

# The Senior Executive

## Our Last Contemplations...

Alright already, boys and girls, it's now time to cease contemplation over 2013. Personally, we have stopped listening to all Gregorian chant music and have moved on to Bobby McFerrin.

Seriously, Ted Turner, one of the top 100 most interesting and enigmatic people of the world, recently gave a thorough interview on his reflections. You can't help but like the 75 year old Ted. What an incredible life he's had, and it is not over. Here are just a few highlights:

1. Young Ted loaded up on debt to save his father's billboard company and later took big financial risks to create CNN, and win the America's Cup.
2. The bigger than life Ted merges with Time Warner, then AOL, which sucks down his wealth. What was Wall Street thinking when they presented those ridiculous P/E multiples (100 plus times earnings, or whatever)? Eventually you have to have earnings, what a surprise! We may be heading to a more current P/E accountability. You pick the stock, we surely can't. Frankly, we bought into the early 2000s P/E mania and heard this screaming sucking sound coming out of our portfolio, as our irrational exuberance sobered up.
3. Now, Ted Turner, post Jane, is down to a couple billion dollars, after having almost paid off his billion dollar UN pledge, and has settled into a more humble (at least for Ted) lifestyle. Can't you just hear Gene Autry in the background singing his version of "Home on the Range," with his plaid shirt, Bolo tie, and "Hoss" Cartwright hat? We owe Ted a lot, that is us news junkies do. We have an impression of Ted that is a form of confirmation of quality: take a look at his kids. We don't mean literally, they have turned out great, and by the way, so has Donald Trump's. Maybe that is the real measure of success.



One comment about Bernie Madoff, after five years plus, we are learning that he **really, really, really, really, cooked the books**. As he was being audited by regulators, his minions would be creating the false documents needed for verification. The documents were warm when they came off the printer, so they had to be put in the refrigerator to cool down before being presented. They also had a unique way of aging them, if you can imagine reams of paper being thrown around like medicine balls, to give the effect of wear. This man and his organization had out Ponzied Ponzi. It is so absolutely ridiculously unbelievable that so many smart people got screwed over.

Don't brag about being the smartest person in the room, there is always someone ready to play with your ego. Madoff was the master, in essence, of one of the most evil financial frauds ever devised. He didn't care about anyone; just interview some of the charities, pension plans, and middle class Americans that got caught up in this.

We promise that our next *Senior Executive* will be more uplifting as we begin to roll through 2014, and no we are not going to touch Obamacare, or any other Government stuff. Here's to a fabulous 2014, with a lot of good in it for all of us. If you have any difficulty accessing any of the following articles, we will gladly assist you as needed.

Cordially and Sincerely,

Jim DeHayes  
DeHayes Consulting Group





## Articles of Interest

### **Ted Turner at 75: A Q&A**

By Patricia Sellers (11/19/2013)

*Fortune Magazine*

<http://money.cnn.com/2013/11/19/leadership/ted-turner-interview.pr.fortune>

Ted Turner has been defying death his entire life. His sister, Mary Jane, who was his only sibling, died at 17. His father, a philandering alcoholic, killed himself at 53. Young Ted loaded up on debt to save his father's billboard company and later took big financial risks to create CNN, build a media and sports empire, and win the America's Cup. "If you can get yourself where you're not afraid of dying, then you can move forward a lot faster," Turner told Time in 1991 when named Man of the Year.

### **Madoff's Cold Play Outwitted Auditor**

By James Sterngold (12/03/2013)

*The Wall Street Journal*

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB20001424052702304579404579234593126376328>

A top lieutenant to Bernard L. Madoff explained in detailed, often colorful testimony the lengths required to maintain the firm's massive Ponzi scheme, including one incident in which the staff put fake trading records into a refrigerator so an auditor wouldn't be able to tell they were still warm from having just been printed.

