

Jenn Ooton  
Editorial Page Editor  
303-684-5295

# OPINION

To Build A Better World, Start In Your Own Community

## EDITORIAL

# We salute Navy Seaman Anderson

That we should lose our best in combat is the bitter fact of war. But it says much, for it is the best who risk their lives in the defense of freedom.

Navy Seaman Christopher Anderson's sense of duty is what carried him to Iraq. His desire to help and lead others is what placed him in harm's way.

The Navy medic, who had been credited with saving the life of a Marine in Iraq, died last week as a result of "enemy action" while serving in Iraq's Anbar province.

Longmont mourns with the Anderson family, yet shares a sense of pride in the sacrifice that Christopher Anderson made for others. Christopher is one of many Longmont soldiers and sailors who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

May Christopher's death cause us never to forget the daily sacrifices our soldiers and sailors make.

As his father wrote, Christopher "was not content to settle for anything less than being at the tip of the spear."

That is where the best give their best.

## Views from the Nation's Press

### A father who died trying

It is easy now to speculate on what James Kim might have done to survive the horrific ordeal that few of us will ever come close to experiencing.

We don't plan to join the chorus of second-guessers. Kim had a reputation as a meticulous, innovative organizer and planner. He presumably considered all his options — which in part helped his wife and two children survive what could easily have been a fatal experience.

It would have taken a superhuman effort to sit patiently day after day, with no sign of any rescue effort. Kim did so for nearly a week.

Those of us who viewed the drama from the comfort of our living rooms knew about the intense rescue efforts being made to find the Kims. Knowing what we know, now it would be easy to wish that he would have just hung on for a couple more days before going out in search of help.

But with winter setting in, Kim and his family faced the frightening prospect that no one would pass by for several months. Human nature decreed that when the chances of being rescued appeared impossibly slim, it made sense to venture forth in a last desperate attempt to ensure the family's survival.

Kim is a hero for even trying. The emphasis should now be on celebrating the canny survival of his wife and children — and his daring effort on their behalf.

— San Francisco Chronicle

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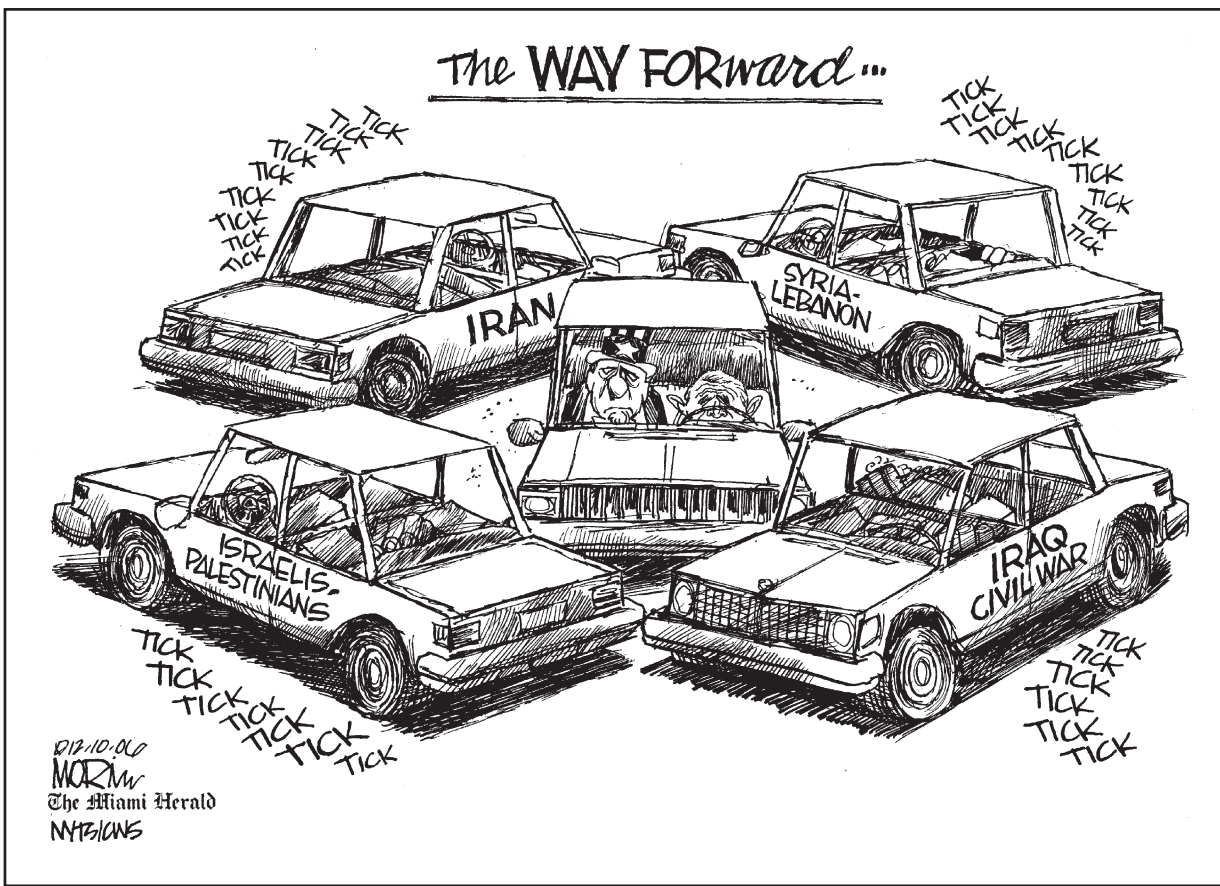
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# Sherri Davis for Congress

