

*THE CASE OF THE FATAL FACE-LIFT

Two years after the deaths of their spouses, and following a whirlwind courtship, cosmetics mogul Marilyn Miglin married international businessman Naguib Mankarious. It looked like a heartwarming end to heartbreak, but six months later, Mankarious checked into Hinsdale Hospital for a face-lift—and died in the recovery room. The case has led to a lawsuit and many lingering questions—in particular, why would a 72-year-old man with a new bride undergo nine hours of cosmetic surgery?

BY CYNTHIA HANSON

Last January 16th, pastor John Buchanan stood in the pulpit of the Fourth Presbyterian Church and gazed at a sea of well-heeled worshipers. Sitting near the front, as always, was Naguib Mankarious, the Egyptian-born business consultant and new husband of cosmetics mogul Marilyn Miglin. At 72, Mankarious cut a memorable figure with his broad shoulders and designer clothes.

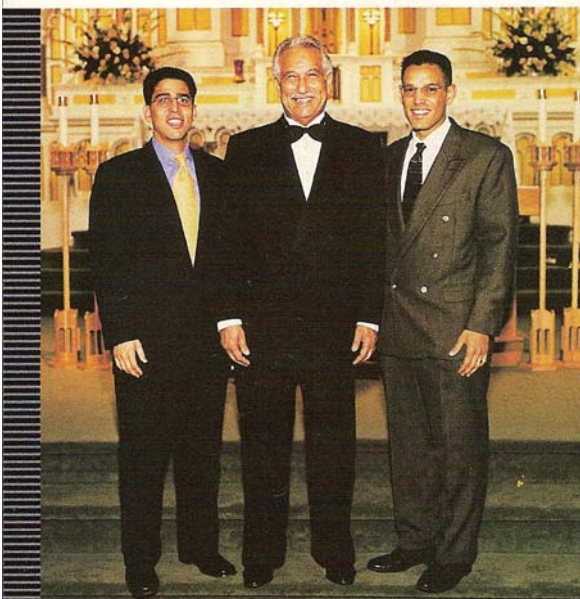
Though he had spent much of the seventies and eighties living in Skokie, he had been a fixture at Fourth Presbyterian on Michigan Avenue since 1993, when he was married to Jewel Lafontant, the late attorney, civil rights activist, and U.S. ambassador at large. Mankarious was known for his courtly charm—a suave, worldly style that stood out in Chicago's society circles.

As Buchanan fixed his eyes on him that winter Sunday, the pastor was struck by his parishioner's renewed efferves-

Word of the death spread quickly along the Gold Coast. While the couple's friends were not entirely surprised that Mankarious would want to enhance his appearance, they were shocked that it had cost him his life. After all, the surgeon was Wafik Hanna, an esteemed doctor who had erased decades from the faces of prominent Chicagoans. In social circles where nips and tucks are as common as prenuptial agreements and third marriages, Mankarious's death soon became a

townhouse while Marilyn was away on business. Soon, police connected the gay serial killer Andrew Cunanan to the murder, triggering unsubstantiated rumors that the killer and Lee Miglin were acquainted. (The Miglin family vehemently denied any relationship.) The police ultimately concluded that Lee Miglin had been a random victim, but that pronouncement didn't silence the whispers or stop the questions.

Marilyn and Naguib met on a trip to Israel about a year after Lee's murder. Friends said that Mankarious adored her. "Marilyn, you were his one and only treasure," Donna LaPietra, a close friend of the couple, said at the memorial service. "Never was there a conversation that he did not fail to mention his beautiful wife, his good fortune, his blessed life." After he died, Marilyn made only one public statement about her second husband. "We were madly in love, and he



"It's not like Naguib went to some back-yard butcher for a cheaper rate. He went to one of the best."



cence. "Naguib looked better than ever," Buchanan would later recall, noting that Mankarious's recent marriage to Miglin had lifted his spirits dramatically. "He was so happy, healthy, and vital."

