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CANDLES AND ORNAMENTS

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Gifts for your gal range from roses to latest records

Analysis by Bill Allen

At McKenzie Pontiac in Omaha a 1983 full-equipped Trans Am lists for \$16,000 for \$17,000.

If that's a little more than you wanted to spend on your girlfriend this Christmas, perhaps you should consider shopping downtown Lincoln.

If the new saying, "the quickest way to a woman's heart is through her feet," is true, then perhaps a pair of shoes would better suit your wallet.

At Barker's Shoes at 1211 O St., a pair of shoes can range from as low as \$25 for some house brands to \$40 for some of the popular brand names like Dexter. The store also offers handbags for under \$20.

A random survey of several UNL women showed that the most practical gift and popular gift a woman can receive is clothes. Sweaters seem to be a popular item, according to sales clerks in two Lincoln stores.

At The Closet, in the Gunny building, 245 North 13th St., sweaters range from \$25 to \$30. If you're looking for something more, the store also sells leather coats ranging from \$79 to \$96.

At Plum Creek clothing in the Centrum Plaza, 1111 O St., a sales clerk told me sweaters were a nice item for men to buy women because it's easier to get the correct fit.

So unless your girlfriend's name is Cinderella and you are Prince Charming perhaps a sweater would be better than the shoes.

Sweaters at Plum Creek range from \$20 to \$30.

The Bath Fair in the Centrum offers a variety of gift sets, ranging from \$5 to \$24, depending on size. The sets contain decorative bath clothes, scented bath perfumes and soaps.

If the girl on your Christmas list is afraid of the dark the Bath Fair also offers decorative night lights from \$11 to \$23.

If these prices are still a little out of your range, or even in another state, or if you've only known the girl a short time, like since last night, maybe you should head for a record store.

At the Record Shop, also in the Centrum, one top-10 LP costs \$7.99.

If you've known the girl an even shorter time or just don't believe in spending large amounts of money on anyone but yourself, a Christmas card might be your best bet. Cards range from a low, low of 40 cents to a high of \$3.25.

For the hopeless romantic, there is always the dozen red roses. Prices at downtown stores range from \$16 to \$30.

The thing about roses is they only last a few days. Which is probably longer than most relationships, but that's another story.

If you are looking for something more lasting several jewelry stores, including Brodkey's Jewelers in the Centrum, and Sartor Hamann Jewelry at 1150 O St., offer diamonds, which last forever, like you account with them will.

These stores also offer several lower priced elegant gifts, like gold-plated bracelets and key chains ranging from \$9.95 to \$24.

Just remember, guys, it's the thought that counts, but the presents that cost. So if you want to keep her through next semester, you better leave the thinking to Aristotle, and buy that sweater.

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