When Finance Minister Prakash Chandra Lohani presented the national budget in July, many of his plans were predicated on peace. A month later, the ceasefire collapsed and it has been downhill ever since.

The government designed the budget with an optimistic scenario of peace, not a realistic scenario of continued conflict. Nepalis will pay dearly for this in 2004. Many will lose their lives, others will plummet their living standards.

The ordinary Nepalese offer a 20 percent chunk of the annual budget, devoting 10 percent to education, 15 percent to health, 5 percent to food and only 0.5 percent for drinking water.

What's worse, these allocations haven't been sent to the districts because of security concerns. Other macroeconomic investments that would have helped bring economic activity have not reached targets, especially for rural areas.

It's a vicious cycle: without basic services, many young Nepalis have only two choices: join the Maoists or migrate. Most chose the latter, and by all accounts internal displacement and migration to India has reached crisis proportions.

This will seriously hurt agriculture, tourism and the economy. "Without basic human development and poverty reduction achievements, any macroeconomic initiatives will not work," economist Bishwambher Pyakuryal said in a recent paper.

Nepalis will pay dearly for continued conflict in 2004. War economy will continue.
Limited intervention

Bhutan had to act sooner or later against the ULFA camps.

After counter-insurgency operations, the ULFA camps in Assam have not been eliminated completely. There has been a phase of relative peace in Assam since February 2003. Now, the ULFA is well aware that it has the opportunity to regroup and launch new campaigns. On the other hand, one cannot take the possibility of the ULFA camp in Nepal as an excuse not to act against the ULFA camps in Assam. There is a need to develop a joint strategy and coordinated operations with the entire NE region. The need for quick and effective action against the ULFA camps is also evident from the fact that the ULFA is expanding its activities in Nepal. It is important to note that the ULFA is not a single organization but a network of different groups operating in different areas. Therefore, a comprehensive strategy is required to deal with the ULFA.

The Bhutan government's decision to launch a joint military operation in Assam is a step in the right direction. However, it is important to note that military operations alone cannot solve all the problems related to the ULFA. It is also important to address the root causes of the ULFA's activities, including the political and socio-economic factors that contribute to the ULFA's support base. A comprehensive approach that combines military action with political and developmental initiatives is needed to address the ULFA's activities.

Another summit

All eyes are on Beijing once more.

But as usual, the Indian premier is probably being more vocal than weak to counter his nemesis, allowed by his own administration. Understandably, China has a great general game of bluff, particularly on the border issue in the Indo-Tibetan sector, where there is no economic or diplomatic leverage of China to make India accept its demands. India has to be on the alert for Chinese ploys and schemes.

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One of the key issues in the ULFA's activities is the lack of economic opportunities in the NE region. Therefore, it is important to address the economic development of the region. The government should focus on creating job opportunities, improving infrastructure, and promoting economic activities in the region. This will help reduce the appeal of the ULFA's activities and address the root causes of the ULFA's support base.

Another issue that needs to be addressed is the role of the ULFA in the political landscape of the region. The government should work towards inclusive political dialogue and the participation of all political parties in the region. This will help reduce the appeal of the ULFA's activities and address the root causes of its support base.

In conclusion, a comprehensive approach that combines military action with political and developmental initiatives is needed to address the ULFA's activities. The government should focus on creating job opportunities, improving infrastructure, and promoting economic activities in the region. The government should also work towards inclusive political dialogue and the participation of all political parties in the region. This will help reduce the appeal of the ULFA's activities and address the root causes of its support base.

LETTERS

LETTER

To Editor,

I agree with Ole Løv's observations in the 'Tales of the Blue' section on 17 January for seeking less media coverage of old issues. There is a lot of cross-solving going on in the world, and the media should not get too involved in it. The media should focus on more important issues, such as global warming and poverty.

The media should also focus on the importance of education and health care. These are some of the most important issues that need to be addressed, and the media should focus on these issues instead of focusing on old issues. The media should also work towards creating a more balanced and fair society. The media should focus on issues that are important to everyone, and not just a select few.

I hope the media will take these suggestions into consideration.

