REINVENTION
A unified theory for a personal and professional life well-lived.

By now, you've probably grown accustomed to (and weary of) me spilling out the gory details of my personal life on this page. Just to recap, in the past five years alone, faithful readers like you have been forced to endure my ramblings about my kids, my crappy golf game, tinnitus and hearing loss, divorce, being broke, overcoming alcoholism, quitting smoking, etc., etc., etc. For me it's sort of like an instant therapy session. I poured out 835 words about whatever weirdness is bouncing around in my head, hit send and instantly feel better.

I'm weird like that. But, to me, it's not weird to share my life with my friends. The late great Harvey Penick used to say, "If you play golf, you're my friend." My version is, "If you grow grass for a living, you're my friend."

Well, my friends, this month I have something really weird... something very, very strange... to reveal: I got married a few weeks ago.

Yup, I finally convinced the fabulous Kim to become Mrs. Jones. Astoundingly, this wonderful, beautiful, creative and compassionate woman agreed to marry an aging, half-deaf, recovering addict with no savings, a bad comb-over and a golf swing that has more flaws than a Shakespearean villain. She's a little nuts... and I am eternally grateful for it. I'm the luckiest man in the world.

Thus continues my ongoing self-reinvention. I'm incredibly blessed. Looking back five years, my prospects for anything beyond darkness, despair and delusion were dim. Yet now, I love madly, laugh loudly and live with a new sense of purpose.

Let's talk about that last thing for a bit. In my case, my sense of purpose is simple: I want to live the rest of my life honestly, help others and have fun.

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Yet, those things will all happen naturally if I simply continue to do the next right thing.

I learned that "next right thing" concept in AA, but it's a fundamental idea that turns up in nearly every religion and philosophy out there. I just didn't absorb it until it hit me square between the eyes that dishonesty, delusion and selfishness weren't right no matter how well I rationalized them. It turns out being a drunk, hitting bottom and starting over taught me the important stuff I should have learned had I been paying attention to all those goddamned books I read over the years. I recently was informed by my brilliant new stepdaughter that there's actually a word for it: pathemata. It means "learning through suffering." Wow.

I don't want to waste those tough lessons. I'm excited to put what I've learned to work in every aspect of my life. And, in the spirit of adding relevancy to this column, let's start with a renewed commitment to this wonderful community of turfheads.

This year, we're going to begin to tackle the real issues facing our industry head on. We've always been pretty candid about the business, but the most important thing we can do is help solve problems instead of just writing about them. So, look for GCI to start leading the charge on issues and partnering with some important and surprising organizations to make a difference. We'll be announcing those programs over the next few months but...