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OPENS FRIDAY, APRIL 30TH AT A THEATRE NEAR YOU

Good gifts either useful or fun
 But greenbacks are appreciated most by poor degree winners

By Sam Kepfield
 Staff Reporter

So you want a Ferrari for graduation? Or maybe your own home entertainment system? Forget it. That's why you're going to college — so you can get a job, work 60 hours a week and buy your own car or stereo.

But since you have managed to survive four, or five, or six years of college, you deserve some token of gratitude from your parents, who probably made it all possible. If you've been going to college for more than six years, you owe them something. Nothing expensive; just seeing you in a cap and gown will suffice.

For those who are looking for presents, or looking for a tactful way to ask their parents for gifts (the price tags on which do not exceed their annual income), here are a few hints: Gifts can be divided into two categories. First, there are the practical things your parents will buy you if you don't give them hints.

For those who are getting M.B.A.s or J.D.s and have somehow managed to survive thus far without, attache cases or portfolios are a natural pick.

Any business or office equipment store (such as Latsch's) will carry them. Vinyl attaches are in the \$30-\$60 range; leather models begin around \$100 running up to \$200. Portfolios are similarly priced, with vinyl models beginning at \$40, leather at \$70-\$80.

Pen sets, the favorite of grandparents everywhere, nonetheless have their uses. Prices vary, depending on whether they are gold or chrome-plated. (Gold means they love you and that you've been dutiful in writing "thank you" notes so far.) Desk pads, pen holders, clocks or even lamps can add finishing touches to that first office without breaking the bank.

If you're less utilitarian, you might want to check out shops like the Albino Rhino (101 N. 14th St.). They carry some office furnishings, such as a Putt Pro Golf Set for that Masters champion inside screaming to get out, for only \$99.95.

Or, if you want to take a page from Ronald Reagan's book and feed your sweet tooth, a large jar of Jelly Belly jelly beans can be purchased for \$11.95.

Not lucky enough to rate an office? Have the folks buy one of the hottest

gifts this season: a Trap Ball set. It's a trampoline-like device and by snapping a net you can send balls or water balloons into the air for only \$19.95.

Maybe you're a little more cerebral and would enjoy the "Cheers" Trivia Game for only \$29.95; better get that monster beer mug to go with it for \$9.95.

For music, grab a Del Amitri or Pearl Jam CD out of your new 5-foot high CD Tower, which sells for \$69.95. If you have to get up at the crack of dawn and stumble around in a dark studio apartment, a pair of night slippers, complete with headlights, helps avoid those barked shins.

But the best gift of all — the one that keeps on giving — is cash. Parents, who have financed four-plus years of college already, may balk at further handouts; then again, they may consider it a small price to get you out of their hair. You may be lucky enough to have many relatives who are actually interested in your progress and see fit to send a small token of congratulations. They can dress it up in a "Money Shirt" instead of the traditional card. Don't expect to see Ben Franklin's face smiling up at you, though.

Abroad

Continued from Page 7

Despite the marketable gains to be made studying abroad, perhaps the most important aspect of it is the gain

in cultural understanding one attains. "It's not essential to travel abroad, but it is essential to understand other cultures," Schurke said.

Dahm said multiculturalism is the future of this country and its under-

standing is crucial to getting along in a progressing society.

"There is an importance in having a global perspective," Dahm said. "We're not sitting alone on an island anymore."