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CIA recruiting effort target of protest by Rutgers students

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NEW BRUNSWICK — Recruiters from the Central Intelligence Agency were greeted with chants of protest yesterday as they arrived at Rutgers University to interview more than 100 students for agency positions.

Despite the falling snow and the small size of their group, 25 students, professors and city residents were vocal in their protest against the agency's on-campus presence, shouting chants like "Rain, hail, sleet, snow, CIA has got to go!"

One man, Terrence Coles, 23, was charged with disorderly conduct and defiant trespass for hammering on a glass panel with his fist, according to a campus spokeswoman. Coles, a Princeton student, was released on his own recognizance.

The protest was a joint action by The Peace Center of Central Jersey and the state chapter of The National Pledge of Resistance.

Security was heavy both inside and outside the university's College Center as the 110 students, who had earlier signed up for interviews with the agency, arrived for a 45-minute presentation and a 15-minute recruiting film.

Some of the students, dressed in business attire, seemed nervous as they entered the center to be checked off against an already-prepared list. They were then issued special passes to the second-floor meeting room.

Two women seniors, who would identify themselves only as an economics major and an accounting economics major, said they had come simply to investigate the career possibilities.

Robert Ochs, assistant vice president for public safety, said the demonstrators would not be allowed to enter the building as a group, but denied that any special precautions had been instituted for the occasion.

"The university encourages and permits peaceful demonstrations whatever the group," Ochs said.

Nancy Richards, dean of students for Douglass College and a 19-year veteran of campus life, said the university tends to look on student expressions of opinion as a very important right.

Joan Driscoll, coordinator of The Peace Center of Central Jersey, and another student who were protesting in the corridor outside the meeting room were ejected by security personnel.

Despite the ejection, the protesters were steadfast in their stance.

"The hand of the CIA has fallen like a curse all over the world," said John McClure, assistant professor of English at the University.

McClure, who identified himself as New Jersey coordinator of National Pledge of Resistance, said the organization has some 60,000 members nationwide. He added the group is a result of legal rights actions begun some time ago by Roman Catholic and Protestant churches in the United States.

Terry Matilsky, a physics professor at the University, also addressed the protesters and condemned CIA activities.

Matilsky said he has been protesting "this kind of thing for 20 years." He said he had protested against the Vietnam War, the nuclear bomb and South Africa.