

Students: Banning CIA limits freedom of choice

By ANN BRITTON
Collegian Staff

Some University of Massachusetts students think the recent protests have disrupted campus business, and of the 12 people surveyed, 11 said the CIA should be allowed to recruit on campus because students are capable of making their own decisions.

Senior chemical engineering major Brad Smith said, "I think it [protesting] is kind of silly. Protesting is fine but it can be abused, just like alcohol can be abused."



Hollis Harrington



Art Nelson

"I don't agree with what the CIA is doing in other countries, but I don't think we should protest their recruitment," Smith said.

Sophomore political science major John Spence said, "The CIA is just like any other organization that people can work for and the protesters are denying people the right to make a responsible decision.

"They are saying the average UMass student can't judge for himself who he wants to work for," Spence said.

Sophomore journalism major Phil MacNamara said, "I think nothing will

be accomplished by it [the protesting]."

"I don't think people should be picketing in front of Whitmore disrupting normal business," he said.

"I don't see why they have to make it such a big deal, they are at school to go to classes," said sophomore history major Hollis Harrington.

"I side with the freedom of speech people," Harrington said.

Sophomore Frances Edwards said, "I think everyone has made their point, and it's getting to be a hassle. They are getting in the way now.

"I'm not saying I like the



Ed Robinson

Collegian photos by Paul Desmarais



Brad Smith

CIA, but I think they should be able to come here for those who want to listen to them," Edwards said.

Graduate student Ed Robinson said, "I'd like to see a lot more people getting involved in the protest and I'd like to see the administration reconsider it's position, which I consider to be hard-line."

"It isn't a free speech issue, the CIA itself doesn't believe in free speech," Robinson said.

Junior English major Sean Vitali said, "I think it's pretty healthy. It's good to get pissed off every once in

a while.

"I don't believe in the obstruction of free speech," Vitali said. "It doesn't bother me that the CIA comes on our campus."

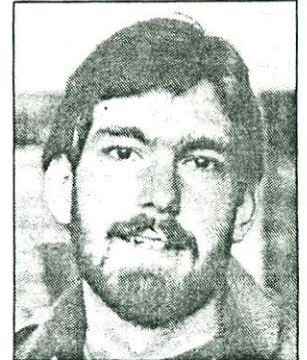
Sophomore journalism major Jessica Alfaro said, "I think it's sort of silly. Some of the protesters aren't even from UMass. They [the protesters] are making everything complicated."

Senior economics major Art Nelson said, "I don't mind people protesting, but I feel there are more important issues than whether the CIA comes here."

"I didn't see anything like this when Yancey Robinson



Frances Edwards



John Spence

was beaten up in Southwest," Nelson said, adding, "this is such a trivial issue."

Sophomore mechanical engineering major John Pierce said, "I feel that it's great that they can protest, but cutting people off from freedom of information and being able to talk to the recruiter is contrary to what they want."

Freshman pre-business major Cheryl Parker said, "It's freedom of speech and they [the protesters] should be allowed to show how they feel, but they're cutting people off from being able to choose what they want to do."