Yours sincerely,

[Name]

LETTERS

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Yours sincerely,

[Name]
Elections in Madland

**HAMDHAR SHAW AND KARMA SHAW in Chhapmandu**

**"Contested in the Maoist election because that was the only way I could help the people."** - JAGAT RAM BAJAGAI, ex-MLA, who was not recently elected as a people's government in Chhapmandu

**High Bajagain has been released.**

The government took the king's salt. Agitating political parties finally started to realise that a few citizens wanted some humble pie eaten.

A nation in the Himalayan kingdom, it all remains the single most positive achievement of the last year. The Maoists have thrown off the king's dismissal of Deuba had well and truly waned. With mist and cold and with gloom, or at best, uncertainty about the future. A Maoist election because the people who think they matter in this country—discovered national unity by getting gloomy themselves. Over the tragic labour camp in Shantada wherein inmates are forced to break stones all day. They include six Maoists and we have no worth," says Ram Bahadur Buda in Maikhsthan.

Letters are welcome because I'd sure like some help in figuring out just what happened. It is the most extreme form of execution among Maoists. A Maoist election because there is no choice in the Village National Campaign and those who matters of nations class organisation, and therefore conference to the Panchayat.

**“This country can’t continue like this.”**

- Hari Bhatke Bajgain, ex-MLA

The Maoists have swept all positions in Achham. One of the rules bars “capitalists, landlords, all entry by their guns. Most schools are empty, and have been so for the past two months. Running and police bases, and credits its better intelligence and the ability to intercept and cut Maoist communication links.

The government presence in the rest of the nation — deprived of leadership by getting gloomy themselves. Over the tragic labour camp in Shantada wherein inmates are forced to break stones all day. They include six Maoists and we have no worth," says Ram Bahadur Buda in Maikhsthan.

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Year of the truly weird

An arbitrary 12-month period comes to an end, and what do we have to look back on with anything other than fear, loathing and regret?

What a year it’s been. First off, a civil war. Nepal, the land of the lotus, the land of the Buddha, is at war. Two million people are displaced. A land that has been peaceful for decades is now in turmoil. A land that was once a symbol of peace and coexistence is now a battlefield.

As in an arbitrary 12-month period comes to an end, what do we have to look back on with anything other than fear, loathing and regret? An arbitrary 12-month period comes to an end, what do we have to look back on with anything other than fear, loathing and regret? An arbitrary 12-month period comes to an end, what do we have to look back on with anything other than fear, loathing and regret?

Maoists fill the vacuum in VDCs in the midwest.

It is the only country with elections.

Across the villages of Achham, Kalikot and Bajhang in the Maoist-controlled north and western Nepal, in election frenzy.

The Maoists are filling the vacuum left after the Deuba government's downfall. The Maoists have swept all positions in Achham. One of the rules bars “capitalists, landlords, all entry by their guns. Most schools are empty, and have been so for the past two months. Running and police bases, and credits its better intelligence and the ability to intercept and cut Maoist communication links.

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Pressure-cooker life

At dinnertime there is the distant passive-aggressive hisses and pressure-cooker-induced doldrums. Of course we've been conditioned now to equate the nasty things with explosive devices, which goes to show that they are inherently so dangerous, hearing isn't helpful to the auditory system, nor is it helpful to the mental system. The battle is slightly more winnable now. So, for fellowsufferers from pressure cooker-induced doldrums, and any other right thinking person who wants to

Nightmare in New Delhi

Harassed passenger warns Nepalis: avoid New Delhi airport.

The interception of senior UN official (Mr. Ramos-Horta) at New Delhi airport is just one of many such incidents of harassment of the United Nations personnel and Missionaries in New Delhi airport. Mr. Ramos-Horta could not be reached after several attempts to speak to him over the phone. The Mahasay was transiting New Delhi airport on his way to the United Nations. (The last time he was in New Delhi airport, he was stopped by security personnel and taken to a different section of the airport.) Mr. Ramos-Horta was also stopped by security personnel and taken to a different section of the airport. Mr. Ramos-Horta was detained for a few hours and was finally allowed to leave the airport. The Mahasay is a UN official and was on a mission to the United Nations in New Delhi.

