



IT'S IN THE BAG

Skip the wrapping paper—tape—scissors—ribbon routine—stashing a gift in a tote is easier, hands down. This durable recycled canvas boasts five to/from tags right on the front, to trace its journey from one recipient to the next. Sold! Re-Wrap gift bag, in2green.com, \$10

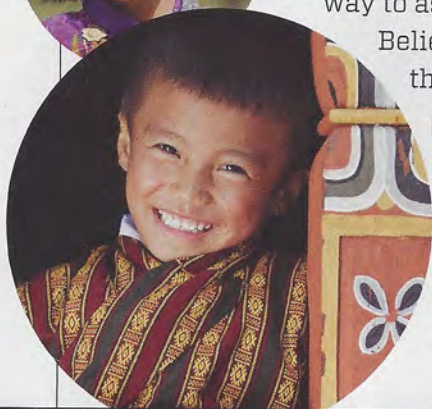
REGIFT v. (re-gift) To give something previously received as a gift, usually unwanted, to someone else. Nearly 70% of Americans fess up to doing it. And they're not being cheap, but green, since they view it as a form of recycling.



HIGH SPIRITS

Bhutan has come up with a warm and fuzzy way to assess the state of the nation.

Believing that bliss is more important than business, **the tiny Himalayan country measures Gross National Happiness instead of Gross National Product.** In a recent poll, 4% of people described themselves as unhappy, and 96% said they were happy or, even better, very happy. :-)



GUY TALK

DEEP THOUGHTS

My daughter, Ava, is no girly girl. Sure, at around age 4 every one of her 333 stuffed animals was named Cinderella. Then there was the only-purple-or-pink-clothing phase (age 8). Now, though, at age 11, she sports temporary tattoos featuring the kanji characters for Warrior Princess. And when she's mad, she delivers a straight overhand right that only Mike Tyson could appreciate.

But Ava's no tomboy either. She happily "borrows" her mother's most expensive cosmetics. And she never leaves the house without Nigel, a pocket-size, formerly white polar bear turned gray with time and affection.

Until recently our typical father-daughter interactions consisted mostly of Ava asking me to buy her things. Last summer, however, we decided to take a scuba diving class. Translation: Her mother (my wife, Christina, a veteran diver) decided the kids were old enough to learn scuba; our 14-year-old son, Cole, was too cool to be bothered; and I decided to tag along with my daughter.

Which is how we ended up in a noisy utility room at the back of a dive shop with instructor Brad, three beefy guys serving in various branches of the military and one skinny surfer dude.

"Scuba," Brad shouted above the thrumming of machines generating compressed air to fill the tanks, "is one of the safest sports in the world, ranked 34th, between golf and billiards, in frequency of injuries."

He then listed various reasons we could end up being airlifted to the nearest hospital—decompression

» **FEBRUARY 11 is...** Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day. *Get over it already!*

MYTH» Hera created the Milky Way after throwing Zeus' son, Hercules, from her breast and spilling her milk into the sky.

FACT» Daniel Peter, a worker at Nestlé in Switzerland, discovered a process to amalgamate milk and cocoa powder in 1875, leading to the world's first milk chocolate.