

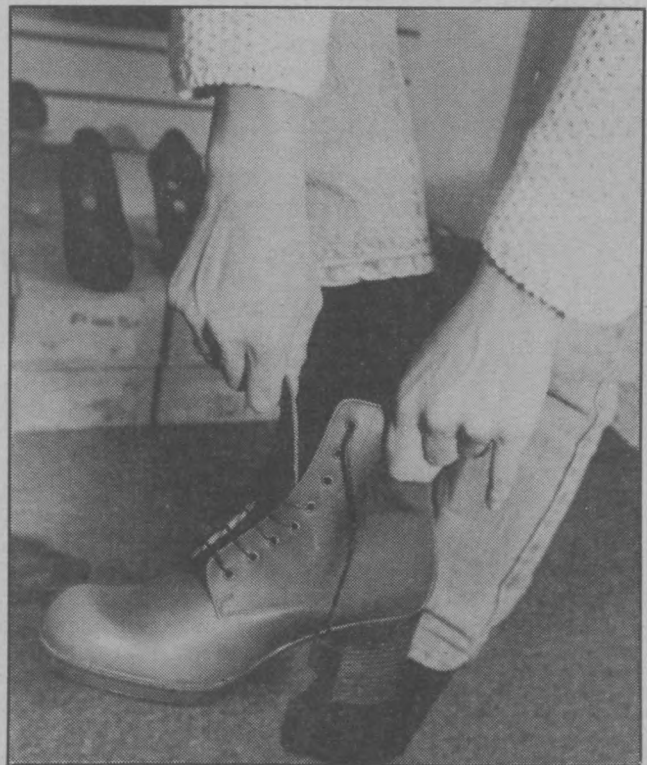
# Fall Fashion



*As the holiday season draws nearer and nearer, consignment stores are stepping up to offer many*

*shoppers an opportunity to find that perfect seasonal outfit to present*

*gifts, carol in the streets, or simply curl up in front of the fire with some eggnog.*



Photos by Rachel Weill, Text by Kimberly Epler



# Classic Clothing at Unique Prices

By Ginnie Tonnik  
Staff Writer

How many times have you walked out of a department store or specialty boutique, your heart laden with grief and your head hung in dejection because you couldn't cough up \$300 for that ultra-cool outfit?

Or how about that party where most of your time was spent trying to avoid some random person wearing the dress you had on?

Well, these problems could soon be ancient history with the assistance of a genre of stores that are finding new popularity in Santa Barbara.

Once thought to be the poor man's Nordstrom, consignment shops are making a big hit with those who have the taste, but not necessarily the finances, for Armani and Chanel.

"Consignment has been around for many, many years. It's a really good way to shop in our economy. You really make your dollars go a lot further," said Autumn Faith Wood, the owner of the downtown consignment store Autumn's Uptown, which specializes in designer clothing.

"In the past, people would shop in consign-

ment stores, but they would buy their clothes secretly. It wasn't chic back then. Now people

**Consignment stores carry one-of-a-kind items that are unique.**

**Sandy Ramundt  
Tekla owner**

think it's OK," Wood said.

The basic concept behind consignment shops is to provide a service to two markets in the buy-and-sell industry — it's a place where people can get cash for their unwanted, sellable clothing and where consumers can buy unique, quality clothing for one-third of the original price.

"Consignment stores carry one-of-a-kind items that are unique. You go into a department store and there are racks of the same thing," said Sandy Ramundt, owner of Tekla, a downtown consignment shop catering to the 15 to 30-year-old audience. "When you buy something at a consignment shop you are probably the only one in the town wearing it."

"You're saving money.

You can find a dress here for \$25 that would cost you a couple hundred at a department store," Ramundt said. "If you wanted to sell your clothing at a garage sale you'd get a couple of dollars or you'd get nothing if you gave it to a thrift store. At consignment shops you get good money back."

UCSB students are making up the majority of Tekla's customers, according to Ramundt. The store carries new, consigned and vintage clothing from the '40s to the '90s, but specializes in '60s and '70s attire, with a price range of \$5 to \$75.

"We have vintage velvet capes and coats from the turn of the century and newer designer clothing, as well as \$5 dresses from the '40s and '50s," said Ramundt.

Autumn's Uptown carries designer clothing such as Liz Claiborne, Armani, Ralph Lauren and Chanel, in almost every style from sportswear to evening-wear. The store's price range is \$20 to \$500.

With the holiday season approaching quickly, consignment and vintage clothing stores are the ideal place to find that snazzy, original outfit to impress relatives and friends without having to go into debt.



RACHEL WEILL/Daily Nexus

Autumn's Uptown is one of several consignment shops in Santa Barbara that offer a gold mine of unique clothing options.



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# Just Like Grandma

By Danielle Manning  
Staff Writer

Remember the old days? Grandma would bake you cookies while you waited impatiently, sitting on that muggy old sofa with plastic on it. The tables were big and oak, doilies covered the coffee stains and small knickknacks were proudly displayed on the side tables. Mom's prom picture was on the mantle, with the pink dress Grandma said she just *had* to have.