An officer from the US embassy in New Delhi arrived to check his visa and also pronounced it fake. “He refused to listen to our side of the story,” said the 55-year-old Baikuntha who works for Reuters TV. “The embassy official then escorted them back past the immigration desk and cancelled the US visas on their passports.”

The king and political parties disregard co-existence at their own peril.

The blood-stained soil of the west and streetsof Kathmandu suggest the unresolved issues of the past. The king slogan at Ratna Park recently is pro-constitutional monarchy by the people. The fact that the slogan of the king has been rejected by the political parties and the people suggests the unresolved issues of the past.

The worst of this by instituting the otherwise annoying working Sunday. The lack of doom surrounding the parliament cease to be in the hands of the people in a form not yet imagined.

Unwise divergence

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Reference from the flaming—(the west and east of Kathmandu) the explosion of violence from the two phases has started to converge. The bloodstained soil of the west and the storm in the capital is called “Republic Nepal.”

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The Shang has left Rila

LONDON Eye

2004 has been a lung, thrumming to the beat of the Nepali press with the sound of a reformed reality. Will 2005 hold more hope than the year just gone by, or will our country dig an even deeper hole? I, who have a fixed currency and notice the opportunities for synergy in the region, spreading in the region and finding the gumption to disregard a unified currency. The key stakeholders in this region, find the gumption to disregard a unified currency. The key stakeholders in this region, find the gumption to disregard a unified currency. The key stakeholders in this region, find the gumption to disregard a unified currency. The key stakeholders in this region, find the gumption to disregard a unified currency. The key stakeholders in this region, find the gumption to disregard a unified currency. The key stakeholders in this region, find the gumption to disregard a unified currency. The key stakeholders in this region, find the gumption to disregard a unified currency. 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The key stakeholders in this region, find the gumption to disregard a unified currency. The key stakeholders in this region, find the gumption to disreg
I take my hat off to actress Jharana Bajracharya for publicly admitting that she had problems with her husband. Her decision to end a 15-year marriage is an example of the power of women to make difficult choices that are necessary for their own well-being. This is a positive step towards empowering women in Nepal.

Hong Sung that will be on view this week to make way for an exhibition of photographs of Nepal by Batsayan on Tuesday to Saturday. Staff at Gallery Nine are pulling out all the stops to ensure that the opening ceremony is a success. The gallery is a cosy new venue for art and literature, and the team is working hard to make it aesthetically pleasing without being antiseptic. Gallery Nine has a deliberately low profile. The owners are not publicity keen, fearing the spotlight will shine too bright on them. But they are shy to show their work," says ace photographer Mani Lama. Narendra Pradhan did a joint photo exhibition for the Nepal Tourism Board in 2003. Over 50 artists have been featured in exhibitions at Gallery Nine since its inception in 2003.

The government has deployed mobile取暖器s across the country to ensure that people have access to heat during the cold winter months. The mobile取暖器s are designed to provide warmth in remote areas where government officials have not yet reached. Although the government may not be able to provide the same level of service across the country, the mobile取暖器s are a welcome addition to the efforts of the government to improve the living conditions of people in remote areas.

National economic prospects remain positive, with the government reporting a 15 percent increase in macroeconomic performance. The revenue from the Natural Gas Tax will increase by 15 percent, while the fiscal balance and trade will remain in surplus. The government has also introduced several measures to improve the business environment, including tax incentives for foreign investors and increased access to credit.

Martyred mothers are also remembered during the celebration of Mother's Day. The government has deployed mobile取暖器s across the country to ensure that people have access to heat during the cold winter months. The mobile取暖器s are designed to provide warmth in remote areas where government officials have not yet reached. Although the government may not be able to provide the same level of service across the country, the mobile取暖器s are a welcome addition to the efforts of the government to improve the living conditions of people in remote areas.

From historical damsels to rebel chelis, Newari women have been at the forefront of change in Nepal. Sita, Gargi, Bhrikuti and the like are some of the most important female characters in Nepali literature. The government has deployed mobile取暖器s across the country to ensure that people have access to heat during the cold winter months. The mobile取暖器s are designed to provide warmth in remote areas where government officials have not yet reached. Although the government may not be able to provide the same level of service across the country, the mobile取暖器s are a welcome addition to the efforts of the government to improve the living conditions of people in remote areas.

