

Verdict on Clinton three years too early

By PATRICK BRANNAN

In America people are quick to label a person a failure. President Clinton has been taking a large amount of bad press for his recent economic plan. He has already been labeled a failure by many in less than a year in office. Many times it turns out that people are too quick to label someone.

Many are already saying that Clinton's plan will not work and that he is sure to be a one-term president. There is no proof that his plan will work, but still there is also no proof that it won't, either. There is no reason to write Clinton off just yet. When we elect a president we expect that person to serve for four years. The president has three years in which to make the

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changes that this country needs.

Clinton won the election with many promises of taming Washington and reforming government. He has not yet announced his health care reform package which may be a strong program that will help the health care problem. He also has Vice President Al Gore looking into government waste, of which there is plenty, and attempting to solve some of the leaks. Clinton could make some changes that are important for the country.

The president's job is not the easiest, we all know that. Special interest groups and big business spend millions of dollars to slow the passage of laws or lessen the enforcement of laws that are passed. Most of the clean air standards that are now going into effect were originally passed in a Clean Air Act in 1970. Companies have fought for 20 years to keep the Act from going into effect.

President Clinton may have thought he was bigger than he

turned out to be. He admits that he tried to do too much too quickly. It looks as though Clinton has learned from his first few months on the job and may become productive.

While I have read or heard about Clinton and his shortcomings, I remember articles I have read in the Baltimore sports pages about Cal Ripken earlier this year. Many people questioned Cal's abilities just as they have done Clinton. Cal Ripken has the second highest consecutive games played streak in baseball, behind Lou Gehrig. But early this year Cal's batting average dipped below the .200 mark and many people were saying that Cal needed a day off.

There were those, myself included, who looked at Cal's performances over the years and continued to hold faith in his abilities. Ripken hit at least 20 home runs in 10 straight years, his first 10, which ranks him in elite company. Cal also leads or is among the leaders of the major leagues in many offensive categories, including extra base hits, home runs, hits, and runs batted in, in the last 10 years.

Cal also holds defensive

records, including the highest fielding percentage of a shortstop in major league history.

Cal remained in the lineup, made his tenth straight appearance in an All-Star game, and received a well-deserved ovation from the fans in Baltimore. As of Sunday, Aug. 29, Cal had raised his batting average to .252 with 23 home runs and 80 runs batted in. It has turned out to be a traditional year for Cal and he is closing in on the most home runs hit by a shortstop. Those people that were calling for Cal to rest are now silent or are singing his praises.

Clinton still has three years left in office. Unlike Cal, we lack historical perspective of Clinton and cannot clearly project that he will succeed. Being governor of a state is very different from being president of a country. It seems that it is easier to lose faith quickly and label someone a failure than stick through the end and examine the final outcome.

Slavery was 'pro-choice'

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ham Lincoln, who did not himself belong to a church, was against slavery for religious reasons as well. This fact tends to be overlooked by history books today. Perhaps the parallel between slavery — which every citizen outside of the Klan condemns — and abortion is too painful to address reasonably.

The arguments, though, are the same. If banning feticide is a violation of the establishment of

religion clause in the First Amendment, then so is prohibiting slavery.

An amusing similarity is that the methods used to oppose slavery look a great deal like those used against abortion. There are the tamer foes of the plagues, such as Benjamin Lundy of the past and Phyllis Schlafly of today. They seek or sought laws against the acts, and wrote about the evils being performed while trying to provide ways around them.

More active are the workers of the Underground Railroad and the adoption/parental help agencies, which actually intervene in specific cases for the cause. Even more active would be the noisy speakers such as William Lloyd Garrison or Randall Terry. These people vocally condemn the offenders against humanity and decency, and strive to interfere directly.

Then there are the ones who commit their own wrongs, and then get the whole cause labeled as dangerous. John Brown was not the average abolitionist. He murdered the innocent, even blacks, if they would not join his crusade. Michael Griffin is no better than an abortician if he would commit murder also. Neither of them reflects on the real mainstream of their claimed movements.

A century and more ago, the pro-choicers branded all abolitionists as followers of John Brown. Today, they want the public to believe that all pro-lifers are out firebombing abortuaries (a phenomenon that has steadily decreased in recent years, contrary to information spread by the press).

Lincoln said, "You cannot have a right to do what is wrong" when asked about the states' right to control slavery. He was right, then, and he still is.

Public demand shapes Jackson

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that if you treat them like gods, you shouldn't be surprised when they begin believing your myth about themselves.

None of this speculation has any bearing on anyone's behavior with children. If Jackson has been abusing them, he has to be imprisoned. If this is all a publicity scam, he has to be ignored.

But if he just doesn't want to grow up, he can be treated with a bit of sympathy. We created him. We watched him and listened to him, bought his records by the millions, hung on every word he uttered, and gobbled up the media/publicity stories. How can he be objective about his own behavior when hundreds of thousands of screaming fans worship him every night and fill his bank accounts with Midas amounts of offerings?

Jackson has remade himself many times, and whatever he has become, he is definitely one of our monsters. We deserve him. Whether he wants to entertain us or wants to be a child or wants to touch the children whose mothers drop them off at Never-Never Land, he couldn't have existed without us.

Join the Decree staff

Staff meets Mondays, 3:30 p.m., and Thursdays, 4:30 p.m., in Spruill Building.

CAB CORNER...

Fall Update

Fasten your seatbelt for the semester of your life. CAB has some fun stuff ready to go! A tentative overview for the next couple of weeks.

Saturday, Sept. 18 — Kings Dominion Trip. Call 5227 to reserve your space.

Cost is only \$15 per person which includes transportation and admission to the park. We will leave NCWC at 8 a.m. and will return to NCWC at 10 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 18 — Saturday Night Cinema presents "Mo Money." It will be shown in Doc's at 9:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 23 — Comedian and funny guy Jim David. Be sure you don't miss out on this guy's great line! Jim will be performing in Doc's at 9 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 24 — Fantastic Friday Debut! This is new this year, and involves places in the community who want to give our students a discount. All you need to do is to take your student ID to the designated places and they will let you in with a discount. This Friday Sluggers batting cage will be hosting us.

Saturday, Sept. 25 — Saturday Night Cinema presents "Patriot Games." It will be shown in Doc's at 9:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 1 — Fantastic Friday! This Friday, Hot Wheels go karts will be sponsoring us. Simply take your Wesleyan ID and they will give you a discount!

