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Gift box

By Joy Kraft
 Enquirer staff writer

Dress up with a bit of fluff

This wispy fluff of marabou can transform a winter-weary coat, hat, sweater or blouse into party-worthy dressing - or even fill in a daring décolletage for the more-modest style mavens. Fastened to a campaign-style button-back, it easily pins to clothing or fastens to a barrette to highlight holiday curls. We found a basket of color-shot combinations labeled "Pouffie Pins" at the Gift Box, Mount Lookout Square, \$12.95. We also spotted mini-versions at Michaels' stores for about \$3.

Stock up on stuffers

Join the high-rollers for the holidays. At www.oneshare.com you can buy a single share of stock in hundreds of companies from DreamWorks (\$10 off this month) to Tiffany & Co., Playboy, eBay, Martha Stewart and more. It's \$39 plus the cost of one share of stock. The certificates are 8 1/2-by-11-inch works of art often engraved with the company's symbols (DreamWorks has Shrek peeking up from the bottom) and framing is available at the site for an extra charge. Order by Friday for the full-size certificate and by Dec. 22 for a miniaturized gift-card delivered by Christmas. (888) 777-6919.

Carry big sound from a little MP3

If a personal music player is waiting to take a bow



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under your tree, this Digital Sound Bag can be the encore.

The mini music box slips into the bag's interior pocket and plugs into speakers for a backpack of big sound. The 10-by-3-by-12-inch pack has a clear window for control access, Velcro closures and a strap that adjusts to 45 inches. In blue, orange or white.

\$70 at www.redenvelope.com, (877) 733-3683.

Moerlein taps into cornhole craze

Christmas without cornhole? No way. What do you think the elves do when they knock off for the night? Sip Perrier and play poker?

Since Christian Moerlein has declared itself "The Official Beer of Cornhole," we're betting Santa's sack is stuffed with dozens of regulation Christian Moerlein sets with two faux wood plank finish boards and eight 1-pound sacks in two team colors. \$99.

Click on the Moer store at www.christianmoerlein.com.

Light up the night with toes

Sneaking to the kitchen for a midnight snack will never be the same if you've got Bright Feet Lighted Slippers. The plush slippers with nonskid soles are each powered by an LED light that is weight activated when you step, illuminating an area 20 feet ahead. And when you slip them off, a built-in timer delays the light shut-off to give you time to get under the covers. Men's and women's sizes. \$39.95. Four lithium batteries included. At J.C. Penney and www.brightfeetslippers.com.

Deck the halls with football heroes

Here's a stuffer sure to knock the socks off the Who-Dey crowd - Cincinnati Football Heroes playing cards from our own Parody Productions, downtown. Each deck of poker-sized, casino-quality cards features 52 players by position and era in Bengals football history, including Max Montoya, Anthony Munoz, Boomer Esiason, Cris Collinsworth, Carson Palmer, Chad Johnson, Jon Kitna and Mike Reid. \$9.95 plus handling at www.herodecks.com (other teams available), or by calling (513) 929-0019.

Also at the Gift Box, Cardboard Heroes, Cappel's, Ann's Hallmark, Provident Camera, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, I Love Sports and other gift shops.

High-tops in high style

Finally, a shoe with enough comfort - and glamour - for any holiday party or soiree - the Converse Chuck Taylor All Stars in silver and gold, part of the All Star Specialty Premium Collection. These high-top or low-cut oxford sneakers have the classic Chuck lines but have been infused with glam metallic leather uppers for the season. Think of the statement they'll make with a classic tux or peeking out from a glitzy ballgown. And they'll definitely take your hoodie-and-jeans to another level. \$85-\$95. Urban Outfitters in Clifton Heights has the gold. Check at www.converse.com or stores that sell Converse.

A legal twist on holiday tunes

Lawyers should have a sense of humor, what with all the jokes circulating at their expense. "You Don't Wanna Cross Santa," the third CD of "allegedly-humorous" law-related rock 'n' roll songs composed,

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performed and produced by attorney Lawrence Savell includes the title song that details the pitfalls of an aggressive litigation strategy against St. Nick and "Billin' on Christmas Eve" described as a ballad. Clips of the silly songs and information on two previous CD albums "Legal Holiday" (with "Bill Those Hours," a parody of "Jingle Bells") and "The Lawyer's Holiday Humor Album" (with "Let 'Em Sue," a parody of "Let It Snow"), can be heard at www.lawtunes.com. New, two-song CD, \$3.99; album CDs \$16.99, all plus handling.

Keep an eye out for Spudtroopers

First Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head expanded their Hasbro family tree to include Darth Tater in a salute to the "Star Wars" films. But the mighty one needs some back-up, even on the Dark Side. Now he has the Spudtrooper in full stormtrooper regalia including laser masher, helmet, teeth, nose and appropriate vegetable appendages. \$7.99 at toy stores.

Sing-along carols help you make a joyful noise

Just the antidote for the iPod addict.

"Christmas Song Sing-Along Carioke" (\$15.95, Workman Press) with a CD and a book of 17 sing-along carols, activities, Christmas history, lore and trivia about the songs and season isn't for every family.

But if your group is in tune and you promise to use it only in December, it'll make the miles fly all the way to Grandma's house.

Just so nobody feels left out, there are three extra booklets of lyrics for backseat warblers. At bookstores.

Toddlers sleep well with Tagz

Stuffed Animal Crackers in Cheviot is the place to hunt down hard-to-find plush animals. I even found a snake in the soft-touch menagerie managed by Amanda Hazlett. But on a recent visit it was the Tagz made by her mom that caught my eye. The cloud-soft fleece squares (about 17 by 17 inches) and travel-size circles are bordered with satiny tags that toddlers find so comforting to rub against their cheeks when sleepy. \$9.95-\$19.95. 3627 Glenmore Ave. Open Thursday through Saturday and Monday night. (513) 662-6200.

Dig this! A plant that speaks to you

Looking for a gift that says "I Love You" but lasts longer than chocolates or flowers? You might want to consider the Amazing Message Plant. It comes in a 3 1/2-inch aluminum barrel with a pop top. Just add a cup of water, let it seep through and in about seven to 10 days - with a little sunlight - the plant pops up with your love note on the leaves. A clever desk-top reminder that will last for about six months - if you have a green thumb. \$9.95 plus handling at www.message-plant.com or (888) 416-4722.

Charming little trinkets

These little charms by Ganz can carry a mighty message for the one you love. Just pop the top and slip in your mini mash note, prayer, poem - or proposal - so she can keep it close to her heart. Each comes with a little poem. \$2.99 each at Gilson's, where engraving is not a lost art and gift-wrapping is on the house. At Kenwood Towne Centre. (513) 891-0730.

Create a Warhol-iday work of art

You might not have the face - or the body - of Eva Longoria (Gabrielle on "Desperate Housewives"), but you can have the Warhol-like portrait just like the one in her character's living room. And you can get it in time for the holidays if you snap to it.

Photowow.com will turn you, your pet or your children into a masterpiece for \$138-\$321 in less than two

weeks. You choose the size, image number and one of the 40-plus styles - from cubism to watercolor - along with color combinations, texture and framing, and they show you what it will look like. It prints on canvas or semi-gloss paper. www.photowow.com.



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