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## Buffalo Exchange gives retail a run for its money

OK, I'll give you three chances to think of a store where you can shop for free—literally. No, it's not K-Mart, where every item is a blue light

### Fashion Goddess

MANDI LINSTROM

Associate Editor



special. I'm talking about the store called Buffalo Exchange, where you can take in any of your old clothes that you can't imagine yourself ever wearing ever again and exchange them for something better—other people's clothes!

Now, I know what you're thinking. "Sounds a little like the Goodwill, if you ask me," you're probably muttering. But it's not. And that's what makes the Buffalo Exchange store so cool. The workers will rummage through your clothes of yesteryear and pick out the stuff that is actually saleable and that other people will want to buy.

Then they give you a price estimate from your material leftovers and offer you in-store credit, worth approximately 80% of the resale value, or 45% of the clothing value in cash. Although one estimate is significantly less than the other, it's truly a win-win situation! Either you walk away with some new threads that are trendy (even if they belonged to someone else first), or you end up with a little spare change in your pocket for the bell bottoms that were hip for like, five seconds.

Not only does the Buffalo Exchange have other people's retread threads, they also buy other resale items from chain merchandising stores like GAP and Banana Republic. Plus, they have shoes, jewelry and a quaint little accessory cor-

ner with neat knickknacks like scented glitter, feather boas, sunglasses, and inflatable chairs! The Buffalo Exchange has an atmosphere very similar to Urban Outfitters, but with a much more affordable price tag. You'll see a wide variety of shoppers here too, because the store not only appeals to preppy kids like myself, but also the grungy slackers, laid-back hippies, and club kids on the cutting edge of every fashion trend.

So how is this a "free" shopping trip? Well, every time I have ventured into this store, I have walked in with multiple bags of old clothes and walked out with a bag full of cute skirts and tank-tops that are new—at least to me. I even found a GAP skirt I'd almost bought a couple of months earlier for \$60, marked down to the amazing price of \$6! Sometimes I'm even lucky enough to get something new and still have change left over. It's almost too good to be true...but it is.

The only catch is that you can't saunter into the Buffalo Exchange store with very little time on your hands. The key to making a shopping score is to look, and look hard, because there are loads and loads of labeled racks of clothing that cannot possibly be seen unless you are willing to spend some time in the process. It's definitely worth the effort, though, trust me.

While you're down in the Hawthorne district (where this shop is conveniently located on SE 37th and Hawthorne) you can also stop at the Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream Parlor or Starbucks and spend your leftover cash on something yummy. You'll feel that you deserve it after all your hard shopping that didn't cost you a dime.

## Buddies brighten big house



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

Martin Lawrence, left, and Eddie Murphy portray inmates in *Life*, a new comedy released last week.

ANGIE DASCHEL  
Associate Editor

*Grumpy Old Men 3: Jailbirds.* That is what Eddie Murphy's new movie *Life* should have been titled. Murphy and Martin Lawrence (*Nothing to Lose*) follow in the tradition of Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon by taking a good concept of two enemies who turn out to be lifelong friends and turning it into a great movie.

The year is 1932 and things are swingin' in the Big Apple. Murphy plays Ray Gibson, a pick-pocket with dreams of owning a nightclub in New York City called Ray's Boom-Boom Room. Lawrence portrays Claude Banks, an aspiring bank teller with a large gambling debt. Their paths cross at a swanky nightclub owned by a crime boss named Spanky Johnson, played by Rick "Super Freak" James.

Both Ray and Claude owe Spanky money, yet they are both broke. Spanky decides that they can pay off their debt by doing a little bootlegging in Mississippi. While they are in the South, some good ole boys murder a man and blame it on Ray and Claude. They are sentenced to life in a Mississippi state prison work camp where they spend the next 60 years, plotting and scheming every day to break free.

The movie was billed as a typical funny Eddie Murphy vehicle, and although it was hilarious in some parts, *Life* was more a comedic drama about the triumph of the human spirit. The two innocent men were sentenced to life in prison, yet they never gave up hope that someday they would be free.

It was a *comedic* drama because it was definitely not realistic. First of all, the men who were in prison with Ray and Claude were people

who had done horrendous things. Yet while they were in prison, they were portrayed as great people with witty personalities who never displayed a violent temper (excepting a rather large man who especially likes cornbread, and is not afraid to fight you for yours).

Second, the camp was guarded only by a few people with rifles; there were no walls or fences. The inmates could have easily joined forces and revolted against the prison guards. These are minor technicalities, though, and that is what makes movies so great. A filmmaker can add the most ridiculous plot twists, dialogues and characters and still have a wonderful product, which *Life* was.

*Life* is not Murphy's best movie, but it does showcase him as a team player; he doesn't have to be the star of the show. First seen together in the 1992 comedy *Boomerang*, Murphy and Lawrence make a great comedic pair in *Life*.

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