

Abbie Hoffman coming Monday to join protesters against CIA

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Abbie Hoffman, the 1960s counter-culture folk hero, will come to the University Monday to join a student protest against the administration's stance on CIA recruiting on campus, members of the Radical Student Union said yesterday.

Members of the group said Hoffman called them Wednesday and offered to run a workshop for student activists and expressed interest in speaking at a rally sponsored in part by RSU.

Administrators said Tuesday they would not grant student demands that organizations found in violation of international law be banned from recruiting

at UMass, that 11 protesters arrested a week ago not be subject to University discipline, and that administrators revise the UMass Picketing Code with student input.

The administration is reviewing those demands, and RSU members said it would issue a statement on the matter today.

Hoffman was a leader of the protest against the war in Vietnam. He reached the height of his fame as a member of the "Chicago 11," who were convicted of violating a federal law that prohibits transporting people across state lines to incite violence. The charges stemmed from the 1968 police/demonstrator clashes at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

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Sarah Bush, an RSU organizer, said of Hoffman's planned visit, "It's great. It's going to help us a lot."

Member Debbie Cohen took Hoffman's call Wednesday.

"He just said, 'Hi, this is Abbie Hoffman. Do you know who I am?' Cohen said. "He said he was very impressed with the way we've been handling this [protest]. He is interested in turning this into a large-scale movement on campus all over the country."

She added that Hoffman requested more information on what the protesters have been doing and told her, "I'll be a soldier in your army. You give the orders and I will obey."

Group member Gregory John Fink said he was excited about Hoffman coming. Citing restrictions on the UMass Picketing Code and the removal of the Legal Services Office's right to sue the University, and attempts to lessen student control over student funds, Fink said, "I think we've seen the rights students won in the sixties being consistently taken back.

"We're not going to put up with it any more," he said.