

THE GREGORIAN

Winter 2011 Volume 9, Issue 3

Hello fellow Gregorians,

Welcome back to another exciting, albeit cold and snowy, semester at Penn. I hope everyone has returned from break well-rested, well-fed, and ready for whatever this new year will bring. In addition to the many events that Penn has in store for us (namely Spring Fling), Gregory College House also has a great number of events planned. Throughout each week, there will be various language house events and film screenings. Of course, BYOM will still take place on Tuesdays, study breaks on Wednesdays, brunch on Sundays, and I Love TV on about every other Sunday. Furthermore, there will be house-wide events for the Superbowl, the Academy Award (i.e. Oscar), and many others.

In this issue of *The Gregorian*, we have a number of treats for you. As before, we have photographs from various Gregory events. The Gregory Pulse returns in all its glory to give a you better idea of what your fellow housemates are thinking at the moment. Additionally, we have a included a number of "Best of 2010" lists that your

neighbors have written. These lists cover a wide range of topics, from comic books to films, music to soccer.

Finally, we would like to wish everyone the best of luck this semester, whether it is getting better grades, finding an internship during OCR, surviving until graduation, or simply sticking to your New Year's resolutions. And if you are fretting about the cold, remember that spring is just around the corner (assuming Punxsutawney Phil doesn't see his shadow). Also don't forget to take time to enjoy the small things, because I can tell you from experience that this semester will be over in a flash. Before you know it, you'll be in your beach shorts wondering where the time went.

As always, please don't hesitate to drop us line if you have any comments, concerns, ideas, or suggestions for this publication. After all, this is YOUR newsletter.

Best Regards,

David Zhai & Cher Hung

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INTERNATIONAL DINNER

On November 6, 2010, the residents of Gregory College House gathered to enjoy the annual International Dinner in the Class of 1925 Film Lounge. Delicacies and treats from around the world were prepared by students in the Modern Language Program. It goes without saying that everyone was mightily impressed with the culinary prowess of their fellow Gregorians.





BEST OF 2010

10 Tops List of 2010

By: *Michael Field*

In lieu of a customary Top 10 list I give you these, the 10 Tops of my top lists of the year. Basically, 10 random awesome (well, nine awesome and one horrible) pop culture things from the past year. Enjoy!

Top Movie: Toy Story 3

This conclusion to the Toy Story saga is undoubtedly the strongest of the series. The toys journey to hell and back, while the story manages to stay funny and poignant. This output provides the series with its strongest villain to date and some of its most heroic moments. I don't really have more to say because the greatness of this movie is just so self-evident. If you haven't seen it, skip the rest of this list and go see it RIGHT NOW! I dare you not to cry.

Top Actor: Leonardo DiCaprio

I'm not saying he should win the Oscar for Best Actor, but DiCaprio turned out two incredibly strong performances in *Shutter Island* and *Inception*. Granted, both roles allowed him to play almost the same character, but with enough nuances that he is able to bring new life to each. DiCaprio is helped by strong supporting casts and two of the greatest directors working today, but there is a reason all these people want to work with him, he simply puts out great work.

Top Actress: Natalie Portman

I didn't love *Black Swan* as much as a lot of people, but there is no denying that Natalie Portman turns in what will probably be the best performance of her career and undoubtedly that of the year as the ballet star of the film. Portman veers from sensual to sexy, from crazy to pitiful, and from strong to childlike over the course of the film. Portman absolutely commands the screen, appearing in nearly every frame, throughout the entire film. A lot was placed on her shoulders for this movie, and she rose to the challenge.

Top Graphic Novel: *Return of the Dapper Men*, by Jim McCann

If you loved falling down the rabbit hole, wishing on the first star, or hanging with royalty under a baobab tree you will adore *Return of the Dapper Men*. The bare-bones plot is not too foreign, two young people from very different worlds come together and ultimately unite their peoples through hard work, sacrifice, and a greater understanding of themselves. It is the journey that is so compelling here. Featuring phenomenal art by Janet Lee, you will marvel as 314 Dapper Men descend upon the world and as the clockwork begins to tick. Do yourself a favor and order this treat on Amazon.

