

## Walking Around Naked-College Dorm Life

By: Lauren Halperin

Legally I became an adult at the age of 18. But mentally, I deem myself an adult once I graduate college. At that point, I will no longer be a student. I've been a student since I was six, in pre-kindergarten, and regardless if I'm the age to vote or go to bars or not, not much has changed. When I graduate from school, all of that will change. It's going to be a big change in my life. Everything from living on my own to doing the nine to five is going to be a big alteration in my life. Well, not entirely.

As a senior in college, I'm living on my own now. Being by myself in an apartment is a completely different experience from having a roommate in the dorm. Sure it comes with the obvious contrast of when I want to close my door and go to bed or study, it's not a major issue and no longer a huge production. But after living in a dorm, I recognize many minor perks of being on my own that have become more meaningful.

1. **A BIG BED.** I admit it. I'm a bed hog. I like my space. Dorm beds are synonymous with feet hanging off the end, rolling into the wall or onto the floor if you move several inches to the right or left, forget mentioning that because of the size of our oversized office cubicle dorm rooms leaves our tiny beds acting as sleeping areas, couches, and laundry hampers. I haven't figured out how to fit a futon into a room that size yet. Having a queen, I'm happy to roll around as much as I want.

2. **A BATHTUB.** I take my bath time seriously with scents, gels, bubbles, and books. But any other girl will complain about the difficulty of shaving your legs in a shower a width so small you can barely raise your arms over head to wash your hair.

3. **CABLE.** Obviously I pay for it. But it's not even an option to pay extra for it in most dorms. Now I never miss an episode of HBO programming. Perfect for the new Sopranos season.

4. **WALKING AROUND NAKED.** Sorry, there's something truly invigorating about doing this. Maybe it's because I dealt with roommates. And maybe it's just because I know no one is staring at me as I undress, or that I have to scramble right away for my bathrobe. I don't know. But there is something exhilarating about sitting at the computer and doing work naked (no, I'm not naked right now). It honestly makes me feel alive.

These are great benefits to apartment living as opposed to dorm living, but there is a greater benefit that far outweighs all of these put together, and that is this: I feel like an adult. I swore a long time ago, that I would always be a Toys 'R' Us kid, but with only a few months left until graduation, I see myself moving in a new direction. The closer the date of hearing Pomp and Circumstance comes, the more I feel older, more mature, less like a kid.

Living on my own has greatly influenced and helped these feelings. I highly recommend living by yourself during college, at least during your last year. Forgetting the fact that

living with friends in a house or an apartment like in Friends. Friends makes it feel less lonely, it's a new experience, and one that definitely helps later on. After all, at some point college does have to end, and then you go off into the real world. But the real world becomes a lot less scary when you live on your own, out of the college dorm environment while you're still in school. It makes the change less scary and less obvious. And plus you get to walk around naked while you watch the Sopranos from a big bed after taking a nice long bath.