Old or hard to find records found in cutout bargain bins

by David Calvert

Battalion Reporter
Imagine being able to buy
popular record albums for two or three dollars off the regular price, without subscribing to one of those record clubs that trash up your Sunday newspaper or

favorite magazine.

Because they are cheaper, cutout and used records are becoming a popular item in record stores around town.

Record album prices have risen steadily over the last 10 years due to the increasing prices of petroleum. The vinyl ised to make albums is made from petroleum by-products. Cutout albums are records

which are no longer on the list of They are usually three or four years old and are sold for three to five dollars off the normal price. Rather than send them back to the recording back to the recording company, they remain at the store for sale

Used albums are records which have been brought in by customers for cash. Most record dealers will inspect these records to make sure they are in good condition before paying out any money. The customer, however, should inspect the album to make sure it is in good conditions.

Bruce Long, a junior civil en-gineering major at the Universi-ty of Texas at Austin, said cutout

ty of Texas at Austin, said cutout and used albums are good for-completing a record collection. "Many times you get in-terested in a group after they have put out several albums," Long said. "Cutout albums give you the chance to find out what the group sounded like in their earlier days without paying those ridiculous prices."

Long said, however, that only older albums will be found in the cutout section of a record store

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"You won't find the Cars'
newest album as a cutout," Long said, "but you can find their firs two albums for a couple of dol-lars less than the normal price. This is the case for many groups

"REO Speedwagon and Jour-ney are other good examples. Before they became really popular five or six years ago, you couldn't give some of Journey's albums away. Someone who likes REO or Journey's newer albums can get copies of their earlier albums without paying the regular prices.

Long, a disc jockey in Austin who owns more than 800 albums, said used records are potentially better buys than cutouts, but because they are usually newer releases than cutouts and are usually cheaper, the selection is not as good. selection is not as good.

"Finding good used albums means being at the right place at the right time," Long said. "Cer-tain albums will sit in the bins forever, but a more recent album will get snapped up almost the moment it is put up



Everyone needs to look for good bargains these days. Junior petroleum engineering major Brad Fisher checks out the cut-out records at Music

"The best way I know to find good used albums is to go by the

store every day and look through the collection."

Long said competition for used albums also involves salesmen at the record store.

"The salesmen get first shot at any new used album which comes in," he said. "What you

see on the shelves is what has gotten by them first."

Virtually any type of music is available in cutout or used albums. Tony Martin, a sophomore environmental design maor from San Antonio, said he likes several types of music, so cutouts give him a wide choice of older albums.

Express and finds it difficult to narrow down the choices. Cutout bins feature older records at prices lower than those of newer ones.

"I like almost everything from the Beatles to classical to new wave," Martin said. "Many Beatles albums are available in cutouts, including some of their earlier LP's.

"It may take a few years for an album I want to get into the cutout shelf, but to me the savings are worth it.

If you are a music lover who finds himself on a restricted budget (aren't we all these days),

or if you want to catch up on some great sounds from the past, you might find that cutout and used records can solve your problems without breaking your

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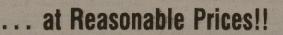
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