

James Bond and the Real World of Intelligence Gathering

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“Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young.”

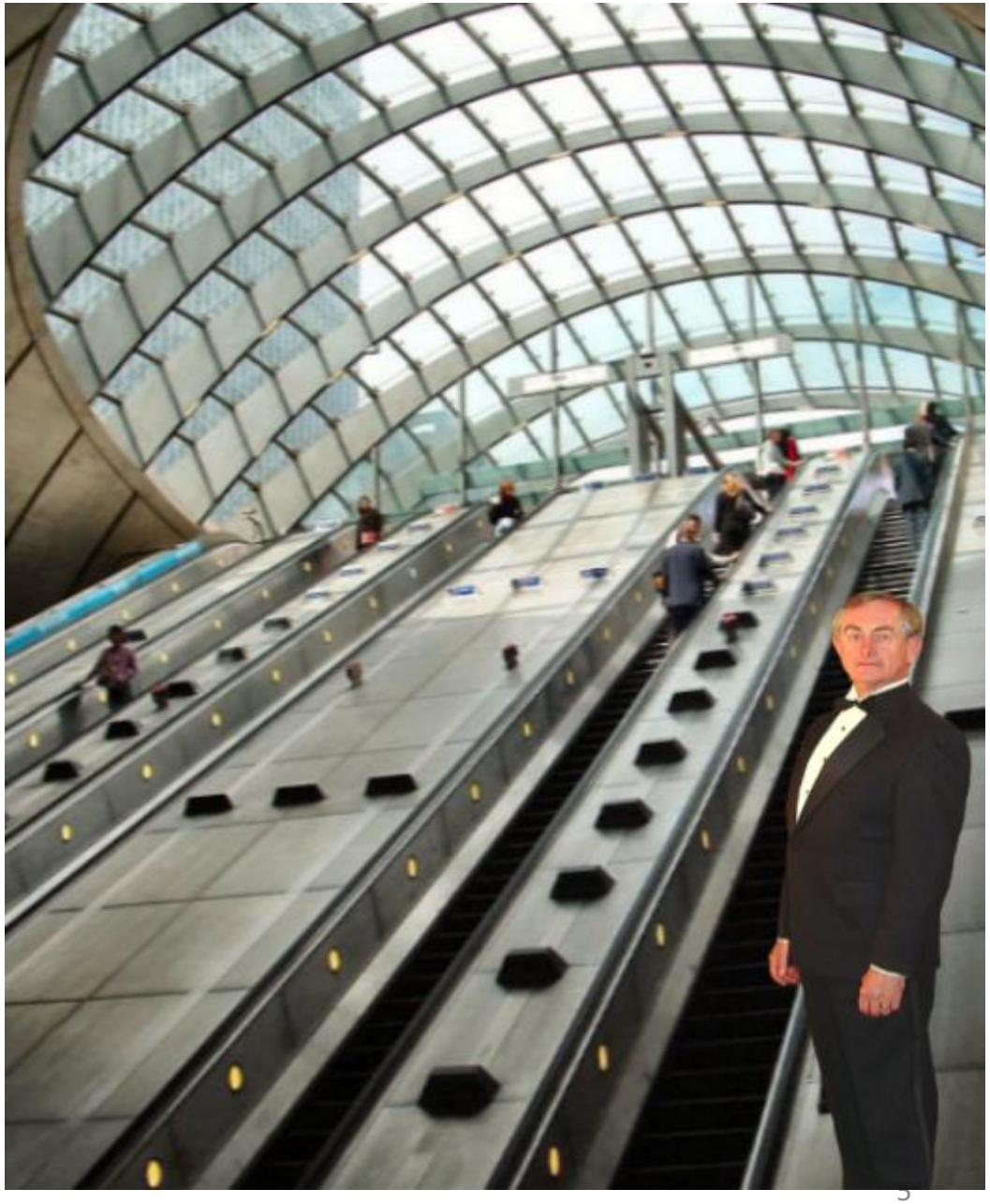
– Henry Ford

Keep Learning new things





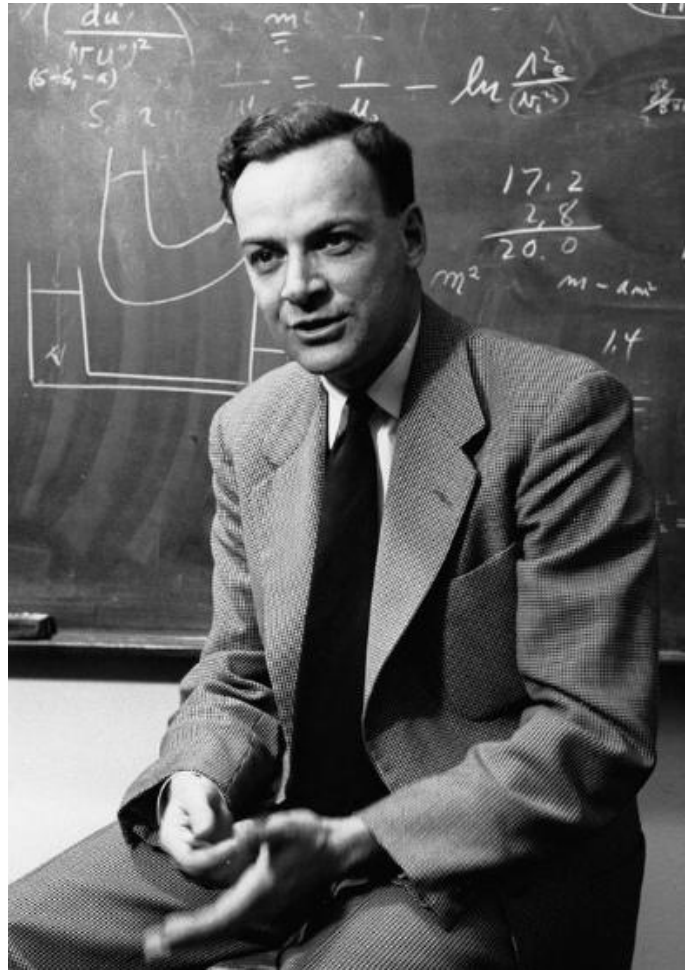
Ken at the Canary Wharf underground station, near the old MI-6 Headquarters in London,



