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The Green Dino

I was on my way out of the driveway when my son came running to the car. His face was radiant with joy when he said: "I have something for you, Dad."

"You do?" I asked, slightly annoyed by the delay. He opened his hands and showed me the best a five year-old boy could imagine. "I found it myself." In his small hands was a marble, an old racecar, a broken elastic, and various other items I have since forgotten. "Here, Dad, these are for you." He was bursting with pride.

"I don't have time right now, my boy. I am going to the mall to get a few things for Mom. Can't you put them in the garage for me?" His smile faded, and at the very instant I put the car back in gear, I felt my bad conscience nagging me. When I came back home, I asked my son: "Where are those toys you had for me?"

"I thought you didn't want them, so I gave them to Adam." His playmate Adam lives on our street, and I could easily imagine that the little guy had received the treasures with much more enthusiasm than I had showed my son. My son's action hurt me, but I deserved it - not just because it showed me how thoughtlessly I had treated him, but also because it made me remember another little boy.

It was the boy's big sister's birthday, and he had been given some money so he could buy her a present. He browsed through the toyshop for a long time - the present had to be something special. Finally, he found it: A chewing gum machine filled with brightly colored bubble gum. He was very anxious to show it to her as soon as he came home, but he firmly withstood the temptation.

Later, when all the big sister's friends had arrived, she began opening the presents. She cried with joy for every present she opened - and with every cry the boy became more and more shy. The eight year-old girls had spent much more money on the presents than he could afford. Suddenly his present seemed small and insignificant. But he still waited anxiously to see her joy when she opened his present.

At last she opened his present, and he saw how disappointed she was, indeed embarrassed. In order not to lose face among her friends she could not thank him too exuberantly for the present.

She gave her friends a know-all smile. "Thanks," she said to him in a condescending tone of voice. "It's just what I wanted." The rest of the girls desperately tried not to giggle.

The boy was hurt and confused. His otherwise beautiful present now looked like the cheap plastic thing it actually was. He went out in the garden and started to cry. Soon after his mother showed up and, in a soft voice, asked him what was wrong. He explained it to her as best he could. She listened, and then went inside the house.

Shortly after the big sister came out to him. He could see by the look on her face that she had been told to do it, but her sincere regret showed him that she had not hurt him on purpose. She actually liked the chewing gum machine. He said that he could understand that, and he actually could. She was only trying to be nice to him.

Now the story repeated itself. Instead of my big sister and me it was my son who had to decide for himself whether or not it really was the thought that counts. And my reaction would have a great influence on his decision.

I gave my children some money at Christmas so they could buy gifts themselves. It was very difficult for them to keep quiet with what they had bought for me, especially for my son. Every single day he asked if me I could guess what he had bought for me.

On Christmas Evening he demanded that I opened his present first. I unwrapped it and looked - it was indeed the most wonderful gift I had ever been given. But I did not look at it with my 33 year-old experienced eyes, either. Instead I looked at it as an anxious child of five would look at it.

The gift was a small green plastic dinosaur. My son quickly showed me why this dinosaur was something special: The claws on the forelegs formed a clip so I could fasten it on my clothes. His eyes sparkled with expectancy and love - of the kind you only see in a child's look.

I knew how difficult it must have been for him to find a gift which showed his feelings for me in the best possible way. So I thanked him in his own language. I fastened the dino on my jacket and talked about how "cool" it was, and, yes, he was absolutely right - I loved it.

So the next time you see a grown man with a primitive paper tie or a "cool" tattoo of a caterpillar, do not shrug your shoulders out of pity for him.

If you tell him that he looks foolish he may answer: "That may be, but I have a five year-old son who thinks I am the world's greatest Dad, and I would rather wear his present than own all the riches in the world."

And that is why I walk around with a green dino on my jacket.

By Dan Schaeffer

What a girl wants...what a girl needs...what a girl knows...

Is There a Doctor in the House?

Whether you're new to an area or just looking for a different dentist, finding a new one can be a daunting task. You can tell a lot from the office: Is the receptionist friendly and knowledgeable about insurance and other essentials? Is the waiting room overflowing with patients, uh, waiting? Do you like the hygienist? But some answers need to come from the dentist directly. What should you ask?

- What can you do to make me feel calm? Can I listen to music or watch TV during procedures?
- What procedures are performed by the hygienist?
- How is that person supervised?
- Will you tell me whether a procedure you're suggesting is essential or elective?
- Have you done this procedure before? How many times? With what results?
- Are you a member of any professional associations?

Long-Term Commitment

When you buy your favorite soap, open both ends of the paper on each bar. Let it dry for 30 days and it will last 50% longer while in use. As it is drying, place in the linen closet, dresser drawer, or wherever it can act as a sachet.



