

Go practical on graduate's gifts

Ask any graduating college senior what they want for graduation and most will tell you, "a job." That may make gift-giving a little more difficult for those of us who have friends and relatives on their way to the "real world," so here are a few suggestions.

First on the list is a new car. Why not? Many car dealerships offer students rebates or low percentages if they choose to finance.

At Romania Toyota Subaru Hyundai, they feature the "Graduating Senior Program." Graduates receive 8.75 percent financing on a new Toyota and no credit is needed to qualify. Romania Chevrolet Geo offers students an extra \$400 off any Chevrolet vehicle in addition to factory rebates.

Riverside Pontiac Mazda Volkswagen is currently featuring a \$1,400.00 rebate on the Mazda Protege, a smaller, 4-door sedan starting at \$11,000.

A good mountain bike or ten-speed is an environmentally-friendly alternative to the car that could be used to get to work as well as for weekend enjoyment. Bikes range in price from about \$250 to \$1,000, depending on the make and model.

Housewares always make practical gifts. For \$69.99, the Bon Marche offers the Krups Mini Espresso Machine. A coffee maker, food processor, or waffle-iron are other items that would also be useful for somebody who will be living on their own.

The Williams Sonoma Catalog features cast-iron muffin and cookie pans in flower and sea creature shapes for \$22. These are more interesting than conventional baking pans and look nice hanging on a kitchen wall.

Gourmet foods make great presents, especially when put together in gift-baskets because they are packaged beautifully and most have a long shelf-life.

Pastas such as "Pasta Mama's" black fettuccine (made with squid ink) from Newman's Fish Company on 1545 Willamette, or "Eddie's" red-pepper pasta from Sundance Natural Foods on 748 E. 24th are inexpensive, costing about \$2 to \$4 per package.

Crackers imported from Europe sell for about \$1.99 and could be packaged with wine.

Try putting together a "breakfast basket" with McCann's Irish



Photo by Lisa Bertelsen
Dishes and glassware are necessary items for the moving-out-of-their-own graduate.

Oatmeal in a can for \$6.99, a bottle of maple syrup, and buckwheat pancake mix. You can also add a cookbook or kitchen utensils to the basket, for the culinary-minded.

Probably the last thing a graduate wants right now are books. However, they do make excellent gifts. From self-help to coffee table items, they offer information, as well as enjoyment.

Escape While There's Still Time bookstore, located at 488 Willamette, specializes in science-fiction, fantasy, horror, and mystery.

Hungry Head Books on 1212 Willamette features books that offer thought-provoking looks at our culture and history. *The People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn recounts American history from the perspective of the people, especially the Native Americans.

Before heading off to a nine-to-five job, it may be helpful for a graduate to read Jerry Mander's, *In the Absence of the Sacred*, described as "...elegant prose (on the)...rediscovering of more soul-satisfying ways of life." This book is a hardcover and sells for \$25.

Those interested in photography, film, or the environment may appreciate, *Ancient Forests*, a collection of photographs, costing \$16.95.

J. Michael's Books on 160 E. Broadway has the largest selection on art, photography, and architecture. One book architecture graduates may like is the new paperback for \$29.95, called *The Wright Space*, on the work of Frank Lloyd Wright.

If you're heading over to a

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mall, Waldenbooks carries some titles helpful for business majors such as, *1,001 Businesses You Can Start From Home* for \$14.95.

Subscriptions to magazines like *The Writer*, or other business periodicals would be suitable, as well.

You could get a set of portraits of your favorite grad at Expressly Portraits, where special "Graduate Portrait" packages range from \$39.95 to \$294.95.

Photo albums and picture frames are nice to give to friends. Hallmark has a special album called "College Memories" for \$14 and picture frames for \$18.

They also carry certificate holders for \$9 and an assortment of Cross pens starting at \$19.

Video stores like Suncoast carry films as well as "how-to" presentations on cooking, fitness, business, and travel. A fan of cartoons may like the *Fantasia* gift box, selling for \$99.99. The *Citizen Kane* 50th Anniversary box, also \$99.99, is an idea for film lovers.

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