With vintage and antique stores, those images don't have to be memories anymore. And they don't have to be just like Grandma's. Vintage stores, thrift shops and antique shops all offer a plenitude of those old knickknacks and pink prom dresses, along with used Levi's — something Grammy could never wear. They mix the old with the new, the tacky with the elegant.

Tacky is good. Vintage shops are filled with zebra-striped chairs, '50s studded glasses, real rhinestones from the era that generated them and ashtrays that say "Welcome to Oklahoma." If you don't like old or used items, some vintage stores also offer new items, but the best parts are Mom's pink dresses and Dad's old

flannels.

Mom's old prom dress is available at every vintage store. Thrift stores are great places to try on other people's clothing, looking for that perfect blazer or pair of used torn jeans. You can laugh at your friend's choice of funky hats and buy an authentic velvet dress from the '30s for the holidays.

Come on, you want that gas station attendant shirt that Bob used to wear every day to work, hating his boss, that damn shirt he had to wear day after day, waiting for the day he could quit and give it away



— hey, who wouldn't?

Quirky stores are the best place to find gifts for that person that has just about everything life has to offer. It's not everyday someone is given a Roy Rogers lunch box. They may not like it, but they can't say it's not unique or original. People can get only so many ties.

And they have ties, too. Dishes, glasses, typewriters, anything you can think of is in thrift shops, they're just older. Old is not bad; these things are like a fine wine that needs a few years to really be

worthy. Think about the past the item has, the characters involved in producing a beat-up old leather jacket, a legend that you will continue and pass on with your purchase. Hell, around here, you could be wearing Ron Reagan's old ranch jacket — you lucky dog.

Coats in vintage shops have character. Many times you can find big, heavy peacoats that some sailor used to wear, ranging around \$20. It being wintertime and all, a coat purchase would be a fine idea for these cold months (real cold in Santa Barbara). If you don't need a heavy coat, shops usually have a large collection of blazers and leather jackets. They have great sweaters too, as long as there are no moth holes.

Moth holes also remind me of Grandma's house. Come to think of it, Grandma's house scared me. It had all of these black and white photos of dead people. My legs stuck to the plastic in the summer. Why do people put plastic on their furniture? Why did Grandma always call me Bob? Oh, but Grandma had delicious cookies and beautiful knickknacks. And her big oak coffee table is still in the family, covered with doilies to camouflage the stains. Stains are good; old is good.



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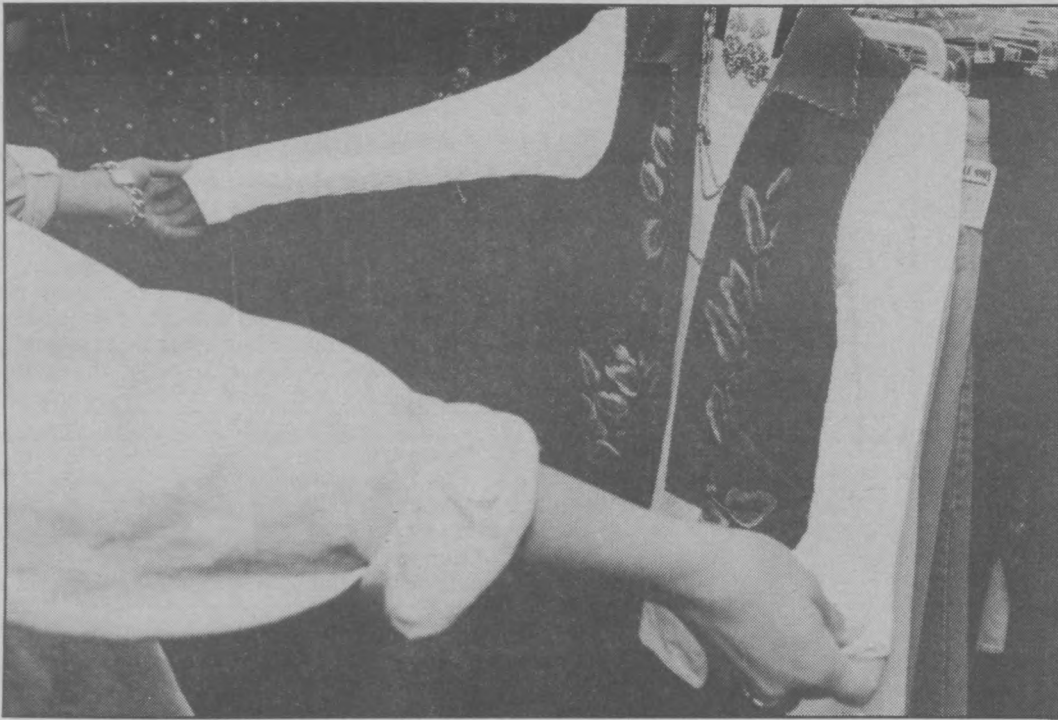
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# Strike a Pose

*What's Vogue in Santa Barbara*



*Santa Barbara has a wide variety of consignment shops and vintage clothing stores to find one-of-a-kind gifts and outfits including Autumn's Uptown, Blue Moon Exchange, Tekla, Lillian's Consignment and Nita's Boutique.*

*Photos by Rachel Weill  
Special Thank to Autumn's  
Uptown, Blue Moon  
Exchange, Pure Gold and  
Supply Sargent*

