

Cheapskates and Pennypinchers

a special Beacon series for the budget-minded and cent friendly student

This week: budgeting yo' Benjamins on clothing

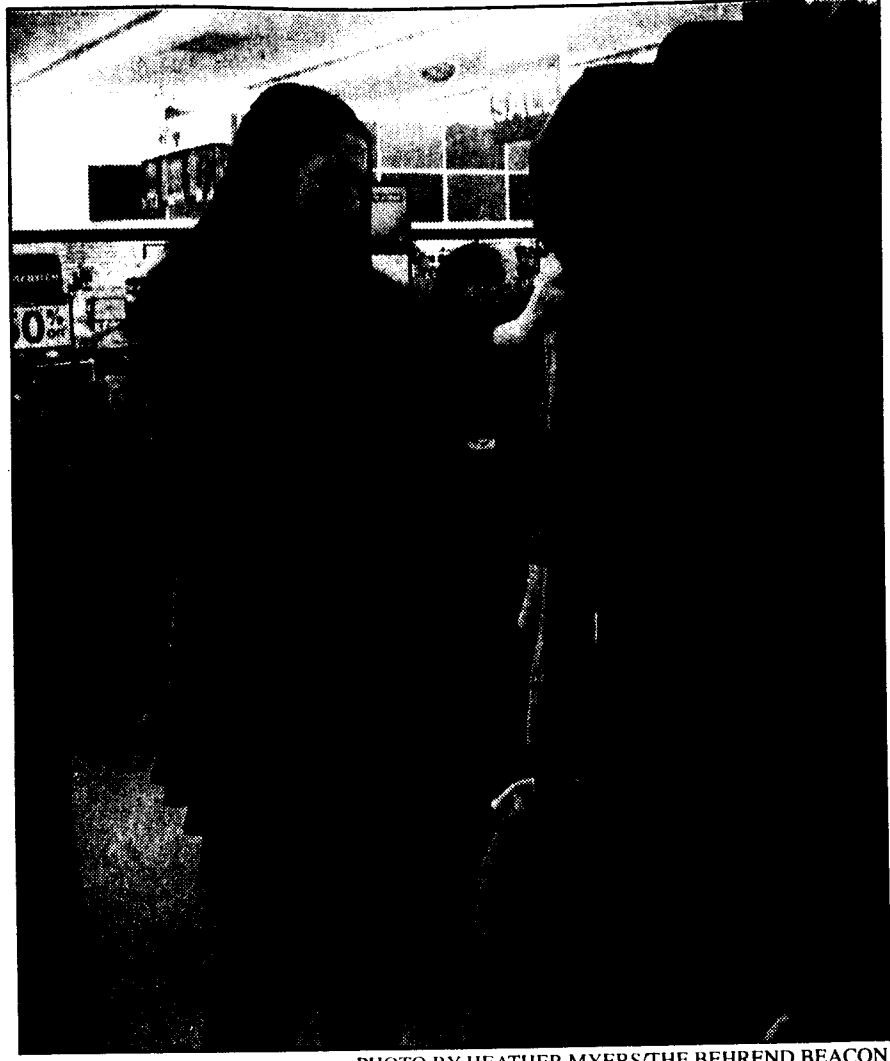


PHOTO BY HEATHER MYERS/THE BEHREND BEACON Mindy Schwartz takes a look at merchandise at Value City Department Store. More college students are now looking for stores that satisfy their taste in style without paying extra for it.

by Rebecca Weindorf managing editor

Shopping on a budget can be a real bumper, especially when you live in Erie.

Lots of students want variety and style without paying extra. But do students actually know where to find the deals that satisfy their tastes in style and still keep a few extra bucks for the weekend?

For this week's 'Cheapskates and Pennypinchers' series, you'll find the ultimate guide to clothes shopping on a budget in Erie. Take out your notebook and pencils, ladies and gentlemen. You won't find all the stores at the Millcreek Mall.

the shirts at Hot Topic, but usually you can find the same stuff at Value City for a better price.

Salvation Army seemed to be a popular choice among students, but a few admitted that while the deals are great, they wouldn't shop there. Sometimes the styles can be outdated and students have to sort through several items before finding something they like.

