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Let the CIA interview

IT WAS QUITE a show in front of the Law Quad yesterday. More than 100 protesters, gathered to oppose the presence of a Central Intelligence Agency recruiter on campus, battled strains of "The Star Spangled Banner" blaring from a nearby fraternity.

The protesters were disgusted that the same agency that has overthrown governments in Iran, Chile, and Guatemala and trained secret police around the world in torture techniques was on campus trying to attract University law students to its ranks.

Certainly the protesters had a point—the CIA, with hundreds of indiscretions and atrocities to its credit, does not appear to represent the type of career for which University students should be striving. Indeed, we recall the unpleasant time less than a decade ago when the CIA apparently used University professors to encourage students to join the Agency.

Yet, for all its heinous activities, the CIA should be allowed to conduct job

interviews on campus.

The University thrives because it is an open forum for ideas. The very nature of this community, then, demands that any individual or group be permitted to have its say, stage its demonstration, or try to recruit members to its side.

We have a fundamental trust in the abilities of members of the University community to think for themselves and choose those organizations to which they will listen.

That magic gift of discretion is what keeps the Ku Klux Klan or the neo-Nazis from establishing any constituency in our community. And it is what provided the CIA recruiter with only a dozen prospective employees yesterday.

We have reached a sorry state indeed when we no longer trust ourselves to discern right from wrong and must restrict certain organizations from interviewing on campus.