

15 of 35 students for amnesty

Fifteen of 35 students interviewed on city campus this week favored admitting draft dodgers back into the U.S. with total forgiveness.

Nine, however, opposed amnesty while eleven approved President Gerald Ford's recent proposal to let deserters work their way back into the United States through public service programs.

"If Richard M. Nixon can get amnesty, why shouldn't draft dodgers?" asked junior Sal DiLeo.

"I don't even think Ford's program is necessary. These were innocent men who refused to fight a worthless war that took many innocent lives. At least they were honest."

Harbender Singh, graduate student, said he favored unconditional amnesty. "No one should have to serve in the armed forces of any government of any country at any time. Deserters have served humanity by not participating in the barbaric butchery of Asians," he said.

Freshman Bill Jackson said, "If your brother went to Viet Nam and got killed and all of a sudden you see another guy come back from Canada, happily alive—what would you say? I say no amnesty. It's not fair."

Others took more moderate stands. "America is supposed to be a place of free choice," said Dick Rolofson, a sophomore.

"A draft dodger's choice was to leave his country. Now he has to put something back into the country that he took out. I agree with Ford's plan. His policy will do more for the country than forcing them to serve prison terms," Rolofson said.

Freshman Micheal Stutte said, "I can see them coming back to the United States and working—but no less. You see, I was in the service myself. I could have run—but I didn't."

Asked his opinion of amnesty, John Gliagher, a sophomore in the Agriculture College, said, "They shouldn't be allowed back because they had a duty to fulfill and they didn't do it. There were non combative forces in which they could have enlisted, enabling them to get out of killing."

"No, the reason they avoided the draft was that they didn't want to put their time into it," he said. "Deserters expect to live in this country, they expect to reap it's benefits, but when they were called on to serve it—they copped out."

Among the nine persons against amnesty was freshman Dan Kemp, who said, "The precedent it will set will be detrimental to national defense in future conflicts."

Sophomore Cindy Taylor said, "Right now we've an extremely high rate of unemployment and all the veterans are out of work as it is. If we allow the draft dodgers home, they will compete with the veterans for jobs. It is only fair to the vets that we increase their chances of employment rather than lessen them."

"I'm all in favor of amnesty," said Carol Griffith, junior. "I was brought up in the Church of the Brethren, a faith that believes in non cooperation. So I feel the draft dodgers have every right to come back."

"The government has no right to dictate what one should do. It needs to accept conscious and religious affiliations as equally important to the belief that fighting is right."

"We were taught to deal differently with the war," the home economics major continued. "Therefore, the government should realize we are not all brought up in favor of it."

"Draft dodgers are the real heroes of the Viet Nam conflict," said Tim Minnitt, sophomore. "Through their peaceful rebellion, they brought more attention to the idiocy of the situation."

Questions concerning the University may be answered by calling either the University information number, 472-2131, or by calling the University Information Office, formerly the Public Relations Office, 472-2167.

Nancy Ryan, an instructor at Staten Island Community College will give a slide and music presentation on her travels in the People's Republic of China, today at 1 p.m. in the Sheldon Art Gallery Auditorium. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Citizens for Sane Drug Laws, a group supporting the legalization of marijuana, will meet Sunday at 3 p.m. in Peter Pan park, 33rd and W Sts. Contact Jane Higgin, 477-6949.

Sunrise Communications group will meet Sunday at 4:30 p.m. in Peter Pan park.

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