



Shopping at Random

THE BEST OF WHAT COMES IN THROUGH THE MAIL SLOT

BY HENRY HOUSTON, CAMILLA MORTENSEN AND MEERAH POWELL

When you work at a newspaper, there's always someone who wants your attention to cover their story, their event, their product. One simple way companies get attention for their product is to send samples out for review.

As a result, some weird and wonderful stuff shows up on *Eugene Weekly's* doorstep, from books to beer and from hot sauce to coconut sandals.

Here is a roundup of some of the more giftable items that have come in through the mail slot for your holiday gifting pleasure.

Engraved Barware

Uncommon Green sent over a set of rocks glasses from their Maps Barware drinking glassware catalog, which features street maps etched on pint glasses, wine glasses and anything else you might drink out of. Rocks glasses are so-called because they are designed for drinks sipped "on the rocks."



Because the University of Oregon is the center of the Eugene-Springfield universe — many of us still think about Marcus Mariota despite his NFL call-up — the Eugene rocks glasses centered on the campus area. The unfortunate part is that the heart of Eugene-Springfield isn't the best piece of street grid to look at when you're taking a sip of hard liquor.

Nevertheless, an order of the Maps rocks glass would make a great gift for someone who has a passion for cartography or city planning — or who works as a getaway driver and needs to memorize a bank robbing route over a stiff drink. Theuncommongreen.com. \$16. — *Henry Houston*

Cube Tracker

I never thought I'd need a device to track my keys. I thought I was better put together. But I've found hooking a Cube Tracker to my keys to be useful as I hunt for my keys when I'm late for work. What's nifty about this tracker is that it syncs with your smartphone. You can attach the Cube Tracker to anything — guitar cases, important equipment or keys. The tracker also helps you find your smartphone. The downside is that it can't help you find dignity — trust me, I've tried. Cubetracker.com \$29.95 — *Henry Houston*



Kit-Cat Clock

OK, I can't believe I'm saying this, but having a Kit-Cat Clock has exponentially improved my workday. The classic Felix The Cat-inspired moving-eyes-and-tail clock has truly taken my office to the next level. The clock not only makes my office feel more home-y, but also is surprisingly great for me to stare at and space out on. (It's helpful when writer's block has you in its clutches and you just need to rest your brain for a while.)

I have the classic black-and-white model, but Kit-Cat also comes in a multitude of patterns and colors, even lady cats that have eyelashes and rock a pearl necklace instead of a bowtie.

Although it can be a bit loud (if you're like me and you run a podcast out of your office), it would be a great addition to a communal



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