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COLUMN

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

BY B. LOVE

ASPHALT 3D (UBI Soft)

System: Nintendo 3DS

Some critics have complained about the vertigo-inducing qualities of 3D gaming, but racing titles seem better suited than others to the striking visual style. This edition of the popular Asphalt franchise allows you to get your motor runnin' with over 40 different vehicles (cars and bikes) from companies like Bugatti, Audi, Aston Martin, Maserati and Ducati, then head out on the highway to wreak havoc in destinations such as Cape Town, Rio and Tokyo. Numerous play modes make for great extended play, and the 6-player wireless option makes for exciting head-to-head action.

DIVINITY II: THE DRAGON

KNIGHT SAGA (Atlus) System: X360

Why would you want to buy a new version of 2010's Divinity II: Ego Draconis? Three reasons: 1) It was the first game to allow players to adventure as human or dragon, exploring dungeons and fighting villains or taking to the skies to deliver fiery vengeance on Rivellon from above. 2) The disc includes Flames of Vengeance, which completes the Divinity II saga, offering over 100 hours of RPG awesomeness. 3) It comes with a soundtrack CD featuring selections from the game's rousing musical score.

FINAL FANTASY IV: THE COMPLETE

COLLECTION (Square Enix) System: PSP

Another re-packaged classic, FFIV is consistently rated among the Top 50 video games ever made. The Active Time Battle System, complex storyline and depth of game play revolutionized the RPG genre upon its 1991 release, influencing scores of titles over the past decades. The original is showing its

age a bit, but a graphic overhaul helps to update the vibrant visual elements, and adding the challenging sequels Interlude and The After Years provides 40-50 hours of game play. It may be old school compared to recent titles like Divinity II, but the package does offer a lot of bang for your 30 bucks.

FIT IN SIX (UBI Soft)

Systems: PS3, Wii

Wii Fit set a pretty remarkable standard for the fitness gaming genre when it was first released three years ago, and it seems like other game developers have been struggling to catch up ever since. UBI Soft's latest entry isn't going to be the next Wii Fit, but the optional camera bundle does add an intriguing element to your workout, allowing you to improve your form for optimal results. The game includes balance, cardio, core strength, flexibility, lower body strength and upper body strength exercises, with statistics provided on coordination, stamina and strength to keep you constantly engaged and motivated.



LEGO BATTLES NINJAGO (Warner Bros)

System: DS

I'm not sure what it is, but there's just something about ninjas that people love... and the same thing clearly goes for Legos. But anyone approaching this DS title expecting hack and slash adventure action ala the Indiana Jones and Star Wars Lego series will come away sorely disappointed. Instead, Lego Battles Ninjago is described as a real-time strategy game, but with considerably less strategy than you might expect. Overall, the play seems strangely unbalanced—remarkably easy at times, and at others damn near impossible—almost as if the developers couldn't agree on who their target audience was. And you know what they say about those who try to please everybody...

OUR FAVORITE THINGS

BY B. LOVE

WHEN INSITE SCRIBE John Davidson got married last week, it was almost a shock to see his DJ rocking a turntable. But **AUDIO TECHNICA'S AT-LP240-USB TURNTABLE** (www.audio-technica.com) proves wheels of steel can still be hip, whether your style is ol' school analog or digital. It utilizes a direct-drive multi-pole motor for unwavering speed stability, and features an S-shaped tone arm with adjustable tracking force and anti-skate adjustment. But its best feature is the USB output, which allows direct connection to a computer and makes it easy to transfer records to digital files for your 21st century iPod-listening pleasure.

With summer just around the corner, we tend to spend a lot of time in the water. When we're not hanging out on Lake Allatoona, we can be found traipsing through the jungle or snorkeling off the coast of some tropical island. I don't know if you've ever stepped on a lightning whelk or gashed your toe on a rock while sliding down a waterfall, but it's not cool. So I was excited to get a pair of **TEVA'S GNAROSKI WATER SHOES** (www.teva.com), which protect your tootsies and allow water to drain out. The spider rubber soles provide excellent traction on slippery rocks, making this the perfect shoe for outdoor enthusiasts.



I've been to the Big Island of Hawaii's three times now, each time visiting various coffee farms and mills in the Kona region. Kona coffee is world renowned for its rich, robust flavor (and is priced accordingly—the best brands go for \$30/pound or more), so we were delighted to get a sample from **LYMAN KONA COFFEE FARMS** (www.lymankonacoffee.com). Lyman is one of just 40 Kona Coffee Farms that are a "Certified Organic" coffee producer and processor, meaning they use no pesticides or herbicides. As a devout coffee lover, you can taste the difference in the purity and freshness, like heaven in a cup!

When is a cool t-shirt more than just a cool t-shirt? When the company behind it is rooted in a mission to make the world better. My lady loves the clothing line from **PROJECT IRIS** (www.projectirisclimbing.com) for their ultra-feminine designs, curve-hugging cut and remarkable softness. But we both admire their raison d'être, which is to create a dramatic impact on world hunger, malnutrition, and the health of women and children in developing countries. Partnering with the World Food Program, the company has provided over 12,500 nutritious meals in poverty-stricken countries, creating cute clothes you can feel good about in more ways than one.