THE WORLD STAGE - VIRGINIA INVESTMENTS CONNECTION

Many subscribers will remember the fraudulent full page ads for low cholesterol tea which were placed by Virginia Investments in June 1989. 106 newspapers ran the ads and lost $640,000.

ANPA/CBI, with the help of a small group of subscribers, who work closely with ANPA/CBI on fraud advertising problems, were able to stop the publication of the ads in several hundred newspapers, saving them about one and a half million dollars.

Because of our efforts, not one reader lost money, although several sacks of checks were mailed to the advertiser after the ads ran. By contacting the proper authorities we had stopped the advertiser from receiving the reader’s checks and had the advertiser and his assistant jailed.

On Wednesday, November 15th, 1989, Steve Reynolds, Credit Manager of the San Antonio Light, San Antonio, Texas, called ANPA/CBI to ask if we knew a company called World Stage Advertising & Publishing Group of North Hollywood, California, and said that he had received a request for credit, but no advertising copy.

He remembered that was the approach taken earlier this year by Virginia Investments, and said he did not like the look of the material because of other similarities. He faxed the material to ANPA/CBI.

As soon as we received the material, we realized that there were distinct similarities between what we had received earlier from Virginia Investments and the World Stage material.

We noticed that whereas Virginia Investments had shown five addresses on their letterhead which were supposed to be branch offices, but were not, World Stage had shown five advertising agency associations of which they claimed to be members.

We checked these out and found that only two of these actually existed. One was the Advertising Club of Los Angeles, where they told us that World Stage had been a member for about a month. They told us their contact was an Australian gentleman. Peter Foster, principal of Virginia Investments was an Australian.
The other membership was with the Better Business Bureau of the Southland (Chatsworth, California), where they had been a member only since October 25th, 1989. BBB did not know very much about World Stage.

ANPA/CBI notified Steven Jones, Vice President, Law and Policy at the Council of Better Business Bureaus in Arlington, Virginia that World Stage had been accepted for membership.

World Stage showed an address of 5051 Whitsett Avenue, North Hollywood, CA 91607 as their office address. This address had previously been shown on credit application forms for Virginia Investments as the home address of Peter Foster, the principal of Virginia Investments.

World Stage had given their bank as the Western Oceanic Credit & Commerce Bank, Georgetown, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, BWI, where the bank confirmed an account for World Stage opened for three years. Virginia Investments also had a bank in Georgetown, Grand Cayman.

World Stage presented a financial statement (net worth $5.5 million) showing it was supposedly audited by Winston, Raleigh & Hughes, a firm which we could not trace, although we checked with the Association of CPA's in New York and in London, England (The Cayman Islands is a British possession).

Winston, Raleigh and Hughes turned out to be Mr. Foster's attorney in the Cayman Islands. Deputy City Attorney Ruth Kwan of the Los Angeles City Attorney's office had received a letter from this firm when Peter Foster was being prosecuted in the Virginia Investments scam. Virginia Investments had also presented a set of financial statements supposedly audited by an accountant we could not trace.

World Stage presented a folio of letters purporting to come from trade references, as did Virginia Investments. Letters from both of these groups bore closing signatures and company names which had been underlined, which is very unusual. None of the companies given as references were listed by the telephone companies.

One of the reference letters was supposedly issued by Julie McCann Property Management, 5051 Whitsett Avenue. Julie McCann had appeared on credit applications for Virginia Investments as the registered agent for Virginia Investments when they were incorporated.

Another of the World Stage trade references was shown as Graham Carter Associates, Winter Park, Florida, a suburb of Orlando. We traced the telephone number to a David Carter. The address in the ad where money was to be sent was a post office box in Orlando, Florida.

World Stage stated on their credit application forms that their principals were president Phillip Lynch of Highland Avenue, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 and John Howard, Apt. 8, Bedford Plaza, Hollywood, CA 91610. Neither of these people were listed by the telephone company and we were unable to trace persons with these names.

They stated that their company was incorporated in California in 1986. There was no listing with the California State Secretary's office. We figured that if a company had an account in a bank in the Cayman Islands for three years,
they may also be registered there, but the Registrar of Companies in Grand
Cayman had no record of World Stage.

ANPA/CBI contacted the Los Angeles Deputy City Attorney, who had prosecuted
Peter Foster, and gave her all the information we had on World Stage, on
November 17th.

ANPA/CBI also contacted the U.S. Postal Service Inspection Service in Tampa,
Florida and also faxed all relevant information to them.

On Thursday, November 16th, although we did not yet know the content of the
ad, ANPA/CBI issued a bulletin, alerting all subscribers. Late that day
several newspapers called to say that they had received the quarter-page ad,
which was for capsules called Ageless Aging, which was supposed to make one
feel younger and look younger. The ads were to run Sunday November 19th.
We realised that the bulletin would not reach the newspapers before the ads
ran, so on Friday November 17th the entire staff of ANPA/CBI spent the day
telephoning newspapers to warn them of the ad. Many newspapers had received
the ad and were processing it for publication.

