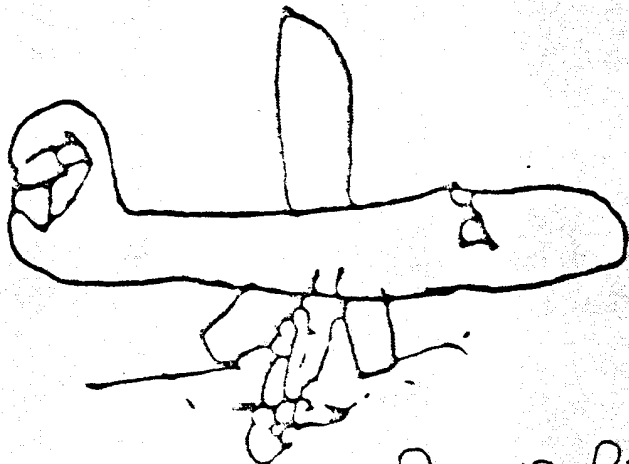


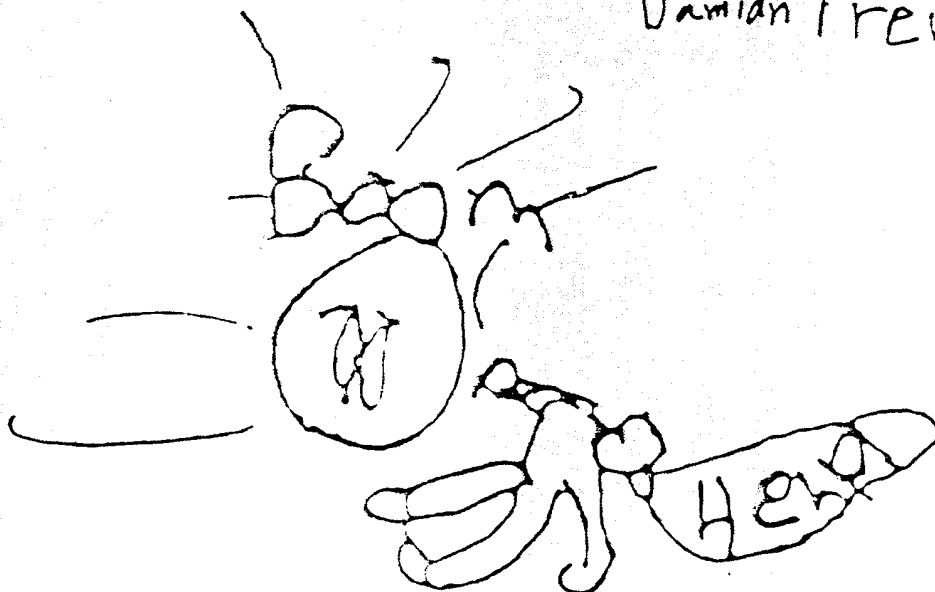
# The New Journal

Volume 16 Number 6

April 20, 1984



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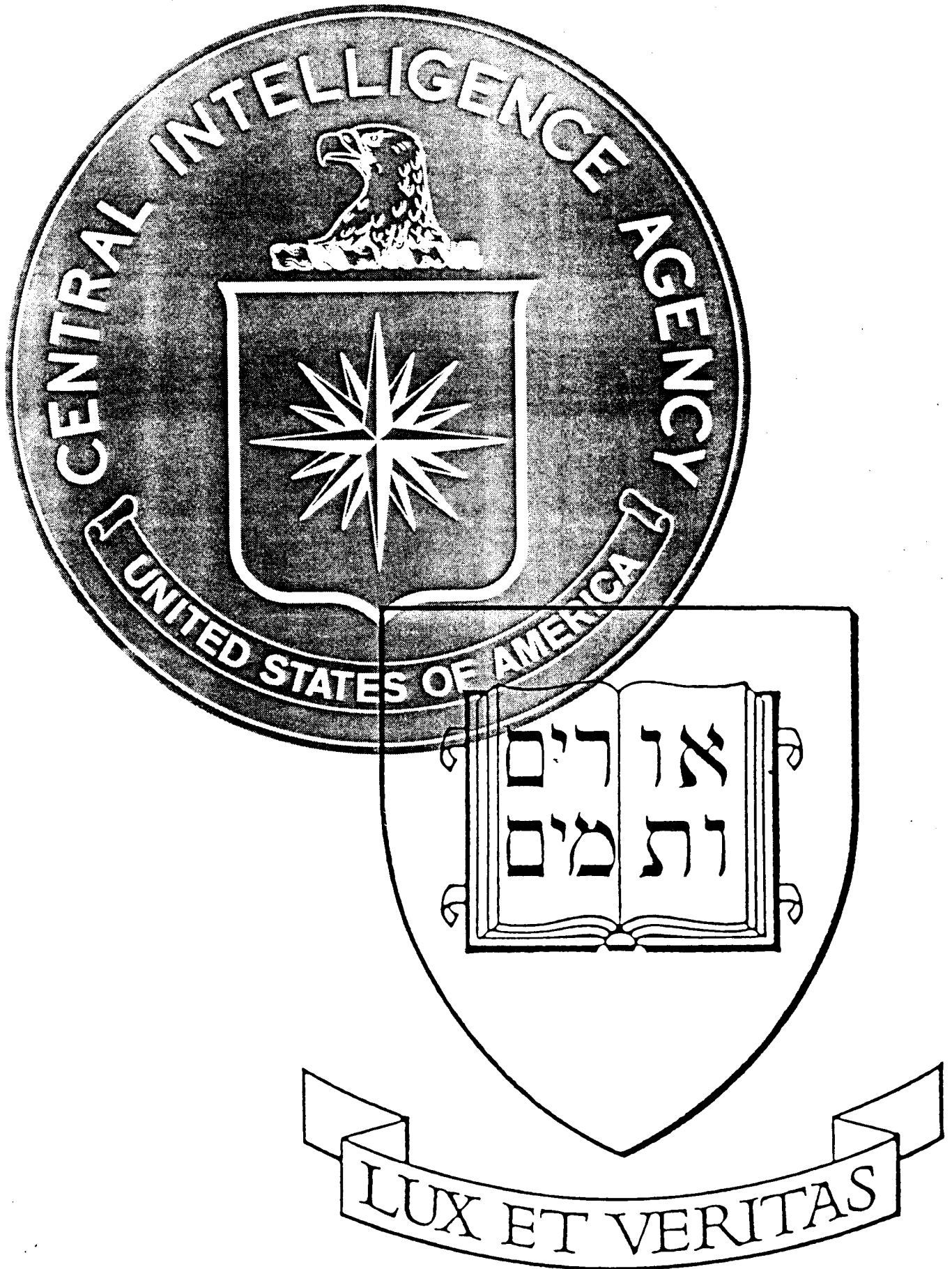
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# The Secret Link

## ch Blow

Kohn came to New Haven this to hire Yale's most talented seniors, and women who were extremely and were proficient in a foreign language, knew how to use a computer and loved their country. In for their skills Kohn could offer careers in one of the world's most powerful institutions. But Kohn does not work for Morgan Stanley, nor are the 40 seniors who heard him talk interested in working on Wall Street. Kohn is a recruiter for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Kohn's visit to Yale is an important part of the CIA's largest recruitment drive in three decades. With the strong support of President Reagan, the Agency is vigorously looking for new recruits and turning to universities across the country to find it. At more than 400 schools nationwide, including the entire Ivy League, the CIA is busily searching for the spies of the '80s. Advertisements can now be found in newspapers and magazines from the East Coast to the *Los Angeles Times* to the *Wall Street Journal*. Applicants are responding: as many as 100 résumés reach the CIA in Washington every week.