Someone influenced me dramatically:

Richard Feynman

- Manhattan Project
- 1965 Nobel Prize in Physics
- Challenger Investigation



You don’t really understand a Physics principle, or anything else, unless you can teach it to a sixth-grader.

- Richard Feynman

Almost all children are born geniuses, but if you constantly criticize a fish because it can't climb a tree, eventually it believes it is a failure.

Einstein's Theory of Relativity

Everything relates to everything else.

Alfred Einstein

All of us tend to complicate things as we grow older.

We should explain things in the simplest way, as Feynman did.

Do you remember your first James Bond movie and why you liked it?

Bond Movies (by Eon Productions)
Albert Broccoli and Harold Saltzman

Dr. No	1962	Connery
From Russia with Love	1963	Connery
Goldfinger	1964	Connery
Thunderball	1965	Connery
You Only Live Twice	1967	Connery
On Her Majesty's Secret Service	1969	Lazenby
Diamonds are Forever	1971	Connery
Live and Let Die	1973	Moore
The Man with the Golden Gun	1974	Moore

Bond Movies (continued)

The Spy who Loved Me	1977	Moore
Moonraker	1979	Moore
For Your Eyes Only	1981	Moore
Octopussy	1983	Moore
A View to a Kill	1985	Moore
The Living Daylights	1987	Dalton
Licence to Kill	1989	Dalton
Golden Eye	1995	Brosnan
Tomorrow Never Dies	1997	Brosnan

Bond Movies (continued)

The World is Not Enough	1999	Brosnan
Die Another Day	2002	Brosnan
Casino Royale	2006	Craig
Quantum of Solace	2008	Craig
Skyfall	2012	Craig
Spectre	2015	Craig
No Time to Die	2021	Craig

In 2025, Amazon/MGM bought all rights to the James Bond franchise.

Were there any Bond films not by Eon Productions?

- *Casino Royale* (1954) TV production
- *Casino Royale* (1967 farce with David Niven)
- *Never Say Never Again* (1983 remake of *Thunderball* with Connery)

All this brings us to the key question:

Do the Bond films represent the real world of intelligence gathering?

We must start with where it all began:



Ian Fleming

Born 1908

Died 1964

Who was Ian Fleming?

- “Nepo Baby” born into privileged British family
- Father, Valentine Fleming, killed in World War I
- Educated at Eton and Sandhurst—did not graduate
- Not stupid, but “undisciplined”
- Kicked out of Sandhurst for drinking and gonorrhea
- Failed attempts at banking, publishing, and other family businesses

Other Fleming Activities

- Attended universities in Munich and Geneva in 30's
- Worked as reporter in Soviet Union
- In World War II, given position in Naval Intelligence organization planning commando raids, and met "Wild Bill" Donovan, who was Eisenhower's liaison with British intelligence
- Donovan later headed U.S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS), which later became the CIA.

When did James Bond begin?

- First Fleming novel: *Casino Royale*, written in 1952 when Flemming was 44
- Origin of the name, “James Bond”: Book on bird-watching, sitting on Fleming’s desk in Jamaica
- Married Ann Charteris after a longstanding, lurid affair

Fleming's Estate in Jamaica, Named *Goldeneye (no electricity)*

Wrote only two hours a day



Fleming James Bond Novels

- 12 novels
- Perhaps six movies are relatively faithful to the novels (mostly Connery movies).
- Some Bond movies used the names, but changed the plots.

Did you know?

- Fleming wrote the novel *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.*



Other Fleming Trivia (continued)

- James Bond was Fleming's alter-ego.
- Fleming initially thought Connery was too "lower-class" and that Bond should be played more as a person from an "upper crust" background. Fleming later changed his mind.

Fleming Role in *The Man from Uncle*

- Advised the producers on spy concepts
- Invented the character Napoleon Solo
- Who played the main characters?
- Robert Vaughn
- David McCollum



What was James Bond's Preferred Pistol?

- Walther PPK
- Did you know that when Hitler committed suicide in World War II, he had with him a Walther PPK?

