

G for i the f holi t days S



Valley River Center offers great gifts for the holiday season

Tired of getting your dad a Hickory Farms Beef Stick every holiday season? This year, why not get him a spiral sliced ham? Or, better yet, how about a ferret?

You can find all of these things, and more, at the Valley River Center. The American economy is turning around by most accounts, just in time for the holidays. People are emptying their wallets and smashing their piggy-banks with a vengeance after several years of recession. What better way to spend all of the money you earned this summer than by blowing it on people you don't care that much about, but feel culturally obliged to buy gifts for? And where better to blow it than at a mall?

The mall, one of America's most important institutions, is chock-full of great gift ideas. Stores are crammed next to each other and are so diverse that you can eat, prance around in lingerie and go to the bathroom all at the same time! Sales abound this time of year, and if you're thrifty, you can purchase all your gifts and still have enough left to spend on yourself, which is what the holidays are really about anyway.

Let's start out at Meier and Frank. If you're into clothes or shoes, Meier and Frank has them. College sweatshirts and jackets are great gifts.

"Leather has been really big this year," said Seth Sjostrom, the lead associate of the store.

Leather is very comfortable and stylish, especially if you're in a vicious motorcycle gang.

Pendleton products are also very popular and will warm friends and loved ones during the cold Oregon winters. If you can't afford a Pendleton product to warm your friends up, a hearty bowl of soup with country vegetables works pretty well too.

For those who prefer to stay indoors during the holiday season, games can be fun. Duckopolis stands out as particularly amusing. This spinoff of Monopoly uses Eugene and University landmarks instead of distant geographical names. For other University paraphernalia, check out the Oregon mini-football: a green, soft, durable synthetic leather for a "softer catch" (\$10.99). This would be a great gift for a younger sibling or a girlfriend.

If you're looking for quality gifts and a chance to boost the state's economy in the process, try the "Made in Oregon" store. It is overflowing with every-



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In search of the perfect gift that will make parents ecstatic

It's that time of the year again. Time to dig out the clay, crayons and construction paper to create the ultimate, perfect gift for your parents.

Unfortunately, unless you're under 10, that tactic isn't exactly the best one to use for the holiday season. Though it may be appreciated because, after all, it's the thought that counts, constructing a crude ashtray of clay for parents who don't even smoke doesn't cut it anymore and may leave you feeling a bit cheap.

Therefore, it's time to hit the streets in search of the gift that screams, "This is perfect for Mom/Dad!" Although you may not realize it, there are many places in this great City of Ducks to locate or get ideas for the perfect gifts for your parents.

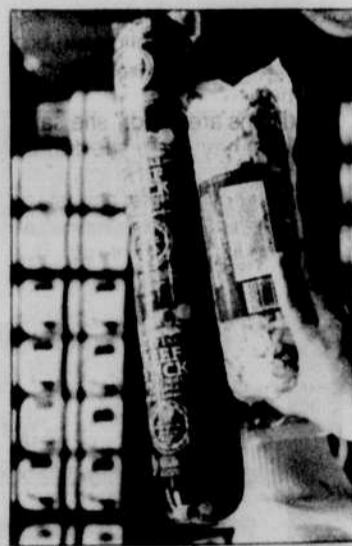
The most obvious gift, of course, is duck and University paraphernalia. Many parents go bonkers over these. "Look," they say proudly to anyone within earshot while pointing to various parts of their body, "my child attends the University of Oregon!" The University Bookstore on East 13th Avenue and Agate Street is stocked with sweatshirts, T-shirts, socks, and even Oregon tennis shoes, which sell for \$19.95 a pair, for such parents.

Other popular items include window stickers, glassware and jewelry.

"Virtually anything in the department can be gifts for parents," said Ellen Crownover, University Bookstore sales associate.

Sweatshirts at the bookstore run \$12.50-\$69.95. For the thrifty, there's Oregon Sportswear at the University Center on East 13th Avenue and Hilyard Street. With the 25 percent to 60 percent everyday discounts off suggested manufacturers' retail prices, sweatshirts cost \$25-\$45, and hats, another popular item, cost \$10-\$25. (Be warned, however, that these gifts can wear thin for parents of upperclassmen with closets full of Duck stuff.)

Perhaps your parents have shed all care for clothing and prefer exercising their literary minds. Allen Brigham, manager of Valley River Center's Waldenbooks, said the hottest names in the world of books this holiday season include Stephen King's "Nightmares and Dreamscapes," Rush Limbaugh's "See, I Told You So," and Elizabeth Marshall Thomas's "The Hidden Life of Dogs." Ever so popular are the "Far Side" books by Gary Larson, anything with



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