

Point of View

# Like Seeing Nazis

As one of the Stony Brook students involved in the threatened demonstration against the CIA last Wednesday, I reply to the "Press" condemnation of our actions.

I and my fellow students strongly believe in "academic freedom." Is the fact that we planned to sit in against the CIA a contradiction? I don't think so. Before Wednesday, the administration called the CIA and asked if they would bring a speaker with the recruiter. They replied this was not their policy. At many universities they have been offered time and facilities to hold forums, but they have never shown any interest. It is important to ask why the CIA will not exercise its freedom of speech, but prefer only to hold secret interviews. Are they attempting to hide something which might come out in a forum?

Secondly, we do not believe recruitment is a traditional academic right. To recruit on campus is not a right, but a convenience offered by the university. If recruitment is to become a "right," it must be one given to all students, which means any organization should be allowed to recruit on campus upon the request of students. This includes the Communist Party, the Progressive Labor Party, and the Ku Klux Klan.

We have made no exorbitant demands to the university, as The "Press" seems to think. We have not demanded the CIA and Dow Chemical be barred from the university, but merely that recruitment be truly open. Any civil disobedience is apart from these demands, and goes beyond the recruitment question. We will sit in against various organizations not because we feel the administration should bend to our desires, but because our consciences will not permit us to see such malignant organizations on campus without protesting. It is perhaps the same feeling Negroes in the civil right's movement felt when they saw segregated public facilities, or the feeling of Jews in the Warsaw ghetto on seeing the Nazis in operation. We are not irresponsible; we understand the consequences for our action and are willing to accept them. Who is so self-righteous and sure of right and wrong that he may say unhesitatingly our actions are morally unjustified?

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