

Thrift shop: bargains for all

by Elizabeth Taylor
Feature Writer

With a rash of '50s parties cropping up in Chapel Hill, more and more students have been searching out the PTA Thrift Shop at 508 W. Franklin St. for something nice and old and nostalgic, and many of them have been surprised with what they have found. Those fifties frocks are there, but that is only the beginning of the store's selection.

The basic price list is posted over the front door. Blouses, 25 cents; dresses, 50 cents to \$1; shoes, 25 to 50 cents a pair and so on.

The merchandise on display fills three rooms with racks of dresses and coats and rows of slacks, shoes, underwear, blouses and sweaters. An entire room is devoted to children's clothes and toys to entertain the customers.

Furniture and housewares fill another room, and situated at surprising places around the shop are games, stereos, jewelry, books and anything else someone happens to have contributed. Brightly colored art work from the Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools adds a finishing touch to the decor.

The shop should be "just messy enough to be fun," Shery Jones, shop manager since last June says. Raised in a family of antique hunters, she understands the attraction the store has for those with a treasure-hunting spirit. Customers range from treasure and bargain-hunters to theater groups, '50s party-goers and kids.

"You have to come regularly," a well-dressed customer said. "Then you see the bargains when they come in. People are surprised at what I find." A silver haired lady examining shoes said she buys almost all her things at the shop. At the bi-annual Bag Day held a few weeks ago, she bought two coats, two dresses, two Hallmark cards and a 49-cent brush, all for \$1. She thinks people used to be embarrassed to shop in a thrift store, but that attitude is changing. "I see several professor's wives in here all of the time," she chuckled.

"Almost everything has been donated," Jones says, "from a hearse to an old-timey swimming frock to gold-filled teeth!" One



Dummy displays thrift shop's latest fashions

Staff photo by John Locher

student, she recalled, walked into the store, dumped a bag of expensive new clothes on the counter and sauntered toward the back to purchase old jeans and tennis shoes. Another deposited her diamond engagement ring on the counter and left.

Most articles come from people in the community but other contributions are made by several area stores. Many goods are placed in containers at Krogers Food Store, the Eastgate or Airport Road A&P, University Mall, Glen Lennox Shopping Center, Dot 'n' Dash on Smith Level Road and the Carrboro American Station. Some people take items directly to the shop for a tax deduction slip (the store is completely non-profit) and the store will arrange to have

large items picked up by truck. One-third to one-fourth of the items the Thrift Shop receives can be displayed right away. Others receive free mending and cleaning by PTA members and five area dry cleaners. The rest are kept in the back room and sold once a month at 50 cents for all you can stuff in a bag. Whatever is left is sent to various needy organizations, including the Orange County Welfare Department, and state mental hospitals.

The Thrift Shop's main purpose is to provide money for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools. Since it opened about 13 years ago, the shop has provided over \$200,000 in extra funds for the schools. Last year the figure was \$40,000, the largest annual amount ever.

Eighty per cent of the money raised is proportioned to the schools on the basis of need. The high schools generally receive more of the funds because they need more expensive equipment. The remaining 20 per cent is used to entice volunteer aid from the various PTA organizations. Each school receives credit toward the money based on the number of volunteer hours logged by its PTA members.

A sign on the Thrift Shop's front door reads, "Customers wanted—no experience necessary." No experience is necessary to enjoy the shop because it offers something for everyone. The PTA Thrift Shop uses a variety of talents to create a unique experience in community cooperation.

Another winner!

by Scott Langley
Films Critic

One of the main reasons Italy was able to recover from World War II was Enrico Mattei. After the end of the war he built a huge industrial empire for the government which many people said he controlled. He brought a great deal of prosperity to the country, but also made many enemies by, among other things, actually lowering the price of oil. When he was killed in a 1962 airplane crash, there were the usual suspicions of an assassination plot.

Italian director Francesco Rosi has now made *The Mattei Affair*, a movie of this man's life centered around his final, fatal day. Rosi, little known in this country, is highly respected in Europe for two masterpieces, *The Moment of Truth*, and *Salvatore Giuliano*, which received little circulation here. *The Mattei Affair* fared no better. This film received the Grand Prix at

Cannes in 1972 (an honor it shared with *The Working Class Goes to Paradise*, the butt of a joke in *The Mother and the Whore*.) European critics raved about the film, and the great performance by Gian Maria Volonte (*Investigation of a Citizen above Suspicion*). The American distributor, Paramount, then waited about a year before finally releasing the film in New York and Los Angeles.

