## From the Sidelines



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## Fresh starts not that easy, worth an effort

AVING SURVIVED THE MAYAN PREDICTION of the world's end last month (my deadline was 1 day before 12/21/12 so who knows?), I lived to greet New Year 2013. Simply another day to Mother Nature, January 1 offers us an annual marking period for life—the ultimate continuing education experience.

Goals are good I've been told many times and I have lists of goals written with the best intentions inside covers of old planners. Heading into 2003 I had seven goals, none of them specific enough measure of course, but they were in ink on paper so at least I had made that commitment. Generous scoring rules resulted in my having fully achieved zero of those seven.

I found no list of goals for 2004.

One year I had no list but did note an "objective" involving "tangible results" and "showing evidence." Into the circular archive with that one.

Another Schroder historical document source shows entries dated January 4-8, 1983, followed by August 10. Later that same document reveals steady work January 9, 1990, through the end of February before a big blank until June 24. No stranger to failure am I.

I give myself credit for still even considering New Year's resolutions with my track record. But having that vision of successfully making even the slightest good change in my life means a lot to me. I still believe in the possible.

Regular golf partners of mine laugh at my overuse of the word "karma" during a round. Poking fun of another's OB drive before you hit off the same tee box is bad karma and increases your chances of hitting OB by at least 50%, for example. And raking a steep bunker for a guy coming off knee surgery is good karma that might at least help even out the luck in any round.

That's my approach (bad golf pun) to New Year's resolutions too: make an honest effort, even if I fall short of perfection, that continued effort will be rewarded some day.

## **PASSWORDS**

Another list I made recently was of all the passwords I use at least a few times a year if not regularly. Three of the accounts are business related: a mail server, LinkedIn and Green Media's Twitter account (@GreenMediaMags). Others are retail, like iTunes, and household bill accounts or financial institutions. It's a long list.

My search for historical documentation also turned up an article I wrote for a college class on a manual typewriter; when you consider how we communicate 34 years later, it's astounding. I tell my kids someday there will be a screen conveniently embedded in our skins. No batteries needed, it runs on burned calories!

Happy New Year!

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