



MAGAZINE

GET A HEAD START ON THE SEASON WITH OUR

# *Holiday Guide*

THE 'BAE'  
**GUIDE**  
TO GIFTING

THROW YOURSELF A  
**KRAMPUS PARTY**

KEEPING IT  
**QUIRKY**  
AT THE  
HOLIDAY MARKET





## HOLIDAY 2015

Seasons may change, but *We Are Ducks* and we are passionate about all things Oregon, all of the time.

We're hip to the holidays, making the most of opportunities to don all manner of seasonally-appropriate gear.

We take advantage of festive décor and beautiful scenery to take selfies with our friends and family.

This is the time of year when our friends—bros, compadres, BFFs, or whatever we may call them—share their appreciation for who we are in even the busiest of times.

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▲ Cover model: Gretchen Henderson | Cover photos by Cecilia Nelson

## Practical Gifts

to Warm the Heart

Treat your family & friends  
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holiday season



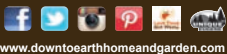
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# Holiday Guide

**Holiday Guide**, the Emerald's annual holiday magazine, is published by Emerald Media Group, Inc., the independent non-profit news company at the University of Oregon. Formerly the Oregon Daily Emerald, the news organization was founded in 1900.

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# A VARIATION ON HOLIDAY ALBUMS

By Daniel Bromfield

The Christmas spirit has inspired musicians for generations, from medieval monks toiling away at liturgical chants to record-label suits shoving “Little Drummer Boy” in the face of their biggest stars. The latter has unfortunately become the milieu in the music industry, where the Christmas album often amounts to little more than a cash grab. Luckily, some artists still take the Christmas album format as a challenge to produce some of their most compelling art. Here are a few that do just that.



## *Kate Bush - 50 Words For Snow*

Technically this isn't a true Christmas album; it's more of a concept album about winter. One of the album's most expressive lyrics – “It's midnight on Christmas” – sets the scene for the rest of this snowy, tranquil album suite. With its subtle piano and Bush's fluttering vocals, *50 Words For Snow* is committed to evoking its elemental namesake. There aren't many better albums for watching the winter weather outside from the comfort of your home. Recommended if it snows.



## *Mariah Carey - Merry Christmas*

This is the most stereotypical Christmas album here, but it's also the gold standard for the genre. Carey and her producers knew exactly what each song needed, and the songs switch between respectful minimalism and joyful pop-soul. There are even some surprisingly experimental moments, like a house take on “Joy To The World” by Three Dog Night. They're done in good taste – which is, at the end of the day, *Merry Christmas*'s strongest attribute.



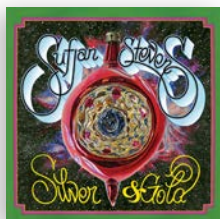
## *Vince Guaraldi Trio - A Charlie Brown Christmas*

Pianist Vince Guaraldi's soundtrack to the Peanuts film of the same name is emphatically not what one would expect from a Christmas album. It's not celebratory or joyful – but nostalgic, wistful, and mysterious. The material here is mostly composed of Yuletide standards that are given a deft jazz spin by Guaraldi. The best moment comes when Guaraldi tries writing his own Christmas classic. The result: “Christmas Time Is Here,” whose vocal version is one of the most haunting songs ever.



## *Jim Reeves - 12 Songs Of Christmas*

This album once moved Sid Vicious to tears, and it's easy to see why. Listen to the love in Reeves' voice as he sings of the Nativity on “Mary's Little Boy Child,” or the way it howls on “White Christmas.” This is one of the most emotionally-compelling Christmas albums ever made. It's also one of the prettiest; its musical landscape gives up to distant choirs and strings that whip about the edge of Reeves' voice.



## *Sufjan Stevens - Silver & Gold*

Sufjan Stevens is one of indie rock's most ambitious singer/songwriters, so it's no wonder he'd make indie rock's greatest Christmas album with *Silver & Gold*. There's plenty of filler (“You are Santa's slave!” he shrieks on “I Am Santa's Helper”), but there are also standards like “Jingle Bells” and stunning originals like “Barcarola,” surely one of Stevens' best songs Christmas or otherwise.



