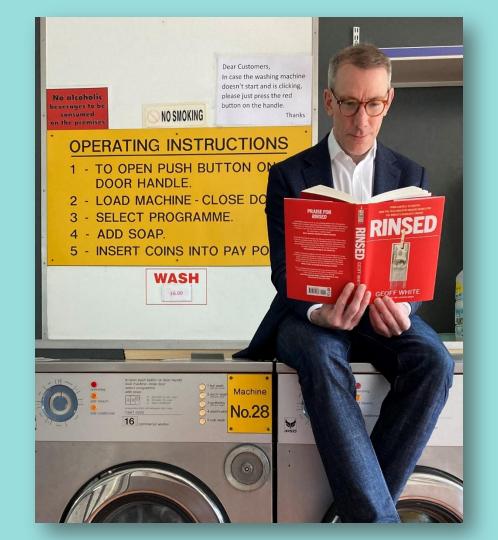
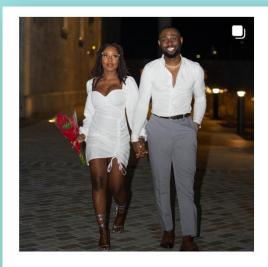
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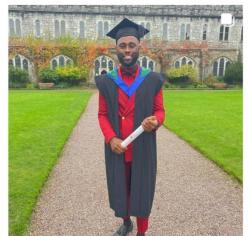
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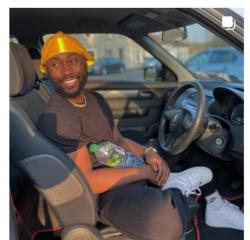






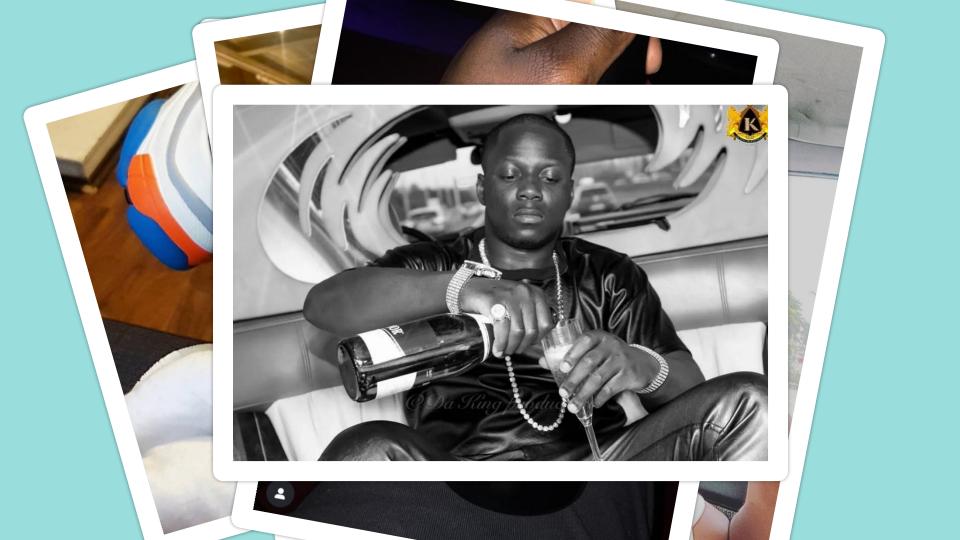




















HOME

PRODUCTS~

APPLICATIONS~ NEWS

ABOUT US ~



















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"Sir .- You will doubtlessly be astonished at receiving a letter from a person unknown to you, who is about to ask a favour from you; but from the sad condition in which I am placed, I am lost if some honourable person will not lend me succour: that is the reason of my addressing you, of whom I have heard so much that I cannot for a moment hesitate to confide all my affairs to your kindness. As valet-de-chambre to the marquis de _____, I emigrated with my master, and that we might avoid suspicion we travelled on foot and I carried the luggage, consisting of a casket containing 16,000 francs in gold, and the diamonds of the late marchioness. We were on the point of joining the army at _____, when we were marked out and pursued by a detachment of volunteers. The marquis, seeing how closely we were pressed, desired me to throw the casket into a deep ditch near us, so that it might not implicate us in case we were apprehended. I relied on recovering it the following night; but the country people, aroused by the tocsin which the commandant of the detachment ordered to be rung, began to beat the wood in which we were concealed, with so much vigour, that it was necessary to think only of escape. On reaching a foreign province, the marquis received some advances from the prince of ----; but these resources soon failing, he resolved on sending me back for the casket thrown into the ditch. I was the more certain of finding it, as on the day after I had thrown it from me, we had made a written memorandum of the localities, in case we should be for any length of time without being able to return for it. I set out, and entering France, reached the village of ----- without accident, near the spot where we had been pursued. You must know the village perfectly, as it is not three quarters of a league from your residence. I prepared to fulfil my mission, when the landlord of the auberge where I had lodged, a bitter jacobin and collector of national property, remarking my embarrassment when he proposed to drink to the health of the republic, had me apprehended as a suspected person: and as I had no passport, and unfortunately resembled an individual pursued for stopping the diligences, I was taken from prison to prison to be confronted with my pretended accomplices, until on reaching Bicetre I was obliged to go to the infirmary, where I have been for two months. "In this cruel situation, having heard mention of you by a relation of my master's, who had property in your district, I beg to know if I cannot, through

your aid, obtain the casket in question and get a portion of the money which it contains. I could then supply my immediate necessities and pay my counsel, who dictates this, and assures me that by some presents, I could extricate myself from this affair.

