

COMMENTS & LETTERS

bruns.editor@gmail.com • October 25, 2006

Hug me, kiss me, offend me

OPINION

by Jennifer McKenzie

A few weeks ago, I got a press release from the Young Liberals (YL). I get dozens of press releases, sometimes dozens in a single day. Truthfully, I usually give most of them a 'once over' and move on. I opened the attachment from the YL to give it my obligatory read - in case my boss was to check up on me and whether or not I was fulfilling that part of my job.

The attachment I opened up wasn't a press release; it was, instead, a poster. At first glance, it looked like the front of the "Brokeback Mountain" movie case.

It showed two men in cowboy hats and jean jackets, intertwined. No big deal. The Young Liberals support our society's slowly growing acceptance of the gay community and would like to remind people that "Love is a force of nature," as the movie press line states.

Except the press line doesn't seem to support that statement; the press line is entirely different, and seems to insinuate an affair. "A story about two friends who share... long walks on the beach" - somehow not sending the same message of tolerance and acceptance as the original "Brokeback Mountain" seemed to focus on.

And then it hits me: the Young Liberals aren't releasing this poster in hopes of promoting open-mindedness and approval of a minority group in Canada. The poster is being used to help publicize a political purpose.

The poster was released with Stephen Harper and George Bush's faces (badly) Photoshopped in. For anyone who doesn't seem to understand the point of this, a written statement was included.

And thank god, because I just didn't get it. The first part of the statement explained the purpose of the poster is "...to remind all Canadians of the very troubling similarities shared by Prime Minister Stephen Harper and U.S. President George W. Bush."

Having never been in a gay relationship myself, I can't testify to what it's like. I have been in a few heterosexual relationships. I am going to make the assumption that the ideals and purpose in both heterosexual and homosexual

relationships are the same. I have never been attracted to someone, started or continued a romantic relationship with anyone because of our 'similarities.'

I, admittedly, have not seen the movie. I have heard quite a bit about it, like most people, both positive and negative. From what I understand (and feel free send me emails if I'm wrong), the movie was about two men who inadvertently fall in love at a time when it's impossible for them to be together, and their struggle to deal with that situation.

I also, have never had a conversation with the PM or the President and I can't testify to their personal relationship. I do know they're both married - to women - and from what I understand from the news, have a good, working, professional relationship.

The statement also explains that "We wanted to show that Bush and Harper share a special relationship..." I am almost positive the 'special relationship' the Young Liberals are talking about is not the type that develops between two leaders of neighbouring countries.

I considered calling the name listed at the bottom of the press release to ask him what exactly he and the Young Liberals were doing - I was really quite confused.

As I was searching for his number, I finished reading the statement. And then I saw it: "...both of them are completely against same-sex marriage... President Bush is moving to take away rights from Americans, and we are trying to raise awareness to make sure Harper doesn't get the chance here in Canada."

The Young Liberals are for same-sex marriage. And the way they are trying to promote their support of this is by manipulating a picture which, for many, is a sign of acceptance of the gay community?

Now I'm not only confused, I'm offended. I'm offended that the Young Liberals believe it's okay to exploit a minority group in order to promote their own political beliefs.

I'm even more offended that it was the Young Liberals - who are looking to target us, the university age bracket - who thought their tactics would gain our support. I'm offended they think we, the 20-somethings, would be so naive and easily influenced that a cheap