# MIRACLE

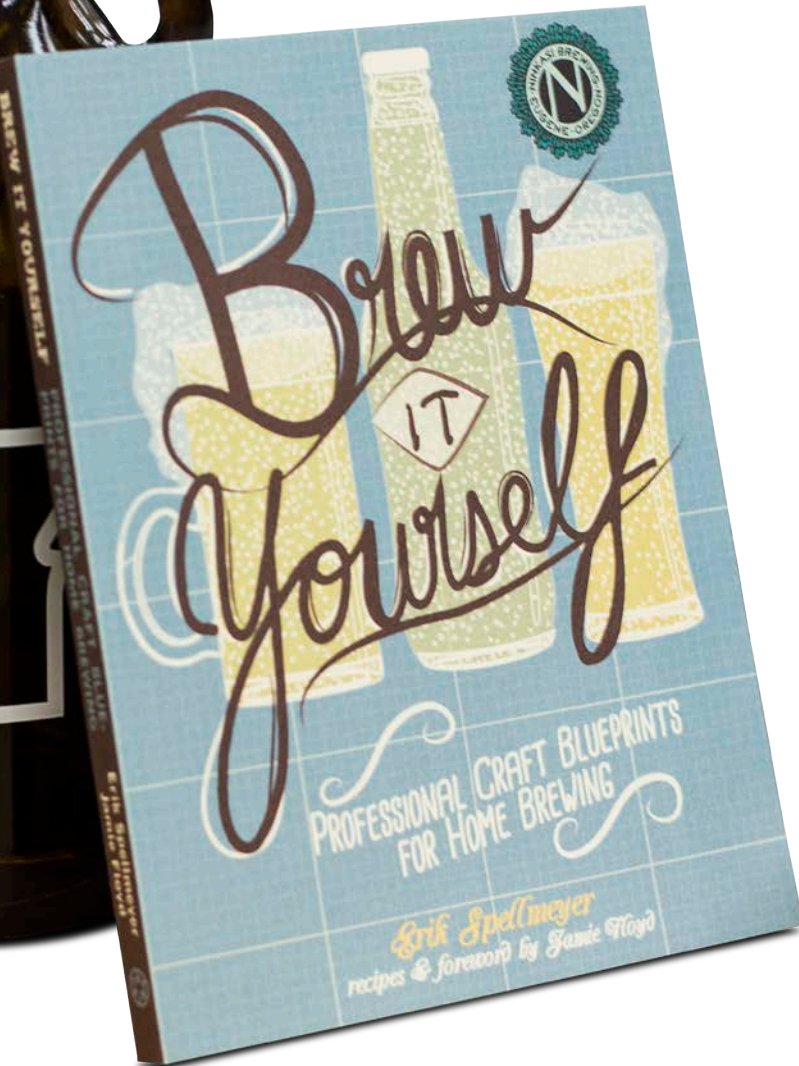
## *On 13th Street*

(The Duck Fan Holiday Emporium)

Story by Hunter Shannon | Photos by Cecilia Nelson

*The Duck Store is the perfect one-stop shop for all of your holiday gifting needs. From hats that show off your school pride to Sasquatch magnets for your mini fridge, the Duck Store has multiple options for any student that is looking to purchase presents for family and friends. Here are some of our favorite items to purchase this year at your friendly neighborhood store on 13th and Kincaid.*

