



David's personal letter to you

Hi...

And before I forget, Happy New Year as well! It's not quite the New Year as I'm writing this, but I'm sure looking forward to it.

I can't remember if you all in Britain celebrate the New Year like we do or not. I seem to remember reading somewhere that the English don't and the Scottish do, but I can't remember about the Welsh and Irish.

I suppose really, though, that you know pretty much about it all.

In a way, it seems kind of funny to be so excited about the end of a year. After all, it is pretty artificial. The sun comes to an end of a cycle, of course, but even so that isn't always true. After all, every four years there's an extra day in the year to make up for the differences.

So, why celebrate it at all? Well, I've got a few good reasons, and I expect that you've probably got some of your own as well.

I'm all for celebrating anything that comes along anyway. I think that there's so much sadness in the world that you ought to find every possible reason to celebrate.

Any chance to be happy is the chance you ought to take, don't you agree?

I don't mean that you have to go berserk and turn life into a continuous party. I guess what I really mean is that one of the things that the world needs, at least in my opinion, is reasons to be HAPPY.

It seems like all the news is bad news, every thing that changes is change for the worse, and, on the whole, there seems to be more reasons to be sad than there are to be happy.

So that's one of the good things about the New Year holiday—it gives us all a chance to sit back and be positive for a change. Like I said earlier (I think!), the New Year is artificial in a way. But SO WHAT? I reckon that one of the best

things about the New Year is that it's just that—a New Year.

It gives everyone a chance to sit back and think about things that happened last year, as well as things that might happen next year. In the states, we have a tradition which we call New Year's Resolutions. The idea is that we resolve to change ourselves and what we do, beginning at 12.00 on the first day of January.

I think it's a pretty good idea. I know it's impossible to stick to every resolution, but still, it does make for an easy, clear cut point at which you can say "Right, from now on, I'm going to give up smoking," or whatever.

I like to do it, although I suppose really it's more of a game than anything else. But like all games, there's some truth in it.

Anything that helps you to improve yourself is alright in my book, O.K.?

Then let me start right now, with you as my witness. I've got quite a few plans for next year, and it'll take some effort to keep them all in hand, as you can imagine.

RESOLUTION

So I've decided to make some pretty general (and pretty important) resolutions that, provided I can manage to keep them!

Right, now that that's out of the way, I can start to give you some idea of what the resolutions actually are.

(1) I RESOLVE to work harder than ever before to improve myself as a professional.

I think I must have said this just about every year since I started working.

But don't think that I haven't kept it! No, I have been working to do the best job possible, ever since I first set foot on the stage in New York, which was almost too long ago to think