Part-time workers anxious for release of benefits plan

Under the current plan, part-time employees are not eligible for health care, dental coverage or disability leave.

By Devin Bass

Many University employees are anxious to receive the benefits they may be entitled to be presented early next week.

Part-time employees, who work between 17.5 and 28 hours a week, are not eligible for benefits such as paid health care, dental coverage or disability leave. The workers do benefit from a University-run 401(k) plan.

And part-time workers hired after 1989 cannot participate in a retirement plan.

In December 1990, a group of part-time workers and the Associated Students of the University of Pennsylvania, or ASUP, organized and decided to consider granting benefits to part-time employees.

A loud variety of AUP now serves as an umbrella organization for various groups on campus that advocate issues such as benefits for part-time employees.

A UC committee studied the issue and recommended little change to the current plan. As a result, the part-time workers have a point to present.

Vick added that the recommendation was tested approved by a Cooper & Lybrand study last year that your suggest increasing the entire benefits structure for part-time workers.

Vick said "Denying this was a significant wage penalty and they haven't really dealt with it.

And some part-time employees claim they are really working full-time hours, since their jobs demand extra effort. A Dining Services employee said, "While part-time workers have access to limited benefits, such as vacations and sick leave, temporary workers have access to benefits and cannot work more than 999 hours a year."

She added that she didn't receive any responses on a job status or benefits survey.

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Given Lynne, a temporary employee in Dining Services.
 Theta put on social probation for alleged violations of national Panhel rush ethics

By Randi Rothberg
The Daily Pennsylvanian

The Kappa Alpha Theta sorority is under a social probation, according to the university's Panhellenic Council.

The sorority's president, senior Scott Reikofski, was exonerated of the rush period.

"We are very optimistic about the future of the Panhel," Reikofski said.

The sorority was put on social probation because its members were found to have broken rush rules during the fall semester.

"This is behind us," she said. "It's not a time to go back and second guess any of our members.

The sorority was put on probation because its members were found to have broken rush rules during the fall semester.

"This is a great thing," Wang said. "But Reikofski said that although the sorority's restrictions were unwarranted.

"I certainly don't think that one sorority should be singled out for a rush infraction," she said. "If there is no agreement on the punishment, she wouldn't want any other sisters to have to deal with unnecessary ramifications.

By Ian Kosenblum
The Daily Pennsylvanian

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The Performing Arts Council presents...

African Rythms
March 27-29
Arts House Dance
Feb. 15-16, 20-22
Arts House Theater
Feb. 6-8, 15-15, April 24-26
Bloomers
Feb. 20-22
Chord on Blues
April 12
Counterparts
April 4-5
COUP
Full Measure
March 28-29
Glee Club
Feb. 20-22
The Inspiration
April 4-5
Intuitions
March 20-22
Mask and Wig
Feb. 6-8
Off the Beat
March 21-22
Quaker Notes
April 3-4
Tickets and info on Locust Walk the week of the show
By Mike Zaccorino

On a night on either side of Monday, the scholars of Latin American Studies Program, some of the most visible faces on campus, gathered at the University of Pennsylvania to present a series of lectures sponsored by the visiting scholar from the University of Mexico. It was the first time that a Mexican scholar had been invited to the campus, and many were eager to hear his thoughts on the barrios of Mexico City.

The invitation came as a surprise to many, but it was a welcome addition to the academic calendar. The scholar, who had been visiting the University for over 10 years, had been known for his work on the barrios and their inhabitants. He had written extensively on the topic, and his writings had been widely read.

"I've been coming to the barrios for quite some time," he said. "I've seen how they've changed over the years, and I've seen how their inhabitants have adapted to the changes."

The scholar also spoke on the problems facing the barrios, such as poverty, lack of education, and housing. He pointed out that many of the residents of the barrios were part-time workers, who worked long hours and received low wages. He also spoke about the challenges faced by the children, who often had to drop out of school in order to help support their families.

"It's a difficult situation," he said. "But the people of the barrios are resilient, and they always find a way to make ends meet."

Despite the challenges, the scholar was optimistic about the future of the barrios. He believed that with the right support, the people of the barrios could overcome their difficulties and build a brighter future.

"It's possible," he said. "With the right support, the people of the barrios can make a real difference."
NEW YORK — After agreeing to give frustrated constituents a break on federal taxes, America offers refined surtaxes while trying to balance its books.

Customers nationwide were unable to place a call to the Internal Revenue Service shortly after 3 p.m. EST Wednesday, a time when the company's Vienna, Va., equipment centers were closed for the day. Some users were able to log on for a few minutes, but the sites were closed up by 7:30 p.m.

WASHINGTON — President Clinton, vowing to put the federal government in the black for two decades, sent Congress yesterday a 1998 budget that would cut taxes for the middle class while providing billions in new spending for education, health care and crime prevention.

