

# ✓CIA interview a lost cause

I ran into a lost CIA agent in the Campus Center last Friday morning.

I didn't know that he was from the CIA at first. He didn't come up to me and say, "Hi, my name's Dave and I work for the CIA." It was a little more complicated than that.

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## Ed Robinson

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This guy in his thirties wearing a nice expensive suit asked me for directions to the "Whitmore Administration Building." As I told him, I noticed the cover of the pamphlets he was carrying said, "The CIA — Not Half As Bad As Most People Think." It was then I realized I had a lost CIA interviewer on my hands. Confused by the change in the interview site because of student protest, he was probably on his way to ask Chancellor Duffey where the new location was.

Believing the CIA to be 10 times as bad as most people think, I resolved to do all I could to make sure he stayed confused. I told him that I knew he was a CIA man, that he already missed the morning interviews, and that since I was interested in the CIA, he should interview me. At first, he made a belated attempt to hide the pamphlets behind his back, and then, surprisingly, he agreed to interview me. Here's how it went:

"Question one: Do you believe in fairies, elves, or Santa Claus?"

"What does that have to do with anything?"

"Whoops, bad move. I'm afraid I'm going to have to deduct three points from your score for asking a question. We like people who strictly follow our procedure, no questions asked." He recorded my blunder in his notebook. "So I repeat, do believe in the

three aforementioned personages?"

I spoke with quiet conviction: "I believe in Santa Claus, but not in fairies and elves."

"Believes in Santa but remains unconvinced of the existence of elves and fairies. Hmm..., I gotta tell you you're not doing too well so far. You screwed up on the elves and fairies. We like our people to believe the improbable, the fantastic. If you can believe in Santa Claus, elves and fairies, you also can believe the CIA is a benevolent force in the world. Those are our kind of people."

"Too late. Question Two: On the television series *All in the Family*, the character played by actor Carroll O'Connor, 'Archie' — do you regard him as a heroic figure?"

The questioning went on like this for about 15 minutes before he finally ruled me out as CIA material.

"Even your impressive historical and cultural ignorance scores weren't enough to throw you over the top," the CIA man said, looking slightly disappointed.

"What could I have done to turn things in my favor?"

"Well, like any organization, we like to see some experience. Disinformation campaigns, propaganda work, that would have helped."

"How about, say, staging a rally for a mercenary, like Hasenfus?"

"No, that's too outrageous. Even the CIA at least has to give the appearance of being a moral organization. I guess you just don't have a feel for this kind of work. Now — how do I get to the Chancellor's office from here? I can still catch those afternoon sessions."

"Well, you go up past Tillson Farm and take a left towards Puffers Pond and..."

*Ed Robinson is a UMass student*