

Secrets Of The Self Made 2009

Twenty-Two Questions For Leon Charney

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Saddle up for some secrets of this self-made billionaire.

Net Worth: \$1.3 billion

Age: 68

Source of Wealth: Oil, real estate, supermarkets

What's the biggest business blunder you've ever made, and what did you learn from it?

Mistrust of a partner--never to repeat it.

What's the one thing every first-time entrepreneur should know?

Risk/reward boundaries.

What's the last book or article you read that you'd recommend to other entrepreneurs?

The Bible, for it teaches humility.

What one job should every person have to do at least once in their life?

Volunteer for a charity.

How do you know when to keep fighting or to cut bait?

When your stomach is restless.

Will/should the U.S. have universal health care?

No.

What will be the new retirement age for 2009 grads?

72.

Finish this sentence: The United States' role as the leader of the free world depends upon ...

Strong economic growth.

Should the government have a say on executive compensation?

No.

Gold: Hoard it, trade it or avoid it?

Avoid it.

You have \$100 million to spend in real estate, what do you buy and where?

Commercial real estate in Manhattan.

Are we in a sucker's rally?

No.



You wake up dead broke tomorrow--what do you do?

Get up and try again.

What keeps you awake at night?

Iran's nuclear capability.

What's the biggest threat to your industry?

Shut down of lending by the banks.

By the time a trend appears in the mainstream press, is it too late for investors to capitalize on it?

No.

What 21st-century invention (discovered or not) has the greatest potential to change our lives?

The Internet.

Who helped you the most in getting you to where you are today?

An elderly gentleman who had faith in me.

How much vacation time to do you take each year?

Six weeks.

What is your benchmark of success? When did you reach it?

The ability to better people's lives and create peace.
Camp David Treaty -- 1979.

At this point, does money still motivate you?

Yes.

Describe your life in five words.

Eclectic, multifarious, spiritual, curious and charitable.