

# Medical Degree Scam & Pakistani Bank Scandal

(Closed Caption transcript provided by Cision; Jay Leno and Brian Ross of Dateline)

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from the nbc studios in burbank, california, "the tonight show with jay leno," featuring brandford marsalis and "the tonight show" band. Tonight, jay welcomes tom hanks, from nbc news, brian ross, and the music of delbert mcclinton im edd hall. And now, jay leno! [ Cheers and applause ] captions paid for by nbc-universal television captions by vitac www.Vitac.Com [ cheers and applause ] jay: good to see everybody

23:28:35.11 Jay: welcome back. My next guest, a modern-day muckraker. For over 15 years, he has tracked down mob figures and uncovered international drug rings for nbc news. He recently won a peabody award for his coverage of the bcci scandal. He is a regular contributor to "dateline nbc," which airs right here on nbc on tuesdays please welcome brian ross.

[discussion on baseball deleted]

Jay: whats the newest fraud youve got? I was reading something about what were you doing about the student loans in the medical schools?

Right. I went down to mexico to enroll in a mexican medical school. I showed up there and told them i had not been to college, just finished high school, spoke no spanish. I was five weeks late, and quicker than you can get a a margarita, i was accepted in medical school.

Jay: wait now, why? Do you have to get a phony degree to meet women or something? Why would they do this?

There are plenty of americans who just cant get into american medical schools, and they want to be doctors so badly that they will go anywhere. And there are a series of schools in mexico and the caribbean that cater to these american medical school rejects.

Jay: didnt we rescue a bunch of them in grenada?

The scam there is that there are millions of dollars in u.S. Student loan money going down to these schools. Washington sends the money down to the schools without checking into what kind of school it is. They have no idea. The school that i was at was so bad, jay, they had no cadaver. The last cadaver they had was a a soviet seaman who had jumped ship, washed up on shore, and got a bad case of worms, and they had to get rid of the cadaver. [ Laughter ]

jay: thats a tough break. Thats a tough school. All right now, let me see if ive got this.

Obviously its a scam to forget about defrauding the american government out of its money.

Forget about that. Jay: now i have my degree from the institute of margarita, wherever it is. If i come back to the united states, am i a doctor? Can i open a shop? Well, there are a whole series of tests and boards. But some of these people do get through. They get past the procedures and the tests that are designed to weed out the bad students. We found a number of cases where doctors trained in mexico and the caribbean have given really less than good medical care and there have been deaths and serious injury because of there was a time when these schools, they were probably better than they are now when the american medical schools didnt have room for all the qualified students. Thats not so much the case anymore.

Jay: yeah, just anybody that just wants to show off and say theyre a doctor could go down there?

Yes. You and i could go down and be accepted in the next couple of days.

Jay: let me ask you about the peabody award you won for the bcci scandal. This seems very complicated to me, this whole case. Fill me in a little bit.

Along with ira silverman, my longtime partner and producer, we have been following the bcci case since 1988, really. The cia called the bcci "the bank of crooks and criminals international." Thats how they understood the initials, bcci. What it is really is a foreign bank that broke the law wherever it went. They operated mostly, at least initially, in third world countries, where they went in typically and paid off politicians and bribed their way into good standing. But they came to washington and did the exact same thing.

Jay: where did they start? The middle east?

One guy with a lot of money started a bank and then it grew? A group of pakistani bankers who were kicked out of pakistan when they nationalized the banks tre went and organized a bunch of arab money. They headquartered the bank in london, but it was chartered in luxembourg. No one country really tooa a close look at this bank, and it evolved into the biggest financial scandal in world history.

Jay: all of the american banks that were later tied in with this. My question, not to be naive, but if im the president of a a little bank in maryland and i tie in with bcci, do i know its crooked or was their cover that good. I mean, all these people are coming down in this case in washington.

Its hard to know whether they know. That will be up to the trials that are likely to come in the next couple of months. Can they prove they knew. The prosecutors believe that yes, indeed, very prestigious americans who got behind bcci knew that a bunch of crooks and criminals were running the bank, and they went along with it anyway to get rich. The bank had something called its raf, its rent-a-face, and they hired prestigious people to front for it. It was a front. [ Applause ]

jay: thats about it. I want to thank my guest brian ross. Brian, please come back and lets get into this a little more. Im sorry it was so brief. It was very interesting. Brian ross, nbc news. Okay, this is the new cd, delbert mcclinton, "never been rocked enough."

NOTE: This is a closed caption [CC] transcript and unlike a verbatim transcript, it may contain typographical, spelling, and other such errors.

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