

# THE DORM SITUATION

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Every year at various times, in-coming college freshmen are faced with the decision of whether or not to board at the college of their choice. Many factors are taken into consideration in making this decision, such as relationships with parents, financial standing, and the distance between home and school. But whatever the reason, once the decision is made to live in a dorm the student must learn to adapt to his new surroundings, for he can never return to his former lifestyle again.

As soon as he moves in, the student realizes that the differences between dorm life and the comforts of home are somewhat striking. Gone is the spacious room with shag carpeting and a double bed. Now replacing it is a long strip of a room with cold features, each feature identical to all of those on the floor and in the dorm. The venturer may decorate his room to break this monotony, but restrictions such as no tape on the wall, no candles, hot pots, or fish put a clamp on his creativity. And so, the painted cinder block walls and cold linoleum floors, found throughout the

dorm, continue to remind the resident that he is still in school.

Another notable contrast in lifestyle for the student who has taken advantage of his leisurely life at home is responsibility, which seems suddenly thrust upon him. No longer can he rely on another member of his family to wake him up at a certain hour. His sleep is now interrupted by the annoying jangle of an alarm clock. Two nights a week he spends his time in the laundry room; before, clothes seemed to magically launder themselves. Fluffy collections of hair and dust float about the room and will continue to do so until he realizes that along with his other unpleasant tasks, he must also maintain the general tidiness of his room.

After he lives in a dorm for some time and over-comes these basic differences, the student now faces various conflicts within himself. After weeks of doing nothing but homework, housework, and

existing, he begins to wonder if studying is getting him anywhere. He is swayed by the majority of his fellow classmates and residents, who feel that social life is as important as studying-- even more so. As he begins to socialize, his grades rapidly decline; assignments are handed in late, and he can put off his work than he actually spends doing it. If he is a gambler, all of this seems quite exciting; if he is not, paranoia sets in and his social fling is once more replaced by some serious studying.

Other conflicts that arise in a dorm student's life are the absence of privacy and the ignorance of current issues facing the outside world.

In a dorm situation, it is virtually impossible to be alone. Therefore, when the student becomes so wrapped up in his school life that he has no time for any of the medias, he becomes ignorant of the affairs of the world in which he lives. This could be considered one of the most serious

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