**Koster Speech [EZ Speech No. 16342]**

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Remarks by Mr. John Koster on the occasion of his wife, Cara’s, 40th birth--day.

it was july 4, 1939, when the famous baseball player, lou gehrig — dying from the disease that would eventually BEAR his name — stood before a packed yankee stadium crowd and delivered one of the most memorable speeches in the annals of sport. referring to the inevitable end awaiting him, gehrig said, *“today, i consider myself the luckiest man in the world.”*

well . . . with sincerest apologies to the “iron horse,” i must tell you, ladies and gentlemen, that today, ***i*** am THE luckiest man in the world, because 15 years ago, the most wonderful and beautiful and beguiling cara [maiden name] agreed for some inexplicable reason to become my wife. [show picture #1 from montage] here we are on that fateful day. i don’t know what cara was thinking at that precise moment, but i definitely remem-ber what ***I*** was thinking, AND THAT WAS: “can you believe it, JOHN-O: this woman actually said *yes!”* and now, some 15 years, THREE BEAUTIFUL children, [no.] homes and [no.] cars later, here we are celebrating my LOVELY bride’s 40th birthday. can you *believe* it?!? yes . . . the big “four-oh” — [to cara, facetiously] aren’t you just thrilled, darling? OH, I JUST *KNOW* YOU ARE! [back to the audience] actually, i don’t think “thrilled” is exactly the right word for it. in fact, i think she’s fighting it a little, BECAUSE SHE keeps repeating to me again and again that *“forty’s the new thirty; FORTY’S THE NEW THIRTY.”* well, my darling dear, i’m afraid that — DENY THEM ALL YOU WANT — but the signs are ALL THERE, AND THEY’RE unmistakable. i asked some of MY FRIENDS AT the old dave letterman TV show to give me A LIST OF THE *“top ten signs that you’ve turned 40”,* AND HERE’S WHAT THEY SENT me:

number ten: on your birthday, you received your first nose-hair trimmer.

Number nine: you’RE startING to look like the photo on your driver’ license.

number eight: you’RE startING to look like the photo on your *mother’s* driver’s license.

number seven: your children suddenly discover that their mother IS sufferING from A SEVERE, UNDIAGNOSED clue-deficit disorder — AS IN: *“HASN’T GOT A CLUE!”*

number six: BEFORE CROSSING A ROOM, YOU LOOK BOTH WAYS.

NUMBER FIVE: YOUR IDEA OF WEIGHT-LIFTING IS STANDING UP.

NUMBER FOUR: YOU REALIZE THAT YOU’RE NOW BUILT A LOT MORE FOR COMFORT THAN FOR SPEED.

NUMBER THREE: YOU SING ALONG WITH ELEVATOR MUSIC.

NUMBER TWO: IT TAKES YOU LONGER TO REST THAN IT DID TO GET TIRED.

AND THE NUMBER ONE SIGN THAT YOU’VE TURNED 40: WHEN YOU GET TWO INVITATIONS TO GO OUT ON THE SAME NIGHT, YOU im-mediately PICK THE ONE THAT GETS YOU HOME THE EARLIEST.

BUT SERIOUSLY, CARA . . . YOU’RE MORE GORGEOUS TODAY AT 40 THAN YOU WERE THAT DAY I MET YOU 17 YEARS AGO. AND AFTER 15 YEARS OF MARRIAGE, I CAN HONESTLY SAY THAT I LOVE YOU MORE NOW THAN I DID THE DAY WE WED. YOU’RE A WONDERFUL WIFE AND MOTHER, AND A TERRIFIC ROLE MODEL FOR OUR kids. YOU’RE THE MOST CARING AND LOVING AND SENSITIVE PERSON I’VE EVER KNOWN. AND I ESPECIALLY ADMIRE HOW, IN ADDITION TO RUNNING A BUSTLING AND RAMBUNCTIOUS HOUSEHOLD OF FIVE, YOU’VE STILL MANAGED TO CONTINUE YOUR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION IN NUTRITION AND DIETETICS THROUGH YOUR ON-GOING STUDY . . .[FLASH MONTAGE PIX NO. 13-17, AND 27-28 @ 1 FRAME/SEC.] . . . OF “*THE BEHAVIORAL EFFECTS OF BEER AND WINE CONSUMED BY VARIOUS METHODS OF INGESTION.”* I ASSUME YOU’LL BE PUBLISHING SOON . . . ?

VICTOR HUGO ONCE OBSERVED THAT *“FORTY IS THE OLD AGE OF YOUTH; FIFTY IS THE YOUTH OF OLD AGE.”* I GUESS THAT, IN THE END, WHAT THIS BIRTHDAY REPRESENTS FOR YOU, ONLY YOU CAN DECIDE. BUT I CAN TELL you THIS, MY LOVE: YOU’VE GOT TONS OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS HERE with you TONIGHT WISHING YOU THE VERY HAPPIEST OF HAPPY BIRTHDAYS, AND GOD’S SPEED ON WHATEVER COURSE YOU CHOOSE.

BUT PLEASE, I BEG YOU, CARA MIA: TAKE *ME* ALONG FOR THE RIDE! I LOVE YOU, DARLING! HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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