

# Powers reveals CIA's serious spying business

BY MARISIS NELSON-DUERS

Thomas Powers

*The Man Who Kept the Secrets*

Ian Fleming did much to popularize the clean image of the men who gather intelligence. His smooth, debonair depiction of James Bond, the man who always manages to avoid near-oblivion with his state-of-the-art technology and deft karate blows, was a far cry from the dirty, sordid spies he was pitted against.

## Books

Thomas Power's book has little of the patent Hollywood glamour of 007, but it does have a lot of cold facts about espionage; the art of secrecy; the agency responsible for the amplification of spying, the CIA; and the history of the man who rose through the ranks to make it his life—Richard Helms.

During World War II, the Office of

Strategic Services was set up in Washington as the first genuine foreign intelligence agency in U.S. history. A few mutations of the agency later followed. Then, in July 1947, the National Security Act passed, officially giving birth to the Central Intelligence Agency.

Helms was a journalist who worked in his pre-war days for United Press International out of the Berlin office. He made a likely candidate for the OSS and he found himself assigned there by the Navy.

The CIA, throughout the ensuing 376 pages of the book, is shown to have received increasing pressure from the military and the executive branch to expand its services—not only to collect information to be used in policy formation, but to actually do something about the covert action.

Powers makes a very important point: the American concept of espionage, until this time, was firmly locked in the belief that the other side may pull dirty tricks, but not us. After the investigations following the Bay of Pigs incident, small clues as to the true activity of the administration and the intelligence community began to emerge.

The pattern had been set, and the CIA

went on to become actively involved in not only Cuba but Guatemala, Vietnam, Cambodia and Chile, to name but a few.

The CIA should have our attention if only because its bunglings indicate a much deeper ill: An agency, originally established to glean the facts, finds itself doing feasibility studies and providing game plans for international involvement.

As an agency that was formed primarily in response to America's failure to foresee the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, it hasn't done so well in predicting subsequent power moves, such as the Cuban missile crisis.

One comes away from this reading with the unsettled feeling that the agency doesn't really know what it's doing, and

that its footing in the international community is tenuous at best.

In the book, Powers does an excellent job of documenting his resources and providing a very extensive bibliography for further reading. He also does a great job of demystifying many of the agency's previously clandestine activities.

John Le Carre, in his review of the book in the *New York Times*, says it best of all, "...we British stand in awe before such acts of self-exposure. If Mr. Powers and his subject had been English...neither he nor his book would have seen the light of day." So much for James Bond.

Marisis Nelson-Duers is a book critic for *The Daily Tar Heel*.

## Campus Best Sellers

1. **Chesapeake**, by James Michener. (Fawcett, \$3.95.) Multi-family saga along Maryland's Eastern Shore: fiction.
2. **The World According to Garp**, by John Irving. (Pocket, \$2.75.) Hilarious adventures of a son of a famous mother.
3. **Wifey**, by Judy Blume. (Pocket, \$2.50.) Housewife's experiences on road to emotional maturity: fiction.
4. **The Far Pavilions**, by M.M. Kaye. (Bantam, \$2.95.) High adventure and love in the Himalayas: fiction.
5. **Pulling Your Own Strings**, by Wayne W. Dyer. (Avon, \$2.75.) How "not" to be victimized by others.
6. **Evergreen**, by Belva Plain. (Dell, \$2.75.) Jewish immigrant woman's climb from poverty on lower Manhattan.
7. **The Amityville Horror**, by Jay Anson. (Bantam, \$2.50.) True story of terror in a house possessed.
8. **Second Generation**, by Howard Fast. (Dell, \$2.75.) On-going story of Italian family in "The Immigrants": fiction.
9. **Scruples**, by Judith Krantz. (Warner, \$2.75.) Rags to riches in the fashion world: fiction.
10. **The Women's Room**, by Marilyn French. (Jove/HBJ, \$2.50.) Perspectives on women's role in society: fiction.

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