Campus thrift shop offers low-priced merchandise, emergency student loans

Buckeye Bargains is a campus thrift shop with the Ohio State student in mind. The shop offers merchandise at low prices and at the same time helps students with emergency loans and scholarships.

The University Women’s Club, an organization consisting of faculty members or their wives, originated the shop eight years ago to help international students buy clothes and household goods at reasonable prices, according to Marty Taylor, co-chairman of Buckeye Bargains.

There are 800 members in the club.

The shop, located in the Neil and 17th Building 101, is supported entirely by donations.

Buckeye Bargains shop is a non-profit organization so there is no rent for its use of the old lecture hall.

The proceeds from the sales are allocated to the student loan emergency fund and the scholarship funds. Since 1966, the shop has donated more than $22,000 to the Student Financial Aids Department, according to Taylor.

The shop is open every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. except during August and quarter breaks.

The Ohio State Lantern: July 11, 1974
Good deals available at thrift shop

Flea markets and bargain barns are the best places for students to look when furnishing apartments. There is no need to travel away from campus when Ohio State has its own bargain palace, The Buckeye Bargains Thrift Shop, in the Neil and 17th Building. The tiers of the shop are filled with household items, clothes, jewelry, toys, patterns, suitcases, small appliances, dishes and books. Large appliances and furniture are available as well as boxes of "freebies" which contain hangers and magazines.

Operated by the University Women's Club, the thrift shop is open on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is located on the building's first floor. According to Kay Goldthwaite and Carol Arns, co-chairpersons of Buckeye Bargains, all money made is placed into scholarship funds. Since its opening 10 years ago, the shop has been able to contribute $40,000 for student scholarships. Donations are accepted and items can be arranged to be picked up by calling 263-1928 or 885-7683.
Thrift shop values offer unusual items

By Nancy A. Milenkovich
The Lantern
9-24-8

Need a set of hub caps, a party costume or a bedspread? These are some of the items students, faculty, staff and others affiliated with Ohio State can buy at Buckeye Bargains—the university’s thrift shop.

Located in the former veterinary surgical lab, room 101 of the Neil-17th Building, Buckeye Bargains is arranged like a small amphitheater. Space is designated in departments, such as hardware, costume, bedding, linen, clothes and small appliances.

Prospective bargain hunters can find index description cards on a bulletin board of large appliances and furniture that are also available.

Founded in 1966, Buckeye Bargains opened to provide warm clothing and household goods to students, says employee Harriet Summerson. She says Buckeye Bargains has sold unusual items such as a mink coat, a chain saw and antiques, but the “hot” items are the large appliances and furniture.

Wives of faculty and staff in the University Women’s Club volunteer to work and operate Buckeye Bargains. They donate much of the merchandise but anyone can contribute to Buckeye Bargains. Summerson says many students return items they originally bought at Buckeye Bargains when they finish school.

Individuals who need financial help benefit from Buckeye Bargains. All proceeds are forwarded to scholarships and loans, says Beverly Kaplan, publicity chairwoman for Buckeye Bargains. In its 14 years of existence, Buckeye Bargains has given $81,200 in scholarships and loans, says Kaplan.

The shop is open Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Harriet Summerson, Buckeye Bargains employee, looks over some of the shop’s items for sale, which benefit student scholarships and loans. The shop, located in the Neil-17th Building, is open on Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Ohio State Lantern
BUCKEYE BARGAINS is back after being closed for the summer. Operated by the University Women's Club, the thrift shop made $5,200 last academic year for student scholarships and short-term loans. Marking prices and arranging items in preparation for the shop's opening earlier this month are (left to right) Marge Vandament, chairman of Buckeye Bargains, Beverly Kaplan, Elaine Venzke and Harriet Summerson.

Buckeye Bargains beckons campus to find necessities, help scholarships

By Steve Sterett  2-25-80

It might be called Columbus' longest-running garage sale.

Buckeye Bargains, however, is not located in a garage but in a turn-of-the-century lecture hall once used by several generations of veterinary medicine students.

Housed in the middle of main campus in the Neil-17th Building, Buckeye Bargains has made $61,200 in the last 14 years selling used household goods, clothing, records, games and other donated items.

Volunteers with the University Women's Club—most of whom are wives of faculty and administrators—operate the Buckeye Bargains thrift shop, and the proceeds are donated to student scholarships and the student emergency loan fund.

Buckeye Bargains serves another important purpose in addition to the support for scholarships and loans, explained Beverly Kaplan, publicity chairman for the operation.

Students furnishing an apartment for the first time need inexpensive household items, she cited as a common example. "International students frequently come at the beginning of the school year and buy boots and clothes."

Buckeye Bargains opened for the new school year on Sept. 17 and will operate each Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through autumn, winter and spring quarters. It's closed summer quarter.

Volunteers also are needed to help sort and mark merchandise each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The thrift shop is not meant to compete with High Street merchants, Kaplan said, and for that reason only Ohio State students, faculty and staff may buy items.

However, anyone may donate items to Buckeye Bargains, she emphasized. Household goods, such as pans, dishes and silverware, are in high demand at the beginning of the school year.

The donations to Buckeye Bargains are tax deductible, Kaplan said. In such cases two lists of the donated items are made: one list is kept on file by Buckeye Bargains and the other list is kept by the donor for a tax record.

Items may be dropped off at Buckeye Bargains or potential donors may call a University Women's Club volunteer who will pick up the donations. To obtain the name and phone number of a volunteer in your area, call Harriet Summerson at 268-2864.