By **Patt Morrison**  
*Los Angeles Times*

That freshman California congresswoman, Sherri Davis — she does get around, doesn't she? She's urged Rummy to stay on as Defense secretary because resigning "would be seen as a victory for the terrorists."

She's styled herself the "Ann Coulter of Anaheim," and she's standing firm against hiking the national minimum wage because "if it ain't broke, why raise it?" Figured it out yet? There is no Sherri Davis in Congress — not from California or anywhere else. I did a double-take a couple of weeks ago when I saw a blog mention of "Sherri Davis, R-Cal." It had been a wild election; could some new member have sneaked under my political radar and into the vast ranks of the California delegation?

Naaaah. No way was Sherri Davis the real thing. Loretta Sanchez is the congresswoman from Anaheim, and she's a Democrat. And she just steamrolled her GOP opponent, who wasn't Sherri Davis but a Vietnamese-American man.

Check out the Sherri Davis legislative agenda, if you don't believe me. Just Google "Sherri Davis" and "Congress." Her Mandatory Portion Control Act, to curb the nation's obesity problem: Doesn't that sound like some nanny-state measure, not the robust legislation of a "let 'em eat cake and more cake" laissez-faire Republican? Her Yoga Mat Cleanliness Act: Doesn't yoga require a yogi?

Not many people actually bit on the Sherri Davis reports except some YouTube bloggers ("Is anyone else baffled as to how this ditz got elected?") and a couple of gay and lesbian Web sites that evidently got

## Don't get fooled by fake representatives

suckered in by a Davis press release revealing that, in the backstage lull at "The Colbert Report," Davis' microphone had broadcast her remarks about Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney being a "Peter Pan panderer." (For Christmas, I'll ask Santa to have Mitt Romney make a real press statement decrying something that a fake congresswoman never said backstage at a fake political show she never appeared on.)

So Sherri Davis isn't real, and she never taped a segment for "The Colbert Report." What is on "The Report" is a feature called "Better Know a District," in which members of the House — randomly singled out from that great unknown mass of politicos — trade national exposure for a fun moment with Stephen Colbert.

There are 435 members of the House, and even they probably don't all recognize one another on sight — and unless your cable is stuck on C-SPAN, neither would you. But you should know yours. Do you? Is your representative a Democrat or a Republican? A man or a woman?

Too hard? Tip O'Neill said all politics is local — so let's go local (nevermind who Tip O'Neill was). Who's your city council member? Don't know that either?

That's my point. Lots of you call and e-mail me for help about potholes and DMV rules and the like. I appreciate your confidence, but when I ask whether you've already

called your city council member or state legislator, your usual answer is, "I don't know who that is."

