

# Secondhand sounds

### From jazz to country to heavy metal, used CDs provide inexpensive entertainment without compromising quality

College life isn't cheap. Everyone must decide how to stretch their change purse in order to survive these years with a relatively healthy body, decent social status and happy state of mind.



CHRIS MARTIN columnist

It's no help when tuition, books, housing and food take a bite out of your budget. The good news is 40,000 fellow consumers share this winter of ill-bill content. The Bryan-College Station metroplex has risen to the challenge of providing cheap entertainment for students beyond \$1 longnecks and "Sundays Free" newspaper promotions.

It's second-hand but never second-best — it's the used compact disc. Used CD stores provide affordable alternatives to shelling out hard earned cash for the latest Everclear album. CDs last longer than tapes or vinyls,

and if not scratched, a used CD will provide the same experience as its brand-new counterpart. Brett Edwards, manager of Half Price Books Records Magazines said the store has a small but eclectic used CD selection.

"We'll make an offer on anything recorded, as long as it's in good condition," Edwards said. "We don't offer a large amount [of used CDs], but it's all in good shape."

**Decor:** Grandmother's attic sans moldy cheese and cobwebs.

**Clientele:** Professors, bicycling activists and town folk.

**Used CD selection:** Lots of mainstream pop with a dash of country, jazz, classical, Christian, international, movie soundtracks and easy listening. The most common price for a used CD is \$7.49, with a few \$2 to \$3 specials.

**Run away from:** Half Price Books is the only store to feature eight-tracks. Only the strong shall survive this bin, home of the "Cher Superpak" featuring "Blowing in the Wind" while heinously omitting "Dark Lady" — Superpak indeed.

**Don't miss:** Half Price Books features a star-studded cavalcade of used vinyl. The bins have loads of new wave, classic rock and most other genres ranging from \$3 to \$6.

**Special pick:** *Color Me Barbra* by Barbra Streisand hits a rock-bottom low of \$9.99.

Marooned Records is a well-known stop for used CDs. Use extra caution if scouring the aisles for Dookie, however.

"If I see one more Green Day CD come in here, I will shoot somebody," said Sarah Suniga, an employee at Marooned. "People can sell back their CDs for \$3, \$4, sometimes \$5, depending on stock or availability. We're always looking for more dance music, ska and classic stuff."

**Decor:** High school rock fan bedroom.

**Clientele:** Local bands, skaters, backpackers.

**Used CD selection:** Modern rock with a small amount of country, dance, rap, soundtracks. The average price for a used CD is \$6.

**Run away from:** The large \$1 CD section is both a



RONY ANGKRIWAN/THE BATTALION

curse and a blessing. Music scavengers can find great picks, like a single of Glen Branca's "Symphony No. 9," but it shares real estate with Hammer's *Please Hammer, Don't Hurt 'Em* and *Too Legit To Quit*.

**Don't miss:** Great \$3 section that houses *C'mon Kids!* by the Boo Radleys and oddly enough *Let's Get it Started*, Hammer's first album.

**Special pick:** The 6ths' sad and sweet *Wasp's Nests* album for \$6.

Disc Go Round is but a stone's roll from Marooned. The store features a large selection of import CDs, 83 of which are devoted to Depeche Mode.

"We like to buy Bob Marley, the Doors and Top 100 albums," said Jana Herd, assistant manager of Disc Go Round. "We buy back for around \$3 to \$4, sometimes \$5 if it is new and in great shape."

**Decor:** If you were tie-dyed, you'd be home by now.

**Clientele:** (see above)

**Used CD selection:** Disc Go Round has a large selection of recently-released albums, as well as country, classical, rap and blues. The prices for used CDs range from \$5.99 to \$7.99.

**Run away from:** Import CDs are almost as affordable as the General Use Fee.

**Don't miss:** Eight great listening stations where you can listen to any CD before you buy it. CD Warehouse is another one of the fine used CD emporiums located in Northgate. Gina Marquez, a CD Warehouse employee, said the store has a selection of Top 40, classic and modern rock.

"We specialize in mainstream music," she said. "We try to stay away from the more weird titles."

Marquez said CD Warehouse will let consumers trade two of their recently-released CDs for one used CD.

**Decor:** Plain and simple, like a bargain store should be.

**Clientele:** Neo-normals and radio-heads

**Used CD selection:** If it's a staple of classic or modern rock, it'll be in the bins. Most titles average around \$7.99. They also carry a good selection of country, soundtracks and imports. There is a \$5.99 bargain section to fulfill all your Stone Temple Pilot needs.

