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CIA Doesn't Want James Bond Types

When a college recruiter from the CIA, the federal government's top spy organization, visited the State University in Albany recently, he didn't have an eye out for James Bond-like men who could steer underwater craft while fighting off sharks and SPECTER agents.

His search was for the student who had studied economic history and geography, specific continents or regions; international trade and military history and policy. His man could have a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree, just as long as he was the right man with the right skill.

The CIA has been recruiting on college campuses since it was founded 20 years ago. But the program got little attention until recently when one of the CIA recruiters was picketed by a few students at Grinnell College in Iowa. This year, 100 campuses are being visited.

A recruiter's stop at the Albany university last month was not the first time the CIA has considered Capital District colleges as hunting grounds for talent. Placement directors at Union College and the College of Saint Rose said that CIA recruiters had interviewed their students in the last few years, but not this year. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute reported the CIA had sent brochure material to the school.

Mrs. Dorothy Baker, who is in charge of general placement at the Albany university, said CIA recruiter Max Wiecks interviewed 14 students, six women and eight men. He was particularly interested in students with language backgrounds in Spanish and French; those with research and analytical abilities, and in potential secretaries with business majors.

A Milne pupil heard the CIA recruiter was coming and stopped over to ask Mr. Wiecks what course a potential CIA agent should pursue in college.

Some students find out they don't have the right background, Mrs. Baker said.

She added that Mr. Wiecks commented on some students who "weren't too realistic." They find out that CIA work is not all sleuthing—at least not the kind James Bond does in the movies.