The reviews were generally good. Andrew Sarris of the *Village Voice* called it the best political biography ever made and put it on his list. But nobody came, and Paramount quickly snatched the film from circulation. The rumor arose that Gulf and Western, the parent company of Paramount had been involved in an oil company plot to suppress the picture.

At any rate, with the help of several dozen crowbars, the film will play this weekend at the Alternative Cinema. Shows are at 2, 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday in Carroll Hall. Admission is \$1.50.

Art display

Wood sculptor Robert S. Brunk will present a one-man exhibition from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. today through Sunday in the Carolina Union.

Brunk, a member by jury of Piedmont Craftsmen, Inc., and the Southern Highlands Handicraft Guild, will display furniture pieces, chess sets and other utilitarian items in addition to his wood sculptures.

see it again, Sam!

CASABLANCA

DTH movie,
CAROLINA THEATRE,
11:15 Sunday
\$1.50

Friday Night
MIKE CROSS

Saturday Night
**A.C. Bushnell (mad fiddler)
Michael Kott (wild cellist)**

THE CAVE 452½ W. Franklin Street
(Under the Wildflower Kitchen)

CAROLINA
The Beatles
A
HARD DAY'S NIGHT
Remember
Last Year At Marlenbad
1 Show Thurs. 11:15

NOMINATED FOR 10 ACADEMY AWARDS
PAUL NEWMAN · ROBERT REDFORD · ROBERT SHAW
...all it takes is a little Confidence...
THE STING
A RICHARD D. ZANUCK DAVID BROWN PRESENTATION
Written by DAVID S. WARD · Directed by GEORGE ROY HILL
Produced by TONY BILL, MICHAEL, and JULIA PHILLIPS
TECHNICOLOR A UNIVERSAL PICTURE

Academy Award Best Picture

Carolina
CHAPEL HILL

LAST WEEK
1:50
4:10
6:30
8:50

Varsity LATE SHOW
Fri & Sat 11:15
A head of his time
ZACHARIAH

EVERYTHING for the COMPLETE STUDENT

is at
STUDENT STORES

"ON CAMPUS"

valley 1
Paramount Pictures presents
ROBERT REDFORD and MIA FARROW
THE GREAT GATSBY
PG
Shows 1:30-4:10-6:50-9:30
All Passes, Star Cards, Golden Age, Circuit, Senior Citizen, Young Carolina, Discount Tickets Suspend This Attraction.
Attend Matinee's Avoid Night Crowds

Plaza 1 NOW SHOWING
Best Foreign Films of '74
TRUFFAUT'S DAY FOR NIGHT
Shows 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30

Plaza 2 NOW SHOWING
CHAPEL HILL
SHOWS at 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
I DON'T BELIEVE IN MARRIAGE. I BELIEVE IN LOVE. I DON'T CARE WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK. IT'S MY LIFE.
—MOLLY TAYLOR JULY 3, 1955
ANTHONY PERKINS BEAU BRIDGES BLYTHE DANNER
Lovin' Molly

valley 2
JON VOIGHT IS CONRACK
PG
Also Starring: PAUL WINFIELD HUME CROMYEN
Shows Today At 1:05 3:05-5:05-7:05-9:05

Plaza 3 NOW SHOWING
"Rib-Cracking Comedy—A Rarity in Our Time."
Judith Crist Today Show
Shows at 3:00 7:00 5:00 9:00
WOODY ALLEN'S TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN

Varsity NOW
1:20—3:15—5:10 7:05—9:00
PRETTY UPS
are... VIOLENT!
SHAMEFULLY ABUSED!
IN EASTMANCOLOR ADMISSION RESTRICTED

SANDAL SALE
ALL APRIL LONG AT THE LEATHERWORKS OF CHAPEL HILL, N.C.
113½ N. COLUMBIA STREET
FOR COMFORT • LONG WEAR
OUR SANDALS ARE CUSTOM HANDMADE IN 7 STYLES SURE TO PLEASE. \$13.00
ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES FOR FINE LEATHERWORK
OPEN 10-5 TUE-SAT.

Super Start

Graduate college seniors may qualify for a unique banking package to help bridge the financial gap between college and career. Super Start includes a MasterCard credit card and a preferred rate auto loan with deferred payments and finance charges accruing. It also includes checking, savings, free checking service and a free safe. For details at any office of First-Citizen Bank. See your banker for Super Start. Available exclusively at First-Citizen Bank.

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