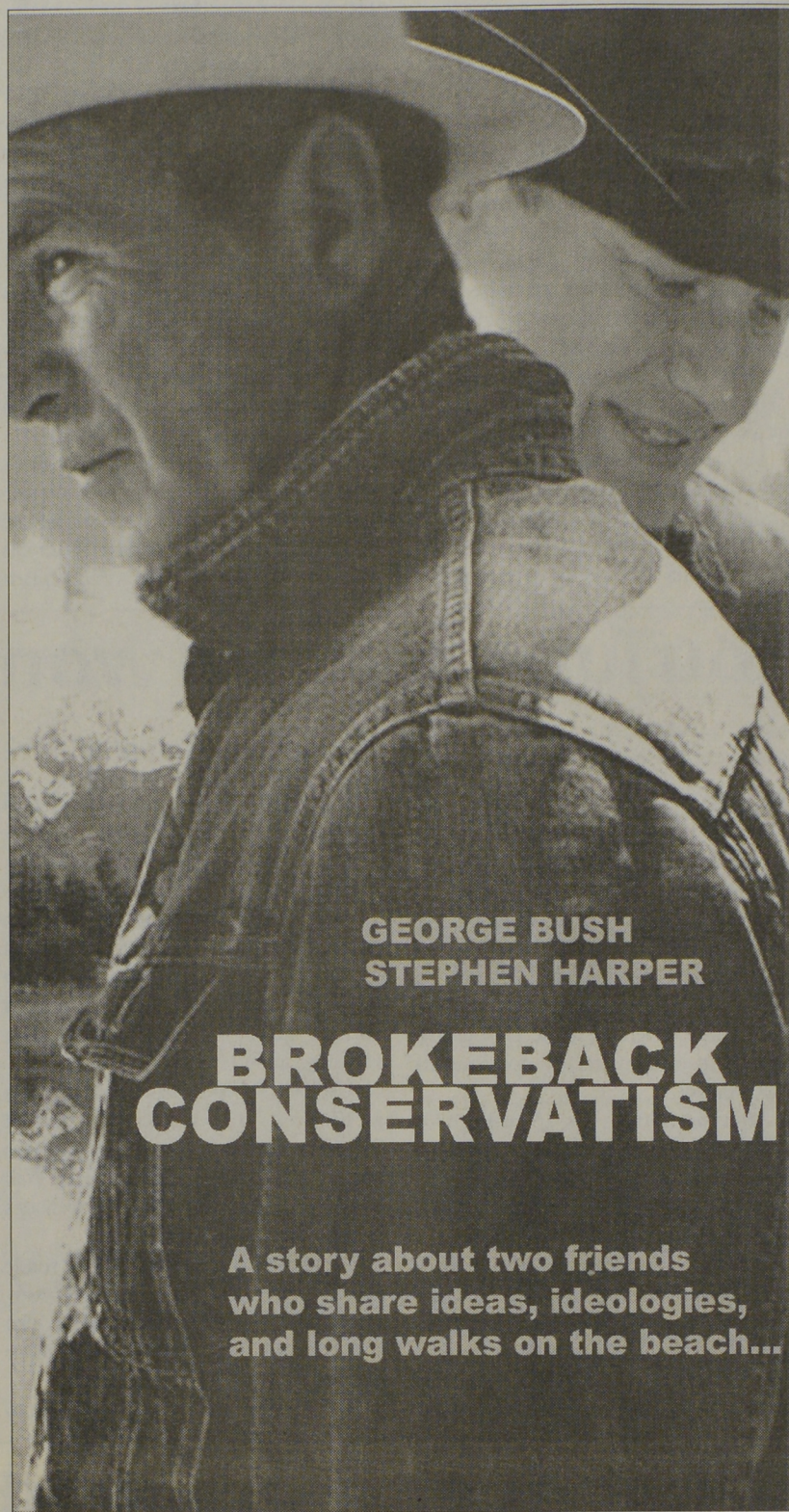
joke, a cheap gay joke at that, would sway our opinions.

I'm not an activist of any kind. Sometimes, I even laugh at inappropriate jokes. I'm not a Liberal or a Conservative. I'm not Bush's biggest fan.

I disagree with many things the Prime Minister has done, I also agree

with some of his ideas and work. I'm not a gay-activist; I don't really even have that many gay friends. I'm not trying to make a political statement - I'm not political enough to have my own statement.

I'm just offended and a little bit pissed off.

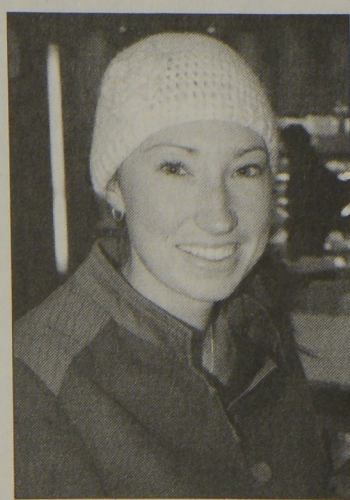


THE BRUNS VIEWPOINT

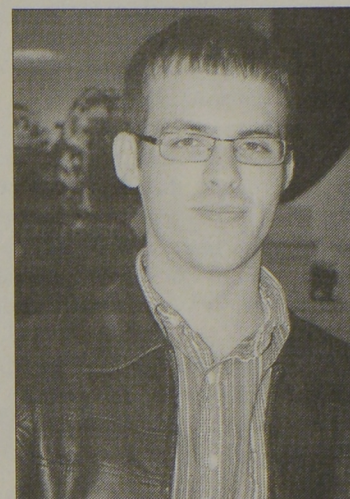
What's your theme song?



