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## Chapman University says protest signs plastered on Reagan, Thatcher busts can stay



(/multimedia/image/chapman-university-bustsjpg/)

Chapman University says the protest signs that were plastered overnight Wednesday on the busts for conservative icons like Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher can stay, citing the students' right to free speech. (Reddit/TheRealLouisWu) more > (/multimedia/image/chapman-university-bustsjpg/)

By Jessica Chasmar (/staff/jessica-chasmar/) - The Washington Times - Friday, April 10, 2015

Chapman University (/topics/chapman-university/) says the protest signs that were plastered overnight Wednesday on the busts for conservative icons Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher (/topics/margaret-thatcher/) can stay, citing the students' right to free speech.

"Ronald Reagan is under student review due to Racism, Classism, and Homophobia," read a poster underneath the school's official bust of the 40th president, Campus Reform (/topics/campus-reform/) reported (<http://campusreform.org/?ID=6433>).

The vandals made the same accusations against Thatcher (/topics/margaret-thatcher/) and also accused free-market economist Milton Friedman of "Global Violence and Imperialism" and Ayn Rand of "Homophobia."

Chapman University (/topics/chapman-university/) spokeswoman Mary Platt said the school has no plans to punish the vandals, whom officials identified through various social media postings, Campus Reform (/topics/campus-reform/) reported.

"All Chapman University (/topics/chapman-university/) students and faculty are encouraged to speak their minds and express their personal opinions, both privately and in public forums, on any topics they wish," Ms. Platt told Campus Reform (/topics/campus-reform/).

"Because the statues in question were not vandalized, but simply have signage placed on them — and although University policy states that all signage on campus must be authorized — the University administration acknowledges the students' right to express their views and will allow the signage to remain until the end of the week, when staff typically remove unauthorized or outdated signage on campus," she said.

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