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Prisoner release is goal

By Lynn Mongar

The Lincoln Amnesty International Chapter announced the "adoption" of a new prisoner in last night's meeting.

The Lincoln chapter began May 1979, and the group's first prisoner was released last month, according to Jim Bender, group chairman.

Bender said Amnesty International's London headquarters provides local groups throughout the world with information on "prisoners of conscience."

Bender defined a prisoner of conscience as an individual who has not used or advocated the use of violence.

"They're being imprisoned for who they are, rather than what they've done," Bender said.

The Lincoln chapter's newly assigned prisoner is Lim Huat from Malaysia. Huat

has been detained since 1974 under Malaysia's Internal Security Act.

AI's information on the prisoner indicated that Huat is held without trial and without being formally charged.

AI is urging the Malaysian government to bring the prisoner to a fair trial or to release him immediately and unconditionally.

Bender explained that a local chapter is not assigned a prisoner from its own country to preserve impartiality of the group.

"We refrain from any sort of criticism of the government," he said.

Bender said there is "widespread torture" in Argentina. He also said that more than 15,000 people who had been arrested in Argentina during the last political coup had completely disappeared.

Nickels...

Continued from Page 1

I probably was the best gag the saleslady had seen all day. "We haven't had anything for five cents for years," she said when she quit laughing.

But wait, she had something for a nickel after all. Who says nickels are useless? I now am the proud owner of a party favor guaranteed for at least one laugh at my niece's next birthday party.

This way, to put it bluntly, the pits. I decided candy wasn't so bad after all and purchased a Jolly Rancher and a Blammo Sugarless Bubble Gum at Wright's Drug Store.

Enthusiasm waning, feet tired and heart discouraged, I trudged to the Atrium, where my spirits soon lifted. I found candy without sugar, in the form of a Frank Milina Carob Coated Cream at the Nature Center. All that nutrition for a nickel.

AT A TOUCH of Brass, candy had flavor twist. I chose five gourmet jelly beans at a penny a piece: chocolate banana, boysenberry, peanut butter, cotton candy and watermelon.

Plastic flower pots were dirt cheap at Flower World. For five cents I bought two small green plastic planters, complete with remnants of terra firma.

"You have a nickel burning a hole in your pocket?" the Flower World saleslady asked. When I explained my purpose, she sold my three thin wires for five cents.

I stopped at Hospe's where I thought I

could find a five cent guitar pick, but the cheapest was a dime.

"You came about 20 years late," the Hospe's salesman told me.

On to Latsch's where I found that even pencils were 12 cents and erasers were an unbelievable quarter. However, I managed to coerce the saleslady out of a beautiful Go Big Red party invitation, without the envelope. And I only got it because it was bent.

Eight nickels left, an hour and a half past deadline, and a frantic reporter. I decided to write my story without spending all of my money.

I MADE a last ditch attempt at Dirt Cheap. Did they really live up to their name?

There I found two pipe screens, two pipe cleaners and a pipe bowl, for five cents each, available for sale to the highest bidder. Contact me at the Daily Nebraskan.

Thirty cents left, and judging from how long it took me to buy what I did, I may have spent them by Saturday right before kick-off. I couldn't put off writing any longer.

The moral of the story? Some things are free, or cost a penny or two, some things cost ten cents or more, but few things sell for five cents.

Thank God its over. Judging from my mental state when the experiment was over, I'd say I finished in the "nickel" of time.

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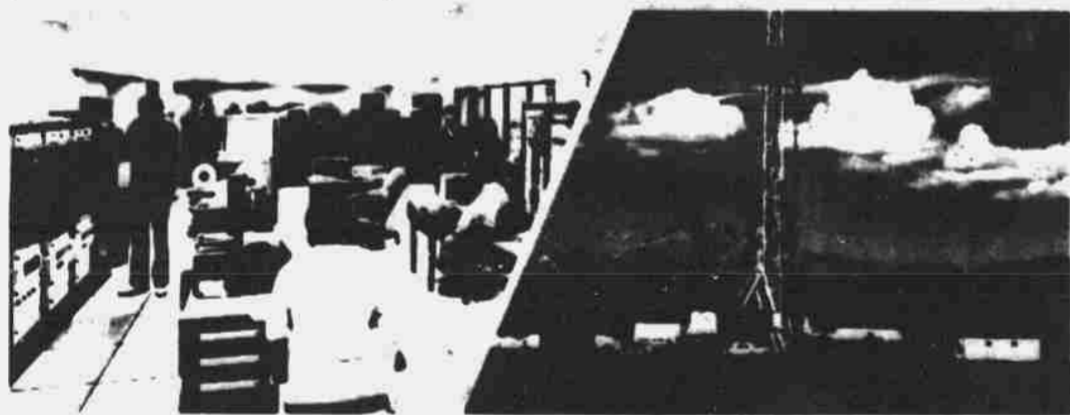


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