For other information about Buckeye Bargains, contact Marge Vandament, chairman of Buckeye Bargains, at 457-2590.
Alma Howe, center, president of University Women's Club, and members Marianne Nabor, right, and Harriet Summerson, sitting, prepare donated items for their Buckeye Bargain Sale. The sale was established 17 years ago by the Women's Club as a means to contribute money to the student emergency loan and scholarship fund. Students are welcome to bring any items they wish to discard to Buckeye Bargains on the second floor of the Nell and 17th Building.
Buckeye Bargains begins its 17th year of service

"ON CAMPUS" 9-23-82

Buckeye Bargains opened its doors this week to once again offer clothing, household goods and other assorted items to customers at a reduced rate.

This is the 17th year of operation for the organization which is sponsored and staffed by the University Women’s Club. Buckeye Bargains in its 16 years has raised $80,000 which has been donated to the University and used for student scholarships and loans.

Aside from clothing and pots and pans, records, towels, posters, and other goods are available. The prices are inexpensive as a result of all the items having been donated to the store. The average price of a pair of pants, for instance, is between $2.50 and $3.

During the summer the merchandise was updated as new stock was brought to Buckeye Bargains.

"We feel that we are helping people, especially foreign people newly arrived, get household goods and clothes they really need," says Beverly Kaplan, publicity chairman. "We also get a lot of satisfaction at providing money to the University for scholarships and loans."

The money raised is given to the Office of Student Financial Aids.

Anyone interested in donating items to Buckeye Bargains should call Jean Gregory at 486-0333, or Mary Woody at 457-1138.

The store is open from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every Wednesday during the quarter. It is located in room 101 Neil-17th Building, 1949 Neil Ave.
Buckeye Bargains is paradise of campus shoppers

By Lynne Brungarth
Lantern staff writer [11-18-82]

Nestled between the first floor drafting rooms in the building at the corner of 17th and Neil avenues stands an unusual room.

Smelling of old wool and sprinkled with a tinge of must, the room has a character of its own.

Its creaking wooden floors and steep wooden steps give the room an air of nostalgia, reminiscent of someone's attic.

The room is filled with a variety of mementos and relics, from pet supplies to neckties, which have been flawlessly sorted to relieve the room from its chaotic appearance.

The newly purchased cash register, the only 20th-century component of the room, places the room back into its proper era.

This room is the home of Buckeye Bargains, a thrift shop which has become the paradise of campus bargain hunters every Wednesday for the past 16 years.

But the atmosphere is not the only thing different about the shop. Its operation also is special.

The store's supplies and merchandise have been donated, and its proceeds go toward student financial aid.

Mary Woody, store treasurer, said Buckeye Bargains has raised about $70,000 in the store's 16-year history.

Although $70,000 over 16 years may not seem substantial, the fact that most of the items in the shop are priced below $2 tells the store's success story, said Beverly Caplan, the store's publicity chairwoman.

Specifically, the money goes toward emergency loans for students and a yearly scholarship sponsored by the University Women's Club, Woody said.

Woody and Caplan are two of several University Women's Club members who donate their time toward the operation.

The volunteers spend their time collecting the merchandise, pricing it, sorting it or helping to operate the store on Wednesdays.

Woody said the store's overhead costs are relatively low.

"Most of the expenses come from what we have to pay for taxes," Woody said. Taxes come to about $110-125 a year, she added.

Caplan said the store will accept all donated items, but noted that larger items cannot be displayed because of space limitations. A chalkboard on the room's wall lists items that are too big to place in the store.

Caplan said many donations are in excellent condition but people just want to get rid of them.

But not all of the donations are gems.

Some of the items are unacceptable to sell, Woody said, pointing to a pair of men's tattered long Johns. Those items usually are cut up and used as dust rags.

Woody once got a whole bag of falsies. They were displayed but were thrown out when they didn't sell, she said laughing.

Other items are so different it is hard to determine what they are, she said. We usually place them in a special area and tell people we just don't know what they are, she added.

On one occasion, Woody said someone donated a whole bunch of vintage clothing. "When we were pricing it, we thought, 'Who in the world would buy this?' But the next day, a girl came in and bought the whole lot," she said.

Although the shop receives new items every week, some things have been around the place for years and still haven't sold, Woody said.

Sometimes items are given to the Salvation Army or thrown away, she added.

Each Wednesday, about 35 regulars browse and sort through the merchandise. Some regulars have come for so long that their names are known, she added. Many regulars are foreign students who need warm winter clothing, and students often shop for inexpensive curtains and dishes.

Caplan said other customers range from faculty members in three-piece suits to students in tattered jeans.

The store is open from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays.
Customers browse through Buckeye Bargains, a thrift shop located in the 17th and Nell Building. The shop sells a variety of small items, most of them priced below $2, and proceeds go toward student financial aid. The shop is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesdays.
Buckeye Bargains begins 18th year of service at OSU

Buckeye Bargains opened its doors this week to once again offer clothing, household goods and other assorted items to customers at a reduced rate.

This is the 18th year of operation for the organization which is sponsored and staffed by the University Women's Club. Buckeye Bargains in its 17 previous years has raised $90,000 which has been donated to the University and used for student scholarships and loans.

Aside from clothing, pots and pans, records, towels, posters, and other goods are available. The prices are inexpensive as a result of all the items having been donated to the store. The average price of a pair of pants, for instance, is between $2.50 and $3.

During the summer, the merchandise was updated as new stock was brought to Buckeye Bargains.

"We feel we are helping people, especially foreign people newly arrived, get household goods and clothes they really need," says Beverly Kaplan, publicity chairman. "We also get a lot of satisfaction at providing money to the University for scholarships and loans."

The money raised is given to the Office of Student Financial Aids.

For more information about Buckeye Bargains call Kaplan at 846-0675.

The items donated are tax deductible.

