

Kids

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Lazer Tag is a gun that uses infra-red rays which send beams through the air, trying to hit a lazer unit worn by someone else. If the beam hits the sensor unit, an LED record the tag and gives a sound so players know they have made a tag.

Since one Lazer Tag, priced at about \$40, is no good without a second, two of these toys can take a chunk out of any parents' Christmas budget.

Barbie and G.I. Joe, both of which have been on toy shelves for years, are still in great demand among Back Mountain Christmas wishers.

G.I. Joe alone is not very expensive, however, when you add up all of his accessories and, of course, his enemy, MASK, the bill can become pretty high. And, with Barbie, the bottom line can be just as high since she has to be accompanied by Ken and other dolls in the collection. Of course, all of the accessories, clothes, furniture, beach houses, patios and other collectibles cannot be overlooked, either.

Valentine's Toys, located at the intersection of Routes 309 and 415 in Dallas, has the largest stock of toys in the Back Mountain. There, one can find MASK and his accessories, Bingo Bear, wrestling figures, In-humanoids, Masters of the Universe, Wheel of Fortune, Teddy, Gem, Barbie, G.I. Joe, Thundercats, dolls and more dolls, stuffed toys and games,

games and more games.

While shopping at Valentine's, a mother of a four-year-old said her son doesn't watch the cartoons where most of the warlike figures appear, but he does have G.I. Joe and MASK. She said she doesn't believe the toys have had any influence on her son's outlook on things since he plays with them for a only short time before losing interest.

The mother says the little boy has been taught that these toys are only playthings and are not the same as real people.

Another mother, whose boys are eight, nine and 14 years old, says her sons are big fans of the wrestlers, such as Hulk Hogan and Pile Driver.

She was somewhat worried that her sons might try the same things the wrestlers do, but she explained to them that the real wrestlers are only stunt men and that the things they do are not to be done to real people.

"I believe it depends on how they're taught at home and what they are allowed to watch on television," she said. "I believe it is the television shows that do the most harm."

Mrs. John Nutche, of Shavertown, has three sons. One of her boys is only two years of age and, as of yet, is not interested in war toys. Her other boys already have some of the various war toys on the market, but she is not totally in favor of them.

"When they see them in books or on television, they want

them," she said. "How do you tell them they can't have them when all their friends have them?"

"They (the toys) are very expensive and break easily," she complained. "If there is more than one child in the family, the money spent on them is ridiculous. Our boys play with the toys for two or three weeks, they break them and then they lose interest."

Mrs. Nutche said she doesn't believe the war toys have much influence on her children, but does agree that some of the toys are dangerous.

"Some children are probably affected by the toys since the fighting and other antics are fascinating," she said. "I would rather have my sons play with Legos or Lincoln Logs since they are educational and construction. Those toys make them use their minds and be creative."

Richard Burkhardt of Dallas said, "Boys will be boys" and doesn't believe today's war toys are any different than those of past generations. He claims the toys look different and are patterned after the technology of today's world, but the theory is the same.

"Children have always played Cowboys and Indians, or war between the 'good guys' and the 'bad guys.' They see and hear it in real life every day," Burkhardt said. "I believe the real problem arises if children are not taught the difference between good and bad and toys are just toys, not living people."

Kim

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nedy Airport from Seoul with three other children from Korea. The children were accompanied by Korean volunteers trained to attend to the children while traveling.

"I couldn't believe it when they brought the baby into the waiting room where we were," said Stephanie. "In keeping with Korean tradition, the baby's head was shaved and she looked just terrible."

"I was not alone, the other mothers were just as shocked when they saw their children. My husband was great. Gerald took over and calmed the baby and me and, after signing all the necessary papers and going through other red tape, we left for home, arriving in Trucksville at 2 a.m."

Stephanie said after the initial shock, she never took her eyes off Kimberlie for 72 hours. She couldn't believe the baby was hers.

"Who could believe she could be so beautiful?" asked Stephanie, as she sat holding her daughter. "She is so pleasant and so intelligent. She has changed our life entirely. I can't express how much we love her."

Kimberlie feels that love. One can be certain of that from the way she looks at her mother. Her smile radiates like rays of the sun as she looks at her parents. Both Stephanie and

Gerald's families love Kimberlie deeply and have accepted her as "one of the family," no different than other children in the family. Unlike many Koreans, Kimberly is very light-complected.

Stephanie explained there are many ramifications in the adoption of an international child. No matter how much you love a child, unexpected problems usually arise.

The Reischs, with 16 other couples who are parents of adopted international children, are members of the Catholic Social Services Parents of Adopted International Children. They have been meeting since October, 1985 and, beginning in January, 1987, will meet every month.

In the group are parents from all over the area who meet and discuss their problems, needs or customs of their children's native country. They also serve as a support group for any members, there for someone to confide in, to talk about their problems.

In past meetings, they have had special guests who have lectured on Korean culture, poli-

tics and social situations. They have also discussed the pros and cons of international children, and often one or two couples of the group help another couple through some rough times.

The group is like one big family and they have a lot of events together, always including the children.

"Korean children are very intelligent and most of them are very beautiful," said Stephanie.

"Can you imagine anyone not loving a beautiful child like Kimberlie?" she asked. "She returns our love a dozen times over. Our life is much different now than when we had no children, but we wouldn't change any of it. We are anxiously awaiting the final home study and final approval from Catholic Social Services so we can go through final adoption process for Kimberlie."

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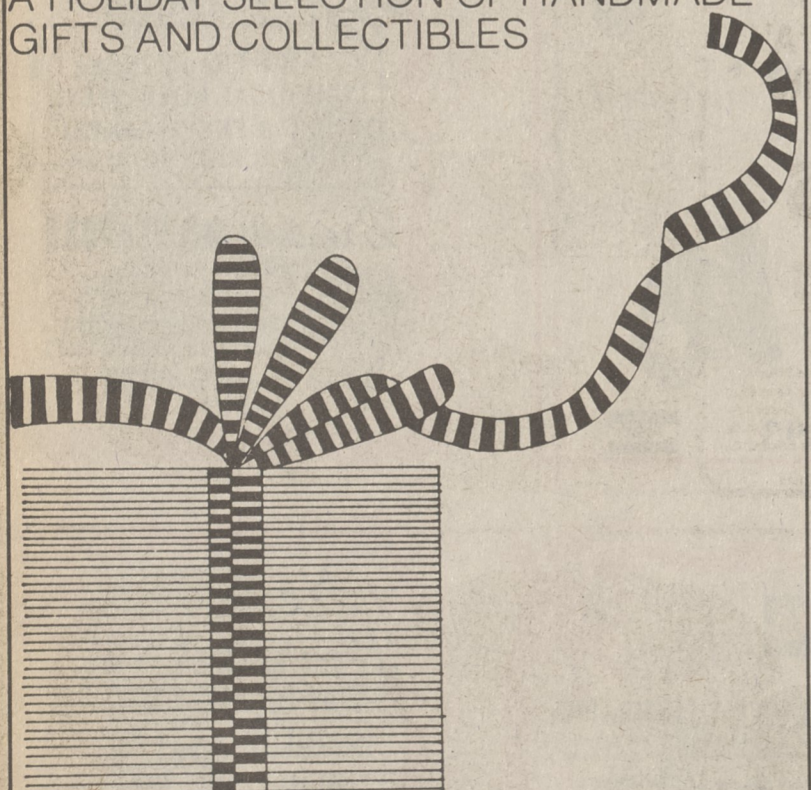
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