



INVESTMENT UPDATE

Well, another year has passed, a year that will be remembered for many things: A hard-fought presidential election, material progress on the European debt crisis, the London Summer Olympic Games, and North Korea launching a satellite which will bring vibrant black and white TV broadcasts to all 345 television stations throughout the country.

“How can 2013 top 2012?” you may ask. The answer, of course, is that we have no idea, but we are willing to make a few educated guesses. And when we say “educated guesses,” what we really mean is, “making stuff up.”

What follows are our unofficial and unauthorized prognostications for 2013. The SEC will not be happy with us.

Republicans embrace weed!

We predict that in 2013, the Republican Party, needing to attract a younger, more urban and “hip” demographic, will light up their bongos, mellow out, and embrace pot smokers. Hot on the heels of surprising ballot initiatives legalizing possession of small quantities of marijuana in Colorado and Washington state, Republicans will announce their intention to push for legalization in all fifty states.

An unnamed Republican spokesman, in a planning session, said, “Dude, this is like, so choice...I can’t wait to get started on...wait, what was the question again?”

Kate is pregnant!

No doubt you’ve heard that there’s going to be a bouncing new addition to the British royal family in 2013. Strangely, Americans aren’t as excited about this as they should be, and we don’t know why. Could be because our royal family (the Romneys) is chock-a-block with children and grandchildren, many of whom are named after household cleaners, such as “Whisk” and “Jiff.” Nevertheless, we at Agincourt are breathless at the prospect of a new Royal, as are the proud parents, Kate and Prince-What’s-His-Name—you know, the one who doesn’t look like his mother’s former valet. Speaking of Kate, when asked if

she would prefer a boy or girl, the mom-to-be replied, “We’re just hoping for something with a chin.”

Our prediction: British tabloids will fall all over each other to be the first to publish fuzzy, clandestine photos of the topless infant Princess Catherine (named, of course, after Catherine of Valois, French wife of Henry V, the victor of the Battle of Agincourt).

A-Rod to have surgery on his hip!

Turns out that baseball superstar Alex Rodriguez’ poor post-season performance for the New York Yankees in 2012 (and who knows, maybe since day one) was due to an injured hip. Surgery is planned and will keep him out for the first few months of the 2013 season.

Our prediction: Surgeons will discover other problems during the operation: A large chip in A-Rod’s shoulder region, and a weakened spine, which doctors believe make it impossible for the infielder to carry his team. The good news: A-Rod will be back in top shape by mid-season, guaranteeing that he can once again disappear in the playoffs.



Hobbits are coming!

The *Lord of the Rings* trilogy is soooo 2002! Folks, hobbits are where the action will be in 2013. With the Christmastime release of the first of three (it’s the magic number, you know) hobbit movies, we predict the world will soon be awash in hobbit-mania. Or, at the very least, hobbit promotional items. Coming to a dollar store or fast-food kid’s meal near you: hobbit action figures; pointy hobbit ears; oversized furry hobbit feet (or better yet, fuzzy hobbit slippers); hobbit knives, swords and truncheons; a hobbit board game (“Board of the Rings,” perhaps?); hobbit PJs; hobbit sheet sets, hobbit chewable vitamins; matching hobbit tie and handkerchief sets; and so much more. We could plotz just thinking about it.

Despite the fact that the items are aimed at children, millions of pudgy twentysomethings (some of whom don’t actually live

in their mothers' basements) will venture from their houses in 2013 to collect this promotional swag, establishing themselves as likely candidates to one day grow up to be true nerds and manage institutional bond portfolios.

Shania Twain's return spurs sales of tight-fitting catsuits!

Yes, we predict that 2013 will be the Year of the Catsuit. OK, so nobody (well, maybe Halle Berry) ever filled out a catsuit quite like the original Catwoman, Julie Newmar, but that doesn't mean that many haven't tried. Britney Spears, J-Lo, Devo (more like yellow anti-contamination suits, but hey), and more recently, Shania Twain in her Las Vegas comeback stint—they've all donned the catsuit, and their careers have been all the better for it.

Knowing this, the women of America will suck it up and jump into tight-fitting jumpers next year, creating an equal mix of fascination and heat rash. Not every 47 year old can look as good as Shania. Corollary prediction: sales of Spanx underwear will also soar.

