

# OSPIRG toy survey reveals 'Dangerous Dozen'

By Frale de Guzman  
Emerald Associate Editor

With only 18 shopping days left before Christmas, here's a tip to remember when buying what appears to be the perfect toy.

According to the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group's (OSPIRG) annual toy safety survey of 34 toy outlets, about a dozen "dangerous"

ples of toys that, because of misappropriate or absent labeling, have resulted in the injury or death of young children.

According to statistics released from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), about 131,000 children nationwide were treated in hospital emergency rooms for toy-related injuries last year. This is an increase from 1986's figure of 113,000.

In addition, 37 deaths from

are hit by falling toys and or the internal injuries caused by children's ingestion of small toy parts, Pavlich said.

According to a toy safety questions and answers form released by the commission, injuries from bicycles, roller skates, sleds and skateboards make up most of the injuries suffered by children under the age of 13.

But the large number of children's toys available on the market makes it impossible to carefully screen and approve each toy before its distribution, Pavlich said.

With more than 150,000 toys on the market, she said, "we can't keep every dangerous toy off the market."

The lack of pre-market control exercised by the commission also adds to the increase of toy-related injuries. "Manufacturers do not have to clear their product with us," Pavlich said. "Anyone can make a toy and put it out on the market, and we can only hope that it is safe."

The commission does, however, closely monitor manufacturers for violations of the "small parts" regulation, which attempts to eliminate all removable parts with a diameter of 1.25 inches or less from toys marketed for use by very young children.

Such toys are "deemed inappropriate for children under the

age of three," Pavlich said. But to determine the appropriateness of a toy, she said that age labels to guide consumers need to be attached to the package.

Currently, "it is not mandatory that manufacturers put a label on all their products," Pavlich said. As a result, consumers are unaware of the potential hazards of various toys if given to the wrong age group — a problem often faced with imported toys or toys made by small businesses where quality control is not the primary concern, she said.

But the fight for stricter toy safety regulation continues.

"Another Dangerous Dozen"

is an attempt to increase public awareness of the problem, especially now that "people are buying large amounts of toys," said Jon Stubenvoll, OSPIRG's consumer advocate.

The annual survey, which was started in 1986, also is meant to help identify potentially hazardous toys that need to be recalled from the market, Stubenvoll said. It also will be used to help group members pass regulations promoting toy safety.

"Until more emphasis is placed on quality control, there will be no shortage of hazardous toys on the market," Stubenvoll said.

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—Anne Pavlich

toys are being sold in stores today.

The survey, titled "Another Dangerous Dozen," sited Roller Lisa, Baby's First Gift Set, Spin Around Play House, and a stuffed monkey plush toy as examples of a few of the dangerous toys found on store shelves.

Other hazardous toys on the list are the Playtime Just Born doll, a toy tom tom drum with a single drumstick, a teddy bear plush toy, a six-piece toy tool set, and the Zoom Copter.

These are only a few exam-

toy-related injuries were reported to the CPSC between January 1987 and September 1988. No figures are available for the 1987 alone.

The problem lies not in the lack of toy safety regulations, but rather in the manufacturer's willingness to follow the toy safety guidelines established by the federal government, said Anne Pavlich, CPSC public affairs specialist.

By monitoring the toys being produced and distributed, manufacturers can decrease the number of cuts, bruises and scrapes suffered when children

## Police Beat

The following is a list of campus-area crimes reported to the Office of Public Safety and the Eugene Police Department between Nov. 23 and Dec. 2:

- A University student has been reported missing by his neighbor, Daniel Mark Stewart, 22, of 357 E. 17th Ave., was last seen Nov. 21.

- Anyone who has information about Stewart's whereabouts is asked to call Sgt. Mike Cline at OPS, 686-5444.

- Unknown suspects poured soda drinks down an elevator shaft at Carson Hall Nov. 23, causing approximately \$1,350 worth of damage to the elevator's door-closing mechanism.

- The only traces of the suspect's actions were two Big Gulp cups left on the elevator's

floor.

- Cash totaling \$115 was reportedly taken from a student's wallet in Boynton Hall between Nov. 27 and 28.

- A moped belonging to a University student that had been reported stolen was recovered by OPS officers Nov. 28. The moped was found around the corner from where it had been stolen at Caswell Dorm.

- Residents of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, 1472 Kincaid St., reported to EPD that they received a bomb threat Nov. 29. An unknown caller warned the residents a pipe bomb had been placed in their television room. The area was checked, and no explosive device was found.

- A coffee table valued at \$400 was reported stolen from the University Inn second-floor lounge on Nov. 29.

- The theft of a cassette player valued at \$150 was reported to OPS Nov. 30. The item was reportedly stolen from an unlocked room in Sheldon dorm.

- Two males were cited and released for first-degree attempted theft after they were seen attempting to steal bicycles near 15th Avenue and Agate Street Dec. 2. EPD.

- OPS officers confiscated bolt cutters, a bike light, wire cutters and a used syringe from the suspects.

- OPS reports eight bikes stolen and none recovered.

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