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**With proof of identity, someone named Jesus ... - posted by mloaks, on: 2004/10/12 13:58**

SACRAMENTO, Oct. 11 (UPI) -- Some 6 million people, including celebrities and even Jesus Christ, are owed money by the state of California, the Los Angeles Times reported Monday.

"One of the questions that always gets asked around here is 'How does this happen?'" said Paul Hefner, a spokesman for state Controller Steve Westly, whose office oversees unclaimed property.

When a company owes someone money but can't find them, or when a bank account lies untouched for three years and the owner can't be reached, the funds must be turned over to the state's unclaimed property division.

One baffling case is a \$5,953 payment that was intended for the Los Angeles Times but instead went to the state's unclaimed property bureau after the sender was unable to locate the newspaper. The sender was The Tribune Co., which owns The Times.

With proof of identity, someone named Jesus Christ whose last known address was Sacramento is eligible for \$28 from the Golden 1 Credit Union.

Other "missing" property owners include Mick Jagger, Maria Shriver, Stevie Wonder and Ben Affleck.