

AD: The Third Coast Festival presents the amazing BBC Radio Ballads at the Old Town School! Oct. 12, 7pm [?]

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GAPERS ★ ★ ★ ★ BLOCK

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Holiday Gift Guide 2005

By Gapers Block staff

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It's the week before Christmas — and the week before Hanukkah and Kwanzaa, too! — which means that if you have approximately 144 to 168 hours to finish your holiday shopping. In case you're still having trouble finding those last few items on your list, members of the staff of Gapers Block have compiled a list of some of their favorite places for gift shopping.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR(S)

Gapers Block staffers **Shylo Bisnett, Veronica Bond, Cinnamon Cooper, Nathan Grotte, Jennifer Haffner, Anne Holub, Alice Maggio, Matthew Peck, Brian Sobolak** and **Michelle Taransky** contributed to this article.

Paper Doll

1747 W. Division St.

773-227-6950

Special Holiday Hours:

Monday through Friday: 11am to 7pm

Saturday: 11am to 6pm

Sunday: 11am to 5pm

It's hard to say whether it's the comprehensive collection of cards for every occasion or the resident pug Maud that keeps West Siders coming to **Paper Doll**. One thing's for sure, owners and sisters Stacy and Kelly Swett know how to choose and display irresistibly cute items. This Division Street shop carries tiny (and inexpensive) curiosities to stash in your purse in case of a gift-giving emergency like Sniffs tissues, flashcards from KnockKnock (covering such topics as slang, sex and therapy), and cheeky bath products from Blueq (choose from Boss Lady, Miso Pretty, Dirty Girl and Mullet themes). There's nothing more satisfying than buying the men on your lists stuff from girly shops like this; Paper Doll carries *The World Beard and Mustache Championships* and a well-designed, practical bottle opener and carabiner. The Swetts say their dolls from **Kamibashi's** String Doll Gang (made from a single string) are one of the season's biggest sellers. Members of the Gang include Gossip Girl, Joe Ninja, Lover Boy and Collin the Pirate. My favorite find: a "Friend of Maud" dog shirt in trendy ringer-tee style.

-Michelle Taransky

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