

Graphic by Russell Whang

## Used-record stores abound in Eugene

By TOM TOWBRIDGE  
Of the Emerald

If the high cost of new music keeps your record collection small, consider the benefits of buying used.

The Eugene area sports several used-record stores with enough music to suit all tastes: rock, jazz, classical, soul, easy-listening and country.

"Eugene probably has the most used-record stores per capita than anywhere else in the country," says Mike Smyrak, proprietor of Mr. Mike's Really Reuseable Records.

This benefits the record consumer because "competition breeds improvement," Smyrak says.

Play It Again records, located downtown at 565 Willamette St. (across from the post office) and on campus at 762 E. 13th Ave. has a large selection of records at an average price of \$3.25 for a single LP. All single records priced at \$2.50 or more and double records \$4.50 and up are guaranteed. Play It Again also rents records, usually at a cost of \$1 per single record.

The House of Records at 258 E. 13th Ave. has been providing the area with used records for 10 years. In addition to its huge quantity of used recordings, the shop offers many new albums at budget prices. Used record prices vary from \$1.99 to \$4.29 depending on the artist and the quality of the record.

All records priced above \$2.49 are guaranteed, and the House of Records rents records as well.

Inside the Lane Building at the corner of 5th Avenue and Willamette Street is Diana's Records. Diana's stocks mostly new and imported records, but it

also carries a sizable selection of used recordings priced between \$2 and \$4 that are backed by a guarantee. Diana's rental policy includes new and used records.

Mr. Mike's Really Reuseable Records at 223 W. 7th Ave. downtown, and on campus at 519 E. 13th Ave. offer high-quality guaranteed used recordings priced between \$2.50 and \$3.50. Bargains also can be found on the budget-record racks containing records priced at \$1 each or three for \$2. These records are not guaranteed. Mr. Mike's also rents records.

In addition to their low prices, used-record stores also have the advantage of allowing the customer to personally inspect each record. However, according to Smyrak this doesn't always ensure a clean recording.

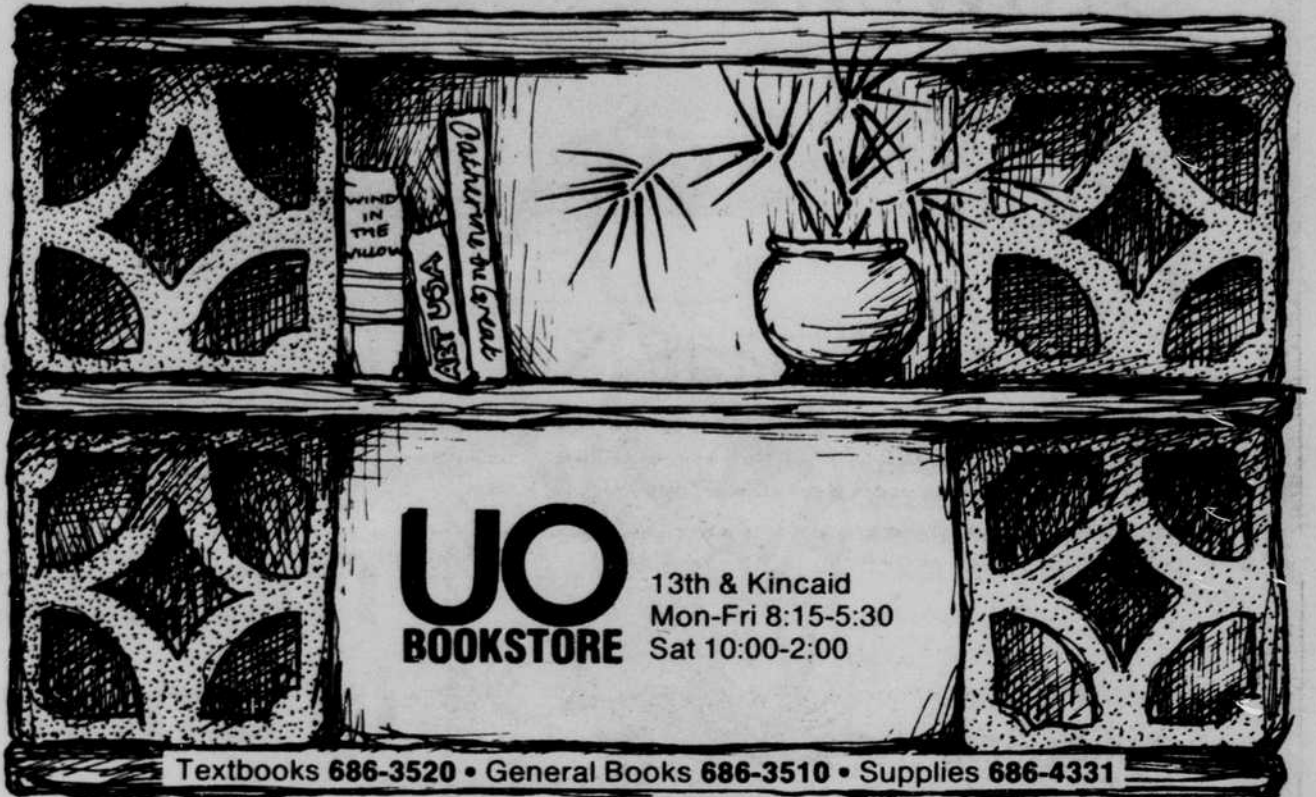
"Ninety percent of used-record store customers don't know what to look for when they take a record out of the jacket," he says, suggesting that a record buyer who is in doubt about a record's quality should ask the cashier to play a track on the store stereo.

