

Both Sides of the Story

The recent protests on campus have distinctly verbalized the misunderstandings regarding the peace movement as well as the underlying naivete of the demonstrators.

The original avowed intent of the demonstrators was to keep recruiters from using the Monmouth campus. A second suggestion was to hold the military to the same conditions that bind professional recruiters on campus if they were to be allowed here.

What the protestors did not find out, or what they refused to recognize at first was that the men on campus had no recruiting powers and were only here to inform the students of their program, not recruit them.

We find no fault with the motives of the peaceniks, but rather question why they chose to confuse the many issues at hand.

If the main reason for the demonstration was to protest the war, then by all means protest the war. If the intent is honest, then why disguise it? An anti-war protest is valid; a protest against recruiters that just are not there is ridiculous.

Many of those people who were ostensibly pro-war resorted to needless provocation and numerous unpleasanties. Both sides have their right to be heard. Just as the anti-war people have an obligation to allow information seekers to speak to the military, so do the pro-war students have the obligation to allow those at the peace table to enter into legitimate debate or conversation with others.

If the free speech that we all cry for is to be realized throughout the world, then perhaps we should exercise a little maturity and restraint here and give the opposition a chance to speak.