Three days later, Mankarious was dead. On the morning of January 19th, he checked into Hinsdale Hospital for a face-lift. The procedure, which involved eyelid reconstruction, a chin implant, and liposuction on the neck, lasted nearly nine hours, an unusually long session, some doctors say. While in the recovery room, Mankarious died of a pulmonary embolism—blood clots in the lungs.

cautionary tale, a chilling reminder that cosmetic surgery is still surgery—and that it is never without risks. As one of Miglin's friends points out, "it's not like Naguib went to some back-yard butcher for a cheaper rate. He went to one of the best."

For Marilyn Miglin, 62, Naguib Mankarious's sudden death was a heartbreaking end to a heartwarming story—and the second time in less than three years that she had been widowed under tragic circumstances. In May 1997, Lee Miglin, the successful real estate developer and Marilyn's husband of 38 years, was brutally murdered at their East Scott Street

never looked more beautiful," she told Irv Kupcinet of the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

The untimely death has provoked its own set of questions. Why did it take Hanna nearly nine hours to perform the face-lift—twice the usual time? Did Mankarious have blood clots in his legs before he went into surgery or did the lengthy operation cause them to develop? Did Mankarious understand the risks of surgery, particularly for an overweight senior citizen? And, if he did know, then why did Mankarious—with his charmed life, new bride, and second grandchild on the way—put himself in jeopardy?

PHOTOGRAPHY: RIGHT TONY ROMANO, OTHERS COURTESY OF KAREEM MANKARIOUS (FAR LEFT © 1999 JOHN REILLY)

WHEN ANDREW CUNANAN COMMITTED suicide in Miami Beach in July 1997, he took the definitive answers about Lee Miglin's murder to his grave—and any chance of real closure for Marilyn and the couple's two children, Duke Miglin, now 28, and Marlena Miglin Craig, 31. But many of the questions about Mankarious's premature death will be answered in court.

Last February, Mankarious's two sons retained Robert A. Clifford, one of Chicago's premier personal injury lawyers, to investigate the circumstances of their father's death. "It seems a bit odd, and we want to get the facts," Ramsey Mankarious, 32, told *Chicago* at the time. "If he passed away because of natural causes, then it's God's will. If it wasn't, then we'll have to see what to do."

Clifford sent the medical records and hospital chart to a panel of experts. "I don't have a case until they tell me I have

in personal injury law, says, "Dr. Hanna doesn't feel any accountability for what happened [to Mankarious]. Pulmonary embolism is a garden-variety complication of surgery. It happens much more often than people realize."

Nearly nine months after the tragedy, the real story behind Mankarious's fatal face-lift remains shrouded in mystery—partly because Mankarious didn't tell his primary care physician, his friends, or his children that he was going to have surgery. "My brother [Kareem] called and woke me up in the middle of the night with the news [that he had died]," says Ramsey, speaking by telephone from Saudi Arabia, where he is in charge of Prince Alwaleed's hotel investments. "It was a shock. I don't know what would have caused him to have plastic surgery. He looked how he should look—like a grandfather." (Kareem, 31, a police officer in Rockford, declined to be interviewed.)

of companionship is included in the suit.)

Yet, through interviews with Ramsey Mankarious, friends of the couple, and lawyers for both sides, as well as a review of the court file, it is possible to stitch together the chronology of events that led up to the fateful hour.

BY ALL ACCOUNTS, MANKARIOUS was not an obvious candidate for facial cosmetic surgery. He was a striking, sharp-featured man with a caramel complexion, deep-set brown eyes, and meticulously coifed silver hair. In photographs with former President George Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush—whom he met while married to Jewel Lafontant—Mankarious beams, his dazzling smile lighting up the image. "Naguib was handsome—and he never mentioned he was upset with his looks," says Philip Teinowitz, a real estate developer and a former neighbor of Mankarious. "He looked like Cesar Romero."

Mankarious prized his appearance. He worked out in the fitness center at the Carlton Club, a private club in the Ritz-Carlton, arriving every morning at 5:30 a.m. in sweat suits that looked as if they had just been pressed. He wore only the finest of clothes, the shiniest of cuff links.

