

# Secondhand clothes

## Local stores offer yesterday's styles and prices

By CATHY CIPOLLA  
Collegian Features Editor

When the price of clothing rises so high that a shirt costs \$25, taking the shirt off someone else's back doesn't seem like such a bad idea after all.

It's happening. Not only in State College, but all over. Secondhand clothing stores, which were formerly disdained by anyone making over \$5,000 a year, are drawing more and more customers — even the well-to-do.

Barbara Streisand, a famous "Secondhand Rose," used to haunt these stores in her fledgling, actress days.

But after she became more well-known she complained that the stores upped their prices when they saw her coming.

But for most of us, secondhand stores are a bargain. At the New World Headquarters on South Pugh Street, you can buy genuine Pendleton or Woolrich shirts for \$5.00 or a pure silk scarf for 75 cents.

Everything in the store is "recycled" — even the bags, which often bear the name of familiar stores around State College.

Many of the styles at the store date back to the 1940's. There are ladies' blazers — with crepe linings, padded shoulders, and covered buttons — for \$10-\$15. A velvet coat with a rabbit collar costs \$50. Tuxedos with full tails are now on sale for \$9.00, reduced from \$12. And they even sell the top hats that go with them.

"We're selling the clothing at about the same price it sold for then," said Gary Filkins, owner of New World, "and this is probably one-quarter of what it would sell for now." Filkins said the old clothes are also made much better than clothes today.

Some of the items, such as the antique quilts, were gotten from auctions, Filkins said. Others come from wholesalers throughout the northeast part of the country.

"Everything is authentic," he said, "and some of these things are made from material you don't even see anymore."

And the clothes DO look authentic. There are genuine Hawaiian shirts, resplendent with palm trees and bunches of flowers, for \$8.00-\$12. "They're selling for \$25 in California," Filkins said. New World also sells men's Vietnamese shirts, embroidered with dragons, and the old "reindeer sweaters" from the 1930's.

But they sell up-to-date threads, too, mainly in the form of jeans. Jean jackets sell for \$5.00-\$8.00, and recycled dungarees are \$5.00.

Although the store's clientele is composed mainly of students, older people often come in for work clothes and antique quilts. And according to Filkins, many come in just to see his singing dog, Gesu. He played a record — "Baba O'Reilly" by the Who — and Gesu howled along with it.

On the other side of town, on East Beaver Avenue, is another secondhand store — the Second Time Around. Besides offering bargains on used clothing — flannel shirts for \$1.00 and \$2.50; corduroy jackets for \$4.00 — Second Time Around also has used furniture and antiques.

There's a pot-belly stove there for \$40, a box of dishes for \$10, mirrors, silverwear,

