

HAPPY NEW YEAR.....BAH, HUMBUG!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

by Ralph Liebing, RA, CSI

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The devil with it! I'm going to save myself all the angst and distress of New Year's resolutions--I'm not making any!!

Now 2008 was really a mixed bag--a lot of good, a good deal of very bad--and all too much flat out stupid (might I say little of this on my part--I am not a national or world figure!) Guess it really was much like many other years, just a different proportional mix of the same stuff--health, wealth, success, failure, greed, up and down, silly, ironic, stupid, indecent, "etc., etc., and so on"! (Thank you Yul Brynner in "The King and I"), including a lot of the marginal.

So being both old and lazy, I plan to let the newbie--2009--be what it wants to be. Now my personal plan is to keep on keeping on, and trying, here and there, to be better, more productive, more helpful, (OK a better person--a daily mission not a resolution!) and to continue to bug you guys with this stuff (as in "vicarious satisfaction"). Much of what is over the hill is stuff we can't plan, and have little influence over. Your husband, wife, or significant is gonna be what they are, come hell or high-water, so keep your waders on, your calm and your ability to concentrate in spite of all about you! Same goes at the office. Besides that bugs the hell out of them!!!

So why encumber ourselves with resolves and promises we won't personally meet or make and then only feel bad about and beat ourselves up when we do fail. That's not avoidance, or a head-in-the-sand attitude--its call intelligent acquiescence!!! Instead, how about we change the world?

What would be really neat would be the ability to require each person we know to meet a new requirement we place on them--and they must achieve it. Perhaps playing God, but not to make the world perfect (can't, we don't know everybody), but just to make others do something we feel is better, more correct or less imposing on others. Like, all politicians must tell the truth? No "pork" or fringe elements can be tacked onto new laws that no one knows about until years later? There is no more "across the aisle" as the various political party members are seated interspersed together and at random? You must be elected to a political position based on your values, beliefs and intentions (not by face and name recognition, "other methods", or appointment--and yes, we *will* keep score of your promises and stated intentions!!) Every child must be loving, respectful and helpful to each parent--and have no run-ins with the law? And vice versa in that lack of respect for another becomes a crime!

News commentators are outlawed, and news reporters truly report, without personal spin or comment! The fashion industry finds a correct blend or attractiveness, wearability, and viability without exposing acres of skin! Television creates a true mix of programming with balance, varied interest, comedy (where has that gone?), sit-coms, etc. where decency wins without Uzis, bloodletting, or sexual complexity. Boston Pops becomes one of the top 10 TV shows. Movie stars are truly good actors, true "stars" while being giving to good causes, and forsaking politics.

Spec writing wise--let's just be better, kinder to each other, more thoughtful and patient, but decisive; let's open up to new prospects and let's each try to think of and push a new idea or program to make our profession better. Well, I'm exhausted!! How about you suggestions? I bet there are some real lulus out there--anxious to hear of them! *Happy New Year--all year!!!*