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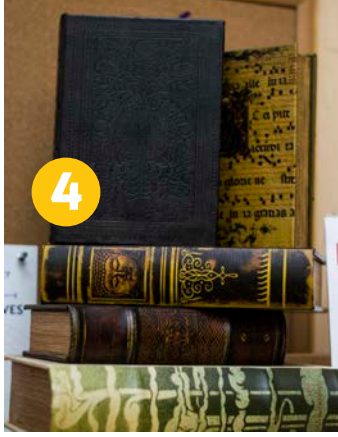
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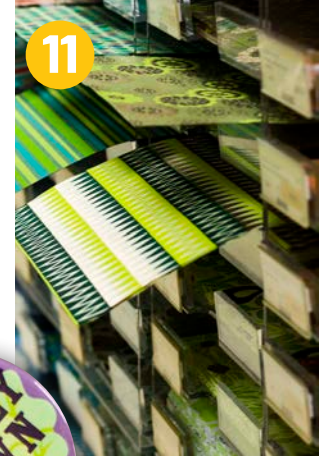
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- 1 Become Eugene's newest mini micro-brewer with an Oregon growler and a how-to-guide from local brewery Ninkasi.
- 2 Stocking stuffers with a studious style are perfect for the scholar in all of us.
- 3 Literary staples from the bookstore staff are always on display on the top floor.
- 4 Aesthetically-impressive English classics will beat out your beat-up version of Moby Dick.
- 5 Locally-themed buttons for the fridge can be found downstairs lining the doorway to artistic bliss.
- 6 Comfy Duck swag for Mom and Dad greet you when you walk in from the rainy winter outside.
- 7 Sugary treats dipped in green and yellow and wrapped in artistic landscapes of Eugene will melt in your mouth.
- 8 These colorful twines are perfect for the wrapping-inclined gift giver.
- 9 Sheets of masterful art are stacked in rows that line the wall downstairs in artist's paradise.
- 10 Polk-a-dot ribbon will brighten up any wrapped present, no matter how late it may arrive.
- 11 Luxurious wrapping paper can double as colorful posters for your bedroom wall.



5



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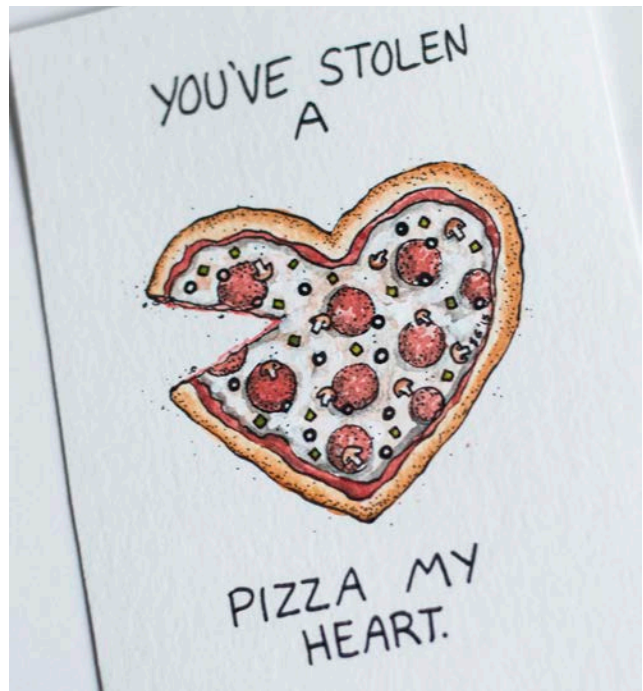
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# PLAY *with* YOUR FOOD



Story by Hunter Shannon & Camille Lieurance | Photos by Cecilia Nelson



Erica Gordon, Eugene native and University of Oregon graduate, is no stranger to the unique Eugene art scene. Gordon's food art with a twist is meticulously detailed and her passion for the craft is obvious. The amount of work that goes into each piece shows her impeccable eye for design. Every tortilla, tomato and wrapper (along with all of the other items she makes) is individually concocted. The playful use of vibrant colors mimics her witty personality. This is especially showcased in her greeting cards. She is a delectable treat and her work is the perfect way to brighten up the dreary rain-stricken Eugene winter.