A new beginning, a past among people in high places (from left): Mankarious with his sons, Ramsey (left) and Kareem, at his June 1999 wedding; in 1990 with Shenouda, the Egyptian Coptic pope; in 1985, with Hosni Mubarak, the president of Egypt; surgeon Wafik Hanna and his wife, Joan



a case," Clifford said last winter. But in July, after the medical experts submitted their review, he sued Hinsdale Hospital; its parent company, Adventist Health System/Sunbelt; Linda O. Talya and Leonard A. Zalik, of Hinsdale Anesthesia Associates; and Wafik Hanna. In a 17-page complaint, Clifford blamed Mankarious's death on the defendants' negligence before, during, and after surgery.

Hinsdale Hospital has denied any negligence on the part of its personnel. In court papers filed in August, Hanna also denied any wrongdoing. Paul Episcopo, Hanna's personal lawyer and a specialist

Ramsey pauses, then lets out a sad sigh. "My father wasn't someone I'd think would need a face-lift," he continues. "But he's also not someone who could be talked into doing something he didn't want to do, either. Maybe he's always wanted perfection from himself. I really don't know."

Marilyn Miglin presumably knows what drove her late husband to undergo surgery, but she won't comment. (Under the law, Miglin is not entitled to file a lawsuit. The executors of a will have the exclusive right to act on behalf of all of the deceased's heirs, and Miglin's loss

"Although I was in his company many, many times, I never saw him wear the same tie twice," the attorney Philip Corboy Sr. told mourners at the memorial service. "His blues, browns, and grays were always properly coordinated with shirts, shoes, handkerchiefs, and belts of the correct texture and shade." Donna LaPietra, a fashion maven in her own right, says, "I always felt overplumed by Naguib. He was someone who believed an occasion called upon you to dress up."

At 5 feet 11 inches and 235 pounds, Mankarious filled a room with his presence. His manners were said to be impeccable, his conversation urbane, his charisma legendary. His accent—with its hints of Arabic and French—evoked images of Omar Sharif. "Naguib could have started a charm school," (continued on page 156)

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LaPietra says. "He was the sort of person who, when he gave you a kiss on the hand, it wasn't the least bit silly."

In recent years, Mankarious had traveled in circles where cosmetic surgery was common. Over that time, he was exposed to countless faces that had been lifted and sculpted—some of them by the 60ish Dr. Wafik Hanna, an Egyptian like Mankarious, whose medical training had taken him from Cairo to London to Berwyn—and finally to the University of Illinois for a three-year residency.

A gregarious, flamboyant man with a taste for luxury cars—he drives a Jaguar and once owned a vintage Rolls-Royce—Hanna has been known to promote himself at luncheons and cocktail soirees on Lake Shore Drive. "They're like Tupperware parties," explains a socialite who attended one. "Dr. Hanna shows 'before' and 'after' slides, and his former patients tell everybody how the surgery made their lives so much better. By the time it's over, you feel like marching into the bunker to get something done."

One reporter recalls meeting Hanna at a social event. "He came up to me and said, 'You look good, but you need your eyes and neck done,'" the woman says. "Then he offered to do it for free. He's a publicity hound."

After being referred to Hanna by mutual friends, Mankarious went to Hanna's office in early December to review the doctor's portfolio of "before" and "after" photographs. (Hanna declined to be interviewed, citing the physician-patient privilege, which prohibits him from discussing his treatment of patients outside the context of court-sanctioned discovery. Mankarious's sons would not waive that privilege.)

At some point, it was decided that Mankarious would have a face-lift, along with three common ancillary procedures—eyelid reconstruction, a chin implant, and liposuction of the neck. The price tag was steep: \$17,500 for Hanna's fee alone. (Hinsdale Hospital would not disclose the total hospital bill.) Mankarious had every reason to believe that he would be in capable hands. "Dr. Hanna is no amateur," says Peter McKinney, a professor of plastic surgery at Northwestern University Medical School and Rush Medical College, who, like Hanna, serves an elite clientele. "He is one of the more experienced people in town doing face-lifts. I respect his work."

