

How to Flunk a Tremendous Test

By Sandy Aldridge

You have a test. A very big test. The syllabus states this test counts 140 percent of your final grade. You need to do good on this test. This means you are going to have to study.

The test is a week from Monday. You have lots of time to study. You'll start studying now and study a little each night. That way you'll really know the material. You'll show them. You're not as dumb as you look. Study for an hour each night that week before the test. You have read all 1,600 pages of your textbook. You have your notebook memorized. You think you will do good on your test. You think you will.

It is now the weekend right before the big test. Your best friend whom you have not seen for three years has flown in to see you from Portland, Oregon. But your test is more important. Give her \$20 and a map to the Raleigh State Fair. You stay at AC and keep studying.

It is now Sunday. It is also your birthday. All your friends want to take you out to dinner and have a birthday party for you. You end up blowing out candles and grabbing a doggie bag. Study from 1 p.m. until 2 a.m. You are interrupted once when your best friend says goodbye. She also says she is not your best friend anymore. Bury yourself back in your books. Fall asleep around 2 a.m.

Wake up around 5:30 a.m. You want to review your notes one more time. You feel very confident. You think you know that stuff. You think you do. Go over to the cafeteria to eat a good breakfast. Chat with friends about how easy you think the test will be. Casually browse over your notes again.

Oh, you know that stuff. You think you know that stuff.

Skip along over to Hines. Sit down in your seat. Start thinking about this test. Think about how much it counts. If you flunk this test, you will flunk the course. If you flunk this course, you will flunk your major. If you flunk your major, you don't graduate. If you don't graduate, you won't make any money. If you don't make any money, you won't eat. If you don't eat, you'll starve to death. If you don't stop worrying about this test, you'll pass out.

He is passing out the tests. A 20-page booklet is slapped down on your desk. Whimper a little. Write your name and date on the test. Feel a little more confident. At least you can remember your name. Read the first question. Swallow hard. Read the second question. Moisten your lips. Read the third question. You are starting to feel a little faint. Read all 249 questions. You know the answers to maybe 17 questions.

Answer the 17 questions you know. That leaves only 232 questions to go. Glance around the room. Everybody else is writing away. Start writing anything you can remember from your notebook. Answer false on all the true-false questions. There is always an exception to every rule. Answer "D" on all the multiple choice questions. That is going to be the grade you are going to receive. You might as well get used to seeing that letter. For fill-in-the-blanks, fill in pretty little pictures. For essay questions, write on and on and on about absolutely nothing. Some professors grade by the inch. For short answer questions, give short answers. Very short answers. As in none at all.

Turn your test in. Cram it under the bottom of the pile. Scuffle out of the classroom. All your friends are talking about how easy it was. Personally, you didn't think it was that easy. You flunked it.

Drag yourself back to your dorm. You have been very calm up to this point. So you flunk a test. No biggie. No biggie? Slam the door. Open the door and slam it again. The hinge breaks. Start laughing. Scream real loud. Start throwing things. Throw knickknacks. Throw your books. Throw your bookcase. Rip up your notebook. Burn all the pages. Pick up your roommate's T.V. Start to throw it out the window. End

up dropping it on your foot. Start yelling. You hate that class. You hate that professor. That professor hates you. You hate this school. You're going to drop out. You're going to hang yourself. You hate this place. He'll be sorry he ever flunked you. Look for a knife to slit your wrists. Find a two-pound bag of Snickers bars. Eat all of them instead.

Sulk for 25 minutes. Sit with your arms folded and a pout on your face. Just wait. You'll show them. Just wait. Your roommate walks in. She actually has the nerve to be smiling. She asks how you did on your test. Narrow your eyes at her. She tells you not to worry about it. Maybe you'll do better on the test you have at 11 a.m. which you had completely forgotten about.

Greek News

This year has started off well for Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. A chicken dinner was held Oct. 6 and over 500 plates were sold.

The house on 606 W. Nash is shaping up well and the fraternity finished a major painting job in time for its open house on Oct. 18.

Bids went out and the fraternity announces the arrival of 10 pledges. They are Mark Welli-

ford, Steven Bishop, Steve Edwards, Phillip Taylor, Tom Messick, Harvey Stalls, Michael Byrd, Wally Brumsey, Craig Boyd and Mikah Williams. A new little sister pledge, Debbie Steeves, will be installed in the near future.

Students are invited to stop by the house and meet the fraternity men. The red door is a symbol of welcome extended to all.

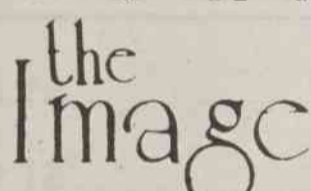
Circle-K Activities

Circle-K is off to a great start this year. For the month of October a "trick or treat for UNICEF" and a Halloween Party for the Key Club of the Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf have been planned.

In November a visit to a nursing home and participation in this year's homecoming carnival have been planned. Proceeds from the bubble gum contest booth will go to UNICEF.

This year's officers are Beth Martin, president; Cindy Stevens, vice president; Annette Gillis, secretary; Crystal Crowder, treasurer; and Tammy Van Valkenburg, historian.

There is still time to join Circle-K, so anyone interested should come to the meetings.


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