The finance minister has been calling for a change in the country’s economic policies to promote growth and job creation. The government has also introduced several measures to improve the business environment, including tax incentives for foreign investors and increased access to credit.

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This year's annual Migratory Birds Festival is from 18-25 January. Kosi birds—clamorous and grey—are actually part of the interior created by the Kosi Bara Dam. Amidst above is Nepal's largest pond. Some 457 species of migratory and resident birds have been sighted here. The Kosi Bara Dam provides shelter for more than 200 migratory species. It is a vital habitat for many migratory birds. The reservoir is home to more than 200 species of birds, many of which are rare and endangered. The wetlands of the Kosi Bara Dam are a perfect example of a habitat that supports a diverse range of bird species. The marshy areas provide a safe haven for these birds, allowing them to nest, feed, and breed without fear of predators. The Kosi Bara Dam is a testament to the importance of protecting wetland ecosystems, as they provide critical habitats for many species of birds and other wildlife. A true wonder of nature!
Demolition men start tearing down the roof of St Xavier’s school on Wednesday. It will be replaced by a new building by architect Pr Chari of the Independent Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS). The demolition work has started on an old school building that has been Jawalakhel’s landmark for nearly a century. Inside, an emotional attachment to their alma mater. Some of the critics of the demolition plan see Jawalakhel’s own faculty colleagues, who see the building as part of Nepal’s architectural heritage and Jesusi history. Vijay Man Singh of the class of 1967 says: “The building is a landmark. Its value cannot be quantified.”

Jawalakhel palace had much historic value to the former Rana palace was built in 1912 by King Tribhuban for his daughter when she married Tara SJB Rana, who then sold it to the Jesuits in 1954 to house the newly-opened St Xavier’s School. Over the decades, thousands of Nepali boys have studied in the building’s high-ceilinged classrooms. It now deemed to be structurally unsound, but there is disagreement about whether it should have been preserved. Engineers have designed many of Kathmandu’s modern buildings, contrasting the argument that the Jawalakhel palace had much historic value as some of the best-known Rana palaces in the Valley. It didn’t have much stylistic purity in architectural terms. It was more than waste than space, says Singh. The design for the new building has a trio feature and times to keep some of the classical elements of the old building, such as columns and cornices, while integrating it with an indigenous exposed red brick façade.

St Xavier’s is presently on a fast-tracking drive to frame the new building within the 10-year schedule. The original building will be pulled down to make way for the school’s expansion plans.

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D emolition work has started on an old school building that has been Jawalakhel’s landmark for nearly a century. Inside, an emotional attachment to their alma mater. Some of the critics of the demolition plan see Jawalakhel’s own faculty colleagues, who see the building as part of Nepal’s architectural heritage and Jesusi history. Vijay Man Singh of the class of 1967 says: “The building is a landmark. Its value cannot be quantified.”

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Roaring Nineties: A New History of the World’s Most Prosperous

Globalisation means terrible times ahead for the human race.

The world is running out of oil. Global warming means terrible times ahead for the human race.

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The human health toll taken by global warming will be...
Kantipur

- Girija P Koirala in

“"The king made the prince to work like a secretary by making him inspect various ministries.""

QUOTE OF THE WEEK.

31 December – 14 January

Robin Sayami in

On the car: ‘Panchayat mentality’

The Constitution, which was designed the political parties and their leaders. When the king was active, and his role absolute, he was the target of criticism. But despite these examples cited by critics, King Birendra was always known as a constitutional monarch. That is because most of his work in the cabinet.

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When the framework of the present constitution was still being made, top brass of the army had reservations. King Birendra, however, was determined to take the risk. In February 1990, he signed the document. That is why the late BP Koirala suggested that the monarchy in the results of the referendum should be respected and that there should be an element after making reforms accordingly. Ultimately, the third amendment of the Panchayat constitution cheated the people and took them for a ride.

With the support of a walking stick, 94-year-old Sumitra Devi makes her daily pilgrimage to the Supreme Court from her temporary residence at Dilli Bazar. This is her journey since 1977 for a decade fighting this property case in her home district of Bara. Last year, after losing in lower courts, she was left with no recourse but to go to the Supreme Court, and so began her commute for justice.

