



What's hot in Lincoln for holiday gift giving

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Staff Reporter

In previous years, TV games were the "hot" Christmas present. Then Cabbage patch dolls, followed by teddy bears, were the items that stores couldn't keep in stock. Last year the talking toys, with computer chips for brains, were the popular present underneath the Christmas tree.

This year, store workers in Lincoln don't see one item that everybody wants to give as a present. However, various items — from sweaters to rubber Christmas balls — are selling well.

The year's "hot" gifts are leaning toward traditional toys and basic home items. However, there are still some popular gifts that will provide diversions from the normal present.

Cindy Burger from the Nebraska Bookstore listed off a number of popular gifts that require a certain type of giver and receiver.

The best seller, she said, is the Christmas boxer shorts.

Nebraska Bookstore has also found their wide assortment of Santa Clauses to be popular: farting Santas, wind-up Santas, jumping-jack Santas, skateboard Santas (battery operated), push pin Santas, and Santa pencils.

Other Christmas-themed items the store expects to sell well are sponge Christmas trees and ornaments, Christmas rubber balls and snowmen water puzzles.

Burger also listed some of the non-seasonal items that are popular sellers: Inflatables like the new Porsches or the more traditional Corona and Budweiser items, "funky" T-shirts, oversized Fossil watches, colored-water toys, lightbulb-shaped crayons and a wide assortment of pencils.

Cindy Wible, manager of the Toy Room, said that this is an unusual year because there isn't "really any one item" that everyone's buying. She said that this year a little of

everything seems to be selling.

The big-selling game is Pictionary, Wible said. A new item that should be popular, she said, is the VCR football game. It comes in Superbowl and college-bowl editions. Among the traditional children's gifts that people are buying are Barbie dolls and accessories, G.I. Joe dolls and accessories and Legos, she said.

Lori Kathe, a Toy Room employee, said that people are buying traditional toys like rifles, shot guns, cap guns and model rockets for boys. For girls, she said, the ever-popular dolls are selling big again. She also said that pogo balls are popular.

Christine Maier, toy buyer for Younkers, said that the Fischer Price toys are big sellers. She also cited T.V. toys, which the store doesn't sell, as big sellers.

At Miller and Paine, John Costello in advertising, said that parents are tending more toward specialty toys and away from Masters of the Universe paraphernalia. He

also said that carved-wood toys are popular.

For adults, Costello said that men are purchasing intimate apparel for women. Besides that, beaded and applique sweaters for women are big sellers and plain cotton sweaters are popular for men.

Among household items, he said, mini food processors are selling well, as are Southwest-patterned dinnerware. And although the neon clothing fad has come and gone, he said, neon clocks are rising in popularity.

Shirley Young, salesperson at Thingsville, said that hot pots are selling well since they're so practical for college students and adults. Also "hot" for the season are lamps: touch lamps, which turn on and off at a touch; fiber optic lamps, which are wind-up music boxes with a dim light, and brass panel lamps.

Items popular at Thingsville last year that seem to be popular again are potpourri pots with candles to freshen the air and desktop fish aquariums.

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