



Stephanie Cannon/ Daily Nebraskan

Cows, California Raisins, calendars rate high as gifts

By Jane Hirt
Senior Editor

Cows are not only an important commodity for Nebraska but are also popular Christmas gifts this season, according to a Nebraska Bookstore employee.

Colleen Houlihan, assistant manager of the gift department at the Nebraska Bookstore, said that cow statues, salt and pepper shakers, coffee cups, creamers and T-shirts, are popular items at the bookstore. The paraphernalia range in price from \$4.95 to \$169.95.

Houlihan said she thinks cows are in this year because they're "down to earth." She said that off-the-wall gifts are popular this year.

This year, people are looking for something "unique, something different," Houlihan said.

"People are tired of the same thing," she said.

Other popular gifts at the bookstore include California Raisins and

Kooshballs, Houlihan said. Last year Opus and Garfield were the big selling items, she said, but are not selling as well this year.

Laurie Lollmann, a salesclerk in the electronics department of the bookstore, said that Nuon Klocks, black-light clocks with flamingos, mountain scenes and cartoon characters, are popular. She said the clocks sell for about \$45.

Laurie Curd, an employee at Thingsville, said stuffed Garfields that attach to car windows by suction cups are "the rage" this year.

"It's faddish to have one," she said, and "they're cheap."

Other stick-on animals sold by Thingsville include frogs, Opus, pigs, lobsters, chickens, monkeys, cats and moose, Curd said. They sell for \$7.50 or \$14.95.

She also said that brass frames, potpourri and calendars are favorites every year because they are practical.

Curd said the calendars, which cost around \$8, are popular be-

cause "everybody needs a calendar." She said the Far Side calendars are the biggest sellers.

Krissy Lewis, a salesperson in the toy department at Shopko, 4200 S. 27th St., said that one of the biggest selling toys at Shopko this season has been the little tikes compact kitchen. It comes with a stove, oven and microwave and sells for \$49.95. Little tikes kitchen ware is sold separately.

She said that Micromachine cars and Pee Wee Herman dolls also are selling well. The Pee Wee Herman doll says "I know you are but what am I" when his string is pulled. It sells for \$26.99.

Lewis said that some toys that were popular last year like G.I. Joe, Leggos and hand-held electronic games continue to be popular this season. Cabbage Patch Dolls, she said, are still popular, although not as popular as a few years ago.

Tony Tyma, a salesman at World Radio, 1323 O St., said that Nintendo continues to be a popular Christmas gift this season.

Tyma said that World Radio "can't keep them (the games) stocked."

"They're in and they're out," he said.

He said that they sell the games within two days of receiving them. He said the basic control deck costs around \$100, and games, sold separately, cost from \$25 to \$50. The power set, which costs about \$20 more, comes with three games, control deck, a Zapper light gun and a power pad for track and field games.

The two new Nintendo games, Double Dragon and Mario Brothers II, also are selling well, Tyma said.

He said he thinks Nintendo games are popular because they're fun and time consuming.

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