

Tightening down the Hatches

A Summary of Timely Articles of Special Interest To Businesses in Protecting your Assets

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Welcome to the first edition of my newsletter. Over the last few years, I have been asked on a number of occasions to share some knowledge on actions companies can put into place to minimize the opportunities, and maximize the detection of internal theft that is taking place within the business workplace. My investigative and consulting work within a number of the various types of businesses, from retail stores, golf courses to warehousing brings me to the conclusion, that most internal theft problems, might not have taken place, if due diligence was taken at the time of the hiring.

After a suspect has been ferreted out, an examination of the circumstances surrounding the subject coming to work for the company often finds the hiring was done very quickly with little to no background enquiries taking place. A subsequent check, often will find information, which if had been known at the time of hiring, would have resulted in a different course of action. Resumes often contain false

information, and simple phone calls to references, will not reveal the true work ethics or personal flaws that would lead to the decision that this is not the person for your company. Human Resource departments will find the best individual with the skills and talents that the job requires, but often fall short of determining if the individual is a right fit for the company.

Every company should lay out a plan for the hiring of employees, that should start with an application

investigation concerning the breakup of partnership, where a background investigation into a new partner would have resulted in the partnership not forming, and not the subsequent loss of a company. A planned series of structured questions designed to provide you with insight should be asked of each employee. Spend the resources to confirm the information that you have been supplied. Make sure you are not hiring a technically qualified individual with behavioral problems.

If you would like to receive future issues of this newsletter
please advise contact me by:
email at dave@daverodwell.com
phone or fax 780-460-3028

form that is designed to obtain the answers to the questions you want answered, and not what was included in a resume by the applicant. Predetermine the scope of background enquiries you want conducted, which will depend upon the involvement and responsibility level the employee will be engaged in. I have been involved in an

I have recently been asked to present a three hour workshop at the Northern Alberta Business Incubator on "Establishing a Corporate Security Program" The last time, I presented this workshop it was well received. No dates have

been set yet, but if you or anyone else is interested in attending either give myself a phone call or register by calling Mr. Lorne Ross at 780-460-1000. In addition, workshops on Robbery Prevention and Shoplifting are being planned for the future.

CRIMINALS CAN BE BOLD

FUR THIEF PRODUCES FAKE TEARS, REAL ID

(Anchorage, AK) - A shoplifter went through great effort – and unconvincing theatrics -- in trying to scam two downtown fur stores Wednesday. The man first walked into Wild Furs Ltd., 411 W. Fourth Ave., about 1 p.m. Owner Adam Glazer said the man wanted to exchange an item. "He whispers to me and says, 'I'm the one whose wife was killed in the avalanche,'" Glazer said. Glazer said he expressed sympathy, and then turned briefly to assist another customer. When he looked back, the man was holding a \$79 pair of fur gloves and said he had bought them for his wife. He asked for a refund but didn't have a receipt. "He started crying in the store," Glazer said. "He said he needed the money."

Glazer was suspicious but didn't want to seem insensitive and question his story. So he agreed to write a check. When he asked for his name, the man pulled out an identification card bearing the name Edward Wooley. "Obviously, he's not a very smart criminal," Glazer said. Glazer soon afterward saw the man across the street, coming out of Alaska Fur Gallery. Over there, police said, Wooley shoplifted a \$150 pair of fur earmuffs and then asked for a refund.

Malena Hausinger, store manager, said the man "told us that his sister was the one killed in the avalanche. The story was fine, but then he started crying but he really wasn't crying. You could tell it was fake." Again he couldn't produce a receipt or even remember when he supposedly bought the muffs.

"So my sister said to him, 'We can't give you a refund check, we'll have to send you a check,'" Hausinger said. The man again produced the same ID, and employees made a copy of it. Four people have died in avalanches in Alaska this winter. The only woman victim, Rebecca Patton, died Nov. 12. Three December victims were males.

"We didn't remember any lady that died in that avalanche," Hausinger said. "What was just hilarious was the way he was trying to cry." As

Glazer saw the man leave Alaska Fur Gallery, he called Hausinger and learned what happened there. He immediately called his bank, Wells Fargo, to put a stop on the check, and then began chasing after the man on Fourth Avenue but lost sight of him. As officers looked for the suspect, he walked into the main Wells Fargo branch in Midtown and tried to cash the Wild Furs check. After the clerk refused, the man phoned Glazer to complain, Glazer said. The man disappeared before officers arrived. Officer Matt Bloodgood said 34-year-old Edward Wooley of Wasilla is on probation and is wanted on a felony arrest warrant. He is also a suspect in the recent theft of a snowboard from REI, Bloodgood said. Police are attempting to find Wooley, who is described as 6 feet 1 inch tall, weighing 230 pounds, with short brown hair and blue eyes.

Glazer said it's the first time he's been taken in 16 years in business, but at least he didn't end up losing anything. "I'm expecting people to come in after the holidays and exchange gifts," he said. "I'm not expecting them to scam me."

Source: Anchorage Daily News

A GREAT BOOK FOR YOUR READING

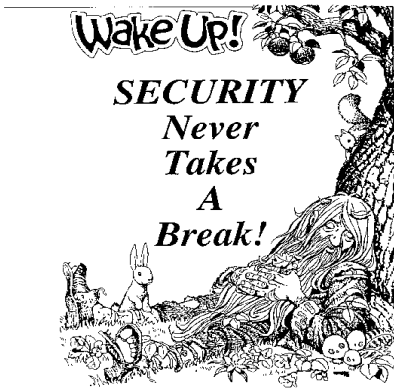
PREVENTING CORPORATE EMBEZZLEMENT

By Paul Shaw and Jack Bologna.
Paperback, 132 pages. Published
July 2000 by Butterworth-Heinemann.
ISBN: 0750672544.

You can order this publication online
through the Barnes & Noble
Web site:

<http://www.bn.com>





THIS EDITION'S SECURITY TIP

How can someone steal your identity? By co-opting your name, Social Security number, credit card number, or some other piece of your personal information for their own use. In short, identity theft occurs when someone appropriates your personal information without your knowledge to commit fraud or theft.

Here are some ways that identity thieves work:

- They open a new credit card account, using your name, date of birth, and Social Security number. When they use the credit card and don't pay the bills, the delinquent account is reported on **your** credit report.
- They call your credit card issuer and, pretending to be you, change the mailing address on your credit card account. Then, your imposter runs up charges on your account. Because your bills are being sent to the new address, you may not immediately realize there's a problem.
- They establish cellular phone service in your name.
- They open a bank account in your name and write bad checks on that account.

Remember if you don't want to be a victim, guard your personal information.

A Bit of Humour

Sitting on the side of the highway waiting to catch speeding drivers, a State Police Officer sees a car pattering along at 22 mph. He thinks to himself, "This driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!" So he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over.

Approaching the car, he notices that there are five old ladies, two in the front seat and three in the back - eyes wide and white as ghosts. The driver, obviously confused, says to him, "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit! What seems to be the problem?"

"Ma'am," the officer replies, "You weren't speeding, but you should know that driving slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers."

"Slower than the speed limit?" she asked. "No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly - Twenty-two miles an hour!" the old woman says a bit proudly.

The State Police officer, trying to contain a chuckle explains to her that "22" was the route number, not the speed limit.

A bit embarrassed, the woman grinned and thanked the officer for pointing out her error.

"But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask, is everyone in this car okay? These women seem awfully shaken and they haven't muttered a single peep this whole time." the officer said.

The little old lady driver replied, "Oh, they'll be alright in a minute officer. We just got off Route 119."