



Unusual gift ideas abound in Eugene

By Kim Nicholson
Emerald Contributor

It's that time of year again, and if you haven't done your shopping yet, you have only 19 days left.

Perhaps the most difficult part of Christmas is deciding what to buy everyone. If you're having a case of shopper's block, here are a few ideas to help you out.

According to Connie Smeddon, retail manager at the Emporium, sweaters and fragrances are the most popular gifts. One of the hot items this year is the dancing flower, which is a plastic flower that "dances" to the beat of whatever music is playing. The flower costs approximately \$30 and, for a seasonal touch, there is also a dancing Christmas tree.

For a variation on the fragrance theme, Uncommon Scents in the Valley River Mall sells many different perfume oils which can be bought individually or custom mixed to make unique body lotions, oils or perfumes.

Best in Oregon, also in Valley River Center, sells a myriad of items made in Oregon. One can find everything from beer cookies to Oregon wines to products made from myrtlewood at the store.

Jazman and the Sterling Silver Cove are two stores in the mall which have opened just for the season. Jazman carries a number of unusual

items, including handcarved wood masks and Nepalese prayer beads in the shape of skulls, both for around \$45.

For the chef in your life, Jazman sells handcarved flying kitchen gods for \$55. Also at Jazman, you can buy earrings made from ancient Chinese coins for \$10, or a "roach brooch," a pin made from an actual iridescent green cockroach, for \$5.50.

The Sterling Silver Cove has a large selection of handcarved silver jewelry from Tur-

key, Greece, Indonesia and Egypt for \$15 to \$40. If you bring a picture, you can have it copied onto a mug and add a phrase of your own for \$10.95.

Reed and Cross, 160 Oakway Road, also carries a lot of unusual items. One popular item this year is a small brass hammer that unscrews to become four screwdrivers, selling for \$12.50. For popcorn lovers there is Pop Almighty, popcorn which pops on the cob, for \$2.

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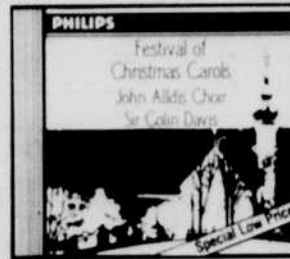
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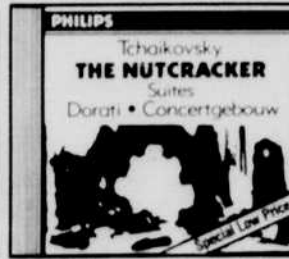
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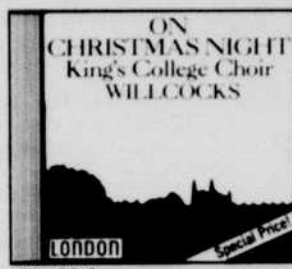
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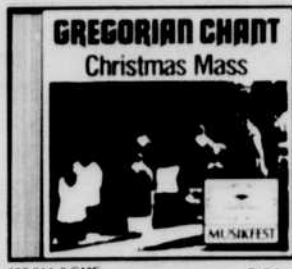
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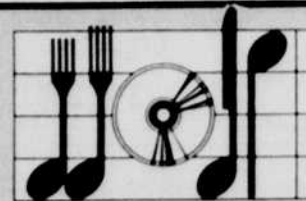
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