First, let me reiterate that keeping up with technological progress is very
important. You can't afford to go too fast - get a little too far ahead - and get trampled, but fall behind
doesn't work either. The key is to find the balance, the sweet spot where you can
hope to maintain a lead without tempting the gods of technology to throw you off
your course.

Secondly, as Ken Pohlmann puts it, there is a "new world", a frontier, out
there to be explored. The technology of the past has been our guide and
our compass, but we must now look to the future, to the unknown, to
the "new world". It is a world in which we must be willing to take
risks, to be innovative, to be creative.

But there is another side to this story. While we are exploring the
"new world", we must also remember the "old world". The "old world"
is the world of our predecessors, the world of the LP, the world of the
analog. It is a world that we must not forget, a world that we must hold
on to with both hands, a world that we must cherish, a world that we must
preserve.

So, what does being 50 mean to all but the LP? It means that we must
be willing to look back, to reflect, to remember. It means that we must
be willing to learn from the past, to draw from the wisdom of our
predecessors. It means that we must be willing to be humble, to
recognize that there is still so much that we don't understand, that
we don't know.

But it also means that we must be willing to be forward-thinking,
to look ahead, to plan, to anticipate. It means that we must be
willing to be bold, to be daring, to be innovative. It means that we
must be willing to take risks, to be willing to fail, to be willing
to learn.

And so, as the Audio Engineering Society, as the community of
people who are passionate about audio, let us remember that
there is something to be learned from both the "new world" and the
"old world". Let us remember that there is something to be learned
from the past and from the present. Let us remember that there is
something to be learned from what we have done and what we
are doing. And let us remember that there is something to be
learned from where we are going and where we are coming from.

Let us be forward-thinking, let us be innovative, let us be daring. Let
us be willing to put our hearts and souls into what we do, into what
we believe. And let us be proud of what we have done, of what
we are doing, of what we are going to do.

But most importantly, let us be true to ourselves, let us be true to
our beliefs, let us be true to our values. For in the end, it is not
just about the technology, it is not just about the equipment, it
is not just about the results. It is about who we are, it is about
what we believe, it is about who we want to be.

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