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|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| ① Annenberg/Zellerbach | ⑧ HUP                  | ⑮ Student/Women's Health |
| ② Biopond              | ⑨ International House  | ⑯ University Museum      |
| ③ CAPS                 | ⑩ Iron Gate Theater    | ⑰ Van Pelt               |
| ④ College Advising     | ⑪ Irvine Auditorium    | ⑱ Wharton Reprographics  |
| ⑤ College Hall         | ⑫ Kelly Writer's House | ⑲ Women's Center         |
| ⑥ CURF (Arch Building) | ⑬ LGBT Center          |                          |
| ⑦ Franklin Field       | ⑭ Palestra             |                          |

## Chapter 5: On Campus

*"Oh, the usual. I bowl. Drive around. The occasional acid flashback." — The Dude*

Apparently, the primary part of going to college is academics. As such, we decided to devote our last and smallest chapter to the inner workings of academia here at Penn. In this section, our goal is not to provide you with advice regarding majors or class selection. That's why your advisors get those hefty paychecks and lovely holiday fruit baskets. Instead, we hope to provide you with practical advice that will ease your entrance into student life and make your academic experience as fulfilling as possible. After all, your education can't be summed up by a course schedule or report card. Explore the winding halls of the University Museum and make friends with some transgender folks over at the LGBT Center. Improve your writing at Kelly Writer's House and catch a game at the Palestra. Finally, someone should tell you as soon as possible that your GPA is not *everything* in life.\*

\*Primarily advice for pre-meds

## Women's Center

Ah, yes, the Women's Center. That bastion of female pride and assertiveness. This former frat house (ironic?), located at the corner of Locust Walk and 37<sup>th</sup> Street, is the center of women's activities and activism on campus. Participating and hosting education forums, running programs throughout the year, and sponsoring one of the campus's most important awareness events, Take Back the Night, the Penn Women's Center has become an integral part of the Penn community. Please stop in during regular office hours (males as well as females) to talk with someone about current women's issues, how you can get involved promoting them (the issues, not the women), or discuss sexual questions about disease, pregnancy, and contraception. They also have a bowl of condoms and lube. The women's center is a good place to go if you or someone you know has been raped and needs counseling. Their compassionate staff are trained counselors who are there to listen and help as best they can.



## LGBT Center

<http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/lgbt>

Are you lesbian? Gay? Bi-sexual? Transgender? Simply curious about what you might be or seeking to better understand those who are. Well come on in to the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Center located off the path between Harrison and Hamilton. Founded in 1982 and one of the oldest institutions of its kind, the LGBT Center at Penn seeks to enhance the life of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students, faculty, staff, and alumni and to increase the general Penn community's awareness, understanding and acceptance of its sexual and gender minority members through education, training, advocacy, collection and dissemination of information and resources, and advising and support of campus lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and ally organizations. Stop in any time.

*Our esteemed College Hall is one of the oldest buildings on campus, and is home to the President and Provost's offices as well as the History Department.*

## Student Health

(215) 662-2852 or (215) 662-2853

In need of medical care? Check out Student Health, located across from the hospital on 34<sup>th</sup> Street. The good news is that much of the care you receive at Student Health is covered by the clinical fee your parents paid at the beginning of the semester. Medical testing and specialist consultations are typically billed to your insurance. The bad news is that Student Health is frighteningly reminiscent of the school clinic you used to visit in kindergarten: all too often you are sent on your way with a few low-dose painkillers and a pat on the back. The folks at Student Health tend to be frustratingly stingy with the good drugs, but are all too happy to hand out Tylenol for everything from ingrown toenails to the bubonic plague. Still, it's cheap healthcare and, sometimes, Tylenol really does do the trick. Just call to make an appointment. If you're told the daily appointments are all taken, you have two options: either grossly exaggerate your symptoms or simply show up at Student Health and whimper. The whimpering gets them every time.

## Women's Health

(215) 662-2875

Women's Health is a part of Student Health that specifically caters to the health concerns of women at Penn. Though in the same building, Women's Health is totally separated from Student Health, and their incredibly kind and comforting staff is dedicated to providing confidential care. Pregnancy testing, routine pelvic exams, and emergency contraception are only a few of the numerous services offered by Women's Health. For more information on the services offered by Women's Health, check out the web site at <http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/shs/wh.html> or telephone the office.

## CAPS

(215) 898-7021

When life gets a bit overwhelming, the counselors at CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) can be wonderful listeners. CAPS offers group and individual counseling, eating concerns treatment, and a variety of other services. These trained psychologists are here to help people at their most vulnerable and transitional period of life: college. Whether you feel you might be suffering from a serious personality or psychological disorder or simply having trouble dealing with stress or a roommate, come to CAPS and they will point you in the right direction. To schedule an appointment with a CAPS counselor, simply fill out a preliminary assessment form on the web site (<http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/caps/>) and then call their offices. At a brief intake appointment a counselor will be recommended, sometimes one not affiliated with the university if your situation calls for it, and you can then set up a time to meet. Counseling services provided at CAPS are confidential and free to Penn students. We personally recommend the electric shock therapy and cucumber facial.