The store is open from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every Wednesday during the quarter. It is located in room 101 Neil-17th Building, 1549 Neil Ave.
Buckeyes find bargains at OSU

By Elizabeth Houchens
Lantern staff writer 2-5-85

In an old university classroom once used to demonstrate the
dissection of animals, there are
rows upon rows of clothes,
cookware, books, stereo equipment
and knicknacks.

But this isn’t a classroom or even
a department store — it’s the set-
ting for Buckeye Bargains.

Buckeye Bargains is OSU’s
answer to the weekly garage sale
and is open to students, faculty and
staff. It began 18 years ago when
Marjorie Fawcett, wife of former
OSU president Novice G. Fawcett,
decided that the faculty wives
Women’s Club should do something
for the students and the university.

The Buckeye Bargains staff of 40
volunteers gathers items for sale
from family and friends.

Proceeds fund scholarships and
loans. Since it started, Buckeye
Bargains has contributed more
than $90,000 to the university
through its nickel and dime sales.

“Buckeye Bargains has a two-
fold purpose,” said Pat Corbat, co-
chairman of the club. “It provides a
service in which students can pur-
chase things cheaply and helps the
university financially.”

About 150 students bargain-hunt
each week. In the fall, many buy
household articles, such as pots,
pan, sheets and towels for their
apartments, she said.

People also shop there for
costume parties and when they are
involved in plays, said Beverly
Kaplan, publicity chairman.

Before Halloween, a vintage sec-
tion is opened in which rare items,
such as pointed shoes and shimm-
ery beaded tops are available.

Corbat said the staff provides a
special service to international
students who aren’t prepared for
the winter months and can pick up
a coat or scarf.

“I was really sold on the idea
when I bought a pair of Levi’s for 50
cents,” said Angie Buckner, a
graduate student from Columbus.
She said she bought most of her
Christmas presents there because
of the low prices.

For example, jeans range from
$1 to $1.50 while other pants range
from $1.25 to $2.50.

Donations, which are tax deducti-
ble, sometimes come from people
who have shopped at Buckeye
Bargains. Corbat said one couple
furnished their apartment with
buys from Buckeye Bargains and
donated it all back when they
returned to England.

Kaplan explains that both people
who bring things to be sold and peo-
ple who buy things support this
“magnificent garage sale.”

Buckeye Bargains is open every
Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3:30
p.m. and is located in Room 101 of
the Neil and 17th avenues building.
Student thrift shop kicks off 20th year

By Rob Berger
Lantern staff writer

Buckeye Bargains, a thrift store sponsored by the University Women's Club, will celebrate its 20th anniversary of service to the OSU community this month.

All money from sales goes to scholarships and loans for students, said Beverly Kaplan, publicity chairwoman of Buckeye Bargains.

The store, which was opened in 1966 to sell reasonably priced items to students, has hundreds of items including clothes, kitchen utensils, small appliances and dishes. Kaplan said many of the items are 25 cents or less.

"Our staff is made up of 45-50 very devoted women, all volunteers," Kaplan said.

Many international students shop at Buckeye Bargains, as well as OSU faculty and staff. We want to let all of the students know about us, Pat Corbato, chairwoman of Buckeye Bargains, said.

In the past 20 years the University Women's Club has given away $100,000 in scholarships and loans.

Kaplan said.

Any junior or senior woman is eligible for the Marjorie K. Fawcett Scholarship sponsored by the women's club, according to Joan Rinker, assistant director of scholarships.

Students need to indicate their interest in the scholarship on their financial aid application, Rinker said.

The number of scholarships and the amount awarded varies. Last year $4,500 was awarded, Corbato said.

The University Women's Club also sponsors an emergency loan fund. Students can apply for a $50 loan to meet educational expenses, Ann Whittmer, assistant director of student loans, said. Last year $6000 was loaned to students.

Buckeye Bargains is located in the Nell and 17th building, Room 101, at 1940 Nell Ave. It is open every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Anyone interested in donating items can drop off clean, usable items on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or during business hours on Wednesday.
Bargains for Buckeyes

Ross Bigelow, a senior from Columbus, browses through Buckeye Bargains Wednesday in the Neil-17th Building. The store, operated by the University Women’s Club and open Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., sells a variety of merchandise at discount prices. All proceeds go to student scholarships and loans.
Thrifty Buckeye

Rachid Azzouzi, a graduate student from Morocco studying geodetic science, browses at the Buckeye Thrift Shop located in the Neil-17th building. The merchandise for the shop is primarily donated by OSU faculty.
Thrift shop is a bargain

By Bob Boyce

During the recent cold-weather season, there was one welcome source of warm clothes for students not well enough prepared for winter.

Good, used clothing at low cost is the mainstay of Buckeye Bargains, a thrift shop on the corner of 17th and Neil avenues on main campus. The shop is run by the Buckeye Bargains Group of the University Women's Club.

Income from the shop supports student loans and scholarships, said Sharon Walquist, chair of the group.

Walquist said Buckeye Bargains is stocked by donations from the community, primarily from University faculty and staff. About 45 volunteers divide the work among themselves—some sort and mark clothes, some work with sales, and others pick up items from donors who can't bring them in.

Every Wednesday during the quarter is sales day. The shop is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Tuesdays, members of the marking division come in to sort and price the merchandise.

Buckeye Bargains was started in the fall of 1988 by Marjorie Pawcett, wife of then Ohio State President Novice G. Pawcett. It began as a service function of the University Women's Club, a group composed mainly of faculty wives.

"Buckeye Bargains isn't just an outlet for low-cost clothing and household goods," Walquist said. "All of the proceeds go to the University Women's Scholarship Fund and the University Women's Club Student Emergency Loan Fund. Both are administered by the Student Financial Aid Office."

