

Hunter Dave Young is also a former world-class magician (seen at right) who toured for more than four years before becoming a successful entrepreneur and then a financial adviser who owns Paragon Wealth Management in Provo. Young is Utah Valley BusinessQ's newest columnist.



get,” Young says. “Anyone can go on a safari and shoot a zebra. I enjoy hunting leopards. They’re like mountain lions on steroids. They’re quicker, more aggressive and have a bad attitude. If you make eye-contact with a leopard — they’ll jump at you.”

Young’s mantra of not taking the easy road translates into how he handles clients’ financial futures.

“It takes a great deal of focus and patience to manage money,” he says. “You can’t force the market to do what you want.”

While some financial advisers focus on selling their clients value-added services or simply on their personality, Dave has always relied on investing. The company does not sell any financial products.

“What sets us apart from other financial advisers is that our fundamental roots lie in investing,” he says. “That has been our primary focus for the past 20 years.”

And that effort has not gone unnoticed. Since its inception in January 1998 through Dec. 31, 2007, the Paragon Top Flight Portfolio has generated a total return of 417.34 percent, crushing the 77.42 percent the S&P 500 has posted.

“That works out to a compound annual return of 18.03 percent for Top Flight, versus 5.95 percent for the S&P 500,” Young says.

Most investment advisers are considered successful if they are able to simply beat the S&P 500.

Paragon’s Top Flight portfolio has far outpaced that standard in all economic conditions the past 10 years.

See www.paragonwealth.com for Paragon’s full disclosure. **Q**

Tracking animals and markets >>

Meet columnist Dave Young, whose Top Flight Portfolio has quintupled the S&P 500

FIVE YEARS AGO DAVE YOUNG, owner of Paragon Wealth Management, made a goal to harvest a mountain goat that was among the world’s 10 largest. After two failed attempts to get the record-setting goat in Alaska, Dave set his sites on the British Columbia/Yukon border in the fall of 2006.

“Getting to where the world’s largest goats are takes an immense amount of concentration,” Young says. “We were scaling 60- to 100-foot cliffs. It’s a mental game.”

After nine days of backpacking, Young finally harvested a mountain

goat that ranked on the all time “Top 10 in the World” list. He retrieved the goat after it fell more than 2,000 feet into a ravine.

“It took a lot of patience and determination,” he says. “I learned a ton.”

Young applies his hunting lessons to his successful investment business.

Hunting the stock market

When he’s not hunting world-class trophies to hang in his Provo office, Young spends his time managing his successful Top Flight Portfolio.

“What I enjoy most is the challenge of getting something that’s hard to