

Students will protest against CIA

Collegian P. 1

Group opposes recruitment

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A student group has planned protests for today and tomorrow opposing the recruitment of University of Massachusetts students by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The Radical Student Union has distributed posters around campus this week to inform students of the activities the group plans to carry out, member David Bassi said.

"We have been putting up posters around campus to let the students know what is going on and why. We are going to hold a rally outside the Student Union at 5 p.m. followed by a vigil at the University Placement Center at 6 p.m.," Bassi said.

Bassi said the Radical Student Union expects about 100 people to attend the rally and the vigil.

Marc Kenan, a graduate student active in the Radical Student Union, said the group opposes agencies like the CIA recruiting on campus because of its activities in foreign countries like Nicaragua.

"The objective of our rally today and the protest tomorrow is to prevent the University from being a recruitment place for the CIA. No one has the right to recruit killers," Kenan said.

The CIA is acting in violation of international law and is responsible for needless violence, Kenan said.

"On June 27, 1986, the International Court of Justice said that the United States was acting in clear violation of the law in its policy toward Nicaragua. The CIA is the main force behind the US involvement in Nicaragua," Kenan said. "The CIA is paying people down there to kill — the contras are paid mercenaries funded by the CIA."

Kenan said the group and its supporters on this issue want to attend the CIA information session scheduled for 7 p.m. this evening, but have been told they cannot attend.

"I have met with Larry Benedict from Academic Support Services, and Arthur Hilson who is the director of the University Placement Center, and was told the meeting would be closed to everyone except people who are interested in being interviewed," Kenan said.

Associate Vice-chancellor Larry G. Benedict said he supported the students' right to protest, but not to disrupt the interviews occurring on campus.

"All diverse opinions are accepted here, and anyone has the right to protest, but we cannot allow disruptive actions to interfere with the interviewing process," Benedict said.

Arthur Hilson, Director for the Placement Center said there are two types of interviewing processes conducted at the Placement Center.

The first is an open interviewing session that all interested students may attend and talk to the companies that they are interested in.

The second process is pre-screening, where students submit resumes ahead of time to companies they would like

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to receive an interview with. The companies then arrange for information sessions and interviews with candidates they are interested in.

"The Central Intelligence Agency uses the pre-screening method to review applications and choose people they are interested in talking to. The meeting tonight is for students chosen by the CIA for interviewing," Hilson said. "It is to inform the students about the CIA and help them to be better prepared for their interviews," he added.

Kenan said the Radical Student Union plans to have members protest the interviews tomorrow.

"We will be protesting the actual interviews on Friday. It will be a peaceful demonstration; we do not want to engage in violent behavior," Kenan said.

If the protesters are told to leave the scene or face arrest, Kenan said he and other protesters are prepared to be arrested.

"We shouldn't have a problem. The First Amendment protects the people's right to oppose the government; the First Amendment does not protect the government's right to oppose the people," Kenan said.

Benedict said he does not expect any trouble Friday during the interviews, but that the protest will not be allowed to interfere with interviews.

"Protesting the CIA on campus is understandable and groups and individuals have the right to their view, but we will not allow the violation of the rights of the students being interviewed," Benedict said.

"I will personally be there to see how things run, and hopefully everything will be low key without any real trouble," he said.