

# College Life: Sometimes an Unhappy Love Affair

By Eric R. Adams

■ The Diamondback

U. of Maryland, College Park

Attending a university is a lot like a love affair.

Sometimes things work out and sometimes they don't. When things don't go quite as planned or turn out like expected, it's often best to move on.

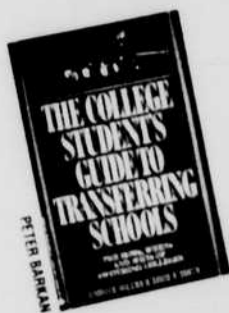
But how?

Authors Jennifer Wilcha, a recent graduate from Brown U., and David A. Smith, a student at Brown, tackle this question in their new book, "The College Student's Guide to Transferring Schools," a thorough manual for students who see transferring as their only hope for getting the education they want in an atmosphere they like.

Using the metaphor of a relationship, the book outlines the transfer process using a six-step plan.

"College is an intimate four-year relationship, and transferring is a lot like breaking up and meeting someone new," say the authors.

Based on interviews with transfer students, administrators and parents, the guide includes information that many institutions fail to supply, for fear of bad publicity or high attrition rates.



The first recommended step is reevaluation (breaking up, in relationship terms). The writers take seriously problems parents or administrators might blow off as trivial, such as the social or entertainment life on campus.

These are considered along with academic conditions because, as the authors are quick to point out, if the student is not happy, he or she will not do well in school.

The second step is renegotiation (telling the folks), in which bullheaded parents may be convinced a transfer is, indeed, the best thing for the student.

Research (playing the field) comes next so the student

can begin scouting potential schools. The authors list what books may be consulted when looking, as well as some advice for visiting the school (the first date, to keep the metaphor consistent).

After these three steps are outlined, the nuts and bolts of the process are revealed in the final three: reapplication (making the first move), revision (writing the

## BOOK REVIEW

love letter) and readjustment (starting over).

This book does an excellent job covering all the bases of the transfer process, and the concerns and emotions of the student are not at all neglected. In fact, they are actually emphasized. The writers speak to the individual student as a real person, not as though the student were a number.

Breaking up may be hard to do, but with the help of this book, students may have an easier time handling separation than they thought.

For a copy, call Avon Books at 1-800-238-0658.



PETER BARKAN, THE BROWN DAILY HERALD, BROWN U.

Jennifer Wilcha and David Smith: "We had nothing to lose, and we were filling a void."

## Authors Explore Transfer Tactics

By Brooke Wortham

■ The Brown Daily Herald

Brown U.

The Brown U. bookstore stocks nearly 100 books about how to get into college.

But two Brown students have written the only book on the shelf on a different topic — how to get out.

"We had nothing to lose, and we were filling a void," said David Smith about writing "The College Student's Guide to Transferring Schools," the book he co-authored with Jennifer Wilcha.

They decided to write the book not because they had transferred themselves, but because they had a lot of friends who were transfers.

"It helped that we didn't transfer in writing the book because we could think of and explore all of the options," Smith said.

"We were fascinated by people wanting to leave their schools because we were having such a great time in college," Wilcha said.

Wilcha points out that transferring is fairly common, with one in five students leaving one school for another. "Transferring can become addictive," Smith said, referring to some students who had transferred up to five times.

Most transfers are "extremely happy and super successful at their new schools," the authors point out. "They know why they're there and they don't take anything for granted."

Not only are many students satisfied, but the authors seem pleased as well. "It took two years from start to finish, and every moment was fun," Wilcha said.

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