Edward Lack, the director of the Center for Liposculpture and Cosmetic Laser Surgery, in Des Plaines, agrees. "Quite frankly, I think Wafik Hanna is one of the best facial plastic surgeons in Chicago," says Lack, who refers his liposuction patients to Hanna for face-lifts.

Still, Hanna is not certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgeons, which many doctors consider the "gold standard" of plastic surgery. To be board certified, a physician must have completed at least five years of additional residency, usually three years of general surgery and two years of plastic surgery. Hanna had two residencies in the United States—a yearlong program in general surgery and a three-year residency in three specialties, otolaryngology (ear, nose, and throat care), head and neck surgery, and facial cosmetic surgery. Hanna is certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology.

By deciding to have cosmetic surgery,

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Mankarious was following a national trend: Since 1992, cosmetic surgery for men had almost doubled, soaring from 54,845 procedures to 107,575 in 1999, according to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, a membership organization representing the nation's board-certified plastic surgeons. Face-lifts are the fifth most popular enhancement procedure for men, behind liposuction, eyelid surgery, nose reshaping, and breast reduction. Last year, men accounted for 9 percent of all face-lifts.

On the morning of January 18th, Mankarious showed up at the Carlton Club as usual. His close friend Dr. Alan Hirsch, the neurological director of the Smell & Taste Treatment and Research Foundation, recalls that Mankarious was in good spirits. "Naguib didn't mention the face-lift," Hirsch says, "but then, a lot of people who go in for plastic surgery don't want to tell anybody."

The next day, Mankarious arrived at Hinsdale Hospital by himself, getting there at 5:45 a.m. Two hours later, Hanna started operating. He finished the surgery that afternoon and, according to the

official coroner's report, later told the deputy coroner, Stephen G. Coleman, that everything had gone off without a hitch. Hanna remained in the recovery room with Mankarious for about 30 minutes, according to his response to the lawsuit; Mankarious was awake and alert. Hanna called Miglin to tell her that the surgery had been successful and then left the hospital. While he was driving home, Hanna got called back. Mankarious had become agitated while in the recovery room and had gone into full cardiac arrest. For more than an hour, several doctors tried to resuscitate him. He was pronounced dead at 7:46 that evening.

Mankarious took his final breaths without loved ones by his side. Miglin and her two children were dining at the restaurant RL, according to a report by Lerner Newspapers columnist Ann Gerber; his sons didn't know that he had had surgery. Ramsey was in Saudi Arabia with his pregnant wife, and Kareem was at home with his wife and infant son. Later that night, when Coleman finally reached Miglin at home, she declined his offer to schedule an autopsy. "[Miglin] was obviously quite surprised [at her husband's death], but understood that there was a chance of this type of event happening following surgery at such an advanced age," Coleman wrote in his report.

But the next day, Stephanie Denby, Naguib Mankarious's personal attorney, paged Coleman. The Mankarious family, she told him, had changed its mind about the autopsy. On January 21st, the forensic pathologist, Jeff Harkey, found pulmonary emboli—or blood clots—in Mankarious's lungs. Blood clots can form in the leg or pelvic veins and then dislodge to be carried with blood back to the heart, Harkey explained in his report. After passing through the heart, the clots will try to pass through the lungs, but can become lodged. "A few small ones may be tolerated but when they are large or numerous, there is circulatory collapse and death," Harkey wrote. "Atherosclerotic coronary artery disease hastened the moment of heart failure and death [for Mankarious]. A postsurgical state is a known risk factor for pulmonary embolic disease and is therefore believed to be directly related to the cause of this death."

