Who should make the decisions about "baby-killers"?

The most beautiful part of the year is about to start. The first buds are out on the trees in the Senior House courtyard, the sun is out after 6pm, and the "baby-killer" season is over at The Tech. I should explain. Anyone who reads The Tech has seen the ads for military-industrial complex companies, sporting huge phallic missiles and promising a challenge to bright young MIT-trained engineers who sign up with them. Around the office, they are called baby-killer ads.

Lots of people are upset by the fact that The Tech carries these ads. Personally, I don't like what they represent, but I don't agree with people who suggest that we censor them.

My basic assumption is that members of this community are capable of making decisions for themselves. This includes the decisions on whether war is good or bad, and whether adding their expertise to the development of weapons systems will help or hurt them, their country, and the world as a whole.

This doesn't mean that I don't get angry when I find yet another ROTC mailing cluttering up my mailbox, courtesy of Lance-supplied mailing lists. But all I have to do is crumple it up and heave it into the wastebasket in the hallway, adding to the dozens that already there.

There are cases where I don't agree at all with military advertising. I recently saw a few issues of a newspaper called the High School Times. It is distributed to 30,000 local high school students, and is written entirely by high school students.

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