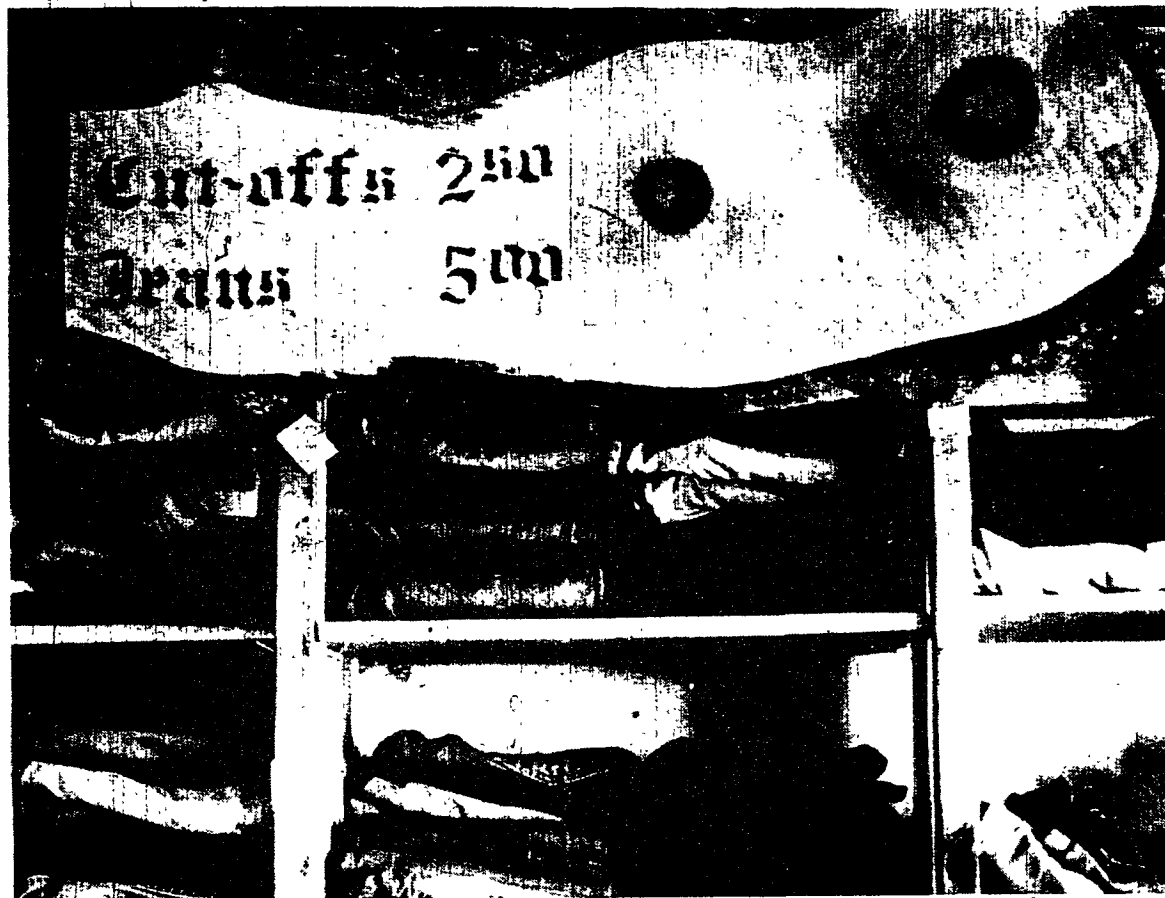
chairs, tables, picture frames, and even a broadaxe. According to Kay Bauerle, co-owner of the store, 75 per cent of these items come from auctions.

Other items are sold on consignment — the owner brings in something he wants to sell, and the store keeps a percentage of the money after it is sold. Bauerle said many students leaving their apartments bring their furniture there.

But the clothes have a more interesting history. Many were rescued from a "rag company" in the midwest, where they probably would have ended up as somebody's dust cloth. "We buy bales of used jeans," Bauerle said. "The torn ones get fixed, and then they're sold." However, she added, many students specifically ask for torn jeans.

Many of the store's 1940's clothes come from auctions, Bauerle said. "They're often from the estates of people who've died," she added. "Their families usually don't know what to do with the clothes." And some of the clothes are brand-new with store tags intact.

While New World Headquarters and Second Time Around specialize in used items, the Record Ranch on East College Avenue also sells them. Behind the racks of records are rows and rows



New World Headquarters on S. Pugh offers jeans that are 'broken in.'

of corduroy jackets for \$3.50. "We have a couple of thousand of them," said Record Ranch employe Jim Bender, "and we even had a few smoking jackets with silk lapels." Like the other two stores, the Record Ranch gets its merchandise from wholesale

distributors and rag companies. Others are surpluses from the armed services and military academies. U.S. Navy pullovers, made from 100 per cent wool, sell for \$2.99, and Valley Forge Military Academy jackets sell for \$5.00. They also have army and marine jackets.