Top Ongoing Comic Series: *Chew*, by John Layman

Chew really hits its stride in this, its second year. Chronicling the adventures of Tony Chu, an FDA cop who gets psychic impressions from everything he eats, this series presents a world that keeps growing and a tale that demands one's attention. I don't really want to tell you anymore, that would spoil the fun. The series is only 16 issues old, so there is still time to catch up!

Top Comic Writer: Grant Morrison

The so called "God of All Comics" had a killer year. His years-long Batman saga came to a end this year, and he started a whole new era of Batman comics, the Batman, Inc. era. Now that Batman is a worldwide crime-fighting syndicate, what will happen to Bruce Wayne? I can't wait to find out. Despite writing about a billion Batman comics this year (nearly all of them instant classics) Morrison also had time to write an original miniseries entitled *Joe the Barbarian*, in which Joe, a young diabetic, forgets to take his insulin and begins hallucinating (or does he) a world populated by his toys in which he is the savior of all.

Top Album/Top Musician: Sufjan Stevens, *The Age of Adz*

When I got *The Age of Adz* I expected it to be much more like Stevens' previous outputs, *Michigan* and *Illinois*, breathy and acoustic. Instead, I dove headfirst into this pop-explosion-synthetic-orchestral-experimental extravaganza, and I don't want to look back. *The Age of Adz* has been placing in top album of the year lists from every media outlet in the nation, so I won't bore you with details you can find everywhere else, but if you skip this album you will be missing out on one that will be looked back at 30 years from now as a definitive example of how good music can be when a serious musician sets out to make fun pop music.

Top 10 (Ongoing) Comic Books of 2010

- 10) Irredeemable by Mark Waid
- 9) Invincible Iron Man by Matt Fraction
- 8) Superboy by Jeff Lemire
- 7) Fables by Bill Willingham
- 6) Ultimate Spider-Man by Brian Michael Bendis
- 5) Action Comics by Paul Cornell
- 4) Amazing Spider-Man by Dan Slott
- 3) Scott Pilgrim's Finest Hour by Bryan Lee O'Malley
- 2) Generation Lost by Judd Winick
- 1) Batman and Robin by Grant Morrison

By: Jason Merrin

Best Soccer Teams of 2010

- 1) Spanish National Team
- 2) Internazionale Milan
- 3) German National Team
- 4) F.C. Barcelona
- 5) Bayern Munich
- 6) Arsenal
- 7) Real Madrid
- 8) Chelsea
- 9) Atletico de Madrid
- 10) A.C. Milan

By: Daniel Lledo

Favorite Albums of 2010



(1) **Teen Dream**
Artist: Beach House

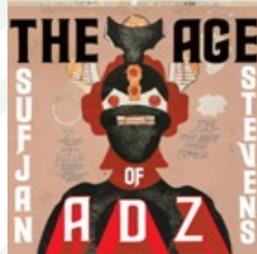
(2) **The Suburbs**
Artist: Arcade Fire



(3) **Treats**
Artist: Sleigh Bells



(4) **The Age of Adz**
Artist: Sufjan Stevens



(5) **This is Happening**
Artist: LCD Soundsystem



(6) **Tourist History**
Artist: Two Door Cinema Club



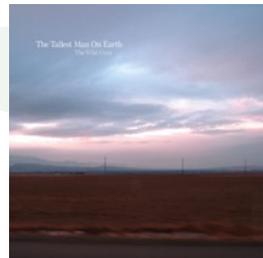
(7) **IRM**
Artist: Charlotte Gainsbourg