The Basic Questions

- Do the James Bond movies represent the real world of intelligence gathering today?
- Did they ever represent what real-world spies were doing?
- Or were the Bond movies just a pleasant diversion from what was really happening?

It has been 64 years since the first Bond movie.

What are the basic characteristics of Bond?

- Loner with a “licence to kill”
- Attractive, debonaire man who uses women as commodities
- Widely known in intelligence circles
- Sometimes with a sense of humor
- The movies and the Bond persona changed over the years from 1962 to the latest (2021).

When was the first intelligence gathering?

- Stories from ancient civilizations
- First formal agency (1830) Belgium VSSE
- Formal United States Military Intelligence (1863)
- MI6 in Brittain (1920s)
- US BOI (founded 1908, renamed FBI 1935)
- OSS in United States (1940s)
- CIA (1947)
- NSA (1952)

FBI, CIA, and NSA estimated at 90,000 to 100,000 total (unclassified sources)

- FBI (more than 37,100), including 13,700 Special Agents and 23,400 professional staff
- CIA (22,000 employees)
- NSA (32,000 to 40,000 employees)
- Plus “contractors” for all three
- “Black Ops”

So, given the above, do you think the James Bond stories are an accurate representation of real intelligence gathering?

Yes and no.

- Idea of highly-visible person doing things that attract attention is simply not typical.
- Spies want to “look normal” and blend in.
- Today, much intelligence gathering is sorting massive amounts of information, and deciding what is relevant and what is not. Classified information, but not covert. Also, information gathering from public sources.

Is there a role for HUMINT* today?

- Yes, but it can be deadly.
- 141 stars on a wall
- 108 identified
- 33 anonymous

*Human intelligence



Humor in Real Intelligence Gathering

- Is there humor in real intelligence gathering?
- YES!
- The Mother of all Shredders
- The Embassy Game
- Vladimir
- Kristina Semonova
- Amchitca and the Sea Otters

The Mother of All Shredders

- Have you ever used a paper shredder?
- Large shredder in *Licence to Kill*”
- Disgruntled CIA employee (mental problem)
- The rest of the story…

File Safe for Classified Material (800 pounds)

- Rolled safe into shredder room, carrying a bullhorn
- Announced his complaints about the agency
- Dumped the safe into the running shredder



The Embassy Game (during the Cold War)

- 176 embassies in Washington, DC
- Ranked socially from Number 1 to Number 176
- The rest of the story…

Embassy of Botswana, Washington, DC Number 176 (bottom) of Social Scale



Iranian Embassy, Washington, DC (1970s) (Number 2) on Social Scale



Embassy of the United Kingdom, Washington, DC (Number 1) on Social Scale



How to Win the Embassy Game

- Get invited to the UK embassy (#1) when the Queen is in town.
- Wife and I started with Botswana (#176) and worked our way up.
- Several years later, we had been to Iranian embassy (#2), but never to the UK embassy, and then…

Margaret Thatcher's Visit to Washington

- I complained that I had never been invited to the UK embassy.
- "Moneypenny"
- Hope springs eternal
- Sir Kenneth Watson and Lady Watson

Thank You

- Volunteers for Lifelong Learning
- Instructors who take no pay
- Veterans/9-11

Wisdom from My Grandfather

- Never assume you are the smartest person in the room.
- The others will spot you, and will see you as a pompous ass.
- Assume you are the dumbest person in the room and that you can learn from everybody else.

Validation of My Grandfather's Wisdom

- Virtual meeting with Elon Musk
- He raised the "smartest person in the room" issue, using almost the same words my grandfather used in the 1960's.

More Wisdom from My Grandfather

- You can learn something from everybody you meet.
- Time management example
  (waitress at Waffle House)

Terminology

In this class, we use “agent” to mean any representative of any intelligence organization, such as CIA Officer, FBI Counter-Intelligence Special Agents, etc.

Classified Definitions

- Top Secret – Release causes exceptionally grave damage to National Security.
- Secret – Release causes serious damage to National Security.
- Confidential – Release causes damage to National Security.

Definitions (continued)

- Special Compartmented Information (SCI)
- Restricted Data – Sensitive data regarding nuclear weapons and other items, controlled by Atomic Energy Act.
- Terms such as: SIGMA, CNWDI, or NOFORN

The Hidden Reason for Classifying Something

To avoid embarrassing somebody

Bond Trivia

- In Goldfinger, Odd Job was killed in the gold vault.
- What was unusual about the scene?
- He was almost REALLY electrocuted.

Bond Trivia

- In Goldfinger, several women flew planes to gas Ft. Knox.
- Did you know that Ken knew one of those women?
- Sharon Sellinger



Vladimir, Doorman at the Soviet Embassy

- Sold Russian vodka at half the going rate
- Was “cultivated” by an American agent
- Hated the KGB and sought ways to mock them
- Perpetrated an event at the Iranian embassy that will go down in history