Walquist said the shop has taken in more than $114,000 for student financial aid since it began 20 years ago.

"On big sales days we have taken in up to $500 in one day," she said. "We're proud to have raised $10,000 last year, especially since we are open only about 30 days out of the entire school year."

Prices range from 25 cents to around $25 for such things as drapes, she said. "We also sell a few television sets and small furniture items, which we list on a bulletin board since we don't have room in the shop for them."

She emphasizes that donations must be usable and clean. "We're always looking for new donors, and we point out that donations are tax deductible." And, she added, "Whether students need something or not, it's a fun place to visit."

Parents can make donations by calling Sharon Walquist at (614) 688-3979.
Buckeye Bargains again opens its thrifty business

Clothing, household notions, books, jewelry and cooking utensils are just a few of the items thrifty shoppers can find at Buckeye Bargains. Managed by the University Women's Club (UWC), the thrift shop is open from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Wednesdays in the Neil-17th building.

"Merchandise can come from anyone in the University community," says Sharon Walquist, 1987-88 chairperson of Buckeye Bargains. "We accept donations which are in good shape and still usable. There are also nine drop-off places around the city at the homes of some of our volunteers," she added.

Items are displayed in the building's amphitheater.

"We're busiest at the beginning of the autumn quarter when students are beginning to furnish their apartments," notes Jackie Merchant, 1987-88 president of the University Women's Club. "We have around 45 volunteers (out of about 700 members), and the four or five who work at any one time can be kept busy."

Since the shop opened in 1966, it has been busy enough to donate a total of $125,000 to the University. The proceeds are designated for the UWC Scholarship and Student Emergency Loan Funds. Nearly 65 scholarships have been awarded and the Loan Fund has been used more than 1,000 times by students.

"We are the only university in the Big Ten with this kind of store in addition to our service projects that promote social, cultural, recreational and intellectual activities for the University community," says Walquist.

The UWC also sells two cookbooks, "Faculty Favorites" and "Buckeye Hostess," which are available at the shop and local bookstores for $6.50 and $2 respectively. "Proceeds from the cookbooks have resulted in an additional contribution of $19,000," adds Merchant.

Marie Peters has been elected as the 1988-89 president of the University Women's Club. Elizabeth Carter is serving as the 1988-89 chairperson of Buckeye Bargains.
OSU thrift shop helps bargain hunters, OSU

By Sonia Kelly
Lantern staff writer

Buckeye Bargains, the university-based thrift store, is still in operation after 22 years of service to the university, said the University Women’s Club chairwoman.

Elizabeth Carter, chairwoman, said Ohio State is the only school in the Big Ten with a service project such as Buckeye Bargains.

At the campus thrift store, located on the first floor of the Neil Avenue and 17th Avenue building, students can buy used clothing, books, appliances, picture frames, utensils, linen and much more at great prices, Carter said.

The store is open from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and all merchandise and workers’ time are donated, Carter said.

The merchandise is sorted and cleaned, and appliances are checked to assure they are in working condition before they are displayed, she said.

Students can also have merchandise put on hold for one week without a down payment but it has to be picked up the following Wednesday or it will be returned to the shelves, she said.

“Students can’t afford some of the things at other thrift stores, so we keep that in mind when we price our items,” she said.

Carter said students also help the university when they purchase items at Buckeye Bargains.

She said last year the club donated $11,000 to the University Women’s Scholarship, the Majorie K. Fawcett Scholarship and the Student Emergency Loan Fund.

The club also donates clothing to the Department of Clothing and Textiles, and merchandise not used is donated to the Salvation Army and other goodwill stores, Carter said.

“We enjoy doing it and the money goes back to students,” she said.

“The university and its students appreciate all the efforts of (the women’s club) to raise money for our scholarship and loan funds,” said Mary Haldane, director of the Student Financial Aid. “It is through these efforts that a number of outstanding students are able to pursue their education at Ohio State.”

Trodie Leiss, store cashier and three-year member of the club, said she is proud to be a part of Buckeye Bargains.

“I love it. I think it is a great thing because it helps someone,” she said.

The women’s club also publishes Faculty Favorites, a cookbook that is on sale at the store for $2. All proceeds made from the sale of the cookbook are also given to various scholarship and the Office of Financial Aid.

Donations to Buckeye Bargains are taken on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Low-priced items found at campus thrift shop

By Becki Jones
Lantern staff writer

Students who need to go shopping but don’t have the money or a way to get to a mall, may be able to find what they need right here on campus.

Buckeye Bargains, a thrift shop run by the Ohio State Women’s Club, is located in room 101 of the Neil-17th building.

“We sell household goods, kitchen ware, clothing, books, lamps, just about anything that’s not too big,” said Trudi Leissa, chair of Buckeye Bargains. “If it’s too big, we don’t have any place to store it.”

The items sold in Buckeye Bargains are primarily donations from the Women’s Club.

“The items have to be in good, useable condition,” said Leissa. “We won’t take things that are all ripped up or stained. If something is usable, but needs to be sewn, we’ll do that, but it has to be in good condition otherwise.”

There are lists that the women can use to determine the prices of the items, but most of the women have worked there long enough that they can determine a fair price just by looking at the product and its condition, Leissa said.

Buckeye Bargains also accepts donations from other people, although they don’t actively seek them, said Elizabeth Carter, who was the chair of the thrift shop last year and has worked there for seven years.

“We’ll go out and pick things up from someone if they call us,” Carter said.

Another item available at Buckeye Bargains is a cookbook with recipes from members of the Women’s Club. It is also available in other bookstores around the city, Carter said.

All of the profits of the store goes into a general scholarship fund, with the first priority to the Marjorie Fawcett Scholarship.