ON THE SURFACE, NAGUIB MANKARIOUS and Marilyn Miglin were an unlikely pair, coming from vastly different

worlds. Marilyn Klecka, a self-described "good Czech, Catholic girl," began her professional life as a chorus girl and dancer at the Chez Patee, a nightclub on Fairbanks Court. At 21, she met the soft-spoken Lee Miglin, by then an established real estate developer in his mid-30s. They were married within three months, and it wasn't long before Marilyn was selling cosmetics and doing makeovers from her Oak Street salon. In 1980, she launched an exclusive perfume called Pheromone—it sells for \$500 an ounce—after supposedly discovering its secret ingredients during a search of temple reliefs and ancient hieroglyphics on a trip to Egypt. By the mid-1990s, Marilyn presided over a flourishing cosmetics and perfume empire, with annual sales of \$25 million, thanks in part to her sales pitches on the Home Shopping Network.

Mankarious was born in Menofia, in northern Egypt, to an upper-class family of Coptic Christians. After graduating from the University of Alexandria, he taught math at the prestigious Victoria College and later ran a timber importing company. In the mid-1960s, Mankarious met his first wife, Narguis. "My father had a toothache, and my mother, who at that time was one of only a few women dentists in Egypt, put in a filling," Ramsey says. "My father used a screwdriver to take it out, so he could go back to see her. She put it back in. He took it out again. And then he asked her father for permission to take her out on a date. When my father wants something, he gets it."

Naguib and Narguis were married in 1967; Ramsey arrived 11 months later, and Kareem came along in 1969. It was an unsettling time for Mankarious, whose company had been nationalized under the Nasser government and whose faith limited opportunities. "As a Christian in [largely Islamic] Egypt, you're limited as to how high you can go," Ramsey explains. "My father wanted to offer us a better life."

In the early 1970s, Mankarious took a job overseeing Middle East operations for a pipe manufacturer based in Niles, Illinois; his family emigrated to Skokie several years later. By the mid-1980s, Mankarious was self-employed, a consultant who helped U.S. companies gain a foothold in the Middle East, where business and politics are inextricably linked. "My father also was a mediator between companies that weren't getting

along," Ramsey says. "He could blend in to whatever country, culture, or social class he needed to. It's an amazing skill."

Ramsey says his father helped General Motors set up a plant in Egypt. But Mankarious never discussed his work with his friends, preferring, as LaPietra says, "to turn the conversation around to what you were doing." Adds Corboy, a friend of ten years: "I do not know anything about his business. I do not know who his clients were."

His friend Alan Hirsch believes that Mankarious was quietly involved in Middle East politics. "Naguib would know things about the peace process that weren't in the newspaper," Hirsch recalls. "Then, a few days later, [the information he had disclosed] would come out in the paper. I think he was a low-level [Henry] Kissinger."

Not everyone shares that view. "The guy tried to create the impression he was some international business tycoon, some political insider, but most people could see through the façade," says someone who knew Mankarious well. "He grew up in the same town as [Egyptian president] Hosni Mubarak, and he used to talk about how they were good friends. It rubbed a lot of people the wrong way."

Sometime in the mid-1980s, Mankarious met Jewel Lafontant at a Rotary Club. A distinguished lawyer and civil rights activist, Lafontant was a beautiful widow with buckets of cash and lots of clout. During her career, she served in the Eisenhower Administration as the first African American assistant U.S. attorney, seconded Richard Nixon's nomination for President in 1960, and sat on numerous corporate boards, including those of TWA, Revlon, and Mobil Oil. Mankarious and Lafontant became inseparable once his divorce from Narguis was final in 1988. (Narguis, a dentist in Niles, declined to be interviewed for this story.)

Some observers found Mankarious and Lafontant an odd match. "I could never figure out what attracted her to him, other than the fact that women of a certain age like to have escorts to events," says someone who knew Lafontant well. "Jewel had plenty of events to go to—and Naguib looked good in a suit."

And Mankarious—by then semiretired—had plenty of time to be at Lafontant's side. After President Bush appointed Lafontant an ambassador at

large and the director of refugee affairs for the State Department, Mankarious followed her to Washington, D.C., and aggressively continued his courting. He moved into Lafontant's new apartment at The Watergate; soon, he was escorting her to state dinners at the White House, accompanying her on trips overseas, and meeting the nearly 30 heads of state who received Lafontant.