Although there are great money-saving secrets at the mall, students like Kevin Hall (02/DUS) toured upper Peach Street to get their deals.

"Usually I'll shop at Kohl's because it's not very expensive there," said Hall. Kevin Schreengost, an eighth semester MIS student, decided that the best price is found through hours of thorough research.

"I always look for sales," Schreengost said. "But mostly I do my shopping at the mall."

Stores like Target and Wal-Mart have large clothing sections geared at youth, from middle school through college. Dusters, flare jeans, fur-lined denim jackets and stylish accessories grace their racks at a fraction of the cost. Even DSW Shoe Warehouse offers a Burlington-style warehouse with just...well, shoes.

Actuarial Sciences major Debbie Schmitt agrees that she can also get good deals at the mall and neighboring plaza on Interchange Road.

"I usually shop at Target, but I also like to check out Wal-Mart and rue21," Schmitt said. "I probably go shopping every two to three weeks or so." (rue21, located at the Millcreek Mall, used to be the Stock Room.)

But what if there really isn't two pennies in a pocket to rub together? Some students, like Andrew Frizzell (06/COMMU) and Jon Romanelli (02/ME), both wait for others to buy clothing for them. At least it's free, right?

"I'll wait until the holidays and my birthday to get clothes," Romanelli said.

It looks like the campus is full of budget-savvy shoppers. Students are seen shopping the aisles at midnight at Wal-Mart instead of checking out Abercrombie and Fitch's svelte shelltops. These are the stores where students like to shop best - sometimes, one word was all it took.

"Gabe's," said Elliott Dean, a fourth semester Marketing major. Gabe's (known as Gabriel's) is located in the West Erie Plaza at 12th & Pittsburgh Avenue and offers discount clothing (think slightly upscale Value City.)

Christy Byers, 04/Elementary Education, agreed on Gabe's and added her own preferences to the list.

"I'll definitely shop at Value City or Salvation Army," Byers said. "I like

"That way I don't have to go shopping. Actually, everything I have on right now is free!"

"My sister shops at Salvation Army, but I like to shop at the mall," Frizzell said. "I also usually ask for clothing for Christmas or my birthday."

Second semester students Stella Kim and Evie Johnson both have a variety of places they like to shop. Johnson prefers some of the higher-priced boutiques compared to other stores such as Rave, which offers stylish party gear (think lots of skimpy clothes and low-slung jeans with sparkles, rivets, fringes, and fur) at lower prices.

"Well, I'm not exactly on a budget, I'm on my father's," Johnson said with a laugh. "My favorite place is Wet Seal, but I also like Old Navy, Gap, and

Weathervane." Kim agrees that those are her favorite place to shop.

"Gap, Old Navy, and American Eagle," she said. "I like Aeropostale too. But you can find great deals [from those stores] online, too. That's definitely where the better deals are. And I found that there's a larger range of sizes online - you don't go into a store and see size 20s."

And what good is a budget when you can't spend it? Most of the students had their own transportation, but some rely on others to help out...a little.

"I don't have a car, but my friends will usually take me," Kim said.

"Does my boyfriend's car count? I drive around with him," said Johnson.

For more information

All right ladies, let's admit it. We shop more than men do. And the weather just isn't cooperating for a fun jaunt to the mall. So as a treat to our sometime unexplainable and impulsive buying habits, here are three cool websites that should fit every female's budget and style tastes:

