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 Reds
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 Dining
 Horoscopes
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Tuesday, November 14, 2000

What's the Buzz?

Extension OK'd in bank probe

By Cliff Peale
 The Cincinnati Enquirer

The Cincinnati-area men who operate a Grenadian bank under investigation by Indiana securities regulators have until Nov. 30 to answer the charges.

John Brinker of Withamsville and Gary Bentz of Loveland requested the extension this month, said Kevin McShane, the Indianapolis lawyer they have hired to defend the case.

The pair could either contest the charges in a hearing, or accept the order to "cease and desist" from the sale of unregistered securities and misleading investors.

The Indiana Securities Commission issued the order in mid-October. Mr. Brinker and Mr. Bentz sold securities in a bank registered in Grenada called Wellington Bank and Trust.

Mr. McShane said his clients would not comment publicly on the case. He represents Mr. Brinker, Mr. Bentz and CastleRock Consulting, another company named in the Indiana order and operated by Mr. Brinker.

Securities officials have not said how many investors and how much money are involved.

But Mr. Brinker and Mr. Bentz sold the stock throughout Greater Cincinnati, much of it in Dearborn County.

Have a tip about a Tristate company that should be included in our Buzz? Call (513) 768-8147 or e-mail business@enquirer.com.

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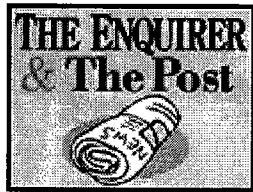
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