

BILLIONAIRES FOR BUSH Present EDUCATION IS NOT FOR EVERYONE DAY!

Today, Billionaires for Bush and their progeny around the country are celebrating all Bush has done to turn education from a "right" into the exclusive privilege of the elite:

- \$ Under-funding his own education reform program. After passing "No Child Left Behind," Bush under-funded the program by a total of \$27 billion in his last four budgets, \$9.4 billion in his last budget alone. He demanded that teachers and students meet higher standards, but then refused to provide the support they need to actually do so.
- \$ Overseeing a massive increase in the cost of university tuition. Under Bush, public university tuition has gone up, with an increase of 14%, twice the rate of inflation, in just the last year and similar increases predicted in the years to come. Since 2000, average annual tuition has increased by \$1,207.2 These increases make four-year university programs inaccessible to half of college-eligible high school graduates.3
- \$ Initiating a proposed 40% cut to funding for afterschool programs in his last budget. This would eliminate afterschool for roughly 500,000 kids, 4 leaving many without a place to go after 3 pm and without educational enrichment.
- Proposing cuts to Pell Grant funding. After promising to increase first-year grants to a \$5,100 maximum, Bush did exactly the opposite in his 2005 budget, capping the grants at \$4,050.5
- \$ Allowing banks to make up to \$12 billion annually at taxpayer expense from student loans. With a loophole that guarantees an above-market interest rate on student loans, the government sends extra money directly to bankers.

 If the banks were subject to the regular market rate, that could go to tuition relief for students.

And so today, Billionaires everywhere are holding campus tea parties, ceremonially privatizing public schools and recruiting low-wage workers at high schools and colleges. We join George Bush in working to ensure that education is not for everyone.

- President's budgets available at www.ed.gov. Also, "Can Separate Be Equal?," The Century Foundation, www.tcf.org
- ² "Economic Squeeze Plaguing Middle Class Families," The New York Times, 8/28/04
- 3 "US Fees Hike Poses Threat to Access," The Times Higher Education Supplement, 4/9/04
- 4 www.afterschoolalliance.org
- ⁵ "From His 'Great Goals' of 2000, President's Achievement Mixed," Washington Post, 9/2/04
- ⁶ "A Windfall from a Student Loan Program," New York Times, 8/27/04

BillionairesForBush.com



With George Bush, we Billionaires have made a lot of progress at the expense of everyone else. But we stand to lose a lot in this election. John Kerry wants to treat education as a right! Kerry has proposed:

- \$ Expanding afterschool to 3.5 million more children, another instance of his pandering to working families.
- \$ Improving teacher training and pay in exchange for greater accountability. George Bush understands real accountability: students take tests, teachers take orders, and the President answers only to the Billionaires.
- \$ Adequate funding for public education-which he would fund by rolling back the tax cut for the extremely rich.
- \$ Offering tuition assistance in exchange for 2 years of public service, and expanding tuition tax credits. With lower tuition and new mentoring programs, Kerry hopes to make higher education accessible to everyone. But education is not for everyone.

WHO ARE WE?

Billionaires for Bush is a grassroots media campaign that is changing voters' minds in swing districts. We're using humor, street theater and creative media to show how the Bush administration has favored the corporate elite at the expense of everyday Americans. We've been recognized by major media including The New York Times, USA Today, CNN, CBS News, The Akron Beacon Journal, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, etc. for bringing a unique brand of political activism to the 2004 elections.

WHAT WE DO:

Our field campaign is now 75+ chapters and growing. We're bird-dogging Bush and Cheney around the country. Soon they won't be able to make a speech or hold a fundraising dinner without finding themselves sharing the spotlight with a contingent of Billionaires in tuxedos and evening gowns, thanking them for being the best politicians Big Money can buy.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

JOIN A CHAPTER. OR START YOUR OWN. Or get involved with one of our creative projects. It's easy and it's fun. Everything you need is on our website: **www.BillionairesForBush.com**

TO JOIN OUR BILLIONAIRE CAMPUS NETWORK, contact our campus coordinator, Mona Polist, at mona.polist@billionairesforbush.com.