

## *Expressing solidarity*

We, the undersigned members of Faculty and Staff for Peace in Central America and other interested faculty and staff, would like to express solidarity with students protesting the presence of CIA recruiters on campus. They have raised important issues and provoked response from all sides. For this we are grateful. The presence of CIA recruiters should not pass quietly, nor should the cooperation of the University in their efforts. The issues are before us. What is the CIA? Should it or organizations like it be able to use University facilities to promote their activities? Are basic rights and freedoms being violated by obstructive protests?

Many believe the CIA is a legitimate government intelligence agency that sometimes oversteps its proper role of gathering information to engage in counterinsurgency or military activity in pursuit of US foreign policy objectives. We believe this is inaccurate. The CIA, though charged to gather intelligence, has become a propaganda and military force, unaccountable to the American people, with its own foreign policy objectives. It disdains Congressional oversight and promotes right-wing causes by any means, terrorizing civilian populations, overthrowing governments, and conducts bombings and assassinations. The illegal activities of the CIA since the days of Vietnam are well documented. There is no place for this CIA in a democratic society.

This is *not* a freedom of speech issue. Members of the CIA, invited to speak here in support of its activities, have every right to do so. We welcome the opportunity to hear and debate them. We uphold the principle of free speech, even for people who advocate illegal or immoral acts. Recruitment is the issue. We strongly believe that the University has a responsibility to know to whom it opens its doors. It has already accepted this by restricting recruitment to employers without an Affirmative Action policy. It should also bar organizations which violate the law. University complicity is the issue.

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*p. 7*