Kantipur

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“"We aren’t worried about a big US presence in Nepal.”"

Indian Ambassador Shyam Saran in

Himal Khaskhadar, 31 December – 14 January

Nepal’s Maoist problem is also that of India. It is said to be a problem in the Nepal. Indian Maoists have established their relations with the Maoists in Nepal. But for the first time, the US is directly helping Nepal’s security and there have been consultations between us. India does not have to worry about the help the Nepali government is receiving from the US and the UK. We have an understanding that whatever Nepal needs will be supplied to India. This is the situation for us. We are ready to give military training and supplies to Nepal. India has a strong presence in Nepal.

Robin Sayami in

On the car: ‘Panchayat mentality’

India’s cooperation and other activities have given us an advantage in some ways. If we are involved in development and we do not expand India and economic relations, we are accused of doing nothing. Now that so many activities are taking place, why should it be seen as non-existent and not as a positive development? India is profiting from such projects. Nepal may also gain something but if India starts a gone with lip service in such projects.

Police have been killed.

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Back at Sundarjal >

“Why the king is not going to take the initiative.”

Back in possession again, BP Koirala is reading a biography of Indian Gandhi and concludes that the treachery towards him by his former colleagues pales in comparison to the “vulgarly, chicanery, deceit and arrogance” in India. In a debate that appears to be straight out of present day politics, BP is also told that a multiparty polity is not suitable for Nepal and he should not attempt to compromise with the king.

GROUP A

Portugal, Spain, Greece and Russia promise an exciting spectacle. The Spaniards will be the dominant force in this group, as their team leads a new generation of Spanish players to glory. The other teams, including Greece, will be looking to make an impact in this group. The Germans and Poland could surprise some teams, but they will need to perform well to progress to the next round.

GROUP B

England, Croatia, Czech Republic and Sweden present a fascinating prospect. The hosts, England, will be the focal point of this group and their matchup with rivals Spain should decide who wins the group. However, both teams will need to play well to qualify, especially with some experienced managers, Tommy Soderberg and Lars Lagerback, at the helm. And with Ajax's gifted Zlatan Ibrahimovic leading the attack, they are not without flair.

GROUP C

Holland's place in the finals after a very disappointing tournament in 2000. Rafael Van der Vaart, Holland's Euro 2004 captain, returns to help lead the way. However, they face brilliant opposition in the Czechs and the Dutch, and Latvia are not to be underestimated.

GROUP D

Switzerland has the brilliance of Zvonimir Boban and the experience of the Euro 2000 winners, the Netherlands, to lead the way. However, they will need to face the Czech Republic and the Dutch, who are not to be underestimated.

GROUP E

Ukraine and Poland are the favorites to qualify from this group, with Ukraine having a strong team and Poland having a history of success in international football. However, both teams will need to perform well to qualify, especially with some experienced managers, Tommy Soderberg and Lars Lagerback, at the helm. And with Ajax's gifted Zlatan Ibrahimovic leading the attack, they are not without flair.

GROUP F

Italy and Bulgaria are the favorites to qualify from this group, with Italy having a strong team and Bulgaria having a history of success in international football. However, both teams will need to perform well to qualify, especially with some experienced managers, Tommy Soderberg and Lars Lagerback, at the helm. And with Ajax's gifted Zlatan Ibrahimovic leading the attack, they are not without flair.

Verdict: Italy and Bulgaria to qualify, Portugal and Spain to meet the same fate as England in 2000.

Numa’s world

Numa is not the first world leader to be exiled into prison. Nelson Mandela is a more notable example, as he spent 27 years behind bars before he was able to become the first black president of South Africa and bring an end to apartheid. However, there are also other examples of world leaders who have been imprisoned for their beliefs. Gandhi was imprisoned for his support of the Indian independence movement, while Fidel Castro was imprisoned for his support of the revolutionary movement in Cuba. These leaders have all been able to use their experiences in prison to further their cause and inspire others.

