

Mother...

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"Marge lives in Boston. And frankly, I don't think she much cares. Really, I thought I was doing well to get you in the vicinity of the sink once in a while. I couldn't really quibble over niceties like toothpaste."

"Hm. . . Well, even so, you never did tell me about laundry detergents. I had to learn about hot, warm, and cold washes from a total stranger."

"When did you start doing your laundry? I thought you were saving it up for Christmas."

"Mother, you're just not taking this seriously."

"You really think there's something wrong here?"

"Of course. I mean, we never even wore mother and daughter look-alike clothes."

"Because they never made jeans in my size or housecoats in your size."

"And you never let me borrow your jacket to play real estate agent in."

"I was never a real estate agent."

"And you never once told me which brand of coconut to buy. How am I supposed to make a decent coconut cake?"

"I ALWAYS thought you hated coconut. Maybe that was your sister. Do you really want to know which brand?"

"Come to think of it, no. I do hate coconut."

"Then why—"

"Oh, I don't know. The people on TV act like it's the usual thing, all this stuff. I got to wondering why we aren't like that. Come to think of it, maybe it wouldn't be so great after all. I mean, you would never gripe at me about climbing on rocks and playing by the water and messing around and then turn around and give me a Twinkie and pretend that made up for everything, right?"

"Never."

"And you wouldn't act like making instant oatmeal or putting frozen cookie dough on a pan was an act of supreme self-sacrifice, would you?"

"Nope."

"And you wouldn't treat my boyfriend like a leper with halitosis."

"Probably not."

"AND YOU would never hug a box of cereal, or play feelie-meelie with a roll of bathroom tissue, or go on the Gong Show dressed as Dolly Parton, would you?"

"Are you kidding? Not even for a ride on the Love Boat."

"And you'd never ever ever go on a game show and forget my name during the interview segment?"

"Not on your tintype. Or should I say stereotype?"

"Hm. . . We may be in better shape than I thought."

"Thank God. I was just wondering if I could ever begin to look like Olivia Walton."

"Oh you do, a little. Around the eyes."
 "Sweet talker. Listen, before we spend the rest of this year's tuition, I think we'd better get off the line. Now you're sure you're warm enough."
 "Yes, Mom. I swear to you. But— I'll put on a sweater anyway."
 "That's all I wanted to hear. G'night, Meredith."
 "Goodnight, Olivia."

Artist to be featured

The November show at the Haymarket Art Gallery will feature Sue Olson Mandler, of Bellevue, Neb. with drawings and the pottery of Ervin Dixon of Beatrice, Neb. Mandler's work has appeared on the covers and within the pages of magazines and also on the Northwest Bell Telephone Calendar. A freelance artist, she studied at UNO, Creighton, and the University of Nebraska.

Dixon attended UNL, received a BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute and an MFA from the Tyler School of Art at Temple University in Philadelphia. His work was accepted in both the 1977 and 1979 Nebraska Crafts Exhibitions at the Sheldon Gallery in Lincoln and he was the recipient of a 1978-79 National Endowment for the Arts Craftmen's Fellowship. An opening reception will be at the gallery from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Kottke playing tonight

Leo Kottke will be playing at the O'Donnell Auditorium at Nebraska Wesleyan University, tonight at 8 p.m. Kottke's albums have included *My Feet Are Smiling*, and *Ice Water*. His latest album is *Balance*.



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