

For Knowledge

and

By Gwen Tietgen

Staff writer

Graduation brings with it uncertainty, opportunity and of course, gifts.

Money tops many graduates' wish lists, though luggage, housewares and keepsakes are also popular.

Karen Kumm, a senior theater performance major, said the most useful gift she could receive would be money and a plane ticket.

"I'm going to Florida a week after graduation to have spring break. Finally," Kumm said.

"I've been so busy preparing for graduation that work hasn't been a priority, so getting money would be nice."

Katie Liquori, a senior communication studies major, said she is expecting to get money.

"Most of my family lives on either coast, so I think it would be hard for them to send me anything else," Liquori said.

"I just want money."

Phyllis Spence, a merchandise assistant for JC Penney department store, said JC Penney recently expanded its registry system to include graduation gifts instead of just wedding and baby gifts.

Spence said JC Penney

doesn't currently have any graduation registries. "From my experience, the most popular gift is luggage, rather than appliances or gifts for the home," Spence said.

At Things Remembered in the Gateway Mall, Laurie De La Cruz, sales teammate, said a graduation blanket throw has been this year's most popular item.

"You can get your name on it and your school's name," De La Cruz said. "The only color it comes in is red and black, and that is why it has been fairly popular with the university this year."

De La Cruz said Things Remembered sold six graduation throws Wednesday.

Inside Morrow's Hallmark, one section is dedicated to graduation frames, stuffed animals and year 2000 memorabilia.

Jessica Curtis, assistant manager of Morrow's Hallmark, said earlier in the year, they sold a lot of class-of-2000 items.

"The graduation frames are really popular," Curtis said. "A lot of students buy inspirational plaques for one another."

Danita Howe, a sales associate for The Market, in Gateway Mall, said the main items they

sell are Boyds Bear figurines.

"We also sell a lot of candles for graduation," Howe said. "They always seem to be a popular gift."

Tammi Schaaf, a sales associate for The Market, said the major-oriented figurines are also popular.

"We have computer bears for computer majors, teacher bears for education majors and medical ones for medical majors," she said.

Schaaf said the week before graduation is when the store starts running low on graduation-themed items.

"Most people are last-minute shoppers," Schaaf said.



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