

stick. So why admit to an extramarital affair when he didn't get the full meal deal? If he would just admit he lied then I would forgive him as would the American people."

As for bombing Iraq, Michael says "They did it because they spent all that money getting those guys over there. What they need to do is get the CIA into gear and do what they do, which is assassinate people."

Linda Thompson, medical assistant; phlebotomist ("bloodsucker") is blunt about her opinion of Clinton's impeachment: "He lied. It has nothing to do with sex, but he took the Presidency with honesty — and he lied!"

She says the airstrike on Iraq "doesn't coincide with the movie *Wag the Dog*."

Longshore Leroy says Clinton "should have been impeached six years ago" for Whitewater: "Ever since he got into office I can't tell the difference between government and organized crime." He decries Clinton for "taking contributions from Chinese and then doing business with them." He also called Clinton "a hypocrite for bouncing military people for adultery. He should step down as commander-in-chief because he allowed people to be court-martialed for the same thing he did. We should stop electing and re-electing people who say they're going to make a change and never do."

Roger Frisinger, greens keeper at the Highland Golf Course in Gearhart, says Clinton's sexual activities "don't affect his ability to govern. It's a political vendetta rather than criticism of his governing the country. Impeachment on grounds such as these are an abridgment of the Constitution." He says, "The bombing (of Iraq) happened because we have troops there already — if you're going to introduce a gun, you're going to use it. I think it has to do with the military class in this country, and I think (Clinton) was forced to use it."

Michael Petersen, who knits crab pots, rejects impeachment "because I think the legal intent of the Starr inquisition was an entrapment to get Clinton to admit cheap and tawdry sex. I don't like the whole idea because I think I will be hurt by his blow job."

"The timing was set up by Hussein watching Congress to set up Clinton to push the button," he says of Iraq.

"The only person Bill Clinton has to answer to is Hillary. We didn't elect him to be our 'moral' leader," says Julie Smith, manager of Cafe Uniontown. "What goes on between closed doors is the business of those doing it. It's none of the American public's business. It crosses matters of church and state; marriage vows are both church and state. Morals have a religious basis; when you question morals it is the questioning of religious beliefs. We look for ethics in our politics, not morals. Morals are core beliefs, what we are raised with; they represent belief in a greater being or beings. Ethics come from education and concepts of justice. Without justice there would be no law or courts — no stop signs. You do not stop at a stop sign because of your morals: You stop because of your ethics. Clinton may not be a moral President but he is an ethical President. Morals and ethics don't mix."

She said the bombing of Iraq was an ethical point. "Hussein agreed to not do certain things. But he did them, and we bombed him."

