

What I'm *Not* Looking for in 2005

As we begin this new year, I think it is helpful to look back and decide what we would like to see more and less of in 2005. The cowboys say all they ever need is better whiskey, prettier women and more money. As I've matured and become more sophisticated over the years, I've come to the conclusion that they've got it about right. But there are lots of things I'd like to see less of in the year ahead.

It is absolute torture to sit through the endless chatter of the so-called experts who comment on celebrity trials.

LEGISLATORS "FIXING" THE COURTS

Every year we get a series of legislative solutions to the problem of the courts. The fundamental flaw is that there is no problem in the courts that they need to solve. Rulemaking works pretty well now; can you imagine how it would be if the Legislature made the rules? We need the election of judges like we need more news about the love life of Britney Spears. These guys need to focus on their other important concerns—like resolutions to withdraw from the United Nations and put the Ten Commandments in the classroom—and leave the courts independent and efficient.

ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION ADS

Like I didn't know that I'm getting old and over-the-hill, it seems like every show I watch on television is filled with ads on e.d.

What does this say about my demographic?

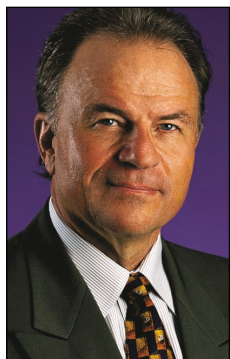
Where are the young girls and the fast cars?

And worse, I think I have a crush on the woman who talks about the importance of quality in addition to timeliness. This is sad. The ads started out barely broaching the subject, throwing a football through a tire, and now they are approaching soft porn.

Bring back the fast cars.

NO GAY ISSUES FOR SIX MONTHS

I need a break from discussing every possible ramification of gay life in America. I am gayed out. Not that it's not important or there aren't issues here to be addressed. It's just that 2004 was the year we were bombarded with gay lifestyles and gay issues, and I need a respite. Just until July. Then we can get right back into whether superstar women should kiss on national television or employers should be required to provide health insurance to gay partners or whether the sanctity of the wedding ceremony performed by the Reverend Johnny B. Love at the Vegas Little White Wedding Chapel should be preserved in the Constitution. Until then I want to watch *Andy Griffith* instead of *Queer Eye* (the episodes without Gomer).



Grant Woods is a trial lawyer in Phoenix emphasizing complex litigation, plaintiff's personal injury, and government relations. He was Arizona Attorney General from 1991-1999.

CELEBRITY TRIALS

I am including Scott Peterson and his type in this category. The trials themselves are bad enough, but it is absolute torture to sit through the endless chatter of the so-called experts who comment on the cases. Most of these people don't try many cases, and it shows. The pattern seems to be for one to be a prosecutor or defender out of law school for a few years and then become an expert for the next 40.

Do that and run for Attorney General and that's OK by me. But please spare us your analysis of how the seizure of Michael Jackson's porn collection is an assault on the Fourth Amendment. You are an assault on the First Amendment.

LAWYER COMMERCIALS WITH ACTUAL CLIENTS

I cringe at most lawyer ads. But the worst are the ones that feature supposed actual clients straining to articulate why their lawyers are so great. Frankly, the criminal clients in these commercials look guilty as hell, so maybe the lawyers who got them off are pretty good. Of course, they don't say they got them off. They probably took their money, marched them down to court, and got them a plea that they could have gotten on their own. The one time I tried a case against one of these fellows, his client pled to the charge and got maxed. He could have done that himself.

So these are my simple requests for a less annoying new year. It's not much, but at this point, I would be happy to take it.

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