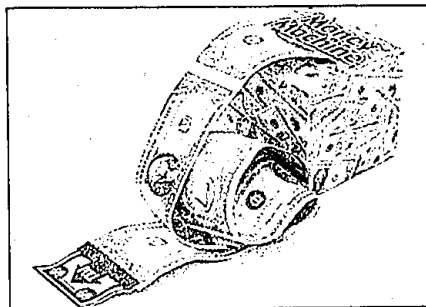


SHOPPING

Money Machine offers new way to give for all occasions



On a roll: The Money Machine offers a new way to give and receive money for special occasions.

The innovative, patent pending Money Machine cash dispenser from Michigan-based Unique Novelties offers a new and novel way to give and receive money for graduations and other occasions.

The Money Machine is a specially designed, slotted box perfect for inserting and dispensing any amount or combination of currency, coupons and gift certificates, linked together end-to-end using 3M's Scotch Brand Removable Tape, included with each purchase.

More than 5.2 million people will graduate from some form of learning institution between mid-April and mid-June, according to research by Hallmark.

The Class of 2002 will receive 67 million graduation cards, with the typical high school and

college graduate receiving between 7.5 and 17 cards, most with a monetary gift.

Until now, the only way to give money has been to place it in an envelope, card or traditional money holder. The Money Machine stands as a clever alternative.

The Money Machine is available at Thrifty Florist, select Hallmark stores and better stationery stores and retailers for \$4.95. Money-saving three-packs priced at \$9.95, which include three Money Machines and three rolls of the tape, are available for purchase on the Web at <http://www.themoneymachine.biz> or by calling toll-free (800) 894-0384.

The Money Machine is as much fun to give as it is to receive.

"Pull the tab and watch the fun begin," said Dale Wells, Money Machine inventor. "Just watch the recipient's eyes light up when you hand them a Money Machine and they proceed to pull out bill after bill!"

The Money Machine comes unassembled. Simply fold the box together at the top and bottom. Then tape the money together, end-to-end. Roll the bills up loosely and place them in the box. Tape the pull-tab to the first bill and thread it through the slot on the top.

A successful real estate developer by trade, Wells formed Unique Novelties to satisfy the kid in him and help market his Money Machine.

"Ten years ago or so when gift bags were introduced as an alternative to gift wrap, who would have thought they would become so widely used and accepted?" he said.

"The Money Machine is no different. My goal is to make the Money Machine the standard for giving money for all occasions!"

Olympic outfit



PHOTO BY JAMES H. MILLER OF PUBLICITY WORKS, INC.

Sporting style: Roots was the official outfitter for the Canadian and U.S. Olympic teams. Its store at 211 W. Maple in Birmingham, one of only seven in the country, carries Olympic T-shirts, sweat shirts, baseball hats, scarves, toiletry cases, berets (special order only), fleece, winter hats, long-sleeved T-shirts, photo albums, key chains, little wallets and luggage. The T-shirts range in price from \$36.95 to \$64.95. Polar fleeces range from \$59.95 to \$98. Hats are \$19.95.

Association launches scholarship competition

The Michigan Retailers Association has launched its college scholarship competition for the 2002-03 school year. At least 12 scholarships will be awarded to benefit MRA members and their employees.

To be eligible, the student applicant or the student's parent or guardian must be employed at a business that is a member of the MRA. The association has more than 5,800 retail business members that operate more than 12,000 stores across the state.

High school seniors and college freshmen, sophomores and juniors may apply. Scholarship amounts range from \$500 to \$1,000, depending on the type of college or university attended.

Awards aren't based on financial need.

The scholarships are funded by Michigan Retailers Foundation, a nonprofit educational organization established by the MRA. The competition is managed by Scholarship Program Administrators of Nashville, Tenn. Employees at MRA member businesses may contact their employer for an application request form or call scholarship program administrators at (615) 320-3149.

Applicants may also request an application online through MRA's Web site at www.mra.org (the access code is MIRA). Applications must be requested by March 15 and submitted by April 1.

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