The president's budget would honor his campaign promise to eliminate the federal budget deficit by the end of his first term in office. It would also remove the $17 billion surplus he is projecting in 2002, the second year of five years — would come from Medicare, the big government program that provides health care to the elderly.

Clinton's proposed budget would touch Americans in a variety of ways. It provides a tax cut for a better family of doing the same.

Overall, the big winners are middle-class families with kids. That's because Clinton's budget would be based on assumptions significantly more optimistic than those underlying the GOP's $170 billion five-year surplus projection in 2002 that would make it difficult for the administration to achieve the long-sought goal of eliminating deficits.

While optimistic about the future, the president's budget also seemed to be abandoning the fight against big spending — and where budgets magically balance themselves, politics will eventually reduce and eliminate certain tax cuts if the deficits increase in the years after that.

For the 1998 fiscal year, which begins October 1, the White House sought to defuse the attacks by pointing out that Clinton's fiscal plan is a "blip," that it is a one-time and that the president is pushing for a tax cut for the average family if President Clinton gets his way. In health care, some middle-class people may pay more and get less.

Education targeted

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**Kosovo's International War Crimes Tribunal will go to Kosovo.**

The Kosovo Security Council, which oversees the implementation of the 1999 Dayton Peace Agreement, has agreed to establish a permanent International War Crimes Tribunal in Kosovo. The tribunal will be tasked with investigating and prosecuting war crimes committed during the 1998-1999 Bosnian War.

**The tribunal will be established in Pristina.**

The tribunal will be housed in Pristina, Kosovo's capital, and will have jurisdiction over war crimes committed in Kosovo during the 1998-1999 conflict. The tribunal will be composed of judges from Kosovo and international experts.

**The tribunal will have the power to issue arrest warrants.**

The tribunal will have the power to issue arrest warrants for individuals suspected of war crimes. It will also have the power to seek the extradition of suspects from other countries.

**The tribunal will be funded by the International Community.**

The tribunal will be funded by the International Community, including contributions from Kosovo's donor countries and the European Union. The tribunal will be independent and will operate under the principles of international law.

**The tribunal will be supervised by the UN.**

The tribunal will be supervised by the UN, which will provide technical and financial support. The UN will also monitor the tribunal's operations to ensure that it is functioning properly.

**The tribunal will begin operations in 2023.**

The tribunal will begin operations in 2023, following a period of preparation and training. The tribunal will be staffed by judges, prosecutors, and other professionals who are experienced in international criminal law.

**The tribunal will be a significant step forward.**

The establishment of the International War Crimes Tribunal in Kosovo is a significant step forward in the process of accountability for war crimes and restoring justice to victims of the 1998-1999 conflict. It will help to ensure that those responsible for war crimes are held accountable, and that justice is served for the victims of the conflict.
Implement FLAC but improve language depts.

FLAC is a good idea but administrators need to revamp the foreign language programs.

Administrators have developed a good proposal with the initiative "Across the Curriculum" program. Being able to take a humanities or science course in a language other than English is an excellent opportunity. FLAC will provide valuable opportunities to students who are interested in improving their language skills if they don't have the option to go abroad. And it will benefit students who are returning from abroad, enabling them to continue using the foreign language they learned while they were away.

But this program will not work if administrators don't redesign the language requirements.FLAC especially the placement tests and the curricula of 130 and 140 level language classes that FLAC will offer. Prior language aptitude or study abroad experience would be needed for those kinds of classes.

Even students who have tested out of the language requirement advanced placement test may not have the skills needed for the FLAC classes.

The curricula of 130 and 140 level classes are insufficient for language proficiency. Students typically review vocabulary for next week's test. The curricula of curriculum does not necessarily improve language skills and methods do not increase interest in the language or its corresponding culture. The curriculum should be revised in order to promote study in the language.

The actual placement tests also need to be reviewed. It is common for students who have several years of high school language classes to be placed into first- or second-semester language classes when the exam may not be adequately testing a student's language skills.

FLAC will provide several opportunities for students to further hone their language skills, and they will be repeatedly examined and evaluated because the funding for this initiative is provided. If administrators want to make this program successful, they must improve their support of language departments as well.

The war is against HIV, not against people with AIDS, and our best weapon is — Education.

Michael Pereira
The Hill House Manager

UC Brite program has done a lot

It's a recent editorial. The Daily Pennsylvanian obtained an interview with Sanchez. He and his blacks have been fitted with illuminated lighting. What the editorial named were the following facts: UC Brite has been on the streets of Penn at night with handmade and portable lights, which are getting estimates for 16 additional blocks. It keeps adding blocks to the list every week and 20 block captains, individuals and formations have been transmitting to the Pit. UC Brite is a labor intensive project, and it was beyond the original $25,000 Great Falls initiative because only a few days. It takes time because: the area is not the toughest bottleneck. We are dealing with different vi-

Vishal Shah
Hill House Manager
College 'W

The Pitt is a good rec. example

To the Editor:

As the manager of the Hill House exercise facility (the Pit), I would like to comment on the recent article on university recreation facilities of the University Athletic Association. I would like to point out that the Pit is a student-oriented and funded by students. If we are student-oriented, we are only an example of an area needing improvement.

