

**W**hat's the old saying, "Everything old is new again?" I hope so. It's been tough enough listening to the media hype, alarmists, survivalists and the four horsemen of the Apocalypse go on and on about what's going to happen when Y2K chimes in.

If you're reading this, then I guess they were all wrong. Of course I read someplace that one mathematician figured out that the 1,000 years

since Christ's death actually took place in 1997, which wasn't exactly as catchy a sound bite as Y2K.

It's pretty amazing to be part of a change in centuries, to say nothing of millennia. Maybe at my age it just seems significant. There's a whole generation of crumb crunchers and rug rats that won't even

notice as long as their Nintendo Play Stations are Y2K compliant.

I hope you checked out your irrigation computers and they just kept humming along, or beeping or whatever. At any rate, it seems like the biggest headache associated with the year 2000 will be to find some sort of catchy handle. The years 00 to 09 may indeed be a challenge, but I have faith in man's ingenuity to solve even that one.

What I'm more concerned with is the evolution of our social graces as we rocket into 2000 and beyond. The developments in technology in the coming years may revolutionize the way we manipulate information and machines, but people still need to practice professionalism and good, old-fashioned manners.

The item that sparked my concern as we mount the millennial threshold is such a simple thing that I almost hesitate to mention it, but at

the same time, it makes me wonder where we're headed.

Last August at the Florida Turfgrass Conference in Gainesville, nine turf students were given scholarships to aid them in their education. Four months later only two of them have written thank-you letters to the association.

I'm sure they said "Thank you" to the presenter at the podium that night, but they also have an obligation to the hundreds of members who worked to put on fund-raisers to raise that money and those who sat through committee meetings on budgets and awards that resulted in allocating those scholarships.

Their thank you's should be a matter of record in the association's minutes and publications, so everyone knows their efforts are appreciated. I don't want to chastise these youngsters too harshly for perhaps a lack of understanding or momentary lapse in etiquette, but there is a lesson to be learned.

Professionalism starts when you learn to say "please" and "thank you" at home.

Work habits and personal conduct begin during these embryonic days of a career. Might as well learn to do it right early on and build a good reputation from the start. I can remember listening to a motivational tape by Arnold Palmer. One of the things he talked about was how his parents taught him proper table manners at an early age.

Wise words from the son of greenskeeper whose father had to use the back door of the clubhouse. Arnold now owns that golf club and has been a Presidential guest at many a state dinner.

It just goes to show you never know where your road may lead you. No matter what the destination or what millennium you're in, good manners will help you along the way.

## Millennium Stew

### Green Side Up



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