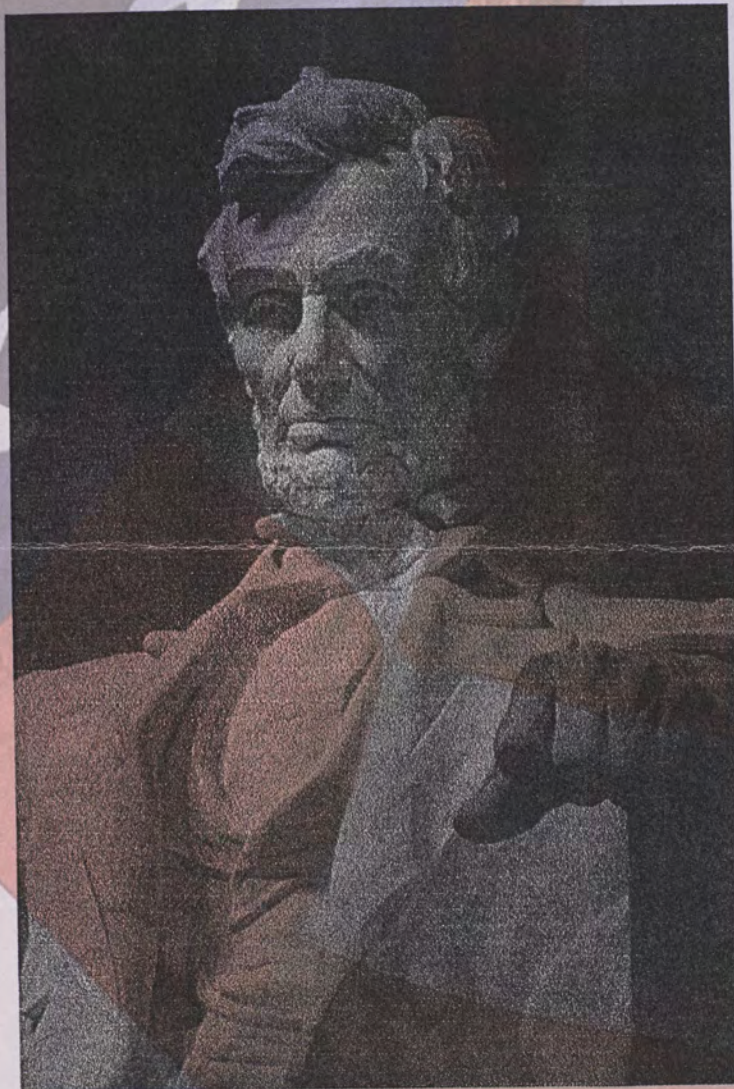


*"When the American public forgives
President Clinton and the
American press corps does not."*



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Can Americans expect to receive unbiased reporting and fair political commentary when Americans forgive President William Jefferson Clinton; however, the American press corps refuses? I do not think so.

The present news coverage of NATO military attack on Yugoslavia invites President William Clinton to be viewed as a haphazard national leader looking for moral redemption, rather than President Slobodan Milosevic as a despot willing to sacrifice the lives of his fellow countrymen to hold on to power. The coverage of the NATO military attack in Yugoslavia represents a clear illustration America's press corps has a continued hostility to President Clinton. While the American public has clearly expressed its desire to move past the House impeachment and Senate trial, the American press corps found it difficult to let it go. Despite American public opinion President Clinton is doing a good job and is right on the issues, the American press corps maintains an irrational perception every word of the President is to be discounted. Regardless that Americans support the NATO military action, critics of the President are more likely to appear on network talk shows than are supporters of the President.

Relentless in its critical reporting of the Clinton administration, the press corps has been equally relentless in refusing to report the American public's mistrust of the press corps. Questions and comments posed by Tim Russert, Bob Schieffer, Cokie Roberts, Sam Donaldson, Brit Hume, Gloria Borger and George Will to Clinton administration officials reflect their individual arrogance, rather than journalistic skill. MSNBC/NBC, and CNN have turned their airways over to those whose journalism trade is based in gossip and speculation rather than facts.

There is a common belief in America's press corps, as reflected by Tom Johnson, vice president, CNN News and Stephen Rosenfeld, deputy editorial page editor, The Washington Post that the press corps has been fair, accurate and balanced. This is the American press corps' view, not the American public. Without the intellectual cleansing time provides, America's press corps has coalesced to a harsh historical judgment of President Clinton. This apparent historical view of the America's press corps, represented by a Washington press corps icon David Gergen, President Clinton's presidency has been squandered or failed. As evidenced by Cokie Roberts, one's loyalty to the press corps is more important than one's loyalty to the President of the United States. The failure of the American press corps to express vocal criticism of their colleagues represents a code of silence matched only by the police uniform blue wall of silence.

Eager to offer their historical judgment of President Clinton, America's press corps refuses to accept neither criticism of its actions, nor is it willing to respond to Americans critical of its conduct. Defending their actions, America's press corps reliance on the premise it was "following a good story" is weak. The producers and hosts of Meet the Press, Face the Nation, This Week, Late Edition, Inside Politics and the Larry King Show have demonstrated an eagerness to "get out of the box" and subject the public to excess opinion. Had members of America's press corps talked to the American people with half the energy it talked among themselves and to their political pundits, it would not have been so surprised at the continued public support for President Clinton's presidency.

William Bennett, may be the American press corps chosen ethics potentate, but he is not one of mine. Americans refuse to swallow William Bennett's morality nectar not because it has an aversion to principles, but rather because I feel Americans did not want to drink from his cup of hypocrisy. Regardless of the high pitch rhetoric of a Chris Matthews or a John King; the arrogance of a Scott Pelley or a Bob Franken; or the public detachment of a Tim Russert, a Bob Schieffer, a Mary Tillotson and entire news department of MSNBC/NBC, the American will continue to support President Clinton overall policies and initiatives.

The news coverage of NATO's military action in Kosovo, as was the news coverage of the President's impeachment and trial has demonstrated to the American public that the press corps can not do unto itself what it constantly does to every institution, corporation or public figure – investigate and report lapses in editorial judgment, news bias, discrimination and unfair news gathering practices.

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