Mankarious and Lafontant married in 1990; three years later, after Bill Clinton took office, they returned to Lafontant's posh condo at Water Tower Place, which Mankarious inherited after her death. "From all appearances, they got along famously," says a social insider. "She seemed to be enthralled with him."

And he with her. In fact, he was a devoted companion in health—and in sickness. Mankarious doted on Lafontant during her three-year battle with breast cancer, accompanying her to doctor's appointments and assisting her when she exercised at the Carlton Club.

When Lafontant died on May 31, 1997—four weeks after Lee Miglin was murdered—Mankarious was at her bedside, along with her son, John Rogers Jr., the president of Ariel Capital Management, an investment firm. By all accounts, Mankarious seemed lost without Lafontant. "Naguib was devastated," recalls Nancy Enderle, a former associate pastor at Fourth Presbyterian. "I know he was very lonely."

IN 1995, LAFONTANT AND MANKARIOUS had received the Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Award for their support of the Shaare Zedek hospital in Jerusalem, and about a year after his wife died, Mankarious was invited, along with other past honorees, to celebrate the opening of a new wing at the hospital. For three days in June 1998, Mankarious was the self-described "ham" of the delegation—until Marilyn Miglin, the 1997 recipient, arrived and stole the limelight.

"I decided there was no way to compete with such a person; I should cooperate with her," Mankarious told *Chicago* in 1999 for a story about how couples had met. Remarkably, he had never heard of Miglin: "My office is in One Magnificent Mile, and her office is less than half a block from mine on Oak Street. Every time I go out, I should see the [honorary street] sign MARILYN MIGLIN WAY, but I never saw it. And I never saw her."

The Fatal Face-Lift

For Mankarious, it was history repeating itself: Like Jewel Lafontant, Miglin was a Chicago celebrity, an attractive widow with a high-octane career and millions to her name. "When I heard about Naguib and Marilyn, I thought, It's perfect," says a person who knew Lafontant well. "Marilyn fit Naguib's modus operandi: She's a beautiful woman who's growing older, someone who'd be attracted to a man who constantly pays her compliments."

Ultimately, Mankarious and Miglin bonded over their mutual loss. "When we met, I had a broken heart, and she gave a certain light to my heart and my life," Mankarious told *Chicago*. "And she said she had a cracked heart, too. My life was so dark; she started to light my life a little bit, a little bit. At the end of the trip, I was bright."

Mankarious proposed marriage; Miglin declined. "I know nothing about you," she told him.

But the gallant Egyptian persisted. He pursued Miglin with romantic dinners and tickets to the opera. That November, after Miglin accepted Mankarious's engagement ring, she strolled to the piano at the Carlton Club to croon a heartfelt rendition of "The Man I Love."

Friends thought the match made perfect sense. As LaPietra explains, "Marilyn and Naguib shared a wonderfully romantic view of the world. They were both caring, generous people. And they loved to travel."

Still, it was only 18 months since they had lost their spouses. Though Mankarious wanted to get married immediately, Miglin insisted that they wait until after the second anniversary of the deaths of Lee and Jewel.

Overnight, Mankarious was a new man, professing his devotion to Miglin in unlikely settings. "A bunch of guys would be shaving in the locker room at the Carlton Club, and Naguib would say, 'I'm in love with the most beautiful woman,'" Hirsch recalls.

Ramsey Mankarious wasn't surprised to learn of his father's engagement: "After Jewel died, he said, 'I can't live by myself.' His philosophy was to grieve and then move on."

On June 11, 1999, his 72nd birthday, Mankarious wed Marilyn Miglin in a Catholic ceremony at Holy Trinity Polish Mission Church on the North Side before their four children and 20 of their closest

friends. The groom wore a tuxedo; the bride, a figure-flattering white gown. Afterward, they celebrated at Miglin's townhouse, where they would make their home after honeymooning in Egypt.

As Miglin opened the door of the wedding car, she found red and pink rose petals sprinkled on the floor, courtesy of her new husband. "It's hard to think of your dad as romantic," Ramsey says, "but he was."

