

How to look real chic on the cheap

BY JOAN HERMAN

If rising tuitions have prevented students from buying that new school wardrobe, the next wisest thing to do is invest in some used clothes. Students don't have to shop at Saks Fifth Avenue or Bloomingdales to look like a million bucks, and what used clothes may lack in the crisp feel of new fabric, they more than make up for in character and price — especially in price.

There are chic or attractive clothes in second-hand clothing stores, all it takes to run across a "find" is some luck, imagination, and perseverance.

Eugene is unique for cities of its size in that it offers a wide variety of used clothing stores from which to pick and choose. From frilly Victorian-era bloomers to funky punk fashions of today, all tastes are accommodated in the used clothing stores.

In addition to offering quality clothing at affordable prices, many used clothing stores also take consignments, another bonus that one can't get by shopping at conventional clothing stores.

Here is a sampling of some of Eugene's second hand clothing stores:

Boogie Blues, 342 W. Eighth Ave., Noon to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Both vintage (1900-1959) and contemporary fashions for the entire family, some very unique, all in good condition and reasonably priced. Natural fibers only — no polyesters.

Brass Hanger, 50 E. 25th (off Willamette St.), 485-6631, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Owner Christina Friberg says her goal is to "provide top quality used women's clothing." She has succeeded. Contemporary fashions for professionals as well as students (including many designer labels such as Calvin Klein and Gloria Vanderbilt) combined with excellent prices, make this store worth visiting.

Kristen's Consignment Shop, 1689 Pearl St., 683-7066, 11

a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Kristen Weber's new business of contemporary men's and women's used clothing is full of "finds," with a wide selection of \$5 skirts and \$7 pants — including many designer labels, all of excellent quality. Natural fibers only.

Old Friends, 1128-A Alder St., 345-1414, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Black satin and lace dresses keep company with contemporary cotton and wool fashions for men and women. All are in excellent condition and many exemplify the latest fashion styles. Only one block from campus.

Puttin' On the Ritz, 1639 E. 19th Ave., 343-8938, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Gorgeous, well-preserved men's and women's vintage fashions at slightly higher prices (compared to other used clothing stores). Natural fibers only, including silks and rayons. The men's section is full of crisp cotton shirts; the women's section has a good selection of soft, wool sweaters fresh from the 1950's and early 1960's.

Rags To Riches, 360 E. 11th Ave., 344-7039, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Owner Gayle Hutchinson's thriving seven-year-old business caters to working women as well as to students. There are some vintage fashions, but mainly contemporary men's and women's clothing. All are in excellent condition at reasonable prices. Natural fibers only.

Satin Roses, 347 W. Fifth Ave., 343-4336, 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Some vintage, but mainly contemporary, no-frills clothing for the entire family. Natural fibers only.

Starting Over, 1087 Willamette St., 343-1413, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Trendy clothes of excellent quality and price fill Vikki Chapman's store, located on the downtown mall. Beautiful silk blazers (\$20,) wool tweed jackets, and lots of blue jeans round out this unusually fashionable second hand store of mostly women's clothing.

Street Merchants, 671 E. 13th Ave., (in the courtyard,) 343-2108, 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Day Rogers unique store is filled with weird, garish clothing for those daring to be different. From black satin smoking jackets to sparkly mini skirts, many old and new styles make Street Merchants a "must see" store. It's not surprising that this is a popular Halloween costume store, as well.

Don't forget the Salvation

Army, 451 W. 11th Ave., 343-3341, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday; St. Vincent de Paul, 110 E. 11th Ave., 344-2115, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday; and Goodwill Industries, 265 W. Eighth Ave., 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. These stores are usually somewhat cheaper than privately owned second hand clothing stores, but you may have to search a little longer to find something special.

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