Pat Bordman

Putting their faces in cardboard spaces

Who would ever gift wrap an empty box? Yet it is the one toy that is most often overlooked by gift givers. A box is absolutely free, requires no hatteries or other mechanical aids and hatteries or other mechanical aids and is approached with enthusiasm by both boys and girls. It is appreciated by children young enough to crawl as well as those old enough to be adept bicycle riders.

(When you give a box, you give the gift of creativity. Within a box fun and adventure begin. A box big enough for a child to crawl into is a space big enough for imagination to reason.

a child to crawl into is a space big-enough for imagination to roam.

An empty box can be shared or used in privacy. It can be colored, painted, pasted on, glued to, stapled, cut up or left alone. It can be a spaceship to the moon or a caveman's dwelling, It can be an airplane east or sta-geocach west. It can be a condomini-um, teepee, voling booth, grocery store, fort or puppet stage. A box can be any-thing.

AN EMPTY BOX stimulates self-confidence by allowing inventiveness

. This is the last of a five-part setio flourish. The child can discover function from within.

When you give a box to a child you also give a message. You tell the child that you have confidence in his or her ability to be creative. You say to a child that you accept whatever he or she chooses to make of that empty container. You are encouraging thought development.

SUGGESTION: Though it is not necessary, you may wish to present a box of crayons, construction paper, seissors, tape, paints, giue, scraps of material and a flashlight to the child after the box has been explored. It is not necessary since many children will decorate with their minds and never want the real stuff.

Patricia Bordman, a free-lance writer and photographer, has a master's degree in early chidhood ducation. She taught elementary school and has conducted workshops and lectures. Write her c/o the Ob-server & Eccentric Newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.

Get the red off your bumpers

Get out of the red by Dec. 30 or you won't be legal on New Year's Day.

That's the advice from Secretary of State Richard H. Austin, who reminds all motorists who still have 1980 red tab that their vehicles must bear black

Under Michigan's new system of birthday registration, vehicle owners must renew their plates and tabs by heir birthday.

Austin, however, reminded all motorists born Dec. 31 that they must renew their vehicle registration and obtain black and white tabs by Dec. 30, because Dec. 31 is a state holiday.

IT UP

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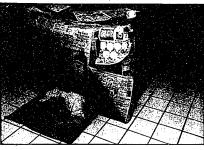


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volunteers

other volunteer needs at more man 200
agencies may be obtained by calling
the bureau at 642-7272. Any non-profit
organization needing volunteer assistance may also call the bureau.

INNECEPERS — Volunteers 21 and older are needed by the Southfield Department of Human Resources to answer the phone take messages, give directions to city offices, and perform other related tasks at desk. These "innexpers" should be courteous, efficient, neat in appearance and able to work a.m. to 1 p.m. or 1-4 p.m. Mondays-Fridays for six months. Training is provided. INNKEEPERS - Volunteers 21 and

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, a program of the Volunteer Action Center of United Community Services, has weekly listings of volunteer opportunities.

Further information about these and other volunteer needs at more than 200 agencies may be obtained by calling workshop coordinator. Twelve talks a the bureau at 462-7272. Any non-protit organization needing wolunteer assists agree may also call the bureaus.

ANGELS — The Children's Center of Wayne County is in urgent need of volunteers 18 and older with a high school diploma to tutor students.

SHEPHERDS — Volunteers who are sympathetic to problems faced by travelers are being recruited by Travelers Aid Society in Detroit. Duties include working at either Metropolitan Airport or the Bus Terminal to provide information and help in crisis situations.

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