

Bill's betrayal

Clinton is too mired in scandal to ever be considered a good president



JOSH MOENNING is a sophomore advertising and political science major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

President Clinton likes to worry about his legacy.

I don't think he should lose any sleep over it, though. In my book, he'll always be one of the greatest.

Yes, when it comes to manipulation, abuse of power, disregard of conscience and downright tomfoolery, President Tubby will be remembered as second to none. You may be thinking to yourself, "Hey wait a minute, Nixon was a pretty bad guy, now wasn't he? I'm sure he was way more corrupt than our present commander-in-chief."

Nope, it's not looking that way. If even half of all the allegations corresponding to half of all the scandals Clinton has amassed during his six years at the White House are true, he makes Tricky Dick look like a regular St. Bartholomew.

Now I am not usually an avid Clinton basher. Unlike the man currently inhabiting it, I do hold respect for the office of the presidency. I even tried to promise myself at the beginning of the year that I would not devote a column to defaming the president's already dishonorable name. There were times when I felt the Republicans in Congress should focus less of their attention on dethroning the Teflon president and more on pushing their own agendas.

But those times are now long gone. With the recent arrival of Lewinsky-gate, I think it's about time we finally expose Mr. Clinton for what he really is and has been from the beginning of his career: a deliberately deceptive, politically ruthless manipulator of the people who is not and never was worthy of the presidency.

Now that I've gotten that off my chest, let me give you just a few of the reasons why I believe this. Let's review just a handful of the "slight" mishaps that have thus far highlighted the Clinton legacy:

■ **Whitewater** – The granddaddy of all the Clinton scandals. It involved an Arkansas land deal gone bitterly sour, shady business dealings with a shady savings and loan director and a bailout of said savings and loan that cost federal taxpayers more than \$60 million.

■ **Filegate** – The rummaging through of at least 900 FBI files on various Republican officials in the Reagan and Bush administrations. Clinton has claimed it was an innocent mistake made by inexperienced White House workers. Chuck Colson, a top Nixon White House aide, was in possession of one FBI file and was sent to prison.

■ **The peculiar and mysterious death of Vince Foster** – Even if Foster, a former law partner of the first lady's and White House lawyer, really did commit suicide, why did Clinton officials defy police orders to seal and secure his office? Why did Bernard Nussbaum, another White House lawyer at the time, bar federal investigators from searching the office directly after Foster's death?

■ **Travelgate** – The firing of career travel staffers to make room for friends of Bill and Hillary. Allegedly, Hillary brought in the FBI in order to justify the firings. Billy Dale, the career head of the

White House Travel Office, was promptly brought up on criminal charges by the Fed which later were dismissed by a jury in deliberation for just two hours.

■ **The Chinese and Indonesian fund-raising contributions** – Are you a businessman from a relatively poor Asian country? Would you like to buy influence to the U.S. government? See the Lippo group or John Huang. Bill Clinton worked for them.

■ **The first lady's cattle futures** – Back home in Arkansas, Hillary mysteriously turned a \$1,000 investment into \$100,000 on the cattle futures market. Market experts called that gain virtually impossible under normal trading conditions.

■ **Paula Jones** – The now overshadowed sexual harassment case that stemmed from an alleged meeting between Arkansas state employee Jones and Gov. Clinton in an Arkansas hotel room. Where is the outrage from the women's rights groups such as the National Organization for Women that so readily and enthusiastically attacked Bob Packwood and Clarence Thomas during their trials of alleged sexual harassment? Maybe it's only sexual harassment if it happens to be a Republican male allegedly doing the harassing.

And is it simply a coincidence that the group helping to fund Mrs. Jones' lawsuit, along with at least 13 other conservative organizations across the nation, has been audited numerous times since Clinton took office, while no liberal group has seen any such tough luck?

■ **And now presenting Lewinsky-gate** – True, having an affair with a 21-year-old intern is an immoral and despicable act, especially if you're leader of the free world, but not an illegal one. What is illegal though, are a couple little



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things called suborning perjury and obstruction of justice.

From shady business deals to mysterious suicides to torrid love affairs with big-haired Jezebels, this president has continually displayed to the nation and to the world that when it comes to character, integrity and almost anything that is right, he is running on empty.

All this from what Clinton promised to be the "most ethical administration in history."

I'm afraid you missed the boat on that one, Mr. President. But in the future, when historians call for the administration skilled most in deception, debauchery and overall decadence, you and your legacy will be sure to get my vote.

Wilted flower children

The hippies were doomed from the start, and so are their heirs



KATERYNA OVCHARENKO is a freshman English major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

Where have all the flowers gone? Where have all the flower children gone?