(8) **Transference**
Artist: Spoon



(9) **The Wild Hunt**
Artist: The Tallest Man on Earth



(10) **Contra**
Artist: Vampire Weekend



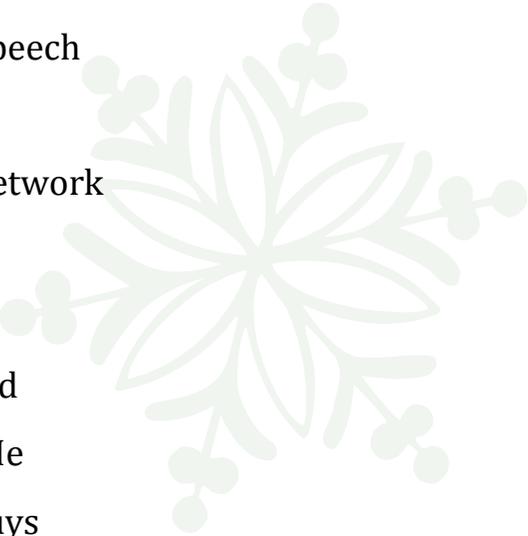
By: David Zhai

Favorite Songs of 2010

- 
- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) “Zebra”
Artist: Beach House | (6) “In the Sun”
Artist: She & Him |
| (2) “All Delighted People”
Artist: Sufjan Stevens | (7) “Celestica”
Artist: Crystal Castles |
| (3) “Power”
Artist: Kanye West | (8) “Kids”
Artist: Sleigh Bells |
| (4) “Got Nuffin”
Artist: Spoon | (9) “Animal”
Artist: Jenny and Johnny |
| (5) “Sprawl II”
Artist: Arcade Fire | (10) “World News”
Artist: Local Natives |

By: *David Zhai*

Top 10 Films of 2010

- 
- 1) Never Let Me Go
 - 2) The King’s Speech
 - 3) Toy Story 3
 - 4) The Social Network
 - 5) Inception
 - 6) Date Night
 - 7) Shutter Island
 - 8) Despicable Me
 - 9) The Other Guys
 - 10) Blue Valentine

