

# America has had enough of Bill Clinton and his arrogance

By KHOURY ASHOOH  
Columnist

The past eight years have been highlighted by both economic progress and personal achievements, and they have been marred by political turmoil and personal failings.

The White House has been at the center of this almost nauseating mix since Bill Clinton became president in 1993. For his few personal achievements (mostly in the form of executive orders), he has had innumerable personal and political shortcomings. The next president needs to be a person capable of carrying America beyond the memories of The Impeached One.

It is my hope that between the time of the writing and the publishing of this column, Governor George W. Bush will become the president-elect. Only he has the capability to unite both sides in Washington, and only he can carry America forward into a new age of respect, responsibility, and accomplishment.

It is difficult for me to write knowing that this column will be published after the election, but in the past few weeks, Bill Clinton has left me no shortage of topics about which to write. I am not making an effort to comment on his effectiveness as a president, because I am more interested in how he has acted as a man, especially in recent weeks. This is not to say, however, that Governor Bush will be ineffective as a president while being a great man. Governor Bush will bring greatness back to the Oval Office while bringing a spirit of cooperation and compromise back to Capitol Hill.

Bill Clinton recently posed for the cover of

the December issue of *Esquire* magazine, which contains a lengthy exit interview. This picture has been dubbed "Monica's Eye View." Though this label is appropriate, it is a shame that descriptions of the president have dropped to such a base level.

This is how Bill Clinton views his office. It is a joke to him. He sees nothing wrong with appearing in such a suggestive pose. He is not presidential, and it is obvious that holding the highest office in the country for eight years has done nothing to advance his maturity. This man is the president of the United States, and this lurid pose shows exactly how far removed he has caused prestige and respect to be from the presidency.

The text of the article also contains evidence of Clinton's immaturity. He demonstrates at length his arrogance, most notably when he says that he has apologized about impeachment. He feels that he should be exonerated because of his heartless apology. He thinks that an apology was something extra that he did, something above and beyond what was necessary.

This is where his immaturity comes in. Bill

Clinton does not recognize that when you do wrong, an apology is not "going the extra mile," rather it is the most simple but universal expectation. His is the kind of belief system that shows well the differences between him and other corrupt presidents, such as Richard Nixon. At least Nixon had the character to admit his faults.

Another wave of arrogance flew out of Clinton's mouth last week. He said that Al Gore was "the next best thing" to a Clinton third term in an effort to justify voting for the vice president. This is ridiculous. This fluff is exactly the attitude that Governor Bush aims to drive out of Wash-

ington.

Here it helps to mention the recent disclosure that Governor Bush was arrested in 1976 on a DUI charge in Maine. First, unlike the antics that Bill and Al participated in, Bush's arrest occurred outside of elected office. There is no excuse for what Bush did, and unlike Bill and Al, he did not try to offer one. He admitted that he was wrong, that he learned his lesson, and that he was not misleading anyone. In fact, he was right. Governor Bush

has said throughout his campaign that he had made mistakes in his youth, just as Bill and Al did. The key difference is that Bill and Al are still making these egregious errors, while Governor Bush has grown from them and learned his lesson.

The contrast is this: When Bill was asked about Monica Lewinsky, he wagged his finger saying that he "did not have sexual relations with that woman, Ms. Lewinsky." When Al was asked about fund-raising practices, he told us that there was "no controlling legal authority." When Governor Bush was asked about this DUI, he admitted it, admitted that he was wrong, and he was candid about his feelings. He was direct, and there was no attempt to cover up this misdeed. In fact, this episode gave Bush the chance to show just how far he has come since the DUI incident; Bush has not had a drink of alcohol since 1986.

Therein lies some of the evidence that Bill Clinton is immature. His denials, arrogance, and immaturity need to be flushed from Washington and from The White House. Governor Bush is the man for the job. Bill Clinton has done more than just lie and cheat. He has destroyed the notion of respect that the office of the presidency demands.

It is time for a new president to restore this respect, and the only candidate who can do it is Governor Bush. I look forward to the coming time in which Americans will again be able to disagree with their president on ideas while admiring him for his personal greatness. (Goodbye, Bill, and please go crawl back under the rock from which you came. You will not be missed.)

## Behind the rhetoric: the truth about affirmative action

By ALEX MASSENGALE AND JOSH CRAFT  
Columnists

Masked inside George W. Bush's "compassionate conservatism" is a complete indifference towards minorities and women. Bush pays lip service to equality without actually outlining a policy that will truly work towards that goal.

Bush seems to believe that by speaking about inclusion, equality will magically appear. But equality doesn't just happen; it has to be actively fought for and promoted by our nation's leaders.

