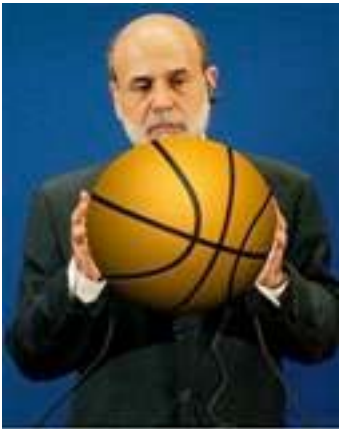


Thank God It's Friday!

March 13, 2009



Hey market, catch!

BIG BEN takes to the airwaves Sunday night on 60 Minutes. No Central Bank chief in 20 years has done this. And in the midst of a worldwide economic downturn?!?!?!?

What's he thinking?

My first thought is he's hoping nobody will be watching thanks to MARCH MADNESS, which is the super bowl of college basketball for you tennis players out there! It's that magic time of year when The NCAA - The National Collegiate Athletic Association - sponsors a single elimination tournament featuring 65 US college basketball teams.

Hoops action starts this Sunday with the NCAA Basketball Championship Selection Show at 6:00 PM Eastern Time.and Ben goes on-air at 7. OOOOPS.

Because I sat through all 6 overtimes last night of the Syracuse vs. UCONN game, you will understand why I'll utilize the marvel of split-screen technology and watch both. But that's

just me: a sports freak and a Ben fan. Really! Ben has been winning me over lately after years of sticking pins in his image.

We expect Mr. Bernanke will be asked what REALLY went wrong with America's financial system.and how it caused the economic crisis.and what his Federal Reserve Bank is doing to help fix the mess.and when he expects the crippling recession to end. Fed chairmen generally don't grant on-the-record interviews, aiming to avoid settings that could confuse or unsettle markets. If he DOES upset Monday's markets, he will lose at least one fan: ME.

Mr. Bernanke has struggled throughout the financial crisis to be clear and concise while swatting-away claims from lawmakers that he's helping Wall Street more than Main Street. The "60 Minutes" format, and a walk along Main Street in South Carolina, should help humanize the Fed chief. If I were managing his image, I'd recommend he lose the beard and forget primetime TV shows.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, we were extremely relieved to see BOTH stocks and bonds have a profitable week. We have rekindled our romance with oil stocks AND renewable energy stocks AND agribusiness companies.

With liquidity returning to the bond pits, we are finally able to SWAP our fixed income holdings like days of old. For the last 6 months, there has been a dearth of buyers, so swaps were moot seeing we need willing buyers and willing sellers to make a market swap go. Do not fear: We are sticking our toe in the pool little by little but wearing the ole water wings to be sure.

With the S&P staging its first 4-day winning streak of 2009, closing-out the week at 756, we are trading north of the crucial level of last November's lows of 741.but..we emphasize any market pop requires 3 to 5 trading days to confirm the rally and prove its worth. Yes, we are celebrating but just like March Madness, we've got a few brackets to climb before cheering that the bull is back.

By: Jude Bedell