

# RIGHT MEDICINE FOR QUACKS

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CHINATOWN IS A LITTLE safer now that some of the trash masquerading as doctors have been swept off the streets. Ten phony physicians have been accused of unauthorized practice of a profession. One was hit with additional sexual abuse charges.

The hucksters are being put out of business thanks to the Daily News' Molly Gordy. Her horrifying documentation last June showed quacks routinely victimizing the Chinese immigrant community. City and state officials now have made good on the belated crackdown they promised in light of the series.

Working with the office of state Attorney General Dennis Vacco, undercover agents from the state Education Department scoured Chinatown for fake docs. Finding them was like shooting fish in a barrel. Two unlicensed acupuncturists, a pseudo-gynecologist and four dentist wannabes were among those collared.

Two of the bogus dentists were observed drilling teeth, while two others gave the undercover agents dental exams and offered their services. Three of the fake docs profiled by The News have been thrown in the clink, including Yong Dian Li self-anointed hemorrhoid expert. Convicted in 1993 of practicing without a license after three women accused him of sexual abuse, Li allegedly was back to his old tricks in 1996.

But yesterday's big catch was the duo of Lisa Lu aka Dr. Ting Deng and Dr. Eugene Schwalben, better known as the Butcher of Canal St. While Schwalben, a real doctor who apparently didn't know the Hippocratic oath, allegedly botched an abortion, license-less Lu is accused of dumping the desperate patient in the hallway to die in a pool of her own blood.

Chinatown, and the entire city, should breathe a huge sigh of relief with the arrests. If convicted, the defendants face up to four years in jail per count of unauthorized practice. Still, there are more out there. More unlicensed physicians performing surgery, doling out drugs, ordering X-rays, peddling outlawed potions with impunity and maiming unsuspecting patients. They must be stopped.

A bill introduced last session by State Sen. Roy Goodman (R-Manhattan) would help do just that. For the first time, practicing medicine without a license would be a criminal offense earning the guilty a minimum of a year in jail and stiff fines. If the Legislature reconvenes this fall, the

Goodman bill must be near the top. Assuming, that is, that Albany finds protecting lives to be important.

Original document found online at: <http://www.nydailynews.com/archives/opinions/medicine-quacks-article-1.733401>