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Edited last night by:
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MY FAVORITE FOREIGN CONCEPTS

Leah Jackson,
Foreign Correspondent

After a semester abroad I’ve decided to make a list of some things Id like to bring back with me to the good old US of A. You know just some small things to improve daily quality of life. Nothing crazy like free healthcare or gun control. Better keep that in Europe the way god intended it.

Telling it how it is

I think there’s a misconception that Europeans are rude but really they’re just blunt. You want ice in your coffee? We don’t do that here. You speak English? We all speak English. This photo you submitted for your critique is bad. I expected more from you as a cinema major. My professor said that last one to me. He was right. Honestly I appreciate it. No bullshit. You get the answer you asked for.

Appertivo

I need you to close your eyes for this one. Wait no. My bad keep reading but imagine this: you’ve just finished class for the day. It’s 3 maybe 4 and the Italians don’t eat dinner for at least another three hours. So you grab a few friends and you go to any bar or cafe, there everywhere. You order a little drink, a little spritz, a little glass of wine maybe , and then they bring you free snacks. Some chips. Olives. Maybe some salted peanuts. Incredible. I feel like a hamster gnawing on the plastic bars of my cage. Yeah give me that fucking treat. Never wait till 5 o’clock to start drinking. you’ll fall behind.

Bidet

They really do have them everywhere. I wonder if they think Americans just have swamp ass all the time. I wonder if they know what that is? Probably they don’t shower as often but they do use a lot of cologne.

Hot People

I don’t really know what to say for this one. There’s as many beautiful people on the streets as there are squirrels in Ohio. Denison take notes. What’s that one Sue Silvester quote? One sec let me find it. “All I want is just one day a year where I’m not visually assaulted by uglies and fatties. Seriously, Ohio, these retinas need a day off.” 2 ...

Walking/third places

I know this is something there is real academic discourse over but it really does make a huge difference. People walk everywhere. They spend there free time somewhere other than home, work or school. They use public transportation, public parks, public fountains. They go to the same cafe every day and the guy behind the counter remembers their face, name, and order. People talk to strangers. Its life changing.

2 Euro Coffee

The day I have to pay 4-6 dollars for a shitty drip coffee that will satiate my abysmal addiction to caffeine will be a sad sad day. One coin guys. Two euro is one coin. They drink almost as much espresso in Italy as they smoke here. And they smoke a lot. No one has a casual drunk cig. They roll that shit themself. Or they stand on the sidewalk RIPPING the e-cig. Minimum 30 seconds per inhale. If that doesn’t sound like a lot count to 30 in your head. Anyway. The coffee here is great. It’s everywhere. It’s cheap. It’s strong. that’s that me espresso aye. Posso avere un cappuccino. Due cappuccini. My days are numbered.

MY FAVORITE FOREIGN CONCEPTS CONT.

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No PCP in the Receipts

Wait my bad guys I think PCP is angel dust? Like the drug? What’s the other stuff called PCA, PBC? Whatever you know what I mean. They don’t get cancer from touching receipts. They don’t even have microplastics in the food or anything. That’s why they can smoke so much and still have a higher life expectancy than us. It’s like when you lose a few points for taking shots of fireball but then do yoga the next day so it evens out.

Chivalry

I think the men here just love to feel like men. They never let a woman carry a heavy bag around or touch a door handle. Sure it’s all rooted in sexism but we have that anyway. Put a slut to work.

Sex Vending Machine

Every few street corners you can find a vending machine stocked with condoms and vibrators. I’ve never seen anyone use one but that’s something that could be put to good use on a college campus.



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