

Artists grooving to a vinyl beat

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

Sometimes no matter how hard technology tries to reinvent the wheel, the real thing eventually prevails. The real thing is vinyl.

When the compact disc entered the music market in the mid-'80s, people boxed up their old vinyl records and let them sit on the shelf and collect dust. Vinyl records were almost obsolete.

Now, the old records are coming back.

Stuart Kolnick, owner of Recycled Sounds, said he noticed an increase in vinyl record sales in the last couple of years.

"Five or six years ago, people got rid of a lot of records," he said. "Then they realized that there's a lot of things they can get with records that they can't with CDs."

Kolnick said both new and old releases were available on vinyl. Classic artists such as Frank Zappa, the Velvet Underground and Pink Floyd — as well as new alternative artists — are popular on vinyl.

Janet Froschheiser, store manager for Twisters Records and Tapes, said Twisters was stocking several vinyl records by '90s artists, including Pearl Jam, Stone Temple Pilots and Sugar.

Pearl Jam even released its new album "Vs." on vinyl one week before it came out on compact disc or cassette.

"I'm assuming the band had the warm fuzzies for vinyl like a lot of

people my age do," Froschheiser said. Froschheiser, 27, said she was a "vinyl lover" herself.

"You got about 10 years old and begged your mother to join Columbia House, and you got 15 LPs for a penny," she said. "Or you could go to Woolworth's and get them really cheap. Every Saturday, Mom would let us buy a new one."

Froschheiser, who went to Norris High School in Firth, said that when her classmates took a field trip into town, they'd sneak off and go to Dirt Cheap to buy records.

"Maybe I'm fond of vinyl because I have good memories of that time," she said. "I'm personally glad to see it come back."

Vinyl records look more substantial than compact discs, she said, because the art work is bigger and more elaborate.

The sound quality of a record is the same, if not better, than a CD, if the record is played on a good turntable, she said.

"The Beatles all recorded on equipment designed for LP. When they put it on a CD, a lot of people said it didn't sound as good," Froschheiser said.

She said classical or jazz music on vinyl may sound better than compact disc.

The digital recording techniques used for compact discs have to sample parts of the sound wave and compress the sound, she said. On vinyl records, the entire sound wave flows through.

Compact discs also can pick up



Michelle Paulman/DN

Besides compact discs, Stuart Kolnick, owner of Recycled Sounds, carries several hundred new and used vinyl albums in his store.

imperfections — "popping and hissing" — that vinyl records may not, she said.

Froschheiser said many people who bought alternative records didn't even care about sound. They don't even have turntables.

"Maybe it's more alternative," she said, laughing. "I know a kid in town, who doesn't have a turntable, who doesn't even open his records, because he says they'll be really valuable some day."

She said records would be more collectable than compact discs ever would be. Many punk-rock artists

never released their music on compact disc, so vinyl is the place to find them.

Another catalyst in bringing vinyl back to mainstream music is the number of new, local artists releasing their songs on vinyl records.

"It's more affordable for small groups to put out a single to see how it does instead of investing thousands to put out a CD."

Pat Nocker, guitarist for the Lincoln band Opium Taylor, said his group released its songs on a 7-inch record.

"It's a good way to put out your product. It's a good promotional device," he said. "It's just cool."

Records are easy to package and send out to radio stations and promoters, he said.

Cost was another factor in Opium Taylor's decision. Releasing their songs on compact disc or cassette would have cost more than the \$1,200 the band spent on their vinyl records.

Nocker said vinyl records also had a "warmer" sound.

"I don't think they're ever going to go out of style."

Lesbian love story a comedic glimpse at relationships

By Jim Cihlar
Staff Reporter

Two words best describe the movie "Go Fish": hilarious. Even the press packet is funny.

"Girl meets girl. Girl thinks about girl. Girl dates girl — but is she the ONE?" it says.

Anyway, in the film's opening scene, set in a coffee house filled with women customers, one character says to another, "What is this, dyke-orama? Free refills for everyone who has kissed a woman?"

The film explores the relationships among lesbians living in Chicago in 1994. It highlights the romance between Max, who has named herself after the main character in Maurice Sendak's "Where the Wild Things Are," and Ely ("What kind of hippie is she?" Max asks a friend who fixes

them up. "Plain, Crunchy, or Extra Crunchy?").

This is a movie more about community than romance. Ely, played by V.S. Brodie, was convincing in her self-consciousness, and Max, played by script co-writer Guinevere Turner, was convincing in her enthusiasm and immaturity — but they didn't really make a great screen couple.

But they did, however, make for a lot of funny moments. And there was a lot of energy and screen chemistry in the extensive interaction among the pair's friends.

The other characters participate in the narrative scenes by fixing the couple up, talking to each one about the relationship, etc. They also have their own "jury" scenes where they comment directly on the movie itself. When the romantic relationship stalls, Kia, Max's college professor and

roommate, says, "When are these two going to get together? What is this, the lesbian 'Gandhi'?"

This artistic, funny, intelligent movie about a lesbian couple also gives great expression to an essential truth: all human relationships are dorky and hopeless, cute and funny.

It shows that the harder we try to act cool, the dorkier and more self-conscious we act. Two of my favorite earlier scenes in the movie are:

The couple, both trying to be casual and smooth, say goodbye on Ely's doorstep; then Ely slams her head on the door when pushing it closed.

Later, when they run into each other in a bookstore, Max is trying to be cool, trying to impress Ely. She says goodbye at the counter, then has to come back and tell the cashier, "I forgot to pay."

Two later scenes in the movie are laugh-out-loud funny: the "jury" discussing an appropriate phrase for female genitalia, and the intercut scenes of Max and Ely each telling their own friends the story of the couple's night together.

The device of intercutting the scenes is right out of the old Doris Day/Rock Hudson movies — making this a 1990s, lesbian version of "Pillow Talk."

Shot in black and white, and using an alternative music soundtrack, this movie is great to look at and to listen to. It opens with the visual style of a music video, set to a spoken-word poetry soundtrack.

At times the editing and direction was overly self-conscious, and some of the performers' delivery seemed stilted.

Yet by the closing montage, the movie is totally stylin' and profilin', combining scenes of sex and romance with the soundtrack and the closing credits into a seamless, sophisticated whole.

"Go Fish" shows at the Sheldon this weekend.

Quik Facts

Movie: "Go Fish"
Rating: not rated
Stars: Guinevere Turner, V.S. Brodie
Director: Rose Troche
Grade: B+
Five words: Cool movie about Chicago lesbians

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- 05 Bicycles
- 10 Books
- 13 Clothing
- 18 Computers
- 20 Furniture
- 30 Jewelry
- 40 Misc. For Sale
- 45 Musical Instruments
- 46 Office Furniture
- 50 Pets
- 55 Photo Equipment
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- 65 Stereos/TVs
- 70 Ticket Exchange
- 90 Vehicles

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