

Thrift stores turn junk to treasures

One person's junk could be another's treasure, and many local thrift stores offer bargains for the students on low budgets.

"We're trying to go for the young look," Doug Thompsen, Community Thrift Store supervisor, said. Second-hand clothing is becoming more accepted.

"Today we're probably supported the most by middle-class people than lower-class people" because they know what good value is, said Emory Bell, Salvation Army supervisor.

"It isn't as much as a stigma today to save money," he said.

Local thrift stores have much to offer for college students, such as carpet, TVs, textbooks, refrigerators, name-brand blue jeans, couches, small appliances and other furniture.

The Community Thrift Store, 1745 O St., sells small and large refrigerators for about \$50.

They also offer "just like new" carpet, but never put stained carpet out for sale, Thompsen said.

Television sets cost from \$19 for

black and white to \$119 for a color TV, he said. The amount and type of furniture costs from \$20 to \$100 and varies in selection from day to day.

More than 1,000 clothing garments are put out on the racks per day.

"It's an in thing to do to get stuff and save a few bucks," he said.

Name-brand blue jeans cost from 45 cents to \$4.98 at the Community Thrift Store, Thompsen said.

The Salvation Army has name-brand blue jeans from \$2.50 to \$5, Emory said.

"We don't have very many name brands but we do have top quality stuff," he said. "The bulk of our clothing is quality merchandise."

The Salvation Army, Eighth and P streets, also has carpet in various sizes from worn to high quality, Emory said.

Television sets range from \$20 to \$100 for black and white and color sets, he said.

Blondie's, 335 N. 12th St., sells a

mixture of antique type clothing and newer things, Janie Lane, Blondie's owner, said.

"We try to select things that are different and that can be combined with new things," she said. Antique jewelry, furniture and rugs can be found amongst new hats, shoes and clothing, she said. They try to choose the nicer, select things to sell from second-hand merchandise, Lane said.

Second-hand clothing also can be found at the Goodwill, 1717 O St.

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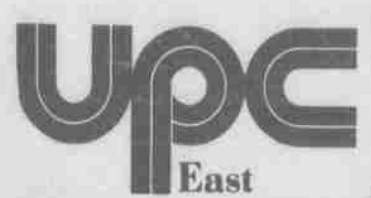
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Stephanie Schanou of Aurora finds a bargain at the Goodwill Store, 1717 O St.

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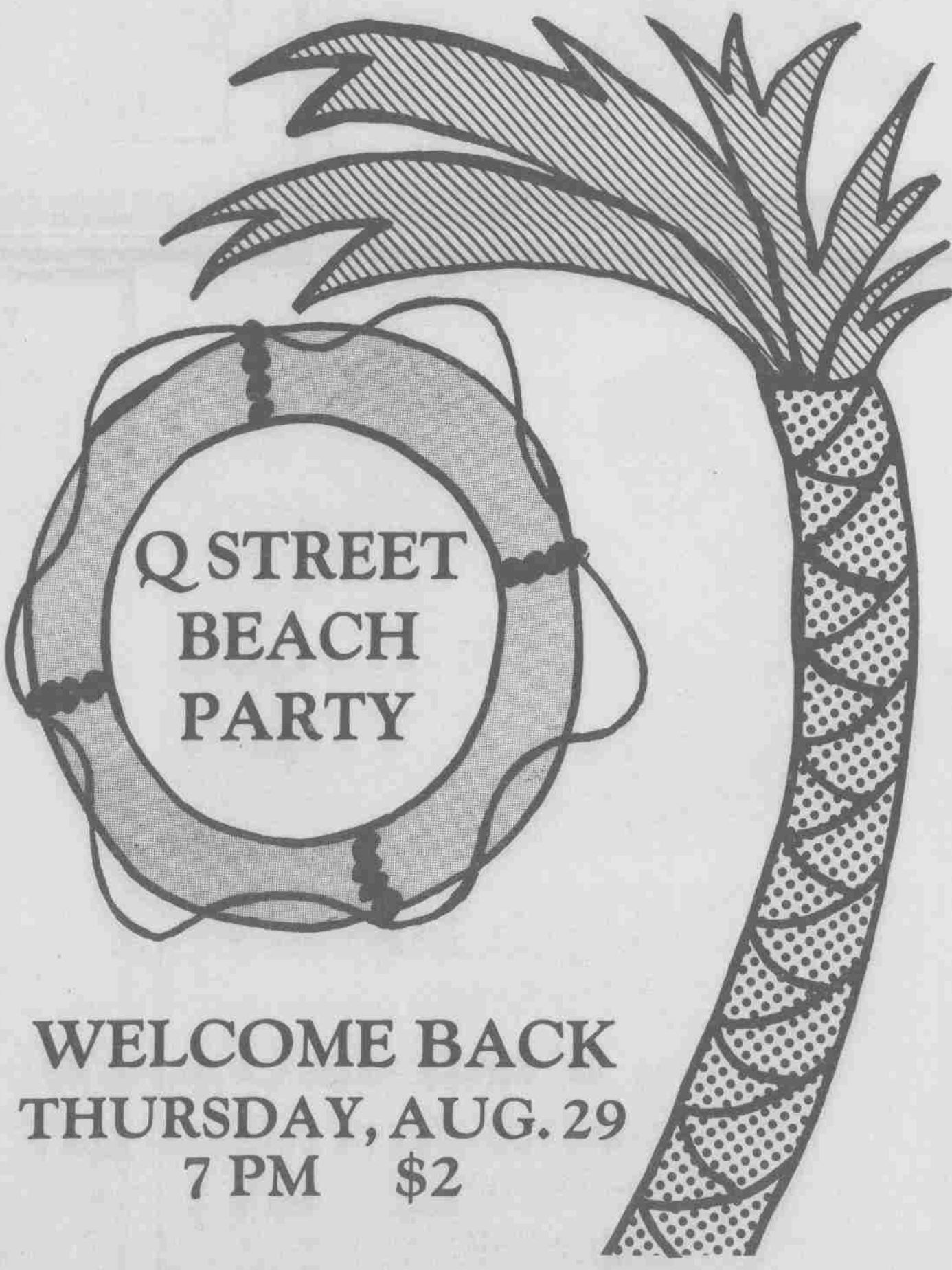
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