



## Straight Talk

By Muriel Sluyter

## 2005 is Upon Us. Some of it Looks Good

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### Greetings, Gentle Reader,

Amazing things are happening at this end of 2004. It didn't seem possible that Ukrainians could succeed in establishing any degree of freedom, yet their newly elected president says that is what they have achieved. Though ethnic Ukrainians are a people of tremendous talent, intelligence and ingenuity, by virtue of their genetic inheritance alone, the mountain they had to climb seemed insurmountable.

Ukrainians who lived next to Russia were forcibly removed by Stalin and mostly starved to death. Then Russians were transplanted into that part of their country. As a result, the people in the Russian part of Ukraine voted overwhelmingly for the Russian candidate, then stuffed ballot boxes so their man would be sure to win.

Ethnic Ukrainians were outraged, yet they handled their protests well. They wore the authorities down, until their Supreme Court declared the election invalid. The final vote shows the Ukrainian people won not only the election, but self-determination.

Afghanistan was even more amazing. Everyone expected trouble. Yet, the people not only voted, women spoke openly about being free to vote, to go to school, and to work outside the home when necessary. Three and a half years ago, none of that could have happened. They were as captive a people as this world has ever seen.

Iraq will have its election in January, but there will be tremendous bloodshed in the meantime, because terrorists look on Iraq as something of a last stand. When terrorists are captured in Iraq, there are far greater numbers of foreign nationals than actual Iraqis. Saudis, Syrians, Iranians, Jordanians, Palestinians, Egyptians, etc., make up the bulk.

Both the brutal murder of Theo van Gogh in Holland by a Muslim terrorist and challenges to authority in other European countries have Europeans worried they are next in line for terrorist attacks. They say that horrific murder was Europe's 9/11. Chances are they are right. They have pandered to terrorists for years, and their chickens are coming home to roost.

We have North Korea and Iran to worry about, though both saw more fire power than they wanted to experience personally when we invaded Iraq. They saw what Libya's Qaddafi saw, and decided discretion was the better part of valor. But it won't last. They will attack from behind, since that is how they operate. They're especially brave when killing defenseless women and children.

And in America? The ACLU has decided it will remake America in its image. Profanity, vulgarity and even extremely filthy speech are quite acceptable, but Merry Christmas has gone the way of prayer and the Ten Commandments. America's historical documents cannot be taught in some schools. They have the word "God" in them, which offends the delicate sensibilities of every terrorist and America hater in the country.

Colleges used to educate students; now many professors demand students accept their perverted politics in order to get passing grades. If alumni applied severe pressure – the kind that makes cash registers ring – that would stop.

At the end of this year of political contention, let's try a little "live and let live." But at the same time, let's fight back against those organizations determined to destroy our traditional culture. We have legal groups ready and willing to take on the oppressors at the ACLU and like organizations. Let's use them.

What else can we do? Americans slavishly copy the depraved behavior modeled by Hollywood and music industry, and as a result, we have become an astonishingly uncivilized people. Additionally, many destroy minds, bodies and our very culture with drugs, alcohol and violence. That's not just traditionally un-American, it's two clicks past downright stupid, so let's resolve both to exhibit and demand civilized behavior.

Happy New Year!