The new rhetoric emanating from the conservative movement suggests that gains by minority groups and woman can only be achieved at the expense of white men. The likes of such illustrious figures as the LAPD's Mark Furman and Louisiana's own David Duke complain that white men are becoming an endangered species. But these men couldn't be further from the truth. As Chris Rock said, "If ya'll are losin', who's winnin'? It ain't us."

One area where white males certainly aren't the one's losing is in our judicial system. In his own state and in his platform George W. Bush has ignored the need for judicial reform. He and prominent members of his party ignore the facts and insist that our system is fundamentally fair.

Our legal system is a shining example of the distinct advantages of the "white male" in the U.S. According to the ACLU, "Jim Crow justice is alive and well". Unfortunately they are right, not only are black men more likely to be charged, convicted of, and punished harshly for the same crimes than white men, but crimes against them, if tried at all, also carry lesser punishments.

Our legal system is rife with racism. For instance, in Georgia the killer of a white person is 4.3 times more likely to receive the death penalty than the killer of a non white person ([www.nodeathpenalty.org](http://www.nodeathpenalty.org)), and a study in Philadelphia in 1993 revealed that blacks are almost three times as likely to be struck as potential jurors in death penalty

cases.

If only it stopped there. *The St. Petersburg Times* reported on October 31, 2000 that "For over 15 years, the nation's drug laws have punished crack dealers, who tend to be black, more harshly than those who sell powder cocaine, who tend to be white." These are just three of the countless examples of blatant and unjustified discrimination that serve as concrete proof that black men do not get a fair shake under our current judicial system.

Another area of concern is Bush's stance on affirmative action. Bush states that he supports "Affirmative Access," which is nothing more than mindless rhetoric, a system that magically fixes societies problems without actually doing anything (no, George there isn't a Santa Claus). When given the chance during the debates, Bush couldn't even define affirmative access. It's meaningless political jargon that Bush uses to make himself look compassionate.

He believes that affirmative action is unjustified because it causes reverse discrimination. Oh really? There is no evidence to suggest that white men are at risk because of affirmative action. Nor is there any evidence that affirmative action causes "a divisive workplace" as Bush argued in the debates. It's merely fiery rhetoric that finds no basis in fact.

However, there is new and powerful evidence that federal affirmative action programs made positive gains for the economy, society, and for minorities. *The New York Times* reported on October 17, 2000 that the non-partisan American Economic Association's most recent report shows that affirmative action produces "tangible benefits for women, for minority entrepreneurs, students and workers, and for the overall economy." Harry Holzer of Georgetown University and David Neumark of Michigan State University showed that employment of women and minorities rose 10-15 percent since the start of the program. College admissions for blacks rose by a factor of three since the early 1960s.

Most importantly, the authors found that

affirmative action appointees do not "diminish the overall performance of the economy." Interviews with thousands of employers and supervisors showed that these appointees were ranked as highly as ordinary hires in work performance.

Lastly, the study also showed that affirmative action programs greatly benefit society as a whole. For example, more black medical students choose to serve in inner cities and rural communities than do white students. These students help those areas overcome economic hardship and find good medical care. All this without negatively affecting the supposedly beleaguered white male.

We must open a meaningful dialogue on these issues if these profound injustices are to be remedied. This would not happen under a Bush presidency. The arguments conservatives use against affirmative action are the

same arguments they employed against both the civil rights movement and the women's liberation movement. Their fear is as unjustified as it is palpable and can be clearly seen in ads such as Jesse Helm's infamous "Hands" ad and the political rhetoric of men like Rush Limbaugh and George W. Bush. None of their previous predictions came true.

Giving rights to minorities didn't infringe on the rights of those in the majority as Wallace feared. And legions of women didn't turn to lesbianism as Helms feared.

Their fears are not only unjustified but trivialize real persecution. Conservatives should no longer pretend that white men are persecuted in America. Women who make 73 cents on the dollar and minorities who are denied justice face discrimination. "WASP's" don't.

## Letter from Vail Commons

I love working at the Commons. As with any job, I've had up and down days. But the way I look at it, I chose to apply here because I have always wanted to work here at Davidson College

When I was in my twenties, thirty-some years ago, I had a friend who worked in the laundry, and even though she may or may not remember me, she is still here. Her name is Juanita. I also had another very good friend who worked here until her very untimely death last year. Her name was Virginia Houston.

Since Coming to Davidson College nearly three years ago, I've met a lot of new friends, each one unique in his or her own way. This includes co-workers, supervisors, and students.

I especially enjoy meeting and talking to the students. I have unofficially adopted a lot of them. Then again, all of them are special.

My personal goals: to always be helpful

and a friend to everyone, and one day to be able to write a book. I love writing poetry, and I want to write children's books. I also want to be an inspiration to my 90-year-old mother, and a good example to my two daughters and to my six grandchildren.

My motto in life: I don't want to live above you, I'm satisfied to live on the same level!



Pearlene  
Ivory,  
Vail Commons