "don't just come out of thin air" (Robert).

Ron Baldwin, former lead singer of The Bond St. Blues Band and co-owner of Lido Caffé, says "partisanship has come to a sad state" regarding Clinton's impeachment. "It's a straight party split" between Republicans and Democrats, and "has little to do with right or wrong. The partisanship scares me," he said. As for the bombing of Iraq, "Whatever they charge or convict him of, I don't see that a President would do that" for covert or sinister motives, he said.

Ed Hortsch "absolutely" agrees that Clinton should be impeached. "He has embarrassed the country by his actions and compounded it with obstruction of justice." And Hortsch thinks the timing of the air attacks "very curious."

"The reason Bill Clinton should be impeached is that he put an order through several years ago that clearly said sexual harassment cases must be prosecuted and that by his own law he is required to tell the truth about his affair with Monica Lewinsky," Jeanine Martin, actress and teacher, said. "He obstructed justice and he should be tried. But I don't think he should lose his job. The impeachment trial is the censure the Democrats want."

She is suspicious about the Iraq bombing for a number of reasons. "I don't know why they didn't get this man (Saddam Hussein) several years ago," she said. "I find it ironic that the bombing stopped almost immediately after he was impeached, and I think it's highly suspicious that he decreed the bombing 48 hours before the UN report (citing Hussein's refusal to allow full investigation of his war potential) came out."

Her husband Roger Martin (*Shanghaied in Astoria's* perennial 'Captain') said, "Impeachment is only (Clinton's) day in court. He will probably finish his two years as President."

Chris Lynn Taylor, singer, actress and Star of the Sea School teacher, believes Clinton ought to be impeached. "The



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President should be the symbol of what is good and right about our country and when he lies and compounds his lies, he makes himself and the rest of us seem like idiots," she said. "Anyone else in any other part of life would lose their jobs, no questions asked. I also believe if he has any honor at all he will resign. Nixon showed honor." As for bombing Iraq, "I realize Bill Clinton believes he is smarter than anybody else — he can't be so stupid to do a 'Wag the Dog' thing," she said. She also said Saddam Hussein is "a lunatic."

Chris Lynn's fiancée Scott Carpenter, a former Army officer, said Clinton must be impeached because "any time there is a question about the actions of a President, especially if they are serious allegations, they need to be aired and settled. That is what impeachment is about. There are two entities we are dealing with. The first is the person of Bill Clinton. The second is the office of the President. My opinion is that the standards we hold the President to must be higher than those we hold individuals. If Bill Clinton committed acts questionable as a person, I believe they are unforgivable as a President and should be thoroughly investigated." He thinks there are "too many protestations by those who are usually his talking heads" defending Clinton's decision to bomb Iraq "when circumstances seem to point otherwise."

Michael ("Schecki") Metzner's opinion is that Clinton ought not to be impeached because he has not committed "high crimes." Impeachment "will probably split the country," the worldly traveled musician said, and the Senate "won't get any other work done" until the impeachment trial is over. "I don't think Clinton's the type of man who would kill people for his political future," he said of the bombing of Iraq. "But then again..."

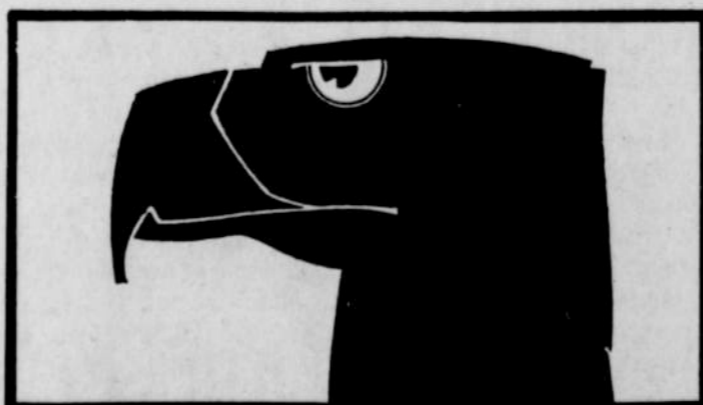
"If Clinton is to be impeached for anything, Jill Ciolli said, "It should be for stupidity. I think it's been a setup, a total conspiracy." She is not sure that Clinton "calls the shots anymore" in regards to ordering the Iraqi raids.

"I think people are obsessed with sex," artist Jeanine Oleson said, not specifically answering whether she agrees with Clinton's impeachment. "All politicians like everybody else have shady pasts. Separation of church and state is not separated in this case. We have a media state at work here," she said. "I think Clinton's sort of an Okie. Whoever his PR people are, they haven't done a good job."

Dinah Urell, co-editor of *HipFish* Magazine, compares impeachment with the death penalty: "It's about as worthless as the time and money spent on death sentences, and energy is being drawn away from what we should be paying attention to — public health and well being, the environment."

"Clinton's not as slick as his 'Willie'," *HipFish's* other editor Ramey Holsman says. His first mistake, she said, was not publicly saying "It's none of your business" about his affair with Monica Lewinsky. "Everybody lies to protect themselves, and I don't think that's impeachable," she said. "Power is sex, and always has been."

"I think Republicans should be impeached for their abuse of power," Verna Dunlap, owner of *P.O.S.H. Events & Information Guides* says.



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Her daughter Chandra Webb is of a different opinion. "I think every man who commits adultery should be locked up someplace," she said. The President "is supposed to be a role model for children and everybody else. I think he should be impeached and taken out of the Presidency."

