

'Presidential Passions': The TV movie

By Matt Sandbank
Staff Writer

Lately, one of the more prominent issues afloat in the communal pool of public debate has been whether or not President Clinton should be impeached.

What a ridiculous question! The issue should not even exist! The man should be impeached, and impeached now! Today! Toss prudence and formalities to the wind, dear Senators and Congressmen! Impeach, impeach, impeach!

Please don't get me wrong, though. I heartily believe that to calmly and steadily follow the set procedure for impeachment is a noble thing, the pride of our country, even, as is a lasting argument about the President's moral responsibility to the nation-for the most part.

However, in certain situations, as in the present one involving Bill Clinton, issues other than national integrity must be considered. We must consider matters of practicality and expediency, and,

Whatever happened to 'I cannot tell a lie'?

By Jessica Fuller
Reporter

We've all read the Starr report, seen the televised confession and heard our nation's leader both ridiculed and defended, but in the midst of the talk of cigars and navy dresses from the Gap, we forget that it is not the crime for which we condemn our President, but the cover-up.

The media has placed most of the emphasis of this whole issue on the fact that President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky had an "improper relationship." The Clinton and Lewinsky Halloween costumes are flying off the shelves and Ken Starr's 400-plus page report has been published in every imaginable media form and language, while little attention is paid to the reality that the President stood up in front of the people he represents, and lied. Forget the ties Monica gave him; President Clinton has made his own noose.

According to his definition of a sexual affair, President Clinton did not "have sexual relations with that woman," but he did participate in actions that most do not equate with the United States or its leader. Then he tried to wish-wash around it with strict definitions and cover-ups, all in an attempt to avoid coming out and saying, "I did it." This act of fiction is what closed the book on him-not their romance novel

most importantly, gratification of the masses. When the television movie about this whole Lewinsky thing makes its appearance-and it will, no doubt-what will the masses want to see? The answer is simple: impeachment.

If Clinton is not impeached, then how on earth will the made-for-TV movie end? What sort of conclusion could it possibly muster? The audience would surely hunger for some sort of tangible resolution, and a soothing feeling of closure. They will demand a catastrophic end to the tragic figure of Clinton (with full dramatic effect, of course).

And for those of you who are obstinate in your skepticism, please allow me the extreme pleasure of describing to you the cinematic glory that would be achieved by the concluding scene of "Presidential Passion: The Monica Lewinsky Story," in which Clinton, being impeached, formally leaves office.

The first camera shot will be of independent counsel Kenneth Starr, played by Dave Coulier,

who will have aged considerably since his glory years as Uncle Joey on "Full House." It will be a crisp autumn afternoon in front of the Capitol Building, and the wind will softly rustle his grey hair, giving him a majestic look. Before a churning sea of newspaper reporters and a shower of flash photography, he will deliver an exceedingly eloquent speech concerning his satisfaction with the recent impeachment, along with not a small amount of sentences about the ethics of American politics. It will be a marvelous concluding monologue.

Even as the shot fades out from Ken Starr and into Monica Lewinsky, his voice will remain, continuing his monumental speech. Monica will be played by-that's right!-the same actress who plays Cassy on USA's hit series, "Silk Stalkings." The buxom brunette will be packing clothes

into a suitcase, preparing to check out of a Washington hotel, and suddenly, there will be a close-up of her face. In her wide blue eyes, we will see a perfect image of weariness and of innocence lost.

A piercing trumpet solo will burst out of a pause in Starr's famed speech. The Clinton family, Bill (played vividly by Charlton Heston), Hillary Rodham (Cybill Sheppard), and Chelsea ("Party of Five star" Jenifer Love Hewitt), will walk, huddled together, arm in arm, to a dark limousine with tinted windows. Before he is pulled inside the car by his wife and daughter, Bill will give one last wistful, remorseful look at the White House. He will raise his hand, waving goodbye to a scornful public. This one scene will most likely win Mr. Heston an Emmy. The car will drive off into the sunset as the speech ends and the final credits roll across the screen.

affair.

Many have dismissed this controversy, pronouncing it a "private issue," but as soon as Clinton stood up and placed his hand on the Bible we so often see him carting around and swore that he did not have an affair not asked anyone to lie, the issue became public. Clinton is the leader of our nation. He has the individual right to dispense troops, to make treaties and deal with the leaders of other nations. Even though bending the truth about his personal life is not on the same scale as lying about a declaration of war, these falsehoods have separated the President from his people. For the rest of his term, we, along with other nations, will question each decision he makes and the doubts he leaves behind will haunt the Presidents to come.

In having an affair, Clinton has shattered the confidence of his wife and family and lowered the nation's respect for him. In lying, Clinton has broken the trust that the office of President commands. While repairing, it will leave a scar. Americans will banter back and forth the adventures of Slick Willie and friends in sketchy memories over dinner tables for years to come, but his deceitful statements will forever mar the office of President.

High Life

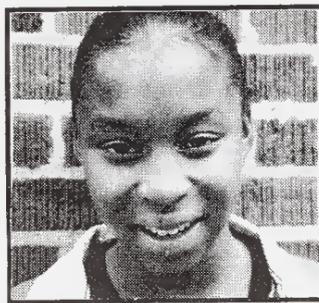
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Whirlies ... Speak Out

Do you think President Clinton should be removed from office?



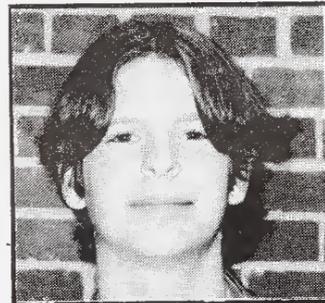
Fuller photo

No. He's human, and everyone makes mistakes. He's been a good president.

-Pamela Edwards, sophomore

Yes. Clinton represents us more than anyone else. If he lies and commits adultery it reflects us.

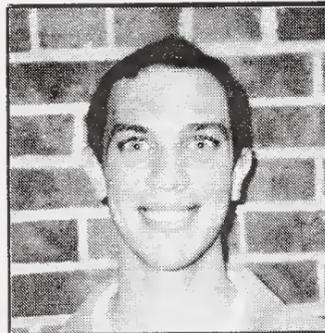
-Andrew Burke, sophomore



Peebles photo

I do not believe he can be impeached for his behavior. I think he should consider resigning.

-Louis Levy, senior



Peebles photo

No. He's a man; he can't help it.

-Mary Ann Kong, freshman



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