

# It's Dad's turn



Josh Merwin / Chronicle

**Above:** Tom Head of Helicopter Services Inc. is offering Father's Day helicopter rides. **Below:** *The Lawn Bible* is perfect for a cutting-edge dad with a lawn.

FATHER'S DAY IS CLOSING IN — HERE ARE IDEAS FOR A GIFT HE MAY NOT EXPECT

By **LOUIS B. PARKS**  
Houston Chronicle

**I**T'S official: Father's Day 2003 has been declared a tie-free zone.

Surprise Dad this year by not giving that usual tie — or drill or comic barbecue apron.

Truth be told, Dad is probably less interested in the gift than in knowing you cared enough to put time and thought into finding it. If he thinks you tried hard to please him, he's going to be knocked out, whatever you buy.

However, even sentimental dads like getting really cool stuff. A National Retail Federation survey says consumers will spend an average of \$99.65 on Dad this year, about the cost of a midrange DVD player (hint, hint).

That's \$5 more than last year. In fact, it's \$2.28 more than they spent on Mom for Mother's Day.

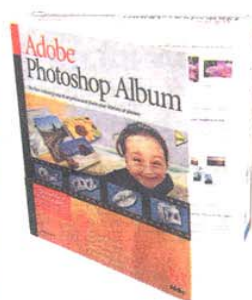
Not sure what to get the paternal parent this year? Here are a few ideas:

■ **Graeter's (mail order) ice cream; six pints; \$70, two-day delivery included.**

This is obviously special-event ice cream, both for price and taste. Richard Graeter, the fourth generation to make ice cream by the old French-pot method since 1870, says what makes his so special is that there is zero air in the product. "Nobody else makes it by the French-pot



It's not too late to order six pints of Graeter's ice cream to take care of Dad's sweet tooth.



E. Joseph Deering / Chronicle

Adobe Photoshop Album is a great way for Dad to keep his photos in order.



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The featherweight CapRadio easily clips to a ball cap or a shirt collar.

method," said Graeter. "I make the machines, and I don't sell them to anyone." It's made in Ohio, but mail orders make Texas the company's fourth-largest market. Order by today and it will be delivered Friday. (Or Thursday for Saturday delivery, for \$20 extra.) For info, go to [www.graeters.com](http://www.graeters.com) or call 800-721-3323.

■ **Pint Pal ice-cream holder; \$3.99.**

If Dad's a double-dipper who eats the whole carton of ice cream at one sitting, save his hands from frostbite with this new neoprene Koozie. It keeps the cold away from Dad's fingers, and if he drips a little down the side, it's washable. Pint Pal is just coming onto the market but is in many Eckerd stores.

■ **Dance lessons; SSQQ dance studio, 4803 Bissonnet; \$44 for four, two-hour lessons.**

Get Dad dancing and you do something great for his health and his social life. There are lots of dance studios in Houston — check the Yellow Pages — with everything from belly dancing to flamenco. At SSQQ ([www.ssqq.com](http://www.ssqq.com)), owner Rick Archer and staff have taught dancing for more than two decades. Classes include country-Western, ballroom, salsa, East Coast or West Coast swing. Call 713-861-1906.

■ **Duct-tape wallet, homemade; inexpensive.**

From recent world events we've all

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