

What can we do now at the University of Iowa?

Now that the Solomon Amendment has been upheld by the Supreme Court, many wonder what we can do about military recruiting on our campus. UIAC still believes that there should be no place allowed for military recruitment in schools, but while we work toward that goal, our editorial argues that the UI administration should allow students and counter-recruiters free speech rights and equal access on the issue by taking the following actions:

- **Regularly inform all students that the military discriminates against gays and lesbians.**
- **Encourage discrimination victims to file complaints** with the Human Rights Committee.
- **Require recruiters to request in advance the dates and times for their campus visits.**
- **Post information about recruiter visits** on the UI website to notify counter-recruiters of their presence.
- **Grant counter-recruiters equal access** to information booths next to recruiters so that their lies can be countered and alternatives suggested to potential enlistees.

Please sign our petition to voice your support for these demands.

COLLEGE
NOT
COMBAT

**Beyond the Supreme
Court and Solomon**

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On Monday 6 March, the Supreme Court ruled that colleges that accept federal money must allow military recruiters on campus, despite university objections to the military's discrimination against gays and lesbians.

When this case went before the Court last semester, the UI Antiwar Committee presented to then-President David Skorton petitions containing the signatures of over 500 students, faculty, staff, and community members. The petitions called on the administration to bar military recruiters and programs from campus because they violate the university's nondiscrimination statement and human rights policy. Skorton's eventual response didn't address this issue. Instead, he cited the military's right to free speech and left it at that.

We believe in free speech. We even think it would be nice if this right were extended to active-duty military personnel. But we question whether free speech includes the right to lie and coerce.

Recent reports have exposed the unethical and illegal tactics used by recruiters, who often lie about job duties and opportunities, the ease with which enlistees can leave or receive college assistance, and where they will be stationed. Recruiters have coached enlistees on how to pass drug tests, lie about health conditions, and fake high school diplomas. One recruiter even kidnapped an 18-year-old to try to force him to enlist.

We continue to question why the military's right to free speech trumps individuals' right to share their lives with whomever they choose. We defend the right of gays and lesbians to be in the military even as we work to stop the war because both

positions promote respect for human life—the former by respecting individuals' sexual orientation, the latter by helping to end the carnage of a war based on lies.

Both the war and the UI's decision to aid and abet the military sprang from economic motives. The armed forces are being used to fight a war to solidify US control over the oil-rich Middle-East and ensure US dominance over other major powers that have a growing need for energy. Meanwhile, the UI granted access to recruiters not so much to promote free speech, but in order to safeguard its federal funds. It's not the principle of the thing, it's the money.

The UI can now fall back on the Supreme Court's ruling as its excuse for hosting recruiters. But if the UI administration really supports human rights, it should take the following steps:

- ***Follow the lead of the College of Law in regularly informing all students that the military discriminates against gays and lesbians***
- ***Encourage discrimination victims to file complaints with the Human Rights Committee.***
- ***Require recruiters to request in advance the dates and times for their campus visits***
- ***Post information about these visits on the UI website to notify counter-recruiters of their presence.***
- ***Grant counter-recruiters equal access to information booths next to recruiters so that their lies can be countered and alternatives suggested to potential enlistees.***

None of these steps would violate the Solomon Amendment, and all of them would promote both free speech *and* respect for human rights on campus.

Across the US, people are waging campaigns to demilitarize schools. We endorse this effort as part of the broader antiwar movement. But let us be clear: we oppose the presence of the military in schools, not individual enlistees.

The individuals recruited to fight this war are our friends, family members, classmates, and colleagues. Many enlist because they can't afford college or find decent jobs. Instead of sending them to maim and kill—and to be maimed and killed themselves—we should consider what the war's \$250 billion cost could have bought in college tuition and other social goods. (costofwar.com.)

Our schools should do all they can to resist recruiting students into an organization that discriminates and lies, sexually harasses and assaults women, and channels vast resources into an unjust war. We must oppose the militarization of our schools and support college, not combat.

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