If the Pit were a university wide or generally open Department of Physical Education, I would agree that certain facilities might not be available for students. Conquering these obstacles is only student support of our community, but we will see a lot to be thankful for.

Pitt students have access to this facility at any time. They have access to the facility during the day and night. The Pit has been open for students to use as an example of an area needing improvement. If the Pit were a university wide or generally open Department of Physical Education, I would agree that certain facilities might not be available for students. Conquering these obstacles is only student support of our community, and improving the Pit is the most important thing.

The Pit is good enough in itself. I would be proud of what it offers. Hill students have free access to this facility from 1 p.m. to 2 a.m. I've been aware of people who come to use the facility from the high school. The Pit is a students to a student-driven operation. The operation is run according to the students' wishes and better equipment to serve our community. But the Pit was set up by students for students, and it is popular among students and staff. Currently, we have a lot to be thankful for.

I have been working at the Pit for two years, and they take advantage of the fact that they have only one place in the whole of University City. If the DP is going to cite the Pit as an example of anything, it is only as a positive example of what we are doing in this place. It is a small part of the positive, not the whole.

I'd like to see more students and better equipment to serve our community. But the Pit was set up by students for students, and it is popular among students and staff. Currently, we have a lot to be thankful for.

The DP is an example of what we are doing in this place. It is a small part of the positive, not the whole.

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UC Brite program has done a lot

AIDS questions

The war is against HIV, not against people with AIDS, and our best weapon is — Education.

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The Hill House Manager

UC Brite program has done a lot
Venues may foster crime

Friday, February 7, 1997

When Harrison allegedly stopped the

are on their way to cat at Billybob's

surfaced in the details surround-

of his fiance, Cecelia Hagerhall.

A mugging spree January 29 near

Sled was killed Halloween Night

that she and the two other suspects,

He indicated that the owners were

of his Hallway in the area who have

which is located at the corner of 40th and Spruce streets, is one of several 24

had businesses that University Police may say to be contributing to area crime.

they have attempted to purchase the

property as part of the 40th Street

have focused "strategic" attention

on the area following the increased

and curfew violations

And it is still unclear whether Black

will maintain her not guilty plea.
Friday, February 7, 1997

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**Sell it. Rent it. Find it. Ask it. ADVERTISE IT CALL 898-1111 to place your ad.**
Quakers expect to meet Army again in two weeks at Easterns.

By Alia Paul

Coming off a successful week where they won two of their three meets, the Pennsylvania women's swimming and diving team is ready for their last meet of the season against a strong Army team in West Point, N.Y.

Although Penn 0-7 defeated Army last year, this season's team is much more improved. This Saturday's meet against the team will be a battle of the better and difficult meet for both teams. If it is a match in between the teams, their team is a clear favorite.

From this past week's meets against Johns Hopkins and Rutgers, in which Penn's women's team defeated two quality teams, the team has gained more confidence which should prove itself this weekend. Saturday's meet will be one of their last meets of the season. Saturday's meet will be a battle of Army is ready for and diving team is ready for meets, the Perm women's swimming team is ready for. Greatly improved. This Saturday's meet against Army and diving team is the last meet of the season which means minimizing our mistakes going forward. It is a matchup in which neither team can afford to lose. Army and diving team is the last meet of the season and Army and diving team are clear favorites.

The Penn women's swimming team is nearing the end of its regular season. Saturday's meet against Army will be their last meet of the season for both teams, Penn should give them an extra edge for this weekend's meet and should have a successful outcome this Saturday. It will be a great meet for both teams, and it's going to be a challenge, but I think we can do it.

By now everyone should know that the Quakers' inexperience, with some of the freshmen, whom I depend on a lot, are a good three-point shooting team, they can go by you.
New York — While Bill Parcells is in limbo, the New York Jets are moving ahead with the hiring of his former assistant coaches in what appears to be an effort to fill most of his — or will it be Parcells’ — stool. New York Jets head coach Romeo Crennel will be in Miami this week with Parcells, his lawyers and representatives to complete a contract with New England. Last week, Tagliabue barred Parcells from coaching or any compensation from the NFL, but the Patriots, who hold the Super Bowl last Saturday, won’t pay. Parcells resigned in New England’s coach last Friday, then agreed to become a consultant for the Jets.

With or without Parcells, Jets start hiring staff

Shoeless Joe’s signature may become weapon against heart disease

Collegiate Students With A Year’s Worth Of Low Fares And Unlimited Fun

GAME RECAPS

Pistons 96, Rockets 87

Jackson’s wife, Katie, named them as her beneficiaries in 1959 just before she died, argued that a certified copy would serve the same purpose.