Special recruitment is only a recent innovation for the CIA. During its best years the CIA sought its recruits almost entirely from just three sources: Yale, Harvard and Princeton. Graduates in particular would go on to dominate the Agency, giving it a familiar tone of a class reunion. At the formation of the CIA in 1949, Yale's Yalies have found the world of intelligence an exciting alternative to the slower pace of academia or the dangers of front-line fighting. Once established within the CIA, Yale graduates sought out their old friends and invited them to work alongside them, creating a network of Ivy League contacts that would control the Agency for decades.

Gaddis Smith, Larned Professor of History, now says, "Yale influenced the CIA more than any other institution. The Agency was very much an Ivy elite. It was thought of as roman-

tic and mysterious and it attracted the Big Men on Campus."

Some of the names are familiar: William F. Buckley, George Bush, William Sloane Coffin. However, there were many other Yalies who entered the CIA whose names and stories are not so well known. James Angleton, Jack Downey and Richard Bissell were part of this group of men, creating a world of spies where you could still fraternize with your Yale classmates.

James Jesus Angleton '39 was a brilliant but eccentric man. After graduation from Harvard Law School Angleton took the advice of his old English professor at Yale, Norman Holmes Pearson, and joined the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the war-

flushing out Soviet agents, constantly intent on discovering KGB "moles" within the CIA. His critics, however, thought him paranoid (Angleton considered them probable Russian agents) and would by 1974 get him fired, casting Angleton out of the intelligence community.

The habits of a spy are deeply ingrained in Angleton, and he refused to talk about his career when questioned. His speech reflecting a lifetime of suspicion, Angleton would only say, "I've never heard of your magazine. I don't know what political slant you may have, or what you may be trying to prove. And I don't like talking about my personal life. I'm sorry, but that's all I can tell you."

Ex-CIA agent Jack Downey, now

**"Yale influenced the CIA more than any other institution did. The Agency was very much an Ivy elite."**

time predecessor to the CIA. Pearson, himself a former member of the OSS, later said that Angleton took to the intelligence business "like a dog to water."

It was in 1943 that Angleton joined the OSS: by late 1944 he had assumed control of OSS counter-operations against the Axis powers in Italy. For the patriotic 28-year-old, known as "The Poet" because of his fondness for Ezra Pound, it was an astonishingly fast rise to power.

Not surprisingly, Angleton moved on after the war to the CIA, a fledgling organization which desperately needed his expertise, his connections and his natural aptitude for intelligence. In 1951 he created and headed the Agency's counter-intelligence division, the first of its kind in America. For the next quarter-century Angleton would reign as the American master of counter-intelligence, maybe the best at his job in the world. He was obsessed with

Chairman of the Connecticut Public Utility Control Authority and a former candidate for the U.S. Senate, is not so secretive. At Yale Downey was a self-described jock who played on the varsity football, wrestling and rugby teams—as Gaddis Smith put it, a Big Man on Campus. He was an English major who had the bad luck to graduate in 1951 at the height of the Korean War. On the advice of Political Science Professor Arnold Wolfers, Downey attended a CIA recruitment meeting in the spring of his senior year. He still remembers it clearly: "Everyone was looking for the best deal he could get, and the CIA was a glamorous option. Unlike the situation in the Vietnam War, it was taken for granted that you'd serve in some way. It was either the CIA or fight in Korea."

Downey chose the CIA. Unlike Angleton, the ex-athlete moved into the operations side of the Agency rather than work in intelligence analysis. He

recalls that in training camp "half of my class was from Yale, Harvard or Princeton." Despite his decision not to join the military, Downey was not uncommitted, nor unpatriotic. "My attitude," he said, "and that of my Yale classmates was that the war was a direct result of a Communist probe that had to be resisted. We really believed that the free world depended on the United States. Today, that must sound a little naive, but I still think it's basically accurate."