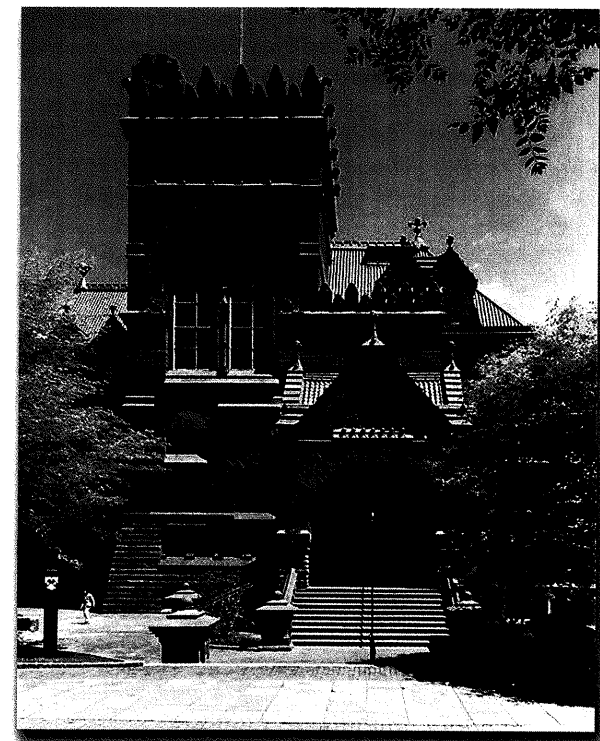
## WHEEL

<http://www.collegehouses.upenn.edu/wheel>

The WHEEL, Penn's academic support system, provides assistance with everything from foreign languages and writing to computer science engineering and chemistry. The tutoring sessions are free and conveniently located in the college houses. For more information, check out the WHEEL website.

## University Museum

Located on the fringes of campus on Spruce between 32<sup>nd</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> streets, the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology is often neglected by Penn students who haven't been dragged there by professors. The Stoner Courtyard (hehe) and Warden Garden boast beautiful greenery, reflection pools, and little white benches that make the museum a wonderful and tranquil study spot.



The collection is one of the most revered in the world. The civilizations and time periods displayed in this world renowned museum are thorough and frankly breathtaking. Although closed on Mondays, the University Museum is free to Penn students with, of course, your PennCard so please come at least once in your four years here. Special exhibits happen yearly and truly are astounding.

*We couldn't find a good picture of the University Museum, so here's the Fisher Fine Arts Library, which is also a beautiful and quiet place to study.*



## Some Good Campus Locations to Know About

**Annenberg/Zellerbach** – This extension of the school has multiple theatres where plays and concerts are performed throughout the year

**Biopond** – Off of a secret sneaky path between the Nursing Building and 38<sup>th</sup> Street, this is a quiet place to spend some time alone and outdoors.

**College Advising** – On the first floor of Logan Hall and immediately to the left, come here with questions about anything relating to College credits, courses, the curriculum and requirements. Walk-ins allowed.

**College Hall** – Looking for the offices of the president and the provost, or perhaps the history department? Located across the Green from the library, this is truly the heart of campus.

**CURF (Arch Building)** – The home of the Ben Franklin and University Scholars' Offices, the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships can help you when applying for grants and scholarships (in case the name fooled you).

**Franklin Field** – This is the giant stadium on Spruce St. that you couldn't have missed driving in. Our football team plays here and the Spring Fling show is generally held here too. And don't forget the Penn Relays.

**HUP** – The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania is respected across the country for its staff and medical research. Come to the emergency room for serious issues or when student health is closed, just past the main entrance on 34<sup>th</sup> Street.

**International House** – This is often a home for international students and cultural events which encompass the global community.

**Iron Gate Theater** – This former church is an interesting and cozy environment in which to see performances any time of year.

**Irvine Auditorium** – At the corner of 34<sup>th</sup> and Spruce just off Perelman Quadrangle, this interesting building houses some of the year's most outstanding events.

**Kelly Writer's House** – As a part of WHEEL, this is a small house across from the Commons that hosts literary events and writing workshops throughout the year. They are a great help editing papers and for improving your writing.

**Palestra** – Our famous basketball stadium is where many of Philadelphia college teams play. Go to at least one game and check it out.

**Van Pelt** – The pride and joy of the 5 million book Penn library system is located in the heart of campus. This monstrous building is home to many students throughout the year and all of them during finals.

**Wharton Reprographics** – On the basement level of Steinberg-Dietrich Hall, come here for coursepacks not found at Campus Copy Center.

## Conclusion

Whoa, whoa, whoa. Whoa, whoa. Whoa. Louis, this isn't my Batman glass? Now, don't go reading this until you've been through everything else. That's not cool. Reading the last page first. Seriously.

Over the next four years, you'll learn a great deal more about Penn than we could ever hope to include in *The Dude Abides*. You'll learn that you've had enough to drink when the high rises no longer appear perpendicular to the ground. To be fair, this is difficult to gauge when *you* are on the ground.

Grander wisdom may materialize as well. You'll probably realize that the profession you so desperately wanted when you were five just doesn't interest you anymore. What's more, you'll know that this is alright. After all, there can only be one Captain Planet.

You'll do all the things you said you'd never do, ever. And then you'll do them a few more times.

You'll discover that the people most worth knowing are little or nothing at all like you. These are the friends who will challenge you with their differences, helping you conceive of the world in totally different ways.

You'll have your highest highs and your lowest lows, and as much as it may suck more than anything before or as much as you believe you'll never reach such heights again, you will have understood that the scale only grows larger. When you look back on it all, you'll love every minute of those experiences: good and bad.

That being said, we hope our guide provides you with the practical advice you need to make the transition to college life a smooth and pleasant one. We can't make the bad times go away or create the good ones. We just wanted to suck some unnecessary frustration out while you're busy trying to create those experiences for yourself and with your new friends. As our time at Penn draws to a close and yours only just begins, we wish you the best of luck.

Yours truly,  
Kelly and Jay