Chandra's husband Ron Webb indirectly disagrees. "I don't think (Clinton) should be impeached for what he did, however distasteful his acts," he said. "He's probably undergoing enough wrath from Hillary every night he tries to sleep. I think he's paying his dues from the scorned woman."

All three do not think Clinton bombed Iraq to delay or derail his impeachment, though Chandra said the timing "was very convenient."

Heather Lively thinks Clinton should resign and "save us a lot of money" but not impeached. And the bombing of Iraq in her opinion was "just bad timing. I don't think it was planned that way. A whole lot of people made the decision — it was just bad timing all the way around."

Joseph Scoggins said Clinton's impeachment "is just a mismatch of fortunes. Such a big deal made of such a trivial affair. I think the whole sexual thing is to detract from something else — like bombing Iraq."

"I absolutely love it," Clatsop Community College physics teacher Pat Keefe says of impeachment. "I think it's neat the GOP is showing its strong side here. Their true ability to shove their opinions down the throat of the American people — at least Bill and Monica were consensual."

As for the bombing of Iraq, "It was very fortuitous that the UN inspector's report just happened to come out then, which justified the attacks," Pat said. "The length of the attack was a little longer than it would have been without the trial."

Alice Schuerman, Life Model at Clatsop College, said she hasn't "quite got the gist of the GOP game, but from my observations I don't think I'd want to play. It seems the rules change in their importance. It's like *New Rule! Time Out! New Rule!*" Her observation about bombing Iraq: "So the timing was convenient? When is the time right? For any of this?"

"I think it's utterly ridiculous," Karen Baine said of Clinton's impeachment. She is an actress, director and theater instructor at Clatsop Community College. She is also a waitress at the Columbian Cafe. "We are all sexual beings and we have the right to lie about our personal lives," she says. Clinton's sexual affairs "have nothing to do with his political life. I think what (Congress) is doing is childish and irresponsible. The two parties got so stuck in their adolescent macho game. We should kick them all out and bring some adults in," she said. "I think the country is being immobilized by party politics. Attention should be paid to the country instead of partyline bullshit. I'm disgusted with the whole affair. It truly makes me ashamed to be a part of this country."

Concerning the Iraq raids, Karen says, "The intelligent side of me doesn't believe this is happening. I have the answers I want to give which is from the innocent in me — but I can't find an answer for an innocent anywhere in this situation. I can't help but notice the timing of the bombing, which does not seem coincidental. Saddam has been our pawn before and I think he's our pawn now. One thing that particularly disturbs me is 'collateral casualties.'"

Brownsmead Flats' Robert Stevens doesn't think Clinton should be impeached. "It's that age old thing of using scandal as a political tool for political power," he says. "I'm disgusted with it. It's more of each party pushing its own agenda instead of what's good for the country." As for Iraq, Robert said "Clinton asked 'Do you think all these people are on board?' for the bombing — meaning the Secretary of Defense, generals and admirals. It sounded like he was afraid they would think he was ordering the bombing to save him from impeachment."

David Bennett, newly retired ship's radio officer and classical music programmer for KMUN (and Evelyn Bennett's father), said that "impeachment is for crimes against the government. Clinton was not involved in a crime against the government. He was involved in a private crime. I don't care who asks a question about his sex life; I think he should never have been asked — so as regards perjury, he should not have been asked the question and that's the bottom line."

"What if every member of Congress was asked if they have ever had an adulterous affair?" he asked. "Have everyone under oath answer *yea* or *nay* — and investigate everyone who says *nay*."

David says that the bombing of Iraq (which he noted also involved the British) "happened to be coincidental, and only that."

"I think there is a direct correlation between political assassination and the issues of impeachment against Bill Clinton," says Doug Sweet, KMUN station manager. "I don't think Clinton should be impeached for any of the activities they're talking about to do with sex. Mainly because I totally agree with what he said about the Paula Jones deposition — that he was not giving them anything they asked for, which is in the long political tradition of response to purely political questions. *Paula Jones* was just a political lawsuit supported by every rightwing nut who wants to get Clinton out of office. I wouldn't tell the truth to any outfit like that. I would obfuscate rather than give them what they want."

He said he doesn't believe the attack of Iraq was politically motivated. "Saddam Hussein was warned a long time ago — either cooperate or we attack."

'Pagan Pancaker' Kevin Violette said he voted for Clinton twice but has lost a lot of respect for him. "I don't care what happens to him personally any more," Kevin says. "The reason he is being impeached is that he's being hounded out of office. I don't think perjury is a 'high crime and misdemeanor' specified by the Constitution. Impeachment is for something like a ship's captain going mad and endangering ship and crew. It's like a parachute: you use it only when the plane's going to crash. The President is not above the law — he shouldn't have lied but the question should never have been asked. Lying in politics is the norm. You only get punished when you tell the truth." He says the Special Prosecutor law should be re-examined: "It's a good idea that's got out of hand."

Kevin, who is a morning cook at the Columbian Cafe as well as a musician and KMUN's 'Old Roadhog' thinks that perhaps 40% of the impetus for the air raids over Iraq might have been motivated by Presidential political considerations, but avows that "The system is set up; these things have to be planned well in advance. The President can't call up one day and bomb the next."

Hampton Scudder, Exhibit Specialist of the Columbia River Maritime Museum concurs with Kevin (who worked several years at CRMM) that "There's no crime or treason here — it's sort of retribution, a partisan attack to take down whoever they can as vengeance for Nixon, Reagan, Gingrich. I wouldn't be surprised that a lot of the charges (the Republicans) have tried to get Clinton on — such as *Whitewater* — they couldn't