

Brian Williams' Necessary Abeyance

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On Feb. 10, NBC news anchor and veteran journalist Brian Williams was suspended for six months without pay for falsifying a story he had covered in Iraq in 2003.

His suspension and the negative light he received were well-deserved for the dishonest stories he reported as a renowned journalist. He repeatedly claimed to have experienced a terrible and impressive situation, when in fact he only stole the story and added himself. This incident will haunt Williams' career and integrity forever, ultimately stressing the importance of the journalistic responsibility to always remain honest and sincere.

According to CBS News, Williams first reported that he was aboard a military helicopter that was shot down by missiles and was forced to land in the desert. However, this recollection was a total fluke. According to the Washington Post, the crew that was present at the incident stated that Williams had actually arrived safely on a different aircraft one hour after.

Due to his dishonesty, Williams has threatened the trust that multitudes of people put in the NBC News network. Additionally, another dire consequence is that he

has harmed his own career. With a large amount of viewers, Williams has a great impact on public opinion and their perception of the world, but by lying and spreading fraudulent statements, he twisted social views and attitude. The suspension and general lack of confidence in him is exactly appropriate for misinforming the public.

Recently, on Feb. 4 after several soldiers and veterans argued about the validity of the Iraq story in a Stars and Stripes Newspaper interview, Williams released a short on-air apology on NBC's Nightly News explaining his misconduct. His apology may have exempted him from some of the rage he has received, but it does not justify his actions for lying about the story and possibly more.

It is disappointing to see that the news cannot be fully relied on due to the exaggerations, bias and other prejudices of poor journalistic decisions that could make a story less credible. Williams serves as a reminder that the public must

critically evaluate what they are told by the media rather than accept everything as fact.

Since the highly acclaimed reporter was unveiled to be untrustworthy, his story brought lots of negative attention for both Williams and NBC. The network took the necessary action of giving Williams a leave of absence to review his work, but it will take time to regain people's trust and favor as a legitimate news source.



U.S. & the Middle East: Rectifying Our Mistakes

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The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), formerly known as ISIS, was relatively unheard of among most people until videos of executions by decapitation began circulating the Internet. The victims have been American citizens and those of other countries. This and other terrorist threats have drawn the attention of the U.S. government. President Barack Obama has recently begun to push for Congress to allow the U.S. to take military action against ISIL's operations in the Middle East. The has been long overdue and the U.S. has a responsibility to take action in the Middle East again.

It is important for the U.S. to take action not only because ISIL threatens us directly, but because the U.S. helped to create them through our actions in the Middle East following the Sept. 11 attacks.

The Bush Administration began the War on Terror to stop the threat of al-Qaida and other terrorist groups. In 2003, the Iraq War also began. During this time, Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden were both killed. Although Hussein was a dictator and Bin Laden a leader of a terrorist organization, both men were well-respected or feared and helped maintain order. ISIL was formed in part by men who were ready to take advantage of the chaos following their deaths and the resentment for the occupying forces during the Iraq War.

There are members of the American public who are tired of the war in the Middle East and believe that the U.S. should cease involvement entirely, but the time to cease involvement passed thirteen years ago. The Middle East was not a region of terrorists and barbarians; it had government and order and today it still has everyday citizens who care nothing for the conflict. The U.S. destabilized the entire region and now has a responsibility to fix the chaos it created.

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN



Scientific Climate Modification: 'Weather' or not?

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"It's hot!" is often said in California and other states, especially in recent years as the temperature has been rising due to constant burning of fossil fuels in the U.S. Burning fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide and contributes to the "greenhouse blanket" that causes temperatures to rise, according to World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

One temporary solution in solving this temperature rise is "geoengineering," or the scientific modification of Earth's temperatures. According to the Washington Post, scientists would use a method called "albedo modifica-

tion," injecting copious amounts of sulfate aerosol into the atmosphere in order to deflect light away from the earth and cool down temperatures. No negative effects are known from this process, however "albedo" is not a permanent solution and proves only a way for America to continue to procrastinate on fixing the environment and global warming.

Resorting to implanting more chemicals in the air as a method to fix temperature rises emphasizes how big of a problem global warming is.

A better and more long-term solution to cool down the earth is simply reducing the amount of fos-

sil fuels we burn. According to the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development, this can be done by cities using solar power or wind power and switching fuels from coal and oil to natural gas.

Using these alternatives would benefit the U.S as it would reduce carbon dioxide emissions and ultimately lower temperatures, leading America to a better environment. This will essentially prove to be a better solution in attempting to solve our climate crisis as opposed to recklessly emitting more carbon dioxide in the air.

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN



Aigat Your Back

Vindication for All Victims

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According to the Huffington Post, upon surviving a traumatic experience, "To move on with your life, you must break away from identifying yourself as a victim and transcend this experience by becoming a survivor." The term "victim" is so loaded with negative stereotypes and a certain stigma that claiming victim status seems to only warrant more abuse. However, in order to enforce human rights, it is necessary for these survivors to identify as victims in order to bring justice to themselves and their abusers.

According to E-International Relations (E-IR), a website for students and scholars of international politics, there are two perceived victim models, the "pathetic victim paradigm" and the "heroic victim paradigm." The former is seen as helpless and passive (e.g. Jews in a Nazi concentration camp), while the latter fights back (e.g. nonviolent protestors of totalitarian regimes). However, both are so polarized that it does not consider the complex ways with which victimization works—for instance, when the "pathetic" victim chooses to act, sometimes at the risk of themselves, or when "heroic" victims lose hope and give in to their abusers.

We should recognize the two paradigms as faulty measures of victimization and legitimize the varying degrees of passivity and protest that victims display in order to promote justice for all who have been subjected to human rights violations. Only then can we begin to lessen the negativity surrounding the term.

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