



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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## I'M AFRAID IT'S TIME FOR GOODBYE AGAIN.

Those of you who were either in New York or are extremely hip are aware that there is a production right near the Marriott Marquis that is based entirely on the music of Billy Joel.

I walked by the front of that theater several times and heard the music pouring out of the speakers. So, it is no wonder that I can't shake some of his songs from my head. Usually, when that happens, I just need to sit down and listen to the song on the stereo and it goes away, but this time I decided I would write a farewell article based on the lyrics of my favorite Billy Joel album, *Turnstiles*.



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I used to be thought of as somewhat of an “angry young man,” but I was afraid I would “go to the grave as an angry old man.” Also, being angry is not as much fun as some people make it look. I decided that a smile went a lot farther than a scowl in winning people over and getting things done. The other reason is that there are so many delightful people in the world. When you work with people like Jeanne Daharsh, Rob Stone, Nancy Manning, Brian Louth and Ian Duncan for any length of time, it is impossible to not smile.

When I came into the section, like many who have come before and will follow after, “I don't have any reasons, I've left them all behind.” I did not approach the job of council member with an agenda, but, like James, each of us is asking ourselves “when will you write your masterpiece?” and all of us are looking forward to making our mark on whatever we touch.

For the Society of Actuaries and the Nontraditional Marketing Section, it is a time for change. “They say that these are not the best of times, but they're the only times I've ever known.” The best anyone can do (many times) is to make the most of what our situations hand us. However, I do not agree with Billy that it is always “sadness or euphoria.” To make the most of these times, hard work and cooperation is required. I am confident the incoming team will help the NTM Section emerge from this transition stronger, more vibrant and serving its members even better.

While moving on always brings a little sadness, I look forward to other challenges and continuing on as a friend of the council. As I do, it is only natural to reflect on the people with whom I have worked. “So many faces in and out of my life, some will last, some will just be now and then. Life is a series of hellos and goodbyes—I'm afraid it's time for goodbye again.”

“And so before we end” (and in doing so begin something else) – “We'll drink a toast to how it's been...but I've loved these days.”

I have enjoyed working with all of you. And for those who appear to be waiting for the right moment to join section activities, please consider moderating or speaking at a session. Or, just write a *NewsDirect* article, even if you have to borrow material to do it!

Best of luck to you all. ■

