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Pulse *Excite*

On Monday
Get it on
for the holidays



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True life: My friend was on reality television

So here I am, in the Pulse section, and quite honestly, I'm not quite sure what to do about it.

What's a sports guy to write about when he finds himself lost in Pulse? Music? Love it, but couldn't write about it. Movies? I'm no Roger Ebert.

Television. Now there's something I can get passionate about.

I'll just come right out and say it: I heart TV.

Of course I love sports on television, but I also love drama, comedy — just everything.

But my biggest television vice, by far, is reality television. I'm a reality junkie. "Real World," "Survivor," "The Osbournes," "Bachelorettes in Alaska," I really don't care. I'll watch anything that doesn't have a script other than "let the cameras roll!"

And like anybody who watches reality television, I get way too into the "characters" that the genre introduces. If Elisabeth from "Survivor: Australia" wanted me to marry her, I'd probably drop out of school and start making wedding plans. If I could meet Kyle from "Real World: Chicago," I'd punch him in the face for making my girl Keri cry too much.

Keri and Kyle were struggling through relationship problems on MTV this summer when it happened. I watch so much reality television, I should've known it would happen eventually.

There, on my television screen, was my friend Becca.

MTV was advertising a new reality show called "Sorority Life," and there, in the commercial, was Becca, offering her view on the new pledges or some such nonsense.

I turned to my roommate.

"That's my friend Becca! Holy crap!"

After putting in a couple calls to old high school friends, I found out that Becca was, indeed, going to be on this reality show, centered on an independent sorority at the University of California-Davis. The show was going to focus on five or six pledges, and Becca was "pledgemaster" for the house in question, Sigma Alpha Epsilon Pi.

Now, Becca and I weren't best friends in high school. Obviously, I found out that she was going to be on MTV through a commercial. But she was in my extended group of friends, and I had a huge secret crush on her throughout high school.

She just has one of those magnetic personalities that attracts other people to her like hummingbirds to a feeder.

Still, I was worried about Becca on a reality show. I've seen nice people torn to shreds on reality shows. It's the nature of exploitative television.

After the first show, I was more worried. Becca and the girls in the



Peter Hockaday
Two minutes for crosschecking

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Keeping it reel

Low tech four-track machines are relatively cheap and offer more in-depth sound quality than some more expensive methods

Helen Schumacher
Pulse Reporter

You don't need a fancy studio, a big-shot producer or a major label record deal to create a quality sounding recording. With a four-track, a small recording and mixing device, any do-it-yourself musician can chronicle his or her work.

With the machine, musicians can record four parts to a song. Then, using controls, they can manipulate the sound of each track to their preferences. Traditionally, tracks are recorded on cassette tapes, but some four-tracks can record reel-to-reel or digitally.

Musician Brian Mumford, who plays in local band Chevron and composes electronic music under the name iodil, was introduced to four-tracking by a high school friend and bandmate.

Mumford has been writing music for most of his 23 years, and said four-tracks play an integral role in the do-it-yourself music scene, particularly because of their low cost.

"When you're in your room, recording with a four-track, there's no overhead," Mumford said.

Given that they are relatively inexpensive and easy to obtain, four-tracks are invaluable tools for musicians who want a way to capture their music for others or remember song ideas.

"It's a good tool for messing around and getting ideas down," Mumford said. "It's accessible to people who don't have money to go to a fancy studio. ... You don't even have to be in a band. It allows you to be very independent."

Senior multimedia design major and local musician Greg Dalbey, who plays in The Concubot, also uses a cassette four-track as a songwriting device.

"It's always been used kind of as a demo-ing tool — a way to test stuff," Dalbey said. "And there's always the option of giving it to someone if it turns out well."

