

# Knits . . .

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Knitting is pretty easy because there are few basic stitches — knit, pearl and yarnover, Warner said. "It's the combinations that make the different stitch patterns."

Warner has special perceptual skills which allow her to look at yarn and determine how it will drape and what effect it will achieve, Hillestad said. She does innovative things with her sweaters and makes them special so they stand out, he said.

"They're really art pieces," he said.

A sweater is considered artwork depending on what she has done with it, Warner said. Occasionally, she said, one will rise above the rest such as her cocoon sweater or tree coat.

"I think knitting can be just as creative as you want it to be," she said.

Last year, Warner put her creative juices to work in designing a unique hunting jacket adorned with pheasant feathers, fur on the shoulders and to top it off, shell casings for the buttons.

Warner also custom makes sweaters and sells them. She said she has sold several through Joffe's in the Atrium. Since sweater designing has a "specialized market," she said, she does her business by word of mouth. So far this year, she has sold eight sweaters, she said.

But some sweaters Warner won't part with. For example, if the yarn used in the sweater is no longer available, she will keep the sweater, she said.

The price for a "one of a kind" sweater depends upon the time and material put into the item. Because each one of her sweaters is unique, she said, sweaters are a way to set yourself apart from the

crowd.

In the future, Warner may open a sweater design business. Although the market is not in Lincoln, she said, she will probably stay here.

"I think you can design anywhere," she said.

Because she never throws away any scraps of yarn, she said, a sweater is like a quilt, where you have certain memories tied to the different elements of the quilt or sweater.

"It's hard work, but it's what I want to do and I love it," she said.



Craig Andresen/Daily Nebraskan

Margaret Warner models one of her prize-winning hand-made sweaters.



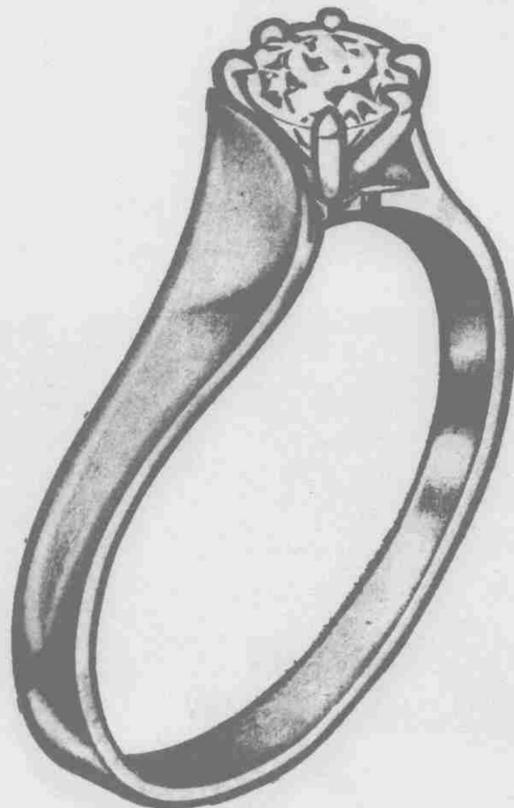
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