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Members of Project Bandaloop perform a vertical dance down the front of the International Spy Museum building to entertain the crowd waiting to get inside.

## For New Museum, a Covert Crowd

By MANNY FERNANDEZ

There was nothing top-secret about yesterday's grand opening of the International Spy Museum in downtown Washington. A block-wide banner proclaiming "Mission Accomplished" was torn open by highflying acrobats in black trench coats. Cannons exploded confetti into the air. And the James Bond

theme blared from loudspeakers. It was in the audience, not in the \$40 million espionage museum, where members of the real top-secret crowd could be found, though spotting them was not easy, dressed as they were for casual Friday.

The world of spying, a most covert art conducted in deepest secret and unaccustomed to ribbon cuttings of any sort, was getting its very own

Disneyland and Jason Treesh didn't seem to mind. Treesh, 25, works in the operations section of the Army's 308<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion, headquartered at Fort Meade in Maryland. Treesh and his 308<sup>th</sup> colleague Matthew Schell, 21, said the museum would go a long way to help enlighten the public about the real-life grit and sacrifices, not the fictional 007 glamour,

in the lives of intelligence and counterintelligence agents.

"I think it's a very misunderstood kind of thing," said Treesh, who was trying to keep cool in the heat with what appeared to be a palm-size, ultra-secret electronic gadget, but what turned out to be merely a museum-issued fan. "Spying is actually very benign."

Treesh was among those who

## THE REGION



A large crowd packs F Street NW for opening ceremonies at the International Spy Museum. Organizers invited intelligence officials to the event.

## Museum Opening; RSVP; Cloak and Dagger Optional

SPY, *From B1*

attended the lavish opening of the city's newest museum, a kind of Smithsonian of subterfuge. Housed in five historic buildings at 800 F St. NW, a short walk from MCI Center, the facility features the largest known permanent collection of international spy-related artifacts, from Czech camera that can photograph through walls to a KGB-issued lipstick pistol.

The museum created by the Cleveland-based Malrite Co., also has interactive exhibits, including "the Secret History of History," which details spying from biblical through modern times and "Spies Among Us," an exploration of real-life spy stories through World War II, including code-making and code-breaking operations.

The museum complex also has a restaurant, café, and store.

The crowd of a few hundred-tourists, area residents and leaders from the District government and Capitol Hill assembled outside the doors on a sweaty Friday morning,



Interior of the Spy Museum's gift shop.

and many spectators could be seen scanning the crowd for the spooks among them. With a number of people wearing the CIA baseball caps and FBI T-shirts available near the Mall, it was anyone's guess.

Officials with the museum, which was more than seven years in the making, tapped the knowledge of many in the intelligence community, including Antonio Joseph Mendez, the Central Intelligence Agency's

former chief of disguise, and David Kahan, a leading expert in the history of cryptology.

During his welcoming remarks, E. Peter Earnest, the museum's executive director and a retired 36-year veteran of the CIA, knew better than to mention by name the many officials attending the ceremonies from the CIA, FBI and National Security Administration. "They didn't come in disguise," added Earnest, although he said they did RSVP.

Museum officials said they expect a half-million visitors to tour the museum in its first year.

It is to open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. from April through October and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. from November through March. Admission is \$11 for adults, \$8 dollars for children ages 5 to 18 and free for children younger than 5.