

Want To Regress This Christmas?

In the past few days I have spent numerous blissful hours playing in the toy departments of some of Fredericton's larger stores. Herein follows some personal observations and sundry words of advice on the toy scene for Christmas 1989. In the first place don't let those "DO NOT TOUCH" signs freak you. It's impossible to get any sort of picture as to what is being offered unless you get right down to the "nitty gritty" and open the boxes, read the directions, and generally mess around a bit.

In recent years we have seen the advent of the "unisex" look in clothing, long hair and beads for men and a great deal of talk about the new woman and the death of male chauvinism. To my mind it isn't the women of the world who have made tremendous strides but rather that the men of the world are regressing, subjected to a massive communist plot. Instrumental in this plot is one of the major toy manufacturers who is placating the naturally aggressive male drive by bringing out a line of dolls made especially for little boys. Today's indoctrinated effeminate monsters can now dress their own toy soldier

dolls in the uniforms of an aquanaut, an air cadet, a spaceman, or a firefighter. The latter is obviously a concession made to the children of traditionalist parents who bring up their offspring with romantic dispersions towards the lives of engineers and firemen. Although I didn't notice it in the stores this year, I am sure that with the increased acceptance at casual sex, next year, will see a kit entitled "G.I. Joe goes on leave in Saigon" complete with government issue prophalactics and various other essentials for spreading American good will abroad. If G.I. Joe isn't enough, the kids with way out tastes in playmates can spend their afternoons happily saddling and packing out a whole corral full of horses which go by the rather suggestive names of "Thunderbolt", "Thundercolt" and "Poncho."

Make sure you don't miss this one! A real freak and the perfect gift for your grandmother— "Wiggle-lek" is a four inch ghoul that costs you 82 cents (plus tax) at the K-Mart. You wind it up and it does obscene things for almost thirty seconds. Hours of fun. Still in the anthropomorphic

line they have this real neat Guru thing that's called "See 'n' Say". Its actually a "Chatty Cathy" doll "sans bod" with Peanuts—characters voices dubbed in. Lucy Brown says timely things like "Happiness is having naturally curly hair." And other hilarious one liners which are bound to keep the seven to ten year old set in stitches for hours.

Progress and change are the watch words in the toy world. Although I did notice the old standby Parker Brothers Monopoly set resting securely in every store I entered I was saddened to note the demise of the old Ouija Board. This year's version is something called "Ka-Bola". Except for the fact that it glows in the dark and costs several dollars more there is very little difference between it and its now dated counterpart. In truth I don't trust the thing due to the fact that after inspecting its eerie (not an advertisement) configuration I don't believe that any self respecting ghost or sylph would come near the thing to give occult advice. It does however contain a set of Tarot cards which seem to be in vogue at the moment because they're almost impossible to get. Tarot cards if you will recall are those mystifying fortune telling cards that were used in the "The Magus". Undoubtedly the Ka-bola would be a completely worthless piece of junk were it not for the magic words included in *Hola Bostra Nostra*.

I was rather disappointed to see that last year's most popular toy is absent from the shelves this year. I am referring of course to that "thing" with the five steel balls suspended from a wooden scaffolding. I gave one to my father last Christmas and have been reaping the benefits all year. The toy which demonstrates Newton's Law, was proudly displayed to all Christmas visitors and now occupies a place of honour in my father's office.

Puzzles are real mind-benders and especially appropriate at Christmas time to while away the hours in front of the fire. I remember last Christmas receiving a set of four multicolored blocks which were to be grouped together in a particular order. I spent well over one hour working out all the permutations mathematically and being very proud of my success. I also remember showing it to my girl friend when I returned to Fredericton and watching her put the blocks together properly in a haphazard

fashion in less than five minutes. Obviously a fluke but then she proceeded to do it twice more in approximately the same length of time. There is another puzzle going around which is well suited to its name of "Frustration". It's something of a variation on the old hand puzzle where you have to roll little metal balls into little indentations in a maze. The principal is the same only in Frustration you view the playing surface via a set of mirrors which reverses all apparent directions. Even more frustrating than Frustration is a little puzzle that was shown to me several days ago. It consists of two plastic shapes which must be fitted together to make a solid pyramid. It sounds almost too easy but I've watched some people take as long as half an hour.

The list of new toys is

endless and as time marches on they get more and more complicated and scientific. I played with one little \$9.95 dandy of a car which could be programmed to follow any sort of path that you desired for a total run of about 100 feet.

Many things I looked at were nothing but garish junk designed to attract parents pocket books in the pre-Christmas rush rather than entertain the kiddies. One game that I looked at did show a lot of originality and it served to restore my faith. In truth I feel that it may catch on and I would like to nominate it as the most ingenious game of the year. It's played with sixteen round markers on a playing board marked with sixty four alternately coloured black and white squares. It's called checkers, look for it.

Twenty-nine Charged With Conspiracy And Kidnapping

LOS ANGELES (CUP-CPS) — Twenty-nine UCLA students have been charged with conspiracy and kidnapping after a sit-in which held an administrator prisoner for less than two hours. If convicted they could serve life sentences.

The students, members of the SDS and the Asian Radical Movement, were protesting the firing of a Black cafeteria worker who allegedly took an unauthorized coffee break.

Charles Bargaineer, the worker who was employed as a busboy, had reportedly been asked to continue working and take his break later because of

unusually heavy business October 6, the first day of classes.

When he refused, his supervisor George Leshefka fired him. Leshefka refused comment on why Bargaineer was fired, saying SDS has "blown this thing completely out of proportion."

The students felt racism was behind the firing. Laura Ho, chairman of ARM, said Bargaineer was fired "because he spoke out, he fought back against the exploitation, repression and racism in food services."

Students Busted At Memorial

ST. JOHN'S, NFLD. (CUP) — Nine persons will go to trial in Magistrate's Court December 10, eight on charges of possession of illegal drugs, one for trafficking in hashish.

The eight charged with possession are out on bail of \$2,000, with two on sureties of \$1,000, each.

The ninth, eighteen-year-old Frederick Scott, remains in jail. He told Magistrate Hugh O'Neil he was unable to raise his bail, set at \$10,000.

A tenth person, a juvenile, was turned over to juvenile court earlier.

The ten were arrested in a bust on November 25.

New Juke Box In Coffee Shop

The Coffee Shop in the Student Union Building has a new juke box, as of last Monday.

The older machine, a major drawing card in the coffee shop since it opened, suffered a mechanical breakdown.

An official at Maritime Coin Machine said last Wednesday that the replacement was only temporary, and that the older machine will be back early next week.

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The Creative Arts Committee
is pleased to announce
a Concert by
THE DUO PACH & IFAN WILLIAMS
Sunday, December 7, in Memorial Hall at 8:30

Programme:

Beethoven	Trio Opus No. 1
Shubert Trio	Opus 99 in B flat major
Saint Saens	Sonata in D minor

There is no charge for this event and the general public as well as the University community are invited. Since the floor squeaks, it would be appreciated if the audience count be seated by 8:25.