

# Solving the residence blues - - - how to rid y

By John McQuaig

If, after two months you still look at your room-mate and say to yourself, "Why me?", then you have a problem - how to let your room-mate know he's leaving. This may be a difficult thing to do if you are not on speaking terms. It is not the type of thing you like to break to him a casual note attached to his bags out in the hall.

The problem is that room-mates are not normally matched as well as they might be. If you will recall that when you applied to residence at university, you were required to fill out a form and to enclose a picture of yourself. This is probably where you bombed out. Unless you cut your picture out of an Eaton's catalogue it was probably not enough to save you from serving a one year term with your room-mate. Any defect will trigger an equal and opposite reaction in the selection of your room-mate. In other words your room-mate is an inverse function of your enclosed photograph (which seems only fair). If your eyes appear dark and beleaguered, then you will be slated to live with an insomniac.

To get rid of your room-mate you must disgust him, alarm him, repel him, and totally revolt him remembering that it is important to stay on favourable terms with him.

There are several obvious options open to you:

- Bring about an emotional breakdown by constant ridicule and abuse.
- Induce fits of depression.
- All of the above.
- Homicide.

Any one method could be effective if you play on his fears, slander his ideals and harp on his inadequacies through some gross form of malpractice. You should, however, be careful not to hurt his feelings.

One method which is popular and a lot of fun is the "conniption" method. This works on the principle that it is better to have him leave on his own accord than to have him lay the blame on you. Starting at the soonest possible moment in which you are in his presence, move your wrist and any two fingers in a circular motion for several seconds. Repeat this every seven minutes until your room-mate asks you what you are doing. Without responding, try cutting the time in half to three and a half minutes per conniption. If this method does not at least get him on his feet and packing, then you are living with a sick, sick man.



There is no guarantee that any given method will drive your room-mate out, but the "skitso" technique is a fairly good bet. This method must be initiated in the early months of residency as these are the wonder months in which your room-mate is still forming his basic conceptions of where he is and who you are, and probably having a hard time answering both questions. Here is a sample of this technique being used to its best advantage in a recent dialogue between room-mates during the first days of frosh week:

Mr. Roomie: Hi, my name is Bill what's yours.

Mr. X: My name is Frank.

Mr. Roomie: That's nice Frank.. do you remember what I told you about my name being Bill, well, I was just kidding.

Mr. X: Oh really.

Roomie: Well, my name is Ralph.

X: Okay. Whatever you say.

Roomie: I'm glad we straightened that out. You can call me Sid.

X: What?

Roomie: Hey Frank, I'm an airplane and I'm going to land on

your back....  
X: Bye, bye.

This method is both severe and damaging and therefore should be used discriminately. It is recommended that a less harsh method be used unless you are absolutely certain that you have at least a mild dislike for the person you are living with.

The beauty of the so-called "skitso" method is its lasting effect. The impact of such an encounter will not only be sufficient to chase your roommate out, it may well haunt him for the rest of his university career. The