

◆ SCOOP



CLARIFICATION

December: In Scoop, the byline for writer Elaine Vitone was omitted from "Pittsburgh Power Shopping," and the byline for writer Regina Vitti-Lyons was omitted from "Above Board."

Pittsburgh Personified: A Pleasant Present

Here's a great place to find gift solutions for your boss, co-worker, friend or even the bambino on your list (get the little squeaker a time capsule). This card/gift shop carries gobs of gourmet munchies. Mix them with anything in the store—gag gifts, bath and body goodies, calendars and such Pittsburghese novelties as "N@" shirts, hats, stickers and mugs—and the staff will wrap up a gift basket while you wait. A Pleasant Present, 2301 Murray Ave., Squirrel Hill; 412/421-7104, apleasantpresent.com.

PITTSBURGH POWER SHOPPING Seven Lucky Strikes

Tired of wandering the mall aimlessly with the rest of the last-minute masses? Here's a handy list of seven top-notch places where you can power-shop quickly and efficiently—no mall crawl required. >>>

PITTSBURGH POWER SHOPPING



Money Well Spent: Ten Thousand Villages

Fair-trade, handmade, eco-friendly gifts from 32 developing countries at surprisingly low prices (nonprofit = less markup) are found here. Your mom, sis and gal pals will love the gorgeous pottery, silk scarves, blankets, handbags, carvings, jewelry and papyrus stationery. Merchandise is arranged by theme, making browsing a breeze. 5824 Forbes Ave., Squirrel Hill; 412/421-2160, tenthousandvillages.com.



The Book Case: Jay's Book Stall

Stuck on those last-few, impossible-to-shop-for stumpers? Owner Jay Dantry says humor books are a safe bet. One to try: *The Rejection Collection: Cartoons You Never Saw, and Never Will See, in The New Yorker*, edited by Matthew Diffee. Short on time? Jay's delivers to Oakland and Squirrel Hill. Jay's Book Stall, 3604 Fifth Ave., Oakland; 412/683-2644.

Shopping Outside the Box: REI

We know what you're thinking: This outdoorsman's mecca is a no-brainer for your camping buddy, right? Sure, but don't forget this store also carries charcoal-free mini-grills for your tailgating dad, wrinkle-resistant clothing for your frequent-flying brother, pedometers for your New Year's-resoluting cronies, wrist-bound Global Positioning System gadgets for techies and hands-free flashlights for anyone who's ever had to fix a kitchen sink. REI, 412 S. 27th St., South Side; 412/488-9410, rei.com, rei.com/outlet

Bargain Bling: Culture Shop

Check out the distinctive and unbelievably affordable imported sterling-silver jewelry that the ladies in your life will love you for—plus ornaments, tapestries, paper lanterns, journals, frames and gift bundles of incense from India, Nepal, Thailand and Greece. Cozy up in the shop's colorful sweaters and scarves, get your yule on with icons and hand-painted papier-mâché ornaments, and ring in the new year with a bangle belly chain. The Culture Shop, 1602 1/2 E. Carson St., South Side; 412/481-8284.

PITTSBURGH POWER SHOPPING



Happy Hipsters: The Warhol Store

Got a Grinch on your list who's just too cool for Christmas? Get him a funky snow globe inspired by the guy who made canned soup hip. The gift shop at the Andy Warhol Museum also carries tons of great posters, bags and unisex T's perfect for off-center, kitsch-loving creative folk. And the Most Ironic Christmas Gift Award goes to: Andy's "As soon as you stop wanting something you get it" shirt. Andy Warhol Museum, 117 Sandusky St., North Shore; 412/237-8303, warholstore.com.

Music to Your Ears: Paul's Compact Discs

Here's a place that's sure to please any of your toe-tapping loved ones. Think wide-appeal new releases like *Modern Times*, the newest CD by Bob Dylan, or *The Crane Wife* by The Decemberists.

Billy Price's *East End Avenue* makes a great gift for local soul and blues fans.

And don't forget that in addition to a wide selection of CDs, Paul's also sells concert tickets for cool venues including Mr. Small's Theatre and Rex

Theatre, with no service charge. 4526 Liberty Ave., Bloomfield; 412/621-3256.