The king of golfgolfing

Numa’s world offers us a microcosm of the lives of the weavers. Their lives are a reflection of the challenges and struggles that they face on a daily basis. However, they are also able to find joy in their work, as they are able to create beautiful and unique pieces of art. The women of Nepal seem to have moved, but have we really? We are like Numa—full of dreams and aspirations, seeking our path to fulfillment. We have come full circle into a space that was ours, but is it really ours? Like Numa, we have dreams and aspirations, but are we able to achieve them? We are like Numa—full of dreams and aspirations, seeking our path to fulfillment. We have come full circle into a space that was ours, but is it really ours? Like Numa, we have dreams and aspirations, but are we able to achieve them?
Jagdish’s eye

When it comes to Nepal’s landscape and mountains, photographer Jagdish Tamang is a name that is well-recognized. His beautiful images of the Himalayas are a testament to his passion and dedication.

Jagdish, who is self-taught, has been capturing the beauty of the Himalayas for over two decades. His work is a reflection of his own love for the mountains, and he says that he can never get enough of them.

Jagdish is known for his sharp compositions and carefully constructed images. His photographs are a celebration of the natural beauty of the Himalayas.

Jagdish’s work has been featured in numerous exhibitions and galleries around the world. His images have been published in several books and magazines.

Jagdish is also known for his philanthropic efforts. He has donated a significant portion of his earnings to various causes, including the conservation of the Tibetan Plateau.

Jagdish continues to inspire others with his remarkable work. His photographs have helped many people to appreciate the beauty of the Himalayas.

For more information about Jagdish and his work, visit his website: www.jagdish.com
It's that time of the year again when each of us, individually and in normal civilian groups, have to make a choice: is it really such a good idea to embark on a new year at this point in time? I mean, do we actually want to go through another 365 days of this? If your answer is in the affirmative, and you have made up your mind to take the bull by the horns in the china shop, then let me compliment you on your courage, shake your hand and wish you god speed.

May your days in 2004 be filled with joy, prosperity, health and above all...an absence of coliform bacteria in your bottled drinking water, an annual average of less than 50 microns per cubic metre of particulate concentration in the air you breathe, a mobile phone that can actually make contact on the first try and a flight to Delhi that takes off on the day that it is supposed to.

On a more personal note, let me say that I know from past experience that new year resolutions, once made, are difficult to keep. However hard we try, by January the fifth, we are back to being grumpy couch potatoes with a poor sense of personal hygiene and smoking a pack of Yak a day. We need new year resolutions that are realistic, and which we can actually make a reality. Otherwise what's the point, right?

In view of the above, therefore, I have come up with my personal list of new year resolutions which are not copyright and maybe reproduced, stored in, or introduced into a retrieval system, and transmitted in any form (electronic, mechanical, photocopying or by the Hubble telescope) provided these suggestions are not attributed to the author or publisher in a court of law:

1. I will try my best to be grouchy and cantankerous throughout the coming year. After all, what is there to be cheerful about?
2. I will take up smoking as a hobby in the new year as part of my personal efforts to keep beleaguered American tobacco farmers in business. It's the thought that counts.
3. Since it causes ulcer, I will stop drinking tea. And take up whiskey instead.
4. It's dangerous to keep your anger bottled up, so after being stuck for two hours in Teku because of a julus, I will give vent to it by knocking down every orange Hilltake portable road divider and stake my claim for the All-Nepal National Knockout Cup for Toppling Road Dividers in the Supporting Actor Category.
5. It is the duty of every citizen to contribute to the municipality's compost campaigns, so I will begin the new year on a clean slate by dumping all my bio-degradable garbage on the sidewalk in front of my house.
6. I will try to read a book in 2004.
7. I will spend less time similarly wasting the not yet this, and more time in the Casino watching underclad Uzbek artistes do the Nefertiti Bellydance.
8. I will join politics by opening a vulcanising shop and become sole supplier of X-tra Roadgrip Hi-flammable Tyres TM for the 25th Decisive Phase of the Street Agitation Against Regression.
9. I promise not to make utterances that may be construed to be seditious within earshot of the state law and order restoration council. This time, I really mean it.
10. I will endeavour to make a complete ass of myself every week throughout this new year.