

How to 'Home Alone' your dorm

Mihir Deshpande

Macaulay Culkin if he was in SCS

Do you have an important exam coming up and cannot tolerate interruptions? Worry not, using these suggestions and your creativity, you won't ever have to worry about a roommate getting in your way again.

For those unaware, Home Alone is a heartwarming family movie about a young Jigsaw brutally torturing and mutilating two unsuspecting anti-plumbers who tried to enter his home. Taking inspiration from the traps in that classic you too can keep your roommate out from entering your dorm (or at least from entering your dorm again).

The first trap is a classic: the incinerating door handle. If your dorm is anything like mine, a metal door handle needs to be turned to open the door. The average college student is estimated to own at least two blow torches for crème brûlée, so heating one to cause a second-degree burn should be a cinch.

If that didn't deter your roommate and they successfully entered your room, the next item would typically be the tacks or toy cars. However, your roommate

would likely have shoes on. Thus, I recommend having a glue trap right at the entrance to remove the shoes. After that, a few rusty nails sticking up would be very cost-effective.

Let's suppose all that still hasn't kept your surprisingly determined roommate out, trust me, I get it. Luckily there is one last trap I can draw inspiration from: the Tommy gun trap. However, if your roommate has made it this far, it's clear that either they're a masochist or are just really determined to stop you from studying. Now, according to a quick Google search I did, when 18 in Pennsylvania one can legally own a semi-automatic rifle. In addition, for the sake of plausible deniability, I have not bothered to look at the CMU housing rules. All I'll say is that this has proven to be the most effective method of keeping my roommate out.

Of course, these are only a few of the limitless ideas you can come up with. From personal experience, chlorine gas, electric shocks, and cyanide shampoos are all also effective approaches. Just remember, when an A is on the line, sometimes you have to put on your best slasher smile.

Feng Shui for ruining your life

Benner Rogers

Someone thought she was Chinese once

Have you ever felt like you were doing too well in your classes? Do you wake up too well-rested? Feng Shui is an essential practice for balancing your energy, and can be easily manipulated to prevent you from reaching your full potential. With ReadMe's expert advice, any standard three-person one-room apartment can be transformed into the soul-sucking hovel of your dreams.

First, pick a building near an intersection with heavy traffic. Mudge, Morewood Gardens, and Residence on Fifth are all recommended locations. If you are living off campus, try to find an apartment complex that is also close to a stagnant pond and large, threatening buildings. Choose a room directly across from the elevators. This will cause difficulty in accumulating wealth, leave you more prone to accidents and medical emergencies, and create disharmony between you and your roommates. Ideally, the room's bathroom should be on the leftmost side of the room and as close to the doorway as possible. Make sure there is a large window directly visible from the entrance so energy will leave the room as quickly as possible. If possible, renovate the apartment or dorm so that one of the corners is protruding with multiple sharp angles. This will create an irregularly-shaped living space. If renovation is not possible you can also use dividers to create a similar effect.

One of the most important elements in Feng Shui is bed position. Place your bed in the center of your doorway with the feet protruding into the hallway. Make sure there is no headboard. This ensures you are in the strongest possible funeral position and blocks the flow of energy into the room. A bright construction worklight should be used to fill your sleeping area with harsh light. Place a broken mirror near the upper-right corner of your bed and angle it such that you have

an uninterrupted view of the toilet from both your bed and door. Inside the bathroom, place an aquarium of stagnant water. If there is not enough space, a full sink or bathtub will suffice. A few dead fish inside the aquarium are recommended but not necessary. If you want to go the extra mile, invite an evil spirit or two into your home. I hear they're fans of ReadMe!

Proper balance between elements is vital when looking at your home's Feng Shui. It is important to ensure your living space is following the most destructive cycle of elements: metal, wood, earth, water, and fire. By placing the elements in this order each one will weaken the next, successfully removing any benefits they may have otherwise created. The placement of elements in the room is less important than the order and exact furniture location may be modified. This article will start with metal and move clockwise through the room for each successive element.

Starting with metal, place metal exercise equipment in the far-left corner of the room. Large 300 pound dumbbells are an easy option, as is a metal pullup rack. For wood, set a wooden desk directly in front to the right wall at a slight diagonal towards the far-right corner. Place a wooden bunk bed behind the desk. This will ensure lots of movement behind your back as you work. Next, place a large number of dead cacti on top of your dresser. This will satisfy the earth requirement while simultaneously increasing stress and conflict. The cacti will also invite bad energy, stagnation, and decay into your living space. If you're worried the cacti won't be enough, grow a colony of black mold on the wall closest to the door. Finally, add a couple more bowls of standing water in the bathroom to satisfy the water element and complete the cycle.

Congratulations! You have successfully used the power of Feng Shui to ruin your life. By following this guide, you can feel at ease knowing that you live with nothing but bad energy. And hey, at least it still won't be as bad as Donner.



fuck you this took me three hours. I individually placed every gnome. You have gnome respect for my craft. I can't copy and past them because then the layers wouldn't be right. Fuck you. You will never understand.

