



Vinyl resting place

Music lovers turn to records for enhanced experience

by Kalindi Desai
Staff Reporter

Record sales have been on the rise since 1993. Vinyl records, the retro way of listening to music, has definitely made a comeback in the younger generation, especially this year. But why do people take interest in such a long-forgotten form of entertainment?

"It's a cool and unique way to listen to music. Listening to a record is a lot different from the modern way of listening to music; just putting in headphones and tuning out the world," junior Emily McCord said. "With vinyl you can listen to it out loud and enjoy it with everyone else."

Almost all musical artists that you would hear on the radio now sell physical copies of their albums in the form of a vinyl as well as a CD and can be found at multiple locations around town such as Hastings, Half Price Books and thrift stores. The popular clothing store, Urban Outfitters, also offers a variety of albums that can be found online or from their record-filled wall in stores.

"It's nice to be able to listen without all the fancy technology," senior Audrey Tamplin said. "What the artist intended was for someone to listen to the songs in a specific order, and a vinyl can provide that."

Although vinyl records can be more expensive because of how rare they are, it is definitely worth it for the experience that comes from listening. For those who grew up listening to records, it brings a feeling of nostalgia; for the ones who are just now discovering vinyls, it creates adventure and discovery.

"It's something that's not super common anymore and it's from a whole other era, which people enjoy," senior Morgan Hill said about the growing attraction to vinyl.

But expenses don't stop people from getting in touch with their old-world side. Statistics show that vinyl LP, or long play, sales have gone up by 38% this year alone, and since 2010, the number of vinyl records sold has almost doubled, grossing a total of around 5.5 million vinyl sold. Records now

make up 9% of all physical copy sales in the industry.

"I want to say that collecting records is becoming larger because people are appreciating music more and what the artist really wanted the public to see, but it might just be a trend to some people," Tamplin said.

One of the main reasons why the younger generation is so attracted to the idea of collecting records is because it's a hip and trendy way to listen to music.

"The fad right now is to be vintage, and I guess collecting vinyl records is a big part of that," McCord said about the increase in "vinyl junkies" lately.

Since records haven't been the most ordinary way to listen to music in the past century, it's drawn attraction to the younger crowd lately because now the trend, so to speak, is to be different and have things that no one else does. For others though, collecting vinyl is a way to appreciate music.

"I like being able to just sit down, relax, turn on a record and not have to worry about getting distracted," junior Breana Goodman said. "When you listen on your phone, you're either playing a game or on social media, but you're not actually listening to the music."

Vinyl records also create bonds over a love for appreciating music the way it was originally enjoyed. Most parents of kids that collect vinyls grew up in the time when that was the only way to listen to an album, which they can now share with their children since it is a common spark of interest.

"My dad really likes my collection of vinyl records because he relates to it, of course, and he has the same love for music that I do. He's really happy that I'm into it because it's something he grew up with," Hill said.

Vinyl records have proven to become the next big thing to bounce back, whether it be trendsetters or music enthusiasts or nostalgic parents that take interest in them. It provides a fresh yet old-fashioned way to enjoy and appreciate the everlasting art of music that is adored by all. •



▲ Junior Emily McCord displays her three favorite albums that she has on vinyl. She has a total of 25 records in her collection.

PHOTO BY KALINDI DESAI

Top 5 Vinyl Records in 2015

1. The Beatles: Abbey Road
172,000 copies sold
2. Mumford and Sons: Sigh No More
110,000 copies sold
3. Bon Iver: For Emma Forever
102,000 copies sold
4. Jack White: Lazzaretto
94,000 copies sold
5. Arctic Monkeys: AM
89,000 sold

Source: Billboards top vinyl