Spic and Span

One of the best natural disinfecting sprays that you can use is white vinegar and 3% hydrogen peroxide. Pour in separate, clean spray bottles which can be purchased at a dollar store. Spray on one solution, then the other and wipe clean. It can be used on any surface in your bathroom! This is a great non-toxic cleaning solution for just about any surface in your home.

Fluff it Up

Add 1 to 2 tablespoons of meringue powder to your cake mix to help it rise a bit higher and make it a bit lighter in texture.

Dressed for Success

When the mayonnaise jar is almost empty and you just can't seem to scrape that last little bit, sprinkle a few drops of vinegar inside, add some of your favorite flavorful herbs and shake well. You'll have enough salad dressing for one salad.

A woman must not depend upon the protection of man, but must be taught to protect herself.

~Susan B. Anthony

The "G" List

Are the words "grocery list" frowned upon in your house? Look on the internet to find free customizable lists that can help to simplify your outing and keep you more organized.

Lash Out

It's been a long day at the office and you're ready to freshen up and head out for a relaxing evening. To freshen up your mascara, use a disposable mascara wand and dip it into an eye-makeup-remover bottle. Comb through your lashes to get rid of any buildup (flakes) that has accumulated and give you a fresh base. Let lashes dry for about 30 seconds and then apply a fresh coat of mascara.



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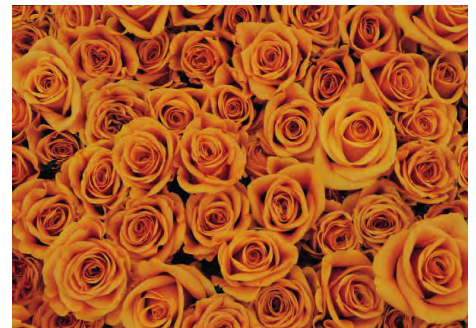
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Coming together
is a beginning.
Keeping together
is progress.
Working together
is success.

~Henry Ford



June

Reasons to Celebrate

- 1 Flip a Coin Day
- 3 Repeat Day
- 4 Hug Your Cat Day
- 5 World Environment Day
- 6 D Day
- 8 Best Friends' Day
- 10 Iced Tea Day
- 10 Nursing Assistants' Day
- 12 Red Rose Day
- 13 Sewing Machine Day
- 14 Flag Day (United States)
- 17 Eat Your Vegetables Day
- 18 Go Fishing Day
- 19 Fathers' Day
- 20 Ice Cream Soda Day
- 23 National Pink Day
- 23 Take Your Dog to Work Day
- 25 Log Cabin Day
- 26 Beauticians' Day
- 28 Paul Bunyan Day
- 29 Camera Day
- 30 Meteor Day

SPRING INTO summer sparkling

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PURELY PINK PEARL NECKLACE
2766NF | reg. \$69 | **sale \$48.30**



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2775NF | reg. \$49 | **sale \$34.30**



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PRICELESS PINK RING
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2777EF | reg. \$35 | **sale \$24.50**



CHERRY BLOSSOM EARRINGS
2779EF | reg. \$35 | **sale \$24.50**

**Party must be held and closed between June 1-30 at 11:59 pm PT. Host may participate in the Guest Special with a \$100 purchase on full retail items. Guest Special 30% off items apply toward commissionable sales and Host Rewards. Limit ONE discounted item per Guest order.*



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Simple Chef!

Hot Spinach & Artichoke Dip

Ingredients

- 8 slices bacon
- 1 (10 ounce) package frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
- 1 (14 ounce) can quartered marinated artichoke hearts, drained
- 1 (5 ounce) container garlic-herb flavored cheese spread
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 (8 ounce) container sour cream
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C).
2. Place bacon in a large, deep skillet. Cook over medium high heat until evenly brown. Drain and crumble into a medium bowl.
3. Mix spinach, artichoke hearts, garlic-herb flavored cheese spread, Parmesan cheese, sour cream and mayonnaise into the bowl with bacon.
4. Scoop mixture into a 7x11 inch baking dish. Bake in the preheated oven 20 minutes, or until bubbly and lightly browned.



Money Magic

Save Money While Shopping

1. **Shop with Cash (Only!)** I can't believe I am suggesting this, considering my former love affair with store credit, but the easiest way to save money on clothes is to only buy what you can afford, plain and simple.
2. **Hit the Discount Chains:** Sure, the big retailers can be hard to navigate and have their share of cheap distractions, but there are stylish bargains to be had.
3. **Shop Out of Season:** Seasoned shoppers never hit the mall when new clothes hit the racks. Shop for spring and summer items in the fall, and buy your fall and winter looks when spring rolls around.
4. **Look for Online Deals:** Sign up for email newsletters from retailers, and they'll send you coupons and keep you abreast of their latest sales.
5. **Learn How to Sew:** Learning how to make a few, simple alterations can save you lots of money. Start by mastering basics like replacing buttons and hemming pants and you may find yourself inspired to try more elaborate projects.

By Alexis Webster