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the News paper



TURN
THE PAGE

Real Talk

Remember friendship?

It used to be so easy! Launch a baby-sitting club; organize a sleepover; own a horse. But nowadays Sabrina is lucky if she has five minutes for friendship between mindlessly scrolling through TikTok GRWM school drama storytime videos, parasocially defending fast-food influencer collabs on snark subreddits until 3 A.M., and pretending she's perfectly fine and healthy and her soul isn't famished for some genuine human connection.

What's a girl to do? Thankfully, Sabs has come up with a foolproof plan to get the gang back together – and it's so wacky it just might work: Go outside and touch grass.

Can Sabrina survive without a screen?





Ode to Physical Media

You're going to hate to hear this, but listen anyway. If a person falls off a cliff while doomscrolling on their cellphone in the woods, and all they leave behind is a subscription to Spotify, did they make a sound?

Physical media is more than just stuff: [1] Owning a tangible copy of a song or a story means it can never be erased. It exists. For as long as people exist, it will endure. The same cannot be said for digital artifacts. In fact, massive virtual libraries of films are being deleted every single day, or, worse, altered (censored) to be made "acceptable" for public consumption. The only way to experience that piece of media, the way it was intended to be experienced by the artist who created it, is to own an unaltered physical version. Conversely, many, many, many key contributions to culture have never been digitized, existing solely in their physical media form. "Buckingham Nicks" is not on Spotify. "The Heartbreak Kid (1972)" is not on Hulu. "The Brave Little Toaster" is not on Disney+. "The Adventures of Pete & Pete" is not on Paramount Plus (but "Hey Sandy" is on Spotify, so that's something!).



Thousands upon thousands of books, magazines, newspapers, zines, pamphlets, documents, screeds, deeds, treatises, and treaties have never been (and never will be) made available for download, rendering their enjoyment eternally out of reach for those who dwell exclusively in the domain of the digital. And should Peter Jackson's "Heavenly Creatures," by some heavenly intervention, suddenly appear on Netflix one fine day, it could very well expire the following night without so much as a see you later (which, incidentally, is exactly what happened). **That's no way to live.** [2] But that's precisely the problem: Life today is far too transient. Nearly 40% of all websites that existed in 2013 were no longer accessible by 2023, according to a chilling Pew Research Center study. Over half of all Wikipedia pages cite at least one website that is no longer online. Information should not be contingent on servers and hard drives and domain renewal fees. Knowledge should not have to depend on the kindness of Microsoft or Amazon or GoDaddy. Our collective past deserves better than to be unceremoniously unplugged and subsequently scrubbed from the Cloud to make room for more brainrot slop. You know what can't be extemporaneously erased or whimsically withdrawn or permanently purged from existence? Physical media.



You know what still works today without a subscription? Without apps? Without needing an update or new firmware or a biometric eyeball scan? **A book.** [3] Which finally brings us to the heart and soul of the digital media debate: Our hearts and souls. Or, to say it slightly less schmalzily, our identity and legacy. Who are we? Why are we? What will we pass down to those who come next, to those who will one day ask themselves these questions, to help them find answers? As we witness our digital culture decaying before our very eyes, the most important question remains largely unasked: "what good is a footprint that leaves behind no track?" In the end, memory is all we really have. Memory makes us smarter, more thoughtful, more empathetic. Remembering past mistakes is supposed to keep us from repeating them. But what if the reason you can't remember the past is because it no longer exists? Physical books, music, movies, and art can't be so easily memory-holed. These cultural keepsakes serve as tactile, indelible proof of the past: The bookshelf piled high with marginalia-enriched paperbacks; the milk crates stuffed to the brim with well-spun records; the entertainment console bursting with row after row of not-so-guilty-pleasure DVDs. Your truest self, incarnate, proudly displayed for all to see.



And when the time comes, these hallowed landmarks will serve as a treasure map to buried wisdom for future generations to unearth. Now that's an inheritance.

