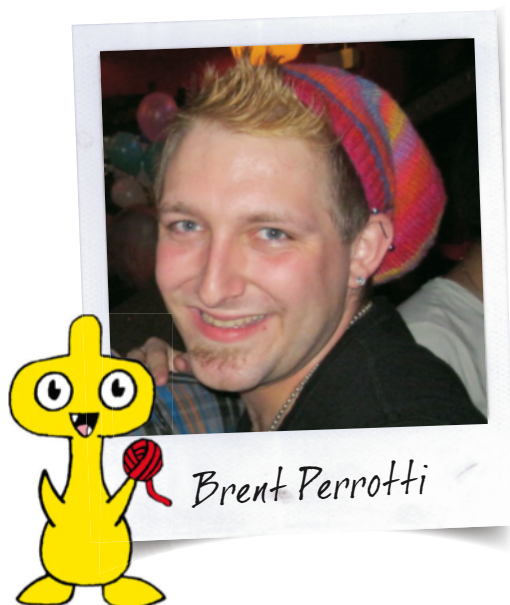




‘Craft yourself a SKEIN-FUL’

Brent Perrotti tells Judy Darley how he combined his two loves by creating a knitting-themed comic strip.

Two years ago Brent Perrotti was working as a restaurant server near Chicago when he encountered the woman who prompted the start of his knitting journey. “Had I only known then what I was getting into I would have thanked her and asked her name!” he laughs. “I’d always wanted to learn how to knit. I remember walking through Walmart as a little kid and always wanting yarn even though I had no idea what it was for – the colours were all calling to me! One day as I took a food order the woman at the table pulled out her knitting. I thought to myself, ‘Well, I guess it’s time.’”

The next day Brent bought a book, some yarn and needles and set about teaching himself to knit. “It was a little tricky, so I asked a friend for help. I watched how she did it and my stitches started looking better.”

Since then knitting has become an addiction that Brent has been passing on everywhere he goes. “I don’t leave the house without at least a sock to work on – it starts so many wonderful conversations!”

TWO CRAFTS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE

Before long, Brent thought of a very different way of indulging his love of knitting. “Drawing has always been a passion of mine, so I was keen to find something that fit these two favourite things together,” Brent says.



Knitting patterns for Durb (left) and Ike the Eye Scream Cone (right) are now available for free from ravelry.com

“Then I heard Maggie Sefton talk at her book signing for *Unraveled*. On her advice I began carrying a notebook wherever I went. It all helped me bring the comic strip to life.”

Brent spent months developing the concept and creating an array of unique characters, including Durb, Ike the Eye Scream Cone and the Skein

Monsters, before launching the Skein n’ Bones comic strip online in October 2011. Described by Brent as “The story of monsters who love knitting and how it changes their lives and world forever”, it has gained a loyal following. “It gets more ‘likes’ on Facebook every week and people seem to really like my characters. I would love to eventually publish hard copies.” You can

read the strip at <http://skeinnbones.blogspot.com>.

In addition, Brent has begun designing patterns for the quirky monsters. “I want my comic strip to have many elements to it and I hope that making a pattern like Durb will help people feel more connected,” he says. “I know that when I knit a toy, my favourite part is watching its personality form as I knit. I hope it will help people feel even more attached to the characters.”

He doesn’t plan to stop there, however. “I also have an idea for a knitting pattern book that I think the Skein n’ Bones world would be perfect for,” he says. “I’d love to be able to take it to knitting shows.”

One of Brent’s favourite things about being a knitter is the sense of community. “I’ve met so many people and all of them have enriched my life,” he says. “I can’t imagine my life without knitters in it. That’s part of why I created the comic – I want to contribute to a community that has already given me so much.”

Has knitting given you a new lease of life? Helped you through bad times? We’d love to hear from you. Write to us at Your Stories, Simply Knitting, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW or email simplyknitting@futurenet.com with ‘Your Stories’ as the subject.

