

TITANIC RIP-OFF

for Billy Zane's PARENTS



The actor
with his
family

THE parents of "Titanic" actor Billy Zane have skipped town and left dozens of students of their Chicago-based vocational school empty-handed, charge angry students.

For 30 years, William and Thalia Zane ran the Medical Careers Institute in the Windy City, where students earned training in echocardiography, ultrasound scanning and medical billing and coding.

Just before Halloween, William, 77, and Thalia, 78, shut down the school without warning and fled to Greece with close to \$30,000 in tuition paid by students for the upcoming semester, charge their former pupils.

"IT WAS A HUGE SHOCKER FOR everyone," former student Valerie Ramirez told *The ENQUIRER*. "I showed up for class one day and there was an angry mob of students trying to figure out what happened.

"William and Thalia disappeared with our money. I lost \$4,000, not to mention the six months of training I have no credit for – and they gave us no explanation whatsoever!"

All 60 of the school's registered students are out their money – as well as transcripts showing how many weeks or months of study they had completed, the students say.

Another student, Yaakov Reed, told

**COUPLE CLOSE
DOWN SCHOOL,
run off with
students' money**

The *ENQUIRER* he was suspicious something was wrong when the school withheld issuing textbooks the week before the closure.

"Now I see that they were trying to save money by not buying us our books and supplies – and they were accepting payments up to two days prior to closing," he said.

Reed says it was common knowledge at the school that William and Thalia were Billy Zane's parents.

"Because their son was a wealthy actor, we never considered that the school would close in such a fraudulent and evil way," Reed continued.

Telephone lines to the school, as well as to the Zane household in Chicago, have been disconnected. The school has 30 days to refund the students' tuition, after which it will become subject to investigation by the Illinois State Board of Education, say authorities.

Reed says he and a group of students went to the Zanes' condo and were told by the building's doorman the couple had "packed up and left for Greece."

"It's shocking that they would do this to us – not to mention risking Billy's reputation," he added.

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