Marjorie Fawcett, wife of former OSU President Novice G. Fawcett, was one of the founding members of Buckeye Bargains in 1968.

Buckeye Bargains is open from September until May, every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It is closed during finals weeks and the summer.
Thrifty consumers shop
Buckeye Bargains

Buckeye Bargains, a thrift shop operated by the University Women's Club, serves the Columbus campus community. All merchandise and the workers' time are donated, so proceeds are given to the UWC Scholarship and Student Emergency Loan funds.

Since the shop opened 27 years ago, the group has raised $184,900.

The store has a little bit of everything: household goods, clothing, records, books, posters and collectibles.

Buckeye Bargains is in 101 Neil-17th Building on Wednesdays from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The store is closed during exam weeks, on holidays and during quarter breaks.
Dedication

Waneita Dipner, a member of the University Women’s Club, has worked at Buckeye Bargains for 25 years. Buckeye Bargains is located at the Neil and 17th Building and is open on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Profits from the organization's sales go to student scholarships.
Thrift shop is one example of club’s work

University Women
A campus tradition for 99 years

By Gemma McCullough

In its early years, the University Women’s Club took a stand for women’s suffrage and supported the movement to establish a dean of women.

Now the 99-year-old club is not as vocal about social issues and campus politics, but the members’ quiet work aids Ohio State students and faculty alike.

The organization is open to women who hold faculty rank of instructor and above, wives of faculty members, retired women faculty and wives of retired faculty, the governor’s wife, the wife of the University president, and the wives of University trustees or women who are trustees.

Members combine social activities, such as a monthly general meeting and about 20 special interest groups, with civic service.

Their most visible effort is Buckeye Bargains, a thrift shop in 101 Neil and 17th Building.

Since 1966, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, volunteers have sold donated household items, clothing, and interesting odd and ends. Over the years, the nickels and dimes have added up to $184,000 for University Women’s Club scholarships and emergency funds for students.

Last year, Buckeye Bargains sales totaled $11,700, which supported four scholarships.

“We’re the only university in the Big Ten that has a non-profit organization that pumps money back into a scholarship fund,” said Elvira Edwards, the 1993-94 Buckeye Bargains chairwoman.

In addition to raising money, the thrift shop serves an immediate need when students, staff, or faculty need to set up housekeeping or survive in strange climates.

“W’e’re the only university in the Big Ten that has a non-profit organization that pumps money back into a scholarship fund,” said Elvira Edwards, Buckeye Bargains’ chair.

EACH WEEK, members of the University Women’s Club, such as Elvira Edwards, Bonnie Stevens, seated, and Arma Schmidt, run the Buckeye Bargains thrift shop in the Neil and 17th Building.

“We’re the only university in the Big Ten that has a non-profit organization that pumps money back into a scholarship fund.”

Elvira Edwards,
Bargains’ chair

Just the facts about ‘Bargains’

Located in 101 Neil and 17th Building
Open 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Wednesdays during the semester
Closed during quarter breaks and summer quarters
Donations can be dropped off Tuesday mornings
Accepts household goods, clothing and shoes, books, small appliances, toys, and needs
Proceeds benefit the University Women’s Club Scholarship Fund and Student Emergency Fund
For more information, call Elvira Edwards, 846-0960.

Lunches at summer orientation for parents and incoming freshmen
Some members reach outside the campus, making stuffed toys for youngsters in the care of Franklin County Children’s Services. Others sew for University Hospitals patients or residents of First Community Village. Quilters create small blankets, called “lovies,” for Ronald McDonald House. The club provides volunteers for 30 projects in the University Medical Center.

Membership has dwindled from a high of 900 in 1970 to about 600. “Lots of young women now work,” Kaplan said. But those who join are enthusiastic. The Buckeye Bargains crew, for instance, has found “great camaraderie,” Edwards said. Some retirees continue to be active, donating time to fix appliances found at garage sales, or cleaning toys. The refurbished items are sold in the thrift shop.

As members age, they are not forgotten. Edwards noted, “I can’t tell you how important it is to them” to receive telephone calls or rides to the club’s many social events.

University Women’s Club members, and their husbands, may enjoy the socializing but they don’t get far from their main mission of aiding students. “We’re a service organization, but sometimes we become surrogate moms,” Stevens said.

Undergraduates such as the Kaplans’ daughter, who is a senior at Ohio State, turn to Buckeye Bargains to furnish apartments. The women can help them pick from curtains, pots and pans, kitchen gadgets, toasters and just about anything else female and male “homemakers” need.

Other customers check out the clothing. Long-time member Beverly Stevens recalled a graduate student from Kenya who faced frostbite when he arrived in Columbus in the “dead of winter from Africa, wearing a sweater.” Quick action by club members, who found coats and boots, kept him warm until he adjusted to living in a chilly climate.

That sort of kindness continues as the University Women’s Club prepares to celebrate its centennial.
Thrift Store

The Buckeyes Bargains Thrift Shop will have a "Bag Day", from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 1, in honor of their final day open until fall. Each customer will be given a bag for $3.50, to fill with anything in the store, excluding electrical equipment, at no extra cost.

"It's great for students because they can fill the bags with all types of things," said Beverly Caplan, publicity chairman for Buckeye Bargains and a member of the University Women's Club.

Items include jewelry, clothing, glasses, toys, books, etc.

The University Women's Club, the social and service organization for family of faculty and staff, runs this University-owned store, located at the corner of 17th and Neil Avenues, and will be hosting "Bag Day".

The proceeds from the sale go to student scholarships and financial aid.

Kim Hilde, president of the University Women's Club said Buckeye bargains brings in most of the scholarship money they raise.

