

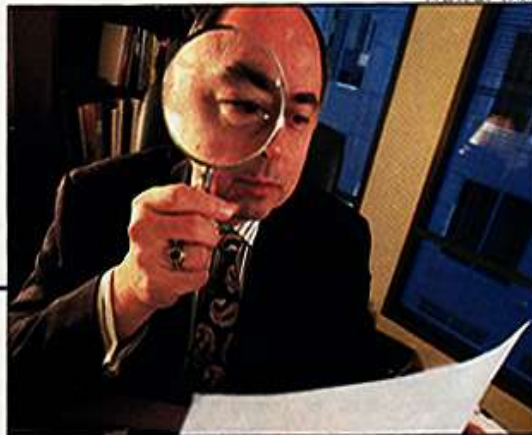
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Financial sleuth hot on the trail

Forensic accountants are in demand these days—called in to investigate white-collar crime, alimony problems, insurance claims, and the like. They figure in two high-profile cases right now: the O. J. Simpson civil trial and the probe into charges that Swiss banks hid Holocaust victims' assets for the Nazis. **Robert Lindquist** of **Price Waterhouse** is a pioneer in the field. His firm is involved in the Swiss-Nazi case. He spoke with U.S. News.



What are forensic accountants?
Forensic means "suitable to a court of law." We gather evidence that must pass that test.

Describe an exciting case you've worked on.
In 1990, the new leaders of Romania asked us to find assets hidden by [former dictator] Nicolae Ceausescu. He laundered much of it through Cyprus, but he sank a fortune into his 33 residences, like a lakeside palace with gilt ceilings and an indoor pool with a retractable roof.

"We're bloodhounds of the bottom line."

What can you say about people and their money?
No matter who they are and where they put their money, people always like to visit it. And that's often how we catch them.

Does this glamour defy the accountant's image?
It's a great cover. If I were a lawyer, people wouldn't trust me. But I'm not. They think, "What does an accountant know? We can hose him." -Dorian Friedman