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Vladimir’s New Spy Tools



The Results

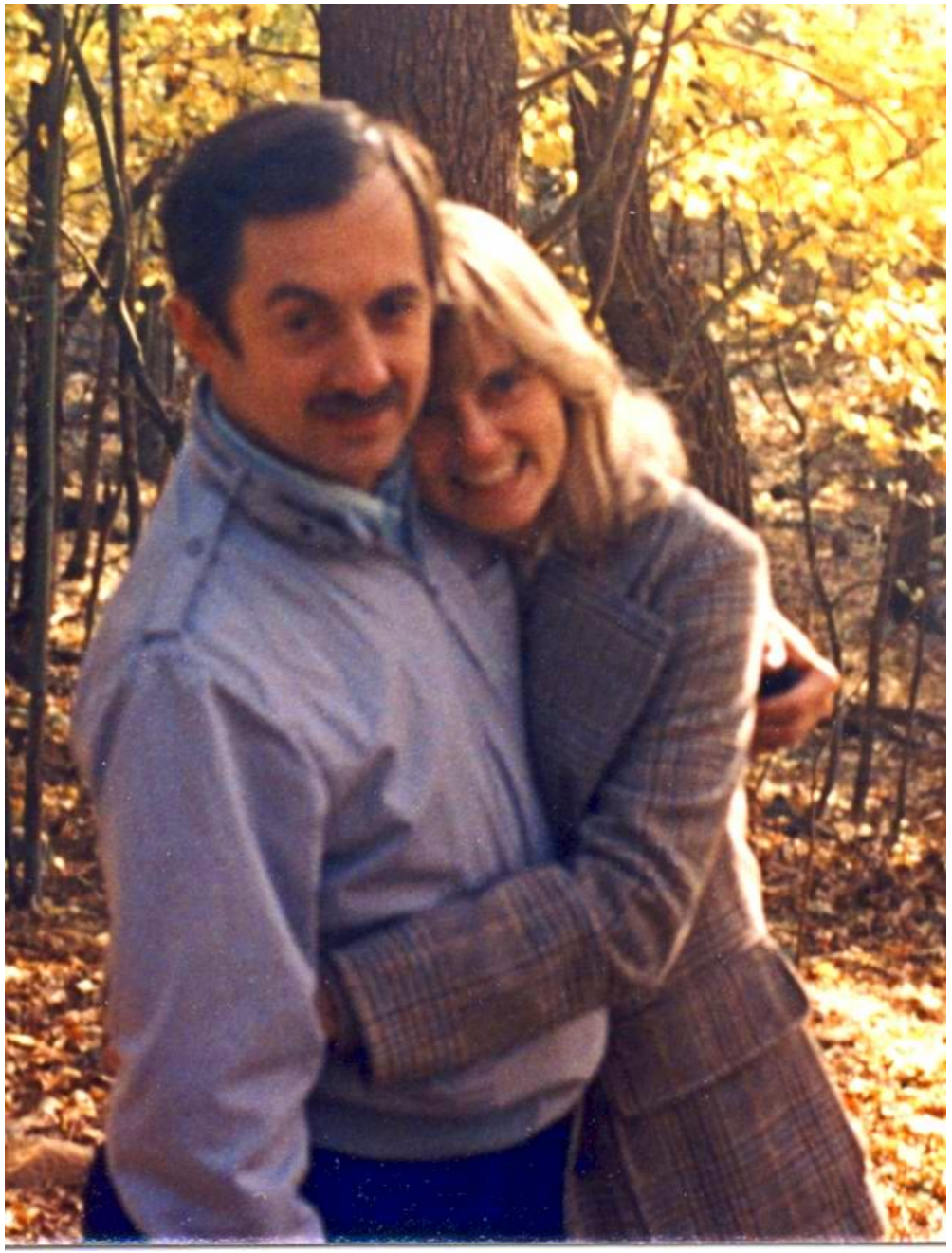
- Vladimir exchanged over 200 license plates.
- Nobody noticed until the next day.
- Diplomatic Washington was in chaos for several days.
- Countries thought other countries were at fault.
- Vladimir eventually retired, but not to Siberia.

Kristina Semonova

- Ken’s posting to SRS in 1968
- Father Russian, mother Czech
- Believed to be a Red Sparrow
- FBI Counter Intelligence at SRS
- The rest of the story









Some of the Best/Worst Spies in U.S. History

- Virginia Hall
- Klaus Fuchs
- The Walker Family
- Aldrich Ames
- Robert Hanssen
- Ana Montes

Virginia Hall Receiving U.S. Distinguished Service Cross

- Saved thousands of lives in France during WW II
- Worked with French Under-ground
- Gestapo could not catch her.



Klaus Fuchs

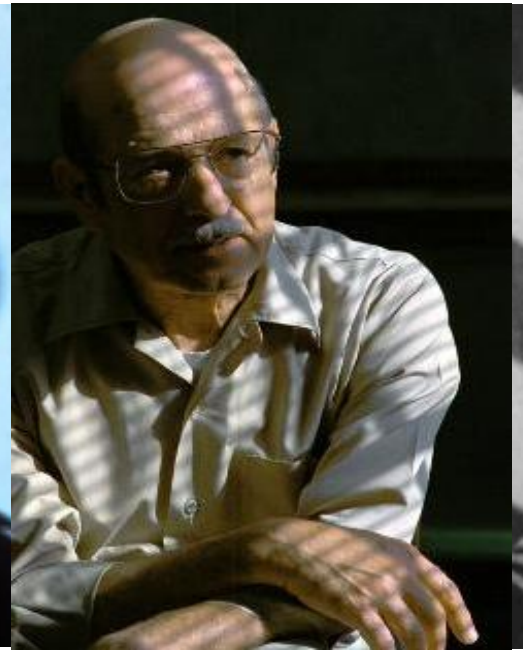
- German nuclear physicist on the Manhattan Project
- England vouched for him
- Gave plans of the bombs to the Soviet Union
- Spent only 9 years in British prison
- Went to East Germany



