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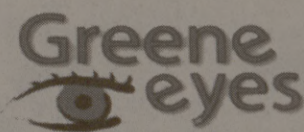
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Wednesday, September 1, 2004

BOOK WORMS

By Sydney Bergman
THE PITT NEWS

(U-WIRE) PITTSBURGH — It's Sunday at 9 a.m., when you wake up in a strange room, next to a stranger.

What do you reach for first? Pants? Aspirin? Nope. Reach for "The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook: College." It'll tell you how to fashion pants out of a shirt and some well-placed staples, if you've misplaced yours. And, more importantly, how to survive the walk of shame you're about to endure.

The walk of shame, for all you li'l firsties, er, freshmen, is the trek home from wherever you've woken up, sour-breathed, wearing last night's hairdo, and possibly some fresh new hickeys. It's also the walk when — and studies have shown this — you are statistically 800 times more likely to run into a tour group, your ex or, if she's local, your mother. So, yeah, you need all the help you can get.

This is a book by former college students, for current ones. It's not deep; it's not philo-

sophical — it's not even that funny. It's just good, plain sense taken to the extreme so students can cope with the awkward, illegal or embarrassing aspects of college life not covered by Arrival Survival.

A continuation of the series that includes survival books to life, travel, golf and dating and sex, "Worst-Case" is also useful if you want to sound intelligent; there's a whole index on hard-to-pronounce names. It tells you that "Klee" is pronounced "clay," and guides you through the tongue-twisting Solzhenitsyn. (It's "Soul-jen-EAT-zen," apparently.)

It tells you how to adopt a new identity, how to sleep in class and how to tell a party school from a non-party one.

One of the best parts is a list of comparisons for prospective students when gauging the school they want to attend. Comparing the number of nearby art galleries to the number of nearby hair salons, or the number of ads offering "students to tutor" with those offering "papers written, any subject" are excellent measures of how partying a school is. (Pitt breaks about even in the art galleries to hair salons, and, as far as the ad-counting

goes, y'all can do that yourself.)

The only problem with this book — a minor fault, really — is that it's the wrong balance of light, fluffy advice, of actual helpful advice. For instance, the "How to Take on a New Identity" section successfully lampoons student stereotypes, but could detract from the credibility of when exactly you should call the fire department.

Beyond that, the book presents everything you wanted to know about college, but didn't know you should ask, and does so concisely, cleverly and effectively. (The chart that shows a food's caloric worth by its equivalent number of beers is genius and should be mandatory in high school health classes.)

And for those of you stranded early Sunday morning, the key tricks to the walk of shame, brought to you by "Worst-Case," are to dumb down your evening clothes, avoid crowds, walk briskly and to have a prearranged signal with your roommate — a whistle or birdcall — to let them know to let you in.

And to avoid, at all costs, running into your mom.

Protesters rally during RNC Thousands of New Yorkers take to streets, telling Republicans they're not welcome, 200 arrested

By Randy Hagan and
Bradley Hope
WASHINGTON SQUARE NEWS

(U-WIRE) NEW YORK — Citing issues ranging from gay rights to the war in Iraq, from outsourced labor to curtailed liberties, hundreds of thousands of protesters marched Sunday in the stifling heat to protest the arrival of the Republican National Convention in New York City.

The march, organized by United for Peace and Justice, wound its way up through Chelsea beginning at noon, lingering as it passed the convention site at Madison Square Garden on West 34th Street.

The final contingent of the march arrived six hours later at Union Square Park, and tens of thousands of protesters marched farther still to Central Park's Great Lawn for an unofficial but largely expected rally.

On Seventh Avenue, protesters filled the air with drums, whistles and horns, and chanted anti-Bush slogans. People danced in the street and waved placards with slogans like "There's dirt under every bush" and "George Bush is not my Friendster," while a flock of helicopters monitored the march from above.

"I've never seen a protest in New York quite like this," Gallatin senior Arielle Bier said. "It was so well organized, and people were

working together. It was more colorful than any protest I've seen in the U.S. — it was more like the protests I've seen in Europe."

The war in Iraq proved the dominant issue among protesters yesterday. Hundreds of cardboard coffins draped with U.S. flags and black cloth were carried through the streets in remembrance of the nearly 1,000 soldiers and civilians who have lost their lives in Iraq so far.

"I just hope that it's a dose of reality," said one pallbearer, an architect from the Upper West Side who identified himself as William. "I think people will feel the loss of life personally (when they see the coffins)."

Taking a more light-hearted approach, one group of marchers, Elephants Against Republicans, donned elephant noses and cardboard ears.

"Once upon a time, grandfather elephants supported Abraham Lincoln," group member Brian Pickett, 26, said.

Pickett said the group had

plans to stage a resignation as mascots of the Republican Party this morning at a breakfast with Republican delegates, because the values of today's Republican Party have become too radical for the pachyderms.

"We have big feet, but we don't step on people," Pickett said.

"I've never seen a protest in New York quite like this...It was so well organized, and people were working together."

— Arielle Bier,
NYU Gallatin School senior

Boulder, Colo., resident Robert Martindale, who supported anti-war presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich, said he wasn't marching "necessarily to change the Republican delegates' minds, just to show them that there's another way."

He said he planned to invite delegates to coffee to discuss the course the country is taking and break down the two-dimensional

stereotypes perpetuated by each side.

"I don't want Ann Coulter to define me, and I'm sure they don't want Michael Moore defining them," Martindale said.

A large portion of the more than 10,000 New York City police officers assigned to secure the convention lined the streets along the march route yesterday. In total, more than 200 protesters were arrested, mostly for disorderly conduct, police said.

Early in the afternoon, 53 protesting cyclists were detained on West 37th Street and Seventh Avenue. They were splayed out, hands cuffed behind their backs, in a street littered with bicycles and thick with police.

One cyclist said the group, which had left from Union Square in support of the march, was swarmed and bumped by plainclothes police on scooters, headed onto 37th Street, pushed off their bikes and arrested.

"They think that if they do a good job this weekend, they'll get a raise," said Chris Habib, 29, referring to ongoing contract negotiations between the city and police and firefighters unions.

Republicans, for the most part, were unfazed by the protests.

CAS junior Joe Metzger, president of the NYU College Republicans, shrugged off the march.

"It's pretty much what I'm used to at NYU, but on a grander scale," he said.

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