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Leafy rancor in the 'burbs

AH, PROTESTING suburban-style - great scenery, zero rage.

In the pounding heat yesterday, your favorite grrrl reporter joined about 200 scruffy teens, soccer moms and very, very old people who protested in Bryn Mawr while President Bush attended a private fund-raiser for Sen. Rick Santorum.

Only problem? The protesters - who had polite signs about Social Security, the environment and other unsexy issues - were a mile away from the fancy luncheon in a gated McMansion. And Bush never even drove past the demonstrators on Montgomery Avenue. But no one got upset! Or even tried to get close to the bad guys! Riot Grrrl came out of retirement for this?

"I don't ever expect that he's going to see us," said Terry Shields, 65, of Bryn Mawr. "It's par for the course."

Well, if no one even cares about seeing Bush, Riot Grrrl thinks the protest should be in an air-conditioned location. One that serves cocktails. At least a lot of the Porsches and Lexuses driving by on the elegant, tree-lined road, gave friendly honks to the protesters. And in the Main Line, that's impressive.

"I remember a couple of years ago we were getting the thumbs- down," said Shields.

Riot Grrrl has been on hiatus since last year's protest movement against Bush basically tanked - when he got re-elected. But after a long winter's nap, some activists are gearing up again.

And Riot Grrrl is back to check them out. It's not quite the same, though. Surrounded by well-behaved soccer moms in shorts and fanny packs, Riot Grrrl started feeling nostalgic for the bongo drums and "Buck Fush" T-shirts at the Republican National Convention protests. And news flash: Social Security is boring.

Still, it was cool that a lot of the demonstrators were really ancient. Being old doesn't mean you can't call the president names.

Hell, stroke victim Peggy Stone, 79, even brought her walker. "I think it's important for people to let others know how they feel about Social Security," she said. Rock on, Peggy!

And Riot Grrrl found Ricky Chan, 17, from Germantown, under a tree with the sign: "Bush is a meanie, Impeach Him."

But Monique Frugier, 61, of Ardmore, who had a sweet French accent, said there was still hope in the form of a former presidential candidate.

"I love Howard Dean. I supported Howard Dean," Frugier said. "If people don't listen to Dean, they can leave the party."

Them's fighting words. But maybe what the activists need now is a Riot Boy like Dean on their side.

Grrrr.