

Vintage Delights

Local boutiques specialize in recycled fashion

The best sweater is the handed-down sweater; from father to daughter, sister to sister, roommate to roommate, one generation to the next. Clothes were meant to be recycled.

Several University-area clothing shops have caught on to the fashion recycling trend. Whether one is interested in buying, selling, consigning, or trading, these boutiques offer an attractive and economical alternative to department store shopping.

However, the used-clothing business isn't just a novelty; it's a thriving industry. "There are lots of clothes," said Gayle Hutchinson from **Rags to Riches**, 360 E. 11th Ave. "It's a very consuming business."

The variety of clothes found in the shops is im-

mense. They range from the garments of the 19th century to the ones found on racks at department stores today.

Hutchinson has nine wholesalers who bring in a constant flow of clothes, and there are always individuals, many of them students, who want to retire their old garments for a profit.

Hutchinson is discriminating; she only accepts clothes that are clean, in good condition and don't look too worn. "A lot of the things that come in here maybe have been worn only two or three times and look so crisp and new," she said.

Puttin' on the Ritz, 1639 E. 19th Ave., specializes in vintage clothing and accessories. The vintage period

ranges from around the turn of the century to the 1940s and into the 1950s.

Because of its highly selective choice in garments, this shop does most of its buying from wholesalers who frequent estate and garage sales, searching for clothes that have been hidden away in attics for years.

Owner Colleen Lillard strives to make everything she sells clean and wearable.

"We do a lot of work to make the clothing look good," she said. This includes drycleaning, pressing, and mending their clothes before displaying them on the racks.

Old Friends, 1128 Alder St., runs a less selective business. One can find a little bit of almost everything in the shop, including new clothes and gifts.

"We try to be pretty eclectic so we have something for everyone's tastes," said co-owner Tina Rosa.

"We do have a wide range in here," she said. "We're not just into one kind of style."

A significant advantage to purchasing second-hand clothing is in the money saved.

"Our prices are close to half the price of a department store, and many of our clothes have hardly been worn," said Rosa.

Another obvious bonus is that each of the boutiques offer uniqueness in both men's and women's attire.

"It's nice to come into a place and find just one piece, not a whole rack with 15 or 20 of one thing all in the same size," said Rosa. "Here you find just one of a kind."

Linda Coombs



One-of-a-kind outfits abound on the racks of local used clothing stores. The only problem is deciding which one to buy.



A twirl of the parasol and a garment designed for another time can turn a stroll in the park into a fashion fantasy.

Eugene's used-clothing stores

Alpha Consignment Shop
775 Monroe St. — 342-7407

Boogie Blues
342 West 8th St. — 484-4385

Brass Hanger
50 East 25th St. — 485-6631

Clothes Encounters
631 West Centennial Blvd. — 726-6410

Grand Lady
442 Blair Blvd. — 342-7216

The Hall Closet
35 Coberg Road — 344-5082

New Incarnation Recycled Maternity
1087 Willamette St. — 484-4585

Old Friends
1128-A Alder St. — 345-1414

Puttin' On The Ritz
1639 East 19th St. — 343-8938

Rags to Riches
360 East 11th St. — 344-7039

Satin Roses
130 East 11th St. — 342-2211

Starting Over
1077 Willamette St. — 343-1413

Tootsie
21 West 5th St. — 485-5010

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