

Dear ABby

A column of heartbreak, drama and computer connections brought to you by Gregory's ITA's.

Dear ABby,
I just arrived at Penn, and I am feeling really home-sick 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 Mikey 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 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 gossips 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

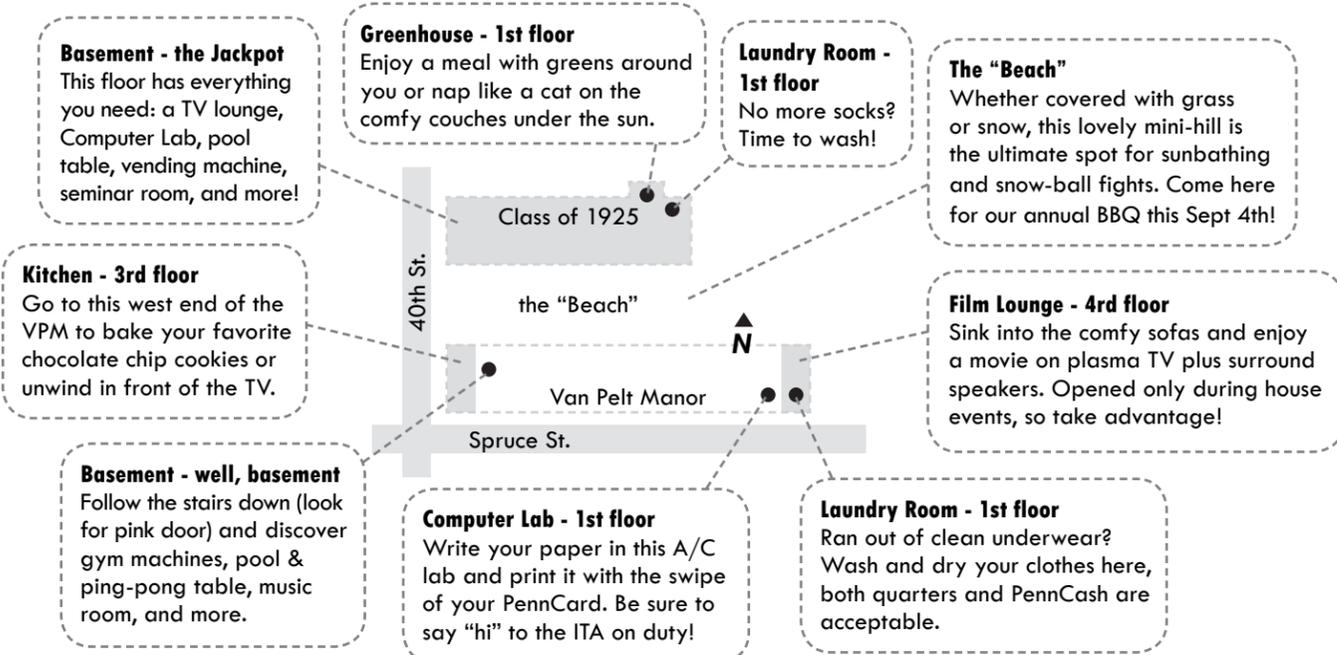
Dear Fantasy Fan in VP,
I'm sorry to disappoint you but ITA's have nothing to do with Dungeons and Dragons. The only thing the two have in common is their awesomeness. ITA's (Information Technology Advisors) are students trained and hired by

Residential Computing to help you resolve your computer problems. Throughout the year, they staff the computer labs and provide on-call assistance. Got 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.

Gregory Hot-Spots

Use this treasure map and take a trip up the stairs and down the hallways to get acquainted with our many resources. Don't forget to pause and enjoy the murals in our corridors!



the GREGORIAN

The Gregory College House Newsletter | Special Edition - Welcome to Gregory!

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 way 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 Sykes

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HOUSE EVENTS:

- ▶ Traditional House BBQ & Karaoke Night
M. Sept 4, 7-10pm
- ▶ IKEA Trip
Th. Sept 7, 8pm

WEB:



Gregory College House online, with full detail on facilities, staff, house events and more, visit: gregory.house.upenn.edu



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

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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 is a pretty good chance you blearily stumbled back to your room to shed a few tears. You probably started crying harder when you realized that one of your roommate'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 practically 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 get kicked out midway through the year. If you value stability more than space, don't take the big room.

There is a good chance that whoever arrived last ended up in a small room. These people should be comforted to know that if there is absolutely no way you can stand the cramped quarters for nine months, you will be able to nab a much larger room for the second semester.

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, do not 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

Exhibit A:
Gregorian # 5732

Year: 2005
Question:
"You are living where?"

Year: 2006
Question:
"You are living where?
Oh. Again?"

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, shifty newcomers troubled by the terms "closeknit," "warmth," "european techno," 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 at 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!" – Karine Amirikian

"The number one reason to come back to Gregory? The staff! Who doesn't love Bea? C-dizzle is like a giant teddy bear and Bob Lucid is the most adorable man on earth. We have the best of both worlds: a single room WITH roommates. And the location is fantastic. Who wants to be close to class? The important thing is to be close to restaurants and parties! Gregory is also a great place for anyone who loves film... and the movie lounge is a fantastic perk to have. Think of it this way we have the highest retention rate... we must be doing something right!" – Vanna Stone

"What attracted me to Gregory in the first place was the fact that we each got our OWN room and a shared private bathroom! I was not too fond of the whole community bathroom concept, haha. I also liked the residential programs that Gregory hosts, the Modern Language Program and the Film Culture since both language and film interest me. It is such a warm and friendly environment and I am excited to be back another year with the close friends I made my freshman year." – Sean Duffy

"There is no other college house that has GAs as awesome as ours. They can rock out during snow ball battles, helping us to peg passing SEPTA buses or wandering non-Gregorians and they also chill out with us during our numerous barbeques on the beach. They aren't afraid to invite us to their rooms for snacks and study breaks and, in general, they are very good looking." – Rachel Shah

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 Sakr, "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 it's like on The Other Side. Pretty soon, I'm sure, Gregory will feel like home to you, too."