

The Old and the New

Welcome to the end of the year. As magazines and news programs subject us to Top 10 lists, probably because it is a formulaic way for them to review all that has transpired over the past year (and because they discovered that the lists drive sales), the pundits are discussing what went wrong and how much it will affect our lives in the coming year. If it seems like déjà vu all over again, it's because it is. The end of 2004 seems no different than 2003. In our drive to standardize everything in our lives, we have somehow managed to homogenize nostalgia.

For sure 2004 wasn't perfect. Yet those who say 2005 has to be better because it can't get any worse, are forgetting that they said the same thing as 2003 came to a close, and probably after 2002 as well. This was not a "can't get any worse year". If anything 2004 was a transitional year that demonstrated the potential of 2005. It was a year of recovery that showed the beginnings of stability. It is with this promise that we must enter the New Year, anxious and dedicated to helping it meet its full potential.

After years of terror and war, 2005 could be a year of peace in Iraq and Israel. Even if peace proves evasive, it will almost certainly be a year of progress toward peace. This in turn will drive our economy, which is already showing all the right signs of waking up. With our businesses growing and our worries relaxed, 2005 could be a fabulous year. This is exactly what we wish to you.