

Public Speaking

The TOASTMASTERS CLUB of Charlottetown will be holding their weekly meeting on campus on Wednesday, November 27. The club is interested in starting a campus chapter. The TOASTMASTERS are a club which promotes public speaking and teaches people to feel more confident in front of crowds. The meeting will be held in one of the classrooms in the Library at 5:30. It is a great opportunity for us to brush up on our oratory skills. For more information contact David Fitzpatrick at 566-0670.

DON'T BLOW-UP MY CAT

Roommates by: Sharon Keats "The Cord"

You never really know someone till you live with them. Ain't that the truth! As we move into the month of October many of us are experiencing the roommate blues or, more accurately, are wondering about the death penalty. What ever happened to the myth of moving into residence (or a house) and becoming best buddies with your roomie?

-----IT ISN'T EASY-----

Let's face it, living with people is tough; it doesn't matter if they are your parents, your best friends or complete strangers. Luckily, roommates are usually not life threatening unless of course you have a gas stove and they just happen to leave it on for hours and almost suffocate you to death, just by accident, naturally. It's a good thing people are stopping by and popping in at all hours of the evening to rectify these little mishaps. Ah, isn't that the joy. There is nothing better than getting awakened at four o'clock in the morning by someone just wanting to say "Hi". But moving on, sharing is hard. Everyone has their little quirks that make then difficult to life with. The little habits people have can suddenly become big deals and you can find yourself fighting eight people you have to live with for the next eight months. You're locked into a situation where fighting over things often leads to greater hostilities and ignoring the situation seems impossible.

-----WHAT TO DO?-----

One of the best things that one can do to take the tension out of a situation is to recognize that you too have annoying routines. They might like to hang their laundry all over the house, but you scatter pictures of

naked men all over the wall of the basement. Fair is fair, compromise. Boy this sounds like a lecture. It reminds me of the one I received from my parents before moving in with my roomies, "Make sure you have a floor fund so you can buy your communal goods such as Mr. Clean (like we use it!), make up a cleaning schedule so one person doesn't end up doing everything, agree on who will do the dishes, make sure they don't smoke (she didn't say what), and remember to set ground rules about people dropping by at all hours of the night!" Thanks Mom. lov ya! Well I didn't do any of these things with my roomies partly because of lack of interest from them and me. However, I will say one thing, I hate it when Moms are always right.

-----GROUND RULES-----

Folks, ground rules are a necessity of life. The most important rules you need are ones that involve money. Almost all of us have experienced the starving student syndrome and realize that there may not be enough to buy that fur coat, never mind the phone bill. Develop a fund and policies for paying the bills. Set aside money at the beginning of the year to buy things like toilet paper and windex and don't stick one person with going to the bank every month. Break up who is in charge of the bills, for example, have one person in charge of cable and another in charge of Bell and keep a little extra in that house fund in case, heaven forbid, a disaster happens and someone is a little short. Oh, also unplug the phones during house parties so no one makes long distance calls on your phone - it happens. Decide if your house is smoke free and live with the decision, that means no smoking during partying, suntanning in the tanning machine or anywhere else. Make up a cleaning schedule so that someone does one thing every week like cleaning the bathroom, vacuuming, sweeping, and washing my car. Don't let that clean fanatic do everything.

If you have problems talk about them with the people you are living with and don't sit and stew about all the little things they do. If you discuss what is bugging you they will probably stop doing it when they realize it is a problem. Most of the time people don't realize that they are a little neurotic in some areas and all you have to do is point it out. If someone isn't doing their share of the work around the place and you live with more than one person try having a little meeting, not to gang up on one person, but to talk about ways to make it easier for everyone. Maybe