The Tampa postal inspector called ANPA/CBI on Tuesday, November 21. He had
interrogated Graham Carter, whose credit reference letter had been included
with the World Stage material. Carter is Australian and in Florida on
vacation. He is also a friend of Peter Foster.

He said Foster asked him to open the post office box but didn't tell him what
the box was for. Carter had to get someone else to actually open the box since
he isn't a U.S. resident, but he did have the only key.

Carter stated that the letter of recommendation which was sent to newspapers
in his name was a forgery. So was the signature. The firm of Graham Carter &
Associates did not exist.

The postal inspector believes Carter told the truth, because he had previously
told Carter he would go to jail if he tried to help Foster in future.

The postal inspector accompanied Carter to the Orlando post office where they
closed out the mailbox so that Foster could not receive any mail and readers
of newspapers that ANPA/CBI were unable to reach would, therefore, not lose
any money.

Carter says that Foster is now living in Grand Cayman with his sister and gave
the inspector Foster's home and business telephone numbers.

Media who ran this advertising will almost certainly not be paid because Mr.
Foster is out of reach. The U.S. has an extradition treaty with the Cayman
Islands, but would not exercise that option in a matter such as this.

ANPA/CBI has given information regarding this case to the Los Angeles
attorneys handling the Virginia Investments bankruptcy, so it can be
considered when the Federal Court next hears that case.

ANPA/CBI wishes to thank Steve Reynolds and other media credit people who
subsequently contacted us with the information they received. Many other
media received this material and either ran the ad without question or
recognized the it as fraudulent and killed the ad, but did not notify anyone.
Several newspapers commented that our phone call saved them enough money to pay their ANPA/CBI dues for many years to come.

This was another instance, as in the Virginia Investments scam, where credit personnel should have been able to recognize the credit application, given in advance of the ad copy, as too good to be true. The ads were obviously fraudulent and should never have been accepted by the ad departments.

ANPA/CBI does not see these ads when they are presented for publication, but if we can be alerted whenever media receives this type of material, we can save the media and its readers literally millions of dollars.

Why not contact ANPA/CBI when you see a questionable-looking credit application or ad copy? We will check it out.

Call 703-648-1248 or 703-648-1038. ANPA/CBI and the rest of the media will certainly appreciate your call.

December 28, 1989
Living life in the Fast Lane?
Slow the effects with Ageless Ageing!

The natural energy supplement that helps you feel younger, look more vital.

Do you frequently feel tired at the office? Does exercise drain your energy levels instead of increasing them? Do you feel and look rundown, dull, older? The problem may be a shortfall in your nutritional intake. Even people who have balanced diets and a regular exercise program can suffer these shortfalls. That's why you need Ageless Ageing.

Ageless Ageing helps maintain your natural energy level.

The stresses of modern, 20th century life, with its environmental pollutants, radiation, excess sun (including tanning beds) physical over-exertion and poor nutrition, create an over-abundance of toxins in your body. These toxins stimulate the production of free radicals, chemicals which contribute greatly to the ageing process through chain reactions which slow down your cell metabolism.

Ageless Ageing supplies nutrients which work with your body to encourage the production of natural enzyme systems known as antioxidants. By adding into your system these extra antioxidants, all-natural nutrients needed as you age to inhibit the production of free radicals, you can look younger — and feel more energetic and vital — longer than if you relied solely on diet and exercise.

A Proven European Formula

Ageless Ageing is a remarkable energy supplement whose all-natural ingredients contribute both to the release of energy from food to your cells, and to the control of free radicals. Previously, many of the antioxidant ingredients in Ageless Ageing could not be effectively combined. This difficulty has not only been resolved by British researchers, but to maximize your body's absorption of these nutrients, each ingredient in Ageless Ageing has been emulsified.

Regular users of Ageless Ageing have found that this product really works to give you renewed energy, make you look more vital and vigorous, and even increase your levels of stamina and endurance. And we offer it here for the first time in the United States!

CALL & ORDER TODAY!!
Order a month's supply of Ageless Ageing TODAY (only $21.95 plus $3.00 shipping and handling) by filling out the order form below. We will rush your order to you so you can enjoy the increased energy and more youthful feeling of a healthier, more vital YOU!

YES! I want to feel younger and increase my natural energy levels. Send me a month's supply of Ageless Ageing immediately. I understand if I am not completely satisfied, I may return the unused portion of this product for a full refund.

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City __________________ State ______ Zip __
Daytime Phone ________________________

☐ Check or Money Order enclosed in the amount of $24.95 ($21.95 plus $3.00 shipping and handling)

Make checks payable to: AGELESS AGEING,
P.O. Box 547363, Orlando Fl 32854-7363