

# Condi Bush: What's up with this sister?

Did she really slip up and refer to George Bush as "my husband"? Say it ain't so, Condi. This sister seems to be on a personal mission to take us into war again, this time with Iran.

With an arrogance only equaled by her "husband," the Babe of Birmingham struts her stuff around the world, wagging her finger at heads of state like they are her children. In her latest threat, cops, I mean peace mission, she tells Iran that the U.S. will only sit down to talk if Iran stops all production of nuclear materials. That's real cute, Condi. Why should the Iranians do exactly what you told them to do in first place? And, if they submit to your demand, why should there be any talks at all?

Then our Secretary of State says, in reference to the multi-lateral discussions on Iran, that Iran has weeks not months to decide, that "we" will not allow Iran to stretch this issue out; if Iran does not answer (which really means submit to her demands) "we" will act. I am eager to hear what she will say now that North Korea has fired off a few Big Ones. Let me get this straight; Iraq didn't have "nuclear" weapons but we wipe them out; Iran does not have "nuclear" weapons and we are threatening to wipe them out. North Korea does have "nuclear" weapons and shows them to us by firing a few, and we are not even threatening to go over there and fight. C'mon, Condi. What's up with that?

I have said it before and just for good measure I will say it again. For a person as intelligent as our Secretary of State to be infatuated with a dunce is one thing, but for her to defend "His Ridiculousness" is something else again. I don't know how any moral and righteous person could support this guy.

Bush tells Larry King and a nationwide audience that he thinks about our protection and winning the war on terror "every day"; in an earlier interview regarding the whereabouts of Bin Laden, the guy who committed the worst single act of terror on American soil, Bush said he doesn't spend much time thinking about where Osama is. What a liar! Of course, Larry King did not challenge "The Decider" for his insincere statement.

We are in a quagmire in Iraq, and that's putting it mildly. We are facing a July 12, 2006 deadline for Iran to capitulate to the terms set forth by Condi. And now we have a lunatic named Kim Jong Il firing off missiles from a country that can't even feed its people, provoking its neighbors and causing war mongers like Rumsfeld, Bolton, and Cheney to salivate. Seems to me, however, they don't want to mess with old Kim Jong and North Korea. I wonder why.

All of this craziness josts in the lap of our vaunted Secretary of State, the sister who received the NAACP President's "Medal of Honor," so to speak, and the Sister who claims her Birmingham roots where four little girls were killed by a bomb during church service. One of those girls supposedly was Condi's friend.

Can Condi pull us out of this mess in Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, and North Korea, as Israel and the Hamas-led Palestinians renew their war against each other? Can she call upon her prowess and acumen to settle these issues? Can she use her power and influence to move us beyond the daily threat of "nuclear" war and bring us back to the halcyon days prior to her "husband's" arrival on the scene? Will she go down in history as one of the most talented public officials who worked for and defended the worst president we have ever had? Will Condi, our sister, whether she realizes it or not, go down in flames with the Bushites - and with the rest of us - as this world moves closer to annihilation? Will she preside over our economic demise, as she smiles in admiration for her "husb...?"

Who knows the answers to those questions? We will just have to wait and see, but I suggest we prepare ourselves for even tougher times. We are in the midst of something we have never before witnessed. The greed among the Bushites is off the charts, the value of a U.S. soldier's life is at an all-time low. We have spent nearly a trillion dollars in Iran and Afghanistan, much of which cannot be accounted for; or doled out in no-bid contracts to Halliburton and other corporate thieves. All of this and we cannot, or will not, provide the armor needed by our troops on the battlefield. Can you imagine having to solicit money from citizens to buy extra padding for our soldiers' helmets? How sad is that?

Face it Condi, contrary to "Fitty Cent's" claim that George Bush is a gangsta, ya boy is a punk, a spoiled brat, a scared bully who sacrifices the lives of young soldiers to strut his stuff on the world stage, and then hide behind the skirts of a sister. Maybe you should consider a divorce, Condi.

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JAMES CLINGMAN

# What should U.S. do for Darfur, Sudan

Many of us who have been outraged by the documented genocide in the western region of the Sudan known as Darfur have been confronted with a major dilemma: what do we ask of the U.S. government in such a situation?

If, like me, you sat in horrified silence watching the film Hotel Rwanda, you asked yourself how could the world have remained quiet in the face of such an historic atrocity (close to 1 million murdered in 90 days)? Yet, here we are again, facing mass atrocities carried out against the people of Darfur by the Khartoum government of Al-Bashir and their notorious allies known as the Janjaweed and so little has been done.

Many people of good will have turned to the Bush administration and demanded some form of action. Surprise and excitement was voiced when former Secretary of State Colin Powell visited Darfur and enunciated the word "genocide" in describing what was unfolding. Surprise turned to cynicism when this pronouncement was followed by little action.

