

Nothing to eat in this house

As a parent who works with words for a living, I have prided myself over many years for a certain skill in breaking the codes of child speak. I began by interpreting babytalk, moved to more sophisticated challenges like "child out" and graduated with "wicked good."

One phrase, however, always stumped me. I was unable to crack the meaning of the common cry echoing through most middle-class American households: "There's Nothing To Eat In This House!"

This exclamation becomes a constant refrain during the summer months when children who have been released from the schoolhouse door grow attached to the refrigerator door. It is during the summer when the average taxpayer realizes the true cost-effectiveness of school: It keeps kids out of the kitchen for roughly seven hours a day. A feat no parent is able to match.

At first, like so many others, I assumed that "NETH!" (as in "Nothing To Eat In This House") was a straightforward description of reality. If there was NETH, it was because the children had eaten it all. After all, an empty larder is something you come to expect when you live through the locust phase of adolescence.

I have one friend with three teen-age sons who swears that she doesn't even have to unload her groceries anymore. Her children feed directly from the bags, rather like ponies. I have other friends who only buy ingredients for supper on the way home so that supper doesn't turn into lunch.

Over the years, I have considered color-coding food with red, yellow and green stickers. Green for eat. Yellow for

eat only if you are starving. Red for "touch this and you die."

However, I discovered that these same locusts can stand in front of a relatively full refrigerator while bleating the same pathetic choruses of "NETH! NETH!" By carefully observing my research subjects, I discovered that the demand of "NETH!" may indeed have little to do with the supply.

What then does the average underage eater mean when he or she bleats "NETH! NETH!" You will be glad to know that I have finally broken the code for the "nothing" in NETH and offer herewith, free of charge, my translation.



Ellen Goodman

NETH includes:

1. Any food that must be cooked, especially in a pan or by convectional heat. This covers boiling, frying or baking. Toasting is acceptable under dire conditions.

2. Any food that is in a frozen state with the single exception of ice cream. A frozen pizza may be considered "something to eat" only if there is a microwave oven on hand.

3. Any food that must be assembled before eaten. This means tuna that is still in a can. It may also mean a banana that has to be peeled, but only in extreme cases. Peanut butter and jelly are exempt from this rule as long as they are on the same shelf beside the

bread.

4. Leftovers. Particularly if they must be re-heated (See 1.)

5. Plain yogurt or anything else that might have been left as a nutrition trap.

6. Food that must be put on a plate, or cut with a knife and fork, as opposed to ripped with teeth while watching videos.

7. Anything that is not stored precisely at eye level. This includes:

8. Any item on a high cupboard shelf, unless it is a box of cookies and:

9. Any edible in the back of the refrigerator, especially on the middle shelf.

While divining the nine meanings of "NETH" I should also tell you that I developed an anthropological theory about the eating patterns of young Americans. For the most part, I am convinced, Americans below the age of 20 have arrested their development at the food-gathering stage.

They are intrinsically nomadic. Traveling in packs, they engage in nothing more sophisticated than hand-to-mouth dining. They are, in effect, strip eaters who devour the ripest food from one home, and move on to another.

Someday, I am sure they will learn about the use of fire, not to mention forks. Someday, they will be cured of the shelf-blindness, the inability to imagine anything hidden behind a large milk carton. But for now, they can only graze. All the rest is NETHING.

© 1986, The Boston Globe Newspaper Company/ Washington Post Writers Group

Goodman is a Pulitzer prize-winning columnist for the Boston Globe.

The Tan Shop

SPECIAL!

10 Sessions Just \$25

2545 RANDOLPH 477-5669

daVinci's the Italian masterpiece place

East Coast Style Pizza • Pasta • Hot Hoagies Dining, Carry-Out, Delivery Service

4120 So. 48th St. 4344 "O" St. 745 So. 11th St.
483-2881 475-4070 477-6661
Call daVinci Pizza Man for fast, free delivery! *minimum purchase in service area Lunch Express Delivery 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM call this number for UNL campus delivery

Super Checking Accounts

Super Checking means super convenience!