# Keeping it *Quirky*

Story by Camille Lieurance | Photos by Cecilia Nelson

*In Portland, they keep it weird. In Eugene, we keep it quirky. Here is a curated list of suggestions that will make both your loved ones and your wallet smile.*







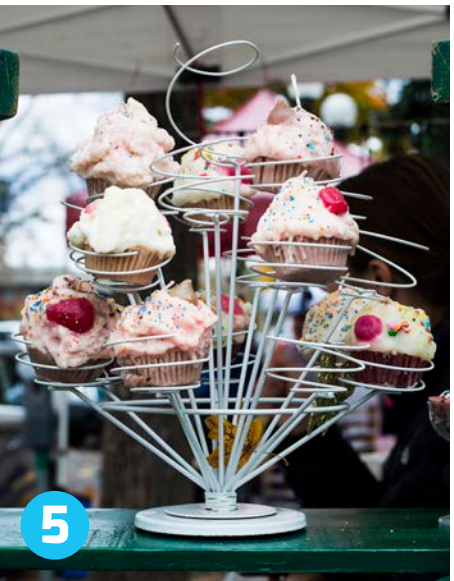
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**1. Flower bouquets are nice** but veggie bouquets are nicer. I can guarantee your friends are sick of eating turkey sandwiches. For under ten dollars, you can put together the ingredients for them to make a nice meal for themselves. \$

**2. Not only are these candles cute**, but they smell like honey and burn for hours. Humble Bee is a local company that sells both honey and the products from the bees. These candles are slow burning, just like your loved one's appreciation. [eandrhumblebeehoney@gmail.com](mailto:eandrhumblebeehoney@gmail.com) \$

**3. How many times** can you get the man in your life spiritwear? Many artists in Eugene create hand-drawn, hand-printed, unique t-shirts. Also, the artist would like me to note that he is single and has a VW van in Hawaii. [SamonBerry.etsy.com](http://SamonBerry.etsy.com) \$\$

**4. Only basics drink from mason jars.** This mug is the perfect choice for anyone who wants to have a cup of coffee on the shady side of the enchanted forest. ([Ravenland Arts](http://Ravenland Arts)) [www.ravenland.com](http://www.ravenland.com) \$

**5. Quirky candles** that are carefully hand-crafted are a great choice for those with a sweet tooth. Just try not to bite in. ([Elizabeth O'shea Candles](mailto:tntmiz@yahoo.com)) [tntmiz@yahoo.com](mailto:tntmiz@yahoo.com) \$

**6. This leather bracelet** is hand-crafted by a local Eugene artist. Understated yet elegant, these bracelets offer the perfect boost of motivation. Just ask for Eric where the bracelets are exclusively offered. ([Heritage Dry Goods](http://Heritage Dry Goods)) \$\$

**7. You could give your friend a cheap fifth** or you could give them something way cooler — like their own personal Moscow Mule cup. Copper Mug Co makes a sturdy cup for a low price. ([Gilt and Gossamer](http://Gilt and Gossamer)) \$\$

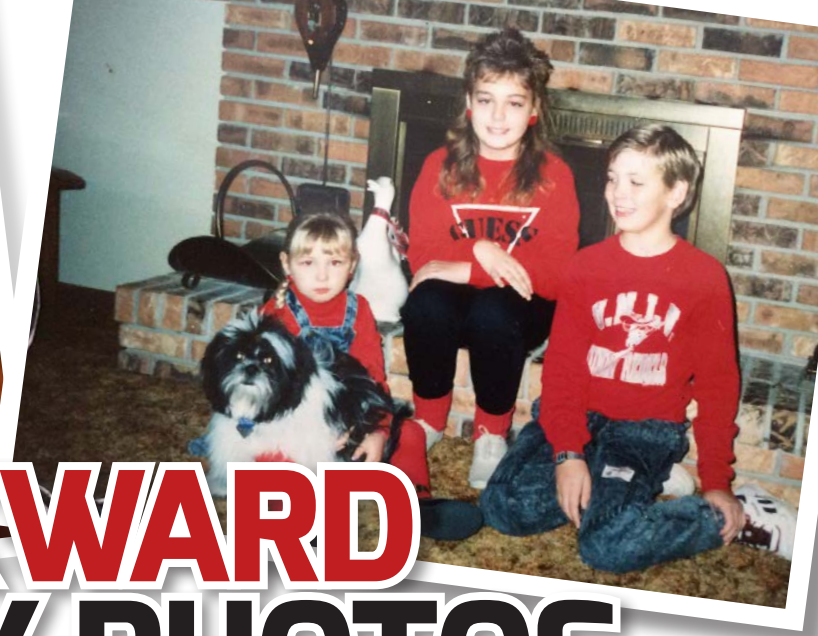
**8. Or give your friend a cheap fifth** but give them something to infuse it with. This is a great stocking stuffer and a way to let all of your friends know that you are bougie-r than them. A wide-range of flavors are available. ([Gilt and Gossamer](http://Gilt and Gossamer)) \$

