



Shoe-a-holic, at 957 Willamette St., has been serving Eugene for the past 10 years. Shoe addicts plan their wardrobes and attitudes around what's on their feet.

ZANE RITT | FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER

# GROUNDED

*Dozens of shoes spell love for shoe addicts, who line their closets and apartments with the fashion necessity*

BY MARESA GIOVANNINI  
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

How many pairs of shoes does a person actually need? Is three too few? Is 10 too many? High heels can provide women with a feeling of femininity or power; athletic shoes can provide sports fiends with energy; and sandals can put beach lovers in a Zen-like state.

Many shoe-a-holic wardrobes are built up over years of shopping. Graduate student Gina Compitello admits she has had success building her collection because she takes incredible care of her shoes and buys classic pieces. Some of her 40 pairs have been with her since high school.

Others go through their shoes at a much faster rate.

"I usually give them away every six months," said Jared Hester, who purchases five to six pairs of athletic shoes a month.

These shoe addicts admit their collections are worth anywhere from \$1,000 to some figure beyond their imaginations.

Hester said his favorite pair of Nikes could fetch \$400 to \$500 on eBay.

It is possible to invest in shoes and still be a price-savvy shopper. Junior Sarah Koski browses high-end designer stores such as Roberto

Cavalli in Las Vegas, Nev., and then looks for similar styles in Eugene.

"Honestly, I love shoes so much, but I would rather get them on sale," Koski said. "That way, I can get the designer shoes, but not at the designer price."

With so much money invested in large shoe collections, good storage is essential.

## LOCAL SHOE STORES

**Miss Meer's**  
207 E. 5th St., 485-5432  
What: High-end retail shoes by Franco Sarto, Diesel and more

**Nike Store**  
296 E. 5th Ave. Ste. 29, 342-5155  
What: Athletic shoes

**SHOE-A-HOLIC**  
957 Willamette St., 687-0898  
What: Everything from sneakers to dress shoes

**Foot Locker**  
29 Valley River Center, 485-7977  
What: Athletic shoes

Compitello said she converted her hall closet into "the shoe closet." The shoes are lined up neatly on the shelves and organized according to style.

Hester keeps his shoes everywhere. They line the perimeter of his bedroom, are coupled under his couch, and there are even four or five pairs in the trunk of his car — just in case.

"I always make room for shoes," he said.

The most impressive storage system, however, straight out of a scene from MTV's "Cribs" or

HBO's "Sex and the City" is the one belonging to Koski.

She keeps her precious pumps in clear plastic stackable storage containers and has them stored separately according to styles: stilettos, athletic, daywear and business wear. Once these categories are defined, she coordinates the shoes by color.

Shoe lovers often allow their footwear to dictate their outfits.

While some people plan in terms of weather or comfort, others think of which shoes they have yet to wear that month. For Koski and many others, shoes are a wardrobe staple, not an accessory.

"My shoes are my pride and joy," Koski said. "I dress my outfit for my shoes. I accentuate my shoes with my clothes."

On the Internet, there are countless groups for shoe lovers on Thefacebook.com and even a quiz on greatestjournal.com to find out which kind of shoe you would be.

So if you are secretly carrying around a shoe vice, know that many others feel the same way about shoes.

"A pair of new shoes may not cure a broken heart or soothe a tension headache," said fashion writer Holly Brubach. "But they will relieve the symptoms and chase away the blues."

## Gossip: Priest gives advice about ways to use speech

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differences between males and females in the topics they talked about. However, according to the study, two-thirds of women's social conversation is devoted to other people's experiences rather than their own, compared with men who only talk about other people one-third of the time.

Modern technology has made it possible for gossip to be transmitted via the Internet.

"When such hostile messages include the instruction 'Forward this to everyone you know,' our human propensity to pass on negative information quickly makes people prone to comply with this 'order' without stopping to think," Arrow stated, citing the speed of Internet communication.

Despite the omnipresence of gossip, many religious groups disapprove of it.

"Gossip is a form of misuse of speech," said Father David Orique of St. Thomas More Newman Center Catholic Campus Ministry. "There are different ways we can use our speech as Christians. We can be

disrespectful of God or disrespectful of our neighbor, and gossip is disrespectful of our neighbor."

Orique advises people who feel guilty about gossiping to resolve their problems more openly.

"I might ask them, 'Do you feel like you can go and talk to that person directly?'" Orique said. He added that, if direct reconciliation does not seem possible, people do something kind or say a prayer for the person they have hurt or do an act of justice in that person's name.

In the Jewish tradition, the term for gossip is "leshon hara."

"The literal translation of 'leshon hara' is evil speech or evil tongue," Oregon Hillel program director Andi Lipstein said. "It is prohibited, in part because anything that lowers another person's reputation or would shame another person is prohibited."

However, Lipstein added that avoiding gossip is difficult, if not impossible for most people.

"People are fascinating. We're so interesting that what better is there to talk about than each other?" she said.

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### WHY DO YOU THINK PEOPLE GOSSIP?



"To some extent, gossip is an easy access to information. We have a lot of insecurity about where we are in respect to competition."

RICKY CHEN | HISTORY/GENERAL SCIENCE



"It's the same reason we watch TV. We live vicariously through other people because we're disinterested with our own personal lives."

MIKE SERRITELLA | HISTORY



"It's a way to make a connection with people. Also, it's just really entertaining when you hear a good story."

SARA GALL | PHILOSOPHY



"I think it makes people feel better about themselves."

SHANNON O'LEARY | DANCE

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