Los Angeles has a nifty "311" phone information service that can help you with city matters, even track down your council member. On the other hand, the Web site looks as messy as a frat-house kitchen. I couldn't even find my own house on the maps of my council district.

As for Sherri Davis, California has room for a fake congresswoman, especially one who swears she once worked as a stewardess with Paris Hilton's mother and they fought over who got Rick Hilton. I want to believe that she's in the grand tradition of Emperor Norton, the genial wacko who strolled San Francisco more than 100 years ago, issuing imperial warrants, and Prince Michael Romanoff, who ran a smart Beverly Hills restaurant in spite of the fact that he was neither a prince nor a Romanoff.

Congresswoman, don't drop the charade — even though I read in "The Hill," the Capitol's weekly newspaper, that you were merely invented to promote a musical about high school prom politics, just as the famed "lonelygirl15" living her life on YouTube via Web cam turned out to be an actress hired by savvy promoters (now represented, I believe, by CAA).

Sherri Davis has no more voting power than, oh, the congresswoman from the District of Columbia. All I'm asking is that when '08 rolls around, make sure she doesn't get your vote. Otherwise, she might make you clean up your yoga mat — or ship you off to Gitmo.

Patt Morrison is a Los Angeles Times columnist and frequent commentator on National Public Radio's "Morning Edition."

# STANDING up for Sudan

By **Daniel R. Porterfield**  
*Special to The Baltimore Sun*

WASHINGTON — Inspired students sometimes change the way we educators see our work. I trace this insight to a summer lecture in 2004, when 150 Georgetown University students, faculty and staff had the chance to meet Most Rev. Macram Max Gassis, the exiled archbishop of Darfur, Sudan.

That afternoon, Gassis helped us see the Darfur genocide in human terms. He invited us to imagine government planes dropping bombs on villages and Janjaweed killers gunning down children.

Ten or 15 of my students, hearing his words, found themselves just one degree of separation from a horror. Observing expressions and hearing their questions, I could see that they were catalyzed to act.

First, they read up on Sudan. Then they gave themselves a name, Students Taking Action Now: Darfur (STAND), and started recruiting students on other campuses to build awareness about the crimes of Omar al-Bashir's regime.

As their network expanded, so did its work. The students held conferences with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Amnesty International. They advocated for legislation to increase peacekeepers and freeze the assets of government leaders. They pushed universities and pension funds to divest their holdings in oil companies profiting from the carnage. Two years later, there are STAND chapters at more than 500 colleges and high schools in at least 10 countries.

A stunning success by any standard — except ending genocide. On that score, human-rights

groups estimate that the regime has slaughtered at least 400,000 of its own people and driven five times that number into the desert to die. The regime and the militias it backs have wiped out villages, stolen land, killed aid workers, starved refugees in camps, lied about their crimes, and turned the United Nations into bystanders.

What's needed to stop genocide? Cold reason says that this crisis requires the leadership of the great powers, and that college students should instead focus on goals they can achieve.

But cold reason doesn't always deter the young.

One Georgetown student, Nate Wright, traveled to Darfur in 2005 to help create a fine documentary that mtvU.com aired for six months. Another, Patrick Schmitt, spent the 2005 summer organizing a nationwide fast for Darfur that raised nearly \$1 million. This year, Erin Mazursky, the executive director of STAND, is juggling her studies with leading the network and trying to make it a sustainable nongovernmental organization.

As they extend themselves, sometimes showing the strain, I wonder about my responsibilities. Should I challenge them to deepen their knowledge? Advise them as they organize? Encourage them to keep it all in perspective?

Perhaps this case calls for more than the typical professional advice. After all, these young people are wrestling with evil — both as a set of specific, preventable atrocities, and as a concept in their developing outlook on life.

We who teach — we who are older — have more experience with evil. We remember the Rwandan genocide of 1994, when the great powers

turned away. Today's sophomores were about 8 then — too young to have absorbed the dark truths of the time.

So, is it my role to share such sensibilities? For example, to tell them that if they want to see American troops on the ground in Darfur, they need to give this president and Congress a more compelling justification than stopping genocide? Or that al-Bashir's recent refusal to let in U.N. peacekeepers, combined with the flawed May 2006 peace treaty, makes Darfur's future look worse than its past?

