Conservatives, radicals clash at demonstration

No arrests reported among the 400 protesters

By CRAIG Sandler
Collegian Staff

Pro and anti-CIA demonstrators clashed peacefully but loudly yesterday at the Student Union and the Whitmore Administration Building. There were no arrests during the 90 minutes of marching and chanting by about 400 students.

The only piece of property to be taken over was the Radical Student Union office in the Student Union Building, when about 30 conservative students forced their way into the office and held it for about half an hour, singing patriotic songs and taunting "radicals."

The two groups exchanged chants and insults for about a half hour with the conservatives lining the Whitmore ramp and the anti-CIA students packed up against the building on the grass.

About 20 UMass faculty and staff wearing white arm bands mingled among the crowd as "observers" and "peacekeepers" throughout the demonstration.

As student protesters marched around the administration building, they were again blocked from entering by conservatives. The anti-CIA protesters walked back to the Student Union stopping briefly in front of Memorial Hall.

Those opposed to and those in favor of the University hosting CIA recruitment on campus made their presences felt yesterday as hundreds came out to voice opinions on the issue.

The peaceful demonstration was in contrast to last month's sit-ins by members of the Radical Student Union and other students, in which 71 people were arrested and UMass and state police physically confronted supporters of the protesters.

At yesterday's rally, students presented a list of include students and other faculty members.

The Chancellor also announced that he has invited the Stop CIA Recruitment Organizing Committee to pick three representatives to meet with him on Dec. 15.

"This is not in response to the group's demands, but is part of the administration's look at the issue," said ad-