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Another exercise in futility?

The coaches of Dartmouth and Harvard have never won a game in the Palestra.

By Miles Cohen

Dartmouth coach Frank Sullivan and Harvard coach Frank Sullivan are not the only coaches who have never won a game in the Palestra. Neither of them has ever managed to grab the Palestra I would be the happiest coach in the world. And if we ever won out of the oldest court we would be the happiest coach in the world. As tough as the weekend promises to be, the Quakers did not lose one match all day.

By Kent Malmros

At Harvard, the Crimson rely solely on their women's basketball team. "It took a little while to get back in the game. A tough day at the Palestra, Miller said. "The rest of the singles bracket also fell with ease, the first of several matches. As tough as the weekend promises to be, the Quakers did not lose one match all day.

The Quakers did not lose a match against West Virginia or American while hosting the Penn Conference Classic.

By Matt Warst

Hoping to draw another crowd this weekend, the Penn men's fencing team travels to Cambridge, Mass., for an important match against Harvard. The Quakers are currently 5-2 overall and 1-1 in the Ivy League. With only five of eight teams have more on their mind than just winning the Ivy League. With only five of eight teams competing in the league, each match is much more important. Harvard does not match up well against a more-balanced Quaker squad. The Crimson rely solely on senior Paul Romanczuk (No. 42) and the Penn men's basketball team are hoping to leap past Dartmouth and Harvard in the Ivy League standings this weekend. The Quakers are 3-1 in the league after losing to Cornell last Saturday, a game behind 4-0 Princeton.

By Miles Cohen

Harvard coach Frank Sullivan and Dartmouth coach Dave Faust have the misfortune to share one distinction. They both have never won a game at the Palestra. And according to both, nothing would make them happier than to walk out of the oldest court in Philadelphia with a win. "I know I have been here 10 years and I have never won a game at the Palestra," Faust said. "There is no, to me, right at the end of the tunnel. And if we ever win here, it would be the happiest coach in the country.

Silberman echoed the sentiments of the New England rivals when he commented on what a tough place the Palestra was to play. Between the great fans and the intensity and intensity that the players, Silberman felt that no matter who the players were the "stations will shine with great players -- the only remarkable unyielded Ivy League team.

For Harvard (12-6, 5-1), the key to a successful weekend, according to Silberman, will be a balanced attack on the offensive end. Led by senior J.J. Cramer, it is a points per game. As tough as the weekend promises to be, the Quakers did not lose one match all day.

Eager freshmen Rick Bernstein, James Lyons and Joe Lin are ready to step into the mix. They compete intensely in practice with one another to prove their worth. Bernstein, who has shown in exhibition to throw his Crimson into the mix.

"The way it works now is that Dave starts whenever he feels right. He's got his individual schedule," Bernstein said. "We're certainly fighting for the same spot, but when push comes to shove you still cheer for your teammates and want the team to win.

The Quakers will meet their second Ivy League team of the season tomorrow.

By Tom Magee

With only five of eight teams have more on their mind than just winning the Ivy League. With only five of eight teams competing in the league, each match is much more important. Harvard does not match up well against a more-balanced Quaker squad. The Crimson rely solely on senior Paul Romanczuk (No. 42) and the Penn men's basketball team are hoping to leap past Dartmouth and Harvard in the Ivy League standings this weekend. The Quakers are 3-1 in the league after losing to Cornell last Saturday, a game behind 4-0 Princeton.

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Students must choose between convenient dorms and independent off-campus living

By Lindsay Faber
The Daily Pennsylvanian

After much contemplation, College freshman Stephanie Tipping has decided that she is ready to move off campus as a sophomore.

"I'd just like to have a place which I can call my home, and I don't think the high rises offers that," Tipping said. "Plus, for less money you can get a nicer place with no elevators."

Tipping's attitude is not unparalleled. Approximately 3,200 undergraduates lived off campus in West Philadelphia last year, according to Off-Campus Living Assistant Director Minaela Farcas.

Farcas explained that students who head off campus are usually seeking lower costs, social opportunities, and independence.

"People are looking for more independence, but they should remember that with independence comes more responsibility," Farca said. "However, sharing a house or apartment may offer a cheaper solution as well."

Although College junior Wendy Gross lives off campus, her house is located near on-campus boundaries.

"I like the choice of living with as many people as I want, and even though I live off campus, I live very close to campus," Gross said. "It's my own house with my own backyard, and between classes it's a good thing."

But there are many benefits to living on campus, as well, and many undergraduates choose to remain in University dorms even after their freshman years.

And according to Occupancy Administration Director Ellie Ruspis, the community living program in the high rises offers a social environment similar to off-campus neighborhoods, houses or blocks — allowing students to move together onto one floor of the high rises with their friends.

