



**Miss Manners  
(Judith Martin)  
Gives her opinion on New Years  
Resolutions!**

If the society were not in a state of Etiquette Emergency, Miss Manners would not attempt to meddle with the ritual of the New Year's Resolution. She finds it sweet to hear people annually resolve to lose ten pounds and clean their desks- the air of modest moral struggle this lends to the first three days of every January is charming.

Times of crisis call for sacrifice. The national rudeness level has reached dangerous proportions. Each citizen has to commit himself or herself to behaving himself or herself, or we will all soon have to be committed. The situation, as Miss Manners sees it, arose from just the spirit of improvement that leads people to the excellent resolves associated with the beginning of a fresh year. There is a mistaken notion abroad that if one does one's best, one may be intolerant of those who do less.

Say, you have given up smoking. Naturally, you will take the occasion to be grumpy and irritable in the bosom of your family. If you have stored up some personal credit there, through years of cheerful smoking, they may accept this good-naturedly for a short while. If it ends there, Miss Manners has no objection. The successful nonsmoker will then go on to attack perfect strangers, or rather, imperfect strangers, who smoke. If this were done politely, Miss manners would still have no objection. The confinement of smoky air to the immediate and private vicinity of smoke producers is a valid goal. But what Miss Manners sees is an atmosphere polluted with self-righteous insults. Nonsmokers, joggers, food purists, and other such improved products feel they have a license to chastise the world.

Worse are the people who have had general self-overhauls, rather than specific repair jobs. Those who have newly discovered their personal worth through therapy, assertiveness training, or other odd religious sects often become public menaces. Their friendly behavior is to point out that you are in bad shape, a fact only confirmed by your failure to realize this; watch out for their unfriendly behavior. From a society that must once have been, by its own testimony, a depressed,

## A LITTLE BIT OF THIS AND A LITTLE BIT OF THAT!

frightened, and ridden with bad habits, we have evolved into a people who are healthy, confident, and impossible to live with. Commands are barked at strangers. A person who is offensive to someone else, whether on purpose or accidentally, is viciously reprimanded. These attacks, in turn, inspire counterattacks. It is not unusual for a mere peccadillo- an accidental push in a crowded bus, some harmless hesitation on the part of an automobile driver- to result in the exchange of screamed obscenities. This is dreadful. People who do no wrong are making the world unbearable for normal people.

Miss Manners asks that each person make it a New Year's Resolution to be responsible for his own behavior and worry less about that of others. If correcting is imperative, she asks that it be done with gentleness and humility. If everyone refuses to engage in verbal combat, hostilities will soon cease. "He started it!" will not be accepted as an excuse.

Dear Miss Manners:

Last year, I gave up eating between meals, and the year before, I gave up smoking. Can you suggest a New Year's resolution for me, for this year? It might be hard, not only because, as you can see, I am nearly perfect, but because, as you can also see, life is bleak enough for me without giving up any of my remaining pleasures.

Gentle Reader:

Try giving up expecting the mechanics of life to work smoothly. For example, give up expecting a store to get your order right, or the car ahead of you to start when the light changes, or the mail to be delivered within a reasonable time. If you succeed in this, you will be deprived of nothing you had before expect frustrating rage, and you will be contributing to the welfare of the world- not by improving it, but by ceasing to contribute to it your own dis-satisfaction.

**It is never to late to give up  
your prejudices. Henry David Thoreau**



Dear Editor,

The "subject" will never be won. You will always have people for and against.

I think everyone should be able to make their own choices. Like you said in your letter... the world is full of different kinds of people and different views.

You're doing a great job. Keep up the good work!

Yes, we would all miss the ~~BULLETIN~~.

Thanks,  
Aloha Adams

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**1st Annual Community Calendars  
are here! They can be purchased  
at the Smith House during open  
hours or call Cory at 865-3310..  
\$5.00 each. Please support your  
local historical society by getting  
one of these for your home or  
office.**

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### Book Fair Success!

A huge thank you from the Butte Falls Elementary/Middle School. Not only did we earn money for our school, we earned coupons towards library materials, & through the super support of parents, classroom books were purchased through the classroom wish list program. Thanks again to all the parents, friends & families who helped support us!