

Demonstration prevents CIA session

By CRAIG SANDLER
Collegian Staff

The appearance of a CIA recruiter at the University of Massachusetts Career Center was cancelled yesterday after an anti-CIA demonstration prompted security officials to close off the center. That apparently caused the cancellation because the recruiter was unable to enter the building.

University Placement Service director Arthur Hilson said, "He came and couldn't get in. The building was under siege. The protesters won out."

Hilson said that interviews with prospective CIA employees would be held at the center today as planned, and some students said they were willing to risk arrest in today's planned protest.

The accounts of officials and students involved indicated that the official, who was due to arrive at the center at about 5 p.m., tried to enter the building but was turned away by police inside.

He apparently called University officials in the center to say he couldn't get in at about the same time that Vice-Chancellor Larry Benedict was telling demonstrators outside the event had been cancelled because the recruiter could not be located.

Benedict later said that Hilson told the recruiter the session was called off.

The police barred demonstrators, would-be CIA agents, reporters and Dean of Students William Field from entering the building, opening the doors only to let people leave.

At about 4:15, nine students entered the center, planning to make a "citizens arrest" of the recruiter, protest leaders said.

When more protesters arrived at about 5:15, intending to join those students, they found the doors to the center locked. A man inside indicated no one could enter. The protesters could be seen inside, talking to officials.



COLLESIAN
P. 1

A protester in front of the University Career Center last night.

Collegian photo by Nick Sokoloff

As the crowd swelled in the bitter cold outside the center, protesters began chanting, "USA, CIA, out of Nicaragua" and other anti-CIA slogans.

At about 5:30, a contingent of students in favor of the recruitment drive arrived, and heated arguments started on the steps of the building.

As protesters sang "We Shall Overcome," the pro-CIA faction interjected, "the Soviets."

The two groups stood facing each other in front of the building for a time, 70 CIA protesters squaring off against 15 CIA supporters, then the protesters circled the building, pounding on windows and doors as they chanted, "hey, hey, CIA, how many kids did you kill today?"

Loud cheers met Benedict's announcement that the session was cancelled, and protesters filed away from the building, vowing to return this morning during the slated

interviews.

Chancellor Joseph D. Duffey said he understood that many in the UMass community "share the outrage that people feel about the role of the CIA in Nicaragua," where it has been helping rebels fighting the Sandinista government.

But, he said, most people at UMass would probably not support "this kind of moral bullying that stops other people from learning about a career. It is a kind of arrogance."

Several students said they were angry and disappointed about losing the chance to meet with the recruiter. "It's not as if you can go to the library and look up the CIA like it was Digital [Corp., a computer maker]," said Maria Scott, a CIA prospect.

But, said protester Barry Lefsky, "We're out here because we don't think brutal murderers should be on campus recruiting."