

**‘Surgical Assistants’
Passed Off As
‘Doctors’**

HOUSTON, TX – A medical services provider firm accused of using phony doctors to assist in hospital operations can resume business if it refrains from calling its employees ‘doctors’, a judge ruled on Wednesday.

The order is in effect until a January trial to settle accusations that ‘Assistant Surgeons of Texas, Inc.’ and 17 of its employees misled insurers and patients.

Earlier this month, the Texas Attorney General’s office sued the firm, charging it was passing off ‘surgical assistant’ as ‘doctors’ – when some did NOT have medical degrees or proper training.

The company claims many of the surgical assistants have been doctors licensed in other countries, but not in the United States, and therefore deserve to use the ‘doctor’ title.

Paine Webber Fined Over Hiring!

NEW YORK, NY – Paine Webber Inc. has been fined \$30,000 by the New York Stock Exchange for employing four convicted criminals, including a mail machine operator convicted of cocaine possession and a sales assistant found guilty of welfare fraud.

An NYSE hearing panel said Wednesday it also found that the New York brokerage house didn't promptly report the personnel problems to the exchange.

Paine Webber agreed to pay the fine without admitting or denying guilt.

Under stock exchange rules, member firms can't employ people who have been convicted of a felony or certain other crimes within 10 years of applying for a job.

Two of the employees were sales assistants, one was a plate maker and one worked in the mailroom in Paine Webber's Weehawken, N.J., offices.

One of the sales assistants disclosed on a Paine Webber job application that she had been convicted of obtaining money under false pretenses, a misdemeanor.

(RSI Ed. Note: However, in actuality the charge was 'FRAUD', which is a 'FELONY' in most instances. In this case, it appears the woman tried to 'minimize' the seriousness of the charge and conviction on her job application, hoping 'false pretenses' and 'misdemeanor' appeared 'less' serious than 'fraud' and 'felony'. She was apparently successful to a point. However, the individual doing the original hiring SHOULD HAVE CHECKED...and...SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!)

But the woman worked for the firm for nearly a year before an inquiry by the stock exchange's Qualifications and Registration Section forced her to resign.

Ousted Official Left Long, Long Trail Of Lies While On The Job As Public Schools Security Chief!

By STEVE JENSEN
And LAURA UNGAR
Courant Staff Writers

EAST HARTFORD, CT. – The college credentials Wali Islam typed on his 1982 application for a job at the town’s school for troubled youth seemed fitting.

He studied psychology at UCLA, he said, and earned a degree in sociology from Fayetteville State University in North Carolina.

But this week, Islam’s academic record was revealed as a deception, one of many that surfaced after the discovery that he was **A CONVICTED BANK ROBBER WHO LIED** about his **CRIMINAL PAST**, his **MILITARY RANK** and even his **IDENTITY**.

Islam was forced to resign as the town’s **SCHOOL SECURITY CHIEF** after authorities learned about the **1972 BANK ROBBERY** in North Carolina, and that he lied about it on his job application.

Islam’s lies began to unravel after he submitted fingerprints to the FBI for a town pistol permit. That uncovered the long-hidden felony conviction, which forbade him from carrying a gun.

The fingerprints also showed that he was once known as Walter Missouri, despite his sworn assertion on the permit application that he has never been known by any other name.

“He’s the one that brought the past up with him. If he had let the past be over, it would be over,” said Hilde J. Mayranen, chairwoman of the board of education. “I think lies lead to more lies. I think there’s a point we say it’s not OK, I think that point is here.”

Mayranen said that if Islam had been truthful about his past on the 1982 job application, he probably would not have gotten the job working with troubled youths . But he could have worked with students in some other capacity, she said, possibly as a tutor.

Responding to inquiries this week by the Courant both UCLA and Fayetteville State University said they have no record of a Wali Islam or a Walter Missouri ever attending.

Asked this week about his education, Islam insisted he had attended both universities, but under a THIRD NAME which he refused to disclose.

Islam said that to give the name would get other people in trouble. He would not elaborate.

Pressed further, Islam paused for several minutes in silence, and then ended the interview.

Earlier, Islam said he concealed the robbery conviction on his job application because he feared it would disqualify him. But he also said he was convinced that Walter Missouri, the criminal, had been finally exorcised from Wali Islam.

“When I came to that question, I really believed that my past was my past,” he said. “I might have been deceiving my own self.”

Local school OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NO ONE CHECKED ISLAM’S ACADEMIC CLAIMS when he was hired 14 years ago to run the Transitional Education Program for troubled youths.

“The nature of the job he applied for doesn’t require a degree or transcript,” Superintendent of Schools George Drumm said. “But, FROM NOW ON, I THINK IT WOULD BEHOOVE US TO VALIDATE EVERYTHING” ON AN APPLICATION.

On the gun permit application, Islam stated that he had been a military officer for nine years.

U.S. Army officials, however, said that Islam was discharged in 1973 as an ENLISTED MAN, NOT AS AN OFFICER. The Army could not provide additional records information on the length or type of discharge he received.

As a \$40,038-a-year security chief, Islam spent most of his time at the high school monitoring hallways, nudging stragglers to class and collaring troublemakers.

