

# Addicted to low prices: The untold story of being a thrifty girl



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Thrifting has truly ruined me. It has changed the way I look at prices, clothing, trends and shopping in general. I just hadn't realized it until now.

When I was in high school, I was first introduced to indie and alternative styles. The type of style I know most of us remember from the late Tumblr and early Pinterest days. It was all about the high-waisted jeans, band tees, large glasses and combat boots. I longed to have the perfect alternative outfit.

With this change of style, I started going to my local Goodwill regularly to find vintage-looking clothing. This then started an addiction and a hobby that I took very seriously. I took pride in what I found at the thrift store.

I was finding out I could get clothing and the look I wanted for way less money than I could at a regular retail store. At retail stores, I wasn't able to buy as much in quantity as I could at the thrift store. I could find old dad tees and 90s style Levi jeans, which was just what I wanted. I still want that.

My closet became overloaded, but it was all justifiable because most of the items were under \$5.

Even if the item wasn't something I was totally sold on, I would still buy it because of how low the price was. I just

hoped it would grow on me later. In the end, I came to realize that I had plenty of clothes, but I didn't have a collection of pieces that I really enjoyed. I only enjoyed how cheap they were when I bought them.

In reality, I wasn't actually saving that much money, it just felt like it.

Maturing and going through different preferences has made me realize that just because clothing is cheap, doesn't mean I should buy it. It also doesn't mean that I'll wear it later on. The goal now is to search for pieces that are timeless, a staple for my wardrobe and some-

thing I know I'll wear for more than just a month. It is more than just following trends or perfecting the alternative outfit.

Quality



over

quantity

stands once again.

Another untold struggle that comes from thrifting is that now I will go shopping and \$20 will seem like too

high for anything. When I go shopping at clothing stores, I find myself saying that I could find almost the exact same item second-hand at a thrift store. In my mind, it's guaranteed I could get it cheaper somewhere else. Maybe I'll look at the online thrift apps and websites specifically for a similar item.

I am becoming a thrifting version of the coupon lady always looking for the best deals.

To this day I consider thrifting a hobby of mine. I enjoy the search and the excitement of finding the perfect pair of vintage jeans. It's even better when they fit perfectly. I may always be the "thrifty girl," but I have found that like everything else, it is good in moderation. My high school closet proves it.

# Budget cut anxiety lowers student morale in Fine Arts Building



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It may not be an easily measurable thing, but since the proposed draft for cuts to departments and staffing was released, the mood in the Fine Arts Building has changed drastically.

Normally, there is a relaxed vibe since everybody knows

everybody in the Fine Arts Building. Students see the work of everyone else because of the art on display, the plays, student recitals and studio classes. If someone spends a considerable amount of time in the FAB, everyone will know their name or know someone else who does.

I remember learning about the proposed cuts during my private trumpet lesson. Since it was just a draft, I didn't think much about it until I left.

People were pacing in groups in nearly every hallway. It would have been hard to find

a way through the building without someone talking to you about the draft.

I almost made it out, but one of my buddies pulled me into a circle of theater people. They asked how I felt since I was a journalism major and on the list of majors to potentially be cut. This was news to me, so I didn't have much of a response.

By the end of the day, the draft had been seen by everyone that I know. I was asked to join the "Keep Arts at UNK" Facebook group. News had traveled fast and people were outraged.

By the end of the week, a protest was planned for the following Monday. Following the protest, the student government hosted a budget forum with a few members from campus administration. Since that forum, the volume of the FAB discontent has gotten lower, but it definitely has not gone away.

It lingers as an afterthought in many conversations. People will talk about their classes and wonder if they will even be able to take similar classes in the future or with the same professor. A theater major I know feels like the school is

taking away a path that she just got started on. I have heard several trumpet players talk about how they are going to transfer if the high brass professor gets fired. Both discussions and arguments have come and gone over which departments they should be cutting.

The community is tense, and I am sad to see it like this. I feel like it is only going to get worse as we get closer to the draft being finalized. Maybe I'm wrong and we can convince the administration to not hit our building as hard as the proposal suggests.