— Kristina L. Mintz
Thrift store bargains lead to scholarships

By Melissa Marshall
Lantern staff writer

Quietly working to provide students with low-cost clothes, housewares and useful school supplies, Buckeye Bargains has given out almost $200,000 in scholarships to OSU students.

Tucked between classrooms of the Neil 17th Building, room 101 is the Buckeye Bargains thrift shop run by the University Women's Club to raise money for student scholarships and loans.

The club is made up of women faculty and wives of faculty members. The shop is run by volunteers from the club and has been in business since October 1966.

Since that time, $194,900 has been given out through 129 scholarships created by the club, said Beverly Kaplan, publicity chairperson for the shop. The club's loan fund has been used over a thousand times, Kaplan said.

Although the shop has been there 28 years, Haiyan Pu, an OSU graduate student in medicinal chemistry from China, only recently discovered it.

"I think the store is great," Pu said. "It's especially convenient for foreign students who are not (yet) familiar with the surroundings... you can save a lot of money, buy things like a bread baker, and it's not necessary to drive a mile out of the way."

In the 1993-94 school year the shop contributed $10,000 to its scholarship fund and has earned over $800 since this year's opening on Sept. 21, Kaplan said.

All money made at the shop is administered by the Office of Student Financial Aid and shop space is provided rent-free by the university, Kaplan said.

Anyone can donate items that are "usable and sellable" to the store, such as clothes with rips, Kaplan said.

In addition to donating money for scholarships and loans, Kaplan said, the shop allows students, faculty and staff to buy items otherwise could not afford.

All items in the store are "upgraded", so it is not junk, Kaplan said. "There's nothing out of style, like men's shirts with big collars," Kaplan said.

The shop sells affordable clothing for men, women, children and infants. Men's and women's suits and winter coats are priced around $5.

Kaplan said paintings, lamps, silverware, books and magazines also fill the five-tier circular room, once used as an operating theater for veterinary classes.

Kaplan said some of the store's hottest-selling items are clothes iron, pots and pans. She singled out an evening gown for $7 and drapes priced at $5 as some of the best buys.

Kaplan has humorous memories of the shop, like a man who became hysterical when he came in looking for favorite clothes his wife donated. The man left disappointed after he found the clothes had already been sold.

Kaplan said she also remembers a student who didn't have any money but wanted to buy an iron bed frame because he was sleeping on the floor at home. The shop held the bed frame until the man could afford to buy it, Kaplan said.

"That story reminds me of how hard it is when you are just starting out," Kaplan said. "Sometimes people get complacent because they have so much, but working at the store helps you to not forget about the hard times."

Volunteers at the store even get their spouses to repair electrical appliances, Kaplan said.

Pat Corbato, who has volunteered at the store for about 12 years, said the work is fun.

"You get to meet customers from all areas and see what they buy, plus all of the faculty wives get to meet each other being volunteers," Corbato said.

Kaplan said most donated items in the thrift shop come from friends and neighbors, but anyone is allowed to donate.

Items may be taken to the shop on Tuesdays between 9 a.m. and noon. Donations can be used as a tax write-off, Kaplan said. Items that do not sell are taken to Goodwill.

The shop is open Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and is closed during breaks and Summer Quarter.
OSU thrift shop offers bargains, scholarships

By Allison Crawford
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State's thrift shop, Buckeye Bargains, is one of the university's best kept secrets.

Buckeye Bargains is operated by the University Women's Club, and sells donated merchandise to raise funds for scholarships and loans.

Most donations come from faculty and friends of faculty, said Beverly Kaplan, publicity chairwoman for Buckeye Bargains.

"All we ask is that the merchandise is useable and sellable," Kaplan said.

Proceeds are given to the University Women's Club Scholarship and Student Emergency Loan Funds. The money is administered by OSU's Student Financial Aid Office.

Since Buckeye Bargains opened in October 1966, the University Women's Club has awarded 147 scholarships totaling $207,200, Kaplan said. For the 1994-95 school year, the contribution to these funds was $12,300.

The women volunteer time each week to price the donated items. On Wednesdays, they are busy straightening and selling them.

Buckeye Bargains, which is only open on Wednesdays, sells a variety of merchandise including household goods, records, jewelry and books. It also offers a large selection of clothing for men, women and children.

"Items that are donated that we can't use are given to Goodwill," Kaplan said. "Nothing is wasted."

Freshman Jennifer Carruth likes to buy clothes at thrift stores like Buckeye Bargains.

"I like to make old clothes look like new," Carruth said. "You'd be amazed at what you can find at thrift stores."

Buckeye Bargains, located in room 101 of the Neil-17th Building, is housed in a former veterinarian lecture lab. The seats were removed and the merchandise is displayed on desktops throughout the lab.

Donations can be taken to the shop on Tuesdays between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. Buckeye Bargains is open Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Two Buckeye Bargain employees discuss store items last week in the thrift shop.
Buckeye Bargains reopens Oct. 9

By Tina Daniel
Lantern staff writer

Buckeye Bargains, the thrift store previously located in the Neil-17th Building, now has a new home.

In less than three weeks Buckeye Bargains will be working out of the basement of Converse Hall.

The grand opening will be on Wednesday, Oct. 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Converse Hall 54 at the corner of Tuttle Park Place and Woody Hayes Drive.

The Neil-17th Building was condemned because it was becoming a safety hazard, said Al Mathews, assistant vice president of physical facilities management. It was closed at the end of Spring Quarter 1996.

The building will be demolished in summer 1997 and no plans have been made to rebuild, Mathews said.

There are advantages to the new location, said Nancy Tinker, director of facility planning.

"Converse Hall is near St. John Arena and customers can park at the stadium," Tinker said.

Reserving parking space on the days that Buckeye Bargains is open has also been discussed, Tinker said.