Downey paid for his convictions with the loss of 21 years freedom. In November of 1952 he was captured by Chinese Communist troops in Manchuria. He had flown into the country to meet with a CIA agent working there, but the rendezvous had gone wrong; the CIA's plant had been discovered, and Downey and his crew were ambushed. Until 1973 Downey was held captive in a Chinese prison, cut off from the outside world. Finally, as Cold War tensions were receding and Richard Nixon was normalizing relations with China, Jack Downey was allowed to return home. Eleven years later he has the humor and strength to say, "I'd planned to take some time off after college, but it turned out to be a lot longer than I had planned."

While Downey was languishing in a Chinese prison, another Yale graduate was working his way up the CIA ladder. Confident, brilliant and ambitious, Richard Bissell came from a background familiar to the intelligence community: Groton '28, Yale '32. After teaching at Yale and MIT Bissell helped formulate the Marshall Plan. The CIA was a logical next step, and Bissell joined the Agency in 1954. With surprising understatement Bissell now says he joined the CIA simply because he thought it would be "an interesting job."

Within a year Bissell had assured his success at intelligence-gathering. Almost single-handedly he developed the U-2 reconnaissance plane, a tremendous breakthrough for an intelligence service which, nearly a decade



John Downey

"It was taken for granted that you'd serve in some way. It was either the CIA or fight in Korea."

after its inception, still knew embarrassingly little about the Russians. For four years U-2 flights boldly took pictures of the Soviet Union until, as one of Bissell's contemporaries said admiringly, "It was impossible for the Soviets to lay a sewer pipe in Siberia without CIA knowing it." Though the U-2 program would come to an abrupt end with the shooting down of Gary Powers in 1960, Bissell's reputation was untouchable. By that time he had already developed the satellites to replace his plane.

Bissell's extraordinary talents were quickly noticed by CIA Director Allen Dulles, who in 1959 made Bissell the CIA Deputy Director for Plans (DDP). After less than five years as an agent, Bissell had become head of the covert action arm of the CIA. "At the

time," Bissell now says wistfully, "the political climate for the job was very favourable, probably more so than at any time since."

For Bissell covert action often meant covert assassination. In 1960 he ordered the death of African leader Patrice Lumumba through the injection of a lethal virus into Lumumba's toothpaste. The plan failed. In that same year Bissell would supply guns to the political opponents of Rafael Trujillo, brutal dictator of the Dominican Republic. Some of these guns would later show up in the hands of the men who killed Trujillo.

But because of pressures from John and Robert Kennedy, Fidel Castro became the CIA's main target. Working with old schoolfriend Tracy Barnes, also a graduate of Groton and

...e, Bissell orchestrated the Bay of  
s invasion of Cuba. The overthrow  
empt was a humiliating failure.  
vertheless, Bissell and his as-  
siliates drew up new and somewhat  
arre plans to rid the US of Castro.  
cluding poisoning the Cuban's  
ars, planting an explosive seashell in  
area where he scuba-dived, poison-  
his wetsuit, injecting him with a  
al hypodermic hidden inside a ball-  
nt pen and using Mafia hit-men to  
a down the Cuban leader. Though  
efully designed to avoid any possi-  
implication of the United States,  
se unlikely plots were all either  
carded or unsuccessful. Bissell's  
eer became marked with these fail-  
s, and to avoid being fired, he  
igned from the CIA in 1962.  
The former agent now lives peace-

fully in Farmington, Connecticut,  
where he works as a business consul-  
tant. Although it has been over 20 years  
since he left the Agency, Bissell still re-  
tains his passionate commitment to  
covert action. He claims, "Anyone who  
takes that job [of DDP] knows what  
sorts of things he will be involved in. I  
had very few doubts of the rightness of  
what I was doing."

"My values have not fundamentally  
changed," Bissell adds. "Obviously  
there were mistakes made, but if I had  
to do it all over again, I would only  
change a few small things."

Like Angleton, Bissell will only tell  
you as much about his years in the  
CIA as he thinks you need to know.  
"From my point of view, the less pub-  
licity concerning the CIA, the better.  
Though I feel some obligation to talk

to the press, I also strongly believe that  
there are areas of government which  
require different standards of morality  
and privacy to perform their function.  
And the function of the CIA is very  
important indeed."

