1. Unintended consequences of trying to stop money laundering
2. The cost of breast cancer
3. Long term performance of assets

1. **<u>Trying to stop money laundering</u>**
   Recently I had a situation where the children of a elderly mother wanted to open an account in an attempt to make a little more than .25% interest per year. Well, the government in its fervor to stop money laundering has snared an unwitting group of seniors! You need to have photo ID to open an account or some other original documents which I'm not sure they even produced 85 years ago! So if there is no current drivers license, passport , original birth certificate you can't open an account. Her Bank has a document so they can maintain her account but so much for looking for a better deal.
2. **<u>The cost of breast cancer</u>**
   In May, 2010 The Canadian Breast Cancer Network released a study outlining that 80% of women suffering breast cancer experienced significant long term economic hardships. Loss of employment and depletion of their savings were just a couple areas. While medical cost were covered under provincial plans other aspects such as drugs, prosthesis and medical supplies were borne by the patients or their private insurance plans. Of those surveyed 44% depleted their savings or retirement plans and 27% took on debt. Fully 1/3 believed their financial struggles had a long term negative effect on their health. For less than the cost of an extra large Starbucks coffee per day a 45 year women can get $50,000 in Critical illness coverage for 20 years. Something to think about as 23,000 women are diagnosed annually in Canada. Let me know if you'd like a quote.
3. **<u>I've heard of long term.</u>**
   Recently I saw a chart prepared by Jeremy J. Siegel, Professor of Finance at Wharton School and author of Stocks for the Long Run. He researched the Total Real Return Index of stocks, bonds, Tbills and gold for the period of 1802 to 2010. Ok so 200 years is a little longer than your investment horizon but the results are interesting. Stocks returned 6.6%, bonds 3.6%, Tbills 2.8% and gold 0.6%. What drew my attention is the gold return. After 200 years you'd have not much more than you started out with! Sort of gives thought to the idea of rushing into the gold market.
   Earle
   PS If you get more email than you can ever read & I'm adding to the glut, drop me a note and I'll remove you from my mailing list.

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