

Second hand good or second hand bad?

IS THRIFTING WORTH SAVING A FEW EXTRA DOLLARS?

Hannah Dyer, *Editor in Chief*

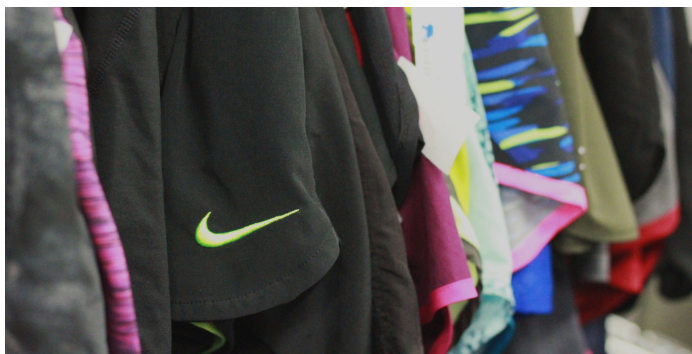
In the twenty-first century, it seems that trends that used to be popular are making a comeback. Thrifting has become increasingly more popular over the past few months. Emma Chamberlain, a Youtuber who has blown up on the internet, is constantly making thrifting haul videos or 'Come thrifting with me' videos, showing off the new fad. After Youtuber Emma Chamberlain began posting thrifting videos and became the "thrifting queen", it seemed to become all anyone was talking about.

I wondered what everyone was raving about, so after months of contemplation, I finally decided to go out and see firsthand why thrifting is so amazing.

When I went out, I decided to try out two different stores. The first store I went to was the famous Goodwill. I walked into the store, and it's quite overwhelming. The store itself is just so large, and no matter how many signs they put up, finding things seems to be impossible.

The more you walk around, the more you notice that Goodwill isn't really a "trendy" thrift store. Goodwill has tons of options to choose from for whatever you're looking for, but their goal in selling secondhand clothes isn't for selling fashion. Goodwill's mission statement is "Goodwill works to enhance the dignity and quality of life of individuals and families by strengthening communities, eliminating barriers to opportunity, and helping people in need reach their full potential through learning and the power of work." The whole point of Goodwill is to provide a cheap, alternative option for families who may be financially struggling.

After my exploration of Goodwill, I didn't really find anything worth buying, unless you're looking to upcycle, or



A rack full of women's athletic shorts at Plato's Closet. These Nike shorts are originally \$25, but go for about \$10 at the thrift store. *Photo by Hannah Dyer*



A display of women's denim jeans and shorts at Plato's Closet. Thrift stores offer an array of choices for shoppers. *Photo by Hannah Dyer*

revamp old clothes and make them something fun and new. If you're looking to just buy it, wear it, and not have to turn it into something else, I would try a store a little more up to par. I left the store and moved on to the next one, one that is put together a lot differently than Goodwill.

I drove just a few minutes from Goodwill over to Plato's Closet. This option seemed pretty hopeful since I had heard several ads about it. When I arrived, I was greeted by a worker who seemed to be around the same age as me, along with most of the workers in the store, giving a different vibe compared to Goodwill.

As I began to walk around, I noticed how different their options to pick from were. You could find Hollister, American Eagle, Nike, etc. in really good condition for a reasonable price.

There was a section for everything: athletic shorts, jeans, jean shorts, shoes, etc. Everything was easy to find, especially since each section was labeled as to what it was. If you're looking for trendy and fashionable thrifting options, I would highly recommend making a stop at Plato's Closet.

Thrift stores like Plato's Closet have everything from super cute ripped jeans to a cute shirt you can't find anywhere anymore. Secondhand stores, like Plato's Closet, sell mostly brand new or lightly used clothes, which means it won't look like you're wearing hand me downs. I bought a really cute pair of athletic shorts, still with the tag on it, originally priced at \$50 for a whopping \$10.

If you're a teen balling on a budget, why would you want to spend hundreds of dollars on brand new clothes when you can go to cool thrift stores and find clothes that are super awesome for a fraction of the price? If you can't find something you're looking for, go to a thrift store because they have everything, and chances are, you'll find what you're looking for.