"MR. MANKARIOUS SHOULD never have been put in a position where he would ultimately die," says the lawyer Robert Clifford. "We believe those who were charged with the highest duty of care to protect him failed in their tasks, causing a great deal of suffering for a very close-knit family."

In the lawsuit, Clifford alleges that Wafik Hanna failed to perform a cardiac workup and stress test before Mankarious went into surgery—necessary precautions given the extent of the intended procedure, as well as Mankarious's abnormal preoperative EKG and chest X-ray. Further, the suit charges, Hanna did not provide adequate information about the risks of the surgery, including potential postoperative complications. Before and during the operation, the suit alleges, Hanna failed to place compression devices on Mankarious's legs and to administer the blood thinner Heparin, thereby increasing the risk for blood clots. When the surgery was over, the suit claims, Hanna neglected to monitor Mankarious in the recovery room and to ensure that Heparin was administered.

As for the anesthesiologists, the lawsuit argues that Talya and Zalik were not at Mankarious's bedside in the recovery room; failed to respond to his decreased oxygen and elevated blood pressure; and failed to administer Heparin, enabling the blood clots to continue developing and significantly increasing the risk of death. Finally, the suit claims, the pair ordered and/or administered excessive amounts of morphine and the relaxant Versed and neglected to reinsert Mankarious's breathing apparatus. (Talya and Zalik, who were independent contractors, did not return phone calls.)

While the lawsuit raised many questions, it put to rest two of the false rumors that had circulated for months. There was talk that, in addition to getting a face-lift, Mankarious also had lipo-

suction performed on his stomach. He had gained weight since getting married, and Miglin is said to have chided him about his stomach. As Mankarious himself told *Chicago* before the marriage, "[Miglin] was accusing me that I'm fat." In reality, Hanna does not perform stomach liposuction, and Mankarious received liposuction only on his jowls, which is a standard part of a face-lift.

Mankarious had been taking Viagra, and there was also talk that the drug had somehow caused postsurgical complications. Doctors, however, say that the Viagra did not cause Mankarious's pulmonary embolism.

In response to the lawsuit, Hinsdale Hospital issued a written statement denying any wrongdoing: "When a court has had the opportunity to review the facts of this case, we believe that it will find that our hospital personnel made every effort to revive Mr. Mankarious in the recovery room and that the treatment he received from the hospital met the standard of care."

Paul Episcopo, Hanna's personal attorney, denies the allegations. "Dr. Hanna is wrongly charged," says Episcopo, who is assisting lawyers for the Illinois State Medical Society in mounting Hanna's defense. "Everything they said he did, he didn't do. And he has proof."

In his response to the lawsuit, Hanna denies all of the allegations against him. He claims that Mankarious's EKG was stamped "cleared by anesthesia" before he began the surgery; that he placed compression devices on Mankarious's legs to decrease the risk of pulmonary embolism; and that Mankarious had been advised of the risks and benefits of the planned surgery. "The patient had a deadly but known complication [pulmonary embolism] which can occur in any surgery in any hospital to any patient and at the hands of any medical practitioner," defense attorney Michael J. Morrissey, of the law firm Cassiday, Schade & Gloor, wrote in the doctor's response. "Dr. Hanna was not negligent in his care of this patient."

In the United States each year, an estimated 100,000 patients die from pulmonary embolism. Though it is a well-known complication of surgery, it can strike during sleep or normal activity. Besides surgery, major risk factors include advanced age, cancer, obesity, a history of clotting, bone fractures, and immobility,

which can occur on long plane flights. Some might argue that Mankarious was at an increased risk, given that he was an overweight senior citizen who spent a lot of time on planes; he had been in Egypt two weeks before the operation.

Experts say that while a fatal postoperative pulmonary embolism cannot be prevented completely, the risks can be reduced if compression devices are put on a patient's legs during surgery. Whether Hanna took steps to reduce the likelihood of pulmonary embolism is just one question the lawsuit will seek to answer. Another is what role, if any, the length of Mankarious's surgery played in his death. Several leading Chicago-area plastic surgeons say that nearly nine hours is a long time to spend on a face-lift, eyelid reconstruction, chin implant, and liposuction on the neck; those procedures, they say, should take up to five hours. "There is nothing that I'm aware of that justified the length of time Mr. Mankarious was in the operating room," Clifford says.

