

# Reporter finds cheap ways to furnish bare room

Editor's note: Lori Robison was given an imaginary \$100 and sent on a mission to furnish her imaginary residence hall room. She was told that she would need \$20 to eat for Sunday dinners, when the residence halls don't serve food. We can't vouch for her taste in furniture, but her shopping sense is sound.

By Lori Robison  
Staff Writer

Theme music played.  
The fuse was lit.

I retrieved the tape from the usual hiding place in a bush outside the student union and head for my car.

After quickly glancing around to make sure I was not being followed, I carefully placed the tape in my car stereo.

"Good afternoon, Agent R," the tape began.

I unwrapped a stick of gum (just quit smoking last week) and looked up at a sunny sky. It was going to be a beautiful day.

"We have had several disturbing reports in recent months of covert activity in your area," the tape said.

I sat up and listened carefully. Finally, after months of patrolling UNL parking lots, a real mission.

"Several of our sources have informed us of a sinister plot to undermine the comfort of the typical residence hall student," the tape continued. "Your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to furnish a typical residence hall room, using only the money in your pocket."

I looked in my wallet — a few lint balls, an old piece of Juicyfruit and an \$80 paycheck from my last mission (secret agents don't make much).

"Good luck, Agent R," the tape said. "as usual, this tape will self-destruct in 5 seconds."

I lunged for the eject button, grabbed the tape and tossed it out the window as it began to smoke. Whew.

You've got to be quick with those self-destructing tapes. I ruined a friend's stereo like that once.

I started my car and headed toward the D.A.V. Thrift Store on 27th and Vine streets. I was luck. I found a couch. It was a pretty ugly shade of aquamarine, but it had no holes and really wide armrests — great for using as end tables or for extra places to sit.

Best of all, it was only \$19.98.

I scouted out the rest of the store. I found a tall lamp with a white swirl base for \$1.99 and a white satin lamp shade that fit perfectly for \$96.

On my way to the cashier, I grabbed a round two-shelf end table for \$8.99 — in case the couch gets crowded.

I paid for the items — \$33.34, including tax — and tried to squeeze some information out of the cashier, Geri Rankins.

"The best time to start shopping for furniture is a few weeks before the semester begins," she said. She also informed me that the store accepts checks and will hold paid-for items for three days.

I thanked her and headed for the door. Next stop — the Salvation Army Thrift Store on 7th and P streets.

I descended the metal stairs to the store's basement and entered a room full of pictures, books, bric-a-brac, washers, dryers, refrigerators and toys.

The cashier glanced at me suspiciously as I pass by — must be the trench coat.

I picked through the piles of items and found two pictures for the walls — a large white-on-black print of a lion (\$5) and a poster of star trails (\$4.75).

I paid for the items — \$10.34, including tax. A sign by the register informed me the Salvation Army accepts local checks, MasterCard and Visa and holds paid-for items for two days.

Before the cashier looked up from his regis-



Mami Speck/DN

Philip Paider, a sophomore engineering major, lounges in his room in Harper Hall on a couch he purchased from a thrift store.

ter, I was out the door and on my way to the 17th and O streets, to another D.A.V. store.

After passing by seemingly endless aisles of clothing, I arrived at the back of the store and immediately find what I was looking for — a light wood coffee table for \$14.98. It had some scratches on the top and legs, but it was in good condition otherwise.

I also picked up a black desk lamp — all the better to see with during those long nights of cramming for exams — for \$2.99. Total bill — \$19.05 with tax.

I checked my figures. I had racked up \$62.73 so far. I proceeded to The Rem Shop on 16th and O streets in search of a small carpet remnant for the room.

Liz Magee, a salesperson at the Rem Shop, said many students prefer the small 6-by-9 rugs.

"They (the rugs) are only \$50 and are bound around the edges so they won't fray," she explained. "Plus, moving them is a lot easier than a bigger rug."

I told her I'll take the rug and, since the shop had a payment plan, I gave her the rest of my money to use toward my purchase — \$17 (I save the 27 cents for gum) — and headed out the door to my car.

I leaned back in my seat, unwrapped another stick of Juicyfruit gum and reviewed my list of purchases — a couch, a coffee table, an end table, two pictures, two lamps, and part of a remnant. Not bad for \$80.

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