

Notes from the Edge...

Gifts

Niel Lorenz



It's here. No matter how you try to slice it or ignore it, the season for gifts is upon us. The more

philosophical persons will try to convince you that the best gift you can give is to 'be there' - at the soccer game, the wedding, the funeral, the birthday. That is all true, but you still have to make or buy something for Aunt Whatsurface. The budget for that is about \$1.45.

The reason we all have trouble with a gift is that it can say so much. It can say "I love you", "I

remember you", or "I bought this at CVS yesterday". A gift says way too much about who we are and who we are not. A relative once sent me some purple bell bottoms and a see-through top. I'm sure she meant well but obviously she didn't know me at all. That same year a friend gave me a bowling ball complete with its very own ugly plastic carrying case because she knows I

hate bowling. I loved it.

Sometimes gifts look like one thing but are really something else....like the man who, as a boy, battled dyslexia and who through sheer determination and will mastered the art of studying. He never got to watch any TV, growing up because he was too busy doing homework. One year he got a small personal television for Christmas to take back to college and to him it didn't just say "Merry Christmas", it more importantly said "you have done it...good job".

When it comes to gifts from children, all bets are off. The cheap after shave, the soap on a rope, and the hand-made pot holder are golden. When that same child chimes in "open mine, open mine" it says that they have learned the most important lesson

of all...that the joy of giving is its own special gift.

You already know that most of life's best gifts don't come in boxes. A new baby with all ten fingers and toes is a gift. A teenager home safely from the prom is a gift. A parent who dies peacefully at a ripe old age is a gift. Athletic talent, health, a wonderful voice, love, intelligence, artistic ability, friends and family are all gifts. To not see them as such is to miss some of the biggest blessings of life.

So, the season for gifts is upon us. No matter how much you appreciate all those important intangible things, you still have to come up with something appropriate for Aunt Whatsurface. You might want to check out CVS.... they have a bunch of good stuff on sale for \$1.45.

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- 7158 Brookmeadow Dr., \$169,500. **STAND ALONE CONDO!**
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- 1509 Glenbeck Ave., \$174,500. **GREAT KETTERING LOCATION!**
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- 333 Oakwood Ave., 3H, \$189,900. **SALE PENDING!**
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