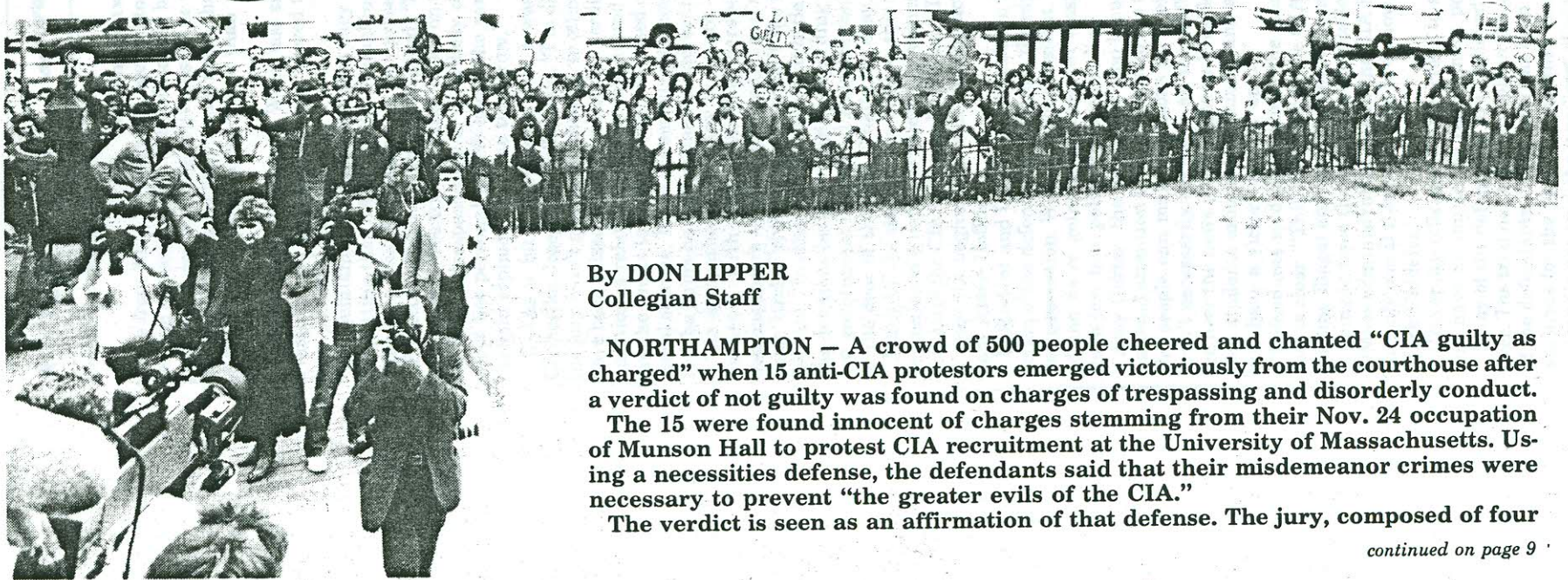


# Munson 15 trial verdict: not guilty on all charges



By DON LIPPER  
Collegian Staff

**NORTHAMPTON —** A crowd of 500 people cheered and chanted "CIA guilty as charged" when 15 anti-CIA protestors emerged victoriously from the courthouse after a verdict of not guilty was found on charges of trespassing and disorderly conduct.

The 15 were found innocent of charges stemming from their Nov. 24 occupation of Munson Hall to protest CIA recruitment at the University of Massachusetts. Using a necessities defense, the defendants said that their misdemeanor crimes were necessary to prevent "the greater evils of the CIA."

The verdict is seen as an affirmation of that defense. The jury, composed of four

*continued on page 9*

Collegian photo by Byrne Guarnotta

COLLEGIAN P. 1

APR 10 1972  
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS  
LIBRARY



continued from page 1

women and two men ranging in age from 30 to 77 years old, seemed to agree with the defense's assertion that the defendants had a legitimate purpose for opposing the activities of the CIA. Under the doctrine of necessity that would mean that the activities of the CIA are considered worse than a misdemeanor offense.

Defense attorney Leonard Weinglass said, "With such a mainstream jury, that they delivered this verdict is a very powerful statement."

The jubilant defendants said that they were successful in "putting the CIA on trial." Weinglass told the crowd "this case wasn't defended, it was prosecuted."

Prosecutor Dinane Fernald disagreed. "The CIA was not on trial here. We tried the case based on the simple facts we had for trespassing and disorderly conduct." Asked about her personal beliefs about the case and the CIA, Fernald replied: "Ask me tomorrow."

"I was a bit disappointed but I wasn't surprised," Chancellor Joseph D. Duffey said. "I'm disappointed that the jury didn't give some thought to other questions that have been raised. Such as what this verdict implies to the question of relation between means and ends, and what are the limits to what one can do based on their sense of moral outrage. Those are serious questions in a free society. The jurors haven't seemed to address those questions."

"As sympathetic as many of us are — and I'm sympathetic with some of the perspectives of the demonstrators — what occurred, if you're talking about some kind of civic dialogue, wasn't the full story," Duffey said. "In other words, there was little recognition that the decisions being protested regarding the activities of our government in Central America can't be laid simply at the door of the CIA. That's too easy."

Many of the defendants believe this trial marks the beginning of a national student movement protesting the actions of the CIA in Central America. "This isn't the end, it's just the beginning," said veteran activist and defendant Abbie Hoffman.

Defendant and UMass student Jason Pramas said the action of the defendants "destroys the myth of the doomsday generation. We are no longer silent. We are politicized and we're going to go down to Washington to show them just how politicized we are."

Amy Carter, the defendant who brought much of the national attention to this trial, said the trial shows "that the people can make decisions on their own. That we aren't necessarily taking in all the stuff that we're force fed over the news every night by President Reagan. And that students around the country and around the world will have a victory to look up to."

Defendants said they believe the meaning of the verdict is clear. "This means that the CIA is guilty of conducting illegal and immoral acts around the world. This is going to force the trustees, Chancellor Duffey and the UMass administration to ban the CIA from campus. It's the only moral thing for them to do now," said defendant Mark Caldeira.

University officials are reluctant to say if the verdict will have an impact on recruitment policy.

Many of the defendants are "relieved" that the trial is over. The trial has taken its toll on the grades and nerves of the defendants. "This trial has been the only thing in our lives for the past few months," one defendant said.

Amy Carter said she was "sort of sad the whole thing is over and all these people are going away so quickly."