

# Your room can be a home for a reasonable cost

By Kris Mullen

Home, so they say, is where the heart is. For the next eight months or so, the home outlook for most students is a crowded residence hall, fraternity or sorority house or unfurnished apartment or house.

The creative student, even on a low budget, can turn the space between four dreary walls into a comfortable living space for heart, mind, body, books, stereo, Garfield poster and whatever else is needed to make temporary living quarters seem like home.

Interior designer Nancy Van Dervoort said wall color is important for setting the tone of a room. If possible, paint the walls a light color to make the room look larger, she said. A light, neutral color also is easy to coordinate with many other colors.

Before rolling the paint on the walls though, students first should check their housing regulations.

Jayne Anderson, director of Panhellenic Affairs and Cooperatives, said sorority members generally cannot paint their house rooms, but fraternity members are allowed to paint their rooms.

Apartment and house renters must receive the landlord's permission to paint. Some landlords may even supply the paint.

Students living in residence halls can paint their rooms if they have not been painted in the last 24 months, according to Jim Calvin, Harper-Schramm-Smith residence hall maintenance manager.

The maintenance department provides tools, such as brushes, rollers and drop clothes. Students can buy the paint at a discount and choose from about 14 pastel colors, he said.

Van Dervoort said once the walls are painted the desired color, window curtains can be bought or sewn to coordinate with the walls.

Curtains and bedspreads can be bought to match or color coordinate

with each other, she said. For easy care, they should be a material that is machine washable.

Curtains can be sewn from sheet material and will match sheets on the bed.

Curtains for a room on the north said of a building should be a light color to allow light into the room.

Yellow, green and light blue are colors that conserve light, she said.

"Yellow is a sunny color," Van Dervoort said. "And 90 percent of all people like green."

If the floor is not carpeted, rugs or a carpet remnant will give the room a warm look and will be warm for the feet on cold winter mornings.

Carpet stores sell sample squares that can be patched together for a checkerboard effect.

Bob Baruth, owner of Lincoln Carpet Center, said he has various sizes of samples that sell for 25 cents to \$3 each.

"A student can cover a dorm room floor for \$25," with sample squares, Baruth said.

He said the squares can be cut into creative sizes and shapes and pieced together to form a design. Van Dervoort suggested keeping the squares shades of a certain color, or picking out one color for the room's dominant color.

Baruth said carpet remnants can be bought for various prices, depending on the type and style of carpet. He said an 8-foot by 12-foot jute-back carpet costs between \$50 and \$80.

Van Dervoort said throw rugs or grass rugs can be used to creatively cover a floor.

Bob Creal, manager of Pier 1 Imports, said he sells natural floor coverings made of sea and rice grass and maize.

Coverings of sea and rice grass cost 59 cents a square foot, and the maize coverings cost 99 cents a square foot.

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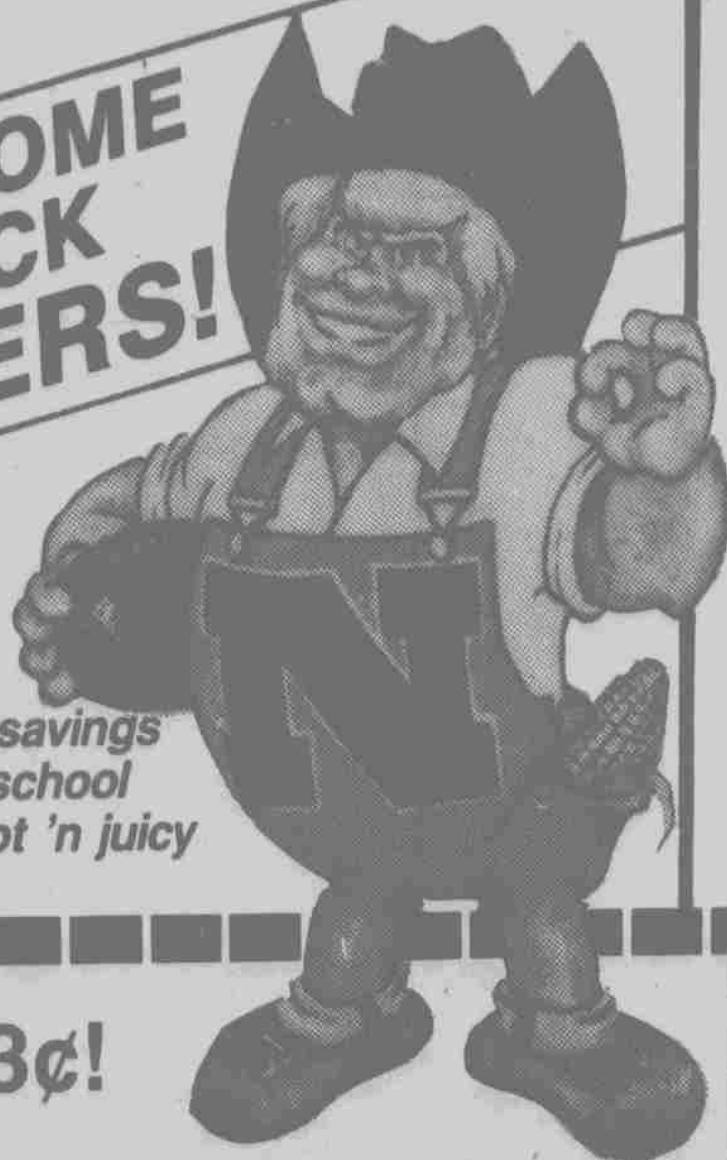
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