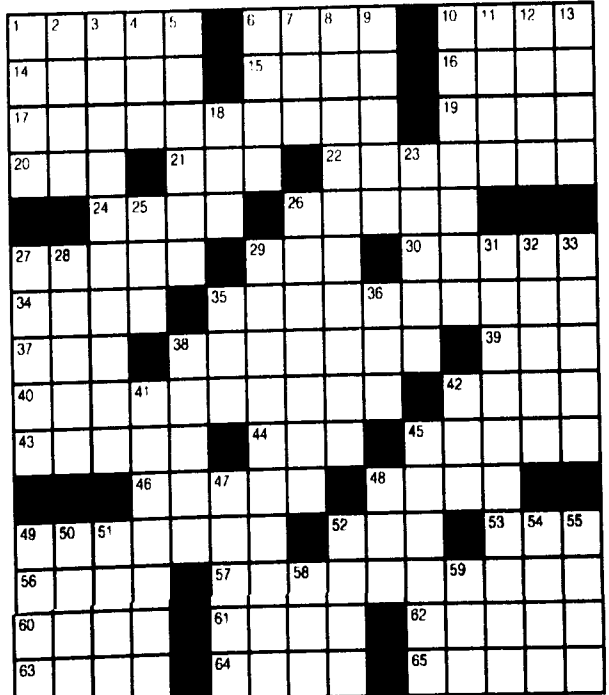
www.catchingthebutterfly.com: Do you like vintage...real vintage, that is? This site is full of clothing under \$40 with one of a kind accessories, dresses, shirts, even home décor. Look closely before you choose: there's both chintzy and chic-y, so make sure you take advantage of browsing before buying. Since it's one of a kind shopping, you can probably figure out the problem: one size only. Have someone take your measurements (bust, waist and hips for ladies; shoulder, chest, and waist for men) before browsing.

www.dELiAs.com: The styles are fun, flirty, and just plain cute. Most of their spring styles are selling for much cheaper than some local stores at the Millcreek Mall, so even their regularly priced stuff can help stretch your college dollars a little bit further. The swimwear is a bit, ah, skimpy, because you have to be pretty damn small to squeeze into them, and it's always risky to order swimwear or lingerie by the Internet (unless you're absolutely sure of your size.) Wait until summer for the sales at the mall. It will be bunches cheaper.

www.laredoute.com: La Redoute is a partner company with Lerner New York (a Lerner charge account will work with this company). This site has everything: party gear, dresses, shoes, lingerie, outerwear, and swimwear. Plus, for the career-oriented woman, La Redoute offers plenty of basic suits and separates in a variety of colors. Think of a suit jacket for \$40 or straight leg slacks for \$30 - you can't get those prices at The Limited. And it is guaranteed you will need more than one basic black suit - what will you wear to that second interview?

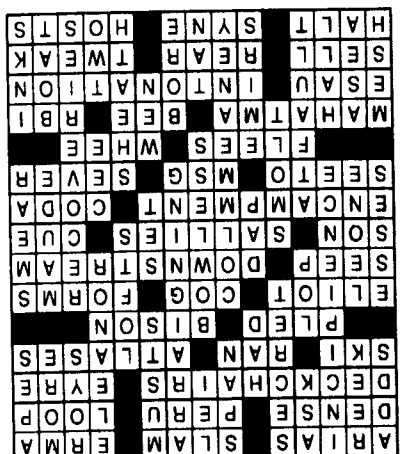
Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Opera songs
6 Bridge coup
10 Columnist Bombeck
14 Thickheaded
15 Incas' home
16 Circle
17 Cruising perches
19 Bronte heroine
20 Schuss
21 Flowed
22 Bound map collections
24 Begged
26 American buffalo
27 "The Waste Land" poet
29 Gear tooth
30 Creates
34 Ooze
35 Current direction
37 Father's boy
38 Witty quips
39 Stage signal
40 Bivouac
42 Concluding passage
43 Take care of
44 NYC arena
45 Lop off
46 Absconds
48 Shout of joy
49 Honoric for Gandhi
52 Speller's test
53 Hitter's stat.
56 Jacob's twin
57 Timbre
60 Peddle
61 Back part
62 Fine-tune
63 Sentry's command
64 "Auld Lang ..."
65 Emcees
DOWN
1 Throws in
2 Powerful stink
3 Beginning
4 Query
5 Hush-hush
6 Oxen pair
7 Luau loop
8 Calling to answer charges
9 Absolute requirements
10 Mrs. Roosevelt
11 Acuff and Rogers
12 Additional amount
13 Simians
18 I've \_\_\_ it with you!
23 Garrets
25 Cut off
26 Like an untied ribbon
27 Slalom turns
28 Sierra
29 "Star Trek: Deep space Nine" co-star
31 Salvage operations
32 Bea Arthur sitcom
33 Sling mud
35 One way to fish
36 Clique
38 Young salmon
41 To blame
42 Average grade
45 Tight-fitting



