

DVD-voted

Big disc collection is status symbol

By MICHAEL GILTZ

IT'S Thursday afternoon and Stephen Garrett is combing stores for the latest DVDs.

Most new DVDs are released on Tuesdays, but Garrett — a 32-year-old film editor who cuts movie trailers — knows which stores in New York will break the rules and put out the latest DVDs early.

"Kim's Video on Bleecker Street very consistently has stuff out Thursday or Friday," says Garrett.

Garrett, who already owns about 500 discs, is one of a new breed of entertainment junkies: the DVD addict.

On Mondays, you can find him at the Virgin Megastore in Union Square, awaiting the stroke of midnight, when employees stock the shelves with all the newest titles.

"They turn the escalators off at 12:30 so you have to get there between midnight and 12:30 a.m.," says Garrett, before laughing. "I am so geeking out right now."

Garrett and others find themselves unable to resist the lure of shiny little discs loaded with extras like commentary tracks and deleted scenes.

Among culture connoisseurs, vast DVD libraries are fast rivaling leather-bound books and vinyl LPs as must-haves.



N.Y. Post: Jennifer Weisbord

Film editor Stephen Garrett is so obsessed with adding DVDs to his collection, he haunts stores in search of early releases

Hollywood couldn't be happier. Last year, the movie studios grossed \$9 billion at the box office but about \$20 billion on sales and rentals of DVDs and video.

This year, studios will probably make more money on DVD sales alone than at the box office. And it's not just film fanatics who are powering this change.

Heather Lynn Jensen is a trademark lawyer who frequently makes impulse DVD purchases.

"I went to Virgin and they had a bunch of DVDs on sale for \$10 and I bought three or four of them. It

was a romantic comedy kind of day, so I bought 'Moonstruck,' 'Four Weddings and a Funeral,' and some others. I have about 30 DVDs, but it grows steadily."

Jensen has a lot of "girly movies," like "Moulin Rouge" as well as titles like "Fight Club" because of all the extras.

As a rule, she only gets movies she knows she'll want to watch over and over again.

Sal Nunziato also has a pile of tapes he rarely looks at anymore. As the co-owner of NYCD — a CD and DVD store on Amsterdam

Avenue on the Upper West Side — Nunziato is his own best customer.

"I'll bring home a dozen titles," says Nunziato, who has about 1,000 DVDs in his library. Like Garrett and other hard-core collectors, Nunziato admits he has DVDs on the shelf he hasn't even opened yet.

"Oh, absolutely," says the 39-year-old. "You've got to figure if I watch four to seven movies a week, that's a lot. And then the next week another dozen come out. It really is out of hand."