

'Just browsing' wastes time stresslessly

By Mark Hain
Staff Reporter

It was only the second week of school and already I had that suffocating feeling of being in over my head. After surviving drop and add and settling into a new environment, not to mention drowning in a spiraling maelstrom of introductory assignments and procrastination, I had to participate in some mindless, time wasting activity to relax a bit. Being basically a selfish, indulgent person, this meant only one thing: browsing for material items on which to spend my money.

It all seemed so perfect, save for one slight detail: I was virtually penniless. But that's the beauty of browsing; money is simply not necessary. Browsing is just an excuse to sensually imbibe the wonders of the marketplace.

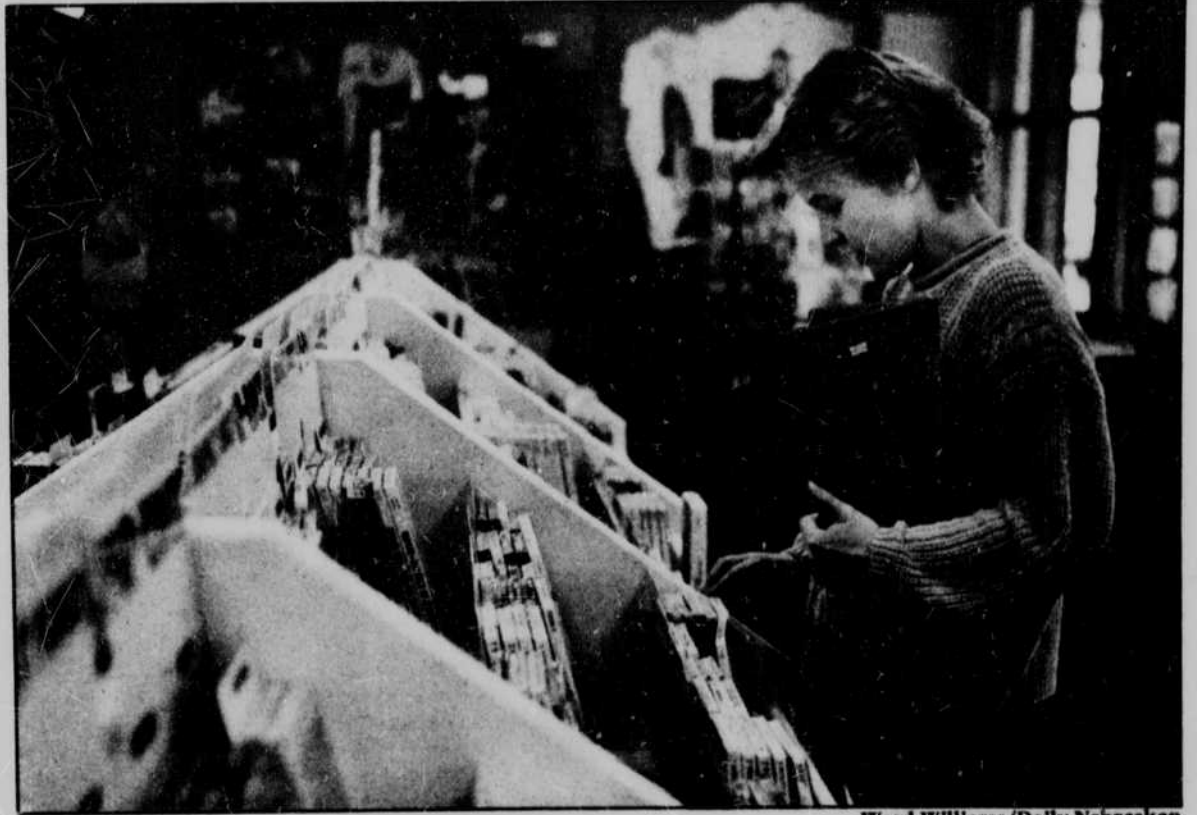
Although the specific types of browsing are as innumerable as the products to buy, I'll indulge in only four of the more popular forms.

