

How to rid yourself of an unwanted roommate

probabilities of his returning are slight unless he is a bear for punishment (or is bigger than you.)

The problem of room-mate elimination has been around since residences were first established at university, making it possible to field some experienced opinion from upper year students. Fourth year Life Science student Bill Finch recommends a technique he described as the "old fish tank trick". This severe course of action entails purchasing a massive aquarium equipped with all the options including an all night aeration pump which makes a loud gurgling sound. For best results the aquarium should be placed in the middle of the room and should be stocked with alligators and a variety of iguanas. This method is designed to combine the raw terror of dangerous reptiles with the chronic irritation of an all night water pump. If you are serious about his method then you should make sure that the animals are fed regularly with any food your room-mate keeps on hand for snacks or Sunday meals. If your room-mate persists in his habit of returning to your room to live, floodlights should be added to the aquarium to provide night viewing of the reptiles.

Remember, don't be unfair to him, he's been working night and day for several years to carve out a place for himself at university. Maybe he is simply a little shy for the first seven months.

If these techniques don't work, look at him with an objective, open mind and put him in one of the following categories:

- a. shy - the type that only talk on weekends and civic holidays.
- b. backward - the type that can't maintain a conversation with a telephone operator.
- c. unpopular - the type that doesn't even get junk mail.

Any one of these characteristics can be used to your advantage.

If you have no scruples at all simply begin by removing his personal belongings over a period of several days. Start with his bed as this is what makes him return to the room each night. By bringing in a ping pong table for your personal use, start to lay the format for the renovation of the room. Throughout the week, remove fixtures and mirrors on his side of the room. Make sure that all damages are reported to the dean of residences and that the responsibility form is signed with your room-mate's forged signature and falsely witnessed by the guy across the hall. Using a razorblade, cut the carpet out of his side of the room so that in the morning when he gets up off the

ping pong table his bare foot hits the sub-zero tile.

A Queen's Psychology major (who we will call Mr. F.B.), says that he overcame the problem of room-mate elimination during his first year. "Oh yea, I remember my room-mate Sam," he says proudly, "I had a new room-mate by Thanksgiving." Mr. F.B., a compulsive napkin writer from way back, summarized (on a serviette) what he called the "klepto method."

This method requires the removal of one's own personal belongings, an interesting reversal of roles. By hiding his most treasured possessions and by giving away his deodorant, toothpaste, etc., Mr. F.B. created valid grounds for falsely accusing his room-mate of being one who steals things unconsciously (kleptomaniac). By spreading vicious rumours to his close associates, Mr. F.B. succeeded in providing an environment threatening enough to drive his room-mate

out. (What Mr. F.B. failed to mention was that he also had a new room-mate at Christmas and Easter and that by late April his room was getting fairly crowded.)

If none of these methods have proved effective, maybe you have overestimated your room-mate's intelligence. Maybe you could get away with using the old standard methods. From a recent survey of upper year students who successfully got rid of their room-mates, 64 per cent felt that the common methods worked more effectively and saved time. (i.e., those methods such as changing door, stealing and setting the room on fire).

The impact of the survey's findings could be seen graphically by using a supply and demand

curve for room-mates. At the beginning of frosh week the demand and supply of roommates gives us the equilibrium price for room-mates; that is, every person was paired with another and all were accommodated. Because of

the early advent of room-mate terrorization, more room-mates were pushed out into the housing market against their will. Residence killings which would rise later in the year (room-mates who could not otherwise be eliminated) would trigger a slight drop in the supply of room-mates (ceteris paribus.)

It should be remembered that getting your room-mate to make the big move may not be easy. He may resist and he might even retaliate. Remember how different you two are as individuals. If you are tall, he is short. If you are a normal, clean-living person, he is a total bore. If you are quiet, unaggressive and easily irritated, he is likely someone like Howie Meeker.

If the opportunity should ever arise you might even sit down and explain to him how you are two different characters and that even though you like him, you think he would be more comfortable living somewhere else, where he didn't run the risk of being stabbed in his sleep.



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