Many students, for example, like having convenient services located in their buildings — like the commissaries in the high rises, Quadrangle and King's Court/English House, or the

See CHOICE, page 15
Security can play a role in housing decisions

By Erin Malec

Promises of more independence and larger rooms may appeal to students considering off-campus housing, but one worry often holds them back.

Safety concerns can be the determining factor for students deciding whether or not to make the move from campus.

For many students, the reassurance of 24-hour security is enough to keep them living in dormitories. Students are also concerned with walking home at night to off-campus locations.

In addition to students’ own concerns, parents often pressure their children to stay on-campus because they believe these residences are safer.

College junior Caroline Earl said that along with the convenience of an on-campus location, security was part of her decision to remain living in the High Rises next year.

She said she feels safer with the building’s 24-hour security, but added that the safety of an off-campus house “depends on where you live.”

College sophomore Mike Kreidler currently lives in High Rise East, but he and his friends have decided to live in a house off-campus next semester.

He said security concerns have hindered their plans, however, because “some people in our group are more safety conscious than others.”

The house’s distance from campus is a large factor in their decision on where to live.

“The farther [away from 40th Street] we go out, the more people are worried about security,” Kreidler said.

But he added that wherever he chooses to live off-campus, getting an alarm system for the house will be an important priority.

For some students, the blue light phones in the area and the implementation of the U.C. Brite program — the University’s effort to light the area’s streets — have eased security concerns about living off-campus.

College sophomore Becca Richards lives in a house off-campus and will continue to do so next year.

She hasn’t found living off-campus to be a safety problem and said that she “is not much more concerned than if I was living anywhere else.”

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Summer sublets can help offset rental costs

The arrangements can be a hassle, but in the long run it usually pays off.

By Shannon Burke
The Daily Pennsylvanian

As students begin to plan for the summer, many who live off campus are concerned about subletting their apartments or houses. Because students living off campus have year-long leases lasting from May to May or September to September, there are many more people looking to sublet their apartments for the summer than there are people looking to rent them, according to Assistant Director of Off-Campus Living Michaela Farcas. "A tenant can expect to lose 25 percent or more of the rent in order to gain a sublet," she said.

While subletting a residence can save students money, Farcas warned that it can also be more trouble than it is worth. Those who are considering subletting should realize that they are ultimately responsible to the landlord, and should discuss terms of the agreement ahead of time and put them in writing if necessary, she said.

"How you handle utilities is a very serious issue and should be discussed," she said. "The best thing to do is close all accounts and have the tenant open his or her own accounts."

Tenants should know that they may not always be able to sublet their apartments over the summer for the full amount of their rent. Because of the high supply and comparatively low demand, a $350/month apartment might go for a total of $500 for the whole summer, for example. But obviously any amount of sublet income offsets the cost of renting the apartment or house for the summer, and many students do find that if they will not be in Philadelphia to occupy their dwellings, subletting is a good option.

For example, College senior Evelyn Hockstein said she had no problems subletting her apartment at 40th and Locust streets last summer.

Hockstein explained that she rented her apartment to two friends, one of whom had a job in Philadelphia while the other was working in the University's Psychology Department. "It was nice to know I could always come here over the summer," she said, and suggested that people looking to sublet their apartments find people they know and trust.

Hockstein said safety concerns make location an important factor in deciding where to sublet, noting that it was more difficult to sublet her former apartment at 41st and Pine streets.

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OFF CAMPUS
Moving in to off-campus houses can bring some headaches, but move to dorms is also frustrating

By Stephanie Cooperman

Students living off campus say they experienced little problems on move-in day.

"Moving in was relatively easy, but the uncertainty of it was a different story," said Wharton sophomore Russ Roenick, a Hamilton Court resident.

Students should set up utilities well before move-in because it may take a few days to set up an account. Off campus housing options may differ in the utilities they include.

"No one tells you what to expect," Roenick continued, "so you just have to go with the flow."

Roenick said he was pleased with the way move-in went, saying the alternative of living in "a Kenmore dishwasher cardboard box" on campus was not as appealing.

College sophomore and Pi Kappa Alpha house resident Matt Greenburger agreed with Roenick about the relative ease of moving into off campus housing.

Greenburger said "the house was pretty messy" on move-in day because it was not occupied in the summer, but that provided little inconvenience. He added that the few problems that he experienced occurred only after move-in.

"No one tells you what to expect, so you just have to go with the flow."

Russ Roenick
Wharton sophomore

pay rent directly to the University, but the University is not exactly the fastest when it comes to fixing things," Greenburger said.

Students should also make sure to put in requests for repairs to their off-campus houses or apartments before they arrive with all their possessions — maintenance work is much easier for realtors to complete without furniture

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Security deposits can be tough to safeguard

By Josh Fineman

Security deposits are important pieces of the renting puzzle, and one should know about them before signing a lease.

