

CIA guilty as charged

The Silent Majority has spoken. The CIA has been found guilty.

A jury of middle Americans, none under the age of thirty, has studied the facts and decided that the students who took over Munson Hall to protest CIA recruitment committed no crime. After a week of testimony and deliberation, this impartial panel ruled that occupying the building and blocking the buses carrying those arrested paled in comparison with the greater crimes of the CIA. A stronger indictment of the spy agency would be hard to imagine.

Think of it — these were men and women who came to the case with no acknowledged preconceptions, who were approved by the prosecution, and who had a unique opportunity to decide if the charges of CIA murder, rape and torture were exaggerated rhetoric by left-wingers or an indication that something is seriously wrong with US intelligence policy.

They listened to the experts, weighed what they had heard, and issued the firm statement that the CIA's activities are immoral to the point that breaking the law is justified to stop them.

The defendants — especially the UMass students — deserve the gratitude of the campus community. They put their necks on the line to stop what they saw as a wrong practiced by the administration: allowing the CIA to recruit in violation of a policy that states only law-abiding organizations can recruit here. Like other patriots, they took a big risk in the fight for what they saw as right. They have now been completely vindicated.

It is now for administrators to acknowledge the impartial fact-finding of the jury and ban the CIA from recruiting here until such time as the agency does abide by the Constitution and the law of the land.

By acting decisively to bar the agency, administrators can ensure the courageous civil disobedience of the Munson protestors bears fruit. The administrators can atone for the fact that they were on the wrong side of a good cause.

The jurors during the trial came to know more about CIA crimes than administrators, and were in a better position than the administration to judge whether it was wrong to stop the CIA from coming here. They convincingly affirmed that present UMass policy on CIA recruitment is wrong, and that resisting it is acceptable.

Again, to the defendants: congratulations and thank you.

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Collegian board of editors

COLLEGIAN 7.7 4.17-84