"Receive, sir. &c.

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"Receive, sir, &c.

(Signed)

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Business Day

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THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1992

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The New Hork Eimes

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these commercians sensiting to set the high-shellstates T* sixe-Dirich sand is had aligned behaled and would rates a deadfron. [14.]

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Market Place

A Glimpse Into Perot's Portfolio

Varied Investments Made Millions in '91

By FLOY D 1008 B IS

Boar Penn gar, rich in companyrs. send hits sourcest easily market inventmore show a decided life sensed sechnology companies. But he has nine seade manny lending to \$. H. Macy & Company, getting out at a profit before the receipt went backrugs. He also made millions specular-

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life. Perce also sold substantial

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Trade Gap Widened In March

Deficit Is \$5.8 Billion; Big Rise in Imports

By ROBERT B. HERMEY 24.

Secret of Parling Tark Faces

WILLIAMS TON, May 20 - The saster's invetan-trade echcit vectored discrete to \$5.6 billion in March as otigents curged and exports nased off their record issues. the Commence Department reported today.

The Marvin Egypter compared with a \$5.5 billion delicts to Prilimery, the best performance in nearly sace

Street triede Options are among die last, Odvictorand reports published nuck month - many acomoraic statuthis have already hown toward for April - the latest data cast little light of the current state of the economy. But the trade rigorou did point up the danger that a sag in reports could under time on already chappaid necessary and the identificat of aroma-Bed reade braceion with Japan.

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Market Place

Varied Investments

Digest



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- Two methods of highwaperd data recently will be introduced by a group of large bool places receptaint. [DR.]
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- A ness by mesupaper defects to reside a dispute wit The New York Times and a distributor was postponed. [\$7.] The Economy

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Today's Columns

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Philip Morris to Buy Control Of Czech Cigarette Maker

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A Glimpse Into Perot's Portfolio

Made Millions in '91 Investments on which flour Perst scalared capital gains of more. Sun \$16,000 last year, amorphing to his financial disclinuous floirs. By FLOYD NOBBIK The PATTE SOURCES

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By SUSAN ANTILLA
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'Nigerian Scam' Lures Companies

By STEVE LOSS.

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How the Letter Scheme Works

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Trade Gap Widened In March

Deficit Is \$5.8 Billion; Big Rise in Imports

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In Race Over TV Advance By EDDREND L ANDREWS

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'Nigerian Scam' Lures Companies

BySTEVE LOHR

In the annals of white-collar crime, the trick known as the Nigerian letter scam already stands out as a testimony to criminal energy, not artistry. Sleuths at Scotland Yard, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Interpol and private investigators describe it variously as crude, amateurish and preposterous. But they also agree it is one of the most wide-ranging and bizarre fraud schemes of recent years.

Thousands of American companies, including many in the New York area, have in the last 18 months received bogus letters that like many a street fraud preying on the greedy promise big payoffs in return for playing along and putting up some advance money, according to the International Criminal Police Organization. That agency, known as Interpol, is the coordinating network for police internationally.

Loss Estimates Are Sketchy

"You almost never see a net spread this wide in white-collar fraud," said Dan Karson, a managing director of Kroll Associates, a large financial-investigation company in New York. Estimates of the number of victims and their losses are sketchy—up to more than \$200 million worldwide, according to Scotland Yard.

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, a Treasury Department unit that investigates white-collar crime, has just issued a warning under the heading "Nigerian Scam" to the banks, lawyers and private investigators who receive its quarterly bulletins.

Here is one common version of the

How the Letter Scheme Works

1 THE MYSTERIOUS LETTER

A letter arrives at a company from Chief Uche, who claims to be chief accountant of a Nigerian Government ministry. It offers to give the company 30 percent of \$25 million, or \$7.5 million, for helping the Chief transfer the \$25 million out of Nigeria. The funds, the letter explains, represent a "deliberate" overpayment by the ministry to a foreign contractor. In short, the funds to be transferred are shady. This is meant to give the company the illusion of being in on a lucrative back-channel deal that would be jeopardized if the company checked with authorities.

2 THE CATCH

To get the deal started, the letter asks the company to send blank sheets of its letterhead, blank company invoices, the name of its bank, its account number, and telex and fax numbers.

3 PLAYING OUT THE SCHEME

If the company replies, the Nigerians can use the Information and the blank stationery to try to dip into the company's bank account. Or, having found a guillible company, the Nigerians can try to get money directly under the pretense of "advance fees" needed to execute the deal. They may ask the company to forward air fare for face-to-face meetings, or say the company must pay an "economic recovery tax" supposedly required under Nigerian law before funds can transferred out of the country.

4 THE CHIEF VANISHES

The documents sent to the company are phony and so are the names of the Nigerian officials. The \$25 million transfer never appears. But the company's money is genuinely gone, and the culprits are hard to find.

Continued on Page D8







Break down silos

Start small, build trust

Collaborate fluidly



geoff@geoffwhite.tech