

CIA protester found guilty on assault and battery charge

By DON LIPPER
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NORTHAMPTON — A University of Massachusetts sophomore was found guilty last night on two counts of assault and battery of a police officer and one count of disorderly conduct. Jonathan D. Rising, 23, was given a 6-month suspended sentence and ordered to spend 10 days in Hampden County Jail.

Judge Edward Shey of Hampshire District Court dismissed defense assertions that Rising was acting in self-defense when he bit the finger of David Standen, one of three University police officers pinning him to the ground during an anti-CIA protest. Police officers said they were using "a minimal amount of force" to arrest Rising. Several witnesses said they saw police kicking Rising as he lay curled passively in the fetal position.

Rising was arrested in connection with the November 24, student protest and occupation of Munson Hall. Initially one of the students occupying the administrative building, Rising left Munson when police

told students that anyone remaining would be arrested. Rising then joined a group of about 30 students sitting in front of the school buses containing those arrested, blocking the exit route of the buses.

When state police, wearing riot gear, moved in a wedge formation to pave a way for the buses, Rising was among seven seated students arrested by University police.

According to University police, Rising elbowed officer James P. Turati in the face "splitting open the lower lip" and causing what Turati called "extensive damage to my left shoulder and neck area." Turati said his injuries kept him out of work for 10 weeks and said he is receiving extensive physical therapy at University Health Services.

Rising said he just tried to protect himself as passively as possible: "The reason I left (Munson) was because I didn't want to get arrested."

He then joined the protesters sitting in front of the buses. "Without any kind of warning (the University police) started in

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and began grabbing people. As soon as I was on the ground, an officer dropped down and kneed me in the groin. Then I just curled up into a ball.

I felt blows to my legs and back. They were pulling on my arms. They jabbed my ribs with a nightstick. And one of them started pulling on my face. It scared me.

I thought he was going to break my neck. So when a finger went into my mouth, I was scared so I bit it. I was in a state of panic. Then one

of them said "That bastard bit me, that's assault and battery of a police officer. You're under arrest."

Rising is appealing the verdict.