According to the dictionary, a hippie is the one who doesn't conform to society's standards and advocates a liberal attitude and lifestyle.

The hippie era started as a small movement of children of wealthy parents. They were very tired of their lives, of the surroundings they lived in, of the rules they had to follow and obey. Children wanted to escape, to break through, to leave this nightmare somewhere behind, in the past, and to enjoy the new life. They needed changes, something that could break the Puritan shackles of their parents.

So they did.

The children dashed to the forests, ran to green meadows and, sticking flowers into their long hair and preaching free love, they seemed to be really free. Innocent flower

children – those who were against systems and hierarchies – how could you have known that very soon you would have your own leaders, your own system, your own hierarchy?

Everything started so well. The leading idea was wonderful. They didn't ask for much. All they needed was freedom, love and peace. The flower children made no distinctions between nations, races, ideologies and religions. The way to peace in the world was led through love and tolerance. Being a hippie when the movement started was not a matter of using drugs, of dressing like bums, listening to rock 'n' roll; it was a kind of philosophical approach to life.

The movement was widespread in a couple of years and reached its climax in the '60s. By then, huge crowds of cheerful youth were moving from place to place looking for entertainment. The primary idea was left, but it was already obscured by dirty accretions.

The primary idea of liberty was expressed as legalizing marijuana and freedom in ecstatic expressions, namely dancing and singing in the parks, orgiastic sex, etc. Drugs became one of the most important issues: You are God – use "grass" to reach nirvana and you'll feel that you are as God!

Hippies considered themselves to be one with nature. Have a look how they did it! By making their "free love" with one another under green bushes and producing children free

of parents. Perhaps this is the sad metaphor of flower children: Children were born and had to live like flowers, all by themselves.

The idea of self-expression ("do your thing") was mixed with the idea of living for the moment. "Burn your candle at both ends and enjoy the moment; do what you want and like to do! You are not supposed to care about the opinion of others about you."

Love became accepting others as they were, again giving everyone the freedom of self-expression. Hippies didn't draw global conclusions judging only their behaviors; it would have been a narrow definition.

Much attention was given to female equality. Women demanded not only the same pay and working conditions as men, but also equal opportunities in drinking, smoking, using drugs and taking or dismissing lovers.

The pagan idea was that the human body is a temple developed with great success. There was nothing unclean in it; it was a sacred place that had to be adorned for the ritual of love.

Music played an important role in the lives of hippies of the '60s. Rock 'n' roll and folk songs – all was for one, to help people express themselves. Frequent concerts that gathered thousands of hippies were held all over the country. What's funny is that those concerts, which usually took place somewhere in the open air, caused the spoiling of nature.

Can you imagine so many young people, all of whom wouldn't have wanted to have damaged the surroundings they found themselves in? Especially the young people, who wanted to be free in expressing themselves?

Hippie morality wasn't new, though. It's only in the '60s that these philosophical views became so popular. For example, the system of Bohemian ideas about life was very close to the hippie morality! I do not think the Bohemians are the limits; you can trace hippies through the history of mankind.

Bohemian children were (and are) encouraged to develop their own personalities, so that the world will be saved by this new free generation – children blossom freely like flowers. Life is oriented on creative work and living in beautiful surroundings, seizing the moment as it comes. So these ideas were not new at all; they only received a new interpretation, and the views changed a little.

It was weird to proclaim living somewhere in the forests or woods, to eat bugs and maybe honey with sweet roots for desert, to plow the soil and grow crops, to have group sex with every member of your small tribe and then to bring up common children. Can you imagine yourself being born in the middle of nowhere with a bunch of people who all are your parents? It reminds me of the source of human civilization.

I wonder, how could those people from the Stone Age manage to sur-

vive with their ideas and appear thousands of years later, in the 1960s, as hippies? Man, it was the 20th century already! How people could forget about all the progress they'd made during the centuries and rush to jungles to live together with their closest relatives – monkeys?

If everyone had followed hippies, we would have had no civilization right now. Only silly teenagers could follow these ideas, to leave their homes in search of adventures with drugs and sex. The "baby boomers" said their word: There were too many teen-agers in the '60s who had nothing to do and couldn't find a place for themselves.

Hippies were obviously part of a doomed movement. It was a good lesson to any group: You just can't stand up against the whole society with your own green ideas. There is no way you can do this unless your ideas match this society in at least a few respects.

Even when the wave of the flower children passed by, we still could find "representatives" of hippies. Different kinds of hippies exist now – there are old and new hippies, amnesiac hippies, Web hippies, cyber hippies and many others. They will always be among us, until their philosophy of freedom, love and peace exists.

Until they grow into something new, they will try to change the world and will fail again.