



Ned Hickson

Bringing Zimbabwe and Snakegut, Ala., together

It's not every day that I receive an email from a Zimbabwean prince who needs help relocating \$20 million into an American bank account as soon as possible. In fact, in the five weeks, I've only received this letter maybe eight times. In each case, the letter explains that I've been chosen because I'm reputed to be a "dependable and trustworthy" person. Given that this letter is always addressed to "Dear Sir or Madam," I can only assume that my reputation is in fact so great that I no longer need an actual name. Each time I've gotten this email, I've deleted it because,

let's be honest: Who wants to spend time figuring out how to access their online bank account? I'm doing good to make a deposit after my wife forges my name and fills everything out for me.

I have no intention of adding to that headache (or potential jail time) by making a cross-continental transfer of millions of dollars from Zimbabwe.

Besides, having our checking account suddenly jump to over \$20 million — I think — would look a little suspicious.

I'm sorry Mr. Hickson, but you don't have money in your account to cover ... Oh, wait a minute. Scratch that. Will this bagel be everything?

At the same time, what if it were true?

What if there really WAS a South African prince desperately trying to move millions

of dollars into the online account of a complete stranger? And what if my wife found out that I'd deleted his letter nine times?

And what if, after discovering this, she was sitting next to me when 20/20 began telling the story of how Booger Jones of Snakegut, Ala., became a multi-millionaire after figuring out how to access HIS online bank account to help a Zimbabwean prince?

(And furthermore, why is it that, even after using Spell Check, the word "Zimbabwean" still looks wrong?)

Because of these nagging questions, I decided to do a little investigative work and make absolutely sure there was no "Booger Jones" living anywhere in Alabama.

To my surprise, I found 14

of them. Which is why I decided to answer Prince Mbagi's plea for help.

Now, in order for you to fully understand the scope of his situation, I will summarize:

Prince Mbagi, the son of a wealthy Zimbabwean farmer killed by members of the South African government, is trying to find someone in America who will "inherit" his family fortune in order to keep President Mugabe from stealing it. As a show of appreciation, this person will receive \$5 million and a free cell phone.

The only thing Prince Mbagi needs is an online account to transfer his millions to.

I know what you're thinking, and NO — I had no intention of forking over my

account number to a complete stranger until I could verify that the cell phone also came with free minutes.

The first step was to contact Prince Mbagi at kmbagi@phantomemail.com, which, I discovered, is an e-mail service providing "completely anonymous internet accounts."

Naturally, this made perfect sense for someone in his dire situation.

What didn't make sense was that I needed a password in order to leave a message. Because I didn't know it, I did the next logical thing — which was to try cracking the secret password by entering random combinations of the word "Booger."

Not really; that would be silly.

I contacted the webmaster, explaining that I was trying to

help a Zimbabwean prince looking for someone who could be trusted with \$20 million.

His reply was swift:

*I have no idea what you're talking about.
Best of luck.
- Booger Jones.*

Needless to say, I didn't make contact with Prince Mbagi. I did, however, learn how to spell "Zimbabwean." Wait ... See what I mean? It still looks wrong.

Ned is a syndicated columnist with News Media Corporation. His book, "Humor at the Speed of Life," is available online at Port Hole Publications, Amazon Books and Barnes & Noble. Write to him at nedhickson@icloud.com

27th ANNUAL

KCST ORIGINAL

GREAT PUMPKIN GIVEAWAY

THIS THURSDAY

presented by Florence True Value Hardware

Tons of FREE PUMPKINS

Limit of one pumpkin per child, under 16 please.*

Thursday, October 22nd - Pumpkin Giveaway begins at 4pm

LIVE REMOTE Broadcast 2:30-5:30pm on KCST 106.9 FM

Location: Old School Furniture / Florence Saw Shop

Serving Free Hot Dogs, A & W Root Beer

Goodie Bags & Giveaways

Live Pumpkin Carving Demo by ...





Award winning sculptor Ryan Anderson from Windswept Gallery

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