**9. Sick of your friend always being late?** Time for the perfect passive-aggressive gift. A planner or calendar is a great way to tell them to get it together. ([Heritage Dry Goods](http://Heritage Dry Goods)) \$

**10. Giving someone a lamp** is literally the perfect way to bring light into their life. ([Heritage Dry Goods](http://Heritage Dry Goods)) \$\$\$

**11. No Shave November is upon us** - which also means the season of itch. This beard oil and wax is perfect for all seasons. With a great smell and attractive packaging, this is a great gift. ([Heritage Dry Goods](http://Heritage Dry Goods)) \$





# AWKWARD HOLIDAY PHOTOS

*“Alright, I want one quick photo of all my boys before we go inside.”*

Story by Ryan Hrbek | Photos Courtesy Creative Commons

... Is usually how the parade of endless holiday photos starts in my family – Mom calling the shots. We all have our own holiday traditions and celebrations, but there’s usually one thing that transcends them all: there is a limit to how many holiday photos we can pose for.

## *Who’s Who*

Mom is the ringleader, our own personal family photographer always chasing that perfect photo, and Dad is the enthusiast, promising us, “It’ll just take one second.” And then there’s us, the three boys just trying to get inside to see our cousins, or out to see our friends, or to watch that next episode, or really anything other than standing in the viewfinder for one more picture.

## *The Inescapable Truth*

It doesn’t matter if one or all of us are on our way out the door, it doesn’t matter if Mom took the same exact photo yesterday or last week, there are (apparently) never enough photos of us. I like to think that I’m not alone in this, that many of you probably share a similar feeling when it comes to family photos, especially around the holidays (whichever you celebrate). If you’re nodding your head by now – or pulling out your hair, commiserating – know that you are not alone, and there’s nothing we can do.

There’s something about winter break that brings out the camera more than other times of the year. While I’m at school, my mom and dad are my friends, but as soon as I walk through the door on

Walnut Street in December, they’re my parents again, chasing me around the house with a camera and making sure I text them if I’m planning on staying out past midnight (which is almost always).

## *Make it Fun*

“Just one more photo.”

“And please smile for once.”

“No, that’s not a smile. You’re only making this take longer.”

Yes, I may succumb to my inner deviant and throw up some bunny ears or stick out my tongue from time to time – I’m ruthless and you can’t stop me. And I know it only makes things drag on, but sometimes I don’t care. I’m stuck there no matter what, so I might as well have some fun, and so should you.

## *Embrace It*

Holiday photos aren’t going anywhere and neither will an endless supply of kids who don’t like to have their picture taken, so what are we to do in the face of such a problem? Embrace it. I had to accept that this cycle would never end a long time ago. It’s better this way.

All my parents want are snapshots of moments that make them smile; who am I to deny that? I’m not an animal. So when they ask me to hold up for a moment on my way out the door to pose for a picture with my brothers, I’ll bite my lips, smile, and maybe stick my tongue out in silent protest. Plus, the funny photos make the best memories anyway.

The background of the entire advertisement is a repeating pattern of various birth control pills. The pills are in different colors (orange, blue, green, pink, purple, red, silver) and are arranged in a grid-like pattern. Each pill has a central logo and text around the perimeter, including days of the week and the word 'PILL'.

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*Tis the Season to Give*

Story by Erin Weaver





As much as Macy's and its obnoxious holiday commercials would have you believe otherwise, December is really the time to channel our inner claymation Christmas specials and be charitable, patient and forgiving. Everyone in the community benefits from acts of kindness, and there are plenty of ways to give back – even if you've just got a spare minute or two.