Angleton, Downey and Bissell were  
only three of dozens of Yale graduates  
who joined the CIA in the late 1940s  
and throughout the 1950s. Over the  
course of the next two decades, how-  
ever, Yale students' enthusiasm for  
CIA careers vanished. One reason was  
simply that the Agency had by this  
time become an established organiza-  
tion which needed fewer employees  
than in its early years. In addition, the  
American public, increasingly opposed  
to anti-Communist intervention as the  
Vietnam War dragged on, grew hostile  
to the CIA, which was dedicated to  
anti-Communist activities. What Agen-  
cy recruitment there was came more  
and more from Catholic universities in  
the midwest like Notre Dame. Yale itself  
changed from being a center of CIA  
recruitment to a center of CIA resent-  
ment. During the war years and be-  
yond, the number of students attending  
CIA recruitment meetings dropped  
steadily. In 1975—the same year Presi-  
dent Ford formed a Senate committee  
to investigate the legality of CIA ac-  
tivities—student pressure forced the  
Agency to hold its recruitment meetings  
at the Park Plaza Hotel rather than on  
campus.

Yale Associate History Professor  
Gregg Herken interned with the CIA  
in the summer of 1971, when he was a  
graduate student at Princeton. "It was  
bad enough to do that," Herken recalls,  
"but if it was known that you were  
recruiting for the CIA, you were liable  
to get rocks thrown through your win-  
dows."

Herken, who left the CIA after that  
summer, adds that "in the 1950s the  
whole concept of 'For God, for Coun-  
try and for Yale' was a very strong in-  
fluence on students here. Back then  
there was no question that if you were  
working for the government you were  
doing God's work. That idea had cer-  
tainly changed by the 1970s."



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**PHOTO PRINTS** *While You Wait*

Bissell agrees, charging 1970s America with "an alienation from post-war values and a suspicion of government" that crippled the effectiveness of the CIA. "All the anti-CIA publicity of the 1970's was very bad for Agency morale," he said. "The CIA just gave up on a number of important operations, and its relations with other intelligence organizations were severely damaged."

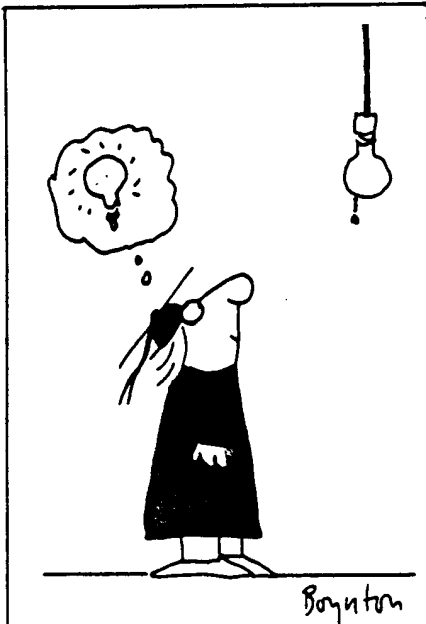
By 1980 student attitudes had changed and the CIA returned its recruiting operation to the Yale campus. Since then the number of students interested in a career with the Agency has risen over 300 percent in just four years. What has sparked the CIA's rejuvenated appeal at Yale? Political Scientist H. Bradford Westerfield, Yale's leading expert on the CIA, attributes its renewed appeal to a "New Conservatism."

"This is the CIA's second great

recruiting era," Westerfield said. "In the 1950s there was a sense that we had our backs up against the wall. In the 1970s there was indifference, if not revulsion, to that sense of mission. And now, there seems to be a sense of excitement, a new concern for world affairs."

John Dohring, a former Yale student and now the CIA's Deputy Director for Employment, agrees with Westerfield. "We find that there's a growing nationalism among today's students," Dohring said. "Back in the early 1970s we had bad luck at colleges. Now, students are again recognizing the importance of the US role in world affairs."

