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The odds of your present being for the person you love is a long, long shot. But if you're looking for a gift that's both useful and practical, headphones and speakers are top choices. They're also a great gift for the person who loves to listen to music.

Headphones, speakers top gift lists
By GUY LAWRENCE
@guy_lawrence



Obama signs up for health plan
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Christmas of '67

The older I get, the more ordinary Christmas seems. Maybe that's what it means to grow up — the glitter and the whimsy of something that was once magical and wild slowly fades. Or maybe it's because on Christmas we give each the highs and lows of the one I survived the year I turned 13.

That was the Christmas my dad quit. It was the Christmas my mom lost her job. It was the Christmas my brother was born. It was the Christmas my sister died. It was the Christmas my grandfather passed away. It was the Christmas my grandmother got married. It was the Christmas my uncle was killed in Vietnam. It was the Christmas my aunt was diagnosed with cancer. It was the Christmas my cousin was arrested. It was the Christmas my friend was hit by a car. It was the Christmas my neighbor was shot. It was the Christmas my teacher was fired. It was the Christmas my boss was laid off. It was the Christmas my car was stolen. It was the Christmas my house was flooded. It was the Christmas my dog was killed. It was the Christmas my cat was adopted. It was the Christmas my pet was born. It was the Christmas my pet died. It was the Christmas my pet was adopted again. It was the Christmas my pet was killed again. It was the Christmas my pet was adopted again.



Story by RACHEL COLEMAN • Lead & Times