The Walker Spy Family



John Walker



Arthur Walker

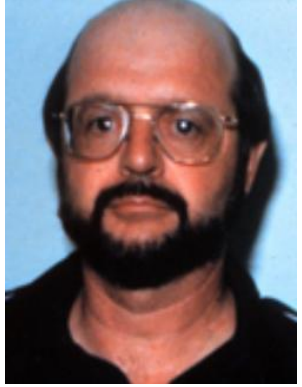


Michael Walker



Jerry Whitworth

John Walker (the father)



- Sold Soviets valuable secrets from 1967 through 1985
- Petty criminal given choice of jail or military
- Navy Chief Warrant Officer and Communications Specialist with Top Secret clearance

Arthur Walker



- Older brother of John Walker
- Needed money, and John recruited him to copy Navy documents from a government contractor.
- FBI had little on him, but he volunteered the information that sent him to prison.

Matthew Walker (John's son)



- Became Navy Cryptographic Specialist
- Top Secret clearance
- Collected crucial information on codes, submarines, etc.

Jerry Whitworth (acquaintance)

- Chief Petty Officer in the Navy (communications)
- For 10 years, compromised over a million classified documents and considerable information on the Navy

Impact of the Walker Spy Ring

- Worst impact ever on American secrets?
- Enabled many Soviet advances that would not have occurred otherwise

The Sad Conclusions

- Worst failures ever by the FBI and the Navy in clearing people for high-security jobs
- Enabled petty criminal to establish a long-term spy ring and to continue for years
- FBI could have stopped the spy ring 10 years earlier, if FBI had listened to Mrs. Barbara Walker.

Did the US Government Close the Barn Door After the Horse Escaped?

- Yes. There were massive improvements in the clearance process and in periodic re-checks.
- FBI Counterintelligence drastically improved.
- The overall clearance process is not uniform over government agencies.
- Some agencies are extremely strong. Some are very weak, even today.

Do you remember the 1960's

- Serendipity
- Frank's visit
- Hogate's on the Potomac (600-guest capacity)
- Widely famous for serving warm, complimentary sweet rum buns (with cinnamon and raisins) before meals

Primary Motivation for Spying

- Love
- Money
- Intrigue
- Ideology

Why does Bond order martinis, shaken, not stirred?

- I am NOT a martini expert. In my entire life I have consumed only three martinis.
- Bartender in London, near the MI-6 building
- The real reason Bond prefers “shaken, not stirred”
- The Vesper
- Now, on to the casinos in Bond movies

Famous Bond Casinos

- *Dr. No* (1962) The “casino” was the Ambassadeurs Club in London.
- *Thunderball* (1965) The casino was the Pink Palace and Casino in Nassau, Bahamas.
- *Casino Royale* (1967) The real Casino Royale was in Royale-les Eaux, France.
- *Diamonds are Forever* (1971) The “casino” was the fictional Whyte House Casino (actually the Vegas Hilton).
- *Licence to Kill (1989)* The fictional casino was Casino de Isthmus.

Bond Casinos (continued)

- *Goldeneye (*1995*)* Bond played Xenia Onatopp in the casino in Monte Carlo. (discuss 2012)
- *Casino Royale (2006)* Exterior scenes at Kaiserbad Spa in the Czech Republic. Card scenes on a sound stage in Prague.
- *Skyfall* (2012) visited the Floating Dragon Casino in Macau, China, across the bay from Hong Kong.
- What were the other times Bond was in Hong Kong and Macau?
- *The Man with the Golden Gun (1974) and You Only Live Twice (1967)*

Aldrich Ames



- CIA Counter-intelligence officer
- Had a divorce and money problems
- Betrayed the U.S. for money, not ideology
- His Colombian wife, Maria del Rosario Casas Dupuy, committed espionage and tax evasion, served five years in prison, and returned to Colombia.
- Ames was responsible for arrest and execution of many U.S. and Soviet spies (who were double agents).

Aldrich Ames (continued)

- Spied from 1985 to 1994
- Compromised more assets than any other agent, until a spy we will discuss later.
- Caught because he lived beyond his means on a CIA salary, and because CIA process to find moles was and is superb

Robert Hanssen



- FBI Counter intelligence Special Agent
- Worked in Soviet-specific areas
- Very high-level clearances, access to agent names in FBI, CIA, NSA, and DIA
- Compromised numerous agents, resulting in many executions
- Exposed the most assets in US intelligence history

Robert Hanssen (continued)

- Spied from 1985 to the early 2000s
- Periods of no espionage (delayed his being caught)
- Motivation was an expensive lifestyle and a feeling that he was superior
- Received 15 life terms without possibility of parole
- Died in a super-max prison of "unexplainable circumstances" in 2023

Bond Trivia

- Who was the first Felix Leiter?
- Jack Lord, who later starred in Hawaii Five-O
- In *Licence to Kill*, who played Felix Leiter?
- David Hedison, who starred in the TV show, *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*.

