

LANTERN
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'Violent' should describe weather

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Man has often resorted to violence to bring about certain personal or societal changes.

Early on, one learns through fairy tales that violence is permissible when used to slay dragons and evil knights, and thus facilitate the rescue of the damsel in distress.

One learns too — from Hansel and Gretel — that if a wicked witch is keeping you against your will in a gingerbread house, you are permitted to violently kick her into a hot oven and make your escape.

But at the same time, most of us also are taught that while some people in real life are violent, we would be better off using the word 'violent' only to describe certain weather conditions.

Brigade actions were to make people think

Tuesday morning, however, the violent actions of members of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade against a CIA recruiter, here on campus, have caused a controversy that will remain in the air for some time.

The brigade picketed Hitchcock Hall — where the recruiter was interviewing students — to protest against capitalism and the CIA's presence on campus and in Iran.

At the climax of the protest, red paint, symbolizing the "blood of people around the world," was hurled on the recruiter. Papers, desks, walls and several bystanders were also splattered. The recruiter was escorted from the campus by police.

The CIA has had a long history of recruiting at universities across the country. Often, professors and other students, working undercover for the agency, spotted students who seemed likely candidates for the CIA and submitted the student's name for investigation as a possible employee. During this process, the student being investigated had no idea of what was going on.

A Select U.S. Senate Committee found that such covert practices have existed at over 100 universities in the country.

While some universities are asking faculty members to divulge information of involvement with the CIA, Ohio State has taken no action on the situation.

While no definite proof of such practices exist at Ohio State, one wonders why the university has not taken steps to prove otherwise.

And since the university has made no moves to limit CIA activities, one brigade member feels that it is up to their group to "run the CIA off campus," whether the recruiting is covert, or open and above board, as was the recruiting done Tuesday.

According to George Preston, an ex-marine and treasurer for the organization, the actions by the group Tuesday were to make people think.

"Very few students are sitting on the fence now. We've been leafletting on the Oval and have found that people are either for us or against us," Preston said.

While few students may be sitting on the fence, even fewer seem to be taking up red banners and singing songs of comradeship as they change classes.

Too many students still believe in the 'American Dream,' but according to Preston, because of capitalism, the 'American Dream' has turned to ashes.

Preston compares the attitudes of students today with those of students in 1962.

"Students aren't conscious. You can tell by the way they don't vote," he said.

"The only difference is that when unrest occurred later in the sixties, students weren't organized. Now we are," he said.

Preston insists that the CIA has no

right to be on campus. It does not matter that the agency is open about its presence and students are willingly signing up for interviews.

Brigade members say that the CIA's involvement in Chile, Iran and other countries must be ended. And the only way, they believe, is through violence.

According to Preston, support for the group numbers in the hundreds. This may be true, but with only 10 active members in the group, it may also be true that the Oval is actually situated in the middle of Lake Erie.

Some students may believe in the group's ideas, but violent tactics have alienated many. And according to Preston, the paint-throwing incident was mild.

Covert practices exist on over 100 campuses

"Ask any Iranian student what he would have done if he had gotten that close to a CIA agent," he said.

Indeed, an Iranian student may have done a bit more than toss a bit of paint. But red paint looks better on barns than people, and everyone would be better off if the word 'violent' were used only to describe certain weather conditions, and not human actions.

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