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No more CIA protests

Editor:

I am a student on the Boulder campus of the University of Colorado, and I consider myself to be a serious student. As such, I am absolutely appalled at the story that appeared in both the Colorado Daily and the Boulder Daily Camera concerning the protest group Community in Action and the CIA.

This protest group is promising intensified demonstrations this fall unless the University submits to their demands. I find this ultimatum by the protest group to be not simply out of line, but I find it to be outrageous and an affront to everyone's rights except theirs, of course — as well. Their demands are equally absurd.

As a student on this campus, I have a right to go to an interview on this campus with any company that I choose. Conversely, I expect that any company that so chooses has a right to conduct interviews on this campus. To interfere with either of these is to deny constitutionally guaranteed rights. In their zeal, this protest group has conveniently forgotten that others have rights, too.

This matter is further complicated by the fact that I work in Willard Hall, where the interviews take place. Last year I was forced to listen to their mindless chanting and continued interference with the normal routine of University business, including significant business that had nothing to do with the CIA interviews. I found this to be extremely repugnant as well as an interference with the rights of any student that had to or wanted to conduct business in any section of Willard Hall. University business just about ceased for those two or three days last year. This must not be allowed again this year.

I can't help but feel that this obnoxious group is back again this year, promising intensified protests, because of their treatment — or lack thereof — by the campus police department. I sat in my office for three days last year and observed how our police department made a joke and a party out of the protestors' arrests.

It was not comical; rather it was a tragic debasement of what should have been a response by a law enforcement agency to criminal activity. The police department and the court made a travesty of the criminal justice system. The protestors were greatly encouraged by the police action, and their actions were enforced rather than discouraged. This is evident by their disgusting return.

I strongly suggest a more appropriate response to their criminal activity this year. If this group wants to challenge the activities of the CIA, they should do so in a manner that would not obstruct the rights of others.

I welcome the CIA to interview on this campus, and I encourage any student who so desires to interview with them. If anything, this protest group should be banned from campus because of its wholesale encroachment on the rights of others.

WILLIAM M. SCHOEWE
1189-B Monroe Drive