

Best toys not always the hottest

Toy store shelves are overflowing with creative gift ideas

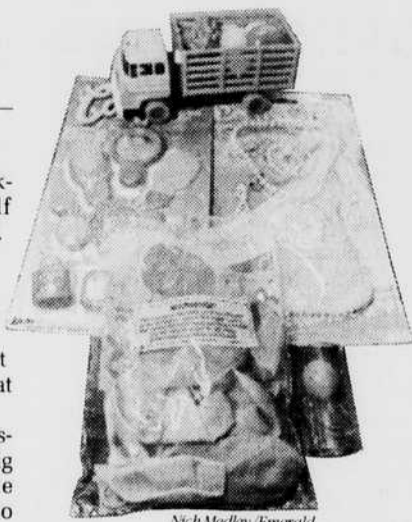
By Kristina Rudinkas
Oregon Daily Emerald

Forget the Furby, toss the Tickle-Me-Elmo, and buy yourself something nice for the holidays. With that mission in mind, I grabbed the illustrious toy master who has played obsessively with toys for the past 23 years, Chris D. [Davis], and headed out to Toys-R-Us to find the toys that make the old young again.

Toys have become more sophisticated in the 1990s. Nintendo, Big Wheels and Giga-pets flood the aisles for those who can afford to buy a \$50 video game or \$40 furby.

For those of us who are looking for something unique, special and adventurous, I suggest you forget your younger siblings' Christmas wish list and try these college tested and approved toys.

No stocking would be complete without a growing Godzilla. Just add water and watch it hatch. An-



Nick Medley/Emerald

other classic stocking stuffer, the Silver Streak plane, comes with a four-and-a-half foot wing-span and decorative decals. A Styro-foam glider for \$3—what more can we say?

Sport darts with a felt back-board and velcro balls are made for any champion. All we can say

is "good and cheap."

For those on your wish list who need to unleash their active side, we searched for unique ways to tap inner energy.

First off, no need to explain the use of the annual holiday piñata. For \$8 you can choose from fun shapes like aliens and pigs, hard hats and construction trucks.

"Always fun no matter what holiday— piñatas go," Davis said.

Taking the roommates on in friendly rivalry can be a focus of anyone's holiday shopping.

Weapons of choice this season include our favorite, the Nerf Nitro Quad, part of the Mega Blitz Force. This hand-held gun literally fits like a glove and allows any commando the strategic ability to shoot five Nerf darts on a rotating scale that the user can set. It has the ease of single-pump action and adapts to righties or lefties.

The Nitro Quad should not be confused with the weak alternative called the Light Hand. Five

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