

Campaign proclaims Harper and Bush Brokeback buddies

Stickers raise eyebrows around Concordia, but some doubt their effectiveness

GIUSEPPE VALIANTE
The Link

MONTRÉAL (CUP)—The youth wing of the Liberal party wants to highlight what it sees as the close relationship between US President George Bush and Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

They've sent out around 100 stickers to their university campus chapters across the country in hopes of stirring debate among young Canadians on what they see as a concerning trend.

"[The stickers] are kind of a fun thing, but at the same time it's highlighting an important message: our Prime Minister Stephen Harper is the ideological soulmate of George W Bush," said Richard Diamond, president of the Young Liberals of Canada.

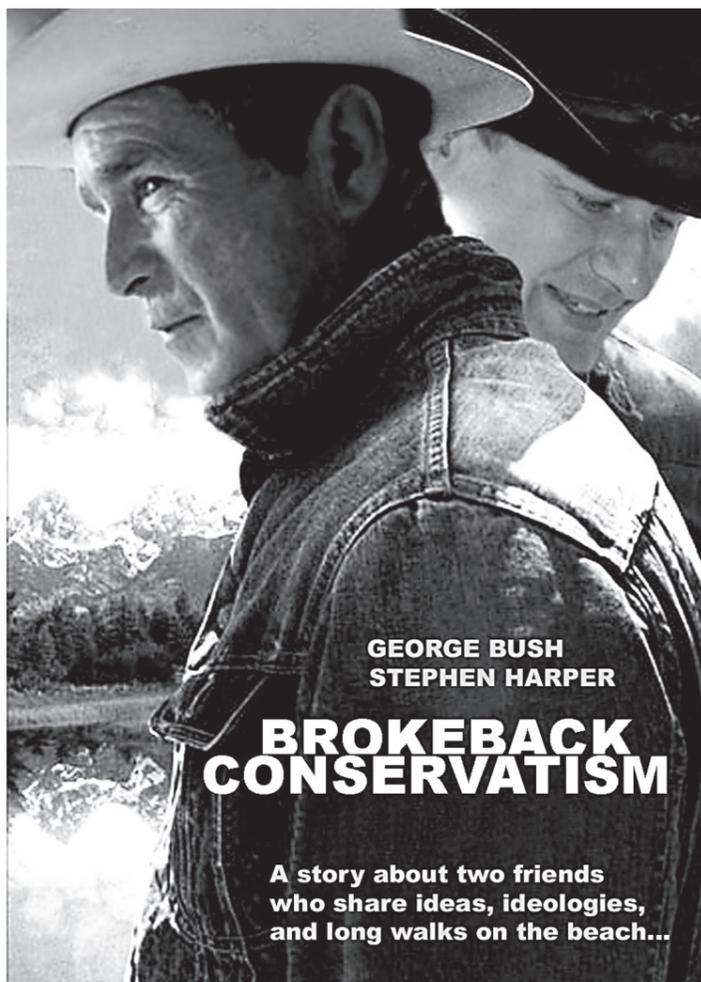
The stickers feature the two politicians in the poster for the movie *Brokeback Mountain*, about an affair between two cowboys. The Young Liberal version is titled *Brokeback Conservatism* and carries the tagline: "A story about two friends who share ideas, ideologies, and long walks on the beach ..."

Diamond believes young Canadians should be concerned about the relationship between the two leaders. He gave the example of how Harper plans on discarding the Kyoto protocol and is opening up the debate about same-sex marriage.

"To me, [same-sex marriage] is an issue of equality. [Harper] wants to reopen this discussion, these are things that smack of George W Bush Republicanism," Diamond said.

However, Nick Blesser, former vice-president of the Young Liberals at Montréal's Concordia University, doesn't think the sticker campaign is effective, although he does believe that Harper is, in some ways, similar to Bush.

"I think [the campaign] is a little over the top. I don't think that they have that much in common," he said. "I think it's demonizing both individuals, which isn't always a good idea. It creates more skepticism, and



A CROSSBORDER AFFAIR Québec Young Liberals are hoping to rope in voters.

there is already too much of that among young people today."

Concordia University communications major Maxine Dore doesn't like the artwork or what's seen as the target audience. "It's effective for smart-ass hipsters, but nobody really cares what they have to say."

Dore said the Young Liberals are wasting their time trying to reach the university demographic altogether, arguing that the people who matter—businessmen and older generations—aren't sold.

