

Fayetteville thrift shops: unknown treasures

by L Asia Brown
Contributing Writer

A small, quaint brick building, that looks a lot like a home, sits desolate across the street from Luther "Nick" Gerald's football stadium, and a couple steps away from FSU's University Place apartments. A couple racks of clothing sit on the porch. A near-new cr me suit, in a size 6, has a large, handwritten price-tag attached to it. \$4.

The suit, made by Le Sui, a company whose clothing retails for hundreds of dollars, is available for just \$4 there. It's a steal, to say the least, but nobody knows about it. The small thrift-boutique gets little business, despite hidden treasures like \$4 suits, \$3 dresses and \$1 hats.

Meanwhile, students right across the street are stressing about not being able to afford the proper attire for a career-fair.

"We have them? Where? I didn't know. Fayetteville seems small," says Shawn Cox, a Fayetteville State University sophomore, when asked if she does any thrift-shopping in the area. Excited about a possible new retail outlet, she listens intently as a reporter runs down a short list of consignment and thrift shops in the area. When she finishes writing the down the stores on an old McDonald's receipt in her purse, she hints at visiting them almost immediately after the conversation has ended.

This is FSU's not so shocking, but thought-provoking reality. For a campus full of students who most likely don't have unlimited funds at their disposal, it would be assumed that most of them know where to find the best deals on clothing, shoes, accessories, jewelry, furniture or whatever it is they may be searching for at the time. But it seems they don't.

Out of the 15 students asked if they enjoyed thrift-shopping, only two said they do. Yet, neither of the two knew of any consignment or thrift shops in Fayetteville. Despite there being a healthy number of shops that caters to an audience that delights in "thrifting," students are either uninterested or uninformed, both of which are causing them to miss out on out-of-this-world sales.

These resources are invaluable, especially during economic hardships, as well as enjoyable for people with only small amounts to spend.

From clothing to furniture to books to home d cor, often thrift shops offer steep discounts on otherwise pricey finds. In addition to the \$4 suits available at the Prize Thrift-Boutique, \$150 nook-tables were available at New and Nearly Thrift shop, while used bookshelves at the Goodwill ran as low as \$32.

In addition to purchasing, many of these shops also accept donated items that you may be looking to get rid of or sell. Saks Consignment Shop sells approved women's

wear items, home d cor and other select products consigned by individuals. Once the item sells, the individual gets a portion of the money.

Whether buying, selling or donating, thrift shops are unique establishments who are able to sell products at discounted prices due to the nature of their businesses. When used correctly, they can save shoppers hundreds, or thousands of dollars. Some thrift store owners will even accommodate loyal customers who may be experiencing hardship, by offering them bargains on products they can't afford, or layaway.

They are gold, but right now the undiscovered treasures in Fayetteville are being treated more like coal. A mystery, especially for a shop whose suits cost less than the average McDonald's value meal.

Thrift Shops in Fayetteville

Fabulous Finds

228 Tallywood Shopping Center
Fayetteville, NC 28303
(910) 864-3690

The Goodwill

3801 Raeford Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304-3353
(910) 486-8716

The Prize Thrift-Boutique

1450 Murchison Road
Fayetteville, NC 28301
Store Hours
Mon-Sat 10-4:30

The Salvation Army Thrift Store

3621 Sycamore Dairy Road,
Fayetteville, NC, 28303.
(910) 764-1041

Saks Consigned Designs

2631 Raeford Road
Fayetteville, NC 28303-5471
(910) 485-3587
Store Hours:
Mon-Fri 10-6
Sat 10-5

The New and Nearly Thrift Store

810 Bragg Blvd.
Fayetteville, NC 28301
910-485-6837
Store Hours:
Mon-Sat 9:30-5:30

Tammy's Thrift & Craft Boutique

2126 Hope Mills Rd
Fayetteville, NC 28304
Store Hours:
Mon-Sat 8-5

Losing your religion Has college got a hold of your belief?

by Erin Lawson
Staff Writer

Students new to college life can go astray in so many ways including their spiritual path.

For many freshmen, college life is both exciting and frightening with new responsibilities and opportunities.

However, due to the distractions of this new life, it's all too common for students to fall off track with their religious values. When Sunday morning rolls around, mom isn't bugging them to get up and go to church. Whether it's laziness or just the need for a full night of studies (or partying), the motivation is lacking.

Is college distracting students from practicing their religion?

"It's difficult because when you go to church every Sunday, it provides a way to stay on the right path. So not being there on Sundays sometimes makes me feel like I need to get back on track," says freshman, Darius Robertson.

"I believe your religion can't be altered, because what you are taught at home is instilled in you," according to junior, Santana Latimore.

"It's like school and church are two different atmospheres. And without me going to church, it feels like I lose balance, which effects the way I perform in school," says Akili Paige, a freshman.

Their feelings, while not scientific, seem to be backed up by at least one nationwide study.

"Seven in 10 Protestants ages 18 to 30-both evangelical and mainline-who went to church regularly in high school said they quit attending by age 23," according to a survey by Lifeway Research in a USA Today article.

The statistics were based on a survey of more than 1,000 Protestant, ages 18 to 30, who attended church at least twice a month every year during high school.

Fifty-seven percent of college freshman questioned their religious beliefs according to

"If my religion is who I am, and not something I do, then my environment has no affect." □

Minister
Manny Hayes
Kingdom Impact
Global Ministries

a UCLA study published in 2007. This study summarized the reports of 112,232 first-year college students from more than 236 diverse colleges and universities across the country from 2003 to 2007.

Does this mean students no longer believe in practicing their religions like they did in high school?

"They don't lose their faith," says Rev. Philip Kollithanth of Christ the King Catholic Church. "I think it's a common trend among students when they go to college that they take a break from active religious participation."

No matter the religion, each faith has likely required some form of preparation to handle the outside world and the things in life that can throw you off track. Some believe that abandoning this practice can cause problems for students who are use to a religious lifestyle.

"Coming from a Christian view, I would have to agree that college alters student's religious practice. Most students in church choose their religion based on their parents. If my religion is who I am, and not something I do, then my environment has no affect," according to Minister Manny Hayes of Kingdom Impact Global Ministries.

However, there are studies that say there is an increase in college student's religious practices over their years in college. This goes to show that when it comes to college students practicing religion, it goes both ways, whether it is positive or negative.

"Today's entering college students report high levels of spiritual interest and involvement," according to The Spiritual Life of College Students, a National Study of College Students' Search for Meaning and Purpose.

While there are no on-campus houses of worship, there are more than 20 churches within a five mile radius of FSU. And these are just the places near the university. It comes down to whether or not students are willing to look for them.

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