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Random Goods

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I walked into Random Goods expecting your run-of-the-mill thrift store. That was a mistake. First step into the store and I’m staring at dress forms decked out in crazy costumes, from a gorgeous white Greek goddess costume (really, truly fabulous) to 40’s, 50’s, and 60’s attire. There were vintage Dolce & Gabbana jeans on a rack, a vast arrangement of zebra and cheetah prints for shirts, jackets, and pants. Overwhelmed? In the best way possible.

Random Goods is owned by Cheryl and Tim Gleason. Over the years, Cheryl has collected a lot of costume-style garments and accessories. She calls Random Goods a consignment, costume, and vintage store. Cheryl hates the term ‘thrift store’ because many people pair the word thrift with low quality clothing. Random Goods is anything but low-rent. Cheryl felt that there was a need for a place like Random Goods in Campus-town, a place that appealed to college students. Why this location in particular? Well, it was conveniently vacant for 2 years, and looked like prime real estate for getting up close and personal to the students the store wants to attract.

Cheryl has a few projects simmering to promote the store. She wants to team up with the ISU foundation in order to fundraise for a need-based scholarship. Another project would be restoring the 1930’s style theater side of the building. Cheryl says, “We could rent out the space.” “We can have dinner-themed parties like murder mystery dinners or movie nights. It’s so enjoyable watching people come in and see their reactions, to see them laugh.”

Another idea in the works is a regular karaoke night where participants can dress up and belt out their favorite tunes, snagging a discount in exchange for the entertainment. They’ve already had one of these nights, in fact; a student dressed up as Michael Jackson and landed a $50 gift certificate.

Chelsey Twedt, a senior in fashion design, was hunting around in the store when I got there, so I asked a few questions. Chelsey explained that the store is trying to figure out what people need or want. If more people knew about Random Goods, she said, it’d be a hit, if only for the adventure: “The thrill is in the dig. The fun part is digging through one-of-a-kind stuff.”

And of course, the prices in this store are phenomenal. A pair of heels ranges from $8 to $15, while a range of unique costumes can be found for less than $20 each. This is perfect for the college student who has a budget and wants an outfit comparable to the over-priced brand-names found at the mall for $50-70.

Oh, and that gorgeous white Greek goddess dress I mentioned earlier? It was only $18. It’s in my closet now. ANDREA TATE

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