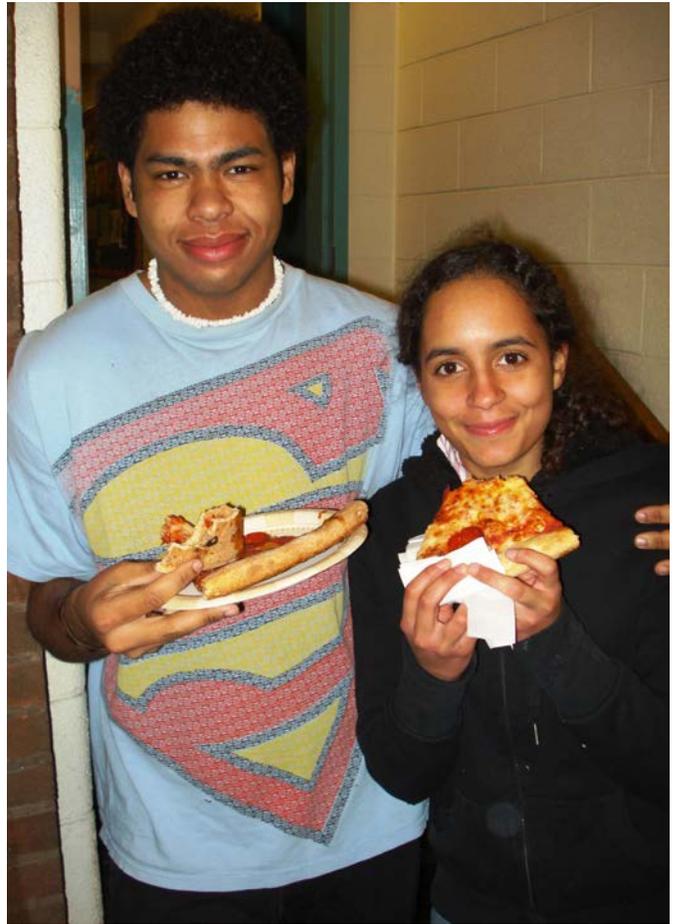
By: *Jen Wu*

STUDY BREAK

FINAL EXAMS EDITION

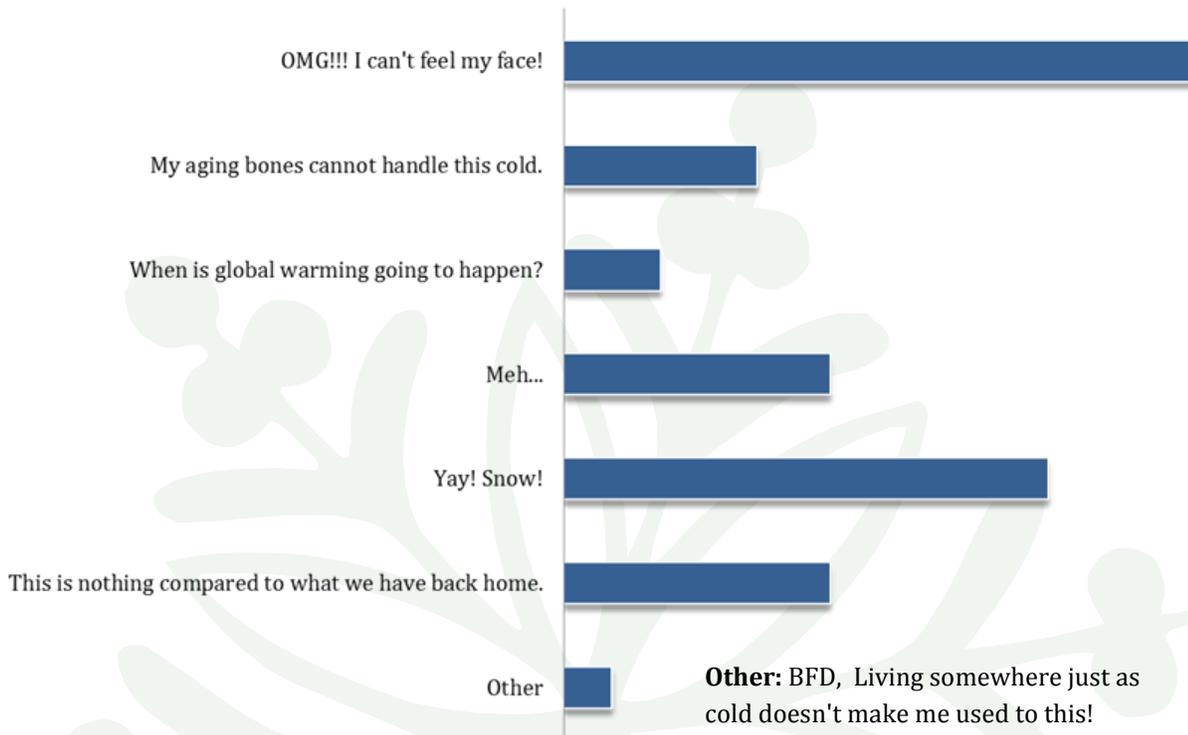
During reading days and finals week of fall semester, Gregory College House hosts daily study breaks to help over-stressed and over-caffeinated Gregorians unwind and relax. As always, there was food galore, ranging from cherry pie to pizza pie.





