

Thursday, May 5, 2005

At least its not the area's finest smack...

That is what I tell myself that while I am buying more yarn than God would ever need. I know myself pretty well, and I have one hell of an addictive personality. So I stay away from things like cigarettes because I've tried one and liked it, and never want to smoke! I stay away from any kinds of harder drugs (click on "read further" to see my diatribe against politics messing with preventive health care) because I know that I'd be sucked in. I drink in extreme moderation. But when it comes to yarn, I have no restraint! Shown here in the photo are my newest friends, gotten from those devils at knitpixie. Missa will be the death of me. She seems to be able to read my mind, although we do not know each other. She seems to visit me in my sleep and look deep into my secret yarny wantings. Those are 2 skeins of Lorna's Laces Shepherd Sock in the colorway "Bittersweet," a tangy combination of pinks, purples and some yellow/orange. Delicious. And then we have 3 skeins of Southwest Trading Co. Bamboo yarn, and a free pattern. Don't worry, I have not forgotten those rockin' 70's socks, the first one is almost done. Would have finished sooner but we've been having some real crap classes lately, and I've been skipping class to study. Oh how rebellious that sounds! "Yeah, I totally didn't go to class today. I hung out in my study carrel instead!" Rad. Read on below if you are interested in clean needles...

Did you all know that the city in which I go to school is famous for its excellent heroin? Yes, here in the Woo-town we have the best heroin in the country, supposedly. So good that when docs and other social service workers who work with the homeless and injection drug using populations meet newcomers, they warn them to be very sparing in the amounts of heroin that they use, because the stuff here is better than anywhere, and it is easy to accidentally overdose. Sadly, my city also does not have a needle exchange program. In Woo-town, 57% of people who are infected with HIV/AIDS got that way from sharing needles. In Boston and Cambridge, which both have needle exchange programs, the rates of new HIV infection from injection drug use are in the 18% range. The cost of supplying an addict with a year of clean needles is about \$52. The cost of a year's worth of first-line (least expensive) antiretroviral meds is about \$15,000. Do the freaking math, people! When a group of socially minded doctors and others who work with the homeless in Woo-town came up with a great, comprehensive plan to institute a needle exchange program, the city politicians told them that it was useless to even talk about it ever again, and that it would never happen. I'm a firm believer in harm reduction as a medical care theory. When I'm a doc, if I have a patient who has high blood pressure, I'll give him or her some meds to reduce the chance that they'll have a heart attack. I think of clean needles, handed out with counseling, assistance in entering detox and education, fall under the same damn category as diuretics.

Posted by Mia in Knitting, Ramblings at 18:06

I can't remember if I've ever left you a comment before, but I'm a first year medical student/long time knitter from Canada. I just had to leave you a note to say two things:

1. Amen, sister!

2. Go check out this film: <http://www.canadawildproductions.com/fix/index.html>

It's all about the city of Vancouver's battle to institute a safe injection site there. It's a fantastic film - very inspiring! I don't know where you'd find it - maybe at the public library.

Anonymous on May 5 2005, 21:39

Good luck on your test tomorrow, honey! If you need a little study break, watch some of these: <http://www.makingfiends.com/> hehehehe....

Anonymous on May 8 2005, 15:49

I agree too! It's amazing how my views of things have gotten stronger since being in school; what I used to believe is right is now even more justifiable based on my "new" knowledge. I think a lot of problems would be solved if more people had medical training!

Blog Export: Minicia, <http://minicia.bluegarter.org/>

I am looking forward to (perhaps) meeting you this week! I hope youre exams are going/went well and you're still able to sit and knit. I never got a chance to comment on Soleil, but I think it's beautiful. I hope the adjustments knit up quickly!

Anonymous on May 8 2005, 17:06

Hey leaving you a note. You can get Rebecca #27 from the knitting garden...I use that site a lot to check out patterns and yarn. I think any aran weight yarn would work. The instructions are a little more confuddling than they need to be though.

Anonymous on May 8 2005, 19:25

I'm addicted to The Knitting Garden, too. I go there just to drool because everything is so pretty. And check skinnyrabbit for a good overview of the errata if you want to make the Jacke Apricot - maybe we could have a belated knitalong!

Anonymous on May 8 2005, 22:08

I think that you're going to love the Bamboo.

Anonymous on May 11 2005, 17:11