

Knitting provides homework alternative

Knitting has gained popularity among a younger crowd, raising concerns about costs

By Ashley Griffin
Freelance Reporter

Cigarettes. Alcohol. Caffeine. Even chocolate.

But knitting?

Often used as a relaxation technique or as a way to make great gifts, urban knitting has struck the nation with yarn fever.

But knitting can also be costly, time consuming and distracting. Several local knitters said knitting is a hobby for the addictive personality.

"Once you get going, you just have to finish your scarf. It's horribly addictive," junior Shayna Breslow said. "My knitting has taken over my furniture."

Breslow said once she got started with knitting, she couldn't help but want to be the best.

Sophomore Emily Hines agreed.

"At first it was more frustration than anything else that sparked a need to keep doing it," Hines said. "Then I got one row done and saw that I could do it. Then, I kept going."

Hines said she started knitting to keep herself entertained while watching television and to provide herself with a break from homework. Now she picks up her knitting needles on a regular basis, she said.

"It does distract me," she said. "I get addicted because it's soothing and relaxing."

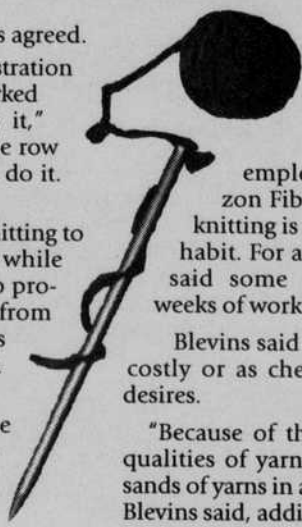
Both Hines and Breslow agreed that knitting can become a preferred activity over homework.

Knitting "breaks" can easily extend into an hour or two, and half a scarf is purled and knitted before the knitter knows where the time went.

Cindi Blevins, an employee at Soft Horizon Fibre in Eugene, said knitting is a time-consuming habit. For a beginner, Blevins said some scarves can take weeks of work.

Blevins said knitting can be as costly or as cheap as the knitter desires.

"Because of the many different qualities of yarns, there are thousands of yarns in all kinds of prices," Blevins said, adding that she spends a great deal of money on yarn and has devoted an entire room to her yarn collection.



HOCKADAY

continued from page 8B

came out. There were three other people in the theater, so we talked and laughed the whole time.

"I can't believe he actually ran away from that hot girl! That's hilarious!"

And we, of course, recommended it to friends. But it was out of the theaters the next day, skipped the \$1.50 movie theater altogether and was soon lost in the sea of movies.

But not to me. I bought the DVD on the day it was released. I showed it all my friends and it soon became

a cult hit. My roommate bought the DVD, becoming the second person in Eugene to own it.

More people heard about it and more people loved it.

What's the moral of this story? Reality television is a shared experience. The more people watch it, the farther it spreads. Think about it. If you like reality TV, your friends probably do, too. And visa versa. "American Idol" is one of the few shows out there to actually gain thousands upon thousands of viewers every season.

Sure, "Friends" can be a shared experience. So can "The Simpsons." Fictional shows aren't dead. Just

look at the young success of "The O.C." for evidence of that.

But reality shows are a shared experience of real people and real emotions. If Ross slapped Phoebe on "Friends," would you talk about it at school with your friends? Maybe. When Stephen slapped Irene on "Real World: Seattle," we talked about it for months.

So, in the end, reality television serves to bring us together. What's brainless about that?

Contact the columnist at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com. His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

SHAKRA

continued from page 8B

every single continent."

In his book "9-11," Noam Chomsky notes that the United States, by its own definition of the term, is the No. 1 supporter of state-supported terrorism. The public is relatively aware of the fact that we bomb Iraq and Afghanistan, but what about our August 1998 bombing of the Al-Shifa pharmaceutical plant in Sudan? Or the United States' support of Turkey crushing its own Kurdish population (we supplied 80 percent of the arms). Note, the United States is also the leader in global arms sales (Source: The New York Times, Sept. 25).

There are numerous other examples I could point out, but for brevity's sake, I would encourage you to visit the Federation of American Scientists Web site, which maintains a list of United States military incursions at

<http://www.fas.org/man/dod-101/ops/>.

In Maria Mies and Vandana Shiva's book "Ecofeminism," Mies draws a connection between violence and science, using Francis Bacon as an archetypal father of modern science, "(who) called for the subordination, suppression, and even torture of nature, to wrest her secrets from her."

Mies argues that without the exploitation and subjugation of women, nature and foreign peoples and countries, Western civilization simply could not exist. Furthermore, these aforementioned scientific fathers such as Bacon "(have) constantly concealed the impure relationship between knowledge and violence or force by defining science as the sphere of a pure search for truth." In other words, "progress" and "advancement" have come at the expense of a violence that is justified as truth.

In his article "No Way Out," Michael C. Ruppert, editor and

publisher of the newsletter "From The Wilderness," discusses the American dependence on oil that causes us to "(engage) in a multitude of psychological and sickening rationales that will, in the end, amount to nothing more than saying, 'I don't care how many women and children you kill. Just let me keep my standard of living.'" Here, we have a version of violence caused by the desire to consume. Challenges to this desire are not likely to be met receptively. Americans in positions of dominance, affluence and advantage, tend to want to remain that way.

Violence is not just a vice rooted in the American way of life, however. It telescopes out a global scale. So I'll close with a question: What can we do in our everyday lives to curb this addiction?

Contact the Pulse editor at aaronshakra@dailyemerald.com. His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

Sam's Place

Come join the fun at Sam's

Breakfast specials

Lottery

Karaoke Saturdays

Sunday NASCAR

Happy Hour specials

New owners!

Open 7am - 2:30 Mon. - Sat.

Sunday 7am - midnight

825 Wilson St.
(North off West 11th)
484-4455

Ashley Griffin is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

Eugene School of Karate



Still learning Kickboxing from an Aerobics Instructor?

Our Extreme Kickboxing instructors are professional martial artists, black belts, who have been kicking and punching for years. They know how to teach kickboxing skills correctly and safely for maximum fun and maximum results! No more wild punching in the air pretending to kickbox. Our classes use heavy bags to minimize the chance of injury and increase the quality of your workout. You haven't kickboxed until you've used a bag!

CALL FOR DRIVING DIRECTIONS AND CLASS SCHEDULES
8 COBURG ROAD • EUGENE • (541) 345-7792

Neighbors

BOURBON STREET LOUNGE

\$2

ALL WELL DRINKS ALL DAY, EVERY DAY!
\$1 PINTS OF PABST BLUE RIBBON - ALWAYS!
\$3 MICROBREWED & IMPORT BEER - ALWAYS!

STOP CHASING COCKTAIL SPECIALS!
NEIGHBORS FEATURES THE LOWEST
REGULAR PRICES IN THE CAMPUS AREA!

NEIGHBORS ALSO OFFERS EUGENE'S LARGEST
SELECTION OF KEGS TO-GO!
CALL TODAY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS
FOR YOUR PARTY!

CONVENIENT CAMPUS LOCATION
1417 VILLARD - TWO BLOCKS EAST OF CAMPUS
541.338.0334
WWW.THEEUGENEBAR.COM

VICE SALE

That's right, it's time for Paul's annual service sale. Just for having your bike tuned up during March or April, we will give you

\$10 off. This offer applies to either our regular tuneup (\$39 less \$10 = only \$29), or our major tuneup (\$49 less \$10 = \$39!)



Paul's Bicycle Way of Life
2480 Alder & 152 W. 5th & Oasis Plaza www.bicycleway.com

OREGON DAILY EMERALD your independent student newspaper