

All I want for Christmas are toys

TOYS from Page 13

have on some "peace on earth, good will to men" record and you're trying to wipe that grin of Bozo's mug. Joy to the world.

8. Close and Play Record Players: I used one of these until about a year ago. Led Zeppelin sounds really good coming out of those little horrible speakers. It gives you a real sense of your roots and upbringing to play the Sex Pistols on the same record player that you once listened to Burl Ives sing "Seven Little Ducks."

9. EZ Bake Ovens: I don't want to seem sexist. I assume these were pretty neat for little girls. I mean that they were trusting you with a heating mechanism, right? Sounds like there is some cool stuff you could do with that and a little imagination. I seem to remember some girls in my neighborhood making some really wild mud pies in an EZ Bake oven.

10. Comic Book Submarine: I could never get my parents to mail away for one of these but the whole idea seemed great. From the picture, it looked like you could actually set the damn thing in the water and fit two or three people inside. Sounds like the ideal fort to me.

11. VHF Viewmaster: The 3-D stuff was the best. Remember how you used to get bored as hell with

some family slide show of Yellowstone or a family reunion, go to your room, and tour Disneyland or Mount Rushmore on the VHF. The slides weren't any more exciting but they were yours. And you could narrate them any way you saw fit.

"And here's Aunt Marge sliding down Lincoln's face to a slow and painful death... See you can barely see her there by the left nostril..."

12. Master of the Universe Sets: Whenever I meet a kid nowadays or baby sit with one. I ask him or her if they want to play with the their Master of the Universe sets. If they don't have one, my day is spoiled. I've only seen the things all wrapped up, with the big glow-in-the-dark skull, and everything. I want to play with one so badly it hurts.

13. Erector Sets: Legos and Tinker Toys are for wimps. You can build real machines with Erector Sets; sturdy functional instruments of destruction.

You can pit a G.I. Joe with the Kung Fu Grip against an engineer's

nightmare. Here is comes, Joe latches on and the thing eats his hand like a grain augur. Knowing the martial arts has it drawbacks.

14. Tonka trucks: When Tonka trucks get into accidents it's more like real life. I mean, they're real steel and when you drop them off the roof or ram them into concrete, the steel turns up into sharp dangerous edges just like in real life. Kung

Fu doesn't do much good against a Tonka Truck going at full speed either.

15. Hot Wheels: Okay, at the beginning of the track you have your launcher that spits the car out onto the drag strip. It has to leap a ramp, it lands safely on the next segment of the track, it goes in for a pit stop and gets spit out the other side. It does two loops in a row,

takes a dangerous curve successfully and goes up a steep incline, across the bed and down again, picking up speed. Two more loops, an obstacle course and home free.

And there was always some jerk on the block who wanted you to come over and play with his matchbox cars. Matchbox cars are the Edsels of the toy car world. Hot Wheels are Ferraris.

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Daily Nebraskan

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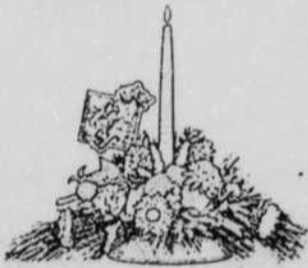
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