Q: How many hours of sleep do you get per night?

A: Well, let's see. I guess it's a wide range. I get about 6-7 hours of sleep a night.

Q: What time do you wake up?

A: I wake up around 7:30 every morning, even though some mornings I don't have class till 3:50. Mostly because I like to get up and go for a run or Pilates, or just wake up to finish up some work at a coffee shop called Toby's. I like to order some tea and do homework there until I have class.

Q: How long is your commute?

A: My commute is not really a "commute." Depending on the day, I have classes just downstairs or two blocks away. So it's fairly chill.

Q: What is the first idea that comes to mind when you wake up?

A: I think “Shit”, I have so much work to do in not enough time." And then it's, "Okay, I need to figure out what the hell I am going to wear." Honestly, that eats up around 30 minutes every morning. Finally, I think to myself, "You’ve gotten this far, now make a list of what you need to do, and go out into the world. Do what you got to do."

Q: What are your responsibilities in the morning?

A: As I'm in a college dorm, my routine is very different compared to more traditional routines. Taking out the trash is a chore that I have to do. I also just have to sustain myself as a human being. I think there's a point where taking care of others should be a priority, but you also have to take care of yourself--especially in a university it can be easy to forget. It's a lot of pressure to maintain yourself both physically and mentally. As I work as an Editorial Intern at Into The Gloss, I need to make sure that everything is in line for socials and that postings for the newspaper are published. A large part of my day is completing tasks for other people.

Q: Is cost a factor in deciding your routine?

A: Oh yeah, I have a budget. I remember last year, I wrote an article on how to eat cheap, within Union Square. It's fucking expensive! So, at that point, I thought that I was going to be eating oatmeal for a week. However, through writing the article, I learned a lot about eating with a budget, while still sustaining yourself. It's important to know the best way to budget yourself. The metro can also steal your money! It's accumulative and can become an enormous expense.

Q: Does anything change once you arrive at school? Do you perceive yourself the same way in your private life as you do in the public sphere?

A: I think that a value of mine that is very important to me, is being your honest, truest self. I think people should not be scared of being about 45% vulnerable because that is how you make stronger, more trustworthy, open relationships. If I'm a shit-show, everyone will know it. Like the other day, this girl told me that I looked like I had my shit together, and I said, “Are you fucking kidding me?” and I listed her all of the frustrations in my life right now. We need to be okay with talking about things that are on our minds; Honesty leads to progress.

But also, that needs to be taken with "a grain of salt" because there's obviously people that are not necessarily trustworthy enough to handle you in your truest, most vulnerable self.

Q: What is your cultural identity?

A: My culture is layered, kind of like a “millefeuille.” I would say that I question myself: “Who is Claire Cohen?” I could tell you my exterior traits such as my brown hair and blue eyes, but there’s more to it. But I think people think that the culture is an integral part of who I am. With that, I’m Jewish but its not a culture that I identify with, in the least. I think I share both habits from the French and American culture. My mom is French-American and my dad is French-Moroccan-Canadian. I get my French influence the most from my Parisian grandmother. She has this amazing library in her home, including a story she worked on with Leonard Bernstein.

As a French woman, I make my room and bed pristine everyday, photo-shoot ready. In terms of beauty, I am much more of a French woman. I don’t contour my face with heavy powders. Instead, I strive for a more naturel look.

Perfume! Perfume is another part of me that is very French. I have a different perfume for all the seasons.

Overall, I would say that I identify much more with my American side than the French. When I went to the Lycée, it did not go well for me because they expected things of me that I was incapable of delivering—there was no room to grow. For a really long time, I resented that part of myself. Feeling so small and incompetent, I began to become angry at the part of myself. But when I came to Calhoun, this part of me that was seen as a weakness, became a cool, unique patch I could wear. But I’m most definitely not the “French woman” because its such a loaded concept. She’s a woman who is always effortless, chic, doesn’t want to wear makeup, and wakes up to put on her granny-panties and everyone still wants to fuck her. But, its all false. French women are hassling as much as American women are, and are glamorized because they inhabit this “romance” culture. I would definitely say that the American side of me got me this far.

Song: Alaska, Maggie Rogers (NYU student)