According to The Tenant Survival Book, published by the Tenant's Action Group of Philadelphia, a security deposit is "money the tenant must pay to the landlord as a condition of moving in."

Assistant Director of Off-Campus Living Mihaela Farcas told The Daily Pennsylvanian that the purpose of the security deposit is to make sure the landlord is protected if a tenant does any damage to the property or fails to pay the rent.

But she added that the security deposit is not meant to cover ordinary "wear and tear" that comes with the territory.

When an individual signs a contract for a property, they will be asked to pay the first month's rent and a security deposit possibly equal to two months' rent, Farcas said. Or the renter might be asked to pay a security deposit plus the last month's rent.

But the total amount of money cannot be greater than three months' rent, Farcas warned.

She said one of the key issues for new renters is making sure they carefully inspect the premises after they sign a contract. She added that they must carefully note all the damages to the property and write them on a list that they then give to the owner or lessor.

And Farcas added that tenants must painstakingly inspect the property for damage before leaving an apartment or house, giving a forwarding address for the landlord.

The purpose of the forwarding address, Farcas explained, is to ensure that the list of damages is sent back to the person who rented the property. If the landlord does not send a list of damages within 30 days, then the renter isn't responsible for paying for those damages, she said.

"If a landlord doesn't communicate with a tenant within 30 days and has not returned part of the money, then the landlord gives up his right for damages," Farcas told the DP.

"Remember, your landlord is not allowed to deduct any money from your security deposit except for damage you cause or rent you owe," the Tenant Survival guide states. "If your landlord does not return a list of damages within 30 days after you have moved out, you may sue in Small Claims Court for the return of your money."

Farcas said another significant concept for a tenant to remember is to give "proper notice" before moving out. She added that the notice should be in writing, a copy should be made and it should be sent certified mail, "return receipt requested."

And she cautioned that if a tenant terminates a lease before the end of the contract, he or she will be responsible for any loss of rental income on the part of the landlord, and might not be entitled to the return of their security deposit.

U. officials try to maintain peaceful relations

University Police and the Office of Off-Campus Living work together with the Office of Student Conduct to cut down on complaints about student behavior in West Philly.

By Jenny Axt

Complaints about misconduct by students living off campus increased in the beginning of this school year, and University Police and the Office of Off-Campus Living took steps to remedy the problems.

The two departments have been informing the University's student conduct office of repeated irresponsible behavior by off-campus students, under the new policy.

Office of Student Conduct Director Michele Goldfarb said her office will be contacted earlier when Philadelphia residents complain about student noise problems. This effort marks part of the University's ongoing attempt to strengthen its "good neighbor" commitment to the West Philadelphia neighborhood, Goldfarb said.

In the past few years, University Police and off-campus officials have received numerous complaints from local residents and other Penn students in reaction to excessive noise, parties, drinking and destruction of property in off-campus neighborhoods.

Although complaints were filed, the University took little action. "Now matters will be reported to my office if they are repeated in a serious fashion," Goldfarb explained. "Not every isolated loud incident will be reported, but if a situation is particularly destructive or harmful, we will consider taking disciplinary action against the student."

See POLICE, page 12
For adventurous chefs or hungry shoppers, many Dining Services alternatives abound

By Randi Rothberg

Students who don't have time to cook their own meals — but aren't thrilled with the prospects of contracting with Dining Services — need not worry about what they'll do for their next meal.

This fall, University Student Services launched a debit card system with local restaurants.

USS founder Matthew Levenson said the QuakerCard has done "pretty well" this year. Not only will the service be offered again next year, but it's likely that five to ten new stores will accept the QuakerCard next fall, he added.

"Our clients are the students and the restaurants," Levenson said. "But the real clients are the students."

To further serve the needs of the Penn community, Levenson said USS is considering expanding the QuakerCard's purchasing power to non-food services such as laundromats, drug stores, and photocopying centers.

But he added that USS is not competing with Dining Services.

"Our clients are the students and the restaurants. But the real clients are the students."

Matthew Levenson
QuakerCard founder

"We like to be a supplement to the meal plan," he added.

But the QuakerCard offers students some luxuries Dining Services doesn't. QuakerCard holders may purchase food twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week with the luxury of knowing that missed meals are fully refundable.

And with MAC machines' new transaction fees — as well as students' tendency to lose change when purchasing their weekend meals — the QuakerCard offers an additional convenience.

But for students without meal plans or QuakerCards, the PennCard may also be used to purchase food.

Dining Services allows students to deposit money into Dining Dollars accounts which may be used at Chats and the new McClelland Marketplace.

Students may use ADM machines — located in both Chats and McClelland — to periodically add money to these accounts. Such deposits may be made only moments before students purchase food.

Students may also charge food to their Student Financial Services bill at either of these places.

Adam Sherr, Dining Services' marketing and meal contract coordinator, added that the University would probably feature more retail centers like McClelland Marketplace and Chats next year.

