



HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

WHAT TO BUY

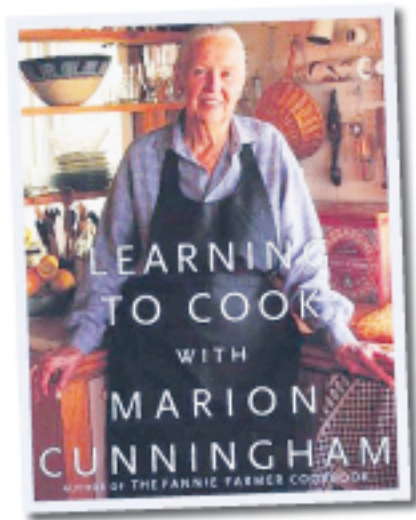
YOUNG ADULTS



▲ **Walleye tickets** — Hockey night in Toledo is a unique experience at the Huntington Center and something that everyone should experience at least once. It's also an ideal outing for young people looking for a night out and is a fun idea for someone who lives in Toledo or a cool diversion for someone who is attending college elsewhere and is home for winter break. www.toledowalleye.com or the Huntington Center box office, 500 Jefferson Ave.



▲ **Gas card** — It's not exactly going to wow the recipient, but when you're not making much money or you have to drive 120 miles back and forth to college, a gas card can go a long way toward easing the financial burden. Whether it's for someone in their 20s who has to drive to and from work everyday or someone home on break, the gas card can be the difference between going stir-crazy and having some fun. **Speedway, BP, Sunoco.**



▲ **Cookbook** — Don't laugh. It might seem like your young adult nieces and nephews survive on a diet of fast food and beer, but the reality is that this is the time in life when a lot of people are beginning their first forays into cooking. With that in mind, a copy of **The Joy of Cooking** is a can't miss option or you could try **Learning to Cook** with Marion Cunningham, a how-to tome that explains things like chopping onions and scrambling eggs. **Barnes and Noble, Books-A-Million, Ukazoo.**



▲ **Fashion** — We asked our expert fashion maven, i.e. a 21-year-old woman who keeps track of what's in style, and she offered three quick suggestions for the young woman on your list: Infinity scarves, riding boots, and colored jeans. These are guaranteed to put a smile on the face of your favorite young woman. **Jeans, \$20-\$70 Westfield Franklin Park, Shops at Fallen Timbers, and Levis Commons.**

College-age men and women are going through transitions. They're settling into dorms or apartments, working low-paying jobs, trying to figure out how to stretch a dollar, and generally scrambling to take care of all the things their parents used to handle for them. Which means they're always straddling the line between the need for practical things to get by and frivolous stuff they wouldn't otherwise purchase. With that in mind, here are a few easy gift ideas.

— Rod Lockwood



▲ **iPhone 5** — It's thin, it's light, it's fast and it's cool. And if you survey just about anyone in their late teens or 20s, they want an iPhone 5 or other sexy new smart phones. Starting at about \$200, the phones might be budget busters, but if you're looking for that one perfect gift and you're ready to splurge, this is a guaranteed winner. **Verizon Wireless stores.**



▲ **Hoodies** — Let's face it, there is no more ubiquitous item of clothing for people in their late teens and early 20s than the hoodie. It's multi-faceted, you can use it to express your preference for your favorite college or pro sports team, and there's nothing more comfortable to lounge around in on a cold winter day. **\$35-\$55 The Andersons, Meijer, the Barnes and Noble at the University of Toledo.**



▲ **Cooking appliances** — One of the toughest things about setting out on your own is making sure you have the right kitchen tools to create comfort food and eat on a budget. Virtually everyone could benefit from things like a good crock pot, a panini maker, or a coffee maker. And there will be no excuses for why you can't have a cup of coffee and a hot sandwich next time you stop by to visit. **Walmart, The Andersons, Target, Meijer, Sears.**



▲ **House of Meats gift card** — This one's all about protein. When you set up apartment living, one of the ongoing concerns is having enough money for food. What could be better than a gift card to stock up on steak, hamburger, chicken, and other essentials that make the menu a lot less bleak? **Any House of Meats store in Toledo.**



▲ **Ear buds** — Think about how relieved your college-age son or daughter will be when, instead of complaining about constantly being plugged in, you give them a spare set of ear buds. They're always losing those things and whether you like it or not, headphones are an important accessory. **\$15 to \$100 Meijer, Target, The Andersons.**

Prices subject to change



▲ **Restaurant gift card** — Treating yourself to an excellent meal is a huge luxury for a young person skilled in the myriad ways that ramen noodles can be turned into a decent meal. So how about buying a gift card to the area's four Mancy's Restaurants so your 20something can splurge on the kind of meal he or she wouldn't normally be able to afford. You can get them at any local Mancy's restaurant or at mancys.com.