Ana Montes



- Born in 1957 to Spanish-heritage parents. Father was physician working in U.S. hospital in Germany.
- Studied at University of Virginia and a year at Institute of European Studies in Spain (1978)
- Participated in anti-US demonstrations in Spain
- Identified as a leftist and expressed interest in Cuba in letters to sister in the US
- Expressed interest in European Communist Party to sister in 1978

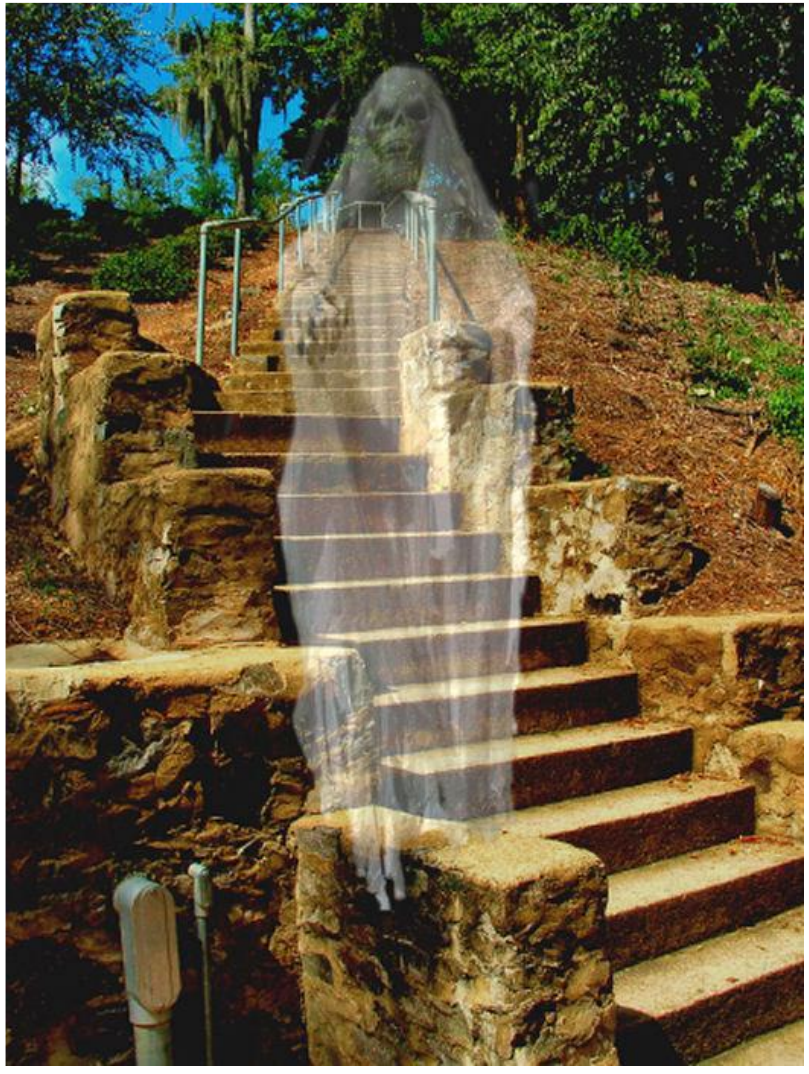
Ana Montes (continued)

