

The Journalist Dilemma

You have just graduated from college with a dual degree in French and Journalism. Luckily for you, you have landed a job as an international newspaper reporter stationed in France. When you first arrive in Paris, you couldn't be more excited; but unfortunately for you things are going slow. Your boss keeps asking "where's the scoop?" and you really don't have an answer for her. This is your first job and working for the college newspaper really hasn't prepared you for all the trials and tribulations of being an international reporter.

After six months of working you finally get a vacation. A Parisian friend of yours has some time off too and you decided to go with him to his hometown of Ile d'Yeu to visit his parents. He takes you around the tiny island to see the sights and one of the things you stumble upon is Marshal Pétain's grave. The odd thing is that it has an ornate wreath placed on it. You ask your friend if any of Pétain's relatives live on the island and your friend tells you that Pétain's is not even from the island. Now you are curious. You ask the graveyard caretaker and he gives you the name of the person who put the wreath there. When you go to this person's house to ask questions, he slams the door in your face. Now you know something is up. After you do some more investigation you find out that the person who put the wreath on Pétain's grave is linked to the president of France!

Finally you have your scoop. How scandalous—the president putting a wreath on the grave of a former collaborator. The more and more you think about it, the more silly it sounds. Do you really want to be known for breaking the trivial story about a wreath on a grave? It'll just look like you are a tabloid reporter. But if you tell your boss, she will be happy and you will finally make a name for yourself. What should you do?

François Mitterrand



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Reagan_Mitterrand_1984_\(cropped\).jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Reagan_Mitterrand_1984_(cropped).jpg)

Originally a collaborator in the Vichy regime, François Mitterrand later joined the fight for resistance and years later became president of France. During his presidency, the extent of his collaboration began to unfold and a scandal erupted when it was discovered that he had a wreath placed on Pétain's grave every Armistice Day.