LEAKED INVESTMENT CLUB INTERVIEW WITH NEW YORK FINANCIER

In 2008, the president of Investment Club interviewed a spectacular New York financier.
The interviewer, John Rockefeller, flew home to Palm Beach for spring break. While sun-tanning poolside of an unknown club, Mar-a-Lago, he spotted an interviewee that would change his life. With a wide-tooth grin, the mystery-man agreed to an exclusive interview. This financier is the most inspirational guest Investment Club has hosted to date. The following is a transcript (edited for clarity) of that long-awaited interview, 16 years later…

Rothschild: Let's start with introductions… What's your name and what are three adjectives you would use to describe yourself?
Financier: My name is Jeff [redacted]. Uh, let's see, ambitious, considerate, and… (chuckles) determined. Determined, almost to a fault.
R: Wow, that's quite a description! Take me through a timeline of your career, what was your first job?
J: When I was about your age, I tutored peers in math and physics. Like most companies that achieve success, I started poor, smart and desperate. After I left NYU, I started by working at Dalton. (grins) That's an experience I won't forget any time soon. In fact, my first real boss, Donald [redacted], published a great book, *Space Relations*. By 1976, I left Dalton to join Bear Stearns.
R: That sounds like such an interesting book! What's *Space Relations* about and are there any other books on investing that you would recommend?
J: *Space Relations* is about a young space diplomat's quest for freedom. That's a book I'd recommend for anyone interested in finance because it depicts life in the industry well. *The Bonfire of Vanities* and *The Wolf of Wall Street* are also great recommendations for Investment Club. A personal favorite of mine is *Lolita*. I have a first-edition if you would like to check it out sometime.
R: Mr. [redacted], I would be honored to! It's my favorite novel as well. (in awe) I can't believe I have so much in common with my idol. I also want to start my career just like you, as an analyst. What was your time in [redacted] like?
J: I worked a little too hard. Hard work always pays off, no matter who you know. As important as it is to work hard, you have to let loose on the weekends, you know? Enjoy *la dolce vita* while you're young and alive.
R: The trajectory of your career is incredible, how did you transition into starting your own financial consulting firm?
J: Support from those around you matters, whether that be from peers, family or others. My first client, Les, helped kick-start the operation. He's popular with the ladies, but at his core, he's a really good guy.
R: I don't need to tell you this but your clients, friends, family, must all appreciate you. Despite the competitiveness of the finance industry, can you speak on the connections and friendships you've made along the way?
J: The industry is often depicted as a cut-throat environment in which you're not allowed to show your competitor any mercy, *Art of War* style. But, the industry is very forgiving and considerate. We throw galas and balls for all sorts of charities and non-profit organizations.
R: Honestly, it saddens me that non-financially inclined students have such deep misconceptions about finance and investing. I see figures like yourself and many others in your orbit serving as benefactors to many charities and organizations that serve the greater good.

J: Yes! In the past year, the [redacted] has donated to [redacted]

R: Wow, I can only imagine how much you have been able to serve public and private charities. It amazes me how much you have helped the health and education of this nation. Our country needs more benefactors like yourself!

J: Well, the students reading this interview have the potential to work for the betterment of our nation, like myself.

R: With a planner that must be overflowing with events and meetings, how does such a busy and productive man like yourself find time to maintain an effective work-life balance?

J: I reserve evening hours and weekends for friends and certain lady friends. As you will soon learn, as vast as the industry may seem, there are only so many clients and co-workers that matter. My personal and professional circles have merged quite a bit over the decades.

(He called over a waitress for another drink, turning to see her run back to the bar.)

R: (scrambles to find something on the question sheet) I'm not sure if I mentioned this before, but I'm a **HUGE** fan. I'm sure when this interview gets published, readers who look up to you as much, or even more, than myself, would love to know some industry secrets. Do you have any insider knowledge for aspiring financial professionals?

J: I've been in this industry for almost 35 years, and it's the only life I would choose. It's not an industry to me, nor is it a job. It's a lifestyle. It's who you chose to surround yourself with, which should be an assortment of the best and brightest individuals from a variety of industries. It's the way you live your life, and the partners you have, too. No matter your background, the reputation you develop will always stay with you. It's such a fickle thing, reputation. Keep it sparkling, bud.

R: Wow, that's quite insightful. You're a man of much wisdom, Mr. [redacted]. Is there anything else you would like to tell me?

J: That's about it. Do you mind sending my publicist, [redacted], this recording?

R: Of course, whatever you need.

The two rise. Jeff left a note for the waitress. The bill was on the house.

R: It was such an honor to meet you, Mr. [redacted]. You're a real inspiration to [redacted], especially with how much you've been able to advance education in this country.

J: I'm honored to serve as an inspiration for a new generation of brilliant minds.

R: Mr. [redacted], do you have any plans after this?

J: [redacted], you seem like a good kid. I have a private island, and I'm flying out to [redacted] tomorrow, would you want to-?

R: Definitely!

J: Well, I'm leaving today, I'll send someone to pick you up tomorrow.

A middle-aged lady with black square sunglasses and a sweeping sunhat, covering her whole face, approached the table. On her left arm, she dragged a young waitress.

JEFF'S FRIEND: This is [redacted], she's interested in the masseuse position.

J: (stays silent and gazes at the girl)

J.F.: (turns to Rothschild) Where are my manners! I'm Ghislaine, and who is this?

J: This is John, he's interviewing me for, what is it called again?

R: Deerfield's Investment Club.

G: Ah, how sweet. Jeff, I'm leaving right now with Virginia, we'll meet in [redacted].

Ghislaine leaves.

J: I should head out as well.
R: Again, it's such an honor to meet you.
J: You're welcome.
The two shake hands and depart.
The next morning a sleek, obsidian limousine picked John up. He was dropped off at the airstrip and the LOLITAEXPRESS awaited him. Stepping inside, [redacted]

The passengers descend into the [redacted], and the grandeur [redacted]

John shared the interview at the Investment Club meeting and handed the transcript to the Student Life Office for safekeeping. [redacted]

If this interview and recollection of events seems fictitious, check Jeff's flight logs.