

# UNIVERSITY

## OSPIRG releases fifth annual "Dangerous Dozen" toy list

OSPIRG has released its fifth annual list of dangerous toys found on Oregon retailer's shelves.

Since it began compiling its annual "Dangerous Dozen" list in 1986, OSPIRG has identified six toys that have subsequently

been recalled nationwide because they violated federal safety standards. Toy-related injuries have in-

creased dramatically in the United States in recent years, according to statistics compiled by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The number of children treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for toy-related injuries increased from 142,000 in 1988 to 148,000 in 1989. From January 1989 to September 1990, 33 children died from toy-related accidents; 20 of the fatalities were caused by choking.

"Small parts continue to top the holiday hazards," said Lee Avery, who coordinated the toy safety project from OSPIRG's state office in Portland.

"As in past years, this survey discovered a wide range of these hazards, the most serious being toys with small parts that are specifically recommended for children under age 3," he said.

Statistics for toy-related injuries in Oregon are not available because state law does not require emergency rooms to report this information, said Caitlin Twain, project leader from the University's OSPIRG office.

Twain and several other University students examined toys on store shelves in the Eugene area and forwarded the ones they found to be potentially dangerous to the Portland office for further testing.

The University's OSPIRG office is distributing copies of the safety report to local preschools and day care centers and is having the report translated into Spanish as well, Twain said.

OSPIRG's "Dangerous Dozen" list comprises the following toys:

- Spring N' Bounce cars, made by YDC (McCrory) of York, Penn.
- Musical Farm, Maison Joseph Battat Ltd. of Montreal, Canada, and Battat Inc. of Plattsburgh, N.Y.
- Racing Rover, Kiddicraft of

- Almondsbury-Bristol, England.
- wooden train, airplane and farm puzzles, Nashco Products Inc., Scranton, Penn.
- Friction-powered Mini Blender & Mixer, YDC.
- Mini Mite car and truck set, Henry Gordy International Inc. of Plainfield, N.J.
- Little Angel baby doll, Sweet Things.
- Poppyhops and Nuttsy plush toys, Gund Inc., Edison, N.J.
- pull-string swimming frog and fish, Masudaya.
- cowboy hat, Benay-Albee.
- garbage truck, gas truck and turbo prop airplane bin toys, manufacturer unknown; made in West Germany.
- Baby Gym, Ambi Toys, Amsterdam, Holland

All the toys but one were listed because they have small parts that could choke a child younger than 3. The Baby Gym poses a strangulation threat to infants.

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