



June 8, 2004

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**COLUMNIST**

Tue, June 8, 2004

**Paul got campaign he wanted**By **Charles Adler** -- Winnipeg Sun

Why was I not surprised when I logged on to my favourite news junkie weblog ([www.bourque.com](http://www.bourque.com)) run by Pierre Bourque, and discovered that the Conservatives had pulled ahead of the Liberals?

Pierre, you heard it here first. As of Sunday night, the Conservatives had the support of 34%, Liberals 32%, NDP 20%, BQ 11%, Green 4%.

*Although still a statistical tie, this has to be considered a big psychological breakthrough for the Harper-led Conservatives. Of concern to the Liberals should also be the fact that the percentage of Canadians who think Paul Martin would be the best PM has dropped to 27%, only four points ahead of Conservative Stephen Harper (23% best PM). -- Nik Nanos, SES Research.*

Nanos, the big gun behind the SES poll, a company frequently cited in Sun Media, had now confirmed what had become self-evident for those of us who closely follow the Liberal Spin Machine.

With each day the effluent coming out of Martin's muffler was getting darker. Only the impetus of horrible internal Liberal polls could have caused the prime minister to be firing all his bullets at Stephen Kevlar Harper.

The Liberal machine looked like they were firing their rounds blindfolded when they sent the "dynamic duo" of John McCallum and Judy Sgro into the streets to stalk Harper like a deer.

It was the Liberals who ended up as roadkill.

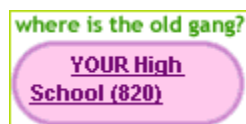
There is no political gun registry. So I don't know who was pulling the trigger at Liberal campaign central. But I know it is one of their Young Turks. I hope he has been enjoying the campaign, because it might be tough for him to get work anytime soon, once the autopsy is done on the Martin carcass.

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Now lest you get the impression it is the campaign planners and spinners who are responsible for the Liberal debacle, try to remember that it's Paul Martin who wanted this campaign, wanted a new mandate, wanted to recruit new players for the political stage, but did not want to do anything in the months after being named leader to prove that he was an agent of change.

He did not want to show us how he was different than the previous hired gun.

The new sheriff in town shot blanks for six months and then dropped the writ and told us we should put the safety of our women and children into his trembling hands.

Paul Martin is no Elvis, but the prime minister's theme song might as well be All Shook Up.

IN THE HOURS and days after the death of Ronald Reagan, the revisionists are trying to debase the legacy of the greatest president of my generation.

The revisionists, mostly liberal academics and pundits, are trying to reinvent reality. They are attempting to say that Ronald Reagan seduced his nation and many others overseas through the power of his personality.

This is a flat-out lie.

The Reagan that I eyeballed had personality, to be sure. But it was his ideas that made the earth shake beneath the jackboots of the Soviet tyrant.

No amount of one-liners could bring the Russian bear to his knees. That took Reagan's willingness to shoot straight, to call the Soviet Union an evil empire.

He backed up the rhetoric with guns and butter. The guns were the beefing up of America's military might. And that included weapons of mass destruction, the nuclear arsenal and the beginnings of a weapons-in-space program which critics like to call Star Wars.

The Reagan substance involved arming Afghan rebels to hit the Soviets hard with shoulder-fired missiles. It also took Reagan's resolve to walk away from the nuclear bargaining table in Reykjavik, despite the fact that the guy he bargained with, Mikhail Gorbachev, had quickly become the darling of the West.

Reagan wasn't going to be a chump for the Russian poker player, who also had a personality, but believed mistakenly that Communism could

I GRADUATED IN:



be given a human face.

Come Friday, "Freedom's Champion" will receive a state funeral. But unfortunately the mythology manufactured by his critics won't be buried. Many of them who live in our own country will continue to say that Ronald Reagan was a just a "B" actor who brought his John Wayne act to Washington and got lucky because Communism just happened to start imploding on his watch.

Truth is, Reagan was no John Wayne. He was more like John Galt, the man in Ayn Rand's Atlas Shrugged, who is willing to speak hard truths in behalf of individual freedom and the creativity it inspires.

He was more like John Winthrop, who talked about America being an exceptional land, blessed by providence, a shining city on a hill.

God bless the Gipper and his shining City.

**Next Column:** [For Harper, bland is beautiful](#)



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