



# McCarthyism

By Terry McCarthy

In my previous columns, I have dealt with subjects that affect the lives of students who live in apartments off campus. There is one person though, who affects the off campus student (and maybe even the dorm student) more than anyone else, a roommate. Unless your roommate was a friend from back home, this total stranger was a source of fear before school even started. Is she a priss? Is he a fag? Does he like to crank THE DOORS at 1 a.m.? Will she be condemned by the board of health.

After you meet your new roommate and go through the "where are you from?" "what is your major?" questions, you are either sure that you are going to get along great for the rest of the year, or that you would rather room with your mother. For some unknown reason, the "best of friends" roommates seem to be at each other's throats by the start of second term.

This year I have had the pleasure of living with eight guys who have made my first year here at Hazleton one of the best years of my life. Many of the people on campus know them because of the hundreds of parties at our house. Others have known them through classes, and still others have suffered defeat from their "nothing short of awesome," softball team. I have known them from a different view-

games in two feet of snow, the countless hours of Mexican, and the coal mountain. One of the best things about my roommates is that they can make the simplest of things look so funny. If you are ever in need of a good laugh, come over and watch my roommates try to cook Hamburger Helper or argue about who ate all the Captain Crunch.

I cannot say that any of my roommates are the stereotypical "ideal roommate," but between all eight of them they contain all the characteristics that a person looks for in a roommate.

In Dave I find kindness. He is the type of person whose goal was to meet at least one new person each day by walking up to him in the commons or library and saying, "Hi, my name is Dave," and treating that person like he was a long-time friend.

In Denny, I find sensitivity. He is always aware of the needs and feelings of others. I cannot think of a person who has never hurt another's feelings with the exception of Denny.

In Jim I find ambition. Jim has set a goal for himself to become a doctor and he has shown dedication to his studies all through the year. Thank God he threw that dedication to the wind almost every weekend.

Junior (a.k.a. Grant, Ant, Grunt, J.R.) is probably the most difficult to categorize. He probably takes the most abuse in the house, but he is also one of the most

loved. Junior's rare gift of humor is a product of being able to always laugh at himself and never trying to create a false impression of what kind of person he is. Having a warped mind doesn't hurt either.

I am going to group Lee and Phil together because it is rare to find them separated. There are times that the two of them act as if they are twin sons of different mothers. Lee and Phil were probably the most popular people at our

house. First floor guys and girls were over so often that I was afraid Cy would come over and bust one of the parties. It was their popularity at the dorms that helped the rest of the people in the house meet new people and throw super parties.

Mike is a very easy going type who I have a good time with when we just sit around and crank tunes and talk about anything on our minds. He is an excellent person to have around when you

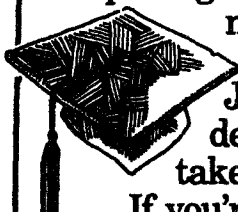
are in a "mellow out" mood.

There are times when Vince is teased about being "the older guy" in the house, but in him you can find a leadership quality that can get people organized and the house in order without being too overbearing.

I was very lucky to find an excellent bunch of roommates with personalities that make college life bearable. I'd like to use this article to thank each of them.

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