- Round-the-clock account access at ATM's on campus, throughout Lincoln, and across the state wherever you see this sign
- 11 First Federal offices in Lincoln; 5 have extended-hour drive-ups.
- More offices statewide than any other financial institution in the state.
- Deposits made "back home" to your account are available to you almost immediately in Lincoln.
- Your checks are more readily acceptable to local merchants because they're drawn on a Lincoln-based checking account.

Super Checking means super value!

- Earn interest on your checking account dollars.
- Get free checking each month you maintain a \$300 minimum balance in your account. (If minimum balance requirements are not met, fees are applied according to usage.)
- Get duplicate-style checks and a descriptive monthly statement.

Open a new Super Checking Account and receive two full calendar months with no transaction fees...regardless of your balance!



Lincoln Offices

- 13th & "N" St. 6235 Have-lock Ave.
- 11th & Cornhusker 3230 South 13th
- 27th & Hwy 2 70th & Vine
- 70th & "A" St. Normal Blvd
- 135 N. Cotner Blvd. & South St.
- 56th & Hwy 2 48th & Van Dorn



standardblue artworld

Supplies for the imagination

Sale prices end September 10, 1986

Sketch Pads
Wide variety of paper and sizes! 25% off

Regular \$1.95 - \$3.95 Sale \$1.46 - \$2.96

Templates
Choose from dozens of patterns. Assorted - 25% off

Envelopes
Handy for homework, artwork or filing in a variety of sizes.

10 x 15"	20 x 26"	All 25% off Regular \$28-\$45 Sale \$21-\$34
12 x 18"	23 x 31"	
14 x 20"	24 x 36"	
17 x 22"		

25% OFF

Sketch Pads
For all dry media. All sizes - 25% off

Regular \$1.25 - \$2.82 Sale .94 - \$2.12

9¢ SALE

Ball Point Pen
Blue • Black • Red
Regular 35¢ each
Stock up NOW! **9¢ each**

Prismacolor Pencil Sets

12 color	Reg. 7.10	Sale 5.99
24 color	Reg. 14.50	Sale 10.99
36 color	Reg. 21.30	Sale 15.99
48 color	Reg. 28.40	Sale 21.99
60 color	Reg. 35.50	Sale 26.99

Drafting Tape (#230)

1/2"	Reg. 3.44	Sale 2.99
3/4"	Reg. 4.09	Sale 3.29
1"	Reg. 5.04	Sale 3.99

White Paper Tape (#256)

1/2"	Reg. 5.31	Sale 3.99
3/4"	Reg. 7.09	Sale 5.99
1"	Reg. 8.64	Sale 6.99

Spray Adhesives
Now's the time to stock up!

Photo Mount 10 oz. (#6094)	Reg. 5.54	Sale 4.99
5 1/2 oz. (#6092)	Reg. 5.70	Sale 4.99

Design Markers
Thick, Medium & Thin Point
Regular 1.98 ea. **9 for 9.99**

Knock-Off Table
One year warranty. Regular 129.50 **79.95**
30 x 40" top

Z Table
Quick adjustment. Regular 137.95 **99.95**
30 x 42" top

Chair
Affordable comfort.

SC35 Manual Lift	Reg. 65.40	Sale 39.95
SC45 Air Lift	Reg. 97.62	Sale 59.95

Student Lamp
Brown • Ivory • Red • Black • Blue • White
100 Watt ceramic socket. Regular 16.50 **9.95**

7-Pen Set
Stainless Steel Tech Pen Set
Regular 83.50 **36.95**

Also On Sale...

1. Faber Castell Uni-ball Pen	Regular 1.19	Sale .75
2. X-Acto #1 Knife	Regular 1.85	Sale 1.10
3. Faber Castell #2 Pencils (4 per pkg)	Regular 1.05	Sale .69
4. O Glue Jr.	Regular 1.09	Sale .69
5. Koh-i-noor Leadholders	Reg. \$611 3.75	Sale 2.79
	Reg. \$611C 3.85	Sale 2.79

free NEWSPRINT PAD
Present this coupon at any StandardBlue or Artworld location and receive a free pad with a \$25.00 purchase. Limit one per customer. Expires Sept. 14, 1986

BACK TO SCHOOL SALE

standardblue 228 NORTH 12th STREET

artworld GATEWAY MALL