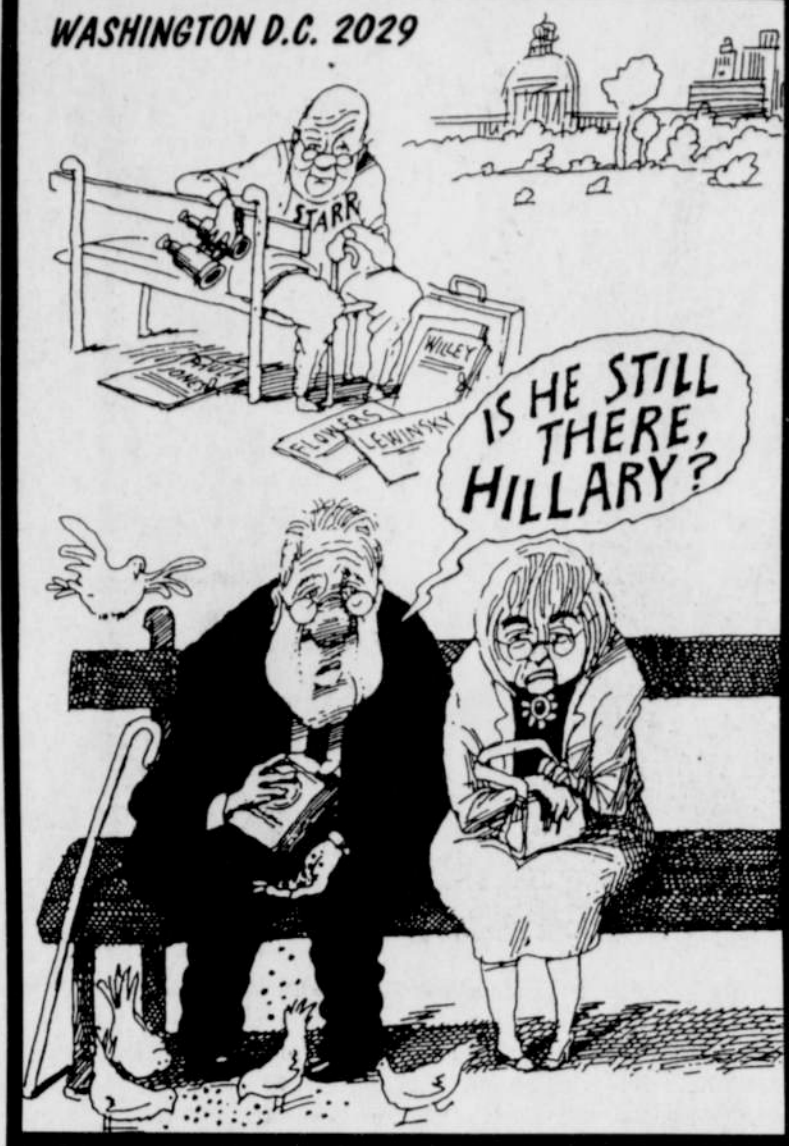
Rhonda Monnin, currently a bartender at the Merrytime Tavern, says Clinton's foes "are trying to replace him. They're trying to show they are doing everything legal to follow through in impeaching him. They know they have to if they don't want to be replaced themselves. They say they risked their political lives to impeach him and they say they don't want any shortcuts. Now that's it has gone this far, I agree with them. I think a person's personal life is their own," she says. "People have to pay the price of what they do. But they don't have to be humiliated or disgraced before the world. I think it's been a big let down for all of the people who voted for him for President."

"I don't think there should have been any bombing because I don't believe in war," Rhonda says of Iraq. "I don't believe innocent people should die for any reason."

"I think the Republicans are playing dirty and are trying to get (Clinton) out of the Presidency," says Amy Horton, who sells wood products. "I think there are more important issues in this country to deal with. I would not like him to be impeached. What he did was an abuse of power, though she was willing — But if my boss was to do that with me he should be fired. Any President who did anything stupid we know about is because he got caught." She doesn't think he ordered the bombing of Iraq.

Nathan Luome, who works in construction, believes Clinton has been good for the country. "He's produced jobs and reduced the national debt. I'm sorry he fucked up in his personal life, but I don't think he should be impeached. I don't think his personal life should bear on the Presidency."

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PETRICIC (TORONTO STAR)

His spin on the bombing of Iraq is that "Saddam was trying to push the issue. He was thinking Clinton was in trouble and he could make some ground. He thought by pushing his (nuclear/biocide weapons) card he could screw Bill Clinton."

Musician Clarence Long says impeaching Clinton is "a waste of tax dollars. By the time they're done he will be out of the Presidency. He didn't profit by the crime he committed." As for Iraq: "He had to have Congress' permission and they all backed his action."

Jack Meyer, realtor and candidate for Astoria City Council in the November election, said, "I think (Clinton's) doing a good job. Putting his personal life on trial is a political mistake and will do more harm than good."

His view on the Iraq raids is that "Saddam had it coming for a long time."

"Clinton shouldn't be impeached," says Astoria photographer Robert Adams, author of *West From the Columbia and To Make it Home: Photographs of the American West*. As for Iraq, "How can one know?" he asks about Clinton's purposes for ordering the bombing the day before he was to be impeached. "Who could really establish it?"

Bond Street Blues Band singer and saxophonist Johnny Ward doesn't think Clinton should be impeached "for what he's being impeached for," but if he did order the bombing of Iraq to preserve his political career, "he should be impeached."

Jerry Mazzarella says that from "a personal criteria, I support Clinton's impeachment. I base that on the fact he is an embarrassment to the country as well as being a pathetic example of morality. In terms of how his personal life affects his performance as President, my impression is that he has done a bad job. However, I do believe he is really trying to do the best he can right now because he knows he's going down."

Jerry thinks Clinton "is clever enough to know bombing Iraq wouldn't save him."

Molly Misner, a senior at Astoria High School and a member of its swim team, said "Clinton deserves to be impeached because he broke the law by withholding evidence and he lied under oath. Everyone else would be in jail for doing that. The President should not have different laws than the rest of us."

