

Immortal love triggers mania

Vampire genre is given CPR by a wave of endless romance, capturing a generation's attention

By Brian Steele
The Clackamas Print

Vampires are make-believe, like elves, gremlins and gnomes." — Homer Simpson
Vampires are now more popular than ever before. The modern vampire theme today includes stories that seem to captivate us today which include "Twilight," "True Blood" and the "Vampire Diaries." These stories are all based off of extremely popular.

"Twilight" is well known for its shiny vampires who survive in sunlight. They just sparkle. The book series, created by Stephanie Meyer, took the world by storm. It's typical story: girl meets boy, boy is a vampire, girl gets into trouble and boy has to save her.

In the first book and movie, Bella (the girl) moves to Forks, Wash. She meets the vampire, Edward Cullen, and falls instantly in love. The story climaxes with Bella being hunted by James, an evil vampire. The movie was a box office hit that has merchandise that includes body glitter that lets you shine like a vampire.

At the end of this week, the "Twilight" saga will have its next movie, "New Moon." In this movie, Edward leaves Forks, and Bella spirals into depression. Her cure is hanging out with a pack of werewolves and pulling dangerous stunts. The werewolves are made up of a handful of Quileute from the nearby reservation, including Bella's boyfriend, Jacob Black. As their relationship grows, there's a rumor that Bella has killed herself and Edward is in danger and Bella has to save him.

The popularity of the books and the first movie "New Moon" is looking like the smash hit of the season.

"Twilight" is not the only vampire craze this year.

"True Blood" is a HBO show that is going into its third season and is also based on a series of books. The series that this is based off of is the "Southern Vampire Mysteries," which is an ongoing book series that follows a waitress named Sookie who can read minds as she tries to be with her vampire lover, Bill, as supernatural bad guys screw with their love. The next book in the series is coming out next year along with the next season.

"Vampire Diaries" is one of the new shows on the CW television network. This too was based on a

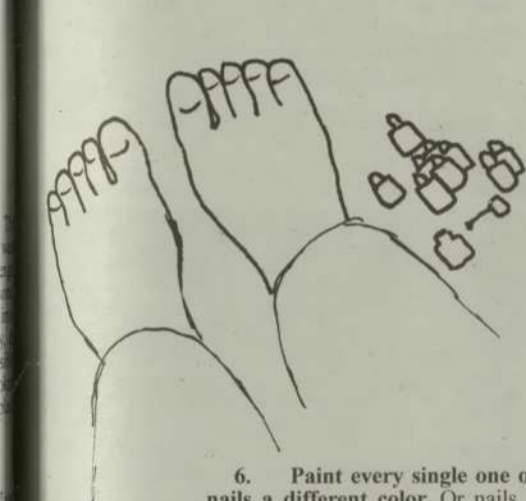
book series that is ongoing. The story follows Elena, who is a high school student. She falls for a vampire who also can be out during the daytime named Stefan. Their relationship is threatened by Stefan's evil brother Damon (yeah, that's original). The show seems to have gained some of the "Twilight" fans with the show's similarity to the "Twilight" movie. The next book is also due out next year.

The vampire genre has changed over the years since Bram Stoker's "Dracula" was first published in 1897. "Twilight," "Vampire Diaries" and "True Blood" are some of the newest stories to the genre that keep it alive.

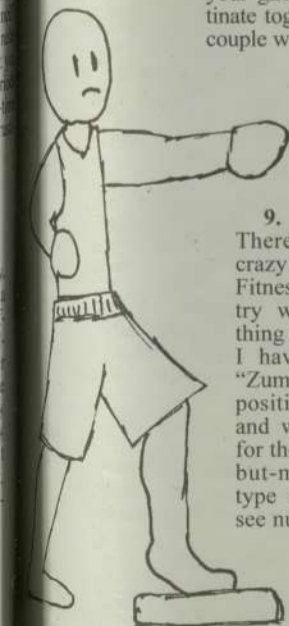


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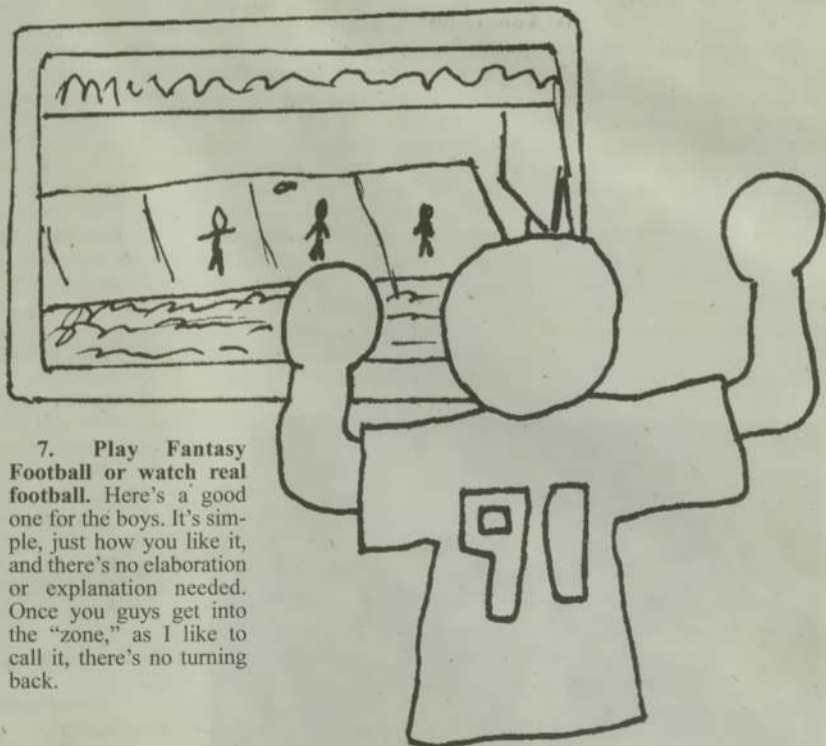
Colorbook and paint by number to your heart's content



6. Paint every single one of your toe nails a different color. Or nails, whichever you prefer. Boys, this may not be for you, but who am I to stereotype? Maybe even paint your girlfriend's nails, and you can procrastinate together. You know what they say: the couple who procrastinates together...



9. Work out. There's always some crazy new class at 24 Hour Fitness I'm just dying to try when I have something due. How else would I have stumbled across "Zumba?" Again, this is positive procrastination, and we're kind of going for the gets-you-nowhere-but-more-behind-in-life type of procrastination... see number ten.



7. Play Fantasy Football or watch real football. Here's a good one for the boys. It's simple, just how you like it, and there's no elaboration or explanation needed. Once you guys get into the "zone," as I like to call it, there's no turning back.

8. Clean. Why is it that we always have the insatiable urge to clean things we never normally would when we have homework to do? Although I'm not sure cleaning would really qualify as procrastination, seeing as how you're still getting something productive done. Oh well, it's something besides what you're supposed to be doing, and I suppose that's most important in this scenario.

10. Make up a new catchphrase for yourself. How else do you think Paris Hilton coined "That's hot?" She was sitting around, doing nothing, when it just came to her. (Not that she does much else). Contrary to popular belief, good things do come out of procrastination. A look at a few other catchphrases I'm sure were products of professional procrastinators: "Get 'er done," "How you doin'?" and "D'oh!"

And a bonus... Three words:
Paint. By. Number.

All illustrations by Brian Steele Clackamas Print