



+ Videogames

Playing For Keeps

To help you stay on top of your game, we circled the globe! And found these eight items! **by Noah Robischon**

Ahhh, summer. A time for communing with nature in all her sun-drenched glory. Or wasting away the afternoon discussing matters great and small. Or sitting in a darkened basement looking for new ways to beat *Vice City*. It is for you, pale reader, that we offer this list of products. Taking a cue from the famously verbose purveyor of quality clothing, we give you the gaming gadgets of summer; à la J. Peterman.



▲ **ALIENWARE AREA-51m GAMING COMPUTER Laptop**...the word conjures images of cheerful girls cavorting about in "gentlemen's" clubs. Or, in this case, a cute little PC. This 7.5-pound mighty mite includes a 15.4-inch LCD screen, four speakers, and a 60-gig hard drive on which you can store your notes on the mating habits of the dik-dik and still have plenty of room left over for *Unreal*. And crunch these numbers: an NVIDIA GeForce FX graphics processor and a 3.2-gigahertz Pentium CPU. This may seem more vexing than a Cantonese menu. But trust us, it's a whole lot of computer. (\$2,899, alienware.com)



◀ **SCOTTEVEST** Some 30 years ago, stylish young men in the more fashionable quarters of Leipzig wore coats like this. But we think those *herren* would gasp at the awesome functionality of the SCOTTeVEST, designed for the gamer on the go. You want pockets to stow your Game Boy, cell-phone, and half-eaten sandwich? Well, this has 24 of them. Sure, you say, but what about those bothersome wires and cables? We direct you to the numerous hidden channels that have been cleverly woven into this jacket by wizened tailors brought over from Peru. Add water-resistant fabric and shoulder pads and you have an accessory-friendly accessory. Or something like that. (\$109.99, scottevest.com)

▶ **LOGITECH DRIVING FORCE PRO** When you think about it, a steering wheel is like a Sherpa. It should be steady, able to compensate for your shortcomings, and willing to carry you to the top. After running down the features of this rubber-gripped apparatus, we say *check, check, and...check*. Consider its 900-degree turning radius, its force-feedback controls, its weighted pedals. Wouldn't you want this with you the next time you play *Gran Turismo 4*? (price not yet available, logitech.com)