

Stanford Investigates Theft of Passwords

Internet: Hackers get access for 5,000 accounts. New security system had been improperly installed.

By EDWARD WONG
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO—Computer specialists at Stanford University, stung by the theft of 5,000 passwords, are investigating Internet service providers in Canada and Sweden for connections to the hacker attack.

Most of the stolen passwords were from student accounts, said Stephen Hansen, the campus computer security officer. The theft, discovered last week, occurred between Oct. 11 and Oct. 26. The hackers logged on through Internet service providers in Sweden and Canada, although they may have been based in other countries.

Hansen declined to name the providers for fear of jeopardizing the investigation. The information collected will be turned over to the FBI, which is aware of the incident but has not launched an investigation, Hansen said.

The hackers were apparently able to break into the university system because a new security program had been improperly installed on about 5% of Stanford's

computers. The hackers planted a "sniffer" program that detects when people are logging on and saves their passwords into a file. The breach was discovered by a system administrator.

"We thought we were secure," Hansen said. "We followed all the best procedures, but we forgot about human error."

System administrators have sent e-mails to the 5,000 violated users, advising them to change passwords on their accounts. Almost all did so within two days, and only about 200 accounts had to be frozen.

Hansen said the hackers did not use any of the passwords. He added that Chelsea Clinton, daughter of the president and a student at Stanford, uses her own e-mail account with special security features.

"Most students didn't think it was such a big deal," said Jim Peng, a student computer consultant.

Hansen said he didn't know what motivated the hackers, although he suspects that they intended to hand out the accounts to other users. Within hacker culture, dis-

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— IMPORTANT NOTICE —

ABOUT BENEFITS FOR MINORS AND INCOMPETENT PERSONS PAYABLE UNDER THE ORANGE COUNTY CREMATION TRUST

Any person who was, as of May 20, 1989, a minor, unborn, incompetent or otherwise suffering under a legal disability and had a relative or close friend who was cremated at Harbor Lawn Crematory in Costa Mesa, California, between July 1, 1978 and July 31, 1985 may have right to a payment of benefits from the "Orange County Cremation Trust", established to compensate minors and other legally disabled persons. In order to obtain such benefits, a claim must be filed by or on behalf of each such minor or other legally disabled person. Such claim must be made in the form and within the time hereinafter.

BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION OF TRUST

On May 16, 1990, the Orange County Superior Court made an Order approving the settlement of class action litigation brought against Harbor Lawn and certain other mortuaries and cremation societies. The settlement resolved all existing and potential claims against the settling parties that arose out of the handling, cremation or disposition of the remains of persons who were cremated at Harbor Lawn between July 1, 1978 and July 31, 1985. The defendants in those lawsuits denied all such claims and damages. The Court-approved settlement resolved all pending and potential claims against the settling parties that arose or might arise out of the handling, cremation or disposition of the remains of any person who was cremated at Harbor Lawn between July 1, 1978 and July 31, 1985 whether or not a claimant had filed a lawsuit with respect to such claims. Hence, no one can pursue a lawsuit based on those claims.

In accordance with the settlement, the court ordered that a sum of money be set aside in the TRUST to pay future claims of minors, unborns, incompetent persons and those otherwise suffering from a disability on the date of the order approving the settlement (collectively, the "Minor Claimants" and, individually, a "Minor Claimant"). The funds set aside are administered pursuant to the provisions of the TRUST which require that each year an opportunity be given to eligible Minor Claimants to make a claim against the fund administered under the TRUST.

WHO MAY FILE A CLAIM

A claim may be filed by or on behalf of any person who on March 20, 1989, was a minor, unborn, incompetent or otherwise suffering under a legal disability and who has not yet reached the age of 19 years or whose competency has not been restored or whose other legal disability has not been removed for more than one year. If: (1) that person was a relative by blood, marriage or adoption of any person cremated at Harbor Lawn; or (2) that person claims some special relation to someone who was cremated at Harbor Lawn between July 1, 1978 and July 31, 1985. Claims on behalf of Minor Claimants claimants must be made by their personal representative (guardian, Conservator, Guardian as Utern or the like) unless he or she has reached age 18 or any other legal disability has been removed.

WHAT IS YOUR CLAIM WORTH

It is not known that any particular claim is worth, pending receipt of further information. However, it will be worth nothing if a claim had not been filed prior to one year after a Minor Claimant reaches majority (age 18) or has any other legal disability removed. In addition, payment of benefits under the TRUST may be determined by the Orange County Superior Court under circumstances and for reasons stated in the TRUST document.

CALL TOLL FREE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Orange County Superior Court has appointed Scott A. Martin as Trustee to administer the TRUST. If you have questions concerning this Notice, you may contact Mr. Martin by phone (toll free) at 1-800-888-4998 (between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., California Time, Monday through Friday), or you may write to him at Scott A. Martin, Trustee, 6 Hutton Center, Suite 500, Santa Ana CA 92707. To request a claim form, you may either telephone the number listed above or fill in and return the attached coupon.