Beverly Kaplan, publicity chair for Buckeye Bargains, said she is concerned that the new location may be too far for students to walk, but remains optimistic about the future of the operation.

"We're starting a new venture," Kaplan said. "Sure I'd like to be where students pass, but I say to my coworkers, 'let's not be negative, let's be positive.'"

If volunteers get together and publicize the new location, things should be back to normal soon, Kaplan said.

Bonnie Stevens, president of the University Women's Club which operates Buckeye Bargains, said the store is lucky to have a spot on campus.

"There is limited space at the university, and certainly education goes way before we do, so we are very fortunate to have gotten a space," Stevens said.

Shopping in Buckeye Bargains is not limited to OSU students. Faculty and staff also shop there, Kaplan said.

Merchandise ranges from household goods and appliances to books, toys, clothing and more, Kaplan said. All merchandise is donated, and proceeds go toward student scholarships and emergency loans.

The store is open on Wednesdays. Donations can be made during store hours or on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Sure I'd like to be where students pass, but I say to my coworkers, 'let's not be negative, let's be positive.'"

— Beverly Kaplan, publicity chair for Buckeye Bargains
Thrift shop not making bucks

By Shane Stegmiller
Lantern staff writer

At its new home in Converse Hall, Buckeye Bargains is not as profitable as it has been in previous years, said Beverly Kaplan, publicity chairwoman for the store.

Ohio State’s charity thrift store normally raises about $10,000 annually for scholarships, but this year has only raised about $6,000, Kaplan said.

Buckeye Bargains moved to its new location in October of 1996 after its old location, at Neil Avenue and 17th Avenue, was condemned.

Converse Hall, located at the corner of Woody Hayes Drive and Tuttle Park Place, was the only ideal location near central campus and the dorms said Nancy Tinker, director of facility planning in the University Resource Planning and Institutional Analysis.

“We’re not unhappy, we just feel badly that the people here are working so hard and we’re just not getting the students in,” Kaplan said.

Signs have been posted around campus and fliers were handed out to advertise the new location, but students still don’t seem to know about the move, she said.

Joan Rinker-Kisling, assistant director of Student Financial Aid, said all proceeds from the store go to scholarships and student emergency loan funds. Contributions to scholarships total more than $218,000.

The money is put into a fund along with other donations, and the University Scholarship Committee decides who will get the scholarships, she said. Students can apply at the Financial Aid office.

Plans are in the works to increase advertisements on the new location for next year, Kaplan said.

“You have to remain positive,” Kaplan said. “We’re looking forward to next year.”

The store, founded in 1966 by the University Women’s Club, sells a variety of donated items including dishes, clothes, jewelry, and books. It is open Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Thanks to campus thrift store, Buckeyes bask in bargain bins

By James Lindeen
Lantern staff writer

Students looking for bargains on everything from small appliances to sweatshirts and other clothing can find these items at a reduced price at Buckeye Bargains.

The nonprofit thrift shop, located in the basement of Converse Hall, is a place to find used merchandise. The money made from purchases goes toward student scholarship money.

Bonnie Stevens, a volunteer at the shop and University Women's Club Committee member, said the store is "bargain oriented."

The shop is open Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., September through May. It is closed during university holidays and breaks.

This is the 34th year of operation, and in that time over $252,000 in revenue has been used toward student scholarships, according to Stevens.

"It's an amazing feat that we are able to earn that much scholarship money," said Stevens. "Everything is donated, but in good quality."

Lesley Weber, chair of Buckeye Bargains, said over the years her store has had a vision of helping students with scholarships and emergency funds.

"Our customers include faculty, staff and a wide range of students from local to international, so we are able to meet the varied needs of everyone," Weber said.

Buckeye Bargains was founded by Marjorie K. Fawcett, wife of former Ohio State president Novice G. Fawcett.
Bargain hunters of the world, unite! So what if yard sale season is still weeks away — there's a basement full of discounted treasures right here at Ohio State just waiting to be pawed through. And what's more, all proceeds fund scholarships for Ohio State students.

Yes, at Buckeye Bargains Thrift Shop — stuffed into a cozy bottom corner of Converse Hall — everybody wins.

Operated by volunteers from the University Women's Club, the thrift shop has been selling gently used goods to faculty, staff and students for 40 years, raising more than $330,000 for the UWC Scholarship and Student Emergency Loan Funds administered by the Student Financial Aid Office. Last year alone, the shop contributed $16,000. Each year the club honors 10 to 13 scholarship recipients at a Faculty Club luncheon.

Barbara Herzog, a retired oncology nurse and Ohio State alumna, has been a UWC member for three years and chair of Buckeye Bargains since last fall. "We have around 40 ladies who volunteer to work a day or two a month," Herzog said. "We work Tuesdays and Wednesdays when OSU classes are in session. Tuesdays we sort donated items, mark prices and ready the shop for business. Wednesdays we're open 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., but all the good stuff gets taken up early!"

"The 'good stuff' can be pretty much anything Herzog and her team think will sell, from books to pots to clothing and, of course, Ohio State memorabilia. There are even items that tout non-OSU sports teams, such as a Notre Dame car ornament and an Ohio University sweatshirt.

This eclectic inventory turns over rapidly. Clothing is allowed to hang on the racks for three months; after that, it's marked down to half-price, and if it still doesn't sell, it's given away. On this particular day, a nicked baby crib festooned with baby clothes sat in the middle of the tiny shop; a sold sign indicated that the display was going to have to be rethought soon. "You learn what's going to sell and what's not," Herzog mused, eying the crib, "but sometimes you just don't know. I never dreamed somebody would walk in here and buy that crib!"

Goods come in from a variety of sources. UWC members donate family memorabilia and things they no longer want or need, and store volunteers offer their own homes as drop-off locations for donors in the community.