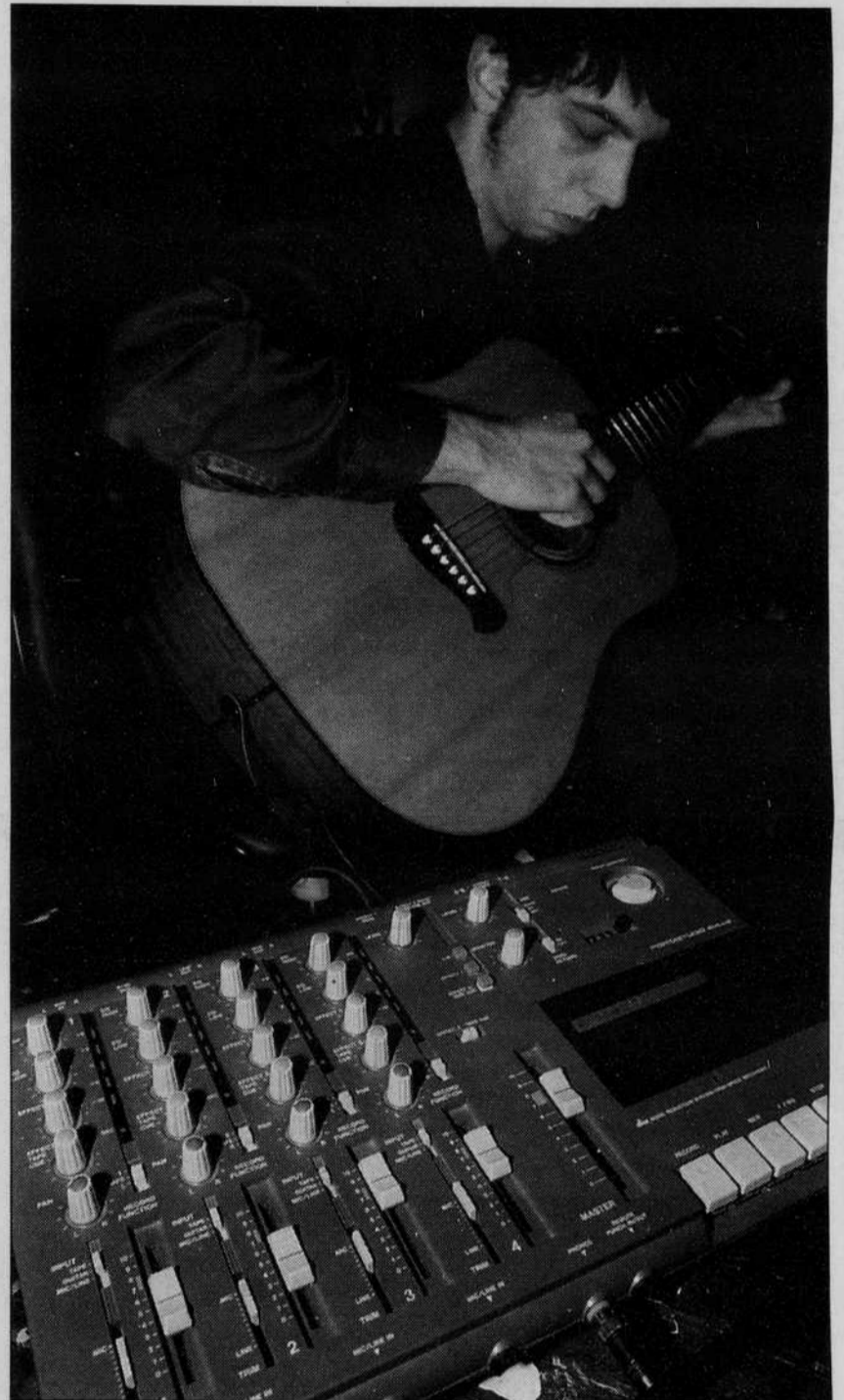
Dalbey bought his four-track from his older brother when he was 14 years old. Both Dalbey and Mumford said four-tracking served as their introduction to the recording and mixing process.

"(The four-track) gave me the fundamentals," Mumford said. "The way I tune my ear for mixing stuff comes from four-tracking. Creating and controlling and mixing sound — I learned from my four-track."

A four-track is easy to learn how to operate with the help of a manual or guidance from an experienced friend. For many musicians, learning how to get a specific sound, often through "EQ-ing," takes a long time. "EQ-ing" is the method of adjusting a sound by changing frequencies, such as treble and bass. Although there is a fairly common standard for how sounds should be "EQ-ed," it ultimately depends on what kind of sound the mixer wants.

With so much focus on new digital technology, one might

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Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Greg Dalbey, a senior multimedia design major and local musician, has used his four-track for years. "It's always been used kind of as a demo-ing tool — a way to test stuff," he said.

Eugene woman sews historical habits

A museum exhibit showcases a woman's efforts to document Eugene's religious history by sewing miniature nun habits

Jacquelyn Lewis
Pulse Editor

Eugenean Clara Barnes invented the perfect recipe to create her "Getting Into the Habit" exhibit, now appearing at the Lane County Historical Museum. First, she poured in a few decades' worth of history. Then, she added heaping amounts of knowledge, courtesy of archivists from around the country, along with a pinch of her own interest in sewing. The result? A detailed display of part of Eugene's vast religious history — in the form of nine miniature nun habits.

The habits — painstakingly detailed right down to tiny stockings, scissors and rosaries — represent several of the various self-supporting



Catholic nun orders that existed in the United States before Vatican II (1961-65). More than 400 of these operated in the country.

"Nine different orders lived and served in this community," Barnes said, adding that each order had its own habit.

Barnes said both her interest in sewing and in the nuns' clothing springs from her childhood experiences. Her mother introduced her to an old Singer Treadle sewing machine at the age of 4.

"I kind of fancied myself a seamstress," she joked. "I never lost that interest."

She said years spent in Catholic schools sparked a curiosity about religious garments.

"When I was in first grade, I met the sisters for the first time," Barnes said. "I used to stare at them and wonder, how do you make (the habits)?"

She constructed her first habit six years ago, for her 40th class reunion at the former Saint

Francis High School in Eugene. The first habit was full-size, designed to fit on a 6-foot tall mannequin donated by Emporium.

Barnes fashioned the outfit from the same Serge Wool the sisters at her high school wore. She said the material is rare now, but was plentiful in the past.

Barnes said she initially thought the habit would be impossible to make, but her daughter encouraged her to try.

"She said, 'Yes you can,'" Barnes said. "And haven't I learned something now?"



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