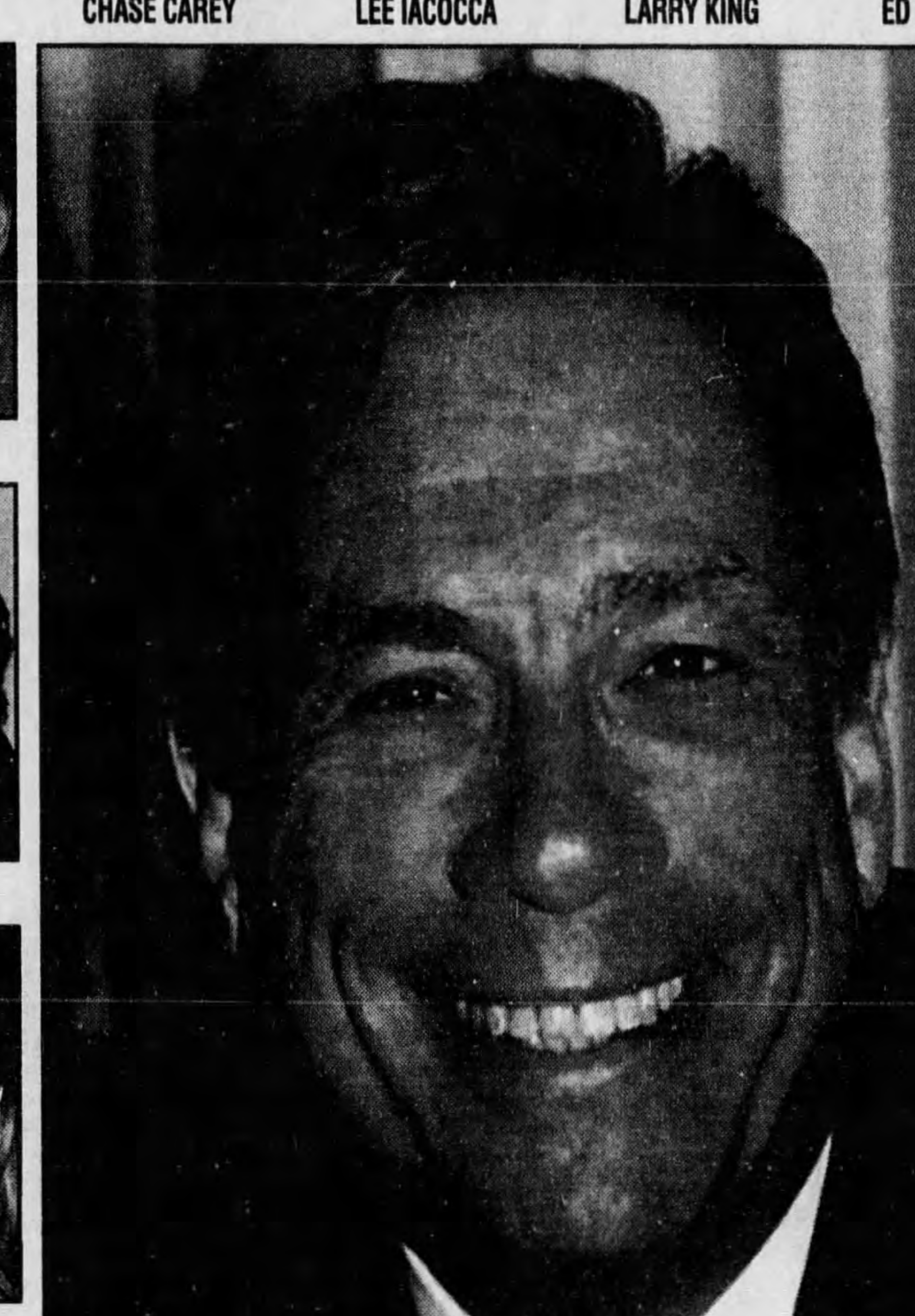
To: Scott A. Martin, Trustee
6 Hutton Center, Suite 500, Santa Ana 92707