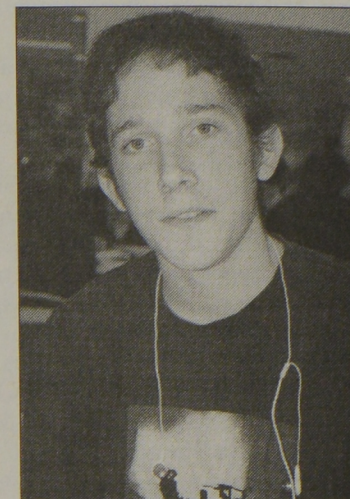
Temperature - Sean Paul
Kate Mulherin



Girls Just Wanna Have Fun - Cindy Lauper
Lindsay Reid



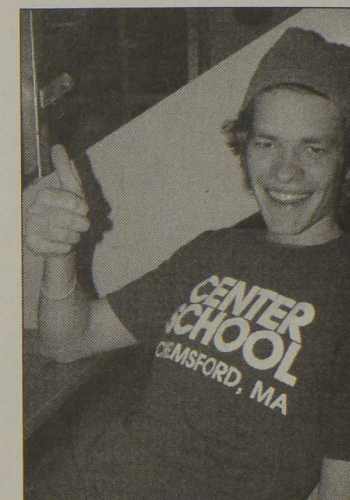
Judith - A Perfect Circle
Tyler Martin



If Six Was Nine - Jimi Hendrix
Spencer Long



I Don't Need A Man - Pussycat Dolls
Natalie LaPointe, Denine Ellis, Cassie Brown



Mmm Bop - Hanson
Jordan Cheney

LETTERS

Dear Editor:

I'm writing in regards to the quality of the most recent edition of the *Brunswickan* (18 October 2006).

The general quality of the paper seems to be lacking. There were too many articles dealing with pop-culture fluff and very few articles providing any real content. I find it hard to believe you did not have space to include more articles dealing with community, national, or global events.

Additionally, the article about the parking ticket you received could have been a great opportunity to discuss the parking problems on campus. Instead, it came across as a poor rant, and used unnecessary profanity that added nothing to the article.

Finally, the front page is no place for an editorial, especially one with a paragraph implying that the subject of the article is homosexual, which could be considered libel.

The media fee paid for by UNB students funds the *Brunswickan*, and I don't believe they are getting their money's worth. Although the *Brunswickan* is the oldest student publication in Canada, some of the content is as juvenile as the *National Enquirer's*. The *Brunswickan* is a service paid for by students that should be both entertaining and informative.

Chris Orser

Dear Ms. Legendre,

Notwithstanding your Editor's Note criticizing the ad hominem character of D.A. Standing's comment, I am still of the opinion that the comment should not have been published in the first place.

If the author was attempting to achieve humour by extremes (hitting the cyclist) or artless crudity (calling you a b*tch), the author failed miserably. This piece came across as a hateful, nasty, personal attack and should have no place in the paper. Such poverty of expression is a waste of ink.

Hugh Donovan

The Brunswickan

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Letters

Must be submitted by e-mail including your name, letters with pseudonyms will not be printed. Letters must be 200 words maximum. Deadline for letters is Friday at noon.

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WEDNESDAYS

Molson Midweek Mayhem

Campus Cup Leads to Date

Neill House: 394

Harrison House: 182

Chatham Hall: 178

Say what rez you are from at front door before midnight Wednesday

No Cover With Valid Student I.D.

NICKY ZEE'S

375 King Street Fredericton's Place to be

SUNDAY Oct 29

HALLOWEEN

10 = Close

2 for 1 Liquor (Not top shelf)

\$2.00 Coors Light Draft (16 oz)

\$2.75 Cdn, Cdn Lt, Cold Shots

No Cover Prizs For Best Costume