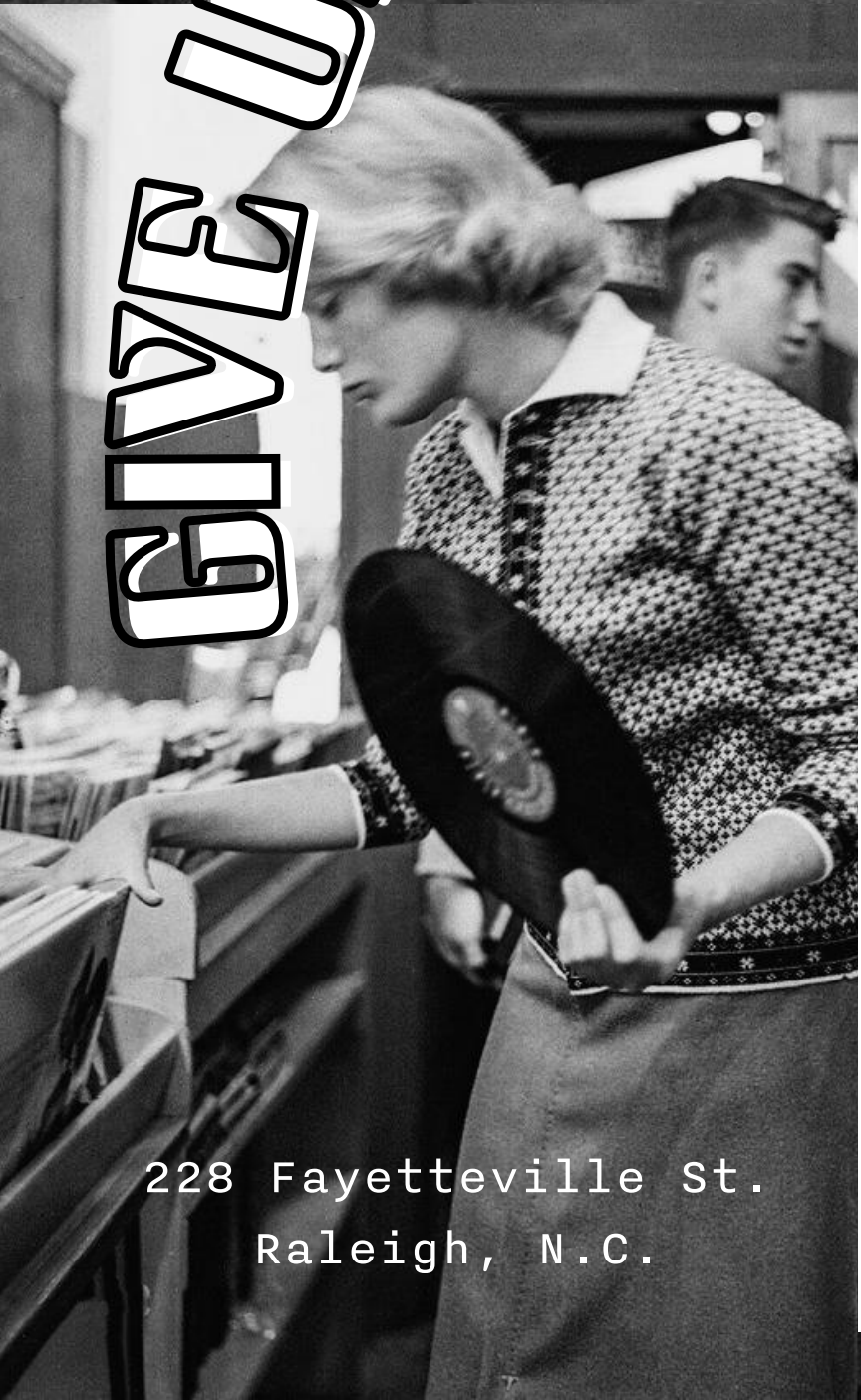
(Certainly beats bequeathing a playlist.)





YOU WOULDN'T
BEQUEATH A
PLAYLIST

Newsagents



WHAT WE BUY

- MASS MARKET PAPERBACK BOOKS: MYSTERY & CRIME, THRILLER & SUSPENSE, SCI-FI, FANTASY, HORROR, WESTERN, ACTION & ADVENTURE, ROMANCE, SLEAZE & SMUT
- COMICS: GOLDEN + PRE-CODE, SILVER, BRONZE, HORROR, ROMANCE, INDIE, COMIX
- MAGAZINES: MEN'S ADVENTURE, VINTAGE ADULT, VINTAGE MUSIC, VINTAGE ART & SPECIAL INTEREST, ZINES, CHAPBOOKS
- PHYSICAL MEDIA: 4K + BLU-RAYS + DVDS, VHS TAPES, LASERDISCS, CDS, CASSETTE TAPES, VINYL
- COLLECTIBLES: VINTAGE TOYS, RETRO TEES, COOL STUFF, ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING AUTOGRAPHED BY MISTER ROBERT GOULET.



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