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Forward thinking An entirely subjective look at the week ahead

By COLETTE BANCROFT, Times Staff Writer  
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**WRAP IT UP** We hope the members of the Florida Legislature got lots of gifts last week, because starting Sunday they won't be able to accept any from lobbyists. Gov. Jeb Bush signed the new law Dec. 20, and Senate President Tom Lee promised to spend last week stitching up some of its loopholes. Now, if the Legislature can pass a law to ban lobbyists from writing bills, we might have something that looks like government for the people in the Sunshine State.

**SADLY, WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE PARIS** It's just like ringing in the New Year at a celebrity's private party, except a couple of thousand people are there and you have to buy a ticket. Events site **Wallbounce.com** is selling admission to dozens of celeb-hosted New Year's Eve galas, including a Las Vegas do with Paris Hilton, a Los Angeles party with Pamela Anderson and a New York fete hosted by Mariah Carey and Ryan Seacrest. They all sound like a little slice of hell on earth to us, but if you're eager to soak up some stardust, tickets start at \$150.

**POWER PARTY** One New Year's event you can't get into without an invitation is the Renaissance Weekend, Wednesday through Sunday in Charleston, S.C. This nonpartisan brain trust retreat, celebrating its 25th anniversary, brings together 1,200 high achievers from the worlds of politics, media, business, entertainment, science, education and more for everything from seminars to one-on-one schmoozing. This year's board is headed by former Presidents Bill Clinton and Gerald Ford; guests include Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, conservative publisher Richard Viguerie, sex expert Dr. Ruth Westheimer and comedian Stephen Colbert.

**BIRTHDAY BOOM** Hear that thundering noise in the distance? It's the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the baby boom, coming up on Sunday. So we're singing the Beatles' Birthday to boomer celebs this week. Dreamy Denzel Washington (the upcoming *Inside Man*) will be 51 on Wednesday. On Friday, rock icon Patti Smith turns 59, and Today traveler Matt Lauer will be 48.

- COLETTE BANCROFT, Times staff writer, 727 893-8435 or bancroft@sptimes.com