Q. It is my understanding that several years ago the CIA planted an agent named Tracy Barnes in the office of Kingman Brewster, president of Yale, to spy on student activities. Is that so? Has another CIA agent succeeded Barnes? What happened to Barnes?—H. T., New Haven, Conn.

A. Tracy Barnes, veteran CIA agent, suffered two coronary attacks and died in Saunderstown, R.I., in 1971 at age 60. Prior to that he was involved with Richard Bissell of the CIA in the planning of the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba. When that operation failed, the CIA assigned Barnes and an associate, Wally Lampshire, to set up a new department, the Domestic Operations Division at 1750 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. with the objective of infiltrating and obtaining intelligence from various foreign groups in the United States. In 1967, the CIA offered Barnes early retirement which he accepted. He then returned to his alma mater, Yale, where he worked as a special assistant to Kingman Brewster, specializing in alumni and community relations. At no time did he spy on Yale students or their activities.