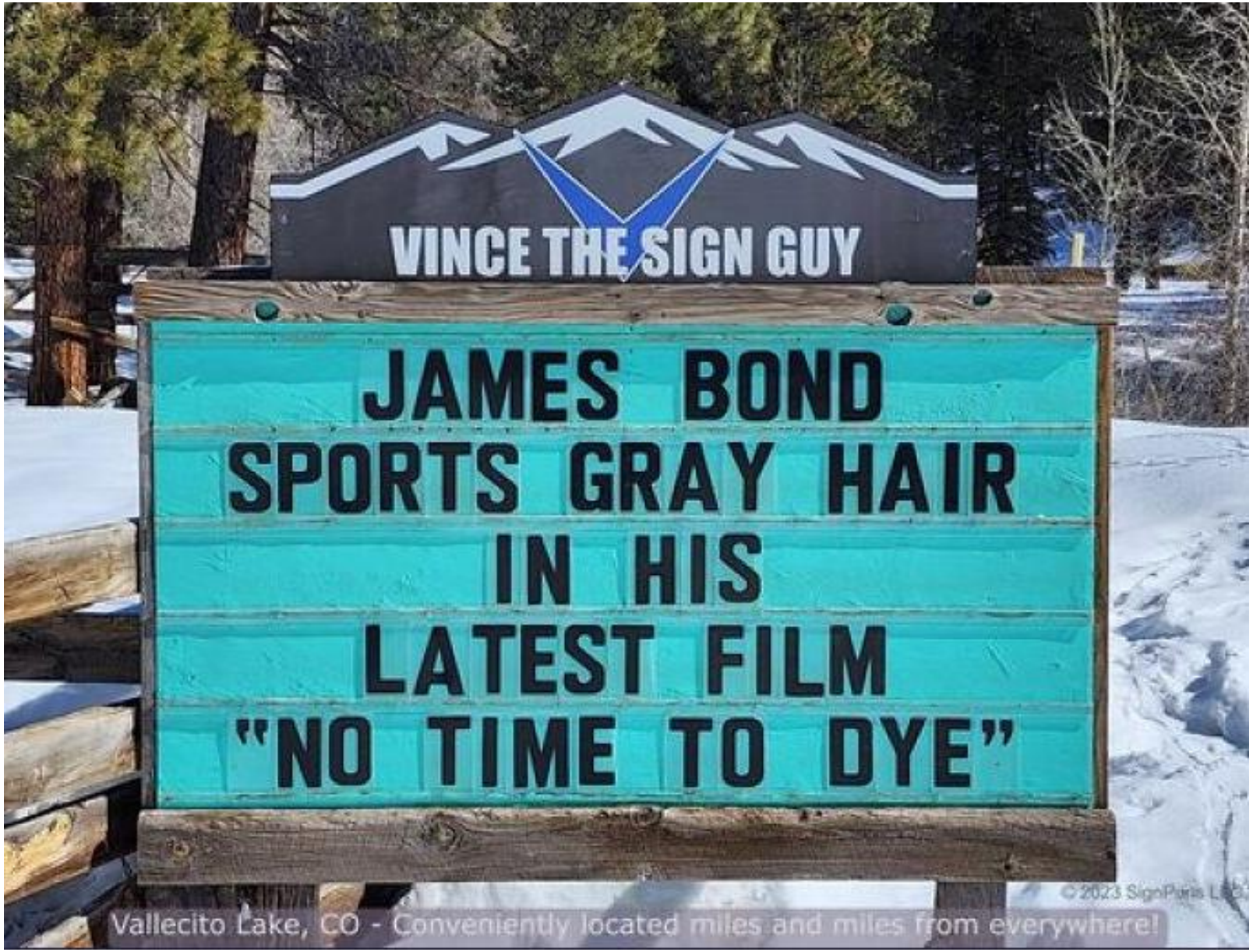
- Major influence from boyfriend in Spain (Ricardo Eriz), leftist from Argentina
- 1979 job as typist for Department of Justice in Washington, DC (beginning of 22-year government career)
- FBI background check approved, in spite of her communist leanings and anti-US feelings
- Promoted to Paralegal after three years

Ana Montes (continued)

- In 1982, while working for DOJ, began Masters program at Johns-Hopkins, School of International Studies
- Met fellow student Marta Velasquez, radical, who had spent a year in Cuba (and was a Cuban agent)
- Agreed to work for Cuba and received training there under fake travel plans
- Received training on how to influence polygraph results
- In 1985 applied to Defense Intelligence Agency; accepted at DIA (background check flawed in the rush)
- Faked a split with Velasquez
- Began 17 years of espionage for Cuba
- Passed only polygraph ever administered to her, in 1994
- Was identified as a spy in 2001, using new counter intelligence techniques

Happy Halloween




VINCE THE SIGN GUY
JAMES BOND
SPORTS GRAY HAIR
IN HIS
LATEST FILM
"NO TIME TO DYE"
Vallecito Lake, CO - Conveniently located miles and miles from everywhere!

Ana Montes (continued)

- Espionage activities cost lives of US agents under cover in Cuba.
- Sentenced to prison for 25 years
- Released in 2023, after serving 20 years
- Lives in Puerto Rico, under close monitoring, including internet
- Did she really have more shoes than Imelda Marcos?

Did the US (especially the FBI) learn lessons?

- Yes
- New polygraph techniques
- Frequent background checks for people with clearances
- Surreptitious clearances of family members
- Artificial Intelligence techniques, including those used to catch Montes

Amchitka Island, 1971

- 40-mile-long island in the Aleutian chain west of Alaska
- Underground nuclear test in 1971

Very high security to prevent espionage



Nuclear Weapon
Underground Test
Project Cannikin

(largest US underground test, ever)

The internet contains bogus information on this test.



What held up the test”

- Public outcry for the otters
- Solution: Move over 200 otters
- One holdout otter



Take Me, I’m Yours



Impact of Amchitka Weapon Test

- 5 Megaton thermonuclear device
- Approximately 5000 feet underground
- 7 on Richter scale (same as Haiti earthquake in 2010)
- No atmospheric release
- Crater at surface 40 feet deep and a mile in diameter
- No sea otters were harmed. They had been moved.

Villain in *From Russia with Love*


Lotte Lenya as Rosa Klebb



Alexander Litvinenko and Alexei Navalny

- Litvinenko was old KGB, spying on UK in England.
- Antagonized another old KGB person (Vladimir Putin)
- Litvinenko decided to defect to the UK.
- Litvinenko was assassinated with a terrible death.
- Polonium-210

Polonium-210 Radiation

- Radiation: Neutron, Gamma, Beta, Alpha
- Polonium-210 gives off mostly Alpha.
- Alpha is stopped by a piece of paper.
- When ingested (eaten or injected) destroys DNA and has other nasty effects.
- Official UK investigation: Po-210 ingested in his tea.
- Some people believe it was injected by an umbrella.

