

Entertainment Outlook

Our toilet bowl blues flushed away forever

In an age in which science and technology are so wonderfully advanced, you'd think that someone would manage to come up with one or two of the small inventions that are needed to make life bearable.

Granted, something useful is invented every decade or so. Just the other day, for instance, we learned that some genius has invented the device we've all been waiting for — the self-lowering toilet seat.

It's true. There is now a toilet seat with an hydraulic device which lowers the seat automatically after it has been raised.

This, the inventor proclaims, will usher in a new era of marital bliss, in which wives will never again have to shuffle sleepily to a dark bathroom in the middle of the night only to discover, after it's too late, that their husband has left the seat up.

As we well know, this problem has put a terrible strain on many

marriages. No husband likes to be awakened by his wife's shrieks at 3 a.m. This causes him to be grumpy at the breakfast table, and to reply in surly monosyllables when asked if he might help with the shopping.



Weir's View

By Ian Weir

As such, the self-lowering toilet seat brings new light into our grey lives. Indeed, it gives us reason to hope that someone is this very moment at work inventing more marriage-saving devices — say, perhaps, the self-carrying-out garbage pail, or even the self-shutting-up two-year-old.

But to get back to my original complaint: here, in the year 1987, is it too much to expect that someone might come up with the one invention that is necessary to make birthdays and anniversaries worth having?

I refer, of course, to the invention of a greeting card which is worth giving.

This is a particularly sore point with me just at the moment since the love of my life has just had a birthday. (Being a gentleman, I have forgotten precisely which one it is.)

Buying the present was a snap. As any man knows, there's never any problem choosing a gift for the love of your life — just buy her a book you want to read, or a record you want to listen to.

But then came the tortuous ordeal of finding a tolerable birthday card.

I made the mistake of starting in the "serious" birthday cards, apparently, are designed by people who spent their formative years reading drugstore romances and yearning for a Club-Med vacation to Wallon's Mountain.

These cards are primarily blue and pink. They feature disgusting little birds and sickly little flowers, and truly dreadful snippets of poetry written in a flowing, "nurse meets tall dark doctor" hand.

In short, they're absolutely useless to you unless the love of your

life is an overly-romantic 13-year-old. And if the love of your life is an overly-romantic 13-year-old, then choosing an appropriate birthday card is the very least of your problems.

Giving up on the "serious" cards, I turned hopefully to the cards in the "humorous birthday" section.

Some of these cards, to their credit, were actually quite funny. Unfortunately, the humor had a pretty limited range. To be specific, they were mainly jokes about getting old or being fat.

The problem — as you will have spotted at once — is that these are not

cards you can give to anyone who is either aging or overweight.

Somewhere or other, there are probably people who don't wish that they are either younger or thinner. But if such people exist, they are undoubtedly such smug, self-satisfied twits that you wouldn't want to send them a card in the first place.

Eventually I gave up and grabbed the only non-insulting, non-repulsive card I could find. It had a picture of Snoopy carrying a doctor's bag and it said Get Well Soon but I told myself it was the thought that counted. I am now plotting a business venture. This will be a line of cards specifically

designed for the self-respecting adult male whose loved one has just had a birthday. The cards will be plain brown paper and inside will be a brief poem.

"Dear Toots: I love you so much and I think you're so neat That I promise to put down the toilet seat."



TICKER TEST



The Ticker Test — Heart disease is the major cause of death in North America. Host Al Waxman takes viewers through a quiz on their health status and knowledge of heart problems, Sunday, March 29th on CTV. Take The Ticker Test. It'll do your heart good.

Blue Angel Air show

The Aeroheritage Airshow 1987 at Hamilton Airport on June 20/21 will be host to the new United States Navy Aerobatic Team called the Blue Angels equipped with six F/A-18 Hornet jet aircraft. This will be the first time that the Blue Angels will be flying at Hamilton with their new 1.8 Mach No. Hornet aircraft. Previous visits by the team were with the old Skyhawk A-4Fs, who have always thrilled the crowds with their spectacular precision team and solo aerobatics.

The 13th Annual Hamilton International Airshow, sponsored by the Region of Hamilton-Wentworth, Saturday, June 20 and Sunday, 21. Gates Open 9 a.m. Admission: adults \$8, children and seniors \$4. For more information contact: Don Swann 1-416-528-4425 or Anna M. Cumming 1-416-679-1141.

Face in the crowd



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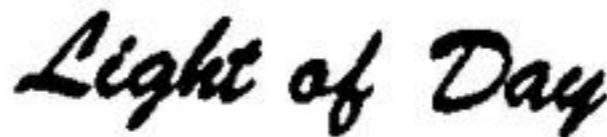


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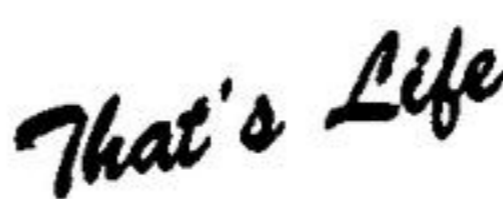
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