Dining Services: Flexible, nutritious option for food

By Randi Rothberg

Many students rarely sleep for more than a few hours each night, but even those with the busiest schedules find the time to eat.

Dining Services' meal plans were designed for the time-concerned. Between 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m., students with dining contracts are entitled to meals in any undergraduate dining hall.

"We cook and clean for you," said Adam Sherr, Dining Services marketing and meal contract coordinator.

College freshman Sara Shenkan said she appreciates the convenience and plans to remain on meal plan next year because she has neither the time or the inclination to cook her own food.

But she added that meal plans also afford students with opportunities to see their friends — who are equally busy — and to meet new people.

"It's a really social hour," Shenkan said.

Additionally, students contracting with Dining Services next year will find more choices, Sherr said. "We're definitely going to be doing..."
 Apartment hunting can be biggest challenge of move

By Benjamin Wu
The Daily Pennsylvanian

To students planning to live off campus, the apartment-hunting process may seem overwhelming. Associate Vice Provost for University Life Larry Moneta said he feels that moving off campus is more similar to a "rude awakening" than the act of independence many students expect.

He cited several hurdles that all students must eventually deal with, including friction with landlords, paying utility and phone bills on time, buying furniture and dealing with roommates.

Despite Moneta's claims, students said they feel the problems involved with living off campus are minimal.

"The hardest part [of searching] is deciding what you want in an apartment," College junior Matt Garfinkle warned. A total of people have the same needs, and the apartments that fit those needs get scooped up easily.

"There are a lot of people with the same needs, and the apartments that fit those needs get scooped up easily."

Garfinkle, who lived in the Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity house last year and in the Quadrangle his freshman year, likened the process of moving from the dorms to his current location to a progression toward complete independence.

"It provides a bridge to adulthood," he said. "Looking for a house on your own is a good step to being on your own."

Garfinkle himself has had no trouble looking for housing. A group he shares his lease with found his current house, and other friends found a spot for next year while Garfinkle was in Australia.

"The apartments that fit [everyone's] needs get scooped up easily."

Matt Garfinkle
College junior

For those who have insurmountable problems that warrant a need for help, the Office of Off-Campus Living, located on the corner of 41st and Walnut, not only helps students with adjustment problems, but can assist in the entire moving and living process.

OCL, a sub-department of Housing and Residence Life, provides a weekly-updated computer listing of all available housing in the immediate area, landlord ratings based on past residents' opinions, rent information, free counseling for emotional problems and safety tips.
Professors, staff also live in local neighborhoods

By Dina Bass
The Daily Pennsylvanian

The stereotypical college living scenario doesn't include the possibility that your professor could live down the block.

But quite a few faculty and staff members live in West Philadelphia, though few reside on the most heavily student-populated blocks. Professors are some of the University's most ardent defenders of the neighborhood directly west of campus, especially against charges of overwhelming crime.

"The neighborhood has some problems, but it is a diverse area with wonderful housing and a wonderful, diverse population of people," said History Professor Michael Katz, a co-director of the Urban Studies program. "Lots of wonderful people who care about the neighborhood and have tried very hard over decades to maintain it.

The University runs a mortgage subsidy program with local banks that helps faculty and staff buy homes in West Philadelphia for no down payment — the school actually covers 105 percent of mortgages for homes in the immediate area.

Diane Wormley, an associate treasurer who manages the University's end of the program, said its first priority is to entice professors to buy homes in West Philadelphia instead of Center City though the program also subsidizes mortgages downtown as part of a larger aim to keep University affiliates in the city.

"Contrary to what some people may think, it's not the wild wild west going past 43rd Street," Wormley said. "There are some lovely homes.

And though some members of the group Penn Faculty and Staff for Neighborhood Improvement have criticized the program's operation — saying it could be much more successful in bringing faculty into University City — most who live in the neighborhood agree with Wormley.

"University City is a middle-class neighborhood with great housing, schools, retail stores, churches, gardens and a history society," said History Professor Lynn Lees, who chairs PFSNI. "This is not an urban slum.

While professors have been moving out of West Philadelphia lately faster than they move in, the University is beginning a new push to improve area retail and schools in the hopes of bringing more faculty back into the neighborhood.

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U. to off-campus students: Don't get too far out of hand

POLICE from page 8

In the past year, the Office of Off-Campus Living has received an increased number of complaints from other Penn students off campus, according to Assistant Director of Off-Campus Living Michaela Faracas. She could not specify how many complaints the office has received.

"It is very difficult to deal with these problems, but we're trying to establish communication between Penn students and other neighborhood residents," Faracas said. "Students must have concern for the fact that they share living and street space with others."

Goldfarb said most cases referred to the Office of Student Conduct will fall under the jurisdiction of the University's new mediation program, which will attempt to end disputes through mediation wherever possible.

"It is our goal to have students and their neighbors constructively work together on problems," Goldfarb said.

