

Holiday gifts can be unique, inexpensive

From personalized photos to arts and crafts, creativity abounds when considering cheap gifts for loved ones

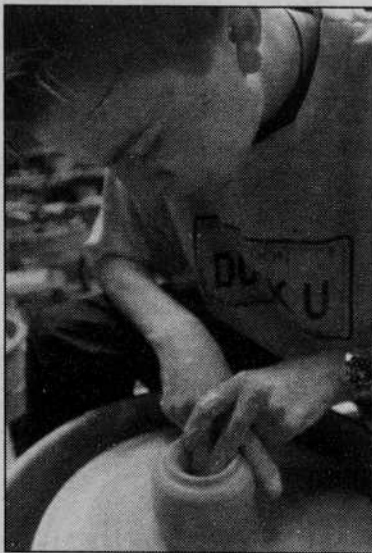
Wendy Ardolino
Freelance Writer

For many students, buying expensive gifts is not an option. However, with a little creativity, students can get simple to more elaborate presents that won't leave them penniless.

Personalized gifts don't have to be complicated or expensive. A picture frame or snow globe with a photo of yourself and the gift recipient, or burning a CD compilation of a person's favorite songs are some examples of unique gifts.

"Pictures or burned CDs are really touching gifts because they bring back happy memories, which is better than any generic gift certificate," senior Tara Gear said.

Other cheap gifts are easy to find. Department stores like Target sell old VHS favorites like "Animal House" or a Brat Pack movie for just \$5 to \$10. Classical board games like Yahtzee and Scrabble run less than \$10 and for the young at heart, Play-doh and finger paints are less than \$5.



Adam Amato Emerald

Freshman Robert Teel, making a bowl for his mother, works in the EMU Craft Center during Dead Week.

The more artistic people can always make their own gifts. The EMU Craft Center will have holiday workshops to make scarves, bracelets and other crafts.

Freshman Robert Teel is making pottery for holiday gifts.

"The reason I'm throwing clay for my friends and family is because it allows me to do a creative art that I enjoy, while giving the receiver a unique work that is purely me," Teel said.

Students can also buy and paint their own pottery at the Brush and Fire store downtown. The Holiday Market, local bazaars and holiday craft shows are also places to look for gifts with a personal touch.

Publications such as Sunset Magazine also have various ideas for hand made gifts and goodies, from etched glass to homemade gumdrops.

For students who are completely broke, there are still a few options. One can make cards out of construction paper or notecards then write favors on each card, such as, "This card is good for one free back rub." Fill out a few favors and tie them together with a decorative ribbon or string.

Newspapers, magazines or butcher paper can be decorated with markers or stamps to make wrapping paper.

And finally, those with a kitchen can make dinner for a loved one. Spending time with the person is usually a much-appreciated gift.

Wendy Ardolino is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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Robert Teel
freshman

For the sports fan, a glow-in-the-dark football or trading cards, which also cost less than \$10, may be the perfect gift.

Students can also look online for gift bargains.

"I am getting my sister a cool poster of Bon Jovi off of e-bay, and it was only 10 bucks," senior Laura Trentman said. "If you know someone really likes something, you can find it on e-bay for cheap."

Many major department stores also sell online, and some offer 24-hour delivery.

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STUDENT RECREATION CENTER WINTER BREAK HOURS						
DECEMBER 8 - JANUARY 4						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8 Regular Term Hours	9 Regular Term Hours	10 Regular Term Hours	11 Regular Term Hours	12 SRC 10:00AM-8:00PM POOL 11:00AM-1:00PM 4:00PM-6:00PM	13 SRC 10:00AM-8:00PM POOL 11:00AM-1:00PM 4:00PM-6:00PM *FS 6:00-7:30PM	14 All Facilities Closed
15 All Facilities Closed	16 SRC 10:00AM-8:00PM POOL 11:00AM-1:00PM 4:00PM-6:00PM *FS 6:00-7:30PM	17 SRC 10:00AM-8:00PM POOL 11:00AM-1:00PM 4:00PM-6:00PM	18 SRC 10:00AM-8:00PM POOL 11:00AM-1:00PM 4:00PM-6:00PM	19 SRC 10:00AM-8:00PM POOL 11:00AM-1:00PM 4:00PM-6:00PM	20 SRC 10:00AM-8:00PM POOL 11:00AM-1:00PM 4:00PM-6:00PM *FS 6:00-7:30PM	21 All Facilities Closed
22 All Facilities Closed	23 SRC 10:00AM-8:00PM POOL 11:00AM-1:00PM 4:00PM-6:00PM *FS 6:00-7:30PM	24 All Facilities Closed	25 All Facilities Closed	26 All Facilities Closed	27 SRC 10:00AM-8:00PM POOL 11:00AM-1:00PM 4:00PM-6:00PM *FS 6:00-7:30PM	28 All Facilities Closed
29 All Facilities Closed	30 SRC 10:00AM-8:00PM POOL 11:00AM-1:00PM 4:00PM-6:00PM *FS 6:00-7:30PM	31 All Facilities Closed	1 All Facilities Closed	2 SRC 10:00AM-8:00PM POOL 11:00AM-1:00PM 4:00PM-6:00PM	3 SRC 10:00AM-8:00PM POOL 11:00AM-1:00PM 4:00PM-6:00PM *FS 6:00-7:30PM	4 All Facilities Closed

Family Recreation
Family open recreation is available during ALL winter break hours (except the pool). See Family Rec brochure for more details.
*FS - Family Swim Times Rockwall, Gerlinger, Gerlinger Pool & Gerlinger Annex are closed. For more information call 346-4183

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