Dear Abby,

I just arrived at Penn, and I am feeling really homesick and I just have to talk to my friends from home, find out the latest gossip and scoops. You know, like if Katie hooked up with Matt and whether Miken is finally going to tell Donna how he feels... how can I get online... fast!? 

Lonely in Philly

Dear Lonely in Philly,
The fastest way to get online is via the computers in our residential lab (Van Pelt Manor 1st floor & Class of ’25 basement). Simply log in with your Pennkey and you are good to go. If you want to access the internet with your own machine however, you need to get hold of an ITA to secure your own machine however, you need to get hold of an ITA to secure your computer first. It’s a dangerous world out there. He/she will also provide you with a free ethernet cable and help you set up your wireless configurations. With the help of an ITA, you’ll be able to get hold of the latest gossip in no time!

By the way, I snooped around a bit for you ahead of time: Katie hooked up with Gustavo Centeno instead of Matt last weekend!

Abby

Dear Abby,

So I’ve heard about these mystical figures called ITA’s, I am really into Dungeons and Dragons and have never heard of them; what exactly are they?

Fantasy Fan in VP

Dear Fantasy Fan in VP,

I’m sorry to disappoint you but ITA’s have nothing to do with Dungeons and Dragons. ITA’s (Information Technology Advisors) are students trained and hired by Residential Computing to help you resolve your computer problems. Throughout the year, they staff the computer labs and provide on-call assistance. Get a problem? Simply post a request on www.rescomp.upenn.com and an ITA will contact you to set up an appointment. Best of all, their service is completely free and just between you and me—jump up for joy, my child, Gregory has the best ITA team on campus!

Congratulations,

Abby

If you have a question for “Dear Abby,” send an email to any of the Publication Managers. If you want a guaranteed, reliable and informed response from one of Gregory’s expert ITAs, fill out a form at www.rescomp.upenn.edu and an ITA will assist you shortly.

Dear Freshmen,
The Gregorian welcomes you to Gregory College House! You may be quizzically asking, “What exactly is The Gregorian?” We expect that because you are a Penn student you should be able to figure this out for yourself.

But if you need us to spell it out for you, The Gregorian is the official newsletter of Gregory designed to inform and entertain residents and immerse them in the culture of this – far and away the greatest – college house.

Within these marvelous pages, you will find interviews, advice, and insights that will help you better know and appreciate your college house. You see, more than being two blocky brick buildings separated by a tuft of grass, Gregory is a community of learners and friends. It will likely be the closest thing you have to a family here at Penn.

You probably don’t think it is possible to grow that tight-knit with people you have been randomly assigned to live with. But if you need convincing, just strike up a conversation with one of the numerous returning residents and ask them what it is that makes Gregory special.

They will likely tell you the people who live here are what makes Gregory the greatest. It is our goal at The Gregorian to bring you closer to these wonderful, quirky, bright, hilarious, kind people.

We look forward to a great year.

Sincerely,

The Gregory College House Publication Managers
Neha Desai
Serena Stein
Justin Slyes

Comments, errors, or simply got a great story idea? Write us!

Contact: Neha (devan@wharton), Serena (ssstein@sas) & Justin (jsykes@sas)

Design: Iris (Deva@eas)
To Switch or Not to Switch...

The day you moved in to Gregory was probably one of the most empty and confusing of your life. As dear mom and dad pulled away leaving you alone on Spruce Street, there was a pretty good chance you bleakly stumbled back to your room to shed a few tears. You probably started crying harder when you realized that one of your roommates’s rooms was fully twice the size of yours.

In Gregory College House quads, not all rooms are created equal. Each quad has one cavernous room capable of accommodating everything from a dance floor to a tiki lounge (depending on how you like to party), one moderate-sized room (Purgatory), and two rooms that are approximately the size of a Volkswagen Beetle (except quite possibly a little smaller).