If you have the stray extra dollar, consider buying a coffee for the person behind you in line or ordering flowers for the nurses at Eugene's Sacred Heart Hospital. Even if there are just a few spare quarters bouncing around in your pocket, think about leaving them on a community washing machine or slipping them into somebody's expired parking meter. These simple acts only take a few seconds to execute, but they might leave someone glowing for the rest of their day – and if your small change can accomplish this, Father Christmas himself would be proud.

This kind of giving back goes beyond spending money, too. Hold doors open, donate old clothing, or give up your seat on the bus. The holiday season is all about fostering these instances of kindness, and if you're gunning to make even more of an impact in the community, the Lane Blood Center is always accepting blood donations, and the DMV can help you register as an organ donor.

Over half of all senior citizens in retirement homes don't get visitors during their stay; consider changing that for somebody this December. Some retirees don't have family in the area – or maybe at all – meaning that a simple visit could become a memorable event.

If partying down with some friends and eggnog is more your style, host a holiday get-together. The ticket to enter? A non-perishable item for Food for Lane County or a stuffed bear for Toys for Tots. By the end of the night, you'll have grateful friends instilled with the holiday spirit and meaningful gifts for local charities.

There are endless ways to be kind during the holiday season - and if you've got more than a few hours you'd like to donate to your community, there are countless charities in Eugene that would benefit from your help. Whether you're giving your time or money, the following establishments would love to have you.

## *Greenhill Humane Society*

Love dogs, but can't have one in your apartment? The Greenhill Humane Society is always looking for devoted volunteers with a love of furry friends. If you've got a few hours every week, Eugene's local Humane Society would love to have you walking one of their many strays. They're also currently in need of bottles to feed their kittens - among other supplies that can be found on their website's Wish List - and are always accepting donations.

**Volunteer Contact Information:** 541-689-1503 ext. 114

## *Food for Lane County*

Eugene's food bank relies on the community to help them feed the county's hungry, and there are countless ways you can help. Food for Lane County has several locations devoted to taking in non-perishables like canned meat and vegetables, canned and dried beans, cooking oils and spices - just to name a few. Aside from food, monetary donations are also encouraged. If you like the idea of giving back through one of the charity's many relief efforts - like working for Meals on Wheels, running neighborhood food drives, or weeding in a community garden - you can always apply for one of their many volunteer positions.

**Volunteer Contact Information:** 541-343-2822

## *Downtown Languages*

Located in the heart of Eugene's downtown area, Downtown Languages is a local nonprofit that works to integrate migrants into the local community. If you have a passion for English language learning - or even simply helping the disadvantaged - volunteer opportunities include assisting in classrooms or fundraising events, or becoming a conversation partner with someone attempting to acclimate to life in the U.S.

**Volunteer Contact Information:** 541-686-8483





# HAVE YOURSELF A KRAMPUS PARTY

[THE GERMAN ANTI-SANTA ANECDOTE]

Story by Spencer Tanner | Photo Courtesy Creative Commons

The leaves are falling and autumn is beginning to feel a whole lot like winter. As your rapidly-approaching Thanksgiving plans come to a close, the holiday focus immediately shifts to the granddaddy of them all: Christmas, which tops as the busiest and most eventful part of the year. Holiday office parties, ugly Christmas sweater soirees, and watching *Elf* for the twelfth time – that’s weak.

It’s 2015! Being a contrarian is totally in these days; there is no need to throw a blazé December get-together that

no one will remember past New Years. Flip the script, and instead of Saint Nick, hail – I mean, uh, celebrate – Krampus, everyone’s favorite German Santa-alternative!

According to Deutsch folklore, Krampus is a horned, witch-like creature who punishes the bad children after Saint Nicholas rewards the good ones. We may be accustomed to the Western tradition of naughty kids getting coal in their stockings, but since Germany doesn’t mess around with their holiday myths, Krampus takes his pick of either eating the children or sending them to Hell.



However, holiday celebrations are purely representative, so you get to pick and choose which parts of tradition you want to symbolize. So, don't let that deter you from throwing the best Anti-Christmas Party of the solstice!

