

Gift suggestions bust pocketbook

Sometimes you just have to forget about affordable ideas

By Tricia Schwennesen
Oregon Daily Emerald

Mama's not gonna buy you a mockingbird this holiday season.

She's aiming a little higher and digging a little deeper into her \$300 Dooney and Burke purse.

Her goal — to buy the most lavish, disgustingly expensive, extravagant gifts.

You're gonna love 'em, whether you need 'em or not.

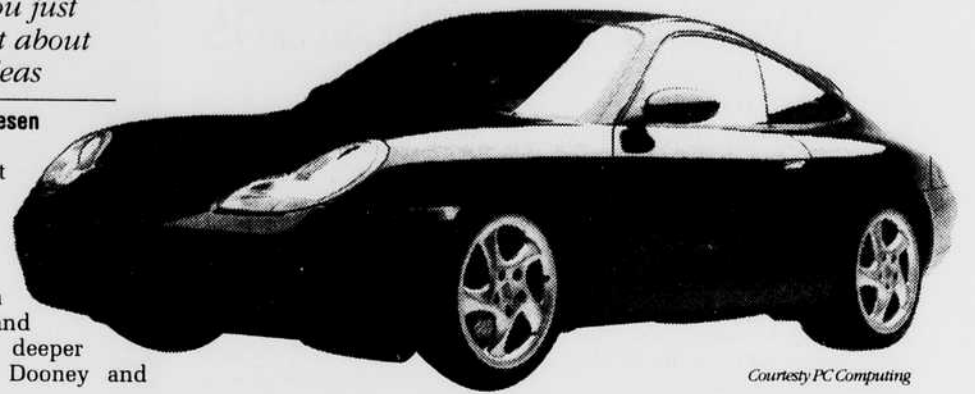
From the comfort of her rich and famous home, Mama found the perfect ride in a copy of PC Computing.

The 1999 Porsche Carrera Coupe costs more than the average college education. With a sophisticated computer system and a liquid crystal dash display, the Coupe promises to be the most luxurious drive. Motor on home. Mama can park it out front of your dorm for only \$75,740.

Catalog shopping is at an all-time high, and Mama gets the best. This year she found a one-of-a-kind that is sure to fly right to the top of your favorite gifts list.

The vintage yellow Stearman PT-17 will help you soar to new heights. It was a WWII training aircraft, built in 1941 and purchased for \$295 in 1947 by the Army Air Corps for private use. It's been fully restored to its original mint condition. The glossy ad in the J. Peterman Company catalog promises that "you'll suddenly become very popular." But don't worry about fitting in with this classic.

You can also purchase the perfect aviator accessories from the very same page. Your budding popularity will only cost dear Mama a mere \$125,000.



Courtesy PC Computing

Mama's been boning up on her Internet skills since the day after Thanksgiving. She spent the biggest shopping day of the year surfing the World Wide Web. Ridin' a technical wave of shopping bliss, Mama managed to wipe out on the Sharper Image homepage. She keenly remembered your love of the movie Jurassic Park, and she nearly lost her gnarly cool when she landed on the perfect gift.

Native to North America, the Tyrannosaurus Rex roamed the earth 85 to 65 million years ago. Thanks to sculptor Tony McVey, you can own your very own fearless fiberglass replica. McVey consulted with a leading paleontologist to get the details just right.

The hand-painted, petrifying carnivore is an impressive 1:5 scale: 4.5 feet high, 3 feet wide and 8 feet long. Mama can "hang 10" with the best of them for the unparalleled price of \$5,995.

Mama knows a year-round favorite for men and women alike is the Victoria's Secret catalog. Trying to beat last year's million dollar bra, the company jumped on the angel bandwagon. In their best John Travolta, "Michael" imitation, Victoria's secret is the snow white feathery bra that "dreams and fantasies" are made of.

If you could secure a spot in heaven based on how much money you spent, this pristine

purchase would guarantee Mama a primo cloud to gaze down from. The Christmas angel white satin lingerie is \$250 for either the halter bra or the strapless bra. And just in case you think it's a sin to go pantyless — those are an additional \$30.

After all this shopping, Mama's sweet tooth really kicked in. But she hasn't dreamed of sugar plums or candy canes since she was younger than 10. Mama's devastatingly delectable holiday treat is good old-fashioned chocolate. It must run in the family because that's your favorite, too.

Though a Hershey bar from the University Bookstore usually satisfies your animalistic chocolate cravings, Mama has a better idea. Godiva Chocolatier is famous for its tongue-tantalizing delicacies. Mama buys a couple gifts just in case someone didn't make it on her twice-checked list. The Warm Receptions Basket would be absolutely divine for family or friends. The least spendy gift for the utterly rich rings up at just 125 bucks.

Mama's positively exhausted from all her shopping endeavors.

The moral of this shopping tale — take advantage of Mama's monetary generosity, don't let her be a cheapskate. If you're lucky, maybe she'll buy you a million-dollar diamond ring.

Don't forget that there are only 17 holiday shopping days left.

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