

# 10 Things That I Will Not Miss About 2002

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I will be out next week and before we take off I would like to share with you the 10 things that I will not miss about 2002 (and do not want to see ever again). In no particular order:

1. Martha Stewart – please go back to selling linens. As a matter of fact, wrap yourself in a bed sheet and disappear. Never again are we to have a cottage industry dedicated to Martha Stewart gossip.
2. Charles Schwab “Put a Lipstick on this Pig” Commercial – Hey take a look in the mirror.
3. Perp Walks – very simple if we get rid of the perps we don’t need the walks. We are on our way to cleaning the mess up. Even if we do get another criminal I don’t need to see the whole three ring circus in front of the court houses.
4. Sportscasters giving investment advice. If they continue to do this then I will insist that Doug Kass and I be allowed to do a Monday Night Football or NCAA Final game.
5. Blaming the Short Sellers for the market going down, the market going up or any other material changes in the investment environment. Let me explain something to the less informed: more buyers than sellers will drive prices higher and more sellers than buyers will drive prices lower. Oh and don’t forget the up-tick rules.
6. The GE “I Need” commercial. I think that the first guy says something like “Vim Da Vamy Da Fim” but don’t quote me. It has run its course – just like “Plop Plop Fizz Fizz” – it is time to pull it.
7. The George and Saddam show – as we say in Yiddish – Zug Nicht – No more, enough. We have bigger problems to solve. You both have made your points.
8. WorldCom – get rid of the name, erase it from our memories, and come up with another name - now. It is bad enough that the company is getting government contracts and fast track bankruptcy action. Please have some – (another Yiddish term) – Ruchmanes – pity on the millions of people who lost billions of dollars in this company.
9. Complex financial transactions like the HUD deal, trusts and estates on the Sopranos. It was a horrible season. Please get back to good old fashion whacking, extortion, etc.
10. Bubble – from this day forward I am asking for Congress to enact legislation that would remove bubble from the dictionary and make it illegal to use unless you are under the age of 5. I have sought out Monty Python who has informed me that from this day forward we will use the term “GigglyBigglyThinglyDing”

A happy and healthy holiday and New Year season to you and your families.

Also, my deepest appreciation to our fearless leaders Jim Cramer and Doug Kass, the editorial staff at TSC and my fellow contributors for embracing me this year and for their outstanding commitment to this website.

Long GE calls, Short GE Puts