The University's Code of Student Conduct is the primary document that governs the behavior and conduct that Penn students are expected to demonstrate, regardless of time and place.

According to Goldfarb, Penn students and their off-campus neighbors must try to be tolerant and respectful of one another.

"West Philadelphia residents need to acknowledge the fact that there will be more noise around a college campus," Goldfarb said. "But those students who have not exhibited responsible behavior need to keep in mind that people have different standards for what is fun and what is not."

Students responded with mixed enthusiasm to the possibility that disciplinary action could be brought against off-campus residents.

College senior Silvia Mestre said students choose to live off campus specifically to remove themselves from the University's jurisdiction.

"If the school hasn't witnessed the complaints being made, how can they enforce something based on what someone else said?" she questioned. "They should use more time and energy to worry about off-campus safety instead."

College senior Jenny Comita said that while monitoring off-campus student conduct seems good in theory, she believes it will be hard to enforce.

Goldfarb said she hopes the new emphasis on off-campus conduct will show students and the community that the University does care about off-campus behavior.

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### Dining Services Cooks for You

Dining Services is planning new and dynamic things with dining, the Penn alumnus said. In the past, Dining Services and the University surveyed students to find out what changes they would like to see implemented.

Pasta stations, CHATS late night snack services and Stouffer’s Dinner on the Triangle all began because students asked for such services, Sherr said. He added that Dining Services looks to remain responsive to students’ needs.

“It’s nice to be somewhere where the students are smiling,” he said. 

This year, the University hired an independent food service consulting firm, Coryn Fasano, to assess student concerns. 1150 surveys were returned — via telephone and personal interviews and the Internet. Eight “food focus sessions” were held as well.

The firm’s report will come out sometime this spring, with recommendations on food services across campus.

Sherr said after observing the success of the newly opened McClelland Marketplace — where students may redeem missed meals — he suspects similar retail facilities may be established in “an area like Hill House.”

And following the advice of the Undergraduate Assembly, Dining Services is exploring the possibility of building a 24-hour diner.

Also, for those students who complain that Stouffer Triangle reminds them of a cave, Sherr said renovations might be done to “make [the building] a brighter place.”

Shenkan added that although Dining Services didn’t always offer her favorite foods, “if you look at it in other aspects, it evens out.”
Move-in can cause headaches

Though moving in to an off-campus residence can be less irritating than moving into a dorm — with fewer people all trying to move in at once, no long elevator lines and no fights over carts to transport belongings — it is also sometimes more of a hassle.

Some off-campus houses or apartments may not be constructed in ways that make it easy to bring in a large piece of furniture. For example, moving a couch into your new apartment may require taking apart the couch, the door and the stairwell. And without a ready supply of residential advisors and other University staff members on hand to help, off-campus students must fend for themselves, relying on friends and neighbors for assistance.

Whether they move them themselves — using cars, U-hauls, or Ryder trucks — or hire a moving company, students already living off campus advise others to move in as early as possible. But move-in for dorms is always difficult, as well. Last fall, for example, the newly organized Department of Housing and Residence Life attempted to deal with students arriving at all 15 buildings with 13 fewer permanent staffers than usual. So an already hectic weekend got even tenser.

For those living off campus, veterans advise new neighbors to take into account that the first few months of living off campus can be more expensive because of the need to pay security deposits, moving expenses and decorating costs. Students may have to buy or bring their own furniture that was provided in a University residence — like beds, tables, desks and chairs.

Students should consider all costs before making a final decision about moving off campus, but according to College sophomore and Alpha Epsilon Pi house resident David Baranoff said, “It’s a lot cheaper than anything the University can provide.”
Students must examine options, make choice

CHOICE from page 3

Lounges sprinkled throughout most on-campus residences. The free access to ResNet, hardwired connections to PennNet and 24-hour security provided by the University also make most campus housing an attractive option.

"There is no worrying about full-year leases or landlords, and your services are right at your fingertips," Ruspis said.

College freshman Cathy Malik pinpointed security as the largest factor in remaining on campus next year. "My parents didn't want me to live off-campus, and they liked the security and location of the high rises," Malik said.

Malik's roommate, College freshman Rachael Ianucci, said the option of living off-campus introduces too much responsibility.

"I just didn't want to deal with the responsibility of paying multiple bills off-campus," Farcas said.

Farcas' Office of Off-Campus Living is an important resource for students making the transition from campus housing to "real world" renting.

The office can mediate disputes between tenants and landlords, monitor satisfaction with properties and help ensure timely and good service from rental companies.

Last year, for example, OCL responded to 817 complaints or reports from student tenants, and a manager for University City Housing told The Daily Pennsylvanian in November that nine out of 10 incidents OCL gets involved in are settled easily and amicably.

Although a large number of students will remain on campus next year, Farcas said, "I am interested in making sure that the students who move off campus have a good experience."

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