

Wear your Santa suit this holiday season.

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Holiday Opportunities

TREE

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stores that Payless on 29th Avenue and Willamette Street has erected another tree in that area of town.

"This has become a major event that we had to expand this year in order to include everyone who wanted to give," said Mary Scott, who coordinated the event with the St. Vincent de Paul Society. "People have been coming to us since early October with

donations and gifts."

Scott said volunteers from the Eugene Rotary Club and Beta Sigma Phi donated time to make the ornaments and collect volunteers for the event.

The tree began in 1983 when community volunteers contributed 465 hours of work to get the event started. By 1991, the number had risen to more than 1,500 hours given by over 160 volunteers.

"Support has been incredible

from youth groups, senior centers and community volunteers and churches," Scott said. "They made the felt ornaments and will continually refill the tree throughout mid December."

If you're interested in giving to the Tree of Joy it will be in Valley River Center throughout the holiday season. Volunteers at St. Vincent de Paul are available to answer questions.

-Calley Anderson

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& Frank in the Valley River Center echoed those remarks. They agreed that accessories are top sellers among students this year.

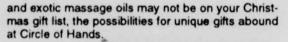
Among those clothes that are selling well, denim shirts and Boss sweatshirts are topping the list, according to Mike Regan, assistant manager at the Squire Shop in VRC.

Of course, clothing is not the only answer to solving the gift-buying dilemma. At Circle of Hands, a craft store located off of Willamette in the Downtown Mall, local artists have created innumerable items for Christmas shoppers.

"I could buy something here for everyone I know," said resident artist Steve Oppenheimer. He listed leggings and jewelry as two items that are selling particularly well this season.

"Tie-dyed leggings go for about \$15, and some of the more expensive kinds run around \$25," Oppenheimer said.

Walking around the small store, Oppenheimer pointed out a number of other gifts for that inevitable person with everything. While ceramic wind chimes



Store owners are also relying on various sales tricks in order to lure reluctant buyers this season.

Kaufman's, located half a block from campus, has a wide variety of clothing items for students. The store has a display of "gift with purchase" enticements at the front entrance of the store.

Lori Bonn, assistant manager at the store, explained how tuition changes have also affected sales.

"I'm surprised, honestly, that sales have been as good as they are, what with the tuition increases this year," Bonn said. "Probably because we're so close to the campus we're able to do pretty respectable business."

However, Bonn said the Kaufman's store in the Valley River Mall does 10 times the business the campus shop does.

"People just like to go where they can do a lot of shopping at once," Bonn said.

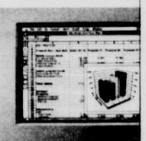
-Peter Nussbaum



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