Obama comes clean!

After vehemently denying the accusations from the Right about unrevealed secrets from his past, in 2013 President Obama will, after drinking too much of his personal home-brewed beer, grant an interview with Barbara Walters where he tearfully admits that he really is a secret member of the illuminati, was born in Kenya, is a practicing Muslim, is a staunch Marxist, loves to hang around with bomb-making terrorists, and earned a 1.2 grade point average and cheated his way into Harvard Law School, where he bribed a committee into naming him the president of the *Law Review*.

Upon hearing the news, Donald Trump will die from a massive heart attack.

More Restrictions from Bloomberg!

New York City Mayor and former bond trader (glad to see one of our own make something out of his life), Michael "Big Gulp" Bloomberg, will expand the ban on oversized softdrinks to include other items.

In 2013, Bloomberg will introduce a new set of laws, entitled "Nanny State 2.0," which will place new restrictions on a wide variety of items, including hairstyles (no "big hair"), autos (leave your Hummer back in Connecticut, Earth-hater!), and, showing

that he may be stuck in the 1990s, "those huge boomboxes the kids carry on the subway." A spokesman for Mayor Bloomberg has already warned the public that more restrictions are on their way, saying, off the record, "It looks like Mikey might have really lost it this time."

Snooki goes away!

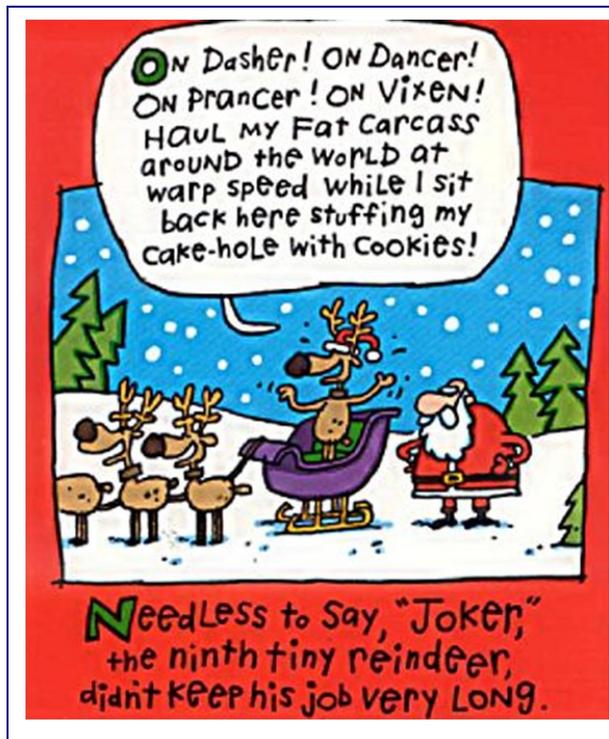
Speaking of big hair, reality TV "star" Snooki (real name: Maria Theresa Dumbolini) will announce her retirement in 2013. Tired of the limelight, and claiming that she has been "overexposed," the girl from the Jersey Shore (by way of woody New York State) will join the US Marine Corps. Unfortunately for her (but fortunately for the citizens of the civilized world) the Marines will refuse to admit her after she fails "every test that we have, including the one we administer for rescue animals."

In related news, J-Wow and Kim Kardashian will join the Carthusian Order of nuns, an Order that practices a "contemplative existence" (sometimes known as a "vow of silence"). And the angels will sing on high.

John McAfee Goes on Trial!

Part-time software mogul and full-time lunatic John McAfee will go on trial for the murder of his former neighbor, who died mysteriously just days after McAfee's dogs were poisoned.

In a shocking development during the trial, one of McAfee's dogs will provide damning testimony stating, under oath, "Your honor, with all due respect, that dude is crazy. Now, may I have a biscuit?"



It seems that 2013 is looking to be quite a year! And there's more—we predict that both the stock and bond markets will generate double-digit returns for the year, that US pension funds will regain their fully-funded status, and that hedge fund managers will cut their fees and begin paying the same personal income tax rates that the rest of the country is subject to. Oh boy, we can hardly wait for it to begin!

In all seriousness, all of us at Agincourt want to take this opportunity to wish our friends, families, and clients a Joyous and peaceful Holiday Season and a prosperous and healthy New Year.