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Secondhand

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and Alder St. Owned by Sheila Showalter and Linda Collins, the shop shares space with Collins' other business, **Time Warp Costume Rental**.

If you're a die-hard vintage fan, this is the place to shop. Although Old Friends stocks contemporary fashions, the store has an extensive vintage inventory with everything from ladies' hats to men's smoking jackets. Prices range from \$1.99 to \$200, averaging between \$6 and \$40. Showalter says that the store's relocation was an "uptown" move.

"I think it's great that Starting Over, Old Friends and Second Thoughts Too are within walking distance of each other," she says, adding that it creates a little district such as shops do in big cities. "I don't feel that it's competition, it's complementary."

Within walking distance of Starting Over and Old Friends is **Second Thoughts Too**, on 77 W. 11th. Like Old Friends, this shop made the migration from the campus area to downtown. The owners, sisters Lisa and Katy Gullette, focus on natural fiber contemporary womens' clothing. Prices range on an average of \$7 to \$15.

They often buy things from students, as is reflected in the trendy but quality clothing displayed in the shop.

Second Thoughts Too provides a number of informal services for customers, including helping graduates assemble at-

tractive but inexpensive interview wardrobes, and telephoning other stores to find a item someone is searching for. Says Gullette, "I think it's more important, if we don't have an item a customer wants, to refer that customer to another store, than selling them something they don't want."

In a room adjacent to Second Thoughts Too is a men's shop, **Gentlemen's Encore**. Owner Carol Shoot has filled the space with a collection of sweaters, pants, jackets, shirts, and some nice vintage overcoats. Her shop attracts college students and business people alike, as well as tall women searching for longer-cut shirts and sweaters.

Prices vary from \$5 for shirts to \$100 for high-quality vintage wool coats. The store came into being several months ago after **Second Thoughts** switched their focus to women's clothing and incurred an outcry from male customers. Of this, Shoot remarks, "The public always teaches you what they want. We're basically a mirror of what the public wants, and that's what makes the business successful."

Away from downtown in the West University area is the **Grand Collection**, located in a small cottage on 1598 Pearl St. Owners Joyce Summers and Barb Garner have created a homey atmosphere, as noted by the antique sewing machine on display and the handcrafted wall hangings for sale.

The store caters to women of all ages — from students to older people who used to live in the house, built in 1928. The shop features a wide selection of sweaters, scarves, and belts. The focus, however, is on career clothing: blazers, blouses, suits.

Prices average about 25 percent of original cost, according to Garner. The shop keeps a customer's list of requests and notifies someone if a requested item has arrived.

A Touch of Class, located at 2650 Willamette St., is worth the short trip to visit. Featuring new and used contemporary natural fiber clothing, the non-profit store is a project run by Eugene Emergency Housing.

Occupying an older home, the store has a professional air, and features a wide yet organized variety of high-quality items. There is a small room of children's clothing up to size 6X, and some new men's clothing, but the focus is generally on women's things, says program manager Patty Moore.

Prices range from \$1 for jewelry to about \$50 for coats or evening wear.

There are many other stores in Eugene available worth exploring, several near the shops reviewed. The Resale Connection guide and map can help find these stores; it's on prominent display at most shops, or ask for it. As shop owner Carol Shoot says, "If you want to be a more adventurous shopper, these are the places to come to."

Timeless

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Rest assured, the '60s did more than just expand the consciousness of America.

The over-sized sweater for women has endured through the years, and will continue to do so as long as there are dads and football players. The cardigan, for more obscure reasons, also has remained a favorite.

The canvas bag from Kenya, available almost everywhere, is

seen on shoulders almost everywhere.

In regard to shoes, Birkenstocks, Timberline boots, flip flops and topsiders have been around for a long time. And L.L. Bean has been offering duck shoes in its catalogues for decades.

It is not really necessary to consider the intricate points of fashion philosophy, whether it

be how new trends are predicted or how items become fashion fixtures. If we remove the mystery, what would happen to the fashion rat-race? What would happen to wearing timeless fashions and blending in comfortably and unconsciously? We better just wear what we like, and leave the philosophizing to the advertising directors.

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