Herein lies the dilemma. What does one ask of an administration that led us into a war and occupation of Iraq; threatens Cuba, Venezuela, Iran, Syria and North Korea with possible military action; works to humiliate and undermine the United Nations; ignored Somalia's hellish clan-based civil wars until it was revealed that an Islamist movement was becoming influential, has spoken out of both sides of its mouth with regard to fully funding HIV/AIDS treatment and research; and mocks the entire notion of global warming? It's not as if the word of this administration is worth much, except, perhaps, to its corporate allies.

I am not trying to be cynical. Rather, I am suggesting that the attitude of Black America toward what we ask of this administration must be coldly focused in light of their real world mischief. Therefore, I cannot in good conscience suggest that U.S. troops should be deployed in the Sudan. Not only would this give great ammunition to the Khartoum government to rally against "US imperialism," but when one looks at the record one must ask what would result from such a deployment?

There are some things that the Bush administration can do; the only question is whether they are prepared to actually do them. The Darfur crisis must be resolved by Africans. Any suggestion of NATO troops or U.S. troops entering in and forcing a solution will simply not work. Leadership for the resolution of the crisis must come from the African Union. Admittedly, the African Union is weak, indeed, in many respects it is just getting off the ground. Precisely for that reason, its on-going efforts need to be supported. If the Bush administration wishes to help, then let them support the African Union financially and diplomatically. Provide the AU with sufficient logistical support to deploy more peacekeepers. Provide assistance for the refugees currently living in neighboring Chad, and those internally displaced within the Sudan.

I wish that I had confidence that the Bush administration could play a positive role in international affairs. All evidence points to the contrary. Thus, my conclusion tends to be that which is the first instruction to physicians: do no harm!

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BILL FLETCHER

# Want highest caliber grads? Improve the middle schools

A June 26, 2006 article, "Push grows for higher graduation standards" in the News Journal newspaper in Wilmington, Del., was disquieting.

I feel that the state's apparent effort to make a major stride to improve the caliber of Delaware high school graduates is merely addressing a symptom and not solving the real problem.

"A state committee last week recommended the state require an extra credit of math, two credits of foreign language, a tougher senior year and specific courses students must take, such as biology, chemistry and algebra II."

"The changes, which would take effect with the graduating class of 2011, would increase the number of required credits from 22 to 24. Currently, only four states require 24 credits to graduate." Initially you may feel good at the committee's tough recommendation, but then you start asking yourself if this is a groupthink charade or a real paradigm shift in giving our students a high caliber education.

As a person who specializes in developing teaching techniques to teach remedial mathematics courses at the college level, especially to students coming from inner city backgrounds, I think the Delaware state committee might want to rethink their recommendation.

My experience suggests that the real problem exists at the middle school level because I find many students in the remedial mathematics classes do not know multiplication, division, fractions, percentages, and the times tables nor how to read their mathematics textbook. Many students are enchanted with failure or their goal may be to merely get by with a "D" which may be insufficient academic background to pass the next level course.

Some students come with a gang-banger attitude that they may have exploited to intimidate high school teachers to exploit social promotion or send discipline problem students to special education to get these hellions out of their class. Finally, many students lack academic tenacity, so they will readily drop courses thus making traditional college graduation dates merely a pipe dream.

The late Dr. Edward H. Kerner would focus on understanding when I was a graduate student in physics at the University of Delaware in the early 1970s. Professor Kerner believed that student understanding is where an excellent teacher ought to focus his or her time. In teaching background deficient and freshman level college students to understand the mathematical concepts and where one might use them I find that students often become passionate about understanding the mathematics.

I also find that some students who once did not believe they could handle the mathematics are now expressing a desire to take more advanced mathematics courses. I share names of promising students to mathematics department management as potential candidates for mathematics majors.

The state of Delaware might take the time to value that many would-be good students may get enchanted by the power associated with understanding the course material and being able to show off their knowledge to their peers. Furthermore, the real educational improvement needs to be made at the middle school level for it may be a pipe dream to believe that the high schools may someday kindle a passion for education in children who really may need remedial middle school help.

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SHERMAN MILLER

EDITORIALS

# African American concerns about immigration are valid

Since North Carolina has become a Mecca for illegal aliens, the black community has valid complaints, as does the white community.

The CMS graduation rate was only 56 percent this year, and most of the dropouts were black students. Dropouts used to be able to get entry-level jobs that are now taken by the illegal aliens, which leaves them to seek out peers, and join gangs! After all is said and done, illegals are lawbreakers - and set a very bad example for Charlotte's youth, who know our jails have revolving doors. No "committee" will find a solution to our open borders, while North Carolina gives away driver's license to aliens with no IDs. Does any other citizen qualify for a driver's license with no ID? Charlotte-Mecklenburg and North Carolina are responsible for coming chaos, we are bound to have soon.

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