Some students said school officials did the right thing in ousting Islam.

“He’s LIVING A LIE SINCE 1972,” said Idrissa Walker, a 17-year-old sophomore. “He’s fake. How can he tell us not to commit crimes when he has?”

Islam said he was dismayed that the revelations had not only cost him his job, but had also tarnished his image.

One person who was not surprised at Islam’s downfall was Manchester (CT) martial arts instructor Kwang Hwang, who said he banished Islam from his academy soon after awarding him a black belt and a teaching post 15 years ago.

“He always tried to make up stories about himself,” Hwang said this week. “I kicked him out because he didn’t have good integrity.”

Crackdown on Hiring of Illegals is Welcome

President Clinton has issued an executive order forbidding federal contracts with companies that violate the immigration laws by hiring illegal aliens.

The hiring of illegal aliens was outlawed by Congress as long ago as 1986, but enforcement of the law, which was never very vigorous, has practically slowed to a halt. In recent years, emphasis has been placed on protecting our southern border, and the Clinton administration has increased the use of armed forces and law enforcement agencies to bolster the ranks of the Border Patrol in Arizona and California.

In the meantime, however, Mexico's economic crisis – which has sent hundreds of thousands of workers across the border in search of jobs – serves to emphasize the importance of workplace enforcement of the immigration laws. For that matter, immigration policy has become an issue in the presidential race.

Congress has recently directed the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to double its corps of workplace investigators, and the president's executive order allows him to take immediate action, bypassing any major congressional overhaul of the law.

Conditional to doing business with the government, employers are pledged to obey immigration and labor laws. But without adequate enforcement, the government has not been able to check on employers and punish contractors that disobey the law.

This is a sizeable chunk of the economy: The federal government spends roughly \$200 billion annually on a variety of goods and services, and about a fifth of the civilization labor force works for federal contractors and subcontractors.

Efforts to stem illegal immigration by enforcement of the law makes sense, especially when Americans are feeling notably uneasy about their long-term prospects for continuous employment.

Lawsuit: Church Lax in Hiring

By Rodney Crouther

SUN HERALD (Charlotte County, FL) Staff Writer

Port Charlotte, FL – A lawsuit filed last week charges that a local church knowingly hired a part-time priest with a history of sexually abusing boys.

According to the suit, the Episcopal priest, who killed himself in 1994, molested a young boy repeatedly over the course of four years, from 1985 to 1989, while he was working at the church.

The statute of limitations would have expired on the charges if not for a recent change in Florida laws regarding child molestation cases, said Russell Snyder, the attorney representing the boy and his parents. He said that, in the past, many sexual abuse cases never went to trial because the statute of limitations expired long before many abuse cases came to light.

Prior to 1992, the statute of limitations required that any legal action begin within four years of the time an incident occurred. The state Legislature extended the grace period to provide more rights to abuse victims. Snyder said he plans to argue that the statute of limitations did not start running on the case until 1994, when the boy came forward.

Snyder said the priest committed suicide shortly after church officials confronted him about the charges in March 1994.

The suit, filed Sept. 4 against the Episcopal Diocese, the church, the presiding bishop and the church's pastor, charges that the church knew, or should have known, the priest might have been a threat to children.

“Part of our case alleges that they were **NEGLIGENT IN CHECKING HIM OUT**,” Snyder said. “They **SHOULD HAVE CHECKED HIM OUT** and learned more about him **BEFORE** they put him in” a situation where he would be working with the altar boys.

The church's pastor said Monday that he could not comment on the lawsuit or the history of the case. Neither the church's attorney, nor the presiding bishop could be reached for comment Monday.

According to the suit, the diocese knew the priest had molested at least one other boy in another parish. "We have reasonable cause to believe that they did know some things," Snyder said.

The suit claims that the parents of the boy have suffered great emotional stress from having encouraged their son to spend time with the priest.

Snyder said he believes most of the sexual assaults took place away from the church. The boy said the priest told him that if he ever told anyone what was happening, the boy's family would be humiliated and ostracized, according to the suit. The priest also said he would use his influence as a priest to prevent the boy's father from becoming an Episcopal priest, the suit said.

The suit charges the church and the diocese with **NEGLIGENT HIRING, NEGLIGENT SUPERVISION, NEGLIGENT RETENTION, BREACH OF DUTY, NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION, and NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS**. It seeks compensatory damages in an amount to be determined by a jury.

Police: Nurse Stole \$15,000 From Invalid

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL (AP) – A private nurse who cared for a 75-year-old invalid for four years opened credit card accounts in his name and ran up to \$15,000 worth of bills for jewelry and clothes, police said.

The nurse, Mary Boomer, was charged with grand theft, financial exploitation and dealing in stolen property. The Broward County Sheriff's Office is preparing a charge of fraudulent use of a credit card, said sheriff's detective Bob Parr.

Franklin Holmes, of Tamarac Village, incapacitated by a stroke, multiple sclerosis and an amputated leg, told Parr the trouble started when he rejected the nurse's appeal for a pay raise. She was making \$10 an hour.

Parr said the nurse opened credit cards in Holmes' name by intercepting the mail and filling out forms for pre-approved cards.