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FILE ONLY

# CIA campus recruiting brings pro

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Fewer than two dozen students listened to an even smaller group of protesters express their opposition to the visit of a federal Central Intelligence Agency recruiter Tuesday at Western Michigan University.

Grassroots, a student organization, sponsored the anti-CIA rally in front of WMU's Bernhard Student Center.

Eight protesters clutching signs stood in front of the student center, while about 20 other students listened — although half of them were standing in line at an automatic bank teller machine.

According to one of the protesters, the crowd doubled during the later stages of the rally.

The visit of CIA personnel recruiter Roger Andrews of Cincinnati was confirmed by an official in WMU's placement services office who asked that his name not be used. The school official denied requests from a Kalamazoo Gazette reporter to interview Andrews or any of the students who met with Andrews.

A United States governmental agency, the CIA collects political, economic and military information from other countries and evaluates it for other U.S. agencies. It also conducts activities to protect the nation's security.

At the rally, Grassroots spokesman Bruce Jacob said, "The reason we're here is because the CIA is recruiting on campus and we need to expose the crimes of the CIA around the world."

Jacob, a WMU graduate student, said the CIA's support of the Contra rebels in Nicaragua is being funded by U.S. tax dollars — something he is against.

Disappointed by the size of the rally, Jacob attributed the meager turnout to bad weather and the public's ignorance on the issues because of the national news media's poor coverage of CIA activities.

"There should be hundreds of students out here," said Jess Reaser, another WMU student.

Reaser said some of Western's foreign students have told him they are surprised that WMU students are not as involved with issues here, unlike their counterparts in South Africa and Central America.

"It's important that students stay aware of this stuff," Reaser said.

One of those at the rally was Camillus Dufresne, a Catholic brother of the Community of Christian Brothers, who held a sign that read: "Your tax dollars support murder, rape and torture in Central America. Stop the CIA."

A retired vice president of a college in Memphis, Tenn., which is run by his order, Dufresne works in Nicaragua with an ecumenical group concerned with literacy and health problems of Salvadorans in Nicaragua.

Dufresne, who is on a public speaking tour in the United States, said the CIA is "immoral and undemocratic" and its basic principles are no different than those of the KGB in Russia.

Besides teaching terrorist tactics to the Contras, the CIA has also sponsored military coups, assassinations and has distributed misinformation to the news media, Dufresne said.

Another speaker at the rally, the Rev. Don VanHoeven, a Reformed Church in America campus minister at WMU, who has visited Nicaragua, said, "I'm here as a Christian."

VanHoeven said, it's a "sin" that the CIA would be on campus urging students to participate in a "training program of death and destruction against a sovereign nation (Nicaragua) of innocent people."

"The work of the CIA has gone wild — it has gone out of control," he said, referring to their involvement in several other countries throughout the world.

VanHoeven asked for people to join him in requesting that the government disband the CIA.

Don Cooney, a WMU associate professor, said, "We're saying what the CIA is doing is against the principles of humanity and the Constitution."

The rally was also timely since Eugene Hasenfus, an ex-Marine who once flew for Air America, a CIA-operated airline in Vietnam, was captured in Nicaragua after his arms-loaded plane was downed Oct. 5 by a Nicaraguan missile. Vice president George Bush has been linked to overseeing the Contra air supply operation — something that he has denied.

One student attending the rally, Cindy Hooper, a junior at WMU, believes Hasenfus had a CIA connection. "I don't believe everything the government says," she said.

Grassroots also will be sponsoring a video tape and discussion about David McMichael, a former CIA analyst, called, "The CIA in El Salvador and Nicaragua," at 7 p.m. Sunday at St. Aidan's Chapel. The chapel is located on the corner of Gilkison Avenue and Wilbur Street off campus near the Sindecuse Health Center.

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