Only two countries have Polonium-210

- Russia
- United States
- An American team proved the Polonium-210 was Russian, with one condition:
- The UK would get credit for determining that.
- UK agreed.

What about Alexei Navalny

- Well-known dissident in Russia
- Imprisoned and died in prison
- Quasi-official determination: Natural causes
- Speculation that he was killed by either nerve gases, or Polonium-210.

What can we conclude?

- The Bond movies vary considerably over the years.
- The element of humor is there, in one way or another.
- These movies are entertaining, but do they represent an accurate account of intelligence gathering?
- Real intelligence gathering is much more, is deadly, and at times, very boring.
- Look at John Le Carre, *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold (1963)*

And now for the commercial:

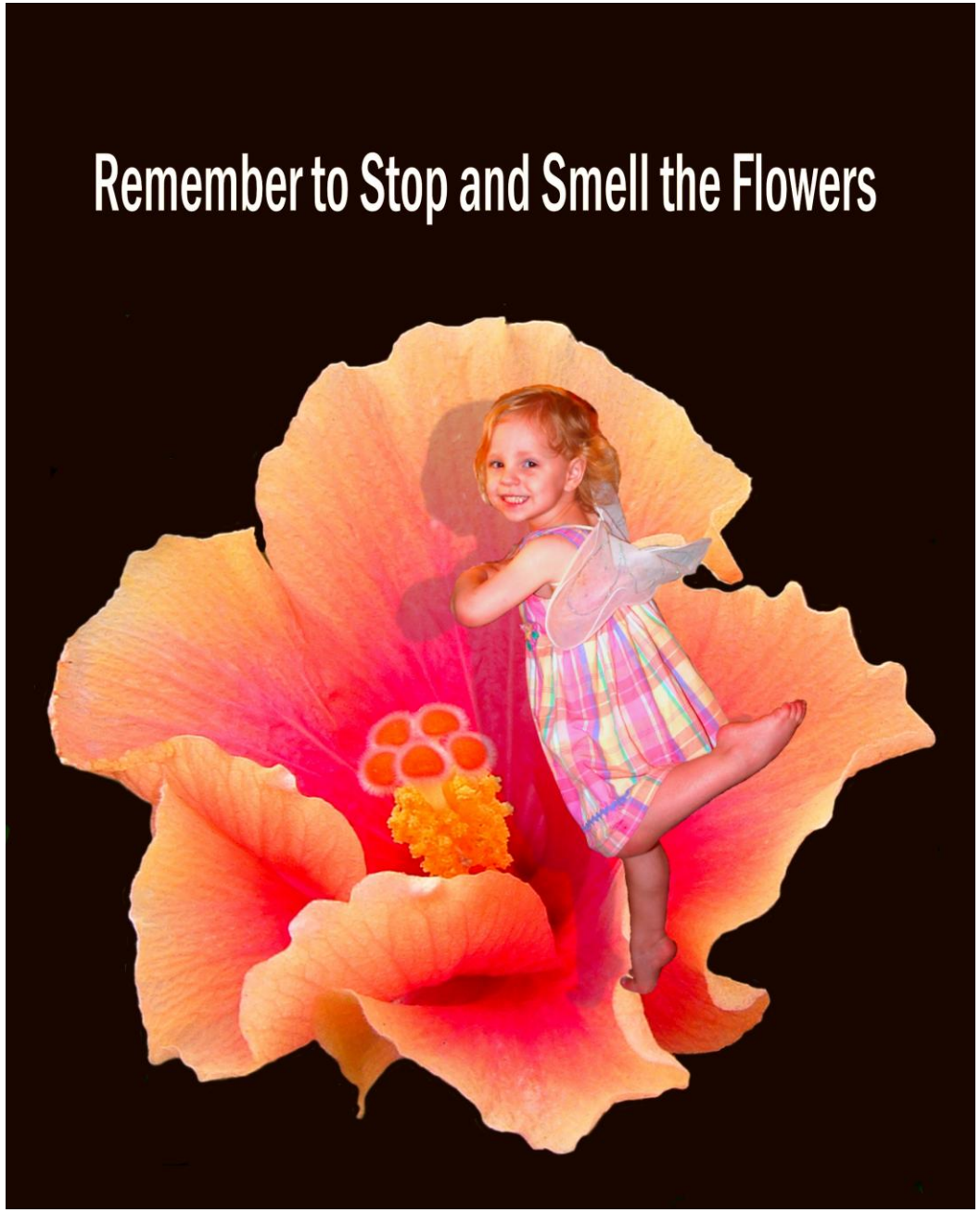
Ken will teach a two-session course for Lifelong Learning: Spring semester, starting in January

"*More Snippets from a Life Thoroughly Enjoyed*."

Included are items such as:

Some of the Items in the Course

- Help Me Find the Missing Nerve Gases
- How Do You Hypnotize a Chicken?
- The Bond Blonde Bombshell and the Bookstore
- Lucille Ball's Dirty Little Secret
- Walter Cronkite's Boat
- Were There Weapons of Mass Destruction in Iraq?
- Tunguska and Chelyabinsk


Remember to Stop and Smell the Flowers

Feel free to contact Ken at:

nukephys@protonmail.com