Eugene's used-record stores offer more than records and tapes. Posters, stereo accessories and general paraphernalia are sold too. Bootleg records and collector's items usually not seen in new record stores often can be found at used-record outlets.

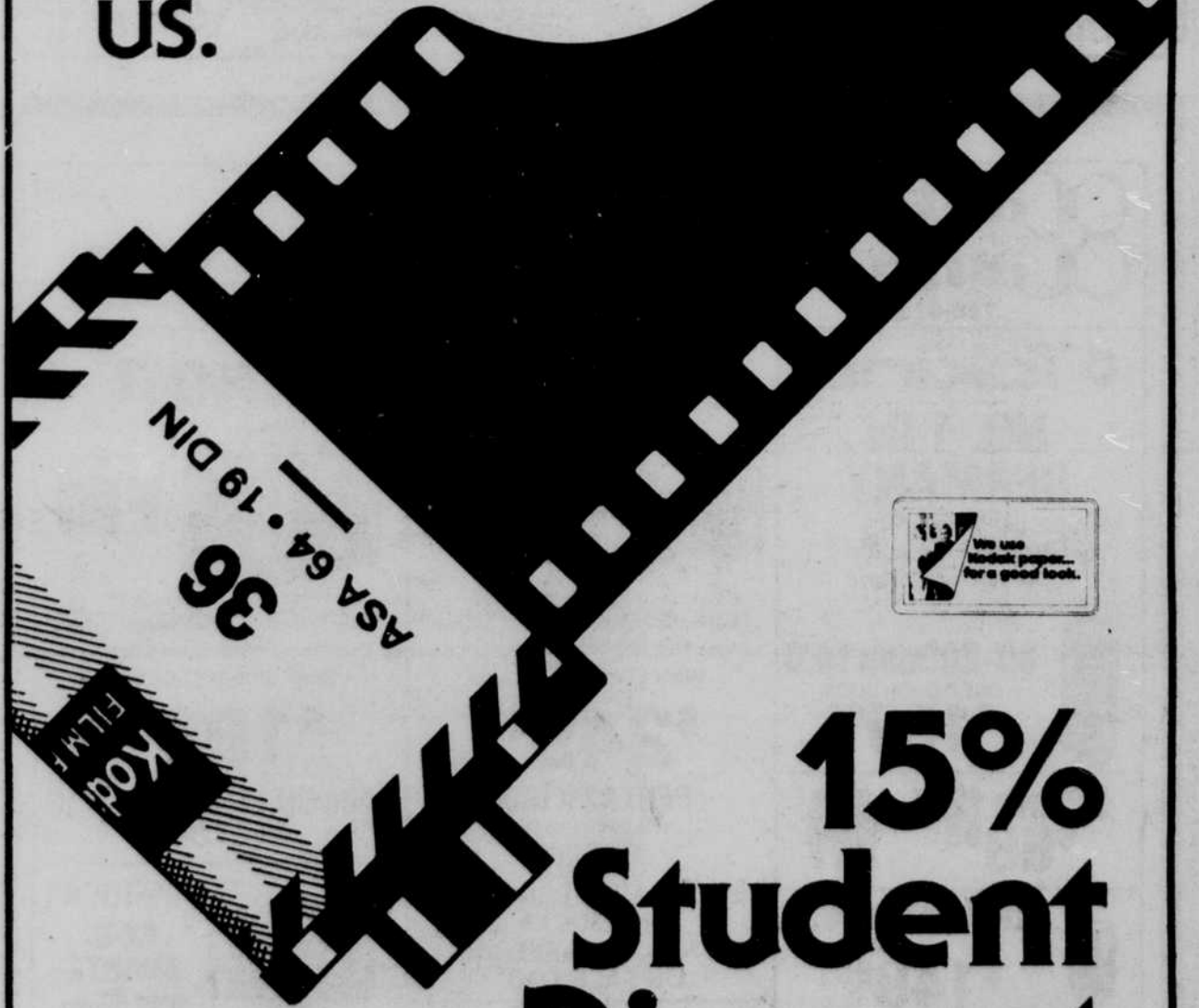
If you wish to sell or trade your records, Smyrak says they should be in top condition. A record jacket that isn't worn helps as well.

"Telling people that their records aren't any good is the hardest thing about the used record business," he says.

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