

# PERSONALITY PROFILE

## *Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook* authors **David Borgenicht and Joshua Piven**

By Erin Dionne

**Y**ou're on a plane going home for Thanksgiving, when suddenly the pilot keels over. What do you do? If you've read David Borgenicht and Josh Piven's *The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook*, you're all set: remove the pilot, take your place at the controls, call for help, and identify the instruments. Whoever is on the other end of the mayday call will help you land. Traveling in the jungle for spring break and step in some quicksand? No problem—float on your back and use a pole to leverage yourself out. Attacked by an alligator? Cover its eyes. *Worst-Case* will help any college student successfully escape the harrowing situations encountered in most action movies and on the Discovery Channel. It was one of the top-selling books on campuses last spring, and a year after publication it's still on Amazon.com's best seller list. A desk calendar is available, a sequel, *Worst-Case Travel Scenarios*, is due out in spring of 2001, and the authors are planning a *Worst-Case College Scenarios*.

### **David Borgenicht**

**Age:** 32

**Company:** Book Soup Publishing, a book production company

**Home:** Philadelphia, PA

**School:** UPenn. Major: History. Minor: English, with a writing concentration

**Inspiration for *Worst-Case*:** Read a magazine article about how to land a plane if a pilot lost consciousness

**Pop-culture inspirations:** "The A-Team," Indiana Jones, "MacGyver"

**Quote:** "People want to know how to do this stuff, not because it'll ever happen, just because they enjoy reading about it."



### **Joshua Piven**

**Age:** 29

**School:** UPenn. Major: English

**Home:** Philadelphia, PA

**Family:** Married—his wife works at Penn

**Occupation (besides author):** Computer journalist and web site designer

**How he researched the book:** "I emailed and sent letters to people, telling them they'd get credit for their responses. With the sequel I got a much faster response."

**Book's web site:** [worstcasescenarios.com](http://worstcasescenarios.com)

**Quote:** "We've tapped a whole vein of armchair adventurism—along with people's paranoia and neuroses."



## **How to escape from a mountain lion**



*Upon sighting a mountain lion, do not run. Do not crouch down. Try to make yourself appear larger by opening wide your coat.*



Visit [steamtunnels.net](http://steamtunnels.net) to read actual scenarios from the book and for more information on Piven and Borgenicht.

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