My answer is yes — if done constructively. As educators, we can applaud our students' ideals without shielding them from the disillusioning lessons of history. That kind of protection won't help them become leaders.

Our students know that if they can learn to weep for Darfur, then others can too. They know that if enough people make their voices heard, NATO member states will send in peacekeeping forces, whether or not the U.N. gives them blue helmets. And they know that the genocide in Darfur will someday be stopped, because the moral outrage will grow until it happens.

For my students, the question is not "if" the horror will end but "when." We who are older lean toward "if." But then I listen to these very intelligent and very normal young people, who have such faith in humanity, and "when" feels right.

As teachers, one more role is to let our students move us.

Daniel R. Porterfield, a Baltimore native, is assistant professor of English and vice president for public affairs and strategic development at Georgetown University.

# Would Hillary's be a corrupt presidency?

By **Tom Fitton**  
*Judicial Watch*

From 1992 to 2000, the "co-presidency" of Bill and Hillary Clinton gave witness to the most corrupt White House in living memory. Is America prepared for a sequel?

Ever since Hillary Clinton was elected to the Senate in New York, the American people have been asking themselves two questions regarding her presidential aspirations: Will she run? And, can she win?

Hillary, of course, is still playing coy with the press (and loving every minute of it), but behind the scenes, she has been holding secret campaign meetings and burning up the phone lines in order to line up political support for her White House run. She has even started to assemble her presidential campaign staff, though she won't acknowledge it publicly. (Hillary can't even launch a campaign without doing so under a shroud of secrecy. Then again, openness and sincerity have never been her strong suits.)

With respect to her viability as a candidate, Hillary has a significant head-start on her potential Democratic rivals in two key areas: name recognition and money. Love her or hate her, everyone knows the name "Hillary." And by some estimations, she could have as much as \$100 million banked by the time the Democratic primaries come around in 2008. Add to these advantages powerful allies in the liberal media who have made Hillary's ascension to the White House their highest priority and you've got an extremely viable candidate.

Now, there is a third question the American people must ask themselves, an even more important question than the first two: What kind of president will Hillary Clinton make?

Just like any other native-born American over the age of 35, Hillary Clinton is free to run for president. But, as she well knows, with her candidacy comes close scrutiny of her public record. And any discussion of Hillary Clinton's public record begins and ends with her past crimes and corrupt behavior. For example:

Sworn testimony in federal court alleged Hillary Clinton devised a scheme to sell public, taxpayer-financed trade missions in exchange for campaign contributions to the 1996 Clinton-Gore re-election campaign — part of the scandal known as "Chinagate."

Hillary Clinton personally orchestrated media campaigns to slander the women who had allegedly been sexually and otherwise abused by her husband.

Hillary Clinton lied to a grand jury about her role in ordering the firing of several longtime employees of the White House Travel Office, in order to reward two longtime Hollywood pals with lucrative White House travel business. And let's not forget the former bar bouncer she is said to have hired who took all those Republican FBI files.

Hillary Clinton and her fundraising operation failed to properly disclose more than \$2 million in contributions to her New York Senate 2000 campaign, leading to the federal criminal indictment of her top fundraiser (which resulted in acquittal) and a \$35,000 fine from the Federal Election Commission.

And who knows what Bill Clinton might do once he's back in the White House? More cash from Chinese generals? Sexual assaults? I could go on, but you get the point.

As Hillary steamrolls towards the White House, the American people have a right to know: Will she actively undermine the integrity of the office of the presidency, just as she disgraced the office of the first lady? Will she play loose with the law as president, just as she did as a Senate candidate? Will she again surround herself with the same corrupt members of the Clinton gang that took the White House to new ethical lows in the 1990s?

Hillary's candidacy certainly won't be the only vehicle for calling attention to the issue of public corruption. Some of her potential opponents, such as Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain, have an ethical skeleton or two in their closets as well. But it seems that Hillary Clinton will remain the most compelling example of a Washington politician who thinks she is above the law. Corruption was the issue in the 2006 elections. And it isn't going away.

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Tom Fitton is president of Judicial Watch, a non-partisan educational foundation that fights government corruption. Visit [www.judicialwatch.org](http://www.judicialwatch.org) for more information.