

Cutler Bay

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SERVING SOUTH DADE

I'm looking for contributors to my 'legal' Ponzi scheme

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Vice Mayor



Back in 1920, even before my time, a guy named Charles Ponzi developed a scheme to make money by having others invest in stuff that didn't really exist.

He paid back some of the original investors with the investments of newer clients. As long as there were new clients sending money in, everyone was happy. Actually Ponzi didn't originate the idea. Another Charles started it — Charles Dickens in an 1857 novel called *Little Dorrit*.

Being the financial genius that I am, I realized that there are apparently millions of people in the world wanting to invest in these schemes. The problem is that they are illegal. Not with my plan however.

My plan is simple. If you have a strong desire to invest, simply send money to me c/o this newspaper. I promise to use it in a most appropriate way. You will have the pleasure of seeing your money provide a great deal of happiness for me and all those around me.

My grandson Julian expressed an interest in having one of those Segway things that police use in shopping malls. I might like one myself. My home investment counselor thinks that investing in gold jewelry might be a good idea. Done on both counts. I seem to be the only one at my tennis club without a Mercedes Benz. No problem!

You see, unlike all the other schemers such as Nevin Shapiro and the Miami Hurricanes; Scott Segal, who stuffed his girlfriend in the trunk of her car; Felipito Perez, who even got a mayor to invest, and of course my idols, Bernie Madoff and Scott Rothstein, I promise nothing but the satisfaction of seeing your money well spent and enjoyed. What could give you greater pleasure than that?

If I get enough, I might even give a small amount to charity and post pictures of myself handing out checks to the "Three Headed Orphans of Claustrophobia Fund" for example. Maybe I can get a lounge named after me if I throw a few bucks at a school. "The Ernie Sochin Kindergarten Reading Room" Sounds nice huh? Perhaps I could "hang out" with the soccer team and be on the sidelines for their games.

Another benefit would be to society in general. With no need for prosecution — court costs, defense attorneys, etc. — millions of dollars in taxpayer money would be saved because the plan is perfectly legal.



We're in the money.

Reading the newspapers and my voluminous emails, there must be a burning need in people to throw money away. I receive literally hundreds of emails from Nigeria where recently departed relatives have been hoarding millions of dollars just waiting for me to claim them. I just got one from a "soldier" in Iraq who actually has all of Saddam Hussein's hidden money and wants to share it with me.

I thought for a while that I was the only lucky one receiving these emails. The fact that they show up on all my email accounts is further proof that they are dying to reach me so that they can send me this money.

Obviously there are perhaps millions of people receiving these valuable pieces of correspondence and at least some of them are sending the money necessary to transfer these vast sums, or giving out their bank account passwords, etc. Otherwise they would stop doing it and the entire Nigerian economy might collapse.

I ask that these same people just send the money to me and again, at least they will know where it is going. I might even set up a website listing my expenditures. Of course I ask that in order to save the cost of expensive bank accounts that you send cash only.