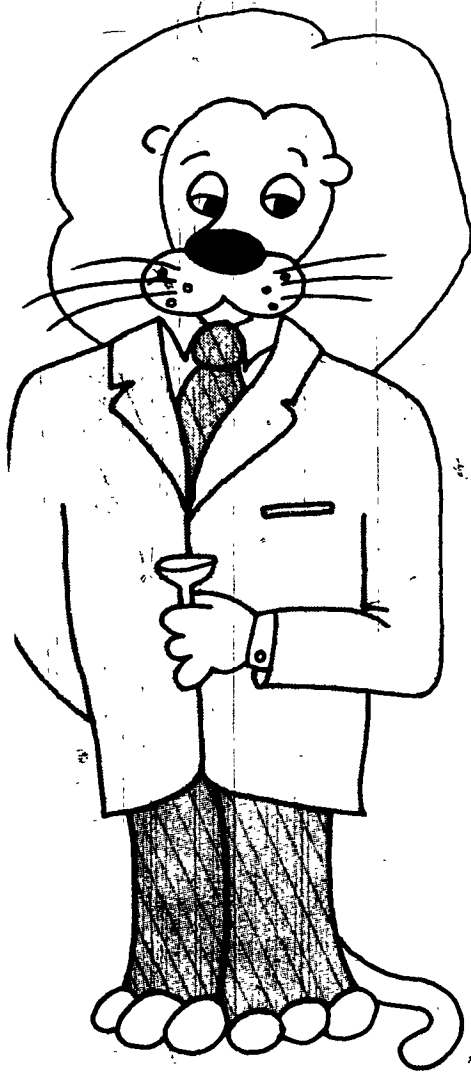
Bender said jackets are the biggest seller at the ranch, and that business has been increasing since they started selling clothes two years ago. "With the recession, people have a lot less money to spend on clothes," he said. "If you feel like walking a little bit, visit The Thrift Shop

at 902 South Allen Street. It's operated by the State College Women's Club and sells clothes and household items — all donated to the shop. According to club trustee Irene McDowell, the shop is open Tuesdays for contributions and on Thursdays for sales.

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# Town falls asleep over break

By LAURA SHEMICK  
Collegian Staff Writer

Although most students don't know it, State College is a very quiet town during term break. In fact, most students probably don't even think this town exists when school is not in session. This belief is not too far from the truth.

## Impressions

The streets of State College are nearly deserted during all term breaks, not just between fall and winter. The parking areas have only a sprinkling of cars, and you can count the number of motorcycles in town on one hand. The traffic is so light that you can cross against the light on College Avenue at two in the afternoon. There are no lines in front of the movie theatres, no crowds in the

drugstores. Little signs saying "No check cashing until next term" spring up in Murphy's. The record stores are lightly populated with local youngsters.

On campus, the changes are even more drastic. The roads see about ten cars per hour. Occasionally you happen upon a few workmen digging holes in a lawn, but not often. There are few pedestrians on the paths and even the squirrels disappear.

Pattee is still inhabited during break, but sparsely. Towards the beginning of the new term it comes back to full life, opening earlier and closing later than it does on break.

Wandering around campus on break evokes some strange feelings. It's eerie to be able to sit down and be completely alone in a place where thousands of students usually mill around. It's even more strange to be locked out of a familiar building where you remember leaving your logic book a week ago.

Penn State looked and felt like a ghost town on break, an illusion magnified by the chilly winds which swept through this area around Thanksgiving.

The ice rink was not quite as deserted. But the skaters were shorter as more kids frequented the rink.

It's not just the students that leave. State College has a population of about 30,000, and over 8,000 of these townspeople either teach or work at the university. Many of these University people take off on vacation for the term break. Combined with the many thousands of students who go home, this doesn't leave very many people in Happy Valley.

If you like solitude, try staying here for term break. But remember to have on hand plenty of records and books and whatever else you like to do — or it could get boring after a while.



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## Seminars planned for museum aides

The first in a series of five programs to train docents for Penn State's Museum of Art will be held 10:30 a.m. Dec. 11 at the Museum.

Docents serve as guides and information sources during public tours of the Museum and its current exhibitions every Thursday at 1:30 p.m. and during specially arranged group tours.

The topic of the first sessions will be an introduction to docent education. Additional subjects will be docent communication techniques, Jan. 8; assimilating art history content for docents, Jan. 22; guiding young viewers in the art museum, Feb. 4; and the docent portfolio of resources, March 4. All sessions will run from 10:30 a.m. to noon, and are free.

Those planning to attend the seminar should register with Robert Ott at 273 Chambers or by phone at 865-6570.

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