© 2003 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

Solutions



- dress
51 Passageway
52 Dullard
54 Punt or junk
55 Squid squirts
58 Sunbather's aim
59 Tango team
47 Middle Eastern rulers
48 Sebaceous cyst
49 Webwork
50 Toward open waters

What some girls really want

by Lyndsey Boor staff writer

The countdown has begun. There is only one week until the big day o'love! I have to admit I feel sorry for the guys. Times have changed and women spend quite a lot of money for Valentine's Day now, too, but I think the guys suffer the most from this Hallmark holiday.

For the gentlemen buying for that certain someone, the pressure is on for them to be unique, sincere, and above all romantic. Women aren't too difficult to shop for on Valentine's Day. You have your usual choice of flowers, jewelry, perfume, candy and dinner. All of those things are nice and the ladies will sure appreciate it, but what if the men are sick of the same old thing? The guy can't just go up to a girl and ask her what she wants. There has to be an element of surprise.

"I would just like a hug and a smile, that's all. A massage would be nice too," said second semester freshman Nina Zinger.

Atheia Mobley said she wouldn't mind staying home on Valentine's Day, either.

"I guess [I would like] just a whole night together. I would just like to stay in and watch movies and whatever," said Mobley, a sixth semester Communications major.

If that's too low key then head down to the Millcreek Mall and buy some nice soft scented candles and light them around the room. Instead of heading to a four-star restaurant try cooking a meal yourself and eating it by candlelight. If you can't

cook, then set the table instead: Olive Garden has pickup. Just remember to get rid of the cartons before she gets there.

Most girls are suckers for flowers and they can't help it. But we do realize that flower shops rip the guys off for \$24.99 for a dozen roses. Are they made of gold or what?

Gentlemen, sometimes just a single rose or two is more romantic than a dozen. Buying just a single rose and laying it on her dinner plate or sneaking it into her room and putting it on her pillow will win her over. If you can't do the flowers, go online and make some paper ones from origami patterns using different colored paper. My boyfriend did this for me when he was still in college and broke, and it melted my heart. Remember it is the thought that counts but you have to be suave about it!

Sometimes humor is the way to a girl's heart. There's a fine line between humor and being stupid, but if a guy can pull it off and know the girl will like, it then go for it!

"Saturday Night Live Best of Mike Myers DVD. You get to my heart through humor," said fourth semester History major Erin Welden.

Not all girls want a romantic and mushy Valentine's Day. If a girl is a big sports fan, then a pair of tickets to a game can be a lot of fun.

"A hug and a smile would be nice, and tickets to the monster truck rally too!" Zinger said.

The Erie Otters have games on Feb. 15 and 16. What could be better than heading down to Tullio

Arena, sitting next to your girl, drinking beer, and watching guys beat each other senseless on the ice? Nothing says love like a slap shot.

Tickets are only \$8 or \$10 depending on where you sit, and later you can warm each other up if you get cold!

If you've been with a girl for awhile and you're looking to spend the big bucks on jewelry, there are a couple of things to remember.

Make sure she's not allergic to gold, silver, or platinum and know what she likes. It is possible to pick out ugly jewelry. If Valentine's Day happens to be the big day that you are proposing, make sure that you know what kind of diamond she likes and you don't need a microscope to see it. She has to wear the ring for the rest of her life so make it good. Living in a cardboard box for a couple of years will be worth it!

For those guys who are buying something for a crush, remember to go easy at first. You don't want to spend \$50 to have a girl give you the "let's just be friends" line. Getting a girl a few flowers and a card would be good to start off with.

Now some of us don't have significant others, but that doesn't mean you have to run around campus in a mask, ripping balloons and flowers out of people's hands. Burning a figure of cupid outside your building won't help, either. Grab some of your single friends and if you are twenty one, head to the bars. You can love your beer!

Make Valentine's Day fun and drink to the day o' love!