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Top 10 Great Things about a New Year

WITH A NOD to that member of the way-too-large Sleazebag Class 2009 (say it ain't so, Tiger!), David Letterman, here are my Top 10 Great Things about a New Year:

10. New Year's Day bowl games. Great excuse to ignore any resolutions one more day.
9. Fresh desk blotter calendar and monthly planner. I prefer pencil and paper to keep track of life rather than digital devices, so mine is a lonely march. Pity today's youngsters whose arthritic thumbs may be useless by midlife.
8. Technically it is a brand new golf season. This means hope, hope that Yes! this will be the year that I improve my game demonstrably and consistently to the amazement of my competitors. Here's where I tell the world I shot 77 last August—then posted scores in the 90's the rest of the year . . .
7. Good books and movies just keep coming. Never enough time to read or see 'em all but the choices we lucky Americans have to entertain ourselves is staggering. Who could be bored?
6. A chance more citizens will begin to think of themselves as "Americans" first rather than "fill in the blank'-Americans." I won't be holding my breath on this one but a guy can dream, can't he?
5. Twenty-five to 30% of winter weather is over. The more winters I live through the more I wonder why the heck does anyone stay north of the Mason-Dixon Line December through March? I'm a four-season guy but Old Man Winter's mug is at the bottom of my totem pole.
4. New seasons for favorite teams. Whether it's Bob Ruth Ford in the Pony League or the New York Yankees, most everyone fervently follows at least one team in some sport. This could be your side's year to go all the way!
3. The kids keep growing. Ours are 10, 8 and 3 and while I am doing my best to enjoy them while they are young it is also exciting to watch them develop. Plus the older they are the better they get my jokes.
2. Resolutions. Admit it—you might not make any but don't tell me you didn't THINK about making changes. The calendar's turning prompts many of us to take stock of our lives and, hopefully, vow to try harder to do some good more often.
1. Bill Gates and Steve Apple might decide to download for free the song "(What's So Funny 'bout) Peace, Love And Understanding?" onto everyone in the world's computers.

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