In court papers, Hanna blamed the length of time in surgery on Mankarious's unexpected excessive bleeding, which had to be brought under control before he could continue with the procedure. "[Mankarious] had no preoperative indication of any bleeding problem and was instructed to refrain from taking medications or any food or herbal substances that might increase bleeding prior to surgery," Morrissey wrote in the response. "This isn't a race against time," Episcopo adds. "Dr. Hanna didn't stay in surgery for [nearly nine] hours because he had nothing better to do."

Even so, one prominent Chicago plastic surgeon says, "I wouldn't do nine hours of anything on anybody, much less an overweight 72-year-old."

SEVEN MONTHS AFTER HER wedding, Marilyn Miglin found herself reprising the role of the bereaved widow as she stood in the receiving line following the public memorial service to honor Naguib Mankarious. It had been eight days since his death—and just two days since his family had gathered for a private service. Mankarious's remains were cremated per his instructions to his sons.

About 200 people came to Fourth Presbyterian Church on January 27th, including plenty of boldface names, from politicians (Alderman Burton Natarus) to socialites (Hazel Barr) to prominent

businesswomen (Nena Ivon of Saks Fifth Avenue).

As mourners waited to pay their respects, they were struck by Miglin's poise and upbeat demeanor. "She kept saying, 'He was a wild man' and 'It was a wild year and a half,'" recalls one observer.

Later that day, Miglin found the time and strength to send thank-you notes to well-wishers. "That's Marilyn—she's very classy," says Donna LaPietra. "She's very much a lady."

In the months that followed, Miglin sought refuge in her work and solace in her friendships. She traveled to Egypt in July for a memorial service attended by her late husband's relatives, associates, and friends. Despite outward appearances, however, people who are close to Miglin say she is still grieving.

So is Ramsey Mankarious. The last time he saw his father, while in Chicago to celebrate Christmas, Ramsey told him that Jennifer, his wife of eight years, was pregnant with their first child. "Nine months after we got married, my father said, 'Where are my grandchildren?'" recalls Ramsey, whose daughter was born in July. "I kept telling him that we were in no rush, but he always pushed. He always told us, 'You'll never know how much I love you until you have children of your own.'"

Ramsey is also awaiting answers—answers that won't bring back his father but may bring closure. The process could take a while. Lawyers for both sides expect the litigation to drag on for three years—and Episcopo predicts a "fight to the finish."

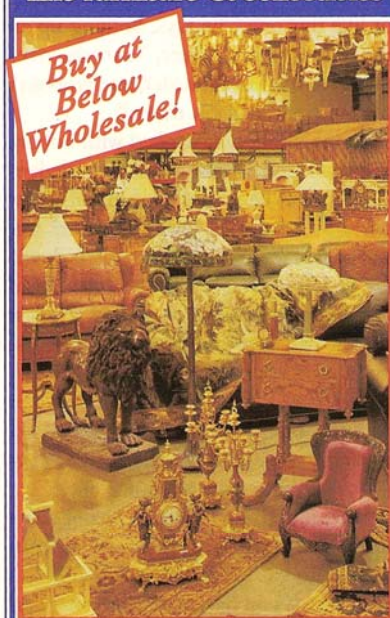
Clifford says the lawsuit is not just about righting a wrong—it is also about raising public awareness as to the potential dangers of cosmetic surgery. "People take for granted [that they will escape] the severe risks and serious health consequences that can result from what's perceived to be benign cosmetic surgery," he says.

But the lawsuit cannot stop the talk about Mankarious's motives for getting a face-lift. It is talk that continues to this day. The social elite remain true believers in cosmetic surgery—but only for those who truly need it to enhance their appearance. Mankarious, they insist, needed it to enhance his ego. "Naguib was a real peacock," says one social insider. "He loved being considered a good-looking man."

In the end, Naguib Mankarious literally died in vain. ■

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