Books: Considering that reading is an activity simultaneously stimulating yet relaxing, what could possibly be better than leafing through one of the classics? The answer is shopping for the classics. Although the memory of waiting in lines of intimidating length to pay \$35 for a Calculus text may still be too recent, don't let it taint your impression of Lincoln's fine bookstores. It's surprisingly easy to completely lose track of time while wandering through the peaceful racks, and if you have a mind to, you can even stake a place on the floor to lounge and read.

Window shopping: The process of casting longing gazes towards display windows particularly lends itself to those who love clothes but don't have the bucks to pay for sweat socks. Window shopping also keeps you in a private, safe atmosphere, thus avoiding that uncomfortable "condescending snob disguised as helpful salesperson" situation. Nobody will ask if you need any help, and you won't be forced to sheepishly reply that you're "just looking." So go ahead, fantasize about that Armani suit.

Records: The pursuit of new and interesting music is not only enlightening, it's also an easy way to make your friends think you're cooler than you really are. Musical taste can be expanded by prowling through the bins of albums and tapes and absorbing the tunes played over the store's stereo. The experience can either be calming or jarring. Everything but the Girl or Einsturzende Neubauten; either way, you're better off than listening to local radio.

Thrifting: Lincoln has an amazing assortment of second-hand, thrift, and vintage clothing stores, many of which can be found in clusters. These businesses can even be viewed as museums specializing in the fashions, furnishings, appliances, and pop-culture paraphernalia of decades past. At times, touching memories may be stirred as you recognize a toy from childhood. Some may feel self-conscious about thrifting, but remember that these stores attract a cross section of American consumers, and often the other



Ward Williams/Daily Nebraskan

Peggy Olsen-Soto browsing at twisters

customers are as interesting as the merchandise. Merely browsing is fascinating enough, but you may also purchase whatever you wish. Here is a tip: incredible things can be found for next

to nothing, it just takes patience and searching. It's unbelievable what people will throw out — feed off their ignorance.

I felt strangely at peace. I stood on O

Street, and I understood what Buddhists mean by Shakti, the earthly state of bliss. It was like a new age experience; my mind was clear and comforted.

Mood music calms like warm milk

Song revives frazzled nerves

By Kelly Anders
Staff Reporter

Ever screamed at the top of your lungs to Black Flag after bombing an exam? Or snickered with the Beastie Boys when you felt particularly pleased with yourself? Or even stumbled around your pad an unhappy and uncoordinated wreck after being dumped by the one you love looking for that certain Bob Marley tape? Don't knock it 'til you've tried it. Music can be many things, including a great stress reliever.

I always know when my friends are feeling raunchy by the music they play. My friend Dave insists that The Clash is good anger music. Other faves amongst my buds are The Replacements, The Smiths, The Cure and Public Enemy. I dig Hendrix, myself.

Whenever I'm down, I like to retreat to my room, put on some tunes that I like to refer to as "mood music," and reflect on what's bothering me. Assuming I'm depressed, I'll throw on some Sade, or something else that mirrors my mood. What usually ends up happening is pretty amazing — by the time the tape is over, my lousy mood usually is too.

One needn't confine oneself to his or her abode to partake in such an outlet. Several Lincoln bars are sure to offer the kind of music you're searching for blaring loud with beer to boot. For example, Duffy's, Bash Riprocks and Chesterfield's play great alternative music, while the Zoo hosts some pretty mean blues, R & B and reggae bands. If your tastes run on the calmer side, Julio's and Sandy's have live jazz on Thursday nights. And lest us not forget O'Rourke's for those of you in need of a Big Chill fix.

Underage and sans I.D.? Hang out in front of the Douglas 3 downtown and groove to some relaxing guitar music complements of street musician John Davis.



Suzanne L. Williams/Diversions

If you're so modern that you consider oldies passe, try New Age music. I also recommend this art form for all of you insomniacs. Like warm milk, it's bland and sure to put you to sleep. One word of caution—watch out for that deadly aftertaste.

The beauty of mood music is that it's totally personal. The meanings you at-

tach to Thomas Dolby are probably nothing like your friend so-and-so's, and so on.

Again, if this concept of music-catharsis is completely foreign to you, don't be a skeptic, try it. It's cheaper than a psychiatrist, and it gives you an excuse to expand your music collection.

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