

Minutemen skirmish at Columbia University

By STEVEN TUTTEROW | STAFF WRITER

Imagine this: redneck shotgun toting nationalists going toe to toe with trust fund poster carrying Ivy League students.

Well, it happened.

On Oct. 4, Jim Gilchrist of the Minutemen Project spoke at Columbia University. Columbia's College Republicans invited Gilchrist to the school. Tensions began to mount when Gilchrist performed a mock phone call to his wife while he was on stage.

"I'm amongst the largest eclectic collection of social maladroits that I've ever seen in my life, you won't believe it," Gilchrist said on the phone over whistles and boos from the crowd.

Shortly after this "call" and during his speech, student protestors flooded the stage and started yelling indignantly, or I mean, started protesting. They held a sign that said, "No one is illegal."

The minutemen then took the next logical step--physically attacking the protestors. Brilliant.

The end result was a decent scuffle mixed in with some poster tug of war, until security went onstage and cleared things up. In the end, the students ousted the minutemen, who are unable to secure their own stage against Ivy League students, much less the border against illegal immigrants.

Gilchrist then left shortly after the incident, and after advice from his legal consultant. In the aftermath, Kevin Hahulski, a supporter of the minutemen, has now been identified as kicking a protestor walking below him on the floor of the auditorium.

Moreover, the Minutemen Project plans to file a lawsuit for "discrimination and defamation of character," according to the Columbia Spectator. Protestors have also had letters sent to them by the

university discussing possible charges against them.

What an incident. You would think that Ivy League students would have more sense than this, but apparently not. The elite scholars in the nation apparently don't have enough maturity to conduct themselves in an orderly fashion.

If you oppose someone else's viewpoints, it is standard procedure to let them talk, and then answer with your own rebuttal.

It's called being civilized.

The protestors at Columbia acted like children covering their ears and yelling at the top of their lungs.

Then, of course, a physical retaliation came from the minutemen as they tried to force the protestors off the stage so they could continue speaking. Let's just be grateful that they didn't have their shotguns with them.

According to minutemanproject.com, "The Minutemen Project plans to bring to national attention the threat to our national sovereignty that this massive invasion of illegal immigrants represents."

These people are moronic in their actions, as well as in their beliefs. They don't understand that the system of American capitalism that they hold so close in their ideologies relies on the exploitation of labor of illegal immigrants.

All in all, this incident was incredibly immature, from the mock phone call to the babyish retaliation by the protestors, to the violent reaction by the minutemen and their supporters. However, it is quite hysterical.

Look at how these Ivy League kids and our nation's future leaders conduct themselves. Look at how "grown men" were conducting themselves. Then, look at the way you're acting, and try not to be as idiotic as these two groups with your actions, regardless of what your viewpoints are.

tives from Republican control for the first time since 1994. But false promises and low gas prices diverted the American public away from the real issues of the election.

The Bush administration has recently admitted faults in their Iraq policy for the first time, and made promises to change.

Though the President acknowledged that the battle for Baghdad is failing, and that a change in course will be necessary, it was only one of many unsubstantiated claims from the Bush administration.

The violence is escalating and Iraq is on the brink of civil war, yet the situation is not likely to change within the next two years. Bush has repeatedly denied the possibility of withdrawing from

Iraq and continues to do so. Speaking from the Oval Office on Sept. 11, 2006, Bush said, "America will stay in the fight. Iraq will be a free nation, and a strong ally in the war on terror."

He intends to continue the war while, according to a poll by World Public Opinion, seven out of ten Iraqis favor U.S. withdrawal within the next year.

Meanwhile, the gas prices fell to their lowest level in ten months, which is good news to all.

Gasoline prices are often seen as a symbol of the strength of our economy, and they can easily swing public opinion away from the people in power. To voters, low gas prices mean healthy nations, and they can also do a lot to help win an election.

According to the Associated

Press, since August the prices at the pump have dropped nearly 80 cents to their lowest level since January, and are down 40 cents from this time last year. In Greensboro on election morning, they were down to just \$2.06 a gallon.

But if the 2004 elections are any precedent these wonderful prices will not last.

According to the Energy Information Administration, during the election season of 2004, between October and December, the price of gas dropped about 25 cents to below \$1.80 a gallon.

In December 2004, the prices started steadily rising. By April they had soared almost 50 cents to nearly \$2.30 a gallon.

They were the highest retail prices of gasoline ever up to

that point.

Maybe the oil tycoons that hold the White House in their pockets aren't really like the countless other corporations in history that served their private interests politically, and perhaps Bush will contradict every statement and action he's made since 2003 and change his views on Iraq.

But I doubt it. The gas prices will start escalating again soon, the war in Iraq will stay on course, and the same scandalous news from the last six years will continue to flow.

When dealing with Washington, promises should not be taken at face value. And always be skeptical of good news in November. So fill up your tanks now and turn off the TV, because the excitement is over for this year.

Women's Pool Tournament

Breakers Billiards
@ Quaker Village
336-852-8777

Saturday Nov 18
12-4pm

Single Elimination
8 Ball

Registration \$20
1st Prize \$200
2nd Prize \$100
3rd Prize \$50

Women's Pool Tournament 2006

Funds raised at this event will benefit the healing arts programs of the following organizations:

Joie de Vivre
www.thegoddesseffect.com

Project Linus of Guilford County
www.projectlinus.org

Register Today!

2006 election trickery ended November 7

Higher gas prices set a harsh reality for incoming legislators

By BEN DEDMAN | STAFF WRITER

The past few months have erupted with good news.

Gas prices dropped nearly 80 cents, President George W. Bush made some promises for Iraq's future, and Tuesday brought the end of a particularly nasty election.

But no matter how earnest you believe the new mission in Iraq is or how low the gas prices fall, the good news will fade as quickly as it came.

As the mid-term elections neared, and as the Republican Party sank deeper and deeper into scandal, the prospect of an American regime change filled the air.

The Democrats had the chance to take the House of Representa-