



## **Excerpts from Quarterly Report written by Investment Partners Asset Management – Q1 2013**

This report is going to be a significant departure from our usual missives. Since our last update not a whole lot has happened to drive world markets; save for a 30% reduction in the dollar yen exchange rate, saber rattling in North Korea, a terrorist event in Boston, the confiscation of certain European bank deposits, and a smash-down in the gold and silver complex – not much to report. Sarcasm aside, we note that in the past these types of things, in part or together, would likely have made an impact on market psychology, trading and valuations. However, in the SNAFU world in which we live, the market seemingly denies the impact of any or all of these events. The only thing that matters around the globe is the Federal Reserve and its measures of quantitative easing. The illusion of global stability hinges upon the ability of central planners to create more electronic credits. Everyone knows it. We shudder to think about what happens the day it goes away.

OK, you've heard all that before. The fact is, but for a few tepid exceptions, that global economies of the world are still stagnating. In fact, we suspect that growth would be frighteningly negative without continued central bank support. This stimulus has driven the headline numbers in US exchanges; the largest mega corporations that most heavily weight the averages have been convenient well-known places to park money and scrape together a scant yield. This is the "logical response" for investors whose only other alternatives for yield produce....diminishing yield as prices rise.

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