## The Outlook: March 7, 2024

## A lesson from Mr. Ryun: understanding the nature of things.

The first picture below, "Value Is Extremely Cheap!", is, well, one of those "models" we made fun of only a few days ago: a formula complicated enough that normal people ask themselves, "Do we really want to furrow our brows and try to understand this thing?" The answer, of course, is almost always "Nope! Too much trouble!" We all have a great deal to do, and not enough time to do it . . . so we sensibly pass up most such headaches. But if we say, "Forget the formula, what is this picture trying to say?" the answer is easy. It's observing that for some time now, the market's betting crowd has been wild about Tech stocks—Celebrity Tech stocks, really—because they've been putting up big growth numbers; and the crowd's been saying "Don't bother us with anything else, especially the heavy-industry and commodity-based stocks which have generally lagged far behind our Celebrities." Those laggards are the "Value Stocks."

## 27. Value discount. The Value discount is approaching pandemic levels.

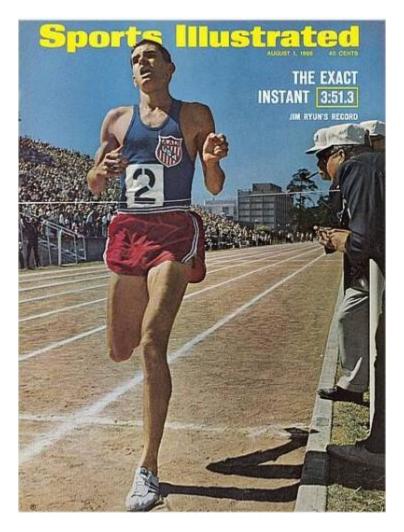
## VALUE IS EXTREMELY CHEAP



As of 1/31/2024 | Source: GMO
Stock valuations are calculated on a blend of Price/Sales, Price/Gross Profit, Price/Book, and Price/Economic Book.

Here's another couple of pictures: much easier to understand, and hopefully kind of fun.





The top picture is miler Jim Ryun—world record holder in the 1960's—in a normal position halfway through a race: following a long string of runners, usually far behind the leader. And the bottom picture is Mr. Ryun in a normal position at the end of the race. That very long stretch of empty track behind him was not normal for anyone in the world . . . except Mr. Ryun.

Back in those mid-60's a boy from Kansas was taken to Jayhawk Stadium to see Mr. Ryun run. Halfway through the race, he was in last place, trailing 10 or 12 good runners. Having never seen Mr. Ryun, hence not yet understanding his nature, the boy was highly concerned. It looked impossible for Mr. Ryun to win. The crowd filling the stadium, however, fully understood his nature. That crowd rose to its feet with a lap to go, and the roar would have filled a Super Bowl. Mr. Ryun passed those in front of him as if they were standing still, pretty much, and won the race . . . with a lot of empty track behind him.

Of course the common theme here is "understanding the nature of the thing." Here's our final picture.

OCM Core Stock List

Overview	Data Events Alerts				
SYMBOL .	NAME	LATEST	\$ CHG	% CHG	AS OF (ET)
CAT	Caterpillar Inc	340.89	5.26	1.57%	03/07 15:56
CMI	Cummins Inc	266.26	-7.18	-2.63%	03/07 15:56
COP	ConocoPhillips	112.88	0.89	0.79%	03/07 15:56
FCX	Freeport-McMoRan Inc	39.84	1.70	4.46%	03/07 15:56
LMT	Lockheed Martin Corp	430.05	-3.43	-0.79%	03/07 15:56
MSFT	Microsoft Corp	409.09	7.00	1.74%	03/07 15:56
MU	Micron Technology Inc	99.14	3.58	3.75%	03/07 15:56
TXN	Texas Instruments Inc	175.71	3.84	2.23%	03/07 15:56
XOM	Exxon Mobil Corp	107.50	0.73	0.68%	03/07 15:56
^DJI	Dow Jones Industrial Average	38,803.65	142.60	0.37%	03/07 15:41
^SPX	S&P 500	5,159.52	54.76	1.07%	03/07 15:41

Now, every Outlook core stock except for Microsoft is one of those "Value Stocks" being dissected by the formula up top. These green circles point to exactly what that complicated formula is trying to say in such a foggy way: "It's the nature of genuine "value stocks" to lag far behind the hottest, most popular and most showy stocks in the market, for a long time. And it's also their nature to make up for it with rocket trips to the moon . . . when they're not particularly expected to do that. This <u>always</u> happens, no matter how hopeless the race might look halfway through."

In our investment world—and every other world—"understanding the nature of things" is actually Rule One, when it comes to both surviving <u>and</u> thriving. The nature of Outlook's core companies is extraordinary financial strength combined with exceptional and patient leadership. So they always behave the same way, rewarding us with those rocket trips if we wait long enough.

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The remarks above aren't a general recommendation to buy or sell particular securities. Such decisions should only be made in the context of an investor's own circumstances. Stocks and bonds carry the risk of loss.