One of the many beauties of throwing a Krampus Party is not only will your event stand out amongst all the cookie-cutter X-mas bashes, but there are no formulas, no expectations about what to include. It's free to make it your own, so be creative! Here are some ideas to get you started.

### *Decorations:*

Legend has it that Krampus carries a set of metal chains to rattle and scare children. Deck your halls with chains made from strips of grey construction paper to get everyone in the Krampus spirit. Also, the Germans participated in *Krampuskarten*, where people shared greeting cards with rhymes and poems. You can either make your own and put them up as decorations or make it interactive and craft cards with your friends.

### *Krampuslauf:*

For 21-and-over solstice-celebrators, don't wait until Halloween to dress up when you can dress up for *Krampuslauf*, which is, according to Wikipedia, "a run of celebrants dressed as the beast, often fueled by alcohol." Traditionally, the booze served is a fruity brandy known as "Krampus Schnapps." Now, I doubt the OLCC allows the sale of ritual Pagan drinks, but necessity is the mother of invention, so do it yourself!

### *The Film:*

If you're just trying to relax or simply want to leave the house, you could always get a group together and see the upcoming black-comedy *Krampus*. The film stars Adam Scott and Toni Collette and is scheduled to be released on December 4th.

The season of celebration is soon to be upon us, so it's never too early to plan out your parties. Finish your turkey and wake up ready to tackle the real holiday, the big one, and do it better. Whatever happens this holiday season, be safe and make sure you are not on Krampus' naughty list.

## Stuff their stockings! Market of Choice Gift Cards

This holiday season, show you care with gift cards to spend at their favorite Market. For students and those who seem to have it all, they make perfect gifts. It's a delicious way to say, "Happy Holidays."

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# NO MORE SECRET SANTA!

## ALTERNATIVE IDEAS FOR GIFT GIVING

Story by Hunter Shannon | Photo by Cecilia Nelson





*Secret Santa seems to be the staple “friend” gift-giving trend. Every year, offices, families, roommates and holiday gift givers alike partake in the same boring ritual of choosing a budget, picking a name out of a hat and buying a present for that said name. With the holiday season right around the corner, wouldn't it be nice to find a different way of showing just how much you cared? Without completely breaking the bank (or your creative ability), here are a few new ways of spreading the monetary holiday cheer.*

### *Rainboot Swap*

Let's face it, everyone who lives in the Pacific Northwest needs a pair of rubber boots. And to give an homage to the Northern European traditions of St. Nicholas stuffing the shoes of good Scandinavian children, why not do the same? Have your friends write down their shoe size and name, put them in a hat, close your eyes (for those of you who have a hard time with getting from A to B) and pick that mate whom you'll be supplying with a nice, new, shiny pair of rubber shoes. If you want to extend the price point, fill the boots with wrapped goodies.

### *Jingler*

To keep the holiday cheer continuing from friend to friend, make a Jingler: a reusable bag that is filled with goodies and a note saying, “Enjoy the treats, then refill the bag and leave it on someone else's door – anonymously.” Be creative, choose a theme for your bag of swag, have fun and make sure they don't catch you when you bless their doorknob with gifts!

### *Yankee Swap Re-Gifter*

Everyone has at least one gift from the year before that they haven't used, forgotten to return and has been gathering an incredible amount of grime in the back of their closet. Take out that neglected gift from your Aunt Beatrice, dust it off, rewrap it and convince your friends to do a gift exchange.

### *Cookie Exchange*

For the budding Martha Stewarts and Gordon Ramseys of the world, creating a batch of your favorite holiday cookies to exchange with your friends can be an inexpensive and creatively-competitive way to enjoy the winter festivities. For those of you who are not baking inclined, buy some cookies at Barry's and pass them off as your own. Why not? No one will ever know.