Sometimes it's a challenge. Herzog said, to resist buying some of the items that come in. Pricing the items they receive is another challenge. "We try to resist buying some of the things that come in. Pricing the items they receive is another challenge," Herzog said she enjoys. Her theory is that value is in the eye of the beholder, so the dollar amount is generally up to the volunteer who pulls the item out of the bag.

She admitted they're not particularly skilled at pricing electronics, but when it comes to clothing, they do much better. "L.L. Bean sweaters with lots of wear left in them are going to be worth more than something someone's husband wore 20 years ago and has kept in a trunk all this time," she said. "But the real challenge is to make the shop look a little different each week. We don't have a lot of things, and let's face it — they're all used."

Whatever they're doing, it must be working, as the store brings in an average of $400 per day of operation. Thrift shop volunteers also hold various fundraisers, such as the silent and live auction held last October at the Faculty Club in which club members bid on some of the store's choicest items. The event raised more than $2,000.

Additional moneymakers include the annual Hidden Benefits Fair and a "tea" at the beginning of the academic year in which the store opens its doors to club members only. "It's just like Christmas, they come in and grab up everything in sight," Herzog said. "They're our best customers."

During finals week each June, leftovers are donated to church groups or civic organizations such as Ronald McDonald House. "They come with their trucks and haul everything away," said Herzog. "We start fresh every fall with donations that come in over the summer. It's a wonderful way to give back to the community and to have a good time."
Hidden gem on campus

Purchases at the Buckeye Bargains thrift store go toward university scholarships

By Jennifer Smola

The Columbus Dispatch

Volunteer Melissa Robol helps customer Stella Rubia with the purchase of a Mardi Gras doll at Buckeye Bargains, located in Converse Hall at Ohio State University. The store is run by volunteers from the University Women's Club, which donates proceeds to scholarships at the university.

About two months ago, Ohio State University sophomore Darcy Cavanagh stumbled into a remote corner in the basement of Converse Hall. Since then, he has accumulated unique artwork, retro Ohio State gear and at least three calculators.

The hidden gem where Cavanagh got his spoils? Buckeye Bargains, a small campus thrift store run by the University Women’s Club of Ohio State.

A steady morning crowd joined Cavanagh on his latest thrifting adventure in late February, with customers trickling in and out of the store, some lingering. And yet, volunteers get the sense that many in the campus community are unaware of the tucked-away treasure trove.
"Buckeye Bargains started in 1966, and yet most of the people on the OSU campus don't know anything about this place," said Mary Gustafson, a member of the University Women's Club and co-chairwoman for the thrift store.

A soundtrack of Ohio State Marching Band tunes greeted shoppers as they made their way into Buckeye Bargains, situated in a room a bit larger than a two-car garage where shelves and tables are stocked with clothing, shoes, electronics, jewelry, dishes, glassware, decorations and general knickknacks.

Over the years, the store has built an endowed scholarship fund of nearly $1
Naval ROTC Cmrd. Peter Chrapkiewicz checks out some of the merchandise at the store, which is in Converse Hall, the Ohio State University ROTC building at 2121 Tuttle Park Place.

million, Gustafson said. The University Women’s Club has no overhead costs for the store because Ohio State donates the space.

The women started the thrift shop in 1966 with students in mind — either to help them set up a home away from home, or for international students who might find themselves in need of a winter coat or gloves, said volunteer Pam Dobies.

The store has a variety of shoppers, but most of its regular customers tend to be university employees who work nearby, she said.

“The student population turns over so frequently. That’s who we’d really like to reach on a regular basis, but it’s not at all uncommon for us to have a student come in and say, ‘Oh, I’m graduating in June, and I’ve never heard of you before,’” Dobies said.

Cavanagh often brings a group of friends with him to Buckeye Bargains, he said, “but I don’t think enough people know about it.”

Donna Johnston of Gahanna was buying a pair of shoes and some items for friends going through a hard time after a house fire. But those were just the most-recent purchases she’s made at the thrift store. Over the years, she’s bought clothes, dishes and even a sewing machine there.

Johnston and her granddaughter make regular trips to Buckeye Bargains and have found great items, including a leather bomber jacket.

However, “the scholarship that this provides is what draws us here, too,” Johnston said.

Buckeye Bargains receives donations from members of the Women’s Club and the community, estate sales, campus lost-and-founds and, to the delight of volunteers and shoppers alike, the Ohio State Office of Trademark & Licensing Services. The office donates merchandise samples, which means the thrift store can offer new, often one-of-a-kind Ohio State items that almost certainly beat competitors’ prices.

On tables in the middle of the store are carefully curated displays of seasonal merchandise, including a green-themed St. Patrick’s Day table of leprechaun decorations, glass Irish coffee mugs and, for the not-so-subtle, light-up “Kiss Me, I’m Irish” pins. Nearby was a Mardi Gras table covered in green, purple and gold beads and a spring-break table with lawn chairs, colorful patio drinkware, beach hats and beach reads. And, of course, one corner was devoted to everything Ohio State: phone cases, keyboards, garden flags, license plates, candles, clocks, wine glasses and even a couple of delicate garters with Block O’s.

“They really like to think of themselves as a boutique thrift store,” Gustafson said of the store’s volunteers.

And just like shoppers, volunteers tend to find items they can’t live without, said Antoinette Beynen, who has volunteered at the store for 11 years.
"For those of us who work here, our biggest problem is to keep our purses closed," she said.

Buckeye Bargains is in the basement in the northwest corner of Converse Hall, 2121 Tuttle Park Place, and is open from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each Wednesday during spring and autumn semesters when classes are in session. jsmola@dispatch.com @jennsmola