GREGORY PULSE

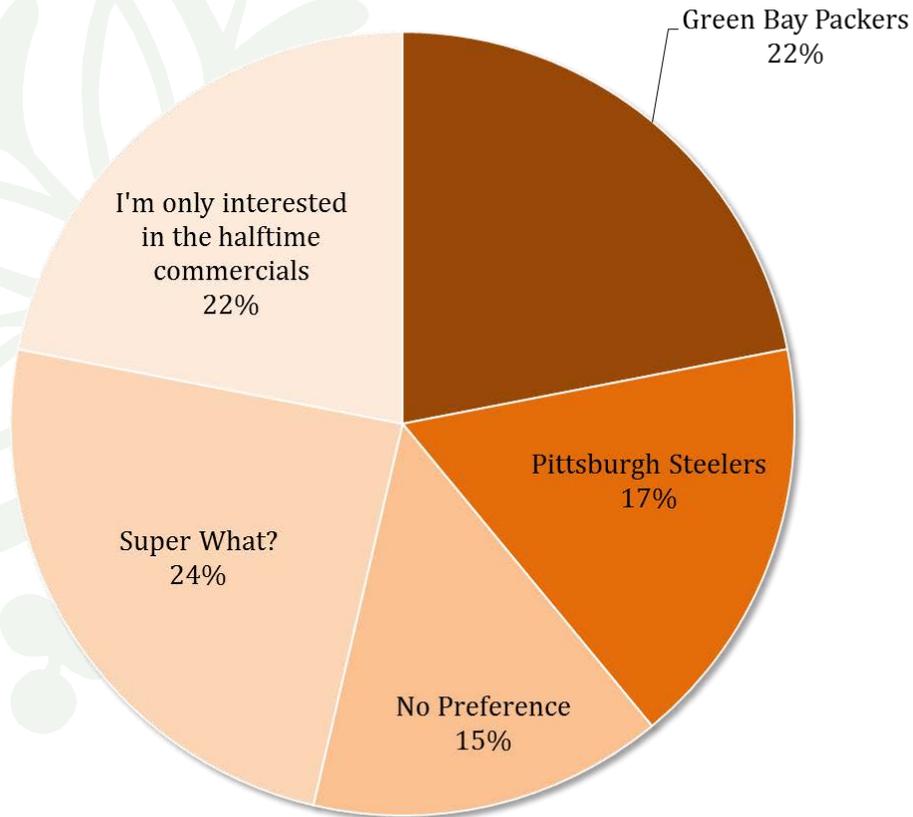
Thoughts about the cold weather:



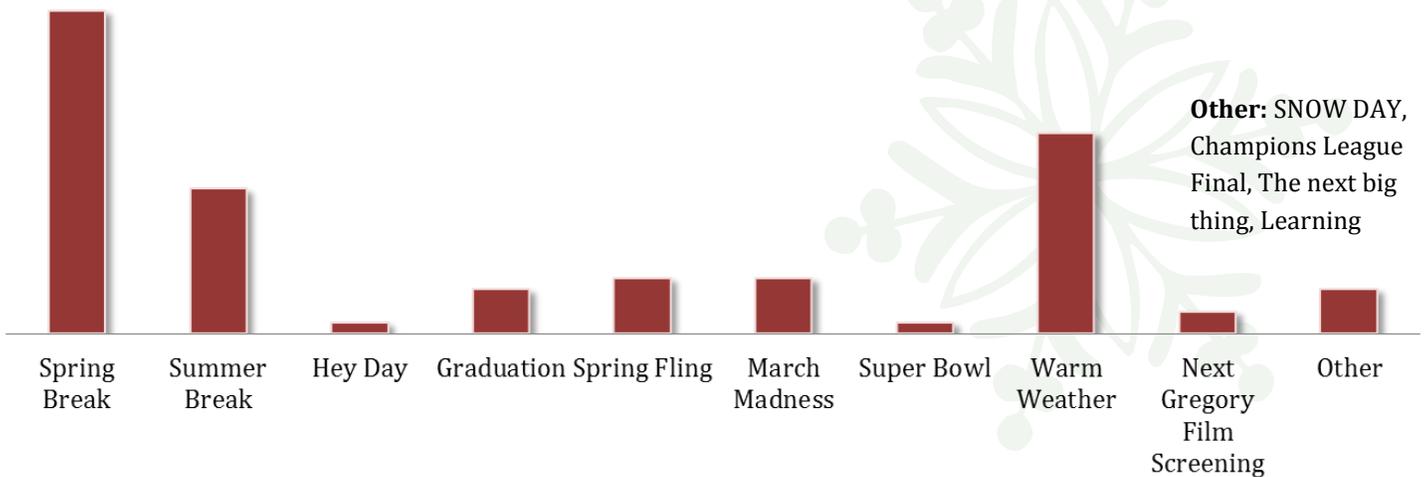
What did you do over Winter Break?



Which team will win Super Bowl XLV?



What are you looking forward to the most?



Other Comments: Bastard Steelers-loving NFL refs; Happy 2011!; Why didn't we have a snow day? I want more snow.

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