Molly, who says her life-goal is to possess a license plate with DVM-Ph.D (Dr. Veterinary Medicine), believes Clinton

bombed Iraq "as a diversion because there was no reason to do that. If you're going to bomb somebody to make a point, then bomb the officials instead of regular people who have no say."

Phuong Van Horn, waitress at the Ship Inn and owner of a Vietnamese restaurant in Washington, is upset at Clinton's impeachment "because I feel like this thing was set up and it is going too far. He is humiliated by it. Why would Linda Tripp record (Monica Lewinsky) unless it was set up. We should be proud of him instead of shaming him and the whole nation. I think he has paid more than enough already. I did not pay attention at first, then I got mad. I saw TV, and I got fed up. The money that has been spent on this thing could have been used for the poor, for education, medicine and national health care. We vote for (politicians) to take care of things to improve our country, but instead they do things for their own power."

"I am heartsick over it," Phuong says of the air strikes on Iraq. "It is what is disturbing me. But sometimes you have to do what is necessary to solve a problem. I don't like being bombed," she says of her experiences growing up in Vietnam during a war that lasted three decades (her father was Mayor of Nha Trang). "I don't like people being hurt and I don't like being controlled by any person whatever the reason or position of power they hold. Governments use the good side of people to take power and control over them. I am heartsick to see government use the good side of people to do evil for the power of government."

Mary Jo Gruhkey expressed ire at a phone call she recently received from a religious organization. "I was called by a person for Jerry Falwell who asked for money to sponsor a nationwide television program to show how despicable Clinton is and that he absolutely needs to resign to restore the dignity and honor of the office of the President of the United States," the aquatic fitness instructor at Clatsop Community College said. "It was the most bizarre thing. Jerry Falwell wanted \$20 from me to say what a bum Clinton is on national TV. A religious person calls me to solicit money to use against the President, which crosses the line between church and state. She sounded sweet, like somebody calling about toothpaste. I was baffled. I had no comment and hung up."

"The impeachment of Andrew Johnson was purely political," says Richard Goosey. "The almost-impeachment of Richard Nixon was probably the only one that was really balanced. This impeachment is as about as accurate as we're going to get." He claims he doesn't "give a rat's patoot" for either the impeachment or bombing of Iraq.

Dan Marshall, who drives for Old Gray Cab, says the Republicans "have been headhunting Bill Clinton for six years, ever since he was elected, and have spent \$60 million of taxpayers' money doing it. They went after him as political revenge. He's been a burr in their ass ever since they shut down the government and lost public support. If Clinton did violate a law of committing perjury he should be impeached — that would be worse than having sex in the Oval Office. But he shouldn't be impeached for the reasons they're doing it. Republicans want people to think it's a legitimate process. Clinton could have used his Presidency to stop them but he let the process go on. He's done a hell of a lot of positive things; he reduced the national debt. If the GOP is trying protect the people why didn't they do something about child care and why do they try to cut medical care and education?"

"I don't think Clinton's political or personal situation has anything to do with his decision to bomb Iraq," Dan said.

Dave Heick, owner/operator of Seaside radio station KCYS, agrees with the House sentiment to impeach Clinton. "Paula Jones' civil rights were violated by the President. It was apparent he did not answer honestly and truthfully in federal court, which violated her right to be treated fairly and truthfully. I've got two little boys and they have to learn telling the truth is the most important act in society. We all make mistakes but we must acknowledge them, make our amends and move on."

"Probably only a handful of people in the country can answer the question" of the reasons and timing for the bombing of Iraq, David said.

This impeachment poll will end with Ed Overbay, justly famous for his furniture and cabinet making craftsmanship, who asked, "Why are you asking these questions? What's the point? To what end are we hashing out what everybody's already made up their minds about? It's just constant regurgitation; that's all that's on television all of the time. We should pay attention to things we can do, local issues we can affect rather than things we can do nothing about in Washington, D.C. — the highway bypass through Astoria, city planning design review, economic review of local wages and taxes."

Sunbelt Stories
V. O. BLUM
Illustrated by Henk Pander
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LOBE & ASSOCIATES
ROBERT LOBE, MSW, ACSW
Licensed Clinical Social Worker
555 Bond Street Astoria, OR 97103 (503) 325-8438 FAX (503) 325-4402 RES. (503) 861-1170