A Song for Dear Ol' Tech

To the tune of "A Model of a Modern Major General", by Gilbert and Sullivan

I am the very model of a student here at
Carnegie,
With plans to triple major in AI, CS, and
ECE

I've memorized the answer key to every
leetcode medium
I spend my time on Stack Exchange to
mitigate the tedium

I've crashed in classrooms everywhere
from Gates to Wean to Hamerschlag
Complained about insomnia with Red
Bull in my sleeping bag
I try to brag but sometimes the imposter
syndrome gets to me
I'm pretty sure that half this school still
wants to go to MIT

But that's okay I know that I'm an
academic superstar
I've only bombed two tests, a quiz, a
midterm, and a lab so far
I'll try to make a comeback when my mid
semester grades come out
I've got a homework due at two but I
don't know what that's about

I'm unsure what career of mediocrity
will be my fate
But at this point dear god above, oh
please just let me graduate
And thus with plans to triple major: AI,
CS, ECE
I am the very model of a student here at
Carnegie.

Missing Links

Kanya Dogan
Social Anthropologist

I walk into my Mechanics 2 lecture on a snowy January afternoon. I find an available seat in the 4th row - which provides a clear view of the professor's presentation. Things like 3D free-body diagrams are covered, which I honestly didn't really pay attention to. What was most striking about this class was the person sitting directly next to me. This guy kept nodding his head up and down, side to side. Is he on fentanyl? Did he not get enough sleep last night? It does not matter. His parents are paying his tuition yet he desecrates their financial investment in him by treating his education as sleepy time. His ancestors, probably coal miners or something, are all looking down on him from up above. They did not get a chance to receive any form of higher education, especially not in mechanical engineering. Yet their progeny is sitting here, fucking falling asleep. Oh his ancestors are definitely crying for sure.

BEWARE FERAL



SCOTTIE DOGS

Easy Alternatives To Fixing Your Heater!

Abe James

The Cold Never Bothered Me Anyway

With the current weather conditions, it is important that everyone stays safe, and more importantly warm. However, when the heater has to be fixed seven times in one month- and still isn't working- it might be time to look for alternatives. Heaters can be a bit out of the price range for many of us. Considering the heater will only be used for about another month or so, many of us can't justify spending so much money! But, because staying warm is incredibly important, we here at ReadME have compiled a few cheap and easy ways to stay warm during the harsh winter!

At-Home Sauna

Just turn on the bathroom faucets to hot and sit back on your porcelain throne. Eventually, the steam will act as a makeshift sauna. If you have a tub, sit in that instead. If you are using the tub, make sure you bring snacks and everything you need on a chair or small table. You'll be staying in there for a while! Be prepared to stake out the bathroom for as long as possible, even if you have roommates. While this solution is extremely easy, it may not be viable for everyone. If you pay for utilities, you will definitely incur severely high prices in the long run.

Fun Dorm Campfires

If all else fails, a nice fire will warm you right up! If you have a butane stove, turn it on. Consider using up all your past notes, tests, and readings as kindling. If decent sized wood fuel is too hard to find this time of year, consider using your roommate's things-anything large and flammable. However, be extremely mindful about setting off any sprinkler systems. If you get wet, that'll just make you more cold! There is also a non-zero chance you burn your place down. To combat any excessive fire growth, be sure to have a fire extinguisher and a bucket-full of water on hand! If not, you may be facing hefty fees and the extreme cold.

Just Leave!!!

The final option is to simply not live at your place anymore. The demons of ice and snow have won. Crash the rest of the winter with a friend, colleague, even a sworn enemy. If you must, show up to Farnam's doorstep and start to sob uncontrollably until he lets you in. If your chosen host declines, try begging even more pitifully. Or, stage a hostile takeover of their place. Maybe find refuge on campus. The HOA couches and chairs might be a good place to sleep. You could shower in the UC or Gates! Or, just live outside in a tent. Just get away from the icy hell that is your living situation.

To My 8 A.M.s:

Alex Werth

Up! We are Up!
I cheer myself to rise
At the crack of seven-twenty,
'Fore the sun has hit the skies,

On a wonderous new Monday,
I'm triumphantly awake
In sheer elation for the 8am that I
- with no especially strong feelings -
Take.

A truly magical day awaits, that starts
at lovely number 8.

Up! We are Up!
I beg myself to rise
At the hour of seven-forty,
Peeling crust from out my eyes,

On a magical new Wednesday
I have once again arose
For an 8 am that I, against all
reasoning, I chose.

A sorry start turned out okay - at least
it started at 8 today.

Fuck!

I am up, I am up,
I have no idea the time
I've stumbled from a cloud of dreams
Into this lumpy bed of mine
And fuck! oh fuck!
It is well beyond the time
When I should've shambled out to class
An hour ago from 9!

But...
Before I leave my sunny dorm,
I'll take a little rest.
A half an hour all my own,
And I am at my best.



USE THIS SQUARE TO SWAT BUGS