"The people who matter when it comes to making political decisions aren't going to pay attention to this," Dore said. "The people who don't matter will pay attention."

"George found a real buddy in Stephen Harper," Diamond said, adding that he thinks this will be an issue brought up at the upcoming Liberal policy and leadership convention in Montréal at the end of November.

Four delegates from each of the 55 Young Liberal university chapters will attend the conference.

'Unbiblical' creation debate spawns protest at Trinity Western University

ANGELA WIEBE
Mars' Hill

LANGLEY, BC (CUP)—In an effort to secure a meeting with Trinity Western University's Board of Governors, Cam Copeland has stood guard with a homemade protest sign at the University's entrance for several days over the past three weeks.

Copeland, the father of a 1985 TWU alumnus, has held a regular demonstration in protest of what he calls unbiblical teaching by some of the University's professors.

"I'm concerned about the fact that the University has people on staff that openly deny Genesis," he said.

Copeland said he first took note of a TWU professor's stance on creation as recorded in Genesis 1:11 after attending a conference on the subject held on campus last spring.

According to Copeland, two professors spoke in condescending tones towards the conference's speaker and claimed the Bible's creation story was nothing more than a myth.

"Once you start to say that, where does the rest of the Bible fall?" Copeland asked at the TWU campus entrance.

But Dirk Buchner, a religious studies professor, denies Copeland's assertions, stating that he never claimed the biblical story of creation to be non-historical.

"I think I was just trying to say that these guys should not read Genesis as literal history, but as a metaphor," Buchner said. "[The Bible] wishes to tell us that God made the world, not how God made the world."

Buchner said he originally attended the conference last spring in order to protest against the view of a literal, six-day creation story.

He said it's foolish to believe that the Earth was created in six days, adding that those that view Genesis 1:11 as 100 per cent literal are "really very unskilled" at reading the Bible.

Buchner asserted further that conference attendees such as Copeland had misconstrued his arguments. His public statements never claimed the creation story to be mythological, he noted.

"I feel they are a dangerous group," Buchner said of those that hold a literal creation view. "They are very, very isolationist."

According to Buchner, many supporters of the six-day creation story disregard any scholarship that refutes their claims.

Copeland and Buchner met for the first time last Wednesday as they debated both sides of the creation argument. While both men left the meeting on what Buchner called "friendly terms," Copeland is unsure on whether he will continue his protest or not.

"I don't want to hurt anyone," Copeland said, "But the overall truth is more important than any one person, including myself."

Although TWU has no intentions of prohibiting Copeland from protesting in the future, as he's on land owned by the Township of Langley, the University also has no intentions of accommodating his request to meet with the Board of Governors.

"We have no further plans at this point," said Glen Forrester, executive assistant to the President.



The Media & the Charter A Public Conference

Friday, November 3, 2006
Lister Hall Conference Centre
University of Alberta

- Can the media's expressive freedoms go too far?
- Are publication bans appropriate, or do they infringe on the public's right to know?
- What do you need to know about the Charter of Rights and Freedoms?

Share your views! Join us for a day of informal, interactive panels with a fascinating lineup of journalists, scholars, media lawyers, and other experts in the field. Michelle Mann, lawyer and well-known journalist, will give the keynote talk on "Freedom of the Press: Rights and Responsibilities."

Student Registration: \$55.00
General Registration: \$75.00

Includes breakfast, lunch, wine & cheese reception.

For more information on speakers, panels, and registration, visit the **Centre for Constitutional Studies** at:

<http://www.law.ualberta.ca/centres/ccs/>

or contact Amber at (780) 492-5681 (aholder@law.ualberta.ca)



Sponsored by:

Alberta **LAW**
FOUNDATION



MASSIVE BRAIN
with impressive body of work and numerous international awards enjoys frequent publishing in top journals and spending time in North America's third-largest research library. **Seeks like-minded** grad students for similar pursuits.

The University of Toronto is now accepting applications from top graduates flirting with the idea of pursuing their grad studies with us. We think it's a perfect match. You're brilliant and accomplished. We're an irresistible combination of scholarship and world-renowned research. But don't admire us for our brains alone. U of T is a vibrant campus located in North America's most multicultural city. Clearly we should meet when U of T visits the University of Alberta on Nov. 8, 2006. Please ask your career centre for details and feel free to contact us any time.

gradschool@sgs.utoronto.ca

www.gradschool.utoronto.ca