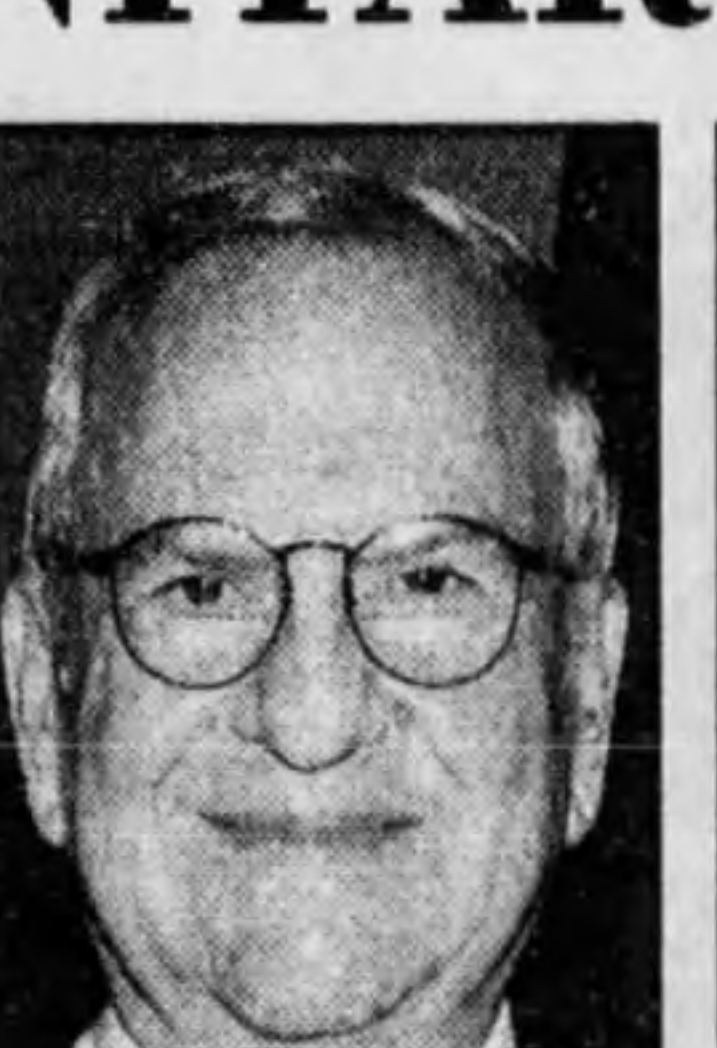













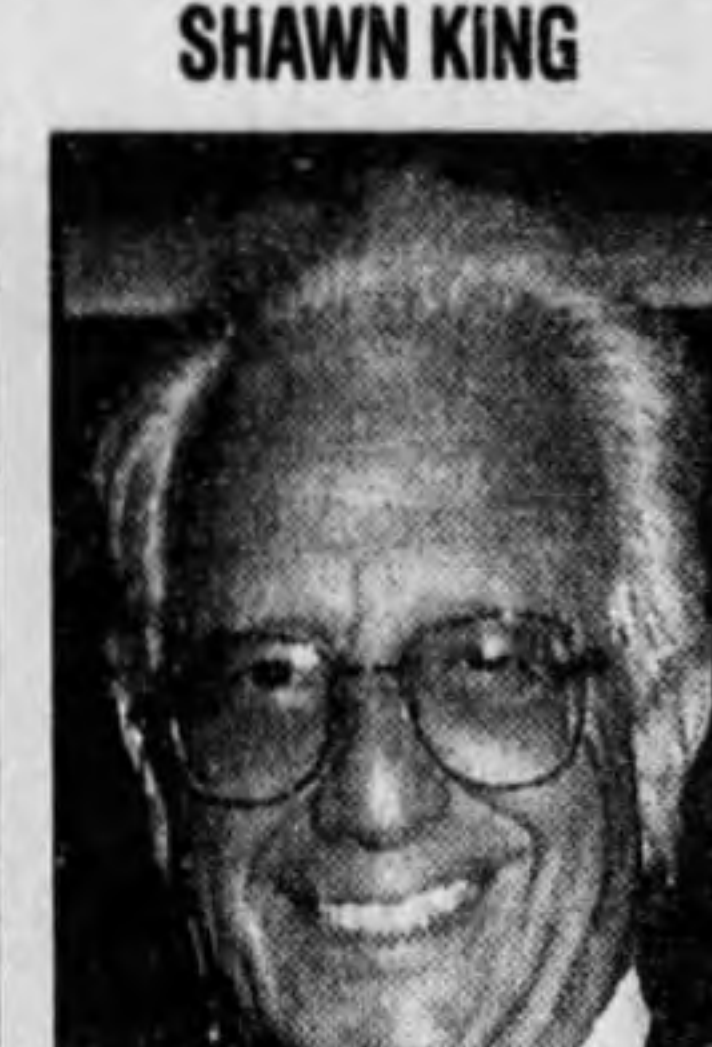










I believe that I am (or that the Minor Claimant I represent, namely, _____) is entitled to payment of benefits from the ORANGE COUNTY CREMATION TRUST.

NAME _____
Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
Telephone Number _____

Complete claim forms must be mailed to Scott A. Martin, Trustee, no later than July 31, 2004.
*Note: Harbor Lawn is a mortuary in Costa Mesa, California, where cremations were performed. Some people made arrangements with another mortuary or a cremation society. Even if the arrangements were made with a cremation society or a mortuary other than Harbor Lawn, the cremation may have been performed at Harbor Lawn.

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