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# THE “BAE” GUIDE TO GIFTING

Story by Gretchen Henderson | Photo by Amanda Shigeoka

As fall fades into winter and the cups at Starbucks turn to red, the holidays are approaching. Like it or not, gift giving is a main part of the festivities. Whether cuffing season has left you with a new “bae” or you’re in a long-term relationship, you are probably feeling confused on how to give gifts. We’ve all eye-rolled at the couples who over-exaggerate their commitment to each other and drop over \$100 on their significant other – of one week – during the holidays. Don’t blow your last paycheck. Realize that a one-month bae does not need a Michael Kors wallet.

## *One Month*

This is the honeymoon phase and you’re loving the “good morning” texts and acts of random kindness. Key words for a holiday gift should be thoughtful and cheap. Keep in mind that this relationship is brand new and may not last, so don’t empty out your savings account. Catch a movie at the Bijou and go to dinner at Beppe & Gianni’s. Split the check and/or split events so you both are paying equal parts for the night’s activities. If you want to give a material gift, new Oregon swag would suffice. Your price range should stay under \$30.

## *Three months*

So you’re getting past the honeymoon phase and your significant other is becoming a part of your life. Show them how much you care by spicing up date night. For the 21-and-older crowd, head to Ninkasi Brewery and indulge in the food from the rotating food carts. You can then go to Blair Alley, Eugene’s only vintage arcade bar, which is right across the street. Also, restaurants like Izakaya Meiji Company or Grit in the Whitaker are more intimate and romantic without being too serious. End the night at the David Minor Theatre down the road and enjoy a movie snuggled together on their couches. Not 21? Sushi station never disappoints and you can stroll around 5th Street Market for holiday scenery.

## *Six months*

Okay, so your relationship is starting to get real – and you need to step up your holiday cheer. Concert tickets are an excellent choice. Keep a watchful eye on social media and StubHub to ensure that you can surprise your significant other with sweet seats. Material gifts can be more extravagant now. Keep the price around \$50 and add in a date night.

## One year

Your significant other is now a major part of your life. You can make plans and really be yourself. Show them how much you care by booking an overnight trip to the coast or to Portland. Stay in a trendy (but cheap) hotel and go out for dinner and drinks. A night out together will mean much more than a gift you stressed over. If your home bases are far from each other, book a trip to go visit them for a few days over break. This is also the point in the relationship where jewelry and extravagant gifts are acceptable. Keep the price under \$200 but shop wisely. Find something they will cherish. This isn't a gift for you, so keep their taste and preferences in mind. Asking your significant other's closest friend for help is a wise choice. Inexpensive ideas could be making a scrapbook of your year together, going camping, etc ...

### 1 MONTH: UNDER \$30

**CLOSET:** Oregon gear, Succulent assortment, Starbucks cup and gift card.

**OUTDOORS:** Hike Spencer's Butte and snap a cute picture at the top.

**OUT OF TOWN:** Wildlife Safari in Winston, OR.

**DATE NIGHT:** Beppe & Gianni's and a Movie, Meiji or Grit and David Minor Theatre.

### 3 MONTHS: \$0-\$50

**CLOSET:** Hydro Flask, Pendleton blanket, framed picture of the two of you.

**OUTDOORS:** Go on a Crater Lake Hike.

**OUT OF TOWN:** Trip to Portland, go to Saturday Market or find a good book at Powell's.

**DATE NIGHT:** Catch a show at Hult Center Performing Arts, then the Ninkasi tasting room.

### 6 MONTHS: \$0-\$100

**CLOSET:** Winter jacket, scarf mitten and beanie set from Mckenzie Outfitters.

**OUTDOORS:** Turn a holiday card photoshoot into a date and choose an adventurous location.

**OUT OF TOWN:** Growler bike tour.

**DATE NIGHT:** Concert tickets at Matt Knight, the Hult Center, and McDonald Theater.

### ONE YEAR: \$0-\$150

**CLOSET:** Jewelry, Hunter boots, anything Nike, scrapbook of your year together.

**OUTDOORS:** Daring? Take the plunge and go skydiving in Creswell, OR.

**OUT OF TOWN:** Go crabbing in Newport, OR, and bring it home to cook for a night in.

**DATE NIGHT 2IERS:** Rogue Brewers on the bay after crabbing!

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