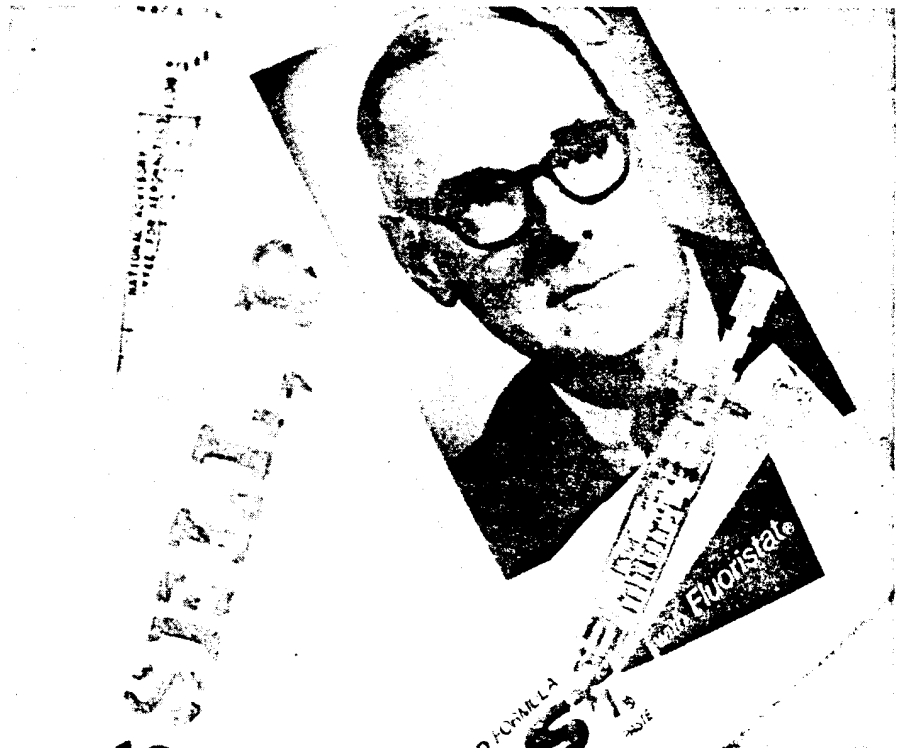
One of the students who went to hear Steve Kohn speak was David Wecht, a senior in Timothy Dwight. According to Wecht, "I interviewed with the CIA for several reasons. I'm interested in international affairs—Brad Westerfield is my adviser—I'd like



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Bissell ordered the death of African leader Patrice Lumumba through the injection of a lethal virus into Lumumba's toothpaste.



Peter Davies

"Trying to settle working for the CIA with my own code of ethics is not something I'd want to do."

work for the government and I have deep moral qualms about working for the CIA."

Fred Anscombe is another senior interested in working for the government. He's already interviewed with the National Security Agency but hopes to get a job with the CIA. According to Anscombe, "my main interest is in the different political situations in various countries. Whatever I do, it'll probably be with the government, but my main attraction is to the CIA because I'd have access to information that I wouldn't be able to get otherwise - which would give me great personal satisfaction."

Another of Westerfield's students, Peter Davies, did consider interviewing but decided that he would have moral doubts about working for the CIA. Davies says that "my interest in the CIA was mostly academic. I think

it's something you ought to know about. Though I did think about interviewing with them, I decided that I wouldn't feel comfortable with some of the CIA's activities in the past. Trying to settle working for the CIA with my own code of ethics is not something I'd want to do."

What kind of student does the CIA want? John Dohring claims with obvious pride, "We look only at the best schools. We have a vital mission to perform: to get the best information to the President. Consequently we have to have the best intelligence agency in the world. And that means hiring only the very best this country has to offer."

*Rich Blow, a sophomore in Branford, is on the staff of TNJ.*

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