

Toys AND Why Childhood Hurts... Page 1 of 2 11/9/12

Howdy 4'all! It's getting near the most over-sold time of the year and I JUST SAW my 1st 2012 Christmas Commercial! Hooray! Oh friggin' happy happy Joy Joy!!! So let's address the usual "BIG" issue - Toy Safety...

Those of you who LOVE Der Nanny State und Der Union of German Workers Party - (NAZI BASTARDS) will HATE this blog.

Toys are constantly being tested, tried, TOYED with, Played with... you get the picture. The powers that be tell us toys need to be a certain style, size, color, shape, and more.

No one should choke, bleed, hurt or die from toy usage. OK?? Well the problem is, you remove all the fun from toys if you make them so safe. Childhood is about exploration, it is about building character, it is about MODIFICATION, it is about cuts, bruises, sprains, breaks and tears...

I have a large number of younger readers (^{age} 30 or less). I'm so incredibly sorry you all missed out on the joys of erector sets, Tyco train transformers (BZZZZT!), Metal playgrounds, banana boards, sugary drinks maker machines, Holy Hobby Ovens (For Shame! INCANDESCENT LIGHTBULB POWER!), Lead Painted toys, Pewter D&D figures, Metal action Figures, and so MUCH MORE!!

Now-a-days, you can't accidentally swallow a toy, but if you do, it's biodegradable and probably digestible. When my friends and I played, we had real wood or steel swords.

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Erector set pieces worked as daggers and armor. You could light a cig off a Hally Hobby as it 'baked' and blame the smoke on overcooked H.H. cakes & cookies.

Attaching ones younger siblings or club pledges to the TYCO transformer and turning the dial until you couldn't take anymore was incredibly fun, brave and made you top dog if you 'made it' longest (My brother won hands down, FYI.)

Breaking/skipping knuckles, fingers, knees, elbows, ankles and toes was a RITE OF PASSAGE. You either MASTERED the banana board or you didn't. It built character like nothing else to be able to kick off your board, run over the top of the car in your way and catch/land on your board on the other side. Only the BEST could do it. I did. Often. Pissed off lots of neighbors too: Taught you how to skate or run REALLY Fast when old Mr. Snodgrass would chase you up the street if you left footprints on his Lincolns!

Today's toys are safe, useless, dull and soft. It's no wonder kids have issues. They are forced to live in a padded bubble from hell. I feel sorry for modern kids.

There's no challenge, no fear, no adventure. Life is sanitized. We need free range children and the toys to go along with it. Doubt me? Look at how many kids prior to 1980 were 'well-adjusted' as compared to now!

Betcha I can outlast ALL of you on the TYCO!

Archie