**Run away from:** Avoid the huge Pamela Anderson Lee poster at all costs.

**Don't miss:** Two listening stations and the huge Pamela Anderson Lee poster.

Hastings claims to be the entertainment superstore. Despite its new and flashy corporate face, a creamy center of used CDs may be found inside.

Henry Martinez, music manager, said Hastings will buy any genre of music as long as it is in top condition and is something they don't have in stock.

"I get tired of people bringing in the same country artists all the time," Martinez said. "We have enough Travis Tritt — that and Green Day."

**Decor:** Megapalooza media megalomania.

**Clientele:** Mom, dad, 2.5 kids and the family dog.

**Used CD selection:** Hastings has every genre, from jazz to Christian to Spanish to rock. Prices range from \$5 to \$9, averaging \$7.94.

**Run away from:** The 25-cent listening station. It's not the money; it's the principle.

**Don't miss:** The "nice price" bargain bins. Hastings is a dumping ground for CDs other stores can't sell, Martinez said.

**Special Pick:** Guided by Voices' beautiful *Bee Thousand* album in the bargain bin for \$4.

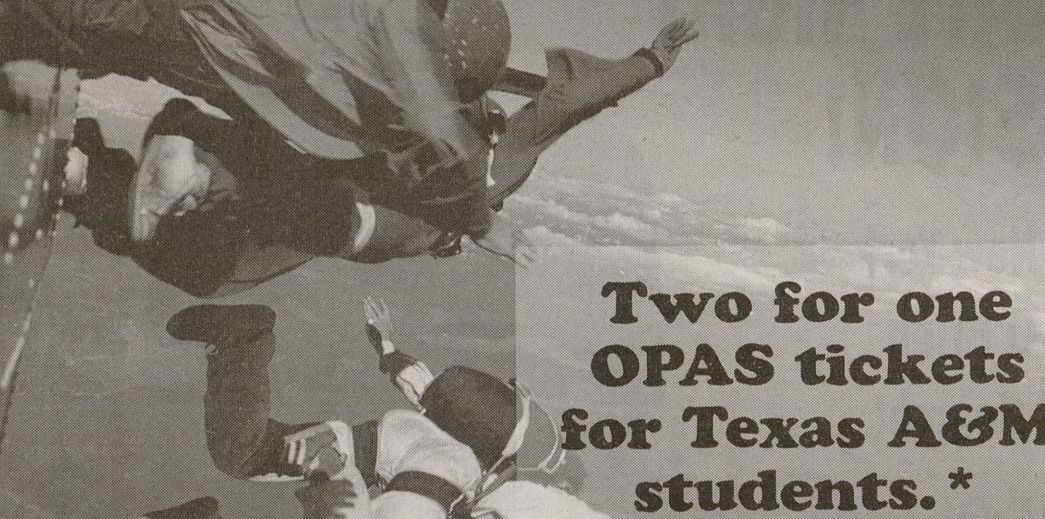
In July of 1993, Garth Brooks publicly decried the evils of used CDs. It seems that Garth discovered a little something America likes to call a "free-trade economy." Your frugality at college may not please Garth Brooks, but it sure as heck will put a star-spangled smile across Uncle Sam's face.

Chris Martin is a senior journalism major.



Marc Daly, a senior construction science major, scans used compact discs at CD Warehouse on Northgate.

# AGGIES DO IT BEST IN PAIRS.

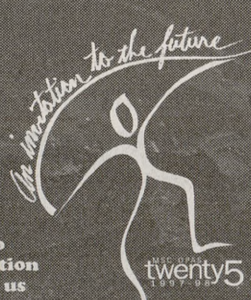


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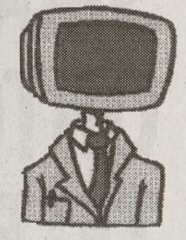
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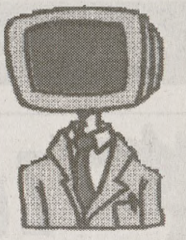
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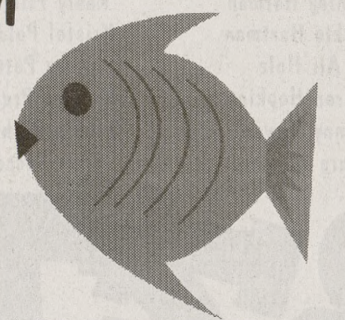
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