

Roommate

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and try to understand his or her point of view.

In Kellar's case, she and her roommate were such

opposites they ended up separating.

"There was no way to work it out; we were both stubborn," Kellar said. "We didn't click, and our chemistry just didn't match."

Freshman Maria Chipman also had significant roommate problems at the beginning of this school year and eventually had to split up with her roommate when their differences could not

be resolved.

"At first, we tried to go to a mediator to solve out problems, but my roommate refused to compromise," Chipman said. "She got up and left in the middle of the mediation section and refused to communicate. She even tried to ban my mom from ever entering the room."

Roommate disagreements are not unique to this University alone. Ben Dolan-Williardson, a freshman at Whittier College in Los Angeles, describes his roommate as possibly the worst he's ever had.

"He's loud, rude, obnoxious and has poor hygiene," Dolan-Williardson said. "For

"We just don't talk now."

Ben Dolan-Williardson student

instance, he purposely played his music extra loud at four in the morning when he knew I had to make a 12-hour drive the next day."

Dolan-Williardson said he and his roommate still have not worked out their differences.

"We just don't talk now," he said.

Hill said when people are matched up with room-

mates simply by filling out a form, problems are bound to arise. She added that in roommate conflicts, even the smallest issues can become inflated. While Kellar and Dolan-Williardson offer interesting strategies for dealing with troublesome roommates, such as silence and moving out, Hill said better communication might help people find the source of the problem.

"Be upfront and honest, and talk about expectations for the living situation as soon as possible," she said.

Allyson Goldstein is freelance writer for the Emerald.

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