

**SPENCE ELUSIVE, SAID TO BE EVERYWHERE BUT ISN'T**  
**Jerry Seper and Michael Hedges Washington Times, Final Section: A Page: A1**  
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Where in the world is Craig Spence?

A lot of people say they know, but the sightings of Mr. Spence, the mysterious Washington lobbyist who wined and dined the city's power elite while patronizing a call-boy ring now under U.S. investigation, so far are as reliable as the sightings of Elvis.

He (Mr. Spence, not Elvis) was seen on a bus at 28th and P streets last week.

Or the flamboyant Washington influence peddler recently made several appearances at a Georgetown disco - sans cape.

Or the man the U.S. Secret Service has sought - apparently unsuccessfully - to answer questions about midnight tours of the White House, is hiding out in a friend's New York City apartment.

Or he's curled up along a canal in Italy with his favorite book, "Death in Venice."

Or he's in Tokyo, sipping martinis with his favorite bartender, Hirosumi Toyama, at the Tokyo Hilton.

Or he's at his boyhood hometown, Boston - or was that in New Hampshire?

**Or he's in the green room on the "Nightline" set at the ABC-TV studios in Northwest, waiting to be interviewed by his longtime friend, Ted Koppel.**

One member of Washington's netherworld, a procurer of prostitutes who claimed to have subcontracted lots of work for Mr. Spence, says he knows for a fact that Mr. Spence has been staying in Clearwater, Fla., with a Washington lawyer.

Reporters investigating that particular late-night tip lost enthusiasm when they found out the lawyer had died in January.

**Some friends of Mr. Spence cling to the fanciful story - told often by the shadowy lobbyist - that he is on "one last desperate mission" for the CIA. He often predicted his own demise, cautioning friends not to take any account of his death at face value.**

A former college classmate of Mr. Spence's, who doesn't profess to know where he is, is nevertheless willing to speculate about what disguise he might be wearing.

The woman said she attended Boston University with Mr. Spence in the 1960s and that for two years he faked an Australian accent, that only through recent press accounts did certain old friends learn that he had not been the Australian exchange student he said he was.

Recently, Secret Service agents investigating how Mr. Spence might have breached White House security with late-night tours searched with a warrant his Massachusetts Avenue apartment. The building manager said federal authorities had searched the apartment at least twice.

One tenant of the building reported agents were staking out the place and "looking very obvious." Nevertheless, the agency was said to have been consistently thwarted in its efforts to interview Mr. Spence.

Mr. Spence had led some of his friends to believe that he was seriously - perhaps even terminally - ill. To others, he fostered the image of a man pursuing one last main chance in the Far East or in Europe.

His recent activity was quite a departure from a man who once created the illusion of great influence.

When Mr. Spence resurfaces, he must deal with a federal investigation headed by the office of U.S. Attorney Jay Stephens. Mr. Stephens' office insists for the record it's an investigation of credit-card fraud.

But other law enforcement authorities, among others, say the Secret Service was interested in Mr. Spence even before the February raid on a homosexual-prostitution ring headquarters that led to the capital's summer scandal.

One person the Secret Service questioned for more than three hours said **investigators were "interested" in Mr. Spence's connections to well-placed government and military officials.**

This person, one of six who took a July 1988 White House tour arranged by Mr. Spence, said Secret Service investigators indicated that their concern about the former lobbyist "did not result as an outgrowth of the February raid."

**Questions asked by Secret Service investigators about Mr. Spence's activities were "not specifically and singularly tied to credit-card fraud," as suggested by Mr. Stephens. The service still won't talk about what it's doing.**

While Mr. Spence has been a scarce commodity in the flesh, his spirit lingers among many of his friends.

**Several say they have experienced a rash of hang-up calls at odd hours.**

"It's what Craig used to do when he was upset with someone," said one friend. "It's classic behavior for him."