

Breaking a lease can cost money, time

BY ANGIE SCHAFFER

Moving out for the first time can be a testament to a student's hard-earned independence. But living off campus isn't

always as glamorous as it seems. When students are strapped for cash, some are forced to break their leases on their houses or apartments. Financial expenses are not the

only reasons that students choose to move out. Roommate disagreements, unsafe neighborhoods and unresponsive landlords also cause students to leave.

Attorneys at ASUN Student Legal Services see these problems frequently, said Attorney Thomas E. Keefe.

Student Legal Services gives free legal advice to students in such situations and can even represent them in court if necessary.

Shelley Stall, attorney for Student Legal Services, offered the following tips to help protect students:

■ Keep written records of all communication with the landlord.

■ If the landlord doesn't fix the problem, the tenant should send a "14-30" letter, which says if the problem is not corrected within 14 days, the lease will be terminated and the tenant will move out in 30 days.

■ If the problem is not fixed within 14 days of the landlord's receipt of the letter, the lease is nonbinding, and the tenant is free to move out.

Roommate problems can also lead to a lease termination.

Disagreements between roommates, whether for economic or personal reasons, can lead to a broken lease. Student Legal Services suggests that roommates

Thrift stores offer deals

BY SHARON KOLBET

Christmas lights, retro furniture and vintage materials can all be found at a local secondhand store.

And all can be used to furnish a college apartment in a place that is as easy on the eyes as it is on the budget.

For students who are strapped for cash, decorating a living space can often be a challenge. But anyone with a little patience, creativity and a trip to one of the local secondhand stores can create the decor of their dreams.

Daniel Kunkel, an employee at Goodwill, 1700 S. 17th St., said when someone wants to furnish a new apartment, a thrift store is a good place to start.

"We have bedding, baskets, chairs and knickknacks," he said. Lincoln has more than a dozen thrift and consignment stores that offer furnishings with high impact and low prices.

"You can often find a great couch for 30 bucks," said Janet Rice, assistant store manager at Goodwill, 4555 Vine St.

For those looking for a little inspiration on how to spruce up their decorating scheme, there is even a book devoted to the idea of "thrift-store chic."

"Pad: the Guide to Ultra-Living," by Matt Maranian, espouses the idea of the "why buy it when you can make it?" philosophy.

With simple tools like a can of paint, a black light and glue gun, the subjects of Maranian's book transform their small apartments



Holly Naab/DN

Televisions and tables, at The Salvation Army at 737 P St., provide an inexpensive alternative for students looking to spruce up their dorm rooms, apartments or houses.

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