So here it is. The first challenge of the inaugural Psychology Survivor competition. Just to remind you, the idea is simple. Outwit, Outlast, Outplay. But before we get to the challenge, let’s introduce the players. They are a mixed bunch including faculty, graduate students, staff, and Ken Kotovsky. They are:

1. Beau Stephens
2. Brooke Feeney
3. Dara Stern
4. Edward Lemay
5. Elisabeth Ploran
6. Erik Thiessen
7. Gary Lupyan
8. Ken Kotovsky
9. Marlene Behrmann
10. Nick Yeung
11. Roxanne Thrush
12. Shervin Bazmi

These 12 intrepid psychology department members will compete over the next months to win the title of (trumpets sound) Psychology Survivor, a unique but ultimately worthless trophy, and $50 toward a meal (conditions: vegan food only, both great-grandparents must be present).

Here’s how it will work. Each month there will be a challenge for the contestants to complete. The challenges will range from moderately easy to moderately moderate. In the early rounds, the contestant who scores the highest in the challenge will have immunity from being voted out of the game. Each contestant will also be able to give one vote to the player they would like to be eliminated from the competition that month. They must also give a reason (humorous or otherwise) for why they are voting for that person, which may or may not be presented in the subsequent PLB (all comments will, of course, be presented without the writer’s name).

The person who receives the most votes in any given month will - assuming they do not have immunity - be asked to leave Baker Hall and the greater municipal Pittsburgh region.

They will also be eliminated from the (trumpets sound again) Psychology Survivor competition. Depending on the specific challenge, the contestant with the lowest score may also be eliminated from the competition. From time to time, there will also be reward challenges in which the contestants can win novel prizes that they will cherish for many years to come; for example, in next month’s reward challenge you can win a signed photograph of Marcel Just.

Everybody clear? Let’s get to the challenge. This month, the Top Secret Social Committee has come up with a simple but incredibly interesting challenge. Below you will find 20 statements that involve letters, numbers, and words that are short enough we didn’t have to look them up to check their spelling. The statements follow a simple format. Here’s an example: 21 G in the N E P winning streak. Your challenge, ye Survivor contestants, is to fill in the missing letters: in the example given here you would complete the sentence as follows: 21 games in the New England Patriots winning streak. Got it? Sound simple? Here’s the catch: The statements all below relate to CMU, H&SS, and (mostly) psychology at CMU. Some are pretty straightforward, some are a little more obscure, and some may even require you to use the website to hunt down information! Survivor contestants: You have 2 weeks to complete the challenge. Send your answers to are_you_the_psychology_survivor@hotmail.com. Also include your vote for who is to be eliminated and give a reason in the format “I vote for XXXX because…”

Good luck to you all - and tune in next issue to see who won, who lost, and who is going home to cry like a baby.
Your Survivor Challenge

1. 5 A P in the P D
2. 3 U R on the 3rd F of B H
3. 3 H of D since 1983
4. 18 S on the 3rd floor
5. 3 F whose F N is D
6. 2 E in the G P
7. 4 F of W in G E A in B H after the G F of 2004
8. 6 U F in the D
9. 56 M buys a B S at CMU
10. 9 D in this C
11. 2 J in C S
12. 23 C in our W S A
13. 2 A P are B
14. 41 is the total of the D R P N
15. P has 5 T G
16. 20 B in the D C on the 3rd floor
17. 7 G S have a W P
18. 1 J O for an A P in D P
19. 8 F U 46
20. 12 P S in the S C this M

Survivor Contestants

You have 2 weeks to complete the challenge. Answers due by 11/12/04.

Send your answers to are_you_the_psychology_survivor@hotmail.com.

Also include your vote for who is to be eliminated vote and give a reason in the format "I vote for XXXX because..."