Sometimes this inequality creates a problem. Given that everyone is paying the same in rent, it doesn’t seem fair that one roommate’s space is fully twice the size of another’s. Gregory remedies this inequality with a policy that gives the residents in the smaller rooms the right to switch with the residents in the larger rooms after the first semester. However, sometimes switching rooms creates more problems than it solves. Not only do you have to move out all your stuff, but the fact that whoever had the bigger room probably preferred not to switch can create tension in the quad.

The best way to deal with room politics is to settle it as soon as possible after getting settled in (or, if possible, before). It is likely that whoever arrived first took the biggest room without realizing the potential for a mid-year switch. If you’ve taken a bigger room, be fully prepared to kick your roommate out of the house. If you’ve been a resident for more than a month, however, it is important to have a talk with your roommate and come to an agreement.

However, if you are in a small room, be courteous to the people in the big rooms and give them as much warning as possible about your intentions to switch or not to switch. Sometimes decisions about décor and amenities hinge on how big a room a person has and how long they will have it for. And the actual eviction won’t be as unpleasant if the person in a big room knows it is coming in advance.

Most room-switching problems can be easily solved with a little discussion and an ample amount of forewarning. But if there are problems, don’t hesitate to contact your GA. He or she should be able to facilitate a solution based on Gregory’s room-switching policy. Speaking from experience, the best way to operate is knowing the House’s policy and being willing to comply with it. The severest problems arise when someone tries to excuse himself from those parameters.

The Returning Gregorians

For most of the Class of 25 and Van Pelt Manor residents, Gregory is their top-pick College House. With quite a jammed activities calendar and the surplus of (to perhaps euphemize) “unique” personalities, Gregory boasts a number of convincing attractions. Yet, by and by we meet those cynical, shiftless newcomers troubled by the terms “closeknit,” “warmth,” “european technos,” and “BYOM.” We empathize with freshmen who are apprehensive and unsure of what Gregory has in store for the coming year and what mark this house will brand on the future of their social life. Stoics to the magical Gregory experience you may be, young frosh, but believers we shall (attempt) to make. In all seriousness, the College Houses of Penn are wonderful resources that enable students — freshmen especially — to create a rich and satisfying foundation for their social and academic experiences (yada yada insert housing brochure here). Gregory, however, is definitely a one-of-a-kind house that cooks up a distinctive blend of surprises and fun. Hear a few lovely familiar faces share what keeps bringing them back for more Gregory.

“I enjoy being part of language houses. They are an excellent way to maintain proficiency in a previously studied language or to learn a new one. Gregory is also home to many international students from different and widely distributed areas of the world. It is nice to hear many languages being spoken in one college house. You can be exposed to a new culture right at home and get a peek at some parts of the world without even stepping outside!” — Karline Amirkian

“The number one reason to come back to Gregory? The staff!! Bob Luchard is the most adorable man on earth. We have the best food. Who wants to be close to restaurants and pizza? Gregory is also a great place to party. Think of it this way: we have the highest retention rate!” — Vanna Stone

“I was attracted to Gregory in the first place because it was the best greek house. I was told that we got our OWN room and a shared private bathroom. I was not too fond of the whole community bathroom concept. Also, I liked the idea of being able to do my own thing. Gregory is a great house for any person who loves film... and the movies lounge is a fantastic resource... we must be doing something right!” — Rwanda Stone

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With that, we welcome you to Gregory for your first or eighth time. We promise that something incredible happens when you live in a house that few upperclassmen — let alone other freshmen — can identify on a campus map... and it is not the speed with which you become a surefire pariah. “Each of the four years I lived at Gregory,” says recent alum Vicky Sak, “I found something new to love about the House. Whether it was at a Gourmand dinner, BYOM night, volleyball match, House Council meeting, or study break, I found a crowd of friendly Gregorians who would always be willing to put off homework for ‘just another few minutes’ to stay and chat a while. So talk to your GAs, sing ‘Man, I Feel Like a Woman’ with your housemates at karaoke night, and cross The Beach every now and then to see what musical acts you may have missed. Gregory is like The Other Side. Pretty soon, I’m sure, Gregory will feel like home to you too.”