

## Tancredo protesters turn violent

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Protestors at a Michigan law school turned violent Thursday as they attempted to stop a speech by Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Littleton. (Post)

Violence erupted at a Michigan law school Thursday when protestors tried to block a speech by Colorado Congressman Tom Tancredo.

Police were called after protestors pulled a fire alarm prior to the speech on immigration policies. There were at least three violent incidents with protestors targeting student backers of the event, Tancredo, R-Littleton, said today.

"One was spit on, one was kicked, and one was punched," Tancredo said in an e-mail. "Tires were also slashed."

Michigan State University College Republicans and Young Americans for Freedom sponsored the event.

Tancredo went to Michigan State University College of Law as part of a visit to the state to talk about immigration. He leads the group that opposes legal status for illegal immigrants.

Protestors interrupted the speech with loud shouting.

College newspaper The State News reported that protestors carried signs reading "Ignorant Racist" outside the room where the speech was held. They were not allowed in with the signs, the paper said. It also reported that about 40 people attended the speech.

Tancredo said in the email that protestors organized on the Internet social networking site Facebook.

"They declared ahead of time on facebook that they would not allow me to speak," Tancredo said in the e-mail.

Tancredo also is meeting with the Republican state party chair, members of the state legislature, and is speaking at a fundraiser for a Republican women's group, Tancredo spokesman Carlos Espinosa said.

## Tancredo event turns violent

**By M.E. Sprengelmeyer, Rocky Mountain News  
December 1, 2006**

Protests, scattered fights and fire alarms reportedly disrupted Rep. Tom Tancredo's appearance last night at Michigan State University, a local newspaper reported.

According to The State News of Michigan, Tancredo's talk on illegal immigration "turned violent" when about 10 to 20 protesters crashed the event and scuffled with event sponsors from the MSU College Republicans and Young Americans for Freedom.

"It saddens me that my fellow Spartans would display this type of behavior," Kyle Bristow, chairman of the Young Americans for Freedom, told the newspaper.

He was quoted saying that he was kicked and spat upon by protesters outside the MSU College of Law, where the event took place.

Tancredo has become both famous and infamous for his controversial statements denouncing what he calls uncontrolled immigration and the "cult of multiculturalism."

Most of this week, he has been in a public spat with Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and other Floridians after he described the city of Miami as resembling a "Third World country."

At Thursday night's event, protesters reportedly gathered inside the building where the event was being held, some carrying signs reading, "Ignorant Racist," the newspaper reported.

Twice during the event, fire alarms were pulled and the building had to be evacuated.

The State News quoted protester Randy McPherson, who carried a sign saying, "Where's the wall to keep you out?"

"God works in mysterious ways," McPherson said about the second fire alarm. "(Tancredo) shouldn't be here."

Late last night, Tancredo sent an e-mail to his staff describing the event.

"The speech had lots of disruptions by protestors trying to 'silence' me," Tancredo wrote. "Apparently they declared ahead of time on (facebook.com) that they would not allow me to speak."

He continued: "There are at least 3 incidents of physical violence by the protestors against college republicans: one was spit on, one was kicked, and one was punched. Tires were also slashed."

His e-mail ended with one line: "Very exciting stuff."

## **Tancredo hot potato**

### **Protesters try to mash appearance at Michigan State**

**By M.E. Sprengelmeyer, Rocky Mountain News  
December 2, 2006**

Loud protests, small scuffles and fire alarms disrupted Rep. Tom Tancredo's appearance Thursday night at Michigan State University.

But campus police downplayed the incidents, and the conservative congressman took the charges of racism hurled at him during the protests in stride.

"It was pretty much what I recalled when I was in college myself during the old anti-war protests," said Tancredo, 60, on the telephone. "Lots of kids, lots of screaming, lots of banners."

Tancredo has become a lightning rod, thanks to his hard-line stance opposing illegal immigration, and each day seems to bring a new controversy and round of headlines. Just this week he got into a spat with Florida Gov. Jeb Bush when he was accused of disparaging the city of Miami.

Thursday night's event was sponsored by the MSU College Republicans and the Young Americans for Freedom. Not surprisingly, the topic of Tancredo's speech was illegal immigration.

While organizers were awaiting Tancredo's arrival, 10 to 20 protesters joined a few dozen people in the law school auditorium, awaiting the speech.

Some protesters carried signs ridiculing the security fence Tancredo has proposed building on the U.S.-Mexico border.

"Where's the wall to keep *you* out?" one sign asked, according to a published report and videotapes that were circulating online Friday. Another sign read: "Ignorant racist."

And one group of protesters stood in front of the podium where Tancredo was supposed to speak, unfurling a large banner reading: "No Nazis . . . KKK . . . Racist USA."

Before Tancredo arrived, campus police were called out on reports of disorderly conduct, said Sgt. Florene McGlothian-Taylor of the MSU Police Department.

"After a brief confrontation, the protesters did agree to sit quietly in the back of the room and listen to the speaker," she said.

While some protesters were leaving the room, a fire alarm sounded. Authorities cleared the building, including law school classes, McGlothian-Taylor said.

Once outside, shouting matches broke out between Tancredo's fans and foes.

"Some people came up, started calling me names: racist, Nazi, fascist," said Kyle Bristow, chairman of the Young Americans for Freedom.

Bristow said that he rushed to help a pregnant woman who was being pushed by protesters.

"As we were walking away, I was kicked in the back and a girl spat on my face," Bristow said.

In another scuffle, a male student who supports Tancredo allegedly was confronted by a woman who slapped a digital camera out of his hands, causing about \$200 in damage. McGlothian-Taylor said the woman was questioned, and prosecutors are considering charges.

After the all-clear was issued following the fire alarm, audience members went back inside and waited for Tancredo. He was introduced to a mix of cheers and boos. A few minutes into his speech, the fire alarm sounded again. Authorities let people stay, and Tancredo ultimately finished his remarks.

After the second alarm, student Randy McPherson told the campus newspaper, "God works in mysterious ways. . . . (Tancredo) shouldn't be here."

Asked about what happened, Tancredo said, "It was, on the one hand, an excellent expression of free speech on the part of demonstrators and the school allowing them to do that. On the other hand, it was a demonstration on the part of the demonstrators not to extend that to me."

Attempts to contact various protesters were unsuccessful.

Tancredo has pockets of followers in Michigan, where he recently won one county's straw poll for would-be Republican presidential contenders.

"I hope so badly that he runs for president," Bristow said. "So many people are willing to move to whatever state he goes to to help him campaign."

Most of this week, Tancredo has been jousting with Jeb Bush and other Floridians after he said the ethnically diverse city of Miami resembles a "Third World country." Bush and Tancredo traded pointed letters, and Bush reportedly dismissed Tancredo as a "nut."

Joe Garcia, executive vice president of the New Democrat Network and director of its Hispanic Strategy Center, used the Miami controversy to give Tancredo backhanded praise.

"I'm a big fan of Tom Tancredo. I want to be the first guy to give him a check when he runs for president," Garcia said this week. "Morons like him gave us (Democrats) the House and Senate, and it's going to give us the White House, too."

Tancredo laughed when he heard the comment Friday.